

Elementary students participate in RICAS Academy during February's Winter Break at Carnevale and Martin Luther King Elementary School.

CONNECTIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

MARCH 4, 2024

Happy March to all of our students, families, and Providence Public School District (PPSD) team. While the weather may still be cold and blustery, before we know it we will be lining our seniors up for graduation. February was a short and busy month and Providence Public Schools has a lot in store for this March.

[SurveyWorks](#) has begun! I want to encourage all of our students, faculty, and especially families to fill this out, it is one of our Turnaround Action Plan (TAP) metrics which we exceeded last year. We want to continue that momentum into this year, it's so important that we understand the perception of what is happening at our schools. SurveyWorks is a powerful tool because it gives everyone a voice, and provides us the feedback we need to make informed decisions. Engaging our community is a cornerstone of the turnaround plan in Providence.

Kindergarten registration began on February 20 and we want to encourage our students and families to register early, so please help us spread the word on this important [information](#).

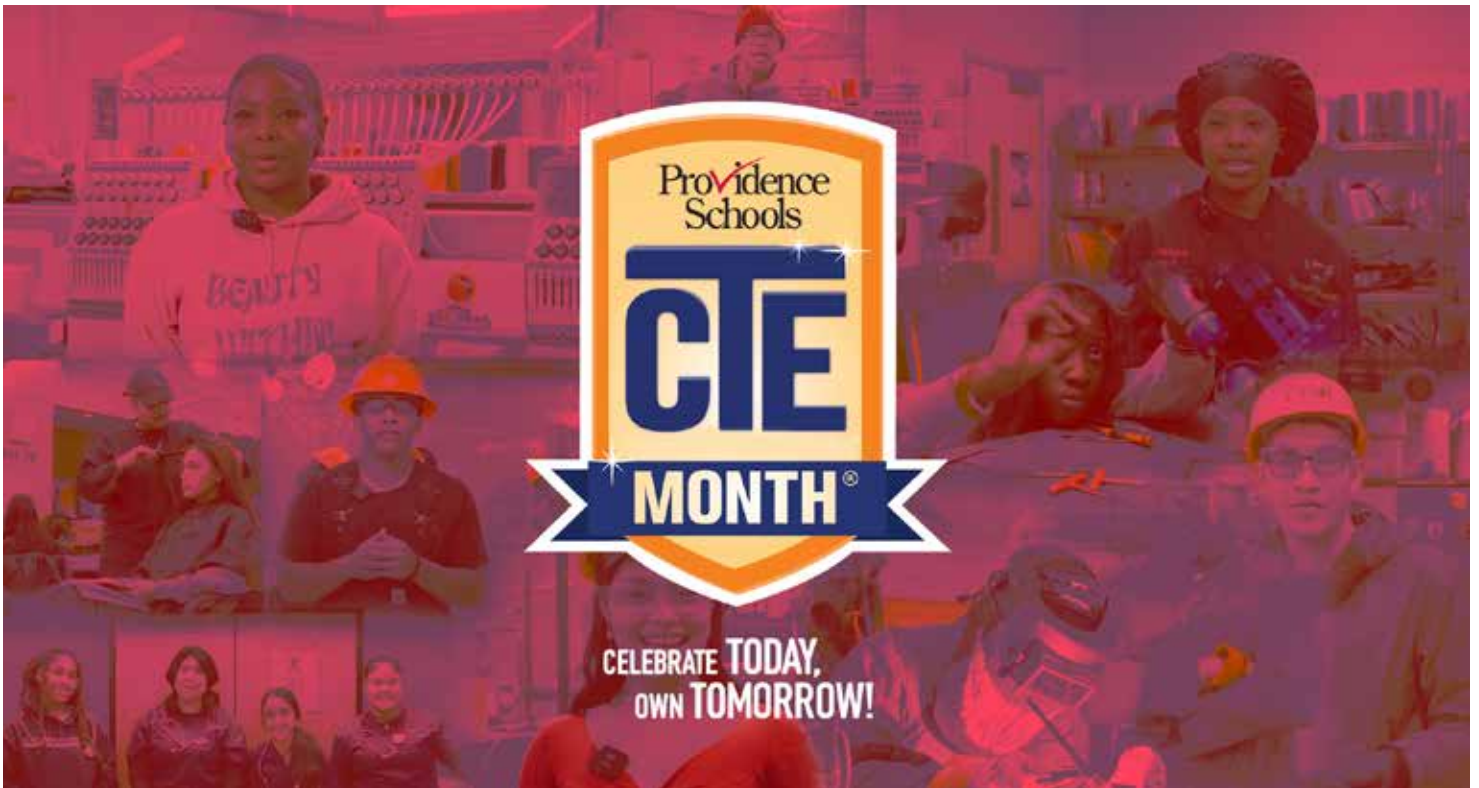
During winter break, our elementary and middle school students took part in **RICAS Academy** while high school students attended **SAT preparation classes**. It was wonderful to see students hard at work during school vacation, engaging in both classroom and small group activities. **RICAS English Language Arts (ELA)** testing begins **April 1** and **RICAS Math** begins **May 13**. I am excited to see our students progress. At our high schools, students will be taking **SATs** beginning **April 3**. These are all important tests so be sure to work with students to prepare.

