

# Superintendent's Bulletin

June 2020 • Volume 8 • Issue 10 Special Edition



## Dear RCSD Community Member,

As we say a somewhat less than fond farewell to the school year, I am sure that the chief emotion of many students, parents, and teachers is relief tinged with sadness. Relief that this bold new experiment in distance learning has come to a conclusion – for now – and that a well-earned rest has finally arrived. Sadness at all we have lost at the end of this school year, from precious memories for our seniors, to entire athletic seasons and championship games, to the simple pleasure of seeing school friends and colleagues face-to-face, instead of on a screen.

Personally, I am feeling both grateful and hopeful. Thinking back to those sunny days last September, none of us in our wildest dreams could have foreseen how this school year would turn out. I am so grateful to our teachers for how fast they were able to pivot to remote learning, particularly when I look at other school districts around us who struggled mightily. I am so thankful to our parents for leaning in to make sure that children at home were plugged in and engaged with their studies. I deeply appreciate how flexible our students have been in adapting to this new way of learning.

I am grateful to all the members of the Rye community who took the time out of busy lives to learn about and vote for our 2020-21 school district budget in what was certainly one of the most confusing school district budget votes any of us has ever experienced. I am thankful that they once again came out in large numbers to support the school district.

Most of all, I am hopeful. Hopeful that we will be able to be together again. Hopeful that some good will come from the monumental disruption of these past few months, perhaps in improved skill in the use of technology or renewed appreciation for all our teachers do. I am hopeful that the calls for social reform sweeping the nation will result in a better world for all our students, both in school and out of school.

We still don't know what the school year will look like come the fall. Rest assured that your school district is working diligently to prepare plans for a number of possible scenarios. Ultimately, the decisions about schooling rest in the hands of the Governor, not in individual school districts. We will communicate any information as soon as we are able.

Have a wonderful and relaxing summer, and I will hope to see you in person in September.

Sincerely,

Eric Byrne, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

## INSIDE THIS BULLETIN...

- Class of 2020
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**We are here  
for you.**

## Congratulations Rye High School Seniors



*A RCSD administrator and staff selfie at the Class of 2020 Senior Caravan*

## Congratulations to the Class of 2020

The community turned out in full force to extend their best wishes to the Rye High School Class of 2020 on May 31, the date that was to have been their graduation day. Seniors and their families paraded through town in a graduation caravan of festively decorated cars and trucks.

For a list of graduating seniors, visit the homepage of the District website at [www.ryeschools.org](http://www.ryeschools.org). Best of luck; and remember, you will always be a Garnet! ■



*The Graduation Caravan passing the five points*

**Take care of  
one another.**



*The Osborn 5th Grade Graduation Caravan making its way up Osborn Road*

**Congratulations  
RMS, Midland,  
Milton and Osborn**

## **Elementary and Middle School Drive-By Parades**

Taking a page out of the Rye High School playbook, Midland, Milton, Osborn, and Rye Middle School all held drive-by parades for their graduating classes. While a far cry from the traditional auditorium ceremonies, the students still got to strut their stuff in



*Teachers cheer for students during the Milton Caravan*



*Midland Faculty and Staff at the Wave Parade*



*RMS 8th grade moving up parade*

## Retirees

At the June 16 Board of Education meeting, the Board took a few moments to honor and recognize those faculty, staff, and administrators who are retiring from the Rye City School District at the end of this school year. Together, they have spent a collective 177 years at the RCSD. We will miss their wisdom and experience, but we wish them all the best in their journeys ahead.

**Michele Ahern**, 19 years, District-wide school nurse

**David Ball**, 29 years, Rye Middle School social studies

**Todd Beaney**, 32 years, Rye High School and Rye Middle School music teacher

**Lynn Kraut**, 21 years, Rye High School and Rye Middle School music teacher

**Dr. JoAnne Nardone**, 20 years, Milton School Principal

**Patricia Taylor**, 24 years, Rye High School Principal

**Abby Tuttle**, 32 years, Rye Middle School English language arts teacher

We wish them all the best in their journeys ahead! ■

**Congratulations  
Retirees and  
Tenure Recipients**

## Tenure Recipients

Congratulations to the 15 RCSD teachers who received tenure at the June 2 Board of Education meeting.

