



We want to recognize **Muyideen Ibiyemi** and **Carolina Roberts-Santana, MHA, DHS** for their service and dedication to Providence students upon their retirement from the PPSD School Board. Ibiyemi served nine years and Roberts-Santana served one year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

JANUARY 22, 2024

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you all had a joyous holiday with your family and friends, and have been settling back into the last half of the 2023-2024 school year. Attendance continues to be a focus for our school District all year. We appreciate our families hard work in encouraging our students to be in school. As a district, Providence Public Schools has seen an **18.1% reduction in chronic absenteeism** compared to the same time last year.

The **Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE)** released school and district accountability ratings for the 2022-2023 academic school year. To see your child's school report card, please visit the RIDE website by [clicking here](#).

For our 5th and 8th grade families: be on the lookout for the **school choice forms**, as they will be distributed to families the week of January 15 and are due back in early February. We are very excited for our families as they review the school options for next year.

We also want to remind families that the deadline to accept **Advanced Academic (AA)** school assignments is January 22, 2024. Middle School AA will be expanded to all six middle schools for the 2024-25 school year, where in the past this program has existed only at select Middle Schools. Families who opt out of AA or who do not accept school assignments will use the PPSD School Choice deadlines.

Kindergarten registration also begins February 20, 2024 so please help us spread the word on this important [start date](#).

Let us start the new year off together with purpose, poise, and positive potential for success. Keep on coming to school and keep up the good work! **Remember, it is Cool to Be in School!**

Onwards and upwards!



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT



DISTRICT UPDATES

FAFSA FOR 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

The **FAFSA application** is now available for current 12th grade students and parents in the District. Both students and parents will need their FSA ID log-in and other documents to complete the application.

Students and parents can also use the Rhody Ready Chat Bot, a free texting service that will provide messages to help them understand the new FAFSA rules, stay up to date on alerts, and submit the FAFSA application on time. The chatbot also provides reminders about important deadlines in the college application process.

The District will be holding a District FAFSA event on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event is for students and parents who have questions about FAFSA and need help completing it. Students and parents should also make an appointment with their school's school counselor to help get the process started.

For more information, visit <https://www.providenceschools.org/domain/2665>.



UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

January 29, 2024 - January 31, 2024: ELA iReady Reading Assessment, grades K-8

January 29, 2024 - January 31, 2024: Math & ELA, STAR Benchmark, High School

January 16, 2024 - March 31, 2024: SurveyWorks (RI School Improvement survey) = All families

CELEBRATING STUDENTS

Our hard-working, talented students are doing amazing things every day. Here are just a few examples.



SUPERINTENDENT STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Congratulations to the students for their acceptance to the **Student Advisory Council**! This was the second meeting of the Advisory Council, and it was another huge success! These students' achievements in representing their schools as student leaders is truly commendable, and we are very excited about the positive impact each and every one of them will make. Congratulations!



HANDS-ON LEARNING

Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School's Healthcare Academy students had the opportunity to do some hands-on learning earlier this month. They had the chance to work with members from the Rhode Island Blood Center and get some real life experience in the field. Thank you to the Rhode Island Blood Center for hosting the experience for our students!



SPECIAL VISITOR AT WILLIAM D'ABATE

Students at **William D'Abate Elementary School** had a special visitor last week. William D'Abate's daughter, **Denise D'Abate**, came to visit the newly remodeled school. Ms. D'Abate received a warm welcome from Mrs. Lopes's and Mrs. Payan's fourth grade class. Thank you for coming to visit!



RI SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS HOPE HIGH SCHOOL

A big kudos and thank you to **Rhode Island Secretary of State Gregg Amore**, who stopped into **Hope High School** and spoke to students about the history of voting rights. Secretary Amore, a former History teacher at East Providence High School and former State Representative, has a strong background and love for Civics education, and always looks forward to sharing his knowledge of the subject with the students. We are grateful for Secretary Amore visiting Hope High School.



