



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING APRIL 08 2022 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE NO. 36

Good afternoon and TGIF,

I hope you are doing well and had a great week. It's been another busy one so I'm sure you are looking forward to the weekend. If you've been counting down the days to spring recess, we are almost there. Less than a week to go.

I'll start my brief by saying congratulations to Steve Balogh, a social studies teacher at Mont Pleasant Middle School, who was [featured as WNYT's Top Teacher](#) last week. Only one teacher from the entire region is selected by WNYT for this honor each week. The teacher is nominated and recognized because they go above and beyond, have a positive impact on students and community and make a difference. This is a fantastic honor, and we are proud of Mr. Balogh for being nominated and selected. Please join me in congratulating him.

Mr. Gillooley presented a [second draft 2022-2023 Budget Proposal](#) to the Board of Education this week. While the proposal includes everything that was outlined in the initial proposal, the proposed spending plan is decreased by \$3.8 million. This is because some of the outlined positions will be paid out the federal CRRSA and ARP grant funding. Therefore, the cost of these positions will not be included in the general fund and part of the spending plan. The board will consider the adoption of a \$239,167,067 spending plan at next Wednesday's board meeting. The tax levy remains flat.

Overall, the budget proposal serves to increase student support services (counselors, social workers, safety personnel, restorative practice specialists), athletic and extracurricular opportunities (modified sports at the middle school level), and ensures every school has a library media specialist and parent liaisons. The proposal also supports extended learning time at school, development of our community school initiative, improvements to our facilities, implementation of a secondary school redesign (creating pathways and opportunities for students), new literacy curriculum, increased professional learning opportunities and partnership with community-based organizations.

Mr. Gillooley also recommended that a proposition, to create a Capital Reserve Fund, be considered. The purpose would be to establish an account specifically for funding general building improvements, construction, renovations, or additions as needed at our schools. Our buildings are currently being assessed for short and long-term needs (otherwise known as a building-condition survey). At the end of the year, unused funds would be put into the Capital Reserve Account, which would be used to pay for the cost of work that needs to be done. If the board approves including the proposition, it will be included on the ballot, and considered by voters on May 17.

This week the board also approved a resolution regarding vaccine requirements for sports participation. With this resolution, only athletes who participate in high-risk sports are required to be vaccinated for COVID-19. Prior to this all athletes were required to be vaccinated to participate. This change is in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). The change goes into effect immediately.

CONGRATULATIONS

Steve Balogh is featured as WNYT Top Teacher



SHS MUSIC PRODUCTION STUDENTS



Meet three students from Mr. Casano's Music Production class at Schenectady High School. Find out what got them interested in music production and what they hope to pursue with the skills they are learning in FA8.

Music from this class has been featured in other videos on our YouTube channel and in the Schenectady Patriots Podcast. Listen to all of the tracks in this [YouTube playlist](#).

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A couple weeks ago, our Secondary School Redesign Committee presented an [update](#) to the board of education. The team reported that they are exploring and reviewing opportunities for the secondary school experience. Since our current 8th graders will be entering high school next year, we feel it is important to hear what they think, are excited about and are concerned about. Ms. Rutnik and Mr. O'Mealley met with 8th graders at all three middle schools this week to talk about our efforts to enhance their high school experiences, to hear from them, and to collect and consider their thoughts and ideas. The 8th graders have also been asked to provide feedback on a survey. While the conversations will continue, I want to be clear that **no decisions** have been made. We are still meeting with students, parents and staff and continue to explore the various possibilities. We will be holding a community town hall to share more information and hear your thoughts. We will let you know when that will be scheduled. We understand that discussing change is difficult but at the end of the day our goal is to improve outcomes for all students.

New York State Regents Exams will be administered in June and August. As per regulations of the commissioner of education, students must earn passing scores on English, math, science, and social studies exams in order to earn a high school diploma. [Click here](#) to open a letter from Dr. Shaun Mason, assistant superintendent of planning and accountability, with the June Regents schedule attached.

I want to offer recognition and appreciation to our paraprofessionals. Wednesday, April 6 was Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. While we appreciate the work that our paras do each day, this is a special day of recognition, so I want to make a point to say "thank you." Our paraprofessionals are tireless workers who provide daily support to our teachers and students. They are compassionate, motivating, patient, cooperative and so much more. Thank you to all our paraprofessionals for your hard work and commitment.

With this week being National Assistant Principals Week, I also want to give a shoutout to our assistant principals who demonstrate leadership, support, and inspiration to all. Assistant principals fill an important role and have an impact on the success of school. They support the principal and help keep the school moving daily. They strive to motivate students to be model learners, are often responsible for addressing behavior concerns and working with parents. Please join me in thanking and celebrating our assistant principals.

As a reminder ... we will begin accepting applications for the 2022 -2023 Universal Pre-K Program on April 14. The application and information will be posted on our website, shared through social media and in upcoming briefs.

The third quarter marking period closed today. With that, on Monday we move to the final quarter of the school year. We are in the home stretch and I'm sure it's going to fly by.

