



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING MARCH 04 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 31

Good afternoon,


I hope you had a great first week back after recess. It's been a busy and exciting week. As you know, Governor Hochul announced last Sunday that the mask mandate would be lifted in schools effective this past Wednesday, March 2. This announcement came on the heels of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) release, updated guidelines, and [new tool](#) to help determine community levels of low, medium, and high and what prevention steps to take for each.

While wearing masks in our school is no longer required, it remains an option for anyone who chooses to do so. We recognize that this is a personal decision. I noticed during my visits to schools on Wednesday and Thursday that there was an even mix of those wearing a mask and those without. Whether or not you choose to wear a mask, your decision will be respected.

Earlier this week, the New York State Department of Health provided school districts with additional updates to the guidelines. We have provided an update to our district's protocols [here](#). We included resources and other information provided by DOH as well.

As part of the [CDC's tool](#), they have provided strategies that are aligned with a community's level. Schenectady County is considered "low." Therefore, the current prevention strategies are to stay up to date with vaccines and to get tested if you have symptoms. If there are any changes moving forward, we will update our protocol document and let you know.

If you need a home test kit or have questions, please contact your school nurse. Things certainly seem to continue to move in the right direction. Thank you for all that you continue to do to keep our schools healthy and safe.

Please join me in congratulating Coach Bennett and the Schenectady High School 4x200 meter relay team as they head to the NYS Indoor Track and Field Championship at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex on Staten Island this Saturday. You can read about their many other accomplishments on page 2. Congrats to team members, all seniors, Deron Davis, Jelani Wells, Che Samuel and Dior Roberts. Hear from and about them in this week's [Patriots Podcast](#) . We wish them the best of luck!

Read Across America, a nationwide celebration of reading, was held on Wednesday. I, along with many others from our district and the community, spent the morning reading in elementary classrooms. Thank you to the students and teachers for inviting us. Also, thank you to those from the community who took the time to drop by and read. Our goal is to motivate and encourage children to read and to make sure they know that reading is important.

Thank you to the Office of Teaching and Learning and the Office of Planning and Accountability for the [presentation of the Second Quarter Academic Report](#) that they gave to the board of education this week. I am confident that we will be on the path toward achievement and growth. Thank you also to the K-5 Literacy Committee for all you have done over the last several months and for the comprehensive [presentation](#) that was also shared at the board of education

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COMING UP

**MARCH 11
HALF DAY**

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY
STUDENTS ATTEND A HALF DAY



READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Superintendent Soler reading to students at Keane Elementary School on Wednesday.



HEADED TO THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SHS 4x200 meter relay team (Deron Davis, Jelani Wells, Che Samuel and Dior Roberts) is headed to the NYS Championships this weekend.

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meeting. Much hard work, thoughtfulness, inclusivity, and care has been dedicated to selecting an elementary literacy program for our students. We all look forward to what is to come.

This month is National Women's History Month. While there are many famous women who we all recognize for their amazing achievements and contributions to history, culture, and society, I would like to say thank you and recognize our district's board of education. Our board is comprised of seven women who are community leaders and demonstrate an unwavering commitment to our students. Thank you also to all the women who are role models and contribute so much to our students and community.

Please check the Blue Roses Theatre Company's musical, "The Theory of Relativity," which opens Thursday and runs through Sunday. This is their first musical production in two years. They've been working hard, are excited, and will be putting on a great show.

Have a great weekend.

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



The Schenectady High School 4x200 meter relay team, headed to the NYS Championship Meet, has had an impressive season with five championships. Coach Bennett shared the team accomplishments at the Board of Education meeting this week.



CHAMPIONS	North Shore Pre-Season Invitational
CHAMPIONS	Ithaca College Invitational
8 th PLACE	Boston Holiday Challenge
CHAMPIONS	North Shore Holiday Classic
3 rd PLACE	Historically Black College and University Showcase
CHAMPIONS	Springfield College Invitational
2 nd PLACE	Section 2 D1 Championship
2 nd PLACE	Section 2 State Qualifier
CHAMPIONS	Purple Champions NYC Invitational
3 rd PLACE	Garden State High School Invitational
2 nd PLACE	Ocean Breeze Elite High School Invitational



Check out our [behind the scenes coverage](#) of the Blue Roses Theatre Company's first musical in two years. The show opens next Thursday and runs through Saturday. Show time is 7 p.m. in the Schenectady High School Auditorium.

The Blue Roses Theatre Company
Schenectady City School District's
John Sayles School of Fine Arts

Presents

THE THEORY OF
RELATIVITY

Music & Lyrics by Neil Bartram
Book by Brian Hill

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, March 10th-12th

In the Schenectady High School Auditorium
6:30pm pre-show; 7:00pm curtain

\$5 for Adults; \$2 for Senior Citizens; FREE for SCSD students & staff

THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishow.com

The BRTC's 2021-22 Season is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Henry M. Butzel Family Foundation



Alumni Profile

“Schenectady schools taught me how to be a learner. I’m Schenectady born and raised and I love this city. When I’m at school I feel like we’re all part of the same extended family.”

Julianna Vrooman

**Teacher, Schenectady High School
Linton High School Class of 1980**



This week's featured alumna is Julianna Vrooman, a Global History teacher at Schenectady High School and a 1980 graduate of Linton High School. Julianna credits a special teacher at Linton with influencing her love of teaching. “I’m a global history teacher, but Mrs. Naylor, my Spanish teacher, encouraged my love of other cultures and inspired the value of kindness and compassion toward students.”

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](#).



