



EAST ROCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT School District News

Fall 2023

Returning to School

The 2023-24 school year began with tremendous excitement in our hallways as students greeted their former teachers, met their new classmates, and began their work with their new teachers! Thank you to all who supported the successful start of the school year.

Campus has been busy this fall, with students participating in athletic competitions, musical performance groups, as well as academic clubs and organizations. It has been wonderful to watch our students explore what the district has to offer and try new things.

There has also been growth within our classrooms this fall, as teachers work with students to achieve academic success through hands-on learning and a number of resources that work to meet students where they are. We look forward to this continued growth as the school year progresses.



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.

Inside this issue:

ER Bombers come together during Homecoming weekend	2
ER Partners with St. John Fisher	3
Roisin Dubh rocks Fringe Fest	4
Capital Improvement Project	5
New Jr./Sr. HS Assistant Principal	6
Distinguished Alumni Award	7



A message from the Superintendent

East Rochester Families,



Thank you to those of you who have helped make the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year a success! We have several important areas of focus in this newsletter so thank you in advance for taking the time to review this material.

We continue our focus on best practices to reach all of our students and meet them where they are to help them reach their full academic potential. Performing an essential part of this work is the group of dynamic new teachers joining our outstanding professional staff of educators on campus as we continue to provide authentic experiences for our students during their time with us. Please welcome them to our school community when you see them at various school functions throughout the year.

Our district will be proposing a Capital Improvement Project this year, with work planned for our pool, roof and HVAC upgrades in the auditorium and high school gymnasiums, as well as safety upgrades throughout the building and Phase 2 of the playground. I encourage our community to follow our updates throughout the fall and vote on Jan. 18. More information regarding the Capital Improvement Project can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

We are thrilled to be able to offer all students free breakfast and lunch each day through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. We have seen an increase in our students joining us for breakfast every day, which is wonderful as it is so important to start the day off with a nutritious meal. Our district has also been able to collaborate with local farms this year, thanks to a state grant our Food Service department was awarded, allowing us to offer students new, exciting meal options throughout the year.

While it is widely accepted that regular and predictable attendance at school is a key factor in sustained success in the classroom, I want to highlight the importance of students also arriving at school on time. The majority of our classrooms begin instructional time shortly after arrival, so it is imperative that we have students in their classrooms when the school day begins. Thank you in advance for reinforcing this expectation with your children and creating healthy attendance habits.

I look forward to the year ahead and hope to see our families on campus for our wide variety of events taking place within our schools.

Sincerely,

Jim Haugh
Superintendent of Schools

East Rochester Celebrates Homecoming

Bomber pride was evident throughout East Rochester this September, as the community came together to celebrate our amazing students during Homecoming- from the Bombers vs. the World Spirit Week, to a spirited high school pep rally, our annual Homecoming parade and a number of athletic contests held throughout the week!

Kicking off the festivities on Friday, our high school students battled it out in a number of challenges to find out which class would come out on top this year. In addition to the pep rally activities, points were awarded for spirit week participation, the class poster contest and involvement with the parade. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 on your homecoming victory this year!

Friday evening, members of the ER community lined Garfield Street to cheer on a number of floats and marchers as they made their way to the school. High school classes carried their class posters throughout the village, athletic teams handed out candy to spectators, and members of the homecoming court were escorted via convertible.

This year marked the return of the Wall of Fame Induction. Ten ER Athletic Alumni were inducted during the ceremony on Saturday, with family and friends there to recognize and honor their collective accomplishments with both East Rochester Schools and in their post-grad lives.

Rounding out the Homecoming festivities, ER athletes competed Friday night and Saturday on campus.



ER Partners with St. John Fisher

East Rochester School District is partnering with St. John Fisher University to encourage college students to enter the field of education. Through this partnership, college students at St. John Fisher have the opportunity to visit East Rochester classrooms to shadow our amazing teachers and experience the profession first-hand. The program also focuses on enhancing culturally responsive education and providing opportunities to students who might not traditionally be interested in entering the field of education. SJFU Education students will have the opportunity to interview for potential jobs at East Rochester.



Bringing local food to ER students

East Rochester Schools was awarded funding through the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program, allowing the district to buy from local farmers. Through the grant, ER was awarded over \$8,000 from the state for local purchases to try to improve relationships between schools and small and socially-disadvantaged businesses. Food Services Director Matt Cusimano applied for the grant last winter, with plans to use the funds during this school year and is submitting a new application in the winter for additional funding.

