

GOOD NEWS



SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The SCSD Office of Student Support Services is Here to Help Your Child Succeed!



Life can be hard.

For both students and families, the SCSD Student Support Services team is here to help!

Who should your child contact if they have an

issue with bullying? Who can help if you notice your child is having an issue with a school staff member? How do you find a pediatrician who accepts your insurance? What should you do if your housing situation abruptly changes?

Our tiered system of supports can help support students and families through any needs that may arise – from attendance concerns to parenting questions, community resource referrals, guidance and counseling, and more.

We look forward to working with you to help lead your child to success!



■ Tier 1: Universal Supports

Tier 1 supports are intended to be schoolwide and classroom practices that promote the development and practice of pro-social behaviors, self-discipline, habits of learning, and healthy well-being.

Tier 1 support staff in the school building may include Dignity Act Coordinators, Student Support Center Staff, School Counselors, PAX Partners, Office of Family Engagement staff, and more.

Staff can help in hosting student mediations, connecting families with additional resources in and outside of the school building, and more. In some cases, Tier 1 support staff push into classrooms to offer lessons in things like self-control or feelings and emotions.

■ Tier 2: Targeted Supports

Tier 2 supports are intended to be targeted, coordinated supports to help match students' social, emotional, and mental health needs to address the root cause of an issue.

Tier 2 support staff in the school building may include Special Education Liaisons, Social Workers, Section 504 Administrators and Liaisons, and more.

In addition to helping guide families, Tier 2 support staff can also provide skill-building lunch groups, peer mediations, behavioral incentives, grief/support counseling, and attendance initiatives.

■ Tier 3: Intensive Supports

Tier 3 supports are intended to be intensive, specialized supports that are individualized to address the specific needs of a student. Comprehensive Student Success Plans are developed and monitored closely to help the student achieve their individual goals.

Tier 3 support staff in the school building may include Liberty Resources staff, Access Liaisons, School Psychologists, and more. Generally, students will receive referrals to Tier 3 supports; if you have questions or believe your child should receive these specialized supports, please contact your child's main office as a starting point!

**STAY CONNECTED
STAY INVOLVED**



syracusecityschools.com

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Syracuse, NY 13204

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

725 Harrison Street
Syracuse, NY 13210

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Families and Staff,

It's hard to believe we are already approaching the winter season! Please remember to check the SCSD website, social media, or calendar (www.syracusecityschools.com/calendar) for the latest information on school breaks, holidays, and closings or delays due to inclement weather.

We – your SCSD leadership team – are always here to be a resource to you, our families. This newsletter is full of information intended to help you feel connected with those who are guiding the decisions and direction of our district. From our Executive Leadership Team to building principals and even the students who are carving out their own leadership roles in their school buildings, I hope you will feel assured and encouraged by these passionate individuals.

I also hope you will take a few moments to read about the various student support resources available to our SCSD students and families. We recognize that it can sometimes be overwhelming to know who to reach out to if you're in need of assistance. I encourage you to call your school's main office with any questions, or reach out to your child's school counselor directly as a starting point. You may also submit any questions or concerns through Let's Talk, where the appropriate SCSD staff member will respond to you in a timely manner.

Finally, of course, any newsletter wouldn't be complete without student highlights! In this issue, please don't miss two of our Corcoran scholars who are being recognized for their academic achievements, student athletes who are being recognized for their volunteerism, and some talented young artists from Porter Elementary who are taking part in their first statewide art exhibit! We are proud to support and encourage our students – and we are proud to be the SCSD!

Sincerely,



IMPORTANT DATES

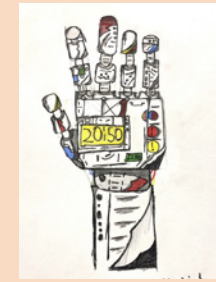
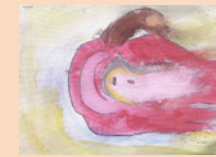
November 2023

- 13 Winter JV/Varsity Athletics Begin
- 15 High School Report Card Distribution
- 22-24 **Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 23 Thanksgiving
- 27 Board of Education Work Session
- 29 Board of Education Work Session

December 2023

- 7 High School Interim Report Card Distribution
- 8 **Half Day for All Schools**
- 13 Board of Education Meeting
- 18 Board of Education Work Session
- 20 Board of Education Work Session
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 21 Elementary and Middle School Interim Report Card Distribution
- 22-29 Holiday Recess

Porter Students' Artwork Featured in Statewide Student Art Exhibit



Porter 4th graders **Melody Velez** and **Marleigh Baxter** and 5th grader **Stephen D. Spagnuolo II** all participate in their school's Advanced Art Class. This fall, they each had artwork selected to be included in the New York State Art Teachers Association's 2023 New York State School Boards Association Student Art Exhibit! What an amazing opportunity for these young student artists, who are now working on creating posters to submit to the Syracuse Fire Department's Cooking Safety Contest. Thank you to Porter Art Teacher **Dan Smith** for sharing this good news!

