



SUPERINTENDENT'S EDUCATION UPDATE

February 7, 2025

2024-2025 School Year

Teaching & Learning

February News Mathematics Department

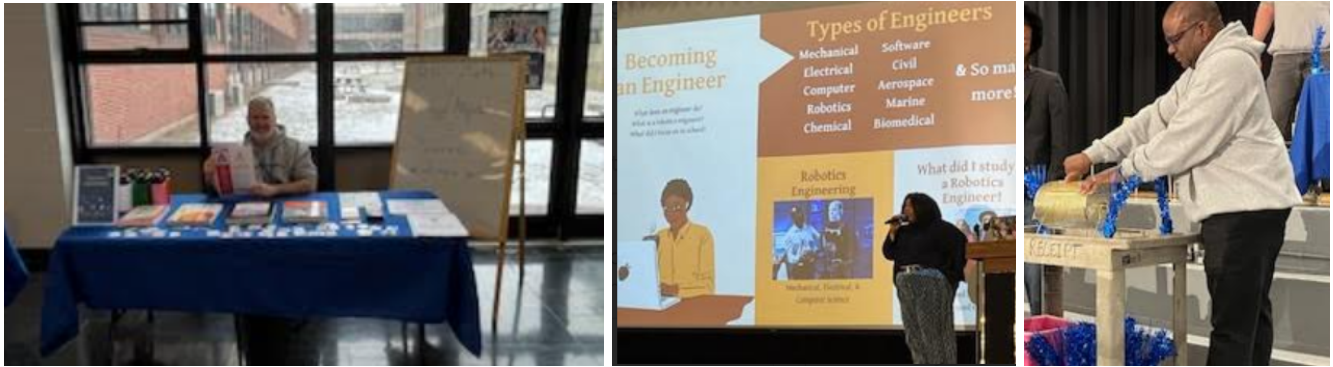
As part of the elementary math curriculum review process, a team of 20 teachers will be piloting three possible math curriculums for SY 25/26. The three curriculums are iReady Mathematics, Illustrative Mathematics, and Into Math. As a team, we will plan and analyze the curriculums against our math vision and priorities. Teams will also speak and try to visit other districts that have implemented the curriculums.



On January 11th, Randolph High School (RHS) hosted a Pathways to Possibilities event. Families and students came together to discuss RHS's pathways including high school students taking College Algebra through Bridgewater State University. Participants heard from a guest speaker and alumni using STEAM in their college and careers.



Everyone experienced hands-on activities related to the Science pathways! Many prizes were given!



Humanities Department

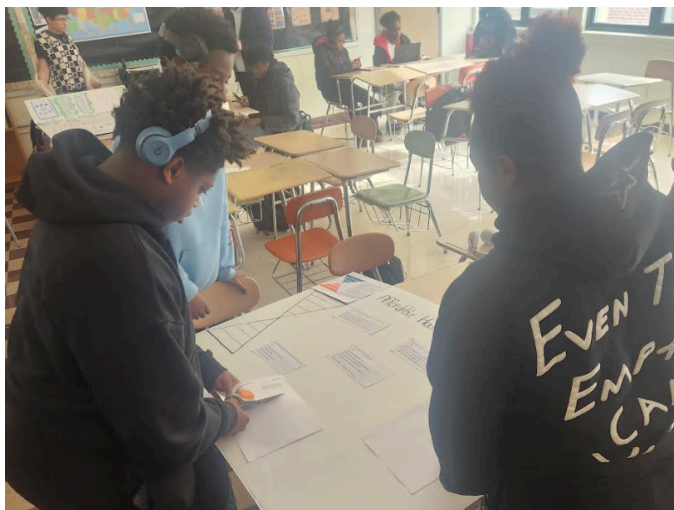
In Massachusetts, the Civics Project is a statewide initiative that requires high school students to engage in hands-on civics education. As part of the state's 2018 Civics Education Law, students are required to complete a "Civics Action Project". This project encourages students to identify a local issue that matters to them, research it, and then take meaningful action to address it – whether by advocating for change, organizing events, or working with local government. The goal is to foster active, informed citizens who understand the importance of civic participation and are motivated to contribute to their communities.

