YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Week In Review

Vol. 2 Issue 09: October 31, 2025



Superintendent, Aníbal Soler, Jr.

IN THIS ISSUE

Superintendent's Message.....1-3
District Digest.....4-12
Superintendent Soler's Week in Review Photos.....13
Photos from Schools This Week.....14
Student Artwork.....15

Message from Superintendent Soler

Dear Yonkers Families,

Happy Halloween! Across Yonkers Public Schools, classrooms are full of energy and creativity. I'm not sure I have ever seen so many Minecraft characters or thought I would learn what a "KPop Demon Hunter" was but as I always say we're never too old to learn something new!

As we cap off another terrific week I reflected on the best of what happens when we come together, and I am thrilled to share it with you.



Meet the Enrico Fermi School 'Addams Ferrmily'

I began the week meeting with SUNY Purchase College President Dr. Michael Steiper to discuss new partnerships between Yonkers Public Schools and SUNY Purchase. These collaborations will give our students access to expanded learning experiences in academics and the arts. We look forward to sharing more as soon as these plans develop.

Our district was also recognized by New York State Unified Teachers (NYSUT) as a model for putting students first. Yonkers' 30-minute daily recess policy continues to stand out as an example of what can be achieved when teachers, parents, and administrators work together. Recess is not a pause in learning; it is an essential part of it. It builds focus, creativity, and resilience.

This focus on learning and equity also guided my participation at the Leading Literacy Summit hosted by SUNY New Paltz's Science of Reading Center and EdTrust-NY. I joined education leaders from across the state to discuss how we can turn literacy research into meaningful results for students. In Yonkers, we view literacy as a foundation for equity and opportunity. Our partnership with SUNY New Paltz continues to prepare teachers to deliver evidence-based reading instruction. As I shared during the discussion: "If a child can't read, we've closed the door to every other opportunity before it even opens."

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Week In Review
Vol. 2 Issue 09: October 31, 2025

Message from Superintendent Soler (Continued)

We also took time to celebrate the people who keep our schools running every day. The Yonkers City Council honored five of our custodians for their service to our students and staff. Their dedication, often behind the scenes, is what makes safe, welcoming schools possible.

Throughout October, our schools proudly joined the national effort to raise awareness during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. From pink shirts to building-wide events, the message was clear – we stand with survivors, fighters, and families. Yonkers Middle High School even hosted its first-ever Breast Cancer Walk, where students and staff walked together through the halls as high school students cheered them on.



Roosevelt High School Scholars Learning How to Use Professional Camera Equipment

Dedicated in loving memory of former Yonkers Public Schools employee, Ms. Elaine Shine, proceeds from the event will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Our athletics programs also gave us reason to celebrate. Congratulations to the Yonkers Middle High School Girls Varsity Volleyball team for winning the title of Yonkers City Volleyball Champions. Yonkers Montessori Academy earned second place, and Roosevelt High School – Early College Studies placed third. Our varsity teams demonstrated skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the season. Finally, we want to wish the Yonkers Force Football team good luck tonight as they play their final game of the season against Wappingers Central School District.



Central Office Staff Wear Pink for Breast Care Awareness Month

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Week In Review
Vol. 2 Issue 09: October 31, 2025

Message from Superintendent Soler (Continued)

At William Boyce Thompson School, students and staff came together to cheer on School Psychologist Mr. Geovanny Arredondo, who will be running in the New York City Marathon this weekend! Students lined the halls with handmade signs and applause, celebrating his commitment and sharing their encouragement. Go Mr. Arredondo! Yonkers Public Schools is cheering you on!



Yonkers Public Schools Office of Management, Administration, Planning, & Operations is Feeling the Halloween Spirit!

Finally, we ended Hispanic Heritage Month with a vibrant celebration at Lincoln High School, where hundreds gathered to honor Hispanic culture through student performances, music, and art. As a school district with more than half of our students identifying as Latino, the pride and unity in the room reflected the heart of our school community.

Thank you for your continued partnership. I wish you and your families a safe, fun, and memorable Halloween.

Reminder: **Tuesday, November 4th is a Superintendent's Conference Day.** There will be no school for students, and staff will participate in professional learning.

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!

SUNY Purchase Partnership



Building Pathways from School Campuses to College Classrooms

Superintendent Soler met with SUNY Purchase College President Dr. Michael Steiper to discuss new partnerships between Yonkers Public Schools and SUNY Purchase. The collaboration will expand access to academic, arts, and enrichment opportunities for Yonkers students. Both institutions are committed to creating stronger connections between PK-12 learning and higher education. More details will be shared soon.

