



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 24 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 10

Good afternoon,

As we finish our second full week of school, I have a few things that I want to share and provide follow-up on. At Wednesday evening's board of education meeting, I shared our district's plan for spending the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. This is funding being provided to schools by the federal government to help with mitigation strategies so that students can stay in school and to address the impact that the pandemic has had on students and learning. Our district is poised to receive approximately \$41.3 million to use over the next four years. We will have the opportunity to provide tutoring and enrichment, boost curriculum, services and supports, make upgrades and more. Our plan was shaped by feedback collected from stakeholders over a period of several months, including a survey that you were asked to complete in the spring. The plan must be submitted to the government by the end of the month and considered for approval. We are preparing to submit our plan and will continue to keep you updated. You can review my presentation on the plan to the board [here](#). You can also watch the [recording of the meeting](#).

The board of education also had a lengthy discussion about vaccinations for athletes. This comes on the heels of a single COVID positive case on our football team that resulted in the team having to forfeit their first game of the season due to quarantine requirements because most of the team was not vaccinated. In addition to missing the first game, all the players required to quarantine, also had to stay home from school. Vaccination of athletes is not mandatory according to Section 2 (our sports league), but districts can decide to mandate it and some in our area have.

What's notable is that, not only does the vaccination protect against COVID, but any vaccinated athlete who is exposed to COVID would not be required to quarantine unless they have symptoms. So, in the case of the football team, if all members had been vaccinated, the only player sitting out of the game and the classroom would have been the one who tested positive.

The board did not make a decision about it. They had a great discussion and shared a variety of perspectives. Over the next two weeks, we plan to engage with student-athletes and parents and will develop a proposal to present to the board at the October 6 board of education meeting.

Finally, please join me in congratulating Michaela McBride Miranda, who was named Director of Athletics this week. Some of you know Ms. Miranda as a teacher from King, others as an administrator from the high school, and most recently as the principal of Van Corlaer. She brings to her new role an array of leadership skills as well as the experience of being an athlete and coach. Ms. Miranda is committed to expanding athletic opportunities for our students and making our sports program the best that it can be. Most importantly, she has a passion for Schenectady and our students. She will be an advocate for your child and all our student-athletes.

Ms. Miranda is only the second female athletic director in Schenectady's history and is one of only two currently in Section 2. We should be very proud.
#SchenectadyRising

You can read more about Ms. Miranda [here](#). When you see her at the games, be sure to stop, introduce yourself and say hello.

Anibal Soler Jr,
Superintendent of Schools



Superintendent Soler and Dr. Cotto at the Schenectady Athletic Hall of Fame Golf Tournament Fundraiser on September 12.



Michaela McBride Miranda,
our new Director of Athletics



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

Congratulations

Congratulations to the **Schenectady High School Girls Volleyball Team** for their first-place finish in the "Schenectady Showdown" tournament held at Schenectady High School Sunday.



Emma Bogdanowicz-Wilson (SHS Class of 2022) set a new school record in the 100 M Breast Stroke with a final time of 1.11.31 during the Schenectady-Colonie Swim & Dive Meet on September 15.

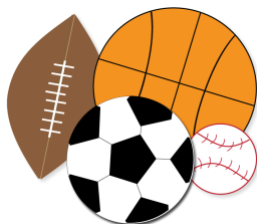
CALENDAR UPDATES

2021-2022 flip calendars will be sent home with students next week. You can access it [online here](#).



Sports Schedules

You can look up our sports schedules [here](#). Soccer and Cross-Country is on the schedule for this weekend.



ON THE MENU



We have made updates to our menu for October. Falafel will be available daily for lunch at all of our schools. It is Halal and vegetarian friendly.

You can access the daily menus [here](#).

