



ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

District Newsletter
Winter 2024

RENOVATED RHS STUDIO STRENGTHENS NEWS AND BROADCASTING CLASS

News and Broadcasting class has been a beloved course at Roseville High School for the better part of 30 years. Thanks to the 2018 bond, an overhaul of the studio space and purchase of new state-of-the-art equipment has breathed new life into this student favorite.

During the summer of 2023, the News and Broadcasting productions area was completely renovated, turning two classrooms into a state-of-the-art production studio. The studio now boasts a large editing room with 18 editing stations, equipped with high quality microphones to provide an immersive editing experience for the students. The class also received new equipment for filming, including cameras, microphones, lights, and stabilizers to help students create high quality productions. A professional lighting system has also been installed throughout the live production studio. During the first phase of the bond in 2018, the classroom received upgraded studio cameras and a TriCaster video production system. The TriCaster merges live video switching, broadcast graphics, virtual sets, special effects, audio mixing, recording, social media publishing and web streaming into an integrated, portable, and compact appliance.

In Roseville High School's News and Broadcasting class, students work in groups to produce weekly videos on a wide variety of topics, including public service announcements, interviews, scripted short films, and more. "Students are assigned projects and they work as a team to script their videos, gather footage, and edit their weekly videos," said News and Broadcasting teacher Josh Kovach. "Right now, we produce announcements twice a week which broadcasts to the whole school." Kovach said that during production days when announcements are filmed, students rotate jobs, including anchors, lighting tech, camera/teleprompter techs, production assistants, and a student who runs the switcher. "We are implementing different news segments to our production each

week such as weather anchor or sports anchor, and we are also working to create a podcast."

Kovach said that the goal is to make the News and Broadcasting class a CTE program where students will be able to gain knowledge and experience in news production, video editing, scripting, and anchoring. "A goal of ours is to do live productions of the announcements and stream them throughout the school so students can get a real feel of what goes into a television production from start to finish. My hope is that each student in this program walks away with valuable knowledge and experience they can take into a future career."



Seniors Dennis Henderson and Sienna Conrad anchoring the afternoon announcements.

RHS Principal Jason Bettin said that the News and Broadcasting course offers a career exploration pathway for those students who may be interested in a career in the field. "Students learn all aspects of media productions in these courses, from scripting and speaking skills, to creating broadcast storylines, filming, editing, and producing. The class renovations ensure that RHS students learn through state-of-the-art technology that matches what they would find in a real-world workplace." Classes like these are important to students like Senior Dennis Henderson, who is looking to cultivate a career in the arts after high school. "I'm in my third year in News and Broadcasting, and I'm enjoying working with the new equipment. The new lighting and editing computers, it helps greatly, and I learn more and more every day."

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Sadly, we lost some very special members of the RCS community over the past few months. Retired Superintendent John Kment, who dedicated over 50 years of his life to serving the Roseville Community School district, passed away in November. John was not only a dedicated leader but also a pillar of our community. His unwavering commitment to our district has left a lasting impact that will be remembered for generations to come. I would like to share some words about John from someone who has walked a mile in his shoes, even though he walked 500 in mine. Holding the position of superintendent for over thirty years is an incredible achievement. His ability to network with colleagues, staff, students, and parents was amazing. A skill only to be out done by his memory. We quickly learned that you should not challenge his memory because it would cost you ice cream. I cannot express how much knowledge we lost when we lost John. He loved history and he is and always will be, part of our history.

John was a rock in our school community. A constant figure and leader who put students first. Everybody recognized that 6'3" frame, seen at almost every home football game standing at the fence talking with everyone who came by. He remembered peoples' names, even if he only met you once. Every time you were with John, someone would come up to him and say hello because they recognized him. It reminded us of how much he meant to so many people. John's relationship with the board of education allowed everyone to focus on students and work together as one. On a personal note, I can share the impact he had on me. I cannot express in words how much he influenced my

career and I can tell you that I would not be where I am today without him. He took a chance on a young teacher to take the role of assistant principal, principal, curriculum director, assistant superintendent, and eventually endorsed me as superintendent. He taught me so much over the years.

