



Superintendent, Anibal Soler, Jr.

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Message from Superintendent Soler

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Community,

As we continue to move through the spring season, there is a strong sense of momentum across our district. Our students are engaged, our staff is energized, and our community continues to come together in support of Yonkers Public Schools.

This week, I had the opportunity to participate in the College Board Conference, Preparat  focused on the future of education for Latino students.



Anibal Soler Jr. joined Dr. Robert Vicu a and 2025 Teacher of the Year Ms. Jessica O'Neill, a third grade teacher, for a proud moment at Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School.

I was honored to serve on a K–12 and higher education panel, where I shared the great work happening right here in Yonkers. We highlighted how we are expanding access and opportunity for our students and preparing them for success in college and careers. It was a proud moment to showcase Yonkers on a national stage.

I also joined colleagues from across the state as part of the New York State Big 5 NY Inspires Task Force. This important work is helping shape New York's "[Portrait of a Graduate](#)" and the future of education in our state. These conversations will guide how we continue to prepare our students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences they need to succeed in a changing world.

Closer to home, I had the pleasure of attending the Yonkers Public Library Gala, where the focus was on building strong readers in our community. Our public library is a critical partner in our district's literacy efforts, and together we are working to ensure every child can read, learn, and thrive. I would also like to congratulate Mayor Mike Spano for being recognized for his leadership and commitment to literacy and our city.

As we continue this important work, we are still awaiting a finalized New York State budget. This delay continues to impact our ability to complete our district budget. At this time, we are planning based on many assumptions as we work to address a \$101 million budget shortfall.

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Message from Superintendent Soler (Continued)

On Thursday, I hosted a Budget Town Hall, where I shared the fiscal challenges we face and discussed potential cost-saving measures. While we are exploring all options, I want to be clear that we need additional support from New York State to avoid impacting the progress Yonkers Public Schools has made over the past decade, especially our rising graduation rates and expanded opportunities for students.

This is a critical moment for our community. I continue to encourage all families, staff, and residents to advocate for Yonkers Public Schools. Your voice matters, and together we can push for the support our students deserve.

Next week, we will hold a Board of Education meeting, where we will continue to provide updates on the status of our budget and the path forward.

Thank you for your continued partnership, your advocacy, and your belief in our students and district. Have a great weekend!

With gratitude,



Aníbal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

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!

Paideia 24 6th Grade Field Trip



Exploring Culture, History, and Expression

Last month, Paideia School 24 sixth graders stepped out of the classroom and into history at the Bethany Arts Community in Ossining. Inside the interactive exhibit “Black History & Culture: Revolutionary Legacies,” learning moved beyond the page and the classroom when students danced, sang, and kept rhythm on drums while reciting poetry.

Through movement and voice, they explored how enslaved communities in New York, from the mid-1700s to the early 1800s, resisted, endured, and shaped their own legacies.

PEARLS 4th Grade Wax Museum



Students Bring History to Life

Fourth graders at PEARLS Hawthorne School turned a history lesson into a living museum with their Wax Museum project. After researching historical figures and writing about their accomplishments, students stepped into character by dressing as the people they studied and sharing what they learned. Their hard work, creativity, and confidence were on full display, making history feel personal, memorable, and very much alive.

Yonkers High School Sweeps Stock Market Challenge



First Place



Second Place



Third Place

Excellence in Financial Literacy and Competition

Yonkers High School delivered a standout performance at the Junior Achievement New York “Take Stock in Your Future” Challenge, sweeping the top three spots among 30 teams from across the region. The first and second-place teams will advance to the national competition in Boston, representing Yonkers Public Schools on a broader stage.

First Place

Nathaniel DeJesus, Saad Zafar, Damian Ventura, and Marc-Ethan Cruz
Teacher: Mrs. Gojani

Second Place

Shia Tigulo, Samantha Adu-Bitherman, Viona Mesarova, and Mikah Sparkman
Teacher: Mr. Bayon

Third Place

Mostafa Abdelmagheed, Muhammad Syed, Noel Zachariah, and Hayden Subhash
Teacher: Mrs. Gojani

The JA Stock Market Challenge goes beyond rankings. It immerses students in decision-making under pressure, strengthening financial literacy, teamwork, and strategic thinking. Outcomes like these reflect the district’s [Portrait of a Graduate](#) in action: students who think critically, collaborate effectively, and make informed decisions. Just as important, they point to the kind of applied learning that prepares students to navigate college, careers, and an increasingly complex financial world.

