

In Our Schools



CAMI ANDERSON, STATE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Spring 2012

Making a Difference in Our Schools



The Newark Public Schools is on a roll and Superintendent Cami Anderson is enlisting your help. Students, parents, teachers, employees, extended families and the community are coming together with partner organizations to create good schools where there were failing ones and make the good schools even better. Everyone has a part to play in achieving these goals for the schools and the students who attend them.

Our Core Principles are the basis on which future plans are being built:

- Excellence: All students deserve a school that gets them on a path to college or a great career.
- Efficiency: Every possible dollar should be invested in staff and programs that will make a positive difference for our students.
- Equity: Every student should have access to an excellent school regardless of race, class, or neighborhood.

At this exciting time for the school district there is a renewed sense of purpose. Supporting and encouraging our students, from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and beyond, is our mission. Make a difference.

Renew Schools Announced

There are "Five Winning Ingredients" for a successful school: A Great School Leader, Mission and Vision, Excellent Teachers, Safe Building and Flexible Resources, and Engaged Families and Students. With this formula, students are more likely to achieve academically and have other needs addressed.

These winning ingredients will be the foundation for Renew Schools which were announced by Superintendent Anderson as part of the future plan for the district. These NPS schools, with an NPS principal, teachers and staff, are being developed by diverse teams that include stakeholders in the community such as families, educators, and school model experts. Resources will be provided to the teams to help solidify the mission, core values, materials, and other aspects of the Renew Schools. The Renew Schools for 2012-13 will include:

- 13th Avenue Renew School with MLK/13th students
- Peshine Avenue Renew School with Peshine/Dayton students
- Chancellor Avenue Renew School with Chancellor/Chancellor Annex students
- Camden Street Renew School with Camden Elementary/Middle students
- Sussex Avenue Renew School with Global Village Zone (GVZ) students
- Quitman Street Renew School with GVZ students

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IBM Donates Kids Workstations



Students at The Early Childhood School in Newark demonstrate their skills on the newly donated IBM Young Explorer workstations to (l.-r.) United Way of Essex and West Hudson President and CEO Keith Green, teacher Thaya Kelly, assistant teacher Rose Venable, IBM VP, Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs Stanley Litow, Newark Public Schools Superintendent Cami Anderson, Mayor of Newark Cory A. Booker, NPS Director of Early Childhood Sandra Rodriguez and school Vice Principal Jeanne Ramirez.

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In Our Schools is a publication of The Newark Public Schools Communications Department. For more information call 973-733-7338.

Where Can I Find Information on Newark Schools and Programs for Newark Parents?

Online @
the NPS Website:
www.nps.k12.nj.us

MS. CAMI ANDERSON
STATE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT



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Early College Celebrates Third Year

The district's Newark Early College High School (NECHS) initiative - which started out to prove that average students can achieve academically when challenged - was recently recognized by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation at an evening celebration at The Newark Club. The event additionally served as a springboard for the national Woodrow Wilson Summit on College and Career Readiness - a first for Newark - which took place the following day.

The celebration included students, parents and staff, who were joined by several members of the national Early College High School initiative, representatives from partner colleges New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rutgers University and Essex County College, the Mayor's Office, Rutgers professor Dr. Clement A. Price and philanthropic partners from the Newark Education Trust and the Victoria Foundation.

The evening centered on the accomplishments of NECHS and celebrated moving forward, preparing students for college and careers. Introduced three years ago for sixth grade students, the program has expanded each year, adding seventh and eighth grades. It started with 65 and now has an enrollment of 150 students from across the district who are located at Louise A. Spencer School.

The NECHS program is designed to prepare students to attain 30 to 60 free college credits before graduating high school. Classroom instruction advances college readiness in Language Arts Literacy, Science, Mathematics and History.

