

Randolph Public Schools
"Building Tomorrow, Today"

RPS



Office of the Superintendent

Thomas Anderson, Superintendent

40 Highland Avenue
Randolph, MA 02368
(781) 961.6200
(781) 961.6295 Fax
Website: www.randolph.k12.ma.us

Dr. Angela Burke-Morton, Asst. Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Carlos Colley, Director Finance and Administration

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
DECEMBER 2017



"The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth." John F. Kennedy

Dear Randolph Public Schools Parents and Community,

Last Thursday, November 30, we had our Annual Dictionary Day. For the 8th year, Bill Teed of the Elks Club accompanied the Superintendent to each elementary school and presented every 3rd grade student with his or her free dictionary.



This time of the year brings a lot of excitement and joy. It can also spark a little sadness for some people, as they are not able to celebrate with family or friends for a variety of reasons. It is important that we take the time to understand that others may be experiencing different emotions from our own. If we use empathy, it will help us to better relate to others and have a sense of how their challenges are affecting them. Please take a few minutes to watch this very good talk about empathy:

Reimagining Empathy: The Transformative Nature of Empathy | Paul Parkin | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4aHb_GTRVo

Multiple intelligences, developed in 1983 by Dr. Howard Gardner, professor of education at Harvard University, suggests that the traditional notion of intelligence, based on I.Q. testing, is far too limited. Instead, Dr. Gardner proposes eight different intelligences to account for a broader range of human potential in children and adults. The continued emphasis on test scores undermines the true mission of education and limits the total learning process.

However, combining the focus on academics including the development of critical and analytical thinking skills and supporting the teaching around social-emotional learning, we can ensure that every Randolph Public School student can maximize their potential.

These intelligences proposed by Dr. Garner are:

- Linguistic intelligence ("word smart")
- Logical-mathematical intelligence ("number/reasoning smart")
- Spatial intelligence ("picture smart")
- Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence ("body smart")

RANDOLPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOALS

GOAL 1: Enhance the Teaching and Learning Process

Increase academic achievement of all students through aligned assessments, effective instruction and standard-based curriculum that is challenging and engaging.

GOAL 2: Improve Accountability Structures

Improve data systems that will support student learning, staff development and resource management.

GOAL 3: Increase the Quality of Engagement

Increase academic success for all students through quality family and community partnerships.

GOAL 4: Human Capital Management

Maintain, enhance and support a quality workforce that is diverse, highly skilled and professional.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Randolph Public Schools (RPS) do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, handicap, age, religion or sexual orientation in admission to or participation in its programs and activities. RPS does not tolerate any form of discrimination, intimidation, threat, coercion and/or harassment that insults the dignity of others by interfering with their freedom to learn and work.

- Musical intelligence (“music smart”)
- Interpersonal intelligence (“people smart”)
- Intrapersonal intelligence (“self smart”)
- Naturalist intelligence (“nature smart”)

Multiple Intelligences: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2EdujrMovA>

Randolph LEVEL 4 NO LONGER: We are still in celebratory mode after ESE’s announcement on October 18. In case you missed my November note:

“Randolph Public Schools are exiting their Level 4 designation. Randolph was designated a Level 4 district in November 2007, before the current accountability system was in place. Commissioner Wulfson decided to remove that designation after staff determined that the district has increased its capacity to continue improvement work.”

I am proud of and grateful to our students and their families, our excellent educators, supportive community members and string of elected officials who have worked hard over many years in support of Randolph Public Schools. I am confident that our schools will only continue to progress. There are no limits for our students.

