



RHODE ISLAND
NURSES INSTITUTE
MIDDLE COLLEGE
CHARTER SCHOOL

The Pulse of RINI

RINI Community News | Friday, March 14th, 2025

Dates to Remember

- March 31st: Eid al-Fitr, No School
- April 9th: PSAT/SAT School Day

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, April 2nd, 5PM-7PM: RINI's Celebration of Cultures

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 have updated our cell phone policy! Please see the Principal's Updates for a review of the new policy. Contact Ms. Ortega with any questions.

[SurveyWorks](#) is here! We are looking for 100% community participation. Your voice matters in helping us improve our school community. Complete the survey here: bit.ly/ridfamily.

At-a-Glance Reminders

- For questions regarding **IEPs**, please contact Mrs. Kafal (mkafal@rinimc.org).
- For questions regarding **504s**, please contact Principal Ferland (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).



“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and, most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”

PELE

Principal’s Updates

Spring is in the air! This is an exciting time of year: we have some longer daylight hours, the weather is warming up, and we’re getting towards the midpoint of the second semester. I want to remind all students to make sure that they’re continuing to stay on top of their coursework. Families can check grades on PowerSchool, and data conversations will be happening in classes and advisory so that students can know exactly where they are and what they should be working on.

This is also the time of year that we’re in our final push before the Spring PSAT/SAT School Day, which will be on April 9th. These exams are required, and they are part of how we measure our school. More information will be coming soon, but in the meantime, students should be preparing now for those exams. Juniors still have their mandatory SAT prep course on Wednesdays. Other ways that students can prepare for tests include the required IXL work during advisory, practicing math and language arts on Khan Academy outside of school, reviewing SAT vocabulary and grammar on freerice.com, and reading for at least 30 minutes a day, every day. While the SAT is broken into English Reading and Writing and Math sections, it really does cover every content area that students take courses in, so working hard, asking questions when something doesn’t make sense, and doing extra work to reach mastery in all subjects will help students succeed. These exams are important for students because they help qualify students for scholarships, and they are still a part of the entry requirements for many college programs across the country.

We are currently collecting responses for SurveyWorks. By completing this survey, you are sharing important information about your experience with RINI. Parent voice matters, as it helps us make the best decisions about our school program for our community. Our goal is to reach 100 percent participation, and we are currently at 13 percent. Surveyworks is an opportunity to share how you feel about our school, and we use that feedback when we make choices about school improvement. We cannot do this important work without your participation and your feedback. The link to complete the survey is bit.ly/ridefamily.

Our new cell phones and electronics policy is in full swing. Students should be putting their phones in the cell phone hangers in each classroom when they start the period. If a student is found using their phone during class, their name will be recorded in a live Google spreadsheet, and a support team member will confiscate the phone for the remainder of the day. This infraction will also be documented in their disciplinary log. If cell phone misuse continues, parents will be required to pick up the phone in person. When a parent has to come in and pick up the phone or electronic device, it is an automatic 4 week cellphone plan. This is to help students stay focused on their education and their classwork, as cell phones are a major detriment to student success and mental wellbeing. If you need to contact your child while they are at school, please call the main office to do so. As a reminder, this policy applies to all electronics, such as headphones, iPads, and, of course, cell phones.

On a final note, I want to draw attention to our Pillars of Nursing, and, for this month, I’d like to focus on Professionalism. We define Professionalism as follows: “Professionalism creates a climate that encourages personal development and growth. It is demonstrated through dependability, commitment, accountability, and responsibility for our actions and beliefs. Professionalism requires us to collaborate and cooperate with others in all interactions. By exhibiting behaviors of professionalism, you are demonstrating pride in oneself, your school and respect for your future profession.” We are training students to be future nurses, and this means practicing the Pillars, like Professionalism, every single day in every single class. This means adhering to school policies like dress code and cell phone use, but also in how we interact with one another. We are all here to learn in a safe and supportive environment, and I’m asking that families help us work with our students to develop a strong sense of professionalism that will carry them through their future education and careers.



