



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 14 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 25

Happy Friday! I hope that you are doing well and that you and your family are staying healthy. I want to start my brief this week by again saying thank you to everyone for your continued patience and understanding. As you are aware, the guidance and information that we receive regarding COVID protocols continues to evolve and comes to us daily. It seems we put something out to you and then a day or two later it, or something else, changes again. We know it can sometimes be confusing and difficult to follow.

This week, we were informed that the local department of health will no longer be conducting contact tracing when there is a positive case or exposure. What does that mean? When there is a positive case, the department of health will not be notifying those who were exposed to someone who tested positive and the next steps. That means it is important for everyone in our school community to self-manage by knowing what steps to take when you are positive, have symptoms, or find out you were exposed to someone.

We will continue to work closely with Schenectady Public Health to make sure that we continue to have updated information and resources to share with you so that you continue to be informed and can protect yourself. These resources are the guidelines and protocols that we update and share with you regularly with steps you should take given certain situations. You can also find them on page three and on the front page of our [website](#).

While the health department will no longer be doing contact tracing, we will continue to our best to manage and notify staff and families of close contact exposures in school along with the appropriate action to follow.

Always monitor yourself and your child for symptoms and always follow the guidelines and protocols. It is important for anyone who experiences symptoms to test for COVID. We have test kits available for staff and students. If you need one, please contact your school nurse. Keep in mind, you can [make an appointment](#) at the new testing site for staff and families at the Ellis McClellan Campus.

I am very proud that we continue to provide in-person learning despite having a dramatic increase in the number of COVID positive cases. I'm grateful to everyone who is going above and beyond. We have an amazing team across our district, and everyone is doing their part to help and support one another in school. It takes all of us to do this. Thank you. We will continue to do the best we can but, as I mentioned last week, we must remain prepared to transition to remote teaching and learning if necessary. Please continue to watch for updates because, as you know, things can change quickly. We do hope that in the coming weeks, as we move further from the holiday surge, the number of cases will begin to decrease.

As I'm sure you do, we are always paying attention to the forecast and watching for what might come our way in terms of winter weather. Looking ahead, we want you to know that we follow a process and have criteria to determine if we need to close or delay school due to poor conditions. We gather information early in the morning from several sources and take a number of factors into consideration. These include the weather at the time, the forecast for later in the day, driving conditions, walking conditions and more. We work hard to make any decision about school early so that we can communicate it by 6 a.m. when possible. I know that we are hearing reports there is snow in the forecast for this weekend into Monday. We will keep a close watch and will be up early Tuesday morning to monitor and see how things are. If it impacts school, we will announce and let you know bright and early.

I wish you a fantastic weekend and holiday on Monday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The holiday honors the legacy of [Dr. King](#), and focuses on civil rights, highlights the use of nonviolence to promote change and the call to public service. It's important to celebrate Dr. King and find ways to apply what we learned from him to our everyday lives and the lives of our children.

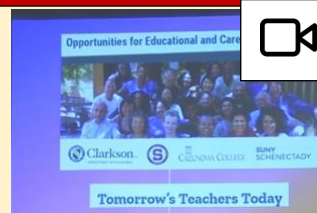
The Schenectady County Human Rights commission is holding a virtual celebration on Sunday at 3 p.m. You can watch live at www.youtube.com/SchenectadyCounty. The flyer with more information is [here](#).

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

REMINDER

No School
Monday, January 17
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

GROW YOUR OWN



This week the district held an informational meeting about our "Grow Your Own" partnership with SUNY Schenectady, Cazenovia College, and Clarkson University. The program allows community members to work through the district and our secondary education partners to become teachers and teaching assistant. The meeting, held at Keane Elementary School, can be viewed [here](#).

SCHENECTADY COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OBSERVANCE CELEBRATION

PROMISE & OPPORTUNITY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022 AT 3
Virtual Celebration
Watch Live at www.youtube.com/SchenectadyCounty

Video Presentation

Welcome Message

Arthur Butler, Executive Director
Schenectady County Human Rights Commission

Musical Selection

Provided by SUNY Schenectady School of Music

Community Leaders

Keynote Speaker

Cheryl Renee Gooch, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs, SUNY Schenectady

SCHRC WEBSITE
WWW.SCHENECTADYCOUNTY.COM/HUMAN-RIGHTS



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



Alumni Profile

"I love working in the district I attended school in, I aim to pay it forward to every student, staff member and family that we serve."

