

D-27 DIGEST

ISSUE 01



Your Monthly Updates on Teaching, Learning, and Leadership in D27



NOVEMBER 2025



UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & DISTRICT EVENTS

- * **Principal's Conference**
November 25th, 2025
- * **Family Math Night**
November 18, 2025
Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: MS 318 Waterside
- * **Civics for All Learning Walk**
December 4th, 2025
RSVP [here](#) view full Civics and Social Studies PD Opportunities [here](#)
- * **Writing PL**
District K writing session with Generation Ready 11/14
District 1-2 writing session with Generation Ready 11/18, 12/18
District 3-5 writing session with Generation Ready 11/19, 12/19

Next CEC Meeting

- * November 17th, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: KAPPA VI

Follow Us on Social Media!



@DISTRICT27NYC @DISTRICT 27 NYC @DISTRICT 27 NYC



Message from the Acting Superintendent Melissa Compson

Greetings,

As the colors of fall fill our neighborhoods, Community School District 27 is proud to welcome students, families, and staff to the 2025–2026 school year! Across our 50 schools serving nearly 30,000 students, we are building momentum toward our shared goals of culture, consistency, and coherence. This new school year brings fresh opportunities for growth, and a renewed commitment to ensuring that every student is present and engaged, every day. Research shows that strong attendance is one of the most powerful predictors of student success, students who attend regularly are more likely to meet grade-level expectations, stay on track, and thrive academically and socially.

Through our continued focus on NYC Reads, explicit instruction, and progress monitoring, we are making every minute of learning count. Together, with families, educators, and community partners—we are ensuring that every child feels seen, supported, and inspired to learn. Let's make this a year of connection, curiosity, and success. Every Student, Every Day!

In Our Schools

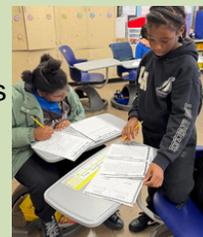
Celebrating Teaching and Learning Across Our Schools

Literacy Lights the Way

PS 66- 4th Grade has been reading *La Mariposa* by Francisco Jiménez- a powerful story about finding your voice, adapting to a new place, and growing through challenges. To bring the story to life they raised and released real butterflies! They connected with the journey of the main character and are now bringing their experience into their personal narrative writing!



PS 62- 71% of students in Grades K-2 are reading on grade level. This reflects a 10% improvement from the previous assessment period and is 17% higher than the district average



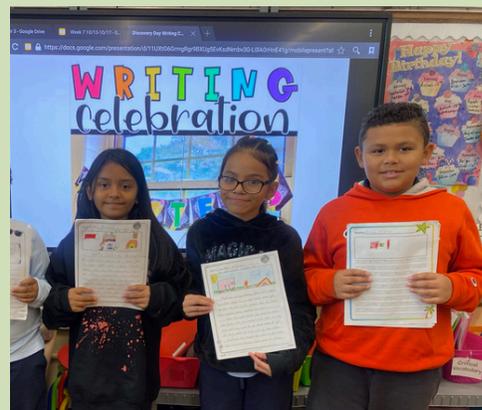
Teachers at **MS 137** are opening their doors to one another, engaging in intervisitation during teacher team meetings to observe WIN periods in action. These visits provided an authentic opportunity to see how colleagues are delivering explicit, standards-aligned instruction while embedding scaffolds that ensure access for all learners



HMH WRITERS

A Celebratory Start: District 27 Writers Take Center Stage!

"What an incredible launch to our writing curriculum this school year! We want to give a massive shout-out to all of our dedicated teachers, students, and school leaders for the energy and commitment they've poured into establishing our new writing practices..."



