



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 03 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO.7

WELCOME BACK!

It's hard to believe that the start of the new school year is here. While the summer was full of unknowns and a whole lot of anticipation about what the new school year might look like, we remain committed to the safe return to in-person teaching and learning. I am pleased and excited to welcome our students, families, and all staff back on campus for the 2021-2022 School Year.

The first day of school for students is Thursday, September 9.

All students, except those who are approved to attend virtually due to medical reasons, will attend school on campus. All our schools will be open. Classes, configurations, programs, and services will return to how they were prior to the pandemic. Transportation will be provided to those who are eligible. Breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided in school to all students.

To ensure the health and safety of our students and staff, our district will follow the guidance provided by the health experts including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Schenectady County Public Health (SCPH), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as well as the New York State Education Department (NYSED). We will also follow any guidelines and regulations that may be issued at any time by New York State.

I've sent this before but am including again today as a reminder to please review our [tiered mitigation approach](#) and [summary](#) of protocols for the school year. We have also added [contact tracing charts](#) that outline steps that will be followed when there is a positive COVID-19 case. Keep in mind that these are subject to change. Please check the [district website](#) often for updates.

I have heard from families who are pleased and excited that their children will be returning to school campus. I also understand that some of you and your children, especially younger ones who have been home with you for over a year, are a bit anxious and concerned about returning to school. Children take their cues from you. Please talk about school and the importance of being in school. Remind them that they will be reconnected with teachers and friends, especially those who they haven't seen in a while. Tell your child that you are proud of them for going to school. Try to help your child feel confident that everyone is working together to keep them safe and comfortable. Let them know that they can talk about their fears and worries about school with you and their teacher at any time. Feel free to talk with your child's teacher who is happy to work on a coordinated plan for welcoming your child. If you need additional support, please let us know.

Your child's safety is our top priority. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that children be physically present in school if it is possible for them to do so safely. It is to this end that we continue to collaborate with medical experts and have safety measure and protocols in place to provide the safest environment possible.

SCHOOL START AND END TIMES



Elementary Schools 8 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Middle and High School 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION



Transportation will be provided to students who are eligible, as follows:

- Students in grades K-5 who attend school more than 1 mile from their home.
- Students in grades 6-12 who attend more than 1.5 miles from their home.

If you are eligible for transportation and have not completed the confirmation link, please do [here](#).

You will receive your transportation schedule in the mail. Students will have assigned seats on the bus. Everyone on a bus is required to always wear a mask.

Transportation Office Hours: 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Phone Number: 518-370-8103

PARENT PORTAL



You can sign up for the Parent Portal online. The portal is an easy way for you to keep track of your child's attendance, grades and more. If you have not signed up, please do so [here](#). You can find the "Campus Parent Portal" link under the "Parents" dropdown or under the "2021-2022 School Year" link. We have posted information and video tutorials to help you log on and use the portal.

CALENDAR

The 2021-2022 flip calendar will be mailed to families during the first weeks of school. You can access the web-based calendar [here](#).

QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher or principal. [Directory of Schools](#)



www.schenectady.k12.ny.us
518-370-8100

Welcome Back Continued

Please carefully review the health and safety protocols with your child and discuss the importance of following them on the bus and in school. If your child has any symptoms of illness, please do not send them to school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with your child's teacher or school principal.

Please be sure that we have updated contact information, including your phone number and email address, on file.

This past year has been a challenging one for all of us. We look forward to turning the corner and having an amazing school year.

I look forward to meeting you and your children soon.

Sincerely,
Anibal Soler, Jr.



Check out the beautiful mural painted on a wall at Paige Elementary School by Alyssa Gangaram, a senior at Schenectady High School. *"I painted the mural with hopes that students of any background would see it and be encouraged to pursue their dream,"* said Alyssa.



WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

On Monday, August 30, we welcomed nearly 100 new teachers, counselors, and clinicians to our district. The three-day orientation program kicked off with a welcome and 'meet and greet' breakfast. Superintendent Soler, Board President Cathy Lewis and Mayor Gary McCarthy addressed the newest members of the Schenectady team. Thank you to Carmella Parente and the Teaching and Learning Team for their hard work planning this event.