The Civics Action Project not only strengthens students' understanding of government processes but also helps them develop critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. By focusing on real-world issues, students are given the opportunity to see how their voices and actions can make a difference, enhancing their civic responsibility and preparing them for future involvement in democratic processes. Through this



initiative, Massachusetts aims to create a generation of young people who are not just knowledgeable about civics, but also actively engaged in shaping their society.

At Randolph High School, students in Mr. Quinn's Civics Engagement and Government class are working on their civics action project about affordable housing.



Science, Technology, and Engineering

Randolph High School students traveled to Boston University on December 6th for a fun, hands-on night of learning hosted by graduate students from the Astronomy Department (including Randolph Alum)! Students explored a wide range of topics, from electromagnetism to exoplanets and black holes to cosmic collision events.





Randolph Community Middle School (RCMS) hosted the One8 Foundation's Discovery Program. Educator teams from 15 other area middle schools experienced applied learning in action by visiting classrooms and engaging with staff and students.





School Update

Donovan Elementary School (Donovan School)

The Donovan School Community enjoyed celebrating the successes of our students during our mid-year awards ceremonies. Students were recognized for academic improvement, academic growth, creativity in art, good sportsmanship in Physical Education, and more!

We are so proud of them!







Students in Kindergarten enjoyed hearing stories about identifying and controlling emotions from our school social worker, Ms. Simmons!





The Donovan School continues to recognize students for safe, respectful, and responsible behavior in all settings. These students had lunch with Luna for listening and being helpful in the cafeteria!



Upcoming events:

PTO-sponsored enrichment - Dragon show
PTO-sponsored Valentine's Dance
School wide "Show Your Love" campaign

John F. Kennedy School (JFK School)



I am pleased to share the recent activities and student progress at the JFK School.

Monthly Community Meeting

Our students participated in our monthly community meeting where they had the enriching experience of learning to greet each other in Vietnamese, fostering cultural awareness and inclusivity. Additionally, we highlighted and celebrated students who exemplified our core value of Respect, reinforcing positive behavior and school culture.

RISE Program Family Night

The RISE Program, which supports students with disabilities, hosted its first-ever Family Night. This event provided families with valuable insights into how Autism can be present in different ways among students. Families also learned practical strategies to support various behaviors at home, enhancing the home-school partnership for our students with Autism.

Fourth Grade Poetry Presentation

Our fourth-grade students showcased their creativity and hard work during a special poetry presentation for their families. This event allowed students to express themselves through poetry, build confidence in public speaking, and strengthen family engagement with their academic growth.

Fluency Data Update (Grades 3-5)



We continue to monitor and support reading fluency across grades 3-5. Below are the latest Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) results.

- Well Below Benchmark: 33 out of 43 students (77%) showed ambitious and typical combined growth, with 27 out of 43 students (63%) achieving ambitious gains.
- Below Benchmark: 25 out of 30 students (83%) demonstrated ambitious and typical combined growth, with 23 out of 30 students (77%) achieving ambitious gains.
- At Benchmark: 33 out of 49 students (67%) showed ambitious and typical combined growth, with 24 out of 49 students (49%) achieving ambitious gains.
- Above Benchmark: 17 out of 26 students (65%) demonstrated ambitious and typical combined growth.

These results reflect our continued focus on literacy and our efforts to support all students in making meaningful progress.

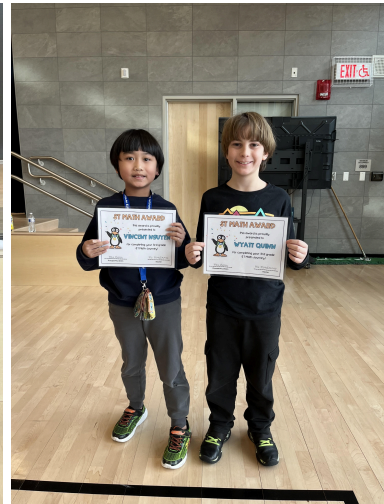
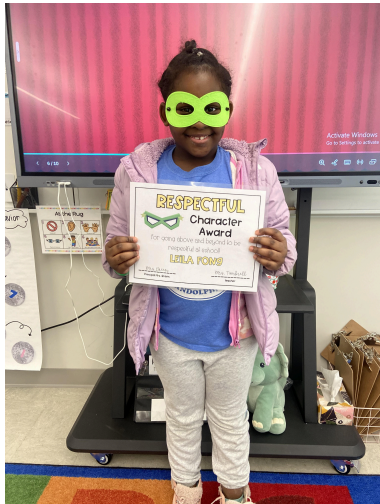
North Randolph School (North Randolph)

