

# SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

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VOLUME 4



## Board liaison wants to make changes



When Gabrihana Jones was a junior at Poughkeepsie High School, she took advantage of the principal's office hours, joining conversations and demonstrating an interest in making a difference, according to Royce-Giron, who is now the Poughkeepsie Middle School principal.

"She was a part of student government and presented skills in advocating for what would be in the best interest of students," Royce-Giron said, adding, "She's all about social justice."

When it was time to decide on a new Board of Education Student Liaison, Jones was a frontrunner. "Gabrihana Jones was selected based on her presentations, our conversations, her taking the initiative in wanting to advocate for herself, her peers and the community at large," Royce-Giron said.

In most school districts, the primary function of the student board liaison is to ensure that the Board and the Superintendent are kept abreast of issues critical to the student body and, at the same time, have feedback from the student body as to those issues which are critical to the school district.

"The entire Board and I support PCSD students and encourage them to elevate their voices. As future contributing citizens of our community, their voices and experience matter. Through them the entire community can better understand their needs and nurture and cultivate them." shared Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, superintendent of schools. "I know no student better than Miss Jones to serve in this capacity. From our first conversation a few years ago, I was convinced then that she will do great things in life".

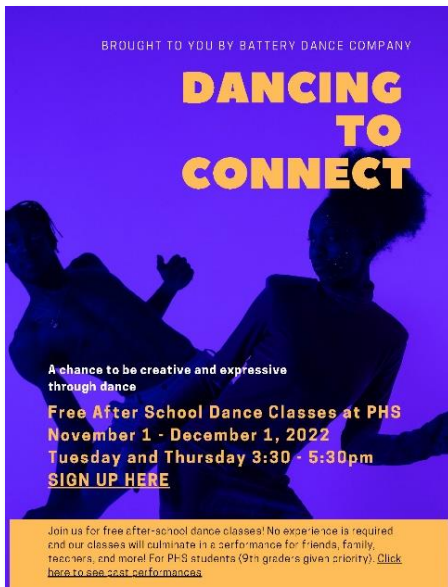
## Swag stores promote spirit

School and district pride rings loudly throughout the community. Especially during football and basketball seasons, graduates, faculty and staff, students, parents, and members of the community can be seen wearing Poughkeepsie City School District school apparel. The pride seen in Poughkeepsie is unparalleled when compared to neighboring communities.



As part of its 21-22 performance objectives, the Poughkeepsie City School District, in partnership with Apparel Now and Sideline, has created "Swag Stores" for people to obtain school and district apparel. The stores serve multiple purposes in that they; provide greater access to school and alumni apparel to support school spirit (Apparel Now and Sideline), provide greater access to sports team apparel to support Pioneer sports teams (Apparel Now and Sideline), provide funding to schools' Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) to support PTA programming for students and parents (Apparel Now), and provide funding to each school so school-based decision making teams can expand their school's programming for students (Apparel Now). School specific stores can be found by clicking the following links:

Apparel Now Stores				
(Profit shares to support school PTA and schools)				
<a href="#">ELC Store</a>	<a href="#">Clinton Elementary Store</a>	<a href="#">Krieger Elementary Store</a>	<a href="#">Morse Elementary Store</a>	<a href="#">Warring Elementary Store</a>
<a href="#">Poughkeepsie Middle School Store</a>	<a href="#">Poughkeepsie High School Store</a>	<a href="#">Poughkeepsie Athletics Store</a>	<a href="#">Poughkeepsie Alumni Store</a>	For a limited time 20% off on select items
Sideline Store				
(Provides 15% discount for any purchases made through Nov 25 <sup>th</sup> by using SPIRIT15)				
<a href="#">PHS Pioneer Sports Team Store</a>				



## After-school program explores creativity through dance

Vassar College and Battery Dance Company have teamed up to bring free after-school dance classes to Poughkeepsie High School starting Nov. 1. The [Dancing to Connect](#) program will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5:30 p.m. through Dec. 1.

What makes this program different from traditional dance classes is that there is no specific genre being taught. Instead, students are given the freedom to design their own dance and movements to a large extent.

"This is a way to use dance to express themselves and not feel intimidated," Miriam Mahdaviani, chair of Vassar College's dance department, said. "No dance experience is required and it is a non-judgmental, free way for students to connect, collaborate and see things from another perspective."

Battery Dance's Robin Cantrell has been training a small group of five Vassar students who expressed interest in learning the methodology and then working with students from Poughkeepsie City School District. Because of how it is structured, the program engages participants in team-building and helps break down barriers that can emerge between people with different backgrounds.

Students will be led through warmups and asked to create a dance using different prompts. They will be asked what it means to them and how they see it. Mahdaviani said that this puts everyone on equal footing.

The student instructors themselves come from different backgrounds and experienced learning the methodology by doing the actual work, Mahdaviani said, adding, "One student wrote an essay about working through the program. One reason why she couldn't wait to share the program with PHS students, she wrote, is that it gave her a sense of belonging and connection."

The PCSD program will culminate with a Dec. 9 student dance recital.

## Free art portfolio help available Nov. 1-3

Students interested in attending college for art can meet virtually with colleges of their choice as part of The Art Effect's Hudson Valley Regional Portfolio Week, being held Nov. 1-3.

More than 30 colleges are participating in the 21st annual event which runs from 4-8 p.m. each day. Alfred University, Maine College of Art and Design, New York School of Interior Design, Drexel University-Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, SUNY Purchase, California College of Arts, Syracuse University College of Visual and Performing Arts are among the colleges participating.

Students can register for free 15-minute portfolio reviews at [thearteffect.org/tae-events/portfolio-week](http://thearteffect.org/tae-events/portfolio-week) or can search by keyword to see which schools fit their interests.



## C&I Weekly: Why students need time to think

The CI Weekly provides an interesting article on why students need time to think and process during lessons among other important instruction updates. To access [click here](#).

## Upcoming events

- **Saturday, Oct. 29:** NYSPHAA Game Day Cheerleading East Invitational at Arlington High School w/PHS Varsity Cheer Team. Get tickets at the [NYSPHAA GoFan page link](#).
- **Tuesday, Nov. 1:** Transition and Resource Fair, PHS, 70 Forbus St., 4-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 2:** Board of Education regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., Admin. Building, 18 S. Perry St.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 8:** Superintendent's Conference Day – Schools are closed
- **Friday, Nov. 11:** Veteran's Day – Schools are closed