



CNMI Public School System

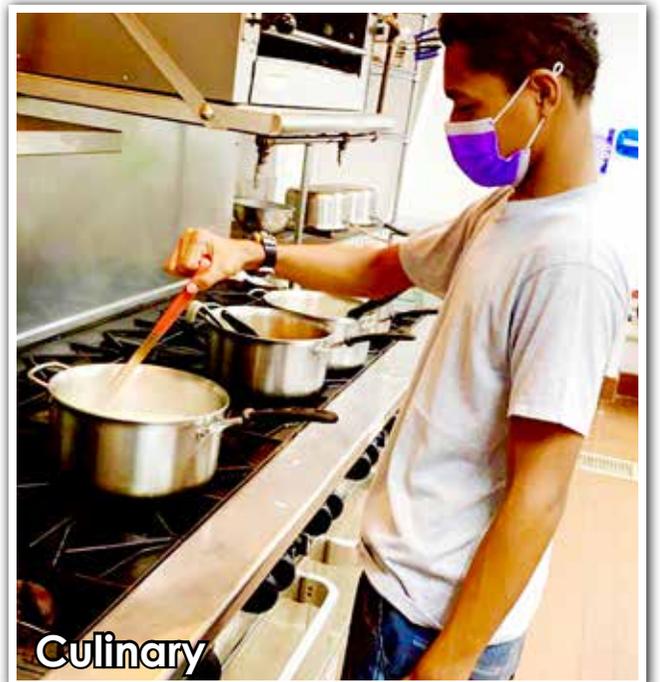
# STUDENTS FIRST

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# SUCCESSFUL SUMMER OF LEARNING

**P4**



## PROJECT BASED LEARNING



All-time high summer learning reinforcement in STAR Reading, STAR Math **P2**

# PSS unveils High-Dosage Peer Tutoring Program



**A**n innovative student-learning-and-teaching program pioneered by the Public School System officially launched its two-week orientation and training on June 14, 2021 at Kagman Elementary School. The High-Dosage Peer Tutoring Program gave some 237 student-tutors the opportunity to assist lower grade public school students (K-12) for this pioneering initiative.

These student-tutors — comprised of NMC, PSS, and private school students — also received their training following the launching ceremony. This program is a collaborative effort within the district. The Office of the Commissioner of Education (COE), Federal Programs Office (FPO), Human Resources Office (HRO), Office of Curriculum and Instruction (OCI), Office of Accountability, Research, and Evaluation (ARE), Office of Student Support Services (SSS), Office of Food and Nutrition, and Finance Office.

Education chief Dr. Alfred B. Ada along with his key management led in the formal unveiling of this innovative tutoring program. This was held at the Marianas High School cafeteria on June 21, 2021.

The High-Dosage Peer Tutoring Program began on June 28, and these students-tutors worked alongside classroom teachers in all of the school district's elementary, middle and high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Assisting Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jacqueline A. Quitugua and English Language Learners Program Manager Amy Bohman-Blanco in the implementation of the High-Dosage Peer Tutoring Program are Senior Director of Accountability, Research, and Evaluation Dr. Rizalina Liwag as well as the OCI Team —comprised of Science Program Manager Asapmar B. Ogumoro, Career and Technical Education Program Director Dr. Jessica B. Taylor, Statistical Literacy Analyst Giselle A. Butalid, Administrative Officer Patricia R. Aguon-Cruz, and Chamorro and Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies Program Director Jonas M. Barcinas.

They received their trainings from Senior Director for Student Support Services Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, Finance and



Budget Director Arlene Lizama, Human Resource Officer Lucretia Deleon Guerrero, State Infrastructure Technology Director Jesse Tenorio, Director of Instructional Technology Dr. Bobby Cruz, Distance Education Program Coordinator Lorraine Catienza and Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada.

This innovative program is funded under PSS' share of the federal Education Stabilization Fund, which is a component of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2020.

With PSS' focus of providing learning opportunities to all identified public school students and provide support for learning loss and instructional loss this school year, the High-Dosage Peer Tutoring Program supports the district's goals.

The goals are: (1) each student will receive equitable, rigorous, relevant, and evidence-based instruction and support to meet their academic, social-emotional and wellbeing targets; (2) student growth to be guided by instructions and services informed by data and continuous improvement, preparing them for college and career; (3) students will receive instruction and support from high performing personnel; (4) students benefit from an efficient, effective and fiscally-responsible school system, and (5) students will develop positive social-emotional skills in a caring, safe and inclusive environment.



## PROJECT BASED LEARNING

# All-time high results in summer learning reinforcement for students STAR Reading, STAR Math

The Public School System's 2021 Summer Program for High-Dosage Tutoring and Project-based Learning was successful in providing students the needed intensive learning reinforcements across the commonwealth.

Data released by the PSS' Office of Accountability, Research and Evaluation showed that throughout the five weeks that the summer programs were implemented, student across the spectrum showed an all-time high result that were culled through assessments of individual performances in critical learning areas needing support: Reading and Mathematics.

The survey measured the students Reading and Mathematics performance as it impact their attendance and academic achievement, PSS Accountability, Research and Evaluation Senior Director Dr. Rizalina Liwag.

Attendance rate was also high. Attendance for elementary summer program students was at 80 percent, middle school students at 91 percent, and for high school students 94 percent.

