



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 1 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 11

As we come to close our third full week of school, I wish to thank everyone in our school community for your continued partnership and patience. We encourage you to continue to submit any questions, concerns and to provide any input through [Let's Talk](#). We carefully review every submission and promise to get back to you with answers to your questions and any necessary follow-up. We also appreciate those of you who have sent us positive remarks, expressed gratitude and compliments. Every day we work to improve and strive to rise. #SchenectadyRising

It's been an exciting week. Earlier this week, the Oneida Middle School OSAR (Oneida Students Against Racism) Club learned that they are one of the winners of a \$25,000 grant from State Farm Neighborhood Assist. It was great to see the clapping, cheering, pride and excitement of the students when Jake from State Farm introduced a video announcement of winners that included Oneida Middle School teacher and club advisor Yacouba Sangare. This was a huge win as OSAR was up against large organizations and corporations from across the country.

Thank you to all who voted for the OSAR club. Also, thank you to Mr. Sangare, the OSAR team of advisors and the many students in the club who are committed to promoting anti-racism. The club plans to use the funding to visit Washington, D.C. and to attend an anti-racism book festival. They also plan to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture and are interested in launching other activities. Representatives from State Farm will be at the school next Thursday to present the check.

This week a book vending machine was unveiled at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. This was an exciting morning for the students at MLK who could not wait to put the special coins in the machine and select from a list of titles.

Throughout each day, MLK students will have an opportunity to earn coupons that will be exchanged for coins that can be used for the Bookworm vending machine. The students who I met on Wednesday were thrilled to learn that with each coin, they get to select a book to keep. Nothing excites us more than seeing our students with books in their hands.



Superintendent Soler celebrates with OSAR Club members and advisors following the announcement that the club won \$25,000.

[WATCH THE STATE FARM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSIST ANNOUNCEMENT](#)



Excitement at MLK with the new Bookworm Vending Machine. With Mr. Soler is Mrs. Munrett, principal of MLK, and students Amari Brown, Cecilia Osipitan, and Mahendra Ramdiall

[WATCH THE RIBBON CUTTING OF THE BOOK VENDING MACHINE](#)



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SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE CONTINUED

I'm pleased to share that Joe DiCaprio, executive director of elementary schools, just finished his first full week in the district. I know that he has been touring the elementary schools and meeting with principals, staff and students. If you see him in your school, please say "hello" and welcome him back to Schenectady.

Michaela Miranda, our director of athletics, is holding virtual meetings with athletes and their parents to get feedback on our athletic programs and to discuss COVID-vaccinations for athletes. There are two meetings scheduled on Monday, October 4. The details and links to attend are on the next page. The board of education will resume discussion about athlete vaccinations at the next meeting which is scheduled for October 6.

Have a great weekend.

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



MLK student Mahendra Ramdiall collects his book from the new book vending machine while Amari Brown waits his turn.

Calendar Reminders

OCTOBER 8

EMERGENCY RELEASE DAY

ALL STUDENTS ARE DISMISSED 15 MINUTES EARLY

OCTOBER 11

NO SCHOOL

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY/COLUMBUS DAY



The Athletics Department is seeking family feedback on our athletics, interscholastic, and intramural sports programs, as well as feedback from our students and families as it relates to vaccinations and athletes. There are two virtual meetings set for discussion and for you to share your thoughts.

MONDAY: 4-5 P.M.

<https://meet.google.com/bkm-qbpg-xnt>

MONDAY: 5-6 P.M.

<https://meet.google.com/cfx-jxxu-hox>

Highlights on the October Menu

Peppers are the October Harvest of the Month.

Our apples come from local NYS Yonders Farms.

Our milk comes from local farmers Jerry Dell Farm and Waltz Farm.

Menus are subject to change. Like most places across the country, our district is experiencing shortages with certain food items and must substitute, as needed, with different items. All meals will meet the USDA criteria for being a complete meal and will include a fruit or vegetable and milk.

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

ON THE MENU



COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period September 24 (10 a.m.) through October 1 (10 a.m.):

Total of 33 cases

30 students and 3 Staff members as follows:

- Central Park Middle School: 3
- Keane Elementary School: 2
- Martin Luther King Elementary School: 3
- Mont Pleasant Middle School: 1
- Oneida Middle School: 6
- Schenectady High School: 5
- Van Corlaer Elementary School: 8
- Washington Irving: 1
- Woodlawn Elementary School: 1
- Yates Elementary School: 3

Approximate Percentage of School Population COVID-19 Positive this week:

- Students: .0031%
- Staff: .0019%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: .0030%

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

NEW CONTACT

Stay home, contact your supervisor and email Christine Carta at Christine.carta@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](#).

[New York State School COVID Report Card](#)

Staff Notes

FLU SHOT CLINIC FOR SCSD STAFF

October 28

2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Schenectady High School

2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Mont Pleasant Middle School (Main Gym)

Bring a copy of your insurance card.

