



Superintendent, Anibal Soler, Jr.

Message from Superintendent Soler

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Family,

This week, I had the privilege of joining Mayor Mike Spano as he presented his Mayor's School Spotlight Award to School 16. This recognition celebrates the outstanding work occurring under the leadership of Principal Dr. Vanessa Vazquez and the dedicated staff at the school.

The Mayor recognized the innovation, student engagement, and commitment to excellence that are helping students thrive every day.



Today, she shakes the Superintendent's hand as a kindergartener. Before we know it, she'll do it again as a member of the graduating Class of 2038. The years pass quickly. Make them count!

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Congratulations to the entire School 16 community on this well-deserved honor!

I also had the opportunity to participate in two College is My Future events, one at Yonkers Montessori Academy and another at Enrico Fermi Elementary School. These events remind us that college and career readiness begins long before high school. It was inspiring to see our kindergarten students, the **Class of 2038**, beginning to dream about their futures and recognize the limitless possibilities ahead of them. Thank you to the educators and families who continue to nurture those aspirations.

This week, I attended the Administrator of the Year Dinner, where we once again celebrated Jamie Morales, Principal of Gorton High School, as the 2026 Administrator of the Year. Principal Morales has created a culture of excellence, opportunity, and pride for the Wolfpack. We are incredibly proud of his leadership and look forward to continuing to celebrate his accomplishments throughout the remainder of the school year.

I was also honored to attend the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents Carol F. Johnson Scholastic Achievement Dinner, which recognized the valedictorians and salutatorians from across our region. It was especially meaningful to celebrate the outstanding students from Yonkers Public Schools alongside their families, principals, and school leaders. Their hard work and perseverance serve as an inspiration to us all.

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Message from Superintendent Soler (Continued)

And tonight, I look forward to stopping by the Saunders Trades and Technical High School Senior Showcase Fashion Design Show, another annual tradition that highlights our students' creativity, innovation, and technical skills. Events like these showcase the incredible opportunities available to students throughout Yonkers Public Schools and remind us why career and technical education continues to be such an important part of our district.

As we celebrate our students and schools, I also want to provide an update regarding our district budget. Thanks to the significant investment made by our state legislators, Governor Hochul, Mayor Spano, and the Yonkers City Council, we have been able to continue developing a budget that protects the progress we have made while addressing the long-term realities facing our district. The final budget recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education at the June 17th Stated Meeting.

Finally, I want to thank our families for your continued support, partnership, and belief in our schools. The month of June is always busy, but it is also a time of celebration and reflection. Together, we will continue to honor our students' accomplishments while preparing them for the bright futures that lie ahead.

Thank you for being part of the Yonkers Public Schools family. I wish you a wonderful weekend and look forward to continuing to celebrate our students throughout June.

With gratitude,



Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



Mayor Honors School 16 with School Spotlight Award



There were tears when Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined Superintendent of Schools Aníbal Soler, Jr. to present his School Spotlight Award to the deserving administration, faculty, staff, parents, and students at School 16. The Mayor and Superintendent joined hands as third graders delivered an emotional rendition of “We Are the World.” The 1980s anthem that sparked a global response to famine in Africa resonated anew with students learning to take action in their own community.

Under the leadership of Principal Dr. Vanessa Vasquez, School 16 has made notable progress in two pivotal areas: Innovation & Future-Ready Skills and Student Agency, and Leadership & Civic Engagement. The **Recycled Roots: Yonkers Landmarks Gallery Walk** is an interdisciplinary Pre-K–8 project that connects classroom instruction to real-world environmental challenges in Yonkers. Students engaged in hands-on, developmentally appropriate activities, conducted research, created original artwork, and presented their learning in a public gallery display.

The project also strengthened student agency and civic engagement by positioning students as active contributors to sustainability learning within their own community. By focusing on Yonkers landmarks and Earth Day themes, students examined real local issues. They deepened the connection between academic learning and civic responsibility.