Courage in the Classroom





Honoring Carl Jenkins

Yonkers educator Carl Jenkins received the 2025 Mike & Judy Zunic Courage Award at a Syracuse football game. A Yonkers High graduate, he taught and coached in Yonkers for over 25 years. Jenkins co-founded The Imani Foundation with his wife, Dr. Tonya Couch-Jenkins, and remains a proud supporter of our My Brother's Keeper program.

DISTRICT Digest

NYSUT Recognition: YPS Recess as a Model for New York State



Prioritizing Student Wellness & Learning Through Play

Yonkers was recognized by NYSUT as a district that puts students first. Our 30-minute daily recess policy has become a statewide model, showing that when teachers, families, and administrators work together, students benefit both academically and socially. Recess builds focus, creativity, and resilience.

Emergency Food Assistance Available in Yonkers



Updated List of Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens

In response to growing food insecurity and the upcoming expiration of SNAP benefits, Westchester County has released an updated Emergency Food Assistance List for Yonkers. This document outlines dozens of food pantries (FP) and soup kitchens (SK) offering free meals, groceries, and support to residents in need.

Honoring the Muscle Behind YPS



Recognizing Those Who Keep YPS Running

The Yonkers City Council honored five Yonkers Public Schools custodians for their service and dedication:

Brandon Terrero, School 5
Douglas Perer, Lincoln High School
Michael Okunevich, Yonkers Middle/High School
Spencer Anderton, Riverside High School
William Cervantes, Martin Luther King Jr. Academy

Celebrating Mr. Geovanny Arredondo



Cheering on a Marathoner who inspires students

Students and staff at William Boyce Thompson School honored School Psychologist Mr. Geovanny Arredondo as he prepares to run in the New York City Marathon. Students lined the hallways with handmade signs and applause as teachers presented him with a medal and gift. The celebration captured the encouragement and sense of community that define Yonkers schools.

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration



Honoring Culture and Community at Lincoln High School

Hundreds of families, students, and staff gathered at Lincoln High School to culminate Hispanic Heritage Month. The celebration featured student performances, music, and dance representing cultures from across Latin America. With more than half of Yonkers students identifying as Latino, the pride, unity, and energy in the auditorium reflected the heart of our district.

Spooktacular Halloween Parade



Creativity and Celebration at Yonkers Early Childhood Academy

The halls of the Yonkers Early Childhood Academy were filled with costumes and laughter during the annual Spooktacular Halloween Parade. Students proudly showcased their creativity while teachers and families cheered them on. The event brought together the joy of learning and the excitement of Halloween.

DISTRICT Digest

Leading Literacy Summit



Turning Research Into Results

At the SUNY New Paltz Science of Reading Center and EdTrust-NY Leading Literacy Summit, Superintendent Soler joined education leaders from across the state to discuss how literacy research becomes meaningful classroom practice. Through the district's partnership with SUNY New Paltz, Yonkers teachers are using evidence-based reading instruction grounded in the science of reading. As Superintendent Soler said during the panel, "If a child can't read, we've closed the door to every other opportunity before it even opens."

Superintendent's Conference Day

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Professional Learning for Staff

A reminder that Tuesday, November 4th is a Superintendent's Conference Day. There will be no school for students. Staff will participate in district-wide professional learning sessions focused on instruction, safety, and student support.

Athletics Spotlight



Volleyball Champions Across Yonkers

Congratulations to the Yonkers Middle High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Team, winners of the Yonkers City Volleyball Championship. Yonkers Montessori Academy secured second place, and Roosevelt High School – Early College Studies placed third. Every team displayed skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the season.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month





Standing Together in Strength and Support

Throughout October, Yonkers Public Schools proudly went pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. At Yonkers Middle High School, students and staff hosted the school's first-ever Breast Cancer Walk, dedicated in loving memory of Ms. Elaine Shine. High school students lined the halls to cheer on participants, and proceeds benefited the American Cancer Society.

Thank you to Nigel Shoulders, La Quinta Snow, Yvonne Perez, Nora Foley, Ashley Moore, and the YMHS team for leading this meaningful event.



Save the Date!



