



EAST ROCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT School District News

Fall 2019



Liquori's class displayed their DNA around the classroom

DNA ensuring students feel heard, valued

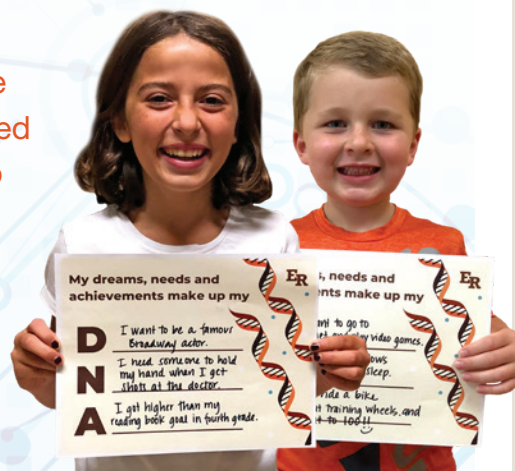
DNA doesn't just mean deoxyribonucleic acid to students at East Rochester. In fact, DNA is going far beyond the science classroom at ER this school year. From kindergarten to high school, students are being challenged to think about DNA as their dreams, needs and achievements.

This year, East Rochester is continuing its commitment to educating the whole child. An important piece of this commitment is maintaining a focus on social and emotional learning (SEL). SEL can help create inclusive and healthy communities that support all students in reaching their fullest potential.

In anticipation of the new school year, the administrative team explored ways in which the district could build upon past successes in order to achieve excellence in the future. Notable work by educator and author Tom Hierck guided that work. Hierck wrote that the more teachers can tap into what motivates students, the more they can target instruction to those needs in the classroom. The concept of dreams, needs and achievements mirrors that sentiment. It prioritizes connections and relationships, putting an emphasis on all students being heard, feeling valued and cared for.

"The students were very engaged," said Liquori. "Some chose one dream, some chose three. The needs had to be aligned with their dreams. I wanted everyone to feel comfortable."

Sixth-grade social studies teacher Sue Liquori used DNA as an exercise to build community in her classroom. Each student filled out a worksheet that asked three questions: "What are your dreams? What are your needs? What are your achievements?"



Our District's Mission

The Mission of the East Rochester School District is to prepare students to be college and career ready and to provide a quality education in a safe environment where all students develop the abilities, attitudes and values necessary for responsible, productive citizenship.

Our Vision

The Vision of the East Rochester School District is that students will learn through the highest quality instruction which recognizes each student's strengths, talents, interests, learning styles and rates of learning, using developmentally appropriate methods.

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Message from the Interim Superintendent

Dear East Rochester Community,

It is my pleasure to be back in the East Rochester Union Free School District. In the few months I've been back in ER, I have enjoyed reconnecting with colleagues and observing student successes. Moreover, I'm very pleased with the progress the district has made in the past few years. The staff at East Rochester is hard-working and dedicated to making ER a great place to work, learn and grow.

This year we are not moving in a new direction. In fact, we are simply trying to chart a more-defined course toward our destination by focusing in on two critical things: intentional alignment of our UPK-12 systems and high-quality Tier 1 instruction. As a team, we will work to be more intentional about promoting positive climate and culture and communicating proactively and transparently. In addition, we will explore the power of student engagement and continue to expand learning through technology integration.

Perhaps most importantly, we will engage in foundational learning opportunities meant to help us build a shared understanding of our role in fostering social emotional learning. These two areas of focus will also guide our budget development process to ensure that we provide each child with the best experience in every aspect of their education.

In closing, I would like to thank the East Rochester Alumni Foundation for their continued support. ERAF supplements many educational experiences for our students through grants and awards. Many times, these many initiatives and programs directly impact our students, and further the mission and vision of the district.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Stutzman
Interim Superintendent of Schools



Familiar face now assistant principal

Jared Snyder is settling nicely into his new role as assistant principal at East Rochester Elementary School. Snyder, who served in the role of dean of students for three years, has been with the district since 1999. He started his career at ER as a student-teacher before moving to a permanent position as Academic Intervention Services teacher and then sixth-grade teacher. Snyder has also been the FITS program director for the last 10 years. Welcome aboard in your new role, Mr. Snyder!



