



Superintendent, Anibal Soler, Jr.

IN THIS ISSUE

Superintendent's Message.....	1-2
District Digest.....	3-13
Photos from Schools this Week.....	14
Student Artwork.....	15

Message from Superintendent Soler

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Family,

Welcome back! I hope all of our students, families, and staff had a restful and enjoyable Spring Break. It was wonderful to see our buildings come back to life this week as students returned ready to learn, grow, and finish the school year strong. We are excited for all that lies ahead.

This week, we had the privilege of celebrating excellence at our annual Valedictorian and Salutatorian Breakfast.



Beautiful plaques and the medallions the academic leaders of the Class of 2026 will wear at Commencement in June.

This special event honors the top two students from each of our high schools, young people who truly represent the best of Yonkers Public Schools. Their hard work, determination, and commitment to success are inspiring. It was a proud moment for our district, and I congratulate each of these outstanding students and their families.

I also had the opportunity to visit Yonkers Middle High School for their All-Star Breakfast, where we recognized the top 26 students in the class. Their dedication and achievement remind us of the incredible potential within our schools.

At Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School, I joined a family engagement event centered around the book *The Wild Robot*. Students showcased their creativity by designing cereal boxes inspired by the story. It was wonderful to see families actively engaged and supporting their children's learning. Moments like these reflect the strong partnership we continue to build between our schools and our community.

We are also proud to share that this week, we opened our fourth food pantry at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School. This is another important step in our Community Schools initiative, as we continue to make our schools true hubs of support for our families. We are grateful for our partnership with Feeding Westchester, whose support helps us meet the needs of our community.

[*continued on page 2*](#)

Message from Superintendent Soler (Continued)

This week, I also joined Principal Delany for a town hall meeting to discuss the potential renaming of Cesar Chavez School. At this time, we are proposing a return to the name Cedar Place Community School, which will be brought to the Board of Education for consideration later this month. We are committed to working closely with the school community as we move forward, including selecting a new logo and school colors. More information will be shared soon.

In addition, I had the opportunity to interview and select four of our My Brother's Keeper (MBK) students to be nominated as New York State MBK Fellows. These young leaders represent the very best of our district, and we look forward to highlighting their accomplishments next week.

As we continue to monitor the state budget process, we remain hopeful that our elected officials will provide the support needed to address our district's structural deficit. I encourage our entire community to continue advocating for Yonkers Public Schools so we can protect the progress we have made and continue moving forward together.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership, your support, and your belief in our students.

Let's continue to make magic happen in Yonkers.



Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



*A few words for the top of the class:
Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr. addresses the
Class of 2026's valedictorians and salutatorians.*

DISTRICT

Digest

From key moments with Superintendent Soler to exciting events across our schools, Yonkers Magic was on full display. Catch up on all the highlights and celebrations happening in YPS this week!

Lincoln High School College Fair



Setting Students Up for Success

Lincoln High School hosted its annual College Fair this week, bringing together 40 colleges and universities, three trade schools, and representatives from the armed forces and civil service to present a broad range of post-secondary pathways.

Student engagement was strong throughout the event, with many students actively connecting with representatives and exploring their options. That momentum carried beyond the fair, as students were seen reviewing materials during lunch and in their free time—an encouraging sign of the fair's impact and Lincoln's ongoing commitment to college and career readiness.

Artistic Expression on Full Display



School 5 Art Show

As spring came to life, so did the creativity at School 5! Students in grades PK–6 brought their imaginations to life, showcasing the beauty of butterflies, the intricate architecture of New York City, and so much more at their vibrant art show. Each piece reflected the talent and unique perspectives of our young artists.

A special thank you to School 5 art teacher Mrs. Petrino for creating such a meaningful opportunity for students to shine and share their artistic achievements.

