

# YOUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### September

23 Board of Education Meeting  
25-26 Schools Closed—Rosh Hashanah

### October

7 Board of Education Public Work Session  
13 Schools Closed—Columbus Day  
22 Board of Education Meeting

## To All Rockville Centre School District Residents

If you believe that your school-age or preschool child may have a disability, please contact Dr. Noreen Leahy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education, (516) 255-8928, or Dr. Orly Gadon, Chairperson of the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Education at (516) 255-8942.

## Welcome Back!

We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to start an exciting new school year. Inside this issue you will find an update about the progress made on many of the Bond Projects over the summer, meet the new teachers in the District, and find out about some exciting news in curriculum.

During the summer we began the first phase of construction at both South Side High School and Watson Elementary School. As the school year progresses we will continue work on many of the projects that were approved in the March 2013 School Improvement Bond Vote. During this time we urge you to visit our website for information and updates about the projects, including pictures. To get to our webpage visit [www.rvcschools.org](http://www.rvcschools.org) and click School Improvement Bond & Capital Improvements Update Page button located in the left column of the page.

We invite all residents to attend our Board of Education meetings or to watch them on Thursday evenings on The School Channel (channel 19 for Cablevision subscribers or channel 36 for Verizon FIOS subscribers). For a complete list of Board of Education meetings please visit our website: [www.rvcschools.org](http://www.rvcschools.org). Your input about our District will enable us to continue to provide students with the best education possible.

Sincerely,  
Liz, Mayda, John, Mark, and Gregg  
Rockville Centre Board of Education

RVC Council of PTA's



Special Education Partners

At the end of the 2013/2014 School Year SEPTA made the decision to disband and create a new committee called SEP (Special Education Partners), which is a more inclusive model. SEP will continue to provide families with information and tools to support their child's educational needs by bringing the information to each school building PTA meeting instead of at a separate meeting.

A SEP representative will provide updates at your school's monthly PTA meeting. If you would like to speak to a SEP representative, or be added to the mailing list, please send an email to [seprvc@gmail.com](mailto:seprvc@gmail.com).

# School Improvement Bond Update

## South Side High School

As you enter the high school campus, you will notice School Improvement Bond projects underway. Building plans for construction at the high school were approved by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) over the summer months, and District architect and construction management companies began work immediately. The work will bring our high school into the 21st century and give our students a fabulous learning environment.

South Side High School's field was a topic of much discussion. Under the School Improvement Bond, a new turf field and track were approved. Thus far, the old track and field have been removed. The field was prepared and the turf was installed. The installation of the turf involved several steps, which included laying down the turf, adding the field markings and sewing all the seams. The track was also replaced and is now in the curing stage, after which the rubberized running surface will be poured and the lines painted. Work on the track and field will continue through the next few weeks and we expect to play the second half of our home games for the fall season on our own field. Even though this is still a work-in-progress, to date, the track and field look magnificent.

The next step of the project will be the addition of the north wing, which is expected to be completed for the start of school in September 2015. This structure will hold a new fitness room as well as a music lab, photography room and art rooms. Once this structure is completed, all but one of the portables will be removed and most classes will be held within the high school building. The remaining portable will be removed after the completion of the south wing addition. Currently, the interior of the building is being prepared for the construction. You may notice that the doors at the end of the main hallway have been removed. This will be a future hallway into the new structure.

Since construction will affect parking and traffic patterns at the high school, we ask for your patience during drop-off and pick-up. At the start of school, some student parking will be reduced as the staging area is being housed in the parking lot next to the track and field. This staging area will soon be moved to the back field and student parking will be restored to its full capacity of 50 spots. In addition, some of the events that typically take place at the high school will be moved to other locations. For the most up-to-date information about the location of sporting events, please visit the athletics webpage at [www.southside.powermediallc.org/](http://www.southside.powermediallc.org/)



# School Improvement Bond Update

## Watson Elementary School

Over the summer, construction began at Watson Elementary School. The plans for the building include an addition which will hold three classrooms and one small instructional space. The playground was removed and a new one placed in its permanent location. This new and improved playground, which has features that include four slides, a cable bridge and monkey bars, will delight every elementary-aged child. When asked about the new playground it was unanimous that the double set of monkey bars were the students' favorite feature. A second grade student said, "I love the whole playground. It has monkey bars, a fireman's pole and the steepest slide I've ever seen. I wish I could stay here until college."



## District Wide

During the School Improvement Bond discussions, security was a main concern. In response to that concern, the District has planned for several security upgrades. Additional security cameras were mounted at both the high school and the middle school with a monitoring station that will allow staff members to view activity in the buildings. At Wilson Elementary School, new higher fencing was put around the perimeter of the school. At Watson Elementary School, new locksets have been installed in all of the classrooms. These locksets, which allow teachers to safely secure their students during a building emergency, will be installed throughout the District during this school year.

Plans for classroom air conditioning installation are on their way to New York State Education Department (NYSED) for approval. However, in order to provide some relief in the warmest classrooms of each of the buildings, the District purchased and installed several air conditioning units. At Riverside School, the District was faced with some difficulties, as this project involved upgrading the electrical service from the Village of Rockville Centre. This was a major project and is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. In all of the other school buildings, installation of units will resume upon approval from NYSED.

