

Paterson's John P. Holland School Charter Renewed for Five years

Academic Achievement Rising

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Paterson's John P. Holland Charter School has had its charter renewed by the state Department of Education for five years, announced the school's founder and principal, Christina Scano.

In its announcement about the Holland School's charter, which will allow the K-8 school to operate through the 2019-2020 school year, the state DOE noted that: "over the last three years the school's absolute proficiency rates have improved 15 percentage points in language arts literacy and 22 points in mathematics."

Principal Scano said the renewal of the school's charter; "is fantastic news for our children, and confirmation of the commitment of our current staff, and parents to creating a quality learning environment for our students."

The John P. Holland Charter School is housed in the former St. John's High School and serves 198 students. The school has earned the state's Tier 1 ranking for the 2013-2014 school year, demonstrating steady improvement since its beginning in 2011.

Scano, a former public school teacher in Paterson, said that when she founded the school five years ago, her desire was "to create a place where parents, teachers and students wanted to come to every day; a place where everyone involved in a child's education felt comfortable. I believe we are well on our way to achieving that goal and our students' achievement level is proving that."

The state's evaluation of education standards shows that students at the Holland School are outperforming many of their counterparts in the Paterson public school system in language arts and math. For example, the state's performance evaluation showed that 63 percent of sixth grade students at the Holland School were passing the standardized language arts tests, compared to 39 percent of similar public school students; additionally 85 percent of Holland School's third graders were passing the state math test compared to 59 percent of public school students.

"The data show that our students are performing well and the longer the students have been with us in this environment, the higher their academic achievement will be," said Scano.

Officials Applaud Renewal

Paterson Councilman Andre Sayegh, a strong supporter of the charter school, said, “the dedication of Principal Scano and her staff to bring innovative methods of teaching our children is very inspiring and very promising for the future of education in this city.”

Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly (D-35th District) congratulated Scano and the Holland School on its renewal saying; “The John P. Holland School is demonstrating that when parents get more involved with their children’s education and work with teachers and school staff, the results are very positive for children in urban areas who have to confront a number of obstacles that other children do not.”