



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING MARCH 25 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 34

Dear Schenectady Community,

I hope you are doing well and that you had a good week.

First, as a reminder, English Language Arts (ELA) NYS Assessments will be administered to students in grades 3-8 **March 29-31**. The administration of these tests is required under the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. These tests are important to us because they serve to provide indicators of how students are progressing toward the learning standards and areas where they may need additional support.

There are some changes to the tests compared to previous years. The ELA and Math test (which will be administered at the end of April) will be taken over two testing days instead of three. The tests will also be untimed which means students will have as much time as they need to complete the test within the school day. A lunch break will be provided.

Again, we are required to administer the test. Any parent who refuses to allow their child to sit for the test, must submit, in writing, a request for their child to opt-out of testing. This should be submitted to the school principal. If you opt your child out, they should still report to school. Students will participate in quiet reading while the exam is being administered.

New York State Testing Dates are as follows:

- NYS ELA Test: March 29 – 30 (Make-up date: March 31)
- NYS Math Test: April 26-27 (Make-up date: April 28)
- NYS Science Test: May 24 – June 3

Any questions should be directed to your school principal.

We are excited about the Schenectady Community Fair that will take place tomorrow from 3-6 p.m. at the Adeline Wright Graham Boys and Girls Club, located next to Mont Pleasant Middle School. More than 25 community agencies and organizations will be on hand. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be served. There will be a variety of information booths, food, raffles, giveaways, and more. District representatives will be on hand to answer questions and share information regarding a variety of programs and services. Our registrar will also be available to register incoming kindergarteners. Everyone is invited and there is no cost. We hope to see you there.

Yesterday "Father of Urban Agriculture" Will Allen visited our schools as part of New York Ag in the Classroom's Annual Literacy Week. Mr. Allen is food activist and global leader in food accessibility. The students, many of whom have been reading his book, were excited to meet him and learn more. He spoke about food accessibility and justice, urban farming, vermicomposting, and how he grew food to feed his community.

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EVERYONE IS INVITED

SCHENECTADY COMMUNITY FAIR

Sat. March 26, 3 - 6 p.m.

Adeline Wright Graham Boys & Girls Club

Enjoy Hotdogs & Hamburgers
More than 20 vendors
Raffles, Giveaways and MORE!

Still need to register
your child for kindergarten?

You can register at the
community fair this Saturday!

The SCSD registrar will be on hand
to answer your questions and
register your child for school for
the fall. #Classof2035

Stop by on Saturday, March 26 between 3-6 p.m.
at the Adeline Wright Graham Boys and Girls Club!



FARMER WILL ALLEN



March 21-25 was Agriculture Literacy Week, and our students were treated to a visit from Farmer Will Allen, a world-famous urban farmer. He met with middle school students about food justice work and visited elementary students to read his children's book, "Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table."

Watch Farmer Will's Visit to Zoller [Here](#).

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It was an exciting day for the students. Many are inspired to learn more and grow their own school gardens.

Thank you to Rebekka Henriksen, our Farm to School Coordinator, and all involved, for your hard work and coordination of this event which was made possible by the Farm to School Program, The United Way of the Greater Capital Region, NY Ag in the Classroom, SiCM, The Schenectady Foundation, and the Boys & Girls Club of Schenectady.

The Schenectady Community Fair and Mr. Allen's visit are both examples of how a community working together can create opportunities and make things happen. Thank you to all.

Coming up: Mr. Gillooley will present a first draft of the 2022-2023 Budget at the March 30 Board of Education Meeting.

Reminder: Third quarter marking period closes on April 8.

I wish you a restful and fun weekend. Once Monday rolls around, there is less than three weeks until Spring Recess.

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



FARMER WILL IN THE NEWS



Thanks to Spectrum News 1 Reporter, Spencer Colin, for visiting Zoller Elementary School and learning more about our district's farm to school and agriculture in the classroom efforts. Watch here: [Schenectady students hear from "The Father of Urban Agriculture."](#)



Classes across the district began planting and garden studies and projects after reading Farmer Will's book. This fits perfectly with the grade 2 curriculum.

Pictured Above

Mrs. White's second grade class at Yates Elementary School

Pictured Left

Ms. Trumpler's second grade class at Keane Elementary School





Alumni Profile

"Schenectady Schools taught me that our kids need people who look like them. I love that I can help co-pilot our young people through life, because I've piloted a similar flight."

DaQuan Freeman

**Cultural and Community Engagement Specialist
Schenectady High School Class of 2010**



This week's featured alumnus is 2010 graduate of Schenectady High School, DaQuan Freeman, who currently works as a Cultural and Community Engagement Specialist at Schenectady High School. DaQuan credits the strong relationships he built while attending SHS with inspiring him to work with current students. "The relationships I built with Mr. Spivey, Mrs. Rivera, as well as Mrs. Wygal, had a great influence on my life."

