

# Your Schools

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOLUME 41 NUMBER 2 Jan 2020

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### FEBRUARY 5TH

BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC WORK SESSION & BUDGET WORK SESSION HS COMMONS ROOM 7:30 PM

### FEBRUARY 17TH-21ST

SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR MID WINTER RECESS

### FEBRUARY 25TH

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING & BUDGET WORK SESSION: HS COMMONS ROOM 7:30 PM

### MARCH 4TH

BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC WORK SESSION & BUDGET WORK SESSION: HS COMMONS ROOM 7:30 PM

### MARCH 18TH

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING & BUDGET WORK SESSION: HS COMMONS ROOM 7:30 PM

## STELLAR IN YOUR SCHOOLS

Success in Technology, Enrichment, Literacy, Library and Research (STELLAR) is an enrichment program designed to challenge all students in grades K-5 beyond what they are taught as part of their classroom curriculum. STELLAR teachers encourage students to explore their unique gifts and talents and challenge them to reach beyond their limits.

As part of the STELLAR program, students are able to further develop their research skills, they are exposed to a rich technological foundation and they become familiar with resources available to them online and in the library media center. STELLAR teaches all students the 4 C's of learning; Collaboration, Critical thinking, Communication and Creativity. Classroom and STELLAR teachers work collaboratively to provide a unified approach to research and extend the lessons taught in the classroom. Students throughout the District, participate in the "Hour of Code," designed to demystify computer coding and introduce students to the field of computer science. In addition to coding, students in STELLAR participate in various activities including Social Emotional Learning, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), the study of different world cultures and the study of our solar system. The STELLAR curriculum is developed by grade level. Kindergartners start with the introduction to the school's library and media center and learn about primary colors, mixing colors and rhyming words. As the years progress, students learn to research subjects, create reports, publish those reports and present their findings on various topics including dinosaurs, world cultures, landforms and the solar system among many others. In 5th grade, students in STELLAR spend time researching and writing persuasive essays using quantifiable research taken from books as well as reputable online sources, and defending their thoughts on their subject. Our students are thoroughly engaged in the varied and enriching investigations STELLAR offers and are thriving in the program.

[Learn More About STELLAR](#)



# NEW YEAR NEW APP

In an effort to streamline communication to parents, the District is currently in the process of combining all of its communication platforms under one messaging system, SchoolMessenger. This system will host the District website, School App, email notification system as well as the automated calling system. The information within these tools will be linked internally allowing for better communication to parents. As part of this package, the District will be utilizing an additional messaging App which will allow for District-wide, school-specific as well as classroom-specific communication between parents and the District. Our staff is currently working on the setup of this messaging system and is expecting a completion date of June 2020. Stay tuned for updates on this project.

## UPCOMING School Calendars

Labor Day is coming late in September 2020 which created the question of whether school should start before or after Labor Day. In creating a school calendar, a number of factors must be considered. The end of school date is determined by the New York State Commissioner of Education. After setting that date, the District must plan for 184 days, including student attendance days and Superintendent Conference days. All student attendance days must start in September; however, Superintendent Conference days can be in August. Other consideration must be given to holidays and breaks during the school year.

For the upcoming school year, the Board decided to start school after Labor Day because the holidays within the school year allowed for the later start.

## South Side Middle School Starts New Traditions With National Honor Society and 8th Grade Trips

The current class of seventh graders will begin a new tradition this year which will continue for future Middle School students. Beginning with Spring 2020, when South Side Middle School seventh graders meet the requirements for induction into the National Junior Honor Society, they will take a day-trip commemorating this achievement. The trip will be planned as an extended day focusing on community building activities.

Beginning in Spring 2021, the new tradition will include an additional one-day trip for all eighth graders to celebrate a fun, educational, culminating experience that can be enjoyed together, creating a new memory as they prepare to move on to the High School. Ms. McGinn and the Middle School Administration are currently researching options for these trips and will share the plans with parents when they are finalized.

The decision to implement these changes was based on a careful review of the current structure of the National Junior Honor Society annual trip and the concerns raised by parents and the Middle School Administration.

# HIGHLIGHT MOMENTS

## SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

IN  
RVC  
HERALD



## WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

IN  
RVC  
HERALD



Students at Wilson Elementary School participated in student government elections. Candidates running for each position had time to campaign to win the votes of their fellow students. Each candidate prepared a speech that was presented to the school right before voting took place. Photographed from left to right; President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Students in the Robotics Club created a robot with a conveyor belt arm that was able to move cubes and balls on to a platform, which earned them more points during their competition. These students worked cooperatively with other teams from the Long Island area and won the "Teamwork Champion Award."

## RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

IN  
RVC  
HERALD



Students in Mr. Eckert and Mr. Sagleben's 5th grade class created cards to be donated to a Rockville Centre Senior Center. Each class tackled a number of occasion categories including holiday, birthday, congratulations and sympathy. Students were excited to create cards that would make the seniors happy.

## SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL

SEEN  
ON  
NEWS12



South Side High School senior Carly Woelfel was recognized as News12's Scholar Athlete of the Week. Carly won Nassau County Cross Country Championship this year and is the reigning County champion in the 3000-meter race and the steeplechase in track.

## SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL

IN  
RVC  
HERALD

South Side High School senior, Gabriella Steinberg, is a recipient of the Hispanic Heritage Youth Gold Award for the Healthcare and Science category in the New York region. In her science research project, Gabriella compared the abundance of the AARS protein across different stages of breast cancer. She grew cells from four different stages of breast cancer and quantified the amount of the protein present in each cell type to examine the potential role of this protein on the progression of the cancer. Her findings imply that the AARS protein might play a role in the prevention of breast cancer and provide paths for further research. Congratulations, Gabriella!



# HIGHLIGHT MOMENTS

## WATSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



IN  
RVC  
HERALD

Students were surprised and excited to see the South Side Middle School chorus walking through the hallways singing holiday music just before the winter break. Watson students enjoyed watching the performance while singing and clapping along.

## SSHS BASKETBALL



On behalf of the South Side High School Boys Basketball teams and coaches, Captains Jack McDonald and Eamon McGowan along with Head Coach Jerry D'Angelo, presented Dr. Johnson with a personalized jersey. The inscription of the #34 represents the 34th year that Dr. Johnson has been leading our District as Superintendent of Schools.

## STAY CONNECTED

Follow RVC UFSD on Social Media

Facebook: Rockville Centre School District

Twitter: @RVCschools

## COVERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

IN  
RVC  
HERALD



Covert Elementary School students enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast prepared by staff and parents before Thanksgiving break. A number of students shared things they are grateful for during the meal. "I am thankful for Covert" was a line that was frequently said.

## HEWITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



IN  
THE  
TRIBUNE

Students put on a wonderful holiday concert for family and friends. With the help of Mrs. Miranda, Ms. Raimondi, Mrs. Sommers and Ms. Scolari, a number of fun holiday songs and poems were performed.



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