Those who visit the South Side Middle School auditorium this fall are sure to be impressed by the work that the maintenance staff did on the balcony seating. All seats have been repaired and look beautiful, adding comfort and restoring seating to full capacity.

Work on the roofs at Covert & Watson Elementary Schools, which began in June, is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. As part of the energy performance project, solar panels were added to the roofs at South Side High School and Covert Elementary School. When sunlight hits the solar panels the energy turns into an electrical current. Using this solar energy allows the District to lessen its dependence on fossil fuels and reduce its carbon footprint, while providing educational opportunities for our students.

During Bond discussions concerns were raised regarding foul balls leaving the field and going on to Long Beach Road during sporting events at Covert Elementary School. In an effort to resolve this issue, the backstop was refurbished and netting was added to the front which will extend the backstop by approximately 5ft .

Visit our website at [www.rvcschools.org](http://www.rvcschools.org) for the latest updates on projects and additional pictures throughout the year.



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## Meet The New Staff 2014-2015



(L to R) Front Row: Danielle Cacioppo, Kimberly Pastore, Victoria Florio, Jennifer Bermudez-Acevedo, Kathryn Thiel, Alexandra D'Angelo. Back row: Margie Mosher, Ryan Messina, Allison Wallace, Lindsay Doris, Kimberly Hempel, Dominique Andruszkiewicz, Amanda Kelly, Laura Torff.

**Alexandra D'Angelo** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Hofstra University and is currently pursuing her Masters in Special Education at Queens College. She will be teaching Math at South Side High School. **Kimberly Pastore** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Iona College and is currently enrolled in a Master's program at St. John's University. She will be teaching English Language Arts at South Side High School. **Kathryn Thiel** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at SUNY Cortland and her Master of Arts degree at The School of Visual Arts. She will be teaching

Photography at South Side High School. **Terese Whang** earned her Bachelor of Science from the University of Notre Dame and her Master of Arts at Teachers College, Columbia University. She will be teaching Math at South Side High School. **Danielle Cacioppo** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Hofstra University and her Master of Arts at Grand Canyon University. She will be teaching Art at South Side Middle School. **Kimberly Hempel** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Siena College and is currently enrolled in a Spanish Master's program at C.W. Post/Long Island University. She will be teaching Foreign Language at South Side Middle School. **Allison Wallace** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Providence College and her Master of Arts degree at Touro College. She will be teaching Special Education at South Side Middle School. **Dominique Andruszkiewicz** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at St. Josephs College, she will be teaching Kindergarten at Covert Elementary. **Laura Torff** earned her Bachelor of Music degree at Virginia Commonwealth University and her Master of Arts degree at George Mason University. She will be teaching Special Education at Covert Elementary. **Jennifer Bermudez-Acevedo** earned her Bachelor of Science degree and her Masters in Early Childhood Education at LIU Post University. She will be teaching Second Grade at Hewitt Elementary. **Amanda Kelly** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Molloy College. She will be teaching Third Grade at Hewitt Elementary. **Lindsay Doris** earned her Bachelor of Science degree at SUNY Cortland and her Master of Arts degree at CUNY Queens College. She will be teaching Second Grade at Watson Elementary. **Ryan Messina** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Molloy College and her Master of Arts degree at Touro College. She will be teaching Kindergarten at Wilson Elementary.

## Exciting Curriculum Updates in the 2014/2015 School Year!

There are a great many wonderful things happening with curriculum in our schools. At the elementary level for example, thanks to support from the Rockville Centre Education Foundation, all kindergarteners District-wide will be visited and instructed by a local artist, all first graders will see a production of Aesop's fables and all third graders will visit the Hofstra museum as part of the Art Travelers Through Time program. These are truly exciting additions to our teaching and learning.

Since last year's iPad rollout to the Middle School students proved to be such a success, this year the District will distribute iPads to the entire student body at the Middle School. This will be the first year that every student and teacher at the middle school will have a District-owned iPad for instructional use. In order to ensure success, we have upgraded internet security & Wi-Fi bandwidth, and added more apps aimed at specific grade levels and subjects. In response to parental and teacher concerns, we have removed Gamecenter from the iPads. In addition, we continue to offer professional development opportunities for our teachers around this technology.

We celebrate 98% of our eighth graders passing the Integrated Algebra Regents and 84% of the same students passing the Common Core Algebra Regents. This year 8th grade math students will only be taking the Common Core Algebra Course and Regents.

At the high school due to the success of the IB Program for all students in 11th grade ELA, the District will be moving to a similar model by enrolling all 11th graders in IB History of the Americas. We have done a great deal of research around the offering of these rigorous IB courses and have found strong correlation between IB, college preparedness and graduation rates. We will be offering an Intro to 3D Computer Modeling course which we know students will enjoy. The high school will also be expanding its "flipping the classroom" pilot to include more teachers and students. This program allows teachers to post lessons and assignments online for students to access outside of the classroom.

All in all we look forward to another great year in Rockville Centre Schools where we continue to deliver the best curriculum we can offer to ALL of our students.