



SUPERINTENDENT'S EDUCATION UPDATE

February 14, 2024

2023-2024 School Year

Governor Healey Visits Randolph Public Schools To Celebrate Literacy Success!

Randolph, MA – February 7, 2024 – On Monday, February 5, 2024, Governor Healey, Lt. Governor Driscoll, Secretary of Education Tutwiler, and Commissioner Riley visited the Martin E. Young Elementary School (Young School) to celebrate strong literacy practices in action in Randolph Public Schools. After collecting some worrisome literacy data four years ago, Randolph educators created a Literacy Action Plan committing to a strong vision, goals and action steps all focused towards one end, our ultimate goal: 80% or more of our students reading at or above benchmark by June of 2027.

The following are the high leverage actions steps that have contributed to our early success:

- Leaning into learning from experts in the field including Dr. Chris Parker at Ideal Consulting and HILL for Literacy - increasing our knowledge and skills in foundational science-based literacy instruction and building key, internal data, assessment, and progress monitoring systems.
- Selecting a variety of high quality instructional materials that are designed with researched based practices AND that match priorities and needs specific to OUR district, OUR data, and OUR students.



- Engaging in DESE sponsored grants, academies, networks, institutes, and programs deepening our work and establishing key partnerships with One8, Springboard Collaborative, and Ignite Reading to name a few.

I am proud to share that in year 2 of our Literacy Action Plan, we are on target to meet all of our goals!

The Healey-Driscoll Team, along with many state and local leaders, observed strong instruction at the Young School and gathered to celebrate their new initiative, Literacy Launch: Reading Success from Age 3 through Grade 3. This new multi-year strategy aims to improve early literacy education by expanding access to high-quality, evidence-based reading instruction for students across Massachusetts. Governor Healey has recommended \$30 million in her fiscal year 2025 (FY25) budget for the first year of Literacy Launch, on top of \$5 million in continuing early literacy programming from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

“Every student in Massachusetts needs to be able to read and read well – and we’re going to give them the tools to do just that with Literacy Launch,” said Governor Maura Healey. “The districts that have the right materials and methods – including districts like Randolph that partner with DESE – are getting results. We want to bring the effective strategies we saw here today at the Young School to students, classrooms, and schools across the state.”

Randolph Public Schools is a strong example of a district partnering with the state to improve literacy instruction. The district used a \$200,000 Accelerating Literacy with High Quality Instructional Materials grant from DESE in order to purchase the highly rated EL Education curriculum, which they now use. They also partner with DESE to provide intensive literacy tutoring to students, and participate in DESE’s Dyslexia Institute, which provides Massachusetts educators with best practices on early literacy screening, identification, and specialized interventions for students with dyslexia. Randolph Public Schools also participates in DESE’s GLEAM (Growing Literacy Equity Across Massachusetts) grant for pre-k and has been awarded \$228,500 since 2020 to improve literacy curriculum learning in preschool classrooms.



“It is so important that every student in every community has access to high-quality, evidence-based reading material,” said Randolph Town Manager Brian Howard. “With the support of DESE, Randolph has been able to improve our curriculum and provide literacy tutoring. We’re excited to see the administration expanding this critical support to districts across the state.”

“We are thrilled that Governor Healey and Secretary Tutwiler could visit Randolph Public Schools and see our incredible literacy work in action. We’ve been proud to partner with DESE on improved evidence-based literacy supports, and we’re excited to see the Healey-Driscoll administration propose increasing access to those effective programs to many other districts,” said Superintendent of Randolph Public Schools Thea R. Stovell.

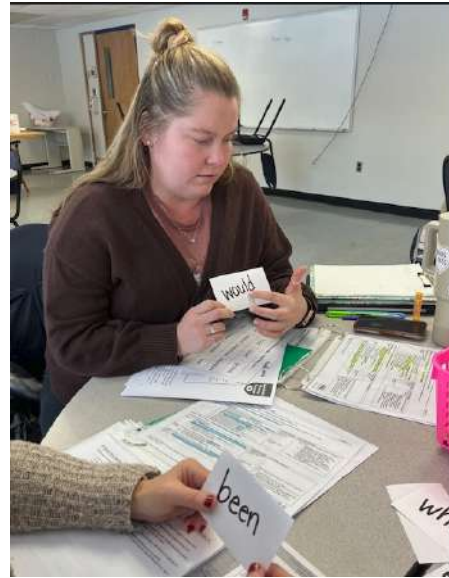
See the full program [HERE](#).

