



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: Partners Newsletter

November 2021

From the Superintendent



Dr. Iline Tracey

So many great things happen every day in the New Haven Public Schools that I wanted to find a way to share some of them with you on a regular basis. This newsletter will come to you once a month. In it we will describe the accomplishments of our extraordinary students and teachers, as well as the perspectives of our principals and others who lead in the district.

We chose the name “Partners Newsletter” because that’s what you are: whether you are a parent or a staff member, you are a partner in the creation of your students’ learning experiences. We don’t take your work for granted. On the contrary, we want to celebrate it as essential to our students’ success.

Please enjoy this first issue of the newsletter. Share your feedback and your story ideas by emailing the editor at justin.harmon@new-haven.k12.ct.us.

From the Schools

OBAMA Students Collaborate on Art Reflecting African Culture



Students at Barack Obama Magnet University School created collaborative works of art to kick off the school year. This year, art projects will feature aspects of African culture, so the students in second through fourth grades produced artworks depicting animals native to the continent. The students each contributed a small piece to a larger piece of art. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



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HILLHOUSE Offers Vocational, College Prep Pathways

James Hillhouse High School serves college-bound students, as well as those who want to start a career right after graduation. To address the needs of the latter group, as well as students who may be unsure about whether to pursue a college degree, Principal Glen Worthy is advancing vocational programs in health, construction, and automotive maintenance. All three programs allow students to progress either to a career or college.

[\[READ MORE\]](#)



BARNARD Students Immersed in Environmental Science and Technology

Barnard Principal Robert McCain calls the school's new outdoor learning space and mud kitchen "a maker space for budding scientists and explorers". With dirt as their medium, students in pre-kindergarten through first grade learn through nature-based exploration, allowing them to make observations and ask questions about the world around them. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

From Across the District

Nataliya Braginsky Named National History Teacher of the Year



The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History named Nataliya Braginsky, a social studies teacher at Metropolitan Business Academy, 2021 National History Teacher of the Year. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



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Grant to Support Anti-Racist Teaching, Curriculum

New Haven Public Schools and Students for Educational Justice have been awarded a grant that will support building a community of teachers, teacher educators, youth, and student organizers committed to advancing anti-racist pedagogy, curriculum, and practice within K-12 public schools in Connecticut. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

New Haven Teacher of the Year Has “a Heart for the City”

New Haven’s teacher of the year for 2021 knew she wanted to be in the classroom at age 5. “I used to play teacher with my cousins,” said Melanie Thomas, now a third-grade teacher at Truman School. “I always knew it was a gift I had.” [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Relief Funds Providing Additional Teachers, Counselors

The Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER II) was approved by the State Department of Education and the New Haven Board of Education in April 2021. To date, these funds have been utilized to do the following:

- Hire 87 grade 1-3 teachers to create smaller class sizes
- Implement “Summer of Fun 2021” by expanding summer school offerings from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade through partnerships and collaboration with community organizations
- Provide academic resources to supplement learning for students who receive special education and bilingual services [\[READ MORE\]](#)

iReady Math Program Facilitates Individualized Attention

iReady K-5 Classroom Math, My Path, and the iReady Diagnostic Assessment bundle, all published by Curriculum Associates, were purchased by New Haven Public Schools in the spring for all K-5 classrooms in the district, using a combination of Alliance and Title 1 funding. This comprehensive math program provides both core classroom instruction and through My Path, a comprehensive individualized student intervention plan. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Cross Curriculum Wins Highest Rating in National Showcase

History teacher Brian Grindrod and student presenters from Wilbur Cross High School earned the highest rating in the northeast in a curriculum showcase sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and Georgetown University. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NHPS Strategic Plan: Values, Mission, Vision, Priority Areas

Strategic Plan: SY 2020-2024



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Core Values

We believe...

1 Equitable opportunities create the foundation necessary for every child to succeed

2 A culture of continuous improvement will ensure that all staff are learners and reflective practitioners

3 High expectations and standards are necessary to prepare students for college and career

4 Collaboration and partnerships with families and the New Haven community will enhance learning and achievement



Mission

To provide all students in New Haven Public Schools with personalized, authentic, and engaging learning experiences through creativity, exploration, innovation, critical thinking, problem-solving, and high quality instruction. To foster a culture of continuous improvement through collaborative partnerships with staff, families, and the New Haven community. To support students' growth and development by utilizing the Whole Child Framework.

Vision

Our vision is to be a premier urban school district that ensures access to equitable opportunities and successful outcomes for all students as they prepare for college, career, and life.

Priority Areas for 2020-2024

1 Academic Learning	2 Culture & Climate
3 Youth & Family Engagement	4 Talented Educators
5 Operational Efficiencies	

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