



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 19 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 18

This week, I had the great pleasure of attending the Blue Roses Theatre Company's *Fall Showcase* on Thursday evening. It was amazing. If you are able, please attend a show. Our students are incredible.



I am pleased to share that the Board of Education approved our district's first ever [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity in Education \(DEI\) Policy](#) at the meeting this week. This is an important policy that is carefully aligned with our strategic plan and will serve to guide and drive our work in the district. Please review and become familiar with the policy as it impacts all facets of our work. Adoption of the DEI policy means that we are committed to ensuring **every** student in our district has what they need to be educationally successful. It means we take action to remove barriers and ensure that there is equity and access to opportunities and resources. As a district, we embrace and celebrate diversity and we continue working to ensure inclusivity.

The work on this policy began a few years ago. Thank you to Dr. Patrick Jean-Pierre who launched the process to develop a policy and to the task force members who spent many hours collaborating, writing, re-writing, and finalizing this policy for the board to review and consider. Thank you to board members for your commitment to DEI with an extra thank you to board members Nohelani Etienne, Princella Leary, and Ann Reilly who led the policy committee and advanced the work to the board for discussion, consideration, and adoption.



[ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

CONTINUED

PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION



We are asking all parents, guardians, and caregivers to be sure that your contact information is up to date at your school. If you do not receive our phone calls, text messages and emails, it is most likely because we do not have correct information for you. We want to make sure you always receive district and school news, updates, and notifications.

REPORT CARD UPDATE

Please don't be concerned if you did not receive your child's report card today. **All report cards will be issued by Tuesday, November 23.** Thank you for your patience.

YOU ARE INVITED

GRADUATION MEASURES



The Board of Regents is creating a commission to review NYS's high school graduation measures, reaffirm what it means to obtain a diploma, what that diploma should signify and ensure education excellence and equity for all students. The Board of Regents and NYS Education Department are holding regional meetings to help inform the work. Please attend the upcoming meeting.



**December 7, 2021
2-4:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Pre-registration is required
Register [here](#)**



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE CONTINUED

Moving forward, our work will continue to evolve. We will be developing measures and goals and a process for monitoring and reporting. I will keep you updated.

Again, thank you for your commitment to our students and community.

Earlier this week, our Executive Leadership Team met with school administrators throughout the day. We met with secondary principals in the morning, elementary principals in the afternoon and all district administrators in the early evening. It was a great day of collaboration with many fantastic discussions. I want to give a shout out and thank you to Jennifer Lawrence and the SEAT Center for allowing us to use their beautiful facility for the day.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING AT THE SEAT CENTER



It's important that we get out into the community and meet our partners. They have been extremely gracious and enjoy sharing their facilities and spaces with our district. I will continue the work to connect, build, and strengthen partnerships. I look forward to holding more meetings in the various locations throughout the community.

I know many of you are looking forward to the holiday, short week and a little down time next week. You deserve it. We are almost there.

Have a fantastic weekend.

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



CDTA APP

HIGH SCHOOL CDTA RIDERS
DOWNLOAD THE APP



The second episode of the Schenectady Patriots Podcast is out. This week we continue to build excitement for the winter sports season. We talk with two senior track standouts, Dior Roberts and Deron Davis, about what they are looking forward to in their final season. Plus, conversations with Girls Varsity Bowling Coach Sharon Sager, and Indoor Track Coach Joe Bennett. Listen and subscribe to the Schenectady Patriots Podcast on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

CULTURE CONSUMED

The Henry and Miriam Butzel Gallery
November 12 to December 17
Reception: November 17 3:45-4:45 & 6-7
The Butzel Gallery @ Schenectady High School
1445 The Plaza, Schenectady, NY 1230

NIKI HAYNES



COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period November 12 (11 a.m.) through November 19 (8 a.m.)

Total of 53 cases

42 students and 11 staff members:

- Central Park: 1
- Hamilton: 5
- Keane: 2
- MPMS: 6
- Oneida: 6
- Paige: 4
- Pleasant Valley: 2
- Schenectady High School: 13
- Van Corlaer: 2
- Woodlawn: 3
- Yates: 3
- Zoller: 6

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

- Students: .04%
- Staff: .92%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: .50%

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

COVID-19 TESTING FOR STUDENTS

We are offering COVID-19 surveillance (pool) testing of students at each of our schools. While the state requires us to offer testing to unvaccinated students once a week, we are also committed to testing all students, regardless of vaccination status, if possible. Only students whose parents or guardians consent will be tested each week.

