

Randolph Public Schools
"Building Tomorrow, Today"

RPS



Office of the Superintendent

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
MAY 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,

Spring is here and now it finally feels like it. We are wrapping up another year of quality instruction and high student engagement in our classrooms. Your support continues to be appreciated and necessary for our students to cultivate their talents and maximize their potential.

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 26th at 7:00 PM I presented the FY2019 Budget to the School Committee at the Randolph Community Middle School Library. My request to the School Committee was a 3.8% increase. Each year, as with most organizations, the budget increase covers operational costs including salary. I have requested 1.3% above the 2.5% we received last year as funding to **advance** Randolph Public Schools. Shortly – on **May 10th at 7:00 PM** – we will have the annual Budget Hearing for community feedback. Your support is appreciated during this process as we continue to improve our facilities and enhance the teaching and learning 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

Thanks to the coordination efforts of Ms. Christine Tangishaka, Director of Family Engagement, and our guidance team, seven (7) of our junior class students were able to attend the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's Youth & Public Health Summit on April 7. Students had a wonderful experience and gained exposure to public health.

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.

They participated in hands-on workshops, learned from local organizations that are helping our communities to be healthy, and they walked away with a wider view of public health careers.



RPS has successfully launched our own internal Boys Mentoring Program between RHS students and JFK 4th & 5th graders, will run for 9 weeks, with a graduation ceremony in early June.



English Language Arts

Please check the RPS website for dates for 2018 Summer Programs. Students/families will be notified as to eligibility/participation in the program in May or June. Summer Reading will also be posted by mid-June.

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English Language Acquisition Department Relocation

To better access the resources and support the Family Resource Center, The English Learner Department and EL teaching library has moved to room 127 in Randolph High School. Family liaisons, translators and district personnel will be closer to the new-student registration area and will be able to assist in answering family questions, addressing concerns, and providing appointments for language screening.



Music

I am proud to share that the Randolph Public Schools was awarded one of the “Best Communities in the nation for music education. The award program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education.” *NAMM Foundation*

With dedicated, quality music teachers, we have been able to offer our Randolph students a wide variety of music opportunities both during the school day and outside of school. We are fostering the development of well-rounded students because students achieve music literacy in the classroom by being exposed to playing recorder, ukulele, and piano; students express themselves by being involved in chorus, band, jazz band, show choir, percussion ensemble, wind ensemble, marching band, and musicals; and students engage in the community by performing in concerts, marching in parades, and showcasing their talents at community events.

Our Music Department’s goal is to provide every student in Randolph with the highest quality music instruction by offering diverse opportunities, fostering creativity and increasing student achievement in order to develop lifelong participants in music. I appreciate that NAMM has recognized us for making those efforts, and look forward to the continued growth of our program being supported district-wide and by the community.

Human Resources

2017-2018 School Year

You have already received written communication from our Office of Human Resources concerning Randolph High School’s Principal Terry DeCarbo’s leave; he will not return for the 2018-2019 school year.

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Mr. DeCarbo has shared publicly, this decision was difficult for him and was made with his family's best interests in mind. We wish Mr. DeCarbo the best.

After considering different options, I have appointed the current Assistant Principal, Dr. Luz Valverde, as the Acting Principal of Randolph High School (RHS) from May 1 – June 30, 2018. The district is grateful that Dr. Valverde accepted this position.

2018-2019 School Year

The School Committee has communicated to me that it is in the best interest of the district and RHS to hire an Interim Principal for the 2018-19 school year. The position of RHS Principal was posted and applications have been received and reviewed. Given the competitiveness of surrounding area high school principal searches, and the position's "Interim" status, I have named one finalist for the position: Dr. William Conard, current principal in the Canton Public Schools since 2011. Prior to his time in Canton, Dr. Conard was the Principal at RHS for five years from 2006 to 2011. Dr. Conard brings an extraordinary set of skills and experiences with an intimate knowledge of what the job entails.

I want to thank those of you who attended the School Community Forum held yesterday, April 30th at 2:40 PM. The purpose of the Forum was to get community feedback on the finalist candidate, before making a final decision, and to allow you the opportunity to hear from Dr. Conrad. We are proud to announce that Dr. Conard will be the serving as the Interim Principal for Randolph High School for the 2018 – 2019 school year and will be allowed to apply for the permanent position.

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.

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:

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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:

- May 7 – 18 – Advanced Placement Testing (Randolph HS)
- May 10 – 7:00 PM – FY2019 Budget Hearing, RCMS
- May 24 – 7:00 PM – School Committee Meeting, Lyons ES
- June 1 – Last day for seniors
- June 3 – 1:00 PM – Randolph High School Graduation – Football Stadium
- June 14 – 4:00 PM – RCMS Moving Up Ceremony – Location TBD
- 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/>

RPS in the news:

- http://www.bostonherald.com/sports/high_school/2017/11/in_randolph_brother_sister_tandem_holding_own_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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Anderson".

Thomas Anderson

Superintendent

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

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

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