



# ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

District Newsletter  
Fall 2023

## ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPANDS GSRP EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

This fall, Roseville Community Schools bolstered their Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), increasing the early childhood learning to five days a week. Additionally, transportation is now provided for students who live within the Roseville district.

Assistant Superintendent Dave Rice said that the increase to five days a week from the previous four days was driven from the state level to increase class time. "We have been observing the differences in kindergarten preparedness for years and it is always consistent. GSRP students from the previous year are substantially ahead of most other students in socialization, behavioral norms, and play/interaction with other students. We may not have a defined metric to measure all of the factors, but student performance and educator observation over the years has been consistent." Sarrah Hovis, lead GSRP teacher at Fountain, said that the added day each week will not only give the students more opportunities for learning, building relationships, and having fun at school, but it also provides them added consistency. "On a Friday in previous years, the children had many different situations - stay home with parents, go to a family member's house, or even daycare for one day. Now they have another day of routine, consistency, learning, and meals. It's comforting for the children to know where they are going and who they are going to be with for five full days."

GSRP is funded through an increase in per pupil allotment for preschool-aged students. The district currently offers the program at three different locations. "We currently have three classes at Green Elementary, three at Fountain Elementary, and two at Kment Elementary. A fourth class will be opening soon at Green, giving us a total of nine classrooms and 144 students. We are one of the largest GSRP programs in the county," Rice said.

Hovis added that the Great Start Readiness Program

is important to young learners because they are learning to be good students before they go to kindergarten. "The children practice how to listen and follow directions, build self-esteem, pay attention, and grow independently all year long." She added that the teachers also offer the students new experiences and let them discover and explore the world around them through hands-on activities and play.

"We work hard with the children to build a nurturing community where everyone feels safe and can share their ideas and feelings freely. All these factors prepare our youngest learners for success for the years to come."

The GSRP classes use a structured course called *Creative Curriculum*. "Some of the key skills the children experience are learning through play, how to be a good friend, take turns, wait patiently, build positive relationships with teachers and children, problem-solve, make choices, build social skills, an introduction to early academic skills in math and literacy, and strengthening gross motor and fine motor skills," said Hovis. Rice added that students are encouraged to challenge their minds as well as their fine and gross

motor skills in GSRP. "This promotes self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-expression. All children are accepted as unique individuals." GSRP classes are capped at 16 students and each are taught by a certified teacher and a certified associate teacher. To be eligible for the free GSRP preschool program, students must meet at least two risk factors as determined by the MDE. Students must be a Macomb County resident and must turn four on or before September 1.



### ■ IN THIS ISSUE ■

- PG. 3: GET TO KNOW OUR TEACHERS
- PG. 4: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RHS HOMECOMING
- PG. 5: NEW STEAM COURSES A HIT AT RMS/EMS
- PG. 5: RHS ALUMNI SHARE PASSION FOR YOUTH WORK
- PG. 9: STUDENTS ENJOY SUMMER LEARNING



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



We have made it through the first couple of months of school and things are settling in, such as students enrolling, sorting out schedules, and adjusting class sizes.

This past summer, a group of parents, board members, and staff met as a committee to address student attendance. Last years' attendance did improve, but still falls short of our pre-pandemic levels.

The committee looked at strategies that have proven results to improve student attendance and chose five to institute this year.

One of these strategies is *Rethinking Recess*. Daily recess enhances physical health, builds social skills, and increases student engagement and empowerment. In the end, it helps build a better culture at school, which helps to improve attendance. However, recess must be done right. The addition of a second recess must be structured – all students engaged and involved with other students, with strict supervision of the activity to prevent negative

behaviors, such as bullying. Students working with peers in a positive environment will reduce anxiety and depression and help build a sense of belonging. All students want to feel they belong and welcomed in their classroom.

Recess is not the only thing we will be working on to improve attendance. Other initiatives include *Engaging Parents and Students*, *Safer Walk to School*, *Restorative Practices*, and providing more summer learning and after-school strategies.

What is going to help the most is when the home values the opportunities education gives their child. Children learn better when they come to school regularly. The more they are at school, the higher their achievement will be. Attendance matters!