Attendance continues to be a focus for our school District and the state. We would like to acknowledge some of our student **attendance Superheroes**. So far this year, 6,800 students have been in school 95% of the time or better. 11,900 students have been in school 90% of the time or better. Let's take a moment to applaud the almost 12,000 success stories behind these statistics. There is no metric for grit and determination, but these students personify it.

Read Across America Week is March 2 to 6. Each year, it begins on the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Join the celebration and share your love of reading to your friends and family. We will also be celebrating **Social Work Week** March 3-9 and it is **Women's History Month**. I encourage you to reflect and celebrate the impact of so many to our rich community.



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT



DISTRICT UPDATES

CTE MONTH

Last month we celebrated **CTE Month**, and we took the opportunity to highlight our amazing CTE Programs in the District. From Architecture and Construction to HVAC and Plumbing, PPSD offers a myriad of CTE opportunities for our students. [Click here](#) to see a video of what some of our current CTE students have to say about the programs.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Monday, February 5th - Friday, February 9th was **National School Counseling Week (NSCW)**. During this week, we highlighted the tremendous impact school counselors have in helping students achieve school success. We have amazing school counselors at our elementary, middle, and high schools! PPSD school counselors focus on the three developmental domains of counseling: academic achievement, college and career readiness and social emotional support. We had the opportunity to speak with three of our school counselors in the District, and what being a school counselor means to them. [Click here](#) to learn more.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The **Kindergarten Lottery Registration** began on Tuesday, February 20th. If your child is five years of age on or before September 1st of each school year, then they are eligible to attend kindergarten. The Kindergarten Lottery registration deadline is Friday, May 10th. For more information about the District's Kindergarten Lottery Registration, please [click here](#).

BROWN COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The **Brown University Collegiate Scholars Program** application is now open! The Brown Collegiate Scholar Program provides college access to a cohort of PPSD students, and features a range of programming that builds confidence, skills, and academic proficiency in four areas: college access, academic support, youth development, and social emotional learning. To complete the application, students must submit a form providing information about the student and their parents/guardians, a 250- to 500- word essay responding to a prompt in the application, the student's report cards for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, and a recommendation form filled out by a teacher, counselor, or another administrator in the student's school. Learn more and apply today at <https://bcsp.brown.edu/apply-brown-collegiate-scholars-program>.





**18 Days
Until
RICAS**

**19 Days
to SATS**

8 WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS

- ☒ Stay on top of homework.
- ☒ Talk with your child's teacher about their progress.
- ☒ Read with your child regularly.
- ☒ Make sure your child knows test-taking techniques.
- ☒ Use relaxation exercises.
- ☒ Talk about what the test is like.
- ☒ Go over accommodations with your school if needed.
- ☒ Be calm and upbeat.

CELEBRATING STUDENTS

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



PERFECT SEASON

Congratulations to the 2023 **Classical High School Girls Indoor Track & Field Team** on a perfect season last year! They were honored during a girls basketball game and were given their rings during a ring ceremony at halftime! Congratulations to all!



LIMA NEWS CREW

Meet the **Lima News Crew**! With 29 classrooms and over 600 students, the Lima News Crew works hard to keep the elementary school connected and show what is happening throughout their school community. Each Thursday, the news gets posted to Class Dojo, and students are able to watch and learn about the different things happening at **Alfred Lima Elementary School**! The program is overseen by Lima Library Media Specialist Tasha White. ([Link to Lima News Crew video](#)).



TRIP TO CLOTHES FOR KIDS RI

Recently, the school nurse at **A-Venture Academy** planned an outing for students to visit **Clothes for Kids RI** in Johnston. Clothes for Kids RI envisions a community in which every school-age child has quality clothing so that he or she may attend school with the confidence and self-esteem needed to achieve academic success. Each student was allowed to pick out a wardrobe which consisted of five new pairs of underwear, five new pairs of socks, five tops, four pants, one pair of shoes, and one jacket. All free of charge. Their first trip consisted of 10 students. Any student who signed up to participate was eligible to go, and they plan on going again soon! Thank you for planning this trip for our students!



