



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



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RINI Principal's Update - May 14, 2021

RINI UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES

**May 25, 2021: RINI Middle College Family Resume Building Workshop
Session 1**

May 27, 2021: RINI Middle College Family Resume Building Workshop
Session 2

May 31, 2021: Memorial Day (No School)

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT:

RINI is one of 4 area charter schools sponsoring a COVID vaccine clinic for students and their families on Friday, May 14 (1:30 - 3:30) and Saturday, May 15 (10:00 - 12:00), 2nd doses will be given 3 weeks later. Information was distributed to students and parents this week. Tuesday, the clinic was opened to anyone age 12 and older.

As of today 20% of our 10th, 11th and 12th grade students are already either partially or fully vaccinated! I was thrilled to see those numbers.

It takes a village and the RINI village is amazing.

Nurse Audette

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:



Welcome to Community Spotlight, where we highlight and celebrate members of RINI School Community. This week we are excited to introduce **Faculty Member Kathryn Gaspar**

Describe your role at RINI.

My role at RINI is to teach the senior project course, Nursing Research also known as PBGR.

This is my 8th year running this course and helping students complete projects

they are proud of! During the senior project, students research a healthcare topic, write a research paper about their topic and present their findings to professionals in our community. It is a very rewarding experience and prepares our future graduates for college!

I am also an English teacher and have taught a few of the ELA courses offered at RINI. Additionally, I am the 12th Grade Team Leader and Senior Class Advisor. In this role, I work with the 12th-grade faculty to make sure our seniors are doing well and having success in their classes. As the 12th Grade Advisor, I am busy putting together Senior Awards Night, Graduation, and other senior events during the year. Stay tuned for information about these events. We will be celebrating a new group of RINI graduates very shortly!

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

One of the unique parts about what I teach is that the course ends with my students teaching me about something. It is rewarding to see all the growth the students have experienced in order to complete a project like this. So I would say one of the things I enjoy the most about teaching is when I get to take a step back and learn from them and see all they have accomplished. I have learned about so many health care topics over the years; things I would have never known about if I was not teaching this course at RINI. Another part I enjoy about teaching is joking around and getting to know my students. I am a very social person, so having a career where I get to talk a lot works for me.

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

I would say the biggest challenge we are facing educationally today is making sure that all students have the tools and knowledge they need to be successful after high school. Not everyone gets the opportunities or support they need to reach that success. Especially since the pandemic, a lot of students have

struggled and may have missed out on content they may need in the future. This will be a challenge those in the education system, including myself, will have to address in the coming years.

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

I would say the biggest success I have experienced while teaching has been creating and developing the RINI Senior Project curriculum. When I first started, I was not sure exactly what to do but every year I worked on it. I reflected on what needed to change and what improvements needed to be made; today I can see the growth this program has in the quality of our students' projects.

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

I motivate students to be active learning in my classroom by giving them choices on what they want to learn about. I also always try to have a positive mindset and celebrate students' successes. Focusing on the future and their goals is also something I do to build motivation in my classes.

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.

[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:

- 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.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY:

CALLING PROVIDENCE YOUTH! Because youth are the present and future of our City, we invite you to join us on **Thursday, May 20th at 5:00 PM** to learn more about the [Imagine Downtown Providence](#) project.

The City of Providence is reimagining Downtown's public spaces—including Kennedy Plaza, the Rink, Waterplace Park, the Downtown Riverwalk, and the connections between these spaces—to be more inviting, sustainable,

inclusive, and connected. Since December, based on significant input from community stakeholders, the team has developed concepts, gathered and analyzed input, and continues to develop the design.

We welcome you to come see the proposed design work and share your feedback to help further shape the 30% design plans, which will be released in June.

Pre-register for the meeting here:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtde2grTsqE9SBmlzKecLrVdULfhPvTLTo>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

INSTAGRAM:

Join the conversation about the future of Downtown Providence's public spaces! Attend a virtual **youth** community meeting to learn about and share your thoughts about the future of Greater Kennedy Plaza.

REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/3uCXAdL>

Knowledge For College Scholarship - Now Available Year Round! Starting May 1, 2021, the Knowledge for College Scholarship drawing will be held year-round. We are no longer taking the summer months off. Additionally, we are increasing the number of \$2,000 winners to 4 each month. Set those reminders in your cell phones so you don't miss out on any chances to win! The only way to win is to enter.

Increasing to 4 winners each month - Year Round!

- Register on our website [here](#)

- **Read a brief financial literacy scenario and answer 3 multiple choice questions (this scholarship requires no essay!)**
- **Hit submit and receive confirmation of entry**
- **Come back each month to increase your chances of winning**



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 to learn more about programming, reach out with questions, and become an adult ally in preventing dating violence among your students!

Interested in Community Health? Become STARS: (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality) educate their friends, peers, family, and community about sexual and reproductive health and rights. This program provides a stipend issued each semester, and opportunities to get involved with social justice-related events. For more information reach out to Taytum

Camacho at taytum.camacho@rinimc.org Great opportunity for community service hours.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Daily Wellness Screening On Skyward

If your child is coming into the school building they must do the Wellness Screening on Skyward before entering the building. It is easiest to complete on a smartphone by downloading the Skyward App.

COVID Vaccine is available in RI for everyone ages 16 and older. Sign up here for anyone in your household that is 16 or older.

[COVID Vaccine Registration](#)

Fully vaccinated individuals (14 days after the final dose) do NOT have to:

- quarantine if they are a close contact of someone with COVID,
- quarantine if they travel out of the U.S.
- quarantine if they travel to a state with a >5% positivity rate
- wear a mask outdoors in small gatherings
- wear a mask indoors in small gatherings of people

While COVID numbers are better we still need to be cautious. Continue to:

Wear a mask

Wash your hands

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 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 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:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Bradley Hospital is offering a timely training on **Suicide: Screening, Prevention, and Response.**

This workshop will be held on **Monday, May 24th from 1-3pm** over Zoom and will be facilitated by Kim Lafountain, a favorite of the MENTOR Rhode Island network.

Sign up now to secure your spot. You can register for the workshop by clicking on the date on the flyer or clicking [HERE](#)

Suicide Hotlines, Resouces/ Chat Lines

The Samaritans of Rhode Island 24/7

1-800-365-4044

www.Samaritansri.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline -24/7

1-800-273-8255/1 800-273-TALK

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.com

National Hopeline Network- 24/7

1-800-784-2433/1-800-SUICIDE

www.hopeline.com

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Call 800-273-8255 text TALK to 741741

Recorded Series:

Talking with Teens: A Discussion about Mental Health [Watch Here](#)

Fostering Resilience in Children: The Role of the Family [Watch Here](#)

Youth Suicide Prevention, It's Everyone's Business: What Parents Need to Know [Watch Here](#)

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.

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.

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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is different! _____

We Are Educating the Nurses of Tomorrow, Today.

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website: rinimc.org



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