Joseph DiCaprio

**Executive Director of Elementary Schools,
Schenectady City School District
SHS Class of '95**



This week's alumni profile is Schenectady High School Class of 1995 graduate, Joseph DiCaprio, who currently serves as the Executive Director of Elementary Schools for the district. DiCaprio credits the teachers and coaches he had in Schenectady schools as his inspiration to pursue a career in education.

"In high school, my Junior Varsity football coach Bill Ziskin made a lasting impact on me, as did my biology teacher, Mr. Scampini. My father served as the DARE police officer in our schools, and the experience of working with him as a DARE role model absolutely influenced me as well. It's this combination that guided me towards a career in teaching, and it is the best career choice I could ever have made- after twenty-three years, I still love every second of it.

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

BOOK VENDING MACHINE





Keane Elementary students unwrapped a big surprise this week, as they were the most recent school to add a book vending machine to their hallways. A group of students who participated in a reading challenge over break were given the honor of unwrapping and revealing the machine for the rest of the school. [Watch the video here](#).

NEW EPISODE



Season 1 Episode 7 of the Schenectady Patriots Podcast is out now.

 [Listen on Apple](#)
 [Listen on Spotify](#)



COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period January 7 – January 13 (8 a.m.)

Total of 356 cases

82 Staff | 273 Students | 1 Bus Staff

- Central Office: 6
- Central Park: 17
- Facilities/Operations & Maintenance: 2
- Hamilton: 10
- Howe 11
- Keane: 17
- King: 12
- Lincoln: 22
- MPMS: 12
- Oneida: 25
- Paige: 22
- Pleasant Valley: 7
- SCLA: 8
- Schenectady High School: 89
- Van Corlaer: 28
- WIEC: 3
- Woodlawn: 25
- Yates: 14
- Zoller: 25
- Bus 1

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

- Students: 2.90%
- Staff: 6.83%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: 3.34%

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](#)

[When Am I Eligible for a Booster?](#)

VACCINATION RESOURCES

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

10 Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine Answered [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

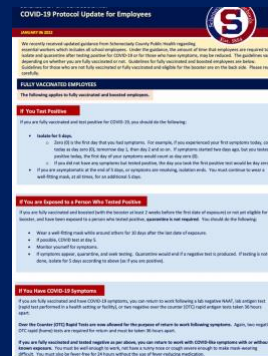
To better streamline communication with Lindsay Baroody, please follow the new guidelines AND self-report using this [link](#) when you have:

- 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 11)



EMPLOYEES

STUDENTS

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



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

[New York State Department of Health](#)

[Schenectady County Public Health](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

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





WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#GOPATRIOTS

SCHENECTADY ATHLETICS

<https://www.schedulegalaxy.com/schools/440>

10

MONDAY

Please check Schedule Galaxy for the most up to date and accurate information for all of our Schenectady Interscholastic program schedules!

4:15pm- G Varsity Bowling @BSpa

11

TUESDAY

4:15pm- B Varsity Bowling @Boulevard Bowl
4:15pm- B Freshman Basketball @ SHS
4:30pm- B JV Basketball @ SHS
4:30pm- V B Swim @SHS
4:30pm- Mod G Basketball @ Guilderland
4:30pm- JV G Basketball @BSpa
6:00pm- V G Basketball @ BSpa
6:00 pm - V B Basketball @SHS

12

WEDNESDAY

4:15pm- G Varsity Bowling @Colonie

4:15pm- Mod Wrestling @BHBL

4:30pm- Mod Swim @SHS

6:00pm- JV/V Wrestling @BHBL

13

THURSDAY

4:15pm- B Varsity Swim @SHS

4:15pm- G Mod Basketball @Woodlawn Elem.

