



# EAST ROCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT School District News

Fall 2021

## Welcoming students back to school!

After a much-deserved summer vacation, ER students returned to the classroom for in-person learning this September. For the first time since March 2020, all students were back in school, face-to-face with their teachers, every day. The energy on campus during the first week was buzzing, as students and teachers alike were eager to reconnect with their friends and classmates.

Annual traditions and events returned, most notably the return to a regular fall sports season with Homecoming Week in early October. Parents were able to visit their child's classroom during the Open House event at the Elementary School, while MLA and HS families were able to discuss curriculum questions with teachers during the Block Party Open House. As the holiday season approaches, music students prepare to perform their winter concerts live in front of an audience.

One thing is evident as the school year begins, students (and staff!) have an exciting year ahead with the long-awaited return to "normal."



## 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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## A message from the Superintendent

East Rochester Families,

As I have shared recently, we have been developing a process to establish district goals so that we can better track outcomes for students. This work will culminate in a formal strategic education plan entitled Discover 2022-27, that we anticipate will receive final Board of Education approval as early as December 2021. As we have shared previously, the four guiding principles listed below continue to support the district's long-standing vision and mission statements, while providing a template for targeted goals that we will use to gauge the effectiveness of our work with students.

- Targeted Academic Success
- Social and Emotional Stability
- Engagement in Education
- Alignment of Support Systems

Here are two examples of the building goals we have been drafting which are aligned to the targeted academic success principle.. At the elementary level, in an effort to target academic success, teachers are using data from i-Ready to formulate measurable goals around the number of students who will reach average typical growth in both math and reading. The initial draft of the goal sets a target of a four percent increase in these measures by the end of June 2022. Teachers use benchmark assessments throughout the year to monitor progress. This benchmark data is utilized by teams of teachers and administrators to adapt instruction and identify the potential for intervention and/or enrichment to support student needs.

At the secondary level our drafts include a target of 90% for the four year graduation rate. In an effort to increase the graduation rate, the school will:

- analyze how attendance rate affects course passing/failure rates,
- analyze data on the five regents exams, and
- use data to create academic profiles of graduate and non-graduate students.

Using that information, the school will examine opportunities for any high school credit-bearing courses that can be taken prior to ninth grade, examine alternate tracks where available, and develop a Middle Level Response to Intervention (RTI) System. By doing this, the school will indicate students in grades nine through twelve who are off-track, in terms of credits, and intervene.

This ongoing, dynamic and challenging work is essential in meeting the academic, social/emotional, and cultural needs of our students and our district. More specific information on our Discover 2022-27 education plan will be forthcoming, pending board approval.

In closing, staffing levels in all areas are essential to the success of our district initiatives. Therefore, in what will continue to be an ongoing plea until the workforce crisis subsides, we ask your assistance in getting the word out that we are in search of substitutes in multiple job titles including food service, cleaning staff and clerical positions. Substitutes can work in place of an employee on leave, in times of high building activities and in support of special initiatives. We offer a competitive hourly rate and great flexibility in work schedules. Please have any interested individuals contact Jen Flanagan at (585) 248-6328.

Sincerely,

Jim Haugh  
Superintendent of Schools



## The Return of Homecoming!

Students and staff showed off their East Rochester pride throughout Homecoming this year, with creative spirit week outfits and special events, including a parade through town!

Ahead of the parade, during the school day, students competed against one another in the Pep Rally. After battling it out in a number of challenges, the Class of 2022 was victorious and, as a prize, were rewarded free donuts and cider by the student council.

Community members lined Garfield Street to cheer for the floats as they made their way to the school; children grabbing in the air for the candy being thrown by those walking in the parade. It was difficult not to feel a sense of pride and belonging, watching the community come together for Homecoming after a year without.

ER celebrated again later in the evening, as the Varsity Football Team came out on top against Mynderse Academy, with a 40-0 win! Roars made their way to the field from the stands as the crowd cheered on the team, with the student section drumming on a plastic paint tub to add to the noise! Students celebrated the victory at the homecoming dance, immediately following the game.

Saturday racked up four more wins for the district, as the Girls Varsity Volleyball team, Girls Varsity Soccer team, Boys Varsity Soccer team and the Girls Varsity Field Hockey team all defeated their opponents at home.

Thank you to all who joined us on Friday and Saturday for our Homecoming festivities and games.



## New students welcomed during family dinner

ER welcomed families who are new to the district during the annual “New Family Dinner” in early October. Families were invited to join teachers, building administrators and community members for a pizza dinner and information session filled with prizes! Over 75 families attended the event this year, socializing with each other and learning about community resources and the engaging opportunities at ER Schools.



## Open House moves back to the classroom

Families and teachers alike were happy to be back inside the classroom and face-to-face during Open House this year. After moving to a virtual format last year, the school made the transition back to an in-person event at both the elementary and secondary level.

