



Vertus

HIGH SCHOOL

21 Humboldt Street
Rochester, New York 14609

Tel (585) 747-8911
Fax (585) 254-1251

Month at a Glance

January 2022

Academics/Character/Career

- Due to the cancellation of Regents exams, we are extending first semester classes for one week. The second semester will begin on February 7th.
- The week of January 31-February 4th is our annual Intersession week. We use this time for enrichment activities, team bonding, and field trips to provide our students a slight break from traditional academics before we gear up for the second semester.
- COVID cases increased over the winter recess. We had seven staff test positive and nine students we are aware of. The new guidelines require self-reporting and moving forward, there will be no more contact tracing. The return to work and test to stay guidelines continue to change almost daily. The now shortened isolation periods allow staff and students to return to work and school depending on whether they are asymptomatic. We continue to work hard to ensure the overall well-being of staff and students.
- We have not rescheduled the Blazer Ceremony at this time. We continue to wait for the COVID positivity rate to drop before considering hosting such an event.
- We continue to develop our career preparation pillar by realigning our second year's seminar curriculum. This year their second-semester seminar will be focused on career exploration.

Finance/Operations/Compliance

- We filed our ESSA financial transparency report on time and finally received approval for our ESSER-ARP Grant. We've also uploaded the required digital equity survey data to SIRS well ahead of the January 28th deadline.
- We recently submitted a Ralph C. Wilson Jr. grant proposal through the Community Foundation. I am also working with Grants for Good to complete the final report for the Wegman Foundation for the grant we received before reapplying and on other viable grants that fit our profile.
- RCSD has proposed a two-tiered bussing system for charter schools for the 2022-2023 school year which will require schools to run from 7:30-2:30 or 9:00-4:00. This will present a compliance issue for us. Per our charter our school day is 7.5 hours long, these two options are for 7 hour days (even less if you account for the fact that buses would pull out at 2:30). The NYS Charter Association is in talks with RCSD about this topic and is advocating on behalf of the charters. I will update you as I receive more information.