Teaching & Learning

Humanities Department

Unlocking the Power of Literacy: Elementary Reading Specialists and Inclusion Teachers Dive into Foundational Reading Professional Development

In the landscape of foundational literacy education, equipping teachers with the tools and strategies to foster literacy skills among students is paramount. At a recent foundational reading professional development session, targeted towards reading specialists and inclusion/SPED teachers, elementary educators from across the district deepened their content knowledge of decoding strategies for targeted students in grades 3 - 5. The session kicked off with an overview of decoding needs and structure for those grade level students using the foundational skills lesson plan –template from Hill for Literacy. From there, teachers immersed themselves in the pedagogical and science-based lesson plan.



Math Department

For the month of January, the four elementary schools participated in the ST Math Winter Waddle Challenge. Staff and students focused on the number of puzzles solved in ST Math each week. The goal for grades K and 1 was 40 puzzles each week and the goal for grades 2 - 5 was 60 puzzles each week. Schools had competitions, celebrations, and a HUGE increase in the number of puzzles that were completed. Congratulations to all of our students for continuing to problem solve on ST Math Puzzles!





Science, Technology, & Engineering Department

The JFK School hosted Channel 5 meteorologists who spoke with students about predicting the weather!

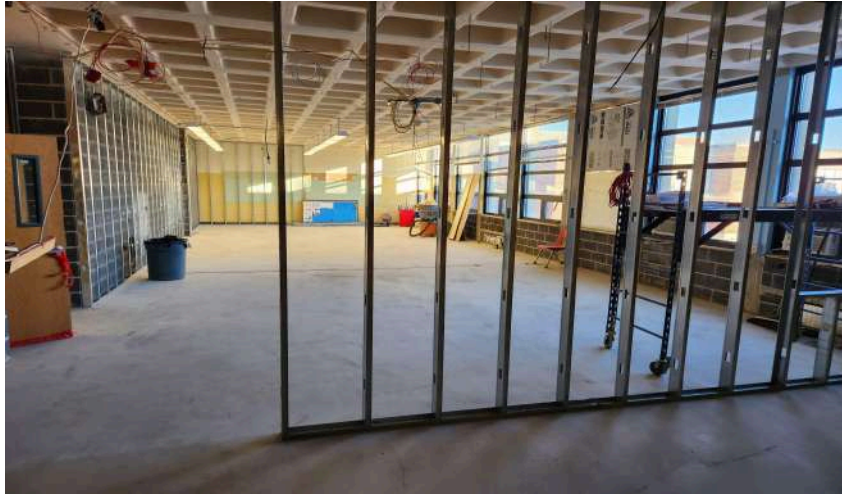


RCMS hosted 10 Massachusetts middle schools! Teams from these schools spent the day visiting classrooms and learning from RCMS admin, staff, and students about applied learning and its impacts on student achievement!





Construction is underway in RHS on the new innovative engineering lab! The lab is scheduled for completion for the opening of the school year 24/25.



School Update

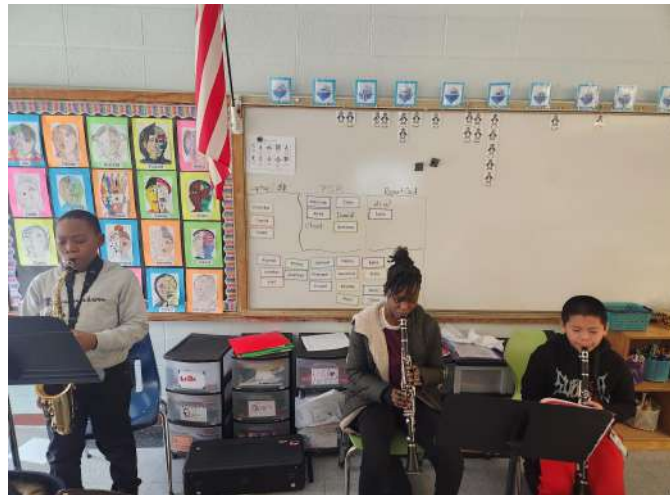
Donovan Elementary School (Donovan School)

Our students were recognized for their academic excellence, perseverance, growth, artistry, sportsmanship, and positive behavior at our semi-annual awards ceremonies. We were thrilled to celebrate our students with their families!





