



RHODE ISLAND  
NURSES INSTITUTE  
MIDDLE COLLEGE  
CHARTER SCHOOL

# The Pulse of RINI

RINI Community News | Friday, November 22nd, 2024

## Dates to Remember

- November 27-29 - Thanksgiving Recess, No School
- November 29th - Native American Heritage Day

## Upcoming Events

- Parent/Family Night - December 4th @ 1-6:30PM
- NHS Blood Drive - December 19th

## After School Clubs

- Student Council: Thursdays @ 3PM, Room 212
- SAFEBAE: Thursdays @ 3PM, Room 303
- Crochet Club: Mondays @ 3-4PM, 3rd Floor Suite

## At-a-Glance

**Chromebooks ONLY, Please:** Students are only allowed to use their Chromebooks in school when they are online – NO EXCEPTIONS. The RINI network has specific safety measures in place to protect your students from online intrusions. This important safety net does not extend to other laptops that students may bring to school. As a result, students MAY NOT use their personal laptops and tablets in school to access online work. Students can take notes on tablets but will still need their school issued computer. Please remind your students to pack their school-approved Chromebooks and chargers each morning.

**IEPs & 504s:** If your student has an IEP, please contact Ms. Marin Kafal ([mkafal@rinimc.org](mailto:mkafal@rinimc.org)) for any IEP related questions. If your student has a 504, please contact Principal Ferland ([tferland@rinimc.org](mailto:tferland@rinimc.org)).

**Bus Passes:** Students who need to replace their bus passes should contact Ms. Santiago ([ysantiago@rinimc.org](mailto:ysantiago@rinimc.org)).

**School Improvement Team:** Principal Ferland is looking for parents to join our School Improvement Team. For more information, please reach out via email.

**PowerSchool:** RINI uses PowerSchool as our Student Information System. To know about schedules and grades, please make sure you can access it. Questions can be directed to our school counselors, Ms. Franzoni ([jfranzoni@rinimc.org](mailto:jfranzoni@rinimc.org)) and Ms. Coetzee ([ncoetzee@rinimc.org](mailto:ncoetzee@rinimc.org)).

**RINI Middle College Student Information Form:** Please complete the updated student information form. This can be found [here](#). Updated forms should be printed and brought to the main office.

**RINI Student Handbook:** The updated 24-25 RINI Middle College Student Handbook is [available here](#). Students and families should review the school policies to make sure that they are up to date with policies, procedures, and any changes for this school year. Again, the handbook can be found here: [ENGLISH](#)



**“I don't have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness - it's right in front of me if I'm paying attention and practicing gratitude.”**

BRENE BROWN

## Principal Updates

We are just about at the end of November! Thanksgiving recess starts on Wednesday, November 27th, through Friday, November 29th. Students will be back in school on Monday, December 2nd. Now that we are into the second quarter, progress reports will be mailed home, and we will be holding a Family/Parent Night on Wednesday, December 4th. We hope to see you there!

Following the release of the Fall PSAT/SAT scores, we wanted to celebrate our students and their accomplishments. Seniors Camille A. Chiong, Jayden Guzman, and Stephanie E. Boekamp had the highest scores on the SAT Math section, and juniors Ailyn Ospina Bedoya, Lia A. Tavarez Sobalvarro, Valeria V. Cortez-Perez scored highest in their class on the PSAT Math section. Sophomores Gabriel De Renzi, Caitlin A. Chiong, Alyhana J. Lopez, and Tomas Ortiz-Alonzo scored the highest in their class on the PSAT Math section. Seniors receiving top scores on the SAT English Reading and Writing section were Stephanie E. Boekamp, Brishelle N. Chevalier, and Jasmin M. Escobar. In the junior class, Lia A. Tavarez Sobalvarro, Valeria V. Cortez-Perez, and Khairah A. Shiyambola received the top Reading and Writing scores, and in the sophomore class, Alyhana J. Lopez, Abigayle L. Masello, and Jaslene Collazo received the highest scores. Congratulations to these RINI scholars!