Celebrating the Class of 2026 Sweet 16



Annual Valedictorian Salutatorian Breakfast

Sixteen accomplished and inspiring members of the Class of 2026 were the guests of honor at the Yonkers Public Schools annual Valedictorian–Salutatorian Breakfast on Thursday, April 9, 2026, kicking off the countdown to commencement in June. The breakfast, steeped in tradition and heartfelt emotion, honored the students and their families, representing eight Yonkers high schools. Our ninth and newest high school, the Robert Halmi Sr. Academy of Film and Television, will graduate its first class in 2028.

Congratulations to Lincoln High School's Valedictorian, Anthony Elias Peter, and Salutatorian, Daira C. Aguilar; Riverside High School's Valedictorian, Christine Flores, and Salutatorian, Ean Tyson-Raymond Anderson; Yonkers High School's Valedictorian, Isabel Dourmashkin, and Salutatorian, Kium Hwangbo; Yonkers Montessori Academy's Valedictorian, Lauren Restivo, and Salutatorian, Monica E. George; Barack Obama School for Social Justice's Valedictorian, Janiyah L. Merrill, and Salutatorian, Cherish Wamack; Charles E. Gorton High School's Valedictorian, Sofia Mejia, and Salutatorian, Attiqah Ejaz; Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies's Valedictorian, Khloe Madison Nieto, and Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies's Salutatorian, Ariana Henry; and Saunders Trades and Technical High School's Valedictorian, Hannah Silva, and Salutatorian, Alanis Abreu.

Thank you to NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Mayor Mike Spano, City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Councilmember Tasha Diaz, Board of Education President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio, Trustees Sheila Greenwald, Rosemarie P. Linton, and Lorraine Lopez, Superintendent of Schools Aníbal Soler, Jr., the teachers who nurtured these bright stars, and the parents who love them.

[ENJOY PHOTOS OF THE DAY](#)

Elevating Student Voice Through Leadership



Yonkers Middle High School



Yonkers Montessori Academy



Saunders Trades and Technical High School



Charles E. Gorton High School



Barack Obama School for Social Justice



Riverside High School

Empowering Young Women to Build Voice, Vision, and Impact

The Yonkers My Sister's Keeper (MSK) *Elevated Voices Leadership Digital Portfolio Workshop Series* is a student-centered initiative taking place across all Yonkers high schools. The program empowers young women to develop their voice, vision, and leadership identity through the creation of a four-part digital portfolio.

Grounded in the R.I.S.E. framework: Relevant Connections, Inspiration & Excellence, Synergy & Service, and Elevated Voices, students engage in reflective writing, creative expression, and purpose-driven storytelling throughout the series.

The experience culminates in a dynamic digital portfolio that captures each participant's personal growth, leadership journey, and commitment to making a meaningful impact within their school and community.

Yonkers Public Schools Intramurals Finals Recap



March Madness Sets the Stage

Spirited competition and outstanding sportsmanship were twin highlights of last month's Intramurals Finals. Working their way through March Madness style brackets, **Team DiChiario**, coached by Nicholas Naber, earned the girls' championship title. On the boys' side of bracket play, **Team PEARLS**, led by Coaches Jarrett Richards and Scott Seligmann, secured the championship.

Team Gibran also delivered a strong performance, with both the girls' and boys' teams finishing in second place. The event reflected the commitment and dedication of student athletes, coaches, and administrators, contributing to a successful intramural season. A special thank you to our Intramurals leadership team, Kyle Calabro and Associate Superintendent Rose Collins-Judon, as well as all student-athletes, coaches, and administrators for making this season a success.

MBK & MSK Reading Mentor Program



Passing the Torch of Literacy

At the William Boyce Thompson School, academically strong 7th and 8th grade My Brother's Keeper (MBK) and My Sister's Keeper (MSK) students are mentoring younger readers in grades 3–5 through the MBK/MSK Reading Mentors Program.

Through this powerful initiative, mentors meet with their mentees weekly to read together, strengthen literacy skills, and build meaningful, supportive relationships. The program not only enhances academic growth but also fosters a strong sense of community across grade levels as older students serve as positive role models.

Throughout the program, Dr. Marvin Louis Robinson III, Executive Director of MBK, and Mr. Gregory Joyner, Yonkers MBK Coordinator, have stopped by William Boyce Thompson to see the impactful work taking place firsthand.