We also grieve the passing of Kevin Gabriel, an outstanding special education teacher at Steenland Elementary. Kevin's high energy, charismatic personality, and unwavering optimism made him a beloved figure in our district. His presence brought joy to our halls, and he will be deeply missed by students, colleagues, and the entire community. Additionally, we mourn the passing of our colleague LaDonna Taylor, who worked for the county Head Start program at Dort Elementary. LaDonna's dedication to early childhood education and her nurturing spirit touched the lives of countless children and families in our community.

In times like these, we are reminded that it is the people who make our school community truly special, not just the buildings we occupy. The shoes left behind by John, Kevin, and LaDonna will be incredibly hard to fill. As we mourn the loss of these remarkable individuals, let us also remember the impact they have had on our lives and the lives of those around them. Their impact will live on through the countless lives they have touched, and they will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

Sincerely, Mark Blaszkowski

RHS BRINGS SPECIAL ED AND GENERAL ED TOGETHER THROUGH UNIFIED SPORTS

Unified Sports teams are helping to break down barriers through sports, and Roseville High School has gotten on-board, recently introducing their Unified Basketball team. Unified Sports, a part of the Special Olympics program, partners special education students with general education students to promote social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences.

Unified Sports are offered to any student with an Individual Education Program (IEP) and an intellectual disability, plus general education students who wish to serve as partners. The RHS Unified Basketball Team consists of a dozen special education students and a few general education students. The games feature three special education athletes and two general education partners on the court together. Roseville High School Athletic Director Keith Marzec said that Unified Sports are a great way for special education students to participate in athletics representing their school. "This is something typically our special education students would never be able to experience. It also educates all our students about students with disabilities and builds relationships with their gen ed peers." Marzec's daughter also plays on the team. "I am so thankful she has been able to experience this."

Marzec said that the response the Unified Basketball team has received from the school community has been amazing. "All three of our boys' basketball teams took a spirit bus to Clawson to support our Unified Team. There have been numerous staff members who have traveled to our away games to support. The atmosphere at the games has been one of the best things I have ever been a part of in all my time in athletics." Marzec added that other Unified Sports may be on the horizon at RHS. "With the success of the basketball team, we will be looking into starting other sports, such as flag football and bowling."

The team is coached by staff members Jennifer Bolle, Vernard Snowden, Josh Kovach, student Anthony Scott, and Cognitively Impaired (CI) teacher Reba Stanley, who suggested the school start a team. "When I thought of starting a team, the goal was that I wanted students to know more of their peers outside of the CI program. Now, the general education students are fist bumping them in the halls, wishing them good luck at their games, posting the scores on social media, and members of the football team have even invited CI kids to sit with them at lunch time." Stanley said that she is surprised how beneficial the team is for students without intellectual disabilities. "It is opening conversations about different disabilities. Some of the teammates mentioned they did not truthfully know about disabilities when you could not visually see the impairment or notice when talking to them. It was a nice opportunity to point out that even though these students have learning disabilities, they have the same humor and drama as any teen and are easy to relate to." Stanley added that the atmosphere in the gym during these games is too incredible to put into words. "Fans and high school students from both teams were cheering on every athlete on both teams, people were even in tears watching the excitement after a student made a basket."

The RHS Unified Team has an undefeated record to date, collecting two victories over Grosse Pointe South and one over Clawson. The team finishes the season on February 13 with a home game against Sterling Heights. Marzec said that the MAC conference hopes to expand next year so that Unified can have their own league. "Grosse Pointe North also has a team, but their schedule was full this year. Lamphere has Unified Sports as well but does not have a basketball team as of now."



KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT



FEBRUARY 22, 2024 5:30-7:00 P.M.
ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

PLEASE BRING: PICTURE ID, ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE, THREE PROOFS OF RESIDENCY, VISION & HEARING SCREENING, AND IMMUNIZATION RECORD

DORT ELEMENTARY
(586) 445-5750
16225 Dort

FOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY
(586) 445-5765
16850 Wellington

GREEN ELEMENTARY
(586) 445-5780
18530 Marquette

KAISER ELEMENTARY
(586) 445-5785
16700 Wildwood

KMENT ELEMENTARY
(586) 445-5756
20033 Washington

PATTON ELEMENTARY
(586) 445-5795
18851 McKinnon

STEENLAND ELEMENTARY
(586) 445-5758
16335 Chestnut

GET TO KNOW OUR TEACHERS



KRUKELLIA MCCURDY - PATTON ELEMENTARY

Krukellia McCurdy has been teaching in Roseville since 2000. She started her career at Eastland Elementary, but over the years has taught a variety of elementary grades at several schools, including Dort, Huron Park, Kaiser and Kment. She moved over to Patton ten years ago, where she now teaches third grade. McCurdy said that she likes using real-world examples in her classes to make learning interesting and enjoyable for her students. "I spent a week in Accra, Ghana, earlier in the academic year. My pupils were ecstatic to learn about the lives of kids on a different continent. Students gained a different viewpoint after seeing images of those children strolling past goats and wild chicks on their way to school." She said that she also enjoys using hands-on activities to support experiential learning and encourages active engagement, including conducting experiments in science or utilizing manipulatives in math. McCurdy attended EMU and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education with a ZA endorsement in Early Childhood Education, before moving on to Marygrove College, where she earned a Master of Arts in Education. She is proud of her large family which consists of husband, Desmond, three daughters, Knekia, Kiara, and Destiny-Knoel, two sons Devion and Damonte, and several puppies. When she's not in the classroom, she enjoys reading true crime novels, watching basketball and football, and playing board games with her family. Ironically, even though she teaches third grade, she never experienced third grade as a child. "I went from second to fourth grade in a parochial school. I remember thinking hysterically as an 8-year-old that I was always cheated out of the experience. However, I believe I'm over it now! Haha!"

JEREMY BALDES - EASTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Jeremy Baldes has been teaching for 15 years. He began his career student teaching at Eastland Junior High before heading to Detroit, where he taught physical education, computers, and health to K-8 students for many years. In 2019, he returned to Roseville, where he has been teaching physical education at Eastland Middle School since. In addition to teaching, he also serves as a union representative for EMS, a sponsor for the Lego and Video Game Clubs, and coaches middle school football and track. Baldes says that as a Roseville alum, he takes great pride in his role as a teacher. "The most rewarding aspect of my job is establishing positive relationships with my students and witnessing their excitement when they achieve tasks or skills they initially believed were beyond their capabilities. When it comes to teaching specific units, I thoroughly enjoy instructing Air Force football, handball, and pickleball." Baldes earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education recreation sports from Olivet College and a master's degree in teacher leadership from Walden University. He is a parent of four children - Katelyn, Elliott, Harper, and Theodore. Outside of school, he cherishes spending quality time with his family and watching sports. "I am an avid sports enthusiast, often watching games on TV, particularly supporting the Lions and Wolverines. Additionally, I make it a point to attend sporting events featuring my students and players." He also enjoys collecting bobbleheads and other sports memorabilia.



EMILY COLLIAS - ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Emily Collias is now in her 26th year of teaching. She spent her first four years teaching in Ohio before joining RHS, where she has taught social studies since. This year, she is teaching Civics, Leadership, and U.S. History. She said that her favorite thing about teaching is all the different students she gets to meet. "So many interesting personalities make every day unique. And with my subject, I am always learning new things." One of her favorite projects to do with her Leadership class students is *Project Soapbox*, which gives students an opportunity to "get on their soapbox" about an issue they feel strongly about. "I guide them through the speech writing process, but the content and topics are solely up to them. They address the topic and come up with realistic solutions. I love the diversity of topics and passion with which the kids speak." Collias has been very involved at RHS during her career. She spent twenty years as a Student Assembly sponsor, has served as Social Studies Department Chair, and has been a member of the School Improvement Team. She has also chaperoned student trips to Toronto, Chicago, Quebec, Paris, Nice, London, Costa Rica, and Mexico as part of the RHS Travel Club. This summer, they will be heading to Madrid and Paris. Collias earned a bachelor's degree in history/social studies education from Bluffton University and a master's degree from Wayne State in Cultural Anthropology. She is married to husband, Chris, and has a daughter, Hadley. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, attending her daughter's activities, and traveling. "I've studied abroad in Poland and Peru, and I've done voluntary service in Northern Ireland. I really loved Peru and Ecuador and would love to travel more in South America - I loved the mountains, the people, and the food!"



