



# SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 12 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 17

Happy Friday!

I hope you had a relaxing Veterans holiday yesterday and that you took the time to recognize and thank those in your life who are serving or have served. To all Veterans, I am grateful to you. Thank you for your courage, dedication, service, and sacrifice. I respect you. I appreciate you. I thank you.

It's hard to believe how fast the school year is moving. Today marks the close of the first quarter marking period. **Report cards will be distributed on November 19.** They will be sent home with elementary students and mailed for students in grades 6-12. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's performance in school or wonder if there are opportunities for missed work or tests to be made up, please contact your child's teacher. The upcoming elementary parent-teacher conferences also provide an opportunity to discuss how your child is doing in school and how you can help them at home. If you haven't scheduled a conference, please contact your child's teacher.

We will be reviewing and analyzing the academic data immediately and plan to present the 2021 first quarter academic report to the board of education in early December.

I continue to get out into the community to meet our partners and learn how we can support one another and work together. This week I met with Christopher Delvecchio, the CEO of MVP Health Care, and his team. Mr. Delvecchio is also a graduate of Mont Pleasant High School. We had a great discussion and I look forward to a great partnership.

I also attended a virtual meeting with the NAACP Schenectady Chapter to discuss our work together and how we can partner to strengthen our schools and community.

We have many exciting things going on in the district. Please be sure to follow us on social media. We post photos, videos, and upcoming events every day. Coming up next week is the Blue Roses Theatre Company's first show of the year, "Fall Showcase." It will run November 18-20. See the next page for more information.

There's no greater inspiration for our students, staff and community than hearing about the successes of our former students (for example, Mr. Delvecchio). We have many who work in our district. We will soon begin sharing alumni features in my brief, on our website and on our social media pages. We would love to feature you. If you are a graduate of Schenectady schools, [please email us](#). Watch for the SCSD Alumni Profiles soon.

CONTINUED

## REMINDERS

### NOVEMBER 17

GRADES PRE-K-6 NO SCHOOL  
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE

### NOVEMBER 19

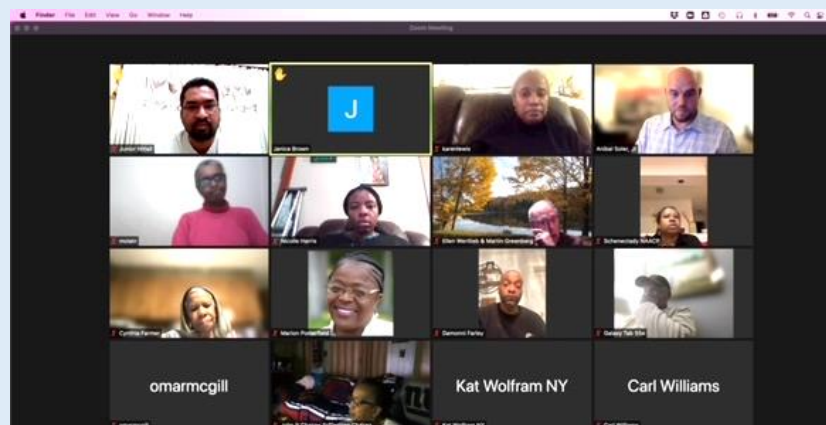
GRADES PRE-K-6 HALF DAY  
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE

### NOVEMBER 23

EVENING PARENT TEACHER  
CONFERENCES



Dr. Cotto and Superintendent Soler met with Christopher Delvecchio, CEO of MVP Healthcare and a graduate of Mont Pleasant High School.



Superintendent Soler attended a virtual meeting with the NAACP Schenectady Chapter.



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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE CONTINUED

In case you didn't see it, we launched our first Patriots Podcast yesterday. It featured interviews with Coach Miller, varsity swimming standout Alexis Gibson, and Kanishjoarie Marrero and Naomi Rogers of the varsity girls' volleyball team. We will be releasing a new podcast every Thursday which can be accessed on Spotify and will be linked from our social media. I will also include it in my brief each week.

Whether you are a student, parent, teacher, staff member or community member, thank you for your continued partnership and support. We are all in this work together.

**#schenectadyrising**

Have a fantastic weekend,

Anibal Soler, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools



Students from Heather Rush's art class at Lincoln painted and designed a desk for Assistant Director for Teaching & Learning Carmella Parente. The desk was a surprise delivery this week.

### RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW

You can get your tickets for the Blue Roses Fall Showcase here.

## BLUES ROSES THEATRE CO. FALL SHOWCASE

FREE FOR SCSD STUDENTS AND STAFF  
\$5 GENERAL ADMISSION  
\$2 SENIORS AND OUTSIDE STUDENTS

NOVEMBER 18 @ 7 P.M.  
NOVEMBER 19 @ 7 P.M.  
NOVEMBER 20 @ 2 AND 7 P.M.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS AHEAD OF TIME

This week is the first Schenectady Patriots Podcast. The only podcast by Schenectady Patriots for Schenectady Patriots.

This episode features Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach John Miller who discusses the upcoming season, what to expect coming after last year's shortened season and the recent dedication of the Central Park basketball courts in the name of Naylor Carrington. Also meet 'athlete of the week,' varsity swimming standout Alexis Gibson. Kanishjoarie Marrero and Naomi Rogers of the Girls Varsity Volleyball Team talk about how the team stepped up in big tournaments this season and what to look forward to next season. Listen and subscribe to the Schenectady Patriots Podcast on [Apple](#) or [Spotify](#).