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conference Days for grades K-6 will be held as follows:

November 17: Full Day
No school for students in grades K-6

November 19: Half day (conferences in afternoon). Half day for school for students in grades K-6

November 23: Evening Conferences

NEW



COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period: **September 16 (4 p.m.) through September 24, 2021 (9 a.m.)**

Total of 32 cases

25 students and 6 Staff members as follows:

- Hamilton Elementary School: 6
- Howe Elementary School: 2
- Keane Elementary School: 2
- Mont Pleasant Middle School: 3
- Oneida Middle School: 1
- Pleasant Valley Elementary School: 1
- Schenectady High School: 11
- Van Corlaer Elementary School: 3
- Woodlawn Elementary School: 1
- Yates Elementary School: 3
- Zoller Elementary School: 1

Approximate Percentage of School Population COVID-19 Positive:

- Students: .0026%
- Staff: .0038%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: .0029%

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness or are waiting for COVID-19 test results, do not come to school or work. You should instead do the following immediately:

STAFF MEMBERS

Stay home, contact your supervisor and email David Brudy at david.barood@neric.org

STUDENTS

Parents please keep your child home and contact your school nurse.

If your child is exposed to a person who tested positive, you will receive a phone call immediately.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Schenectady County offers vaccinations at several locations on a variety of days and times. No appointment needed. Just walk-in. The schedule is posted [here](#).

The [New York State School COVID Report Card](#) is currently being updated.

Staff Notes

CPR/AED Trainings

Monday, September 27 or Monday October 4
6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Schenectady High School Commons

Registration Required

Contact Anne Osborne at 518-881-2044 Ext. 44802 or by email osbornea@schenectady.k12.ny.us

CPR/AED Certification is required for all staff who will be working in after-school and summer programs.

NERIC MODEL SCHOOL LENDING LIBRARY 2021-2022

Models School announced that the Lending Library has returned for 2021-2022. Reservations will begin on October 1.

[More here](#) [Request form here](#)

STAFF VACCINATION INFORMATION

As per mandate by the NYSDOH schools must ensure that all employees are tested weekly for COVID-19. Only employees who provide documentation of being fully vaccinated can opt-out.

You should have received an email from Human Resources with instructions on how to log into School Front and complete the vaccination information form. Please be sure to follow all instructions.

We are working with the Schenectady County DOH. Weekly testing will begin soon.

Visit us online
www.schenectady.k12.ny.us



Apply for a Job

Are you interested in joining our team?

You can view and apply for employment opportunities [here](#).

CELEBRATING

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic Heritage Month began on September 15 and will continue through October 15. The celebration recognizes the anniversaries of national independence for a number of Latin American countries. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua all recognize September 15 as the date of their independence, while Mexico's independence is celebrated September 16 and Chile celebrates its independence September 18.

Watch this quick [video lesson](#) that explains when it is appropriate to use the terms "Hispanic" and "Latino".



Do you need food?



The Regional Food Bank and community partners are hosting drive-thru pantries throughout the area.

There are several pantries in Schenectady. [Click here for the map](#) and select Schenectady. It will provide a list of all the locations and their hours.

[FoodPantries.org](#) also has a list of Schenectady food pantries.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following whose appointment was approved at the Board of Education Meeting held on September 22. Welcome to those who are new to our team.

Appointment of Tenure

Theresa Thomas, School Counseling and Guidance

Administrative Appointments

Michaela Miranda, Director of Athletics

Kathleen Wylie, Assistant Principal of Schenectady High School

PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS

Operations and Maintenance

Qwenton Thompson, Cleaner, Schenectady High School

Stephen Williams, Cleaner, Mont Pleasant Middle School

Parprofessionals

Linda Taylor, Paige Elementary School

Bethany Lyons, Paige Elementary School

Patricia Courtright, Howe Elementary School

Malcolm Chank, Van Corlaer Elementary School

Sophia Girard, Paige Elementary School

Phoolmatie Kissoon, Pleasant Valley Elementary School

Matthew Keenan, Schenectady High School

Basmattie Srikishun, Zoller Elementary School

Lunch Monitors

Joan Grau, Zoller Elementary School

Joalys Verdejo, Zoller Elementary School

Brown Transportation is hiring school bus drivers

NOW HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!

