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MARISOL C. ROSALES, Superintendent
VIVIAN ORLEN, Principal Leadership Facilitator
CHRIS LAGARES, Teacher Development and Effectiveness Coach
MARK OSSENHEIMER, Field Support Liaison
JARED VITOLO, Director of Advanced Academic Access
WILLIAM MARK, Family Support Coordinator
MICHAEL VENEZIA, Administrative Assistant

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT MARISOL ROSALES

Dear District 1 & 2 Community,

As the holiday season is upon us, I would like to take the time to celebrate the progress we have made as a community of 38 distinctive and unique schools. I thank each of you for making the launch of the 2016-2017 year successful. We continue to learn together and make strides to create a more inclusive district for our students. Since the start of this school year Principals, Assistant Principals, Teacher Leaders, and instructional teams have been working laboriously on the planning and implementation of their instructional strategies. Parent Coordinators, Guidance Counselors, Social Workers, and support staff contribute to ensuring that our schools are even more welcoming places for students and families.

My goal for the fall term was to visit each school with the district team before Thanksgiving and I am extremely proud to share with all stakeholders that we met our goal. Throughout our visits, many of you commented on your school community's focused work, the positive support you receive from the superintendent's team, and the excitement about this school year.

There is inspiring work taking place across our community and we want to celebrate and learn together from our individual and collective practice. We hope this newsletter, which will be published quarterly captures that spirit.

I am looking forward to our continued work together and please feel free to invite me to attend your school and community events.

I wish you, school teams, and families: Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,
Marisol C. Rosales
Superintendent Manhattan High Schools, D1&2

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

District 1 and 2 High Schools awarded the Chancellor Innovation Fund Grant for the second year in a row

We have applied to and received one of this year's grants from the Chancellor's Innovation Fund to build upon the success of the Inclusive Classrooms/Inclusive Schools Project, piloted last year.

This work involves the creation of a scope and sequence of professional learning and subsequent supports for principals, assistant principals, and Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) teachers to develop the capacity within school communities to lead and implement classroom based practices and school-wide structures that increase the intellectual engagement of all students.

Our district team will be collaborating with principals, ICT teachers, the Manhattan Field Support Center, the Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support, Learner Center Initiatives, and the Teachers College Inclusive Classrooms Project in creating a comprehensive approach which includes growth mindset, instructional focus, social-emotional learning, and high expectations for all students.

District 1 and 2 selected for the AP for All Initiative

The districts under Superintendent Marisol Rosales have been selected to participate in the AP for All initiative. New team member, Jared Vitolo, Director of Advanced Academic Access will work in collaboration with the schools that have been selected for this initiative: Marta Valle High School, Manhattan Business Academy, Hudson High School for Learning Technologies, Chelsea Career and Technical Education High School and Manhattan Academy for Arts and Language.

Please read more on AP for All [here.](#)"

Team Member Profile



Hi! My name is Jared Vitolo and I am excited to have joined the team as the Director of Advanced Academic Access. I'll be supporting schools who are part of the Advanced Placement for All and Lead Higher initiatives in addition to working with all district schools to improve equity and access to higher-level coursework. Prior to joining the team, I was a teacher, an assistant principal, and an Academic Policy Lead spanning 15 years in the DOE. This year, one of my major goals is to help schools to improve students' college and career readiness through the use of data and increased cognitive engagement across classrooms.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION RESOURCE FAIR: DISTRICTS 1 & 2:



AFTER THE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN ON SEPTEMBER 20, THE LIAISONS PARTICIPATED IN A RESOURCE FAIR IN THE KENNY GALLERY. PRESENTERS PROVIDED LIAISONS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO SUPPORT THEIR SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND THEIR WORK IN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT. SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CBO'S FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE LAUNCH OF OUR DISTRICT 1 & 2 CBO RESOURCE FAIR: BIG BROTHER, BIG SISTER, CENTER AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RAPP, COLLEGE NOW, GRAND STREET SETTLEMENT, HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT, HUDSON GUILD, LIBERTY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, PENCIL, THE DOOR, THE FUTURE PROJECT, THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, YMCA AND INCLUDE NYC.