Corcoran Students Recognized in National Merit Scholarship Program



Corcoran seniors **Caroline Menon** and **David Peters** have been named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Both students are also candidates for their school's International Baccalaureate Diploma and have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success. As Commended Students, Caroline and David placed among the top 50,000 students who

entered the 2024 competition by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). About 34,000 Commended students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise – and we're proud of these Corcoran scholars for being among them!

SCSD Athletics

SCSD Celebrates Our Student Athletes



This fall, we were pleased to see students participating in volleyball, football, soccer, tennis, cheerleading, cross country, and swimming!

"We have 19 wonderful players who all contributed to our success," Coach Holtsbery shared. "The girls worked hard this season and we are incredibly proud of them! The future of Syracuse United Girls Soccer is bright."

Syracuse East JV Soccer Coach **Charles Holtsbery** was especially proud of his team's season – they came away with a 9-5 and 5-1 season in League play. The team played great offensively, scoring 43 goals.

Nottingham Varsity Cross Country Coach **Michael Boni** commended **Helen Zhe-Heimerman**, one of the co-captains for the team. Helen was the top finisher for Nottingham in every race this year (and during her freshman year)!



classroom with a 100 final average in each class last year!"

This winter, our student athletes at the modified, JV, and Varsity levels will compete in basketball, ice hockey, swimming, indoor track, wrestling, cheerleading, bowling, and modified boys' volleyball.

To view athletics schedules, please visit www.syracusecityschools.com/athletics!

"She always works hard and leads and motivates her teammates," Coach Boni shared. "She has a positive attitude during practice and the meets. Helen also excels in the

STAY CONNECTED STAY INVOLVED



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Student & Staff Spotlights

Roberts Community Incorporates American Sign Language

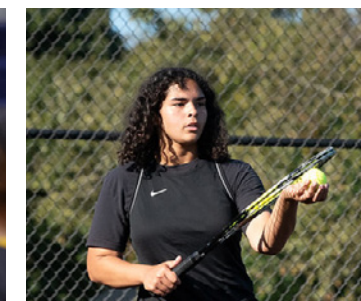


We're proud of the ways our school communities celebrate **#SCSDDiversity**! Roberts students and staff celebrated Deaf Awareness Month in September by adding sign language to their classrooms

as part of behavior management and morning circle. Students are now incorporating American Sign Language (ASL) in their classes, hallways, and cafeteria! **Mr. Brann**'s 5th grade class signed the Pledge of Allegiance

at an elementary assembly, and students have also incorporated the silent clap. Roberts ASL teacher **Brenda Buckley** said these skills will continue to spread throughout the school this year.

"At the middle school level, students have learned myths about deaf people, as well as about their family tree and how to sign it," she shared. "It is so awesome to see a whole building signing!"





Student Athletes Volunteer at Fundraiser

We're so proud of the ways that [#SCSDGivesBack](#)! This fall, **PSLA at Fowler High School** student athletes from the school's boys basketball team, football team, and the Syracuse City boys volleyball team all joined Team Stronger With Moe as volunteers at the annual Walk to Defeat ALS. Way to go, student leaders! Thank you for contributing your time to such a worthy cause.

Celebrating our SCSD Leaders

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Anthony Q. Davis
Superintendent



Superintendent Davis has worked in the SCSD for more than 15 years – first as a Teaching Assistant, Special Education Teacher, Administrative Intern, Assistant Superintendent, and Interim Superintendent. He's also [#SCSDAlumni](#), having attended Hughes (now Syracuse Latin) and Eastwood Junior High School before graduating from Henninger in 1982!

"My favorite part of my job is helping staff and students by providing the resources for all to reach their full potential," he shared. "The best part of working for the SCSD is having the honor and privilege of serving a population and community that has served me so well in my life!"

