

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Together, We are the Champions for Children in Poughkeepsie City School District

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VOLUME 4



Contest promotes good attendance

In its larger efforts to increase school attendance across of levels of the district's schools (See [District launches school attendance campaign](#)), the Poughkeepsie City School District is encouraging students to contribute to these efforts by submitting ideas for the "Every Day Counts" PSA contest to promote school attendance.

Students will be able to submit a video, song, spoken word, poem, drawing, or painting that promotes on-time, daily attendance and include facts about the importance of attendance using the [Attendance Works website](#). The best PSAs will be selected from each of the following grade level categories: preschool-5th grade, 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade. PSAs will be used throughout the remainder of this school year and into the next school year until the contest occurs again.

To support Poughkeepsie City School District [Attendance Improvement Plan](#) contact Mr. Da'Ron Wilson, executive director of school engagement and/or repost the attendance social media posts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



PHS students earn instant admission to DCC



Seven of the 25 PHS students who were instantly admitted to DCC Feb. 1, 2023.

The College Readiness and Workforce Education program successfully held its second annual Dutchess Community College Instant Admit event on Feb. 1st in the PHS library. Students came to the library during Senior Wednesday to fill out the DCC application. Steven Posada, DCC Admissions Counselor, was on hand to help facilitate the event. He assisted students with the application, spoke about majors, reviewed transcripts and admitted students on the spot. More than 25 students attended and walked out with a college acceptance letter.

As of Feb. 2, DCC has accepted 123 PHS Class of 2023 students and 31 students have been accepted into other colleges and universities, according to Kelly Semexant, college readiness and workforce education counselor. Some of the standouts include Yale, Vassar, Loyola, University of Chicago, Russell Sage and more than 10 SUNY schools.



Semexant said the numbers are likely higher than that. "Some seniors aren't informing me until they've heard back from all the schools they've applied to," she said.

Semexant is planning two more DCC Instant Admit days, likely in April and late May.

Congratulations to all of our students who have applied and been accepted to schools. We look forward to many more and seeing you all walk across the stage at graduation.

Door décor serves as heart health reminder

Heart health is something people should think about all the time, but especially during National Heart Month which is February. PHS counselor Franky Perez has been pumping out heart facts and health tips for about 20 years.

He organizes a Poughkeepsie City School District team for the [American Heart Association's walk](#) – this year it is April 29 at the Walkway Over the Hudson, coordinates a wear red day, emails heart health messages to those who sign up and hosts a door decorating contest during the month.

"I want teachers and staff members to show how important it is to take care of your heart," he said, adding that many teachers enlist students' help in creating the door decorations. "It's about educating people."

He and PHS students make the messages part of the morning announcements at the school.

Perez's awareness came about 20 years ago after a teacher he worked with lost her husband. And, it's also personal because his mom had heart disease and several family members also had heart issues.

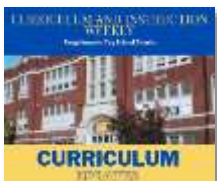
"I always thought it was important to try and take care of my own ticker. I believe in living a healthy lifestyle. The practice of eating healthy and exercising starts young and that can help you stay healthy."

The door contest judging will take place Feb. 28 by the Multicultural Club with the winning classroom receiving a breakfast for the room and a certificate.



PHS counselor Franky Perez stands outside one of the decorated doors.

CI Weekly: Making Connections through Concept Mapping



This week's issue of the Curriculum & Instruction Newsletter highlights concept mapping as a strategy for students to build connections between ideas, vocabulary and content across disciplines. The newsletter also shares information about targeted instruction with iReady and strategies for assigning impactful homework for ELLs. [Download the Feb. 24, 2023 edition.](#)

Upcoming events

- **Saturday, Feb. 25:** Saturday Morning Lights, PMS, 55 College Ave., 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Mar. 1:** Board of Education regular meeting, Administration Building, 18 S. Perry St., 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Mar. 3:** Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day