



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING MARCH 18 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 33

Good afternoon and happy Friday,

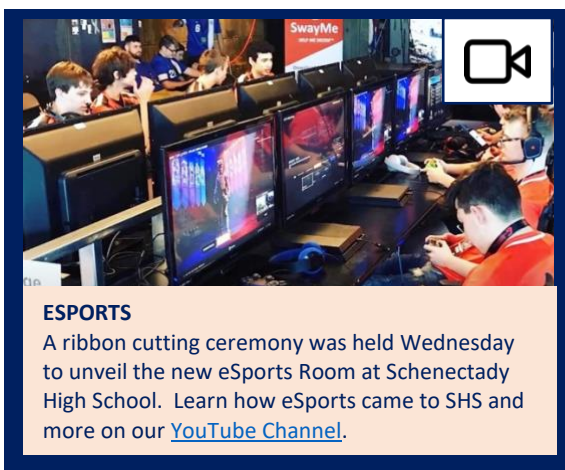
I will start by saying thank you Deputy Superintendent Rutnik and the Secondary Redesign Team for all that work that you have been doing to collect input, data, and information and for continuing to explore options, opportunities and many pathways that can open doors, empower, and support our students on their path to graduation and beyond.

Members of the team including students and a parent, presented an update to the board of education Wednesday evening. They outlined why this work is important and the vision, which ultimately is to make sure every student graduates from Schenectady High School ready for college, career, family, or military.

Over the last few months, the team has been collecting feedback and studying data. Group presentations have been held for the school and community, and a survey conducted. More than 1000 members of our school community participated in the survey. A summary of the results were shared including areas that were identified as strengths and for improvement. Most participants agreed that a program designed specifically for incoming freshmen would be beneficial.

The presentation highlighted some of the community sites that the team visited for possible collaboration, the work of other pathway and project-based schools, and some of the thoughts and ideas from students, parents, and faculty. The steering committee recommended a timeline and process which includes three phases with a plan for phase one to be announced in April with an eye on implementation for the fall. I look forward to keeping you updated. This is exciting work that has the potential to change the high school experience by providing students pathways, experiences, and supports that keep them engaged and on the path toward reaching their high school and post-high school goals. Click [here](#) to watch the video presentation, complete with slides.

It was a fun and exciting afternoon at Schenectady High School Wednesday when we hosted members from the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling the new eSports room. The eSports Club presents an exciting opportunity for all our students to participate, compete and watch esports games. More than 100 students are signed up to participate. Thank you to Capital Region BOCES for their support helping us get eSports off the ground. The students who attended the ribbon cutting were clearly excited and couldn't wait to jump in. School Board President Cathy Lewis and I also took a seat for a few minutes and had some fun. We are excited for our students and wish our eSports team much luck. We will be watching.



ESPORTS

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Wednesday to unveil the new eSports Room at Schenectady High School. Learn how eSports came to SHS and more on our [YouTube Channel](#).



UPDATE ON THE SECONDARY REDESIGN

During the March 16 Board of Education Meeting, the district's Secondary School Redesign Committee presented an update on the process and outlined next steps. Watch the 30-minutes presentation complete with slide presentation [here](#).



School Board President Cathy Lewis (above) and Superintendent Soler (below) having some fun as they try out the new gaming systems in the new eSports Room which was unveiled Wednesday.



Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

This week, Mr. Gillooley presented [a budget update](#) to the board of education. He shared the results of the budget survey and shared current year expenses for instruction, student support, benefits, and debt service. Mr. Gillooley will be presenting a first draft of the 2022-2023 Budget to the board at the March 30 meeting. All the presentations and updates continue to be posted on the budget section of our website [here](#).

Please continue to spread the word about the "Schenectady Community Fair" coming up on Saturday March 26 from 3-6 p.m. Many of our partners including the Electric City Barn, CREATE Community Studios, the SEAT Center, YWCA, Ring of Hope, the Schenectady Green Market, Schenectady Urban Farms, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Humana, Schenectady Connects, City Mission, DePaul Housing, the 21st Century Afterschool Program, Public Policy and Education Fun, and Belmont Pop Warner Cheer and Football are all scheduled to be on hand alongside our Athletic Department and other district groups. The fair is about all corners of our community working together and supporting one another. I hope you will attend.

