



RHODE ISLAND  
**NURSES INSTITUTE  
MIDDLE COLLEGE**  
CHARTER SCHOOL



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**RINI Principal's Update - April 9, 2021**

**RINI UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:**

**April 12:** Family Lunch Sessions

**April 19-April 23:** April Vacation (No School)

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:**

As a school community we have always set high standards and goals for our students and our school. Even in the midst of a global pandemic and learning virtually, we continued learning and hands on experiences at testing sites and healthcare facilities.

One of our major goals was attendance. Every moment in the classroom is critical for student learning and experience. Each day builds on the next, and sets students on a pathway to helping patients. I am proud to announce that as of today our chronic absenteeism rate is the lowest it has been in the past years – 19%.

This is a testament to students, parents and teachers all working together!

- Thank you to our RINI families for collaborating with us to make attendance a priority!
- Thank you to our teachers and staff for supporting student learning and reaching out to families!
- Thank you to our students for their commitment to learning and embodying the RINI pillars of nursing: professionalism, empathy and compassion, character, scholarship!

The past year has been very difficult for students and families. Please reach out to us if you are experiencing hardship, or if your child is having attendance or learning issues. We are here to help.

We are partners in educating and preparing a diverse group of students to become the highly educated and professional nursing workforce of the future. Let's keep up the good work to have a strong finish to the 2021 school year!

In Partnership,

Tammy Ferland

## **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:**

**Welcome to Community Spotlight,**  
where we highlight and celebrate  
members of RINI School



Community. This week we are excited to introduce Art Teacher **Anne Reinhardt**.

**Describe the class you teach.**

I am teaching a class called Physiological Art, which was developed by our STEAMM Coordinator, Amy Salomone, when she was the art teacher. It's a really fun and fascinating curriculum. It's been a joy to start thinking about how to make it my own. In this class, students are literally exploring the mind/body connection in art making. Right now they are learning about the function of each part of the brain, relating that to their own experiences, and creating an art piece. We are just finishing the frontal lobe. At the end of the term they will have a digital portfolio of the whole brain.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching?**

Learning just as much from the kids as they do from me. I'm constantly surprised, motivated, and inspired by them.

**What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing today's education system?**

The first is that not everyone has the same access to a high-quality education that fosters children's intrinsic desire to learn.

There are so many different kinds of progressive, innovative schools out there that are breaking the mold in order to serve all kinds of diverse learners and

communities. Everyone deserves access to that. Why isn't it the norm for all?

The second challenge is that this inequity doesn't seem to be a priority for our nation as a whole. So how do we, as educators, effect change?

A former student of mine from Sophia Academy just graduated from URI and now she's heading to Brown for a master's in Urban Education Policy. That was really motivating for me to hear. I really believe in the great things she will do for education.

### **What is the greatest success you've had with teaching?**

All humans are born artistic or creative in some form and then along the line it gets "taught out of us." Almost every child or adult who says "I'm not good at art," or "I wish I was creative like you" has either had a negative learning experience in art, it wasn't prioritized in academics as they grew older, or there was a lack of access to it altogether. Whenever I can bring a student to a place of realizing they are a naturally creative being, and they get lost in enjoying the process- that's the biggest success.

### **How do you motivate your students to become active learners in your classroom?**

By creating an environment where they can come try things without fear of failure.

There are no wrong answers in art, so it's the perfect place to go all in. If you make a mistake, you turn it into something else or leave it at the door on your way out. In fact, the more mistakes you make, the better you get. If I can get my students to feel that in the art room, the intrinsic desire to create is going to have space to kick in, and they pull active learning out of themselves all on their own.

## **JOIN THE RINI MIDDLE COLLEGE BUILDING COMMITTEE:**

RINI Middle College is forming a building committee to engage and advise in the overall educational facility master planning for the construction of a new facility and school building. We are seeking at least one member of the community with architectural, engineering, and/or construction experience to provide input relative to the effect of the project on the community and to examine building design and construction plans for reasonableness. This is a volunteer position and will be an active committee meeting frequently.

## **ACADEMICS:**

### **SENIORS: LET'S GET READY FOR GRADUATION!**

Please complete these items during this month, so we can begin putting together the slideshow for senior awards night.

1. Start creating your personal slide that will be shown at awards night. The template and directions are below - all you need to do is make a copy, personalize, and send it to [kgaspar@rinimc.org](mailto:kgaspar@rinimc.org).

[Awards Night Personal Slide Template](#)

2. Vote for your classmates! (voting closes in two weeks FYI).

[Class of 2021 Superlatives Form](#)

3. Send in pictures of your RINI experience - we want everyone to be included! Pictures of you all as a group will be helpful.

