



Students from JSEC prepare to speak at the May 18 School Board meeting.

# CONNECTIONS

MAY 27, 2022

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Providence Public School District (PPSD) bi-weekly newsletter. If you or someone you know misses any of our newsletters, you can find [past editions on the PPSD website](#) in multiple languages.

This week we were all shaken by the horrific school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Our thoughts are with the victims and their loved ones during this time of unimaginable grief and pain.

The tragedy in Texas has understandably led to questions about security in schools across the country. Many members of the PPSD community have reached out asking about our systems and procedures here in Providence. Below are some of those details, so that you can stay informed about how we work to keep our students and staff safe.

Our emergency response plan is built in collaboration with the Providence Police Department, Providence Fire Department, and Providence Emergency Management Agency. The plan provides a framework to protect students and staff, and outlines responsibilities of staff during 36 different emergency situations. We are required to assess and update this plan every three years, and we will be doing so this summer.

Providence Public School Principals are required to establish a "closed campus" in their buildings by designating only one entrance and exit when feasible. All visitors must sign in and out at the school office, and any unauthorized person in a school requires immediate response and a call to 9-1-1 if necessary.

The District tests several emergency procedures and safety drills each year, including evacuations and lockdowns. We utilize a system very similar to the [ALICE protocol](#) as a response to any potential armed intruder. This system is designed to provide comprehensive preparedness in the event of an intruder in one of our schools.

As you will see further down in this newsletter, we also utilize a communication platform called *Let's Talk!* This tool has a feature that allows users to communicate with PPSD anonymously, which may be helpful for anyone reporting sensitive information or a safety concern.

Earlier this year, Providence Public Schools released a request for proposal (RFP) for a security consultant to evaluate our systems district-wide. The selected vendor will do walkthroughs of every single PPSD building this summer to make security assessments. We will then work with the vendor to build a plan to make security upgrades across the District.

I wish we lived in a world where such safety protocols were not necessary in our schools. But please know that our team is committed to working together to keep our students and community safe.



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ  
Superintendent

## DISTRICT UPDATES

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR

The 2022-23 academic calendar is here! The school year will begin on Monday, August 29, and will end on Tuesday, June 21. Click the link below to find full details on the District's vacation dates, holidays, and 2-hour early dismissals for staff professional development.

[www.providenceschools.org/academiccalendar](http://www.providenceschools.org/academiccalendar)

### SUMMER LEARNING JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are excited to offer summer learning programs to over 3,000 students this year, and we want your help in closing the achievement gap! There are several job opportunities we want to make you aware of, especially in the elementary grade levels. Please follow the links below to view our summer job postings:

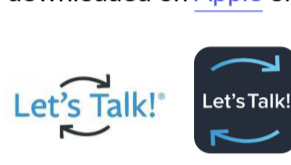
[Internal candidates click here](#)

[External candidates click here](#)

### CONNECT WITH PPSD ON YOUR PHONE

Connect with PPSD in the language of your choice using the *Let's Talk!* app. Students, families, and community members can get answers in Arabic, Chinese (simplified), English, French, Khmer, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

There is also an option to submit dialogues and receive responses without revealing your identity by submitting messages as a "Hidden Customer." All questions are routed to an expert on the given topic, and our customer service manager monitors all submissions to ensure prompt responses. *Let's Talk!* can be downloaded on [Apple](#) or [Android](#) devices.

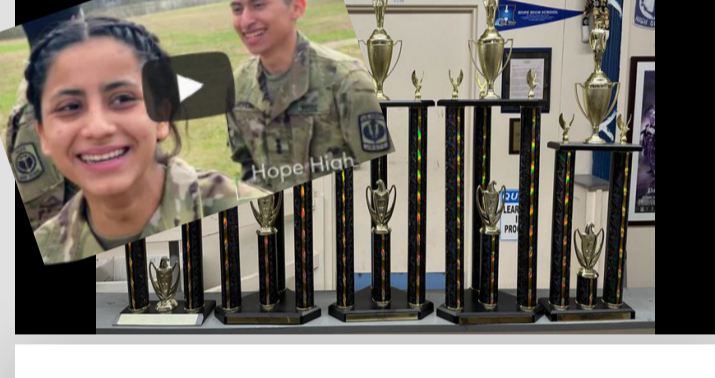


### 2022 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

This year, all PPSD graduations will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center. For the full schedule of each school's ceremony, please visit [www.providenceschools.org/graduations2022](http://www.providenceschools.org/graduations2022). Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors!

## CELEBRATING STUDENTS

Our hardworking, talented students are doing amazing things every day! Here are just a few examples.



### JROTC WINS CHALLENGE EVENT

For the first time since at least 2009, the **Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)** cadets at Hope High School won the regional **Raider Challenge Event** at New Britain High School in Connecticut! The Raider Challenge is a team competition that focuses on physical endurance and competition.

JROTC video: <https://youtu.be/6f6KDwrQp4>



### RI LATINO BOOKS MONTH

Through partnership with the Rhode Island Center for Latino Arts, first grade dual language students at **Lauro Elementary** celebrated **RI Latino Books Month** with a visit from 2022 RI Latino Book Award nominee, Emma Otheguy. She read and answered questions about her new book, *A Sled for Gabo/Un trineo para Gabo* and discussed Latino/a literature.



### CIVICS LESSONS

Students from civics classes at the **Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex (JSEC)** attended the **most recent Providence School Board meeting** to advocate for more mental health support and after-school programs at their school. Students had various tasks including article research, community member outreach, legislative outreach, and community surveys. With the information from this research they were able to give clear and accurate data to support their requests. Great work!



