

# Welcome Back to the 2016 – 2017 School Year!

## *From the Desk of the Superintendent*



On behalf of the Plainfield Board of Education, I am thrilled to welcome all staff, students and their families to the Plainfield Public Schools' (PPS) 2016-2017 school year. I hope your summer break was filled with exciting adventures and fun activities! I look forward to students starting an exciting new school year, and I'm confident our student body and their parents share the same sentiment. I am appreciative of all staff members for continuing to prepare for the work of providing educational growth and development opportunities for our students.



**Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles**  
Superintendent of Schools



### **Plainfield Board of Education Members**

Left to right:

- ❶ Mrs. Emily E. Morgan, President
- ❷ Mr. Dorien Hurtt, Vice President
- ❸ Ms. Lynn B. Anderson
- ❹ Mr. Terrence S. Bellamy, Sr.
- ❺ Mr. John C. Campbell
- ❻ Mrs. Carletta D. Jeffers
- ❼ Ms. Carmencita T. Pile
- ❽ Mr. David M. Rutherford
- ❾ Mr. Richard Wyatt

I want to share some highlights of the District's recent activities and accomplishments, as well as our upcoming initiatives:

- The Summer Kindergarten Intervention Program (S.K.I.P.) provided students in Kindergarten with additional academic support to be successful as they transition to First Grade.
- The State awarded the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program an additional \$100,000 grant to implement the Innovate NJ Program. This blended, supplemental program provided over 200 children the opportunity to participate in a six-week immersion program with innovative approaches to Math and Reading.
- Last spring, our students participated in several incredible theatrical productions that included: *A Song for Coretta* (PAAAS), *Hairspray* (Emerson and Maxson), and *The Lion King Jr.* (Cook).
- Congratulations to Cook and Emerson Schools for their winning performance at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Central Jersey Independence Day Parade for Best Overall Professional Float!

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

### **English Language Arts (ELA)**

The New Jersey Department of Education has released a new Curricular Framework for English Language Arts, which aligns with the recently adopted New Jersey Student Learning Standards. This past spring, the ELA supervisors, along with a committee of committed ELA teachers, revised our existing curriculum documents to reflect the new standards which will be integrated into the new framework. We continue to support access to digital educational resources for students and teachers.

### **Science and Instructional Technology**

The District's Science Curricula for 2016-2017 will transition to the state adopted Next Generation Science Standards. The face of Science will promote interactive learning enhanced by best practices and resources to promote Science inquiry and exploration at all levels, including the addition of advanced placement courses and elective offerings at the secondary level.

Instructional Technology in Plainfield experienced a major facelift with our students being exposed to using many of the Google Suite options including Drive, Docs and Classrooms. Students are transitioning to use multiple devices such as Chromebooks and other digital equipment such as video/audio equipment. One of the District's committed goals for the 2016-2017 school year is to promote digital literacy by offering various technology courses for our students and school community. Be on the lookout for our expanded course offerings that include AP Computer Science, Video Gaming, and TV production.

### **Mathematics**

The Math program for Grades 6-12 will implement the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, with a target focus on preparing students for career and college readiness skills. Goals of the program are to build student conceptual understanding

and reasoning skills. In an effort to strengthen fluency skills, an online summer math course was provided to all middle school students. In addition, the Secondary Math Curriculum was revised to reflect the Student Learning Standards. Lastly, through a Union County Community College grant, PPS will be able to expand the Dual College Enrollment program. Three additional college credit courses will be offered for seniors free of charge. The courses offered include: Introduction to Psychology, Public Speaking, and Algebra I.

During the 2015-2016 school year, the community partnerships established with Kean University and Union County Community College created new learning experiences for the teaching staff and students through in-district course offerings. Going forward, the District is seeking to incorporate even more STEM-based learning initiatives.

