



PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PLAINFIELD —Insider—

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Champions for Students
#TeamPPSD

— Moving Plainfield Public Schools — FORWARD

As we move Plainfield Public Schools forward, our goals are to make each school a center for excellence in education and the best places for our students to learn.

The District has invested over \$5.8 million dollars in school renovations at all levels, including bathroom upgrades at Barlow, Emerson, Stillman, Hubbard, Maxson, and Plainfield High School, new electrical upgrades and capital projects that include the construction of the new Charles and Anna Booker School and Hub Stine Sports Complex Field House renovations.

The Curriculum & Instruction Department in partnership with the Information Technology Department has provided our students with state-of-the-art technology and digital curriculum resources. Investing in our students means continuing to invest in our teacher's capacity to deliver instruction on various technology platforms. We are in the initial planning stages of our E-Sports platform, Aviation Program, and expanding on existing educational programs including Allied Health. During the Fall of 2022, PPSD gained two new partners, Heart of America, which will provide Maxson Middle School with a STEM lab, and Felician University creating opportunities for our students to be successful learners and productive citizens beyond high school graduation.

Our high school students are excelling at the state level and nationally as part of the Governor's STEM Scholar Program. The PHS Band won first place at Morgan State University's Homecoming. The Girls' Volleyball Team won for the first-time ever, the Team Academic Award from the USMC/AVCA, earning a cumulative GPA of over a 3.55, and the Cardinals Football Team won the NJSIAA Region V Invitational, bringing a regional championship to Plainfield in a long time.

The Safety and Security Department is leveraging our technology to further ensure that our students and staff safety is a high priority. The District's Transportation Department is piloting a program to track district buses. This new software will provide parents with up to the minute notifications on their child's arrival to and from school.

The PPSD has many exciting things happening! Our staff, administration, partners, and the community are committed to bringing positive change for all children of PPSD.

WE ARE MOVING OUR DISTRICT FORWARD!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOE

Greetings PPSD,

It is an honor to be elected as your next President of the Plainfield Board of Education. I will continue to only represent the best interests of the Plainfield Public School District. As I lead our board, I pledge that with great impact we will work diligently to move our district forward to meet the needs and challenges of the district.

To my fellow board members, thank you for placing your confidence and trust in me to serve as your president, as this is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I look forward to continuing to work with the newly elected Vice President, Mrs. Sarah Virgo, who I am confident will work diligently alongside me to lead our board.

I would like to acknowledge the achievements of our outgoing president, Ms. Josely Castro. I've had the pleasure of serving alongside you as your Vice President. I am proud of what we as a board have been able to accomplish throughout this past year. My first year has been very interesting but also highly rewarding. I am satisfied of what we have accomplished throughout the first year of my term.

I am thrilled to be able to have a seat at this table to advocate for not only our students but our administrators and staff who work together to ensure the best for our scholars. My goal is to lead with intention and a passion that is infectious, better organization for our district in its entirety, and stronger governance with a vision and strategy suited for the climate and culture in which we have been forced to operate. Change is on the horizon!

Hanae M. Wyatt
President of the Plainfield Board of Education

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings PPSD,

So much has happened since this summer to ensure we are aligned to meet the needs of our students, staff, and stakeholders. For the first time in a very long time, the Board of Education (BOE) has adopted board goals. These goals are critical for the success of our school district for many reasons. They hold us accountable to ensure we perform our duties to the highest standards. This school year we committed to the following three board goals:

- Revise 30% of the policy manual per the wellness checklist
- Complete all required NJSBA milestones on time (district goals, CSA evaluations, and board goals)
- Obtain an NJSBA board certification

We are proud to announce that we are on target to achieve our board goals. Our policy committee is hard at work revising outdated policies and making sure mandated policies are in place. The BOE is pleased to announce the Strategic Planning process is underway. As the different volunteers continue to meet and assist our district with the final Strategic Plan, the BOE hopes to adopt the strategic plan by Spring 2023.

With all hands-on deck, we are positioned to make the Plainfield Public School District a true success.

Josely M. Castro
Outgoing Board President



MS. HANAE M. WYATT
PRESIDENT OF THE BOE



MS. JOSELY M. CASTRO
OUTGOING BOARD PRESIDENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS
Mrs. Hanae M. Wyatt, President
Mrs. Sarah B. Virgo, Vice President
Mr. Eric J. Andrews
Ms. Josely M. Castro
Mr. Azim A. Gray
Mrs. W. Pat Hembree
Ms. ShonTé Smith
Mr. Victor L. Webb, Jr.
Ms. Jacqueline Workman



MR. RASHON K. HASAN
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Plainfield Public Schools Family,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year! I am honored to welcome you this school year in my role as Acting Superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools. Since my appointment on September 20, 2022, I have been working hard to gain your trust and to let you know I am a pragmatic, goal-oriented leader who wholeheartedly believes in education as a priority and as a path to the American Dream. I believe leaders have to be movers and shakers and accountable. As Plainfield Public Schools' leader, I stand with over 1,200 educators and administrators, building on our educational system to respond to the needs of our students and staff; to uphold our mission to do "whatever it takes for every student to achieve high academic standards, no alibis, no excuses, no exceptions!"

