

Providence  
Schools

Catalog  
2015  
Free courses  
and guidance

# Providence Parent Academy

*A Providence Public Schools Initiative in collaboration with the Paul Cuffee School*



**Register for courses now!**

**<http://pvdparentacademy.eventbrite.com>**

*In collaboration with*



PAUL CUFFEE SCHOOL

Dear Providence Families:

Welcome to the Providence Parent Academy (PPA), a community-driven initiative designed to provide families with the tools and resources they need to become more meaningfully engaged in their children's education. Research has proven that students with engaged families exhibit faster rates of literacy acquisition, earn higher grades and test scores, have better social skills and behavior, and are less likely to be absent from school. The PPA provides opportunities for the two key stakeholders – families and school – to interact, collaborate, and establish trusting relationships that benefit students.

The cost-free PPA classes are offered at times convenient to families and cover an array of topics ranging from understanding your child's English learning, healthy eating habits, social media safety, and financial literacy, just to name a few. The Academy's "campus" is spread throughout the community and the courses are taught by local experienced professionals who are committed to improving the Providence community.

Characteristics of positive learning experiences usually include a topic or issue you care or want to learn more about; the belief that the teacher, coach or instructor cares about your success; and the feeling of being part of a community. It is our hope that you will find the PPA to be a place of positive learning, and one that will grow through your enrollment.

Through your participation, whether by enrolling in a course or volunteering to teach one, we can help grow and sustain this quality resource in support of our local community. Thank you for your interest!

Sincerely,



**Susan F. Lusi, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent  
Providence Public Schools  
[Susan.Lusi@ppsd.org](mailto:Susan.Lusi@ppsd.org)  
[@ProvidenceSup](#)



**Christopher J. Haskins**  
Head of School  
Paul Cuffee School  
[CHaskins@paulcuffee.org](mailto:CHaskins@paulcuffee.org)  
[@PaulCuffee](#)

### What is the Providence Parent Academy?

Through partnership with parents, schools, and community organizations, the Providence Parent Academy delivers an array of courses that teach strategies for success in school, at home, and at work. A collaborative project between the Providence Public School District and the Paul Cuffee School, the Providence Parent Academy offers parent-friendly, high-quality courses that build parents' confidence to engage with schools, teach parents how to advocate for their own needs and those of their children, help parents network with each other, and teach parents how to navigate public systems. By participating in the Providence Parent Academy, parents and caregivers will gain additional skills and knowledge to help their children thrive!

### Why should you attend the Providence Parent Academy?

- ✓ All courses offered by the Parent Academy have been requested by parents just like you!
- ✓ All courses are free and available at times and locations convenient to you right here in Providence!
- ✓ All courses are offered by experts in their fields who are committed to reaching and sharing important resources and information with parents, caregivers and teachers.
- ✓ You will learn practical ways to advocate for your own needs and/or those of your children.
- ✓ Signing up is easy! (See page 8)

### Contact Information

#### Providence Public Schools

c/o Janet Pichardo  
Director of Family & Community Engagement  
379 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903  
Phone: (401) 456-0686  
Fax: (401) 456-0687

#### Paul Cuffee School

c/o Olinda Matos  
Family Engagement Coordinator  
459 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908  
Phone: (401) 453-2626  
Fax: (401) 453-4964



*\*Bearer must be a current Cox Communications customer. Certificate may not be redeemed for cash. Other restrictions may apply.*



**Lifespan  
Community Health Services**

*Delivering health with care.™*

**Platinum sponsor of the Providence Parent Academy**

# MARCH

## Healthy Eating on a Budget

*Presented by the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan*

**Tuesday, March 24, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Providence Career & Technical Academy (Cafeteria) | 41 Fricker Street**

Learn how to eat healthy without breaking the bank! An exciting presentation will provide creative ways to stretch your dollar, as well as teach the 3 P's of eating healthy: Planning, Preparing and Purchasing. The Providence Parent Academy Kickoff will also feature food and prize giveaways.

### **Presenter: Kavita Patel**

Kavita Patel is a Senior Marketing Specialist at UnitedHealthcare Community Plan. Her work involves promoting good health and nutrition among members of the community.

## Financial Aid 101

*Presented by College Planning Center of RI*

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Paul Cuffee Upper School | 544 Elmwood Avenue**

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

Become familiar with the financial aid application process as your child prepares for college! Topics discussed will include types of aid, grants & scholarships and various types of loans. This course is open to parents of high school students and is especially relevant for parents of current juniors.