CLICK IN [THIS DRIVE](#) TO FIND VIBRANT WRITING WORK SAMPLES

-ELA TEAM





In Our Schools

Celebrating Teaching and Learning Across Our Schools

Growing Greatness in Math

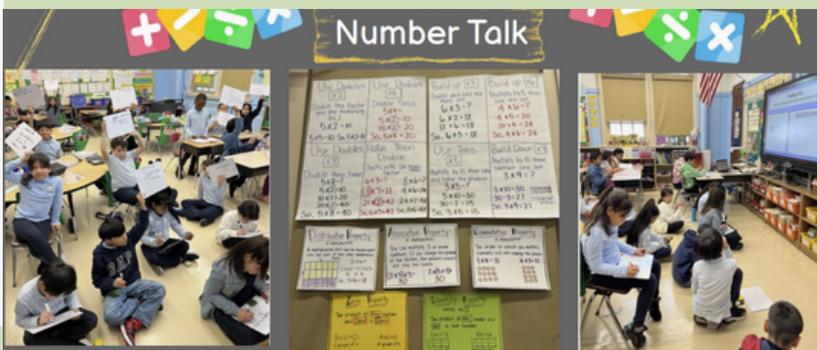
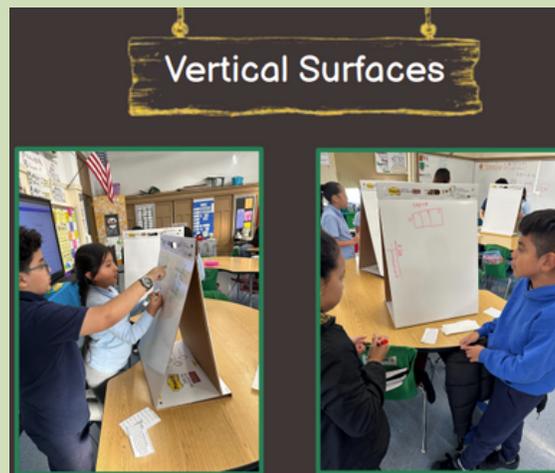
Math Ambassadors: Inspiring Change Across Classrooms

The District 27 Math Team has been visiting classrooms across the district and is excited to see powerful math learning in action—from number talks and fluency centers to student discourse and collaborative problem-solving. The NYC Math Shifts are truly coming alive, as we witness students reasoning, discussing, and engaging deeply with mathematics. Now in our third year of the Math Ambassador initiative, we're proud of the progress taking shape in every school.

A heartfelt thank you to our principals and math ambassadors for welcoming us and driving the movement in math across District 27!

Q097: Math in Motion

At PS 097, Math Ambassadors Ms. Hannah Lee and Ms. Jessica Ellis are leading the way in transforming math learning through engaging, student-centered practices. In Grade 3, Ms. Lee facilitates Number Talks and Fluency Centers, where students share strategies, strengthen foundational skills, and build confidence through collaboration. In Grade 5, Ms. Ellis promotes Randomized Grouping and Vertical Surfaces, creating dynamic spaces where students think together, reason aloud, and learn from one another. Across classrooms, math learning at PS 097 is active, visible, and full of energy!



Explore more of Ms. Lee and Ms. Ellis's math practices by viewing their presentation [here](#).

In Our Schools

Celebrating Teaching and Learning Across Our Schools

Momentum in Math

Q137 Math Spotlight: Building Thinking Classrooms in Action!

In Ms. Abbie Meyers' 6th Grade Math class, students are thriving through the Building Thinking Classrooms approach. In a recent lesson on finding the volume of rectangular prisms with fractional edge lengths, students collaborated in random groups at whiteboards to solve a real-world problem—calculating the soil needed to fill a garden bed.



From ThinkBoards to Sidewalks: Math in Motion at PS/MS 207

At PS/MS 207, math doesn't stay on paper—it lives on walls, whiteboards, and even sidewalks! Students turn every surface into a space for reasoning, problem-solving, and collaboration. From vertical workspaces in the classroom to outdoor chalk explorations, thinking happens everywhere.