PBIS Assembly

Students at North were celebrated this month by our superheroes. Students earned awards for respect, safety and responsibility. Students also received awards for perfect attendance and progress in ST Math. Families joined us in this celebration. The heroes visited the local Randolph fire department and interviewed fire fighters about how they



use these core values in their job. Students watched the interview at the assembly.

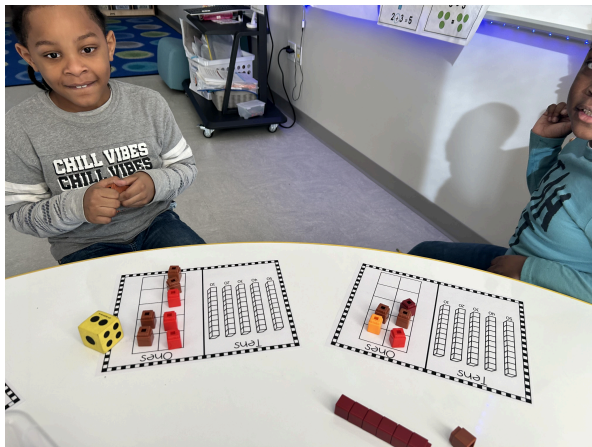


Grade 1 Update

Mrs. Dion and Ms. Flaherty's first graders are working hard to learn all about the patterns of the sun, moon, and stars. We made models of constellations!



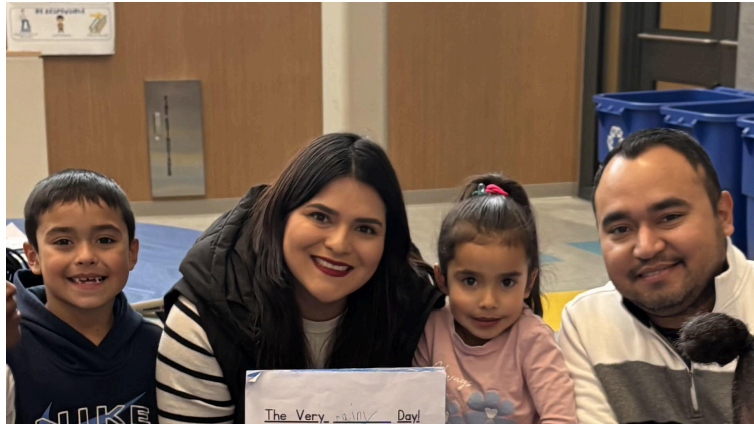
First graders are showing what they know by using manipulatives to make groups of ten! This will prepare us for celebrating the 100th day of school next week!



Kindergarten book party - on Friday, 1/31, our kindergarten students invited their families in to share the books they created around weather. Students wrote books describing one of 3 types of weather. They then had to create a character, dress them in appropriate clothing for the weather and tell a story.



Families enjoyed visiting and looking at their student's hard work!



Young Elementary School (Young School)



Students elected House Leaders this month. Fourth and Fifth Grade students who are interested in taking a leadership role in the school presented why they should be elected as a



House Leader to their group. An election was held and each house elected 3 - 4 leaders. These student leaders will now plan and lead house meetings moving forward for the rest of the year. They will plan activities for the meeting which occur every other Friday. We look forward to seeing our student leaders in action.



Our Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) has been working to improve our ability to respond to disciplinary issues more effectively and improve our PBIS practices. We all believe that the more consistent we can be in helping students manage behaviors, the stronger our school community will become. We want our students to feel motivated to do what is right, not for a reward, but because it makes us all stronger. With the work from our ILT and other initiatives like our House System, Bucket Fillers, The Power of YET, Marty the Yeti, and numerous other classroom activities, we know we can improve an already wonderful school wide climate and culture.

