

RRS Schools

YOUR SOURCE FOR ROCKY RIVER SCHOOL NEWS

RRHS Drama Department Wins Dazzle Awards Best Musical



Members of the RRHS Drama Department attend the 2016 Dazzle Awards at Playhouse Square. Photo courtesy of Kent Klodnick.

The RRHS Drama Department's production of *Catch Me If You Can* was the winner of the 2016 Dazzle Awards The Connor Family Best Musical.

With the aim of inspiring performance and recognizing the importance of musical theater and arts education in Northeast Ohio high schools, the Dazzle Awards program is affiliated with the National High School Musical Theatre Awards ("The Jimmy Awards") presented by The Broadway League Foundation. Dazzle Awards were presented to outstanding musical theater productions and students in thirteen categories on May 21, 2016 at Playhouse Square.

Principal Rob Winton states, "Rocky River High School was honored to showcase the immense singing and acting talents of its students at this year's Dazzle Awards. Displaying and promoting the arts is essential to developing students in a well-rounded curriculum, and it helps contribute to a positive culture within the school."



Transportation Department Receives Grants

The RRCSD Transportation Department received the largest competitive grant in the Rocky River City School District's history. The department was awarded a DERG, or Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant, in the amount of \$110,000 from the EPA. Erin Peacock, Rocky River's Transportation Supervisor, and Samuel Gifford, the district's Executive Director of Human Resources and Support Services, applied for the grant. "The idea of the grant," Ms. Peacock explains, "is to get rid of older, dirty diesel engines and replace them with more efficient ones." The grant will help the district replace two school buses, both built in 2002, that have older diesel engines with two brand-new ones.

In addition, all 24 of the district's buses will have a permanent engine heater installed. These engine heaters circulate coolant through the engines and turn on heaters inside the bus so they're warmed up. They will eliminate the need for buses to idle or be restarted periodically (while waiting for students on a field trip, for example).

Another grant was awarded last year from the Bureau of Workers Compensation, for \$20,000. That was used to replace every driver's seat with a new, more ergonomically correct one. The new seats absorb shock from the road, preventing potential health issues.



Samuel Gifford, Executive Director of Human Resources & Support Services and Erin Peacock, Transportation Supervisor, present mechanics Eric Rath and Doug Hinz certificates to commemorate the RRCSD's 100% score on the State Highway Patrol's annual bus inspection.

We're Proud of Our Staff!



Head mechanic **Eric Rath** received the **David Drum Ohio School Bus Mechanic of the Year** award.



Kensington Intermediate School teacher **Therese Anagnostos** was recognized with the **Ohio 2016 Excellence in Education Achievement Award**, presented by the Cuyahoga Educational Service Center.



Advance Ohio Crystal Apple Award winner **Anne Davis** is joined by nominators Judy Hudson, Bridget Troy, Christine Banks, Abbey Rego and Goldwood Primary School principal Carol Rosiak.



Joanne Ritschel is one of the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics **2016 Outstanding Classroom Teachers** for grades 9-12.



RRHS biology teacher **Ann Brokaw** was invited to join a team from the **Howard Hughes Medical Institute BioInteractive** to do educational programming in Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park.



RRHS' **Sara Ziennik** was **Teacher of the Month (May 2016)** for the Ohio Lottery's Partners in Education Program



RRMS tutor **Frank O'Grady** will attend **Seat of War and Peace: The Lincoln Assassination and the Roots of Reconstruction** in the Nation's Capital summer institute hosted by Ford's Theatre. He will also participate in **National History Day's Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom** Albert H. Small Student & Teacher Institute.

