

In Our Schools

Peekskill City School District News

May 2017

Dear Peekskill Community Members,

I am pleased to present to you the proposed 2017 - 2018 Educational Plan and Budget. Our planning goals for next school year continue to build and improve upon our theme of "Every Student, Every Day." The proposed Educational Plan has factored in projected enrollment increases and will add value to our District by improving our K-12 program development and our Performing Arts program, in addition to addressing needed capital improvements in our buildings. Our proposed budget increase of 3.55% is supported by a state aid increase of 6.26% that will keep our tax levy at 1.02%, which is under our tax cap.

At the elementary level, we are proposing the development of "community schools," where each school building serves as a beacon for its neighborhood. Academically, we will continue to enhance our project-based learning experiences for all students in research, science, technology and the arts. The Enrichment for All program has been redesigned so that the K- 5 enrichment period will include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics). Our elementary music program will expand adding strings instruction to Grade 5.

Due to increasing enrollment, an additional Assistant Principal and sixth grade section will be added to Peekskill Middle School. In order to meet the foreign language needs of our entering sixth graders, we will be providing multiple sections of Spanish instruction. We will also see the growth of our PKMS STEAM and Literacy programs, as well as more academic options for students in accelerated classes.

We are striving to develop a 21st Century secondary program aligning Grades 7 through 12. With this as a goal, we have recommended the expansion of Peekskill High School's Elective program to include Robotics, STEAM, Photojournalism, Computer Science and Engineering by Design. These courses will enrich our students' learning experiences and better serve them in terms of their post high school plans. Our new Finance Academy program will be directly linked to college curriculum for students pursuing a Business degree. Finally, in order to upgrade our high school's theater, we are also proposing a \$350,000 inter-fund transfer to our capital fund for the purpose of replacing the high school auditorium's seats, aisle lighting and carpeting.

The District's goal is to see our mission realized as we "prepare students to pursue adult lives as contributing citizens of our local and global community." The strength of moving forward together will be the force that drives our priorities. In closing, I ask

that you peruse the 2017-2018 Educational Plan and Budget for the details of our initiatives, and I encourage you to exercise your right to vote on the Budget and School Board Election on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

Sincerely,



Lorenzo Licopoli, Ph.D.



School Board Election

Two, three-year seats are up for election: Incumbent Douglas Glickert and Incumbent Richard Sullivan. Voters will elect two members to the Peekskill City School District Board of Education.

All Individuals Must Be Qualified to Vote

A qualified voter is a person who is a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

When and Where to Vote

The vote on the annual budget and for school board candidates will take place on Tuesday, May 16 from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M. To vote you must be registered for either the school elections or general elections. Voting will take place at Peekskill High School, 1072 Elm Street.

Absentee Ballots

The Board of Education provides for absentee ballots for the election of members of the Board of Education, the adoption of the annual budget, and propositions. Applications for absentee ballots are available in the office of the District Clerk, 1031 Elm Street, between the hours of 8 A.M. and 4 P.M.

Absentee ballots will be available in the office of the District Clerk on April 28, 2017. Absentee ballot applications must be filled out and returned to the District Clerk by mail, or in person, by May 9, 2017. After an absentee ballot application is received by the District Clerk, an absentee ballot is mailed to your home. You are to return the absentee ballot in person to the District Clerk at the Administration Building by May 15, 2017 no later than 4 P.M. or by mail on May, 16, 2017 no later than 5 P.M. Call District Clerk Debra McLeod at (914) 737-3300 ext. 342 with any questions.

Visit Our Website: Be sure to visit www.peakskillcsd.org and click on the Budget tab for more information.

Contact Us: You may contact the District with any questions or comments by emailing budgetideas@peakskillcsd.org, or by calling 914-737-3300, ext. 303.

Proposed 17-18 Budget: \$89, 634,989

Budget Increase: 3.55%

Tax Levy: 1.02%



Our Elementary Strings program continues to grow at Hillcrest! The school recently hosted its annual Instrumental Night on March 9. A small group of these strings students have been selected to open an upcoming concert for the world famous hip-hop violinist, SVET, from America's Got Talent, on May 30 at the Paramount Theater.