January was a nice long month with a few breaks. This allowed for some great academic teaching and learning time. All classes were able to delve deeply into their curricula and teachers have collected a great amount of data on student performance. We meet weekly with all teachers to use that data to inform practice and plan ahead. Some exciting projects are coming up soon. The second grade is planning an amazing dinosaur/archeology activity and grade three is planning frog fest, to name a few. We are looking forward to sharing these activities with our school community.



Randolph Community Middle School (RCMS)



The IILC students at RCMS celebrated the first day of Lunar New Year by reading *Year of the Snake* by Zhang Jink Yo and answering questions on the adapted book. They also designed and made paper lanterns to bring good fortune. The students shared Vietnamese foods and wore red to symbolize prosperity.

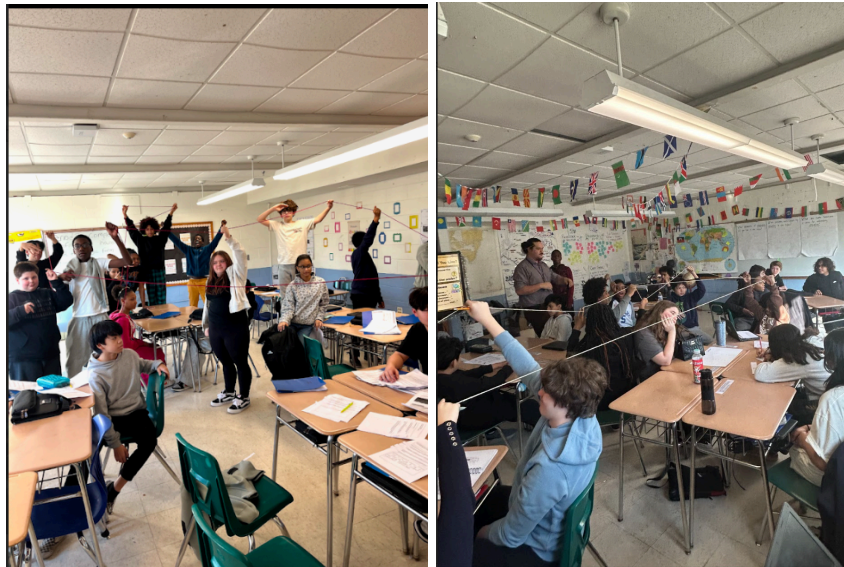
Happy Lunar New Year!

RCMS Art students learned how to create a tapestry weaving on a loom. Students learned how to use multiple weaving techniques such as tabby (a.k.a plain weave), soumak, rya knots, dovetail, twill and checkerboard. Students had to practice tying overhand and square knots, as well as learn how to thread a needle independently. Students chose one of the four elements (earth, air, fire, and water) to guide their designs and color choices. They examined how all cultures have used weaving to create fabrics and clothing, as well as contemporary artists who create woven fiber art.





Mr. Rivera Concannon and Mr. Goodman's Grade 7 Social Studies students tried using yarn as a strategy for student engagement in discussions. Holding the yarn motivated more students to participate and gave an interesting visual for tracking the discussion.



Ms. Seseske's students have gotten into a routine of taking turns choosing an ASMR video. These videos have been helpful and really do calm everyone down to maintain focus on the science lesson. It has also created a fun and connected environment in the classroom. Ms. Seseske suggested they create their own ASMR experience. Much fun was had by all!



Randolph Community Middle School eighth grade student **Kayden Cabral** was selected for a Year of Project 351 Leadership & Service. Project 351 celebrates 15 years of a youth-led movement for change.





Kayden and other Eighth-grade service Ambassadors representing the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns kicked-off a year of youth-led service with Project 351 last Saturday.



On Saturday, January 25th, Ambassadors were joined by Governor Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Massachusetts Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler and other community leaders for a day of service and celebration in Boston.