NEW TEACHER WELCOME BREAKFAST



NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

NEWS



THANK YOU TO WNYT FOR STOPPING BY AND SHARING A CLIP ABOUT OUR NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION.



SUPT. SOLER WAS INTERVIEWED BY ANN PARILLO FOR CAPITAL REGION TODAY THIS WEEK.

STAFF NOTES

SEPT. 7: REPORT TO WORK LOCATION

SEPT. 8: REPORT TO WORK LOCATION & TO SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTATION AS SCHEDULED

[SEE LETTER](#)

FACULTY MEETING DATES

SEPTEMBER 21	FEBRUARY 1
OCTOBER 5	MARCH 1
OCTOBER 19	MARCH 15
NOVEMBER 9	APRIL 5
DECEMBER 7	MAY 3
JANUARY 4	JUNE 7

On Thursday, Superintendent Soler held a Facebook live event to talk briefly about the start of school and the importance of in-person attendance. He answered some questions. We will post an FAQ on our website with answer any new questions that were asked in the comments after the live event. **STAY TUNED...** Mr. Soler will be doing some live shots on opening day as he visits schools.



SHARE YOUR
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
PHOTOS

#SCHENECTADYRISING



ANIBAL SOLER, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT, SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS: [TWITTER](#) @SCSCHOOLS [INSTAGRAM](#) @SCHENECTADYCITYSCHOOLDIST [FACEBOOK](#)

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA! THERE ARE MANY PHOTOS AND VIDEOS OF ORIENTATION EVENTS AND TEACHERS AND STAFF PREPARING FOR OPENING DAY.



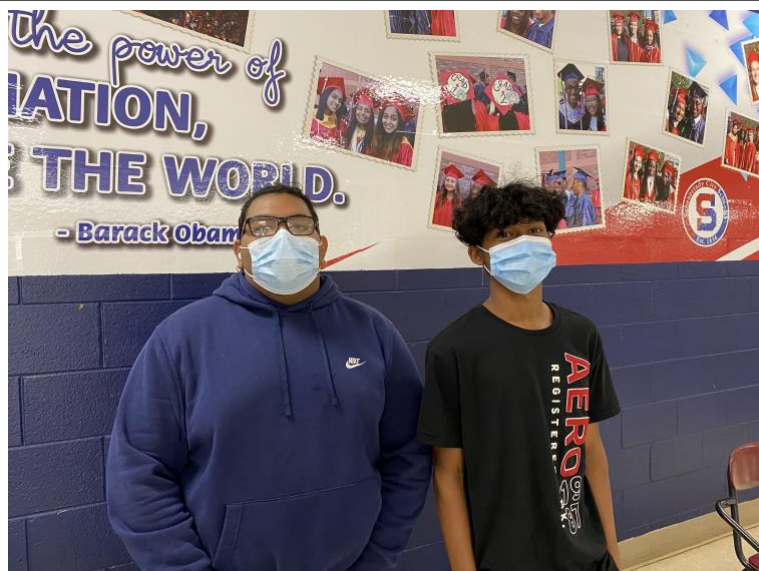
SIGHTS AND SOUNDS FROM THE WEEK



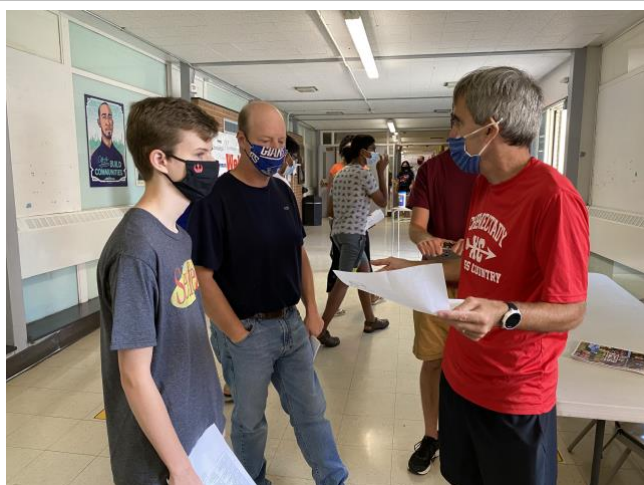
Nearly 1,200 9th and 10th grade students were welcomed back for a tour during orientation events held Tuesday and Wednesday at Schenectady High School.