Plans for the funding include providing students at the high school with a larger variety of food options, including meals made from scratch with local, fresh ingredients. At the moment, these meals will be available as monthly specials, with a potential for fun seasonally-themed options. ER Schools worked with Cornell Cooperative and Headwater Food Hub to connect to local farms including Ridgecrest, Fisher Hill, Lively Run Goat Dairy and Burly Brothers Country Butchery. These local farms will provide the ingredients used in these monthly specials.

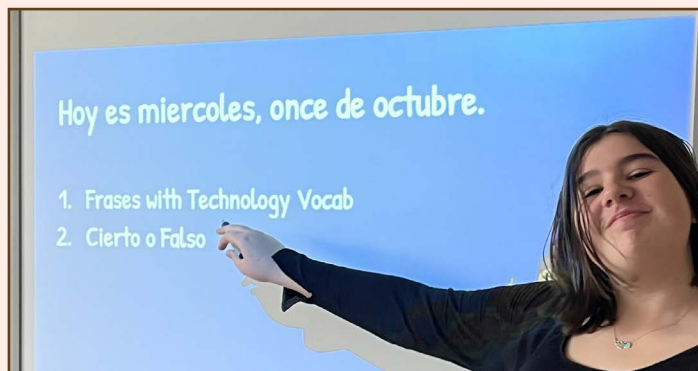
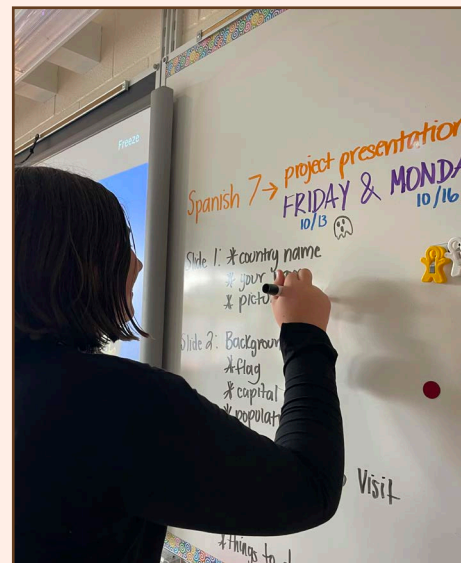
Examples of some of the meals being offered include, but are not limited to, a maple chicken sandwich, buffalo chicken mac and cheese, rubens and birria tacos.

Cusimano says it has long been a goal of his to bring a variety of fresh meal options to the communities he has served. He looks forward to offering that opportunity to students in the East Rochester School District.



Inspiring Future Educators

This year, East Rochester High School is launching a Future Educators Club for students interested in pursuing a career in education! The club, led by advisors Tina Rasmussen and Victoria Waud, provides students with insight into the field and helps students understand what opportunities exist for them within education. This is done through presentations from both internal and external professionals, shadowing opportunities, and field trips to the St. John Fisher University Education Department. The partnership between East Rochester School District and SJFU not only benefits the students, but helps strengthen the teacher pipeline. Students interested in joining the Future Educators Club should reach out to Mrs. Rasmussen or Miss Waud.



Malinda Caron Receives Amazing Teacher Award

East Rochester Elementary's Malinda Caron was honored with the October Amazing Teacher Award from the "Democrat and Chronicle." Caron began teaching at East Rochester School District in 2001 and currently teaches kindergarten. "My kindergartners became my passion. The amount of teaching, growing and learning that happened behind my classroom doors was so rewarding," Caron said. "I was teaching in a co-taught classroom with a co-teacher that I love and appreciate. Each day was new and exciting, and I continue to have a passion for this profession." Caron said building strong relationships with students and their families helps her students find success in the classroom. Congratulations to Malinda for this award and for being an amazing teacher to our students!



Fall Athletic Highlights

East Rochester Boys Varsity Soccer excelled during the fall season, ranking first in the Section V Class C and second in New York State this October. Seniors Jalen McCoy, Tim Salmon and Landon Wollschleger were all instrumental in the push to a great start to the season.

After a run to the Class C Championship game last year, the Girls Volleyball team saw another outstanding season this fall. The team ranked second in Class C and performed at the top of the Wayne County Volleyball League. The volleyball team is led by the outstanding play of senior Carli Daniels and eighth-grader Abby Schofield.

