



# SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 28 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 27

Dear Schenectady Community,  
TGIF!

I know it was a bit confusing early in the week following the Nassau County Supreme Court ruling regarding the mask mandate and then the “stay” that was granted until the appeal is heard, and as court proceedings continue. We hear both sides of the mask argument from our school community, and understand both sides, but the decision regarding masks does not rest with the school district. Action that we take is guided by directives from the New York State Education Department, New York State, and the Department of Health. As such, the [mask mandate continues to be in effect while court proceedings continue](#). When there is any change, we will post it publicly on our website, social media platforms, in my weekly brief, and communicate it directly to parents and staff. With all the confusion and information circulating this week, I applaud our staff, students and their families for your patience and cooperation.

As you will see on our COVID update and resource page, our COVID numbers continue to decrease following the holiday surge. I do want to take the opportunity to thank everyone, particularly our school faculty and staff, for doing everything possible to help, support and cover classes for one another when necessary. This was the reason why we were able to keep our doors open to our students so far. This is important to me and it’s clear that it is just as important to you. It wasn’t easy this last month, but we did it together. Thank you. #schenectadyrising

I have one more COVID-related update. We emailed a letter to all families last night letting you know that we received another supply of COVID-19 rapid test kits. We will be providing these to every student on Monday so that you have them accessible when needed. If you do not wish to receive a test kit, please let us know. The letter and plan for distribution is posted [here](#).

Last week I mentioned that a redesign of our secondary programming will be underway. In addition to the focus group and listening sessions that are coming up, we will be launching an online survey for school community participation. Please watch for it next week. Once it is launched, we will share it out through all our communication channels. I will also include in my brief. Please participate. We want to know what is important to you as we work to create more opportunities and make our schools the best that they can be.

Soon, we will also be launching a 2022-2023 Budget Development Survey to collect input on what should be prioritized as we build the budget and to collect any suggestions you have for the new school year. We will keep you updated through the budget process. Mr. Gillooley, our district’s chief financial officer, will share information regarding the budget process and present an overview of the district reserves and fund balance at the February 2 board of education meeting. Presentations and updates will be posted following each meeting on the [2022-2023 Budget section of our website](#).

We have many positions across the district that we are seeking to fill as soon as possible. Please help spread the word about our first **SCSD Virtual Career Expo** on February 17 from 4-8 p.m. Representatives from all areas of our district will be on-hand to talk in real-time with candidates and schedule interviews. We hope those of you in the Schenectady community who are interested in learning about employment opportunities in our district, will stop in for this event. We would love to meet you and share information about working in Schenectady. You might be a good fit.

It’s hard to believe that the month of February begins next week. As we move along, we continue our work to improve and be the best that we can be. I am grateful for your partnership and collaboration and to be doing this work with you. We are #schenectadyrising.

Have a great weekend,  
Anibal Soler, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools

## HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN FAMILY LISTENING SESSION

You are invited to a presentation & discussion regarding the High School Redesign. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas.

**Wednesday, February 2**  
5 – 6 p.m.  
Google Meet [Link](#)

Or dial: (US) +1 402-647-0211  
PIN: 505 446 821#



## VIRTUAL CAREER EXPO

**FEBRUARY 17**  
**4-8 P.M.**

FOR MORE AND  
TO REGISTER [CLICK HERE](#)



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



# Alumni Profile

***"It was the diversity of the student body that inspired me to pursue my career, it made me want to give back to the community and help how I could."***

***Cyierra Roldan***

**Deputy Director, Immigration Research Initiative  
SHS Class of 2012**



This week's featured alumni is Cyierra Roldan, a class of 2012 Schenectady High School graduate, and now Deputy Director of a non-profit organization in New York City. Cyierra credits her guidance counselor at SHS for challenging her and helping her stay on track to be accepted to Colgate University.

"I had an amazing guidance counselor while at Schenectady High School. Mr. Mortier really prepared me well for college and pushed me to follow my dreams. He talked to me about the importance of volunteer work and good grades to ensure that I stayed on track to be accepted into a good university. He was always there to help me through any academic struggles to ensure that I succeeded and was prepared for college so that I could go on to have a successful career. I truly can't thank him enough."

## GREAT NEWS!



### **SUNY Schenectady Earns \$2 Million Grant Renewal for Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School Program**

SUNY Schenectady announced that the college will continue to make it possible for Schenectady High School students to earn their associate degrees while still in high school through the renewal of a grant totaling \$2 million from the New York State Department of Education.

The college first introduced the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School Program in 2017. With renewal of the grant through 2026, the college will continue to welcome Smart Transfer students into SUNY Schenectady academic programs as they earn their high school diplomas and college degrees at the same time.

"I am extremely grateful for this partnership and program which presents an incredible opportunity and pathway for our students to continue their educational journey, earn college credits while in high school, and ultimately achieve their educational goals," said Superintendent Soler. "The program truly makes a difference, especially in the lives of those students who earn a college degree while still in high school. This is the strength of partnership and community. We are thrilled that the funding is renewed, and the opportunity will continue."