School Board Appreciation Week

East Rochester celebrated School Board Appreciation week Oct. 20-26 by honoring each board member for their service. Each member received a collaboratively reproduced picture by 8th grade students in Ms. Diehl's art class of Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. Thank you School Board Members for your commitment and contributions to the students and community of East Rochester.



An array of professional learning opportunities

ER teachers and staff continued their professional learning on Oct. 11. The day focused on providing opportunities that support staff both personally and professionally. Approximately 150 staff members attended breakout sessions on curriculum and instruction, social and emotional learning, technology integration, and wellness.

Feedback from staff was overwhelmingly positive with one teacher writing, "I really enjoyed the layout of the day and how we could choose each session. It was great to be able to have so many different areas covered."

Aides and assistants found the day to provide something for everyone. Feedback from them included, "There were many topics that directly pertained to my role and I was able to immediately apply the information I learned to my classrooms."



Other teachers are excited about professional learning opportunities in the future, writing "I truly enjoyed the day. I wanted more time in each session, but I felt like it was perfect because you left me wanting more and doing research on my own."



ER staff boasts 2,248 collective years of experience

East Rochester teachers and staff kicked off the 2019-20 school year by celebrating the accomplishments of the district and themselves through collective efficacy.

Collective efficacy is all about the power that teachers have to improve student learning when they work together. According to a 1993 study by Albert Bandura, collective efficacy influences how educators feel, think, motivate themselves and behave. As a result, it is a major contributor to a school's culture and success.

Staff spent the first two days of the year working together to create collective efficacy resumes, which showed their strengths, their many educational degrees and their impressive years of experience. In all, East Rochester teachers and support staff have 2,248 years of collective experience.



Elementary students going for the gold

ER Elementary students have their sights set on the Olympics as they work on embodying the characteristics of a champion. This year's elementary theme, Going for the Gold, focuses on students learning the importance of growth mindset, sleep, mindfulness, nutrition and exercise. In addition, the elementary shared decision-making goal is to support the achievement of the NYS Social Emotional Benchmarks. This is happening in the classroom every day through the use of student-led goal-setting, monthly social and emotional learning assemblies, grade-level giving challenges and more.

ER students now published authors

Congratulations to Mrs. Rucci's 2018-19 students, who were selected by Young Writers' Crazy Creatures Contest to be published.

Each student wrote a mini saga. These mini sagas will be published in *Crazy Creatures 2019 - New York Adventures*. The writing was chosen based on imagination, creativity, expression, originality and use of language.

A copy of this book will be sent to The Library of Congress in Washington, DC to provide a lasting record of her students' achievement.



Bridging the gap with Generation Two

Like so many of us in today's fast-paced society, young children need time, including time to play and time with nurturing and supportive adults. Generation Two (G2) works within elementary schools to provide much needed playtime and adult connection to children.

"Children have been learning through play across cultures from the beginning of time," said Giessler. "It's their work. It is natural for them and how they learn best."

Once a week, kindergarten students have the undivided attention of an adult for 30 minutes. During this time, children are encouraged to do what they do best: play. There are no specific expectations placed on the children during this time. Rather, each child's adult volunteer spends time engaged in one-on-one play with them.

"Children are learning about counting and shapes and colors through toys and games," explained Giessler. "Supporting their learning in ways that are natural for them. Although it is difficult to quantify a program like G2, a study done 10 years ago indicated that the children who participated in G2 liked themselves, school and their teachers more than children who did not have a supportive G2 friend. They had fewer disciplinary referrals."

G2 volunteers include college students, professionals, police officers, and many others. For the children, the benefits of the relationships created through play are often long-lasting. For more information and to volunteer, please visit www.g2rochester.org.

2019-20 school year in photos

Students were all smiles to get back to school this September. First day and other photos can always be found on our district Facebook page, just click "albums."



