



# EAST ROCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT School District News

Fall 2022

## Welcoming students back to school!

As students filled the halls of ER Schools in September, teachers and staff were there to welcome them for another year of fun, engaging lessons, exciting athletic competitions and a wide array of extracurricular events. The energy on campus during the first week was buzzing, as students and teachers alike were eager to reconnect with their friends and classmates.



Students have started the year with exciting lessons inside the classroom, as well as learning opportunities outside the classroom during class field trips! In addition to lessons outside the building, classes were able to leave the classroom for outside presentations from organizations visiting the ER campus, including a safety presentation from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Our juniors and seniors also had an opportunity to speak with area colleges during the first week of October, as the Rochester Area College Fair visited the high school.

Families were invited to campus throughout September and October for school open houses, our new family dinner and an exciting Homecoming weekend filled with our parade and a number of athletic contests.

Thank you to the students, staff and families who have made it a great start to the school year!



## 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 School Community,

Thank you all for a great start to the 2022-2023 school year! It is refreshing to have an academic focus, free of the overregulation we faced in our two most recent school years.

Our elementary students are benefiting from new reading-instructional strategies our teachers have acquired in recent professional development. Our secondary students have taken one more step toward adulthood as they enter the next grade and prepare ultimately for their senior year and what lies ahead for them after graduation. I am thrilled we have committed staff, students and families working toward a common goal of making sure our students have a clear path after graduation.

Our emergency response procedures are in effect, many times behind the scenes. Since the beginning of the school year our administrators, school resource officer and the East Rochester Police Department have investigated false reports, unfounded accusations and even monitored threats about a hoax played on school districts

in NYS which attempted to elicit full blown emergency responses to fake emergencies. This is in addition to an occasional student choosing to make inappropriate threatening statements to or about each other that cause us to respond much differently today than if the same comments were made when many of us parents were in school back in the day.

I ask our East Rochester families to ensure that our students are not engaging in risky communications with people they do not know on social media. We also realize that families can be a huge help and ally to schools as we try to eliminate social drama or the spreading of inaccurate information via social media. Thank you in advance for your assistance in avoiding significant interruptions to the educational process on our campus.

Sincerely,

Jim Haugh  
Superintendent of Schools



## ER Bombers come together during Homecoming weekend

The East Rochester community came together to show Bomber pride throughout Homecoming this year, with a creative spirit week, the high school pep rally, an entertaining Homecoming parade and a number of exciting athletic contests!



To kick off Friday's festivities, high school students competed against one another in a spirited pep rally. Students battled it out in a number of challenges including musical chairs, marshmallow drop, hungry hungry hippos and a dance off. After points were awarded for spirit week theme days, the class poster contest, participation in the parade and the pep rally, the Class of 2026 came out on top. Way to go freshmen!

Friday evening, members of the ER community lined Main Street to cheer on a number of floats and marchers as they made their way to the school. Joy lit the faces of students along the sidewalk, as they attempted to grab at candy being thrown by those in the parade.

It was another successful Homecoming weekend for ER Athletics, with the ER/Gananda Bombers Football team coming out on top Friday night during a matchup against Waterloo, the Girls Varsity Field Hockey team defeating West Irondequoit, Girls Varsity Volleyball coming back to defeat Clyde Savannah in five sets, our Girls Varsity Soccer team battling hard in a loss to Finney, while our Boys Varsity Soccer team had an exciting game to cap off the Homecoming events with a two overtime tie against Finney.

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





## Starting the year with a scavenger hunt

The third grade class celebrated the end of the first five day week together with a class-wide scavenger hunt. Students had a chance to meet new friends and say hi to old friends. What a great start to the new school year!



## Elementary students recognized for summer work

Congratulations to our elementary students recognized for their work during the I-Ready Summer Challenge! Students were recognized during a morning assembly, before Bucket Fillers Bruce and Brianna (played by Principal Capuano and AP Snyder) took the stage to discuss the first Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) of the school year.



