

NEWS from Port Jervis

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Schools meeting state/federal standards

Port Jervis schools met 45 of 47 student performance goals on last year's state assessment tests.

In a report released in January by the New York State Education Department, Anna S. Kuhl and Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary Schools were both identified as "Schools in Good Standing." Both schools qualified by meeting or surpassing all of their state-set performance index (PI) goals.

Under No Child Left Behind, districts and individual schools are accountable for student participation and performance on the annual state English-Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics tests in grades 3- 8 and high school.

Schools are also evaluated on the annual progress of nine subgroups to include major ethnic groups, students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students.

Moving all students forward

At Port Jervis Middle School, eight of the school's nine subgroups met or exceeded testing targets for ELA and math. Only one subgroup - students with disabilities - did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for ELA. Since this was the second year the subgroup did not make AYP, the school was designated as a School in Need of Improvement.

"Our goal is to move all of our students - regardless of their learning ability - as far as we can this year," says Assistant Superintendent for Instruction John Bell.

To accomplish this goal, the district is focusing on basic skills. Non-fiction writing workshops and web-based reading assessment programs are helping special education and other teachers district wide to meet their students' individual learning needs.

continued on page 2

Web-based programs help sharpen basic skills



Instant access to learning

The recent introduction of four new web-based educational programs is making it easier for Port Jervis students to learn at their own pace.

At each grade level, students now have the ability to access basic skills review sites anytime, anywhere they have an Internet connection.

continued on page 4

inside

- 2** Improving student scores and attendance
- 3** District makes 45 of 47 New York State goals
- 4** Students can now access test prep sites anywhere, anytime

Visit Port Jervis schools on the Web:
www.pjschools.org

Calendar of EVENTS

March

- 1-2 HS Progress Reports Mailed Home
- 5-9 NYS Math Tests: Grades 3-5
- 6 School Board meeting PJHS cafeteria, 7 p.m.
- MS & Elementary Progress Reports Mailed Home
- 12-16 NYS Math Tests: Grades 6-8
- 14 ASK PTA meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20 School Board meeting PJHS cafeteria, 7 p.m.
- PJHS PTSA meeting Cafeteria, 7 p.m.
- 23-24 HS Spring Musical, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, 8 p.m.
- 25 HS Spring Musical, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, 2 p.m.
- 26 In-Service Day No School for students
- 28 HBE PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**In short...
Congratulations
D.A.R.E. Essay
Contest Winners**

Kendra Addy

Amber Husson

Riley Kean

Bailey Rhodes

Joshua Scheibner

Austin Trainor

Matthew Amick

Kaylyn Madden

Katelynn Mercillott

Justice Bethea

Shayna French

Jared Gessner

Kiersten Huffman

Frank Liranzo

Keri Thomson

Angel Bush

Alyssa Wagor

Starr Williams

Alessandra
Costantino

Stephanie O'Donnell

Mackenzie Trainor

Nicholas Chuckran

Rosa Machado

Sheldon Van Wie

Aimee Guillen

Jillian Rhoades

Reixnet Sheppard

Meeting academic needs - *one student at a time*

“All state tests involve a great deal of reading,” notes Bell. “If we can improve our students’ reading ability and teach them to be better writers, they will have the basic skills necessary to succeed not only on the ELA tests, but in all subjects.”

High School attendance rates improving

Port Jervis High School met all of its performance goals. In spite of good test scores, the school remains on the Corrective Action list for a low participation rate (less than 95 percent) on the Math A Regents exam.

The district is working diligently to get the high school off the list. “Everyone at the high school - from the administrators and guidance counselors to the classroom teachers and our two part-time attendance officers - are involved in our efforts to improve attendance,” says Bell.

These efforts extend well beyond routine attendance tracking. Funding from a \$75,000 School Improvement Grant is enabling the high school to help students - particularly at-risk students - succeed in school by offering them more supplemental education services.

The high school is also better equipped to get students who skip school back to class. When needed, attendance officers hired with the grant money are now going out into the community and making home visits to see

what can be done to get these student to attend school.

The efforts are paying off. In 2006, 100 percent of the high school students took the exam. “If we can do the same in 2007, Port Jervis High School will become a school in good standing,” notes Bell.



High School teachers Nancy Caparuso and Irene Valentin learn how to create web-based skill assessment activities for their classes from trainer Kara Husband. School Island is one of several new programs that allows Port Jervis students to prepare for state tests - at their own level - via the world wide web.

District Accountability Status

Schools make adequate yearly progress

How can Port Jervis be labeled as a District in Need of Improvement when our students met or exceeded the state and federal performance standards?

Under No Child Left Behind, districts that fail to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years at every applicable grade level in a subject are designated as a District In Need of Improvement (DINI).

Port Jervis School District was placed on the DINI list two years ago for English/Language Arts (ELA). As a result of changes in curriculum, lesson planning, teaching materials and tools, the district met AYP on the high school level in 2006.

To get off the list, the district must make adequate yearly progress in at least one grade level in ELA for two consecutive years. If the district makes AYP again in 2007, it will become a District in Good Standing.

