



# CCSD NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear CCSD Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to you all and share some wonderful news about our monthly districtwide newsletter. Over the past month, we've received a flood of positive feedback, and it's truly heartwarming to witness our community coming together to celebrate the amazing stories within our schools.

Our vision for the CCSD Newsletter is to make it a platform that captures the remarkable events and achievements taking place in all our school buildings. From the outstanding accomplishments of our students to the remarkable dedication of our staff, we aim to fill its pages with inspiration and pride. The month of October was a testament to the incredible potential of this initiative.

One of the highlights that particularly touched my heart was the remarkable display of unity in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. Every Friday, we turned CCSD pink, raising awareness and showing our unwavering solidarity.

Your participation in this initiative was not only appreciated but also demonstrated the strength of our community when we come together for a great cause.



In addition, October marked the launch of our very first Attendance competition. The spirit of healthy competition ran high, and I am thrilled to announce that Cooper's Poynt emerged as the proud winner, taking home the "Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow" trophy. This achievement is not just about a trophy; it's a testament to the commitment and dedication of our students, staff, and families to emphasize the importance of regular attendance. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for playing a pivotal role in crafting this narrative of success.

We understand that our students benefit the most when they attend school every day, and your support in reinforcing this message is invaluable. As we move forward, let us continue to champion this cause, ensuring that our students have every opportunity to thrive and succeed.

I invite you all to explore the October edition of the CCSD Newsletter, where you will find a glimpse of the incredible stories and achievements that make our educational community truly special.

Students First,

**Katrina T. McCombs, M.A.Ed., MPA**  
State District Superintendent  
Camden City School District

### Quick Links

Follow us on social media!



[www.camdencityschools.org](http://www.camdencityschools.org)

### Advisory Board Members

- Wasim Muhammad, Advisory Board President
- N'Namdee Nelson, Advisory Vice Board President
- Jeanette Alvarez, Advisory Board Member
- Nyemah Gillespie, Advisory Board Member
- Clayton Gonzalez, Advisory Board Member
- Cameron Hudson, Advisory Board Member
- Danielle Jackson, Advisory Board Member
- Falio Leyba-Martinez, Advisory Board Member
- Karen Merricks, Advisory Board Member



# ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW!

## Camden City School District promotes attendance!

We are excited to share the success of our September Attendance Survey Competition! This challenge was not just a competition; it was a testament to our collective commitment to support our students and their families. We extend our sincere thanks and heartfelt congratulations to all our schools for their outstanding participation.

In the spirit of community and shared goals, we commend each of our schools for going above and beyond to ensure the active participation of our families in the attendance survey. This survey is a crucial tool that helps us understand the challenges our families face, allowing us to better support their needs.

Your dedication in this endeavor has not gone unnoticed. It is through your collective efforts that we can gather essential data and insights that will shape our strategies to enhance the educational experience of our students. We appreciate your exceptional commitment to ensuring the voices of our families are heard.

It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of myself and the esteemed members of our advisory board, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to Cooper's Poynt, the winners of the September Attendance Challenge.

The possibilities that lie ahead are exciting, and we eagerly anticipate the next challenge on our journey to provide the best possible education for our students.



# STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

CCSD Goes Pink in October!



In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, our district has united in a powerful display of support by wearing pink every Friday throughout October. In last month's newsletter, we called upon our incredible community to share their stories and words of encouragement, and the response was inspiring. Here are some heartfelt submissions from our very own CCSD staff members, demonstrating the strength and solidarity that define us as a district. Together, we stand as a beacon of hope, raising awareness and standing with those affected by breast cancer.

It has taken me a few days to compile my thoughts as a breast cancer survivor. I was first diagnosed with stage 1 DCIS breast cancer when I was 33 years old. Yes, this is quite young. No, it was not a routine mammogram. My mother was diagnosed at 54 and had a bilateral mastectomy. I asked my doctor, and she told me I could wait until I was 35. There was some concern about fibroids on the left side, but no need for a mammogram. I insisted. Finally, she agreed. At first, she agreed to the left side, and then to a mammogram of both sides. I had the mammogram, and the cancer was found on the right side. This began my cancer journey. Due to my young age and the small size of the tumor, I did not need chemo. I did need radiation and a lumpectomy.

The support of my family and co-workers pulled me through tough days! Three years later, we were blessed with the birth of my second child. I was doing great! At a routine mammogram in June 2020, it was back. In the same breast. In the same place! How? Why? I was 47 years old. This time, the treatment was a bilateral mastectomy. Once again, the support of my family and co-workers got me through the tough days.

My advice to women is to advocate for yourself! Surround yourself with others who will pray for you and make you laugh. Ask for help! Most importantly, give yourself grace.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story!