Elementary families toured their child(ren)’s classroom, learned about grade level curriculum, met school counselors and special area providers, and explored the library, gym, art room, music room and cafeteria! Students had a great time showing their parents their locker and the work they have displayed around the classroom. As a special treat, children received popsicles as they left for the night!

Students in grades 6-12 brought their families to the Block Party Open House, outside the front of the school, to visit community resource tables and meet their various course teachers. It was a perfect evening for families to gather outside, grab a (complimentary) hot dog, and chat with their child(ren)’s teacher about all of the opportunities ER offers students to expand their learning experience.

## Welcoming Urban Suburban students

New and returning Urban Suburban students were welcomed to East Rochester this fall. Students entering the District were greeted by their new principals and superintendent. Families and students were given an overview of the Urban Suburban Program and introduced to East Rochester and all it has to offer.

Returning Urban Suburban students were welcomed back with a pizza lunch at East Rochester Elementary School. Program representatives and ERUFSD administration shared important news, updates and words of encouragement.





# Fall sports wrap as winter teams prepare for their season

East Rochester continues to live up to the title “the home of the champions” this fall, after a season that was shifted and adjusted last year due to COVID-19. It was not only great to see our teams back out there, competing in a more traditional way, but to welcome back our fans who are always ready to support our athletes. We would like to thank our athletes, coaches, families and spectators for their support and for doing their part to keep everyone safe while cheering on our ER Bombers.

Our Varsity Football team finished the regular season undefeated, with an 8-0 record heading into sectionals. Our Varsity Field Hockey team is the number three seed in Section V with an impressive record of 11-5 during their regular season. Way to go ladies! While the Varsity Tennis team made it to the second round of team sectionals, Olivia Raschiatore moved on to the semifinals during individual sectionals with her sixtieth and sixty-first career wins.

We look forward to a fairly typical winter season, which will include Wrestling, Boys and Girls Basketball, Indoor Track, Cheer and Hockey. Information on sign-up and start dates for the rest of the year can be found on this page, as well as the district website under the “Athletics” tab.



## Winter Sports Start Dates 2021-2022

Winter Sports Sign-up Meeting and Registration October 13 2:30 p.m.

Modified Boys Basketball Begins Monday, October 25

Winter JV and Varsity Sports Begin Monday, November 15

Modified Wrestling and Modified Girls Basketball Begin Monday, January 3

## Spring Sports Start Dates 2022

All Spring JV and Varsity Sports Begin March 14, 2022

All Modified Sports Begin March 21, 2022

## Fall Sports Start Dates 2022

All Fall JV and Varsity Sports Begin August 22, 2022

Coaches Meeting August 30 6:00 p.m.

Parent, AD, Coach Meeting (all athletes) August 30 7:00 p.m.

Modified Football Tentatively Begins August 25, 2022

All Additional Modified Fall Sports Begin August 29, 2022



## Roisin Dubh rocks Fringe Fest

This year marks Róisín Dubh's 20th anniversary, and the group had the exciting opportunity to perform at the fourth Rochester Fringe Festival in September! The band performed at the Jewish Community Center to a lively crowd of more than 100 people, which included parents and members of the ER school community who were there to show their support of the group. Roisin Dubh is led by ER Music Director Mark Gowman and includes students from the high school and middle school, ranging in age from 12 to 16. The band rocked the crowd with great dance tunes and songs performed by their outstanding vocalists.



## RAD returns

Did you know that East Rochester has a Reading Assistance Dog (RAD) Program that allows for students to read to a dog once a week? The program provides literacy and social-emotional experience for elementary students. It's evident the positive impact the program has on the children, as each students' face lights up with a smile when they are greeted by their furry friend. There are currently ten dogs registered to work with 18 ER students, ranging in age from kindergarten to fifth grade. In addition to the in-person reading buddies, some of the RAD teams will read along with their dogs virtually this year.





## Finding fun with an iReady "100 Challenge"

Students in Ms. Coccia's second grade class had some fun with i-Ready to kick off the school year, earning a campout for their hard work and the time they put into their lessons! i-Ready is an online program that helps determine a child's strengths and areas for growth, personalize their learning, and monitor their progress throughout the school year. It allows teachers to meet children where they are and provides data to inform instruction.

Students at the K-1 level are becoming familiar with the iReady system as they build their digital literacy skills. They are excited by their achievements when they pass lessons with high scores, and are often motivated by those achievements. In Ms. Coccia's class, each time a student receives a 100% on an iReady lesson, they add their unique stamp to the "Class 100 Chart." Once the chart reaches



100 stamps, the class earns a reward! "Before we start a new chart, the class brainstorms some rewards that they would be interested in," says Ms. Coccia. "This time around, the kids wanted to earn a class campout, to celebrate their achievement and our classroom theme. We are now onto our next chart, working toward a pajama day and a movie!"