Authentic conversations about diversity

Inspired by the deep conversations involving race and equality, an amazing group of students at East Rochester have come together to form a club known as Diversity Ambassadors. The club stemmed a book study during the fall of 2018. Over the course of the last year, the Diversity Ambassadors not only participated in a panel presentation for their teachers during a monthly faculty meeting, but also led 41 classroom roundtable discussions with all

Jr./Sr. High School students.

The work of the equity in education has become such a focus at the state level that it was the theme at this year's SAANYS (School Administrators Association of NYS) conference. Highlighting the power of change that was created by the Diversity Ambassadors, High School Principal Dr. Casey van Harssel was invited to facilitate a workshop that was designed to encourage and create student voice within school districts.



East Rochester musicians impress

Six students in grades 7-8 had the privilege of performing in the Junior Hochstein Wind Symphony on Oct. 19. They had to compete and apply to earn their spot in this six-week program and dedicated two hours each Saturday to rehearsals. Congratulations to Elise Smith, Grace Fouser, Evan Boldt, Isabella Alexander, Jillian Fox and Domenic Romach (not pictured) on this wonderful achievement.



MLA students rake in the good will

Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students took to the streets on Nov. 4 for a village-wide raking project. Throughout the day, 220 students raked the front yards of approximately 750 homes in the Village of East Rochester. The goal of this event was to create the opportunity for MLA students to experience the power of giving their time and energy to something bigger than themselves. Many thanks to those who donated rakes to make this community service project possible: Debbie Supply Inc., The Home Depot of Penfield, the Village of East Rochester, the Perinton Community Church and district staff members.



HOMECOMING SPIRIT on display



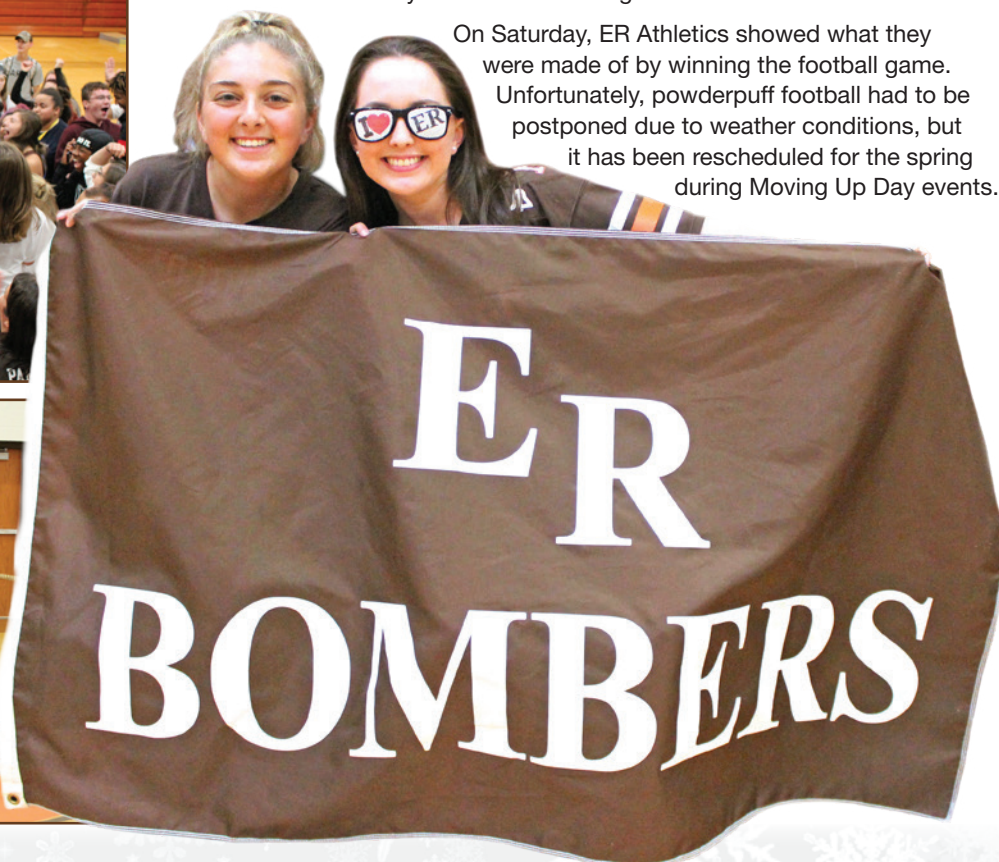
The 2019 Homecoming Spirit Week was one for the history books. There was record participation in the themed dress-up days with the junior class pulling just ahead of the seniors for overall class participation.