Thank you, Emily Culbert and Edwardo Rodriguez for leading this initiative.



Robert Halmi Students Go 'Behind The Curtain'



Halmi in Hollywood

Robert Halmi Sr. Academy's 10th grade students recently embarked on an unforgettable six-day educational excursion to Los Angeles, California, where classroom learning came to life. As part of their Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways in film and production, students explored the industry firsthand through immersive, behind-the-scenes experiences. Highlights included guided tours of the iconic Dolby Theatre, the Warner Bros. Studios backlot, and the Grammy Museum, along with visits to Universal Studios and Disneyland.

This unique opportunity allowed students to step "behind the curtain" of the entertainment industry, deepening their understanding of design, production, and post-production processes. By engaging directly with real-world environments and professionals, students gained invaluable insight and inspiration, making this hands-on experience an exceptional extension of their CTE studies.

YMHS Celebrates Top 26 of Class 2026



Recognizing Hard Work, Commitment, and Academic Success

What a wonderful celebration for the YMHS top 26! Today they were honored during a special ceremony for their hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements. This meaningful occasion brought the school community together to acknowledge each student's success and share in this memorable milestone.

Lincoln Scholars Travel Abroad



International Learning

The Lancer Travelers experienced an incredible journey through Italy, filled with excitement, discovery, and unforgettable moments. From the moment they arrived, they immersed themselves in the rich history and vibrant culture of Florence, taking in breathtaking views from Piazzale Michelangelo and walking in the footsteps of Renaissance masters. Each day brought new adventures as they explored world-famous landmarks, enjoyed authentic cuisine, and appreciated the beauty of the city. Their travels continued in Rome, where they stood in awe inside the Colosseum, wandered through the ancient ruins of the Roman Forum, and experienced the grandeur of Vatican City. It was truly a remarkable journey—one filled with lasting memories and shared connections. Thank you to Mr. Sherman, Mrs. Judon, Ms. Irene, the school nurse, and Jeanette Vazquez!

A Gorton Wolf is Headed to Japan!



An Outstanding Educational Opportunity

Nicole Akiru, a Yonkers Public Schools student, has been awarded a full scholarship to participate in Putney Student Travel, a prestigious study abroad program offering immersive learning experiences across the globe.

Introduced to the program through Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE), Nicole was encouraged to apply and went on to earn the distinction of being the only student in New York State selected for a fully funded opportunity to travel to Japan this summer—an experience valued at over \$8,000 plus airfare.

Through this program, Nicole will engage in cultural exploration, hands-on learning, and meaningful community experiences abroad. She shared her gratitude to YPIE for opening the door to this life-changing opportunity and inspiring her to take this next step.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor Food Pantry Grand Opening



Supporting Families Through Community Care

The Food Pantry at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School had a successful grand opening this week, marking an important step in supporting students and families across the Yonkers community. The pantry will provide access to essential groceries and resources in a welcoming environment, reinforcing the district's commitment to meeting the needs of the whole child and ensuring every family has the support they need to thrive. Thank you **Feeding Westchester** for your partnership!

Yonkers Middle High School Visits Frost Valley

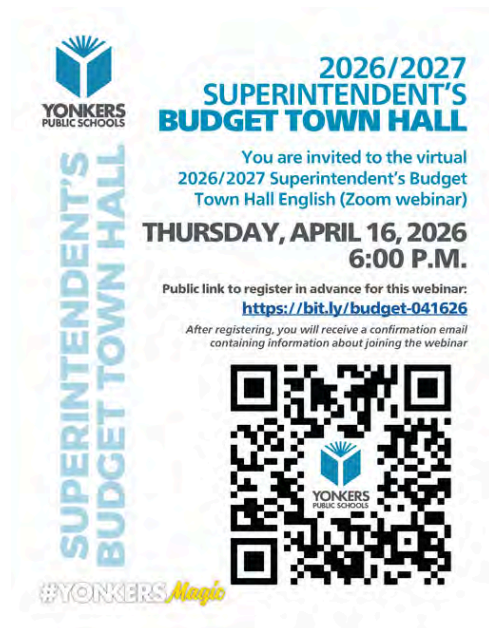


Senior Students Celebrate Their Four Years Together

Set on more than 5,000 acres in the breathtaking Catskill Mountains, just two hours from Yonkers, Frost Valley provided Class of 2026 YMHS students the chance to build indoor and outdoor skills, and “experience a strong sense of community and belonging in an often turbulent world.”