NEXT LEVEL PANTHERS

As part of National Signing Day, a record nine Panther football players signed on to play football at the next level in the fall. Congratulations to Huston Eubank (Western Michigan), Anthony Scott (Grand Valley State), Brandon Cunningham (Ferris State), Elijah Parker (Ferris State), Corey Cobb Jr. (Mercyhurst), Bryant Weathersby Jr. (Northwood), William Woodard Jr. (Northwood), Leonard Humphrey (Kalamazoo), and Ayres Hollins (Concordia).



ALUMNI CORNER

Dennis LaPointe attended Alumni Elementary, Eastland Middle School, and Roseville High School, graduating in 2003. During his elementary years, he was involved in the elementary Project Challenge program. "Ms. Gaska was my fourth-grade teacher and provided me the opportunity to join the advanced learning group once a week." While at RHS, he was involved in the National Honor Society, Student Council, and Marching Band. "We were one of the top bands in our class and had the opportunity to perform at a Lions game, as well as Disneyland. Mr. Hilton always pushed students to develop their skills, focus on teamwork and be determined to succeed, many of the traits I focus on today." He also credits Mr. Scheff and his physics class for cultivating a passion for engineering. After graduating from RHS, LaPointe attended Michigan State University, where he earned a degree in packaging engineering. "There are only 13 universities that offer packaging engineering as a degree, with Michigan State ranked as number one. When you think about it, just about everything you purchase comes in a package." LaPointe started his career working for major companies that developed packaging for products such as Similac, Slim Jim, Orville Redenbacher Popcorn, and Coors Brewing Company. "While working for Coors Brewing Company I transitioned into purchasing both packaging and ingredients for our breweries across the globe. I traveled to over twelve countries with Coors learning many new cultures



DENNIS LAPOINTE

and seeing the sites along the way." He stepped away from the CPG business for a bit, going to work for a large commercial real estate company. He currently leads purchasing for the largest pet food co-manufacturer in the U.S. "Through my various career positions, I have been able to experience some unique moments. Seeing over 100 items I have worked on in stores across the globe has been very rewarding." After living in Colorado for almost 13 years with his wife and daughter, they recently moved to an island in Washington where they get to experience both the ocean and the mountains. "It has been a great change of pace living close to the water in a small and connected community." Through his work, LaPointe has visited over 20 countries, with his favorites being Croatia, Romania, and Slovenia. He also enjoys hiking, golfing, paddleboarding, boating, skiing, and burrow racing. "Most people do not know what burrow racing is, but it is a unique sport to run in the mountains with a donkey. What could go wrong?" LaPointe said he still thinks about all the RCS teachers that went the extra mile to provide a solid foundation for their students. "I was one of the benefactors of those teachers to develop me into who I am today. Looking around at those I graduated with, I now see business owners, teachers, health care workers, business professionals as well as friends that now have their own families. The Roseville community developed some great individuals that are now spread across many geographic areas but are still connected by our 'Panther Pride.'"

Do you know of a former Roseville student who's doing great things? Let us know!
productions@roseville.k12.mi.us

A LOOK INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS...