### STAR Reading

The high dosage summer program for STAR Reading, showed an all-time high of post-test result when compared to before participating in the summer program.

There were 670 elementary students tested, 560 middle school students, and 307 high school students.

In their analysis, the Office of the Accountability, Research and Evaluation disclosed that there is a significant increase in the number of students who scored proficient and above in reading after applying high dosage tutoring for 5 weeks.

Elementary students who are "at" or "above proficiency benchmark" in reading for the summer of 2020: 90 (14 students during pre-summer test); 95 for middle school (34 pre-summer test), and 47 for high school (14 pre-summer test).

### STAR Math

STAR Math for elementary students participating the high dosage summer program revealed very high numbers in

proficiency resulting from the intensive five-week tutoring reinforcement.

Only 32 elementary students scored below the benchmark while 146 of the same grade level (elementary) scored proficient or above in Mathematic after attending the project based learning summer program for 5 weeks. For middle school, 27 were below benchmark pre-summer but 80 were above and beyond the proficiency level, and for high school, 71 were below proficiency but 94 were above the proficiency level.

### Student Survey

PSS- ARE Senior Director Dr. Rizalina Liwag also disclosed that in the same survey it showed that kindergarten to 2nd grade students expressed satisfaction (liked) the PBL activities that their teacher gave them during the summer program.

For grades 3rd to 12th, the same survey showed students "agree" to strong agree" that the program initiated through the summer project based learning supported their "college and career" readiness.

### Teacher Survey

Teachers-tutors that led the high dosage learning/tutoring through the Project Based Learning initiative of the school district were also surveyed at the end of the five-week program: 97 percent of surveyed teachers agreed that the students enjoyed the PBL activities that were prepared and presented to the students during the summer.

The PSS-PBL was implemented in partnership with the Regional Education Laboratory-Pacific by the school district. It is designed to provide public school teachers the professional earning opportunity in increasing their conceptual understanding of PBL and their Math content knowledge, among others.

PBL is a dynamic instructional approach designed for students to explore real-world problems and challenges and acquire a deeper sense of understanding and knowledge. It uses proven project planning methods.

# CTE Summer Programs:

## Nursing Assistant, Construction Boot Camp, Teacher Academy, Entrepreneurship and NMTI Programs prepare students after-high school

**T**he Public School System successfully implemented several Summer School Program throughout the summer months shepherded by the Career and Technical and Education (CTE) Program, which oversees innovative programs that guarantees every student receives personalized learning experiences designed to prepare them after high school.

These PSS-CTE Summer Programs began on June 28 and they are the Nursing Assistant Program, Construction Boot Camp, Teacher Academy Program, Entrepreneurship Program and classes offered by the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Programs.

CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica Taylor said these summer programs are designed to expand and reinforce core subject areas taught throughout public high schools during the regular school year.

These programs are taught in-person, blended and synchronous learning.

Dr. Taylor credited the school district's partnership with various government agencies and industry partners for her CTE Summer Program's implementation success.

"Interestingly enough this year is a strong year of partnership. These are partnerships that we have with the Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Department of Labor and other industry partners. They have come together to help us with our CTE programs and other programs that connect our youths to career," Dr. Taylor said.

She added: "The pre-apprenticeship, career-designed programs and all the summer programs that we have right now are designed to prepare our high school students for college and careers."

These summer programs are offered to students from 9th grade to 12th grade levels, and newly-graduated high school students.

The CTE program chief also expressed optimism that the summer programs will "result in more students enrolling in courses that cater to their chosen careers".

Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada echoed Dr. Taylor's point, particularly acknowledging the hard work that went into creating career-tailored summer programs, which "reflects the career choices" of public school students who availed them.

The education chief said it has been a long time coming for PSS-CTE Program to be able to successfully roll out the much-awaited summer programs.

"I feel extremely honored to know that we are continuing this program for our students and the community. It's been a long time coming and I can see the benefits of setting the opportunity for our students," Commissioner Dr. Ada separately said.

The education chief added: "Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Taylor and our great partners, great things happen when we collaborate. Everyone wins."



## Nursing Assistant Summer Program supports students with their dream careers

*15 are now certified nursing assistants*



It's about getting a foot in the door for their dream career in the nursing profession while still in high school.

The fifteen students currently enrolled in the Nursing Assistant Summer Program of the Public School System-Career and Technical Education Program said their experience with the intensive six-week program gave them the encouragement in pursuing the nursing career after high school graduation.

On August 8 the 15 students - incoming public and pri-

vate juniors and senior high schools, attending various high schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota – received their certificates for completing the certified nursing assistant summer program with the Guam Marianas Training Center.

The PSS-CTE Program offered this program at no cost to students. It has partnered with the Guam Marianas Training Center for the program which was taught synchronous online from June 28 to August 3, 2021.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



for my nursing assistantship training," she added.

In class, "we are taught the (critical and essential modules) and the skills we need in giving the best care to our patients," said another high school student.

"I really studied and worked hard to be able to sign up. I'm just so happy to make it to this program," adds another.

This is a groundbreaking program initiated by the school district's CTE Program. This is taught synchronous online, with Guam Marianas Training Center fielding highly trained nursing professionals providing both in-person training and online tutoring.