4:15pm- B Varsity Bowling @Boulevard Bowl

14

FRIDAY

4:00pm- B Freshman Basketball @Colonie

4:30pm- G JV Basketball @SHS

4:30pm- Mod Swim @Shen

5:30pm- B JV Basketball @Colonie

6:00pm- G Varsity Basketball @SHS

7:00pm- B Varsity Basketball @Colonie

15

SATURDAY

8:00 am- Indoor Track @Union College

9:30am- Wrestling Invitational @SHS

ATHLETIC ANNOUNCEMENTS



#GOPATRIOTS



SCHENECTADY ATHLETICS

WELCOME

JOE CONLAN

VARSITY SOFTBALL COACH

The Schenectady Athletics Department has announced the appointment of Joseph Conlan as the new Varsity Head Coach for Softball. Coach Conlan is currently a PE teacher at Schenectady High School. He has coached for over 15 years in a variety of athletics including wrestling, football, cross country and softball.

"I am excited to make an impact with our scholar-athletes in the softball program on all levels. I want to work with the city and create more opportunities for our youth in the community." ~Joe Conlan



#GOPATRIOTS



SCHENECTADY ATHLETICS

WELCOME

ANDREW SCHIAVO

VARSITY BASEBALL COACH

The Schenectady Athletics Department has announced the appointment of Andrew Schiavo as the new Varsity Head Coach for Baseball. Coach Schiavo is currently a PE teacher at Schenectady High School. He played HS baseball at Linton High School on the 1988 Section II Championship team. Coach has also played 2 years of college baseball at Castleton. His coaching experience includes baseball, football, wrestling, ice hockey, track & field, bowling and unified bowling.

"My goal is to build a sustainable baseball program for all levels and to generate interest at the youth level. I have made a personal commitment to give back to a program that has taught me crucial life lessons." ~Andrew Schiavo



2022 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees are Announced

We are pleased to share that the **2022 SCSD Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees** will be **Casper Wells, Jack Edwards and Ernie Marshall**. Legacy tributes will honor the undefeated Nott Terrace High School Tennis Teams and the 1961 Linton Football Team.

The ceremony and dinner are scheduled for September 19 at the Event Center at Rivers Casino and Resort. More [Here](#).

PARENT NOTES

[Erin's Law](#) requires that all public schools implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program. More information will be coming home to parents about Erin's Law and the Second Step Program soon.

There will be a presentation about the Second Step Program and Erin's Law at the January 19 Board of Education Meeting. The meeting is at 7 p.m. and will be held at Schenectady High School and livestreamed. The live stream details will be posted on our website.

Grades K-5 Literacy Steering Committee Update

The SCSD Literacy Steering Committee has been meeting over the last year to identify needs in the K-5 Comprehensive Literacy Curriculum. The committee, including members from each of the elementary schools, conducted an audit of the district's current curriculum and reviewed research around effective literacy practices and the science of reading. The committee agreed that a comprehensive literacy program from grades K-5 was needed to ensure that all students across all settings receive evidence based, high-level, rigorous Tier 1 instruction in reading and writing. The intention of the committee is to have a new K-5 Comprehensive Literacy Curriculum identified and purchased by the end of this school year with the goal of implementation for next school year. Through research and careful selection, the curriculum programs were narrowed down to three: Bookworms (Open Up Resources), EL Education (Open Up Resources, and Wit & Wisdom (Great Minds). During the month of January, each school will identify a selection team made up of administrators and teachers who will review each of these programs using an evaluation rubric. If you would like more information, please contact a [member of the committee](#) from your school for more information.

We are asking for more parent participation on the Digital Equity Survey. If you haven't participated, please click [here](#) to complete it now. Digital equity is about making sure students have equal access technology and tools.

PARENT SURVEY: DIGITAL EQUITY



Anna Robinson
Parent Liaison, MPMS

Our district recognizes the importance of parental engagement in the success of our students. We are committed to strengthening the partnership between home and school. Our parent liaisons have been having conversations and discussing common concerns that all parents want school staff to remember. Anna Robinson, a Parent Liaison from Mont Pleasant took the time to put together this list of "10 Things Parents Want School Staff to Know." [Watch on YouTube.](#)

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

What does a Parent Liaison do

Work with parents to discuss:

- concerns
- getting involved
- barriers and challenges
- new opportunities
- solutions

SCSD STAFF DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTERS



[OFFICE OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING](#)



[OFFICE OF STUDENT
SUPPORT SERVICES](#)



**THE BUTZEL GALLERY FACULTY ART SHOW
JANUARY 10 – 31
OPENING RECEPTION IS JANUARY 19**