

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

# A Community Conversation on the Future of Education



Dear Friends,

When I assumed the role of Superintendent of Schools in Newark in July, I put forward **NPS Clarity 2020**, an ambitious vision that promises to support the growth and development of our children from conception to cradle through college and careers. This vision is designed to create a new ecosystem, to marshal the vast resources and existing efforts of our city, and to engage stakeholders in the development of a strategic plan that will bring this vision to fruition.

At the heart of **NPS Clarity 2020** is a new district configuration that establishes vital connections through a re-envisioned school system. **NPS Clarity 2020** is a framework

to improve our programs, curriculum, student and family supports, partnerships and delivery strategies. To be effective and relevant, we believe it is critical that the strategic planning process provides on-going opportunities for stakeholders to provide input. As part of the process, we will form an Advisory Committee, convene Stakeholder Roundtables, and host community conversations across this city. We have learned many valuable lessons over the last twenty years, however, this will be a systematic approach to reforming education in Newark in a brand new way.

You are cordially invited to attend "A Community Conversation" which will be held at Central High School on **Wednesday, January 16, 2019, from 6pm-8pm.**

We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you,

Roger León  
Superintendent



W H E N  
**January 16, 2019 • 6-8pm**

W H E R E  
**Central High School  
246 18th Ave, Newark, NJ 07108**

W H O  
**Parents, guardians,  
students and concerned  
community members**

W H A T  
**A conversation about the  
future of education in  
Newark**



Superintendent León and Camden Street School Principal Samuel Garrison welcome families to the Superintendent's Breakfast.



Superintendent León and Raphael Hernandez School Principal Natasha Pared welcome the founder of Girls Who Code, Reshma Saujani.

# Outstanding High School Students are Honored at Board Meeting

## 21st Princeton University Classic Tournament

Superintendent León and the Board recently honored high school students for outstanding achievement. **Central High School** was recognized for special achievement. The Central H.S. Speech Team and Teacher/Coach Dennis Philbert became the first Newark Public School to win the Princeton University Classic Tournament in the 21-year history of the tournament. Central defeated 116 schools to win 1st Place. Outstanding Honors go to Isaiah Briggs, 1st Place in Dramatic Interpretation, Prose & Poetry Reading, & duo Interpretation (he is the first person in the 21-year history to be a triple champion). Zwadi Kabazimya won 1st place in Duo Interpretation, 2nd Place Dramatic Interpretation, and 4th place in Prose & Poetry Reading.



## Newark Student Union Group



- Isaiah Thornton - American History
- Eliel Hernandez - Bard
- Ana Calderon - Technology
- Melissa Rojas - Technology
- Zhae Braswell - University
- Ibrahim Waziri - American History
- Aze' Williams- Science Park
- Bradley Gonmiah - Science Park
- Tremayne West - Eagle Academy
- Devin Kyser - Science Park
- Eden Vivanco

## 2018 Latin Band



- Daniela Montero, Bass
- Mustafa Daniels, Keyboards/Co-Advisor
- Asaad Collins, Percussion
- Steve Pinzon, Keyboards/Percussion
- Omar Agosto, Percussion
- Jaiin Shiver, Tenor Sax
- Shamar McPherson, Clarinet
- Mathew Fajardo, Guitar
- Yokahira Feliz, Vocals/Background
- Rayner Perez, Trombone
- Mark Exum, Percussion
- Omar Rodriguez, Trumpet
- Kevin Herrera, Trumpet

## Volleyball



Xarial Chandler was honored for being selected for the 2018 NJSCA All Star Volleyball Team



Board Member Asia Norton visited S. 17th Street School on Christmas Day



Members of the Board join in the celebration of the renaming of N. 10th Street School to Salomé Ureña School.

# BOARD MEMBERS IN THE SCHOOLS



Board Chair Josephine C. Garcia, Vice Chair Dawn Haynes, Yambeli Gomez and Flohisha Hill, members of the Community Engagement Committee of the Board, host a workshop at the Parent Conference.

## MEET THE BOARD



**Josephine C. Garcia**  
Board Chairperson



**Dawn Haynes**  
Vice Chairperson



**Andre Ferreira**  
Student Representative



**Reginald Bledsoe**



**Kim Gaddy**



**Yambeli Gomez**



**Flohisha Hill**



**Asia J. Norton**



**Leah Owens**



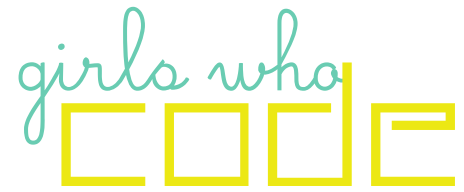
**Tave Padilla**

**NEXT PUBLIC MEETING  
JAN 22, 2019**

## IN OUR SCHOOLS

### Founder and CEO Reshma Saujani Launches Girls Who Code Program with Superintendent Roger León

Girls Who Code founder and CEO Reshma Saujani and Newark Public Schools Superintendent Roger León recently launched the "Girls Who Code" program at the Rafael Hernandez School in Newark. The club will be available in 24 schools.



