



November 5, 2021

Dear RCS Families,

We are so proud of our students, staff, and families who continue to bring hope, inspiration and joy into our teaching and learning environments.

Earlier this week we invited Dr. Jean Clinton, clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences at McMaster Children's Hospital in Canada, to join our instructional team during a professional development session. Throughout her presentation, Dr. Clinton reinforced that the most powerful buffer in times of stress remains our social connectedness. By maintaining strong, meaningful connections with our students and displaying acts of kindness, generosity and care, we can have a deep impact on how our students adapt to the world around them, even during a prolonged public health crisis. As we reflect on Dr. Clinton's words, we remain grateful for your partnership in modeling the behaviors needed for our students to grow and flourish in and out of the classroom.

The following are some updates regarding COVID-19 vaccination clinics and the RCS Legacy Committee.

COVID-19 vaccines. On Nov. 2, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved an emergency use authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 – 11 years old, as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Previously, only children 12 years and older were able to get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is recommending providers begin vaccinating children as soon as possible.

The Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) is collaborating with local school districts to provide COVID-19 vaccination clinics after school hours as a community courtesy. **A clinic is currently scheduled for Sunday, November 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rochester High School, 1361 Walton Blvd.** This clinic is open to anyone ages 5-18 who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Note, this vaccine is administered in a two-dose series, 21 days apart. The second dose will take place on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rochester High School. Appointments are strongly recommended at [OaklandCountyVaccine.com](https://www.oaklandcountymichigan.gov/health-services/COVID-19-vaccine) or by calling 1-800-848-5533. Anyone under 18 must have a parent/guardian present. Additional community vaccine clinics can be found at: [OaklandCountyVaccine.com](https://www.oaklandcountymichigan.gov/health-services/COVID-19-vaccine).

The CDC states that widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic; however, COVID-19 vaccinations remain optional in schools. For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine for children, please visit the [MDHHS website](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs).

RCS Legacy Committee. Committee work continues in order to make thoughtful recommendations about the future of the property and artifacts located at 501 W. University Drive in the City of Rochester. To date, discussions primarily focused on committee roles; observations following a building tour; the process that a prospective purchaser may have to undergo from a contractual and city approval standpoint for adaptive reuse and/or development; and the process for issuing a request for proposal (RFP) to identify interest in purchasing or redeveloping the site. Subject matter experts who addressed the group include the principal planner/preservation architect for Oakland County, the principal planner for Main Street Oakland County, and the owner of Finnicum Brownlie Architects (FBA) who specializes in historic preservation and adaptive reuse. A former archivist and collections care specialist who serves as a committee member is also helping to identify artifacts for preservation. At this time, the district is in the process of writing an RFP.

As we enter the season of gratitude, we are thankful for your continued partnership in developing the relationships that support student well-being and deep learning. Together, we can enable each student to realize their own potential and work productively to pursue their passion.

Sincerely,
Dr. Robert Shaner
Superintendent