The students are required to complete the rigorous six-week program, which includes meeting the 160-hour requirement. They received live tutoring/instruction from 8 am to 1 pm Mondays through Saturdays and clinical work.

"This is my dream career," said a female student, saying that she has been excited in signing up the program when the rigorous application process was announced.

"This is the best summer (break) for me because I spent it



The students gather for a photo following their successful completion of the rigorous two-day OSHA training.

## Construction Boot Camp:

# Real-life skills experience for students

## *CNMI Dept. of Public Works lauds PSS-CTE*



Public Works Secretary James Ada and all of his division directors join the eight high school students that have made into the PSS-CTE Construction Boot Camp Summer Program.

The PSS-CTE Construction Boot Camp Summer Program was created to give students-interns the solid and real-life experiences of the construction industry. This program is another pioneering initiative rolled out by the school district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program.

CNMI Department of Public Works Federal Programs Coordinator Lauren Sanchez has hailed the program for its cre-

ative approach in providing high school student the head start in engineering careers.

"PSS is the perfect institution in training our students for pre-engineering careers," said Public Works Federal Program Coordinator Sanchez. "We are very hopeful that we were able to assist and inspire our students pursue their engineering careers."

The Construction Boot Camp ran from July 6 to July 30, 2021. There are 8 students that have signed up for the rigorous boot camp.

"This is the first cohort and this was shepherded by our CTE Program because based on our survey and study, there is a boom in construction work in the CNMI," CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica Taylor said.

Kagman High School student Matthew Anatacio shared his experience: "There are a lot of engineering disciplines I learned when I participated in the program."

"I am very happy that I (signed up) in this program. With what I have experienced, this will definitely help me with my (career choice to be) an engineers," the 12th grade student said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



Kagman High School 12th grade student Matthew Anatacio shares his internship workload with PSS, BOE and public works officials.



The PSS-CTE officials with some of the construction boot camp interns. Board of Education Chairman Andrew L. Orsini, Vice Chairman Herman Atalig, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Senior Director for Curriculum and Instruction Jackie Quitugua, Senior Director for Accountability, Research and Evaluation Dr. Rizalina Liwag, Career and Technical Education Program Director Dr. Jessica B. Taylor and PSS Federal Programs Officer Tim Thornburgh discussed the partnership with Department of Public Works officials through Federal Highway Administrator Lorraine Villagomez, Federal Programs Coordinator Lauren Sanchez, Administrative Services Director Peter Camacho and Engineer Henry Bautista .



Building Code officials briefed PSS-BOE leaders.

Anatacio and his 7 fellow student-interns have to undergo rigorous two-day mandatory certification training by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. OSHA certified them on June 30, 2021.

"Since we started our CTE Program (in school-year 2009-2010), this is the biggest cohort that we have for our construction program. This is very exciting," Dr. Taylor noted.

The PSS-CTE Program has provided all of the 8 students with all necessary and essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) such as construction hardhats, vest, and construction earmuffs.

The students were assigned to the Department of Public Works various divisions such as highways, building codes, ar-

chitecture, administration and solid waste.

Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada expressed his appreciation with the CNMI Department of Public Works for "opening the doors to our public school students who are committed to pursue higher learning after-high school."

Board of Education Chairman Andrew L. Orsini agrees. "We would like to continue this program in the future."

BOE Vice Chairman Herman Atalig said: "This is the perfect approach in training out students for career opportunities while still in high school. I will be working with our (Commissioner of Education) to continue funding this program and keep this going."



The successful Teacher Academy Summer Program cohorts with Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Northern Marianas College President Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Frankie Eliptico, PSS-CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica Taylor, PSS school principals and NMC's School of Educator faculty and summer program mentors. (NMC Photo)

## Teacher Academy Program:

# A life-changing opportunity for students

*'We want to be educators'*



Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada talks about the importance of the Teacher Academy Program that the school district continue to implement, through the Career and Technical Education Program headed by Dr. Jessica Taylor, seated left.

The Public School System-Career Technical Education Teacher Academy Summer Program at the Northern Marianas College gave students the needed experience and early college-level exposure. They are now keen at pursuing education degrees after high school.

For the first time the summer program is handled by the NMC School of Education and is held in on-site at the College. Ten students have successfully participated in the summer program following a rigorous selection process.

"I have thought about becoming a teacher at some point in my life but wasn't sure at all. Nowadays I am more inter-

ested in becoming one because of how rewarding it can be," said student James Patrick Aldan.

Aldan, a student of Marianas High School, explained that he joined the program "to experience what other teachers have (felt in impacting the lives of) their students... from the beginning to the end."

"I would never thought I would feel this way...I am forever grateful to being able to change," he added.

Gericho Conge said he was interested to learn being an

**CONTINUED ON | PAGE 10**



The actual classroom set up of the Teacher Academy Summer Program.

educator “and that was delivered.”

“The people I’ve met, my mentors and peers brought such insightful and positive company to my summer, he said acknowledging that he was reminded that “a genuine love for children is a requirement for educators.”

The ten students enrolled in the summer programs were taught with the fundamental and foundational preparatory support of all education-related degrees/programs offered by the College such as Special Education, Early Childhood, and elementary education courses, among others.