2017-2018 BUDGET VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 16
Polls Open 7AM to 9PM at Peekskill High School

Proposed Budget: 2017-2018 Budget at a Glance

THREE PART BUDGET	2016-17 BUDGET	2017-18 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ DEC/INC	% INC
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT				
1010....BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$15,500.00	\$18,610.00	\$3,110.00	20.06%
1040....DISTRICT CLERK	\$17,714.00	\$17,690.00	(\$24.00)	-0.14%
1060....DISTRICT MEETING	\$19,214.00	\$19,225.00	\$11.00	0.06%
1240....OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENCY	\$398,080.00	\$399,612.00	\$1,532.00	0.38%
1310....BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	\$439,390.87	\$457,192.00	\$17,801.13	4.05%
1320....AUDITING	\$70,569.72	\$71,980.00	\$1,410.28	2.00%
1325....TREASURER	\$66,778.33	\$66,273.31	(\$505.02)	-0.76%
1380....FISCAL AGENT FEE	\$26,010.00	\$26,530.00	\$520.00	2.00%
1420....LEGAL	\$345,000.00	\$347,900.00	\$2,900.00	0.84%
1430....PERSONNEL	\$389,894.00	\$394,395.00	\$4,501.00	1.15%
1480....PUBLIC INFORMATION & SERVICES	\$150,538.47	\$171,543.99	\$21,005.52	13.95%
1680....CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING	\$49,090.20	\$50,072.00	\$981.80	2.00%
1910....UNALLOCATED INSURANCE	\$356,760.50	\$371,050.00	\$14,289.50	4.01%
1920....SCHOOL ASSOCIATION DUES	\$29,500.00	\$30,090.00	\$590.00	2.00%
1981....BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$314,573.00	\$338,294.00	\$23,721.00	7.54%
1983....BOCES CAPITAL EXPENSES	\$10,023.00	\$12,439.00	\$2,416.00	24.10%
2010....CURRICULUM DEVEL & SUPERVISION	\$595,122.79	\$649,503.03	\$54,380.24	9.14%
2020....SUPERVISION-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$2,296,192.66	\$2,611,235.52	\$315,042.86	13.72%
9099....EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$1,900,685.87	\$1,777,881.89	(\$122,803.98)	-6.46%
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	\$7,490,637.41	\$7,831,516.74	\$340,879.33	4.55%
PROGRAM COMPONENT				
2020....SUPERVISION-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$20,268.00	\$25,000.00	\$4,732.00	23.35%
2070....INSERVICE TRAINING-INSTRUCTION	\$11,510.00	\$11,500.00	(\$10.00)	-0.09%
2110....TEACHING-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$24,940,938.91	\$25,852,880.69	\$911,941.78	3.66%
2250....PROGRAMS-STUDENTS W/ DISABIL	\$13,532,616.64	\$14,587,672.08	\$1,055,055.44	7.80%
2280....OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	\$866,079.00	\$1,182,277.95	\$316,198.95	36.51%
2610....SCHOOL LIBRARY & AUDIOVISUAL	\$433,044.65	\$461,343.00	\$28,298.35	6.53%
2630....COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	\$2,200,130.01	\$2,309,568.67	\$109,438.66	4.97%
2805....ATTENDANCE-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$25,342.74	\$41,639.00	\$16,296.26	64.30%
2810....GUIDANCE-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$973,680.62	\$1,033,567.00	\$59,886.38	6.15%
2815....HEALTH SERVICES-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$683,956.00	\$761,707.00	\$77,751.00	11.37%
2820....PSYCHOLOGICAL SRVC-REG SCHOOL	\$682,392.77	\$814,120.68	\$131,727.91	19.30%
2825....SOCIAL WORK SRVC-REG SCHOOL	\$512,690.94	\$540,764.00	\$28,073.06	5.48%
2830....AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROG.	\$1,453.50	\$1,431.00	(\$22.50)	-1.55%
2850....CO-CURRICULAR ACTIV-REG SCHL	\$138,481.20	\$166,253.00	\$27,771.80	20.05%
2855....INTERSCHOL ATHLETICS-REG SCHL	\$652,209.04	\$702,241.00	\$50,031.96	7.67%
5510....DISTRICT TRANSPORT	\$297,515.26	\$254,633.00	(\$42,882.26)	-14.41%
5540....CONTRACT TRANSPORT	\$3,937,788.50	\$4,026,247.00	\$88,458.50	2.25%
9099....EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$16,065,796.93	\$15,878,635.13	(\$187,161.80)	-1.16%
TOTAL PROGRAM COMPONENT	\$65,975,894.71	\$68,651,480.20	\$2,675,585.49	4.06%
CAPITAL COMPONENT				
1620....OPERATION OF PLANT	\$3,223,270.68	\$3,117,823.00	(\$105,447.68)	-3.27%
1621....MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	\$1,289,828.20	\$1,477,486.06	\$187,657.86	14.55%
1950....ASSESSMENTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY	\$46,818.00	\$49,500.00	\$2,682.00	5.73%
1964....REFUND ON REAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	(\$100,000.00)	-50.00%
9901....TRANSFER TO SPECIAL AID/DEBT SERVICE	\$5,294,766.00	\$5,875,789.00	\$581,023.00	10.97%
9950....INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$750,000.00	\$350,000.00	(\$400,000.00)	-53.33%
9099....EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$2,292,978.00	\$2,181,394.00	(\$111,584.00)	-4.87%
TOTAL CAPITAL COMPONENT	\$13,097,660.88	\$13,151,992.06	\$54,331.18	0.41%
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET	\$86,564,193.00	\$89,634,989.00	\$3,070,796.00	3.55%