The tenure recipients are:

**Christa Agostino** Milton School special education teacher

**Debra Aronson** Rye Middle School American Sign Language teacher

**Sinead Birdy** Midland School English as a new language teacher

**Cody Blume** Rye Middle School social studies teacher

**Margaret Brown** Osborn School teacher

**Gaby Del Vecchio** Osborn School teacher

**Peter DeVasto** Rye High School English teacher

**Eric DiVito** Osborn School music teacher

**Daniel Freeman** Rye High School social studies teacher

**Sally Mitchell** Rye High School science teacher

**Fatima Oliveira** Osborn School FLES teacher

**Scott Peck** Rye Middle School engineering teacher

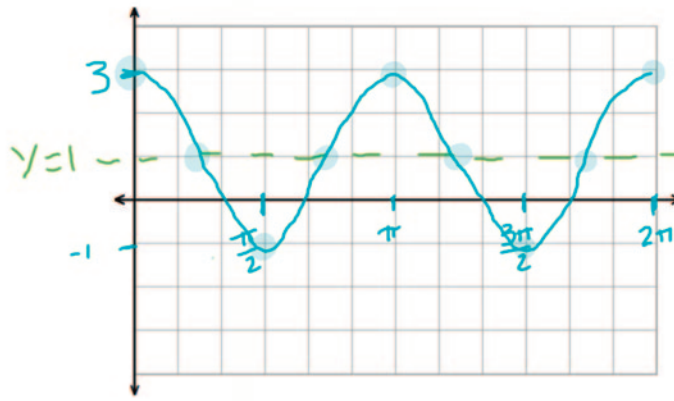
**Taryn Phelan** Rye High School social studies teacher

**Dr. Natalie Spina** Rye Middle School school psychologist

**Jonathan Tuttle** Osborn School physical education teacher ■

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Identify the features of the sine or cosine curve highlighted in the appropriate sticky note. Then use the drawing tools to sketch the graph

**FUNCTION:**  
 $y = 2 \cos(2x) + 1$



Amplitude  
 $a=2$

Frequency  
 $b=2$

Period  
 $=\pi$

Midline  
 $y=1$

Max = 3  
and  
Min = -1

Phase Shift  
NOW 6

A Jamboard trigonometry problem

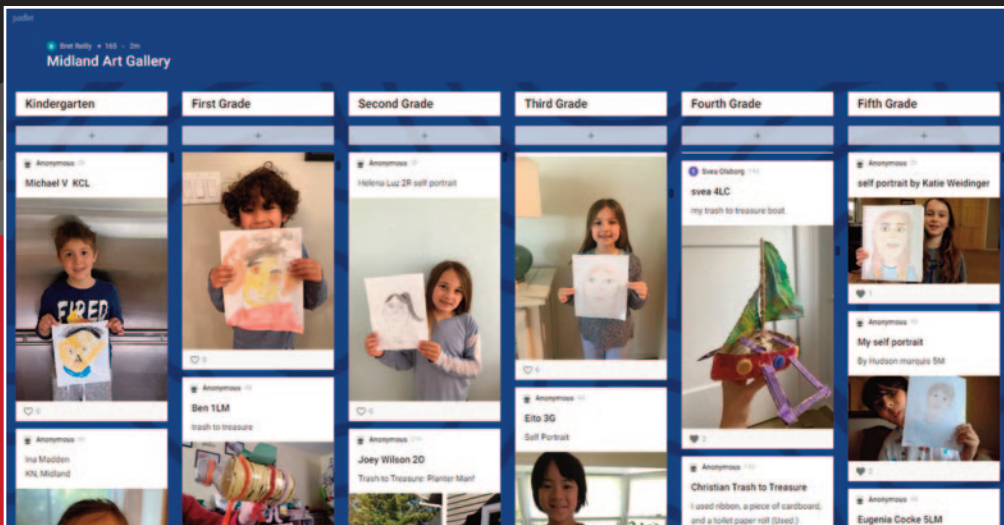
**Remote Learning for Students Rye High School**

**High School** math teachers Alexa DeVito and Ashley Blanch used Google Jamboard for collaborative synchronous teaching. Jamboard is a digitized whiteboard that allows teachers to work together in real time on a screen shared with students. The teachers used the program to demonstrate to students how to graph trigonometry functions. Then students were able to attempt to solve a similar problem. ■