In partnership,

Principal Ferland

SPRING INTO WELLNESS!



March Wellness Newsletter

Spring into Wellness! 🌸

🌸 March is a Time for Renewal!

As the days get longer and the weather warms up, it's a great time to refresh your routine and focus on self-care, wellness, and academic success!

💡 School Wellness Tips:

- ✓ Stay Organized
- ✓ Get Fresh Air
- ✓ Spring Clean Your Habits
- ✓ Hydration Reminder

📅 Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- 🌿 March 17 – St. Patrick's Day 🌿 Wear green and spread some kindness!
- 🌸 March 20 – First Day of Spring! 🌿 Take time to reset and recharge.
- 📅 March 31 - NO SCHOOL

★ Community Resources & Support

- 📍 Providence Public Library – Free SAT prep, tutoring, and study spaces.
- 🏥 Providence Community Health Centers – Affordable medical, dental, and mental health care.
- ☎️ 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline – Available 24/7 for emotional support.
- 🍎 Rhode Island Food Bank – Providing food assistance for families in need.
- 💙 Remember: Your well-being matters! If you need support, visit the school nurse, a counselor, or a trusted teacher.



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.

Keep the Heat On

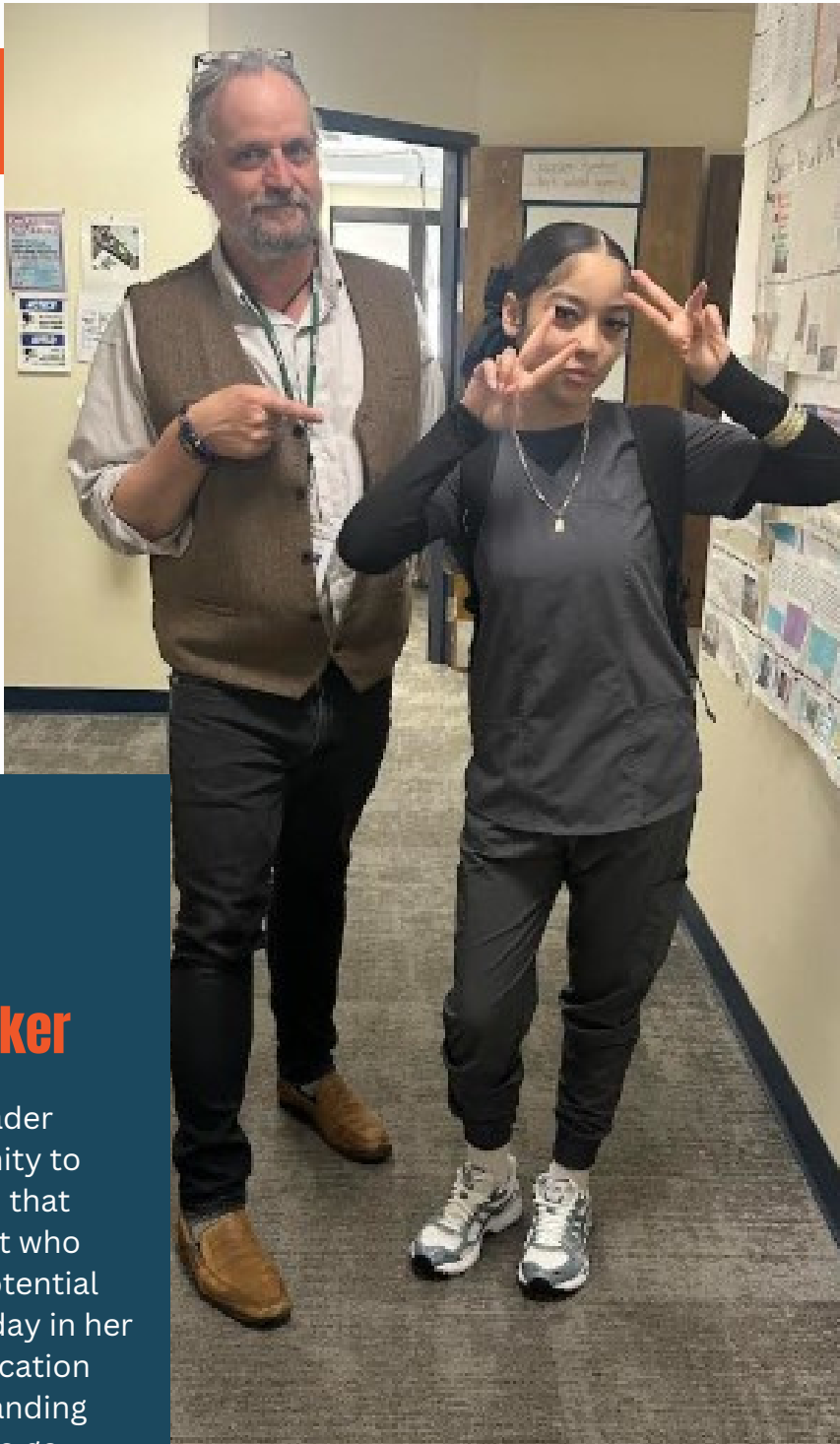
Keep the Heat On provides financial assistance to households that have either exhausted or are ineligible for all other state, federal or private heating assistance. To learn more, go to: [Keep the Heat On - Providence, RI \(heatri.com\)](https://heatri.com).