I am proud to say I have been involved in educational governance all my professional life. I have been recognized as an education specialist, a leading school business administrator and education advocate. For over a decade, I have assisted leading and serving school districts in the City of Newark, Teaneck, Leonia, and now here in Plainfield. With your support and that of my colleagues, some of my main goals for this year are to:

- Complete our Strategic Plan, with input from our parents, educators and our Plainfield community.
- Inaugurate our new Charles & Anna Booker School, a state-of-the-art K-5 School that will serve over 800 students and introduce new academic opportunities in STEM and the Arts for our students.
- Implement enhancements to our facilities that will improve our climate and culture.

We will also be guided by the five (5) goals adopted by the Board of Education in July of 2022 (See next page). As you leaf through this Insider News Edition, please note our new principals and administrators at PAAAS, Hubbard Middle School, Athletics Department, the Office of Early Childhood and the Pinnacle Academy High School. Let's give them a warm welcome.

I am looking forward to working closely with you. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions at superintendent@plainfield.k12.nj.us. Let's go Cardinals!

Sincerely,
Rashon K. Hasan, QPA, MBA, Ed.S.
Acting Superintendent

The following Five Goals were approved by the Plainfield Board of Education for the 2022-2023 School Year:

Goal 1:

Identify low graduation rate and increase to 80%, year two: 85% year three: 90%

Goal 3:

Improve school culture and climate

Goal 5:

Properly report and reduce number of incidents

Goal 2:

Implement methods for performance improvement so that all schools are "out of status."

Goal 4:

Improve Third Grade Academics



NJDOE Acting Commissioner Visited Plainfield Public Schools

Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education, visited Plainfield Public Schools' DeWitt D. Barlow Elementary School and Maxson Middle School, on Friday, December 2, 2022. Accompanied by the District's administrative team, Mr. Darryl Palmieri, Interim Executive County Superintendent, Mayor Adrian O. Mapp, Board of Education Vice President Mrs. Hanae M. Wyatt, and BOE member Mrs. Jacqui Workman, Communications Coordinator for the City of Plainfield, Dr. Allen-McMillan had the opportunity to observe the diverse and innovative learning at both schools.

At Barlow, Dr. Allen-McMillan visited a 5th grade Bilingual classroom and a Kindergarten Inclusion classroom where she observed students using the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading Amira Growth Measure Assessment. After her visit, students presented Dr. Allen-McMillan with a Barlow Bears drawstring backpack filled with the school's paraphernalia.

At Maxson Middle School, the commissioner visited a sixth-grade English language arts class and a sixth-grade Mathematics class.

Students were able to ask questions about her tenure as the Acting Commissioner of Education and new policies the Department of Education is taking to ensure the students of New Jersey are well educated.

"It was an honor to have Dr. Allen-McMillan visit our district. We also had the pleasure of having Mr. Darryl Palmieri, Interim Executive County Superintendent, Mayor Adrian O. Mapp and his team, and Mrs. Hanae M. Wyatt, Vice President of the Board of Education, as well. They all were able to see the great work our dedicated educators have been doing to ensure our students are receiving a quality education," said Acting Superintendent Rashon K. Hasan.

"Watching her genuine interactions with the students and staff was invigorating. She is very knowledgeable and offered sound advice and recommendations to aid in our continued efforts to move our district forward," expressed Hanae M. Wyatt, Vice President of the Plainfield Board of Education.

Dr. Allen-McMillan began her career as a substitute teacher in Essex County and later taught in East Orange Public Schools. She holds a bachelor's degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University, a master's in educational administration and a doctorate in education, leadership, management and policy, from Seton Hall University.

The Plainfield Public School District thanks Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan for her visit to the district.



Plainfield Public Schools

Mid-Year Review of our Schools and Programs

BARLOW SCHOOL

Mr. Wilson Aponte, Principal

The DeWitt D. Barlow Elementary School is excited to once again partner with Rutgers University Scholars for our scholars to participate in the “Imagineering Program.” The program provides opportunities for the students to Think, Learn, and Create (TLC) with the guidance of professors from the School of Mathematics and Science. The students explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM). The objective of this partnership is to enhance our scholars’ mathematical skills by tapping into their imagination to hone technology competences to create a project from the abstract to the concrete.