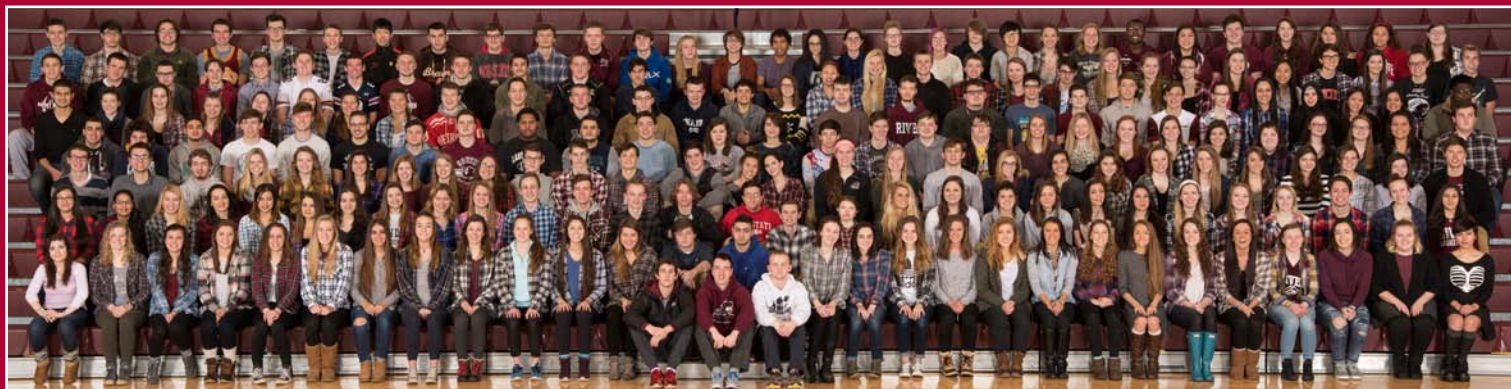
Great Lakes Conference Coaches of the Year

- Laura Brabant** - Girls Cross Country
- Ben Purdy** - Girls Tennis
- Mike Patterson** - Boys Golf
- Mark Harris** - Boys Swimming & Diving
- Emma Gerdes** - Girls Swimming & Diving
- Julie Achladis** - Girls Track
- Mark Hogya** - Boys Track

