Schenectady City Schools Est. 1854

SUPERINTENDENT'S Brief

SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING MAY 13 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 40

Good afternoon and happy Friday,

I hope you are doing well and that you had a good week. I first want to provide a reminder that the school board election and budget vote will be held next Tuesday, May 17. Whether you live in Schenectady or are in a neighboring district, please take the time on Tuesday to cast your vote.

Schenectady residents will vote on a $239 million spending plan. While this is a 9.29% increase over the current year, there is no impact on the tax levy for the third consecutive year. Details are available here. Voters will also be asked to consider a proposition to create a Capital Reserve Fund which would be an account for funding general building improvements, construction and renovations as needed.

Four candidates are running for the two open board seats. I provided information on each of the candidates, Vivian Parsons, Catherine A. Lewis, Kristen M. Holler and Emily Willey-Aulet (listed in ballot order) in my brief last week. Information is posted on our website here. Earlier this week, the League of Women Voters held a "Meet the Candidate" forum, and the local NAACP chapter held an Online Forum.

Polling places will be open from noon – 9 p.m. The polling sites are listed on the next page. If you have any questions, please call the clerk of the board at 518-370-8100 Ext. 105.

On Wednesday evening, I had the honor of attending the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School (ECHS) Program ceremony at SUNY Schenectady. Twenty-one Schenectady High School seniors who have completed all their credits for degrees or are close to completion were recognized. Those who completed credits will have already earned a college degree when they graduate from high school next month.

The students began taking courses at the college during Summer of 2018 when they were entering 9th and 10th grade. In Fall 2019, while in 11th grade, they began taking courses full-time at SUNY Schenectady. Students in the program can then transfer as juniors to a four-year institution to complete their bachelor's degrees. They have been accepted into more than 60 colleges and universities.

Congratulations to these students and their families. Thank you to Dr. Moono and SUNY Schenectady for their continued partnership and the many opportunities they make available to our students. Just a couple months ago, Dr. Moono and I announced the "Schenectady Promise" in which all Schenectady High School seniors are automatically admitted to the college for fall. We are a community working together to give our students the resources, supports and opportunities they need and deserve to reach educational heights. #schenectadyrising

Rondacia MacPherson, a Schenectady High School Junior and ECHS student was elected by the SUNY Schenectady student body as the student trustee for the 2022-2023 academic year. She will serve on the college's board of trustees and will represent and share student voice. This is the first time that an Early College High School Student has been elected to an office at the college. Please join me in congratulating Rondacia. We are very proud of her and know that she will do an amazing job representing her peers.

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BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022
NOON – 9 P.M.
See page 2 for polling locations

Smart Transfer Early College High School Program

On Wednesday evening, our Schenectady High School seniors who are a part of the SUNY Schenectady Smart Transfer program were honored at their completion ceremony. We are very proud of these hardworking students. Seventeen students earned a college degree and the others will be finishing their course work this summer.

CONGRATULATIONS

Rondacia MacPherson, an Early College High School Student, has been elected by the SUNY Schenectady Student body as the student trustee for the 2022-2023 academic year.

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I am honored and pleased to share I have been selected as one of 23 public education leaders from across the country to be a member of the second cohort of the Yale School of Management Fellowship for Public Education Leadership. As a fellow, I will have the pleasure of working with leaders from some of the largest school districts across the country. I will have access to leading management research and skills and will engage in peer-to-peer learning within the cohort and with leading practitioners in the field as we work to drive transformative work and advance and equity and excellence. I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to applying the experience afforded through this program to our work in Schenectady.

As the weather is getting warmer and children are spending more time outdoors, we ask parents to please remind children about how to "be smart" and stay safe while walking to and from school, waiting for the bus, and playing outdoors especially if approached by a stranger. See below for safe passage "Be Smart" tips.

As you know, the end of the school year is coming quick. The countdown is on… There are only about 42 calendar days (27 school days) until the Class of 2022 graduation. As we get closer to the end of the school year and the weather is nicer, remind students that it's important to be in school every day. Let's continue to keep working hard and doing our best to keep each other and our students on track. I appreciate you and all you do.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the warm temperatures.

Sincerely,

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

Budget Vote and Election Polling

- Fulton Early Childhood, 408 Eleanor St.
- Howe Elementary, 1065 Baker Ave.
- MLK Jr. Elementary, 918 Stanley St.
- Mont Pleasant Middle School, 1121 Forest Rd.
- Paige Elementary, 104 Elliott Ave.
- Schenectady High School, 1445 The Plaza
- Woodlawn Elementary, 3311 Wells Ave.
- Yates Elementary, 725 Salina St.

If you have questions, please call 518-370-8100 Ext. 40105

MAY REMINDERS

Friday, May 27
No School

Monday, May 30
No School Memorial Day

District offices are closed on both days.

BE SMART OUTDOORS SAFETY TIPS

B uddy System: Don't be alone. Take someone with you.

E yes Open: Be aware of your surroundings.

S tay Away from Cars: Don't be tricked into getting into a stranger's car

M ake a Plan: Let someone know where you are going and when you are coming home

A void Strangers: Only speak to people you know

R un Away: if someone makes you feel uncomfortable make noise and run away.

T ell: Tell an adult you know if someone bother you

SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOLS

Summer ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

If you are interested in the 2022 Summer Enrichment Program and haven't completed the survey, please do so. It is available on the parent portal. If you are not a registered user of the parent portal, it's easy to sign up. Go here to sign up today.