[Class of 2021 RINI Experience Pictures](#)

## **COLLEGE AND CAREER UPDATES:**

[PrepareRI Ambassador Team](#) is excited to announce the launch of monthly themed webinars, intended to increase awareness about the amazing opportunities available to best support students' college and career pathways. Please find a list of monthly webinar topics below:

- April: All Course Network
- May: Saving Money in College with PrepareRI
- June: Work-Based Learning
- July: PrepareRI Alums – Where are they now?

You can register for the webinars [here](#). If you have questions about the monthly webinar series, please contact Wendy Wallace, at [wendy.wallace@ride.ri.gov](mailto:wendy.wallace@ride.ri.gov).

### **STUDENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**The 1SG P. Andrew McKenna Memorial Scholarship** is offered annually to two graduating seniors in the State of Rhode Island in honor of 1SG McKenna. Andrew was a Green Beret assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group, killed in action on August 7th, 2015 in Kabul, Afghanistan. Qualified applicants must submit completed applications no later than Friday, April 16th, 2021. Chosen recipients will each receive a \$1,500 scholarship check in their name. Application details can be found by emailing [1SGPAM@gmail.com](mailto:1SGPAM@gmail.com).

**The Rhode Island Foundation** is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the Martin Luther King Scholarship. The Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to students who meet the following criteria:

- Rhode Island resident
- Applicants must be African-American/Black
- Accepted or enrolled in an accredited post-secondary college or technical school within the U.S.
- Must demonstrate academic and leadership success
- Must be able to demonstrate financial need

The award amounts vary and the scholarship may be renewable.

Deadline for application submission is Monday, April 12, 2021 by 5 p.m. (EST). Please click [here](#) to apply. Contact Kelly Riley, Donor Services Administrator, by calling: 401-427-4028, or emailing her at: [kriley@rifoundation.org](mailto:kriley@rifoundation.org).

**2021 Navigant Credit Union Scholarship Accepting Applications**

The 2021 Navigant Credit Union Scholarship is open to any graduating high school senior entering an accredited junior college, college, university or tech school. The applicant or parent/guardian must be a member of Navigant Credit Union in good standing. The deadline for this scholarship is Monday, May 3rd 2021. The [Scholarship](#) can be downloaded from the Navigant Credit Union website. Please contact Kelley Schimmel at [scholarships@navigantcu.org](mailto:scholarships@navigantcu.org) with any questions.

**It is not too late to file for FAFSA!**

Day and night appointments are available. Book your appointment at [The College Planning Center](#) or call 401-736-3170 [Prepare for FAFSA](#)

**Stronger Scholarship for Young Health Equity Changemakers:** Young people are actively changing the world. They bring new ideas, strategies, and perspectives to issues our communities have been struggling to overcome for decades. Young people are taking to the streets, mobilizing, and speaking out against racial injustices, health inequities, and environmental racism—all with heart, hope, and vision.

In recognition of the important role young changemakers play in creating healthy, safe, vibrant, and equitable communities, [Prevention Institute](#) (PI) has partnered with [Healthline](#) to offer this year's [Stronger Scholarship](#). The scholarship will award three \$7,000 scholarships to students working to improve community conditions and reduce health inequities in their communities.

PI encourages student advocates who work on a wide range of issues—housing rights, park equity, mental wellbeing, economic justice, racial justice, and others—to apply for this scholarship. Details about eligibility and the application process are available [here](#). The application deadline is **April 20, 2021**.



**BAE Training Available for High School Students.** The RI Department of

Health is partnering with Bristol-based, national organization SafeBAE, to pilot their BAE (Before Anyone Else) Training among high school students in RI in 2021! This youth-focused virtual training will guide students through 15 modules, tackling the many layers of dating violence among students, including consent, bystander intervention, Title IX, how to support survivors, options for reporting, etc. and we need adult allies to support their students in learning about the training.

Becoming Certified Peer Educators is just the beginning. Students will need district approval to help them qualify to get credit for the training as community service hours toward graduation and support in facilitating peer training opportunities within the district once they are trained. (Flyer for sharing with others)

The training and all materials are also available to educators to support lesson plans and provide authentic and youth created content to support curriculum around healthy relationships. Please visit [www.safebae.org](http://www.safebae.org) to learn more about programming, reach out with questions, and become an adult ally in preventing dating violence among your students!

## **FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE**

Rhode Island Expands Efforts to Vaccinate Residents in Hardest-Hit Communities:

People age 16 and older who live in one of the eight hardest-hit ZIP codes covering parts of Providence, Cranston, North Providence, and all of Pawtucket and Central Falls are able to register for vaccination appointments at State-run vaccination sites and participating pharmacy locations.

The eight ZIP codes are 02860, 02861, 02863, 02904, 02905, 02907, 02908, and 02909.

People can register online at <https://www.vaccinateri.org>. Those who cannot register online can call 844-930-1779.

