

Paterson Post

Preparing All Children for College and Career.

Together We Can!

September 11, 2017

Attendance Awareness Month – Targeting Chronic Absenteeism

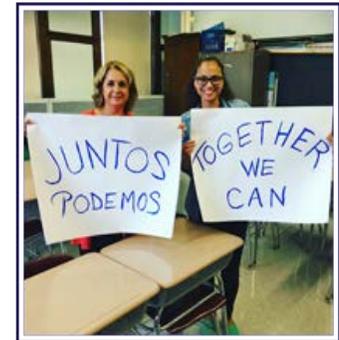


September has been declared “Attendance Awareness Month” and with that, we have initiated a full-court press to diminish chronic absenteeism district-wide – starting with “Attendance Matters” banners displayed in each City Ward, on our district website, and on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

“Chronic absenteeism” refers to students who miss 10 percent or more of enrolled school days. This means students who miss just two

days per month – 18 days over the course of the 180 day school year – would be considered “chronically absent.” What’s important to understand is that each day missed is equivalent to six hours of lost instructional time; and if a child is absent an entire week, that equals 28 hours of lost instruction! Attendance clearly impacts a student’s chance for future success which is why our new Acting Superintendent Eileen Shafer has made improving student attendance one of her top priorities.

How can you help? Enter the “**#PPShowUP**” hashtag initiative. In an effort to bring awareness to the importance of attending school every day, a committee was formed, chaired by Unit II Assistant Superintendent Sandra Diodonet and Director of Culture, Climate and Non-Traditional Programs, Theodore “TJ” Best. Among the outcomes of the committee’s efforts is the introduction of a social media “hashtag” which are used in social media postings and become clickable links that lead you to all the various other postings which also include that particular hashtag. The **#PPShowUp** hashtag effort is bolstered on the large banners placed strategically throughout Paterson.



Have a student with perfect attendance? Mention that student with the **#PPShowUp** hashtag. Having an assembly program promoting the importance of attendance? Use the hashtag. Now you get it!

Start using and watching for the **#PPShowUp** hashtag now!

Welcome Back Video Messages from Superintendent

Video messages sharing Ms. Shafer’s goals and expectations for the new school year are available via the district website and streaming video channel. [The first video was created for all staff](#) and includes messages from every union leader, Board of Education President, Dr. Christopher Irving and Acting Deputy Superintendent, Susana Peron. As in past years, all

schools were asked to show this video during the professional development sessions prior to opening day. [The second video was prepared for parents](#) and the broader Paterson community and is also available in [Spanish](#).

Late Summer PD and New Teacher Orientations



Over the days of August 21st – 24th, the district's leadership gathered at Passaic County Community College (PCCC) for full days of Professional Development (PD) and preparations for the new school year. The administrators were presented with information on a wide variety of topics ranging from *Using Data to Drive College Readiness* and *Addressing Chronic Absenteeism* to curriculum and special education updates. The four-day session began with the Superintendent Shafer's

goals and expectations for the new school year and concluded with a presentation from the Passaic County Prosecutor and her staff on sexting and cyber bullying.

After the PCCC sessions, district principals attended a half-day of Professional Development activities at the District Offices on led by their Assistant Superintendents. During this time, direction was provided regarding pre-k through Grade 2 suspensions, New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools (NJPBSIS) and other “nuts and bolts” topics.

August 28th – 30th featured orientation sessions for newly hired teachers. They received special presentations from various district departments, and a bus tour of our diverse, historic city. The Professional Development department also sponsored a raffle for a large basket of new office supplies for one lucky hire!



Acting Superintendent Shafer welcomes students on first day of school.

**Effective Academic Programs • Creating & Maintaining Healthy School Cultures
Family & Community Engagement • Efficient & Responsive Operations**

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