

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

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District staff take day to learn and grow

Poughkeepsie School District staff spent Tuesday, Nov. 8, engaged in professional learning sessions for its fall Superintendent's Conference Day. The comprehensive day of professional learning and engagement featured specially selected sessions to support the core responsibilities of every member of the organization. The following sessions were offered to all PCSD staff:

- PreK On My Way (PreK)
- Ready Math and ELA (PMS)
- Specially Designed Instruction (K-12 ICT and Self Contained)
- Data Driven Instruction (PreK – 8)
- Castle Learning (PHS Core Subject)
- iXL Training (PHS Core Subject)
- TitleWise Training (Library Media)
- Google Classroom & Technology in Arts (Art)
- Comprehensive Arts Education Plan Survey (Art)
- Music and Our Youth w/ Susan Bialek (Music)
- Four Landscapes of a Music Classroom w/Emily Schaad (Music)
- Strings: Pedagogy for Strings Teachers w/ Emily Schaad (Music)
- Creating Thematic Unit Plans (World Language)
- Planning forward for implementation of 2023 NYS Learning Standards for World Languages (World Language)
- Foundation Training (Prek – 2)
- Best Practices to Support Student Needs (ENL)
- SnapED Presentation (School Nurses and Physical Education)
- Physical Education Standards (Physical Education)
- Infinite Campus Training (School Counselors and Administrative Support)
- Naviance Training (School Counseling)
- nVision Training (Administrative Support)
- Building a Recess Program (School Monitors)
- Visitor Protocols, Situational Awareness Training & Raptor demonstration (Security, Crisis Interventionist & Greeters)
- Promethean Board Training (Prek – 8)
- Science 21 Planning & Prep (Grade 3)
- Culturally Responsive Teaching (K-12 SSTAR, Life Skills and Grades 3 – 5)
- Facilities & Operations Training – Various Topics (Facilities and Maintenance)

See the full [Nov. 8 Superintendent's Conference Day schedule](#).



PCSD kindergarten teachers Noelle Willis and Kelsey Grant model a Wilson Foundations drill sounds lesson for other kindergarten teachers at the Early Learning Center.



Dagmar Luciano, culturally responsive educator, and Beth Poague family and community educator, from the Mid-Hudson Regional partnership, provide fourth and fifth grade teachers with training on, "What does it mean to be Culturally Responsive."



As a part of the district's efforts to expand the capacity of all staff a survey was released providing opportunity for the district leadership team to receive feedback so that they can continue to strengthen the professional learning opportunities provided to faculty and staff. Initial results show that 95.7 percent of the 552 responders found the training relevant to their role in the district.

Assistant Principal seeks culture shift

Tiffany Walton-Henry believes that education can transform lives, that's why she entered the field, working as a school social worker, special education coordinator and now as Poughkeepsie Middle School's first assistant principal for climate and culture.

Walton-Henry spent 14 years working for the New York City Department of Education in the Bronx before making the move to the Hudson Valley.

"I wanted to make more decisions and create systems to support students, teachers and families," she said.

"Poughkeepsie's new superintendent (Dr. Eric Jay Rosser) had a vision that aligned with mine - a whole child philosophy."

This philosophy means that social-emotional learning and academics must be addressed for students to be successful. "If a student's social-emotional needs are

Tiffany Walton-Henry, Poughkeepsie Middle School's new assistant principal for climate and culture walks and talks with students during transition (above) and shares about an inspiring moment in her office.

being met, it will transform them in the classroom," Walton-Henry said. This is a new position at PMS (similar to the one held by Barrington Atkins at PHS).

"I saw the job posting and said to myself, 'Gosh, what are you doing - this is what I was meant to do.'"

She grew up and attended school in a similar environment. "I heard a lot about Poughkeepsie and knew it was struggling and had the same community and school issues as I had. My family overcame the obstacles and I went into social work," she said.

In her first month (she started Oct. 3), Walton-Henry has concentrated on building relationships with students, staff and families by being accessible, giving hugs and high-fives throughout the day.



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"We have great children in this building and the same is true for the staff. I feel at home."

