



CONNECTIONS

New England Patriots Corliss Waitman and his teammates joined Young Woods students to kick-off the new school year and share the importance of attendance!

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

OCTOBER 4, 2023

We've been working around the clock to ensure the right academic and social-emotional supports are in place for students to thrive this academic year. And, we are excited to share that, under the Providence Turnaround, we have opened three new schools this year as part of our \$600+ million school construction plan that will raise the percentage of students learning in a high-quality space from just 5% currently, to 50%! I had the opportunity to visit our new buildings and a number of other schools on opening day and saw the excitement of students, parents, and educators first-hand. We started strong and look forward to having a productive 23-24 academic year. However, I need your help in making sure your child is in school, on time, every day.

One of the best ways to ensure that students have a strong year is through attendance. To promote attendance and raise awareness of the impact of absences, Providence Public School District (PPSD) recently delivered **Attendance Hero** packets to all students which include:

- Attendance tracking magnets with the academic calendar
- Attendance pledges for parents and students to sign
- Please use these tools with your child, to remind them how important attendance is, and to pledge to achieve perfect attendance this school year.

School absences add up fast and can have serious consequences. For example, if a student misses one day every two weeks, that equals 20 days absent (about 3 weeks) per year. A student who has missed 18 days (about 2 and a half weeks), is considered chronically absent in Rhode Island. When a student is chronically absent, they may fall behind and it puts their promotion in doubt.

Students should be present and ready to learn every day. With your help, care, and support -we can work together to achieve perfect attendance for your child. Let's strive to be Attendance Heroes this school year and ensure our students can succeed!

Thank you always for the trust you place in us each day.



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT



DISTRICT UPDATES

PPSD FLU CLINICS

PPSD will be holding schoolwide/community flu clinics this month. All clinics are free, open to all, and run from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- **Nathanael Greene Middle School**
721 Chalkstone Avenue (02908)
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **JSEC**
182 Thurbers Avenue (02905)
Tuesday, October 24, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **DelSesto Middle School**
152 Springfield Street (02909)
Thursday, November 9, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM

Calling all 8th grade Providence residents! The **Classical High School Entrance Exam** will be taking place on **Saturday, October 21, 2023** from **7:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** for 8th grade students at **DelSesto Middle School, Esek Hopkins Middle School, Gilbert Stuart Middle School, Nathan Bishop Middle School, Roger Williams Middle School, and West Broadway Middle School.** 8th grade students attending **private schools, parochial schools, Nathanael Greene Middle School, and Times 2 Academy Middle School** will take the exam on **Saturday, October 28, 2023** from **7:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Any student who cannot attend either exam date will be able to take the test on **Thursday, October 26, 2023** from **7:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** For more information on the Classical High School Entrance Exam, please visit <https://www.providenceschools.org/domain/100>.

THANK A TEACHER

This past Saturday, we celebrated our accomplished teachers during the **Rhode Island Department of Education's *WaterFire: A Salute to Educator*** event in downtown Providence. Kudos to the following PPSD teachers for their awards and accolades:

E-Cubed Academy's John Healy: Civic Teacher of the Year

Classical High School's Francesca LeClerc: District Teacher of the Year

Webster Ave Elementary School's Lindsay Paiva: RI Teacher of the Year Finalist

PCTA's Krista Taft: CTE Instructor of the Year

Central High School's Gina Vessella: School Social Worker of the Year

PCTA's Kimberly Yaew: School Librarian of the Year

Congratulations to all, and thank you for all you do for our students and the District!





Above, Student Equity Warriors and Teacher Equity Ambassadors were recognized by School Board last night for their service after engaging in PPSD's student equity summer leadership academy & equity leadership training sponsored by the Providence Public Schools Office of Equity and Belonging.