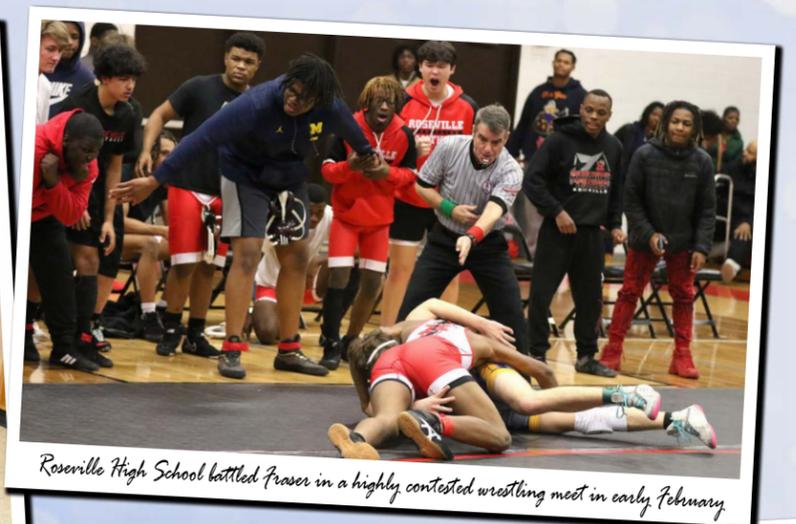
Fountain students showing off their Black History Month projects in early February



Doit Elementary students having some playground fun on a warm day in November



Green students learned about building circuits in February



Roseville High School battled Fraser in a highly contested wrestling meet in early February



Patton students collaborated on ways to include others in December



RHS battled De La Salle in the Regional Championship at Wayne State in November



Mr. Balicki works with a student at Kment Elementary in November



CARE of Southeastern Michigan provided lessons to Steenland students in the fall



EMS students got in the holiday spirit for ugly sweater day in December



Kaiser's UCI class visited the RHS Culinary Arts to decorate cookies in December



Roseville High School held their first ever HBCU College Fair in November



The RHS choir helped welcome Santa at the annual City of Roseville Tree Lighting

RHS CAREER SHOWCASE

On October 24, Roseville High School hosted their third annual Career Day! Representatives from nearly thirty businesses spoke with RHS juniors and seniors about career opportunities in a wide variety of fields. Business guests also met staff members and toured the Roseville High School Career Tech facilities.



PANTHER ACCOLADES



Junior Daniel Duhaylonsod performed with the 2023-2024 Michigan All-State Band at the annual Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids on January 27. Over 3,000 high school band students across the state of Michigan auditioned for this year's All-State Michigan Bands and Orchestras, and Duhaylonsod was chosen by his audition this past fall.

Senior Archie Matthews earned a \$1,000 scholarship as part of the McDonald's of Michigan's Black History Makers of Tomorrow program.

Senior Alecia Dy was selected as the winner of the 2023 Good Citizens contest sponsored by the local Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Dy's essay was selected out of all of the Macomb County entries and has been forwarded to be considered at the state level as part of their essay and scholarship contest.



Once again, our talented elementary art students created banner designs that were displayed on Utica Road during the holidays. Congratulations to our ten chosen young artists!



UPCOMING DATES

- February 19-20: Midwinter Break
- February 22: Kindergarten Information Night
- March 9: RCS Scholarship Foundation Winter Gala
- March 14-15: Elementary Conferences
- March 25-29: Spring Recess
- April 5: Half Day (End of 3rd Marking Period)
- May 7: No School
- May 11: RCS Scholarship Foundation Joe Manfreda Dream Dash
- May 22: Seniors' Last Day
- May 23: RHS Senior Prom
- May 27: No School
- June 6: RHS Graduation
- June 10-12: Half Days (End of 2nd Semester)

Winter Gala



In 2023, RCS produced a video of Roseville Middle School teachers presenting hand-written cards to the students who inspired them each day. The video went viral and was picked up by the local and national news. This January, we were able to film the follow-up "Be The Reason" video, with students from RMS returning to Dort to present flowers and hand-written cards to their former teachers. Once again, the story was picked up by NBC Nightly News, who aired the feature on the February 4 broadcast.



In November, the Gifted & Talented Program/STEAM students worked on a "Balloons Over Broadway" Challenge. They attached a paper plate version of a balloon character to a chariot, which they then controlled by a Sphero SPRK+ robot. Students designed and constructed a "balloon" for the Thanksgiving Day Parade and used the robot to pull it down the parade route.



In late October, students from Anchor Bay's Building Trades program came to the site of the new Roseville High School-constructed house for a friendly CTE competition. Students competed in framing, safety and cleanup, and a written test.