School 16 students turned trash into treasured tokens of Yonkers history. They used recycled materials to construct scale models of local landmarks, such as City Hall (*see photo above*), Untermyer Gardens, and Yonkers Raceway, to name a few. Mayor Spano listened and observed as students described how they repurposed cardboard, packing material, bottle caps, K-Cups and food containers to build a mini-Yonkers. The Mayor says he plans to display the landmark models at City Hall.

Mayor Spano’s School Spotlight Award highlights four Yonkers public schools within the academic year for their significant academic success, extracurricular achievements, and community involvement. School 16 is the fourth and final school recognized during 2025–2026, joining Gorton High School, Ella Fitzgerald Academy, and Yonkers Early Childhood Academy.

Voracious Readers Dig Into Summer



Don't give in to the "Summer Slide!" Take a book to the beach, the park, your backyard, or front stoop. Students from PEARLS Hawthorne School checked out books from the Yonkers Public Library as they look to defend their title as Yonkers' most voracious readers.

Last year, PEARLS students collectively logged more than 5,000 books, earning the Summer Reading Bookworm Trophy. During Thursday's visit, they also donned headsets and explored a virtual reality dinosaur dig, a preview of hands-on learning opportunities available through the library this summer.

The theme of this year's [Summer Reading Program](#) is "[Unearth a Story](#)." Yonkers Associate Superintendent Dr. Daisy Rodriguez encouraged students to stock up on summer reading material. In addition to reading challenges and prizes, the Yonkers Public Library will offer a **full summer of free programs**, including STEM activities, arts and crafts, performances, movies, gaming, author events, and family-friendly experiences at [all library locations](#).

Inquiry, Investigation, & Inspiration at Boyce Thompson

The William Boyce Thompson School community this week celebrated its 1st Annual Science Fair, showcasing student creativity, curiosity, and scientific thinking. Students proudly presented projects that demonstrated their knowledge of scientific inquiry, experimentation, and the real-world applications of science concepts. Topics ranged from Animal Adaptations in Ms. Rein's class to States of Matter in Ms. Anson's class. Fifth-grade students in Mrs. Petrino's class investigated whether a teacher's blood pressure changes over the course of the week, applying data-collection and analysis skills to answer an engaging research question. Middle school students rounded out the event with an informative presentation on the pH Scale, highlighting their understanding of chemistry and its everyday applications. The Science Fair was a wonderful opportunity for students to share their learning and inspire a love of science throughout the school community.

“C” is For College: Meet the Class of 2038

June marks the annual College Is My Future celebration at the District's 30 elementary schools, launching the journey of the Class of 2038 from Kindergarten to college and the rest of their lives. We'll have more next week!



School 17



School 23



Enrico Fermi School

Student Leadership

As Yonkers' youngest students look ahead to their futures during the annual College Is My Future celebration, older students are already putting leadership, citizenship, and advocacy into practice. Across the district, student leaders are using their voices to make an impact both in their schools and in the broader community. Yonkers student leaders are putting civic engagement into practice both inside and outside the classroom.

Members of the **Unified Yonkers Student Leadership Council** recently partnered with the League of Women Voters on a "Get Out the Vote" video contest. While many of these elected student representatives are not yet old enough to cast a ballot, they understand the importance of civic participation. Students combined creativity, communication skills, and public speaking to produce 60-second public service announcements encouraging voter engagement. Beyond the competition itself, the project provided a hands-on lesson in democracy, leadership, and the power of having one's voice heard. Winning submissions will be featured on the League's social media platforms.

That same spirit of student advocacy was evident during the final meeting of the Superintendent's Student Leadership Council. Students participated in thoughtful discussions about the Yonkers 2030 Shared Vision for High-Quality Instruction and explored how the district's Portrait of a Graduate connects to meaningful learning experiences. They reflected on what these initiatives mean for their educational journeys, asked insightful questions about strengthening opportunities for all students, and provided feedback on this year's council activities. Their perspectives will help shape future student leadership experiences and inform the district's ongoing work to support student success. Together, these two districtwide student leadership groups demonstrate that student voice is not simply encouraged in Yonkers Public Schools - it is helping shape both the community and the future of the district.