D27 Math Family Night

Join us for an evening of math fun, games, and family learning! District 27's Family Math Night is a hands-on, engaging event designed for students from Pre-K through 8th grade. Enjoy interactive activities, games, raffles, and refreshments — there's something for everyone to enjoy! [RSVP HERE](#)

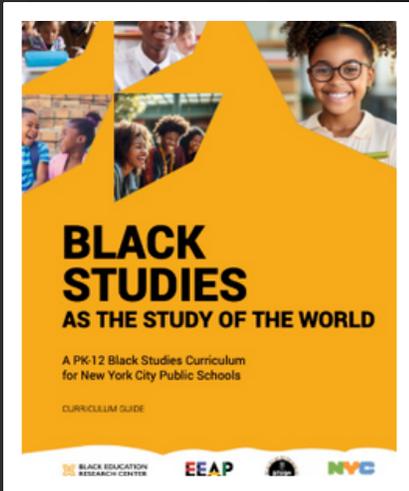
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | **Time:** 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM | **Location:** MS 318 Waterside School of Leadership, 1-90 Beach 110th Street, Rockaway Park, NY 11694 | **Host Principal:** Najah Gall



In Our Schools

Celebrating Teaching and Learning Across Our Schools

Black Studies as the Study of the World Curriculum Launch

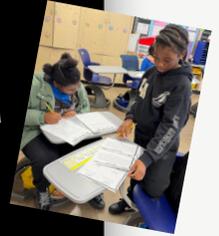


"The Black Studies curriculum launch is going well. Grade 8 students will engage in lessons during ELA classes with Ms. Leistman and Mr. Marciano, Librarian, to promote culturally sustaining education."

-MS 210Q

"African studies is our passport to the future as we rise from the defeats of the past"

-Karen Francis PS 223Q



Spotlighting Civics For All Building a Stronger Tomorrow

At MS 210Q, students are active participants in the Civics for All curriculum, which empowers them to understand their roles as informed and engaged members of their communities. Through interactive lessons, students explore government, civic responsibility, and social issues that impact their daily lives. A highlight of this work is Participatory Budgeting



MS 210 Students



PS/MS 183 Students

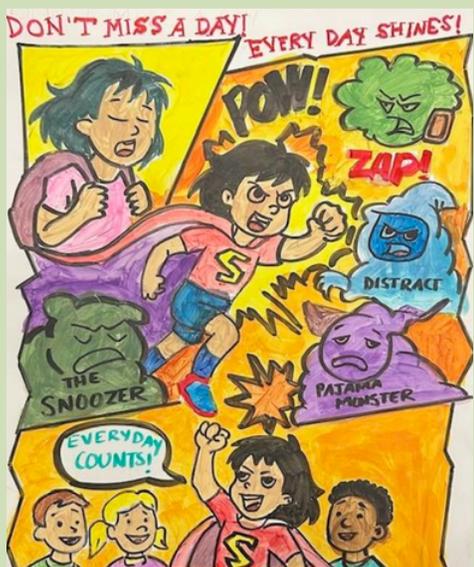


Fit Focus: Shining a Light on Physical Education

The Yoga and Mindfulness class at **PS 66** helps students build focus, balance, and self-awareness through gentle movement, breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques. It encourages calmness, confidence, and emotional well-being in a supportive and fun environment.



ATTENDANCE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN WINNERS 2025



“Every Day Counts- Show Up, Shine Bright!”



WATCH VIDEO



3-5: LIYANNA MAHMOOD
27Q063 GRADE 4



6-8: KAYLEE DRIFFIELD
27Q137 GRADE 6

K-2: RACHEL & JONATHAN MURAD
27Q051 GRADE K





Celebration and Awareness

Highlighting Discovery Day



SCAN TO VIEW
DISCOVERY DAY
SLIDESHOW

Discovery Day reminds us that every great idea starts with curiosity. Let's learn, explore, and grow together!



Celebrating Diwali



Diwali is more than a festival — it's a celebration of love, light, and the joy of giving. Let's share that brightness everywhere we go!

