

Spotlight

PORT CHESTER-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

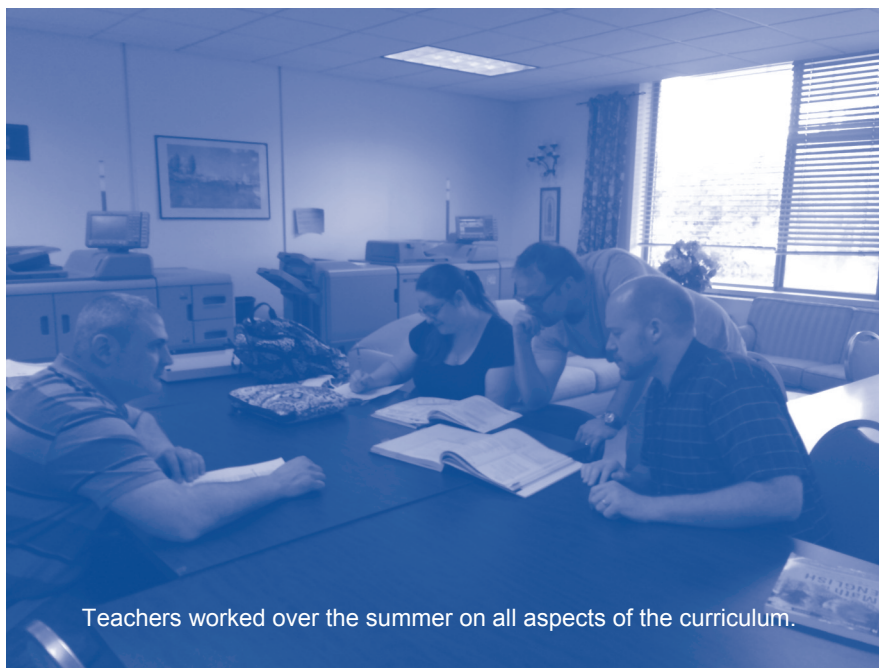


Success for Every Student

www.portchesterschools.org

Back to School Issue — September 2017

Students to See Expanded Focus on Writing in All Subjects; Math/Science Curriculum Refined



Teachers worked over the summer on all aspects of the curriculum.

In the district's ongoing effort to offer a K-12 curriculum that is challenging to students and prepares them for life after graduation, groups of teachers worked over the summer on all aspects of the curriculum. As always, one goal is to ensure that no matter which elementary school a child attends, she or he will learn the same skills.

Article continues on page 2

Welcome Back to School

By Dr. Edward A. Kliszus, Superintendent of Schools

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2017-2018 school year. I am convinced that it will be one of the very best. This is due, in no small part, to the fact that the Board of Education, teachers, and administration continue to focus on our students, building on our curriculum, expanding academic opportunities, ensuring the emotional and physical well-being of our students, and providing enrichment and extracurricular options. We are committed to ensuring that Port Chester students are well-prepared to pursue their post-high school dreams.

This year, in addition to our emphasis on what's happening in classrooms and hallways, we will embark on a plan to provide a physical environment that meets the needs of our growing enrollment. Thanks to voter approval of a Capital Project initiative last winter, plans are underway for new 21st Century classrooms, libraries, and athletic facilities. We anticipate that building will begin during summer 2018.

Finally, the Board and I want to welcome you and your children back to school on September 6. Please refer to the website calendar for your child's schedule for that day. For those residents who do not have children attending our schools, you are always welcome to visit. Our doors are open.

Enfoque de Plan de Estudios (Currículo) hacia la Escritura

Constantemente nuestro distrito se esfuerza en promover un plan de estudios desde Kindergarten hasta el doceavo grado que reta a los estudiantes y los prepara para la vida después de graduarse. Este verano, grupos de maestros trabajaron en diferentes aspectos del plan de estudios. Como siempre, nuestro objetivo es asegurarles que no importa de cual escuela primaria vengan los alumnos, ya que todos aprenderán las mismas habilidades.

Matemática y Ciencia

Maestros, de las cinco escuelas primarias, que son especializados en ciencias se reunieron para desarrollar unidades que servirán para que el aprendizaje sea consistente siguiendo las normas de cada grado. Además, ellos trabajaron en la creación de mapas del plan de estudio para asegurarse alineamiento con la recién adaptada Normas de la Siguiente Generación.

El artículo continúa en la página 2

Math and Science

The five elementary science specialist teachers met to further develop teaching units so that the learning is consistent and standards-based across and within grade levels. In addition, they worked on curriculum maps to ensure alignment with the newly adopted Next Generation Science Standards.

Middle school science teachers worked to align the middle school science curriculum to the new state standards and to create math/science cross-curricular units for the coming year.

Language Arts

Other teachers spent time working on literacy instruction. According to Colleen Carroll, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, having focused in the past on reading, this summer they turned their attention to writing.

Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak, listen and view in a way that allows people to communicate effectively and gain knowledge. It is the foundation of education and is essential for learning all subjects. Educators agree that students should be exposed to a variety, or balance, of options – including reading novels and other forms of writing, writing papers, creating projects and making presentations.

Balanced literacy will be emphasized in the elementary grades. For middle and high school students, the focus is on authentic texts and a heavy stress on writing and collaborating with other students. Strong writing skills correlate with better reading and improved communication.

Over the next school year, parents should see their child become a more enthusiastic writer. Students will be given assignments that demonstrate different genres of writing, from writing stories to writing a narrative to preparing an informational paper based on the student's research.

Dr. Carroll points out that there is a strong need for good writing in order to prepare graduates for college and career readiness. "Our state assessments reflect this need and we want students to have every tool to do well," she added, saying that there will be a clear progression of writing skills in each grade from Kindergarten through grade 12.

The groups also prepared high quality professional development for the entire teaching staff in both English and in Spanish in order to help teachers achieve literacy for all students within three years.

FROM STEM TO STEAM

A group of teachers will be participating this year in a year-long K-12 STEAM initiative under the auspices of BOCES. The purpose is to find ways for Port Chester to be on the cutting edge of teaching "science, technology, engineering, math – and art/design" to students as access points to guiding student inquiry, dialog and critical thinking.

Currículo

Continuación de la pág. 1

Maestros de la escuela intermedia (Middle School) trabajan para alinear el plan de estudios con cada una de las normas nuevas estatales, y para crear unidades transversales en matemática/ciencia para este nuevo año escolar.

Arte de Lenguaje

Otros maestros trabajaron en instrucción para el alfabetismo. De acuerdo a la Doctora Colleen Carroll, Directora de Currículo e Instrucción, en este verano el enfoque fué en temas importantes para la escritura.

El alfabetismo es la habilidad de leer, escribir, hablar, escuchar, y observar en una manera de comunicarse efectivamente y para obtener conocimiento. Es la fundación de la educación y es esencial para el aprendizaje de todas las materias. Los educadores coinciden en que los estudiantes deben ser expuestos a una variedad, o balance de opciones - que incluyen el leer obras literarias como novelas, y otras formas de escritura, entre ellas, escribir ensayos, crear proyectos, y hacer presentaciones.

El balancear el alfabetismo significa tener un énfasis en los grados de primaria. Para la escuela intermedia y la secundaria, el enfoque es puesto en textos auténticos que recalcan la escritura y la colaboración con otros estudiantes. Fuertes habilidades de escritura tienen una correlación con mejor lectura y mejoran la comunicación.

A través del próximo año escolar, los padres verán a sus hijos volverse más entusiasmados en la escritura. Los estudiantes recibirán asignaciones que demostrarán diferentes géneros de escritura, desde escribir historias en forma narrativa, a preparar ensayos de información basados en la búsqueda del estudiante.

La doctora Carroll explica que hay la necesidad de escribir bien para preparar a los graduados para la universidad y para estar listos para una carrera. "Las evaluaciones del estado reflejan esta necesidad y queremos que los estudiantes tengan todas las herramientas para hacerlo bien," añadió diciendo que habrá un progreso claro de habilidades de escritura en cada grado, desde Kindergarten hasta el grado 12.

2017-2018 School Calendar

A 2017-2018 printed calendar of events will be distributed by your child's school. A more complete calendar of events appears on the District web site and on each school's web site.

You should always check the calendars on our web sites because they are kept up-to-date. New events are added throughout the year and dates, times and details of scheduled events can change.

La escuela de su hijo(a) distribuirá un calendario impreso de los eventos del 2017-2018. Un calendario más completo de eventos aparece en el sitio web del Distrito y en el sitio web de cada escuela.

Siempre debe revisar los calendarios en nuestros sitios web, ya que se mantienen actualizados. Los nuevos eventos se agregan durante el año y las fechas, los horarios y los detalles de los eventos programados pueden cambiar.

September 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Staff 18
Students 16

October 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

Staff 21
Students 21

November 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Staff 19
Students 18

December 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Staff 16
Students 16

January 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

Staff 21
Students 21

August	31	Staff Only - Supt Conference Day
September	4	Labor Day
	5	Staff Only - Supt Conference Day
	6	Opening Day for Students
	21-22	Rosh Hashanah
October	9	Columbus Day
	18	Noon dismissal for students only
November	7	Staff Only - Supt Conference Day
	10	Veterans Day
	23-24	Thanksgiving Recess
December	6	Noon dismissal for students only
	25-29	Holiday Recess
January	1	New Year's Day
	10	Noon dismissal for students only
	15	Martin Luther King Day
February	7	Noon dismissal for students only
	19-23	Winter Recess
March	20	Staff Only - Supt Conference Day
	30	Spring Recess
April	2-6	Spring Recess
	25	Noon dismissal for students only
May	28	Memorial Day
June	12-22	Regents Exams
	22	Regents Rating Day
	22	Noon dismissal for elementary students only
	22	Last Day of School
	22	High School Graduation
		12:00 Noon Dismissal Students Only (Staff PM training)
		Schools Closed
		Staff Only - Supt Conference Day

February 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28		

Staff 15
Students 15

March 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Staff 21
Students 20

April 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

Staff 16
Students 16

May 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Staff 22
Students 22

June 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Staff 16
Students 16

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

Use of Supt Conference Days as "Make-Up" Instructional Days as needed

- If the district uses an emergency closing day from September through November 6, November 7 will be a Make-Up instructional day for students.
- In the event that either the November 7 or March 20 Supt Conference Days are needed and used for Make-Up instructional days, a Make-Up Supt Conference Day will be held on June 25 (Note that Supt Conference Days are for Staff only).