YMA Winter Sports End-of-Year Sports Banquet



YMA Celebrates Cheerleaders and Basketball Teams

The YMA Winter Sports End-of-Year Sports Banquet was an incredible evening where the Cheerleading, Boys Basketball, and Girls Basketball teams were celebrated for their accomplishments. They were recognized for their hard work, dedication, and teamwork throughout the season. What a wonderful way to close out a fantastic winter sports season!

“Eye on Education” Initiative



Eye on Education

This impactful initiative brought essential eye health services directly to our Chavez school, helping ensure that all students have access to the vision care they need—without barriers. Programs like this play a vital role in supporting student wellness and academic success.

Lincoln High School Celebrates Arab-American Month



More Than A Luncheon

Arab American Heritage Month recognizes the history, culture, traditions, and contributions of Arab Americans across the United States. It also creates opportunities for students and communities to explore the diversity of the Arab world through food, music, art, language, and history.

Lincoln High School's recent Arab American Heritage Day brought that spirit to life in a special event for staff, organized by Amanda Marji with the support of Mrs. Kwasi and Ms. Norman. Designed to be both educational and welcoming, the event invited participants to experience and learn about different Arab countries in meaningful ways.

Each table represented a different Arab country and featured centerpieces, flags, and traditional décor reflecting its culture and identity, creating a warm and engaging atmosphere.

A highlight of the day was the traditional food, with dishes from across the Arab world, including Moroccan couscous, warak dawali (stuffed grape leaves), and a variety of appetizers, desserts, and drinks. Staff were served first and enjoyed the luncheon, followed by the students who helped organize and support the event.

More than a luncheon, Arab American Heritage Day was a shared expression of cultural appreciation and learning, bringing staff and students together to honor the richness and diversity of Arab heritage.

MBK Yonkers Nominates New Cohort of New York State My Brother's Keeper Fellows!!!



Okello Allen
Saunders Trades and Technical
High School



Oscar David Arias Luna
Gorton High School



Ari DeSouza
Yonkers Middle High School



Donaven Melvin
Lincoln High School

MBK ALL DAY

On Tuesday, April 7, 2026, Mr. Anibal Soler, Sr., Superintendent, Dr. Marvin Louis Robinson III, Executive Director, and Mr. Greg Joyner, Program Coordinator, welcomed four newly selected MBK Yonkers scholars as members of the 2026 NYS MBK Fellowship. After a highly selective recruitment process, the following scholars were chosen to represent Yonkers Public Schools: Okello Allen (Saunders Trades and Technical High School), Ari DeSouza (Yonkers Middle High School), Oscar David Arias Luna (Gorton High School), and Donaven Melvin (Lincoln High School). The gentlemen were chosen based on their demonstrated leadership skills, potential for growth, academic scholarship, as well as their overall commitment to MBK Yonkers.

Dr. Robinson III, Executive Director stated, "Each of these young men embody the true spirit of MBK Yonkers. They are equipped with the character, the stick-to-itiveness, the excellence, and most importantly-the dedication to serve mightily in their new roles as NYS MBK Fellows. We are extremely proud of their achievements thus far and we look forward to their future success and the young men that they are becoming."

The 2026 Fellows will be officially inducted next month at the New York State Education Department in Albany, NY. Congratulations to the 2026 Class of NYS MBK Fellows!

FIRST ROBOTICS RECAP



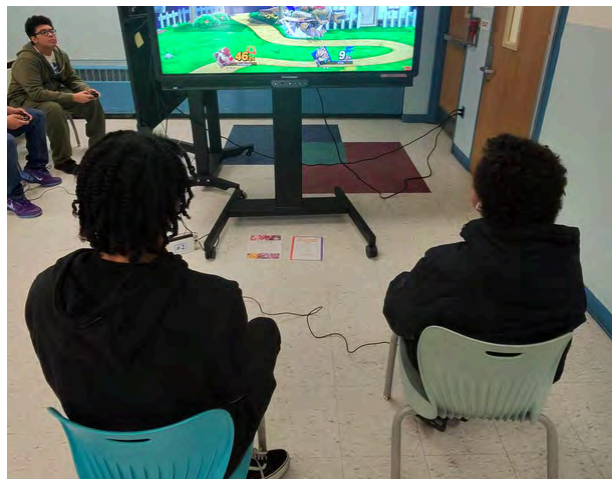
Building a Robot. Continuing a Legacy.

Entrepreneurial spirit, extreme practice, high-speed pit stops, and gracious professionalism provided the Yonkers Magic for the Saunders Droid Factory and the Yonkers High School Mechadogs at last week's FIRST Robotics NYC regional competition at the New York City Armory.

