

**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](http://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  
FEBRUARY 2018



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

Dear Randolph Public Schools Students and Parents,

We are in the second half of the year and winter is truly upon us. Let us please remind our children to dress warmly with layers and to use their hats and gloves. The weather is always a challenge to predict and decisions to delay or close schools are made with several factors in mind including the assessment and collaboration between our Facilities Department and the Department of Public Works with student and staff safety being paramount. I appreciate your understanding and support as we continue to navigate the winter storms.

Our students are continuing to persevere and make progress in many areas. We appreciate your support as we collaborate to prepare our children to be successful in this globally competitive market. We learned a lot in 2017 and will use those experiences to do great things in 2018. I shared this previously, but I think it deserves a second look: **Reimagining Empathy: The Transformative Nature of Empathy** | Paul Parkin | [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4aHb\\_GTRVo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4aHb_GTRVo)

**Randolph LEVEL 4 NO LONGER:** We are still in celebratory mode after ESE's announcement on October 18, 2017. In case you missed my last Parent 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."*

- <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>

I am proud of our students and the dedication of our families, our outstanding 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.

**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.

**RPS Day of Service:** On January 15, 2018, Randolph Town Hall and Randolph Public Schools jointly held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Day of Service commemorating the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Dr. King was about serving others. We had even more volunteers than last year that included many students, parents, town and elected officials, and community members who came together to work on school projects that were submitted by our principals.



**HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Math and Literacy Nights:** Lyons ES and JFK ES conducted some very well attended parent nights focusing on math and reading comprehension strategies. Both Principals expressed their thanks to parents for supporting and attending these very important informational nights. It really allowed for staff and parents to engage in many discussions around the instruction that children are receiving.



JFK ES



Lyons ES

**Athletics:** The Boys basketball team secured a spot in the upcoming MIAA state tournament with a 66-53 win against the visiting Pirates of Hull High School last Tuesday, Jan. 31. The team with a 10-5 record, has five remaining games left in the regular season. The playoff seeding will be announced on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. GO BLUEDEVILS!

**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 Schools student can maximize their potential. These intelligences proposed by Dr. Gardner are:

- Linguistic intelligence (“word smart”)
- Logical-mathematical intelligence (“number/reasoning smart”)
- Spatial intelligence (“picture smart”)
- Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence (“body smart”)
- Musical intelligence (“music smart”)
- Interpersonal intelligence (“people smart”)
- Intrapersonal intelligence (“self smart”)
- Naturalist intelligence (“nature smart”)

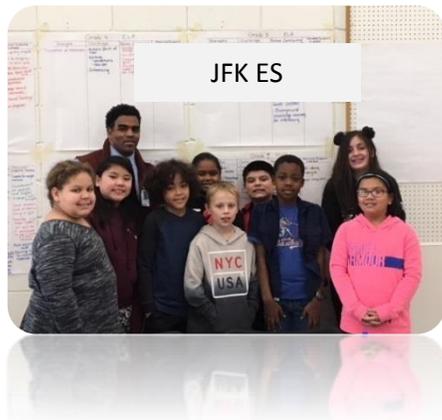
**Multiple Intelligences:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2EdujrMovA>



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After attending more than 80 school/classroom visits this year, I continue to be proud of our students and staff. Throughout the year I have seen excellent examples of quality instruction. Students at the secondary level have been engaged in Socratic seminars and discussions around the political process. Elementary students are having lively discussions focusing on the difference between fiction and non-fiction writing and mental math. I have seen students using Zearn and accessing the MyOn reading program. However, one of my most favorite activities this year has been to have lunch with 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. We discussed their desire to have more clubs and activities at their schools, in addition to wanting more math. The discussion around math was very enlightening as the 5<sup>th</sup> graders perspective is very practical, and we should listen more. I look forward to my remaining 5<sup>th</sup> grade lunches at Young ES and Lyons ES.



### **FROM THE CLASSROOM**

#### **Rigorous Discourse: A Classroom Practice**

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

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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:**

- 2/7/18: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual RPS Vocabulary Bowl for 5<sup>th</sup> graders – 6:00 PM (RCMS)
- 2/14/18: (1/2 days – Middle/High School - Parent Teacher Conferences)
- 2/15/18: (1/2 days – Elementary - Parent Teacher Conferences)

*I shared these points in the previous note but want to reiterate their importance. School Buildings in the 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 enrollment projection has been consistent as a district, but individual schools are being evaluated.



### 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\\_own\\_offensive\\_line](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.

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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>



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