

Sage★Alliance Schools

Rochelle Park News and Events

September 2026

BUILDING MOMENTUM: A STRONG START AT ROCHELLE PARK

October is here, and it's hard to believe we've already been in school for a month! Students and staff are settling into routines, building connections, and getting involved in the many activities that make Rochelle Park a special place to be.

September brought plenty of opportunities to connect and show school spirit. Our Advisory Challenge encouraged teamwork and participation, while Week of Color brought energy and excitement throughout the building. In classrooms, students are becoming comfortable with expectations, working toward their goals, and finding new ways to participate in the school community.

As we move through October, we look forward to building on this strong start with more opportunities to learn, connect, celebrate, and grow. The year is off to a great start, and there is so much more to come!

FACULTY AND STAFF BEGIN THE YEAR WITH A FOCUS ON SAFETY AND READINESS

Faculty and staff began the school year with two days of faculty meetings focused on collaboration, preparation, and creating a strong foundation for the months ahead. Along with planning for instruction and student support, the meetings included important safety training designed to help our community respond calmly and effectively in an emergency.

Tim Wires, Emergency Management Coordinator, joined us to lead the training and share practical, emergency life-saving skills. Faculty and staff learned how to apply pressure to wounds, use tourniquets, and understand why every second matters when immediate care is needed. The session emphasized preparedness, teamwork, and knowing the right steps to take while professional help is on the way.

The two days of meetings helped our faculty and staff begin the year connected, informed, and ready to support a successful school community.



HONOR ROLL STUDENT BREAKFAST

We recently celebrated students who earned exemplary grades during the fourth quarter of last school year with a special Honor Roll Student Breakfast. Students were recognized for their hard work, dedication, and academic achievement throughout the quarter. Students enjoyed a breakfast of bagels, donuts, and other treats while celebrating their accomplishments with classmates and staff. Congratulations to all of our Honor Roll students! We are proud of the effort and commitment they demonstrated.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT BRINGS FAMILIES AND STAFF TOGETHER

On Tuesday, September 15, Rochelle Park welcomed families for our annual Back to School Night. The evening gave parents and guardians an opportunity to meet staff, learn more about the school year ahead, and get a closer look at the programs and supports available to our students.

The evening began with a welcome from Mr. Friedland and Mrs. Adelsberg, followed by introductions to our dedicated faculty and staff. Families then received important information about SAT and PSAT testing, college and career planning, communication and family supports, PowerSchool, Google Classroom, MSA goals, attendance, registration, dismissal, and other important school procedures.

The evening concluded with families following their students' schedules and visiting classrooms for brief academic periods. This gave parents and guardians a chance to meet their child's teachers, learn more about their classes, and experience a little of their student's school day.

Thank you to all of the families who joined us and to our staff for helping make Back to School Night a welcoming and informative start to the new school year. We appreciate the partnership between our school and families and look forward to a successful year together!



CLUBS FAIR INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

For the first time, Rochelle Park hosted a Clubs Fair, giving students the chance to explore our Wednesday Club offerings in one place. Students spoke directly with club moderators and current members, asked questions, and learned more about the different opportunities available to them. The fair was a great way for students to discover new interests and find a club that's right for them.

Students were able to see firsthand what each club has to offer. We look forward to seeing students get involved, try something new, and make the most of these opportunities throughout the year.



Sage★Alliance
Schools

ROCHELLE PARK PARENT & CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

PLEASE JOIN US

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026
7:00 - 8:00PM**

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

Second Monday of each month

- Mon Nov 9th
- Mon Dec 14th
- Mon Jan 11th
- Mon Feb 8th
- Mon March 8th
- Mon April 5th (adjusted for break)
- Mon May 10th

Contact Tara Fries for Zoom link: tfries@sageday.com



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MRS. DONNELLY AND MRS. SAYERS

We are excited to welcome two new members to our team this year!

Maura Donnelly, Therapist

Mrs. Donnelly brings more than 15 years of experience working with children, adolescents, and adults in community, outpatient, and school-based settings. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Providence College and her master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from UMass Boston. Her background includes DBT, expressive therapies, play therapy, and sandtray therapy. Outside of Sage, Mrs. Donnelly enjoys getting lost in a good book, show, or movie, spending time outdoors with her children and dog, hiking, and traveling to new places.



Suzanne Sayers, Assistant Teacher

Mrs. Sayers brings an eclectic background in education, music, the arts, and culinary arts. She has worked as a paraprofessional in public and private schools for the past 13 years and holds a degree in Fine Arts/Music. At Sage, she supports students in English, Spanish, Chemistry, Band, and Culinary, where she takes the lead! Mrs. Sayers will also bring her love of crochet and fiber arts to Art Club. A lifelong camper who grew up in a resort hotel and comes from a family with a catering business, she says her favorite food is - and perhaps unsurprisingly - pizza!

We are excited to have them both as part of the Sage Alliance community and look forward to all they will bring to our students and school this year!