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).

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 Marianny Pena. Great job, Marianny!



Student Spotlight: Marianny Pena

Nominated by Mr. Whitaker

This week's student spotlight is 10th grader Marianny Pena. I have had the opportunity to work with Marianny since September. In that time, I have seen her grow into a student who has come to recognize her enormous potential and is becoming more confident every day in her academic abilities. She exemplifies dedication and excellence in academics. Her outstanding work ethic is evident in her willingness to go above and beyond, whether through active participation in class discussions or assisting her peers. Additionally, Marianny maintains a strong attendance record, showcasing her reliability and commitment to learning. Her positive attitude and determination make Marianny a role model for fellow students, and we are proud to recognize her achievements!

COMMUNITY - EVENTS

PPL

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 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: January 2, 2025
<p>School Wide Expectation: Students are expected to arrive to school in complete uniform:</p> <p>REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub tops • Scrub bottoms • Appropriate shoes (crocs, sneakers, flats) • Visible Badge <p>OPTIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long sleeve shirt underneath scrub top • Solid colored cardigans <p>*Permitted through grace period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zips ups MUST have Scrub Top underneath. <p>Non-Negotiables</p> <p>Hoodies are not 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>School Wide Expectation: Students are expected to arrive to school in complete uniform:</p> <p>REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub tops • Scrub bottoms • Appropriate shoes (crocs, sneakers, flats) • Visible Badge <p>OPTIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Lab Coats • Long sleeve shirt underneath scrub top • Solid colored cardigans <p>Changes *Zips ups will no longer be allowed</p> <p>Grace period for zip-ups will end on January 2, 2025. Students will transition to Nursing Lab Coats in place of zip-ups.</p> <p>Non-Negotiables</p> <p>Hoodies are not 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>RINI Class A Blues</p>	<p>Students are required to wear RINI Blues 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
						(21)

September 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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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
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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
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						(14)

December 2024						
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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
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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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23	24	25	26	27	28	
						(16)

March 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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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
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						(21)

June 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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29	30					
						(14)

July 2025						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST	DECEMBER	APRIL
21 - 23 - New Teacher orientation	23 - 31 - Holiday Recess (No School)	14 - 18 - Spring Recess (no school)
26 - 29 - Teacher orientation		
	JANUARY	
SEPTEMBER	1 - New Year's Day (no school)	MAY
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	
OCTOBER		June
3-4 Rosh Hashanah (no school)	FEBRUARY	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
NOVEMBER	MARCH	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