Read More [Here](#)

## 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](#).



**CLICK HERE FOR THE MOST RECENT EPISODE:**

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



**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 21 – 28 (8 a.m.)

### Total of 127 cases

38 Staff | 89 Students

- Central Park: 10
- Hamilton: 3
- Howe: 10
- Keane: 6
- King: 8
- Lincoln: 2
- MPMS: 11
- Oneida: 10
- Paige: 4
- Pleasant Valley: 5
- SCLA: 3
- Schenectady High School: 30
- Van Corlaer: 5
- Woodlawn: 4
- Yates: 3
- Zoller: 11
- Multiple Building Staff: 1
- Operations & Maintenance: 1

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

- Students: .09%
- Staff: 3.17%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: 1.19%

[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](#)

## 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.

### Mask Mandate Continues to Be in Effect

The New York State Education Department notified school districts Tuesday evening that a “Stay” was granted regarding the mask mandate while the appeal and court process takes place. This means, until further notice, the mask mandate remains in effect at our schools. We will share any changes or updates. All COVID-related news and updates are posted on our website [here](#).

## TESTING

### ADDITIONAL HOME TEST KITS FOR FAMILIES

We will be sending another round of test kits home on Monday. [Letter](#) to families

### 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](#).

### Free Test kits from COVIDTESTS.GOV

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-tests. Order them now [here](#).

- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [New York State Department of Health](#)
- [Schenectady County Public Health](#)

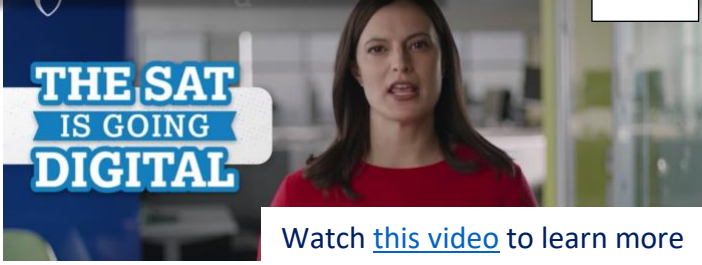
## RESOURCES

Please continue to watch for COVID-19 news and updates





## THE SAT IS GOING DIGITAL



Watch [this video](#) to learn more

### STAFF NOTES

## CPR/AED TRAINING

Wednesday, February 16










6-8 p.m.



Schenectady High School Commons

Registration is required. Please [contact Anne Osborne](#) to register.

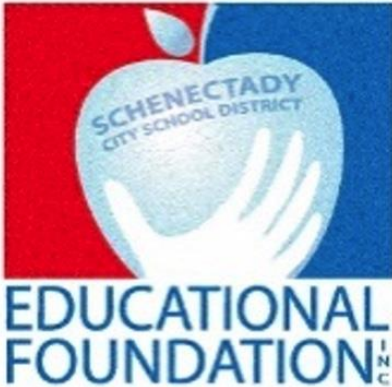
*CPR/AED Certification is required for all staff who work in after-school and summer programs.*

## Timeline for Administering the Digital SAT Suite

	International SAT	PSAT-Related Assessments	U.S. SAT and SAT School Day
Spring 2023			
Fall 2023			
Spring 2024			

 Digital  Paper and Pencil

## SCSD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES WINTER GRANT CYCLE



The Schenectady City School District Educational Foundation (SCSDEF) will be awarding \$25,000 worth of grants to teachers. While there is a maximum of \$4,000 per grant, teachers may apply for more than one project within a grant cycle.

**Applications will be accepted from February 1 through March 1.**

To apply, go [here](#). Please review the [2021-2022 Grant Guidelines](#).

The announcement of grant recipients will be made in March.

For more information about the grants and the SCSDEF, go [here](#).

If you have questions, please, contact [Agnes Phillips](#) or [Nancy Sagendorf](#)



# FOOTBALL WITH THE FELLAS

**WHEN:** Sunday, Feb 6, 2-5 p.m.

**WHERE:** Boys and Girls Club of Schenectady 104 Education Dr. (Mont Pleasant)

*Football, snacks,  
prizes and more*

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER  
**MBK**  
Schenectady City Schools  
  
Est. 1854

# BECOME A MENTOR

## NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH



**Mentoring is a great way to develop leadership skills, build resume experience, and have a positive impact in the local community**

## MENTORING MONTH

Every January, we unite in celebration of **National Mentoring Month**. It is always a good time to become a mentor and help shape the future of our community.

In our district we recognize the power of relationships, and one of the mentorship opportunities available to students is "My Brother's Keeper" (MBK). MBK a mentorship program supported by former President Barack Obama, that leads a cross-sector national call to action focused on building safe and supportive communities for boys and young men of color where they feel valued and have clear pathways to opportunity. Be on the lookout for more information about My Brother's Keeper in our district in the coming weeks. (My Brother's Keeper Program Specialist, Brian Ledbetter, SHS Senior Jahiem Copeland, and SHS Sophomore Kahsier Morton)



Take a look inside the art classroom at Oneida Middle School by [following them on Instagram](#) and [click here to view](#) the recent miniature landscapes that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students created.

## Photo of the Week

**Paige Elementary celebrated their students who had 95% attendance or better in January. Keep it up Pandas!**