Pamela Odom
Deputy Superintendent



Ms. Odom has worked in the SCSD for 29 years – as a Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher at McKinley-Brighton and Elmwood, an Administrative Intern and Vice Principal at Corcoran, a Principal at Clary and Grant, the Executive Director of Middle Schools, and Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools, CTE, Athletics, and Adult Education. She's also [#SCSDAlumni](#), having graduated from Nottingham High School!

"My job as Deputy Superintendent is to work closely with the Superintendent and Senior Leadership Team to provide all students with educational opportunities in a safe environment," Ms. Odom shared. "We work collectively together to support the needs of our students, staff members, families, and community members. I am inspired by the amazing, talented students that continue to graduate from the SCSD every year. At this point in my career, I continue to see many of the students I had an opportunity to serve early on becoming employees of the district. Many of the students have families of their own and are leading classrooms and mentoring our next generation of students and leaders. I hope that one day, they have a chance to feel prideful and fulfilled, like I feel when I look at them and see them giving back to the SCSD family. I am so proud of their hard work and dedication to the district."



Brit Britton
Chief Academic Officer



Robert DiFlorio, Ed.D.
Chief Operations Officer



Laura Kelley, Ed.D.
Chief of Student Support Services



Timothy Moon
Chief Information Officer



Scott Persampieri
Chief Human Resources Officer



Michael Puntschenko
Chief Financial Officer



Monique Wright-Williams
Chief Engagement Officer

STUDENT LEADERS:



Syan Castro
PSLA at Fowler
senior **Syan Castro** is also the Cadet Commanding

Officer for her school's Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) program! Syan plans to attend college to study biochemistry and hopes to study diseases one day... and she says the leadership skills she has developed through the NNDCC program will set her ahead in her career and in her life.

"Growing up, I'd see people follow the wrong path... but I didn't know how to avoid following in their footsteps," Syan shared. "My school counselor mentioned the NNDCC program, and I

saw it as a way to help me develop my leadership and find out what it is that I want to do. I wasn't confident in my abilities when I started – but this unit has helped me grow into who I really am. Sergeant Sturgeon always gives me opportunities to grow... this unit has really helped me reach places I never thought I could reach. It's given me great experience in leadership. Students want to come to school when they feel safe. I want to help others feel safe – I want to be someone they can trust. I don't ever want anyone to feel alone. As a woman, as a partially deaf person, and as a marginalized person, I have learned how to relate to others in a way that allows me to create a safe space where they know they can come to me. In my role as Cadet Commanding Officer, I've learned how to work with others who aren't like me, and how to turn our differences into positives. These

are skills I'll carry with me as I move forward in my career."



Edgardo Colon
Syracuse Latin
Syracuse Latin 8th grader **Edgardo Colon** is also a WEB

(Where Everybody Belongs) leader in his school.

"Being a leader isn't a word you can give yourself," he explained. "It's a word that others have to give to you. You have to earn it through consistent actions. I'm a student athlete, and it's important to me that I try to help keep others in check on my football team. I feel like it's good to set a good example and to be a role model for those who are looking up to me!"

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Theresa Walton

SCSD Schools Attended: Ed Smith, Levy, Nottingham (2008)



College/trade school and Major: Canisius College ('12) - Communications. I also played four years of lacrosse there, winning 2 MAAC Championships.

Career Path: I am currently the Head Women's Lacrosse Coach at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. I started out as an Assistant Coach at Alma College in Alma, MI; then served as Assistant Coach at the University of Mount Olive in Mount Olive, NC; then as Assistant Coach at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. In 2019, I was named Head Coach at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, OH, where I remained until I was named Head Coach at Old Dominion University in 2022.

The coolest thing about my job is... The ability to contribute and make an impact on student-athletes from the youth levels of recruiting to the current college student-athlete; and the alumni base of former players supporting each lacrosse program I have been fortunate to be a part of. There is no better reward for me in life than being able to connect with student-athlete's during such a pivotal timeframe in their life. Being around educational minds and dedicated athletes allows me to learn so much from each of them as I try to give back in the way that I was supported as an athlete growing up in Syracuse, to my playing career at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, and now in the college lacrosse coaching career. I have to take this opportunity and moment to thank all of the people that have

gotten me to this point in my career and in life: My parents, my siblings, my mentors, coaches, teammates and friends along the way. I will forever be grateful for these phenomenal people who have given me their time, effort, and love.

The most valuable thing I learned in school... Going to a city school, what I can reflect back on and feel the most value from was the diversity in the hallways each day. It was awesome to hear and see the many different walks of life in a school environment. This experience prepared me for the real world more than any classroom ever could.