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, my theme of the month has been “Thankfulness.” Every day, I am thankful for the students at RINI, for the faculty and staff here, and for the community of parents and families. It can be hard to remember to give thanks for what we have, but cultivating that sense of gratitude is important, and necessary: we’re in Daylight Savings Time, which means it gets darker earlier, and we all know how sometimes those fewer daylight hours and the colder weather can have a major impact on our mood. When things feel difficult, remembering what we have and having gratitude for it keeps us grounded and helps us keep good things in mind. I want to thank every member of the RINI Community for your presence, and I hope that you are all able to enjoy the long weekend break with your loved ones.



In partnership,

Principal Ferland

# Nurse Notes

Nurse Raposo

November 2024

## Local Resources & Events

Smith Hill Community Turkey Drive

Saturday 11/24/24

Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church

Healthy Providence Homes Program



Farm Fresh Market Hall (10 Sims Ave)

Every Sunday from 11am-3pm

Every Friday Night from 5:30p – 9:30p  
thru Dec 22

Annual Holiday Bazaar

11/26/24

RI Riddle Room

# NURSE+NEWS

Mental Health  
Awareness &  
Stress Management

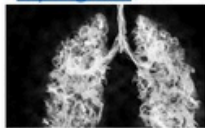
## Why practice mindfulness?

- Understand that stress is a natural response to a challenge
- Pay attention to your thoughts and emotions with kindness
- Transform your anxiety into actions you can take to meet the challenge

*Did You Know?*

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Vaping info



- Vaping is **NOT** harmless
- In your teen years, smoking affects your brain development, impacting your ability to study and learn
- Vaping can cause irreversible lung damage

## Cold and Flu Prevention Tips



Get good rest



Cover your  
cough



## Positivity Challenge

GRATITUDE  
IS MY  
ATTITUDE!

Practice Gratitude  
Focus on Solutions  
Be KIND to yourself



*Success is the sum  
of small efforts  
repeated day in  
and day out*



# SUPPORT UPDATES

## Policy Reminders

### Phone-Free RINI

All students will be required to place their cell phones in the designated cell phone wall hangers located in each classroom. Students can retrieve their phones at the end of each period and will need to place them back in the wall pouches at the start of their next class. The electronic device must remain in the classroom holder for the entire period.

### Attendance Matters!

RINI opens its doors to students at 7:30AM for breakfast, and Period 1 classes start promptly at 8AM. The Rhode Island Department of Education has launched the Attendance MattersRI Campaign to encourage schools and families to work together on improving school attendance. Research shows that chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of the school year) can lead to lower academic achievement, disengagement, course failures, and an increased risk of dropping out.

### Dress Code

Winter is coming! As a reminder, students are NOT allowed to wear hoodies as part of their uniform. We recommend that students bring a cardigan or wear a scrub jacket. There are also coat hooks in classrooms for students to hang coats on as the weather starts to get colder.

## Do You Know Your School Counselor?

### Grade 9

Franzoni: A-Ma  
Coetzee: Mc-Z

### Grade 10

Franzoni: A-Le  
Coetzee: Li-Z

### Grade 11

Franzoni: A-Le  
Coetzee: Li-Z

### Grade 12

Franzoni: A-MA  
Coetzee: Me-Z



# COMMUNITY

## Community Resources and Scholarship Opportunities

### COVID-19 Tests

Every US household can now [order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests](#). Learn more about COVID-19 testing and free testing options at [covid.ri.gov/test](https://covid.ri.gov/test).

### Keep the Heat On

Keep the Heat On provides financial assistance to households that have either exhausted or are ineligible for all other state, federal or private heating assistance. To learn more, go to: [Keep the Heat On - Providence, RI \(heat.ri.com\)](https://heat.ri.com).

### MLK Jr. State Holiday Commission Essay Contest

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission, chaired by Representative Nathan Biah, has announced the annual essay contest for the upcoming holiday event.

“Since this is my first year as the commission’s chairman, and as an educator, I am particularly excited to see what our state’s youth have to say regarding the legacy of Dr. King. I encourage all of our students to participate in this year’s contest. Dr. King’s teachings are profoundly relevant in today’s polarized society, and this contest is an excellent opportunity for our students to learn from Dr. King’s message on how to make our world a better place,” said Representative Biah. Four winners will be chosen (two middle school students and two high school students) and prizes of \$200 will be awarded to the first place entries and a \$100 prize will be awarded to the second place entries. The contest is open to all middle and high school students in Rhode Island. The deadline for applicants is Monday, December 2, 2024.

