

FROM THE DESK OF Phyllis Alpaugh



SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Rockaway Borough Schools
February 2020

THE BID PROCESS IS OPEN!

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RAMS CORNER

[Read about our new Safety Patrol at
Lincoln](#)



**HERE WE GO RAMS,
HERE WE GO!**

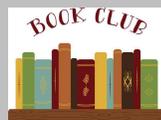
January was a very busy month for our winter sports teams, namely the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams, more commonly referred to on the Rockaway campus as the "Manly and Lady Rams". Both teams went into the playoffs with respectable records, but while we only advanced to the semi-finals, the real win of the season was not a title, but the extraordinary school spirit and resulting positive feeling that emerged in the week or so surrounding the playoff rotations.

To spur on the momentum, the middle school administration, coaches and staff held a school level pep rally the day of the semi-finals to send off both teams. In addition to celebrating our teams, the pep band entertained the crowd and our school mascot made a guest appearance as well. Where ever they played, many students, parents, staff and community members showed up to cheer on our teams, sometimes going from one game to another on the same night, to support our players. When the girls played, the boys team were their cheerleaders, with the same thing happening when the boys were on the court. It was so incredible and so exciting, and as the district administrator, I could not have been more proud of our school community.

I would like to thank you everyone...the players, the coaches, the student body, the parents and family members, the staff, the admin team, and the entire community at large who came together to show their RAMS spirit and pride and make Rockaway Borough a special place to be.

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regarding the next session of the
Superintendent's Book Club](#)



For more information regarding

This issue's FEATURED ARTICLE... Career and Technical Education for Today's Students



Another educational initiative that is gaining momentum both in the state of New Jersey as well as across the country is Career and Technical Education (CTE). In plain language, CTE is the practice of teaching specific career skills to students in middle school, high school, and post-secondary institutions. In New Jersey, the Office of Career Readiness is responsible for the statewide implementation of secondary and post-secondary career and technical education (CTE) programs. This includes collaboration with the state workforce development system, institutions of higher education, business and industry and other state agencies to create rigorous programs of study aligned to workforce needs and career pathways. The department also aims through this program and others to provide leadership to advance this movement and resulting performance-driven educational opportunities that promote equity and excellence for all students to become productive members in a global society. February in fact has been designated as Career and Technical Education month.

Career and Technical Education encompass sixteen clusters that apply to different high-demand careers. They include the following: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, Architecture & Construction, Arts, A/V Technology & Communications, Business Management & Administration, Education & Training, Finance, Government & Public Administration, Health Science, Hospitality & Tourism, Human Services, Information Technology, Law & Public Safety, Manufacturing, Marketing, Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics.

"5 Things Parents Should Know About Career & Technical Education"



So what is the value for today's youth? A career and technology based education will help your child to be more than just an average student. CTE can give your child what's needed to succeed for life: technical skills, academic skills and employability skills. In addition, career and technical education helps students see how what they're learning applies to the needs of employers. Regardless of whether students are headed for college or the workforce, this type of education will help them prepare for the future. In fact, college-bound students can get job experiences to help them define their career plans, identify an appropriate course of study and help pay for tuition. In reality, the benefits are many as students will gain not only a solid foundation in academics, but also hands-on, technical experience and know-how.

In Rockaway Borough, we are very aware of the potential benefits that students can gain through innovative and hands-on Career and Technological Education and the real life experience that can offer. To bring additional opportunities to our students, we have just gone into an agreement with Maplewoodshop to purchase licensing, equipment, lesson plans, relevant training, and support to implement a woodworking program for middle school students. Essentially, it is a "wood shop" on a cart. We hope to begin implementing the program later this spring with students from our MD class and then after review, integrate it as part of our specials rotation with targeted grades. We also believe we can use the materials to create after school or summer enrichment programs.

[Read more about our new Maplewoodshop Initiative](#)



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOLS www.rockboro.org

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