STEAM CAMPS

During February recess, the district piloted STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Camps at Keane and Lincoln Elementary Schools. Each school hosted nearly 50 students for learning activities Monday-Thursday. The district is working to expand the camps to additional schools during April break. Watch the videos from our STEAM classrooms on [our Youtube Channel](#).

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period February 18 – March 4 (8 a.m.)

Total of 17 cases

3 Staff | 14 Students

- Central Park: 1
- Hamilton: 2
- Howe: 4
- MPMS: 1
- Oneida: 2
- Schenectady High School: 5
- Woodlawn: 2

[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 March 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](#)

COVID-19 RESOURCES

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

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Based on Schenectady County's community level, prevention strategies at this time are:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

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:

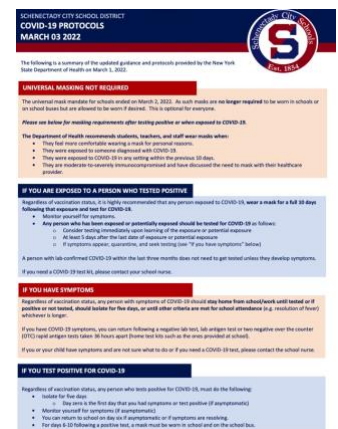
- have tested positive
- have COVID symptoms and need to test
- have been directly exposed and need to quarantine

STUDENTS

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

UPDATED COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

On March 2, the New York State Department of Health issued updated guidance for schools which considers the most recent guidance by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). With that, the mask mandate was lifted. Masks are not required but they are optional. [Click here](#) for a summary of the updated COVID-19 protocols based on the new guidance and recommendations.



COVID TESTING

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](#).

FREE TESTING SITE

To make an appointment at the Schenectady County Public Health testing site located at Ellis McClellan Campus (600 McClellan St.), click [here](#).

Please continue to watch for COVID-19 news and updates



WELCOME TO SCHENECTADY

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

Administrative

Valerie Smith, Assistant Director of Social Studies

Instructional

Todd Neuhaus, Health, CPMS

Management Confidential

Mekkah Bergeron, Payroll-HR Liaison
Devon Wimberly, Innovation, Equity & Engagement Specialist

Middle Manager

Hector Gallardo, Senior Data Analyst

Operations & Maintenance

Santosham Sheel, Custodian, CPMS

School Safety Officers

Michele Cseh
Kavon Finley

Tutor

Justyne Rios, WIEC

Parent Liaison/Project Aid

Carleah Herbert, Keane

Paraprofessionals

Shanisha Cloud, SHS
Antonia Daigneault, Hamilton

Lunch Monitors

Cheryl Wamsley, Hamilton
La-Neece Williams, Howe

CONGRATS ON TENURE

Ryan Brock, Social Studies
Carly Magin, Special Education

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

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March 7 - 11

National School Breakfast Week theme, "Take off with School Breakfast" reminds us that school breakfast helps students get a healthy start to the day. Studies show that students who eat school breakfast are more likely to increase achievement, better concentrate, be more alert and maintain a healthy weight.

Throughout the week, our schools will celebrate National School Breakfast Week with special menus and planned activities.

March 7: Sodexo staff will hand out "My Breakfast Hero Story" essay sheets to be returned Wednesday for a chance to win a special prize.

March 14: Sodexo staff will become Breakfast Heroes, dressing up as their favorite superheroes.

Look for the daily "food pun" to start your day with a smile.

MUSIC PRODUCTION CLASS



[Listen to the creative work](#) coming out of the Music Production class at SHS! [Follow us on Youtube](#) for more music from our talented students.

PATRIOTS PODCAST

NEW EPISODE

On this edition we preview the upcoming spring sports season and celebrate the achievements of our Indoor Track 4x200 relay team, who has been on quite a streak since we caught up with them back on the first day of practice. Plus, we celebrate DeVaughn Miller as the selection from Schenectady HS for the scholar-athlete award as presented annually by the National Football Foundation & College Football Hall of Fame. The podcast features the music from SHS Music Production Class.



Listen to the Patriots Podcast on [Spotify](#)
 Listen to the Patriots Podcast on [Apple](#)



Thank you to the SCSD Educational Foundation for all that they do to support our district. The Foundation is in the middle of a fall grant cycle and will be awarding \$23,000 in grant funding to our teachers.

Last June they donated \$10,500 to SHS for caps and gowns.

They are planning on donating \$3,900 to our schools for supplies.

We appreciate the continued support.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD?

Two board of education seats are up for election on May 17. Each seat is for a 3-year term. [Click here](#) for more information on how to get on the ballot.

Nominating petitions are due by 5 p.m. on April 27.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY CONNECTS MARCH 2022 Virtual Workshop Series				
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
1-4				
5-7		Civil Service Training: 10:30am	Resume Development: 10:30am	Interview Skills: 10:30am
8-10	Intro to Career Services: 10:30am	Financial Aid for Training: 10:30am	Job Interviewing: 10:30am	Job Posting: 10:30am
11-13	SECCA Presents: Budgeting Basics: 10:30am	Connective Job Applications: 10:30am	Experience Matters: 10:30am	Financial Aid: 10:30am
14-16	Time to Attend: A Virtual Job Fair: 1:30pm	Interview Preparation: 1:30pm	Social Media: 1:30pm	Call us to schedule an appointment: 1:30pm
17-19				

Schenectady County Connects has a variety of virtual workshops on writing resumes, preparing for interviews, budgeting, social media, careers, civil service, job fairs and more. [Click here](#) for the March schedule and links to the many events.

#schenectadyrising



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

NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY



BRTC IN ACTION

Blue Roses Theatre Company in action as they prepare for their upcoming musical production.



STEAM CAMP

A fun time at STEAM Camp during the winter recess.