[Essay Contest Permission slip here.](#)

# STUDENT SHOUTOUTS

Every other week, RINI faculty highlight a student who exemplifies our Pillars of Nursing: Scholarship, Character, Compassion and Empathy, and Professionalism. This week, we're recognizing Crystal Vargas Paz. Well done, Crystal!



## Student Spotlight: Crystal Vargas Paz

### Nominated by Ms. Pitrone

“Crystal is the ACE in the deck. She has all the essential tools in her kit to succeed! She consistently displays the Pillars of Nursing that RINI prides itself on and always has a smile on her face while doing so. She has a warm demeanor and is wise beyond her years. I enjoy having her in my 5th period class as she is a ray of sunshine sometimes amidst the hecticness and chaos. Well done Crystal!

I am honored to have you in my class and I am very proud of the hard work you have put in thus far!

Keep up the great work, I know you are going places and I look forward to seeing your academic career at RINI for years to come.”

# STUDENT SHOUTOUTS

In October, sophomores and juniors took the Fall PSAT, and seniors took their last in-school SAT. With the release of test scores, we wanted to congratulate the top three students for both the English Reading and Writing and the Math sections. Congratulations!

**Awardees in Math**

**Grade 12**

Camille A. Chiong  
Jayden Guzman  
Stephanie E. Boekamp

**Grade 11**

Ailyn Ospina Bedoya  
Lia A. Tavarez Sobalvarro  
Valeria V. Cortez-Perez

**Grade 10**

Gabriel De Renzi  
Caitlin A. Chiong  
Alyhana J. Lopez  
Tomas Ortiz-Alonzo

**Awardees in English Reading and Writing**

**Grade 12**

Stephanie E. Boekamp  
Brishelle N. Chevalier  
Jasmin M. Escobar

**Grade 11**

Lia A. Tavarez Sobalvarro  
Valeria V. Cortez-Perez  
Khairah A. Shiyanbola

**Grade 10**

Alyhana J. Lopez  
Abigayle L. Masello  
Jaslene Collazo





The State of Rhode Island  
 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission  
*presents the*  
**Annual Essay Contest**  
*Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



**CONTEST RULES**

- Entries must be from RI middle or high school students.
- Essay must be typed in Microsoft Word format and limited to 500-750 words (middle school) or 750-1000 words (high school.)
- Submission must include completed Parental Permission form (attached) and be submitted individually as the original work of only one student.
- Essay and Parental Permission form **MUST** be electronically submitted to [RIMLKESAY@gmail.com](mailto:RIMLKESAY@gmail.com).
- The Commission reserves the right to promote, publish, and/or distribute any or all entries.
- Four winners will be chosen, 2 middle school and 2 high school. Prizes of \$200 for first place and \$100 for second place will be awarded for each level.

*The Entry Deadline is December 2, 2024*

**Middle school essay prompt**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was especially inspired by gospel singer Mahalia Jackson, who joined him at several rallies.

Which musicians or artists do you connect to King's legacy of activism, equality, and peace? Quote some of their lyrics and include them in your essay about Dr. King.

*Expectations are that your essay letter will contain well-organized thoughts that are clear and concise, as well as proper use of vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation.*

**Middle school and high school students will read their winning submissions at school and at the annual MLK State Commission Ceremony scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2025.**

**High school essay prompt**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Reflect on how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. connected civil rights leaders and everyday people across identities, workplaces, churches, and communities. Explore how Dr. King's strategy is used or could be used to address an important civil rights issue today.

*Expectations are that your essay will contain well-organized thoughts that are clear and concise, as well as proper use of vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation.*



RHODE ISLAND  
 NURSES INSTITUTE  
 MIDDLE COLLEGE  
 CHARTER SCHOOL

**PARENT/FAMILY  
 NIGHT**  
 (FOR ALL CURRENT FAMILIES)

**DECEMBER 4TH | 1-6:30**

**MEET THE TEACHERS  
 SEE THE SCHOOL  
 AND MUCH MORE**



## Parents and Guardians

### You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.\*

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".


SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#) so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



**Opt-In from  
your mobile  
now!**



**Just send "Y"  
or "Yes" to  
67587.**

 *Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes: SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers.*

*If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.*

\*Terms and Conditions: Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See [schoolmessenger.com/tm](http://schoolmessenger.com/tm) for more info.



