



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 07 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 24

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful recess and holiday season. While we all needed a little break and time with family, we did miss you and are glad to see you back.

As everyone is aware and as expected, COVID-19 infection rates are spiking across the country following the holiday season. It's no different in our area and our district. The rates are higher this week than they have been. Health and safety in our schools continue to be a priority along with our goal to keep school open for in-person instruction. We are implementing all our safety and mitigation tools and resources and continue to do all we can to keep our schools safe and open to our students, however with growing positive cases, we must be prepared to pivot to remote instruction if absolutely necessary. This is a challenging time for parents, students, and staff. I appreciate the hard work and commitment of everyone in our school community. Despite the many challenges, you have been amazing. Thank you.

Yesterday we sent out updated protocols regarding isolation and quarantine requirements for [staff](#) and [students](#) who test positive for COVID and for those who are exposed to someone who tested positive. We also shared the testing protocol for returning to school when you have symptoms. The changes to these protocols ensure that students and staff can return as quickly as possible. It's also great news that we are now allowed to accept over the counter rapid home tests (two tests are required along with attestation of results). Please read the [updated document](#) carefully. We work closely and communicate daily with Schenectady County Public Health (SCPH). Any updates to our protocols reflect guidance provided SCPH. This information changes often and quickly. We will always keep you updated. Other COVID data and information as well as testing and vaccination information is included on page three.

Before we went into the holiday break, our district's annual spelling bee was held at Mont Pleasant. I want to extend a huge congratulations to our top seven spellers who are advancing to the regional spelling bee in February at Proctors. Congratulations to Pratiksha "Sami" Gangadin, an 8th grader at Central Park, who came in first place. Joel Sandia, a 5th grader at Zoller, placed second. Evangeline Cruceta, a 4th grader at Van Corlaer, earned the third spot. Jessica Megnauth and Gabriel Ramos, both 5th graders at Paige, Dillon Pettograsso, a 5th grader at Howe, and Emma Van Baaren, a 5th grader at Woodlawn, round out the top seven. We wish them much luck in the regional bee and will be cheering them on.

Earlier this week, the board of education approved the appointment of two principals to fill openings coming up. Mr. Rogers, principal at Central Park and Mr. Thomas, principal at Lincoln, both announced they will be leaving at the end of the month. Congratulations to Karmen McEvoy who was selected to be the principal at Central Park Middle School. She started on Thursday and will work alongside Mr. Rogers until the end of the month. Ms. Timmis will begin in her new role on January 29. We are grateful to Mr. Rogers and Mr. Thomas for their hard work and commitment to the Central Park and Lincoln communities respectively. We wish them much luck.

I am happy to share that Terry Gillooley, the district's new Chief Financial Officer, is finishing his first week in district this week. He has hit the ground running and is preparing for the upcoming budget season. Mr. Gillooley, a graduate of Mont Pleasant High School, is excited to be back home.

It's an extremely busy time. There is much going on and things are constantly changing. Please continue to watch for updates and reminders.

Thank you for your partnership and cooperation. We remain in this work together.

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



Superintendent Soler and Paige Principal Jean-Pierre with Tay Fisher, former Siena Basketball Player and Harlem Globetrotter, who met with Paige students Friday for an engaging and interactive program on how to prevent bullying.



Karmen McEvoy
is selected as
Principal of
Central Park
Middle School



[MORE HERE](#)

Laurie Timmis
is selected as
Acting Principal
of Lincoln
Elementary
School



[MORE HERE](#)



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



Alumni Profile

"Schenectady schools prepared me for my career through their amazing arts program. I learned so much about all aspects of theatre."

GRACE JANISZEWSKI

***Creative Workforce Director, Proctors
SHS Class of 2010***



This week's alumni profile is Schenectady High School Class of 2010 graduate, Grace Janiszewski, who credits her time working with the Blue Roses Theatre Co. while in high school as her inspiration to enter arts administration.

"The Blue Roses Theatre Program sparked my interest in theatre. I learned so much about all aspects of the theatre, I knew I wanted to go into arts administration right away! Some of my favorite memories happened in the Black Box Theatre and scene shop, from my favorite classes, to eating lunch with fellow theatre students, and doing shows with my favorite theatre teachers."

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](#).



Thank you board members!

School Board Recognition Month

We are grateful for our school board members and their commitment to the students of Schenectady.



Superintendent Soler thanked our school board members at the meeting this week. "On behalf of the district, I would like to say thank you to our board members. We appreciate you. For those who don't know, school board members devote many, many hours. Their role is important and is one that sets the course for our district by establishing goals, setting policy, and overseeing resources. It's hard work and without compensation. Their work is often unrecognized and unrewarded." Superintendent Soler encouraged everyone to take time to say thank you and show appreciation.



Let's Talk!

NEW EPISODE



Season 1 Episode 6 of the Schenectady Patriots Podcast is out now. This edition includes sideline reports from the Students vs. Faculty basketball game, including a pregame interview with Spectrum News anchor, Marisa Jacques.