The students also experienced April's cold, bracing nights in the mountains, saw jaw-dropping ancient rock formations and waterfalls up close, and had many moments in nature they won't soon forget.

Superintendent's Budget Town Hall Virtual Meetings



**2026/2027
SUPERINTENDENT'S
BUDGET TOWN HALL**

You are invited to the virtual
2026/2027 Superintendent's Budget
Town Hall English (Zoom webinar)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

Public link to register in advance for this webinar:
<https://bit.ly/budget-041626>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing information about joining the webinar



#YONKERS Magic



**SEMINARIO DEL
PRESUPUESTO ESCOLAR
DEL SUPERINTENDENTE
2026/2027**

Estan cordialmente invitados a unirse
al seminario virtual para conversar sobre
el presupuesto del nuevo año fiscal.

**jueves, 16 de abril del 2026
6:00 P.M.**

Enlace para registrarse con anticipación:
<https://bit.ly/budget-041626>

Después de registrarte, recibirás un correo electrónico de
confirmación con la información para unirte al seminario web.



#YONKERS Magic

Addressing Budget Challenges

Join Superintendent Aníbal Soler, Jr. for a closer look at the budget challenges facing Yonkers Public Schools. The upcoming session will be held at 6:30 PM via Zoom:

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Click [here](https://bit.ly/budget-041626) to register

Upcoming YPS Events



The Association of Hispanic Professionals, Inc.
Cordially invites you to join us
in the celebration of the

40th Annual Scholarship Dinner

Thursday, May 21, 2026
5:30pm Cocktails
6:30pm Dinner and Program

The Westchester Manor
140 Saw Mill River Road
Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

RSVP April 30, 2026

We Honor and Recognize
for their service and dedication to our students:

Lourdes Cruz

2026
Retired Principal
Yonkers Public Schools

Marlene Lara

2026
Monroe University
Director of Undergraduate Admissions



Scan QR Code to Purchase tickets online or send a check to:
The Association of Hispanic Professionals, Inc.
P.O. Box 411, Yonkers, N.Y. 10703

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO
THE YONKERS COUNCIL OF PTA/PTSAs

Annual Fundraising Gala

Honoring
Brenda Cardoza
YCPTA President

And
Rose Anne Collins-Judon
Associate Superintendent, Yonkers Public Schools

APRIL
THURSDAY 30 AT 5:30 PM
2026

Westchester Manor
140 Saw Mill River Road
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

\$100 Per Person • Includes Dinner & Entertainment

Please RSVP by April 10, 2026
to NarisaSaleem@YCPTA.org



Office of Student Support Services

10th Annual Autism Art Gala

Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 5:30 PM
Yonkers Riverfront Library | One Larkin Center | Yonkers, NY 10701
This exhibit will showcase artwork created by
Yonkers Public Schools Students with Autism.



MCKINNEY-VENTO CONFERENCE



SEEN, HEARD, SUPPORTED: Building Coordinated Systems of Support for McKinney-Vento Youth

Our students can thrive. It is our responsibility to create the conditions that make that possible.
McKinney-Vento is the law, but do we truly understand its purpose and urgency?
This conference moves beyond compliance to center the experiences of students experiencing
homelessness. Together, we will examine how to create responsive systems of support.

