

Randolph Public Schools
"Building Tomorrow, Today"

RPS



Office of the Superintendent
Thomas Anderson, Superintendent

40 Highland Avenue
Randolph, MA 02368
(781) 961.6205
(781) 961.6295 Fax
Website: www.randolph.k12.ma.us

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



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
APRIL, 2016

"Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed."
- Abraham Lincoln

Greetings Randolph Public Schools Parents and Community,

The Massachusetts Commissioner of Education had an excellent visit at Young Elementary School on Monday, March 14. He saw some wonderful things in our classrooms, interacted with students and talked to staff. On Thursday, April 14, the Massachusetts Secretary of Education, James Peyser, will be visiting Randolph Public Schools. It should be a great visit.

Randolph Public Schools is another step closer to exiting level 4 status even though all of our schools are Level 3 and Level 2 (Randolph High School). The Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) that had been mandated by the Department of Education for the last 5 years, as of this spring, will no longer be required. Last April 2015 DESE determined that we no longer needed the support of the plan manager as we effectively assumed those responsibilities. We will now shift to a 3-year district plan with yearly measureable targets and detailed action plans. We will be soliciting feedback from parents, students, staff and community members to redefine our mission, vision and core value statements. Meetings will be held and surveys will be used in order to collect this information.

We will raise student achievement through our strategic work. This will be reflected by an increase in MCAS scores along with graduation rates, SAT scores, AP scores and improved attendance. MCAS scores are a critical measurement and is a major factor in determining our exit from Level 4 status. Our trajectory for pre-K-12 success is dependent on a combination of efforts.

KUDOS:

Our Choral Director, Ms. Carvey, and our Band Director, Mr. Shekleton, are doing amazing things with our music students. Most recently, at a competition hosted at Waltham High School, the Show Choir, Blue Flame, earned the bronze medal at the Eastern Show Choir Festival. The Concert Band, competing in the MICCA festival at Bellingham High



Non-Discrimination Policy

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School, earned a silver medal; its first silver since rejoining the festival completion in 2011.

Reminder:

As we prepare for the 2016-2017 school year, our educational priorities remain strategically focused and student-centered. We will continue to support the capacity building of our staff to enhance our students' academic skills and socio-emotional growth.

To give you a better view of RPS from the inside, allow me to share a few items helping to enhance classroom instruction – not only in our schools – in all areas within the district.

Departmental Snapshots

- ***Instructional coaches*** at all elementary schools – supporting teachers to inform instruction.
- ***Extra-help sessions after school (secondary)*** with his/her English teacher; please encourage your child to take advantage.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- This year, Randolph Public Schools has invested over \$15K in technology to enhance our science curriculum. Students in grades 1-8 are now doing lab science in the virtual world through Discovery education. Students have an opportunity to interact in multiple ways on line from doing experiments, to reading current articles in science and watching video demonstrations around the topic being covered by their teacher.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- April 5th - RCMS / Math Night
- April 7th - Young / Math Night
- April 11th - Donovan / Math Night
- April 12th - JFK / Math Night
- Math Academy will be held at Young School for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students during April vacation April 19 - 22

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

- SEPAC continues to be a support and resource to parents with concerns regarding the special education process. However, please continue to contact your child's school with any specific questions related to the IEP process.

ELL UPDATE

Thanks to funding from Title III, a federal grant designated to serve immigrant students, several schools are hosting intensive after school programs for their English Language Learners. These after-school programs are based on individual school needs.

Schools:

- **Young Elementary School:** 4 nights of parent and child interaction time with the theme of literacy followed by after school support for ELL students that focuses on the same theme of the parent/child evening.
- **Donovan Elementary School:** A series of Reader's Theater for students to enhance reading comprehension, fluency and pronunciation.
- **Lyons Elementary School:** Math enrichment aimed to assist students with number, letter and word knowledge as well as critical thinking through the use of literacy-based games.
- **JFK Elementary School:** The after school instruction will focus on assisting ELLs improve their academic writing proficiency. Math and homework support will also be provided as needed.