Emergency Closing Make-Up Instructional Days will be scheduled as follows:

- If 1, 2 or 3 Emergency Closing Days are used, there will be no changes in the calendar other than those described in 1 & 2 above.
- Beginning with the 4th Emergency Closing Day, Make-Up instructional days will occur in the following order:
March 20, April 3, April 4, April 5, April 6, April 2.
- If all Make-Up days are exhausted due to excessive emergency closings, 1 additional day will be absorbed and not affect the calendar. However, if 1 this additional day is absorbed, as necessary the Board will revise the school calendar to ensure that the SED mandated number of instructional and Supt Conference Days are held.
- If fewer than 3 emergency closing days are used, schools will be closed on May 25.

TOTAL DAYS:

Teacher 185
Student 181

No Irrevocable vacation plans are to be made for potential "Make-Up" Emergency Closing days or May 25

INCLEMENT WEATHER & EMERGENCY SCHEDULE PROCEDURES are available at www.portchesterschools.org

For events around the district, please see our monthly calendar at www.portchesterschools.org

Approved by Board of Education on May 2, 2017

The Board of Education reserves the right to revise the calendar to meet State Education Department requirements



Don't forget to check the District web site for current information
No se olvide de visitar el sitio web del Distrito para obtener
información actualiza
www.portchesterschools.org

PORT CHESTER-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPOTLIGHT IS A PUBLICATION OF THE PORT CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SPOTLIGHT EDITOR

Welcome New Teachers! • ¡Bienvenidos Maestros Nuevos!

District-Wide or All Elementary

Erin Ginsberg (Special Education Supervisor) • James Ryan (Director of Athletics)
Amanda Blasi (Elem. Phys. Ed) • Malcolm Wright (Elem. Phy. Ed)

Park Avenue School

Adriana DiGiacomo • Elaine Gonzalez • Vanessa Rivera-Perez (co-assigned to King St. School)

John F. Kennedy School

Gladys Bencosme • Samantha Calvert • Megan Cappiello • Colleen Moore • Lucero Ocegüera • Danielle Salera • Ornella Salza

King Street School

Allison Lazcano • Vanessa Rivera-Perez (co assigned to Park Ave. School)

Thomas A. Edison School

Stacey Malley • Ana Reyes • Kerrianne Pritchard

Port Chester Middle School

Olivia Antonopoulos (English) • Fiorella Cruz (Special Ed.) • Katherine Hurtado (Art) • Katherine Smook (Guidance Counselor) • Stephanie Sumcizk (Special Ed.)

Port Chester High School

Michaela Collins (Art) • Darwin Gramajo (Guidance Counselor) • Eric DiNome (Math)
Maria Natalia Ledesma (Math) • Rigoberto Martinez (English) • Ryan Scrudato (English) • Natalie Tejada (Special Ed.)

As of August 11, 2017

Bienvenido al Nuevo Año Escolar

by Dr. Edward A. Kliszus, Superintendent of Schools

Es mi placer en darles a todos la bienvenida a este año escolar 2017-2018. Estoy convencido que será uno de los mejores. Esto se debe a que la Junta de Educación, maestros, y la administración continúan enfocados en nuestros estudiantes, construyendo un mejor plan de educación, expandiendo oportunidades académicas, asegurándose del bienestar emocional y físico de nuestros estudiantes, y proveyendo opciones extracurriculares de enriquecimiento. Estamos comprometidos a asegurarnos que los estudiantes de Port Chester alcancen sus sueños después de secundaria.

Este año, además de tener énfasis en lo que está pasando en los salones y pasadizos, nos embarcamos a un plan para mejorar el ambiente físico, que es lo que necesitamos ya que nuestras inscripciones siguen aumentando. Gracias al voto de aprobación de una iniciativa de Proyecto Capital el invierno pasado, tenemos planes en camino para estar preparados para el siglo 21, que incluyen, salones, bibliotecas, y departamento de atletismo. Anunciamos que se empezará a edificarlos durante el verano del 2018.

Finalmente, la junta y yo queremos darles la bienvenida a usted y a sus hijos este Septiembre 6. Por favor revise el calendario escolar en la página web para el horario de su hijo/a ese día. Para los residentes que no tienen hijos asistiendo nuestras escuelas, siempre está bienvenido a visitar. Nuestras puertas están abiertas.