I'm proud to be a SCSD graduate because... The people that surround the Syracuse City School District are who make it great. Throughout my entirety of educational years, I felt supported and encouraged to be the best version of myself. I was given the space and time to learn, run, and have fun. The welcoming, wholesome, and diverse environment of this district has made me into the confident and capable person that I am today.

One piece of advice I'd give to SCSD students is... The most valuable thing I learned is above anything else, be yourself. Be true to who you are. Challenge yourself when you know you can to step outside comfort zones and be honest with those around you that you trust and respect. In turn, you will gain their trust and respect right back because of being authentically your own person, student, athlete, artist, musician – whatever it is that sets your soul on fire.



Are you [#SCSDAlumni](#)? We'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to share your story and your advice for current SCSD students, please reach out to us at goodnews@scsd.us!





Corcoran Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Celebrated

Corcoran High School recently welcomed their 20th anniversary induction class for the Corcoran Athletic Hall of Fame!

At Corcoran, this is a special component in the school's history and culture. Inductees included **Stanley Williams** (Wrestling, 1983), **Julius Edwards** (Basketball, 1987), **Leo Cosgrove** (Football Coach 1994-2001), **Elizabeth Manipole** (Girls Lacrosse, 2008), and **Kim and Walt Eccles** (Contributors).



Congratulations, Inductees! If you would like to see photos from the ceremonies, check out our Flickr page: [Flickr.com/photos/scsd/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scsd/)


PSLA at Fowler Recognizes 2023 Inductees into School Wall of Distinction

The **PSLA at Fowler** community recently recognized the Class of 2023 inductees into the school's Wall of Distinction!

Congratulations to **Judge Erica T. Clarke** (City Court Judge – City of Syracuse), **Gary Coleman** (former football and wrestling athlete and Onondaga County Probation Counselor), **Felicia Contreras** (former soccer, basketball, and softball athlete), **Carol Henry** (posthumously – Fowler parent and grandparent and former Fowler Lead Secretary), **Christopher "Chris" Ingram** (posthumously – former football and indoor/outdoor track athlete), **Curtis Taylor** (played professional basketball in Europe and South America), **Richard "Dick" Smith** (former Fowler Athletic Director, Physical Education teacher, and Coach), **Steve Wright** (played professional basketball for the Albany Patroons and in Europe), and the 1984 Boys Basketball Team.

Meet Our Principals

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Bellevue Elementary School
LESSIE WILLIAMS



Delaware Primary Elementary School
MOSHIENA FAIRCLOTH

"Families should know that Delaware is a community school that has resources to share. Our staff at Delaware are here to meet the needs of all the students and their families. Families are welcomed anytime – we are here for our families without question or hesitation."



Dr. Weeks Elementary School
DIANE VITELLO



Elmcrest Children's Center
SHIRELLE DOWDELL



Franklin Elementary School
KIM COYNE



McCarthy at Beard Elementary School
ANDREW DAVIS

"My favorite thing about McCarthy at Beard is the close community that ensures that the students are getting what they need to be successful not only in school, but also in life. We are continuously striving to improve our practices as a building to support our students and each other."



McKinley-Brighton Elementary School
ERIC PATTERSON

"My favorite things about McKinley-Brighton are the scholars, staff, and families. I love being able to support them and collaborate with them! The SCSD is full of tight-knit communities and partnerships."



Meachem Elementary School
JAMES DOW



Montessori at LeMoyne
REBECCA CHYNOWETH



Porter Elementary School
LISA QUINONES-SHERMAN



Salem Hyde Elementary School
BECKY GROAT



Seymour Dual Language Academy
JAMES NIEVES

"My favorite thing about Seymour is the unique Dual Language program we offer to our students, families, and community. Seeing our students communicate in both languages as they go through our program is very gratifying. The students' smiles make me happy as they walk into our building and make connections with their friends and staff."



STEAM at Dr. King
KURICHESES ALEXANDER



Van Duyn Elementary School
AMANDA SHEPHERD



Virtual School
DR. KATRINA ALLEN-WHITE



Webster Elementary School
DAWN KIVLEHAN


PK – 8 SCHOOLS



Edward Smith PK – 8 School
ANDREA ELLIS-SMITH



Frazer PK – 8 School
LATRINA BRUMFIELD




H.W. Smith PK – 8 School
THERESA HALEY

"I have three daughters, so I am very aware of the challenges we face when raising children. I want all of the families I work with to know that I am here to help! My goal is to make sure that every child loves school and becomes the best student they can be."