To provide consent, complete [this form](#). You will also need to create a student profile [here](#).

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 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](#).**

NYS VACCINATION SITES FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS

NEW

COVID-19 VACCINES, including booster doses and pediatric doses for 5–11-year-olds, are free and widely available statewide. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or text your zip code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-2344 to find locations near you. A list of NYS vaccination locations and availability is [here](#).

VACCINATION INFORMATION SESSION

The Schenectady County Department of Health will be holding a virtual vaccination information session for parents of athletes and any Schenectady parent who has questions or wants to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccination. The session will be held Tuesday, November 23 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. The link to attend is [here](#). It will also be available from our web and social media sites.

VACCINATION RESOURCES

All you need to know about COVID-19 Vaccine and Children [English](#) [Spanish](#)
10 Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine Answered [Here](#)



WELCOME TO SCSD

New to our team! Welcome!

Administrative

Matthew Ronca, Assistant Director of Physical Education and Health

Instructional Appointments

Lori Finneran, Remedial Speech, Van Corlaer and Zoller

Management Confidential

Meralys Collazo, Restorative Practices Specialist
Alyssa Hunt, Restorative Practices Specialist
Jonna Miller, Restorative Practices Specialist
Shastidy Ponce, Restorative Practices Specialist
Steven Thomas, Restorative Practices Specialist
Kylie Wert, Executive Secretary

Secretarial

Deborah Fresoni, Lincoln

Tutor

Brenna Galligan, WIEC

Paraprofessionals

Takeitha Banks, SCLA
Madison Perretta, Mont Pleasant
Kamlawattie Singh, Pleasant Valley

Lunch Monitors

Shaquana Kane, Howe
Ashley Ketcham, Paige
Nareefa Nazrulla, Pleasant Valley
Terrance Squire, Lincoln
Magun Wright, King School

STAFF NOTES

TECHNOLOGY NOTE

The SCSD IT team is growing. Since the beginning of the school year, the IT team has added seven additional technicians and a technical escalation manager through our partnership with Capital Regions BOCES/NERIC. This is in addition to the six district IT staff that you already know. We plan on growing the team even further throughout the remainder of the school year to improve technology and accelerate the introduction of new innovations. More details to come.

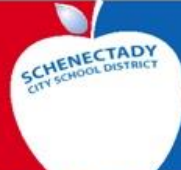
CPR/AED TRAININGS

CPR/AED Trainings
Thursday, December 9
6-8 p.m.
SHS Commons
Registration is required
Please contact [Anne Osborne](#).

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Schenectady-Colonie Varsity Girls Swimming Team. Alexis Gibson and Emma Bogdonowicz-Wilson (1st and 2nd from left) qualified for states with teammates Maddie Norton and Emma Lupe (Colonie) as a relay team. Alexia qualified in the 200 IM and 100 Fly events.



Save the Date for the 2022

Education Celebration

Thursday, January 20, 2022
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Proctor's GE Theater

Crystal Apple Award Winners:
Outstanding Graduate:
Anessa Waheed
Community Partner Award:
Hannaford Supermarkets

The Robert Ludwig Teacher of the Year:
Patty Wood – 2020 – Hamilton Elementary
Rick DeCarr – 2021 -Oneida Middle School
Catering by: SHS Culinary Arts Program
Music Provided by: SHS Students
Cost per Person: \$50 Teacher Rate: \$25

MC - Greg Floyd – CBS 6 News Anchor

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED [HERE](#)



SHS students who are part of the Smart Transfer Early College High School Program at SUNY Schenectady went on a college tour at Marist College earlier this week.

PARENT RESOURCES



We recognize that parental engagement is important for our students to be successful. We are committed to strengthening the partnership between home and school. Senior Parent Liaison Al Tompkins has created some quick tips for parents centered around conversations with your students. Watch the videos [here](#).



Blue Roses Theatre Company kicked off the annual Fall Showcase on Thursday, November 18. After last year's all virtual performance, the actors, crew, and audience were excited to be in person for this year's show.

You may have noticed on social media the many cool projects that Heather Rush, art teacher at Lincoln, has been doing with her students. Here is one in which the students painted four desks in the style of different artists.



Report cards will be arriving home soon and we want to help families of elementary school students understand exactly what the number grades mean, and what to look for after the first quarter of the school year. Principal Messler from Keane Elementary School went step-by-step to show us how to read an elementary report card and how important it is to keep track of attendance. Watch [here](#).