Winter Sports Start Dates 2023-24

Oct. 16, 2023: Winter Sports Sign-up Meeting and Registration

Oct. 23, 2023: Modified Boys Basketball and Modified Cheer Begin

Nov. 11, 2023: Winter JV and Varsity Sports Begin

Jan. 3, 2024: Modified Wrestling and Modified Girls Basketball Begin

East Rochester offers the convenience of online interscholastic athletics eligibility registration through RSchoolToday. As per NYSED and NYSPHSAA, all East Rochester Student Athletes must have medical clearance prior to participation in our athletics program!

Honoring Athletic Alumni during Wall of Fame Induction

East Rochester School District honored 10 alumni during this year's Athletic Wall of Fame Ceremony. This was the first time since 2015 that the ceremony was held, taking place the Saturday morning of homecoming weekend. During the ceremony, each recipient was introduced with a list of their many accomplishments during their time in East Rochester and following graduation. Congratulations to the following alum on this recognition:

Richard Gratton, Class of 1946
Laurie Magoon, Class of 1975
Whitney Michele, Class of 2005
Tim Quinn, Class of 1984
Jason Rucker, Class of 1993

Rob Schroeder, Class of 2001
Lauren Urzetta, Class of 2005
Moe Vincent, Class of 1946
Victoria Warzeski Bothner: Class of 1995
Ron Whitomb, Class of 2002



Róisín Dubh rocks Fringe Fest!

ER's own Róisín Dubh performed at the Rochester Fringe Festival for the eighth time this September! The band performed during a headline time slot this year, bringing in a crowd of more than 100 during their 8 p.m. show at the JCC Friday night. The band performed for an hour, and played some crowd favorites from recent years, including "River," "Carrickfergus," and "The Rocky Road to Dublin." Out of 500 performances and 100,000 spectators during this year's Rochester Fringe Festival, Róisín Dubh was one of only three performances by students!



Vocalists make Area All-State

Congratulations to the following six vocalists who made it to Area All-State this year:

Bilene Ugine

Angelina Batz

Sophia Walter

Jack Lambert

Matthew Witkowski

Jacob Firlit



Maintaining Our Investment

Proposed Capital Project 2025

ER Schools is proposing a \$10 million Capital Improvement Project which will result in no new tax increase, based on a review of our Building Conditions Survey, a review of student programs, and an audit of security and technology systems.

The proposed project includes improvements in three areas: students, safety/security and systems.

Students

Program Improvements

- Indoor Pool Renovation (HVAC Upgrades, Mechanical/Drainage, Lighting, Pool Equipment, Finishes)
- Playground (Phase 2)
- Stadium Goal Post Replacement

Safety and Security

Proactive Measures

- PA System Upgrades
- Phone System Upgrades
- Campus Notification System
- Rescue Window in the Single Point of Entry
- Code Compliance and Accessibility Upgrades

Systems

Facility Upgrades

- Roof Replacement
- HS Gymnasium Updates (HVAC, Lighting)
- Auditorium Updates (HVAC, Stage Finishes)
- Asbestos Abatement
- Electric Vehicle Bus Preparation
- Miscellaneous Facility Repairs/Upgrades

