



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 11 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 29

Good afternoon,

I hope you had a great week. Whether you are a parent, student, staff member or community member, I realize that there is so much going on and you continue to step up. As such, I'm sure you are looking forward to the weekend and even more, a well-deserved winter recess which is coming up in just over a week. We are almost there.

This week, February 7-11 was "National School Counselors Week," so I will start my brief by saying "thank you" to our school counselors who have an important role and work closely with students to ensure that they are successful in school, are on track to achieve their educational goals and on a path to post-graduation success. They provide a wealth of support and guidance and are here to help students when they face any form of adversity. Please join me in thanking our school counselors for their hard work and the difference they make in the lives of many.

As you know, two Community Engagement Officers (CEO's) have been providing support at Schenectady High School since late fall. As promised, we will publicly discuss how things have been going. At the February 16 board of education meeting, I will be sharing an update regarding our partnership with the Schenectady Police Department, the work of the CEO's and recommendations for moving forward.

Huge congratulations to many of our student athletes who have had amazing success this past week.

- Senior David Bernard, Jr. committed to playing baseball at Division I St. Peter's University next year.
- Varsity Girls Bowling Team placed 2nd in the Suburban Council. Kiara Beehm was named a 1st team all-star. Four bowlers were named to the 2nd & 3rd team.
- Six SHS Wrestlers qualified for Sectionals. Congratulations to Ayman Elsiddig, who placed 3rd.
- The 4x200 Relay Team qualified for States which will take place in March.



Thank you to those who participated in the secondary redesign sessions. Your thoughts, ideas and questions are very important and will help guide our work moving forward. If you were unable to attend any of the sessions, please share your input by taking the [survey](#). It will be open through Monday. So far, we have received approximately 1,100 responses.

Lastly, Governor Hochul announced this week that masks must continue to be worn in school until further notice. She said the state will review COVID data following the upcoming winter recess and make a determination and announcement in early March about the mask mandate in schools. Thank you to everyone in our school community for your continued support and cooperation. When there is a change to this or any of the COVID protocols, we will communicate that to you. Our COVID numbers continue to decrease. Let's continue to be diligent and do everything that we need to do to keep things moving in this direction.

Have a great weekend,

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

SEEKING SCHOOL COMMUNITY INPUT

re-design

SECONDARY REDESIGN SURVEY

If you are not able to attend our listening session, please participate in the online survey [here](#).

budget

2022-2023 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL COMMUNITY SURVEY

Please participate in our Budget Development Survey [here](#).



Friday, March 11

Half Day Superintendent Conference Day
Students attend a half day of school.

REMINDER



Alumni Profile

*I love working in Schenectady
because I come from Schenectady.
I know what it's like to move
around when you are young
and to attend different elementary
schools. I believe in my students!
And I want them to believe in
themselves, too.*

Katie Ferguson

**Grade 2 Teacher, Zoller Elementary
Mont Pleasant High School Class of 1992**



This week's featured alumni, Katie Ferguson, is a 1992 graduate of Mont Pleasant High School and a teacher at Zoller Elementary School.

"I love working in Schenectady because I come from Schenectady. I know what it's like to move around when you are young, to attend different elementary schools, and to struggle financially. I also know that despite the circumstances you are born into, you can change your path through persistence, determination, and hard work. I always hope I can show my students that they have it within themselves to become more than they ever imagined!

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](#).

STAFF NOTE

CPR/AED Training

Wednesday, February 16
6-8 p.m.

Schenectady High School Commos

Registration is required

Please contact Anne Osborne at 518-8881-2044 Ext. 44801
[or email](#)

CPR/AED Certification is required for all staff working in
after-school or summer programs.



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara shared this photo on social media earlier this week when he recognized U.S. Navy WWII Vet and graduate of Schenectady City Schools, Raymond Sarnacki, on his 100th Birthday. Thank you for your service and happy 100th birthday.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

 Angelo Santabarbara
@AsmSantabarbara

An honor to recognize @USNavy WWII Vet and Schenectady hometown hero from @SCSchools, Raymond Sarnacki on his 100th Birthday today! He served on the USS Enright in the Mediterranean, Pacific and in Okinawa, worked at ALCO and 42 years with GE. We can never say thank you enough 🇺🇸



COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period February 4 – 11 (8 a.m.)

Total of 50 cases

17 Staff | 33 Students

- Central Park: 6
- Howe: 2
- Keane: 1
- King: 2
- MPMS: 3
- Oneida: 4
- Paige: 2
- Pleasant Valley: 2
- SCLA: 2
- Schenectady High School: 10
- Van Corlaer: 1
- Zoller: 14
- Central Office: 1

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

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

NEW

VACCINATION POD ON FEB 15

In preparation of the spring athletic season, a 12 and older vaccination pod is scheduled for February 15 from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Schenectady High School. The following will be available:

Pfizer (First dose) 12 and older

[Sign up here](#)

[Parent Consent Link](#)

Booster Dose (All Types of Vaccines)

[Sign up here](#)

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.

COVID TESTING

DO YOU NEED A HOME TEST?

If you need a rapid test, please contact your school nurse. Your child's school may be able to provide a test kit.

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](#).

RESOURCES

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

Please continue to watch for COVID-19 news and updates



What is your MBK story?

I was in seventh grade at the time.

KAHSIER MORTON:
SOPHOMORE, SCHENECTADY HIGH SCHOOL

Play (k)

#MBKSchenectady

Meet Schenectady High School sophomore [Kahsier Morton](#), a member of My Brother's Keeper Schenectady, said he felt the impact of reading literature he could "see" himself in, thanks to his brothers in the program.

FOOTBALL WITH THE FELLAS



Last Sunday's "Football with the Fellas" was a great success, with more than 40 students and families participating in a variety of activities including discussion circles with mentors and role models.

#schenectadyrising



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



The city of Schenectady is providing opportunities for students to propose paid work projects to take place in in the community over the summer. Schenectady High School Principals Chank and Green met with a group of students to share information and learn about some of their ideas. Listen to some of the ideas they have [here](#).

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

The kindergarten classes at Woodlawn Elementary School shared some love with a Valentine's project. Each child wrote a message to a resident in a nursing home or rehab center. Some went to Kingsway in Schenectady, and some went to Irvine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Irvine, Kentucky, a center that was looking for valentines from around the country for their residents. The students used writing skills and more importantly, expressed empathy and compassion.