Join Us
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026
LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL
8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

8:00 AM Registration & Sign-In	8:30 AM Opening Remarks	9:45-9:45 AM Inspiring Keynote Address	10:00-11:00 AM Session Block 1	11:15-12:15 PM Session Block 2
--------------------------------------	----------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------



What to Expect

- Normalize conversations about student mental health
 - Identify and reduce barriers to care and support
 - Strengthen coordinated, school-based systems
- Participants will explore what it takes to create environments where
students and families feel safe, supported, and able to engage.

Incredible Sessions from Community Partners:
One Paso (Mental Health), Family Ties of Westchester,
NYS TEACHS (Postsecondary), The Northstar Project (SEL), Fidelis Care (Access),
Westchester Jewish Community Services (Anxiety/Trauma Care),
Saint Joseph's Family Health Center (Wellness)

School Counselors • Social Workers • Teachers • Administrators • Family Liaisons
Parents/Caregiver Advocates • Student Support Services welcome!

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE! REGISTER NOW!
Scan the QR code to register.



CHARLES E. GORTON HIGH SCHOOL
MBK
TOUCH-A-TRUCK

GHS FIELD
100 SHONARD PL
12PM-3PM

Saturday, May 2nd
*Rain Date May 16th

PARTNERS INCLUDE:
YPD, YFD, DPW, COUNTY
POLICE US MARINES,
WE ART 1, FOOD TRUCKS,
SALSA DANCING, LIVE MUSIC,
GAMES, FACE PAINTING, AND
MORE.

District Digest

Photos from Across the District



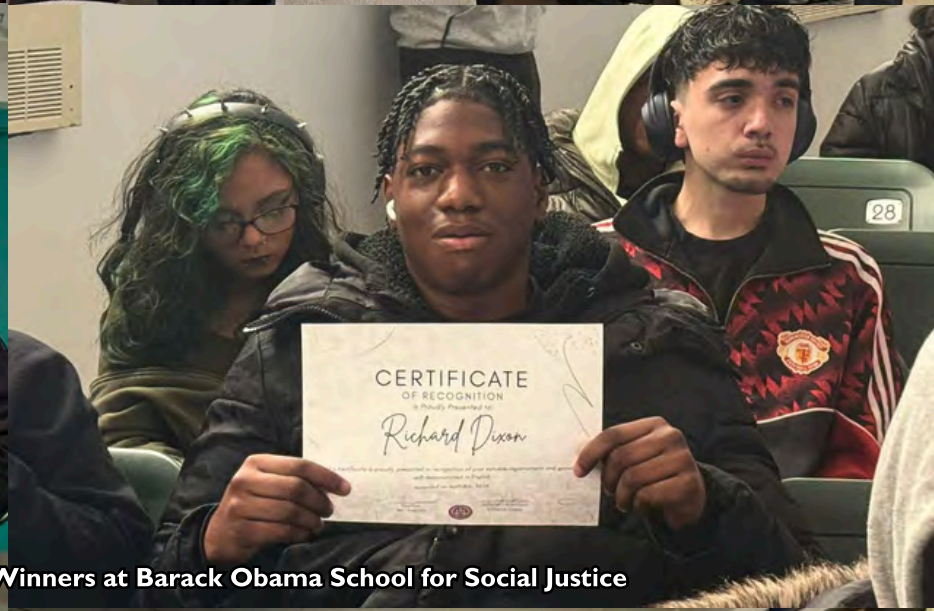
Superintendent Soler Pitches in at Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School's New Food Pantry



Liberty Partnership Students From Gorton High School's Medical Magnet Program Gained Hands-on Experience at White Plains Hospital



Congratulations to the Award Winners at Barack Obama School for Social Justice



From Student to Teacher for a Day at School 17



Superintendent with Yonkers Middle High School Principal and Assistant Principals for National Assistant Principals Week

YPS STUDENT ARTWORK



Michelle Alvarado, YMA, Gr. 8



Joel Federico, School 17,
Gr. 5



Student Collaboration, School 23, Gr. 3-6



David Martinez Lopez,
Siragusa, Gr. K



Ruby Rosario, MLKA,
Gr. 3



Stephanie Bernal Serrano, Enrico Fermi, Gr. 4