Our students participating in the band continue to be hard at work mastering their instruments! Did you know research shows that playing an instrument leads to higher levels of academic achievement and school success?





First graders spent time using informational text to research birds!



JiJi and Donovan continue to surprise and celebrate our students who are persevering through ST Math puzzles!





We are so fortunate to have so many talented artists sharing their creativity at Donovan!





Many, many “thanks” to Elizabeth LaRosee and Samantha Westgate from the Turner Free Library, and Coleen Burgess and James Burgess, for bringing the Read-A-Thon Kick Off to Donovan Elementary School! All students in every grade level had the opportunity to receive their very own library card, hear about the library and available events, and learn how they can participate in the library’s Bingo or Scavenger Hunt in February! We love our community!

We are excited for our Donovan “Show Your Love” event on Valentine’s Day and can’t wait for the PTO Sponsored Trivia Night in March! So many things to look forward to!

John F. Kennedy School (Kennedy School)

Community Partnerships

STAJEZ Dance

We are happy to announce that we will again be partnering with the StajeZ Dance Company. Students in grades 2 to 5 will have the opportunity to learn Jazz, African, and/or Hip Hop. We are excited to continue this partnership.



Fire Truck Visit PreK and Rise Program

The Randolph Fire Department provided the PreK and RISE program an opportunity to explore the engine, which supports the Frog Street curriculum.



We send a big thank you to Cheri Patten for organizing the event, and to all the Firefighters for making this event possible.



Turner Free Library Tree Decorating Contest

We want to thank Ms. Richard for decorating the JFK School tree at the library. She did a great job!





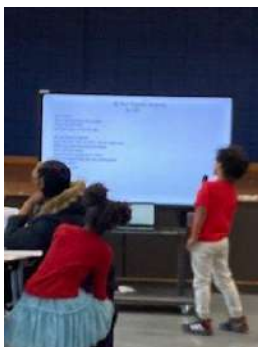
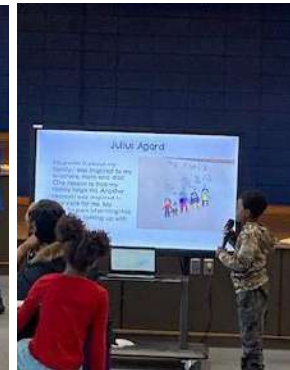
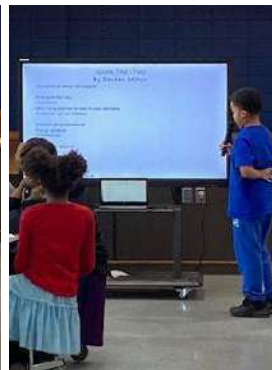
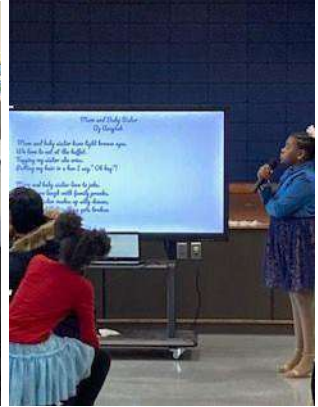
Student Empower Hour

In December, we hosted an Empowerment Hour through the End Child Molestation, Inc. The focus of Empowerment Hour was on student affirmations, self-care, and anti-bullying. The organization also provided lunch from LaScala for our staff. We want to say thank you to Ms. Shnell Swain for partnering with the JFK School!