The charts on Page 4 show the strides Port Jervis students made on the 2006 state ELA, mathematics and science tests.

Adequate Yearly Progress for 2005-2006

Mathematics

School/Accountability Group	NYS Standard	PJ Score	Made AYP	Met Participation Rate (95 %)
HBE - All students	80	157	Yes	Yes
HBE - Students with Disabilities	20	53	Yes	Yes
ASK - All Students	81	129	Yes	Yes
ASK - Students with Disabilities	20	53	Yes	Yes
MS - All students	81	132	Yes	Yes
MS - Students with Disabilities	51	34	No	Yes
HS - All students	138	181	Yes	Yes
HS - Students with Disabilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

English/Language Arts

School/Accountability Group	NYS Standard	PJ Score	Made AYP	Met Participation Rate (95 %)
HBE - All students	116	153	Yes	Yes
HBE - Students with Disabilities	20	65	Yes	Yes
ASK - All Students	117	139	Yes	Yes
ASK - Students with Disabilities	20	60	Yes	Yes
MS - All students	117	133	Yes	Yes
MS - Students with Disabilities	86	51	No	Yes
HS - All students	146	178	Yes	Yes
HS - Students with Disabilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Science

School/Accountability Group	NYS Standard	PJ Score	Made AYP	Met Participation Rate (80 %)
HBE - All students	100	190	Yes	Yes
ASK - All students	100	177	Yes	Yes
MS - All students	100	164	Yes	Yes

District meets 45 of 47 state goals

School	EA	Math	Science	Graduation Rate	Total
HBE	4 of 4	4 of 4	2 of 2	N/A	10 of 10
ASK	6 of 6	6 of 6	3 of 3	N/A	15 of 15
MS	4 of 5	5 of 6	3 of 3	N/A	12 of 14
HS	3 of 3	3 of 3	N/A	2 of 2	8 of 8
DISTRICT TOTAL					45 of 47

In short...

All-County Band & Chorus

Congratulations to the following students for being selected to participate in the 2007 Orange County High School Music Festival.

All-County Chorus

Alysha Perez

Kayla Bickell

Chris Latini

Karuss Williams

All-County Band

Tom Gessner

Melissa Louis-Jacques

Michael Barbarino



Students can now access test prep sites anywhere, anytime

Part of the district's ongoing initiative to enhance educational technology, the new standards-based computer programs are designed to help students improve their basic skills and allow teachers to assess their progress in order to assign lessons tailored to meet their individual needs. Since the learning programs are all web-based, students can access them from their classroom, library or home computer. Internet links to each of the programs are located on Port Jervis School District web site - on all of the school web pages. User passwords are provided by classroom teachers.

In short...

Patriotic Pen winners

First Place

James Flynn,
7th Grade
James also won
1st Place, County Level
& 3rd Place, District

Ashley Lemin,
8th Grade

Second Place

Kristen Smith,
7th Grade

Ashley Dombal,
8th Grade

Third Place

Shaun O'Brien,
7th Grade

Melissa Bright,
8th Grade

Voice of Democracy winners

First Place

Amanda Balch,
10th Grade

Second Place

Brian Balch,
11th Grade

Study Island - Grades 2-8

- Covers all of the New York State Learning Standards for math, reading, writing, science and social studies. Academic material is organized in topics which contain a lesson and assessment questions with explanations.
- Elementary and Middle School teachers are using the program to increase student scores on state assessment tests.
- The direct link is <http://www.studyisland.com/>

School Island - Grades 7-12

- The educational site provides students with content review and skill assessment activities for math, science, social studies, and English. Instant feedback and progress reports pinpoint a student's strengths and weaknesses.

- Teachers can monitor their students' use and assign sessions tailored to meet their individual needs.
- The direct link is <http://schoolisland.com/>

STAR Reading - Grades 2-8

- A computer-based diagnostic reading test that assesses student reading and provides teachers with the data needed to guide students to higher reading levels.
- At the end of each marking period, parents receive a printed report about the student's general reading skills, based on his/her performance on the STAR Reading test. The report also provides tips to help optimize the student's reading ability.
- Direct link is <https://hosted32.renlearn.com/21867/>

Accelerated Reader - Grades 2-8

- Students select their own books and read at their own pace. After reading a book from the school or classroom library, the student takes a computerized, multiple-choice comprehension test. Tests have 5 to 20 items, depending on the length and difficulty of the book. The computer scores the test, awards the student points based on the results, and keeps a complete record.
- Enables teachers to monitor both the quantity and quality of books their students are reading. The system - which is used by more than 45,000 school - also motivates students to read more often and at a higher level.
- Direct link is <https://hosted32.renlearn.com/21867/>

Board of Education

Steven Banks,
President

Brendan Hess,
Vice President

Michael Bello
Robert Habig
Anne Horsham
Kenneth Jones
Richard Roberts
Cathy Sadaghiani
Florence Santini

Superintendent

John P. Xanthis

Editor

Deborah Jackson

Port Jervis SCHOOL DISTRICT
9 Thompson Street
Port Jervis, New York 12771

RESIDENT

PORT JERVIS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Port Jervis, NY
Permit No. 20
12771