

# PCSD College Readiness and Workforce Education Newsletter

## January 2025

### Elementary-College and Career Readiness from Exposure to Awareness

**The first step to college and Career readiness is reading and writing at grade level and higher.**

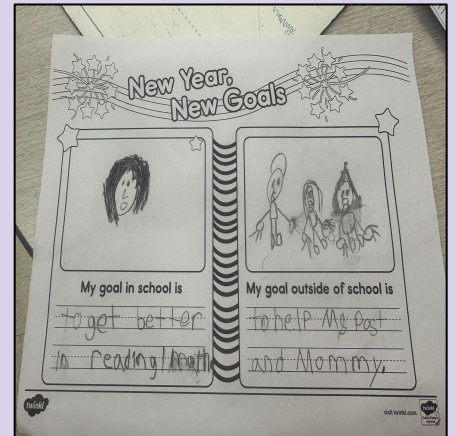
#### **To Know: Reading out loud with your child**

Storytime is not some miracle solution to the challenges of raising young kids, but over time, the benefits of family reading add up. From recognizing patterns and memorizing details in rhyming books to inspiring them to enjoy reading with their own summer reading lists as they grow up, reading aloud fosters a passion for reading, a chance to connect and reflect with little ones after a big day, and gives kids a head start on the reading and writing skills they'll work to develop as they start school. And along the way, everyone gets to enjoy the snuggles and good stories. <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/why-reading-aloud-to-kids-helps-them-thrive>

**Goal Setting:** A goal is something that you are determined you want and you work hard to achieve it.



Our 2nd-grade students have started looking at academic and outside goals. We also discussed the importance of setting and using goals to plan for the future. Developing grade level reading skills is the start of college readiness.



#### **COMING UP:**

- Fifth graders at Clinton Elementary School are preparing their career research presentations and will present them to their peers in the month of February.
- Elementary School College visits have begun, this year's goal is to have all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders visit colleges.
- Friday, January 31st: Warring 5th-grade students are taking their college field trip to Dutchess Community College.

**The PCSD wants to thank the continuous support of our community partners and for their shared excitement about this very important work of preparing our students for college and career readiness starting in the elementary grades, a crucial time to develop the competencies, skills and awareness they need to be successful in the later grades and beyond. Thank you for your commitment.**

As students discover different careers, they begin to think about their future and what they want to be when they grow up. They also begin linking academic work with the world of work.

**Dr. Janety Encarnación**  
**Director of College Readiness and Workforce Education**



### **PBIS Team Building Tuesdays**

*Every Tuesday at the Middle School, students participate in school activities and projects to reinforce working together and increasing their communication skills, as a college and career readiness skills.*



### **Upcoming Events:**

- 8th grade student recruitment, for the PTECH- Mechatronics program housed in the Wappingers School District, is on its way.
  - All 8th grade presentations have been completed and students have shown a high level of interest.
  - A parent information session is scheduled for February 5th at the Middle School.
  - Student Applications will be available during the Parent presentation.
  - There are only 10 spots available.
- 8th grade student recruitment for the Smart Scholars Early College High School program- Performing Arts Academy, which is housed at the PHS, will start in February. More information to come.
- ParentSquare messages will be sent with more information about both programs. Keep on the look out.
- Both programs are only for current 8th grade students.

Each month, school counselors present to students a different career to increase awareness of career options.

- The Career of the month for 8th graders is Hairstylist/Barber.



### **The Benefits of College and Career Readiness for Middle School Students**

“Introducing college and career readiness in middle school helps to inform students about a wide range of career options. Through career exploration activities and resources, students can explore job roles in various industries and professions. By learning more about a variety of careers, we can help students discover their interests and passions, allowing them to make informed decisions about their educational and career paths.”

By: Dr. Rachelle Dené Poth, Educator, Consultant & Keynote Speaker, Author, Attorney at THRIVEinEDU

At the Middle School,  
students begin their career exploration and planning.

# High School: College and Career Exploration, Planning and Development

**The PHS Aviation club (PAC) is still recruiting students to participate in their afterschool programming in Room 127 from 3:30-5:00 on Wednesdays starts February 5th. Snacks provided.**

**\*contact:**

**[mcarmichael@poughkeepsieschools.org](mailto:mcarmichael@poughkeepsieschools.org)**  
**for more information**



## **Smart Scholars Early College HS-Performing Arts Academy, News and Updates:**

### **After School Programming:**

The Smart Scholars Early College HS after school programming has started. The program focuses on helping students develop college level reading and writing skills to ensure they are successful when taking their first college courses, starting this Summer and in the Fall. This afterschool program also integrates acting skills as well as students developing podcasting skills and receiving extra career counseling.

Mrs. Hylton, ELA Teacher and Ms. Semexant, College Readiness and Workforce Education School Counselor support this programming.



### **Summer Bridge Programming:**

The Smart Scholars Summer Bridge Programming will begin Summer 2025!!

We are very excited about all the opportunities this programming will bring, from students going every day to the Dutchess Community College campus (DCC) to engage in course work and learn all about navigating college, to them receiving their first college credit along with other activities.

Students will also be able to experience dorm life by staying in the DCC dorms for two overnights. The final dates are being confirmed and parents will be receiving information early next month so they can plan their Summer Vacations around this very important opportunity.

Parents- continue communicating with teachers and Mrs. Tucker, the school counselor about your child's progress, as students who need to attend Summer summer school to make up work will not be able to attend the Summer Bridge program at DCC.

At the High school, students advance their college and career planning  
to include real life work opportunities  
and learn that the same skills needed to be a success in school apply to the workforce.