



DON PEDRO ALBIZU CAMPOS ~ P.S./M.S. 161

The Future of Harlem, One Student at a Time

499 West 133rd Street · New York, NY 10027 · Tel. (212) 690-5945 · Fax: (917) 507-0524

Ms. Jasmira Caceres, Principal

Mathias Guishard, Asst. Principal, Yiliany Fernandez, Assist. Principal, Alysha Brown, I.A. Asst. Principal

August 2024

Dear P.S./M.S. 161 Families,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! I am thrilled to begin another exciting year with our incredible students and families. As the proud principal of P.S./M.S. 161, I look forward to partnering with you to ensure a successful, enriching, and joyful school experience for your child(ren).

At P.S./M.S. 161, our mission remains rooted in empowering scholars to become changemakers in their communities and beyond. We are committed to fostering self-discovery, individuality, and academic excellence in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment.

Our dedicated staff has been working diligently over the summer to prepare for the year ahead. Whether your child is just beginning their journey with us or continuing on, we are here to support and guide them every step of the way—academically, socially, and emotionally.

What's New and Noteworthy at P.S./M.S. 161:

- **Welcome Ms. Brown NEW - Interim Acting Assistant Principal -**

Dear Families,

After 12 amazing years at 161, I'm honored to serve as the Interim Acting Assistant Principal supporting grades 5-8 in English Language Arts & Social Studies. This school is my home, and I'm deeply committed to supporting our students, staff, and families.

I lead with care, PRIDE, high expectations, and a belief that every child deserves to be seen, challenged, and celebrated. I look forward to partnering with you to ensure every student has a strong and joyful year.

With gratitude,

Ms. Brown

Interim Acting Assistant Principal

- **Uniforms & Backpacks**
All students will receive a school uniform set and a personalized P.S./M.S. 161 backpack! Join us for our Uniform & Backpack Distribution Event on Friday, September 12, 2025, from 4:00–5:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium.
Uniforms are required Monday through Thursday.
- **Jupiter Ed**
We've adopted Jupiter Ed, a powerful platform used by the NYC DOE to manage student information, grades, and communication. Parents will be able to view grades, assignments, attendance, in real time and message teachers directly.
- **New Class Size Mandate**
In alignment with the new mandate, class sizes will now be capped at 20 students for



P.S./M.S. 161

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Voice. Talent. Grit.

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grades K–3 and 23 students for grades 4–8, allowing for more individualized instruction and support.

- **Leader in Me Initiative**

We're excited to launch Leader in Me, a schoolwide initiative that empowers students to discover their leadership potential and build a strong, values-driven school culture. Be on the lookout for our Leader In Me Parent Lighthouse Team so that together we can ensure the strategies learned in school are evident at home.

- **Technology Grant**

Thanks to generous support from City Council Members Shaun Abreu and Yusuf Salaam, we've received \$200,000 to enhance our Technology Department!

- **Middle School Regents Opportunity**

Our middle school students will be preparing for and taking the Life Science/Biology & Math Regents as a cohort—an exciting step toward high school readiness and academic excellence.

- **New Cell Phone Policy -**

In accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-413 and New York Education Law § 2803, the NYCDOE has updated its policy on student use of personal electronic devices.

Beginning this school year students are prohibited from using internet enabled devices such as smart phones, tablets, and smart watches. ~ [NEW CELLPHONE POLICY 25/26](#)

- **New Horizon Cohort**

We are proud to welcome 8 new Horizon families to our school community!

- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)**

Through RULER, Panther P.R.I.D.E., and our continuous partnership with Brain Power Wellness, we're equipping students, staff, and families with tools to navigate emotions and build resilience.

- [September Calendar 2025](#)

- **Academic Policy** - Take a minute to review our [PSMS161's Grading & Academic Policy 25/26](#)

Please visit our website to complete all school policy and forms. All school forms must be completed no later than September 5, 2025 - www.dpac161.org

- Digital Blue Card
- Media Consent Form
- Uniform Policy
- Walk Home Permission
- Cell Phone Policy
- Academic Policy

In Partnership with you,
Jasmira Caceres~ School Principal



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Welcome Letter from our Parent Coordinator

Dear 161 Families,

It's with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 2025-2026 school year at PS/MS 161.

Whether you're a returning family or new to our community, I'm thrilled to have you as part of our school family.

As the Parent Coordinator, my primary role is to be a bridge between home and school, ensuring you have the information and support you need to navigate your child's educational journey successfully.

I'm here to help foster a strong partnership between parents, teachers, staff, as well as community-based organizations to create a collaborative environment where every student can thrive.

Throughout the year, I'll be sharing important updates, resources and opportunities for you to stay informed and engaged. You can expect to hear from me through our:

- School Website
- Monthly Calendars/Newsletters
- Parent Workshops & Events
- Direct Phone Calls

I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have. I'm here to support you in any way I can.

I'm genuinely looking forward to a wonderful year of learning, growth, and collaboration.

Together, we can make this a successful and enriching experience for all our students.

Warmly,

Mr. Karriem M. Williams

Parent Coordinator Kwilliams2@schools.nyc.gov

(212) 690-5945 Ext. 1178