On August 6 the Northern Marianas College- School of Education held a completion ceremony for the pioneering cohort.

The PSS-CTE Teacher Academy Program was implemented with the long-term goal of reversing the challenge of teacher shortage in the CNMI.

“(I) can now confidently state that (the Teacher Academy Program) enhanced by abilities as a teacher,” said student Danille Dionisio.

She added, “I had made up my mind to get a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. (This is one) of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”

Student Cindy Ma said she was “inspired to become an early childhood educator”. “I know there’s a lot of time ahead of me, and so being an educator may change, but as of right now, being an early childhood educator is the one that has sparked interest”.

Incoming Marianas High School junior student Psa Lle Medina applied for the program with the goal of becoming a classroom teacher.

“(A)fter five week of eye-opening, challenging, and fun learning, I can honestly say that I’ve learned to overcome (my) fear. I’ve learned to accept failures for what they were...”

She added, “The program made me better. I’m a more confident and empathic thanks to (the Teacher Academy Program).” She will be pursuing elementary education degree after high school.

Henin Pamintuan, an MHS student of the Teacher Academy Program, said it was changed her perspective about the teaching profession.

“One thing that has definitely changed about me is my interest for teaching has grown. We’ve had the most amazing mentors and instructors and it was obvious from the very beginning that they were extremely passionate about what they do,” Pamintuan said.

Zenn Ichiro Tomokane said following in the path of education “was always something that I had an eye for.”

“I can say that I will be leaving this program a bolder and more passionate person,” Tomokane said.

In the past, students-cohorts of the main Teacher Academy Program are assigned to various public school campuses on Saipan, Tinian and Rota for their internship and summer training.

Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada congratulated these students-cohorts for enrolling in the summer program: “This is a life-changing (program) and career that you all have decided to be part of...and we (at the school district) are truly proud of everybody.”

“We will make sure that we will continue to give all of you, our public school students the necessary support in your career choices,” Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada said.

Board of Education Chairman Andrew L. Orsini said the school district will continue to partner with NMC in making sure all PSS graduates will be able to avail of college and career readiness programs while still in high school.

BOE Vice Chairman Herman Atalig said he will work towards securing funding that will sustain PSS programs that



A group activity engages students in "multiple intelligence" activity.



The successful graduates are: James Patrick Aldan, Jericho Conge, Daniel Dionisio, Keerah Flores, John Paul Labadan, Fei Fei Lei, Cindy Ma, Psa Lle Medina, Henin Pamintuan, and Zenn Ichiro Tomokane, all students of Marianas High School

are designed to support the local workforce, through the different initiatives/ programs offered by the PSS-NMC partnership, among others.

The Teacher Academy Program was "revived" in School-Year 2012-2013 by the PSS-CTE Program after a long hiatus. It was first implemented as part of the then Vocational Education Program of PSS.

PSS-CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica Taylor also extended

her program's appreciation to NMC's Roland Merar, Maria Aguon, Les Ogomuro and Diana Benavente-Hocog for the successful implementation of the Teacher Academy Summer Program.

"Because of our strong teamwork and support from NMC, we hope to help our students reach their goals as future educators," Dr. Taylor said.

In the past, internships for the Teacher Academy Program were held at various public elementary schools for their internship.

With this summer program, the students will actually intern at NMC's School of Education. They are the first cohorts of the said program-design.

"We are hoping that they decide to be a classroom teacher," the CTE Program director said.

The 10 high school students have to undergo the same process that of a would-be college student: taking NMC's placement

test.

Dr. Taylor said all 10 students "received good results".

"At this early stage, it is already very exciting for our students who are planning to be part of our teaching workforce," she added.

The successful graduates are: James Patrick Aldan, Jericho Conge, Daniel Dionisio, Keerah Flores, John Paul Labadan, Fei Fei Lei, Cindy Ma, Psa Lle Medina, Henin Pamintuan, and Zenn Ichiro Tomokane, all students of Marianas High School.

The teacher-mentors are Sheila Aliven, Alyssa Attao, Shawn Castillon, Tricia Magallano, Michelle Polig, Dhalian Salas and Chloette Villazon.

# Career-designed entrepreneurship program 'InosInnovation' unveiled for Rota high school students



"InosInnovation Boot Camp students of Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School with Commonwealth Development Authority Loan Manager Marie Coleman. Recently, she flew to Rota and appeared before the students-cohorts of the summer program for a presentation on "How To Start A Business".  
**PSS Photo**



The students were provided with a budget to eat at As Paris, one of Rota's go-to places. They rated the quality of the customer service, portion size, cleanliness, presentation of food, and customer satisfaction.

**D**r. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School has unveiled a "Four-Year Entrepreneurship Pathway" to help create/build entrepreneurship and business careers for Rota's youths.

Entrepreneurship program is considered the "mother program" behind the establishment/revival of the Public School System's Career Technical Education Program more than eight years ago.

The entrepreneurship pathway is called "InosInnovation" named after Dr. Rita Hocog Inos, the late former commissioner of education and Rota's first educator to receive a Ph.D.

RHI Principal D. Tanya King said the program was implemented during the second semester of School-Year 2020-2021. There were a total of 17 students belonging to the first cohort.

These students were offered business foundation training last February.