[Pawtucket Vaccine Information](#)

[Providence Vaccine Information](#)

Residents who need help signing up for an appointment are encouraged to dial 3-1-1 or (401) 421-2489 to speak with a Mayor's Center for City Services

(MCCS) Representative who can walk them through the enrollment process in English or Spanish. MCCS is open Monday-Friday 8:30AM-4:30PM.

[CVS COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics](#)

[Walgreen's COVID-19 Clinic Sites](#)

[Stop & Shop Vaccine Clinic Sites](#)

Travel Over April Vacation Out of the Country or to a State with greater than 5% Positivity

Students who travel out of the U.S, or to a [State with greater than 5% positivity](#) rate over vacation must quarantine for 10 days after returning to RI. They must show a negative COVID test and their plane ticket to Ms. Ferland, our principal before returning to RINI.

RINI has adopted a full 10-day quarantine after travel. RINI students can NOT shorten the travel quarantine to less than 10 days even with a negative test.

What you can do now [If you are fully vaccinated](#)

Everyone should continue to practice the 3 W's:

1. Wear a mask
2. Wash your hands
3. Watch your distance

## **FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER'S OFFICE**

**RINI Middle College acknowledges and recognizes how challenging the last year has been given the COVID-19 Pandemic, violence and the many losses experienced.** We want you to know that there are resources and help available. If you are concerned about your student's mental health please reach out to the Bilingual School Social Worker Ms. Pellegrino at [spellegrino@rinimc.org](mailto:spellegrino@rinimc.org) who has resources and information available. Please do not suffer in silence. If you are unsure or are having a hard time figuring out how to have difficult conversations with your student I can also give you some assistance with that. Do not hesitate to reach out for help.

**COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Available.** The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. Under the Coronavirus

Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance](#)

## **WORKFORCE INFORMATION:**

**Please contact Mrs. Wozniak at:** [awozniak@rinimc.org](mailto:awozniak@rinimc.org) if you are interested in participating in community volunteer opportunities through the ZOOM platform to area residents in nursing facilities. Additional information can be found at: [RINI Workforce Development Office](#)

**The 2021 Heart Walk is open!** This year our walk will be a digital experience that joins our Southern New England and Southcoast Heart Walks. You can visit the registration page [HERE!](#) The experience will start in the beginning of May and will end with a virtual celebration on Sunday, June 6th on Facebook. Families are all welcome! This is a great way to get safely outdoors and start that healthy exercise we have been planning on all winter! Sign up now.

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**

**Rent Relief Available for Rhode Islanders:** Rhode Island has received \$200 million in rent relief funds from the federal [Emergency Rental Assistance \(ERA\) Program](#). This program will provide rental and utility relief payments to help eligible renters maintain housing stability. [APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!](#)

## **ELIGIBILITY & DOCS NEEDED**

Either the tenant or landlord can begin an application. **Participation from both the tenant and landlord is required** to complete an application and for payment to be issued.

**Tenant applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible:**

- Household income must meet certain income limits.
- Qualified for unemployment benefits or have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, OR experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19.
- Show they are at risk for becoming homeless or losing their housing.

**Tenants and landlords will need to provide documentation** to complete the application and for payment to be issued. A list of what tenants and landlords/property managers need to provide can be found on [www.RentReliefRI.com](http://www.RentReliefRI.com).

RIHousing has opened a new Call Center to assist applicants with questions. Residents can call the **Rent Relief RI Call Center: 1-855-608-8756** or **contact** Katie West for more information.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

**The WeR1 Fund is providing \$400 gift cards for Rhode Islanders** who are not eligible for most federal relief programs due to their immigration status. The funds allow for purchase of groceries, gas, and other basic necessities. Those in need of assistance should visit [Dorcas International](#) to apply. Applications can also be found in [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Haitian Creole](#).

#### **GRAB AND GO MEALS:**

**PROVIDENCE:** Breakfast and lunch meals are now available to families with children ages 18 and under on Tuesdays and Fridays. Times for pick up are 2:30pm to 4:30 pm.

Here are the sites that are serving meals [Providence Grab and Go Sites](#)

**RHODE ISLAND FOOD SITES:** If your family lives in a location other than Providence, please click below for a list of food sites that serve your community:

### [RI FOOD SITES](#)

**Live, learn locally at the Providence Community Library!**

- [Learn Italian - Beginner & Advanced Levels](#)
- [Learn Spanish in 2021 with PCL](#)
- [New ESL Classes](#)
- [Prepare for U.S. Citizenship with These Virtual Classes](#)
- [Tools for Healthy Living - A Virtual Series](#)

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website: [rinimc.org](http://rinimc.org)

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**Our mailing address is:**

**Nurses Institute Middle College**

150 Washington Street

4th Floor

Providence, RI

Phone: (401) 680-4900

Fax: (401) 533-9928

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