Greater Cleveland Football Coaches Association

- Scott Richardson** - Assistant Coach of the Year





ROCKY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2016

Sammer S. Abdelwahab • Madeline Marie Adler • Bianka Ahmetpahic • Jared N. Aldinger • Emily Rui Allen • Mohammed Alshaikhli • Caroline Alexandra Amato • Addison Christian Amsdell • Kayla Brianne Armstrong • Joseph Robert Artiste • Chaimaa Bakir • Dana L. Bandi • Courtney Marie Becka • Brian Robert Beer • Abigail Dawn Bickel • Chloe Margaret Bierut • Laura Alexandra Bodea • Alex J. Bonsky • Abigail Elise Brandt • Sophia Luella Braun • Thomas J. Brown • Amanda Charlotte Burgess • Kevin David Burns • Abigail Bustos • Sarah Elaine Capri • Charles Thomas Carey • Morgan Elizabeth Carroll • Megan Colleen Chapman • Shaun Michael Chapman • Andrea Georgette Chiviles • Savannah A. Cioce • Anne Elise Cipriani • Francesca Andona Ciula • Justine Margaret Coffman • Dariya Mary Cohan • Michael Anthony Combes • Trevor O'day Connelly • Megan Keely Conrad • Allan Scott Conzelmann • James David Cook • Jack Francis Corrigan • Curtis Charles Cousineau, IV • John Dominick Cupple • Lauren Marie Devorace • Carla Maria Diab • Andreana René Dingess • Jack Potokar Dubbs • Liam Francis Duncan • Gillian Therese Eames • Jessica Ann Ehrman • Catherine Elizabeth Eichler • Gillian Morgan Esdon • Jose A. Estremera • Rachel Suzanne Fagerhaug • Emily A. Farr • Jakob T. Feightner • Patrick Dnele Ferguson • Declan David Fischback • Emma Elizabeth Fischer • Daniel Thomas Foster • Lewin Gaedeke (Certificate of Attendance) • Alexander Christian Galetari • Christian Gannon • Winni Gao • Coco Gabrielle Gerard • Arden Kay Gerlack • Gino Alan Giammarco • Aidan Robert Gillespie • Erotida Gjino • Matthew James Goepfert • Brianna Mackenzie Gorenc • Chase Kathleen Grendow • Lucy Marie Grierson • Von Christian Gruenheit • Sasha Andrea Gutierrez • Jude B. Haddad • Devin R. Hafko • Abdulmujib Hakizimana • Kevin Hamzaj • Sophia Anne Hansen • Amanda Victoria Hanson • Eric Jordan Hanson • Christopher Alan Healy • Marissa Kristiana Hennen • Geoffrey Daniel Heider • Madeline M. Henricks • Mark Mitchell Hoelzer • Corey A. Horvath • Olivia Josephine Hoskins • Jan Hrdlička (Certificate of Attendance) • Sophie Ann Hudson • Jayme Ann Inks • Kledio Janku • Eric Christopher Jones • Konrad Rudolf Katterle • Jack Ryan Kehn • Kathleen Patricia Kelley • Aaron Patrick Kelly • Daniel Raymond Kelly • Morgan Elizabeth Kelly • Jasmine E. King • Maria Cynthia Klek • Morgan Ashley Klimack • Bailey James Kolenick • Maximalian Alden Konrad • Hanna Emerson Kristoff • Alexander Lei • Victoria Hope Leigh • Kyle Joseph Leonard • Grace Julia Lihani • Brian Patrick Lowry • Marshall William Orion Marler • Hannah Grace Marotta • Alexis Marie Martin • Cailin Rose Mayer • Emily Stoddart McDonald • Andrea Nicole McGannon • Marlee Taryn McGorray • Jacqueline Rose McKenna • Gabrielle Antoinette McMahan • Kevin Patrick McNamara • Hannah Fairall McNulty • Iselda Metaj • Kyle Sullivan Moore • Samantha Ann Moran • Grace Ann Murphy • Hailey Patricia Mylett • Dorian Myrtaj • Sereen Dana Nasrallah • Alexander John Newman • Weston Dean Newton • Jack V. Niklas • Adam Robert Norris • Emily Anne Nugent • Evan Michael Nugent • Aidan Matthew O'Donnell • Jack M. Omori • Abbigail Kristina Opdycke • Emma Karina Opdycke • Clare Brennan O'Toole • Durgesh Nandini Padaraju • Jaymie Alexandra Pampush • Zoe Melina Parris • Julia Parrish • Anthony Paul Paskert • Elise Pichola • Sophia Politis • Nicole Marie Popovich • Sydney Michelle Porter • Gina Rose Pujolas • Megan Elizabeth Radanovich • James Thomas Ridzon • Elise Noel Riemenschneider • Lauren Anne Ritvo • Claire Frances Robenalt • Tyler Robert Root • Madeline Xingni Rowley • Amber Nicole Rudy • Andrew A. Rutt • Yara D. Saad • Terri Alexis Sack • Rachel Ann Salberg • Lazarius Macaul Sanders • Clara Cristina Sandu • Alexander James Sapp • Makena Christina Sataraka • Hannah Ruth Sawyer • Hanna Marie Schmetzer • Pablo Alejandro Schwenk • Jasiah Caitlyn Scribner • Anna Claire Seffernick • George Elias Semaan • Gina Marie Shaver • Spencer Daniel Sheehan • Joseph Donald Shepherd • Collin Graham Shirley • Dane Edwin Shirley • Kaya Marie Sittinger • Victoria Szilvia Skains • Rebecca Ann Sloan • Adam E. Snyder • Zachary J. Soeder • Emily Kathryn Soltes • Joseph Aladar Solymosi • Nolan R. Soneson • Eleanor E. Stafford • Claudia Ray Stohr • Megan Nicole Stoner • Mohammad Amjad Suleiman • Charles Bacon Swartz • Hala Elias Tayeh • Stuart Alan Taylor • Robert Xenophon Thomas • Mark Andrew Thorn • Carlie Marie Tianello • Ashley Katherine Tillett • Dylan Tingle • Natalie Grace Tisdale • Kyle Douglas Traum • Colin Michael Trudell • Brian C. Tucci • Ryleigh Anne Tuck-Macalla • SaiPranay Vellala • Mary Kate Verhiley • Gregg William Vining • Emma Wagh • Margaret L. Wagh • Haylee Roseann Ward • Anna Katherine Weixel • Nathan Christopher Wilson • Jacob Thomas Wischmeier • Brandon Robert Wodzisz • Salvatore James Yammarino • Samantha Kathryn Zamarripa

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Class of 2016 earned in excess of \$9.8 million in scholarships to help them pursue college and university degrees.