### VACCINE PODS

Vaccine PODS for children ages 5-11 began this week. By Monday morning all the available slots were booked. We are working with the Schenectady County Department of Health to schedule more for our families. Thank you to our school nurses who were on hand to help and make sure things ran smoothly for our families.

### RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

The Schenectady County Department of Health provided us with resources for parents regarding the vaccine.

#### RESOURCES

All You Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccine and Children. [English](#) [Spanish](#)

[10 Questions About the COVID-19 Vaccine Answered](#)



### TEXT TO LET'S TALK

We have a new Let's Talk feature. You can text your questions, comments, and concerns to us through Let's Talk.

**TEXT**

**518-900-7318**



## COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period November 5 (2 p.m.) through November 12 (11 a.m.)

### Total of 26 cases

### 16 students and 10 staff members:

- Central Park: 1
- Keane: 1
- MPMS: 3
- Oneida: 2
- Paige: 3
- Pleasant Valley: 1
- Schenectady High School: 7
- Van Corlaer: 2
- Zoller: 6

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

- Students: .02%
- Staff: .83%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: .24%

## 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 Lindsay Baroody at [Lindsay.Baroody@neric.org](mailto:Lindsay.Baroody@neric.org) or call 518-312-8848

### 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 continues to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations at a variety of locations throughout the month. All PODS are open to walk-ins. **The November schedule is available [here](#).**

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



At the last board of education meeting, Jeffrey Russo was appointed District Director of School Climate and Safety. [More Here](#)

### SCSD Employee Benefit Association

The SCSD Employee Benefit Association is an employee-managed fund that provides help to employees in the event of extended illness or injury. The enrollment fee is \$20 per year. Enrollment is open through November 30. More information [here](#). Payroll deduction is available.

If you already enrolled in automatic renewal, you do not need to do anything. If you have questions, please contact your building representative, Fabiola Tirado, or Robyn Cross.

### Office of Teaching and Learning

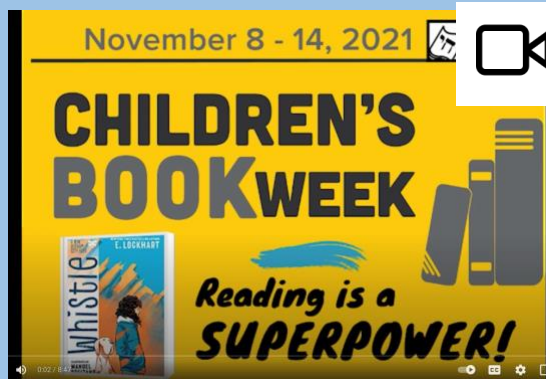
[Click here](#) for the November Newsletter from the Office of Teaching and Learning. This month's edition includes information on upcoming professional development opportunities, future book studies, introductions to new staff, updates, kudos and much more.



[www.schenectady.k12.ny.us](http://www.schenectady.k12.ny.us)



Children's Book Week is not only a celebration of books, but it's also about connection. It is a vehicle to unite kids and adults with books, authors, and illustrators to foster a love of reading. To celebrate we are sharing this video of Schenectady alumni Willie Deane (SHS '98) reading one of his published children's books. Click [here](#) to watch Willie Deane read "Love."



## PARENTS: PLEASE COMPLETE THE DIGITAL EQUITY SURVEY

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is asking all parents to participate in a [Digital Equity Survey](#). Digital equity is about making sure students have equal access to technology and technology tools.

## FOOD SERVICE GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Two of our schools are the recipients of the NYSED Child Nutrition School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant.

Central Park Middle School was awarded \$20,000 for two new serving lines.

Washington Irving Education Center (WIEC) was awarded \$6,700 for a high-speed ventless oven.

The equipment will allow us to offer more food options and improve the quality of the food we serve.

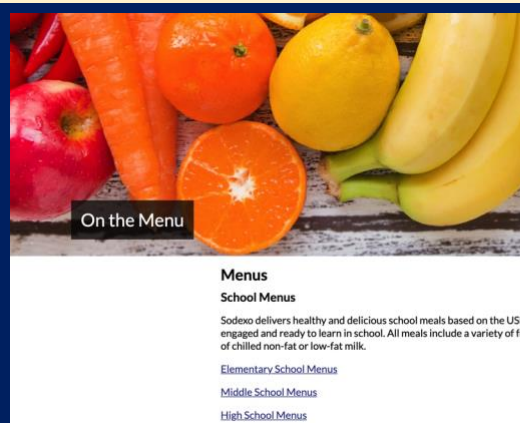


National Honor Society students from Schenectady High School installed a Little Free Library at Keane earlier this week. Check out the [video](#) of these excited young readers cutting the ribbon on the library.



Congrats to these 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Pleasant Valley who received awards for 100% attendance during the month of October.

## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENUS





Yates students participated in the “Operation Gratitude Halloween Candy Giveback” and collected 56 pounds of Halloween candy from their friends and families. The Halloween Candy Give Back Program has been connecting communities with their military, veteran, and first responder heroes each fall since 2007. Operation Gratitude assists in distributing the candy to deployed troops, local military units, veterans, and first responders, providing a sweet opportunity for grateful Americans to thank those who serve our nation. Click [here](#) to watch their video.

### Glow Day at Hamilton



Students in Mr. Rossler’s class at Hamilton had an awesome time during “Glow Day” earlier this week. The classroom was lit by black light and decorated with neon, while the students used neon highlighters and glow sticks in their learning activities.

