

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Preparing All Children for College and Career
Together We Can

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May 1, 2019

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THREE JOHN F. KENNEDY STUDENTS ENTER FINALS OF STATEWIDE CONTEST WITH ANTI-DRUG RAP

Trio known as “Knight Time” to perform in May 10th concert of finalists in the New Jersey Shout Down Drugs contest

PATERSON – Three student rappers at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex have entered the finals of the New Jersey Shout Down Drugs, a statewide contest run by the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey nonprofit organization. Jayden Cornish, Andre Gardner, and Travis Anderson – a.k.a. “Knight Time” – entered their rap, *Weed Ain’t Right*, in the contest which showcases original music and lyrics with powerful substance abuse prevention messages written by students from throughout New Jersey.

“I want to congratulate Jayden, Andre and Travis – not only for becoming finalists in the New Jersey Shout Down Drugs Contest, but also for putting out a message that makes Paterson proud,” said Paterson Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer. “These students have a message that encourages young people to make the right choice about using marijuana, regardless of whether it is legal, and they used their creative abilities to create that message. That itself is a tremendous victory.”

“The Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey is proud to have Jayden, Andre and Travis, along with all the other contestants throughout the state, share their musical talent in the New Jersey Shout Down Drugs Prevention Concert,” Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey Executive Director Angelo Valente said. “Shout Down Drugs is a unique competition that allows young people to be leaders in a positive and creative way. It’s a wonderful opportunity for these teens to inspire their peers with their passionate messages of substance use prevention.”

Knight Time Needs Votes To Win!

Knight Time is one of 13 acts from around the state who will be performing as finalists in the contest’s Annual Statewide Prevention Concert on Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Rutgers University’s Victoria J. Mastrobuono Theater. First, second and third place winners are chosen by a panel of judges that night to receive music contracts worth \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively to perform their winning songs at different events throughout the state during the year. **Results from online voting by the public will also be factored into each competitor’s score.**

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To listen to *Weed Ain't Right* and to vote in favor of Knight Time, visit
<http://shoutdowndrugs.com/contestants/profile/335/>

Tickets to the concert are free. For information on how to acquire them, please contact Substance Abuse Coordinator Judith Beckmeyer at jbeckmeyer@paterson.k12.nj.us or call 973-321-1000, Ext. 50007.

Created in 2005, New Jersey Shout Down Drugs challenges high school students to create original music and lyrics with powerful substance abuse prevention messages to allow teens to deliver the prevention message to each other through their favorite medium of music.

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