## ER Schools welcome families during open houses

Students and their families visited ER Elementary in September for the Open House/Curriculum night, exploring rooms and displays that were put together by teachers to create a welcoming atmosphere as families learned about the school, their students' teachers and the amazing programs at ER Elementary!

The following evening, MLA and High School families attended the Block Party Open House event, held in the high school gymnasium this year. Tables with teachers from each academic department and a number of extracurriculars were set up for families to explore and meet with teachers and staff. Families were also entertained during the event by members of Roisin Dubh, Select Choir and the High School Jazz Band.





# ER proves once again we are the Home of the Champions

ER Athletics saw another successful fall season, with all of our fall teams demonstrating that East Rochester is the “Home of the Champions.”

The ER Girls Varsity Field Hockey team recently merged with Gates-Chili, and the team has had an impressive season this fall. The team started off the year with a series of wins against quality large school teams, including a four game win streak over Webster Thomas, Webster Schroeder, Hilton and Eastridge leading up to homecoming week.

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.

We look forward to an exciting winter athletic season! 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 2022-2023

Modified Boys Basketball Begins October 24

Winter JV and Varsity Sports and Modified Track Begin November 14

Modified Wrestling and Modified Girls Basketball Begin January 3

## Spring Sports Start Dates 2023

All Spring JV and Varsity Sports Begin March 13

All Modified Sports Begin March 27



## Roisin Dubh rocks Fringe Fest



Róisín Dubh returned to the Rochester Fringe Festival this September for the

7th time in 11 years, performing crowd favorites like The Rocky Road to Dublin, I'll Tell Me Ma and Carrickfergus. Out of more than 500 performances and 100,000 spectators, Róisín Dubh was the only school music group to perform at this year's Fringe Festival. Thanks to all our community members who attended and supported the group!

## ER musicians selected for Area All-State



Congratulations to our ER musicians who were selected for Area All-State! Angelina Batz and Jack Lambert from Junior High Mixed Chorus, Sophia Walter from Senior High Treble Chorus and Henry Fox from Senior High Mixed Chorus will all perform at Area All-States in December.

## Students perform for families during Block Party Open House

Roisin Dubh, Select Choir and the HS Jazz Band performed for families attending the Block Party Open House in September. Families were welcomed to the building with music from the student musicians, before entering the gym to learn more about the academic departments and school groups.



## Elementary music groups are back!

Third Grade Chorus meets every Monday from 7:30-8:10 a.m. and Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus meets every Wednesday from 7:30-8:10 a.m. New members are always welcome!

Fifth Grade Band meets on Tuesday and Fridays from 7:30 - 8:10 a.m. Fourth Grade Band beginner lessons have also begun, on a regular schedule. Contact Mrs. Zito if you want to join the band program.

## ER Elementary receives Primary Project National Certification



East Rochester Elementary School has been presented with a Primary Project National Certification from the Children's Institute. Primary Project is a national evidence-based program that helps children in Pre-K through third grade adjust to school, gain confidence, social skills and focus on learning. Primary Project addresses children's school adjustment difficulties and increases their chances for success by identifying young children who show emerging school adjustment difficulties and providing them with one-on-one time with a specially trained and supervised paraprofessional.

The program coordinator of the Primary Project in East Rochester is Elementary Principal Marisa Capuano. Program supervision during the start-up of the program was accomplished by Counselor Amanda Wigle and was taken over by Counselor La'Ron White for

the 2021-22 school year. ER retiree Sharon Smith was also integral to the program. Liz Pappas stepped into the role vacated by Mrs. Smith this fall.

To earn this certification, East Rochester Elementary School met the required number of critical and essential elements of the Primary Project rubric. Areas of strength in our Primary Project program are noted below.

