

# SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

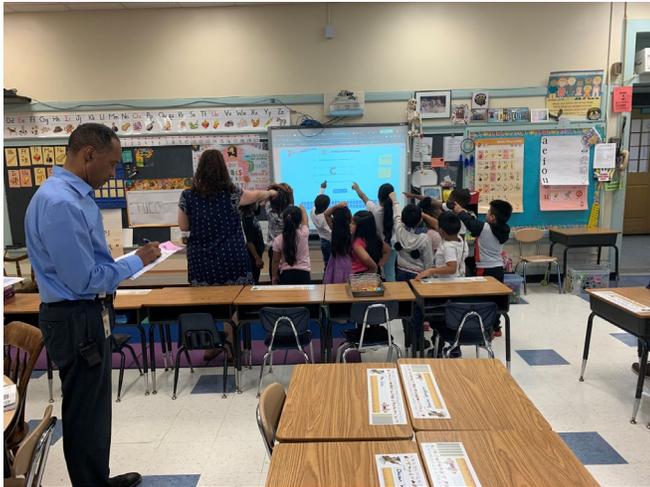
Together, We are the Champions for Children in Poughkeepsie City School District

ISSUE NO 12 | September 21, 2022

VOLUME 4



## Rounds seek to improve education



**Assistant Principal Paul Weir participates in instructional rounds at Clinton Elementary school.**

In response to placing a greater emphasis on the instructional program as a means to accelerate student success in Poughkeepsie, district leadership, inclusive of Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, superintendent of schools, Dr. Timothy Wade, assistant superintendent of administrative services, and Ms. Louise Lynch, assistant superintendent of business will be joining administrators from the Elementary and Secondary Education in conducting Instructional Rounds and classroom visit throughout the academic year. "It's important that every cabinet member is involved in understanding and supporting the educational process through the work we engage in regardless of role and function in the district," shared Rosser.

Visits are not part of evaluations but are being used to gather and highlight best practices, help teachers grow and to gather data in order to target areas for

professional development. Combined, these efforts will result in improved techniques and increased student achievement.

Elementary rounds will focus on effective instructional practices.

In September, Lesson Objectives (how a lesson supports the skill being taught) and Instructional Activities (questioning techniques, methods of differentiation) are the two areas being looked at in ELA, Wilson Foundations and Math classes.

"It is meant to help us see the practices they have, what they are able to do and it allows us to turn around and provide support for them," Supervisor of Elementary Education Patrice Woods said.

Since the district is introducing the Wilson Foundations curriculum this year, it gives the department a sense of how familiar teachers are with the program and where additional professional development and support is needed.

"The ultimate goal is student achievement and the way to achieve that is working with teachers, observing what they do and building their capacity which will impact students," Director of Elementary Education Janet Bisti said.

The rounds also help build the capacity of principals and assistant principals. "We want to build building leaders' capacity and ability to provide feedback to teachers as the principals and assistant principals oversee instruction in the buildings," Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Greg Mott said.

Classroom visits take place twice a week, with the goal of being in each school at least once. During the rounds, a document is used to track observations, best practices and other data to help the district make informed decisions on what type of district-wide professional development to offer.

Teachers will receive a Google form with observational data and feedback.

October's focus area will be modeling. Modeling is a teaching strategy where a teacher explicitly shows the students how to complete an activity or assignment before the students begin.

## Clinic offers eye exams, glasses

The Community Schools department is hosting a free Vision Clinic for Poughkeepsie City School District students Oct. 3-6 at the Early Learning Center, 372 Church St.

VSP Eyes of Hope mobile clinic will be at the site from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will





be seeing students by appointment only. More than 300 people have already registered to obtain information or make an appointment, Executive Director of Community Schools Natasha Cherry said. Signups will be accepted until Friday and parents must fill out a medical consent form at the Parent Empowerment Center at Poughkeepsie Middle school, 55 College Ave., in order to have their child seen. Students will receive an eye exam and be able to choose from a variety of frames with single vision lenses made on-site within about 30 minutes and more complicated prescriptions sent out to a lab and returned to the school. VSP will schedule a return visit to fit the glasses.

“This is an amazing opportunity for our students,” Cherry said. “It fits with the district’s motto of being champions for children and doing everything we can to help our students succeed. Success requires vision and this free clinic provides an opportunity for all of our students to get their vision checked and corrected so they are better able to learn.”