Here are a few keys highlighting the process dates:

- **Dec. 3, 2007:** 26-page report from Acting Commissioner Jeffrey Nellhaus states:
 - At the November 27, 2007 meeting, the BOE made the determination that the Randolph Public School District (the District) is underperforming.
- **October 5, 2015:** ESE letter highlights the collaboration with all stakeholders and removes the Plan Manager, after 5 years, under the new RPS Superintendent, Thomas Anderson.
- **December 17, 2015:** *“Randolph has demonstrated much progress in developing systems to support effective teaching and learning . . . the district has used data to provide tiered support to schools and classrooms.”* – Commissioner Mitchell Chester
- **June 17, 2016:** A letter from the Commissioner’s Office states that they are pleased that Randolph will be implementing the Planning for Success approach to developing a 3-year plan. (Transition from the Accelerated Improvement Plan that was in place for almost 8 years).
- **October 17, 2017:** In a letter to Superintendent Thomas Anderson, Commissioner Wulfson stated, *“I am pleased to inform you that I am releasing RPS from Level 4 status . . .”*



Calendar Reminder:

- 12/6 and 12/7/17: (1/2 days – Parent Teacher Conferences)
- 12/12/17: Math and Literacy Night (Donovan ES) 6:00 PM – 8:00 AM
- 12/13/17: SEPAC Meeting, 6:30 PM at the Young ES
- 12/14/17: School Committee Meeting (JFK ES) 7:00 PM
- 12/15/17: ½ day – early dismissal
- 12/25/17 – 1/1/17: Winter Break

RESOURCES:

I shared these points in the previous note but want to reiterate their importance.

- Future discussions around elementary school boundary adjustments
 - Discussions that include future housing development and birthrates within Randolph.
- The Master Plan, created in 2012, helps to guide our work to maintain and upgrade our school facilities. The Master Plan needs to be reviewed, as it does not reference the growth in the town.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Randolph Public Schools (RPS) do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, handicap, age, religion or sexual orientation in admission to or participation in its programs and activities. RPS does not tolerate any form of discrimination, intimidation, threat, coercion and/or harassment that insults the dignity of others by interfering with their freedom to learn and work.

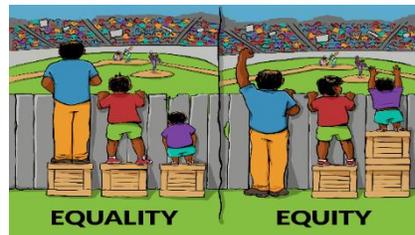
The enrollment projection has been consistent as a district, but individual school numbers are up for discussion.

Resources (Articles, videos)

Resources: Cultivating school environments:

<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/hot-topics/social-emotional-learning>

Soft Skills: <https://www.oxbridgeacademy.edu.za/blog/5-reasons-soft-skills-important-ever/>



Power of Words: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNhYbJbqg-Y>

RPS in the news:

- http://www.bostonherald.com/sports/high_school/2017/11/in_randolph_brother_sister_tandem_holding_down_offensive_line
- <http://randolph.wickedlocal.com/news/20171026/randolph-schools-enter-new-era-after-losing-underperforming-label>
- <http://randolph.wickedlocal.com/news/20171109/message-from-randolph-super-milestone-reached-more-progress-ahead>
- <http://randolph.wickedlocal.com/news/20171031/randolph-schools-enter-new-era-after-losing-underperforming-label>

Reminder - Vocabulary: Parent Toolkit:

Helping to Build Your Child's Vocabulary

“Parent Toolkit” expert and University of Michigan Education Professor Nell Duke has shared several tips/activities you can use at home to expand your child’s vocabulary.

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=97AA2240-F7CE-11E3-921A0050569A5318>

Five Minutes to Spare!

Making it easy to support your child’s development, see the video links below on how you can support your child’s overall growth in a few spare minutes each day.

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=6AF1ACD0-50EE-11E5-8F900050569A5318&targetObj=D761C470-50F0-11E5-8F900050569A5318>

Links for Families:

Kindergarten – Grade 3: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-11-languages#english>

Grades K – 12: <http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583&navItemNumber=3363>

Please access our website: <http://www.randolph.k12.ma.us/> for updates and more school-related information.

As always, thank you for your support and for entrusting us with your most prized possession, your children.

With Randolph pride,

Thomas Anderson

Superintendent

<http://www.randolph.k12.ma.us/>

<https://youtu.be/8a34Er1xr88>



Non-Discrimination Policy

The Randolph Public Schools (RPS) do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, handicap, age, religion or sexual orientation in admission to or participation in its programs and activities. RPS does not tolerate any form of discrimination, intimidation, threat, coercion and/or harassment that insults the dignity of others by interfering with their freedom to learn and work.