2024 ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

We want to take an opportunity to congratulate all of our PPSD students who were accepted into the **Rhode Island Music Education Association's (RIMEA) All-State Music Ensemble!** The concerts will be taking place this March at The VETS Auditorium and Providence College. Congratulations to the following students:

- Victor Cabrera, Classical High School Sophomore, Classical Guitar - Senior All-State Guitar Ensemble
- Oliver Giller, Classical High School Sophomore, Violin - Senior All-State Orchestra
- Benjamin Matthew Harrison, Classical High School Junior, Vocal Bass - Senior All-State Mixed Chorus (ranked #2 in the state)
- Rachael Rodriguez, Classical High School Sophomore, Classical Guitar - Senior All-State Guitar Ensemble
- Phoebe Smith, Classical High School Freshman, Violin - Junior All-State Orchestra
- Kylie Tiemeyer, Classical High School Senior, Flute - Senior All-State Orchestra (ranked #1 in the state)
- Henry Wilson-Winter, Classical High School Junior, Vocal Bass - Senior All-State Mixed Chorus
- Julia Hoffman, PCTA Freshman, Flute - Junior All-State Band



FIVE NEW FOOD PANTRIES IN PPSD

In February, **PPSD, RIDE, the Papitto Opportunity Connection, and We Share Hope** officially announced the opening of five new food pantries in the District, marking a significant milestone in ongoing efforts to address food insecurity and Support families in need.

The new pantries, making eight in total for the District, are part of the “Feed the Future” School Food Pantry Program, where We Share Hope provides schools with the infrastructure to create and host its own on-site food pantry. This includes appliances, shelving, and biweekly food deliveries.

The Papitto Opportunity Connection generously committed \$150,000.00 in support of the new pantries over the next three years, making it possible to open the five new pantries. Gil's Appliances donated the refrigerators and freezers for each pantry.

These pantries are five of eight that run in collaboration with We Share Hope. There are also pantries at other schools started by faculty including one of the early food pantries at Veazie Street Elementary. This pantry was started by Central High School teacher Marcia Ranglin-Vassell, M.Ed in 2017.

We are grateful to all partners, volunteers, and community members who contributed to the success of this initiative.



MS. VOCKE'S TRANSITION STORE

Ms. Vocke's **Students Transition to Adult Readiness (STAR)** Class has a school store to embed life skills instructions. The students are provided a weekly “paycheck” where students have to pay bills for the month, budget their checking and saving accounts at “Maiorisi Bank” and the students can buy items at the classroom store. Recently, the class was excited for new items in stock at the classroom store that were made possible through a PPSD Equity Office grant. The grant provided the transition program with the opportunity to create meaningful and engaging incentives for their adult transition students. The students did a great job utilizing budgeting and math problem solving skills!

Students Transition to Adult Readiness (STAR) offers instruction in the skill areas of vocational, social, recreational, and independent living activities within the greater Providence community and Rhode Island as a whole. Using web-based learning, all students participate in activities that support growth in workplace skills, self-advocacy, setting goals and achieving goals, travel training and responsible citizenship. STAR provides experiences in all aspects of adult life in the community exposing the young adults to activities that present themselves in a typical year.



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

PROVIDENCE CAREER & TECHNICAL ACADEMY

Principal: Judy Valentine

Assistant Principals: Brian Bordieri and Janene Santucci

CTE Director: Brett Dickens

What makes your school unique?

Providence Career and Technical Academy is one of New England's premier technical high schools, providing students with both a high-quality academic education and state-of-the-art technical training. Students completing any of the 12 available programs will graduate with a high school diploma and industry-recognized certification in their chosen field.

How many CTE programs does your school offer?

PCTA currently offers 12 Career and Technical Education courses. They are as follows:

- Automotive Technology
- Carpentry
- Cosmetology and Business
- Culinary Arts and Hospitality
- Electrical Science
- Graphic Communications
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Plumbing
- General Construction (Masonry)
- Maritime Welding
- Engineering
- PTECH - Cybersecurity, AP Computer Science, Web Design/or CISCO
- Pastry

What is your vision or goal for your student body for this school year?

Our mission is to foster a culture of respect, connection, and achievement through innovative teaching, leveraging technology and state-of-the-art facilities to achieve students' career and academic goals. At PCTA, we "Respect, Connect, Teach, Achieve."

Our vision is to empower our students to become career-ready and college-ready, in a state-of-the-art career and technical environment. We provide a respectful, supportive, and collaborative environment where students can develop academically, socially, and emotionally. Our culturally responsive instruction prepares students for success in a global economy.



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

PCTA currently has 23 seniors and 11 juniors who have earned their Seal of Biliteracy. Our librarian, Kimberly Yeaw was named Rhode Island School Librarian of the Year for 2023.

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

Currently, our school doesn't have a mascot, but our colors are purple and teal. Our school culture is centered around inclusivity, respect, and support for all students, creating a sense of belonging through equity-based and culturally responsive educational practices. We celebrate student achievements through various events such as school dances, pep rallies, ice cream socials, and special recognition for participation in sports, SkillsUSA, and academic accomplishments.