Celebrations of Learning

Our 4th grade classes hosted A Poetry Presentation, allowing students to share their poems with the JFK School community. Students worked very hard writing poems about topics and/or people who inspired them.

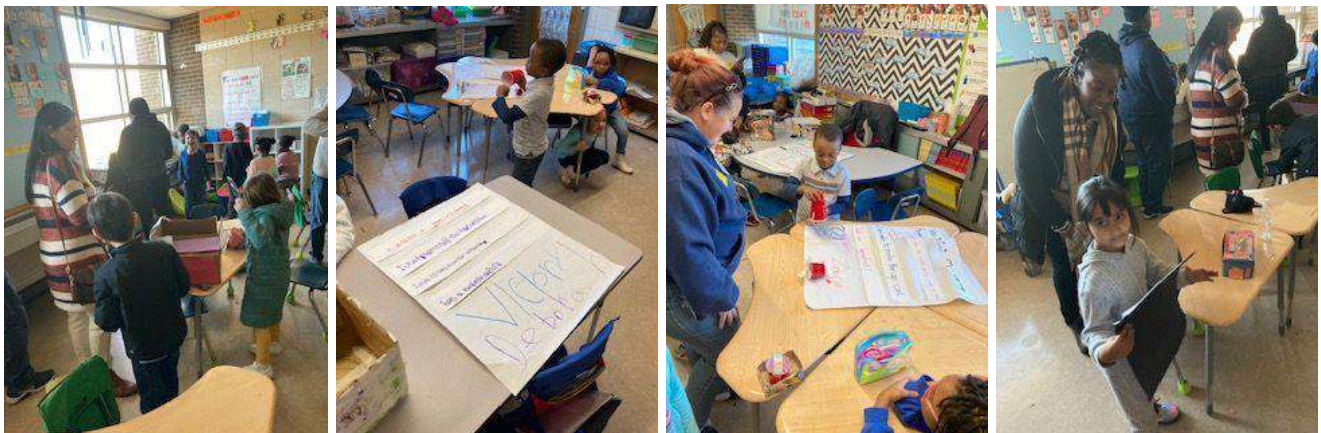




2nd Grade hosted a celebration of learning. They presented a song, readers' theater, and shared the books they wrote. The students did an excellent job!



1st Grade hosted a First Grade Showcase. The first-grade students created their own magnificent thing!





Singalong Performance

In December, Mr. Twiraga hosted the annual sing-along. Students enjoyed singing holiday songs.





Lyons Elementary School (Lyons School)

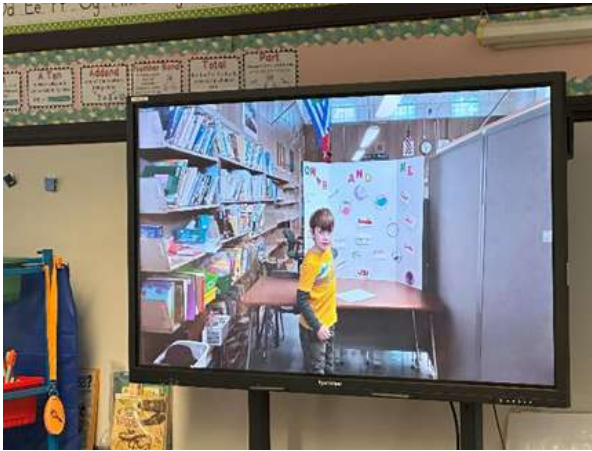
Math

Inspired by ST Math, we have created mini-lessons for students to build conceptual understanding of their puzzles. Students are showing mastery by continuing to meet our weekly ST Math goals!



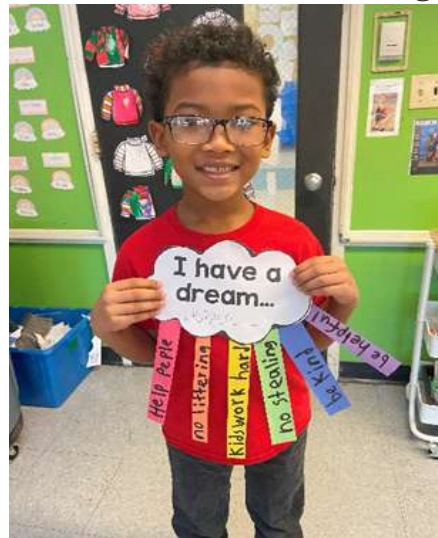
Literature Presentations

Ms. A's reading group completed their novel study for the book, Planet Omar, and presented a plot and vocabulary lesson for the 3rd grade.



