



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING MARCH 11 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 32

Dear Schenectady Community,

Happy Friday! It was another exciting week in our district. On Tuesday, we brought our Schenectady High School Seniors together in the auditorium to make the surprise announcement that every one of them had been granted early instant admission to SUNY Schenectady in the fall. Approximately 400 students were presented with acceptance letters and next steps so they can begin planning for college entry.

This commitment between our district and SUNY Schenectady, called the "Schenectady Promise," ensures that every one of our graduating seniors have access and the opportunity to attend college including those who, prior to this, may not have considered college as an option. Removing the barrier of access supports our work around equity. As of this day, the question asked by many of our high school senior changed from, "can I get into college," to "what do I want to study in college?"

The students cheered, clapped and were clearly excited when the announcement was made. It was a proud day for all of us.

We are extremely grateful to Dr. Steady Moono, President of SUNY Schenectady, and his team at the college, for their continued partnership in education and for this incredible pathway and opportunity that was made available to our students. Please take a couple minutes and [watch the video](#) of the announcement.

Thank you also to Mayor McCarthy, Board President Cathy Lewis and board members, Schenectady City Council members, and Schenectady High School leadership, faculty and staff who were on hand for the announcement and celebration. We are all in this work together. Together, we are making a difference. #schenectadyrising

Speaking of equity, access and opportunity, this week I was honored to present at the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) Winter Conference on our work with SchenEQUITY. I spoke about our focus on student programming and system change to increase access, opportunity, and quality of education for our students.

Please spread the word that [kindergarten registration](#) is now open. Parents do not need to make an appointment to register. They can simply walk-in to the central registration office located at 108 Education Drive. For planning purposes, including staffing and class sectioning, room planning and more, it is important that families register as soon as possible. We offer many opportunities and supports for our kindergarteners and their families. See page six for more.

Pre-K registration will open on April 14. While we would like to begin the application process now, we must wait until the locations are set and approved. Pre-K is full-day programming that is designed to ensure that our youngest learners master important skills, have opportunities to interact and engage with peers, and are prepared to enter kindergarten in our district. We will continue to provide reminders as we get closer to accepting applications.

Continued on Page 2



THE SCHENECTADY PROMISE

[Watch highlights](#) from the Schenectady Promise announcement ceremony and hear comments from students. All graduating seniors were accepted to SUNY Schenectady.

SCHENECTADY PROMISE IN THE NEWS

[SPECTRUM NEWS](#)
[TIMESUNION](#)

Thank you also to the Daily Gazette for front page photo.



Superintendent Soler presented at the NYSCOSS Conference about work on SchenEQUITY



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It's been over a week since the mask mandate has been lifted in schools. There have not been any issues in our schools. Everyone has been kind and respectful to one another regarding their choice to wear or not wear a mask. Thank you to our students, their families, and our faculty and staff.

As you can see by our weekly updates, our COVID-19 numbers continue to remain low. This week, we had a total of 11 cases and only 3 of those were students. We are all happy and encouraged to see things continue to move in the right direction.

The Blue Roses Theatre opened their musical production of ["The Theory of Relativity"](#) this week. The show is running tonight and Saturday night at 7 p.m. Reservations are not required. Please consider attending. This is the first musical production in over two years. The staff and students working on this production are doing an amazing job and they are so excited to showcase their work. We hope to see you there. *Be sure to see the great story that Spectrum News ran today.*

We are collaborating with our community partners to hold a "Schenectady Community Fair" on Saturday, March 26 from 3-6 p.m. at the Adeline Wright Graham Boys and Girls club. Many community organizations will be on hand to share how they can support students and families in our community. Our students will also be involved and will share information. Please help spread the word. It's important for our school community know that we are all working together and have tools and resources to support students and families.

It looks like there is snowy weather in the forecast this weekend. Please stay safe and warm. Remember self-care. Unplug, relax, and enjoy.

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

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

SAVE THE DATE

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SCHENECTADY

SCHENECTADY
COMMUNITY FAIR

ALL ARE WELCOME

#SchenectadyRise

Saturday, Mar. 26, 3 - 6 p.m.
Adeline Wright Graham Boys & Girls Club

- ◆ Community Organizations
- ◆ Presentations by Schenectady City School District Students
- ◆ Raffle
- ◆ Handouts and Give Aways
- ◆ And Much, Much More!

THE BUTZEL GALLERY THE IB ART SHOW

3/13/2022-3/27/2022
OPENING RECEPTION
3/16/2022
3:45-4:45 & 6-7



ARTISTS:
DELANEY BRYSON
CHRISTINE CHRISTMAS
SARAH DUKHI
ALYSSA GANGARAM
RAVEENA GANPAT
ELLA KUBAN
EMMA LESLIE
EMMA LINDENFELSER
LEO RODRIGUEZ

Mont Pleasant Middle School Parent's University is holding "Dad Take your Child to Dinner"

Take your 7th grader to dinner on March 23, 6 – 7 :30 p.m.
Take your 8th grader to dinner on April 6, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy dinner and dessert.

You will meet your child's school counselor and learn about programs including 21st Century After-School, STEP at Union College, My Brother's Keeper, and Liberty Partnership Program.

