



SAVE committee updates visitor procedures

The safety and security of PCSD students and staff remain the District's highest priority. In light of the horrific act of gun violence that transpired in Texas recently, the District SAVE Committee has updated building safety protocols outlining what will be required of visitors desiring to visit schools. The following visitor protocols will be effective June 13, 2022:

- All visitors (anyone who is not a district employee or student of the school being entered) must have an appointment to do so or the permission of the appropriate site administrator.
- Visitors must enter and exit through the main entrance.
- Visitors must report immediately to the greeter, show a photo ID and identify the purpose of their visit - including with whom they have an appointment.
- Visitors must be signed in and wear the visitor badge provided by the greeter during their visit.
- Upon exit, visitors must surrender the visitor badge and exit from the main entrance/exit.
- Items being dropped off for students or staff will be left with the greeter.
- All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in the [District Code of Conduct](#). Per the District Code of Conduct, those that fail to comply will subject themselves to disciplinary action, inclusive of law enforcement intervention.

These measures are being implemented to maintain the safety of the school environment and those that are members of the school community.

[PCSD Visitor Procedures](#)

[Procedimientos de Visita del PCSD](#)



New visitor protocols will be in effect at all PCSD schools beginning Monday, June 13, 2022.



Jalasia Weldon receives the Sportsmanship Award in Winter Cheerleading from Athletic Director Peter Bianco.

Awards recognize PHS athletes on and off field

Poughkeepsie High School's student athletes were given accolades and awards for their hard work in all types of sports from football to bowling during the annual Athletic Awards on June 8.

Athletic Director Peter Bianco congratulated students on their efforts and touted their commitment to better themselves and everyone else on a daily basis.

"I see the greatest potential here for our student athletes to progress in the best direction possible," Bianco said. "The athletes and coaches have shown steadfast dedication and passion."

Bianco encouraged students to work hard in order

to achieve their dreams and not be discouraged by naysayers.

"By persevering, your dream will become reachable," Bianco said. "Do not let other people speak of your

dream in a bad way – if you really want it, seize the opportunity and go get it.”

PHS Principal Kelleyann Royce-Giron watched student athletes grow academically and in their respective sports and could not be more proud of them, as well as their coaches. She was especially touched to see the swimming team cheer on and encourage the opposing team at their swim meets. “That makes me really, really proud,” Royce-Giron said. “We have so much talent across the board.” Some previous award ceremonies were held off campus, but Bianco found it easier for families to have it at PHS. It also creates a community bond. “I wanted it to be here to really embrace the school and the community,” Bianco said. “One of my philosophies is bringing the school back and being a community.”

Senior Kareem Muir did not expect to win the

Sportsmanship Award in Boys Track, but is proud to receive it. He has proved to be a good sport by accepting any outcome of a race.

“If I lose, I lose,” Muir said. “I don’t get cocky, I just be real.”

Muir encouraged anyone following in his footsteps to stay focused and be positive.

“Honestly, just keep your head up,” Muir said.

Freshman Natalia Lopez received both the Athletic Director and Sportsmanship Award in Softball, which she did to broaden her horizons.



“I just wanted to try something new and I thought softball would be a good choice,” Lopez said. Seeing her hard work pay off was satisfying for Lopez.

“I’m very appreciative of them,” Lopez said of the awards. “I worked hard to get to where I am now.”



Top: Joey Roach (right) congratulates Nahgabriel Brathwaite (left) after receiving the Most Valuable Player award in Winter Girls Basketball, while Abiba Na-aata looks on. Roach received the Sportsmanship award, while Na-aata received the Most Improved Player. **Left:** (From left to right) Hady Oniyangi, Jameel Richardson and Daniel Johnson with their Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player and Sportsmanship awards, respectively, in Boys Winter Track.

Guest artists inspire creativity and challenge students

Four artists spent two weeks working with Poughkeepsie Middle School students on a variety of projects designed to spark creativity and enrich their academic experience with art, thanks to the Bardavon.

The theater’s Hip Hop Theater program took a turn this year, instead of being done at the Bardavon, the artists embedded themselves in sixth grade classes at PMS.

This year’s sixth graders not only entered a new school, but they did so after being remote for the last 1½ years. Sixth **Amiah Matthews** is seen in the Hip Hop Theater 2022 recording her inspirational poem.