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS LEARNING TOGETHER



Principals Conference on September 1:

Our principals came together at Stuyvesant High School for the district's first Principals Conference of the new school year. The day centered on our school leaders receiving feedback on their action plans from their peers. Principals also scheduled time to visit one another's schools, through the district's Instructional Rounds process.



Family Engagement Conference on September 20:

The theme of the Family Engagement Conference at High School for Art and Design focused on Fostering Trust, Leadership and Community Bonds. The liaisons discussed how to build on the facets of family-school trust. The Family Engagement Team presented their accomplishments and introduced the district's goals. Cecilio Diaz, Students in Temporary Housing Content Expert, from the Office of Safety and Youth Development, presented on the rights of homeless youth and how the liaisons could support students in temporary housing. The liaisons also engaged in an activity on student-led projects in their community to support and empower student leadership.



New Assistant Principal Training on September 27:

The district led a professional development session to help new assistant principals navigate the teacher observation system known as Advance. The new APs also worked together in creating high quality written feedback for teachers.



ICT Team Teacher Workshop Series on October 27:

In recent formative team visits to schools, principals have identified a consistent need to support school based efforts to strengthen the capacity of ICT teacher practice as it aligns to critical elements within many instructional action plans across our district. In the second iteration of this partnership teachers are strengthening their capacities to effectively co-plan, co-teach and create authentic assessments that give all students entry points into instructional lessons. On October 27, ICT teams spent time engaging the work of inclusivity in our District 1 and District 2 Schools.



Principals Conference on November 3:

District 1 and 2 Principals continued their professional development at Washington Irving Campus, on providing high quality feedback connected to the district's strategic action plan. In the afternoon, groups came together to share best practices and learning.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **December 7: Family Engagement Conference**
- **December 12: Assistant Principals Leadership Conference**
- **December 15: ICT Teacher Team Workshop Series**
- **January 10: Assistant Principals Leadership Conference**
- **January 12: Principals Conference**

SPOTLIGHT: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT LIAISONS TO OUR COMMUNITY



High School of Art and Design

John Brinegar,
Family Engagement
Liaison

I started with the DOE as a consultant in the Central Arts Office, and there I was exposed to many different levels of operation, both at the school level and centrally. Whether I was organizing city-wide professional development for arts teachers, or attending a Broadway show as part of the Shubert Arts Leadership events, I gained experience that would prove invaluable for working directly with students and their families. I've moved into some new roles here at the High School of Art & Design as Audition Coordinator and the Family Engagement Liaison. As a CTE school, we thrive with a diverse population, working directly with artists/industry partners who have a vested interest in seeing our students succeed. Artists and designers are famously expressive, and getting to work side by side with the talented students we support and the career-driven professionals that they may soon become is really rewarding.



New Explorations into Science, Technology, and Math School (NEST+M)

Melissa Hernandez, Family
Engagement Liaison

My name is Melissa Hernandez, and I am the new Parent Coordinator for New Explorations into Science, Technology, and Math School (NEST+M). Before NEST+M, I was a former supervisor for the funding department at my university. I connected with alumni about potential donations to the school and had the opportunity to implement clubs and organizations that brought awareness to the students and the community. I also had the opportunity to work for a non-profit organization that works with the elderly population, creating events for seniors that enhanced their independence, providing intake of new volunteers, and leading orientations. What makes NEST+M unique is our student community: we have students from grades K-12. My main goal for this year is to create numerous events that will give parents the opportunity to bond with their children, yet also learn about their child's development.



Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts

Deborah Nevarez,
Family Engagement
Liaison

Hi, my name is Deborah Nevarez and this is my first year working as a Parent Coordinator at Repertory Company High School. I have been a Parent Coordinator for 3 years and prior to this I was a Paraprofessional for 7 years. In the short time I have been a part of Repertory, I have experienced a collective unity among staff and students. This year, one of my goals is to get to know the parents and the students in order to build lasting relationships. I believe in transparency as a way of building trust. It is extremely important that our parents as well as our students feel a sense of assurance in their school community. I am looking forward to a new year filled with progression and milestones.