- The **Rocky River High School Alumni Association** awarded scholarships to Dana Bandi and Jaymie Pampush.
- The **Danny Scherry Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to Brian Lowry.
- Morgan Klimack and Abigail Opdycke were awarded scholarships by the **Rocky River Teachers Association**.
- The **Ohio Association of Public School Employees #381** awarded scholarships to Sarah Capri, Anne Cipriani, Arden Gerlach and Brandon Wodzisz.
- The **Rocky River Middle School September 11th Memorial Fund** presented Jack Kehn with a \$500 scholarship.
- Anne Cipriani, Rachel Fagerhaug, Konrad Katterle, Kyle Moore, Aidan O'Donnell and Anna Weixel are **National Merit Finalists**.
- Anna Weixel was awarded a \$2500 scholarship from the **National Merit Scholarship Corporation**.
- Rachel Fagerhaug, Konrad Katterle and Kyle Moore are **National Merit Scholarship Finalists**.
- Addison Amsdell, Dana Bandi, Olivia Hoskins, Hailey Mylett, Hannah Sawyer, Kaya Sittinger, Rebecca Sloan and Stuart Taylor are **National Merit Scholarship Corporation Commended Students**.



Rocky River Education Foundation Scholarship Program

Dana Bandi, Brian Beer, Amanda Burgess, Andrea Chiviles, Francesca Ciula, Lauren Devorace, Catherine Eichler, Rachel Fagerhaug, Patrick Ferguson, Winni Gao, Matthew Goepfert, Lucy Grierson, Eric Hanson, Geoffrey Heider, Olivia Hoskins, Konrad Katterle, Jack Kehn, Maria Klek, Grace Lihani, Emily McDonald, Andrea McGannon, Hannah McNulty, Grace Murphy, Hailey Mylett, Weston Newton, Aidan O'Donnell, Clare O'Toole, Emma Opdycke, Jaymie Pampush, Amber Rudy, Terri Sack, Pablo Schwenk, Rebecca Sloan, Claudia Stohr, Megan Stoner, Charles Swartz, Stuart Taylor, Natalie Tisdale and Colin Trudell.



Hall of Fame Inductees

Anne Cipriani, Rachel Fagerhaug, Konrad Katterle, Kyle Moore, Aidan O'Donnell and Anna Weixel:
National Merit Finalists



Hall of Fame Inductees

Jack Corrigan, Matthew Goepfert: *All-Ohio Football*

AND AWARDS



Awards of Distinction

Sarah Capri and Andrea McGannon : *Cultural Improvement Award*

Grace Lihani: *Distinguished Service Award*

Caroline Amato, Matthew Goepfert and Stuart Taylor: *Principal's Leadership Award*

Lucy Grierson: *All-Ohio Academic Team Recognition*

Jude Haddad: *Overcoming Adversity Award*

Mark Hoelzer and Emily McDonald : *Student Council Leadership - All Four Years*

Aidan O'Donnell: *National Honor Society President*



Athletic Recognition

Justine Coffman & Collin Shirley: *OHSAA Respect the Game Award*

Emily Soltes & Konrad Katterle: *U.S. Army Reserve Scholar Athlete Award*

Lauren Devorace & Evan Nugent: *U.S.M.C. Distinguished Athlete Award*

Clara Sandu: *OHSAA Courageous Student Award*

Lucy Grierson & Eric Jones: *OHSAA Scholar/Athlete Award*

Elise Riemenschneider & Jack Corrigan: *Outstanding Senior Athlete Award*

Chloe Bierut & Jacob Wischmeier: *Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award*

Andrea Chiviles & Charles Swartz: *U.S.M.C. Scholastic Achievement Award*

Matthew Goepfert: *"Goody" Marcks Sportsmanship Award*

Dana Bandi: *U.S. Equestrian Federation High School Athlete Letter*

Elise Pichola & Jack Corrigan: *Wendy's H.S. Heisman Nominees Athletics & Citizenship*

Nicole Popovich & Jack Kehn: *NFHS/OHSAA State Award for Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity*



Medical Mutual Scholarship

Kledio Janku is presented the Medical Mutual Scholarship by RRHS principal Rob Winton



Academic Recognition

Back Row:

Daniel Foster, James Cook, Kyle Leonard, Megan Conrad, Sammer Abdelwahab, Marlee McGorray

Front Row:

Victoria Leigh, Sophie Hudson, Gina Shaver, Ashley Tillett



Meta Kramer Scholarship

Jude Haddad, Lauren Ritvo, Sereen Nasrallah and Eric Jones

**Any errors or omissions are unintentional.*



Driftwood, the Rocky River High School Literary Magazine, is back. It's an online publication, available to read at <http://pub.lucidpress.com/Driftwood2016>, or the link on the left navigation bar on the RRHS website.