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



"Together, we honor the fighters, support the survivors, and remember those we've lost. Every step brings us closer to a cure."

UNITY FOR ALL



Celebrating unity, diversity, and strength for all!

From Our District Leaders

Explore Professional Learning Opportunities and Information Shared

District 27

Special Education Team

Join Us!

District 27 Provision of Services (POS)

Receiving Status	Count	%
Fully Receiving	4903	91.68%
Partially Receiving	409	7.65%
Not Receiving	36	0.67%
Total	5348	100.00%

POS Reminder

Special Education Liaisons meet weekly with the **STARS** programmer to review the **Weekly Provision of Services** report in SESIS.

REMINDER

All Special Class Rosters should only have 12 students (email ASE's for support)

Kindergarten Special Education Workshop

Audience: Kindergarten Special Education Teachers & Paraprofessionals

Date: November 10, 2025

Time: 2:30PM- 3:30PM

Location: Virtual - Microsoft Teams

[Join the Meeting Here](#)

Special Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals will strengthen their ability to:

- Establish toileting routines that will lead the students towards toileting independently
- Progress monitor BIPs daily
- Communicate strategies and progress connected to behavior and toileting with families



Special Education Workshop

Audience: Special Education (Special Class Teachers & Paraprofessionals)

Date: November 24, 2025

Time: 2:30PM - 3:30PM

Location: Virtual-[Join Meeting](#)

"There is ABILITY in every disability."

District 27 Student Services

#1. The SEL & Academic Partnership

Aligning SEL and Mental Health practices to support academic achievement

Audience: School Counselors / Social Workers

Date: December 8, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: District 27 Office
82-01 Rockaway Blvd
Ozone Park, NY 11416

#2. Child Mind Institute

Audience: School Counselors / Social Workers

Date: January 8, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: District 27 Office
82-01 Rockaway Blvd
Ozone Park, NY 11416



From Our District Leaders

Join Us for Professional Learning Experiences Designed by Our D27 Team

District 27 Physical Education Professional Learning Session

Rockaway Schools

District 27 Physical Education Professional Learning Community (PLC), designed to support our District 27 PE educators in deepening instructional practice and fostering collaboration across schools. This session topic will be based on feedback from participants during our first meeting on 10/27.



UPCOMING
EVENTS

Audience: Teachers

Date & Time: Monday,
November 10, 2025 • 3:00 PM

Location: Arverne East
Welcome Center

Organizer: Brad Bond

Contact:

bbond@schools.nyc.gov

Queens South ML/ELL Policy Field Team

RSML: Re-Imagined Supports for Multilingual Learners

- Language Policy & Planning - Keys to Advance

Language & Literacy Development

This institute is part of a **3-session series**, taking place in **November, January, and February**. A separate registration is required for each session. Sessions will build upon our focus on **Reversing the Trend to Strengthen ML/ELL Programs** through high expectations and institutional effectiveness. In SY 25-26, we will examine the role of the **Keys to Advance Language & Literacy Development** and access to high-quality grade-level curricula in building school/teacher capacity to accelerate learning for MLs/ELLs. Each session will identify key tools that support ML/ELL performance, within the context of Enriched ELL Programs (Program Design), reflective of Voices from the Field.

Audience: Teachers | **Date:** November 14, 2025 | **Time:** 9:00 AM | **Location:** Virtual (Microsoft Teams) | **Organizer:** Joshua Metz (jmetz@schools.nyc.gov) | **Register Here:** <https://register.qsml.nyc/RSML-111425>