This year the aim is to tap into our scholars’ organic curiosity by designing lessons that are hands on and collaborative, skills that are very useful in today’s classrooms and tomorrow’s workplace! During the program, scholars will be directed with a purpose to observe, research, develop hypotheses, make predictions, and reach conclusions. By the conclusion of the Imagineering Program, Barlow scholars in grades third to fifth will experience the joy of flying, by coding and programming drones to fly! Therefore, following the steps of many who have taken “wings” to soar!

CEDARBROOK SCHOOL

Dr. Frank Asante, Principal

Do you know what’s creating a buzz at Cedarbrook K-8 Center? It’s their Learning Walls in the hallways! Learning Walls are visual displays that center around different learning intentions. They support students on their learning journey, becoming a reference point for them as they work towards knowledge, understanding, reasoning, justification, and application of skills.

Mr. Akbar, Math and Data Coach, believes that a school environment matters, “Our scholars are more likely to benefit from interactive hallway wall displays that scream—‘Come Learn with Me!’ compared to blank hallway walls. Mr. Akbar set out to create student-engagement hallway walls that focus on all eight mathematical practices to help empower students to think mathematically for a deeper understanding. These learning walls, such as “Would You Rather” or “What Do You Notice?” have even been added to teacher lessons where they say it has helped with discourse and student conversations, in all content areas. It allows students to feel confident with giving an answer and being able to justify it with reasoning.

Ms. Cress, a 1st Grade teacher said, “My students love these walls because they want to become Math Masters! One student even started to create her own versions of these

learning walls because she was eager to show Mr. Akbar and I, her strategies that she used to create and solve her problems.”

Something else that can be found on these hallway walls is the “Panther Problem of the Month,” where students are given an opportunity to solve a multi-step problem that is associated with traditional academic areas while simultaneously helping students acquire critical “real world” skills that can help them be successful in the future. These learning walls connect the student’s learning process in the form of tools, resources, and exemplars—it’s where the magic continues to happen for Cedarbrook students!



CLINTON SCHOOL

Dr. Janet Grooms, Principal

Love of Literacy is the climate that is promoted at Clinton School. The scholars engage with the Amira Program through the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading Program (HMH) and really love it. This program connects reading fluency assessment results directly to relevant core content. Scholars use Amira for independent practice or during small group rotations with centers or teacher guided practice. Scholars that find testing and assessment overwhelming have become more engaged through Amira because to them it doesn’t feel like a test. Amira provides early literacy testing that generates valid and reliable data for teachers. Clinton teachers have been able to analyze their classroom data and use these results to inform lesson planning, differentiate instruction and modify student groupings.

The scholars enjoy the use of technology and the electronic device to take the assessment. Once the scholar reads a passage out loud to a laptop or tablet and completes supplementary assessment items, Amira listens, records, and scores the assessment and delivers six different reports with the results. Clinton School is able to combine direct observation with 21st Century digital learning. We have also strengthened our home to school connections by using these reports to not only inform teacher instruction and scholar learning, but also to communicate with parents regarding student progress in reading. Clinton School educators appreciate the opportunity to analyze their classroom from an entirely new perspective. An example of 21st Century learning at its best.

Plainfield Public Schools Mid-Year Review (continued)

COOK SCHOOL

Dr. Caryn D. Cooper, Principal



Cook School is focusing on many initiatives centered around literacy. One of the programs is our fourth and fifth grade Buddy Reading Initiative. Students in fourth and fifth grade are assigned reading buddies in the first and second grade classrooms. The goal of this initiative is to promote strong reading skills in our younger students, strengthen student-peer relationships, as well as promote a sense of giving for our older students.

The most fulfilling part of the program is when our younger students see siblings come into their classrooms. According to fourth grade honor student, Ryan Wyatt, he likes having the opportunity to help his sister and her classmates.

Fifth grade honor student, Jeraldin Solorzano, likes it because it builds her confidence as a reader. This is the second year implementing the program and we are hoping to expand by including our third-grade students, as well as including collaborative writing.

EMERSON SCHOOL

Mr. Dion Roach, Principal

Emerson School is excited to announce new programs:

- The Art Club meets Thursdays after school under the guidance of Ms. Roxanne Santiago.
- Each One-Teach One – A “New Teachers” cohort created by Ms. Guthrie and Ms. Rios to provide a positive, collaborative environment for teachers, has begun monthly meetings to a great reception.
- Emerson families are encouraged to join the Principal’s Reading Club, virtually via Google Meet, Sundays from 4:00pm to 4:30pm.
- Emerson Theater Group is preparing for this year’s production of the “The Little Mermaid.” The student cast has auditioned and was selected; their names will be displayed at the school.