Scan to enroll in Parent Portal!

Alumni Profile

"I enjoy living and working in Schenectady because of its diversity. I'm in my 23rd year of teaching and my goal continues to be to welcome all kids into a classroom that is safe and celebrates each of them for who they are as individuals."

Nicole Boone

Grade 5 teacher, Zoller Elementary
Schenectady High School, Class of 1993

This week's featured alumnae is, Nicole Boone, a 1993 graduate of Schenectady High School, is in her 23rd year of teaching in the district. She credits her mother, a nursery schoolteacher, and the teachers she had while attending Woodlawn Elementary for inspiring her to pursue this career.

"When I was a senior in high school, I would attend my classes in the morning and each afternoon I would go to Woodlawn Elementary to shadow teachers, work with children and learn what it is like to be a teacher firsthand. I felt very lucky because I was placed at the school I attended. They were my teachers as a young child and now guided me in my upcoming career which I will never forget. The program in high school allowed me to experience teaching firsthand and solidified my career decision."

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.

SCHENECTADY UNIFIED BASKETBALL

Tuesday afternoon our Schenectady Patriots Unified Basketball Team played their first home game of the season against South Colonie. It was a great game. Patriot Pride!

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period May 5 – May 13 (8 a.m.)

Total of 117 cases
47 Staff | 70 Students

- Central Park: 7
- Hamilton: 6
- Howe: 6
- Keane: 3
- King: 2
- Lincoln: 1
- Mont Pleasant: 6
- Oneida: 7
- Paige: 10
- Pleasant Valley: 10
- SCLA: 4
- Schenectady High School: 41
- Van Corlaer: 2
- Yates: 3
- Zoller: 4
- Central Office: 5

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 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

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

ATHLETE VACCINATION NOTE
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 03 2022

COVID TESTING

FREE TEST KITS FROM COVIDTESTS.GOV

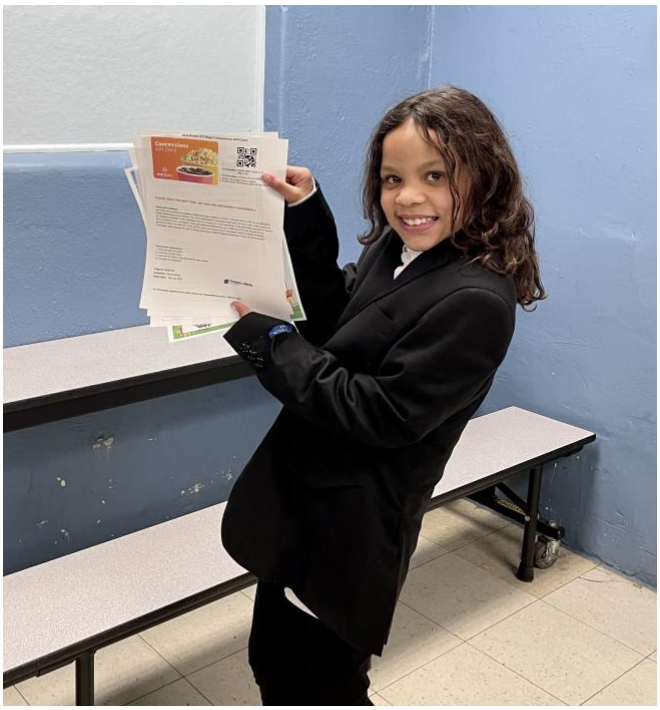
Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-tests. Order them now here.

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

Check out the highlights from last week's "The Right Move" Chess tournament held at Oneida Middle School. Participants included students from Lincoln, MLK, Oneida, and even a few returning graduates of Schenectady High School. Watch the video to learn more about upcoming chess opportunities for students.



Congrats to Letijena Harris from Lincoln, a winner in the National Breakfast Week, Super Hero Story Contest. She won a pair of tickets to the movies, plus a gift card for concessions.

Schenectady City School District

Annual Art Exhibit

Be sure to check out student artwork at the Annual Art Exhibit on display at the ViaPort Rotterdam Mall. Students in all grades have work on display. The show is open through May 22.

PANDEMIC EBT FOOD BENEFITS

NY continues to distribute Pandemic EBT food benefits to households with children who receive free school lunch under the National School Lunch Act. You can check your family's P-EBT food benefit transaction history by visiting www.connectebt.com or by calling 1-888-328-6399.

OTDA will begin distributing Summer P-EBT in May. Each eligible student will receive $375 in food benefits. Start date has not been indicated. For more information, click here.

GIRLS INC. PROGRAM NOTE

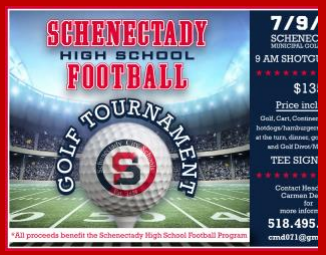
Girls Inc. has informed us that the program will not be held on May 18.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Click here to open the April/May Newsletter from the Office of Student Support Services

FLYERS

Schenectady Track and Field Futures Championship



SHS Football Golf Tourney

Kids Art Festival

'22 Summer Series at Jerry Burell Park

Capital Region Job Fairs & Open Interviews

#schenectadyrising

WWW.SCHENECTADY.K12.NY.US

Let's Talk!