STUDENTS BEGIN EXPLORING THEIR FUTURES

Mrs. Sardinsky, our College and Career & Transitions Counselor, recently brought students to Bergen Community College for a campus visit. Students had the opportunity to experience a college campus firsthand, learn more about available programs and resources, and begin thinking about what their own path after high school might look like.



Additional college visits are planned in the coming months, including opportunities to visit Ramapo College and Felician University. These experiences help students explore their options and see that there are many different pathways available after graduation.

MONTHLY SCHOOL INITIATIVE



SEPTEMBER

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

A time to raise awareness of childhood cancers, recognize children and families affected by the disease, and support continued research and better treatments.



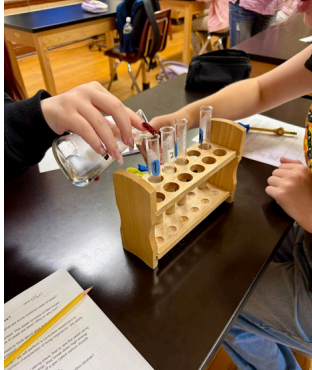
FIRST DAY, FRESH STARTS

A new school year is underway! Our first day was filled with familiar faces, new beginnings, and plenty of excitement as students and staff settled back into the Rochelle Park routine.



SCIENCE IN ACTION

Mrs. Hoffman's science classes jumped right into learning with hands-on experiments! Students explored scientific concepts by observing, testing, and discovering what happens when they put their knowledge into action.



MAKING WEDNESDAYS COUNT

Wednesday afternoons are full of opportunities to explore interests and have fun! Students got involved in SDF, Art, Music, Chess, Culinary, and more as our clubs got underway.



ADVISORY CHALLENGES BEGIN!

The first Advisory Challenge of the year kicked off with plenty of energy and friendly competition! Throughout the year, advisories will earn points through challenges and activities, with the top advisory earning a special prize at the end of the year. Let the competition begin!



PAWS FOR A CAUSE

Our Paws for a Cause board got a little more personal this month! Staff and students shared photos of their beloved pets. Paws for a Cause helps promote kindness, compassion, and awareness while supporting animals in need.



SUNSHINE CLUB BRINGS STAFF TOGETHER

The Sunshine Club, led by Miss Preston, Mrs. DiLorenzo, and Mrs. Hoffman, helps bring faculty and staff together throughout the year with fun events, activities, and fundraisers. The goal is to create opportunities for colleagues to connect, celebrate, and enjoy time together outside of the classroom.

This year they kicked things off by treating faculty and staff to coffee and donuts for National Coffee Day.



CELEBRATING THE ARTS

During National Arts in Education Week, we celebrated the important role the arts play in the lives of our students. Music, theater, and visual arts give students opportunities to discover their strengths, build confidence, and express themselves in their own unique ways. At Rochelle Park, the arts are an important part of helping students connect, create, and find their voice. We are proud to celebrate the creativity and talents of our students throughout the school year!





STAY CONNECTED

Want to see more of the moments that make Rochelle Park special?

Follow Sage Alliance on Facebook for daily glimpses into classroom activities, student achievements, community events, and more from across our schools: facebook.com/SageAlliance1

IN EVERY EDITION

Our newsletters are designed to keep families, districts, and our school community informed and connected. While this edition is just a Sneak Peek, full newsletters typically include:

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Academic Spotlights** – Creative projects, classroom highlights, and examples of rigorous and engaging coursework across subjects.
- **Student Achievements** – Celebrations of milestones, successes, and leadership within our community.
- **Community Connections** – Updates on collaborative efforts with contracted school districts, visits, and events that strengthen our partnerships.
- **Faculty Features** – Spotlights on the educators and clinicians who make Rochelle Park a nurturing and dynamic learning environment.
- **Parent & Caregiver Resources** – Information on monthly support groups, resources, and strategies to extend learning and well-being at home.
- **Special Events & Traditions** – Coverage of Monthly School Initiatives, Town Meetings, electives, seasonal celebrations, and programs that build community spirit.

We look forward to sharing our first full newsletter later this fall, filled with even more highlights, resources, and celebrations.

A PERSONALIZED START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

Every student's path is unique, and finding the right school setting can make all the difference. At Rochelle Park, we take the time to understand each student and family while working closely with school districts to create a thoughtful, supportive transition.

Our intake and onboarding process focuses on:

Individualized Support – We learn about each student's strengths, needs, goals, and learning style to help develop the right supports.

Collaboration – Our team works closely with families and sending school districts to make communication and transitions as smooth as possible.

A Welcoming Environment – From the first day, students are welcomed into a supportive community where they can build relationships, develop confidence, and feel a sense of belonging.

A Strong Foundation for Success – Academic, therapeutic, and social-emotional supports work together to help students make meaningful progress and prepare for their next steps.

Interested in learning more about Rochelle Park? Whether you are a parent exploring school options or a school district considering a referral, we welcome the opportunity to talk with you, answer questions, and learn more about your student's needs.

For out-of-district referrals or consultations, please contact our Clinical Director, Margo Adelsberg, at madelsberg@sageday.com.