The opportunity came about after Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser and City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Rob Rolison made a presentation as co-chairs of the [Poughkeepsie Children’s Cabinet](#) to the New York State Board of Regents that was observed by Stephanic Maes, assistant in higher education. Maes wrote to Rosser about the possibility of a clinic and asked if the district was interested. New York State Department of Education has partnered with VSP Global, the New York State Optometric Association and New York State Society of Opticians to offer such clinics throughout the state.

“Poughkeepsie City School District would love to be connected to this opportunity I told her,” Rosser said. Maes put together a meeting with district staff and it was decided to have the mobile clinic at one location but offer its services to all students in the district, Cherry said, something that isn’t often done. Transportation to and from the clinic will be provided for elementary school students, while middle and high school students will be given appointments later in the afternoon so they can walk to the ELC.

“We are grateful to all those who are making this clinic possible and helping our children see better which can only help to improve their ability to read and grow,” Rosser said. To register your child, visit <https://bit.ly/visionclinic22> or scan the accompanying QR code.



For questions, please call the Parent Empowerment Center at 845-451-4900 ext. 1425 or email [pec@poughkeepsieschools.org](mailto:pec@poughkeepsieschools.org).



PCSD students speak with Marist College students during the pizza party.

## Marist partnership helps hundreds of students

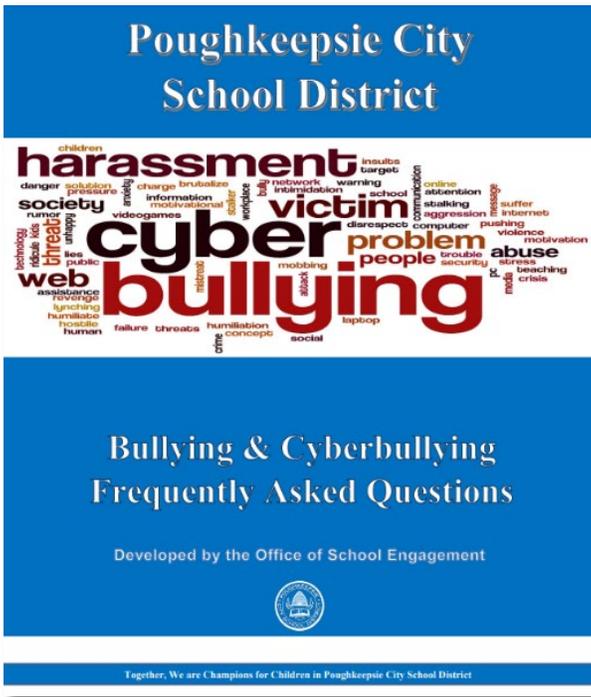
Marist Liberty Partnership Program held grade-level pizza parties last week that attracted more than 80 students to the event, designed to introduce the after-school program they offer to students at the middle school and high school.

Homework help began Tuesday at the schools and runs Tuesdays through Fridays from 2:50-4:30 p.m., according to Crystal Purfield, director of the program. “Marist College students provide mentoring and homework help with supervision by the full-time program coordinators,” she said, adding that this year there are more than 40 Marist students participating. The program serves more than 360 district students in

grades six through 12 and will begin recruiting fifth graders in the spring.

## Document helps parents learn about (and prevent) bullying

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, and in preparation the Office of School Engagement has updated the [Poughkeepsie City School District Bullying & Cyberbullying Frequently Asked Questions document](#) created as a resource for the entire PCSD school community to combat a national epidemic



that continues to challenge school districts and school aged children across the country. Federal statistics about bullying in the United States indicate:

- About 20% of students ages 12-18 experienced bullying nationwide.
- Nationwide, 19% of students in grades 9–12 report being bullied on school property in the 12 months prior to the survey.

The following percentages of students ages 12-18 had experienced bullying in various places at school:

- Hallway or stairwell (43.4%)
- Classroom (42.1%)
- Cafeteria (26.8%)
- Outside on school grounds (21.9%)
- Online or text (15.3%)
- Bathroom or locker room (12.1%)
- Somewhere else in the school building (2.1%)
- Approximately 46% of students ages 12-18 who were bullied during the school year notified an adult at school about the bullying.

The [Bullying & Cyberbullying Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[document](#) provides information to help educate and mobilize the school and community stakeholders to become upstanders in combating the epidemic. Access to the document has been provided to all faculty and staff and faculty and staff have been encouraged to share with parents and caregivers of PCSD students.

# Poughkeepsie City School District

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**September 15 – October 15, 2022**