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](#).

ABOUT KINDERGARTEN IN OUR DISTRICT

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 and 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

- Parent liaison at every school
- School committees, teams, and PTO

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

Pre-K applications will be accepted beginning April 14

#schenectadyrising Everybody Counts. Everybody Learns.

SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOLS

Español

Regístrate para el jardín de infantes ahora

No se necesita cita
Regístrate hoy en 108 Education Drive

APOYO A NIÑOS DE JARDIN DE NIÑOS Y SUS FAMILIAS

- Nuevo programa de alfabetización culturalmente sensible K-5
- Tamaño de la clase de 25 o menos con apoyo adicional para adultos
- Apoyo académico en grupos pequeños
- Especialistas certificados en lectura y maestros de intervención matemática
- Inglés como Nuevo Idioma (ENL) Impartido
- Terapia del Habla, Lenguaje y Ocupacional
- Variación de programas de educación especial
- Cada niño de kinder recibe un Chromebook
- Clases semanales de arte, música y educación física
- Todos los estudiantes reciben desayuno y almuerzo sin costo

PROGRAMAS DESPUÉS DE ESCUELA VERANO Y RECESO

- Programa de enriquecimiento de Verano
- Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería, Arte, Matemáticas
- Programas de aprendizaje extendido después de la escuela

OPORTUNIDADES Y APOYO FAMILIAS

- Su escuela tiene un enlace de padres para apoyar a usted y a su familia
- Comités escolares, equipos y PTO

Si tiene preguntas o desea programar una cita, llame al 518-881-3771.

El registro de Pre-K abre el 14 de abril

#schenectadyrising Everybody Counts. Everybody Learns.

REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN TODAY!

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.

PRE-K

We will begin accepting Pre-K applications April 14.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period March 18 – March 25 (8 a.m.)

Total of 11 cases

6 Staff | 5 Students

- Hamilton: 1
- Howe: 1
- Paige: 2
- Woodlawn: 3
- Schenectady High School: 4

[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:

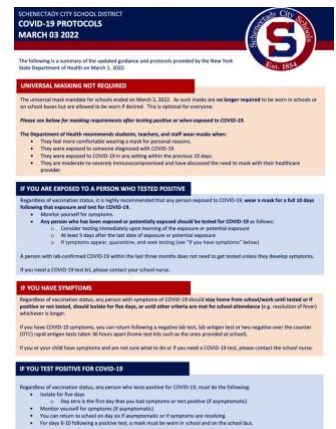
- have tested positive
- have COVID symptoms and need to test
- have been directly exposed and need to quarantine

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



PATRIOTS PODCAST

NEW EPISODE

In this edition, we preview the spring baseball season with senior captain of the Patriots Varsity Baseball Team and recent St. Peters commit, David Bernard Jr.

🎧 Listen to the Schenectady Patriots Podcast on [Apple](#) or [Spotify](#).



PICTURE OF THE WEEK



FROM THE OFFICE OF
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



MARCH
NEWSLETTER



FREE
COUNSELING
SERVICE

[HERE FOR MORE](#)

HOLI CELEBRATION

Students across the district participated in the Holi celebration last Friday.

Holi is a popular ancient Hindu festival, also known as the Festival of Spring, the Festival of Colors, or the Festival of Love. Those who celebrate Holi often throw colored water and powders on one another in celebration.

Left: Students celebrating Holi in the Mont Pleasant courtyard.

#schenectadyrising



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

MBK SCHENECTADY IN THE NEWS



HELPING YOUNG MEN ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Thank you to Spectrum News 1 for highlighting our amazing My Brother's Keeper (MBK) program and the powerful mentoring that happens in our schools every day. [Watch here](#) for an inside look and hear from students in the program.

Friday morning, author and SHS graduate Willie Deane, read to students at Howe Elementary School.



TWO STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FINAL LOCAL SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Pratiksha "Sami" Gangadin (8th grade Central Park) and Jessica Megnauth (5th grade Paige) who qualified for the final local spelling bee which will take place via Zoom on March 28. The winner of the final local bee will compete in the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Good luck Sami and Jessica!



Sami Gangadin



Jessica Megnauth

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Student leaders spend time at City Hall with City Councilwomen



Earlier this week a group of student leaders from Schenectady High School and Mont Pleasant Middle School joined City Council women Marion Porterfield, Doreen Ditoro, and Carmel Patrick for a tour of City Hall. The focus was on women in leadership with an introduction to the various departments in local government. Students enjoyed open dialogue with the councilwomen and met with Mayor McCarthy. Spending time and learning about women in government is a great way to celebrate Women's History Month. [#schenectadyrising](#) [#WomensHistoryMonth](#)

[#schenectadyrising](#)