



PCSD releases application for Aspiring Leadership Academy

District and school leadership is an essential element in improving student outcomes and guaranteeing that the instruction that leads to success is meaningful and high quality. Research has shown that the quality of a district's leadership has the greatest impact on student learning – second only to classroom instruction. As part of the Poughkeepsie City School District's amplified efforts to grow and strengthen the capacity of teachers and leaders, the district is launching the Aspiring Leadership Academy (ALA), a twelve session leadership preparation and development opportunity intended for those interested in seeking a role in building and/or central office leadership. The goal of the ALA is to:



- Strengthen the pipeline for effective leaders using an innovative pre service training model.
- Improve outcomes for all students and close achievement and opportunity gaps.
- Increase and retain educators of color, women, and others from underrepresented groups.
- Demonstrate the importance of leader preparation as a lever for systemic improvement.

The learning modules for the ALA will encompass the following concentration areas:

- Leadership Mindset
- Instructional Leadership and Vision
- Strategic Thinking
- Redefining School Culture and Climate
- Equity and Cultural Competency
- Recognizing Great Instruction and Growing Staff Capacity
- Distributive Leadership
- Implementer's Mindset
- Legal Considerations
- Resource Stewardship

Interested PCSD staff and others from outside the district can access the application and more information by clicking [here](#). Applications will be due by July 17, 2021. Program start date will be August 30, 2021.

Elementary students to get glimpses of careers



Every adult can recall days of their childhood when we dreamed of what occupation we would assume when we became of age. Common aspirations of becoming a police officer, dentist, veterinarian, teacher, lawyer, doctor, engineer, artist and even the occasional superhero (Batman), were all occupations that I dreamed of one day assuming.

As a part of the Poughkeepsie City School District's goals to support student success beyond the 12th grade, efforts are underway to expand student career exploration throughout the preK-12 academic continuum of the district. One such

effort will be hosting a districtwide Elementary School Career Fair slated for June 15th and 17th. The career fair, which will be held virtually, will provide opportunity for students to hear directly from more than a dozen professionals on what they do on a daily basis, what steps they took to achieve their desire to enter into their professions and words of encouragement for students to continue to dream and explore their own career interest. Professionals participating in the Elementary School Career Fair will be a police officer, veterinary technician, stenographer, engineer, music industry artist, banker, nurse, firefighter, social worker, manufacturing specialist and information technology specialist.

Each day, six careers will be featured in sessions for all students - remote and in-person - at every school. Students will all join at the same time for a shared experience, Director of Special Projects Kristina Giangreco said. Presenters will give a brief overview of their job using terms children in grades preK-5 will understand. Then, they'll read a book related to their career. Those books will be added to each school's library at the start of the 2021-22 school year so students who are interested can check them out.

The event was inspired after a career activity coloring book, designed by students who participated in the Career Action Center several years ago surfaced.

Giangreco and Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser liked the book and set out to create an event around it. "The more we expose children at a young age to different careers, the wider the world seems," she said. The district is duplicating enough of the coloring books for each preK-5 student and will also have it as a digital download for remote students. Parents will also be able to make arrangements to pick one up at their child's school.



Tompkins Mahopac Bank Vice President Amy Greiner, PHS Principal Kelleyann Royce-Giron, and Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser stand in front of the newly remodeled PHS School Store set to reopen the September.

Bank helps relaunch PHS school store

A \$7,500 grant from Tompkins Mahopac Bank is providing an influx of financial resources over three years to help provide inventory for next year's reopening of the Poughkeepsie High School Store.

Royce-Giron, students and staff have been hard at work this year getting the space around the corner from the main lobby ready. Equipment to operate the store, including a cash

register, are already in place. "We had a new mural painted and have donations from teachers and staff. We want to do a big grand opening in the fall," Royce-Giron said.

The store will be one pathway to graduation, where students clock in hours, learn skills, literacy and use the hours toward graduation. They'll be taught how to do inventory, keep books, work a cash register and order supplies, she said. It will also connect with PHS' positive behavioral interventions and supports program. Students will earn points through the program that are redeemable at the store for items, she said.

But the bank's involvement is more than just a financial one.

Amy Greiner, vice president for Tompkins Mahopac Bank, said they will work with the school to provide educational opportunities for students. "I was thinking about how to budget, how to set up a business, manage inventory, discuss profit margins," Greiner said, adding that the bank would work with Royce-Giron to put together whatever type of programming is needed. And, it wouldn't be restricted to business education. "It could be personal budgeting, setting financial goals, car loans, financial terminology," she said.

Banks are required to give back to the community and improve financial literacy through the Community Reinvestment Act and one way they can do that is through programming such as this, Greiner said.