A screenshot from from the video produced as part of Hip Hop Theater 2022. Here, Joseph "Joey" Rodriguez plays saxophone while artist Sean Nowell looks on. Rodriguez's bubble letter art is overlaid on the video.

grade teachers Heidi Murphy, Selena Barrington and Elizabeth Talarczyk knew right away what they wanted the artists to focus on.

"We wanted the kids to be able to have a voice because they were away from people for a year and a half and we wanted them to identify who helped them get through these times," Murphy said.

Throughout the two weeks, students worked on praise poems and the spoken word with Drew Drake; learned music production/raping and song writing from Grace Galu; dance with BBoy Ken Fury; and how to play instruments and use technology with Sean Nowell. Autumn Fasone already enjoyed drawing, having

started at the age of four. She came away with a new skill. "I learned how to write good bubble letters and do graffiti art," she said.

Isaiah Derello also enjoyed the bubble art. "We were able to do what we wanted and have fun with it, make it colorful," he said. For Derello, dancing was new. "I learned new moves and choreography." Dance/choreography was also new for Alessandra Del Castillo. "The thing I didn't really know was choreography and that took me a few tries to get on flow," she said. Del Castillo liked the drawing sessions the best, explaining that growing up she had a lot of art and drawing stuff around her from her parents. "With that all around me I flourished in art."

Artist Nowell told students that while he was sharing instruments with them, they didn't need them to make music. "You can make music with anything," he said. Students then experimented with their voice and tapping pens, pencils and fingers on their desks.

Joey Rodriguez enjoyed the music and instruments sessions most.

"I learned how to make music and beats and learned about using the pedal to adjust the pitch and tempo," said the saxophone and euphonium player.

Amiah Matthews took more than lessons in art and creativity from the sessions.

"I learned that if you try new things, you might like it. You might not, but it is good to try," she said. For her, that new thing was hip hop. "I started wanting to do hip hop every day."

Matthews also pointed out how the experience impacted everyone.

"I loved the team effort with the adults, teachers and students. Everyone bonded and that helped bring about us coming together," she said.



Isaiah Derello plays the violin during a music session.



Above, Autumn Fasone's bubble letter art. At left, Alessandra Del Castillo (far right) dances with classmates in the library as part of a choreography session.

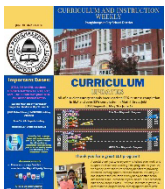
Del Castillo said she personally works best with others so she struggled during the remote time. "This opportunity allowed me to break through that obstacle."

Students, parents and school staff were able to experience the creativity of the sixth graders during a private watch party Thursday, June 2. During the video, viewers were treated to excerpts from all aspects of the sessions. The video featured students' works throughout, including the backing tracks.

Murphy noted that they scheduled the two-week program toward the end of the school year, just before the iReady assessments.

"This creates an emotional foundation where they can take chances in a subject - reading and writing," she said, adding that many of the sixth graders showed incredible growth on the assessments. While there is nothing directly linking the program to the results, Murphy believes that incorporating art into the curriculum, along with all the other efforts of staff, helps.

None of this would have been possible without the help of Adelina Borman, director of education and house manager at the Bardavon, all the artists, teachers and the students who were willing to express themselves. So, a huge thank you to all of you.



Curriculum and Instruction: End of year activities

This week's edition informs about the district's extended learning time programs, speaks to teachers about four meaningful activities for the end of school and uses photos to highlight an anti-bullying event at Krieger. [Download CI #36.](#)

Upcoming events

- June 14th -23rd – **Elementary and Middle School Moving Up Day Ceremonies**
Dates, Locations, and Times Varying
- June 15th – **Workshop/Regular Board of Education Meeting**
Location: Columbus Building • Time: 6:30pm
- June 15th – **Start of Regents Testing (Secondary)**
- June 20th – **Juneteenth (All Schools and District Offices Closed)**
- June 22nd, 23rd, 24th – **½ day of instruction (Elementary Schools)**
- June 24th – **Last Day of Instruction (All students)**
- June 25th – **Poughkeepsie High School Graduation**
Location: Poughkeepsie Athletic Complex • Time: 6:00pm