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

PCTA juniors currently have the highest Khan Academy usage, activity, and scores in math across all nine high schools in the District. It is also our third year participating on the Rhode Island Teen Book Award Committee.



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



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

EQUITY AND BELONGING

RISE UP! CONFERENCE

Registration opens February 27th! Two-Day PPSD Equity Conference Hosted by the Office of Equity and Belonging, for Educators, Families and Students

Providence Career and Technical Academy

April 5, 2024 4:00 PM-8:00 PM

April 6, 2024 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Registration for the inaugural convening of Providence Public Schools' Equity Conference, **RISE UP! Carving a Path for Educational Equity and Justice (CPEEJ)**, hosted by the Office of Equity and Belonging, opens February 27th. [Click here](#) to register and for more information about the conference-- registration will close on March 18.

RESPECT, STUDENT EQUITY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

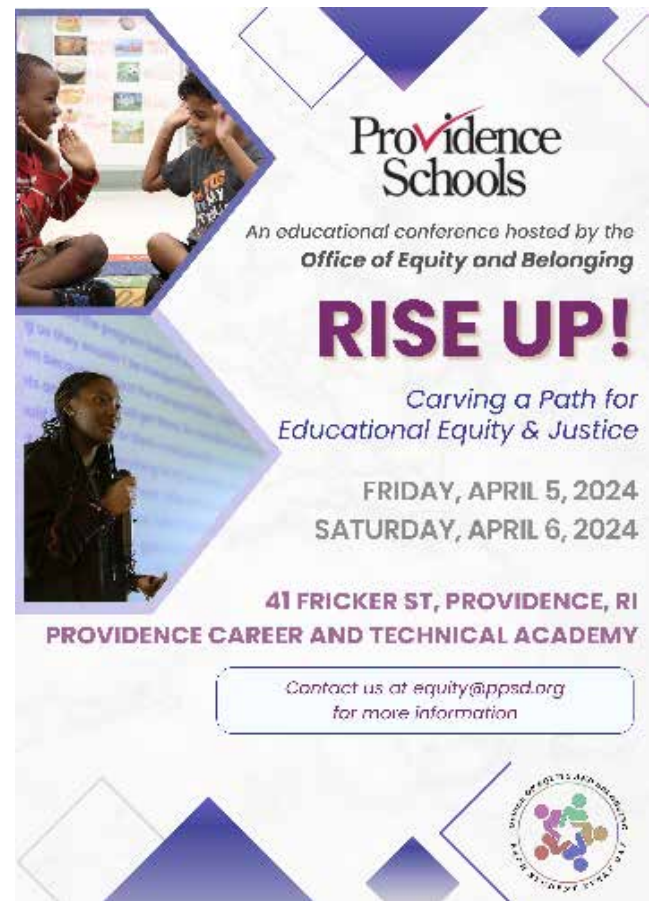
February 1, 2024

Our second **RESPECT** conference took place on February 1, 2024. Joined by nationally recognized artists and organizers, CJ Suitt and Kane Smego, over 80 students engaged in identity-based writing to support their leadership development. Using writing, public speaking and discussion skills, students worked together to develop their equity project action plans. Students will meet for the final time on May 30, 2024, at the CIC Building 255 Dyer St, to present the results of their equity action plans to the public! .

EQUITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 7, 2024

The **PPSD Equity Advisory Council** will have its next meeting March 7th at 4:30pm 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- [School Board: Policy Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [School Board: Finance Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [School Board: Regular Meeting](#)
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- [School Board: Health & Wellness Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- [School Board: CTE Committee Meeting](#)
Thursday, March 28, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [Good Friday \(No School\)](#)
Friday, March 29, 2024

**MARCH
SCHOOL MENU**



PRE-K CORNER



PLAYING IN THE SNOW

The students at **William D'Abate Elementary School** played in the snow recently. Playing with snow can be an important wintertime experience for preschoolers. When children play with snow, they can strengthen their fine- and gross-motor skills. They can also apply basic principles of art, science, and engineering.

SPAZIANO CLOTHES SORTING UNIT

Pre-K students at **Frank D. Spaziano Elementary School** sorted clothes in their new unit. Sorting and matching things helps develop visual perceptual skills, thinking, and memory skills. These important brain skills help with attention and problem-solving.



GOOD NEWS:

- [Classical High School student sets sights on Olympic dreams](#)
WJAR, January 26, 2024
- [In Rhode Island, school attendance is a foundation for a vibrant economy and competitive workforce](#)
Boston Globe, January 26, 2024
- [What inspired the best girls hoops story of the season? Hope – and here's why the Blue Wave have it](#)
The Providence Journal, February 3, 2024