

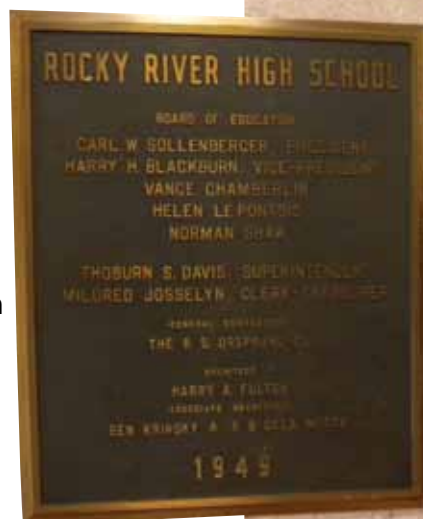
# R Schools

YOUR SOURCE FOR ROCKY RIVER SCHOOL NEWS 

## Rocky River High School National Merit Semi Finalist

Meredith Hauck, a member of Rocky River High School's Class of 2010, has been recognized as a semifinalist in the prestigious National Merit Competition. Hauck is now eligible to continue in the National Merit Competition for over \$50 million in college scholarships. Less than 1 percent of high school seniors in the United States, and less than 200 students from Northeast Ohio earned the distinction this year.

In addition to Hauck, seven seniors were named as Commended Students in the competition. Alexander Aloï, Hannah Bennett, Elizabeth Evans, Imelda Mahmutaj, Anthony Manno, Conor O'Boyle, and Hollyn Trudell are part of an elite group of students whose high test scores earned them special recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



## RRHS Homecoming



Seniors Joe Blankenship and Kat Dickey were elected King and Queen of this year's homecoming court. Other members of the court included Seniors Nikka Hronis, Emma Sullivan, Marisa Hanson, Allissa Perk, Jake Thorn, Paul Elrabadi, Keller Romer, and Billy Terry; Juniors Lydia Shultz and Brad Wolf; Sophomores Nicole Matthews and Brian Thorn; and Freshmen Megan Bobbit and David Lenahan.

# Rocky River

## Strategic Planning Initiative

Our Strategic Plan outlines actions designed to achieve desired outcomes. It is a statement of the Rocky River City School District's mission, beliefs, and goals. It defines what we as a community envision for the future of our schools, and details objectives and strategies to guide us on our journey.

Approved by the Board of Education on June 25, 2009, this Plan will serve as the compass by which the District will chart its course for the next ten years.

It is with sincere appreciation that we thank the members of the CORE and Action Planning Teams. These community members, civic leaders, and Rocky River City School District students, parents, and staff gave of their time and talents as we addressed the challenges of our global future.

We present this plan to the community with excitement and look forward to working together to ensure its success.

### Rocky River Board Of Education

Jay Milano, *President*

Kathleen Goepfert, *Vice President*

Jean A. Rounds, *Member*

James Schieda, *Member*

Scott Swartz, *Member*

### Superintendent

Michael G. Shoaf, Ed.D.

### Internal Facilitator

Elizabeth A. Anderson

## MISSION



Globally Competitive

Exceptional Opportunities

Caring Environment

Successful Students

## BELIEFS

We believe...

- Students are the heart of our purpose.
- Student success requires a partnership among family, school and community.
- A Rocky River education empowers values, inspires curiosity and encourages talents that lead to success.
- High expectations lead to high achievement.
- Lifelong learners thrive as they embrace the changing global society.

*An exceptional school district demonstrates all of the above.*

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By 2014...

- All students will engage in contemporary, globally competitive curricular and co-curricular programs of excellence.
- All students will achieve their educational goals incorporating the highest international standards.
- All students will participate in a student-centered environment that addresses educational, social and emotional needs.
- All students will learn through lessons and experience that communication is open, sincere, timely and responsive.
- All students will attend schools that are state-of-the-art facilities.
- All students will learn in an environment that is technologically competitive on a global level.



## STRATEGIES and ACTIONS PLANS

### COMMUNICATIONS

*Develop guidelines, protocol and procedures to disseminate information to all students, staff, parents, alumni and community about the strategic plan, including updates on progress and status in achieving our mission.*

1. District staff members understand and are committed to the achievement of the mission.
2. Students understand and support the achievement of the mission.
3. Parents, alumni, civic leaders, and community members understand, support and work toward the accomplishment of the mission.
4. Updates on the progress and status of achieving our District's strategic objectives are accessible to stakeholders in a variety of formats, including social media.

### CURRICULUM and CO-CURRICULUM

*Develop systems to ensure the same expectation of excellence in all programs, curricular and co-curricular.*

1. Curricula, instruction and assessments are aligned and articulated.
2. Data guides instruction, appropriate to an individual's skills, needs and developmental stages.
3. A rigorous curriculum ensures that every student is appropriately challenged and learning at his/her highest level.
4. Multiple assessments provide student driven data necessary to communicate progress in each child's growth and development.
5. Rocky River students are prepared to succeed in an increasingly interconnected and competitive world.