While the season ended for the teams last weekend, they built on the legacy of the many students who preceded them. Saunders High School, the District's first team, has been building and racing since 2008, earning 3 trips to the International Competition. Yonkers High School has been building and racing since 2014, earning 4 trips to the highly competitive final. This year, the latter tuned up at the Hudson Valley Regionals, where they earned the Rising All-Star Award – not only did they build their bot, but they also rebuilt their team. What a tribute to their beloved coach, mentor, teacher, who suddenly passed away just before the NYC Competition. *We will never forget you Mr. Adam Thiessen.*

The US FIRST competition not only challenges students to build and race a robot but also their entrepreneurial spirit. The students must structure a plan that addresses the technical and practical steps needed to participate successfully in the competition. The students address recruitment of team members, mentors, and technical advisors; donations; marketing; packing; shipping; funding; and eating. The latter holds great importance for the always-hungry teens, who work long hours in the six short weeks allotted to transforming a kit of parts into a fully functioning robot. We could not be prouder of Saunders Trades and Technical High School and Yonkers High School.

E-Sports Tournament Highlights Student Talent and Teamwork



Barack Obama E-Sports

Barack Obama School for Social Justice recently hosted an exciting districtwide E-Sports Super Smash Bros. Tournament, bringing together students from five Yonkers schools with over 40 participants. Organized by Ms. Renee Parsekian and Mr. Tanvir Johal, who runs the school's E-Sports Club, the event showcased students' strategic thinking, sportsmanship, and collaboration in a highly engaging competitive setting. The day was made even more memorable with food generously sponsored by Wingstop, helping to create a welcoming and celebratory atmosphere for all participants and spectators.

School 21 Prepares for Testing



“Ace the Test!”

Students in grades 3–6 made their way through the hallways as younger students cheered them on, chanting “ace the test” in support.

The celebration continued in the auditorium, where each grade level showcased their own battle cry, creating an energetic and uplifting atmosphere. The rally helped build excitement and confidence, turning test preparation into a fun and motivating experience for all students.

The Wild Robot - Las Hermanas



Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School “The Wild Robot” Book Fest

Third grade students at Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School, in Ms. O’Neill’s class, recently brought *The Wild Robot* to life with a fun and engaging Book Fest! From creative projects to thoughtful discussions, students proudly showcased their understanding and love for the book.

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
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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



Third grade enjoying some well deserved playtime after rocking the NYS ELA state exam



Teamwork is the Key to Success for School 17 Students!



Gorton High School Students Visit the Malcolm Pray Achievement Center



Pop Up Food Pantry at Family School 32

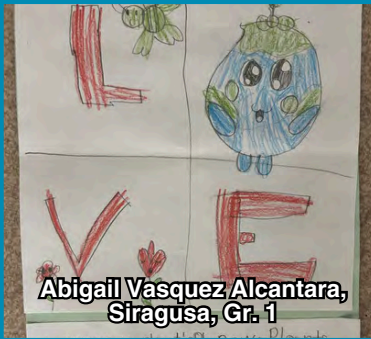


YMA Girls Basketball Team Recognized by Mayor Mike Spano

YPS STUDENT ARTWORK



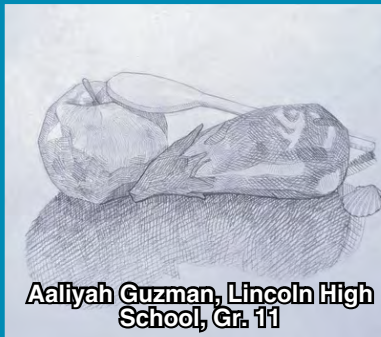
Louis Cruz, Enrico Fermi, Gr. 6



Abigail Vasquez Alcantara,
Siragusa, Gr. 1



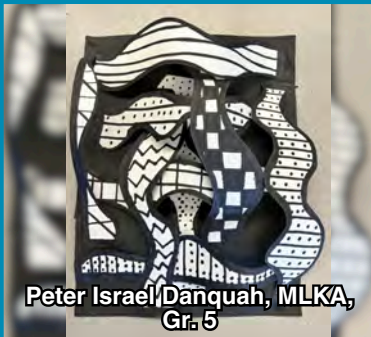
Sharece Johnson, Riverside
High School, Gr. 12



Aaliyah Guzman, Lincoln High
School, Gr. 11



Skylar Dunwell, School 17, Gr. 5



Peter Israel, Danquah, MLKA,
Gr. 5



Leahna Arbulu, Dodson, Gr. 7