NPS Launches New Teacher Evaluation Program

As part of the continuing effort to improve teacher quality and district-wide student success, Newark Schools recently launched NEWARK Excels™ (Exchange for Educators and Leaders), an innovative Educator Evaluation Pilot Program. The two-year initiative will engage teachers, school leaders, and community members in designing and implementing an improved educator assessment system in all Newark Public Schools. The goal is to build a system that sets clear, high expectations for teachers and provides the feedback and support they need to meet those expectations.

Newark Excels™ was designed as a partnership between the district and local unions, with guidance from New Jersey Department of Education. The plan is based on recommendations from the New Jersey Educator Effectiveness Task Force to improve classroom practices and ultimately increase student growth.

State District Superintendent Cami Anderson is excited about this initiative. "Research shows that teacher quality is the most important lever we have to increase student achievement." she stated. "When there is an effective teacher in every classroom and a strong leader in each school, everyone wins Students achieve, schools work, and communities thrive. "

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Teachers Awarded Grants to Improve Student Learning

Teams of teachers in schools across the city were recently awarded grants up to \$10,000 per project, as winners of the Teacher Innovation Grants initiative. A total of \$212,000 was granted by the Fund for Newark's Future (FNF) who also sponsored the initiative.



As groups of teachers working together in one school, the recipients also work together across the city. Five teaching teams, from Oliver Street, Ann Street, Hawthorne Avenue, Dr. William Horton and Alexander Street, received funding to implement the Great Books curriculum in their classrooms. They will work together in a professional learning community to share professional development and best practices in the classrooms as they implement the project. Additionally, they will develop strategies for aligning Great Books with the new Common Core Standards.

The teacher groups were honored at a reception hosted by the Fund for Newark's Future held at the Robert Treat Hotel in February. They were lauded by Superintendent Anderson (top right) and FNF Executive director Greg Taylor (bottom center).

The 21 schools (25 teams) and their projects are:

Abington Avenue School

Fostering Independence and Self-Esteem through Research Projects

Alexander Street School

Teaching Critical Thinking Using Great Books Program and Shared Inquiry, and, FAST (Focused Adult Study Teams)

American History High School

Documentary Play Based on Original Research

Ann Street School

Teaching Critical Thinking Using Great Books Program and Shared Inquiry

Barringer 9th Grade Success Academy

Freshman Transition Program for At-Risk Students

Benjamin Franklin School

Going Up! The Escalator: Gifted Education at Ben Franklin

Central High School

Youth for Change and Justice

Dr. E. Alma Flagg School

Leaping into Learning

Dr. William H. Horton School

Teaching Critical Thinking Using Great Books Program and Shared Inquiry

Gray Charter School

Academic Enrichment Facility

Hawthorne Avenue School

Teaching Critical Thinking Using Great Books Program and Shared Inquiry

John F. Kennedy School

iPads for Autism, and, iPads for Speech Therapy

Malcolm X Shabazz High School

Math Laboratory

Newark Innovation Academy

Bringing Education to Life

New Jersey Regional Day School

Teaching Everyone Communication, and, Step up to Success: Behavior Modification Program

Oliver Street School

Teaching Critical Thinking Using Great Books Program and Shared Inquiry

Rafael Hernandez Elementary

Typing Learning System Improving Students' Language Arts Skills

Science Park High School

Navigating Through Experiential Learning, and, Monitoring Nitrate Levels in Drinking Water in Essex County

Technology High School

Alignment of High School Mathematics

University Heights Charter School

Using Technology to Engage Reluctant Readers

West Side High School

Outdoor Laboratory for Biology and Environmental Science

The Parent Place... Making A World of Difference!

Registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten

Early registration for the 2012-2013 school year began in April for Pre-K Three and Pre-K Four students. All children celebrating their third or fourth birthdays on or before October 1, 2012 are eligible for enrollment in Newark Public Schools Pre-Kindergarten classes, or any of the community-based preschool programs under contract with the district. Children enrolled at the contracted centers can be registered on-site at the center of choice. (In accordance with New Jersey Department of Education, Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines, mixed-age classes are the standard in both district and community-based preschool programs.)