### FACILITIES

*Provide facilities that meet our mission.*

1. Recommendations from the facility study for repairs and updates to district facilities are complete.
2. A facilities master plan provides a blueprint for buildings that support student success.
3. District facilities meet instructional and operational technology needs for all students, faculty, staff and administrators.
4. A facilities master plan provides a blueprint for non-instructional buildings and services (transportation, maintenance, Beach, Wooster and Board of Education Offices).
5. The capital improvement plan uses federal, state, local and non-traditional funding sources.

### FINANCE

*Provide traditional and non-traditional fiscal resources to meet our mission.*

1. Alternative revenue streams supplement traditional funding sources for all District programs.
2. Operational efficiencies and cost-containment measures are instituted to optimize resources for District programs.
3. The community is informed on the District's financial status and the Ohio school finance environment.
4. A "rainy day" fund is established and maintained to help ensure financial stability.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

*Recruit, hire and retain exceptional staff and provide professional development to accomplish our mission and strategic objectives.*

1. The Rocky River Local Professional Development Committee researches, promotes and communicates available, pertinent professional development opportunities.
2. Collaborative opportunities are provided in each building during the workday.
3. Administrators research, promote and communicate available, pertinent training opportunities for non-certified employees.
4. A comprehensive approach is in place to assure the district continues to recruit and hire exceptional employees.
5. Exceptional employees choose to make a long-term commitment to the district.

### TECHNOLOGY

*Ensure availability of technology and training necessary to support achievement of our mission and strategic objectives.*

1. All students have equal access and opportunities to use technology.
2. A culture is established where technological literacy is expected at all levels of the organization.
3. A dynamic, comprehensive infrastructure exists that supports teaching and learning.

# ct Strategic Plan



## CORE PLANNING TEAM

### Members

Chuck Bartsche  
Deb Bernard  
Diane Boylan  
Kathy Bryda  
Nancy Calcott  
Jackie Daugherty  
Donna English  
Jon Fancher  
Dianna Foley  
Deb Furry  
Tara Grabowski  
Brian Hagan  
Nancy Hanson  
Marybeth Harter  
Anne Hartman  
Maeve Kessler  
Vicki Kozub  
Rachel Marotta  
James Meyer  
Jay Milano  
Todd Murphy  
Husein Nakhooda  
Mark Rantala  
Jean Rounds  
John Rowland  
Vern Sharbaugh  
Michael Shoaf  
Louise Vertal

### External Facilitators

Paul Kapostasy  
George Tarbuck

### Internal Facilitator

Elizabeth Anderson

## ACTION PLANNING TEAMS

### Communication

Deb DeCarlo  
Dianna Foley  
Kathy Goepfert  
Jean Rounds  
Louise Vertal  
Cathy Voitlein

### Curriculum and Co-Curriculum

Elizabeth Anderson  
Cathy Bitounis  
Michelle Buttari  
Laura Cook  
Jackie Daugherty  
Peg Liberatore  
Jean Rounds  
Anne Marie Snow

### Facilities

Anne Hartman  
Jay Milano  
Mark Rantala  
Dan Rose  
Jim Schieda  
Vern Sharbaugh  
Michael Shoaf  
Rich Thomas

### Finance

Chuck Bartsche  
Deb Furry  
Greg Markus  
Rachel Marotta  
Joseph Pampush  
Scott Swartz

### Human Resources

Carol Benyo  
Ted Blank  
Kathleen Erzen  
Anne George  
Kathy Goepfert  
Candace Hecker  
Gary Lanzen  
Jim Schieda  
Jackie Seedhouse

### Technology

Dave Abood  
Elizabeth Anderson  
Henry Chaski  
Scott Crawford  
Dianna Foley  
Tom Gallagher  
Betsy Lauer  
Ivan Locci  
Cherie Pandora  
Dave Root  
Tim Shreve  
Kristen Stephens  
Bence Toth  
Ed Vennetti  
Mark Wagner  
Matt Williams

# Employee of the Year

Violet Rafferty was chosen to be the Rocky River City School District's Employee of the Year for 2009-2010. Rafferty has worked for the District in various capacities since 1995. She became a full time custodial worker at Rocky River High School in 2000.

Rafferty's pride in her work and commitment to making Rocky River High School a clean and inviting place for students and staff are just some of the reasons that she was nominated for the honor by her peers. When asked what the best thing about her job is, Violet said that it's the great group of people with whom she works. She also appreciates the opportunity to grow professionally and recently earned her Operator of Aquatic Facilities from the National Swimming Pool Foundation. Rafferty is married and has two grown children.



Violet Rafferty

# Teacher of the Year

Second grade teacher Brian Slaco is entering his 13th year in the Rocky River City School District. Brian's positive impact on his students and his ability to reach each one were cited as the reasons for his nomination as Teacher of the Year. Slaco loves watching his students grow throughout the year and develop the skills needed to move from Goldwood to third grade at Kensington. "It makes the job worth doing every day," he said.

Slaco also serves as Goldwood Primary School's technology coordinator. "My parents always had computers when I was growing up and technology has always been a big part of my life," said Slaco. He is a certified SMART Board instructor and has played a major role in training teachers at Goldwood on the interactive whiteboard technology. SMART Boards were installed in every classroom at Goldwood last year, thanks to money from the 2008 levy and grants from the Rocky River Education Foundation.

