

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

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Students return to class Thursday, Sept. 7

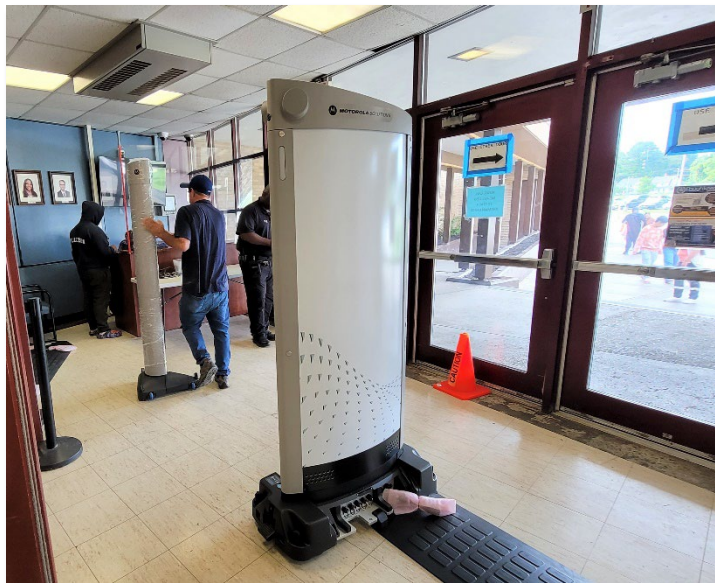
Poughkeepsie City School District schools will open to students Thursday, Sept. 7 while all staff will return Sept. 5 and 6 for Superintendent's Conference Days. Construction crews spent this week finalizing work in bathrooms, offices and classrooms so they would be functional at the start of the year. A cleaning crew of 50+ people have been secured to go through all school buildings to ensure the halls and other areas are ready to welcome everyone.

"Walking each building with the Capital Project team over the last three

days, there is a remarkable improvement to each of our schools. It is exciting to see the transformation of our schools under the Strong Schools Equals Strong Communities Capital Improvement Project," Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser said.

The work totals about \$20 million and was done in an eight-week period. For more details, see the Superintendent's [community update](#).

As with any construction project - especially post-COVID, there were some supply issues and other delays, so work that needs to be completed will be done so as to not interfere with the school day.



Clockwise from above: A Day Automation worker installs a new safety scanner at Poughkeepsie High School Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023. A look inside a renovated restroom at PHS featuring new sinks, mirrors, stalls and toilets (not shown). The new ovens, stovetop and exhaust in the kitchen.



New employees listen to a presentation during orientation Aug. 29, 2023.

Orientation welcomes new employees to district

Forty-six new employees attended the orientation on August 29th. Teachers, Ampact tutors, secretaries, custodial workers, security monitors and other individuals received information regarding business office and human resource procedures followed by a session on safety and security.

Attendees included 22 teachers, 13 Early Learning and Math Corps tutors, three secretaries, two custodial workers, two security monitors, a library aide, district family advocate, intake worker and teaching assistant.

Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser welcomed the new

employees inspiring them to be Champions for Children.

One of the many highlights of the orientation was a two-hour bus ride touring the City of Poughkeepsie. The tour stopped at each of the district's seven schools where principals welcomed the new employees and

shared their vision for the 2023-2024 school year.

After lunch, the group broke into smaller groups based on job title for specialized training. Civil service employees participated in discussions about the district's mission, goals and expectations and technology. Instructional employees also had a meeting about technology and met with Patrice Woods, supervisor of elementary education.

Welcome to all our new employees. Let's make it a great year!

Fall sports teams practicing for upcoming season

Reflecting the preparation that construction crews across the district are taking to have everything in order for the start of school next week, the boys varsity football team, girls varsity volleyball team and the PHS cheerleaders have been preparing for the start of the fall sports season.

Victor Izzo, PCSD music education specialist and girls varsity volleyball coach, has been leading practices at Poughkeepsie High School over the last few weeks preparing them for a great season. Izzo expressed his appreciation that Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser dropped by to say hello and share that he has planned to attend a few games this season. "I've always like volleyball and look forward to seeing coach Izzo and our young ladies in action this year. What I was able to see during practice is that they look really good this year," Rosser said.

Girls Varsity Volleyball Partial Schedule

9/14 – PHS vs. Pawling (Away@4:30pm)
 9/16 – John Jay vs. PHS (Home @11am)
 9/18 – PHS vs. Brewster (Away@4:30pm)
 9/20 – Scarsdale vs. PHS (Home@5pm)
 9/22 – Port Chester vs. PHS (Home@5pm)
 9/26 – PHS vs. Lincoln (Away@5pm)
 9/28 – Mt. Vernon vs. PHS (Home@5pm)
 10/2 – PHS vs. Carmel (Away@4:30pm)
 10/4 – PHS vs. Mahopac (Away@5pm)

Football

Jayquan Floyd, PCSD special education teacher and boys varsity football coach has been working to get the most from PCSD students who are eager to get the season started.

"I am honored to be leading PHS varsity football program this year and to be given the opportunity to build character and strength among our players. I believe in our players and they believe in themselves. Go Pioneers," Floyd said.



Above, the PHS girls varsity volleyball team practices in the gym. Below, coach Victor Izzo speaks to the team during a practice.





At left, the boys varsity football team gathers on the field during practice. Above, PHS cheerleaders warm up during an outdoor practice in August.

Rosser, who has been to a few practices, shared that that Floyd and the coaching team "bring an energy that is needed to rebuild the football team to

the prominence that was known throughout the Hudson Valley."

Boys Varsity Football Schedule

9/2 – Washingtonville vs. PHS (Home@2pm)
 9/16 – Tappan Zee vs. PHS (Home@2pm)
 9/23 – Ramapo vs. PHS (Home@2pm)
 9/30 – PHS vs. Peekskill (Away@6pm)
 10/7 – Spring Valley vs. PHS (Home@2pm)
 10/13 – PHS vs. Walter Panas (Away@6pm)
 10/21 – PHS vs. Port Chester (Away game @1:30pm)
 10/28 – PHS vs TBD

To view the complete schedule for all fall sports click [here](#).

Administrators prepare for PCSD's new school year

Poughkeepsie City School district administrators were brought together Aug. 21 - 24 to engage in learning and planning before the start of the academic year. The four day retreat took place at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, located in Hyde Park, NY. Monday, August 21st served as an opportunity for administrators new to the district (hired Sept. 2022 or after) to engage in learning and conversations related to district protocols, instructional practices and the feedback loop. Tuesday, August 22nd – Thursday, August 24th all administrators came together to also engage in learning and conversations related to multiple topics ([see agenda](#)). Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser opened the Tuesday session by thanking district and building leadership for the hard but extremely important work they engage in on behalf of PCSD students and staff. Rosser provided many kudos reflecting the exemplary work of many administrators in the room, most notably acknowledging the hard work of Juliette Coxum, former Warring Elementary principal and Nicole Penn, current Warring Elementary principal in leading the efforts of the school in achieving the NYSED "Good Standing" status (see [Brief Issue #4 Vol. 5](#)). Dr. Rosser closed with a quote used by Da'Ron Wilson, executive director of school engagement, "Proper Preparation equals Proper Performance" stating that our time together over this next few days will aid in how successful we are in supporting the success of PCSD students this school year.



Robert Watson, co-founder of Lead for Poughkeepsie and The Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet, speaks to administrators about Ampact's Early Learning Corps and Math Corps tutoring programs.