EVERGREEN SCHOOL

Mrs. Miguelina Landisi, Principal

Twenty-two years ago, the “Pen Pal Project” began at Evergreen Elementary School. We have been partnering with students and staff at William Woodruff Elementary School (presently at Thomas P. Hughes School) in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey.

For a number of years, each fourth-grade student at William Woodruff (now Hughes with approximately 80-90 students) has written a letter and has sent a paperback book to each fourth grader at Evergreen Elementary (with approximately 100-110 students). Students from both schools usually correspond at least twice a year, and consequently, they enjoy writing and receiving letters and learning about one another!

In the past, the schools would alternate hosting each other for a morning together as an opportunity for our students to meet face to face. Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic, this element of the program has not been possible. However, in lieu of an in-person finale, this year the students will have an opportunity to meet virtually. This initiative/project has proven to be successful and positive because it allows students to be introduced to diversity, cultural differences, as well as writing and social skills.



JEFFERSON SCHOOL

Ms. Telaya Parham, Principal

At Jefferson, we believe in the power of the read aloud. Daily read alouds are a part of the school’s fabric. Each class is tasked with selecting a book and then posting it on their door for all to see. The selection of the book is a collaborative decision made by the class. Teachers and students select books with rich language, meaningful plots, compelling characters and engaging illustrations. When a teacher reads aloud, they make the invisible act of reading visible. Fifth grader Benjamin Villagran states, “I love reading aloud daily because it helps me learn new vocabulary words and figurative language.”

Reading aloud is the foundation for literacy development. Research supports that it is the single most important activity for reading success. It reveals the rewards of reading and develops the student’s interest in books and ignites in them a desire to be a reader.

Students of any age benefit from having the experience of reading a wonderful book. Children need to be exposed to a wide range of stories and books. It is critically important that they see themselves, as well as other people, cultures, communities and issues in the books read to them. Selecting a wide range of culturally diverse books helps children think and make connections to their own life experiences. Fifth grader Messiah Rodgers believes that listening to daily read alouds have helped him become a better writer. He states, “I’ve learned how to write from different perspectives. They have also helped me increase my reading level”.

Plainfield Public Schools Mid-Year Review *(continued)*

STILLMAN SCHOOL

Ms. Gwynetta Y. Joe, Principal

“Voting is not only our right—it is our power,” Loung Ung, Human Rights Activist. Future voters and leaders in Ms. Elizabeth Nardone’s Grade 1 Class experienced very powerful lessons about the voting process. As registered voters in the state of New Jersey and across the nation prepared for Election Day, these future leaders at Charles H. Stillman School simulated the voting process. Ms. Nardone’s classroom was transformed into a polling site; complete with voter check in, registration, private voting booths and a ballot box. On the ballot was the important decision of who would be elected to the position of teacher helper for the following school week.

One by one, students approached the student poll workers who directed them to sign in and issued a paper ballot with three candidates and a pencil. Each student after registering, was directed to a private voting booth to make their selection. Once completed, students proceeded to the ballot box. After inserting their ballot, a student pollster thanked them and gave them an “I Voted Today” card to color.

Once all students exercised their classroom right, Ms. Nardone directed their attention to the ballot box where designated student poll workers conducted the count for all to see. The students agreed that tally marks would be the best method used to count. The poll workers removed each ballot from the box while announcing the selection. Ms. Nardone tallied the results as students shared observations and made predictions. Once completed the winner was announced. Ms. Nardone, however, reminded students that while the activity was pretend, the act of voting is very important.

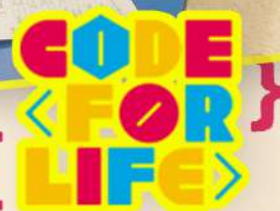
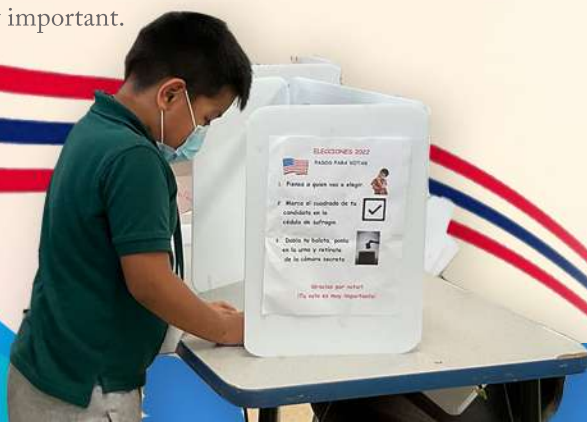


WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Dr. Anthony Jenkins, Principal

There are many exciting hands-on activities being done in our new Technology classroom. The students have embarked on a coding program, Codeforlife.education. Within this program our students are using Rapid Router to learn all about coding. It is an engaging education resource that helps teach the first principles of computer programming built on 'Blockly', an easy-to-use visual programming language, Rapid Router enables teachers to monitor and manage individual student progress and identify where more support is required. The students learn how to understand what algorithms are; how they are implemented as programs on digital devices; and that programs execute by following precise and unambiguous instructions. They create and debug simple programs and use logical reasoning to predict the behavior of simple programs.

They also use technology purposefully to create, organize, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content. In addition to coding, our students are also involved with STEM projects where they work hands-on to explore and create assignments that aim to immerse students in an authentic application within a STEM career.



MAXSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lisa Armstead, Principal

Here at Maxson Middle School our student and staff leaders are excited about learning and collaborating with their peers to support each other in reaching their learning goals. Students are provided with multiple strategies to meet the needs of all learners. Ms. Hamilton, one of the 7th grade math teachers, stated that she's "...thrilled that students are using all of their resources to not only grasp material but also reteach their classmates. In the event of a student absence, their classmates have been able to help them catch up on missed material."

Jayden Bailey, 7th grade student-leader, shared that he's "excited that he's learning about different things and sharing with his class." He also stated that his math class lets him experience what it's like to be a teacher and he enjoys it.

Our student and staff leaders are also excited about the secondary math department's Thinking Classrooms initiative. Thinking Classrooms are classrooms which promote student thinking, collaboration, and problem solving through activity and discussion.

These classrooms increase student engagement because it gets students out of their seats and writing on non-permanent surfaces. Students love standing and working in groups to solve a real world problem. Mr. Mahoney, 6th grade math teacher, stated, "students love working in groups to collaborate and exchange ideas. It especially helps our students that are unsure about a problem. By working with others, the students are able to build on each other's thinking." The students in the first collage of pictures were multiplying/dividing positive and negative integers. The Tic-Tac-Toe board Ms. Hamilton created helps students remember the rules for multiplying/dividing positive and negative integers. The Thinking Classrooms allow students to work collaboratively in an effort to solve various problems.



HUBBARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Olivia Rodriguez-Calderon, Principal

One of our school goals at Hubbard Middle School is to improve the school's culture and climate. In order to fulfill this goal, our entire instructional staff, support staff, and students took part in a school-wide Social-Emotional Day of Learning.

Social-Emotional learning was at the forefront of teaching in every classroom throughout the school day. In Mrs. Ceballos's Spanish Language Arts class, for example, she held an activity titled, "What Makes Me Beautiful". She showed her students a video of activist and model, Nyle DiMarco, who is deaf, performing on Dancing with the Stars. "The students and I discussed that despite having a disability, Mr. DiMarco, was able to overcome any negativity that he got from others, and perform on a national show."

After viewing the show, the students wrote on a piece of paper all the negative comments they have heard throughout their life. They then discussed how it made them feel, afterwards, the students crumpled the paper

and threw it in the garbage and made a personal-pact that they will never focus on the negative comments they may encounter and that positivity will always conquer negativity.

About Ms. Rodriguez-Calderon, Principal,

Ms. Rodriguez-Calderon was appointed as the new principal of Hubbard in May 2022. She has over 21 years of experience in education and has been serving Plainfield Public Schools for last 8 years. She is a doctoral candidate at St Peter's University: Dissertation Topic: Program Model for ELLs. She obtained a Bachelors in Mathematical Sciences from William Paterson University, a Mathematical Sciences and minor in History from Kean University; and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Seton Hall University. She was born in Brooklyn of Puerto Rican parents and lives in Union County with her husband, two children and two dogs. #ReturnoftheHawks

PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

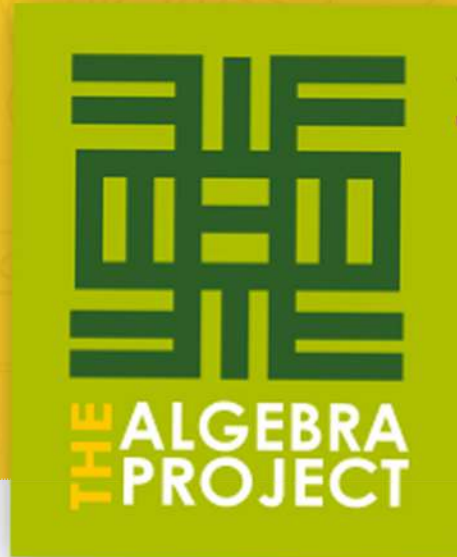


Mr. Kevin Stansbury, Principal

In partnering with the Algebra Project, math teachers at PHS and in grades 6-12 along with Ms. Myla Simmons, Secondary Mathematics Supervisor, have been busy taking in ways and means to enhance student performance. They have completed the second in a series of trainings that began late last spring. Extensive professional development is ongoing, with a keen focus on practical applications and student-centered “mathematical discourse,” or math talk between learners facilitated by the teacher.