"Based on the numerous (Effective Learning Environments Observation Tools) observations, we concluded that we needed to maintain the momentum of the program," Principal King said.

A summer program of "InosInnovation Boot Camp" was implemented on June 28, 2021. This will end on July 30, 2021 and a total of 12 students have enlisted.

"We have reached out to multiple government agencies

to support and to be part of our InosInnovation entrepreneurship program," explains Principal King.

The school administrator said RHI's collaborating partners are the Northern Marianas College, Workforce Investment Agency, Rota Mayor's Office, Small Business Development Center, Commonwealth Development Authority, Department of Commerce, and Max Impacts: Maxine Laszlo Consulting.

RHI is also collaborating with private businesses "to share their expertise to help students know the different aspects of the business sector".

With the support of PSS Curriculum and Instruction Sen-

**CONTINUED ON | PAGE 13**



These students are taking their NMC class online daily and at 12 noon, they will work on their sales pitch.



Named after "Simply and Easy Vending Machine Near You" is one project by one group of the summer boot camp. The brand name is already copyrighted.



An 8th grade RHI student participating in the "InosInnovation Boot Camp" provides her PowerPoint presentation for the Northern Marianas College's Business Foundation's class taught by instructor Jared Inselman.

ior Director Jackie Quitugua, CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica Taylor and E-Dynamics' Scott Carpus, Principal King credited RHI's team. They are faculty leader Brianna Mendiola Narro and teacher Vanee Manglona.

The RHI team has also collaborated with NMC Director Diana Hocog and Rota Dept. of Commerce Resident Director Dean Manglona.

Principal King said her group attended numerous virtual meetings over the summer of 2020 to "select a rigorous, relevant, and relationship-driven CTE program" for Rota, particularly addressing the interests and needs of the Rota community.

"We mapped out a 4- year entrepreneurship pathway course of study so when students graduate they have the skills, knowledge, certification, and competencies to start their own business on Rota and/or through e-commerce," Principal King pointed out.

With 30 years of experience as educator, Principal King believes it "takes a whole island to educate a child" in crediting the partnership the program received and its initial success, given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to the island economy.

"For all of us educators, the summer of 2020 was challenging and we all faced the unknown. No playbook and we have to navigate them...with fearlessness and resolve," she said.

Since most of the jobs on Rota are government-related, entrepreneurship was the "perfect fit".

Principal King said Rota produces high school graduates that are "gifted and talented" and possesses "the creativity, ingenuity and innovation" that the island needs.

With the "InosInnovation Boot Camp", Rota students are

trained on "how to start a business, create a business plan, and develop a marketing plan". They attend actual presentations and training from government and business experts.

The students also participate on on-site field trips.

There are 12 students who are now enrolled at NMC-Rota's "Introduction to Business" course. Upon successful completion, these students will earn three college credits.

As part of their initial product output, the students have already created the brand name "Sævny". This is coined after "Simply and Easy Vending Machines Near You".

The students have already copyrighted the brand name and plan to start up the plan. They are now researching

in purchasing a brand-new or second hand vending machine. The machine will dispense healthy beverages and snacks and will be set up in "isolated places".

According to the students, their initial project start-up requires "low manpower, simple and achievable in a short amount of time".

Principal King said the overall goal of "InosInnovation" is "to provide students with a venue to develop, market, package and sell their product or service at the end of the program. This will be through the participation of a "Shark Tank" activity, wherein students pitch their product for monetary prizes and potential investors.



Virtual learning with Northern Marianas College.



# PSS eyes expanded summer learning opportunities with NMTI

**D**rawing from the overwhelming interest from students-cohorts, the Public School System is looking at expanding its current summer program with the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, with plans of extending the program beyond the summer months.

"In my experience as an educator, what we saw and heard personally from our students is that what they are experiencing are golden opportunities. We have heard from our them that they wanted to be engineers, chefs, automotive experts, building contractors... they wanted to be professionals when they graduate from our schools," Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada said.

The education chief added, "We are going to work on a plan that will continue and expand this program with NMTI and not wait for the next summer again to do this program,"

Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada said he is now working with CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica Taylor "to continue the program hopefully by the new school year".

In acknowledging the success of the summer program, NMTI Chief Executive Officer Jodina Attao looks forward for that time when students from all of PSS' middle schools will sign up.

"We're really hoping that it's not only Tanapag Middle School next summer but also for other middle schools to come in and participate," CEO Attao said.

She added, "We are very grateful for (the Public School System) of their interest in NMTI's program. Our summer program has been very helpful for both of our public school

students and for our new (NMTI) administration. This (summer program) is really a gift to us (seeing for ourselves the growing interest of our students).

Currently, close to 30 Tanapag Middle School students are participating the month-long program at NMTI. Attao also disclosed "there were seventh grade students that came and have signed up on their own."

## 'Thank you'

Board of Education Chairman Andrew L. Orsini said the school district owes it to the students and their parents for supporting the PSS-NMTI program.

"The success of our PSS-NMTI partnership is because NMTI supports our programs for increased learning opportunities," Chairman Orsini said. "We also have our biggest partner: our parents who are encouraged by their children's involvement in our program that that they are supporting this."

BOE Vice Chairman Herman Atalig separately said that the long-term goal of the school district is to "ensure of the sustainability" of the program.