EQUITY AND BELONGING

PPSD Equity Advisory Council

The **PPSD Equity Advisory Council** will have its first meeting of the school year on October 5th at 4:30pm at 797 Westminster St., School Board Rooms B and C. Composed of students, teachers, parents, and community partners, the Board thoughtfully collaborates to elevate the voices of our diverse communities by advising District staff, providing input, and helping to prioritize district-wide equity efforts, policies, strategies, and investments. If you are interested in taking part in this work, please email equity@ppsd.org.

RESPECT Student Equity Leadership Conference

On October 24, the **2023-24 RESPECT Student Equity Leadership Conference series** will kickoff to bring together students from PPSD middle and high schools who have been selected by their school leaders to represent their peers. Students will develop project action plans to foster equity in their school communities, and work in partnership with adult leaders to implement their plans. Students will meet again on February 1, 2024 and on May 30, 2024.

emPOWER Meetups for Educators of Color

The first emPOWER meets of the school year will take place on October 10, 2023. **emPOWER Meetups for Educators of Color** are events hosted by the PPSD DEI Working Group to bring PPSD educators together for networking, community-building, open feedback sessions, professional/leadership development, mentorship, and goal-setting. Come to enjoy music, refreshments, and to hear from peers in the District and other leaders in the community who are doing incredible work. All PPSD educators are welcome. Please register [here](#).

Equity Boost Grants

Equity Boost Grants are still available and are intended to enable students and educators to test creative new ideas and innovations that support exemplary teaching and learning, while advancing cultural understanding and appreciation, anti-racism commitments, and understanding of civic engagement and democracy. Equity Boost Grants will fund school-based projects between \$500 and \$4900. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis here: <https://forms.gle/3esuPey7mPHm1L1v8>

IT'S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- [ABM Industries Partners with Providence Public School District to Optimize Operations Across City](#)
Globe Newswire, September 5, 2023
- [Half of Providence public school students chronically absent last year](#)
WJAR, September 21st 2023
- [Putting Bricks Before Kids](#)
Boston Globe, September 22, 2023
- [Report: The biggest challenges facing R.I. public schools](#)
Boston Globe, September 28, 2023



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

NATHANAEL GREENE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Dr. William Reilly
Assistant Principals: Jaime David, Amy Marshall, and Luis Rodriguez

What makes your school unique?

Nathanael Greene Middle School (NGMS), home of the Bucks, is Providence’s largest grades 6-8 middle school offering programs including self-contained, inclusion, MLL, and advanced academics. Greene is home to an amazing computer science program, an incrementally talented student band, numerous sports championships, incredible students, and hard-working teachers.

Are there any exciting new things being unveiled in your school this year?

This is OUR year! We are so excited to bring a new and improved NGMS to Providence students and families this year! Prior to the summer, Greene faculty and staff developed a brand new vision along with three new instructional priorities: small group instruction, station rotation, and differentiation. Various small rooms and previous storage spaces have been converted into small group intervention spaces with state-of-the-art learning furniture and materials to conduct 4-6 interventions targeting individual student needs. We also have developed small group instruction stations throughout the halls of the school and are redesigning the foyer

to lend itself to small group learning as well. Our library space has been re-constructed to foster 21st century learning, adding a makerspace which will further our rigorous computer science programs. Next up? Two stars!



What is your vision or goal for your student body for the 2023-24 school year at this time?

Our vision is to make NGMS the destination for education and exit one star status. To get there, we have developed a schoolwide writing strategy that is used across classrooms, a bi-weekly RICAs writing program, small group interventions and curated spaces, and both Literacy and STEM teams. We want our Bucks prepared and knowledgeable about all available future opportunities and for them to know that they can take on anything!

What is your goal for staff in the 2023-24 school year?

Our staff goal is to increase the culture in the building and focus on their development of station rotation, small group instruction, and differentiation. We have instituted monthly potluck lunches, staff gatherings, professional development trainings, and collaborative time to foster their professional relationships and growth. Our number one question is what do you need and how can we support you. At Greene, we are a team that are all rowing the boat in the same direction.

Does your school have a mascot or school colors?

We are the Nathanael Greene Bucks and our school colors are green and gold.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the PPSD community?