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

MOUNT PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL



Principal: Wobberson Torchon

Assistant Principals: Jose DeAndrade, Dr. Anthony Francisco, Elizabeth Goyette, Anabel Jimenez-Hiraldo

Director of School Operations: Dr. Gary D'Orsi

What makes your school unique?

Mount Pleasant is a unique high school for it is the first school in Providence that will have a real focus on college and career in specific pathways that have been selected by students. As the school was identified as a school to be redesigned, students, faculty, staff, and community spent a year to identify the areas of interest and flesh out the programs or pathways that will help students achieve their dreams.

Mount Pleasant is one of five redesign schools for next year. What programs/pathways will your school be offering?

We will be offering four different pathways: Computer Science, Pre-Engineering/Advanced Manufacturing, Teacher Academy, and Music.

What is your vision or goal for your student body for the 2023-24 school year at this time?

Since our vision is to work collaboratively with area state colleges, universities, and local industry partners in support of the growth of the whole student, so that they not only earn a high school diploma but also graduate with industry experience and college credits, our goal for the 2023-2024 school year is to create robust partnerships with Rhode Island College, URI, CCRI, and Providence College to ensure that our students have access to taking courses on their campuses. Additionally, we are strengthening our relationship with Electric Boat, Polaris, and other industry partners to design internships and work-based learning opportunities for our students. Finally, we are making sure our students understand the opportunities these pathways offer so that they can select the one they want to explore and hopefully be where they focus their attention as a career in the future.

What accomplishments have filled you with pride so far this year?

Three of our seniors have received Questbridge scholarships for \$350,000.00 each to Boston University and Smith College. I believe this is a first time occurrence in the city of Providence.

Additionally, 48 of our juniors have been identified early to take dual enrollment courses at Rhode Island College next fall. They have maintained their attendance above 90%, their math

and English SAT performance is either approaching or reaching benchmarks, and their grade point average is at or above a 3.2. We had our first meeting with them to communicate the news and will be reaching out to their parents and expressing how proud we are of their accomplishments. We have also recruited more than 80 students who were undecided about their career choice who have now chosen a CTE pathway. They will begin their first course at the start of our second semester. These are amazing accomplishments.

Does your school have a mascot or school colors? How does your school show school spirit?

Yes we do, and the colors are red and blue. We had a block parade when our band performed in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. We had homecoming, school-wide athletic events, and big school-wide celebrations to acknowledge the hard work and the accomplishments of our students. In the spring there will be concerts, Six Flags trips, academic celebrations, talent shows, culture nights, and other events.

Is there anything else you would like us to share with the PPSD community?

We are building up a school of excellence where the best will reside. We are already seeing evidence that we are changing minds and hearts.



EQUITY AND BELONGING

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Two-Day PPSD Equity Conference Hosted by the Office of Equity and Belonging

We are happy to announce the inaugural convening of our first Providence Public Schools Equity Conference, **RISE UP! Carving a Path for Educational Equity and Equity Justice (CPEEJ)**, hosted by the Office of Equity and Belonging at Providence Career and Technical Academy. The conference will be held on **Friday, April 5, 2024 and Saturday, April 6, 2024**. Click here for more information about the conference and the call for proposals-- the deadline to submit workshop proposals is January 26, 2024.

RESPECT, STUDENT EQUITY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

February 1, 2024

Our second RESPECT conference will take place on February 1, 2024. The second conference of the year will build upon the leadership skills developed in October to ensure student's equity action plans are moving along and provide students with additional support. At this conference, students will also be learning skills in how to incorporate art into their advocacy work. Students will meet for the final time on May 30, 2024 to present the results of their equity action plans.

EQUITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 8, 2024

The **PPSD Equity Advisory Council** will have its next meeting on **February 8** at 4:30 p.m. at 797 Westminster St., School Board Room B&C. Composed of students, teachers, parents and community partners, the Board thoughtfully collaborates to elevate the voices of our diverse communities by advising District staff, providing input, and helping to prioritize district-wide equity efforts, policies, strategies and investments. If you are interested in taking part in this work, please email equity@ppsd.org.