Enjoy your weekend,

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

Discussions with 8th Graders



SCHENECTADY SCHOOLS SAY THANK YOU

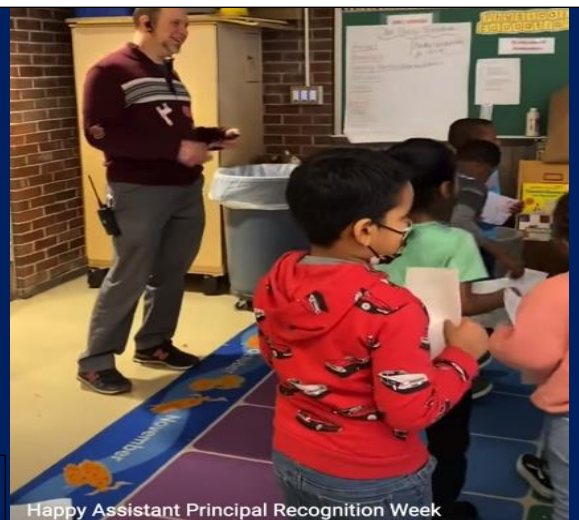
PARAPROFessional APPRECIATION DAY



Paraprofessional Appreciation Day honors
paraprofessional educators, instructional
assistants, and teacher's aides.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL RECOGNITION WEEK

This week we celebrated Assistant Principal Recognition Week and Ms. Giardono's class at MLK started off the week of appreciation by sticker bombing, giving cards, and singing to Assistant Principal Bate. [Watch the Video Here](#)



#schenectadyrising

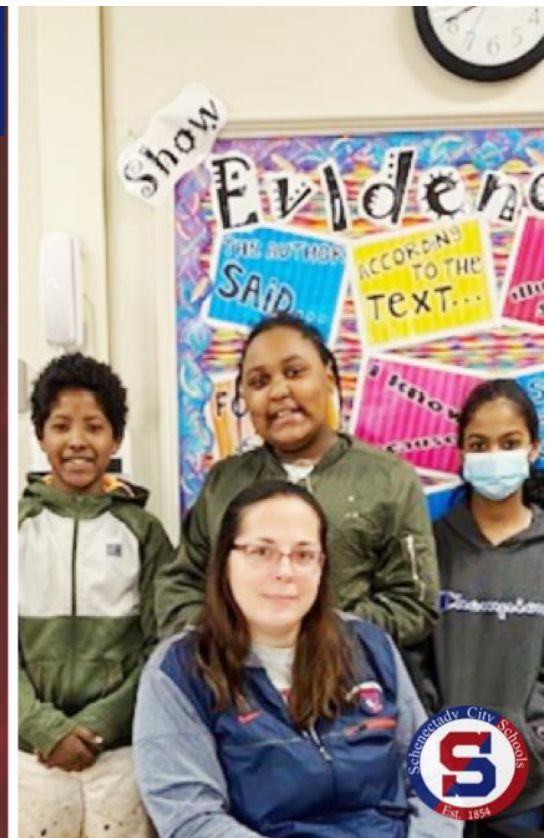


Alumni Profile

"Schenectady schools provided me with my first experience in childhood education. As a senior I spent time in a classroom at Zoller Elementary School and the experience showed me what teaching entailed and that education was truly what I wanted to pursue."

Sara DiPietro

***4th Grade Teacher, Hamilton Elementary
Schenectady High School Class of 2003***



This week's featured alumnae, Hamilton Elementary School fourth grade teacher Sara DiPietro, credits her influential adults at Schenectady High School for inspiring her to pursue a career with students.

"Coach Lupo taught important life lessons on and off the basketball court. She was a mentor during my years as a student and stayed in contact after graduating. Mrs. Gabriel was a peer mediation coordinator who truly had the kids interest at heart and always wanted to help others."

Did you graduate from Schenectady Schools?

Tell us about yourself. If you are a graduate of Schenectady Schools, we would love to feature you in an alumni profile. To share your information, [click here](#).

Are you interested in running for a seat on the board of education?

Two seats on the board of education are up for election on May 17, 2022. Each seat is for a three-year term.

For more information on how to get on the ballot and to download the petition, visit [here](#).

Petitions are due to the clerk of the board by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

If you have questions, please contact Martha Morris at 518-370-8100 Ext. 40105 or email morrism@schenectady.k12.ny.us

The Schenectady City School District is seeking partners to provide extending learning programs in one or more areas including, but not limited to enrichment, student mentoring, social and emotional learning, health and wellness, academic support, and the arts. Services to be provided during summer, afterschool, during school, Saturdays and/or during school breaks beginning September 2022. [Here for more](#)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ELT and COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARTNERS:
#schenectadyrising
RFP# SCS-22-009

March 30, 2022



Everybody counts

Everybody learns

Attention: Purchasing Agent
Address: Schenectady City School District
108 Education Dr.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Phone: (518) 370-8100 x40115

RESPONSES DUE: April 29, 2022, 2:00 p.m. (EDT)

RFP Submissions Due April 29, 2 p.m.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period April 1 – April 8 (8 a.m.)

