



RHODE ISLAND  
NURSES INSTITUTE  
MIDDLE COLLEGE  
CHARTER SCHOOL

# The Pulse of RINI

RINI Community News | Friday, February 14th, 2025

## Dates to Remember

- February 17th - February 21st: February Vacation, No school
- Teen Cuisine: March 5, March 12 - Internship Hour Opportunity

## Upcoming Events

- February 20th: Rhode Island Dental Association Toothbrush Event, 12:30PM @ the Warwick Mall

## After School Clubs

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

**Open Seats:** Do you know a 9th or 10th grader interested in a nursing education? Encourage them to **apply to RINI via [EnrollRI](#)** today!

**Cell Phone Policy:** We're looking for family opinions on cell phones in our schools. Complete the survey about cell phones using [this link](#).

**[SurveyWorks](#)** is coming! Look out for the upcoming link to let us know how our school is doing! Our goal is **100 percent community participation**.

## At-a-Glance Reminders

- For questions regarding **IEPs**, please contact Mrs. Kafal ([mkafal@rinimc.org](mailto:mkafal@rinimc.org)).
- For questions regarding **504s**, please contact Principal Ferland ([tferland@rinimc.org](mailto:tferland@rinimc.org)).
- RINI has a strict **Chromebook-only policy**. Students need to come to school every day with their Chromebooks to access their course materials and assignments.
- For **bus passes**, please contact Ms. Santiago ([ysantiago@rinimc.org](mailto:ysantiago@rinimc.org)).



“Preparation for tomorrow is hard work today.”

BRUCE LEE

## Principal Updates

Even though there’s been snow on the ground and it might not feel like it, we are well into the spring semester. All students have begun to receive grades in PowerSchool, and should be making plans to stay focused and present to be successful as we keep moving forward.

Seniors, you are in the last four months of school. It might feel far away, but this is the final push and you will be graduating in what feels like no time. You need to be present in your college classes, as you cannot succeed in those courses without being there. Failing grades on college courses will follow you much longer than your high school transcript will; it will matter to schools you are applying to for admission this fall, it will follow you through your college career and impact what courses you are or are not allowed to take and when you can take them, and, if you choose to pursue graduate school in the next four years after high school, it can impact what programs you’re able to get into. These college course grades matter. Go to class, do the work, and end successfully with more college credits so that you can finish college sooner (and for less money).

Following the vacation, we will be coming back to RINI with a revised cell phone policy. Overwhelmingly, families have told us that they support an all-day phone ban. However, we want to afford the students one more opportunity to do what we need to put education first.

Beginning on Monday, February 24th when we return from break, students are expected to use the classroom wall hangers to store their phones during class. They cannot take them out during class period or if they leave to use the restroom. They may use their phones in the halls when changing classes and during lunch in the cafeteria. Students who are found with cell phones will have the devices confiscated, and cell phones will have to be picked up by parents.

As a reminder, for cybersecurity and safety reasons, students on the RINI Wifi Network are required to use their school-issued Chromebooks. Students attending college classes can use their personal devices there, but otherwise, to protect your personal data, Chromebooks are the only acceptable devices for use at school.

Families, we are asking that you continue to help your students get to school on time, every day. The biggest impact on student success is attendance. We have made huge progress in improving our overall school attendance this year, and we continue to get better. Our schoolwide goal is to reduce chronic absenteeism, and we are doing great, but we need everyone’s involvement.

Juniors, keep coming to SAT Prep. Attendance is mandatory, and this is a service that we are providing that can improve your SAT scores. High SAT scores help your chances of getting into the college programs you’re looking for, and they help qualify you for scholarships to keep college costs down.

While it’s February now, spring is just around the corner. I want to wish everyone a safe and relaxing February Vacation. We’ll see you on the 24th!



In partnership,

Principal Ferland

## FEBRUARY WELLNESS NEWSLETTER



STAY HEALTHY, STAY STRONG!

**February is American Heart Month**

**Small changes can make a big difference:**

- ✓ **Eat heart-healthy foods (fruits, veggies, whole grains, and lean proteins)**
- ✓ **Stay active—take a walk, dance, or play a sport**
- ✓ **Manage stress—deep breaths, journaling, or talking to a friend**



♥ February 14 – Valentine's Day 🌸 Spread kindness!

📅 February 17-24 – Winter Break ❄️ Take time to relax and recharge.

**Winter months can be tough on motivation**

**—stay on top of your health and academics by:**

- ✓ **Getting enough sleep (aim for 7-9 hours)**
- ✓ **Staying hydrated (even in cold weather!)**
- ✓ **Breaking big assignments into small tasks**

Remember—your health matters!  
Need support? Stop by the nurse's  
office or talk to a trusted adult.

