



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 17 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 22

I start my brief today with a huge shoutout and congratulations to Carrie White, a second-grade teacher at Yates Elementary School, who earlier this week was named the Schenectady City School District **Teacher of the Year**. I had the great pleasure of visiting Mrs. White and her students to share the [exciting announcement](#). It was a great morning as her family and students were so proud, happy and excited for her.



Mrs. White has been a teacher for the last 14 years, all at Yates. Nineteen letters were written in support of her receiving this honor, from colleagues, parents of current students, and former students who are now in college. When you enter her classroom, you can immediately see the care and connection between Mrs. White and her students. We are grateful to Mrs. White for all she does and the difference that she is making. I realize she is just one of many amazing educators in district, making a difference and who mean so much to our students, parents, colleagues, and the community. Mrs. White is now eligible to enter the New York State Teacher of the Year program.

Thank you to Dr. Chisolm and the Office of Teaching and Learning for developing grade level expectation profiles for each grade level and area. Each of these includes screening and assessment measures, skills that students should demonstrate, and tips for parents. The menu is available on our [website](#). Expectation profiles are still under development for a few areas but will be completed and posted soon.



Please join me in welcoming Tyrone O'Meally to the district. The board of education approved his appointment as the Executive Director of Secondary Education at the last meeting. He comes to us from the Greater Amsterdam School District where he has been working as the high school principal for three years. He will join our district in mid-January.

Thank you to our friends at MVP Healthcare who, on Wednesday, delivered a donation of 110 new winter coats to give to students who need them. Ten coats have been provided to each elementary school. We appreciate the donation and the continued partnership. We are in this together.



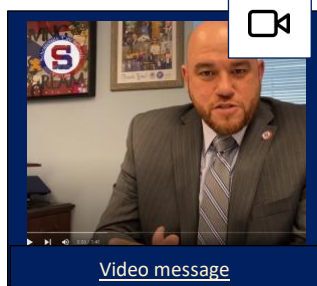
Earlier this week, Carrie White a second-grade teacher at Yates Elementary School, was presented with the 2022 SCSD Teacher of the Year award. Watch the announcement and reaction [here](#).



Representatives of MVP Healthcare were at Keane Elementary School earlier this week delivering winter coats for students.

As I'm sure you know, there are many threats circulating on social media platforms across the country and region. We pay close attention to social media and take every threat serious.

Please talk with your children about the seriousness of making any kind of threat. Make them aware that all threats can be tracked by law enforcement and the consequences are serious. The Schenectady Police Department, including our on-site community engagement officers, continue to closely monitor social media threats and are prepared to act. Please watch my [brief video message](#) to parents, guardians, and caregivers.



Have a terrific weekend and don't forget next week is a short week coming up as we begin the holiday recess on Friday, December 24.

Anibal Soler, Jr.



Welcome to Tyrone O'Meally who will be joining us as the Executive Director of Secondary Schools. [Announcement](#)



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Alumni Profile

"My amazing teachers at Schenectady were my inspiration to do better everyday. Because of them I have succeeded at a young age as a practice manager at Albany Med."

DEVENA PRESSRAM

***Practice Manager, AMC Urology
SHS Class of 2012***



This week's alumni profile is SHS Class of 2012 graduate, Devena Pressram, who credits Schenectady High School with building the foundation of her career as a practice manager at AMC Urology. "From Ms. Walsh to Sir Bub to Ms. Callahan, my amazing teachers were my inspiration to do better every day. They always encouraged excellence, pursuit of academic opportunities you thought were impossible, and even compassion for peers. Because of that I am proud to have succeeded in my career at a very young age as the practice manager of one of Albany Med's largest departments."

Did you graduate from Schenectady Schools?

If you are a graduate of Schenectady Schools, we would love to feature you in an alumni profile. To share your information, [click here](#).

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEKEND

Diane Donato's interview with Superintendent Soler regarding the Grow Our Own Program will air Sunday at 7 a.m. on The River 99.5, 102.3 Kiss FM, Oldies 98.3, Fox Sports 980 and PXY 106. The interview will air at 7:30 a.m. on News Radio 810 and 103.1 WGY. The interview is also available as a podcast [here](#).



NEW EPISODE



This week's episode of the Patriots Podcast is an alumni spotlight on former four-sport athlete at SHS, Executive Director of Elementary Schools Joe DiCaprio. Plus, a look ahead to next week's Faculty vs Student basketball game.

 [Listen on Apple](#)

 [Listen on Spotify](#)



COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period:

December 10 (8 a.m.) through December 17 (8 a.m.)

Total of 40 cases

29 students, 11 staff members

- Central Park: 3
- Hamilton: 4
- Howe 4
- Lincoln: 1
- MPMS: 3
- Oneida: 4
- Pleasant Valley: 3
- SCLA: 4
- Schenectady High School: 10
- Woodlawn: 1
- Yates: 1
- Zoller: 2

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

- Students: . 30%
- Staff: . 92%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: .38%

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 immediately.

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

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

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 December schedule is available [here](#).**

WHEN YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

If You Are Vaccinated

Fully vaccinated staff members and students and those recently recovering from COVID-19 **who have symptoms**, can provide a negative test result to stay in school (antigen or PCR). If a negative test result is provided, exclusion is not required.

If You Are Unvaccinated

Unvaccinated staff members and students **who have symptoms** are still required to take a PCR test or be out for 10 days.

What is the difference between a PCR and antigen COVID-19 test?

Each of these tests detects a different part of the virus and how it works influences the test's speed and accuracy.

PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) tests are sensitive and accurate. They require a skilled lab process that can take longer to produce results.

Antigen tests produce results quickly but can be less accurate than PCR tests.