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Get to know the amazing people who work with our students every day!

### Lindsay Paiva

Third grade MLL teacher

Located in: Webster Avenue Elementary School

Joined PPSD in: 2017

#### Why do you do what you do?

I'm a teacher because in my opinion, critical thinking is the most important skill that we need as community members, and especially as young people. I support kids by helping them learn how to be critical thinkers, how to analyze what comes their way. I see my role as uplifting multilingual learner (MLL) students as the model of what we should all be aspiring to be. They have a different set of optics and ways of processing information, so they're able to empathize and seek to understand others because of the multilingual, multicultural lens through which they see the world. I wasn't raised as a multilingual learner, but I think when I became a multilingual adult and an MLL teacher it really shifted my ability to understand the world around me.

"It's really important to me that kids leave my classroom knowing that being an MLL is an asset and something of which they should be proud."

**What's the best part of your job?**

The kids are hilarious, and that's really refreshing amidst the heaviness of the world. They're so fun and they bring so much joy to our shared space. One of my favorite moments is when we're reading and I tell them it's time to transition to something else, but they're so into it that they say, "Can't we have ten more minutes?" Or when they celebrate their classmates - they're each other's best cheerleaders. When someone moves up a reading level or takes a positive risk, they're the first ones to praise and support one another. That's one of the most beautiful parts of my job.

#### Why is being a teacher of multilingual learners so important?

I think when you are a young multilingual learner, school can be disorienting. It's really important to me that kids leave my classroom knowing that being an MLL is an asset and something of which they should be proud. I put a lot of emphasis on uplifting multilingualism because it opens up opportunities and builds empathy and understanding for what people are going through. Communication is a critical life skill and is how we seek to understand one another, so starting early and supporting students to be good communicators gives them the tools they need to be successful moving forward.

**What do you wish more people knew about being an ESL teacher?**

A lot of the work of teaching is invisible. To people outside of education I would say that teaching is much more than the 6 hours each day with the students. Teaching is relational - you may have 26 students, but those students are all connected to so many other folks that have a big impact on their lives. So as an educator you need to have a commitment to deeply knowing the kids, their families and siblings, and the community. It's our responsibility to understand the context of the children in front of us, and to support and uplift their whole selves and all of their complexities.

## IT'S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- ["Bridging the gap": Tech students bring engineering love to middle-school students](#)  
Providence Journal, May 14, 2022
- ["Ready for the professional world": Providence school leverages skills training](#)  
Providence Business First, May 11, 2022
- [PC coach Ed Cooley gifted key to the city](#)  
WPRI, May 17, 2022
- [Poder Radio: DR JAVIER MONTANEZ EN EL CAN DE LA MAÑANA, NOS HABLA DE LAS ESCUELAS DE PROVIDENCE](#)  
Poder Radio, May 4, 2022

## AROUND THE DISTRICT



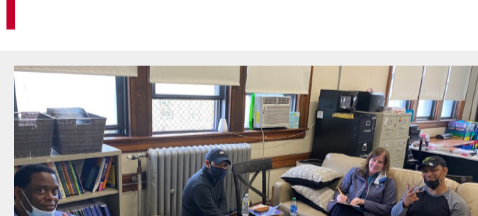
### COACH COOLEY COMES HOME

A big thank you to **Providence College** men's basketball coach (and **Central High School** alumnus) Ed Cooley for stopping by his old school this month to speak with our students! Coach Cooley received a key to the city of Providence from Mayor Jorge Elorza. He then spoke to students about the importance of setting high goals, never giving up, showing gratitude every day, and taking pride in being a PPSD student.



### ESPERANZA A TRAVÉS DEL ARTE

**Hope High School** Community Specialist Johnny Rivera and several local artists teamed up with students to create several new murals covering hallway walls in the school. Click the image above to watch a video on this incredible project and the impact it has had on students and the school community!  
<https://youtu.be/RQCIHy90Puo>



### PARENT/TEACHER LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

Teachers and parents at **Lauro Elementary School** have teamed up to practice a target language (English or Spanish) through small group practice sessions. The groups meet twice each week after school. This helps both parents and teachers learn their target language as a team, which strengthens their intercultural awareness and builds relationships!

## SPREAD THE WORD



### BICYCLE FESTIVAL & HELMET DRIVE

Sunday, 5/29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Dexter Field  
71 Dexter Street, Providence

Help our kids stay safe this summer by stopping by the Bicycle Festival & Helmet Drive. The event features games, music, food trucks, and **free bike helmets**. You can also learn about upcoming city projects, how to stay safe, and how to support the biking community. [Learn more >](#)



### PPSD CAREER FAIR

Thursday, June 9, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
DeSesto Middle School  
152 Springfield Street, Providence

Come network with school leaders and the Providence Talent Team! Learn about teaching opportunities for the 2022-23 school year, the application and hiring process, bonuses for new hires, and more.  
[Register here >](#)



### STUDENT AND STAFF DISCOUNTS

PPSD staff, students, and families - did you know that you're eligible for discounts on certain Dell products through the Dell Education Purchase Program?

Learn more at [www.dell.com/PPSD-RI](http://www.dell.com/PPSD-RI)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL**  
Monday, May 30, 2022
- **LAST DAY FOR SENIORS**  
Monday, June 13, 2022
- **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS**  
Monday, June 13 - Friday, June 17
- **PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETING**  
Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
- **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
- **LAST DAY OF CLASSES**  
Friday, June 24, 2022

Terrific things are happening across the District, and we want to get the word out! If you have a program, event, staff member, or student with an amazing story that you'd like to highlight, please email [communications@ppsd.org](mailto:communications@ppsd.org).