The publication is the culmination of a school year's worth of writing club meetings. The club met approximately once a month, with a core group of about ten students attending and sometimes as many as thirty. Students took part in writing exercises and edited one another's work. Outside of

the meetings, students often met in person or via Skype for one-on-one editorial check-ins.

This collection of poetry, prose, essays, and short stories is due in large part to the efforts of seniors Maggie Wagh and Emma Wagh. The girls started an informal writing club among their classmates last year and this year, the group revived the school's then-defunct literary magazine.

"We went with Lucidpress [an online platform] instead of a paper magazine because we just wanted to get the students' work out there without having to do a lot of fundraising," says Mrs. Ashley Morris, who, along with Mrs. Stephanie Minotti, are advisors for Driftwood and the writing club.

Fourth Grade Mural



Strength in Numbers

Every year, the fourth grade class at Kensington Intermediate School works cooperatively on an art project. The project gives the students a chance to create an individual piece as well as a group piece. The group project is displayed at the District Art Show and then added to Kensington's permanent collection, where it will hang in the office.

This year the fourth grade class created a piece of art based on the theme of unity. Their finished project depicts a coral reef. Artist Erin Delventhal and art teacher Sarah Braddock worked with every student to help him or her create a part of an underwater world titled... "Strength In Numbers." Also helping with the mural was Laura Lazzaro, president of the Kensington PTA which funded the project.

Ms. Delventhal discussed with students decisions their generation can make to eliminate single use plastics to help preserve our oceans and lakes.

Rocky River Boosters Raises Over \$80,000 for RRHS & RRMS



Rocky River Student Activities Boosters president Jeff Brant and concessions co-chairs Lori Brant (second right) and Chery Kovesdy (right) present Rocky River Board of Education president Kathleen Goepfert (second left) with a check for \$81,000.

During my first year as president of Rocky River Student Activities Boosters, I've come to realize what an amazing community we live in. While I've always known how special our schools are, I have come to fully appreciate our faculty and administrators, who have our children's best interest always in mind.

I also believe that our schools greatly benefit from the tremendous support of the families of Rocky River. These unheralded volunteers spend countless hours supporting our schools and our teachers.

This is especially true with Rocky River Student Activities Boosters. I have never met a group more dedicated to our mission...to provide support to co-curricular activities at Rocky River Middle School and High School, including academic and peer organizations, sports, music, and theater.

I am very proud of the fact that we donated over \$80,000 to our Rocky River schools in 2016, an 18% increase from last year. This annual donation to the school board supplements the student activities budget at the High School and entirely funds all Middle School activities.

How do we raise money? There are three primary sources...

- Membership
- Spirit Wear
- Concession Sales

I am often asked by parents how they can help. It's easy. Become a member and volunteer your time! Fact is, we need your help. We are looking for help with concessions and corporate sponsorship efforts.

If you are interested, please don't hesitate to reach out and contact me personally at boosters@rrcs.org.

Go Pirates!

Sincerely,
Jeff Brant, Jr.