VACCINATION RESOURCES

All you need to know about COVID-19 Vaccine and Children [English](#) [Spanish](#)

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

Note Regarding Antigen (Rapid) Testing

The Schenectady County Department of Health has not authorized us to accept home test results unless the test is used to demonstrate a positive result. For a symptomatic vaccinated person to show a negative rapid test to stay in school, it must be done through a provider such as pharmacy, doctor's office, or urgent care.



WELCOME TO SCHENECTADY

Congratulations on your appointment. If you are new to the district, welcome to our team.

Administrative Appointments

Tyrone O'Meally, Executive Director of Secondary Schools
Ady Pina, Cohort Principal, Schenectady High School
Tracy Farrell, Assistant Director of Grants and Title Funding
Nicholas Comproski, Instructional Supervisor, Van Corlaer

Instructional Appointments

Christopher Collier, Social Studies, Oneida
Evangeline McVicker, English as a Second Language, SHS

Appointment on Tenure

Rebecca Penn, Special Education

Management Confidential

Smita Iyengar, Assistant Manager of Data and Information
Amy Csege, Senior Human Resources Specialist

School Safety Officer/Culture & Community Engagement Specialist

Nicole Kirkman, SHS
Christopher Peeples, SHS
William Promin, SHS

Secretarial (Information Processing Specialist II)

Daryelle Langston, SHS
Taiesha Spottswood, SHS

Operations and Maintenance

Almasi, Cleaner, Mont Pleasant

Paraprofessionals

Isabella Cagnina, Mont Pleasant
Darien Jimenez, SHS
Kamla Karria, Oneida
Amanda Lavare, Oneida
Stephanie McCormack, SHS

Lunch Monitors

Raakya Majeed, Van Corlaer
Erin Montes, Paige

FOOD SERVICES

If there is a one- or two-hour delay to the start of school, students will still be able to receive breakfast when they arrive to school.

STUDENT INTERNET SAFETY

Student data privacy and Internet safety are a priority. Both our network and devices are protected by enterprise-class cybersecurity products normally found in large companies. These protections extend to our student-provided Chromebooks through additional content and web filtering tools. While these tools assist in protecting student Chromebooks away from school, it is still important for parents, guardians, and caregivers to monitor their child's activities when using these devices. Being aware of what websites your child may try to access and watching their use after school hours are good first steps to ensuring online safety.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The Boys & Girls Club will close at the end of the day on December 23 and will open again on January 3.

FEDERAL IMPACT SURVEY

Each year we ask families to complete a very brief Federal Impact Aid Survey. This is important because the district is entitled to receive aid for students whose parent or guardians meet certain qualifications. The survey includes only three questions. Please take a minute to participate. Click [here](#).

SPELLING BEES

Last week grade 4-8 spelling bees took place across the district. Congrats to the top two finishers from each school who advance to the district bee which will be held December 20, 9:30 a.m. at Mont Pleasant Middle School.

FACULTY-STUDENT BASKETBALL GAME

A Faculty-Student Basketball Game will be held on **December 22** at 2 p.m.

Marissa Jacques from Spectrum News will be announcing the game along with Schenectady High School Junior Raffay Islam. Julie McBride, professional basketball player, will be giving away Albany Patroons tickets to winner of the relay contest at halftime. Local Division I basketball players will also be on hand.

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN!



REMINDER

The Schenectady City School District Education Celebration will be held on **January 20, 2022** from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Proctors GE Theatre. Tickets are still available.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED [HERE](#)

COACHES vs CANCER BRACKET BUSTER 2021

Hudson Valley Community College McDonough Complex (Troy, NY)

SATURDAY 12/18 7:30PM

Albany vs Schenectady

Admission \$8



PATRIOT PRIDE WEB STORE

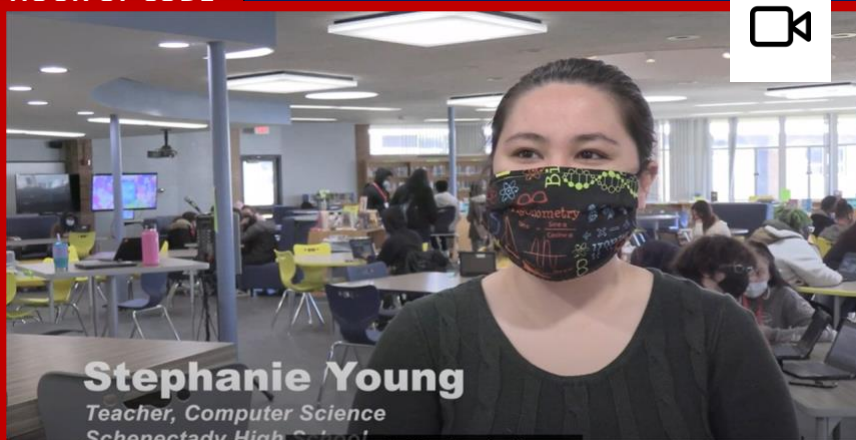
Check out the [Patriot Pride Web Store](#)
The store will remain open until Monday, January 3.



TRAVELING ART SHOW Opening Night at City Hall



HOUR OF CODE



Stephanie Young

Teacher, Computer Science
Schenectady High School

The Hour of Code started as a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities with hopes to spark student interest in computer science. This grassroots campaign is supported by over 200,000 educators worldwide and this week, nearly 2,000 SCSD students from all grade levels and almost 900 from SHS participated in the Hour of Code.

Watch Computer Science teacher, Stephanie Young, lead the #HourofCode in the SHS Library and Media Center.



Photo of the week



The Class of 2022 organized a Countdown to Break Spirit Week. It kicked off this past Monday with a Cultural Pride Day and students were encouraged to dress the part.



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