

Superintendent's Bulletin

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Dear RCSD Community Member,

Full reopening of our District's schools is at last just around the corner, almost a year after closure due to COVID-19. The RCSD is now focusing on a new arena: recovery. COVID has had a tremendous impact on our parents, students, faculty, and support staff in so many ways. The District is launching a COVID recovery plan to begin addressing two important areas of need: mental health and academic progress. I'll address the first in detail in this newsletter. At the **Board of Education meeting** on February 23, the Board approved an agreement for a year-long, comprehensive mental health initiative to be provided by a company called **Effective School Solutions (ESS)**.

ESS has been a leader in school mental health since 2009, working in 70 districts across nine states, including in the Greenwich Public Schools. ESS partners with school districts to help them implement culturally-inclusive mental health programs that improve care, strengthen outcomes, and maintain students in-district. ESS seeks to introduce mental health best practices and innovative clinical programs into the traditional school day, providing students with comprehensive support tailored to their needs. To learn more about ESS, visit <https://www.effectiveschoolsolutions.com/about>.

The agreement with ESS will bring three trained clinicians into our school buildings beginning on April 1 and lasting through the end of the next school year. The clinicians will work to support the mental health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff through structured, tiered clinical care, therapeutic support, and professional development.

What will this look like for students? It will mean three full-time licensed mental health professionals providing clinical support to children every school day. Clinicians will rotate between the District's schools based on assessed student needs. Clinicians will also have the ability to meet virtually to provide therapeutic support for students learning remotely.

For faculty and staff, it will mean professional development around self-care and wellness for teachers, including workshops on navigating the challenges teachers face when students return to school and coping with stress, excessive worry, and mental health during COVID-19.

For parents/guardians, ESS will provide a series of workshops on topics including how to navigate children's fear/anxiety related to COVID, both in and out of the classroom, and on destigmatizing mental health.

Another critical part of the District's COVID recovery plan relates to academic support. The District recognizes that remote/hybrid learning has not been easy for many students, and that remedial learning may be necessary. This summer and throughout the 2021-22 school year, outside of school hours, the District will deliver supplemental academic programming to support students in identified areas of need.

There will be more information to come as we get closer to summer and as the District's curriculum team finalizes plans.

Sincerely,

Eric Byrne, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

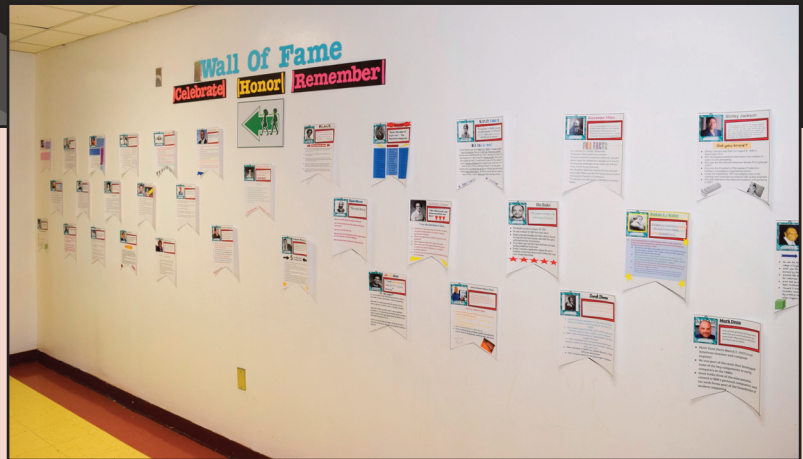
INSIDE THIS BULLETIN...

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RMS Student Gallery Showcases Black History Month Projects

RMS engineering students in grades 6 - 8 recently

completed a short research project. Their task: to choose an engineer, scientist, mathematician, or technologist who is also a person of color and learn some fun facts about the person, their career, and their contributions to society. They were also asked to find a compelling quote about or said by that individual. Many of the resulting projects are featured on the Wall of Fame in the Middle School and can be seen in the virtual gallery linked [here](#). Over the course of the project, the students learned a great deal about the contributions these Americans have made to our country and society. ■



RMS Black History Month Wall of Fame

RHS Students Helping Seniors Get Vaccinated

A group of Rye High Schoolers has stepped up to help community seniors and others struggling to get COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

Every day after school from 3:00-5:00 p.m., the students come to the District's central offices to man the vaccine hotline, fielding calls from community members hoping to secure a coveted vaccine appointment slot. Their efforts have really paid off: they've

gotten appointments for 17 callers to date. Their hard work was recently featured on News12 Westchester segment. Click [here](#) to watch it. Congratulations to the seniors **Geoffrey Lien** and **Hannah Lloyd** and freshmen **Della Goodman** and **Madelyn Walsh** -- keep up the good work! ■

News12 Reporter Ty Milburn interviews RHS senior Hannah Lloyd on camera



RHS students manning the vaccine helpline



LOOKING AHEAD:

Monday, March 8
Grades K and 1 fully
asynchronous remote school day

Tuesday, March 9
Grades K and 1
Professional Development Day -
no school for students
Board of Education Service
Interest Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting:
Budget Work Session 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10
Grades K and 1
full return to school

Thursday, March 11
RMS fully asynchronous
remote school day

Friday, March 12
RMS Professional Development
Day - no school for students

Monday, March 15
RMS full return to school
Grades 2-5
fully asynchronous
remote school day

Tuesday, March 16
Grades 2-5
Professional Development Day -
no school for students

Wednesday, March 17
Grades 2-5 full return to school

Thursday, March 18
RHS grades 9 and 10 fully
asynchronous remote school day

Friday, March 19
RHS grades 9 and 10
Professional Development Day -
no school for students

Monday, March 22
RHS Grades 9 and 10 full return
to school

Tuesday, March 23
Board of Education Meeting:
Budget Adoption 7:30 p.m.



Information Session on School Board Service

If you've ever thought about school board service, please consider attending the virtual RCSD School Board Service Interest Meeting on Tuesday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m., immediately prior to the Board of Education meeting. Current members of the Board of Education and Superintendent Eric Byrne will provide an informational primer on School Board service. Participants will hear about the experiences of current Board members and learn about School Board responsibilities, time commitment, and election procedures. The meeting link will be posted to the important messages section of the District's website in advance of the event: www.ryeschools.org. ■



Superintendent Eric Byrne inspecting desk partitions in Osborn School's media lab with Principal Angela Garcia and Director of Facilities Rob Gimigliano

Commendations

- All six Rye High School seniors chosen for the National Merit Scholarship program have progressed to finalist status. Of the more than 15,000 finalists, 7,500 will be selected for Merit Scholarships in the spring. Best of luck to **Breanna Brownson, Elizabeth Fink, Alexis Francis, Lucy Langer, Geoffrey Lien, and Zoe Whitehead Rockas**
- The girls varsity basketball team's season is off to a great start with a 6-0 record
- Rye High School Ski team member senior **Sophie Brett** qualified for and competed in the Section One culminating event, which took place on February 25
- Congratulations to girls varsity basketball team forward **Amanda Latkany** on scoring her 1,000th point on February 27 and on her nomination to the 2021 McDonald's All American Game