"The young people who serve with Project 351 are great examples of what makes Massachusetts a leader in so many important ways," said Governor Healey. "These Ambassadors demonstrate what is possible when we work together to make the changes we all want to see in our own communities. I'm proud to join them as they embark on this important year of leadership and service."

Project 351, a nonprofit organization, annually unites a class of unsung heroes for a transformative year of leadership development, enrichment, and impact through unifying statewide service campaigns. This year, Project 351 celebrates its 15th year with a collective social impact on more than 1.4 million lives. Project 351's annual Launch celebration honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King.



It's inspiring to see the incredible passion of these young people at work in their schools and communities," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll.



"With every service project that is undertaken, a ripple effect travels across the state, impacting thousands of lives and strengthening the bonds that connect us all."

Launch Day kicked-off 12 months of leadership development through Alumni mentorship and enrichment through Project 351's Service Leadership Academy. Through Project 351, Ambassadors develop the skills and confidence to mobilize their hometowns in service campaigns that address critical issues including hunger, clothing insecurity, and educational equity.

"I first experienced Project 351's amazing students while principal at Brighton High School," said Secretary Tutwiler. "I continue to be impressed by these young Ambassadors and what they're able to achieve in communities across Massachusetts. The students associated with this incredible organization will be the next generation's leaders and they should inspire and energize all of us."

On Launch Day, Ambassadors traveled from across the state to convene at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum for a celebratory morning program. The program also included remarks by James Gallagher, General Counsel, John Hancock/Manulife, a founding sponsor. Wearing their signature navy tee, Ambassadors mobilized by Service Hero teams for an afternoon of service at La Colaborativa, Brighton High School, and Cradles to Crayons. In partnership with these community leaders, Ambassador service impacted more than 34,000 neighbors.

"Project 351 is powered by the idealism and ideas of 8th grade change makers," said Carolyn Casey, Project 351 Founder and Executive Director.



"As we welcome our 5,588th Ambassador, we celebrate the transformative good made possible when we unite in common cause. And we uplift the values they stand for -- kindness, compassion, and respect for the dignity of all."



About Project 351

Founded in 2011, Project 351 is a youth-led movement for change powered by an eighth-grade unsung hero and high school Alumni mentors selected to represent every city and town in Massachusetts. Youth are recognized by hometown educators for an exemplary ethic of service; values of kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude; and devotion to equity and inclusion. The Ambassadors' 12-month term of leadership development and service is the foundation of Project 351's leadership model. High school, college, and career Alumni steward Project 351's mission and model of impact as mentors, program leaders, and governance. Through the 35ONE enrichment continuum, a new



generation of leaders develops the skills, knowledge, and courage to achieve bold change. For more information visit: <https://project351.org/>



RCMS Boys Basketball has a current record of 7 wins and 4 losses. The season started with 2 tough losses, but the boys bounced back and won 7 games in a row.





Randolph High School (RHS)

Our "Pathways to Possibilities" event was a success!

PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITIES

An RHS Level Up Event

INTERESTED IN STEAM? JOIN US FOR A HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS EXPLORING ALL RHS HAS TO OFFER!!

Check out RHS..

- **HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES IN BIOMEDICAL, ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE**
- **MEET RHS ALUMNI**
- **BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED**
- **EXCITING RAFFLE PRIZES**

JOIN US

January 11, 2025
9 a.m to 12:30 p.m

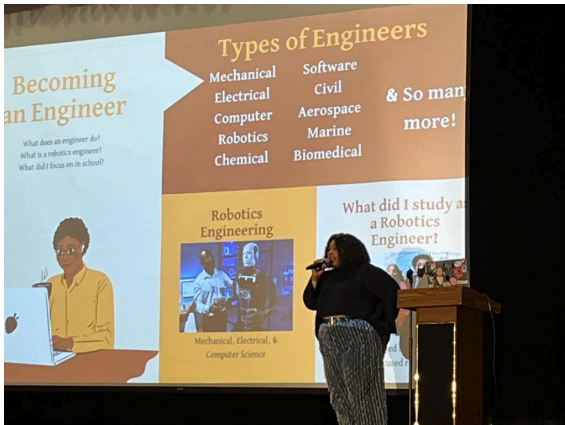
On Saturday January 11th, RHS hosted an amazing event called "Pathways to Possibilities". The purpose was twofold:

1. To inspire our young people to consider college and career opportunities in S.T.E.A.M.
(Science/Technology/Engineering/Arts/Math)
2. To share highlights about our Science Pathways (Biomedical, Computer Science, Engineering)



We had an awesome morning full of exciting activities, inspirational messages from young adults and information about programming. Music, food, and raffle prizes were also in the mix!

