MISSION STATEMENT

To advance student success and close equity gaps by ensuring students attend school every day. Our mission is to support students' learning through innovation and forward thinking experiences to Love, Inspire, Focus, and Excel.

Newark Board of Education OFFICE OF STUDENT

ISSUE 2 SEPTEMBER 2019 – OCTOBER 2019

LIFE NEWSLETTER

LOVE INSPIRE FOCUS EXCEL

GRIEF AND LOSS CARE BASKET *COLLABORATIVE*

Maria J. Ortiz, Executive Director, shared the Grief and Loss Care Baskets Collaborative with school principals at the Superintendent's Conference and August Staff Development Day which included social workers, school counselors, Student Support Team (SST) members, attendance counselors, truancy officers, and court representatives. The care baskets serve as a thoughtful way to encourage students and their families during a challenging experience such as the loss of a loved one or encounter with a chronic illness. On October 4th, the Office of Student Life (OSL) collected over 120 baskets from 56 participating schools and departments. Some of the *Carriers of Love* contained teddy bears, musical playlists, family videos, coloring books, journals, handwritten words of encouragement prepared by students, gift cards, quilts, and other therapeutic items of comfort. Danielle Muhammad, Social Worker of Harriet Tubman School Community led by Principal Angela Davis shared that this district-wide program inspired a student to create a basket of his own (picture featured below). Kaye Pollard, Social Worker and Angelisa Guilford, School Counselor of the Lincoln School Community led by Principal Hillary Dow raised over $600 to create two bountiful baskets. To date, the feedback and gratitude expressed by student recipients and their families have been tremendous. The OSL looks forward to partnering with district sites to continue this noteworthy servicing learning project.


Harriet Tubman


Office of Early Childhood


Newark Vocational


Newark Evening


Lincoln


Quitman



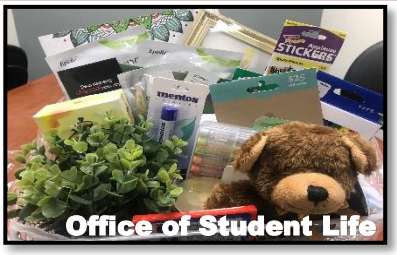
West Side


Regional Day


Barringer

Grief and Loss Care Basket Collaborative

Abington Avenue
Ann Street
Arts High School
Avon Avenue
Bard Early College
Barringer High School
Belmont Runyon
Benjamin Franklin
Branch Brook
Bruce Street
Camden Street
Chancellor Avenue
Cleveland Avenue
Dr. E. Alma Flagg
Dr. William H. Horton
East Ward
ECC North
ECC South
Elliott Street
First Avenue
George Washington Carver
Harriet Tubman
Hawkins Street
Hawthorne Avenue
High School Leadership Team
Ivy Hill
John F. Kennedy
Lafayette Street
Lincoln
Louise A. Spencer
Luis Muñoz Marin
Malcolm X. Shabazz High School
McKinley
Mount Vernon
Newark Evening
Newark Vocational
NJ Regional Day
Office of Early Childhood
Office of Student Life
Oliver Street
Park Elementary
Peshine Avenue
Quitman Street
Rafael Hernandez
Ridge Street
Roberto Clemente
Salomé Ureña
Science Park High School
South Seventeenth Street
South Street
Speedway Avenue
Sussex Avenue
Thirteenth Avenue
University High School
West Side High School
Wilson Avenue



OSL UPCOMING EVENTS

October 16th	Pre-College Pathways Fair
October 23rd	Staff Development Day
October 25th	Real Kids Wear Pink Day Counselor Day at Rutgers
November 2nd	FAFSA Workshop

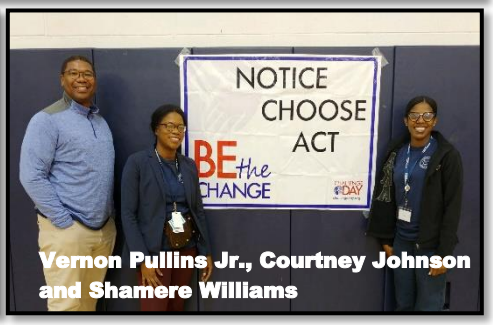
IT'S CHALLENGE DAY!

On October 7th, under the leadership of Principal Rosa Branco, Vice Principal Marvelis Perreira, School Counselors Maricela Rodriguez and Jennifer Bruzzio, and Attendance Counselor Taisha Miranda of the First Avenue School Community hosted the *Challenge Day* event. Facilitated by Kevin and Pam of *Challenge Day* – The Change Movement provided an extraordinary experience for 100 seventh and eighth grade scholars and 30 staff members consisting of Office of Student Life Supervisors Shamere Williams, Vernon Pullins Jr. and Courtney R. Johnson. The interactive program established an encouraging and safe environment of acceptance, love, and respect as participants partook in activities tailored towards breaking barriers. The *Crossing the Line* exercise extended the opportunity to make connections and lend support to peers. Additionally, the experiences tapped into the five core social emotional learning competencies: social awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills drafted by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. Pam and Kevin, The Challenge Day Facilitators and First Avenue Staff, worked collectively to enhance the social and emotional development of each middle school participant.