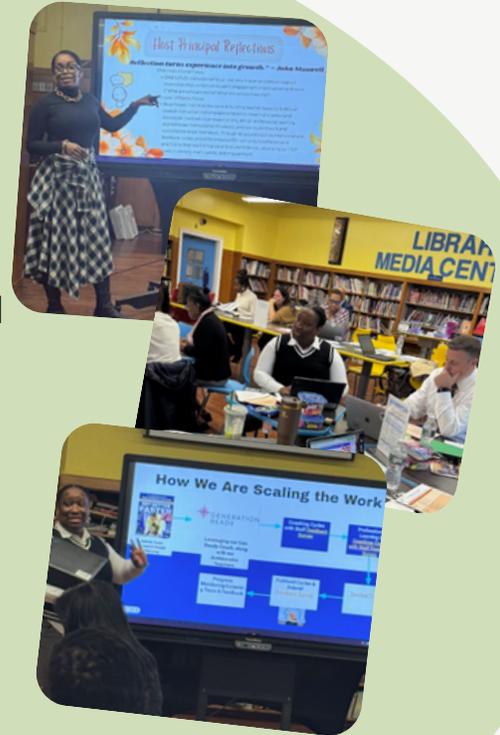
Leading & Learning Across D27

Highlights from Our New Principal Cohort & School Community

Instructional Rounds Launch for New Principal Cohort

Last month, our **New Principal Cohort**, led by **Deputy Superintendent Askew** and **District 27 team members**, launched its learning journey with an **Instructional Round** at **Goldie Maple Academy**. During the visit, participants engaged in the **See It, Name It, Do It protocol** to observe teaching and learning in action and connect classroom evidence to leadership priorities.

We thank **Principal Kerrison** and the **Goldie Maple** school community for opening their doors. The cohort will continue instructional rounds at additional schools later this month.



Welcome to Our New Teachers!

This year, **District 27 proudly welcomes over 250 new teachers**—the largest number in recent years—through our **Recruitment to Retention (R2R) initiative**.

This milestone reflects our district's strategic, data-driven commitment to attracting, supporting, and sustaining great educators who make a difference every day.

As you find your rhythm this fall, remember to stay grounded in balance, connection, and joy:

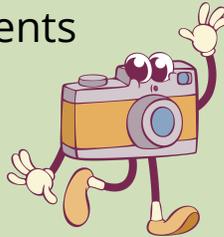
- **Foster belonging** – help students feel seen and valued.
- **Lead with calm curiosity** – meet challenges with empathy.
- **Celebrate small wins** – protect your joy and purpose.
- **Pause and recharge** – your well-being fuels your impact.

We are so proud of the passion and energy you bring to your students and schools. Welcome to the District 27 family, where your journey as an educator truly begins!

Let's Celebrate Our Schools on Instagram!



We're actively sharing moments of learning, leadership, and community from across our district on Instagram — celebrating the incredible work happening in our schools every day.



If you'd like your school featured, share your photos and captions using this [Google Form](#). Let's continue showcasing the excellence and spirit of District 27 together!

Thank you!

We're so **grateful** for the incredible collaboration, dedication, and excellence that make District 27 such a vibrant learning community. Each month, this newsletter will continue to highlight the powerful work happening across our schools—**celebrating our shared commitment to Culture, Consistency, and Coherence**.

If you'd like your school or team featured in next month's edition, please use this [Google Form](#) to share your photos, stories, and professional learning highlights.

Thank you for all that you do every day to make District 27 shine. We look forward to continuing this journey of connection, celebration, and shared learning together!

A special thank you to everyone who helped bring this newsletter to life and celebrate the incredible work happening across District 27!

D27 Digest Team: Diandra Sookwah, Mariya Korobkova, Sandra D'Avilar & Teresa Sarrubbo

Save These Dates!

- ❑ Nov 14–19: K–6 Writing PL Sessions with Generation Ready
- ❑ Nov 17: Next CEC Meeting – 6:30 PM @ KAPPA VI
- ❑ Nov 18: Family Math Night – 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM @ MS 318
- ❑ Nov 20: New Principal Cohort
- ❑ Nov 25: Principal’s Conference

NOVEMBER



Looking Ahead

December



- ❑ Dec 3: District Paraprofessional Hiring Fair
- ❑ Dec 4: Civics for All Learning Walk
- ❑ Dec 16: Principal’s Conference