What does the 2017-2018 Educational Plan and Budget Support?

District Operational Planning:

- Interfund Transfer to the Capital Projects Fund \$350,000
- The following scope of work will be completed during school year 2017-18
- Peekskill High School:** Auditorium – New seating, aisle lighting and carpeting

At the Elementary Level:

In 2017-2018 PCSD will continue to support Transition Kindergarten and Transition Classrooms in Grades 1 and 2, producing literacy rich environments that provide a two-year opportunity for students to succeed academically. New year-one classes will be created pending student identification and need. In this program, the classroom teacher “loops” with the same cohort of students. Students learn through play-based and project-based multi-disciplinary units of study. Acceleration will be individualized and movement to the next grade will be fluid. This unique program provides time for students to catch up academically, to keep moving forward each year, and eliminates the traditional retention model.

The Elementary Enrichment program provides project-based learning experiences for all students in research, science, technology and the arts. The Enrichment for All program will be in its third year of implementation.

The Elementary Strings program introduces violins, bass, and cellos, at Grade 3. Students are added to the program each year as the third graders move to Grade 4. The goal of a middle school orchestra and a high school orchestra will be realized over time. The students will perform annually in a recital or concert.

Intensive Transitional Planning for Literacy Challenged Students K-5

- Low Class Sizes: K & 1
- Transition Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2
- Promotion of a Multilingual Ecology celebrating diversity and recognizing multilingualism as a resource
- One cohesive bilingual program Varios Idimos Un Corazón/Many Languages One Heart, that has as its goal bi-literacy in English and Spanish K-5
- Increased Parent Education and Involvement through Changing Suburbs Institute Partnership with Manhattanville College
- Student access to the newly renovated PHS planetarium

Phase 2 of Elementary Enrichment Program

- Redesign of the K-5 enrichment period – STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics)
- Increased Field Trips

Improve performing and Visual Arts Program

- Growing Elementary string program
- By 2020 –Orchestra and Marching Band programs

At the Secondary Level:

21st Century Electives at HS: Peekskill Middle School and High School will continue to add new and enriching courses for the 2017-2018 school year. New courses will be informative and challenging for all students. New or enhanced courses will be offered in STEAM, Career and Technical Education, Math, English, Social Studies, and Music. The Middle School will look at enhancing the third year courses in STEAM and the accelerated classes. Our Career & Technical Education, Technology and STEAM curriculum will bring on new applications and curricula around engineering, design and coding.

Science and STEAM: In our high school science department, classes will be up and running for a full year as the science department continues to utilize Google Classroom and a digital lab book. The high school itself will be enhanced in all departments by the addition of Chromebooks and the utilization of Google Classroom.

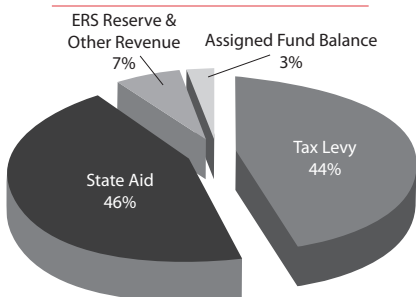
STEAM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is an interdisciplinary and applied approach.