### **Presenter: Solanchi Fernandez**

Solanchi Fernandez is the Diversity Coordinator at the College Planning Center of RI. She has worked in the field of higher education for nearly three decades and is dedicated to helping Latino students access and obtain higher education.

## English for Speakers of Other Languages (Series)

*Presented by Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI)*

**Every Monday and Wednesday, March 25 – June 10, 2015 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Paul Cuffee Lower School | 459 Promenade Street**

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

This course is for English language learners who want to develop their literacy skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and in the use of technology. Learning English will help you achieve your goals — whether they are in employment, continuing education, or being a positive model of lifelong learning and engaged citizenship for your children. ESOL is a series course; it meets every Monday and Wednesday beginning on March 25th.

### **Presenter: Margaret Pleasants**

Margaret Pleasants has been a teacher at RIFLI for four years. She has a background in teaching at the high school level as well as in clinical social work. She is also trained in the Orton Gillingham phonics program, which she incorporates into her course.

## Social Media Safety

*Presented by The Education Consortium, LLC*

**Tuesday, March 31, 2015 | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex (JSEC) Library | 182 Thurbers Avenue**

Help your child understand what it means to be a digital citizen! This course will provide information about the popular social media apps that children are using today. Social media safety, accessibility, and digital footprints are all topics that will be discussed.

### **Presenter: Rebecca Kelley**

Rebecca Kelley is the Dean of Students at Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional School in Cranston. She presents on social media, cyberbullying, and student behavior in elementary, middle, and high schools across the state.

# APRIL

## *What to Expect on the New State Assessment for Math (PARCC)*

*Presented by Providence Public Schools - Math Department*

**Thursday, April 2, 2015 | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Robert Bailey Elementary School | 65 Gordon Avenue**

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

The Common Core curriculum has brought a new standardized test to Rhode Island, and this course will help you to help your child prepare for it! Parents of elementary school students can attend this session to learn about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) mathematics assessment. The session will review sample questions to better understand the types of problems your child will be expected to solve on this state assessment.

**Presenter: Annemarie Alberino**

Annemarie Alberino is one of the Elementary Math Specialists at PPSD.

## *Preparing for Life After High School for Students with IEPs*

*Presented by Providence Public Schools - Office of Special Education*

**Tuesday, April 7, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex (JSEC) | 182 Thurbers Avenue**

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

By age 14, the focus of special education is to prepare students for a successful transition into life after graduation. This presentation will help you to better understand the transition process and how it will help benefit your child. Information applies to all students with IEPs, regardless of whether they are college or career-bound.

**Presenter: Brian Quigg**

Brian Quigg is the Special Education Secondary Manager for the Providence Public School District. He provides professional development to teachers and parents regarding transition services and is a member of the Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee (RISEAC).

## *Services for Students with Special Needs*

*Presented by Providence Public Schools - Office of Special Education*

**Monday, April 13, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Robert Bailey Elementary School | 65 Gordon Avenue**

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

This course will describe services available for special needs students. You will receive comprehensive guidance on the range of special education services offered and how to obtain the best support for your child.

**Presenters: Dawn Pelino and Brian Quigg**

Dawn Pelino has been with PPSD for 22 years and currently serves as the district's Elementary Special Education Manager. She is responsible for speech therapy and private and public school elementary special education programs.

Brian Quigg is the Special Education Secondary Manager for the Providence Public School District. He provides professional development to teachers and parents regarding transition services and is a member of the Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee (RISEAC).

# APRIL

## *Know your Immigration Rights*

*Presented by Roger Williams University School of Law*

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Paul Cuffee Lower School | 459 Promenade Street**

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

Attorneys and law students from Roger Williams University School of Law's Pro Bono Collaborative will give a 25-minute presentation on immigration legal rights. The information session will be followed by an opportunity for individual advice and counsel.

### **Presenters: Multiple**

Several law students and attorneys from the Pro Bono Collaborative will be available to consult with individuals after the main presentation.

## *Birth to Five: Preparing Your Child for School and Life*

*Presented by Providence Public Schools - Office of Special Education*

**Monday, April 27, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Robert Bailey Elementary School | 65 Gordon Avenue**

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

This course is for parents of children from birth to five years old. Stay in the know on the new Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards! You will learn about the new standards that your child's teachers are using in the classroom, and ways in which you can support your child's learning at home.