The Algebra Project, which took root in the 90’s in the South, was founded by the late and notable civil rights activist and mathematician Robert Moses, who initially partnered with what was the lowest performing middle school in Jackson, Mississippi at that time. Seeing tremendous results, the Project then secured a sizable National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, and grew from there. The key is the transition from arithmetic to algebraic thinking, a shift that aligns with the vision of Ms. Simmons. Math teachers seem excited about the partnership thus far, and PHS administration is in the early phases of securing a multi-year grant with NSF that would further benefit the partnership, and by extension, our students.

Algebra teacher Mr. Caleb Williams, a PHS alum, seemed hopeful and encouraged about the initiative here in the early stages of the partnership. “I think the Algebra Project is where we want to get to,” he said at his classroom door, while his students worked diligently in the background. “It is very important that we raise test scores and student performance, and this is a way to do it.”



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PAAAS | Plainfield Academy for the Arts & Advanced Studies

Mr. Gregory K. Sneed, Principal

The Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies (PAAAS) welcomed Mr. Gregory K. Sneed as the new principal of the school following his appointment by the BOE on May 17, 2022.

Mr. Sneed will be in charge of the 356 student-body in grades 7-12. Students audition for admittance into special artistic studios that include in Theatre, TV & Broadcasting, and Visual Arts.

Mr. Sneed’s goal is to improve the experience and focus on the arts at PAAAS and strengthen the school community encouraging collaboration and family. His immediate plans include organizing school activity days, giving students the opportunity to express through fun and engaging activities during the school day, more field trips for students to see art experiences first hand, conducting several workshops for students’

post-secondary endeavors, and encouraging students to visit various colleges/universities capitalizing on the opportunities available to them and their families.

Mr. Sneed is graduate of Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania and Montclair State University in NJ and previously worked in Perth Amboy as Vice Principal where he served for 4 years. He is an avid musician who plays the trumpet and the piano. His favorite sports are football (NY Jets), basketball (LA Lakers), and baseball (NY Yankees).

He has played with many professional bands and once played for the late Prince, in New York City. “I continue to perform at various venues in the NY/NJ area and look to bring some of those performers to PAAAS to work with our students as well,” – G Sneed. He resides in Roselle, NJ with his family.



PINNACLE ACADEMY

Dr. Deitria Smith-Snead, Principal



Pinnacle Academy High School is dedicated to fostering alternative high school students in grades 9-12 with the opportunity to succeed in a supportive, yet challenging, educational environment that meets the individual needs of every child. With smaller class sizes, our instructors are better able to identify the learning needs of students and effectively develop personalized strategies for success. With the integration of in-person and online learning, students are able to effectively meet the goals of their Individualized Program Plan. In order to complete the social emotional interventions, students are encouraged to participate in individual and group counseling. The School Social Worker and Professional School Counselor are vital to ensuring that students meet their social emotional and academic goals with flexible class scheduling. Students are able to utilize time management to stay on track with graduation requirements. In addition, we also support our bilingual student population through our English as a Second Language (ESL) Program.

Dr. Deitria Smith-Snead is the Principal of the Pinnacle Academy High School. She has twenty-five plus years' experience as an effective educator and has been with Plainfield Public Schools for 14 years. Dr. Smith-Snead has led an alternative school in the past where the graduation rate and attendance increased, therefore, she has created an Attendance Team to ensure the same outcome at Pinnacle Academy.

She and her team of teachers have created an environment where all students feel welcomed and affirmed. Dr. Smith-Snead has also created a Student Culture and Climate Committee where students are given the opportunity to voice their suggestions and concerns. Dr. Smith-Snead graduated with bachelor's degree in History from Kean College, now Kean University, she obtained her Masters and Doctorate degrees from Caldwell University in Educational Leadership. Dr. Smith-Snead is married, her husband is also an educator, and has two daughters. Her favorite quote is, "Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world" by Nelson Mandela, former President South Africa.