The High School STEAM program will bring on a new course from Engineering by Design. Following this year's Foundations of Engineering class, the 2017-2018 school year will see the addition of a second class, Technological Design. In Technological Design, engineering scope, content and professional practices are presented through practical applications. In these classes, students in engineering teams will apply technology, science and mathematics concepts/skills to solve engineering design problems. In the area of Career and Technical Education, we will continue to offer Culinary Arts, Consumer Math and Robotics. The Robotics program will expand this year with additional classes in Fiber Optics and Electronics. In addition, a STEAM Drones curriculum is being added as well.

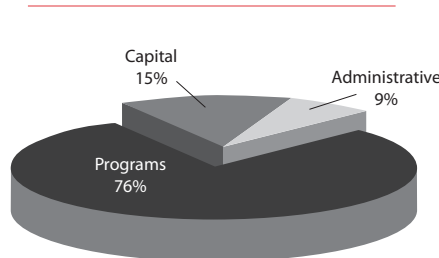
Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, STEAM integrates them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications. Peekskill City School District has started the process of constructing a STEAM curriculum in Grades 6-12. The 2017-2018 school year will see the STEAM program take a step forward as Peekskill adds to the Engineering by Design program. The ITEEA (International Technology and Engineering Educators Association) STEAM for Teaching and Learning has developed the only standards-based national model for Grades K-12 that delivers technological literacy in a STEAM context. Engineering by Design is built on the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and Standards for Technological Literacy (ITEEA); Principles and Standards for School Mathematics (NCTM); and Project 2061, Benchmarks for Science Literacy (AAAS). Additionally, the Program K-12 has been mapped to the National Academy of Engineering's Grand Challenges for Engineering. Using constructivist models, students participating in the program learn concepts and principles in a problem/project-based environment. Peekskill teachers in the middle school and high school will be trained over the summer to teach these classes.

Continued on page 5

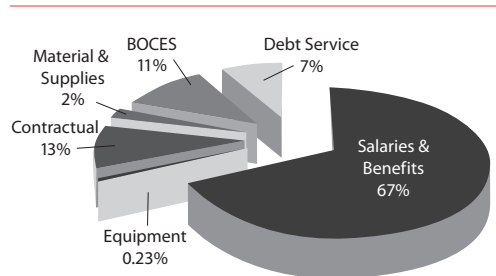
Revenue Projection 2017-18



Three-Part Component Budget



Proposed Budget Expense Distribution 2017-18



Top of the Class: Meet the Peekskill High School Class of 2017's Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Class of 2017 Valedictorian Brittney Pauta (right) and Salutatorian Nia Robinson (left) stand with Peekskill High School Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur and Acting Superintendent Dr. Lorenzo Licopoli.

Peekskill City School District and Peekskill High School are proud to introduce the Class of 2017's Valedictorian Brittney Pauta and Salutatorian Nia Robinson. These students have truly shown us how hard work, focus and dedication can result in success. As they prepare to venture forth into their college careers, Brittney and Nia have shared a little bit about who they are and what their future holds for them after graduation.

2017 Valedictorian: Brittney Pauta

Ms. Pauta is a member of Peekskill High School's Latino Culture Club and president of the Science National Honor Society. As the second eldest child of a family of six, she has been helping to raise her siblings and working alongside her parents since a young age. This year, Ms. Pauta became the first Peekskill High School student to place at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium when she won third place for her project, which focused on Cellular and Molecular Biology. This fall, she plans to attend New York University and major in Global Public Health on the Pre-Med track. Due to her love of children fostered by her babysitting experiences, Ms. Pauta is considering specializing in pediatric oncology or cardiology. She would like to enroll in NYU's ROTC Air Force and in NYU's Study Abroad programs so that she may volunteer/intern in underserved and under-resourced medical facilities in Latin America, Middle East, and in Europe.

PCSD: What was your favorite class this year and what did you enjoy most about it?

Pauta: I had two favorite classes this year — they were WCC Human Biology with Lab and WCC Medical Terminology. They reaffirmed my interest in the medical field. Since the curriculum went deeper into human anatomy than any other class I have had in the past, these classes gave me knowledge that will be useful in my premedical studies at NYU.

PCSD: What do you think makes an exceptional teacher?

Pauta: An exceptional teacher is someone that will give more time to go over topics that students do not understand. At PHS, most teachers take the time from their schedules to stay after school to go over the material in further depth, and that was something that made me and my peers succeed in our Regents, AP exams, and final exams. These teachers had patience for each student and treated everyone equally. I am proud to say that most teachers at PHS are exceptional teachers.

