



Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District
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Port Chester Public Schools

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Dr. Kliszus Shares District Successes during Superintendent Conference Day

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edward A. Kliszus addressed the 2017-2018 teachers and staff with a recounting of the district's successes last year and an enthusiastic send-off to the start of the new school year. The meeting was held today, the opening day for teachers.

In his remarks, Dr. Kliszus emphasized the culture of building on district successes and focusing on continually improving high school graduation rates, increasing the number of students attending 4-year colleges.

"Above all," he said, "we must prepare students to have maximum choices that enable them to decide their futures when approaching high school graduation. At the same time we hold the highest expectations for the children in our care."

Since 2012, the district has added many programs, including: Advanced Placement (AP) English Language, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Statistics, AP Physics B, AP US Government and Politics, Authentic Science Research, Strength and Physical Conditioning, Yoga, History of Engineering, Exploring Computer Science, Creative Web Development & Programming, Ninth Grade Physics, International Baccalaureate (IB) History of the Americas, IB English, IB Mathematics, IB Biology, IB Chemistry, IB Spanish, IB French, IB Italian, IB Film, IB Music, IB Visual Arts, and in partnership with Westchester Community College - Math for College and English 12, and English 12-Early College Experience.

The high school has seen the following successes as of the June 2017 high school graduation:

- 95% daily attendance at PCHS
- 96% of our graduates earned NYS Regents diplomas
- 93% of our graduates are heading to college.
- 90% passing rate for English Regents Exams
- 92% passing rate Algebra II Regents Exams – a record high
- 95% passing rate Chemistry Regents Exams – a record high
- Our four year graduation rate is grown from 69% in 2007 to today's 89%
- Algebra 1 tests: tied last year's record high
- 40% increase in passing rate for Geometry resulting in a year-to-year record high
- 100% passing rate on all Italian, French, and Spanish Foreign Language Association of Chairpersons (FLAC) exams
- The percentage of AP students scoring a 3 or higher—we've beaten the New York and global averages for the past 10 straight years along with a corresponding 64% increase in students participating
- Nearly half of PCHS students are enrolled in at least one International Baccalaureate (IB) class in eleventh or twelfth grade

- The rate at which students obtain NYS Regents diplomas has tripled in the past twenty years.
- The percent and number of students enrolled in HONORS, AP, IB, and college level courses has doubled in the last decade.
- The number of non-attendance disciplinary infractions per student has fallen by half in the past twelve years.
- Fifteen years ago, barely half of students passed every class at the end of the year; we've improved that to three-quarters.
- Over a third of PCHS students participate in about 35 clubs and 9 honor societies

Dr. Kliszus reminded the staff that Port Chester boasts a Community schools model with extended school day programs and medical and dental services and that elementary enrichment and science programs have been expanded.

Touching on capital issues and investments, Dr. Kliszus acknowledged the advocacy efforts of our community and proactive legislators like Assemblyman Steve Otis and Senator George Latimer. For 2017-18 we received the largest increase in State Aid in New York State.

He also alerted the employees that the district expects to break ground in July 2018 on an \$80M bond designed to improve instructional facilities.

In closing, Dr. Kliszus said, "Experience has taught us that we can provide students with options that give them choices so that they can decide their futures. It is they who will decide whether to run a business, join the military, go to college, or become a master carpenter or licensed electrician. To accomplish this, we strive to provide them with every available high quality educational course option along with a variety of quality academic, extracurricular, athletic and artistic experiences, grades Pre-K through 12."

"Diverse educational experiences will help ensure excellent Scholastic Aptitude (SAT), American College Testing (ACT), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Regents test scores plus the intellectual and developmental acuity that accompanies such activities," he continued. "Everything we do in our classrooms from Pre-Kindergarten through high school graduation, including every club, sport, field trip, extracurricular activity, course and disciplinary study, furthers our goal of improving the life prospects and choices of our students. Every time we add an elementary science, math or ELA initiative, enrichment or pre-kindergarten program, we are adding to the continuum of options that advance our students toward their choices and successes."