High School of Hospitality Management

Melody Paniagua, Family
Engagement Liaison

My name is Melody Paniagua and I am the Parent Coordinator for the High School of Hospitality Management (HSHM) located on the West 50th Street Campus. I am a recent college graduate and I have been working with high school aged students through my area of study in college as well as through service learning and community outreach opportunities. During my short time here I have found that the students are filled with a myriad of ambitions. After engaging with them, I realized that the students are very focused on their future and college. This is so exciting! I have many goals but my two most important are to increase parent engagement in many spheres starting with a digital focus and to market the school to the parents and prospective students. One of my successes so far has been the newly designed newsletter for the parents. It has become more user friendly, and interactive in its design. The newsletter includes a community outreach section so families can engage with their respective communities.

HIGH SCHOOL SHOUTOUTS

In this section, we spotlight and acknowledge specific successes, accomplishments, and upcoming events of the high schools in our districts:

Baruch College Campus High School



This past year, Principal Alicia Pérez-Katz returned from her Resident Principal Ambassador Fellowship for the U.S. Department of Education, where she connected with senior officials at the Department and provided outreach to principals in the field. She brought principals and policymakers together through multiple venues, including “Principals at ED” sessions, educator roundtables, school visits, the first Educator Equity Lab, and the Teach to Lead conferences. Principal Pérez-Katz brought in the voices of educators and principals to the table in policy decisions and to share back with the Department of Education.



BCCHS had their curriculum night on Sept. 28 and had 105 families attend. At their PTA meeting, they had an open Q & A session about the school and Principal Alicia Perez- Katz had the opportunity to talk about her one-year fellowship in Washington, D.C. The high school has also partnered with School CNXT to provide online app/translation messaging for their families.

Leadership and Public Service High School



Leadership and Public Service High School was featured in the New York Times article titled, “An Effective but Exhausting Alternative to High School Suspensions”. The article highlights the success of the work of Principal Santos and his teachers in implementing restorative justice or restorative practices in their school.

Please click [here](#) to read the article.

Union Square Academy for Health Sciences

Union Square Academy for Health Sciences received state approval for their dental lab technician and pharmacy technician programs from the New York State Education Department.

New Explorations into Science, Technology + Math (NEST+M)

NEST+m hosted a series of family outreach meetings in September that have enabled Principal Berkowitz, Parent Coordinator Melissa Hernandez, and other members of the NEST+m Faculty and Administrative Team to listen to groups of parents that are culturally, linguistically, and spiritually diverse within the school community so that the school can be more responsive to their interests, concerns, and needs.

Marta Valle High School



On Thursday, September 29th 2016, Marta Valle High School's appointed College For Every Student Ambassadors attended the annual CFES planning and training workshop at One World Financial Center where they spent the day collaborating and strategically planning how to promote college and career readiness to the students of the Marta Valle HS community. Marta Valle High School is working with the Theater Development Fund (TDF) which is a program that integrates a teaching artist into a classroom for 4 sessions to facilitate workshops which actively engage students in inquiry, creativity, and community.

WHAT'S NEW?

Mayor de Blasio, DOE Chancellor Fariña, and CUNY Chancellor Milliken announced that the CUNY application fee will be eliminated for all low-income NYC public high school seniors starting this fall. The expansion increases the number of CUNY fee waivers from 6,500 waivers issued annually in previous years to an estimated 37,500 high school seniors.

Please click [here](#) to be directed to the New York Times article.

RESOURCE LINKS

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

- [DOE Principal's Portal](#)
- [Checklist for Parent Coordinators](#)

TEACHER'S CORNER

- [DOE Teachers Page](#)
- [DOE Teaching Resources](#)
- [Teacher Development](#)
- [I Teach NYC](#)

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT LIAISONS' CORNER

- [Parent Coordinator Community Website](#)
- [DOE Parent Coordinator Resources](#)
- [Professional Development](#)
- [Preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences](#)

PARENT RESOURCES CORNER

- [Meet your Parent Coordinators](#)
- [DOE Parent Leadership Resources](#)
- [DOE Citywide and Community Education Council resources](#)
- [Achieve NYC Guides](#)
- [US DOE: Parent Checklist](#)
- [NYC After School Programs](#)
- [Parent Toolkit](#)
- [U.S Department of Education: Family and Community Engagement](#)
- [Harvard Family Research Project](#)
- [PTAlink.org](#)