PCSD: What words of wisdom would you like to pass on to your PHS underclassmen?

Pauta: There are three key things that I want everyone to understand. The first thing is that it is okay to not know exactly what you want to do in life. You will find your way, so do not hastily force yourself onto a path. Secondly, happiness is not something you have to achieve. You can still feel happy during the process of achieving something. If you focus too much on attaining happiness in the future, you may end up missing the happiness that you can experience in the present. Lastly, success is not defined by the amount of money you make because in the end, that will not matter if you cannot recognize the beautiful moments in life.

PCSD: What will you miss most about PHS?

Pauta: I will miss the teachers that I connected with and spoke comfortably with, and the schoolmates that I befriended and saw grow up. At PHS, it feels like a second home. The diverse community that PHS is built on is truly welcoming and comforting for all students. Despite not seeing the familiar faces of this community as often as I used to, this is just part of my journey, *our* journey, to further explore our own capabilities and surpass our limitations in this new world; and maybe, someday our paths may cross again in the near future.

2017 Salutatorian: Nia Robinson

Ms. Robinson is an active member of the Peekskill High School community. She is president of the PHS Chapter of the National Honor Society, the treasurer of the Peekskill Chapter of the New York State Mathematics Honor Society and a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society. She is also a member of the school's Interact Club. When not participating in school activities, Ms. Robinson works as a hostess and waitress at a local restaurant. In the fall, she will be attending New York University in hopes of studying Constitutional Law, Political Science, and Social Justice and Activism. One day she would like to work as a lawyer or possibly enter into politics.

PCSD: What was your favorite class this year and what did you enjoy most about it?

Robinson: My top two favorite classes this year were AP United States Government and Politics, and Classism, Racism, Sexism. The combination of these two classes sparked an epiphany for me and helped me choose the major that I wish to pursue in college.

PCSD: What do you think makes an exceptional teacher?

Robinson: An exceptional teacher is one who is not only able to push and motivate their students, but is also able to sympathize with their students and be considerate of them. They are able to find a healthy challenge for their students, without overloading them with work. Exceptional teachers learn from their students and do not solely teach their students about the designated curriculum. They teach them how to be better students, better citizens, and overall, better people. There are four teachers that have had a lasting impact on me as a student: Ms. Sharon Courtney, Ms. Zorielle Rodriguez, Ms. Doris Pichardo, and Mr. George Goess. My interactions with these teachers have helped shape me into a college ready student, ready to take on any challenge that life may throw at me.

PCSD: What is your philosophy as a student?

Robinson: As a student, my philosophy is to just try your best. Effort is all teachers are truly asking for. I also think that it is crucial to remember to not overextend yourself by taking on too many classes

or activities that you cannot handle. There is a balance for everything. Find your balance between academics and extracurricular activities, and you will be sure to be successful.

PCSD: What words of wisdom would you like to pass on to your PHS underclassmen?

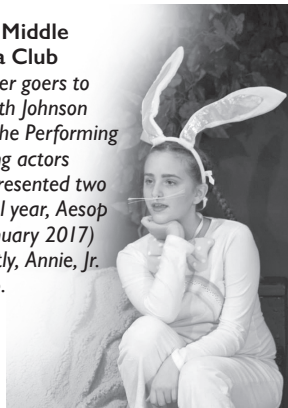
Robinson: My advice to underclassmen is to know your boundaries, challenge yourself, but don't overextend yourself. High school is without a doubt the most difficult thing I have experienced, but I guarantee you it will be 10x more difficult if you are doing it without sleep. Please do not get caught up in any drama or in your social life. Drama has the ability to upset you, and it will never be important enough to have it interfere with your grades or your future. Most importantly, try your best. All teachers want is for you to try. If you put in effort, everything will work out in your favor.

PCSD: What will you miss most about PHS?

Robinson: I will miss the diverse student body and staff, as well as the overall energy of the school. Peekskill is one of the most diverse cities in Westchester County, and I definitely will miss the environment when I go to college. I will also miss the constant motivation that I get from my teachers.



The Peekskill Middle School Drama Club welcomed theater goers to the school's Judith Johnson Auditorium for the Performing Arts as the young actors and actresses presented two play's this school year, *Aesop Come Back* (January 2017) and most recently, *Annie, Jr.* on May 5 and 6.



Parents, teachers, and staff at Uriah Hill Elementary recently created an amazing carnival at their school. The event hosted fun characters and offered a variety of games, face-painting and even a photobooth. Proceeds from the event will go to support enhancements for the District's Pre-K programs.