Early registration for the 2012-2013 school year begins May 1, 2012 for Kindergarten students. Children celebrating their 5th birthdays on or before October 1, 2012 are eligible for enrollment in their neighborhood Kindergarten programs.

Admission Requirements

- **Proof of Age:** Birth Certificate (Original) or Passport
- **Proof of Residency:** The preschool program is offered free to children who live in Newark with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Any three (3) of the following documents may be offered to prove legal residence: Voter Registration Card, Deed or mortgage statement, Recent property tax bills (last 6 months), Official notarized lease or affidavit of landlord verifying that student lives at the given address, Utility Bills (water, gas or electric), Driver's license, Federal State or County issued identification (containing a home address), *Financial account information (containing home address), *Employment documents and/or *benefit statement containing home address. (*One of these three documents must have been issued within the last 30 days of the date the child is to be registered for preschool.)
- **Proof of Immunizations:** All students must meet the current requirements for age-appropriate immunizations. (Proof of vaccinations must be submitted at time of admission.) All students must be immunized unless exempt, as permitted by law. Provisional admission shall be granted to any children from another state or country that are in the process of completing their immunizations, provided they have started their immunizations.
- **Health Examinations:** The school physician and school nurse shall conduct physical examinations in accordance with the program set up by the district medical inspector, and as prescribed by state law and as approved by the

Newark Public Schools.

The parent or legal guardian may have the same physical examination conducted by a private physician. In that event, the physician's signed report must be submitted on the district health form.

- **Home Language**

Survey: As part of required district intake screening for every child, a Home Language Survey (HLS) is to be completed in the school office by the adult registering the new student. This survey takes no more than two minutes to complete and is used to establish eligibility for bilingual and/or ESL instructional support for Kindergarten students.



For more information, contact the Early Childhood Education office: 973-733-6234/8389 or visit the district's website www.nps.k12.nj.us.

Working Papers for Students

The district's Office of Attendance at 2 Cedar Street is gearing up to process summer working papers for Newark students.

Here are tips to remember before students report for certification:

- Social Security Card and Birth Certificate or Passport are necessary for certification
- Parents or guardians can complete the process for their children weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Students are discouraged from visiting the office while school is in session.)
- If a student is offered employment for the first time, a doctor must stamp and sign the working papers
- Parents' or Guardians' signatures are required on all working papers
- A School Administrator's or designee's signature is required if employment will occur during the school year.

Thank You and Congratulations to Newark Parent Volunteers!



NPS Advisory Board Meeting, November 22, 2011 at Ivy Hill Elementary School: Advisory Board Member Marques-Aquil Lewis, Parent Volunteers: Alana Vasquez, Arvetta Woody and Josie Galighers



NPS Advisory Board Meeting, December 20, 2011 at American History High School: Advisory Board Members Alturrick Kenney and Shavar Jeffries, Parent Volunteers: Angela Mason, Marie Frederick, Evelyn Concepcion, Daneka Claiborne



NPS Advisory Board Meeting, January 24, 2012 at East Side High School: Advisory Board Member Marques-Aquil Lewis, Parent Volunteers: Petra Moody, Sharon Frazier, Anna Luzio, Marisol Coimin, Advisory Board Member Juan Rivera

NPS Celebrates Women's History Month!



Superintendent Anderson hosted a Women's History Month Luncheon to honor 10 Newark high school students who were selected by their schools as a "Young Lady of Distinction". Each of the girls received a "Magazine of the Future" cover featuring them as a success in their chosen fields.

25th Annual Citywide Parent Conference



Newark Public Schools recently hosted the 25th Annual Citywide Parent Conference, where nearly 600 parent attended a variety of workshops geared to help them become more actively involved in their children's education. Photo top left: Superintendent Cami Anderson presents a certificate to keynote speaker Rev. Dr. M. William Howard, of Bethany Baptist Church.