The Friday afternoon spirit assembly featured students contorting themselves into a human knot, showing off their quirky sides with a human scavenger hunt and battling it out with their renditions of the ER Fight Song. The highlight of the afternoon was definitely the rock, paper, scissors entourage game, where the sophomore class, lead by Cole Ricci, came out on top.

That evening, the posters came back out for the Homecoming Parade lead by Senior King Alex Morales and Queen Jena Faucher, Junior Prince Max Wagner and Princess Sarah Stone, Sophomore Prince Zachary Axe & Princess Saniyah Lipford, and Freshmen Prince Jeremy Blanchard and Princess Daja James. Students enjoyed the bonfire before heading into the school to dance the night away at the homecoming dance.



On Saturday, ER Athletics showed what they were made of by winning the football game. Unfortunately, powderpuff football had to be postponed due to weather conditions, but it has been rescheduled for the spring during Moving Up Day events.



Winter sports are coming

As we wrap up the fall season, we are excited to look forward to the action that will take place here at East Rochester this season. We have a number of returning wrestlers to take to the mats this winter for the Bombers. The wrestling team under Coach Andy Grammatico returns strong wrestlers in Michael Raschiatore and Eric Wilson, while Jayme Taylor looks to represent ER at both the Newark tournament and at Sectionals and States for female wrestlers. The defending champions in Section V Indoor Track and Field are excited to go about the challenging task of defending

their Sectional Championships against the elite runners and field participants in Section V. Their Season begins the first week in December.

The girls basketball team has a number of returners, with a strong supporting staff surrounding ER's Big 3 in Lily Funk, Zoe Zutes and Samantha Lewis. The girls team has strong depth with a number of players that can go out and score 20 points on any given night. We look forward to your support of our winter sports and student-athletes.

Tradition continues with 2019 Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic

The East Rochester Alumni Foundation is proud to announce that it raised more than \$21,000 at this year's Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic Golf Tournament. The tournament, which was held at Lima Country Club on Aug. 2, featured nearly 200 players, with a total of 225 players and guests on hand for the post-tournament awards luncheon and presentation of this year's Distinguished Alumni Award.

In addition to the very generous support of more than 150 individuals and businesses who donated cash, gifts and prizes valued at more than \$15,000, the foundation raised almost \$5,000 by raffling off four Cleveland Browns home game club tickets and four pregame sideline passes. These tickets were donated by ERHS Class of 1991 graduate and the Cleveland Brown's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer David Jenkins. During the awards luncheon, Jenkins was presented with the foundation's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award.

As for the golf portion of the event, this year's winning foursome on the Charleston Pines course was captained by Gary DiFlorio. His teammates were Patrick DiFlorio, John Barnhardt and Eddie O'Hare. First place finishers on the Island Oaks course were Martin Wojick, Pat Mauro, Paul Wurtenburg and Tim Vergo. Proficiency awards such as Closest to the Pin and Most Accurate Drive went to Jean Berry, Marty LaFica III, Mike Ruth, Tim Pellittiere, Andy Amsden and Nick Urzetta. Collecting \$100 each for being closest to the pin on our two mulligan holes were Allen Berry and Larry DiGiovanni. Andrew Seidel won the putting contest and also received the \$100 cash prize.

The Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic (SUAC) has been the foundation's primary fundraiser since the SUAC was first held in 2007. Proceeds from this event are used by the foundation to fund education-oriented grants for the benefit of East Rochester students across all grade levels. The Alumni Foundation has raised more than \$180,000 and has used those dollars to fund the above-mentioned grants.

Thank you to all players, sponsors, guests, volunteers and golf committee members for assistance delivering this wonderful annual event to benefit East Rochester students.