I'm sure you are as excited as I am that spring will officially be here this weekend. Let's hope the sunshine and spring weather follow in the weeks ahead. Also keep an eye out for spring sports and concerts coming up in our schools. If you are looking for the sports schedule so you can come out and cheer on our teams, click [here](#).

Enjoy the beautiful day today and have a great weekend,

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



FOR MONT PLEASANT MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH GRADE STUDENTS

YOU'RE INVITED!

"DINNER WITH DAD"

MARCH 23, 6 - 7:30 AT MONT PLEASANT MIDDLE SCHOOL

FATHER FIGURES AND ROLE MODELS ARE INVITED TO ENJOY
DINNER AND DESSERT WITH THEIR 7TH GRADE STUDENT

Hear from the assistant principal
Meet your child's school counselor
Learn more about these new programs:

- 21st Century After-School
- STEP at Union College
- My Brother's Keeper
- LPP

RSVP TO ANNA ROBINSON: ROBINSONA@SCHENECTADY.K12.NY.US

BE INVOLVED - EMPOWER THEIR FUTURE
#SCHENECTADYDINING

SAVE THE DATE

SCHENECTADY COMMUNITY FAIR

ALL ARE WELCOME

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!

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Wednesday marked 100 days until the Class of 2022 graduation ceremony. To build excitement for the end of the year, the senior class officer planned a celebration during fourth block. Check out the photos and follow them on [Instagram.com/ shsclassof2022](https://www.instagram.com/shsclassof2022)



Alumni Profile

"Being born and raised in Schenectady was a wonderful experience because I was able to make friends from all parts of the city. It's a great feeling to be able to serve on the City Council and help move Schenectady forward."

John Polimeni

**Schenectady City Council
Mont Pleasant High School Class of 1990**



This week's featured alumnus, John Polimeni, is an Associate Professor of Economics at UAlbany, and a member of the Schenectady City Council. "I credit my time at Mont Pleasant High School for a love of learning and academic growth that I took with me to college and beyond."

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](#).

WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2035

Will your child be
5 years old by December 1?

If so, it's time to register
them for kindergarten
for September 2022.

Don't Wait

**REGISTER NOW!
NO APPOINTMENT
NEEDED**



Learn more about kindergarten in our district by watching [this short clip](#).

Children who are enrolled in a district Pre-K program are already registered for kindergarten.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period March 10 – March 18 (8 a.m.)

Total of 11 cases

3 Staff | 8 Students

- Central Park: 1
- Hamilton: 1
- Mont Pleasant: 1
- Schenectady High School: 6
- Van Corlaer: 1
- Zoller: 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



WELCOME TO SCHENECTADY

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

Instructional

Erin Denison, Social Worker, Pleasant Valley

Middle Managers Association (MMA)

Bryan Stockley, Assistant Manager of Data & Information

Operations & Maintenance

Eric Szady, Maintenance Mechanic

School Safety Officers

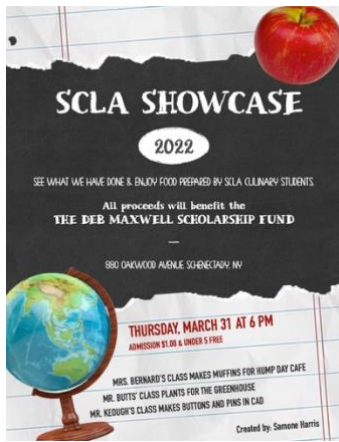
Andrew Jones
Ricky Taylor

Paraprofessional

Alexis Santiago, Mont Pleasant

Lunch Monitors

Jennifer DeJohn, Howe
Dina George, Zoller
Mattia Mastroianni, King
Gerardo Pedragon, Keane
Naomi Spivey, Lincoln