Please RSVP to Anna Robinson by calling 518-265-0899 or email robinsona@schenectady.k12.ny.us





Alumni Profile

"Schenectady schools prepared me for a variety of rewarding careers where I was able to give back to my community, first as a Deputy Fire Chief and now as an employee of the district."

Kurt Siegel

**Planning and Accountability Office,
Schenectady City Schools
Linton High School Class of 1975**



This week's feature alumnus is a 1975 graduate of Linton High School and retired Schenectady Deputy Fire Chief, Kurt Siegel. Kurt credits his journalism and acting teachers in high school for teaching him the importance of empathy, listening, and communicating skills that he used daily as a firefighter and in his current role within the district.

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](#).

**WE ARE
HIRING
TUTORS
NOW**

**TUTORING FOR
STUDENTS**

**ALL CONTENT AREAS
ALL GRADE LEVELS**

APPLY TODAY!

\$25-30 PER HOUR



TUTOR QUALITIES

Dedication and understanding of student needs
Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills
Ability to motivate

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor's Degree with several credits in education

**IMMEDIATE
OPENINGS**

GO TO
SCHENECTADY.RECRUITFRONT.COM



**girls
inc.
Eureka!**



STEM



Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region has been inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold for 83 years!

The Girls Inc. Eureka! Program is a year-round, five-year STEM intensive program that engages and empowers girls in grades 8-12 to develop confidence and discover leadership and academic opportunities in STEM fields. Applications for 8th and 9th graders are being accepted.

To apply, please contact Kelly Mucci, Eureka! Manager of Girls Inc. of the Capital Region at kmucci@gcr.grils-inc.org or call 518-374-9800 Ext. 223.

Click [here for the flyer](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period March 4 – 10 (8 a.m.)

Total of 11 cases

8 Staff | 3 Students

- Central Park: 1
- Howe: 1
- Paige: 3
- Schenectady High School: 2
- Woodlawn: 1
- Zoller: 1
- Multiple Schools: 1
- Central Office: 1

[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:

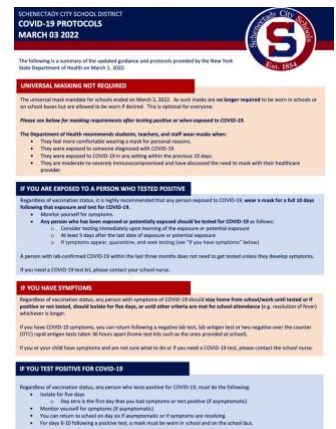
- have tested positive
- have COVID symptoms and need to test
- have been directly exposed and need to quarantine

STUDENTS

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

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





It's a Scrabble-Rama!

The Reading is Fun Program is holding Scrabble Competition on Saturday, May 14 at Schenectady High School. Gather your team of two-four players (18 years and older). Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 teams!

● More info. [here](#) ● Register [here](#)

PATRIOTS PODCAST

NEW EPISODE

On Season 1 Episode 10 of the Patriots Podcast features a 4-year varsity swimmer, school record holder, and member of the Class of 2022, Emma Bogdanowicz-Wilson. Emma talks about her future at SUNY Cortland, where she'll compete on the swim team and study Exercise Science.

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



COMING SOON!

NY Ag in the Classroom

Farmer Will Allen

Well-known farmer and "Father of Urban Agriculture" Will Allen will be visiting on March 24 as part of New York Ag in the Classroom's annual Literacy Week.

The book, "Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table" is this year's book. We hope it will get students excited about their school gardens

As part of the visit, a copy of the book will be distributed to each second grade classroom along with supporting resources and lessons.

We look forward to sharing more.



FRANCIS AVENUE BRIDGE CLOSURE

The City of Schenectady has informed us that the Francis Avenue Bridge will be closed to pedestrian and vehicles beginning March 23 until August 1.

This may impact the usual foot and car travel of students and families to Mont Pleasant, Pleasant Valley, SCLA and WIEC.

Detours will be in place. You can travel Strong Street to Craig Street. The Craig Street Bridge connects the Hamilton Hill community to Mont Pleasant.

STAFF NOTE CPR /AED TRAININGS

CPR/AED Training will be held Monday, March 21 from 6-8 p.m. in the SHS Commons.

To register, contact Anne Osborne at 518-881-2044 Ext. 44801 or [email](#)

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.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Check out the Glow Games from Marissa Ray's ENL classes at Central Park Middle School this week.

#schenectadyrising



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

SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN NOW

No appointment needed!
Register today at 108 Education Drive

SUPPORTING KINDERGARTENERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

New K-5 Culturally Responsive Literacy Program
Class sizes of 25 or less with additional adult supports
Small group academic support
Certified reading specialists and math intervention teachers
English as a New Language (ENL) Teachers
Speech language and occupational therapy
Variety of special education programs
Every kindergartener receives a Chromebook
Weekly lessons in art, music & physical education
All students receive breakfast and lunch at no cost

AFTER-SCHOOL, SUMMER, AND RECESS PROGRAMS
Summer Enrichment Program
Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM)
After-school extended learning programs

OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES
Your school has a parent liaison to support you and your family
School committees, teams and PTO

If you have questions or would like to make an appointment, please call 518-881-3771



Pre-K Registration opens April 14

#schenectadyrising

Everybody Counts. Everybody Learns.

GUEST READER AT HAMILTON ELEMENTARY



Hamilton's Guest Reader, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, turned into a guest server at lunchtime.