In late December, our detectives from the Roseville Police Department visited several elementary schools to meet and hand out goodie bags to some students. The bags contained coloring books, crayons, "magical reindeer food", and candy. Thanks for thinking of our students, RPD!



On November 1, Roseville Community Schools held a Veteran's Brunch to honor many of our local heroes. The event was held at the Roseville High School Culinary Arts wing, with the delicious food prepared by the talented CA students. It was a small way to honor some of the amazing men and women who have served our country.



In late November, Dort Elementary fifth grade classes got hands-on learning about Native American history. The presentation was put on by retired Roseville Community Schools teacher consultant Genot Picor and his "Stories, Songs and Dances of the Voyageurs" program.

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 9, 2024**

**6:00 P.M. - MIDNIGHT
DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.**

**VINTAGE HOUSE
31816 UTICA RD, FRASER**

**DINNER
DJ/DANCING
BASKET RAFFLE
PRIZES**

**\$55
PER PERSON**

BASKET TICKETS WILL ALSO
BE SOLD VIRTUALLY

TABLES OF 8 RESERVED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 1
TICKET SALES WILL CLOSE ON MARCH 6. NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR

LIMITED TO 300 TICKETS, RESERVE YOUR SPOT EARLY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: ttomala@roseville.k12.mi.us or (586) 445-5675



The Roseville Community Schools Scholarship Foundation began with a dream and a goal when it was established by the Roseville Kiwanis Club in 1963. The dream was to touch the lives of Roseville's young people; the goal was to raise funds to aid them in their continued educational quests.

In 1984, the Roseville Board of Education joined the the ongoing project. Today, citizen volunteers, educators, business representatives, and local leaders assist in the process of raising funds and allocating scholarships to deserving recipients. This year, we awarded 55 \$1200 scholarships to recipients.

In April 2022, the Foundation officially became a 501c3 organization. This allows additional opportunities to receive donations from individuals and companies wishing to donate to a charitable organization. If you own, work for, or know of a company looking for a charitable organization to donate to, we would greatly appreciate you sharing the Roseville Community Schools Scholarship Foundation name with them.

RCSSF Tax ID No: 87-1665026



To contact the Board of Education, write:
 Roseville Board of Education
 18975 Church Street
 Roseville, MI 48066

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- Fountain Elementary**.....445-5765
 Joseph Trobaugh, Principal
- Green Elementary**.....445-5780
 Donna Ambrose, Principal
- Kaiser Elementary**445-5785
 Kelly Grider, Principal
- Kment Elementary**.....445-5756
 Donovan Stec, Principal
- Patton Elementary**445-5795
 Brandon Komarowski, Principal
- Roseville Middle School**445-5600
 Chris LaFave, Principal
 Eric Gauthier, Assistant Principal
 Joe Jelsone, Assistant Principal
- Roseville High School**.....445-5540
 Jason Bettin, Principal
 Katherine Reith, Assistant Principal
 Kirk Duncan, Assistant Principal
 Keith Marzec, Athletic Director
- Steenland Elementary**445-5745
 Charles Felker, Principal
- Early Childhood Programs**.....445-5688
- School Aged Child Care**.....445-5688

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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- Superintendent** (586) 445-5505
 Mark Blaszkowski, Superintendent
- Instruction & Curriculum** (586) 445-5508
 Dave Rice, Assistant Superintendent
- Personnel** (586) 445-5513
 Peter Hedemark, Assistant Superintendent
- Business** (586) 445-5519
 Rayetta Ashbaugh, Exec. Director of Business & Finance
- Special Education** (586) 445-5675
 Teresa Tomala, Director
- Buildings and Grounds** (586) 445-5697
 Joe Smith, Director
- Transportation and Maintenance** (586) 445-5699
 Scott Sikorski, Supervisor
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 Andrea Dysard, Supervisor
- Technology** (586) 445-4380
 Michael Antoine, Director
- State & Federal Programs** (586) 445-5688
 Nicole Provo, Coordinator
- Marketing/Communications** (586) 445-5517
 Joe Genest, Facilitator