YMA Musicians Shine at NYSSMA



Students from Yonkers Montessori Academy earned Outstanding and Excellent ratings at the 2026 **New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)** evaluations, demonstrating their dedication and musical achievement across a range of instrumental and vocal performances.

Leading the group was Savannah Meija, who earned a perfect score of 100 at Level 5 Piano, the highest level of adjudication. Several other students also received top ratings, reflecting the strength of YMA's music program and the hard work of its student musicians.



The achievements at NYSSMA 2026 highlight both individual talent and a strong culture of arts education within the school community.

Congratulations to the students and their music teacher, Mr. DeVito on this outstanding accomplishment!

Are You G.A.M.E.



On Thursday, May 28, Yonkers Public Schools proudly hosted the 4th Annual Are You G.A.M.E.? Math Competition, welcoming 150 students in grades 3–8 from 29 schools across the district.

Throughout the day, students participated in a variety of engaging mathematical challenges designed to strengthen problem-solving skills, encourage collaboration, and foster critical thinking. The competition provided students with an opportunity to showcase their mathematical abilities while working together in a fun and supportive environment.

Students demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm, perseverance, and sportsmanship, representing their schools with pride throughout the event. The competition highlighted not only students' academic talents but also their ability to think creatively and work collaboratively to solve complex problems.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated and helped make this year's competition a tremendous success. We also extend our congratulations to this year's winners for their exceptional achievements.



Honoring the Dedicated School Nurses of Yonkers Public Schools

Every day, thousands of students walk through the doors of Yonkers Public Schools ready to learn, grow, and pursue their dreams. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of school nurses ensure students and staff are healthy and safe throughout the day.

School nurses are often among the first people students turn to when they need help. They provide comfort during difficult moments and work closely with families, teachers, and staff to ensure that every student has the support they need to succeed. Their impact extends far beyond their office, helping to create nurturing school environments where students feel cared for and ready to learn.

To all of our school nurses: thank you for your compassion, your expertise, and your dedication to the students. Your care helps make our schools stronger, healthier, and more welcoming for all.



PEARLS National Junior Honor Society



Students at PEARLS Hawthorne School were honored Friday at the National Junior Honor Society and Awards Ceremony. During the ceremony, 30 students were officially inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, which recognizes students for excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Students also received recognition, medals, and certificates honoring their achievements, dedication, and hard work throughout the school year.



The ceremony celebrated the character and commitment to excellence demonstrated by students both inside and outside the classroom. Congratulations to all of the students recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. A special thank you to the families, staff, and school community who continue to support student success. The celebration was a wonderful reminder of the talent and bright future of Yonkers Public Schools students.

Inaugural District-wide Shakespeare Festival, ShakesFest

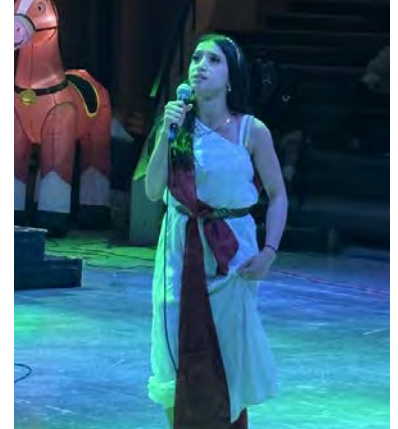
The inaugural district-wide Shakespeare Festival, ShakesFest, was an unforgettable evening celebrating the timeless works of William Shakespeare. through outstanding performances by Yonkers Public Schools high school students. Audiences were greeted by keynote speakers Kendra Ekelund from Hudson Valley Shakespeare and Mr. David Kilpatrick from Folgers Library.

Our student actors delivered exceptional performances, bringing Shakespeare's iconic characters and stories to life with creativity, passion, and skill.