Paige teachers participated in a team building scavenger hunt as part of their return to the school.



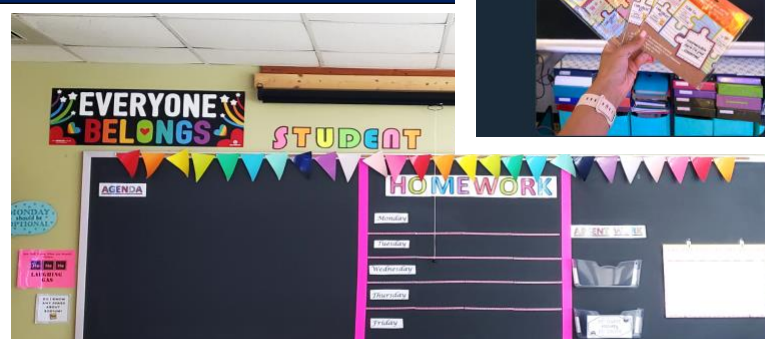
Many of the 10th graders were touring Schenectady High School for the first time. This duo said they are excited to be back in-person with their friends and had no problem finding their classrooms.



Students picked up their schedules, met with principals and guidance counselors, and had a chance to learn about clubs and athletics.

Welcome Back!

The return of teachers brought the return of newly decorated classrooms. We spotted these welcoming messages on the wall in Central Park Middle School and Mont Pleasant Middle School classrooms.



21st Century After School Program

The 21st Century Community Learning Center is an exciting after-school program run in partnership with the Boy & Girls Club. The program provides an array of events, activities, and projects. It runs October 12 through May 27 at six district sites. Go [here](#) for more information

Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8 at 7 p.m. It will be held in person at Schenectady High School (mask required) and will be live-streamed. The link for the livestream will be posted on the district website.



Superintendent Soler met with the Mont Pleasant Middle School leadership team earlier this week. With Superintendent Soler from left to right is Jason Breh (Assistant Principal), Nicole Biette (Principal) and Joseph Coleman (Assistant Principal).

COMMUNITY NOTE

Caribbean Day

Saturday, September 11
11 a.m. – Dusk
Central Park Music Haven
[More](#)



PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Hearing for Charter School Proposal

As per New York Education Law, when a new charter school is formed and application submitted, the school district in which the proposed charter school would be located, must hold a public hearing to solicit comments from the community.

The Schenectady City School District will hold a public hearing regarding a proposal for [Destine Preparatory Charter School](#) on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 6 p.m. in the Schenectady High School Commons, located at 1445 The Plaza.

Comments can also be submitted online through [Let's Talk](#).



The Washington Irving Adult Educational Center (WIEC) was among the schools that Superintendent Soler visited this week. He is pictured with WIEC leaders Dennis Green, Jesse Roylance and Karman McEvoy.

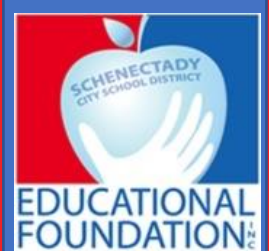
Superintendent Soler met with Dr. Steady Moono, President of SUNY Schenectady, earlier this week to talk about the important partnership between the district and the college.

#strongertogether



The Schenectady City School District Educational Foundation is a great partner to our district. Please consider making a donation to the grant program.

Since they started in 2008, the foundation has provided \$330,000 to more than 450 Schenectady teachers. To learn more and to make a donation, visit the [website](#).



#SCHENECTADYRISING 🌟

For up-to-date information, please visit www.schenectady.k12.ny.us