Right: Parents listen in as facilitator Lyndon Brown presents the workshop "How to Start a Parent Organization At Your School." Bottom: Parents and Parent Liaisons gather for a luncheon in the ballroom at the Robert Treat Hotel.



Mom2Mom Outreach Program Partners with John F. Kennedy School

As a community partner with the Mom2Mom program, John F. Kennedy School has the support and outreach it needs for parents to help them deal with overwhelming challenges of caring for special needs children. Mom2Mom is affiliated with UMDNJ-University Behavioral Health Care initiative that helps parents of special needs children cope.

Every month JFK School has Mom2Mom workshops and meetings conducted by Cherie Castellano and Nakeisha Knox, both parents of special needs children. The turnout for the monthly meetings has been tremendous. During the holiday season Mom2Mom assisted JFK students and their parents with a holiday party at the school and an extraordinary donation of collected toys were distributed to the children.

A Mom2Mom 24-hour helpline has been established to assist mothers of special needs children with their everyday stresses. The helpline is being offered initially in Essex and Union counties through a Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey grant awarded through the Foundation of UMDNJ.

Mom2Mom is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It provides peer support, conducts clinical assessment and shares resources with mothers of children with a range of special needs. Persons who dial the helpline will speak with other moms of special needs children who have undergone training to provide support services.

To further enhance the support network for mothers of children with special needs, Mom2Mom has partnered with Autism New Jersey, the state's leading source of information, support, advocacy and public policy for parents of individuals with autism and the professionals who support them.

The John F. Kennedy School is affecting the lives of countless families by educating some of the community's most precious students - those who have special needs. Serving nearly 200 students, JFK is a district-wide middle-secondary school for students who are autistic, disabled or medically fragile. Despite their challenges, these students are thriving thanks to a compassionate staff and committed families and caregivers.

The school currently has three programs: Autistic, Multiple Disabilities with Moderate Cognitive Involvement and the Medically Fragile. As always it is the school's desire to meet the needs of all students so they can continue to grow and make progress in meeting academic standards and becoming well-rounded responsible citizens.

The Mom2Mom support group meets monthly at JFK School. For peer support or help with issues that impact the mother please feel free to call the Mom2Mom helpline at 1-877-914-MOM2 (6662).

Anti-Bullying Day at Wilson Avenue School



February 23, 2012 was an ordinary day for many in the city of Newark, NJ but not for the students and staff of Wilson Avenue School. These individuals were dedicating the day to a cause that has affected many nationwide, bullying. Wilson Avenue School celebrated National Anti-Bullying Day with students from the anti-bullying club preparing activities, pledges, building awareness and prevention amongst their peers.

Students and staff read the school pledge and signed the banner to commit to a bully free and safe school. All students and staff wore purple shirts and donated \$1.00 to bullying.org for the continued prevention and awareness of the cause.

The anti-bullying campaign at Wilson Avenue School is led by principal Margarita Hernandez.

Actress Joins R. Hernandez School For Black History Celebration



Actress Karyn Parsons who rose to fame in the television comedy *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, brought her *Sweet Blackberry* program to third and fourth graders at Rafael Hernandez School in Newark. Students watched an animated film, *Garretts Gift* narrated by Queen Latifah, that tells a tale of one of our nation's prominent inventors Garrett Morgan. Ms. Parsons organization's mission is to tell the stories-many of which are unknown-of the achievements of African Americans.

Brazilian Educators Visit Newark's YE²S Center



Newark Public Schools Superintendent Cami Anderson (fourth, left) is joined by alternative education expert Robert Clarke (to her right), Kedda Williams (second from right) and Roger Leon (far right) of the Newark Public Schools in welcoming members of the Brazilian Education delegation (center, right). Also joining in the welcome are administrators for the YE²S Center (to the left of Superintendent Anderson). The Brazilian educators traveled to Newark, as part of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership project. The visit with teachers and administrators included observations and discussions about innovative programs to prevent drugs, violence and juvenile delinquency.