I Have A Dream Project

Students learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's legacy this week. They were inspired to think of their own dream for making the world a better place.



Student-run Book Clubs

Students are taking on a new challenge this month and collaborating to read, write, and discuss a chapter book at their reading center. We are reading *The Magic Treehouse: Dinosaurs Before Dark* that has a great connection to our EL Fossil unit.



Young Elementary School (Young School)

January was a busy and productive month for us! We had data meetings to assess how students are progressing. Our School Site Council met to review the data. We are happily on track to meet our literacy and math goals for this school year. Our students and staff are working so hard every day!

On Monday, February 5th, we had a huge honor to host the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of Education, the Commissioners of Early Childhood and K - 12 as well as many other State and Town officials. Our students and staff shone! Guests observed literacy, had a read aloud, and met our House Leaders. It was so great to be part of this recognition for RPS.

Below are some pictures of life at the Young School.
Creative juices are flowing in art!





Grade 2 are now paleontologist experts! They zoomed with a professor and ended their module with a Jurassic showcase that was FANTASTIC!





Randolph Community Middle School (RCMS)

Report cards were issued on February 5th. Congratulations to the 54 students who achieved High Honors and to the 103 students who achieved Honors. We are so proud of their hard work!

RCMS chorus and band students were excited to host the RHS music students for Step Up Day. January 17th was a day of practice, mentoring, and collaboration. 🎵



Congratulations to the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Team who, as a State Finalist, won a \$2,500 Samsung tech prize package for RCMS. Way to go!!!

Ms. Milstein's grade 7 Computer class participated in the fall APB Challenge and will be receiving a 3D printer scraper. Nice work!!!

The One8 Foundation brought 30 administrators from across Massachusetts to observe Applied Learning in action at RCMS on January 26th. They toured classrooms, asked questions during a panel discussion with teachers and administrators, and viewed a Student Showcase. Student participants included Ms. Mroz-Gondre's grade 6 science, Ms. Harrison's grade 6 ELA, Ms. Forbes



Virtual Lab, Ms. Cardillo's grade 8 Solve for Tomorrow Team, Mr. R-C's grade 7 Social Studies class, and Mr. McCloud's Civic Action Project.



Here's some of the feedback we heard from our visitors:

"Loved the common language across disciplines/ high expectations."

"It was amazing to see the possibilities of what we could do with our teachers."

"Great to see another school and how it operates. Wonderful feeling of engagement in this school."



February 8th was the final basketball game of the season versus Stoughton. The girls finished with a 10 and 2 record and the boys finished with an 11 and 2 record.

Congratulations on a very successful season. 

Ms. Damon made posters to celebrate our 8th graders.





Speaking to the character and sportsmanship of the boys team, here is an email from the parent of an opposing player:

I am writing to let you know about an incident that happened at the boy's middle school basketball game against West Bridgewater on 1/10... I am one of the mothers of the West Bridgewater boys. After a tough game, I was walking with my son to our car and we walked by the Randolph bus. The boys in the back started putting their windows down and I braced myself as I was sure they were probably about to do some trash talking after they defeated us. I was completely wrong. Your boys all started telling my son how awesome he played and what an amazing player he was, totally giving him his props. I was so moved by this and I was speechless. My son plays aau bball so I have been to countless games over the years and I have never experienced such good sportsmanship from the opposing team. I just wanted you to know what a great bunch of middle school boys you have. In a world full of hate and negativity, it was so nice for me to witness this act of kindness. Your boys should be recognized and commended for such great sportsmanship amongst their peers, especially against a rival team. (My son told me they were also giving him the same praise in the locker room.) Your coaches and staff are doing something right over there in Randolph and raising some amazing boys! I really hope they get some kind of recognition for this bc they really deserve it.