TRAININGS

TEACH NY Trainings Coming Up

[Trainings and Registration](#)

Principals across our district work to provide strong leadership and the best education. This month is **National Principals Month** but we recognize and appreciate your hard work all year. Thank you for all that you do.



Attendance This Week

Our average daily attendance this week is as follows:

Elementary School
83.86%

Middle School
84.67%

High School
79.19%

CONGRATULATIONS



YourSource

September 2021

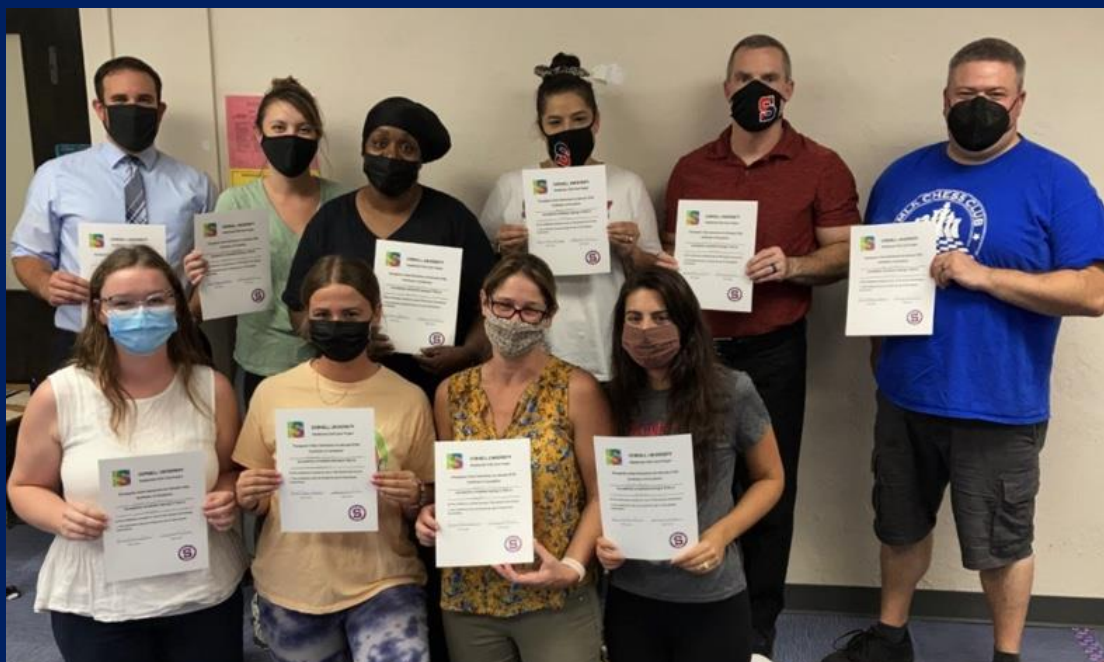


Schenectady Teacher Appointed To NYSTRS Board of Trustees

Congratulations to Juliet Benaquisto, a special education teacher in our district and the president of the Schenectady Federation of Teachers (SFT), who was recently appointed to the New York State Teachers Retirement System Board of Trustees. She is one of three active teachers on the board. Mrs. Benaquisto has taught in our district for 33 years and has served as SFT president since 2006. She was recently featured in the NYS Teachers Retirement System newsletter.

TCIS Training

Last week, ten SCSD colleagues were trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Schools (TCIS). Congratulations and welcome to the TCIS team of trained professionals across our district.



These members of the Schenectady High School Faculty ran in the Freihofer's Run in Albany on Saturday, September 25.

Pictured left to right:

- Tymesia Nabors
- Toby Valentino
- Amanda Riccardi
- Pam DiMezza
- Phuong Tran
- Kamal Tyson
- Jessica Kohout



Mr. DiCaprio enjoyed meeting students and staff as he visited schools this week. Above, visiting Woodlawn where he was once principal.



On September 30, the Schenectady High School College Fair included nearly 60 colleges and universities. Hundreds of students attended to ask questions, meet representatives, and plan their future. #SchenectadyRising



We spotted some students celebrating their heritage in school this week. Follow us on Instagram @SchenectadyCitySchoolDist for more #HispanicHeritageMonth.

21st Century Program

The 21st Century Program starts at SHS, SCLA, MPMS, CPMS, Oneida and Keane. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact Simone Miranda at mirandasi@schenectady.k12.ny.us

Schenectady High School Financial Aid Night is Tuesday

Learn about the financial aid process, grants and loans and how you can get financial assistance to college. Schenectady High School Financial Aid Night will be held Tuesday, October 5 at 6 p.m. [Virtual Meeting Link](#)

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

The SCSD Educational been Foundation is awarding \$15,000 in grants this semester with award up to \$1,500 per recipient. Please review grant guidelines because they have revised since last year. You can [apply here](#). For more information, [go here](#). If you have any questions, please email Agnes Phillips at phillipsagnes14@gmail.com or Nancy Sagendorf at nancysagendorf@gmail.com



#SchenectadyRising