The Office of Equity and Belonging has been awarded a Nellie Mae grant! The Advancing Community-School Partnerships Extension Grant will be used to support the ongoing work between the Office of Equity & Belonging and five community organizations in Providence: Alliance of South Asians for Education (ARISE), Parents Leading Educational Equity (PLEE), Youth in Action (YIA), Diversity Talks (DVT), and Providence Student Union. This collaboration is known as the Partnership. The Partnership will continue to identify racial equity barriers in PPSD, and design and pilot strategies for addressing those barriers. The ultimate purpose of the grant is to support the Partnership to advance racial equity and excellent, student-centered learning in its public K-12 school system.

Providence Schools
An educational conference hosted by the
Office of Equity and Belonging

RISE UP!

Carving a Path for
Educational Equity & Justice

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

41 FRICKER ST, PROVIDENCE, RI
PROVIDENCE CAREER AND TECHNICAL ACADEMY

Contact us at equity@ppsd.org
for more information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- [School Board: Health & Wellness Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, January 24, 2024
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- [Community Session: Phase 4 Capital Plan](#)
Thursday, January 25, 2024
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- [School Board: CTE Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [School Board: Policy Committee](#)
Thursday, February 1, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [School Board: Finance Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [Winter Recess \(No School\)](#)
Monday, February 19, 2024 -
Friday, February 23, 2024

Join the Conversation

Únete a La Conversación

SurveyWorks

January 16 - March 31

Del 16 de enero al 31 de marzo

surveys.panoramaed.com/ride/ridefamily



Are you a Rhode Island parent with school-age children? We need to hear from you!

¿Es usted un padre de Rhode Island con hijos en edad escolar? ¡TU OPINIÓN ES IMPORTANTE!

It takes just 20 minutes to complete the survey on a computer, tablet, or mobile device. Visit the link above or SCAN the QR code below and click on "Complete the survey."

Solo le tomará 20 minutos completar la encuesta en una computadora, tableta o dispositivo móvil. Visite el siguiente enlace, y presione el botón "completar la encuesta".

Providence
Schools



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education



ENGLISH
SCAN with Phone
to participate in
the survey



ESPAÑOL
ESCANEAR con
el teléfono para
participar en la
encuesta



PORTUGUÊS
SCAN com
telefone
para participar
da pesquisa

PRE-K CORNER



STEM ACTIVITIES AT KIZIRIAN

Art with young children allows us to see much more than a simple picture. If Preschoolers at **Kizirian Elementary School** working on their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities. STEM activities not only support development of math and science skills, but also provide opportunities for students to strengthen their language skills. They also allow children to begin to learn and retain a knowledge base that they can build on as they grow older in our schools.

PUZZLES AT FOGARTY

Students at **Fogarty Elementary School** work on their fine motor skills with puzzles. As children handle the small pieces, they strengthen their finger muscles. They have to pick them up, turn them and hold them carefully to join them together which requires good control.

CLOTHING INTEREST UNIT AT VEAZIE STREET

The students at **Veazie Street Elementary School** are working hard in their Clothing Interest Unit. Not only did students in Ms. Bruno's class name their boutique after a popular store in a Disney show, but they are learning about money and the selling of goods. They even tried to sell a pair of pants to Veazie Street librarian Robert Walsh!



GOOD NEWS:

- [Biden nominates first person of color to U.S. District Court for RI. What that means.](#)
Providence Journal, January 10, 2024
- [Five education stories to watch in R.I. in 2024](#)
Boston Globe, December 27, 2023
- [ProviDANCE is 'bringing in an art form that our public schools are not able to provide to students'](#)
Boston Globe, December 20, 2023
- [Rhode Island education council approves \\$1 billion in school construction projects](#)
WJAR, December 20, 2023