- Keynote speaker: Our keynote speaker was Dilce Oliveira, who is a 23 year old Robotics Engineer and also a musician. Her message, "Robotics and Rhythm" resonated with all of our young people. She spoke of her journey and encouraged to follow their passion as she did.
- Panel of RHS Alumni: We had a panel of 9 RHS alums, who are either in college or in successful careers, speak to the audience about what they do. More importantly, they gave advice to the students present. The panel moderator was RHS 12th grader, Saschia Allien.
- S.T.E.A.M. Activities: Students and family members had a menu of activities to explore during the morning as follows.
 - Human Body Systems activity using clay to model organs and muscles
 - Hands-On Phlebotomy Training using practice arms
 - Engineering Popcorn Design Challenge
 - Computer Science: Using Python code to create a digital magic 8 ball
 - Vital Signs activity: Using real field equipment to measure vital signs such as heart rate, breathing rate, and more

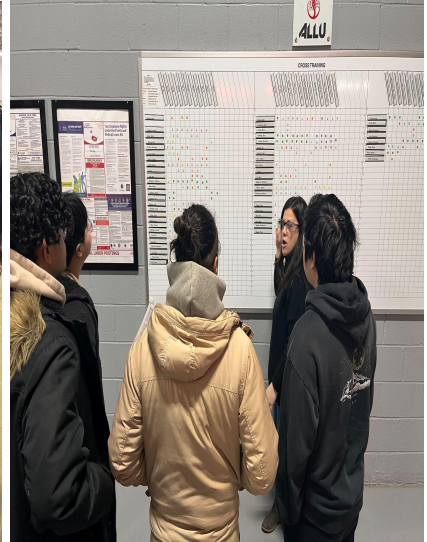


Engineering Field Trip





On January 15th, a group of our RHS students attended a field trip to Accurounds, a small manufacturing company in Avon. They learned about the vast career opportunities in manufacturing and the types of parts made at that facility.



RHS Athletics Update



Congratulations to Knyia White and Lucas Duarte for being named as our South Shore League Scholar Athletes. Knyia and Lucas will be honored at a banquet on March 18th with the rest of the South Shore League recipients.

Additionally, here is the link for spring sports registration:

<https://students.arbitersports.com/programs/high-school-athletics-registration-spring-2025>



Exciting Times For RHS Music Students

On January 29th, 17 RHS music students got to attend a special performance of *Peter Pan the Musical* at the Boston Opera House! Thank you to the Rodman for Kids for providing free tickets for our students to experience the theater for the first time!

On February 1st, RHS and RCMS band and chorus students auditioned for the SEMSBA Senior and Junior Music Festival! A special congratulations to Mason Chacon, Khoi Chu, Lilly Huynh, Sofia Monteiro, Neo Cardona, Sarah Bui, and Davina Tang for being accepted into the festival! Great job all!



Students In ILC + Transition Programs Learn Culinary Skills



Students in the ILC and Transition programs were treated to an exciting culinary demonstration by Chef Jocelyn. During his visit, Chef Jocelyn shared insights into his career, valuable kitchen tips, and provided a live



cooking demonstration. The students had the opportunity to watch as he prepared a delicious meal, including chicken parmesan, garlic bread, and Caesar salad. This hands-on experience was not only a fun and interactive learning opportunity but also an invaluable chance for students to gain real-life career skills. We are grateful for Chef Jocelyn's time and expertise and look forward to more opportunities like this in the future!

BUILD Boston Competition

On January 23rd, our BUILD students participated in the annual BUILD competition held in Boston. We are so proud of our students for the way they commanded the room. They were professional, and represented the RHS in a positive light. They were truly ready for business.