We could not be prouder of these young men!

Randolph High School (RHS)

Come Visit RHS

We are inviting middle school family members to visit RHS, tour the school and ask questions. School visits are a great way to explore our classrooms, meet dedicated staff, and get a feel for our vibrant school community.

March 1st

March 5th

If interested, please email duhamele@randolph.k12.ma.us or call the school at 781-961-6220.

More information will be sent to RCMS families.



Welcome our new Athletics Director!

Please join us in extending congratulations to Mr. Jon Marshall. He is being hired as the new Athletics Director and will be in charge of athletics at both RHS and RCMS, replacing Tony Price who was the Director for 13 years.

Coach Marshall is no stranger to RPS. He has been a History teacher and Head Football Coach at RHS for over 6 years. He has previous teaching and athletics experience as well as experience in the military. After a hiring committee went through a thorough interview process, Coach Marshall rose to the top as the best candidate for the job. We feel he has the vision, passion, and tenacity for the job. Coach Marshall is very well known for his mantra of "winners do more." We are excited to have him join us in this new capacity and spread this mantra across the program.

Feel free to reach out to Mr. Marshall at marshalljo@randolph.k12.ma.us to congratulate him or if you have thoughts to share.



Congratulations to Our Massachusetts All State Winner - Christopher Cavino!

A heartfelt congratulations to Christopher Cavino, Class of 2024, who was named to the Massachusetts All State Team, meaning he was recognized as one of the best players in the entire state for our division! Chris was a captain who led our team in tackles and pancakes (blocks). Chris emulates leadership qualities off the field as well, participating in RHS' Peer Leaders program and is an active member of our First Responders program. This marks the 3rd consecutive year we have had a player named to the All-State Team! Congrats Chris.





Last month we shared about several of our after school clubs and other programs. Below is information on a few more of our extracurricular activities. We know that students will feel a stronger connection to school when they participate in extracurricular activities so we have tried to provide as many options as possible this year.

Gaming Club

Led by Mr. Schreck (Math Teacher) and Mr. Maggio (Inclusion Teacher)

The RHS Gaming Club is a community of students who enjoy playing cooperative and competitive games. The Gaming Club is open to all and meets every other Monday. So far, the Gaming Club has played a variety of computer and Nintendo Switch games, including Speed Runners, Sonic and All-Stars Racing Transformed, Injustice, and Super Smash Bros Ultimate.

In our next meeting, the gamers will be playing a tabletop role playing game, with future meetings including board games and card games.

Some members of the Game Club also participate in an eSports team competing in the Massachusetts MSAA league for Super Smash Bros Ultimate. The season starts the final week in February, and the team is looking to improve on last year by making it to the playoffs this year.





Crochet Club

Led by Mrs. Theriault (English Teacher)

Welcome to the first ever Crochet Club at RHS! Crochet and other yarn arts have come back in a big way and we are very happy to see the large number of members that we have! Currently we are working on pre-orders for crochet tulips and roses for Valentine's Day! Our large, culminating project for the year is to create a club blanket made up of granny squares from every member of the club. Every year there will be a "class blanket" which will serve as a memento for each year. It is open to all students, we meet every Monday in Mrs. Theriault's class, room 111. Please see Mrs. Theriault about joining!



Asian Culture Club

Led by Mrs. Theriault (English Teacher)

Asian Culture Club aims to celebrate, educate, and unite our student body and community through sharing Asian culture! We host various events throughout the year including Movie Night, a Volleyball Tournament, Lunar New Year celebrations, and more. It is open to all students, we meet every Tuesday in Mrs. Theriault's class, room 111. Please see Tanya Le, club president or Mrs. Theriault about joining!



Math Club

Led by Mr. Burke (Math Teacher)

The 2023-24 RHS Math Team competed once a month against five local area schools - Braintree, Archbishop Williams, Quincy, Stoughton, and Abington. In the January Competition, Randolph beat Stoughton, Archbishop Williams, and Abington. Key contributors to the victory were seniors McKenshel Cameau, Andrew Nguyen, and junior AnDinh Tran.