Woodside students in Ms. Marzella and Ms. Carvalho's classes presented a bilingual version of, *The Great Kapok Tree* on April 6. The play, which was directed by Ms. Wood-Chang, offered all involved a great learning opportunity as the students told a tale of environmental conservation in the voice of concerned rainforest animals.



What does the 2017-2018 Educational Plan and Budget Support? *Continued from page 3*

Bilingual Core Program at the Secondary Level: The Peekskill High School and Middle School English language Learners (ELL) program will continue to add to its offerings as we meet the needs of our student population and stay in compliance with New York State Regulations. Both schools will look to add sections of bilingual math, science and social studies into their core offerings. A "Program of Bilingual Education" means a program of instruction in which eligible children are placed until such time so they may attain a certain level of proficiency in English. Bilingual education is a method used to teach language-minority students in public schools. The concept is that teaching ELLs partially in their native language will enhance their understanding of the curriculum and help them succeed in an otherwise English-based environment. Once ELL students are fairly proficient in English, they can continue their education in classes with their English-speaking peers. A benefit of a bilingual program is that it makes instructional use of both English and an eligible student's native language while providing for the continuous increase in the use of English. Peekskill Middle School will see changes to its English as a Native Language program as we install new bi-lingual classes into the content courses in all three grades.

Assistant Principal at the Middle School: Peekskill Middle School has a growing population of over 750 students. To provide proper supervision of the students and staff, the building is in need of a third administrative position. The middle school has always had three administrators, but due to the loss of the 21st Century Grant (L.E.A.P.) an administrative position was lost. The added position will allow us to keep on top of student safety, staff evaluation and oversee of the many growing programs in our Special Education, STEAM, ENL and Literacy programs.

Westchester Mediation: The High School enrollment was 980 at the start of the 2016-17 school year. The projected enrollment for the start of the 2017-2018 school year is 1120 students. To help assist with the social and emotional support of our students we will contract with Westchester Mediation for use of one of their counselors. Westchester Mediation has a long and successful history of working with the students of Peekskill High School. This added position will serve approximately 200+ students.

Enhancing Graduation Rate

- More middle school students earning HS credits before entering Grade 9
- More elective choices for high school students so that they are college and career ready
- 21st Century Science and STEAM program enhancements
- Newcomers and Bilingual Core Program at the Middle School and High School

Improve Equity and Student Choices

- Increased course offerings at AHS, Albany University in the HS Program
- Partnership with PNW BOCES for Culinary Arts for Special Education Program, Consumer Math, and increase access to Robotics and Career and Technical courses.

Oakside students recently received a special visit from Peekskill High School's creative writing students. The teenagers visited the youngsters and read aloud to them in small groups. Children were excited to have some time to bond with, "the big kids," and PHS students enjoyed helping to foster a love of reading in their younger counterparts. As part of their creative writing class, many of these same PHS students also wrote, illustrated and published their own children's books.





PHS Robotics Teams Win Three 1st Prize Awards at the 14th Annual Rube Goldberg Competition

Congratulations to our two Peekskill High School Robotics Teams, The Iron Devils and the Mechanical Devils, who collaborated on a project for the 14th Annual Rube Goldberg Challenge, which took place at White Plains High School on April 2. The two PHS teams competed against other robotics teams from New York and New Jersey. Peekskill won first place in three out of three categories in the competition, taking home the Creative Award, the Teamwork Award and the Rube Goldberg Award.

Over 30 PHS students from the Robotics and Advanced Robotics classes helped design the teams' machine during class and after school, and 12 students attended the competition to operate the machine. This year, the competition's challenge required students to successfully complete the task of placing a Band-Aid using only their contraption.

"This was the icing on the cake for us," said PCSD Robotics Teacher Carlo Vindrini. "We've had an incredible season this year. Last year we won second place at the Rube Goldberg competition, and this year we were determined to win first. And they did it — in not just one category, but all three!"

Moving forward, now that competitions have ended for the year, both robotics and advanced robotics students will be building drones in their classes. Students will also learn about the Federal Aviation Administration's laws regulating the flying of these machines.

Members of PHS' two Robotics Teams, the Mechanical Devils and the Iron Devils, stand with their machine (above) and show off their awards at this year's Rube Goldberg Competition.