In addition to the time spent using iReady while in class, students are also encouraged to use i-Ready at home. Students can always access their personalized learning path, called "My Path", as well as Learning Games at home. It is recommended students spend approximately 45 minutes on each subject, each week. There are even iReady challenges over the summer and winter breaks that students can participate in for rewards and prizes!

**Goal: 100 100% on iReady Lessons :)**

**Start Date: 9/27th**



## Students recognized for summer engagement!

Summer learning takes form in lots of different ways. Some families choose to engage in our local public library's summer reading challenge. Some families choose to participate in our Summer Learning Academy and Extended School Year programs. Other families choose to participate in our annual E.R. Elementary summer learning challenge, engaging in at least 60 minutes of reading and math at home each week. The most important thing about summer is to keep children reading and practicing basic math skills in order to prevent student learning loss.

Top prize winners of the ER Elementary Summer Learning Challenge, Dominic and Parker, received a pizza lunch during the first week of school. There were 51 student prize winners in all. Congratulations!!



## Fifth graders help teach 3Bs at Elementary School

ER elementary students are continuously developing as model citizens, thanks to the implementation of the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support) system that acknowledges students for following three basic rules: Be safe, Be responsible, and Be respectful. Otherwise known as the 3Bs.



New this year, all fifth grade students are teaching younger students the 3B expectations for every area of the school—from the cafeteria, to the hallway, to the bathroom, even outside to the sidewalk.

In a typical year, students who follow school rules are acknowledged by teachers and staff with "Bee Bucks." Those who earn the required number of Bee Bucks use their "Bucks" to purchase incentives. This year, the older students are demonstrating to the younger learners what it looks like to follow the 3Bs, and they are proving to be great leaders!



## Students show appreciation for ER Board of Education

The ER Board of Education was surprised with a special presentation during their October board meeting, in recognition of school board appreciation month. Students at the elementary school expressed their gratitude through handmade letters and cards that were delivered to the board members by Elementary Assistant Principal Jared Snyder. After being handed the letters, the board was shown a video of students from the Middle Level Academy and the High School, thanking the members for the time they dedicate to the district to ensure their school experience is a positive one.



## Teachers able to gather for professional learning this summer

Though it may have looked different this year- an outdoors welcome in the Don Quinn Stadium and some Professional Development in oversized rooms- teachers were able to come together during the weeks leading up to the first day, to prepare for students to return to school. Presenters from the Children's Institute visited the school to

work with staff during Professional Development sessions focused on Trauma Informed Social Emotional Learning Practices. Teachers also had opportunities to learn about family engagement, utilizing digital resources and recognizing implicit bias from peers within the district, as well as presenters from outside organizations.

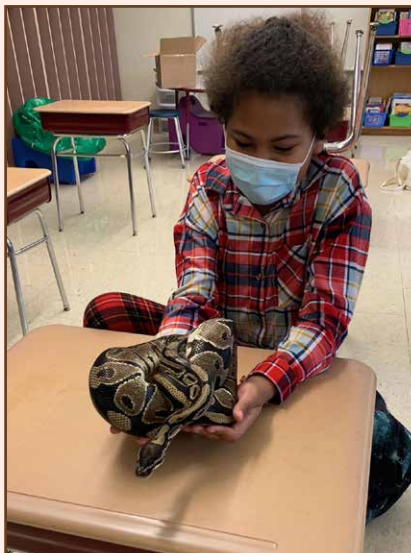


## Pick-up and drop-off reminder:

As the weather grows cooler and winter approaches, families are reminded that, in the event you must drive your child to or from school, the district does need your cooperation to ensure the 20 minute windows of traffic congestion at arrival and dismissal are safe, and traffic does continue to flow both on campus and in the village. Please do not park on Brizee or Williams Streets during arrival and dismissal, and please make sure that you are dropping or picking up elementary students in the main loop and MLA and high school students in the main parking lot. This will be especially important in inclement weather.

## Summer learning bridges gap

Children involved in the Summer Learning Academy and Extended School Year programs at ER were able to reinforce reading, writing and math skills this summer, all while having fun! Students enjoyed special events including a reptile show with Safari Seth, science exploration with "Science Guys" Mr. Bates and Mr. Brownell, a live petting zoo and more! "We had some wonderful learning opportunities for the children that went along with our theme "Be a Learning Animal," says Elementary Principal Marisa Capuano (Philp). There were attendance incentives each week including reading to therapy dogs, being Mr. Bates' zoo keeper assistant, and a grand prize of earning a personal pan pizza from community partner JT's Pizza and Plates!



