



## Elementary tech receives an upgrade



Clinton special education teacher Amanda McLoughlin uses the new Promethean Board in her classroom to greet students.

In its efforts to integrate technology into the instructional program, the Poughkeepsie City School District recently made significant technology upgrades in all five district elementary schools in the form of Promethean Boards. The boards replace the Smart Boards currently in use. The all-in-one computers with interactive screens are 75" - larger than the Smart Boards - and instead of being mounted on the wall are mobile. This allows teachers to bring the screens to different stations in the classroom, according to Amy Carr, director of instructional technology. All instructional spaces in schools received boards based on decisions

by building principals.

Carr said 192 of the devices were installed at the schools last month.

Promethean trained school librarians on the system during the Superintendent's Conference days in September and more professional development is coming for staff at the next Superintendent's Conference Day Nov. 8.

In addition to the boards, district IT staff established a new subdomain for email accounts to make it easier for teachers and students to collaborate within Google. Student emails changed this year as a result.

Carr said her team is also working on creating a ClassLink landing page for students that will provide access to all the common software they use such as iReady, Brain Pop and MyOn using a single sign-on making it easier for students to find what they need.

Younger students will have a QR code to use to access it while older students will use a link.

"This provides more equitable access to all," she said.

## District sets meetings for Code of Conduct

The Poughkeepsie City School District is committed to maintaining high standards and expectations for the education of all students. Because the district believes that order and discipline are essential to being educated effectively, it is also committed to maintaining high standards and expectations for behavior.

A safe, orderly academic environment is the shared responsibility among school, home, and community. This requires all stakeholders to uphold and adhere to clearly defined disciplinary options and responses. Annually, the district engages the school community in reviewing the current Code of Conduct, found electronically to determine what parts might be in need of updating. This participatory process engages members of the school [here](#), community to discuss the Code of Conduct **See CODE Page 3**



Every member of the school community - students, teachers, parents and the community play a role in contributing to the environment.

# Former Knicks star kicks off PMS behavior program

Some of the qualities and behaviors that propelled Larry Johnson's career as a power forward with the Charlotte Hornets and later the New York Knicks are similar to those Poughkeepsie Middle School students are learning as part of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program. For that reason, Johnson visited Poughkeepsie to help Principal Kelleyann Royce-Giron with the program kickoff.

"He spoke about our matrix and talked about how these values and expectations played a large role in his life," Royce-Giron said.

The three key behaviors stressed during the presentation were respect, responsibility and safety.

During his career, Johnson was selected to the All-NBA team and All-Rookie Team once each, was named Rookie of the Year and was a four-time NBA Player of the Week. Johnson spoke as students viewed a slideshow about the PBIS program, in which students exhibiting positive behaviors can be awarded points throughout the year and redeem those points to attend events, enter raffles and other incentives, Royce-Giron said.

Throughout the morning, students attended an assembly by grade level. During fourth period, select students had an opportunity to do a meet and greet with Johnson, get a photo taken with him and have him sign something.

The program uses a system tied to a student's ID so that, for example, if they swipe in on time, they are automatically awarded a point.

"Any staff member can assign a point to a student for doing something that demonstrates one of the values," Royce-Giron said, adding that staff members without direct access to the system will be able to submit a request that a point be added.

The first event will be a movie night in November. Students will use points they've earned to get a ticket or snacks. Royce-Giron said something is planned for each month along with some special events.

"The kickoff energy was high and I'm looking to see positive results," she said, adding that a relationship was established with Johnson who said he would like to come back and check in on the kids and the program.



Above, PMS Principal Kelleyann Royce-Giron compares shoe size with former NY Knick Larry Johnson during one of the PBIS assemblies. Right, Mayor Rob Rolison with Johnson and Royce-Giron.



Former NY Knick Larry Johnson (back with hat) poses with PMS students and Principal Kelleyann Royce-Giron after the PBIS assemblies.



"We are looking for movement in a positive direction, not perfection," she said.



**PHS soccer player and senior Cesar Calderon-Garcia holds the ball on PHS soccer field. He is October 2022's Athlete of the Month.**

## Athlete of the Month

# Soccer guru shares skills with others

Poughkeepsie High School Senior Cesar Calderon-Garcia was named October's Athlete of the Month, for his dedication to the sport, inside and outside of school.

Garcia has played soccer since he was four and began playing in PHS' program in freshman year. He started taking the sport more seriously in eighth grade and started shedding weight with encouragement from his then coach Patrick Alvarez.

"I used to be a chubby kid and the first year I lost 40 pounds," Calderon-Garcia said. "Now I'm getting back in shape."

Depending on his schedule, Calderon-Garcia can sometimes train up to three times a day – all in between his classes at PHS and completing his schoolwork, which he does during free periods and at home. Calderon-Garcia aspires to play professionally one day.

"What my parents want me to do is focus on school and soccer," Calderon-

Garcia said. "My schedule is really busy because I'm all over the place with soccer."

Outside of school, he volunteers his time by coaching his friends and younger aspiring soccer players who wish to follow in his footsteps.

"Sometimes they want to pay me, but I'm like 'Leave it,' because I'm not there for the money, I'm there for the passion," Calderon-Garcia said. "They saw how my path was going, they want to follow me."

Garcia appreciates his current coach Nathan Rosenberger, who nominated him for the honor, for encouraging him when times are tough.

"I appreciate him for everything he's done for me," Calderon-Garcia said. "He always tells me, 'Keep on going, keep your head up.'"

Rosenberger considers it a privilege to have coached Calderon-Garcia throughout his four years of high school and credits him for his hard work and dedication to soccer.

"He's turned himself into a top player in the county," Rosenberger said. "He's going out there and putting in hours and hours of work."

Calderon-Garcia is a role model to younger students, who gets good grades in all his classes and is accountable.

"I couldn't ask for a better player to have on our team," Rosenberger said. "He's well-rounded, that's part of the reason we picked Cesar."

For anyone interested in playing soccer, either professionally or for fun, Calderon-Garcia recommends playing every game with passion.

"Enjoy every moment," he said. "You never know when it will be your last day on the pitch."

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**Code from Page 1** - for the purpose of making recommendations to the Superintendent and Board of Education for review and approval. All members of the community are welcome at the following meetings:

- November 9, 2022 – 4:30pm @Poughkeepsie High School
- February 1, 2023 – 4:30pm @ Morse Elementary School
- March 1, 2023 – 4:30pm via [Zoom registration link](#). You'll receive an email about joining meeting.
- May 3, 2023 – 4:30pm @ Poughkeepsie Middle School.

To see the presentation given by Da'Ron Wilson, executive director of school engagement outlining more information at the Code of Conduct click [here](#).

## Upcoming events

- **Tues., Nov. 8:** Superintendent's Conference Day - Schools closed
- **Wed., Nov. 9:** Code of Conduct meeting, 4:30 p.m., PHS, 70 Forbus St.
- **Fri., Nov. 11:** Veteran's Day - Schools closed