Slaco is a graduate of Westlake High School and Bowling Green University. He played soccer at both institutions and continues his involvement in the sport by coaching at the Premier Team level and conducting camps and development programs. Slaco is married and has two children. His wife is also a teacher.



Brian Slaco

**Kindergarten Information Night**  
**2010 - 2011 Kindergarten**

Tuesday, March 4, 2010 • 6:30 - 7:30 PM  
Goldwood Room, Goldwood Primary School  
More information is available at [www.rrcs.org](http://www.rrcs.org)

## State Report Card

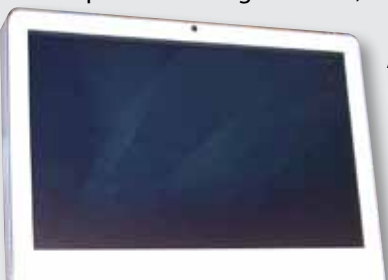
For the second year in a row the Rocky River City Schools received an Excellent with Distinction rating on the State Report Card. Similarly, our district continues to meet Adequate Yearly progress (AYP). A copy of the district report card, along with each school's report card is available at [www.rrcs.org](http://www.rrcs.org). (Note: Goldwood does not receive a state report card because state testing does not begin until grade 3.)

## Kensington and Goldwood Computer Labs Updated

Sixty new iMac computers were purchased to replace the 8-year old computers in the labs at Goldwood and Kensington schools. The computers in the labs at Kensington and Goldwood were way past their prime. Unable to have their RAM upgraded, these computers could not run some of the newer software and would frequently lock up when trying to process large files. This made teaching computer science difficult, to say the least! Tim Shreve, computer science teacher at Kensington, would have to reboot an entire bank of computers on a regular basis, taking up much needed instructional time.

The Rocky River City School District was able to take advantage of a special promotion offered by Apple, enabling the district to upgrade the lab at Goldwood Primary School as well. The lab computers that were replaced will be moved to classrooms, replacing twelve-year old eMacs.

The replacement of the Kensington and Goldwood labs reflects the district's commitment to honoring the promise to focus funds raised from the last levy on Technology, Textbooks and Teaching.



# Cleveland Clinic Hospitals Community Service Award

Rocky River Board of Education member Jean A. Rounds was presented with a Community Service Award by the Cleveland Clinic Hospitals at a luncheon on September 29, 2009. Outside of her work with the Board of Education, Rounds helps to prevent alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse among West Shore youth through her service to the boards of Community Challenge, Recovery Resources, and the Coalition for Youth Asset Development.



Jean Rounds shares her Community Service Award with Superintendent Michael Shoaf.

## ROCKY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL PLAYS

### Fall Show: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

This musical comedy centers around a spelling bee in Putnam County, New York, in which six kids face off in the battle of their lives against each other as well as actual audience members (who volunteer to participate in the Bee); three adults help adjudicate the proceedings: a nostalgic former spelling bee winner, a mildly insane Vice Principal and the official Comfort Counselor completing his community service to the state of New York.

**Wednesday, December 2 - Friday, December 4 @ 7:30**

\$5 for students, \$7 for adults, free for senior citizens and children 5 and under

### Spring Musical: *Kiss Me, Kate*

This is a play-within-a-play where a present-day theater troupe is performing Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, and each cast member's on-stage life is complicated by what is happening offstage, such as gambling problems and love affairs.

**Thursday, March 25 - Saturday, March 27 @ 7:30**

\$6 for students, \$8 for adults, free for senior citizens and children 5 and under

## Email Notification

Parents and community members are invited to sign up for our new Email Notification System, which will be used to send news items and emergency updates about the Rocky River City School District. When you create your account, you will have the option of choosing which types of information you are interested in receiving: District and Board of Education news, and/or news from any combination of the schools. You may receive your chosen information via email and/or text message. Please visit [www.rrcs.org](http://www.rrcs.org) and click on Email Notification on the left navigation bar to set up your account.

## Rocky River Board Of Education



1st row: Jay Milano and Kathleen Goepfert  
2nd row: Jean A. Rounds, Scott Swartz, and James Schieda.

### Search for Children with Disabilities

The Rocky River School District, along with districts across the state, is participating in an effort to identify, locate and evaluate all children from birth to age 21 who may have a disability. A disability is a condition such as speech or language impairments, hearing impairments, visual impairments, learning disabilities, behavioral, multiple or severe handicaps, mental retardation, or other health impairments. If you have a concern about a child, please contact the Division of Learning Resources (LRS) at 356-6006.

### Grants

Each year the school district receives federal and state money through several grants. The yearly focus of the district's grant projects is developed with input from parents, staff and community members. If you would like to provide input for Title VI-B, Preschool Children with Disability, Safe & Drug Free Schools, and/or Title III, Limited English Proficient, please contact the Division of Learning Resource Services at 356-6006. If you would like to provide input for Title I, Title II-A, Title II-D, or eTech/Ohio, please contact the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction at 356-6001.

## Rocky River Board Of Education

21600 Center Ridge Road  
Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3980  
440-333-6000

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