Peekskill athletes, coaches and volunteers participated in the 2nd Annual Special Olympics Time Track Trial event held at Torpy Field on April 22.

Peekskill CSD Hosts 2nd Annual Special Olympics Time Track Trials

The Peekskill City School District hosted the 2nd Annual Special Olympics Time Track Trial event on Saturday, April 22 at Torpy Field. The event welcomed over 550 athletes from across the Hudson Valley region and was made possible thanks to the help of over 200 community volunteers and several sponsors. Athletes trained for several months in preparation for the event and their hard work showed. For the first time, Peekskill had a team that participated in the event. The team consisted of ten athletes who were coached by six volunteer PCSD employees.

"Our team did amazing the day of the event," said Cami Blazejewski, a Peekskill Middle School Physical Education teacher who helped organize the event. "They all worked really hard and tried their best. I'm extremely proud of our athletes and thankful to everyone who made this day successful."



Peekskill High School Assistant Principal Dr. Margie Daniels, who oversees the Summit Academy program, is interviewed during a recent visit from NYSSBA News.

Peekskill High School's Summit Academy Featured on NYSSBA News

The New York State School Board Association's news channel, NYSSBA News recently visited Peekskill High School's Summit Academy to interview students and administrators on the programs' successes since its inception three years ago. In their on camera interviews, students noted the reason Summit has become "like a home" to them, while administrators commented on how the Academy has helped increase grades and graduation rates at Peekskill High School. Summit Academy's feature airs on May 15 and can be seen at www.nyssba.org.



Over 75 New Members Inducted into PKMS & PHS Honor Societies

PHS National Honor Society

Senior Inductees:

Brianna Curry
 Mariah James Wendy
 Rivadeneira

Junior Inductees

Kiara Adams
 Alma Guardado
 Elliot Molina
 Erika Barrera
 Justin Hahn
 Camila Orellena
 Elvis Carchipulla
 Kyra Hall
 Maria Luz Palma
 Robert Chacha
 Kiara Haughton
 Diana Tenesaca
 Zachary Clausen
 Raul Illescas
 Kellin Velasquez
 Gordon Evans
 Tyanna Johnson
 Karen Vele
 Nicole Furtado
 Valentina Loaiza
 Jessie Zhanay
 Jodi Glickert
 Debora Martinez

Mu Alpha Theta

Junior Inductees

Gordon Evans
 Valentina Loaiza
 Elliot Molina
 Jodi Glickert
 Junior Machisaca



New York State Mathematics Honor Society

Junior Inductees:

Kiara Adams
 Nicole Furtado
 Jessie Zhanay
 Kyra Hall

Sophomore Inductees:

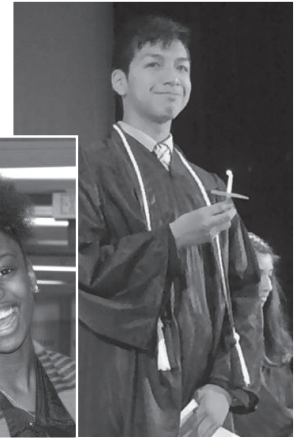
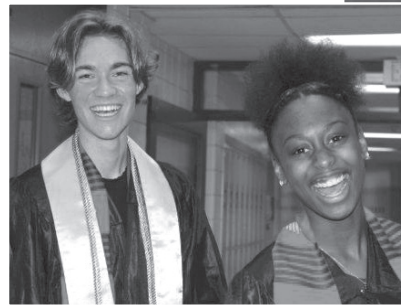
Ashley Birmingham,
 Adriana Molina
 Jocelyn Ortega
 Grace Chen
 Jasmyn Munoz
 Akua Yeboah
 Ericka Leon
 Achar Okoth

PKMS National Jr. Honor Society

Cristian Alvarez
 Jefferson Arpi
 Steven Ayala
 Ashanti Bermeo
 Daniela Bloom
 Tiana Brooks
 Daniela Cardenas
 Lindsey Castro
 Jonathan Chapa
 Isabella Contreras
 Pablo Culcay Avila
 Jason Curillo
 Alisa D'Souza
 Bianca Fernandes
 Janah Huff
 Azaria Johnson
 Miles Karteron

Marley Lazo-Murphy
 Tanya Merino
 Breanna Michel
 Justin Monge
 Sage North
 Rosio Oliva-Romero
 Isabelle Paul
 Olivia Paul
 Veronica Paul
 Esteban Pauta
 Jilda Pauta
 Kevin Quezada
 Victoria Ramos
 Sarah Rosen
 Joey Sanchez
 Steven Vele
 August Vitarbo

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our 2017 Honor Society inductees!