First Ave Staff

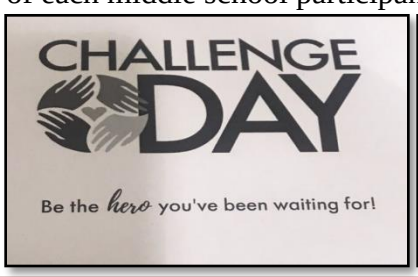




Vernon Pullins Jr., Courtney Johnson and Shamere Williams



Marvelis Perreira, Kevin, Taisha Miranda, Jennifer Bruzzio, Maricela Rodriguez and Pam





DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION SUMMIT

On October 8th, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) partnered with the Newark Board of Education to provide sixth to eighth grade scholars with a conference comprised of presentations, conversations, and information focusing on resiliency, empowerment, education, and entertainment. The DEA Summit was held at the Robert Treat Hotel of Newark, NJ. The objective of the summit was to encourage students to persevere despite the odds or hardships encountered in life. Following greetings by Special Agent Susan A. Gibson, Deputy Superintendent Nicole T. Johnson, and Executive Director Maria J. Ortiz, 225 middle school students participated in several breakout sessions entitled *What is your Brand?* presented by Social Worker Rashon Dwight and *My Thought's Out Loud* presented by the DEA Staff which were co-facilitated by students from Newark Tech and East Side High School. Students also witnessed an engaging, informative, and inspirational presentation by Hashim Garrett. Hashim Garrett shared the obstacles of his childhood that involved bullying and gang activity. He discussed the consequences of poor decisions and reminded students that engaging in a life of crime could result in either incarceration, death, or the in between. The aftermath of his unfortunate decisions resulted in being shot and paralyzed from the waist down at the age of fifteen. Hashim Garrett's message of perseverance aligned with this year's theme to *Dream, Believe, and Achieve* regardless of life's challenges. Participating schools included Dr. William H. Horton, East Side High School, George Washington Carver, Harriet Tubman, Hawkins Street, Ivy Hill, McKinley, Newark Tech, Oliver Street, Park Elementary, Peshine Avenue, Rafael Hernandez, South Seventeenth Street, and Thirteenth Avenue.



Robert Treat Hotel



McKinley School


Exe. Dir. Maria J. Ortiz


Deputy Nicole T. Johnson


Student Participant

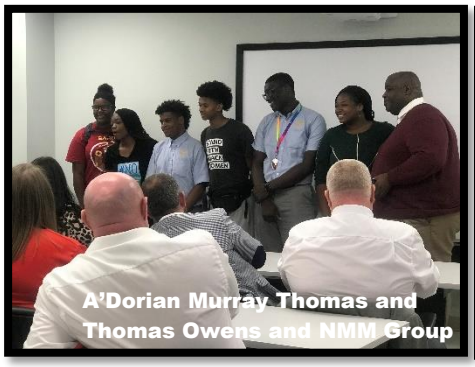

Hashim Garrett


G. Samuels, V. Pullins Jr., B. Smith, R. Dwight
S. Williams, A. Osaria, K. Gifford-Washington,
C. Johnson, J. Silva-Olmo, M. Ortiz and N. Johnson


Student Participants

THE NEWARK MENTORING MOVEMENT

THOMAS OWENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2019


A'Dorian Murray Thomas and Thomas Owens and NMM Group



Arlene Key, Maria Ortiz and NMM Group


Roger León, Superintendent and guests from Ireland

For more information, visit **www.newarkmentoring.org**

RUTGERS NEWARK SENIOR DAY

Rutgers University Newark hosted Senior Day for more than 800 registered high school seniors on October 11th. Student participants were afforded the chance to interact with faculty members, current learners, and staff as well tour the college campus, and attend informational sessions on completing the admissions application and applying for financial aid. Each high school senior received an application fee waiver to any of the Rutgers University college campuses. The participating high schools included American History, Arts, Bard Early College, Barringer, Central, Eagle Academy, East Side, Science Park, Technology, University, Weequahic, and West Side.


Rutgers University Newark


Vernon Pullins Jr., Liana Summey, Christopher Awe, and the Honorable Christopher Durkin

PROMOTE THE VOTE

On October 11th, Vernon Pullins Jr., Supervisor of High School Counselors, delivered over 766 completed voter registration applications to the Essex County Clerk's Office. Voting matters as it impacts the civic, economic, social, and political wellbeing of citizens. The Office of Student Life in conjunction with the High School Leadership Team, engaged in this collaborative project to support district, school, and student goals to catalyze positive change for secondary students. For more information on registering to vote and the general elections (November 5, 2019), please visit the Essex County Clerk's Office website:http://www.essexclerk.com/Services/5.

Contributors: Courtney R. Johnson (OSL), Shamere Williams (OSL), Jessica Silva-Olmo (OSL), Vernon Pullins Jr. (OSL), Rashon Dwight (OSL), Maria J. Ortiz (OSL), Tracey White-Hedgepath (OSL), Diane Johnson (OSL), Darrell Major (OSL), Keisha Gifford-Washington (OSL), Debbie Garcia (OSL), Thomas Owns (Newark Mentoring Movement) and NBOE Print Services.