### **Presenter: Mindy Mertz**

Mindy Mertz has been an employee of Providence Public Schools for 22 years. During the last 10 years she has been in charge of pre-kindergarten programming. Ms. Mertz is also an independent consultant who provides training to teachers and staff who work with children ages 0-5 in the early care and education field.

## *Stress Reduction Strategies (Series)*

*Presented by The Women's Medicine Collaborative*

**Wednesdays, April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**Lifespan/Providence Community Health | 369 Prairie Avenue, Suite 2B**

Learn techniques to reduce your stress! This four-part series will explain the health effects associated with chronic, persistent stress as well as practical strategies for working more effectively with stressors. The course will also include practice sessions to build awareness of stress in the mind and body and teach simple skills for lowering your stress level.

### **Presenter: Dr. Ellen Flynn**

Dr. Flynn is a psychiatrist specializing in Women's Mental Health and perinatal psychiatry. She has practiced Insight Meditation for 20 years and teaches Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction at the Women's Medicine Collaborative. Dr. Flynn is also a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry & Human Behavior in the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University.

## Parent Leadership Training (Developing Effective Skills for Parent Leadership) Presented by Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

Saturdays, May 2 & May 9, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Providence Schools | 797 Westminster Street, School Board Rooms B & C, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

This training introduces the participant to the development of leadership and advocacy skills within the context of the human service/school-based environment. The curriculum develops essential skills and abilities required for effective leadership. This course teaches how to increase leadership skills needed to encourage and empower others, with an emphasis on practical knowledge. \*Must attend both dates to receive a certificate of completion. *Refreshments will be provided.*

### **Presenters: Deborah Belanger, Victoria Rodriguez, Katie Torres and Jonna Mulvaney**

Deborah Belanger works with schools and community partners to support families of children with disabilities as the Training and Technical Assistance Manager. Victoria Rodriguez works with families as they navigate the special education and adult service systems as the Providence region Advocacy Manager. Katie Torres helps engage families to collaborate with their school district and advocate for their children as a bilingual Parent Involvement Coordinator for Special Education. Jonna Mulvaney brings experience in family leadership, teambuilding, and experiential learning to her position as Resource Center Coordinator.

## Culture and Identity

Presented by Youth in Action

Thursday, May 7, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Paul Cuffee Upper School | 544 Elmwood Avenue

Learn from high school students about issues of culture and its influence on identity. By the end of the workshop, you will gain awareness on how culture impacts leadership identity and practice, as well as the formation of your own identity. You will be able to name various aspects of identity and better understand its connection to leadership. *Refreshments will be provided.*

### **Presenters: Members of Youth in Action**

Youth in Action is an organization all about young people – their capacity to lead, their natural ability to innovate, and their desire for positive change. It is a partnership between youth, adults, and community members with the goal of integrating youth into all levels of decision making, program design, and political action.

## Students of Color and Language

Presented by Youth in Action

Thursday, May 14, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Paul Cuffee Upper School | 544 Elmwood Avenue

Have you ever felt like the way you speak about something is different from the way someone else does, based on distinct cultural experiences? Do you speak differently in different settings such as work, school, home, and with friends? This course will discuss the viewpoint that language standards are politically charged. Furthermore, participants will explore who decides the dominant language, what it means to “code switch” to gain political power, and what these things means in our society. *Refreshments will be provided.*

### **Presenters: Members of Youth in Action**

Youth in Action is an organization all about young people – their capacity to lead, their natural ability to innovate, and their desire for positive change. It is a partnership between youth, adults, and community members with the goal of integrating youth into all levels of decision making, program design, and political action.

## Next Generation Science (K-5)

*Presented by Providence Public Schools*

**Monday, May 18, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Gilbert Stuart Middle School | 188 Princeton Avenue**

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

Enjoy hands-on science activities that you can do in your own home! Next Generation Science will keep your children engaged and excited throughout the summer, preparing them for next year's science curriculum. All participants will leave with a packet of grade specific activities with instructions.

### **Presenters: Donna Casanova**

Donna Casanova has been teaching in Providence since 1996, primarily at the middle school level. She currently serves as the Supervisor of K-12 Science, supporting teacher instruction and student engagement throughout the district.