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Dr. Jean Gordon, Director

Literacy is an important component of all aspects of learning. The role of the public library and classroom libraries is crucial. By providing access to books and promoting literacy; teachers have the potential to increase student motivation, engagement, and achievement and help students become critical thinkers, analytical readers, and informed citizens. All elementary schools participated in the classroom library competition. Previewing each classroom we are seeing beautiful library areas with themes such as fairy tales, African safari, and travel. Additionally, books were placed in baskets according to genres and levels. A total of 18 classrooms received first place awards and 15 classrooms received honorable mention. Ms. Osunsami's students feel the classroom library is a quiet space where they can get comfortable and enjoy a book from the library or the online book repository.

Teachers from the departments attended professional development at Rutgers University, Montclair State University, Kean University, and New Jersey Art Center. Plainfield Public Schools will be partnering with Dr. Beth Rubin and the Rutgers Graduate School of Education's Civically Engaged Districts Project.

Youth civic inquiry - also called Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR), action civics and critical civic inquiry - is youth-led research on issues selected by and of concern to young people. Youth researchers choose a focus, conduct original research in their schools and communities, share what they've learned and take action. Working with Dr. Rubin and the Civically Engaged Districts Project fulfills the Laura Wooten Act, which requires two semesters of Civics instruction in middle school. Students who participated last year, presented riveting projects and established a culture of analyzing "fake news" versus factual based information.



Upgrading Our Educational Infrastructure

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Ms. Gayle Hughes, Supervisor

StopFinder is the all-in-one parent engagement app designed by parents for parents to keep you in the know. Parents will receive bus location and messages, updates and alerts in real-time. No other parent app provides this much information in real-time to parents and school transportation departments. Think of the peace of mind when parents and guardians know where their child's bus is and when their student arrives at school or when dropped off at the bus stop. This new, innovative technology would also send push notifications to all parents whether or not their app is open, giving us the ability to provide immediate notification of delayed pickups/drop-offs, road closures, inclement weather or any other time-sensitive alerts.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Ms. Carletta Jones, Director

SAVING TREES!! The Human Resources Department is helping the Plainfield Public Schools to save trees! We are excited to announce the purchase and implementation of Genesis-SchoolFi. Genesis is a leading system for school district information management. New hires will no longer be subjected to bulky packets of forms to complete. With just a few taps of the keyboard, staff will be able to complete their paperwork electronically. Digitizing the onboarding process helps the district to reduce its carbon footprint, reduce the cost of purchasing and duplicating paper and virtually eliminate the need for additional file cabinets and storage space. The new employee portal will create a more user-friendly experience for staff by providing greater autonomy in viewing/updating their own information such as emergency contacts, benefits, and W-2 designations.

This new HR Information System will create increasingly streamlined HR and payroll processing which will serve to improve customer satisfaction. Further details about the employee portal go live date will be communicated to staff.

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Daniel Cone, Director

Mr. Daniel "Dan" Cone is no stranger to Plainfield Public Schools. He has been with the district for over two decades and was Athletics Director from 2006-2010. He began his career as a Physical Education Teacher and swimming and volleyball coach at Plainfield High School.

Mr. Cone was born in Worcester, MA, and grew up in Plainfield where he attended Cedarbrook, Hubbard and Wardlaw-Hartridge schools. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Education from the College Mount Union, Ohio, where he was part of the swim team for four years. He obtained a Masters in Educational Leadership from University of Phoenix. Mr. Cone is joined by Assistant Athletics Director Mr. Cory Tucker, former PHS Football Coach and Business Education Teacher for Plainfield Public Schools and Mr. Tyrell Judson, as Head Wrestling Coach. We wish Mr. Cone and Mr. Tucker and all the Athletic Department Coaches and Staff a great season!

Athletics Highlights:

- Cardinals Varsity Football Team won the NJSIAA Region V Invitational Championship
- Boys JV Soccer, Coach Robert Nelli, made it to the semi-finals in NJSIAA for the 1st time ever.
- Marching Band won the High School Division at Morgan State Homecoming
- The Marching Band and Cheerleaders won the 4th of July Parade trophies
- The Meet and Greet the Coaches has a record number of students signing up for sports
- Cardinal Girls Volleyball Team received the USMC/AVCA Award for Academic Excellence
- Congratulations Mykala Brown, Mirka Cordova, Anniyah Cox, Edith Guadarrama, Ashley Jara, Madison McFarlane, Kyra Simmons- Thompson, Jayda Wilks and Nailah Williams



The Winter Sports season began on November 18, 2022. The Spring Sports season will start on March 12, 2023

Plainfield Public Schools End-of-The-Year Review *(continued)*

STUDENT SERVICES

Dr. Elizabeth Filippatos, Executive Director
Mr. Marcos Bayas, Supervisor of Interventions

The Department of Student Services welcomes all families to the 2022–2023 school year. Student Services is a department of 109 professionals that offers a full complement of student services to our entire student body. Collectively, we take pride in our commitment to meeting every child where they are and providing them assistance with any barrier they may face. Barriers may be specific learning problems, health issues, school anxiety, unique family needs, and many others.