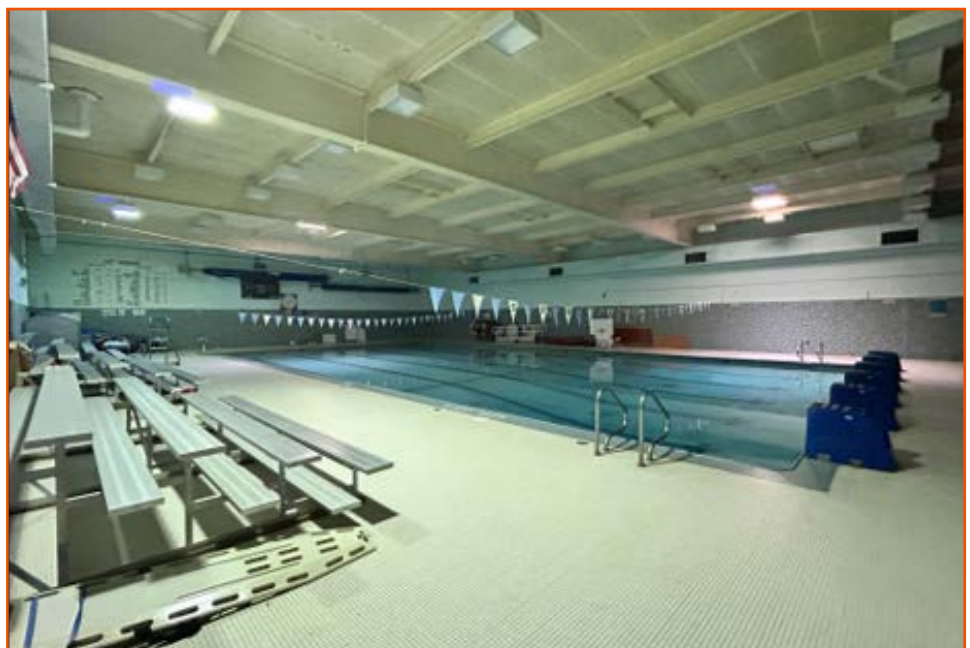
Important Information

Board of Education Capital Improvement Project Presentations
Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7 and Dec. 12, 2023

These presentations will be made available on the district website, following the board meeting. Presentations previously shared with the board are currently available for review.

Capital Improvement Project Public Hearing
Jan. 9, 2024

Capital Improvement Project Vote
Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024



Welcome new employees!

ER Schools would like to welcome our new employees:

Adele Long, *MLA Math Teacher*

Andrea Snow, *Elementary Library Media Specialist*

Anna Moczarski, *MLA ELA Teacher*

Ben Parrone, *Youth Assistant*

Christina Sandoval, *Administrative Assistant in the Office of Instruction*

Cursti Neal, *MLA Counselor*

Dana Eddy, *PK-12 Social Worker*

Elizabeth Gowman, *Building Substitute*

Emily Williams, *UPK Teacher Assistant*

Gary Schojan, *Youth Assistant*

Harleigh Jerzak, *Elementary Teacher Aide*

Irene Wanna, *Building Cleaner*

Isabel Murphy, *School Psychology Intern*

Jack Golden, *HS Art Teacher*

Jennifer D'Annunzio, *MLA Teacher Assistant*

Jennifer Hinkley, *Elementary Special Education Teacher*

Kaitlyn Evans, *MLA ELA AIS Teacher*

Karenina Quintero-Spicer, *PK-12 ENL Teacher*

Kelly Firlit, *Elementary Special Education Teacher*

Kierstin Hammond, *Elementary Special Education Teacher*

Margo Chilelli, *Prevention Counselor*

Marlene Lampman, *Elementary Teacher Aide*

McKenna Preston, *MLA Teacher Assistant*

Morgan Gould, *High School Teaching Assistant*

Natalie Lisi- *Elementary AIS Teacher*

Nolan Moore, *HS ELA Teacher*

Pari Faizi, *Elementary Teacher Aide*

Quinn Black, *Grades 6-10 Assistant Principal*

Rae Friberg, *Elementary Teacher Aide*

Sarah Whittington, *MLA/HS Spanish Teacher*

Stephanie Burley, *Elementary Teacher Aide*

Tim Newcombe, *School Resource Officer*



Recognizing the East Rochester Board of Education

New York State School Board Recognition Week was Oct. 16-20, 2023. East Rochester Schools recognized all school board members for their commitment to service to ER children at a Board of Education meeting on Oct. 10 with cards from Elementary students, letters from Junior High students, and a lapel pin as a token of appreciation. The ER Board recently switched to a new paperless software platform, BoardDocs, which is an easy-to-use, intuitive, meeting management system that will enable the board to achieve the most up-to-date modern governance.

- Patrick Flanagan, BOE President
- Vincent Antonicelli, BOE Vice President
- Jenalee Herb, BOE Member
- Matt Hogan, BOE Member
- Jeffrey Ugine, BOE Member

Regular board meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria, unless otherwise noted on District's website. Meetings are open to the public.



New Assistant Principal joins ER High School

East Rochester Jr./Sr. High School welcomed Quinn Black as our new secondary assistant principal for grades 6-10 this year. Her appointment to the role was Board approved in April, and she began working with our team on July 1, 2023. She has been a vital part of the team in East Rochester as we prepared for our students to return and has been actively interacting with students throughout the fall.

Quinn was previously a teacher in the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District, where she taught since 2016. During her time in her teacher leadership role in Manchester-Shortsville Schools, Quinn has demonstrated significant leadership skill sets with district, grade and building level projects.

We look forward to what Quinn will bring to our team at East Rochester Schools!