Jennifer A. Seitz M. Ed  
First-Third Grade Teacher LDMA  
Small Group Coach  
Yorkship Family School



# STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

CCSD Goes Pink in October!



The article link below highlights the story of Lavinia Taylor, a woman who initially postponed routine mammograms due to a busy life as a mom and breast cancer advocate. However, her best friend's breast cancer diagnosis in 2019 motivated her to get screened. The article discusses the importance of accountability and support in encouraging women to undergo breast cancer screenings, a practice exemplified by ChesPenn, a network of family health centers in the Philadelphia region. ChesPenn educates women about the significance of cancer screenings and offers free mammograms year-round, regardless of insurance or immigration status, thanks to a grant from the NFL's "The Crucial Catch" program.

Organizations like ChesPenn play a crucial role in spreading awareness about screenings and early breast cancer detection, which has contributed to a significant decline in breast cancer mortality rates, as reported by the American Cancer Society. ChesPenn's use of accountability partners and patient engagement specialists has substantially increased mammogram screening rates.

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The article also emphasizes that ChesPenn ensures continuity of care for diagnosed patients, collaborating with local health systems and receiving funding from programs like the Breast Cancer Early Detection Program. This dependable care not only aids in patients' healing but also strengthens their trust in the healthcare system.

Lavinia Taylor's personal experience and successful treatment, guided by ChesPenn's support, underscore the positive impact of their approach. The organization continues to work toward providing free mammograms to uninsured women in the Philadelphia area, serving as a safety net for those in need. Taylor, now cancer-free since 2020, is back to advocating for breast cancer awareness, emphasizing the importance of dependability and accountability in the healthcare community.

[CLICK HERE](#)

# WELLBEING AND BEYOND

## FREE SPORTS AND SCHOOL ENTRY PHYSICALS

Rutgers' Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students are fulfilling their clinical hours in our schools and offering complimentary school entry physicals for students in grades Pre-K through 5, as well as sports physicals for students in grades 6 through 12.

To schedule an appointment, please contact Jaleesa Reyes at 856-874-6253 or send an email to [jreyes@camden.k12.nj.us](mailto:jreyes@camden.k12.nj.us).

**SAVE THE DATE**

**11/14 at Vet's**

9 AM-2 PM

**11/28 at Cooper's Poynt**

9 AM-2 PM

**12/5 at Camden High**

9 AM – 2 PM

**12/12 at Eastside High**

9 AM-2 PM



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH RECAP

**TODOS SOMOS, SOMOS UNO  
WE ARE ALL, WE ARE ONE**

Hispanic Heritage Month, which takes place from September 15th to October 15th, is a time when we come together to celebrate and honor the rich cultural tapestry of our Hispanic and Latinx community members. This month offers us a unique opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contributions, history, and traditions of those who have made our district such a vibrant and diverse place to live, work, and learn.

Let's carry the spirit of Hispanic Heritage Month throughout the year by appreciating and embracing the diverse experiences of all our community members. Together, we can build a more inclusive, united, and vibrant district that reflects the beauty of our shared multicultural identity.

Thank you for being a part of our incredible community and celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with us.







# CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

## Camden City School District explores the Allied Health Career

Get ready to be inspired by the dedicated students of Eastside High Campus and Camden High Campus as they gear up for their EMT Program journey!

### **FUN FACT**

*Did you know that CCSD has proudly taken the lead in Camden by partnering with Virtua Health, becoming the first school to offer its students the opportunity to earn a certified EMT certificate upon successful program completion?*

Join us in celebrating the exciting journey of our students as they embark on their first day of the Patient Care Tech program at Rowan College South Jersey. This remarkable cohort will soon begin their clinical training at Cooper University Hospital, where they will gain invaluable hands-on experience. By the end of this comprehensive program, our students will have the opportunity to earn prestigious certifications in Patient Care, Phlebotomy, and ECG, setting them on a path towards successful careers in healthcare.



# EDUCATION ON THE WATER

## Students Take Inaugural Floating Classroom Cruise on Delaware River

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you! The Camden City School District has embarked on an incredible new partnership with Upstream Alliance to provide our students with a unique and unforgettable experience on the water.

### ***What is Upstream Alliance?***

*Upstream Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering a deep connection between young individuals and our natural world. They offer educational programs that focus on water-based activities and environmental stewardship, providing students with hands-on learning experiences that inspire a love for our planet and a desire to protect it.*

Through this partnership, our students will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of water-related activities, including kayaking, canoeing, river clean-up initiatives, and much more. These activities are not only fun but also incredibly educational, teaching our students about the importance of water conservation, ecosystem health, and the value of preserving our environment.

