

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

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VOLUME 4



Wishing all moms the best this Mother's Day



"One of the most important relationships we'll have is the relationship we have with our mothers." - Iyanla Vanzant

As we approach Mother's Day Sunday, we are reminded of the important roles our mothers played in our development. From the moment we are born, mothers are our primary caregiver and first teacher, nurturing every aspect of children's developmental growth. Their unconditional love and support continues through our adolescents and into our adulthood.

The relationship that we have with our mothers is unparalleled to anyone else.

The Poughkeepsie City School District honors all the mothers, specifically those who make up the PCSD community (parents, administrators, faculty, staff, BOE members and community partners). We hope that you have a fabulous Mother's Day!

Residents to vote on budget May 16

The vote for the Poughkeepsie City School District budget and board of education members will be held this upcoming Tuesday. The communities vote will determine the district's funding for the upcoming school year and who the members of our community will be who will serve as Board of Education members.

As outlined in the [Spring 2023 Budget Newsletter](#) the budget will provide funding for meaningful academic, social, emotional and wellness opportunities for all students. The budget was developed with an understanding that we must invest in the success of our students so that they not only find success in school but into adulthood while keeping our community in mind as it relates to taxes. The proposed \$135, 957,853 budget remains below the state authorized tax level limit with an increase of just 2.15 percent, which is less than the tax level limit of 4.04 percent.

All parents and vested community members are strongly encouraged to vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Voting will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 9 p.m. at the following locations:

1st and 3rd Wards: Morse Elementary School, 101 Mansion Street

2nd and 4th Wards: Clinton Elementary School, 100 Montgomery Street

5th Ward: Warring Elementary School, 283 Mansion Street

6th and 7th Wards: Poughkeepsie Middle School, 55 College Avenue

8th Ward: Krieger Elementary, 265 Hooker Avenue

Visit the [Voter Information Portal](#) to see if you are registered to vote and where to vote.

As Champions of Poughkeepsie City School District children, we look forward to our community exercising their voice by voting.



Yours in Education, ~ Eric



Early Learning Center Recess Monitor Shanita Robinson won in the Support Staff category of the Exemplary Educator Awards.

achievement," PCSD Superintendent Dr. Eric J. Rosser said. "It is your expertise and commitment that help bring all that we know to be best for children."

Robinson shows kindness towards both students and staff and is a true team player. She takes her personal time to make indoor recess fun by creating and playing games and art projects and understands what is developmentally appropriate for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.

"Some of the people who don't have huge titles and large degrees are the most needed and most valuable people in a school district," ELC Principal Nadine Elting-Dargan said. "I greatly appreciate her."

Daddino was nominated because she is always available, listens to what staff need and works with them until a project is completed.

District awards recognize staff

The Poughkeepsie City School District celebrated its educators and gave out awards for the most exemplary during a ceremony on May 9. This awards ceremony was the 3rd annual event but the first to take place in person, given COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Early Learning Center Recess Monitor Shanita Robinson won in the Support Staff category, while Director of Data, Assessment and Accountability Dr. Jennifer Daddino won in the Administrator category and Krieger Elementary School Teacher Jennie Henne won for Instructional.

"The quality of an educator is the single biggest predictor of student



Above, Jennie Henne accepts the Exemplary Educator Award for Instructional Staff and flowers from Dr. Jennifer Daddino, director of data, assessment and accountability, who was also an award winner, below.

"Her positive attitude toward the betterment of the district is commendable," Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Charles Gallo said. "We appreciate everything that she does." In her seven years at Krieger, Henne has adapted to new curriculums, supported her colleagues in learning those curriculums, as well as planned field trips and created many opportunities for students.

"Jennie Henne is the definition of an exemplary educator," Krieger Assistant Principal Jessica Baruffo said. "She has dedicated her career to her students and their unique ever-changing needs." The awards began in 2020 as part of Rosser's vision in the district's five-year strategic plan. The criteria to receive one were developed by Kristina Giangreco, the district's former director of special projects. They include enacting the district goals and supporting students' social-emotional development.

Students and staff can nominate any district employee in the three categories. Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Timothy Wade is encouraged every year to see many staff members nominating their colleagues.

"It's really just an event to celebrate the hard work of our employees," Wade said. "We encourage colleagues to really think of who are the

best and the brightest."

Congratulations are in order to the winners and a big thank you to all nominees for your hard work!

The nominees were: Ashley Bass, Francesca Bouffard, Susan Brudnak, Sara Buchter, Dr. Janety Encarnación, Sarah Eyler, Justin Garrett, Amber Grant, Christina Gurnee, Jennifer Howard, Erika Hylton, Pamela Knittel, Jennifer Langdon, Joseph Laster, Tasha Leachman, Katie Livermore, Thomas Murphy, Jill O'Flaherty, Mariya Pushkantser, Kelly Rooney, Shpresa Sherri-Toplanaj, Anna Trainor and Patrice Woods.





Community Schools Unity Day – May 20th

**Poughkeepsie City School District's
3rd Annual Family Festival**

**Community
Schools
Unity Day!**

Saturday, May 20, 2023
12:00pm - 3:00pm

Poughkeepsie High School Track & Field	70 Forbus Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
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Enjoy engaging with our **community partners, free food, games, live performances, a DJ, and more!**

All attendees can enter into a **raffle** for gift baskets, including **children's bikes, gift cards, and other goodies!**

*** First come, first served ***
We encourage you to bring your own water!

The Community Schools team is hard at work putting on the final touches of the 3rd Annual Poughkeepsie City School District's Family Engagement Festival.

The goal of this event is to celebrate parents and caregivers and provide information about programs and services offered through the district and community aimed to help support students and families.

Families will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of family fun activities such as Zumba, kite flying, limbo, musical chairs and a dance contest for prizes. There will be three bounce houses, a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, free concessions, food and giveaways throughout the day. Nine gift baskets have been assembled and 8 children's bikes, donated by a local labor union, will be raffled off.

Parents who stop by to participate in a district survey will be entered into a special raffle to win a basket full of gift cards. Families will also have the opportunity to enjoy a live performance by local recording artist Taylor, a DJ, see a step show performance by the SNUG Steppers, and a karate demonstration. This year there will be approximately 60 community-based organizations providing information and services to this year's

participants.

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity and participation of so many community-based organizations this year. This is evidence that the Poughkeepsie community cares about our students and families and it is the engagement that unites us" shared Ms. Natasha Brown, executive director of community schools.



CI Weekly

Poughkeepsie City School District is offering Teacher Innovation Grants and opportunities for teachers to extend their certifications. Learn more in this week's edition along with tips to help teachers with grouping and lesson pacing. [Download CI Weekly for May 12, 2023.](#)

Poughkeepsie Pioneer newsletter speaks to spring season

The March/April Poughkeepsie Pioneer athletic and wellness newsletter provides updates on varsity baseball, crew, girls flag football and an advice piece from athletic trainer Vinnie Lawrence. [Download your copy](#) today.

Upcoming events

- **Friday, May 12:** School Communicators Day
- **Sunday, May 14:** Mother's Day
- **Wednesday, May 16:** School budget vote
- **Saturday, May 20:** Community Schools Unity Day, 70 Forbus Ave