"Our focus as board members is to support PSS' plans in helping build local capacity. What we have here (at NMTI) is a good training for our students," Vice Chairman Atalig said.

Education chief Dr. Ada also acknowledged Dr. Taylor who "has been instrumental and helpful in the planning, implementation and success of the program."

On their July 22 visit to NMTI, PSS and BOE leaders also held a dialogue with the students themselves.



### Automotive

The education leaders said they “will exhaust every opportunity” to support PSS students college and career choices.

A student whose grandfather runs an automotive business said his summer program with NMTI is very helpful learning experience. “I can tell that this is very helpful. I see the relation with my grandpa’s business and one day I will be able to help him,” said a middle school student, adding that the program is “very hands-on.”

Instructor Dante Yumul teaches the automotive class.

Out of the five students enrolled the automotive class three are females.

“I now know right way to drive and about dealership. We know know if we are being ripped off or not. This is also a new experience,” said female 8th grade student.

“I want this program to continue because this is very helpful,” said another female student.

Adds another, “I am able to help in the assembly of a transmission (engine) and how it works. And one day, we can use what we’ve learned.”



### Construction, welding and electronics

Students are also taught basic construction and design work, including blueprint preparation.

Equipped with appropriate gears, there is a separate class teaches the actual welding work.

The electronic class teaches students with the correct use of electronic devices and components, including solder piece of copper and tin.



### Culinary

Eight grade students said they are taught with food preparation. Chef Ben Babauta, Jr. teaches the class.

“We know how to prepare food and (basic) food preparation like what our parents do at home,” a student said.

“We also get to feed our classmates with what we cook and prepare here (at the NMTI kitchen),” said another student.

This is “an experience of a lifetime for me,” said another student.

# Over 140 school-aged children participates in PSS' 'Swimming for All, Swimming for Life Program'



The school district's Swimming for All, Swimming for Life program wrapped up the 2021 summer swim camps, providing free American Red Cross Learn to Swim lessons to over 140 school-aged children in the CNMI.

This was done with the support and assistance of 10 water safety instructors and 20 teacher aides.

PSS Athletic Program Director Nick Gross said that the first set of lessons, *Swim into Summer*, was offered at the start of summer on June 14-25, 2021, at the Guma Sakman.

"It was our biggest event yet with a little less than 100 students in attendance throughout the two week event. Students learned essential water safety topics and swimming skills to help them become water smart and water competent," Director Gross said.

In addition, on June 17th, program staff and participants were able to take part in the *World's Largest Swim Lesson*, which is a national event that was created to spread awareness about how swimming lessons save lives.

The second set of lessons, *Swim out of Summer*, was offered on August 02-06, 2021 to provide opportunities for children on the waiting list that were unable to attend the first swim camp. These sets of lessons were only for one week, with smaller class sizes that allowed instructors to provide more one-on-one time with each student.

Thank you to all the children and parents that made time to come out and attend the lessons. Our program's goal is to minimize drownings by educating the community about water safety and teaching kids how to swim. We plan on providing more opportunities throughout the school year at selected public schools that have teachers who are certified water safety instructors," PSS Athletics Director Gross added. For more information about the program please visit our website at [www.swimcnmi.com](http://www.swimcnmi.com).

The PSS athletics director also expressed his appreciation to Pete and Emma Perez from 500Sails for letting the students use the Guma Sakman and supporting the program in many ways.

Director Gross also extended his appreciation to Kimberly Lytle for training and certifying the 20 Water Safety Instructors, and connecting the program with the World's Largest Swim Lesson event staff to allow Saipan to participate in the national event.

"We appreciate all that you do for the community to promote aquatics and our island's traditional ocean activities," Director Gross said.



## Students participate in STEP-UP program

Mr. Ryan Kang is a recent 2021 Graduate from Marianas High School. He is completing his 2nd summer in the STEP-UP Program. He will be attending Bowdoin College in Brunswick Maine. His research project was "An Island in Crisis: The Relationship Between Community Disasters and Admissions Into a Psychiatric Ward". Mentors are Joshua Tanghal, a Nurse Unit Manager, Psychiatric Unit at Commonwealth Health Center Corporation.

Ms. Catherine Byen is a recent 2021 Graduate from Marianas High School. She is completing her 2nd summer in the STEP-UP Program. She will be attending Pomona College in Claremont, California. Her research project was "Measure of Turbidity Level of Popular Beach Sites in Saipan". Her mentor is Mr. Roy Adsit, a Science Instructor from Saipan Southern High School.

Ms. Jaibelle Nelmda is an incoming senior at Marianas High School. This is her first summer in the STEP-UP Program. Her research project is "Investigating the Potential of Capsaicin as a Bioinsecticide and Impact of Plant Growth". Her mentor is Dr. Virendra Verma, a CREES- Program Leader & Scientist (Horticulture / Crop) at the Northern Marianas College.

All students will be virtually presenting their research during the STEP-UP National Symposium on August 10th - 12th, 2021





Let's Re-imagine, Re-engage & Re-open  
*'This is an exciting time  
to be in education'*



BY ALFRED B. ADA, ED.D.  
 COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

*Dear Students, Staff, and Families,*

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! While the start of this school year may look different from any we've ever experienced before, the sense of anticipation and excitement hasn't changed. I felt it this morning when I saw the school campuses making signs welcome for new teachers. Their eagerness to meet their classes and get to work was noticeable, and I know the rest of our faculty and staff is feeling much the same.

