

# SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

ISSUE NO. 44 | January 26, 2024

VOLUME 5



## Pre-K registration window opens Feb. 7

According to the [Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet Early Childhood report](#), "From prenatal development through a child's entry into kindergarten, the brain makes billions of connections between its neurons that set the foundation for learning for the rest of a child's life. Maximizing the opportunities to build a child's brain from the ages of 0 to 5 is critical to their lifelong learning, health, and adult productivity." As a part of the Poughkeepsie City School District's effort to champion the academic preparation and lifelong success of the City of Poughkeepsie's earliest learners, the district is happy to provide full-day prekindergarten (pre-K) programming to 4 year old children residing in the City of Poughkeepsie.

New York State requires student pre-K placement to take place through a lottery process, where interested parents apply to participate in the process that randomly selects children to participate in highly sought-after pre-K seats. The application window opens Feb. 7. The district's [pre-K program](#) is grounded in early literacy and numeracy research and encourages inquiry and play to support learning, cooperation, and social-emotional growth. It provides curriculum and activities five days per week, which are appropriate to the age-level and individual needs of children and promote cognitive, linguistic, physical, cultural, emotional, and social development. Activities are learner-centered and are designed and provided in a way that promotes the child's total growth and development in all areas including emergent English literacy. Children are encouraged to be self-assured and independent. "Pre-kindergarten programs are designed not only to prepare students for kindergarten but also to tap into and develop children's natural curiosity, fostering a lifelong love of learning at its earliest stages.



**Mrs. Faulk's pre-K class performs during last year's moving up ceremony.**

Students in our UPK programs engage in a variety of activities that build literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills," Janet Bisti, director of elementary education, said. Two information sessions are scheduled to share with parents of children aged 3 and 4 the importance of early learning, and the registration process, and answer questions that parents might have about how their child can participate in one of the various Poughkeepsie City School District pre-K programs located in the district and with community partners.

The district's lottery registration window will open Feb. 7th and close on May 3. Parents will need to complete an online form. Parents who need assistance can visit the [Poughkeepsie City School's Parent Empowerment Center](#) to access computers to complete the form. The lottery will take place May 8 and parents will be notified of their child's placement by Jun. 10, 2024. Visit the district's [Pre-K program page](#) for more information.

Poughkeepsie City School District is happy to provide Full Day Universal Pre-K (UPK) programs to 4 year olds across the City of Poughkeepsie. Our UPK program is grounded in early literacy and numeracy research and encourages inquiry and play to support learning, cooperation, and social-emotional growth.

Eligible children are those who reside within the school district and are 3 and 4 years of age on or before December 1 of the year in which he or she is enrolled, or who will otherwise be first eligible to enter public school kindergarten commencing with the following school year.

### Information Sessions

Tuesday February 6, 2024 at 3-4pm – Warring Elementary  
Tuesday February 20, 2023 at 5:00pm – Krieger Elementary

### Registration Lottery Period

Wednesday February 7 - May 3, 2024

For More Information Click Link Below



# Competition encourages students to keep reading

There is no prize more valuable than knowledge. That is the mantra of a new program at Clinton Elementary School. The Read the World competition program was introduced to two Clinton fifth-grade classes on Jan. 25 and it is geared toward heightening students' reading abilities, strengthening their comprehensive skills, and getting them excited about reading. Until late April, students will be monitored for their comprehension of "[Nic Blake and the Remarkable: The Manifestor Prophecy](#)" by Angie Thomas and then quizzed weekly on it during February and March. Teachers will identify students' strengths and weaknesses, see where improvements can be made, and sustain areas they excel in.

Three students who score the highest during the program will then compete in a "Jeopardy!" style game where they can win prizes. City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers helped support the program because children can learn about everything from history to life skills from being able to read. "It's very important that our children learn to read and to engage in reading books more often instead of being on social media," Flowers said. "We want you to stay engaged and be excited about it (reading)." Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser asked students if they wanted to be successful academically and in life and while all raised their hands, not as many did when asked if they liked to read. He noted that learning how to read is



Above: Clinton fifth graders J'Anna Campbell, Janelle Ryland and Micah Phillip, along with Principal Dr. David Scott, show off the book they will read during the Read the World competition. Above: Some Clinton students couldn't wait to get into their copy of "Nic Blake and the Remarkable: The Manifestor Prophecy."

crucial for success. "Mastering reading is important because you read throughout your entire life," Rosser said. Clinton Principal Dr. David Scott told students that no matter who wins the competition, they will be winners for one simple reason. "You're going to be reading more and reading is winning," Scott said. "You're all going to win." Janelle Ryland is excited to participate because she loves reading adventure stories and playing trivia games. She is well prepared as her class is constantly learning new words and their meanings.

"We look around the word, beyond the word, we look for anything that could help us figure out what this word is," Ryland explained. "When I think about it, I'm like 'I love this,' so this is why I'm excited."

Micah Phillip is an avid reader who would be happy to make it to the final round, even if he does not win a prize. "I don't care about the prizes," Phillip said. "I'm just doing it for fun." J'Anna Campbell believes the competition will help her learn how to pronounce certain words, as well as improve her reading. "I think the competition will upgrade my reading level," Campbell said. "I'm excited about the book."

## Other Newsletters:

PCSD publishes a variety of newsletters. Here are the newsletters available now:

- [CI Weekly](#) for Jan. 26, 2024
- [7 Mindsets, Jan. 24, 2024](#)
- [Mental Health In the Spotlight, January 2024](#)

## Upcoming events

- Tue., Feb. 6:** Half-day Elementary Only, Parent Teacher Conferences
- Wed., Feb. 7:** Half-day PMS only, Parent Teacher Conferences
  - Board of Education regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Building, 18 S. Perry St.
- Thu., Feb. 8:** Half Day PHS and ELC, Parent Teacher Conferences

