

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

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VOLUME 5



A day of learning for district staff

On Thursday, it was the Poughkeepsie City School District's teachers and staff's turn to learn.

Districtwide, staff were offered instructional development opportunities in support of district goals and performance objectives on Superintendent's Conference Day.

Research shows a direct correlation between improved student learning outcomes and staff development focusing on instructional practices and highly skilled staff.

Each offering was carefully designed to support our teams through a holistic approach which reflects staff input and suggestions, as well as areas of interest that will benefit from the time set aside for our adult learners.

In addition to a range of district offerings, schools provided training and support delivered and designed by administrative teams. This included analysis and instructional design based on student data at Krieger Elementary, team building at Morse Elementary, and much more.

Offerings were organized by groupings such as CPR and AED training for administrators, safety and instructional tools, and strategic planning training for teachers and staff. Some of the training sessions touched on key district initiatives, such as the [Everyday Labs system for reducing absenteeism](#), and [7 Mindsets](#), a healthy school culture training. A snapshot of the day is below and a [full overview of the day is available online](#).



Members of the Poughkeepsie City School District staff engage in training for student support resources during Superintendent's Conference Day Thursday.

- Principal Driven Professional Development
- Counselors Day of Training and Planning
- Everyday Labs, resource integration training
- 7 Mindsets, fostering school culture training
- Mandated Reporter training
- District instructional databases, and related resource development
- CPR and AED Training
- Safety Training, including fire prevention, tick awareness, blood borne pathogens
- De-escalation training
- Managing behavior during transportation
- Student Record training in security and privacy
- Refresher: FERPA and HIPAA regulations
- Art of Education, resource integration for use and implementation
- Gearing Up for NYSESLAT, assessment training and support
- Soliday training, instructional techniques
- Smart Social, resource integration training
- Panorama, resource integration training
- iReady Magnetic Reading/Math
- Circle Screening training
- Pre-K On My Way training
- Pathful junior professional learning
- Science Instruction - coaching support
- Science investigations planning and preparation
- Science 21 training
- HealthSmart, digital resource for health teachers
- Time Out: A self-care and mindfulness workshop
- Community Systems of Care, resource access and implementation
- Caseload management and forward planning
- Promethean Board training



Feedback from participants verified the training was relevant to their work. One staff member commented, "We have lovely resources to provide to families to help support them." Another called the day a "great opportunity to collaborate with team members and implement strategies." Staff also requested to have "more superintendent conference days like today."

Athlete of the Month

Duncan hopes to make school proud as 1st to reach bowling states

Kyle Duncan's goal for this weekend is simple:

"I just want to basically make this school proud," said the Poughkeepsie High School sophomore who will compete at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Boys Bowling Championships in Syracuse.

While making states is an accomplishment for any bowler, Duncan's achievement is especially significant as he is the first bowler from Poughkeepsie to compete in the NYSPHSAA event.

Duncan earned that right on Valentine's Day at the Section 1 tournament in Fishkill when he – as the first Poughkeepsie bowler to compete in that meet – rolled a 1,266 six-game series. Six individuals from the section qualified for states, three based on season average and three, including Duncan, on their scores at sectionals. He also garnered another distinction this week, as he was named Poughkeepsie's Athlete of the Month for February.

Duncan called the performance "certainly my best day." After finishing the season with a 183 per-game average, he averaged 211 for sectionals. Along the way, he rolled the best game of his career, a 253.

"I went totally nuts," he said. "I was getting 200 right after 200. Once I was done with the fourth game, I had another 200, I already felt confident I was going to make it to states."

Duncan has been bowling since the age of 4, when his grandfather, William Webb, introduced him to the game. Webb encouraged him to just have fun without stressing the outcome. Duncan said he's since taught himself the finer points.

The sophomore has a two-handed release, throwing a wide hook to the right, letting the ball naturally come back to the center of the lane with the hope of colliding with the first and third pins.

The bowling program at Poughkeepsie is young but growing. Coach Nashan Anderson said the team had just four players last year, which made it difficult to win as five bowlers start each match. This year there were 22 participants and Anderson said Duncan – in his first year on the team himself – is their leader.

"He really sets the tone for the rest of the team, they look up to him," the high school English teacher said, noting Duncan also won the league's sportsmanship award. "He coaches them, like, 'Hey, do this, try this.' He's a great motivator. He really is our star all-around. Not just bowling, but all-around. He's a great student, he's a great person, he's a great leader and he's a great bowler. That's very rare. He's a great kid."

Duncan said the team is close, often going on weekends to bowl recreationally. Anderson said Duncan's qualifying for states has motivated other players to say they want to do the same next year. Separate from individual accolades, though, Duncan said the goal next will be to win as a team.

"I expect good things for us next year," he said.

States comes first. AMF Strike N Spare Lanes in Syracuse will host the tournament, with the team competition Friday, followed by individual play Saturday and Sunday.



Kyle Duncan bowls during the Section 1 tournament on Feb. 14 in Fishkill. Courtesy photo/Patrick Oehler, Poughkeepsie Journal



While he's evolved as a bowler since those early days as a 4-year-old, Duncan's approach to the weekend echoes the lessons of his grandfather: "Just have fun," he said. "I don't want to overthink it and get overwhelmed. I just want to go up there and do as good as I can."



Library publicizes annual book festival

The Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD) recently published its March and April 2024 edition of "The Rotunda," a bimonthly publication offering descriptions and dates of programs and services accessible to the community that promote lifelong learning, literacy and reading.

This issue publicizes the library's annual book festival, which will be held Saturday, March 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Falcon Hall, located on the campus of Dutchess Community College, 53 Pendell Road in Poughkeepsie.

More than 1,000 people attended the festival last year. Participants will be able to meet more than 100 authors, illustrators and characters; peruse books for sale; and enjoy crafts and presentations. The festival is expanding the collection of books for sale by featuring young adult titles and authors. Thanks to the Friends of PPLD, visitors to the book festival ages 17 or younger may receive one voucher, which is valued at \$15. Some restrictions apply.

This issue of "The Rotunda" also highlights National Library Week, April 7-13, in which the library is hosting a drawing. Those

interested in participating can share their favorite thing about the PPLD by entering a comment or video on the library's website, share a video on social media, or pick up a write-in entry form at any of the library's check-out desks. Each submission will be entered into a drawing to win a bag full of PPLD swag and other prizes. All entries will be accepted until the end of day Friday, April 12, with the winner(s) announced on Monday, April 15.

Other newsletters to keep you informed:

Poughkeepsie City School District publishes a variety of newsletters throughout the year. Here are the available newsletters now:

[CI Weekly](#),

March 8, 2024

[Puentes](#),

February 2024;

[CCR](#), February 2024

Upcoming events

- **Fri. March 8:** Father & Male Role Model Support Group: Two sessions: 3 p.m. at Morse Elementary, 101 Mansion St.; 4:30 p.m. at Poughkeepsie Middle School
- **Tues. March 12:** Community Schools Healthy Families Workshop: 1 p.m.; free with lunch provided. RSVP through ParentSquare requested. Early Learning Center Library, 372 Church St.
- **Thurs. March 14:** Poughkeepsie middle and high schools Pops Concert: 6:30 p.m. Poughkeepsie Middle School, 55 College Ave.