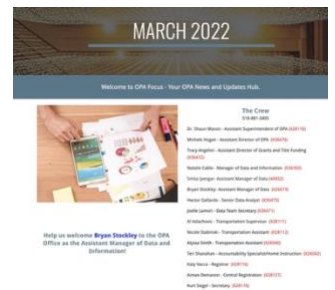


SCLA SHOWCASE

The Steinmetz Career and Leadership Academy (SCLA) Showcase will be held on Thursday, March 31 at 6 p.m. at the school. This year's showcase will benefit the Deb Maxwell Memorial Scholarship Fund. Ms. Maxwell was an amazing woman who devoted her life to the students, staff, and culture of SCLA. The scholarship is awarded to SCLA graduating seniors. Food will be provided by the students in the culinary program.

Click here for the [flyer](#)

FROM THE OFFICE OF PLANNING & ACCOUNTABILITY



[MARCH NEWSLETTER](#)

Class of 2022 Celebrates 100 Days Until Graduation



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.

REMINDER FRANCIS AVENUE BRIDGE CLOSURE

The France Avenue Bridge will close next week, beginning March 23. It will remain closed until August 1.

#schenectadyrising



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

SCHENECTADY
HIGH SCHOOL'S

**PARENT
NIGHT @
BOYS & GIRLS
CLUB
MONT PLEASANT**



**THURSDAY,
MARCH 24, 2022
6:00PM**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SHS
HOME & SCHOOL ALLIANCE
PARENT EMPOWERMENT GROUP



**SHS Parent Mr.
Morris:** "It is so
good to talk to
other parents
about being
parents!"
*Participate in Parent
Circles!*

**Join our
Parent
Leadership
Group for
the HS
Redesign!**

BE HEARD! Meet
and share with HS
staff and leadership.

*Learn how you can
volunteer in the high*



It's a Scrabble- Rama!

A Scrabble Competition to Benefit The Reading Is Fun (RIF) Program

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 information [here](#)

Register [here](#)

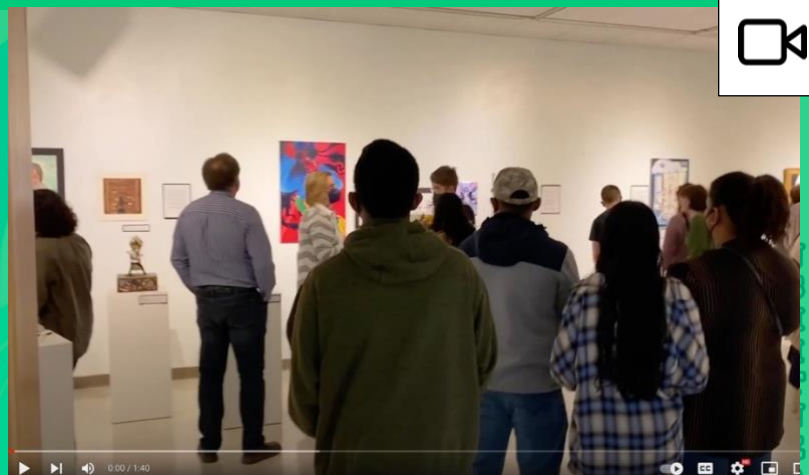
Schenectady High School's Parent Night at the Boys and Girls Club will be held Thursday, March 24 at 6 p.m.

Join our Parent Leadership Group for the high school redesign!

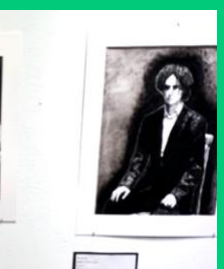
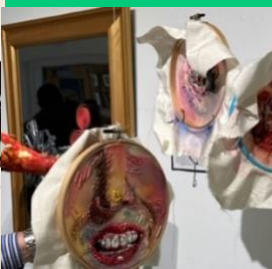
Download the flyer [here](#).

IB Art Show is open Through March 27 in the Butzel Gallery

Click on the link below to meet some of the artists and get a sneak peek



Don't miss the IB Art Show. Open now through March 27 in the Butzel Gallery at Schenectady High School. Come by and check out the amazing pieces from nine student artists. [Watch this video](#) for a preview of their work.



#schenectadyrising