Huntington PK – 8 School
DAN KILLENBEC



Oasis Academy
ANTONIO HERRERA

"My favorite thing about our school is the uniqueness of our program as we begin everyday with CREW and Morning Circles. We strive to help our students find what motivates them and support them as they follow their dreams!"




Roberts PK – 8 School
DR. SHARON ARCHER



Syracuse Latin School
CHELSEY D'EREDITA

"We are in this together! Kids first! I believe something that makes SCSD so special is the amount of collaboration we engage in to create endless opportunities for our students in order to prepare them for a successful future."

MIDDLE SCHOOLS




Brighton Academy
PETER NEEVES

"My favorite thing about the SCSD community is the way we all share a common language and common vision around the students and community that we serve. Everyone truly believes in the power and importance of education as well as the promise we all make as educators to do what is best and what is necessary at all times."



Clary Middle School
JASON RUTKEY



Expeditionary Learning Middle School
KEVIN BURNS


"ELMS is a welcoming community, and we are committed to each student's success and wellbeing both inside and outside of the classroom. I love our school CREW and Expedition Nights and the 8th grade passages!"



Grant Middle School
DOUG KASOUF



Lincoln Middle School
ALISON DUPREE



Syracuse STEM at Blodgett
DR. HARRY VALENTIN

"I want our families to know that we are passionate about taking care of their kids like they are our own. Our school is a family that is committed to bringing the best education to each student."

HIGH SCHOOLS



Corcoran High School
DANIEL STRAUB

"My favorite thing about Corcoran is that we live by CTF (Corcoran the Family) on a daily basis. Whether it's our amazing academics or our extracurricular activities, our culture is one of family. Our community has created an atmosphere where all students are encouraged to get involved and stay involved in the CTF Community to support and uplift each other."



Henninger High School
DANA COLE

"I want families and the community at large to know that I'm committed to Henninger and that black and gold has made it possible for me to become who I am today. I want our students to lead by example and take advantage of all that the District has to offer. I want our students to proudly say, 'I'm a Henninger Black Knight and it's Knight Time!'"



Institute of Technology @ Syracuse Central
JAMES NATOLI



Nottingham High School
ANDREW NOLAN

"The SCSD is a family, and I've been fortunate enough to be part of it since I was a 3-year-old Pre-K student at Fowler. My brothers and wife are also proud graduates of the SCSD, and we are all thankful for the friendships and connections we established over the years. Now, as an employee of the district, I love how supporting and inspiring my colleagues are."



Promising Futures Leadership Academy
DANIEL EVANS



Public Service Leadership Academy @ Fowler
RICHARD ROMEO



You can learn more about our school leaders by visiting our Facebook page!

[Facebook.com/SyracuseCitySchools](https://www.facebook.com/SyracuseCitySchools) #LeadingSCSD





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MISSION

To build, support and sustain school communities that provide all students with a high-quality education that prepares them to graduate as responsible, active citizens ready for success in college and careers and prepared to compete in a global economy.

VISION

To prepare and inspire all of our students to innovate locally and contribute globally.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Katie Sojewicz, *Vice President*

Twiggy Billue

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Timothy Moon, *Chief Information Officer*

Scott Persampieri, *Chief Human Resources Officer*

Michael Puntschenko, *Chief Financial Officer*

Monique Wright-Williams, *Chief of Engagement Services*

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Syracuse City School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it is committed to providing equal access to all categories of employment, programs and educational opportunities, including career and technical education opportunities, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, Native American ancestry/ethnicity, creed or religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or expression, disability or any other legally protected category under federal, state or local law.

Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies should be directed to:

Civil Rights Compliance Officer
Syracuse City School District
725 Harrison Street • Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 435-4131
Email: CivilRightsCompliance@scsd.us



**STOP
BULLYING**

Did you know that October was Bullying Prevention Month?

We are committed to ensuring that SCSD buildings are safe and inclusive places for all of our students to learn... all year long.



The SCSD Department of Public Safety has a tipline where you can report bullying, threats, suspicious activity, and more – anonymously! **Just text SCSDDPS and your tip to 847411.**

We also encourage you to review the **DASA Coordinator(s)** in your school building. These individuals are there to ensure that all students have a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying. If you need assistance, these DASA Coordinators – or any trusted adult in your building – should be able to assist! To learn more, please visit www.syracusecityschools.com/support.



>> Share your questions, comments or concerns 24/7 using the Let's Talk tool at www.syracusecityschools.com