SAVE THE DATE

SAM URZETTA ALUMNI CLASSIC (SUAC) GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, AUG. 7, 2020
LIMA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

7470 CHASE ROAD, LIMA, NY 14485

REGISTRATION, COFFEE, DONUTS AND
PUTTING CONTEST AT 7:15 A.M.

TOURNAMENT START TIME AT 9 A.M.



If you are planning a class reunion for 2020, please consider holding it the weekend of Aug. 7-9 so you can include the 13th annual SUAC on your schedule of reunion events.

East Rochester alumni honored

Three East Rochester alumni are among the newest inductees into the Section V Football Hall of Fame. The hall of fame, established in 1998, recognizes and honors those who have attained excellence and success in football. Dennis Greco, Rob Schroeder and Ron Whitcomb were inducted at an event earlier this year.

Dennis Greco coached football for 40 years and served as head coach at East Rochester/Gananda for 25 of those years, compiling a record of 150-8-0. During his tenure at East Rochester/Gananda his teams won two Monroe County Championships and eight Finger Lakes East Championships, while appearing in nine Sectional Championships and winning the Class B Sectional title in 2012. Greco has been the recipient of Coach of the Year eight times, the Finger Lakes Football Official Jerry Robinson Memorial Award and the Buffalo Bills Coach of the Week Award three times.

Rob Schroeder has a stellar career as nose guard recording 21 sacks and 72 solo tackles from the East Rochester Bombers, earning All Greater Rochester honors in 2000 and MVP of the Governor's Bowl. Among his accolades, he received a full scholarship at the University at Buffalo and was a four-year starter, leading the nation in blocked kicks during his career. After college he continued playing the sport he loves in the CFL and AFL with the Hamilton Tiger Cats, Rochester Raiders, Austin Wranglers, Utah Blaze, Orlando Predators and Chicago Slaughter from 2006-2009.

Ron Whitcomb capped his high school career playing for the East Rochester Bombers, graduating as the All-Time leading passer in 2001 with 4,303 yards, 41 TDs and two Section V Final appearances. An All Greater Rochester football selection in 2001, Whitcomb played in both the Eddie Meath All-Star Game and the NYS Governor's Bowl before attending the University of Maine. Whitcomb is currently a quarterback coach at Old Dominion University but continues to support Section V Football and its student-athletes by recruiting out of the Rochester area.



**East Rochester Union Free
School District**

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Resident

Upcoming Events

December

- 4-17 Grades 2-8 District Winter Art Show
- 7 PTA Breakfast with Santa
- 7 ER Christmas Festival and Advent Craft Sale
- 7 Bomber Basketball Classic: ER vs. Bloomfield
- 10 PTA Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 10 Grades 6-12 Winter Instrumental Concert, 7-8 p.m., HS Auditorium
- 12 Free Open/Lap Swim (Sea Dragons), 7-8:30 p.m.
- 17 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., District Office
- 18 Grades 3-5 Elementary Winter Concert, 7-8 p.m., HS Auditorium
- 20 ER Jazz, 12-1 p.m., Monroe Co. Exec. Office Bldg.
- 23-31 Holiday Recess - No School UPK-12**



January

- 1-3 Holiday Recess - No School UPK-12**
- 4 Daryl Pierson Duals Wrestling Tournament
- 6 Modified winter sports begin (session II)
- 7 Board of Education Meeting, Next Step meeting with Class of 2018, 6-7 p.m., District Office
- 9 Free Open/Lap Swim (Sea Dragons), 7-8:30 p.m.
- 10 Vocal and Instrumental Jazz Solo Festival, Brighton HS
- 14 PTA Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 17 Grades 9-12 Instrumental Solo Festival, Fairport Minerva-Deland
- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School UPK-12**
- 21-23 Regents Examinations
- 21 Board of Education Meeting, 7-8 p.m., District Office
- 23 Free Open/Lap Swim (Sea Dragons), 7-8:30 p.m.
- 24 Grades 7-8 Instrumental Solo Festival, Brighton Twelve Corners
- 27-30 UPK and Kindergarten Registration
- 31 Grades 6-12 Second Quarter Marking Period Ends
- 31 Grades 4-6 Instrumental Solo Festival, Pittsford Barker Rd MS

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connected!

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