



# SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 10 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO.8

## THANK YOU!

This has been an incredibly exciting week. First, I was pleased and honored to welcome back all our district staff to the 2021-2022 School Year. I hope that it was helpful for you to spend the first two days back in your school locations with your colleagues and in your classrooms before I brought everyone together for the formal presentation on Wednesday. It was a fantastic day. I enjoyed meeting so many of you and was somewhat overwhelmed by the incredible energy, positivity, and well, rejuvenation, that filled the high school auditorium. It was a great feeling. Thank you for the warm welcome, your positive attitudes and for what feels like a terrific outlook for the year ahead. One thing that became very clear to me this week is, our SCSD team is amazing and ready.

I have been hearing how much the students missed their teachers, classmates, and friends. It was obvious how much all of you have been missing your students and one another and that you too were looking forward to Thursday morning. I entered yesterday with no doubt, no reservations, that you were ready to welcome and care for our students.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. Thank you for making our opening day fantastic. While we always have things to work on for improvement, I will call it perfect because we did it. You were in school, and your students were in school... together. From what I could see, you both were smiling.

## TO OUR SCHENECTADY FAMILIES

As I traveled to schools yesterday, I spoke to some of you who were anxiously waiting outdoors with your child. Many of you told me that while you know it's time for your kids to be back in the classroom, you are anxious and a little scared to let them out of your sight. You watched as they walked away from you and toward the doors of the school, not sure if you should smile or cry. I watched them and I watched some of you. I realize it was a difficult morning and understand why. As parents, we do everything we can to protect our children, our babies, and it's very difficult to let them out of our sight especially when they have been at home, in our care, for the last year.

To you, I say, "thank you." Thank you for trusting us with your children. Thank you for appreciating and knowing that children need to be in school right now with their teachers, classmates, and friends. Thank you for being selfless and courageous. Please know that we are aware of how precious your child is and that their health and safety is a top priority. We will give them great care.

Children learn better and need regular in-person engagement and interaction with their teachers and classmates. So, know that expecting and encouraging your child to go to school, despite your reservations, will help them be comfortable and feel safe in school. Between yesterday and today, I had the opportunity to visit most of our schools. Every one of our schools offered a caring and welcoming environment. I spoke and laughed with teachers as well as many students. They were all doing great, and I hope it will help you to know that both were bursting with smiles and were clearly glad to be back in class.

While we are aware that the pandemic is still in effect, going to school brings some important normalcy to our lives. The safety protocols we have in place are so that we can offer the healthiest and safest environment possible. We will continue to monitor things closely and will follow the advice of medical experts. We will not waver from our commitment to keep safety at the forefront. We will also be transparent and will communicate with you often and throughout the school year.

Our school year is off to a great start because of our entire school community. So, in closing I am going to simply say "thank you." Thank you for your patience, honesty, and kindness. We are in this together and we are #SchenectadyRising. I look forward to seeing you soon.

MORE VIDEO CLIPS AVAILABLE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Anibal Soler, Jr.  
Superintendent



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

## OPENING VIDEOS & COVERAGE



[STAFF OPENING  
PRESENTATION](#)



[WELCOME BACK  
MESSAGE TO  
TEACHERS](#)



[WELCOME BACK  
TO STUDENTS](#)

[FIRST DAY  
OF SCHOOL](#)



[FACEBOOK  
LIVE AT MP](#)





## WELCOME BACK



### SHS Student-Athletes Helping Out



### THANK YOU!

Thank you to Coach Miller and Schenectady High School Varsity Basketball Players Lamier Ketter, Kanyatu Graham and Christain Gomez, who volunteered their time helping Keane Elementary School prepare for school opening.