Elementary Students Learn Fire Safety

East Rochester Elementary is participating in a Fire Prevention Education Program this October with a series of events to help students learn about fire safety. The program kicked off with Pre-K-Kindergarten students getting the opportunity to meet firefighters from the East Rochester Fire Department and explore a fire truck. The ERFD played "Safety Smart Science with Bill Nye the Science Guy: Fire" for grades 3-5 to help them understand the importance of being safe around fire. Grades 1-2 visited the fire department to participate in activities to learn about fire safety (e.g., "stop, drop, roll" and "get low and go"). The program concluded with all Pre-K-5 students having the opportunity to practice a fire drill in their own home and be met outside by the ERFD to prepare families to survive fire with smart strategies.



Juniors and Seniors Attend College Fair

Rochester-area college representatives visited the high school and set up tables to connect with our juniors and seniors to help them in their future career journey. Students had the opportunity to learn about the various academic programs, campus activities, financial aid, and admissions requirements each school has to offer.



Students engaged with the following 14 different colleges that attended:

Students engaged with the following 14 different colleges that attended:

- Alfred State College
- Alfred University
- Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC)
- Genesee Community College (GCC)
- Houghton University
- Keuka College
- Monroe Community College (MCC)
- Nazareth University
- Roberts Wesleyan University
- Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)
- St. John Fisher University
- SUNY Brockport
- SUNY Geneseo
- University of Rochester

Anita Mance presented Distinguished Alumni Award

The East Rochester Alumni Foundation formally presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to this year's recipient, Anita Mance during an event held Aug. 21.

As a member of the class of 1965, Mance has dedicated herself to the community of East Rochester as a teacher, librarian and historian. She has touched the lives of generations of children and has demonstrated how special and unique the Village of East Rochester is through her continued devotion to the residents of our tiny but extraordinary community. Mance's leadership, pride in her community and love of learning has made us all realize the richness of our heritage.

Congratulations Anita and thank you for all you have done to make the Village of East Rochester a better place to live.



East Rochester Alumni Foundation Reminders

2023-24 Alumni Foundation Grants

Urban Suburban Welcome Picnic

ER 6-12 Link Crew

Student of the Month Breakfast Celebration

Student of the Month Drawstring Bags

2023-24 Alumni Foundation Meetings

**Virtual until further notice*

Nov. 20, 2023

Dec. 18, 2023

Jan. 15, 2024

Feb. 19, 2024

March 18, 2024

April 15, 2024

May 20, 2024

June 17, 2024

July 15, 2024

Aug. 19, 2024

Upcoming PTO Meetings

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.



East Rochester Parent Teacher Organization

PARENT - TEACHER - STUDENT - COMMUNITY

ERPTO Sneaker Donations

The PTO Sneakers Donations is ongoing, with donations being accepted in the Elementary Office throughout the year.



ERPTO Pizza Fundraiser

The ERPTO Crust Pizza Fundraiser returns this November!

Place your order for Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023!



**East Rochester Union Free
School District**

222 Woodbine Avenue
East Rochester, NY 14445
(585) 248-6300
www.erschools.org

Board Of Education

Patrick Flanagan, President
Vincent Antonicelli, Vice-President
Jenalee Herb
Matt Hogan
Jeffrey Ugine

Superintendent of Schools

Jim Haugh

Editor

Ashley Decker & Sonya Kordovich

Graphic Designer

Shannon Nobles

*Designed and printed at
Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES*

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsford, N.Y.
Permit No. 36

*****ECRWSS

Resident

Attendance matters

Attendance is so important when it comes to a student's success in school. You can help your child build a habit of good attendance early and avoid falling behind in school from missed class time. This includes tardiness, which keeps students from important class time at the beginning of their day. You can help establish a healthy habit by setting a regular bedtime and morning routine, laying out clothes and packed backpacks the night before, developing backup plans for getting to school if something comes up, trying to schedule medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session, and asking for resources and ideas if your child will be missing class due to illness.

Hoselton donates backpacks to ER Schools

Thank you to Hoselton Auto Mall, who held a back to school drive to help support students in the East Rochester School District at the start of the 2023-24 school year. Thanks to generous donations from Hoselton employees and community members, the company was able to donate over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies to our elementary students.



Stay
connected!



Download our app to your mobile device by searching for
"East Rochester Union Free School District" in your app store.



Follow us on Facebook
[@EastRochesterUnionFreeSchools](https://www.facebook.com/EastRochesterUnionFreeSchools)



Follow us on Twitter
[@ERUFSD](https://twitter.com/ERUFSD)