Annotated notes help students decode the script of *Our Town*

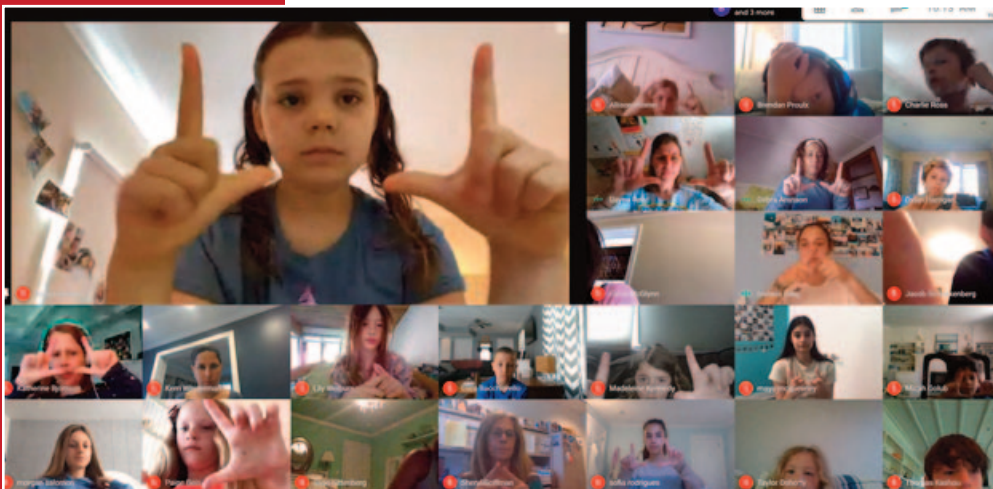
**Remote Learning for Students Rye Middle School**

**Rye Middle School** seventh grade English language arts teacher April Colarusso used Kami, an online document annotation and markup tool, to help her students break down Act 1 of Thornton Wilder's seminal play *Our Town*. She added text annotations, highlights, text comments, audio comments, and even video clips to help model think-alouds, read-alouds, and text explanations for her students. ■



**Remote Learning  
for Students  
Elementary Schools**

**Midland School** art teacher Brett Reilly has been using Padlet, an online virtual bulletin board, to post student's self portraits. Parents and family members would normally admire the student's artwork at a red carpet art show held annually in the spring. Padlet enables art connoisseurs everywhere to view the works and their artists simultaneously. ■



*2nd Grader Sofia Ferreira (in the largest pane) shows off her signing skills*

**Milton School** second graders recently held joint Google Meet classes with Rye Middle School students in Debra Aronson's 8th grade American Sign Language class. The 8th grade ASL students joined the 2nd Grade classes to share a story, share some related curriculum signs, and have a conversation with the Milton students about the Deaf Community. ■



**Osborn School** Kindergarten teachers Claudine Minella and Jennifer Johnson have been working digitally with their students on Math in Focus lessons. In the photo above, Mrs. Johnson and the student are displaying the number in an egg carton cut to create a tens frame. Mrs. Minella has placed the number in a tens frame to show the student how to practice counting by tens. ■

*Learning to counting by tens, remotely*

**Reach out if you  
need assistance.**



*Bring on summer vacation!*

## LOOKING AHEAD:

Tuesday, June 23,  
7:00 p.m.  
Board of Education  
Meeting  
Remote access

## THANK YOU, PTO and PO CO-PRESIDENTS!

At the June 16 Board of Education meeting, the District and Board of Education said a heartfelt “thank you” to the PO and PTO co-heads who are completing their terms after serving the five RCSD schools and RAISE (Rye All Inclusive Special Education). The Parent Organizations, led by two Co-Presidents, provide a key communication link between schools and parents and raise funds for generous gifts to the District that benefit students and faculty. They partner with principals and the Superintendent, organize parent volunteers, and communicate constantly with parents and the School District. They link all parts of the school community: parents, administrators, and faculty, in order to support the students in the schools. The six retiring Parent Organization heads are:

**Michele Hedges**, Rye High School; **Cecilia Mitchell**, Rye Middle School;  
**Sally Joyce**, Midland School; **Tracy Curran**, Milton School;  
**Ronda Gilroy**, Osborn School; **Melissa Belleville**, RAISE

## COMMENDATIONS

- Rye High School juniors **Maddy Childs**, **Katie Coyne**, and **Emma Jackson** launched the Missed Season project to take photos of athletes whose spring seasons were cancelled in return for donations to local restaurants to feed frontline workers. The girls were featured in a story on **NBC New York**
- The Rye City Lions Club Athlete of the Year for 2019-20 is Rye High School senior **Declan Lavelle**. Congratulations to Declan and to all of this year’s Athletes of the Month
- RHS senior **Doug Beney** was named to the LoHud golf “Stellar Six,” a list of the top high school boy golfers in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam Counties for the 2020 season
- RHS seniors **Declan Lavelle** and **Sean Thompson** were named LoHud “Nine Who Shine” list of top returning baseball players in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam Counties for 2020
- RHS senior **Declan Lavelle** was also named to the LoHud “Super 11” for football, the “Super Six” for hockey
- Manhattan College recognized Rye High School Tutoring Center teacher **Jaime Stabile** with its Inspirational Recent Alumni Award. The award recognizes a graduate from the School of Education within the past 10 years for exceptional, creative, and innovative contributions to the field of education
- **Rye High School** received the NYSPHSAA Award of Excellence for Exemplary Display of Sportsmanship, Ethics & Integrity

**Have a  
wonderful  
summer!**