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- **Randolph Community Middle School:** Skills based tutoring to students who need assistance with homework and extra help in Math and English.
- **April 28th: Multicultural Family Night:** Everyone is invited to attend an evening focused on honoring Randolph students' diverse languages and cultures.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

MyON Reader

All students in our elementary schools have access to myON Reader via any device that has internet access. A personalized literacy environment, myON Reader engages students at all reading levels with its library of more than 10,000 enhanced digital books. Titles are recommended to students based on individual interests and reading level using the Lexile Framework for Reading. MyON Reader measures time spent reading, number of books read, and reading growth. *Please contact your child's teacher if you would like more information.*

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

RPS is in the process of finalizing details for summer programming at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Information will be forthcoming soon.

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SAFETY

In an effort to be immediately notified of bullying complaints and provide a quick response to parents, the Randolph School District offers two bullying report mechanisms. First, a bullying report can be filed with the school anonymously via the district's website. The person reporting the bullying incident anonymously should go to Randolph@K12.ma.us and complete an anonymous bullying complaint form. The bullying complaint is automatically sent to Mr. Willie Bradley's office, School Climate and Safety Director, and he works with the principal to resolve the bullying matter. Second, a bullying complaint can be filed in person directly with the school in question. The principal is required to conduct the investigation (or assign a staff member to investigate) and consult with Mr. Bradley regarding the findings.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Technology Department had a busy winter replacing all copiers in each of our schools. All devices are now capable of emailing and scanning information to be sent more efficiently. We also continue to support the Town of Randolph's technology infrastructure and have assisted with the temporary relocation of the Town Library (moved from North Main Street to Shaw's Plaza during renovation).

Since the last update, we have added or replaced our technology in the following areas:

- Replaced all the office copiers in all school buildings with new Ricoh units.
- Completed on-line ACCESS for ELLs testing in three (3) schools.
- Assisted the Town with the deployment of MUNIS Utility Billing.
- Assisted the Town library with its move, to a temporary location at the Shaw's Plaza, by coordinating all technology moves.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- MCAS -Alt portfolio open house was held on March 28 and 29 at the middle school. Parents had the chance to listen to their son's/daughter's explanation of the contents of their MCAS Alt-Portfolio.

Upcoming Events:

- **April 27, 2016** - Training Overview with EPIC/Advocates: Why Self-Advocacy, Community Service and Leadership Development are Important for Students with Disabilities (location: Triangle Randolph 10:00 - 11:00 AM).
- **May 17-18, 2016** - Global exchange with Filipino educators' and RPS teachers (location: across the district SPED Programs).

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Randolph High School – Athletic Department

- Spring sports started on March 21st.

FINANCE

During April and May, we will be finalizing the SY17 budget for the schools, which will come with mandated changes – and are based on the needs of the district – to be financially responsible to equalize the cost of programs with the resources available. This year, special focus has been placed on our Food Services Department and, as indicated by the audit and required by Federal Law, we need to increase the price of our meals by \$0.40 on average. This may seem like a large increase but, after many years of no increases, we need to adjust the price to bring us in compliance with the federal required average cost of meals in order to receive the available federal reimbursement that pays for a large portion of our program. We stand ready to help families evaluate their financial need to see whether your family qualifies for a free or reduced meal price. The new prices will be in effect next September, and we will be sending more information home in the next few months.

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

Our students are working to reach new heights every day under the direction of our very capable and caring staff. We have a lot in which we should be proud and with your support and participation in your child's education there are no boundaries for students in Randolph Public Schools. Let us always remember that our schools are all Levels 3 and 2:

LEVEL 2: Randolph HS

LEVEL 3: Donovan ES

LEVEL 3: John F. Kennedy ES

LEVEL 3: Lyons ES

LEVEL 3: Young ES

LEVEL 3: Randolph Community MS

Please access our website: <http://www.randolph.k12.ma.us/> for updates and more information regarding school performance data and events.

With Randolph pride,



Thomas Anderson, Superintendent
Randolph Public Schools
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