- Services to children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade.
- A systematic screening and selection process.
- Services to children by a valued child associate.
- Consistent weekly supervision of the child associate by our certified mental health professional.
- Quantitative program evaluation.
- Integration of Primary Project into a continuum of programs in the school.
- The Primary Project playroom is a well-lit, inviting space for students.

The certification is valid for three years through July 2025.

## ER Schools remain busy during the Summer Break

The team at East Rochester Schools was busy over the summer, preparing for the new school year. Combining traditional summer programming with the numerous initiatives developed with the federal relief funds dedicated to learning loss transformed the traditional 10-month school calendar into a 12-month commitment to helping students develop to their full potential.

Seventy-three elementary students participated in our Summer Learning Academy, where they experienced unique learning opportunities. Henry Padron-Morales of Hipocampo Children's Books presented a series of interactive percussion sessions to familiarize students to the rhythms of Bomba and Plena. He used the traditional method of call and response to teach the rhythms and chants. Students also had the opportunity to hear former ER School Resource Officer Scotty Montecrieff play the bagpipes and discuss the culture behind bagpipes.

Seven students attended the special education summer program on campus and thirty-two students attended special education programs at BOCES or other out of district summer placements.

Students entering ninth grade completed various exercises this summer that asked them to evaluate their organization, time management, study and test taking skills, decision making and problem solving— games like memory, Jenga and Battleship were used to help strengthen executive functioning for the transition to high school. Students also read articles focusing on the purpose of graphs, charts, maps and political cartoons which they will be exposed to during math, science and social studies classes. These articles ask students to analyze and reflect on the information, which is something they will be required to do in all of their classes at the high school.

Though optional, ER Schools had a successful summer of High Intensity Tutoring, with many students attending most days of the program. Students entering sixth grade in the fall were able to preview math concepts they'd be learning during the upcoming school year. Throughout the program, students gained confidence through "lightbulb" moments with concepts they had previously misunderstood.

In addition to the academic programs this summer, over 200 students received swim classes and open swim and sixty five students attended the inaugural ER Jazz enrichment camp in August.





## Board of Education appoints new President

During the Reorganizational Meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, the East Rochester Board of Education elected a new president for the 2022-23 school year.

Board member Patrick Flanagan was elected by the board to serve as president this year. He replaces former president Jennifer Majewski Lesinski.

Vice President Vincent Antonicelli will remain in his role for the upcoming school year.



## Board of Education recognized in October

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 with thank you notes. Literacy students at the Middle Level Academy and the High School thanked the members for the time they dedicate to the district to ensure their school experience is a positive one by writing notes of appreciation that were delivered to the board members. Each member of the board was also presented a special certificate by the administrative team, thanking them for everything they do to help support our students and school.



## Teachers prepare for students' return to school

New teaching staff was welcomed to the District in August, during their own orientation. Teachers had the opportunity to get to know each other and the District through a number of activities and professional development opportunities.



All teachers in the District gathered the week before school began for professional development and to prepare for the return of students. During this time, teachers participated in LETRS training, workshops in restorative initiatives and team building exercises.



## ER welcomes new MLA/HS Principal

East Rochester Schools welcomed new MLA/HS Principal Alicia Shippy this summer. Ms. Shippy was formally appointed to the position during the June Board of Education meeting and spent the summer working with the team in ER to prepare for the start of the school year.

Ms. Shippy helped welcome students back on September 6 and has been working with staff to foster a welcoming and supportive environment for all students, including establishing a partnership with Partner in Restorative Initiatives (PIRI) to engage staff and students in community building and restorative practices.

ER Schools is happy to have Ms. Shippy working with our school community in her new role.



## Support ERPTO through Amazon Smile

If you have an Amazon account, AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support the ERPTO every time you shop, at no cost to you! AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

## Volunteer Coordinator needed

Are you a people person who isn't afraid to strike up a conversation with a stranger? ERPTO is looking for a volunteer coordinator to recruit helpers for parent group programs and events and to help parents find the best way to plug into our school community. If you are enthusiastic and understanding of parents' many time constraints, they'd love for you to help them do even more great things for our school!