## Understanding My Child's English Learning

*Presented by Providence Public Schools - Office of English Language Learners*

**Wednesday, May 27, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex (JSEC) | 182 Thurbers Avenue**

**\*\*Childrens activities provided (Ages 5 to 12)\*\***

This course will help you understand what the ACCESS Scores mean in relation to your child's English language development. See how your child is progressing in all four domains of language (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and what areas your child can improve on. Additionally, you will learn some ways in which you may be able to help your child acquire more English and increase academic knowledge at home.

### **Presenters: Multiple**

The following professionals will conduct the session, all of whom are employees in the Office of English Language Learners at PPSD: Marie Ward- ELL Elementary Specialist, ESL teacher; Nelia Fontes- ELL Elementary Specialist, Bilingual Teacher; Roland Sasseville- Secondary ELL Specialist, ESL Teacher; Ronilee Scittarelli- K-8 ELL Specialist, ESL Teacher; and Holly Bubier- Secondary ELL Specialist, ESL Teacher.

## No, I Won't! Communication With Your Teen

*Presented by Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS)*

**Tuesday, June 2, 2015 | 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

**Central High School Community Room | 70 Fricker Street**

Learn about the different forces affecting the way your teenage son or daughter communicates with you. This course will cover developmental issues, stressors, risk and protective factors facing teen students. Through discussion and role play, you will practice communication skills geared specifically towards teenagers, as well as learn helping skills and setting limits.

### **Presenter: Chuck Cudworth**

Chuck Cudworth is the Clinical Director of Rhode Island Student Assistance Services. He is one of the few state experts on the delivery of school-based Prevention and Early Intervention Programs.

# Course Calendar 2015

<b>MARCH</b>				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>March 23</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>March 24</b> <i>Healthy Eating on A Budget, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>March 25</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Financial Aid 101, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>March 26</b>	
<b>March 30</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>March 31</b> <i>Social Media Safety, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</i>			
<b>APRIL</b>				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>April 6</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>April 7</b> <i>Preparing for Life After School for Students with IEPs, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>April 1</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>April 2</b> <i>What to Expect on the New State Assessment for Math, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</i>	
<b>April 13</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Services for Students with Special Needs, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>April 14</b>	<b>April 8</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>April 9</b>	
<b>April 20</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>April 21</b>	<b>April 15</b> <i>Know your Immigration Rights, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</i>	<b>April 16</b>	
<b>April 27</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Birth to Five: Preparing Your Child for School and Life, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>April 28</b>	<b>April 22</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>April 23</b>	
<b>April 29</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Stress Reduction Strategies, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</i>		<b>April 29</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Stress Reduction Strategies, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>April 30</b>	
<b>MAY</b>				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>May 4</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>May 5</b>	<b>May 6</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Stress Reduction Strategies, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>May 7</b> <i>Culture and Identity, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	
<b>May 11</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>May 13</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Stress Reduction Strategies, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>May 14</b> <i>Students of Color and Languages, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	
<b>May 18</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Next Generation Science, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>May 19</b>	<b>May 20</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Stress Reduction Strategies, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>May 21</b>	
<b>May 25</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>May 26</b>	<b>May 27</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Understanding My Child's English Learning, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>May 28</b>	
<b>JUNE</b>				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>June 1</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>June 2</b> <i>No, I Won't! Communication W/Your Teen, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>June 3</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>June 4</b>	
<b>June 8</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>June 9</b>	<b>June 10</b> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>June 11</b>	

\*Saturday, May 2, 2015: Parent Leadership Training (Developing Effective Skills for Parent Leadership), 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. See page 5.  
 \*Saturday, May 9, 2015: Parent Leadership Training (Developing Effective Skills for Parent Leadership), 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. See page 5.

## Course Registration Form 2015

All courses are FREE of charge and offered in English with Spanish Interpretation/Translation.

Courses have limited seating available. Please register one week before the class start date.

Register Online: <http://pvdparentacademy.eventbrite.com>

**You can also register in three easy steps:**

### About You

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name (please print clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name (please print clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
What school(s) does your child(ren) attend?

### Course Selection(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Course Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Course Date

### Return To

**Providence Parent Academy**

c/o Family & Community Engagement Office

379 Washington Street, Providence RI 02903

**Fax to:**

(401) 456-0687