As we get ready to embark on this journey into our new-and-improved face to face, blended learning environment, feeling some anxious is understandable. As a PSS, though, we are committed to walking this path in partnership with you. We have teacher leaders and staff, and we are all focused on reaching a common destination: the very best possible education for every single one of our students.

To our faculty members, who officially return to work, THANK YOU for your commitment to your professional growth this summer. So many of you continued to teach in the summer, volunteered, researching best practices in remote instruction, swapping ideas with other teachers, and so much more. You are devoted to giving our students your best, and I am confident that they are in good hands.

Students, please know that our first days of school will be focused first and foremost on helping you establish a sense of community and connection with your teachers and classes. Not just our teachers but also our counselors, librarians, CCLHS teachers, and mental health team know how challenging and isolating the last year was. You are the reason we do what we do, and we are committed to providing not just stellar academic experiences but also making sure you have the social, emotional, and mental health support you need to succeed.

And finally, to our families: I am so grateful for you as we launch this new school year. Our community is fortunate to have parents and guardians who are as involved and deeply committed to their children's education as our PSS family is. Thank you for your patience and support, and for entrusting your children to us.

This is an exciting time to be in education, full of new opportunities as we ReImagine, ReEngage and ReOpen and learning for all of us. I am looking forward to a year when we all rise to this most unusual occasion to provide those things that are best for our students.

Let's enjoy this time, this SY year. It is another gift of opportunities for us. Best of luck and have fun....Aha moments are waiting to unravel.

Thank you.

# STAY SAFE

AND WELCOME

# BACK TO SCHOOL

*Edition*

## Elementary School Schedule

P20 Classroom instruction will be full face-to-face. First day of school will be on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. More details inside.

## Middle School Schedule

P21 This will be blended learning. First day of school will be on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. More details inside.

## High School Schedule

P22 This will be blended learning. First day of school will be on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. More details inside.

## Bus Schedule

P23 Your child's safety and wellbeing is our priority  
 The Office of Pupil Transportation wants you to know that your child's health and wellbeing on our PSS buses will remain the highest priority. PSS bus drivers will be implementing safety measures such as the use of face masks, sanitizing and social distancing, temperature screening before boarding.

## K-12 School Calendar SY 2021-2022

P24 We are providing you detailed information and all important dates to remember for the Public School System.

CONTENTS

# MONDAY

Half-day  
**START: 7:30 AM**  
**END: 11:30 AM**

# TUESDAY

Full-day  
**START: 7:30 AM**  
**END: 2:00 PM**

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

**FULL FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES**

First day of school:  
 Wednesday,  
 Aug. 18, 2021

**WEDNESDAY**

Full-day  
**START:  
 7:30 AM**  
**END:  
 2:00 PM**

# FRIDAY

Full-day  
**START: 7:30 AM**  
**END: 2:00 PM**

Full-day  
**START:  
 7:30 AM**  
**END:  
 2:00 PM**

**THURSDAY**

### KOBLERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ONLY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>KINDER</b> SESSION 1: 7:30 - 9:15 AM SESSION 2: 9:45 - 11:30 A.M.	<b>KINDER</b> AM SESSION: 7:30 - 10:30 AM PM SESSION: 11 AM - 2 PM	<b>KINDER</b> AM SESSION: 7:30 - 10:30 AM PM SESSION: 11 AM - 2 PM	<b>KINDER</b> AM SESSION: 7:30 - 10:30 AM PM SESSION: 11 AM - 2 PM	<b>KINDER</b> AM SESSION: 7:30 - 10:30 AM PM SESSION: 11 AM - 2 PM
1ST-5TH HALF-DAY 7:30 - 11:30 AM	1ST-5TH FULL-DAY 7:30 AM - 2 PM			

BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE**  
**Blended Learning**

First day of school: Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021

**MONDAY**

Half-day  
 ONLINE synchronous  
 classes  
 8 AM - 11:45 AM

**TUESDAY**

Full-day  
 On-campus classes:  
 COHORT 1  
 Online asynchronous  
 learning:  
 COHORT 2  
 8 AM - 2:45 PM

**ADMIRAL HERBERT  
 G. HOPWOOD MIDDLE  
 SCHOOL ONLY**

**MONDAY**

ALL  
 HALF-DAY ONLINE  
 SYNCHRONOUS CLASSES  
 START: 8:00 AM  
 END: 12:00 PM

**TUESDAY**

AM SESSION COHORT 1 DAY A ON-CAMPUS CLASSES 7:50 - 11:40 AM	PM SESSION COHORT 2 DAY A ON-CAMPUS CLASSES 12:05 - 3:35 PM
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**WEDNESDAY**

Full-day  
 On-campus classes:  
 COHORT 2  
 Online asynchronous  
 learning:  
 COHORT 1  
 8 AM - 2:45 PM

**THURSDAY**

Full-day  
 On-campus classes:  
 COHORT 1  
 Online asynchronous  
 learning:  
 COHORT 2  
 8 AM - 2:45 PM