Unfortunately, we did not bring home the trophy as anticipated; however, our students learned a valuable lesson - in defeat, they can hold their heads high, knowing they gave their best!





Music Department Update

AnDinh Tran and Sofia Monteiro took part in the Southeastern Massachusetts Senior Districts Festival, where they prepared choral and wind ensemble repertoire with the highest achieving musicians in Southeastern Massachusetts for a concert performance on January 10, 2025. Both students put forth their best effort and represented Randolph with excellence and pride.



On January 15, over 200 music students grades 7-12 collaborated at RCMS to begin preparations for their Step Up Concert (March 4). Students worked with Ms. Goddu, Mr. Condakes, Mr. Donnelly, and Mr. Martins on concert repertoire, high school students modeled and mentored middle school students, and meaningful musical experiences were had by all.



Save the Dates:

Elementary Music Night was held on February 4th at North Randolph Elementary School.

The next Elementary Music Night is February 11th, 4:30-5:30 PM at the Young Elementary School.

Step Up Concert - March 4th, 6:30 PM at Randolph High School



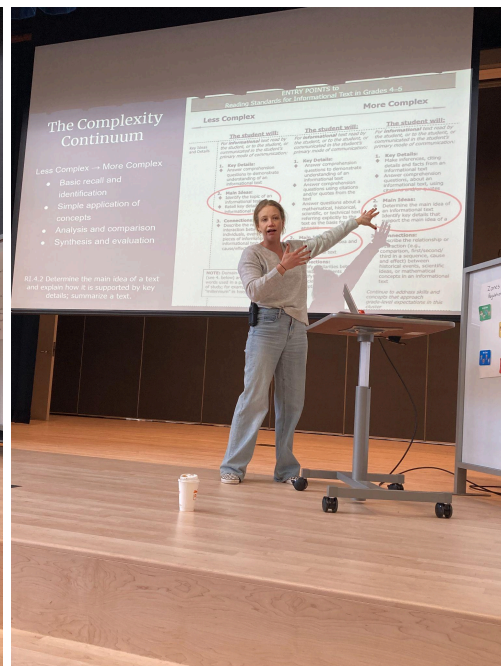
Special Education and Student Services

Special Education Advisory Council (SEPAC)

The Special Election for SEPAC was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. The following positions were filled:

- **President: Keri Windsor** - A seasoned special educator with over 20 years of experience, Keri specializes in supporting students with diverse disabilities. As both an educator and a parent of a child with autism, she is committed to strengthening collaboration between families, schools, and administrators.
- **Vice President: Dr. Ndidi Amutah-Onukagha** - A devoted mother and advocate for family and community well-being, Dr. Amutah-Onukagha is passionate about creating safe, equitable spaces for all families while balancing a thriving professional and home life.
- **Treasurer: Dr. Lorraine Lacroix-Williamson** - A mother, community health advocate, and social justice champion, Dr. Lacroix-Williamson is committed to ensuring that children of all abilities receive the support they need to thrive.







Pre-K News!

This month in Pre-K, our students had the chance to be their favorite community helper. The natural language opportunities were plentiful as they needed to work collaboratively to complete a list of errands. As you go out in our community, talk about what you see and what they are doing (e.g. "I see the mail carrier delivering the mail", "There goes the firefighter in the truck").



Multilingual Learners Updates

January was a busy month for the ML department!

ACCESS Testing

Our students across the district began participating in the annual state ACCESS test. This yearly assessment is an English language proficiency test that measures students' academic English skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Results from this test are used to track students' progress in learning English, help schools decide what language supports



to offer, and serve as an accountability measure of Randolph Public Schools' English language programming to the state Department of Education. Scores from the test should be available by the end of May 2025. For more information about the ACCESS test, please view one of the links below:

[ACCESS for ELLs \(English\)](#) ([Kreyol](#), [Español](#), [Português](#), [Tiếng Việt](#), [Français](#), [العربية](#), [中国人](#))

Seal of Biliteracy

The Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy test will be offered in April of this year for our sophomores, juniors and seniors. The Seal of Biliteracy is a prestigious award that is offered to any student who demonstrates proficiency in English and any other language, whether they speak or sign the language at home or learned it at school or in the community.