## Federal grant money being put to use

Using some of the Federal learning loss grant money allotted to ER, the District has hired a second elementary school counselor to provide Tier 1 intervention and support for students, families and staff members, 4.0 full time equivalent or "FTE" additional reading and math-support teaching positions at the elementary level to provide increased support and 3.4 FTE additional positions at the Middle Level Academy and High School to increase outcomes in math and reading, as well as organizational structure support.

## 'PTA' becomes the 'PTO'

On behalf of the East Rochester Parent Teacher Organization, we would like to take this opportunity to keep you updated on the changes happening with our organization!

We have officially changed from a "PTA" to a "PTO". For the most part, you won't see much of a difference at all in how our group operates and what we do for the school. The major difference is that all money donated to the PTO will stay in the school. PTAs must pay state and national association fees out of every membership due collected; PTOs do not have to pay any association fees. The other change is that PTOs are independent and we can set policies and procedures that work best for our school, rather than abiding by the state & national PTA-mandated bylaws.

The PTO membership is automatic for parents, guardians and all school staff members (no annual dues required!). Our efforts are geared toward supporting our school community which includes staff, teachers, students and our parents.

Below, you will find the annual budget of PTO-sponsored or financially-aided events that will not be made possible without this ongoing collaborative effort:

Scholastic Book Fair \$100  
Breakfast with Santa \$300  
Fairy Tale Ball \$400  
Staff Appreciation Lunch \$3000  
Distinguished Service Award \$100  
Tv Turn-off Week \$250  
Pre-k Ice Cream Social \$100  
5th Grade T-shirts \$450  
Senior Scholarships \$1000  
Senior Bash \$500  
8th Grade Graduation \$100

Family Learning Night \$100  
New Family Dinner \$100  
ER Crew T-shirts \$300  
MLA Dinner & a Show \$100  
Hats, Mittens, Umbrellas \$150

We like to ensure that whenever there is a need in the school, we can help to financially offset those needs. When administration comes to us for assistance for an event, we want to do everything we possibly can to help. We run completely on volunteers and donations, so every dollar goes right to these activities.

These programs would not be successful without the generous donations of our community, parents and school staff.

Monthly meetings are open to everyone and are held in the High School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m.:

We are looking forward to another successful and fun school year!

- 9/14/2021
- 10/12/2021
- 11/9/2021
- 12/14/2021
- 1/11/2022
- 2/8/2022
- 3/8/2022
- 4/12/2022
- 5/10/2022
- 6/14/2022

Thank you,

PTO Board Members

Amber Johnson, President  
Jessica Ingham, Vice President  
Rebecca Zelazny, Secretary  
Nicole Vosburgh, Treasurer

Follow us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/erpto>

## Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic Golf Tournament returns!

The Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic (SUAC) returned to the delight of a full field of golfers/donors on August 6, 2021 at Ravenwood Golf Club. The SUAC Golf Committee and greater ERAF Board of Directors were faced with a tough situation back in January when we started planning for this event. Due to the uncertainty at the time, it was our goal to plan a tournament that maximized flexibility, was safe for all, and was worthy of the "Home of Champions". Based on the extremely positive feedback received, we met our goals! With the help of our participants, donors, and sponsors, SUAC 2021 raised ~\$23K, more than ever before, ultimately to the benefit of the children of East Rochester!



Plans are already underway for SUAC 2022. Due to the overwhelming response to this year's event, SUAC 2022 will be held at Ravenwood Golf Club on Monday, July 25, 2022. This date was chosen to be in sync with the ERFD Carnival, presenting a participation opportunity for out of town visitors. In order to accommodate more participants, we will have an 18-hole morning flight and a 9-hole afternoon flight, with lunch in between for all participants. More details, including when registration will open, will be forthcoming.



### Alumni Grants

Urban Suburban Welcome Picnic  
New Student Welcome Swag Bags  
New Student Welcome 30 Day Buddy Luncheon  
ER Family Learning Night  
2nd Grade Smoke Detectors  
Veterans & Memorial Day Roses





**East Rochester Union Free  
School District**

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Resident

## ER increases security with Single Point of Entry

In an effort to increase security and provide the highest level of safety for East Rochester Union Free School District students and staff, the district utilizes a secure single point of entry for the elementary, MLA and high school during school hours. All visitors will be required to enter and exit the building at the high school main entrance from 8:40 a.m. until 2 p.m. when school is in session. Afternoon UPK families will pick-up and drop-off at the elementary school entrance.



## Upcoming Dates:

### Tuesday, November 9

UPK Parent Teacher Conferences  
Board of Education Meeting

### Wednesday, November 10

Elementary Veterans' Assembly

### Thursday, November 11

Veterans' Day- NO SCHOOL

### November 15-17

PTO Book Fair

### Monday, November 15

Start of Modified, JV and Varsity Winter Sports

### November 24-26

Thanksgiving Recess- NO SCHOOL

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