

Randolph Public Schools
"Building Tomorrow, Today"

RPS



**School
Accountability
Levels**

LEVEL 2

Elizabeth G. Lyons ES
Randolph HS

LEVEL 3

John F. Kennedy ES
Margaret L. Donovan ES
Martin E. Young ES
Randolph MS

Office of the Superintendent
Thomas Anderson, Superintendent

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Dr. Carlos Colley, Chief Operations/Financial Officer
Ms. Darcy Fernandes, Assistant Superintendent



**MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
APRIL 2017**

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

Greetings Randolph Public Schools Parents and Community,

I hope that spring is finally settling in and the warmer weather is here to stay. I am pleased that after working for several months with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), our RPS Strategic Action Plan has been approved.

We have made great strides in several areas over the last two years:

- Two schools are Level 2 and all others are Level 3
- After close to 6 years we no longer have a state mandated Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP)
- MCAS ELA and Math both increased by 2% in 2016

Here are some key points as we close out the school year.

Calendar: Due to the four snow days, our last day of school is shifting from Friday, June 16 to Thursday, June 22.

- *June 21 and June 22 will be ½ days for students.*

FY2018 Budget Process:

My focus remains on ensuring that our students are receiving the highest level of instruction. That means supporting our staff to equip them with the necessary tools to deliver quality instruction. This year the proposed budget will include upgrades for instructional technology, global focused curriculum and professional development to enhance math, literacy and science. Please stay tuned for the presentations on the following dates during the budget process.

**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.

Superintendent Budget Presentations:

- April 27 (Community), May 11 (School Committee), May 18 (School Committee Votes)

The generosity of the Boston Celtics in action: RCMS students below are taking full advantage of the art lab that was enhanced with iPads and computers. Our students are receiving a high quality, balanced education.



Technology Department

The Tech Department has finished a program of updating and enhancing the base technology used by our students. Thanks to the Town's support in providing \$500,000.00 in Capital Technology funds over the last 2 years, we have been able to replace and/or add over 1100 computing devices using our own internal support staff. In addition, we have upgraded our infrastructure by replacing internal switches with high grade devices and deployed over 120 wireless access points to support mobile technology and future growth.

Technology Upgrades:

- Installed 325 new desktops in all the schools
- Installed 300 new laptops (10 mobile carts - 30 wireless labs using Windows 10)
- installed over 40 additional access points
- Updated Servers in elementary schools to Windows 2012
- Microsoft Classroom and Office 365 for grades 6 - 12

MCAS Testing

MCAS Testing has begun and will last through April. All students will participate in the ELA MCAS. This year:

- 4th and 8th graders are testing online.
 - Mock tests were administered to familiarize and prepare students for new test format.
- MCAS is modeled after the PARCC exam.
 - Students are expected to be able to read a text and write an essay providing support based on the reading.

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- Students will be asked to read, analyze and compare multiple texts.

Best Practices:

Let's work together by supporting and encouraging our students to do well.

- A good night's sleep is critical to your child's stamina/energy to persevere through each day of the assessment
- A healthy breakfast – nutrition helps us all think better
- Positive encouragement:
 - "You've got this!"
 - "You work hard at your academics and now it's your time to show everything you know and can do."
 - "This assessment is important. I ask you to try your very best. This will make me very proud of you."
 - "Relax, take a deep breath, and be confident in what you know."
 - "This is but one assessment in your academic profile. Whatever the results, we will celebrate your strengths and work together to improve upon any area(s) for growth."
- At the end of testing days, ask your child how he/she feels ... and then have some fun! Get some fresh air, play games, read to your child (something he/she loves), laugh together ... and then, early to bed!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

As you know, the MCAS 2.0 English Language Arts assessment in grades 3-8 and 10 will take place this month. This assessment system is new to Massachusetts, but combines elements of the previous MCAS and more rigorous expectations aligned with Common Core State Standards, especially writing. For more information, please visit the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website:
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/>

April is Poetry Month!

Poetry is a beautiful, rhythmic language that speaks to us, and like music or art we have our preferences. As individuals, we are drawn to particular poems because they speak directly to us in language intent on conveying a message: a truth we believe in, a shared confusion or disappointment, a story we identify with, a connection to who we are or what we value, an emotion we understand. This is the perfect time to share and discuss your favorite poem(s) with your child and for him/her to share with you ... and explore new ones together to add to your collection. Consider keeping a poetry notebook/journal to revisit and share often – each of you.

Poetry is not just for reading; poetry is for WRITING! Parents and students, keep a journal of your writing ... it's yours, it's private, and you can share as you wish. Happy poetry reading and writing to you and your child!

Click on this link for many poetry websites:

http://search.myway.com/search/GGmain.jhtml?ct=ARS&n=78397936&p2=%5EXN%5Exdm579%5ES20423%5Eus&pg=GGmain&pn=1&ptb=B4988041-EECB-4FA8-891B-B978C6D68BA6&q=qs=&ruid=&si=532863_&ss=sub&st=tab&trs=wtt&searchfor=A+Dozen+of+the+Best+Poetry+Websites&feedurl=ars%252Ffeedback%253ForiginalQuery%253Dpoetry%252Bwebsites%2526relatedQuery%253Da%252Bdozen%252Bof%252Bthe%252Bbest%252Bpoetry%252Bwebsites&tpr=jre10&ots=1491067504942

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Athletic Department:

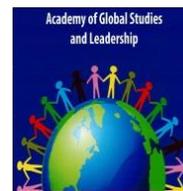
Randolph Public Schools (RPS) welcomes two new coaches to its Athletic Department:

- 1) David Hansbury – a Randolph resident for 23 years – has coached youth softball in Randolph since 2005, coaching ad groups 18U, 16U, 14U, 12U, 10U and 8U, as well as summer travel softball. Mr. Hansbury also coaches Softball for both ages 12 and 14 at Dirt Dawg Sports Club. His coaching philosophy is: *Teaching the proper way to play the game teaches the proper way to win.*
- 2) Charles Dybaud has coached Club Soccer at America FC United for over 7 years for all ages. He recently served as the Assistant Varsity Girls Soccer Coach at neighboring Quincy High School. An alumnus of Quincy High School, Mr. Dybaud was selected to the Atlantic Coast League All-Star team during his junior and senior years. Upon graduation, Mr. Dybaud enrolled at Eastern Nazarene College and played on the men’s soccer team in 2009. He obtained a diploma in coaching from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

Globalizing Education (Academy of Global Studies and Leadership)

The Academy of Global Studies and Leadership (AGSL) is in its second year of development. The initial focus was on grade 9 students, but we have expanded to the middle school to enhance the instructional rigor and to ensure there is a pipeline of students.

http://www.randolph.k12.ma.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_5692300/File/NewFolder/NewFolder/AcademyofGlobalStudiesandLeadershipatRHSbrochure.pdf



RESOURCES:

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=6AF1ACDo-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>

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

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