# IMPORTANT UNIFORM UPDATES

## Purpose of Uniform (Scrubs):

The uniform policy at this healthcare-focused organization requires students to wear scrubs to simulate a professional environment and ensure a seamless transition into nursing school. This policy prepares students for the standards and expectations of a healthcare career, emphasizing professionalism, hygiene, and safety.

We have observed several students wearing compression zip-ups or cardigans without a scrub top underneath. While this time is serving as a grace period for zip-ups, please be reminded that it is expected a scrub top is worn underneath the zip-up/cardigan every day.

Students who are out of dress code will receive dress code violations. Multiple violations will require a family meeting.

Current:	Upcoming Changes Effective: <b>January 2, 2025</b>
<p><b>School Wide Expectation:</b> Students are expected to arrive to school in complete uniform:</p> <p><b>REQUIRED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrub tops</li> <li>• Scrub bottoms</li> <li>• Appropriate shoes (cros, sneakers, flats)</li> <li>• Visible Badge</li> </ul> <p><b>OPTIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long sleeve shirt underneath scrub top</li> <li>• Solid colored cardigans</li> </ul> <p><b>*Permitted through grace period:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zips ups MUST have Scrub Top underneath.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Non-Negotiables</b></p> <p>Hoodies are <b>not</b> permitted and are non-negotiable. Students will be required to remove hoodies upon entering RINI and are not allowed to wear them during transitions or lunch periods.</p> <p>*We highly encourage all students to wear long-sleeve shirts under their scrubs, and bring a warm cardigan or nursing lab jacket to school each day.</p>	<p><b>School Wide Expectation:</b> Students are expected to arrive to school in complete uniform:</p> <p><b>REQUIRED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrub tops</li> <li>• Scrub bottoms</li> <li>• Appropriate shoes (cros, sneakers, flats)</li> <li>• Visible Badge</li> </ul> <p><b>OPTIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursing Lab Coats</li> <li>• Long sleeve shirt underneath scrub top</li> <li>• Solid colored cardigans</li> </ul> <p>Changes <b>*Zips ups will no longer be allowed</b></p> <p><b>Grace period for zip-ups will end on January 2, 2025. Students will transition to Nursing Lab Coats in place of zip-ups.</b></p> <p><b>Non-Negotiables</b></p> <p>Hoodies are <b>not</b> permitted and are non-negotiable. Students will be required to remove hoodies upon entering RINI and are not allowed to wear them during transitions or lunch periods.</p> <p>*We highly encourage all students to wear long-sleeve shirts under their scrubs, and bring a warm cardigan or nursing lab jacket to school each day.</p>
<p><b>RINI Class A Blues</b></p>	<p>Students are required to wear <b>RINI Blues</b> when leaving the school for field trips, attending clinicals or internships, and whenever instructed by school staff.</p>

# RINI Middle College

## 2024 - 2025 School Calendar

August 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						(9)

September 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
						(19)

October 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		(20)

November 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						(14)

December 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						(14)

January 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						(21)

February 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	
						(16)

March 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					(20)

April 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
						(17)

May 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						(21)

June 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
						(14)

July 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>APRIL</b>
21 - 23 - New Teacher orientation	23 - 31 - Holiday Recess (No School)	14 - 18 - Spring Recess (no school)
26 - 29 - Teacher orientation		
	<b>JANUARY</b>	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	1 - New Year's Day (no school)	<b>MAY</b>
2 - Labor Day (no school)	13 - End of Semester 1	1 - Sr. Decision Day
3 - First Day of School	14 - 17 - Exams	21 - Senior Presentation Day Early dismissal at 12:00
10 - State Primary Day	20 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no school)	26 - Memorial Day (no school)
	21 - Semester 2 begins	
<b>OCTOBER</b>		<b>June</b>
3-4 Rosh Hashanah (no school)	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	2-3-4 Senior Exams
14 - Indigenous People's Day (no school)	17 - Winter Recess (no school)	7 - Jr/Sr Prom (tentative)
		11 - Cap and gown distribution
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	12 - Senior Awards Night (tentative)
5 - Election Day (no school)	31 - Eid al-Fitr (no school)	16 - Graduation (tentative)
11 - Veteran's Day (no school)		18 - 20 - 23 - Underclassmen Exams
27 - 28 - 29 - Thanksgiving Recess		19 - Juneteenth (no school)
		24 - exam make up/last day of school