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS CORNER

- [A Parent's Guide to College and Career Readiness](#)
- [US DOE College Affordability and Transparency Center](#)
- [FAFSA4caster: Assists in estimating federal student aid](#)
- [My Next Move website: Information or Careers](#)
- [College GOAL NY: List of events for help in completing FAFSA](#)
- [CACNY: Network of CBO's committed to post-secondary education](#)

EDUCATION NEWS CORNER

- [NBC Education Nation News](#)
- [PBS News Hour: Education](#)
- [New York Times: Education](#)

Hudson High School of Learning Technologies



Hudson High School of Learning Technologies has launched a schoolwide literacy acceleration program called Right to Read. The program was designed by the school's teachers and it combines mixed-level reading classes, weekly skills lessons, independent reading time, and student reflection practice.

The program has been extremely successful in fostering student interest in reading, building reading skills at every level, and creating a genuine community of empowered readers.

University Neighborhood High School



University Neighborhood High School has renewed their partnership with Basketball City, providing students with the opportunity to take their physical education classes in Basketball City's state-of-the-art facility. The school also was accepted to be part of the National Academy Foundation that will lead to creating a CTE Hospitality and Management program.

The school's two business licensed teachers and assistant principal attended a week long training over the summer to learn ideas for adaptation and implementation of the required curricula, development of new partnerships, and internship opportunities for our students.

Repertory Company High School for Theater Arts



Students from Repertory Company High School for Theater Arts formed the cast and crew for the New York City premiere of Dan Sullivan's *Prospect High: Brooklyn*, performed September 9th and 10th at the Black Box Theatre in Roundabout's Steinberg Center. The production was featured on Theatre Mania, Broadway World, and Playbill.



Bard High School Early College

On September 15, 2016, Bard High School Early College students attended an all-day US Federal Courts Minority Judicial Conference that included a meeting with U.S. Supreme Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The school received this invitation through an ongoing partnership with the Historical Society of the New York Courts, which helped sponsor the event in conjunction with Just the Beginning--A Pipeline Organization.

Bard is also celebrating 15 years (2001-2016) of providing education and supporting their community.

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

In this section, we are acknowledging and congratulating the academic successes and leadership initiatives of the students in our districts.

High School of Art and Design

Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital Community Art Project



Family Engagement Liaison John Brinegar described the initiative of the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital Community Art Project where students created paintings with the theme of music to decorate the walls.

"We got a phone call from Dan Hogan, a critical care nurse who inquired about working with students to create original artwork to "brighten up" the hallways of the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. He informed us of how anxious these patients can get—even the teenagers—and a big reason the hospital was looking to decorate the walls was to reduce their anxiety and have them focus on something pleasant, instead of the invasive procedure they are about to undergo as they head down the long hallway to the procedure rooms. The only guideline for the work was to keep it with a music theme. "I knew it would be something our students would hugely benefit from by being involved and immediately said yes," shared Brinegar.

We put out an open call to the art teachers to ask students if they would be able to commit, and if they were interested. Within two weeks, the students had created "roughs," which are sketched concept drawings that were sent to the hospital team for final selections. After the students were finished, the hospital facilities team came to the school, picked up the fourteen finished works (all 36"x48"), permanently installed them in the Cardiac Cath Lab, and hosted the entire team of student artists, teachers and administrators for a ribbon cutting and catered reception.



Principal Mr. Manuel Ureña visited the hospital with me to see what they had done the previous year. In true fashion, he made a suggestion they loved, and now they have a 15-panel cartoon strip on a huge wall leading to the recovery rooms. This is a partnership that just continues to grow, and gives students a real opportunity to see that the work they do at school can not only be appreciated, but meaningful to the community."

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In this section, we spotlight articles, trainings, and resources that focus on Family Engagement and Community Involvement to support our community.

The many roles of Parent Coordinators in the New York Times article

The New York Times published an article highlighting the position of parent coordinators in the NYC public schools. The article provides a brief history of the position and describes the many roles that they play in supporting their school communities.

Please click [here](#) to be directed to the article.

U.S. Department of Education appoints its first Family Ambassador

The U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr. announced on September 27 the agency's first Family Ambassador, Frances Frost. The purpose of the Family Ambassador is to increase parent and family engagement in education policy by bringing the voices of families to discussions at a national level and facilitate discussions between the Department, families and family engagement stakeholders that will contribute to solutions at all levels.