We are extremely excited for this year and cannot wait to see all of the great things that our school will accomplish! We have amazing staff and students and know that the future for Greene is bright! Go Bucks!

CELEBRATING STUDENTS

Our hard-working, talented students are doing amazing things every day. Here are just a few examples.



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS RETURN TO YOUNG WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“How do we feel about... getting our attendance up?” screamed New England Patriots **Captain Matthew Slater** with his wife, **Shahrzad Ehdavand, MD**. “Awww yeah!” responded Young Woods students led by Patriots announcer Mike Riley.

On September 26, **New England Patriots** players and cheerleaders visited **Young Woods Elementary School**. Captains **Matthew Slater** and **David Andrews** were among those who came to speak to students about keeping their attendance up throughout the year, along with rookie kicker **Chad Ryland**, safety **Brendan Schooler**, punter **Bryce Baringer**, and veteran punter **Corliss Waitman**. **Governor Dan McKee**, **Superintendent Montañez** and **Representative Jose Batista** joined **Principal Kimberly Komocar** to address the students about the importance of showing up and being present and ready to learn each day. The players answered students’ questions and shared that they would not be professional football players today if they did not take attendance seriously. **BE AN ATTENDANCE HERO!**



FOGARTY SAFETY PATROL

There are some new sheriffs in town! **Fogarty Elementary School** named students to their 2023 - 2024 Safety Patrol, and this group of students could not have been more excited! Safety Patrol members are school-sponsored student volunteers from upper elementary grades. Patrollers direct children, not traffic. They also serve as models for younger children, who look up to them.

School Safety Patrol members:

- Follow all classroom/school rules and respect teachers and students at all times.
- Report to duty on time.
- Wear proper equipment. Patrols will not be permitted to perform their duties if they are not wearing a patrol belt.
- Do the morning announcements each morning on the intercom, leading the entire school in Pledge of Allegiance and the Fogarty School Pledge.
- Attend and participate in all patrol meetings and training sessions.
- Be able to communicate courteously and appropriately with students and adults.
- Report any perceived dangerous safety issues to the teacher on duty.

Typically, teachers and principals appoint patrol members, who participate with parental approval. A teacher usually serves as the patrol advisor. Congratulations to all those who were chosen to be a part of Fogarty Elementary School’s Safety Patrol Team for the 23-24 school year!



*Students and families enjoyed activities during Hispanic Heritage Night at **DelSesto Middle School** yesterday. Students participated in painting and dance as the school highlighted the arts, one of their STEAM initiatives. The DelSesto team is working to integrate STEAM activities in their future family nights!*

AROUND THE DISTRICT



NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

"No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it."

-Andrew Carnegie

October is **National Principals Month**, and we want to take this opportunity to highlight all of the amazing PPSD Principals! Their hard work behind the scenes often goes unnoticed and this month we have the opportunity to shine a light on their exemplary leadership. **Thank you for all that you do each and every day for our students, staff, families, and community.**



COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

PPSD recently held their **College and Career Fair** for high school students, where they had the opportunity to speak with representatives from local colleges and businesses about their next steps after high school. Big thank you to all the colleges, universities, and organizations that came to **Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA)** to speak with the students at the College and Career Fair!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY (NO SCHOOL)**
Monday, October 9, 2023
- **COMMUNITY FLU CLINIC**
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Nathanael Greene Middle School
721 Chalkstone Ave.
- **HIGH SCHOOL EXPO for grades 7 + 8**
Thursday, October 12, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
PCTA, 41 Fricker St.
- **CLASSICAL HIGH ENTRANCE EXAM**
Saturday, October 21, 2023 &
Saturday October 28, 2023
7:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Classical High School, 770 Westminster St.
- **COMMUNITY FLU CLINIC**
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
JSEC, 182 Thurbers Ave.
- **CLASSICAL HIGH ENTRANCE EXAM**
Religious Observance Date
Thursday, October 26, 2023
7:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Classical High School, 770 Westminster St.

OCTOBER SCHOOL MENU