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PROGRAM FOR ACADEMICALLY TALENTED STUDENTS
ENTERING GRADES PK - 8
PEARLS HAWTHORNE SCHOOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THE 2026 - 2027 SCHOOL YEAR

2026-2027 APPLICATION DEADLINE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

APPLY TO PEARLS
Application forms for the Academically Talented Program (Grades Prekindergarten - 8) must be completed by the Parent/Guardian. Applications are available at **yonkerspublicschools.org/pearls-program**. Applications may only be accessed and submitted ONLINE. Telephone or written requests for applications will **NOT** be honored.

Please note that applications must be submitted by the deadline date, November 16, 2025.

To be considered for admission into the PEARLS Hawthorne Elementary School Program:

- all applicants must, at the time of application, and if admitted, thereafter, be residents of the City of Yonkers.
- Prekindergarten students must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2026.
- Kindergarten students must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2026.

APPLICANTS NEW TO THE YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS must first enroll in the District. Please visit **yonkerspublicschools.org/register** to begin your enrollment. For questions about district enrollment, please call (914) 376-8050.

PLEASE CALL (914) 376-8189
FOR ALL PEARLS PROGRAM INFORMATION/TESTING

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PROGRAMA PARA ESTUDIANTES CON HABILIDADES ACADÉMICAS
INICIANDO GRADOS PRE-KÍNDER – 8
PEARLS HAWTHORNE SCHOOL

INFORMACÍON PARA PADRES/GUARDIANES INTERESADOS EN APLICAR PARA EL AÑO ESCOLAR 2026-2027

2026 - 2027 PLAZO PARA PRESENTAR LA SOLICITUD
DOMINGO 16 DE NOVIEMBRE DEL 2025

INSCRÍBASE PARA EL PROGRAMA PEARLS
Solo los padres/encargados pueden solicitar a el programa Académicamente Talentoso (Grados Pre-Kínder - 8). La solicitud está disponible por internet **yonkerspublicschools.org/pearls-program**. Las solicitudes se pueden enviar solo EN LÍNEA. **NO** se aceptarán solicitudes por teléfono o por escrito.

Tenga en cuenta que la solicitud del programa **PEARLS** debe presentarse antes de la fecha límite, 16 de noviembre de 2025.

Para ser considerado para admisión al Programa de la escuela primaria PEARLS Hawthorne School:

- Todos los solicitantes deben, en el momento de la solicitud si admitido, y despues de eso, ser residentes de la Ciudad de Yonkers.
- Los estudiantes de pre-kínder deben tener 4 años de edad el 1 de diciembre de 2026 o antes.
- Los estudiantes de kindergarten deben tener 5 años de edad el 1 de diciembre de 2026 o antes.

ESTUDIANTES NUEVOS AL DISTRITO ESCOLAR DE YONKERS, deben primero registrarse con el distrito escolar. Por favor visite **yonkerspublicschools.org/register** para comenzar su inscripción. Si tiene preguntas sobre la inscripción en el distrito, llame al (914) 376-8050.

POR FAVOR LLAME (914) 376-8189
PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL PROGRAMA DE PEARLS

DISTRICT Digest

Important Dates This Month

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Closings, Holidays, Meetings, and More

Tues. November 4th - Superintendent's Conf. Day, Election Day
(Schools Closed for Students)

Tues. November 11th - Veterans' Day
(Schools/Central Office Closed)

Wed. November 26th - Half Day for All Students and School Staff

YMA CULTURAL CELEBRATION





A Joyful Showcase of Diversity, Unity, and Tradition

Yonkers Montessori Academy hosted a Cultural Day Celebration -- highlighting the many cultures that make up both their school community. Students and staff enjoyed traditional dances, a colorful fashion show, and shared stories from around the world -- all helping to build understanding and respect. Let's keep celebrating and learning from one another!

District Digest

Superintendent Soler's Week in Review Photos









District Digest

Photos from Across the District



William Boyce Thompson Students Cheer On Mr. Geovanny Arredondo



NYSUT Recognizes YPS' 30 Minute Recess Program



Students from Iona College Come to Read to Westchester Hills School 29 Students



Where's Waldo? At Yonkers Public Schools!



Yonkers Early Childhood Academy Students Celebrate Halloween



Yonkers Teachers and Administrators Attend the NCTM Annual Conference

YPS STUDENT ARTWORK



Nattamon Overstreet, YMA, Gr. 9


Lorraine Perez, School 23, Gr. 6


Sergio Sanchez Cruz , Dodson, Gr. 6


Aimee Orozco, Dodson, Gr. 7


Mia Licona, School 23, Gr. 2


Liliana Estrada, Dodson, Gr. 7


Rohan Isaac, Rosemarie Ann Siragusa School, Gr. 5