The RHS Math Team is looking to recruit freshmen and sophomores for the 2024-25 season. The problems used in the competition are not only challenging but have a different look to them in comparison to SAT or ACT problems. Anyone interested in joining the RHS Math Team can see Mr. Burke in room



218. The Math Team practices problems year round even though the season ends in February. Problems are posted in Google Classroom so that they can be easily accessed at any time and from any location.



February 5, 2024

Six Randolph Public Schools music students were accepted to the South Eastern Massachusetts Bandmasters Association Music Festival.

On Saturday, February 3rd, fourteen music students auditioned for the 2024 SEMSBA Music Festival from the Randolph High School band and chorus. Students performed scales, solo literature and sight-reading passages for adjudicators. The RPS music department is proud to announce that six students were selected to participate in the 2024 Festival. All accepted students will work with talented conductors and perform with musicians from across southeastern Massachusetts at the upcoming SEMSBA festival on March 15th and 16th.

Accepted to the 2024 Sr. SEMSBA Orchestra

Matthew Do, grade 11 timpani

AnDinh Tran, grade 11 flute

Accepted to the 2024 Sr. SEMSBA Mixed Chorus

Wynter Blake, grade 12 soprano

Saschilov Garcon, grade 12 alto

Angelina Le, grade 12 alto

Sofia Monteiro, grade 11 soprano



Community Update on the New Elementary School



The construction team continues their work, including drywalling, taping, windows and siding. They are moving ahead, working toward the end goal of getting everything completed. Recently, Jim Puccio, Director of IT, stopped by to do a walk through along with a couple of IT staff members. A radio sales representative did frequency testing to ensure that the radios he is going to purchase will be adequate, having good connections from one end of the building to the other. Construction is going well and on schedule.

On Tuesday, February 6th, a Beam Ceremony was held at the new school building located at 55 Old Street in Randolph. State officials – Senator Timilty and The Honorable Representative Bill Driscoll – attended along with town officials, RPS Superintendent of Schools, and members of the Randolph School Committee.



Above: Ceiling grid almost completed in corridor C204.



Above: Taping in corridor C102.



Above: Continuing to hang data lines in corridor C102 and run inter duct.



Above: Work on framing exterior soffit detail on the east side of the building.



Above: Excavating bioretention area.



Above: Toilet room T205.



Above: Framing in display case in the main entrance Foyer.



Above: Lining placement for retention area.



Above: Toilet room T205 tile looks great!

February 2024



Special Education and Student Services

DESSA screenings will occur at the end of this month into early March. The screening occurs twice a year and helps to proactively identify students who are in need of additional social emotional support, rather than relying on negative student behavioral indicators. The results from the screening allows school staff to review the data and provide support to students in need of it to lead to the prevention of suspensions and other out of class time.

Pre-K News!

Within the Preschool Curriculum of Frog Street, students have been exploring different modes of Transportation. Some activities include: sorting objects into categories (air, ground, water), commenting on picture scenes, and pretend play.



Multilingual Learners Updates:

ACCESS Testing finishes on 2/16/24. Thank you to all who supported the testing.

The spring **parent / guardian ESL classes** are full. We have five classes running this spring!



Our first **Haitian Parent Forum** was a success! Our parent leaders, Vogely Binjour and Horal Jeanty, led the event where we talked about parents' rights and responsibilities. Look out for future parent events!

Registration Update:

Kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2024-25 school year is now open until March 15, 2024. To register your child, please read this webpage for complete details: <https://www.randolph.k12.ma.us/domain/2595>

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT
Will your student must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024?
PRIORITY DATES: JANUARY 29 THROUGH MARCH 15, 2024

ENSKRIPSYON NAN JADENDANFAN
Èske elèv ou a deve gen 5 an nan dat premye septanm 2024 ouwa anvan?
DAT PRIYORITE: JANVYÈ 29 JANVYÈ 15 MARS 2024

TUYẾN SINH LỚP MẪU GIÁO
Con của quý vị có đủ 5 tuổi vào đúng hoặc trước ngày 1 tháng 9 năm 2024 không?
LƯU TIỀN ĐĂNG KÝ: 29 THÁNG 1 ĐẾN 15 THÁNG 3 NĂM 2024

