

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

ISSUE NO. 9 | September 15, 2023

VOLUME 5



District set to debut new anonymous tip tool

Poughkeepsie City School District is improving its ability to be proactive when it comes to students' mental health and threat prevention using a new anonymous reporting platform, P3 Campus from Anderson Software.

Made possible through the \$900,000 School Violence Prevention Program grant the district received in [October](#), P3 Campus adds functionality the previous system, SpeakUp, did not have.

"This allows the community, parents, students to make the school aware of anything they feel may help - it isn't just about violence, but could include tips about a student contemplating suicide, experiencing depression or anxiety," Da'Ron Wilson, executive director of school engagement said. Reports can also be made for bullying, self-infliction, dating or domestic violence, inappropriate adult child interactions, and drug or alcohol problems.

Once the system is live within the next week, anonymous tips can be reported via this [website](https://bit.ly/pcsdP3) (<https://bit.ly/pcsdP3>) or an app that is available for Apple or Android devices - use the accompanying QR codes to download. Those making the tip can attach screenshots, videos and photos to provide more information and aid in an appropriate response.

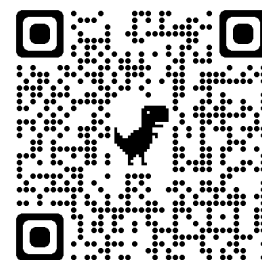
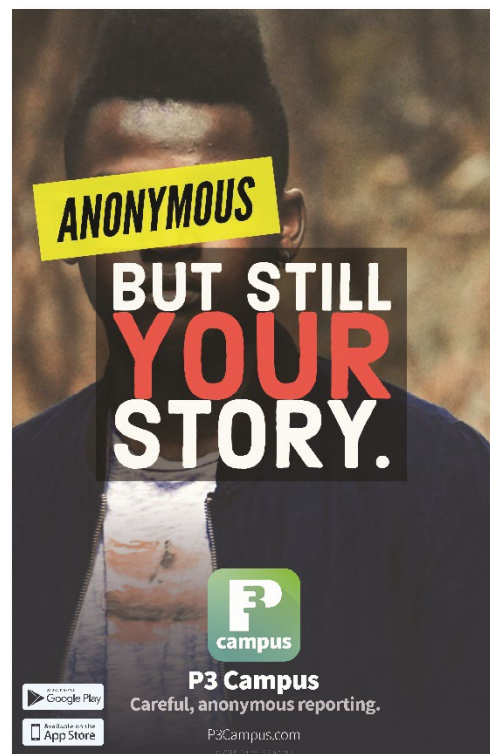
Once an alert is received, the affected school's administrators are notified and can assess the situation and determine the best course of action. Included in the notification are the principal, assistant principal, crisis worker, social worker, psychologist and trauma liaison.

If a person calls after school hours and needs to speak with someone immediately, they are routed to a trained staff member at a monitoring service and that person will then be able to notify the district's after-hours contact.

P3 Campus is in use at about 35,000 schools across the United States. According to stats provided by P3, the most common reports nationwide are threats of suicide, bullying and drugs.

Since the system allows for two-way communication, more information can be gathered at the time of the report. The system also allows for those people who make a report to be notified once action is taken so the loop is closed.

"I hope this gives people another way for people to communicate with the school district about concerns they have about students' well-being so we can intervene and provide support before problems arise," Wilson said. "The goal is to keep students and our schools safe."



Android users



Apple users

Meet PHS' new assistant principals

Poughkeepsie High School has two new assistant principals to start the 2023-24 school year: Cecil Coston and Donata Carolina.

Both of them have prior experience as assistant principals and have strong reasons for wanting to be here.

Donata Carolina

Growing up and being educated in an urban district made an impact on Donata Carolina, one of two new assistant principals at Poughkeepsie High School.

"The passion it has fostered in me to support others to reach their potential in life is unwavering," she said, adding, "The chance to make something big and amazing happen for the students of PCSD is something I do not take lightly and I am excited to take on." Carolina isn't a stranger to the role, having spent two years as an assistant principal in Yonkers Public Schools. Prior to that she was an instructional coach, data coordinator and an information and communication technology teacher within a charter school network in the Bronx.

She views her role as one of a coach to help improve student outcomes, serving the school community academically and emotionally. "This includes to hear, see and advocate for the needs of my school community. ... I want students I serve to feel valued, seen and heard."

To that end, she wants students to know that, "there is at least one person who will be their voice until they learn how to use their own voice."

In her first year, Carolina wants to establish positive relationships with staff, students and families and help support students to get them to the next level of their academic careers.

When she isn't at PHS, Carolina spends time with her 17-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son, kayaks, swims and walks trails with her dogs. She also enjoys reading books that "help me level up my mind and spirit" and volunteering at community events.