This year the district is focused on improving the culture and climate in our schools; in order to have a thriving community we need to connect, support, and encourage each other. To connect with all of you, Student Services has planned eight town hall meetings with a variety of topics, listed below in the chart. The topics illustrate the array of services that are provided to our families and the pathways to connect to these services.

With an emphasis on health as we redefine our lives with COVID 19, the first Town Hall highlighted School Health and was hosted by the school nurses. This first townhall event allowed our nurses to highlight their role in school health and their commitment to partnering with our families. Our second townhall event supported our over 1500 families with children classified as eligible for special education services. This townhall was designed to connect parents in a caring community group called SEPAG (Special Education Advisory Group).

When our parents can connect with each other, everyone benefits from the shared experiences and understandings. Please consider joining us for the remaining town halls, our website describes all the services offered by Student Services and each department can be accessed via a link.

Addressing the culture and climate of any community requires targeted strategies for perceived barriers. To determine perceived barriers, we formed a stakeholder committee of 21 individuals representing every aspect of the district to determine the best way to gather information on stakeholder concerns. The first responsibility of the committee is to determine how to effectively survey our stakeholders and the second priority is to determine what topics will be addressed. The survey process will begin between November and December, we need everyone to participate! Most importantly, it is a goal of Student Services to not only connect our community in a positive climate but also to serve our community. We urge all families to reach out to us if you need anything, even if you consider the need to be beyond the scope of the school system. Our Family Success Center, our dedicated social workers, our talented nurses, educational experts, and skilled service providers are all singularly focused on the school success of your child. We can't wait to work with you!

Student Services Town Hall Schedule 2022-2023

Date	Department	Presenters	Title
October 6, 2022	Office of School Health	Myrna Dyson	What's Happening in the Nurses' Office?
October 13, 2022	Special Education	Alicia Archibald & Shana Solomon-Christian	Special Education/SEPAG
December 15, 2022	Office of Out of School Supports	Zelda Spence	Out of School Supporters
January 19, 2023	Office of Guidance	Denise Shipman	Parent Guide for Social Emotional Learning
February 16, 2023	Office of Family Support Services	Ayesha Howard	Family Success Center-Parent Cafe
March 16, 2023	Director of Student Services	Dr. Filippatos	Hot Topics in Student Services
May 11, 2023	Office of Student Interventions	Marcos Bayas	Parent Tips for Beating the Summer Slide

2023 District Facilities Renovations

The District has invested over \$5.8M in school renovations.

Images: (Top to Bottom) PHS HVAC Updates, Barlow School Bathrooms, Hubbard Temporary Classroom Units and more...



PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS & SERVICES

**DR. DANIELLE MASTROGIOVANNI,
DIRECTOR**

Hello! My name is Dr. Danielle Mastrogiovanni and I am excited to come on board as the Director of the Office of Early Childhood Education. Our mission for early childhood education focuses on the whole child; whereas we provide our students with high-quality early learning experiences inclusive of academics and social-emotional well-being that will start them on their journey of becoming life-long learners.

The Plainfield Public Schools Office of Early Childhood helps to provide high quality preschool experiences for 1,600 students in 12 locations in partnership with 9 licensed providers. Our office itself offers assistance with enrollment and registration, provides access to early childhood nurses, houses a team of instructional coaches and interventionists, and a robust community engagement and family outreach specialist.

Through our provider partnerships, our students are afforded access to classrooms with low student to teacher ratios, certified teachers, family workers and a state-approved High Scope Curriculum. We are excited to be working together to increase academic achievement and ensure that our youngest scholars leave our program "kindergarten ready."

With a diverse background and over 25 years of experience in education, my commitment to educational equity is evidenced by my work within the field of curriculum and instruction, where I have remained dedicated to creating culturally responsive learning opportunities for students of all ages. Our new "Book of the Month Initiative" truly ties in all of the things that I am passionate about; children's literacy, social-emotional learning and anti-bias education. With roots in early childhood, I spent many years as a classroom teacher, after which I transitioned into a leadership role. I am looking forward to sharing these experiences with the PPSD community and am grateful to be able to advocate on behalf of our children and families.



SAVE THE DATE



BOE TOWN HALL



BOE TOWN HALL

Student Services			
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