Superintendent Cami Anderson met recently with a delegation of educators from Brazil to discuss early intervention strategies and proven practices utilized by the district to keep students in school and college and career ready. Superintendent Anderson and the district's Deputy Chief Academic Officer Roger Leon joined the delegation and Alternative Education expert Robert Clarke at the YE²S (Youth Education and Employment) Center at 200 Washington Street in Newark.

The delegation included: Maria De Fatima Bezerra, Director, Governor Luiz Gonzaga da Fonseca Mota Elementary and Middle School; Macae Maria Evaristo Dos Santos, Municipal Secretary of Education, Belo Horizonte; and Andre Luis Silva Ramos, Project Manager, Municipal Secretariat of Education, Rio de Janeiro. They represented the Brazilian Ministry for Education.

A round table discussion covered issues such as:

- Educational and community strategies to encourage youth development
- Private-public partnerships and educational policy innovation
- Arts and culture as prevention strategies
- Parental involvement
- Violence prevention and early warning strategies
- The roles of educational administrators and teachers when dealing with issues of drugs and violence

The visit was part of the U.S. Department of State (DOS) International Visitor Leadership project for Brazil entitled "After School Violence and Drug Prevention Programs" which was conducted in February.

Teacher Evaluation (cont'd. from page 2)

Seven district schools will participate in the first year of the pilot: BRICK Avon Academy and Dayton Street School, along with Barringer, Central, Newark Vocational, Malcolm X Shabazz and West Side high schools.

The first year of the pilot will focus on improving teacher observations; examining Student Growth Percentile (SGP) in tested grades and subjects; developing strategies and tools to measure student learning for evaluation purposes; and beginning discussion on school-wide and other practice measures. The second year will focus on incorporating SGP into evaluations of educators in tested subjects. Full implementation will begin the following year and will include a revised evaluation system that incorporates evidenced-based observations tools across all Newark public schools.

Through Newark Excels, the district will learn what tools, processes, and resources are needed to create an effective evaluation system for all educators.

Renew Schools (cont'd. from cover)

- Newton Street Renew School with GVZ students
- Cleveland Renew School with GVZ students

On day one, the schools will look and feel different, but ensuring their success will require ongoing support and focused attention to maintain the Five Ingredients during a multi-year process of transformation. New or turnaround schools generally take at least three years before the transformational elements become routine and sustainable.

The process of "renewing" schools is a huge undertaking. In addition to parent and community input and the work of Renew Schools' principals and educators, planning is required to ensure proper support around the schools' academic programs, fiscal management and operations and to ensure schools meet established accountability measures. And at the same time that planning and design is underway, the school leader will also need to begin preparations for a successful school opening in September.

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Newark In Sports

University High Athlete Brittney Sykes Named McDonald's All American



Brittney Sykes, a senior on the University High School Girls' Basketball team was recently named to the 2012 McDonald's All American Team. This esteemed honor is only given to 24 high school senior girls nationwide. Brittney is a 5-9 guard who scored her 1,000 career point on January 23rd and has averaged 20 points per game this season. She played (for the East) in the 11th Annual Girls Game at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois in March. The game aired nationally on ESPNU.

Her highlights include:

- Brittney has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Syracuse University because she aspires to become an ESPN analyst, and Syracuse is regarded as having one of the top communications and broadcasting schools in the Newhouse Communications Program.
- Brittney is one of the school's leading members of the MSG Varsity Communications team in which she manages filming, interviewing and photography duties.

- Brittney has also been a guest commentator on MSG Varsity.
- Brittney has been a UHS Top 25 student-athlete since freshman year.
- As a junior, Brittney exceeded the 80 hour minimum number of community service hours that are required for graduation.

Hockey In Newark



Students in the *Hockey in Newark* program stop for a photograph during a National Hockey League (NHL) NJ Devils Gamesday Girls Camp, which was held in February. During the camp, the students were thrilled to meet members of the 1998 Olympic Women's Ice Hockey Team who won Gold for the USA.