

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, Asst. Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
Ms. Tanya Holland, Interim Director of Finance
Ms. Heather Geary, Director of Pupil Services & Special Education



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
APRIL 2018

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

Dear Randolph Public Schools Parents and Community,

Once again, it is a pleasure to write to you with a monthly update highlighting some of the things that are taking place in Randolph Public Schools. I appreciate your attention and hope that you find this information useful.

Over the last 3 ½ years Randolph Public Schools has made significant growth in several areas including being removed from Level 4/Underperforming status last October 18, 2017 after nearly 10 years. I am extremely proud of our students who are excelling in many ways and staff who spend countless hours preparing and delivering engaging lessons.

FY19 Budget Development

Over the last several months we have created a budget proposal that will maintain all services, but increase in our most needed areas such as social emotional learning and curriculum development support. On April 26, 7:00 PM (at the RCMS Library), I will present the FY2019 Budget to the School Committee. On May 10, 7:00 PM we will have the annual budget hearing for community feedback. Your support is appreciated during this process.

Facility Upgrades

On March 26, 2018, the Town Council voted to approve the Accelerated Projects that include new windows and doors at both Young Elementary School and Donovan Elementary School. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) grants reimbursement to a small number of towns/schools throughout the state each year. This is a significant accomplishment that Randolph has been included twice over the last four years. The MSBA will reimburse the Town of Randolph 76% of the project costs. Our next step is to have the Lyons Elementary addition approved this June. Feel free to visit their website at <http://www.massschoolbuildings.org/>.

DEPARTMENTS

Family Engagement

- SEPAC Meeting Tues., April 10th at 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, Lyons ES;
- Topic: Internet Safety and Bullying

**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, creed, national origin, ethnic identity, sex, gender identity, disability, handicap, age, religion, sexual orientation or homelessness in admission to or participation in its programs and activities. RPS does not tolerate any form of discrimination, intimidation, threat, bullying, coercion and/or harassment that insults the dignity of others by interfering with their ability or freedom to learn and work.

- Boys-to-Men Mentoring Program – Stone Hill College visit
- *Family Engagement Grant*

After not receiving the grant for the 2016 – 2017 school year, RPS was allocated the \$250,000 Parent Engagement Grant that was received in previous years. The funds are being used to supplement services to enhance our engagement strategies and activities with our families. In addition, we will improve the RPS Parent Engagement Center along with the school-based centers or areas in the building that center on parent engagement.

English Language Arts

Turner Free Library offers many opportunities and activities for students of all ages and their families. Please click on this link to view: www.TurnerFreeLibrary.org

Human Resources

- After a series of intense interviews, two finalists were selected for the Director of Finance and Operations. They will go through a second round of interviews in the coming days which includes meeting with the School Committee. We are encouraged with the quality of the candidates to potentially replace Dr. Colley who accepted another position in Rhode Island earlier this year.



Music Department

Last weekend the Randolph Winterguard participated in the New England Scholastic Band Association (NESBA) championship finals in Salem, MA. There they competed against 7 other groups in their division and earned 1st place with a score of 94.43. They have been performing very well in recent years, earning 2nd place for the last two years in Winterguard competitions as well as being named the Best Color Guard in division IV for NESBA Marching Band Championships this past fall. This group of 9 students has exemplified the dedication, pride, class, and excellence that is the core of the performing arts programs in Randolph. Congratulations on their win!

Technology Department

Staff have tested computers and access points to ensure schools are ready for MCAS, which is primarily computerized this year. The Technology Director, Laura Sullivan, has done a great job stepping in after the retirement of Bob Stone over 30 years. We conducted an external audit to evaluate the processes and levels of efficiencies as we work to increase our technological capacity. Parents will receive a survey in the coming months to solicit feedback in various areas around technology.

Athletic Department

Spring sports are underway, and we are hoping that the weather will have minimal impact on scheduling games and meets. Please contact your child's coach with any specific questions or the Athletic Director, Tony Price.

FROM THE CLASSROOM

Rigorous Discourse: A Classroom Practice

This is a critical area and I am leaving it in from the last Parent Note. Over the last couple of years our teachers have been participating in training on how to infuse Rigorous Discourse into all classrooms.

Non-Discrimination Policy

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

RPS defines Rigorous Discourse as conversations that occur in small or large groups and consistently involve all students in a discussion around the lesson's topic. Students use academic language to discuss an idea, support their ideas with evidence from a text and their own background knowledge.

Student Practices

- All students take part in deep academic conversations and sustained writing that is purposeful and focused on course content.
- All students clarify, support ideas with evidence, paraphrase, build on and/or challenge and synthesize knowledge.
- All students self-assess the quality of their interactions in the process.

Teacher Practices

- Teacher plans for and uses higher order questions and *Accountable Talk* strategies to motivate all students to:
 - 1) Enter conversations and writing assignments using text
 - 2) Plan for and integrate background knowledge as an entry point
 - 3) Generate questions that are intentional and purposeful to support academic outcomes
 - 4) Model oral rigorous discourse to inform student writing
- Teacher gives timely, quality and actionable feedback to students on the clarity of their thinking during rigorous discourse
- Teacher establishes routines and norms for rigorous discourse and constantly models and holds students accountable to them

Reference:
1. *Deeper Learning Means Educational Equity in Urban Schools* (January 28, 2013) (<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/deeper-learning-educational-equity-urban-school-elena-aguilar>)



Calendar Reminders:

- April 5 – 7:00 PM – School Committee Executive Session
- April 26 – 7:00 PM – Superintendent Budget Presentation to School Committee – RCMS Library
- May 10 – 7:00 PM – School Committee Meeting, RCMS
- June 1 – Last day for seniors
- June 3 – 1:00 PM – Randolph High School Graduation – Football Field
- June 20 – ½ Day for students / Professional Day for Staff
- June 21 – Last day of school – ½ day for students / Professional Day for Staff

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_d_own_offensive_line
- <http://randolph.wickedlocal.com/news/20171026/randolph-schools-enter-new-era-after-losing-underperforming-label>

Non-Discrimination Policy

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

- <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, creed, national origin, ethnic identity, sex, gender identity, disability, handicap, age, religion, sexual orientation or homelessness in admission to or participation in its programs and activities. RPS does not tolerate any form of discrimination, intimidation, threat, bullying, coercion and/or harassment that insults the dignity of others by interfering with their ability or freedom to learn and work.