[Listen on Apple](#)

[Listen on Spotify](#)

Check out the highlight video from **the Students vs Faculty Basketball Game** on our [Youtube Channel](#)



Come out and support our teams

Schedule of Athletic Events [Here](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period January 3 – January 7 (8 a.m.)

Total of 240 cases

45 Staff | 195 Students

- Central Office: 2
- Central Park: 7
- Facilities/Operations & Maintenance: 5
- Hamilton: 22
- Howe 10
- Keane: 14
- King: 8
- Lincoln: 16
- MPMS: 12
- Oneida: 10
- Paige: 18
- Pleasant Valley: 18
- SCLA: 8
- Schenectady High School: 51
- Van Corlaer: 10
- WIEC: 1
- Woodlawn: 12
- Yates: 10
- Zoller: 6

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

- Students: 2.07%
- Staff: 3.75%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: 2.26%

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

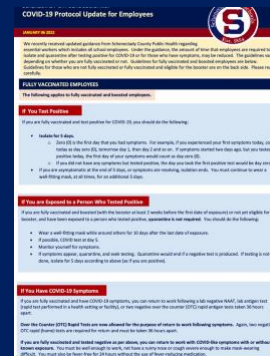
To better streamline communication with Lindsay Baroody, please follow the new guidelines AND self-report using this [link](#) when you have:

- have tested positive
- have COVID symptoms and need to test
- have been directly exposed and need to quarantine

STUDENTS

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

PROTOCOL UPDATES (JANUARY 6)



EMPLOYEES



STUDENTS

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

New York State [Vaccination Schedule](#)

COVID-19 Testing

NEW FREE TESTING SITE

Schenectady County Public Health opened a new COVID-19 testing site located at Ellis McClellan Campus (600 McClellan St.) for students, families, and district staff. Make an appointment [here](#).

How to use your home test

How to use your CareStart At Home
How to use your CareStart at home antigen test. Step one Open the

VACCINATION RESOURCES

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

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

OTHER RESOURCES

Please continue to watch for COVID-19 news and updates.

[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

[New York State Department of Health](#)

[Schenectady County Public Health](#)



WELCOME TO SCHENECTADY

Congratulations! If you are new to the district, welcome to our team.

Administrative Appointments

David Jackson, Assistant Principal, Mont Pleasant
Lawrence Moultrie, Assistant Principal, Mont Pleasant
Jessica Valente, Assistant Director of Early Literacy & Pre-K Programming

Instructional Appointment

Amira Rophael, Teaching Assistant, SCLA

Management Confidential

Dhanwantie, Executive Secretary II, Central Office
Tonia Thomas, Student Engagement and School Attendance Specialist, Central Office

Operations and Maintenance

Tina Civitello, Cleaner, SHS

Tutor

Kimberly Ramsundar, WIEC

Paraprofessionals

Tiffany Adamson, Paige
Ahssan Badowie, Keane
Jermaurline Brewer, Keane
Ondria Cagnina, King
Daimeere Johnson-Brown, Keane
Raechel Mullin, Oneida
Christian Rost, Hamilton
Kamanie Verasammy, SHS
Cynthia Willett, Hamilton
Melissa Wright, Paige

Lunch Monitors

Tiffany Adamson, Paige
Quannisha Brown, Howe
Cynthia DeFiore, Zoller
Giovonne Foster, Lincoln
Amanda Glover, Keane



The district-wide Spelling Bee was held just before winter break at Mont Pleasant Middle School. Congratulations to our top 7 finishers, who will all represent the district in the Capital Region Spelling Bee at Proctors in February, and our 2021 champion, Sami Gangadin. Watch the final rounds, including the winning word, on the district's [YouTube channel](#).

1st Place: Pratiksha "Sami" Gangadin - Central Park, Grade 8
2nd Place: Joel Sandia - Zoller, Grade 5
3rd Place: Evangeline Cruceta - Van Corlaer, Grade 4
Top 7: Jessica Megnauth - Paige, Grade 5
Top 7: Dillon Pettograsso - Howe, Grade 5
Top 7: Gabriel Ramos - Paige, Grade 5
Top 7: Emma Van Baaren - Woodlawn, Grade 5

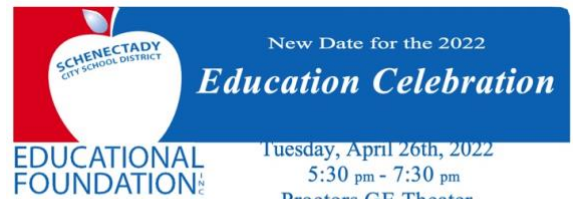
ON THE MENU



Breakfast and Lunch Menus [Here](#)



The Schenectady City School District Education Celebration is postponed until April 26. See postcard below.



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](#)




Grow Your Own Information Session

 **FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEACHER, TEACHING ASSISTANT OR PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER.**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11 @ 4:30 P.M.

KEANE ELEMENTARY



Are you committed to ensuring that race, economics, and disability will never predict student achievement? If so, please attend our upcoming information session to learn more about Schenectady's Grown Your Own program.

Photo of the Week



Paige students loved dancing with Tay Fisher Friday morning. This Pre-K student even got to learn a classic Harlem Globetrotters trick.