The State Seal of Biliteracy aims to:

- Encourage students to study and master languages;
- Certify attainment of biliteracy skills;
- Recognize the **value of language diversity**;
- Provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills;
- Provide universities with a method to recognize and give credit to applicants for attainment of high-level skills in languages;
- Prepare students with skills that will benefit them in the labor market and the global society; and
- Strengthen intergroup communication and honor the multiple cultures and languages in a community.



More information on how to sign up for the test will be communicated soon!

For more information on the MA State Seal of Biliteracy, please visit one of the video links below:

[Seal of Biliteracy \(English\)](#) ([Kreyol](#), [Español](#), [Português](#), [Tiếng Việt](#), [中国人](#))

English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC)

The first meeting of the English Learners Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) was held on January 30th in the Randolph High School library. Topics included introductions to Randolph's multilingual learner program model as well as parent rights and responsibilities. Thank you to all who attended either in person or virtually! The next meetings will be held in May and June. All parents and caregivers of current and former multilingual students are invited and encouraged to attend.

Registration Update:



Kindergarten Registration is Ongoing - Register Early!



If your child or someone you know is starting Kindergarten next year, now is the time to register! Kindergarten registration is open until March 21st. Registering early helps us plan for a successful school year and ensures a smooth transition for all students.

Need assistance or have questions? We're happy to help! Call us at (781) 961-6247.

To register your child and review all requirements, visit:
[English_2025-26 Kindergarten Registration.docx](#)

Sincerely,

Alpha Sanford, M.Ed CAGS, Director of Special Education and Student Services

Danielle Galvin, Assistant Director of Special Education

Dr. Jennifer Herring, Assistant Director of Student Services

Kait Zanzerkia, Assistant Director of Multilingual Learners and World Language

Renee Downes-Gilkes, Early Childhood Coordinator

Regina Federle, Registrar



Nutrition Update



Randolph Public Schools Nutrition Newsletter

February 2025

Heart Health Month – Tips for a Heart Healthy Diet

- **Choose Whole Grains.** Opt for whole-grain breads, cereals, and pastas for more fiber and to support heart health.
- **Include Sources of Unsaturated Fats.** Incorporate foods such as avocados, nuts, and canola oil. Limit saturated fats found in red meat and butter.
- **Add Color to Your Plate.** Eat a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables to get a wide range of nutrients.
- **Cut Back on Sodium.** Flavor your meals with herbs and spices instead of salt to lower sodium intake.
- **Pick Lean Proteins.** Include poultry, fish, beans, and legumes. Enjoy fatty-fish such as salmon, mackerel, tuna, and herring twice a week for omega-3s.

Harvest of the Month



Winter squash has been cultivated for over 10,000 years and was originally grown by ancient civilizations in Central America. These squash varieties, including butternut and acorn, store well during winter and are a nutritious addition to meals. Winter squash is rich in Vitamin A, which supports vision, especially at night and in low light, and is 87% water, helping to keep us hydrated. Nearly every part is edible, from its leaves and flowers to its seeds and fruit! For more information, visit www.massfarmtoschool.org.

UP NEXT:



There's no question that students today are busier than ever! With school, sports, and other extra-curricular activities, we want to ensure students understand how healthy snacks and meals can be important in energizing them all day. The tradition of three meals a day is becoming a thing of the past, and insights show that today's students have non-traditional eating habits, favoring mini meals. This month, students will learn to create **Smart Snacks** for school and at home

KELSEY LOCKHEAD, RD, LDN. LOCKHEADK@RANDOLPH.K12.MA.US

* Tanpri souple kontakte lyezon pou fanmi ki pale Kreyòl Ayisyen yo nan 781-807-0081. * Para ayuda en Español, por favor llame al 339-209-2539. * Para auxílio em Português, por favor ligue para o número 339-204-5505. * Nếu quý vị có câu hỏi nào khác, làm ơn liên hệ phiên dịch viên tiếng Việt, tại 339-216-2400.