Total of 33 cases

13 Staff | 20 Students

- Central Park: 9
- Howe: 3
- Keane: 1
- King: 1
- Mont Pleasant: 2
- Paige: 1
- SCLA: 1
- Schenectady High School: 4
- WIEC: 4
- Woodlawn: 3
- Zoller: 3
- Multiple Buildings: 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 April 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

UPDATE:

Only athletes who participate in high-risk sports are required to be vaccinated for COVID-19. This change was approved by the board of education on April 6 and is in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). The change goes into effect immediately.

**SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS
MARCH 23, 2022**

The following is a summary of the updated guidelines and protocols provided by the New York State Department of Health on March 15, 2022.

UNIVERSAL MASKING NOT REQUIRED

The universal mask mandate for schools ended on March 1, 2022. As such, masks are no longer required to be worn in schools or on school grounds but are still encouraged to wear masks. This applies to all members.

Please use below for masking requirements after testing positive or when exposed to COVID-19.

The Department of Health recommends students, teachers, and staff wear masks when:

- They feel unwell or symptomatic, even if they are vaccinated.
- They were exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
- They were exposed to COVID-19 in a setting within the previous 10 days.
- They are moderate to severely immunocompromised and have discussed the need to mask with their healthcare provider.

IF YOU ARE EXPOSED TO A PERSON WHO TESTED POSITIVE

Regardless of vaccination status, everyone who has been exposed to COVID-19, even if they are vaccinated, should follow the following steps:

- Monitor yourself for symptoms.
- Any person who has been exposed or potentially exposed should be tested for COVID-19 as follows:
 - Consider testing immediately upon learning of the exposure or potential exposure.
 - At least 1 day after the last date of exposure to prevent exposure.
 - If asymptomatic, retest, and only testing once. If they have symptoms, "isolate."

A person with lab-confirmed COVID-19 within the last three months does not need to get tested unless they develop symptoms. If you need a COVID-19 test kit, please contact your school nurse.

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

Regardless of vaccination status, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school/work and tested as if positive or test before school/work for the day, and other others are not for school attendance (i.e., isolation or home) whenever it is longer.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, you can return following a negative lab test, but anyone test or been negative over the course (CDC) rapid antigen tests (over 30 hours apart) (three test kits) with the ones provided at school.

If you or your child have symptoms and are not sure what to do or if you need a COVID-19 test, please contact the school nurse.

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Regardless of vaccination status, anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, must do the following:

- Isolate for five days.
- Stay away from others who are not fully vaccinated or test positive (if asymptomatic).
- Monitor yourself for symptoms (immunocompromised).
- You can return to school or work if asymptomatic or if symptoms are resolving.
- The last 10 following positive test, please contact your school nurse for a test kit and for the school bus.

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

On this edition, Varsity Baseball middle infielder and senior captain, Xander Canfield, tells us all about his outlook on this season and what he's looking forward to in the fall when he heads to Cazenovia College.

The Patriots baseball team takes on Bethlehem Monday at Central Park on Monday at 4:15. We hope to see you there.



Listen on [Spotify](#)



Listen on [Apple](#)

NEW EPISODE



Dad's Dinner at Mont Pleasant



Thank you to all who came out for the Dad's Dinner at Mont Pleasant Wednesday evening. There was a great turnout, and it was a good time for all.



PICTURE OF THE WEEK



These Mont Pleasant students are dressed to impress as they pose for a photo at the school dance Thursday night.



It's a Scrabble-Rama!

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

Don't forget to get your team together for Scrabble-Rama! It will be held on Saturday, May 14 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Schenectady High School Cafeteria.

Gather your team of two to four players, ages 18 years and up.

Flyer with more information [here](#).

To register your team, [go here](#).

Register by May 2.

#schenectadyrising



WWW.SCHENECTADY.K12.NY.US

Golfing with Mayor McCarthy
Opening Day at Muni

Friday morning, Townes McKiernan, a senior, and Addison Parker, a 10th grader from Schenectady High School, joined Mayor McCarthy and others for the opening of the 2022 season at the Schenectady Municipal Golf Course. The course will officially open to the public on Saturday, April 9.



CO-ED GRADES 2-6

SCHENECTADY YOUTH SOCCER CLINIC

**BEGINS MAY 25TH!
WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
AT SCHENECTADY HS TURF FIELD
4:30-5:30PM
HOSTED BY SHS GIRLS & BOYS SOCCER
COACHES & VARSITY PLAYERS!**



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER NOW!



GIRLS GRADES 6-12

SCHENECTADY BASKETBALL CLINIC

**BEGINS APRIL 12TH
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
AT ONEIDA MS GYM
3:45-5:30PM
HOSTED BY SHS GIRLS BASKETBALL
COACHES & VARSITY PLAYERS!**



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!