We are very excited about this partnership and look forward to seeing our students thrive in this water-based learning environment.

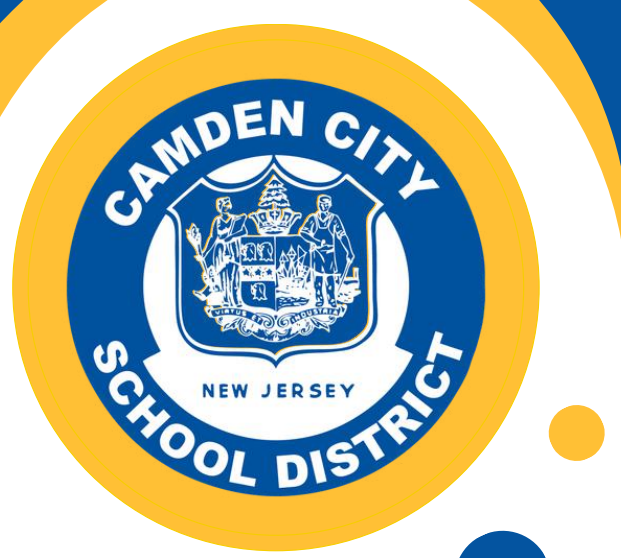






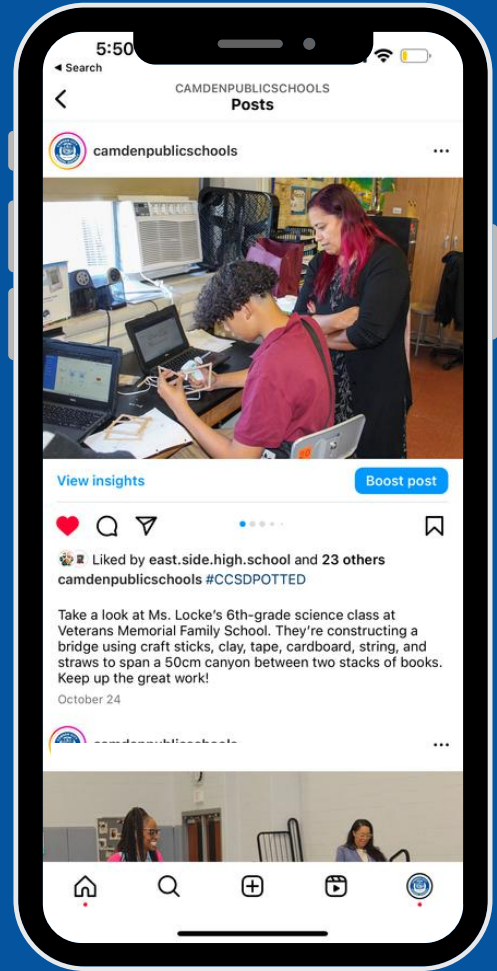
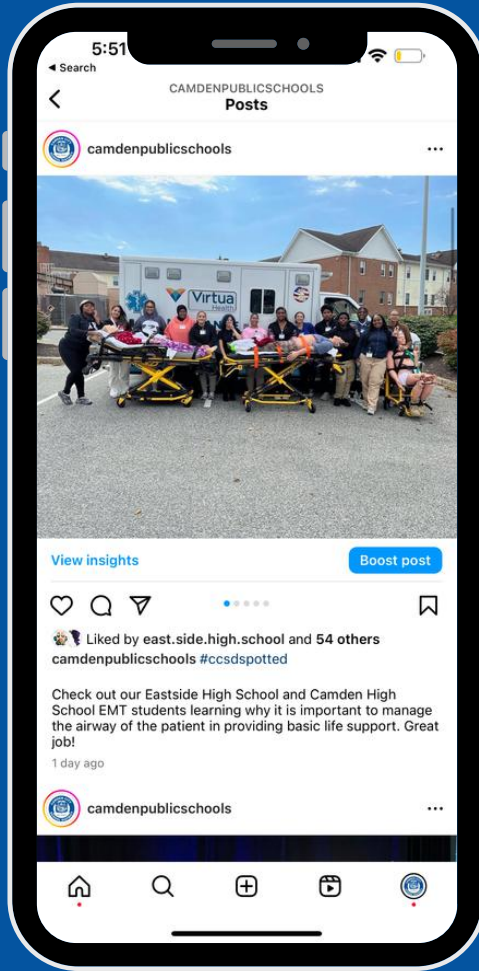
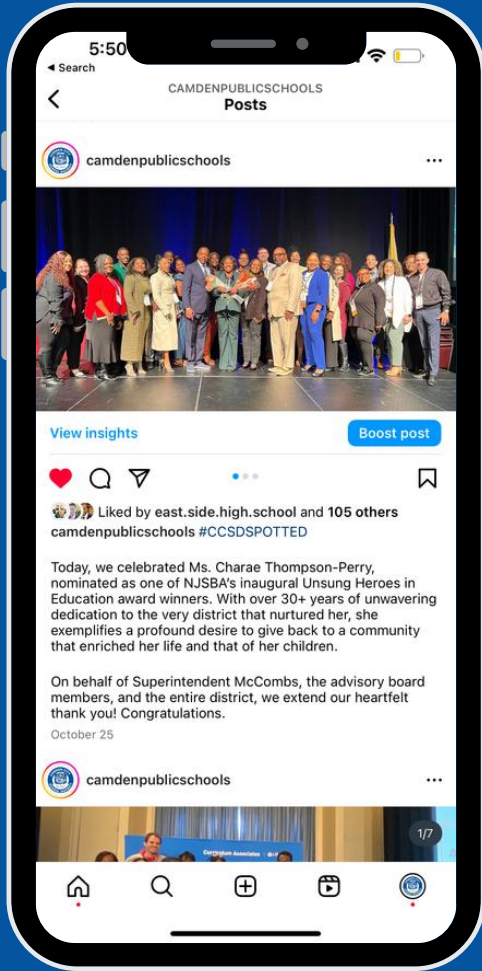
# WITCHING YOU A HAPPY HALLOWEEN





# SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Make sure to follow us on Instagram





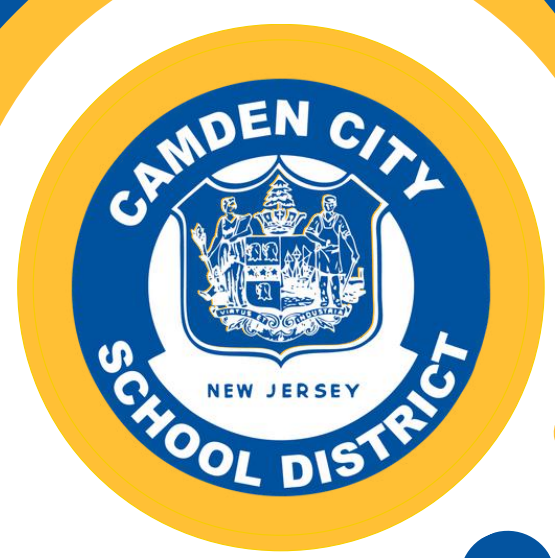
# NEWS RECOGNITION

## Featured Stories About Us:

- [Tap into Camden](#) - Camden City School District Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month
- [Yahoo News](#) - American Water Charitable Foundation and New Jersey American Water Partner with Upstream Alliance to Help Improve Access to Environmental Education in Camden, N.J.
- [Courier Post](#) - Camden children and families require an equitable future. There's more work to do.
- [CBS News](#) - Hispanic Heritage Month: Long-time school security officer hopes to inspire next generation of Latino leaders
- [FOX29](#) - Yorkship Family School hosts Phillies Pep Rally
- [FOX29](#) - Attendance Matters featuring Dudley Family School

# NEWS





# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BUILDING?

## We'd love to hear from you

As you know, we are always striving to showcase and celebrate the wonderful things happening within our building. Hence, we invite you to be a part of our monthly newsletter, where we can highlight and share the great achievements, initiatives, and events taking place.

Our newsletter serves as a platform to not only recognize individual accomplishments but to foster a sense of community and collaboration amongst all staff members. It's a fantastic opportunity for everyone to learn from each other and be inspired by the diverse talents and brilliant work that happens within our school.

We strongly encourage you to nominate yourself or your colleagues for inclusion in the newsletter. Whether it's a student project, an innovative teaching method, a community outreach program, or even a personal milestone – we want to hear about it! By sharing these stories, we can learn from one another, inspire creativity, and perhaps even spark new collaborations and ideas.

To ensure your submission is considered for our newsletter, kindly fill out this [FORM](#) no later than the 20th day of each month. If you have any questions or need assistance compiling your submission, please don't hesitate to reach out to Sheena Yera at [syera@camden.k12.nj.us](mailto:syera@camden.k12.nj.us).

Remember, our aim is not only to highlight the great things happening within our building but also to uplift and motivate each other. The newsletter is a testament to the shared dedication and commitment we have towards our students and our profession as educators. Together, let's celebrate our achievements and inspire future successes.

Thank you for your continued support and contributions to our school. We look forward to receiving your submissions and showcasing the incredible work that happens within our community.

# THANK YOU



For more information on our  
schools and programs  
please visit [camdencityschools.org](https://camdencityschools.org)