### **Special Education**

For the 2016-2017 school year, the District's Special Education leadership created eight additional inclusion classes. Three of our elementary schools are now fully inclusive! Additionally, the District is opening a new preschool disabilities class at Emerson, a new class for students with Autism at Clinton, and providing more program choices at Maxson Middle School. Students with disabilities in their junior or senior year at Plainfield High School (PHS) will be given expanded community-based work experience and internships as part of the District's Transition to Adulthood Program. In addition, the Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG) is active and growing; planning multiple events for parents throughout the year, including a community walk to raise awareness for students with Autism. Providing quality Special Education to support students in their learning remains our united focus and the guiding mission of the District.

## BUSINESS OPERATIONS

### Free & Reduced Lunch Application Now Online!

The District is excited to announce its Free & Reduced Lunch Application for the 2016-2017 school year is available online in English and Spanish. Parents can now use their computer, tablet or smartphone to complete the application. Applications completed online will be processed within 24 hours. **Only one application per household is required for families who have more than one child in the District.** Paper applications will not be sent home, but may be picked up at any of the District's schools if a parent is unable to complete the online application.

#### Free & Reduced Lunch Application

at:

[www.plainfieldnj12.org](http://www.plainfieldnj12.org)

or

[www.plainfieldnj12.org/Parents/OneSource.php](http://www.plainfieldnj12.org/Parents/OneSource.php)

### Genesis Parent Portal

PPS is currently launching a campaign to encourage all parents or guardians to sign up for access to the Genesis Parent Portal, a key component of our web-based, student information system. The Genesis Parent Portal allows parents/guardians to view their child's grades, attendance, schedule, homework assignments and print report cards in English or Spanish using a computer, tablet or smartphone. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to contact their child's school for access. **A valid email address is required.**

### Food Services



Aramark Education, LLC, has been selected to provide food service to PPS. Aramark provides service in more than 25 districts across NJ, and serves more than 350,000 meals a day to nearly 2 million students across the country. They are looking forward to serving our students nutritious, great-tasting menus that support their achievements in school and promote healthy lifestyles.

Also on the topic of exciting changes, I would like to announce the following administrative personnel changes:

<b>Dr. Phillip Williamson, Principal</b>	<i>Plainfield High School</i>
<b>Dr. Janet Grooms, Principal</b>	<i>Maxson Middle School</i>
<b>Mr. Wilson Martinez, Vice Principal</b>	<i>Maxson Middle School</i>
<b>Mr. Kevin Stansbury, VP/Site Administrator</b>	<i>Barack Obama Academy for Academic &amp; Civic Development</i>
<b>Mrs. Aurora J. Hill, Vice Principal</b>	<i>Plainfield Academy for the Arts &amp; Advanced Studies</i>
<b>Mr. Wilson Aponte, Principal</b>	<i>Barlow Elementary School</i>
<b>Mrs. Gina Ogburn-Thompson, Vice Principal</b>	<i>Cedarbrook K-8 Center</i>
<b>Mrs. Deitria Snead-Smith, Vice Principal</b>	<i>Emerson Elementary School</i>
<b>Mr. Willie Worley, Principal</b>	<i>Evergreen Elementary School</i>

Mr. Juan Pablo Jimenez, Vice Principal

Evergreen Elementary School

Mr. Daniel Cone, Vice Principal

Jefferson Elementary School

Please visit the PPS website for additional information welcoming new employees, and this year's Back to School Night Schedule. Again, welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year at PPS – let's all do everything we can to keep the momentum building in preparation for a positive new school year!

Sincerely,

*Anna Belin-Pyles*

Superintendent of Schools

All PPS  
Employees

***PPS Annual Convocation***  
**2016 - 2017**

- Thursday, September 1, 2016.
- 8:30 a.m. (all staff must sign in before the program begins).
- Plainfield High School's Auditorium.
- Immediately after, please report to your assigned school or office location for the remainder of the full-day session.

Stay Connected to PPS!

visit our Website:

[www.plainfieldnj12.org](http://www.plainfieldnj12.org)

Remember to download the

FREE

**PPS App!**