The Peekskill High School Drama club followed up their fall production of three student-directed plays, with an interactive spring musical production of Disney's, *The Little Mermaid*. Prior to the musical's performances, club members toured Woodside and Oakside Elementary schools in costume to bring the magic of Disney to our youngest students.



MySchoolBucks

The Peekskill City School District is pleased to offer MySchoolBucks, a convenient online meal payment service. Parents, you can login to MySchoolBucks.com to manage meal balances and see what your student has purchased. Never worry about sending cash or checks with your student to school again! Please visit any of our school websites and click on the MySchoolBucks icon to read our welcome letter with more information about how to register for your account.

Click on the MySchoolBucks logo on any of our websites for more information.

Para obtener este boletín en español, por favor llame al (914) 737-3300 ext. 303, correo electrónico azucco@peekskillcsd.org o pase por el Edificio de Administración del Distrito y una edición en Español le proporcionará.

Look for **Peekskill City School District** on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Flickr.



For more Peekskill District news, sign up for our monthly eNews by emailing: eNews@peekskillcsd.org

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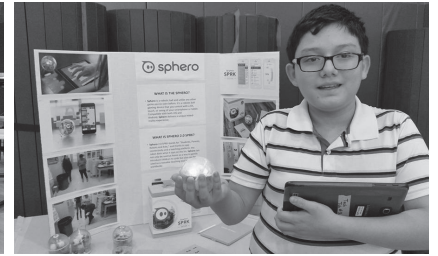
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Dr. Joseph Mosey, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Ms. Robin Zimmerman, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Daniel Callahan, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Mrs. Mary Foster, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Mrs. Janice Reid, Manager, Educational Technology/CIO
Ms. Ellen Hackett, Director of Special Services
Dr. Rochelle Mitlak, Director of Literacy
Mr. Andrew Weisman, Food Service Director
Mr. Carmine Crisci, Director of Facilities
Ms. Jennifer Sampson, Assistant Supervisor of Transportation
Mr. David Santiago, Director of Security
Mr. Lou Panzanaro, Athletic Director
Ms. Laura Belfiore, Communication Specialist
Purpaula Productions, Design and Production

Postal Customer



Students at Peekskill Middle School spent months preparing for the school's annual S.T.E.A.M. Fair, which was held on March 23.

Presentations included projects on computer coding, robotics, ceramics, engineering design and of course, a lesson on how to make your own slime.



WHAT ARE THE PEEKSKILL BASICS?

Based on the Boston Basics, a public/private program that grew out of work at Harvard University, the Peekskill Basics is a campaign inspired by the fact that 80% of brain development happens in the first three years of life.

The Peekskill Basics are five evidence-based parenting and caregiving principles that encompass much of what experts find is important for children from birth to age three. Every child from every background can benefit from routinely experiencing Peekskill Basics learning experiences. Therefore, the Peekskill Basics Initiative is working through a broad range of institutions to ensure that every parent and caregiver is fully supported by family and friends to use these five practices in everyday life.

Who Is Involved?

Everyone! Partners include hospitals, health centers, community centers, child care providers, churches, and others.

What If I'm Not a Parent?

Doesn't matter! We want everyone to know the Peekskill Basics. Learn so that you can help spread the word and encourage parents and caregivers of young children.



MAXIMIZE LOVE, MANAGE STRESS

Babies thrive when the world feels loving, safe, and predictable. Caregiving that is affectionate and responsive develops a sense of security and self-control.



TALK, SING, AND POINT

Babies learn language from the moment they are born. They learn through loving interactions with their caregivers, not TV or phones. Eye contact, pointing, and real words teach the most about communication.



COUNT, GROUP, AND COMPARE

Children are born wired to learn numbers, patterns, sizes, shapes, and comparisons. What they learn about math in the first few years makes a difference when they get to school.



EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT & PLAY

Children are born curious about the world. They are like scientists. Pay attention to your infant or toddler's interests. Help them learn through play and exploration.



READ AND DISCUSS STORIES

The more we read with young children, the more prepared they become to enjoy reading and do well in school. Even infants enjoy the shapes and colors in books. Let them hold the book, turn the pages. Point to the pictures and talk about what you see.

/peekskillbasics

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