YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

YONKERS PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

PATHWAYS PRESS

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Celebrating the achievements of our students (l-r): Associate Superintendent Dr. Frank Hernandez; New York State Senator Shelley Mayer, Chair of the Senate Education Committee; Yonkers Board of Education President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio; President Pro Tempore New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Yonkers Board of Education Trustee Sheila Greenwald; Deputy Mayor of the City of Yonkers Susan Gerry; Principal Sanah Susan Naber; NYSED Regional Associate for Continuing Education Kimberly Malcom.

Pathways to Success End-of-Year Celebration

The wonderful achievements of our adult students were celebrated at the Annual Pathways to Success End-of-Year Ceremony. This year's event, which drew almost 900 people, was held at Saunders Trades and Technical High School on Wednesday evening, June 10.

Students were recognized for obtaining their GED, making academic gains, completing a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course or becoming U.S. Citizens. And this year we were honored to have as our Keynote Speaker

President Pro Tempore NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, whose heartfelt speech was both inspiring and motivational.

She praised our students for the decision to continue their education. “You have accomplished something so important,” Stewart-Cousins said, adding “This is the step you took because you knew that you had more potential then your credentials showed.” These words were particularly meaningful for our students, many of whom had never received a diploma or other type of credential.

Following the ceremony, the proud students posed for pictures with loved ones and collected certificates from their teachers, bringing a joyous ending to a wonderful evening.

From The Principal's Desk: Summer is a Time for Learning

By Sanah Susan Naber, Principal, CTE / Adult Education

As we begin another year of academic excellence at Pathways to Success, I would just like to congratulate our adult students the hard work, dedication and commitment to your education you demonstrated this past school year. I would also like to offer my sincere gratitude to our wonderful teachers, evening administrators and support staff.

The summer program at Pathways to Success runs July 6 to August 13. While there can be many distractions during the summer, I encourage each and every one of you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to continue your academic adventure. By focusing on your education this summer, you will ensure continuity in your learning.

In the meantime, please read about some the activities which occurred at Pathways to Success the first half of this year.

Field Trips Complement Classroom Instruction

By Case Manager Angela Argyros, ESOL Teacher Diana Kwong and Case Manager Tom Stefanchik

At Pathways to Success education does not end in the classroom. Our students also learn through field trips which expose them to civics, cultural institutions, scientific concepts and more. Here are trips students took this spring:

The Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB), May 6th - Ms. Kwong's and Ms. Doherty's ESOL Classes: The Center is an alliance of Sarah Lawrence College and the Beczak Environmental Education Center. Their mission is to provide environmental education for the local community.

A total of 30 students participated in the trip, and the two classes collaborated on 5 lessons together. Topics included The Water Cycle, the Hudson River, Henry Hudson the Explorer, and Living Things in the Hudson River, as well as how the center is maintaining the Hudson River.



Students attend a class at the Beczak Environmental Education Center.

In addition to classroom learning, students participated in several “hands-on” activities. They put on waders, participated in fish seining, recorded the species caught and conducted a scavenger hunt by the marsh.

Based on student response, the trip was a success. Many students had never been to the center, were excited to visit the first time and planned to share future events with their children and families.

The Information Technology (IT) Department of the Yonkers Fire Department, May 12th - Ms. Argyos’ Computer Class: Students found this trip to be both informative and engaging. According to feedback, it was fascinating to learn about the behind-the-scenes systems and technologies that support emergency response operations. Seeing firsthand how the department integrates technology to enhance communication, coordination, and public safety gave students a much deeper appreciation for the critical role IT plays in the Fire Dept.



Students learned a great deal at the IT Dept. of the Yonkers Fire Dept.

Students also had the opportunity to watch a drone take off, search the area and land. The visit concluded with a question and answer session, as well as a lunch provided by the IT Department. The visit left a lasting impression on Ms. Argyros and her students.

A big thank you goes out to Bob Cacace, Commissioner of Information Technology, City of Yonkers, and Cheryl Green, Deputy Commissioner of Information Technology, City of Yonkers, for coordinating this wonderful event.

Pathways’ Newest Career and Technical Education Program

As a school-to-work program, Pathways to Success places a strong emphasis on Career and Technical Education (CTE). We recognize the important role CTE plays in preparing our students for successful employment. Therefore, we develop our CTE programs based on the needs of the local job market.

Our newest program, which ran this past spring, is Introduction to Cybersecurity, an initiative suggested by Associate Superintendent Dr. Frank Hernandez. The course introduced students to the fundamentals of artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity principles and digital safety. Students learned core concepts such as data protection, threat awareness, ethical use of AI, and basic security practices, while building the problem-solving and critical-thinking skills necessary in today’s technology-driven world. Students who successfully passed the final exam earned AI + Security Level 1 certification.

Our other CTE programs are Barbering, Retail, Culinary, Carpentry, Medical Billing, and Home Health Aide. All offer industry recognized credentials. If you are interested in any of these programs, please see an Employment Case Manager in Room #104.

Literacy Zone Guest Speaker Series

Pathways to Success provides more for our adult students than just academic instruction. We provide information and resources to assist students in navigating the complexities of everyday life.

Towards that end, the Pathways to Success Guest Speaker Series brings in speakers from community organizations to present topics of importance to our adult students at all of our Literacy Zones: Vive, PEARLS Hawthorne, Enrico Fermi and Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School, as well as School 18, Cesar E. Chavez School, Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety School, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School. Sessions are conducted in English and Spanish.

We would like to thank all of the agencies who conducted presentations this year:

- My Sister's Place – Domestic Violence Awareness
- One Paso – Coping with Depression and Anxiety
- American Red Cross – Fire Safety
- Yonkers Police Department – Scam Awareness and Prevention
- Cluster – Know Your Rights / Tenant Rights

Mayor Spano's Annual Flag Raising Ceremony

By Case Managers Frances Mourani and Tom Stefanchik

Students learning about civics got a first-hand lesson as they participated in Mayor Mike Spano's Annual Flag-Raising Ceremony, held at Yonkers City Hall on Sunday, June 14th. Despite the ceremony being held on a Sunday, there was a great turnout from our students. Two of our newest U.S. citizens were there, Manuel Alonso and Ruth Ogando, as well as Ms. Sutton and six students from her Friday ESOL Civics Class.



ESOL Teacher Jackie Sutton leads her students in the Pledge of Allegiance.

All of our students arrived on time and participated in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. They also took pictures with Mayor Spano's representative.

For more information about our Adult Education Classes, please contact Sanah Susan Naber, at 914-376-8600 or snaber1@yonkerspublicschools.org



That's all for now. See you next year!

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