President, Rocky River Student Activities Boosters

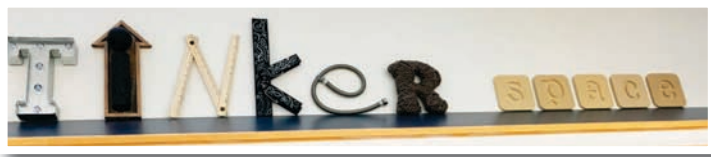
RRMS Principal's Award Reception

The following students were recognized in June for having earned straight As on their report cards for eight or more quarters during their three years in middle school: Melanie Ahmetspahic, Arden Berg, Paulina Bucaro, Amanda Cini, Avery Conzelmann, Kathryn Davis, Grace Demaree, Gabrielle Duncan, Grace Gascoigne, Madeline George, Jacob Gibson, Annabelle Green, Elizabeth Hamker, John Hanrahan, Ryan Henricks, Kira Katterle, Andrea Lasher, Samantha Miller, Amelia Milner, Charles Miner, Ethan Mylett, Kaitlyn Nock, Joshua O'Halla, Keegan O'Neill, Katherine Pietrangelo, Polyxeni Politis, Carmen Rhinehalt, Emma Scalabrino, Mackenzie Schul, Morgan Schul, Savanna Siegel, Jack Sierputowski, Peyton Sperry, Charlotte Stohr, Grace Suhadolink, Athan Taigas and Shaina Turner.



Rocky River Education Foundation

Thanks to the outstanding support from the community, the Rocky River Education Foundation was able to provide over \$81,000 during the past year to fund grants and to provide support for the Rocky River City School District's Speaker Series.



Highlights of the 2015-2016 grant awards:

- Goldwood added a hands-on STEAM Tinker Space to its Media Center.
- Snap Word kits were purchased for the kindergarten classes at Goldwood to assist with student acquisition of sight words.
- Kensington purchased activity carts and bins for indoor recess.
- 4th grade students at Kensington had the opportunity to visit restored Lock 38 beside the Canal Exploration Center.
- RRMS created a relaxation sensory room for students with sensory integration difficulties, anxiety, or difficulty with focus and attention.
- TRX trainers were added to fitness classes at RRMS.
- At RRHS, standing desks were purchased to foster students' ability to focus and promote active learning.
- Spanish class students at RRHS will be able to use virtual reality headsets to go on Google Expeditions and explore the Spanish-speaking world.

In addition to its grant program, RREF continues its funding efforts for the Speaker Series. This upcoming school year, author Gordon Korman will spend three days in the district which includes holding student writing workshops. Students will focus on themes such as the importance of teamwork and the necessity of humor to work through challenges. Author Luong Ong will visit the high school. Ong's memoir *First They Killed My Father* details her story of survival throughout the Khmer Rouge regime when she was forced into a labor camp and then into service as a child soldier. Ong's book was chosen as the 2016-2017 all-school read for RRHS.

The Foundation continues its support of Rocky River students beyond graduation, proudly working with a host of generous donors to administer scholarships to RRHS college bound seniors. At this year's Spring Recognition Ceremony almost \$47,000 was awarded to the class of 2016.

With the generosity of the Rocky River community, local businesses, and RRCS's teachers, staff, and administration, the Foundation continues its proud tradition of helping to enrich educational experiences for our students.

For more information about RREF and its mission, visit rrefoundation.org.





ECRWSS Local Residential Customer

Rocky River Board of Education

1st row: Kathleen Goepfert (President), Jon Fancher (Vice President)
2nd row: Addie Olander, Rick Manoloff, Diana Leitch

Search for Children with Disabilities

The Rocky River City 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, intellectual impairment, or other health impairments. If you have a concern about a child, please contact the Pupil Services Department at 356-6006.

Grants

Each year the school district receives federal and state money through several grants. If you have questions or would like to provide input for Title VI-B, Preschool Children with Disability, and/or Title III, Limited English Proficient, please contact the Director of Pupil Services at 356-6006. If you have questions or would like to provide input for Title I or Title II-A Professional Development Program, please contact the Assistant Superintendent at 356-6001.

Important Dates 2016-2017

August 18/19.....New Teacher Orientation
August 22.....Teacher Professional Day
August 23.....First Day of School
September 5.....Labor Day
October 14.....NEOEA Day
November 10.....Parent Conference Day
November 11.....Teacher Professional Day
November 23/24/25.....Thanksgiving Vacation
December 19.....Winter Vacation Begins
January 3.....School Resumes
January 16.....Martin Luther King Day
January 23.....Teacher Record Day
February 20.....Presidents' Day
April 14.....Spring Vacation Begins
April 24.....School Resumes
May 29.....Memorial Day
June 8.....Last Day of School
June 9.....Teacher Record Day



Senior Prom

Students enjoyed views of the Cleveland skyline from the rooftop of the Ariel International Center, the venue for this year's prom.