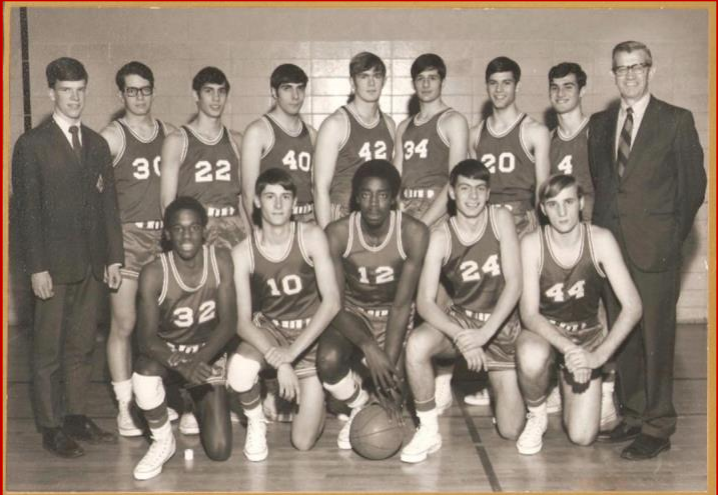
### In The News



**DAILY GAZETTE**  
**SEP 10, 2021**  
Schenectady City School District in-person learning on Thursday  
[READ HERE](#)

NEWS10 LIVESHOT THURSDAY MORNING  
WITH SUPERINTENDENT SOLER

THANK YOU TO BRIAN LEE FOR  
COMING BY AND COVERING  
OUR OPENING DAY



**DAILY GAZETTE**  
**SEP 09, 2021**

Schenectady City School District Athletic Hall of Fame: Undefeated 1969-70 Linton basketball to be honored [READ HERE](#)  
There is also a feature on pages B4 and B5.  
Look for more on the Athletic Hall of Fame inductees over the weekend.



The 2020-2021 Spotlight is hitting Schenectady mailboxes now. You can download it by [clicking here](#).

Previous versions of our publication are also available by [clicking here](#).

### ANNOUNCEMENT

On Thursday, we announced that the board of education approved the appointment of Dr. Lorenda D. Chisolm as Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. She is expected to join our district in mid-October. Please join us in welcoming her to Schenectady. Read the announcement by clicking [here](#).



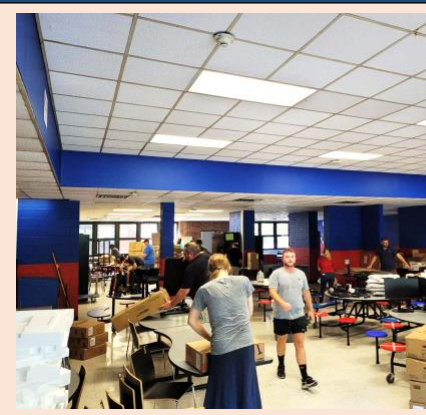
# #SchenectadyRising





## Thank you to our Technology Team

Thank you to Chris Pietrantonio, our technology director, and the IT team for their tireless hard work throughout the holiday weekend to get technology needs met for the start of school. We appreciate your commitment to our teachers and students.



### STAFF TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Schenectady City School District has teamed with Cornell University to bring Therapeutic Crisis Intervention in School (TCIS) to our classrooms. TCIS is a proven series of strategies to improve student learning through environmental shifts, teacher self-awareness, and coping skill development. It is trauma-informed care at the best level.

The TCIS Training Team offers trainings leading to certification in full TCIS as well as updates for those who were certified in the last 12 to 18 months. TCIS may be required for some of our special education programs too.

The initial training is a five-day, evening training. We have an upcoming training from **September 20 – 24** from 4-8 p.m. It is a paid training.

To sign up, please [complete the form](#) and speak with your principal or supervisor about your interest.

**Interested in a refresher?** If you were certified or updated in the last 12-18 months, we can offer you a refresher. COVID-19 has allowed us some additional time beyond the traditional 6 months. [Sign up here.](#)

We also have a class that does not lead to certification but can expose you to the basic concepts offered in TCIS. If you are interested, please [email Laura DaPolito](#). You can complete the lessons at your own pace and implement strategies with consultation support.

If you have questions, [please contact Laura DaPolito](#).

### REMINDERS

#### School Vaccinations

Student vaccinations must be up-to-date within 14 days from the start of the school year. Ellis Family Health Center is hosting a Back-to-School Vaccination Clinic September 13 – 16 from 4:30-8 p.m. at the McClellan Street Health Center. No appointment needed. [Download the Flyer.](#)

#### 2021-2022 Progress Report Card Schedule

[Click here](#) to download the Report Card Schedule for the school year



### FOOD SERVICES

You can access menus, nutritional information, allergens, and weekly menu offerings [here](#)



You can access menus, nutritional information and allergens on our **So Happy App!**

#### Support the SHS Class of 2022 By Purchasing a Face Mask



Please support the Schenectady High School Class of 2022 by purchasing a blue or red SHS face mask. You can order through September 22 by [clicking here](#).



Please remember to continue to check the [homepage of our website](#) for any updates to our safety protocols.