While she is in charge of handling behavioral matters, she believes it all starts with "giving students that voice. Just 30 seconds and let them explain their side," she said.

Her goals for the first year are to bridge the gap between the school and the community.

"I want more parent involvement so they will feel comfortable coming to the building and seeking guidance whether it is about their child's behavior, academics or something else. I want parents to feel supported and know their children are safe."

In the mornings, she's responsible for greeting students.

"I'm happy to see you today," she says to them and asks them if they are being a scholar.

"I have high energy and compliment them. They're starting to say hi now."



Another goal is working to make better use of the Reset and Restore room. Students now have a reflective form to fill out about how their behavior impacted them, their peers and the school community. They are also asked how to restore the behavior they did.

"This allows for a smooth transition back to class," she said.

When she's not working, Walton-Henry enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter, stepson and her Shizpoo, Kobe. She likes to garden, listen to all genres of music, read mysteries and follow her children's and husband's sports activities.

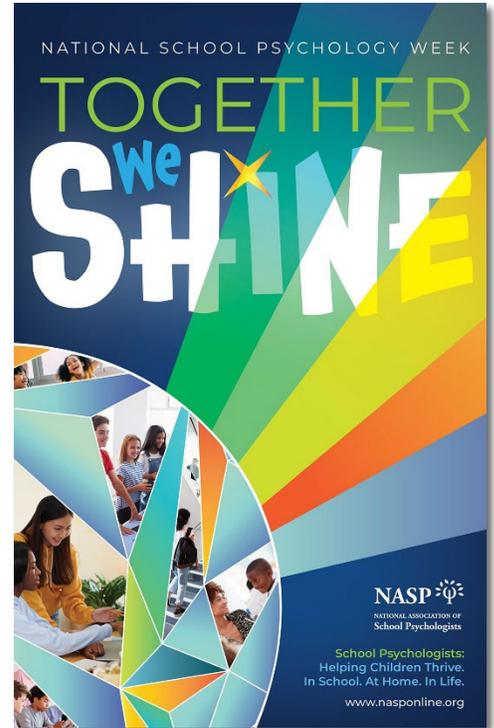
Week celebrates work done by school psychologists

It has been a couple of difficult years for our students, staff and community as we navigated through the pandemic and the social-emotional impacts it had. Through it all, our seven school psychologists: Marissa O'Brien at Clinton; MaryEllen Trocino at Krieger, Laura Donohue at Morse, Sharon Wade at Poughkeepsie Middle School, Tasha Benbow-Harris at Poughkeepsie High School, Emily Cazer at Warring and Catherine Moore at ELC have been there to support our community. We thank each of them during this National School Psychology Week.

Started by the National Association of School Psychologists, this annual week (Nov. 7-11, 2022) recognizes the work school psychologists and other educators do to help students succeed and thrive.

This year's theme is "Together we shine."

"Though each of us has our own inner light-the strengths and attributes that shape our capabilities and dreams when we bring together our ideas and actions to uplift each other-we shine even brighter together, both as individuals and as a community," according to the NASP website.



NASP's School Psychology Week poster for 2022-23.



L. Julee Molina, bilingual public information officer for the city and school district (right) and E. Margarita Corbatón, library trainee, outside Zaachila's Bakery on Main Street.

City, district launch newsletter for Latino community, 'Puentes'

The City of Poughkeepsie and Poughkeepsie City School District launches a newsletter for the Latino community to better connect with the city and district's emerging population.

Puentes, a monthly Latino newsletter, will have Latino-specific content from the district's Superintendent's [Briefs](#) and from the city's [The Buzz newsletter](#). It also will have original content catered toward the interests of the Latino community in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Also, once a month, L. Julee Molina, Bilingual Public Information Officer for the City of Poughkeepsie and The Poughkeepsie City School District, and E. Margarita Corbatón, library trainee and presenter of Spanish programs, will table in front of Zaachila's Bakery at 693 Main St., Poughkeepsie, across from Market Fresh. The tabling schedule will be announced at a later date. The table, aka La Mesa Comunitaria, is to provide a two-way conversation with the Latino community, helping connect them to the services and resources the City, district and library provide. Sign up for our Latino newsletter [Puentes!](#)