### 5 people who inspired us in 2018

The principal who installed a laundromat in his school



When school started at West Side High School in September there was a new addition: a laundromat. Principal Akbar Cook had learned that some of the students at his Newark, New Jersey, school were chronically absent because they were bullied over their dirty clothes. So Cook installed washers and dryers for students to use before and after school free of charge. He has been recognized globally, and named by CNN as 1 of 5 people nationally whose work impacts the world.



### Arts High School Graduates Visit Schools to Inspire Students

Actor Michael B. Jordan brought Good Morning America, Coach and The Future Project to Barringer H.S. to celebrate student achievement and the Dreamers Program.



Movie Producer William Michael Barbee, along with WABC Movie Critic Sandy Kenyon, visited University H.S. to present and discuss his movie "Beyond the Silence," that will be seen at Cannes Film Festival.

## NEWARK ENROLLS

# ADMISSIONS TEST

All students seeking admission to a magnet school must submit an enrollment application **no later than Friday, February 15, 2019.**

8th Grade students in a **Newark Public School** will take the admission test in their school on Friday, February 15, 2019.

8th Grade students in a **Non-NPS School** are required to report to Science Park High School (260 Norfolk Street, Newark, NJ 07103) on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 8:30am sharp to the admission test.

## FOCUS ON GRADUATION

### East Side Students Receive Full Four-Year Scholarships and QuestBridge Honors



Principal West is photographed with students.

**Gabriel Margaca**, an academic leader of the Class of 2019 has just been matched by the QuestBridge Foundation to attend Dartmouth College, an Ivy League School, on a full scholarship.

The QuestBridge National College Match is a college and scholarship application process that helps outstanding low-income high school seniors gain admission and full four-year scholarships to the nation's most selective colleges. His academic excellence includes all Honors and AP classes with a Cumulative GPA of over 4.5.

**Natalie Fernandez**, our salutatorian for the Class of 2019 has also been matched by the QuestBridge Foundation to attend the University of Notre Dame on a full four-year scholarship. Last year, Natalie went on a Student Council trip to visit Notre Dame.

QuestBridge will pay the total tuition for four years. Natalie's academic achievement includes all Honors and AP classes with a cumulative GPA of 4.5 along with highs scores on her AP placement tests.



### Signing Day in America: Central H.S. Student Earns Football Scholarship to Temple

Central H.S. senior Mohammad Kamara has signed to attend Temple University in Philadelphia on a full football scholarship. Kamara is considered one of New Jersey's best linebackers.

Kamara's brother also attended Central High School and attend Temple University on a full scholarship.

Kamara was joined on stage by his family, coaches and Principal Brown, to officially sign the offer letter.



### Hockey Scholar at East Side H.S. Selects Washington University for College

**Matthew Atehortua**, a scholar and hockey player at East Side High School, will attend Washington University of St. Louis in the Fall of 2019. Washington University's ranking in the 2019 edition of US News Best Colleges is 19 for National Universities.

Matthew is a hardworking student-athlete at East Side High School. His work ethic allows him to balance his duties as captain of the ice hockey team and vice president of the student council while maintaining a 4.4 GPA. In addition to being an active student at East Side High School, Matthew gives back to the community by volunteering as a mentor and coach in Newark for Hockey in New Jersey. In the near future Matthew will play hockey for the Bears and major in Biology at Washington University. Matthew plans to study Pre-med, attend medical school and ultimately become a surgeon.

### Arts High School Student Receives Exclusive Invitation to Play at the Kennedy Center Along with Jazz Greats

The Thelonious Monk Institute selected Arts High School senior Jalin Shiver for the 2018 National Peer-to-Peer All Star Jazz performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The performance was held on Monday, December 3. Jalin is an Instrumental Music major at Arts H.S.



Jalin was recently featured on Pix11 News. To watch more: <http://via.pix11.com/eikxz>

## IMPORTANT DATES

1/16	A Community Conversation
1/22	Newark BOE Meeting @ Mt. Vernon School
1/23, 1/29	Parent Academy: Parents as Partners Institute
1/24	SEPAC Meeting
2/15	Newark Enrolls Application Closes
2/15, 2/16	Magnet School Admissions Test



For more dates and details visit: <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/district-calendar/>



PRODUCED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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