A career with STA is a great option for anyone seeking **flexibility** with their hours, the ability to learn **new skills**, and the **opportunity** to make a positive difference in their **community**.

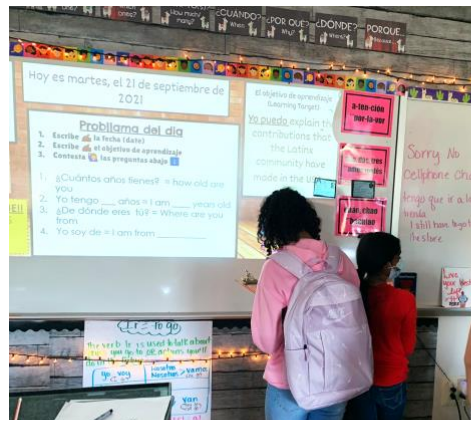
SCAN TO LEARN MORE & APPLY ONLINE!



(518) 393-6634
[STACAREERS.COM](#)



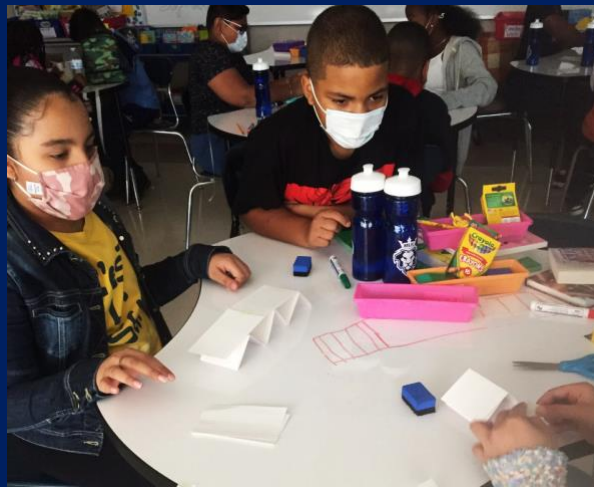
Inside Our Schools



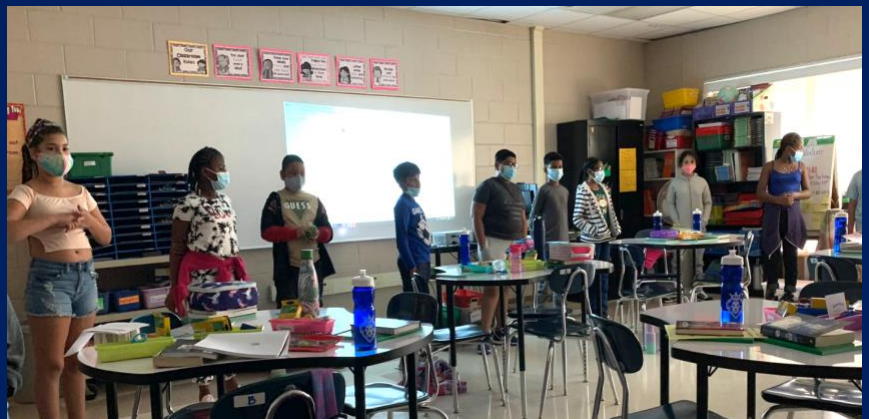
Mont Pleasant Middle School students in Chris Rogers' Spanish class did a gallery walk to learn about 32 influential Latinos in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The students worked in small groups to move around the classroom and study about each of the historical figures.



Pleasant Valley students in Ms. Lauterwasser's 5th grade class get to stand in front of the "Affirmation Mirror" and start their morning with positive self-talk. Instructional Supervisor John Pizzo thought long and hard about which trait best described him.



Students at MLK had a chance to participate in their first "Circle Up" (below) of the school year and an engaging STEM lesson in bridge building (left) during the first full week of school.



#SchenectadyRising