INSCRIPCIÓN AL JARDÍN DE INFANTES
¿Su estudiante deberá tener 5 años el 1 de septiembre de 2024 o antes?
FECHAS PRIORITARIAS: 29 DE ENERO AL 15 DE MARZO DE 2024

MATRÍCULA NO JARDIM DE INFÂNCIA
Seu aluno deverá completar 5 anos em ou antes de 1º De Setembro de 2024?
DATAS PRIORITÁRIAS: 29 DE JANEIRO A 15 DE MARÇO DE 2024

781-961-6247
WWW.RANDOLPH.K12.MA.US
SCAN ME



DEIB Committee Updates

We're excited to share that our inaugural stakeholder session for the strategic planning of Randolph Public Schools was a success! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parents/guardians, students, leaders, and staff who generously contributed their time and insights. With two more sessions ahead (see dates below), we're committed to charting a course that aligns with Randolph Public Schools' mission, vision, and goals. Thank you for being a part of this journey!

Stakeholder Session #2: (an email went out on February 12th for details)

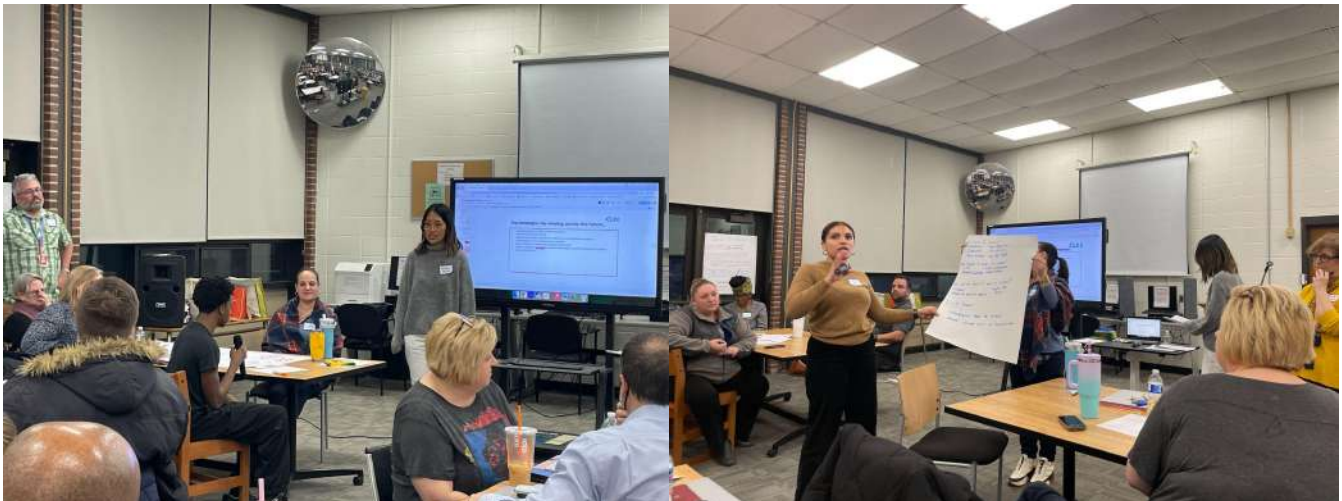
Tuesday, February 27th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 PM

Virtual via Zoom - link to be provided

Stakeholder Session #3:

Tuesday, April 2 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Virtual via Zoom - link to be provided





Sincerely,
Alpha Sanford, M.Ed CAGS,
Director of Special Education and Student Services

- * *Tanpri souple kontakte lyezon pou fanmi ki pale Kreyòl Ayisyen yo nan 781-807-0081.*
- * *Para ayuda en Español, por favor llame al 339-209-2539.*
- * *Para auxílio em Português, por favor ligue para o número 339-204-5505.*
- * *Nếu quý vị có câu hỏi nào khác, làm ơn liên hệ phiên dịch viên tiếng Việt, tại 339-216-2400.*