This special event featured live performances from Saunders High School, Yonkers Middle High School, Roosevelt High School – Early College Studies, Riverside High School, and Yonkers Montessori Academy with musical submissions from Robert Halmi Sr. Academy of Film and Television.

Hosted by Yonkers Middle High School, ShakesFest showcased the talent, confidence, and dedication of our students and teachers while inspiring younger scholars to explore future opportunities in the arts and academics. Families and community members joined together to celebrate and support our student performers, making the evening a true success.

A special thank you to Dawn Williams, Darryl Mouzon, and Deborah Bryant for their leadership, dedication, and support in making this inaugural event possible.



When Words Fail, Music Speaks at Westchester Hills School 29



Westchester Hills School 29 proudly presented its annual *Rock the Spectrum Concert* this week. A beloved tradition, the concert is a spectacular celebration of the talents, creativity, and confidence of students in the school's autism programs. This one-of-a-kind rock concert transformed the stage into a star-studded arena complete with a red carpet, paparazzi, flashing lights, and unforgettable performances.

Students took center stage as the true rock stars of the show, performing an exciting mix of songs spanning multiple genres and generations. From energetic group numbers to inspiring solo performances, each student had the opportunity to showcase their unique talents while building confidence, communication skills, and self-expression.

The audience was treated to a high-energy production filled with music, excitement, and show-stopping moments. Most importantly, Rock the Spectrum highlighted the incredible abilities of our students and celebrated the joy, determination, and individuality they bring to our school community every day.



The Weeks Ahead

60TH Annual FIFTH GRADE



Thursday, June 11, 2026
5:30 p.m.

Saunders Trades and Technical High School
Auditorium
183 Palmer Road • Yonkers, New York 10701

- [Regents Exams](#)
- College is My Future Week: June 1 - 12
- Pathways to Success End of Year Program: June 10
- Roosevelt High School Wall of Fame Induction: June 10
- 5th Grade Spelling Bee: June 11
- Juneteenth Schools & Central Office Closed: June 19
- Half Day for Elementary Students: June 25
- Final Day of School: Half Day for Elementary Students & Hourly Staff, Full Day for Staff: June 26

Paideia 24 Career Fair

Today, Mayor Mike Spano joined students at Paideia School 24 as they explored a world of future possibilities during Career Day. Dressed as firefighters, police officers, doctors, and more, students learned about a wide range of careers through interactive stations and hands-on experiences.

Community partners, including the Bee-Line Bus system, the Yonkers Police Department, the Yonkers Fire Department, Yonkers Public Schools Technology Technicians, the Student Support Services Executive Director, healthcare professionals, local businesses, and other organizations, shared information about their professions.

Students toured a police vehicle, explored a Bee-Line bus, learned about firefighter equipment, and received educational giveaways. Career Day provided an engaging and memorable experience, inspiring students to dream big and explore the many paths available to their future success.