Donata Carolina is one of two new assistant principals at Poughkeepsie High School.



Cecil Coston is a new assistant principal at Poughkeepsie High School.

culture, supporting at-risk students and families and building protocols around best instructional practices and building safety protocols.

"I am a servant leader and pride myself on serving my students, their families and teachers. I believe every stakeholder in a school community can grow if given a safe and supportive environment to do so in." Coston said he chose to apply to PCSD after relocating to Dutchess County. "I wanted to serve and be a part of my Dutchess school community," he said. "I also chose PCSD because it is where I believe I can have the greatest impact on the young men and women that I believe deserve an opportunity to be great though the world may have turned its back on them."

Cecil Coston

Cecil Coston, is excited about PHS' students and staff. "My role as an assistant principal entails making hard decisions on the best recourse for each individual student and staff member to support a growth mindset," he said.

One of his goals in his first year is to help increase science Regents scores "by providing my teachers with strategies to unlock their potential to support students' academic achievements."

Coston has worked in high schools for 23 years - 14 as a math, science and career-technical education instructor and nine as an assistant principal in New York City. Most recently he worked as an administrative consultant helping a middle school building climate and

Outside of work, Coston enjoys spending time with family, friends and his three sons and granddaughter. You might even see him riding a horse. "I am a cowboy and horse owner," he said. He enjoys hip hop, R&B and all kinds of music, writes screenplays and has coached boys basketball.

Library offers variety of programs for all

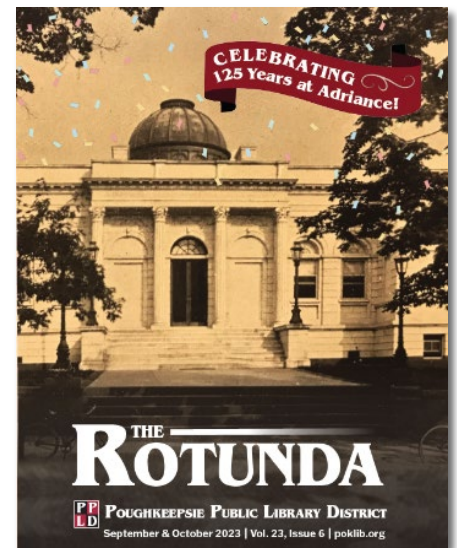
The Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD) recently published its September/October edition of "The Rotunda," a bimonthly publication offering descriptions and dates of programs and services accessible to the community that promote lifelong learning, literacy and reading.

The cover of the latest edition highlights that Oct. 18, 2023 will mark the 125th Anniversary of the Adriance Memorial Library, whose 23,000 volume collection was once housed at the old Poughkeepsie High School. The library was proposed and built in memory of John P. Adriance and Mary Jane Ruthven Platt, owners of Adriance, Platt & Co, makers of harvesting machinery in the 1800s. The family was one of Poughkeepsie's oldest and most prominent families.

This issue of "The Rotunda" also has a Library Collection Survey that seeks public input on the Library District's materials. The brief six-question survey ends with asking survey responders to share ideas of the types of materials that should be considered by the Library District.

The Rotunda also provides a number of high-quality events and programs in the following broad areas:

- Books, Writing, & More.
- Hispanic Heritage.
- Arts & Entertainment.
- Local History.
- Wellness & Environment.
- Connecting (social events).
- PPD Supports Students.
- Haunted Happenings.
- Public Computer Center.
- Programs in Spanish.
- El Mes de la Herencia Hispana.
- Teen Programming.
- Early Childhood.
- Children.



The Poughkeepsie City School District greatly values the PPLD and its role in Poughkeepsie in offering the community diverse services and programs resulting in an informed and educated public. Both organizations have collaborated to promote literacy and reading among pre-K- 12th grade students. Rover, the PPLD mobile library is frequently at PCSD Community School events and through an invaluable partnership, PCSD students and teachers have access to PPLD's Sora digital library platform.



See our other newsletters

Poughkeepsie City School District publishes a variety of newsletters throughout the year. Here are the ones that are available now:

➤ CI Weekly: The [Sept. 15 edition](#) week's edition announces the start of the i-Ready diagnostic on Sept. 19 and provides information

for teachers about assessment.

- [Puentes](#), our Spanish-language newsletter in conjunction with the City of Poughkeepsie provides news for the Latino community. This issue features five questions with Eric and La Guelaguetza 2023. You can subscribe at the link as well.
- [Mental Health and Wellness September 2023 edition](#) focuses on suicide prevention including the warning signs and tips for getting help and on self-care.

Upcoming events

- **Tue., Sept. 19:** National IT Professionals Day
- **Wed., Sept. 20:** BOE Workshop meeting, 6:30 p.m., 18 S. Perry St.