PARENT - TEACHER - STUDENT - COMMUNITY

## ERPTO presents teachers with gift

Thank you to the ERPTO for welcoming back our teachers for the 2022-23 school year with a special gift. It's going to be a great year!



## ERPTO depends on you!

You can support the ERPTO by donating either funds or your time. 100 percent of all donated funds stay right in the ER school community, going toward events such as the Fairy Tale Ball, Screen Free Week, Family Learning Night, the Senior Bash and more. Donations are also used to purchase class and team t-shirts, free-to-student books, classroom supplies, event prizes, senior scholarships and more. If you are interested in making a donation, you can do so through the Donation Form found on the ERPTO website: [www.eastrocpto.org](http://www.eastrocpto.org). Thank you for your most generous support!

## Mark McDermott receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Submitted by Anita Mance

Since 2009, fifteen people have received the East Rochester Alumni Foundation Distinguished Alumni Award. The award serves to "recognize former East Rochester graduates for noteworthy lifetime accomplishments and contributions. Additionally, the award offers a powerful opportunity to underscore the potential which exists for kids who are lucky enough to grow up and be educated in East Rochester."

For many years the award was presented at our Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic Golf Tournament. These past two years the presentation has taken place at a dinner at the Quinzi Lodge in Eyer Park.

This year's recipient is Mark McDermott. A 1974 ER graduate, Mark received degrees from Community College of the Finger Lakes and Nazareth College, majoring in environmental science and fine arts. As a sculptor, his works can be seen throughout the Rochester area, and his work on our village Parks Committee has shown his care for our community. The words on the plaque he received state:

**Founder of his Archigrapia design firm and a leader in the East Rochester Parks Committee and Housing Authority. An accomplished artist, sculptor, and environmentalist whose works are unique and provocative. Whether creating memorials for events or people of the past, or supervising the planting of trees and gardens for the present, Mark is helping to ensure our future. We thank him for inspiring us through his creativity.**

While Mark received a plaque of his own, copies of the plaques of all of our past recipients may be viewed in the alumni display case in the high school auditorium foyer.



## Alumni Association hosts Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic golf tournament

On Monday July 25, the East Rochester Alumni Foundation held the 2022 Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic golf tournament at Ravenwood Golf Club in Victor, NY. A full field of 136 golfers hit the links in the morning for the 18 hole format and another 28 duffers teed off in the inaugural 9 hole format in the afternoon.

For a second consecutive year, the comments and overall response was overwhelmingly positive. Some of the comments included: "What a nice tournament. We really had a great time and were able to catch up with old friends. Very nice course."

The initial response to the new 9 hole format was extremely positive, as well as the belief this new option will continue to become more popular over the next several years. Thank you to all that attended. We look forward to seeing you on August 7, 2023!





**East Rochester Union Free  
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Resident

## ER Schools enhance security protocols

As we work to continually improve school safety and provide a secure and safe learning environment for our students, we've enhanced our safety and security protocols in a number of ways over the summer months.

- One enhancement is a new electronic access control system. This new system includes an updated and improved management system to monitor access to our building, as well as strategic additions such as door lock scheduling at key entryways and magnetic-hold open device scheduling to further control traffic throughout our facility.
- We are also in the process of rekeying all exterior doors to the main building to only allow access through our updated electronic card access system for the majority of our staff and building users.
- Aside from physical facility upgrades, we've increased our contracted security services to provide additional coverage in the evening hours and extended monitoring of our single point of entry for a majority of after-school events.
- Lastly, we have reviewed our emergency response plans with all staff during our opening day faculty meetings, to ensure preparedness for a variety of potential emergencies we may encounter.

## New traffic signage keeps students safe

Thank you to ER Village leadership and the ER DPW for the fresh crosswalk paint and the two new, flashing crosswalk signs to help keep our students safe!



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