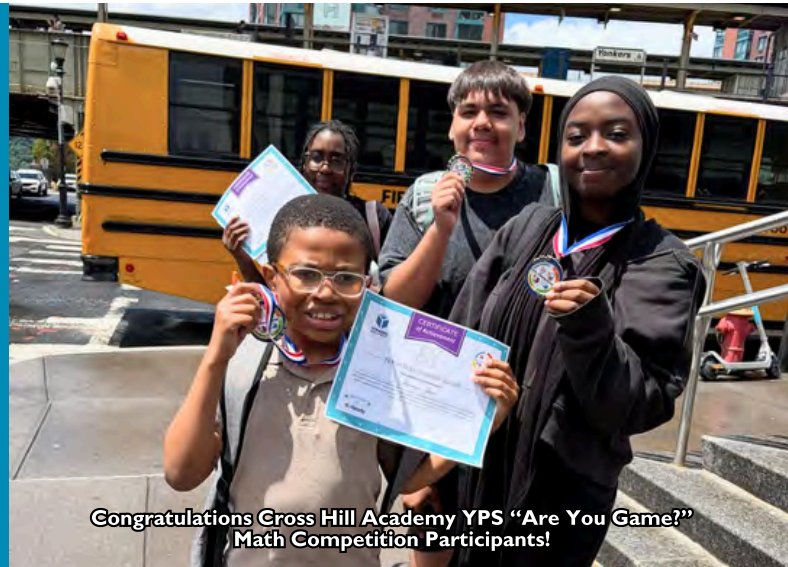


District Digest

Photos from Across the District



Yonkers Police Department Visits Rosemarie Ann Siragusa School



Congratulations Cross Hill Academy YPS "Are You Game?" Math Competition Participants!



Saunders High School BioChem Tech Seniors present their research at the Beczak Center



NY Knicks Day at Paideia School 15



Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School College is My Future

District Digest

Photos from Across the District



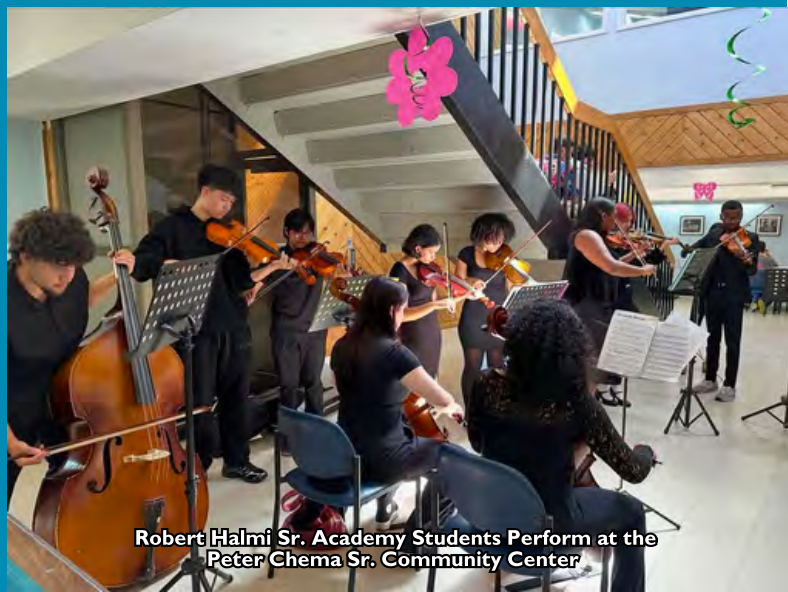
Field Day Fun at Enrico Fermi School



914United Leadership Series with Gorton High School MBK



College Is My Future at School 17



Robert Halmi Sr. Academy Students Perform at the Peter Chema Sr. Community Center

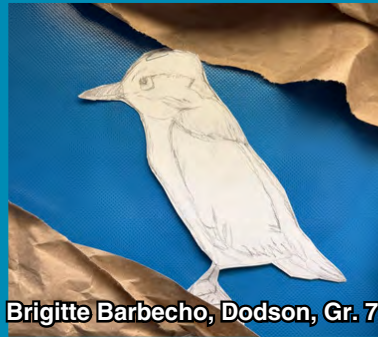


NY Knicks Day at School 30

YPS STUDENT ARTWORK



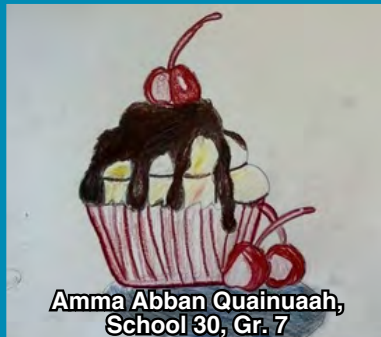
Annamaria Fragkoulis, Dichiaro, Gr. 7



Brigitte Barbecho, Dodson, Gr. 7



Czarina Dagoy, YMA, Gr. 6



Amma Abban Quainuaah,
School 30, Gr. 7



Lovely Thomas, School 23, Gr. 8



Damien Herrera, Fermi, Gr. 5



Peace Mural, School 23