**WEDNESDAY**

AM SESSION COHORT 3 DAY A ON-CAMPUS CLASSES 7:50 - 11:40 AM	PM SESSION COHORT 4 DAY A ON-CAMPUS CLASSES 12:05 - 3:35 PM
---	---

**THURSDAY**

AM SESSION COHORT 1 DAY B ON-CAMPUS CLASSES 7:50 - 11:40 AM	PM SESSION COHORT 2 DAY B ON-CAMPUS CLASSES 12:05 - 3:35 PM
---	---

**FRIDAY**

Full-day  
 On-campus classes:  
 COHORT 2  
 Online asynchronous learning:  
 COHORT 1  
 8 AM - 2:45 PM

**FRIDAY**

AM SESSION COHORT 3 DAY B ON-CAMPUS CLASSES 7:50 - 11:40 AM	PM SESSION COHORT 4 DAY B ON-CAMPUS CLASSES 12:05 - 3:35 PM
---	---

# MONDAY

Half-day

On-campus classes: COHORT 1&2  
ROTATION BASIS

Online asynchronous learning: COHORT 2&1  
ROTATION BASIS  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

# TUESDAY

Full-day  
On-campus  
classes:  
COHORT 1

---

Online  
asynchronous  
learning:  
COHORT 2  
8:30 AM -  
1:30 PM

# WEDNESDAY

Full-day

On-campus classes: COHORT 2  
Online asynchronous learning: COHORT 1  
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE Blended Learning

First day of school: Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021

# FRIDAY

Full-day  
On-campus  
classes:  
COHORT 2

---

Online  
asynchronous  
learning:  
COHORT 1  
8:30 AM -  
1:30 PM

# THURSDAY

Full-day

On-campus classes: COHORT 1  
Online asynchronous learning: COHORT 2  
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM



PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL BUS SCHEDULE



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**FIRST PICK-UP: 7:00 AM**  
Students must be at the bus stop  
5 minutes before pick-up time



## KOBLERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KINDER ONLY:

**Monday (Session 1)**  
**FIRST PICK-UP: 7:00 AM**

**Monday (Session 2)**  
**FIRST PICK-UP: 9:20 AM**

**Tuesday-Friday (AM Session)**  
**FIRST PICK-UP: 7:00 AM**

**Tuesday-Friday (PM Session)**  
**FIRST PICK-UP: 10:45 AM**



## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**FIRST PICK-UP: 7:20 AM**  
Students must be at the bus stop  
5 minutes before pick-up time



## HIGH SCHOOLS

**FIRST PICK-UP: 7:40 AM**  
Students must be at the bus stop  
5 minutes before pick-up time



## ADMIRAL HERBERT G. HOPWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY:

**Tues-Fri AM Sessions**  
**FIRST PICK-UP: 7:20 AM**

**Tues-Fri PM Sessions**  
**FIRST PICK-UP: 11:00 AM**



# CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

## K-12 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

# 2021-2022

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
7/30	Last Day of Summer Extended Programs					
12	190-Day Staff Report to Work					
18	First Day of Instruction					

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
6	Labor Day (Holiday)					

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
12	Commonwealth Cultural Day (CNMI Observed)					
25	Second Quarter Begins					

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
4	Citizenship Day					
11	Veterans Day					
18	Education Day (33 Years)/State Level PD					
25	Thanksgiving Day (Holiday)					
26	Student-Teacher Break					

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8	Constitution Day					
12	Student-Teacher Break					

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
1	New Year's Day					
10	Third Quarter Begins					
17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day					

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
21	Last Day of Summer Extended Programs					

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
16	Fourth Quarter Begins					
24	Covenant Day					

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
14-15	Student Break					
15	CNMI Observed Holiday (Good Friday)					
18	School Level PD					

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
24	Last Day of Instruction-School Day					
25-31	School Level PD					
30	Memorial Day					

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
4	Liberation Day (Holiday)					

Legend		
	State & School-Level PD	
	CNMI and Federal Holidays	
	Quarter Benchmarks	
	Student and Teacher Breaks	
	Last Day of Instruction	
180 School Days		
1st Quarter	August 18, 2021 - October 22, 2021	46 Days
2nd Quarter	October 25, 2021 - January 07, 2022	43 Days
3rd Quarter	January 10, 2022 - March 15, 2022	45 Days
4th Quarter	March 16, 2022 - May 24, 2022	46 Days

2022 High School Graduation Dates		
May 13	Tinian High School	4:00 pm
May 16	Marianas High School	4:00 pm
May 17	Kagman High School	4:00 pm
May 18	Da'ok Academy	4:00 pm
May 19	Saipan Southern High School	4:00 pm
May 23	Dr. Rita H. Inos High School	4:00 pm

2022 Middle & Jr. High School Promotion Dates		
May 13	Tinian Jr. High School	9:00 pm
May 16	Francisco M. Sablan Middle School	9:00 pm
May 17	Chacha Oceanview Middle School	9:00 pm
May 18	Dandan Middle School	9:00 pm
May 19	Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School	9:00 pm
May 20	Tanapag Middle School	9:00 pm
May 23	Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School	9:00 pm

Andrew L. Orsini  
 Chairperson,  
 CNMI 17th State Board of Education

May 21, 2021  
 Approval Date

Alfred B. Ada, Ed.D  
 Commissioner of Education

# STUDENTS FIRST