*Nurse Raposo*

### ☀️ **Community Resources & Support**

📍 **Clinica Esperanza** (Free health clinic for uninsured students & families)

🏥 **Providence Community Health Centers** – Affordable medical, dental, and mental health care

☎️ **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** – Available 24/7 for mental health support

📖 **Providence Public Library** – Free study spaces, tutoring, and college prep resources

Make an appt with Mrs. Rosales for help with any of these resources!

## Links to Community Health Resources

- [Find a vaccination clinic](#)
- [RI Community Health Centers](#)
- [RI Community Food Bank](#)



# RINI ILLNESS POLICIES

Doctor's notes should be provided whenever possible for illness or injury. Doctor's notes are also required for any absences lasting longer than 3 consecutive days. While the note does NOT excuse the absence, it does provide documentation regarding the absences that are required for attendance purposes.

## 1. **Fever**

- Criteria: 100.4°F or higher
- Exclusion: Students must stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medication.

## 2. **Diarrhea**

- Exclusion: Students must stay home for 24 hours after the last episode.

## 3. **Vomiting**

- Exclusion: Students must stay home for 24 hours after the last episode.

## 4. **Impetigo**

- Action: The student will be sent home.
- Return: 24 hours after antibiotics are started.

## 5. **Mononucleosis (Mono)**

- Exclusion: No exclusion is required.

## 6. **Chickenpox**

- Exclusion: Students must stay home for seven days after the onset of the rash or until all blisters have crusted and dried out.

## 7. **Strep Throat**

- Return: 24 hours after the start of treatment.

## 8. **Scarlet Fever**

- Return: 24 hours after the start of treatment.

## 9. **Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease**

- Exclusion: Students must be fever-free for 24 hours.

## 10. **Covid: Students must be fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.**

### **Importance of Vaccinations**

Vaccines are a vital part of public health and have significantly reduced the incidence of many contagious diseases. By ensuring that all students are vaccinated, we protect those who are unable to receive vaccines due to medical reasons and help prevent outbreaks of preventable illnesses.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out.



# SUPPORT UPDATES

## Policy Reminders

### Cellphones

Cellphones should be in the wall hangers in each classroom during class. 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. Students caught using their phones in class will have the devices confiscated, and parents will be required to come collect the phone.

### 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

Our dress code policy has been updated; details are at the end of this newsletter. 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.

## 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 \(heatri.com\)](https://heatri.com).

### Have You Completed Your FAFSA?

All seniors are required to complete their FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Completing the FAFSA ensures that students are able to receive financial assistance, such as student loans and scholarships, to help pay for their college education. For help with FAFSA, please contact Ms. Bininger ([tbininger@rinimc.org](mailto:tbininger@rinimc.org)).

# 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 Jizelle Hernandez. Great job, Jizelle!




## Student Spotlight: Jizelle Hernandez


### Nominated by Mrs. Boyajian

Jizelle embodies the Pillars of Nursing, setting an example for her peers and demonstrating qualities that will undoubtedly make her an outstanding healthcare professional in the future. Her discipline and determination are hard to match. She is highly focused, avoiding distractions to excel in her studies. Her commitment to academic excellence reflects her dedication and her passion for learning ensures she is always prepared to meet and exceed expectations. Jizelle exemplifies empathy and compassion. She is kind and polite in her interactions, always extending a helping hand to her classmates. She carries herself with grace and a sense of purpose, embodying the characteristics of a future healthcare professional who will make a meaningful impact in the lives of her patients and colleagues.

# COMMUNITY - EVENTS



**Rhode Island Dental Association**  
presents




**The 3rd Annual Great Toothbrush Exchange**

**An event in celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month**

The February 2025 National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) is brought to you by the ADA. In honor of National Children's Dental Health Month, bring in a picture of your old toothbrush and get a new one in exchange!

20 February 2025 | 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM  
Warwick Mall  
400 Bald Hill Rd, Warwick, RI 02886



For more information contact Elizabeth Lamoureux  
at 401-825-7700 or [elamoureux@ridental.org](mailto:elamoureux@ridental.org)





## TEEN SQUAD

Rhode Coders 2.0: Web Design and Intermediate CSS

REGISTER AT: ENROLLRI.ORG

### New at PPL! Rhode Coders 2.0: Web Design and Intermediate CSS

Rhode Coders 2.0: Web Design and Intermediate CSS is a course for students curious about graphic web design and who are also interested in coding.

#### Who Can Participate

Teens in grades 9-12

It is recommended that you have some background in HTML and CSS before starting

#### When and Where

Monday and Wednesday: 3:30-5:30pm

January 22-May 14, 2025

Providence Public Library (150 Empire Street)

In person participation required



A \$350 stipend is given for completion of program

Providence Public Library offers events and programs for teens all the time. For the most up-to-date calendar, check out:

<https://www.provlib.org/youth-services/teen-loft/programs/>

## 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
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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
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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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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
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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