Please click [here](#) to be directed to the article.

Supporting English Language Learners "ELL"

The NYC Department of Education created an ELL brochure that provides information on ELL identification, eligibility, the three types of ELL programs, resources and the ways parents can participate in their child's education. Please review the brochure in languages below:

- [Spanish](#)
- [Chinese](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [English](#)
- [Urdu](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Haitian-Creole](#)
- [French](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Bengali](#)

University Neighborhood High School

Posse Scholarships

University Neighborhood High School students **Ashley Gomez** and **Wilfrido Batista** are semifinalists for the Posse scholarship and will have their second round interviews in October. Posse awards are a full-tuition scholarships to 13 selective colleges across the nation. Wilfrido Batista has also been accepted to an all-expenses paid fly-in program to visit Pitzer College in California.

High School of Fashion Industries

Welcome Squad Mentoring Program



Daniella Silva, Assistant Principal of Family Engagement described the school's Welcome Squad Mentoring Program to welcome new students:

"In order to support a smooth transition from middle school to our HSFI community, the Welcome Squad, a group of 26 juniors and seniors were ready and waiting to welcome our new students on the first day of school with open arms. The creation of the Welcome Squad came to fruition after surveying our student body in June as to what would make their experience at HSFI brighter.

Many students expressed the fears they faced during their first day in high school. Most were lost and wished they had a peer that would direct them or answer their questions."

Safna Begum describes her experience as a Welcome Squad member, "Helping other students felt rewarding I didn't know anyone when I first started Fashion. I actually was able to help ninth graders find their way around."

Diana Disla stated that, "It's important to make new students feel welcome. My fellow members of the Welcome Squad and I made sure to convince students sitting alone in the cafeteria to join our table. We told them what we do in our CTE classes and the different opportunities here."

PARENT LEADERSHIP CORNER

In this section, there will be news, articles and resources on supporting & empowering parents in our school communities.

Manhattan High School Presidents Council meeting on Wednesday, September 28:

The Manhattan High School Presidents Council commenced their monthly meeting for the academic year. The meeting started with the introduction of the newly elected PTA presidents from the 16 high schools that were represented. **Julio Mora**, Family Leadership Coordinator and **Rita Knight Smith**, Family Support Coordinator conducted office presentations on the successes and goals for their respective districts. The Nominating Committee conducted the election for the positions of Co-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. The newly elected executive members of the Council are **Susan Crowson** and **Helena Clay** as Co-Presidents, **Emmanuel Constant** as Secretary and **Marva Cousins** as Treasurer. The meeting ended with thanking the outgoing members **Sonia Quinones**, **Janice Cruz** and **Sandra Hyatt** for their dedication and service in the Council.

Manhattan High School Presidents Council meeting on Wednesday, October 26:

The newly elected executive members of the council commenced the meeting. There were presentations from the following Superintendent designee's discussing their district goals and achievements for the academic year: **Lisa Pineda**, Family Leadership Coordinator from Superintendent Donald Conyers Office, **Alain Berrouet** from Superintendent Fred Walsh's Office and **Julian Cohen**, Field Support Liaison from Superintendent Paul Rotondo's Office. **Anthony Settle**, Senior Liaison Training and Professional Development, from the division of Family and Community Engagement conducted a workshop on capacity building for school parents partnerships.

Chancellor's Parent Leader Times Newsletter

Chancellor Carmen Farina has created a quarterly newsletter to serve as a dialogue between parent leaders and herself. The newsletter has been designed to serve as a tool to empower parent leaders in their work as essential members of Think Tank for parent across the city. The first publication contains the Chancellor's Message, highlights the goals for the academic year, profiles two parent leaders, and provides resources and points of contact for parent to use in their work. Please click [here](#) to read the newsletter.

Meetings:

- **November 30 - Manhattan High School Presidents Council: 6 pm to 8 pm, 333 7th Avenue, 7th floor**
- **December 14 - Citywide Council on High Schools: 6pm to 8:45 pm, Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

Student Workshops/Events:

- **College Now STEM Research Academy at Baruch College** has a two semester program designed to provide students with an opportunity to build essential literacy and numeracy skills. **The deadline to apply for this program is December 1st.** Please click [here](#) for more information.