Sincerely, Mark Blaszkowski

## PANTHER DAY '23

Roseville High School's third annual Panther Day was held on August 12. The event featured the black vs. red football game, performances by the RHS cheer teams and the RHS marching band, as well as vendors, food trucks, and bounce houses. It was a fun-filled event for the entire community!



## GET TO KNOW OUR TEACHERS



### ALEXIS VANDAMME - KMENT ELEMENTARY

Alexis VanDamme is starting her 29th year of teaching. She spent the first three years of her career teaching at a private school before finding her way back to Roseville, where she grew up. Over the years, she has taught all lower elementary grade levels at several schools, including Arbor Elementary and Steenland Elementary. In 2012, she moved over to Kment Elementary, where she now teaches first grade. VanDamme said that she loves to see the sparkle in her students' eyes when they believe in themselves. "Teaching students that they can succeed at anything they put their mind to is empowering. Helping them to have a growth mindset at an early age will give them the confidence to always

give their personal best." She added that she enjoys teaching students to read through poems and songs. "My students learn monthly poems and songs that help to encourage them to look for rhyming, repetition, and alliteration." VanDamme graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in elementary teaching and earned her master's degree in early childhood from Saginaw Valley State University. She met her husband, Paul, while in band together at Roseville's Carl Brablec High School. They have been married for 29 years and have two daughters, both of whom graduated from Roseville High School, the fourth generation from her family to attend Roseville Community Schools. "My oldest daughter Autumn is an elementary special education teacher and my youngest, Meghan, is going to graduate in May from Central Michigan University with a degree in environmental engineering." Outside of the classroom, VanDamme enjoys spending time with her family at their northern Michigan cabin and cheering on the local sports teams.

### GRIFFIN KRAGT- ROSEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Griffin Kragt started his seventh year of teaching this fall. He taught for two years in Utah before finding his way to Roseville Middle School, where he currently teaches eighth grade U.S. History and Around the World. He has also taught sixth grade math and seventh grade World History over the years. Kragt said he likes being involved in the school community. "I love the time I get to spend helping others at school. I enjoy running the video game club and coaching football here at RMS." He said that he enjoys incorporating projects into assignments. "I love projects that require students to use their imagination and think outside the box. They are fun ways to learn." Growing up, Kragt played high school football, lacrosse, and he wrestled. He attended Central Michigan University from 2013-2017, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree with a major in geography and a minor in history. "My sister and I are the first people in our family to graduate from college." He enjoys visiting family in Grand Rapids and lives with his girlfriend of three years. "We have a cat, Church, and a dog, Rico, that we call family." He added that he loves to play video games and check out new restaurants with his girlfriend. "Yates Cider Mill is a fun place to go on the weekends where we enjoy spending time and love feeling the fall weather."



### SHANNON GLANCY - ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Shannon Glancy has been working in the Roseville district since 2001, but her roots go back even farther. She attended school in Roseville at Alumni Elementary, Eastland Junior High, and Roseville High School. "My parents still live in the same house where I grew up, in Roseville, and have had the same next-door neighbors on both sides for almost 50 years." She started her career at numerous elementary schools/junior highs before joining RHS in the 2010-2011 school year, where she has worked ever since in a unique position for the school. "My role is somewhat non-traditional for a school psychologist, as I have a caseload of students that I provide direct support to, along with providing support when a student is in a mental health crisis, working on the crisis response team, evaluating students for special education eligibility, and supporting our special education department." Glancy said that her favorite part of being a school psychologist is working with students and helping them build social/emotional skills they need to become successful adults. "The most rewarding thing for me is watching growth with a student and seeing them proud of themselves. Not much makes me happier than when I hear from a former student about how good they are doing after graduation and knowing I helped play a part in their journey." Glancy earned her undergraduate degree in psychology, as well as her graduate degree from Wayne State's School and Community Psychology program. In her free time, she enjoys time with her family and friends. "I love bowling, reading, watching all the sports teams, and enjoy spending time on the St. Clair River, swimming and watching the freighters go by."





# HOMECOMING 2023

The rain and cold held off just long enough to provide a great evening for the annual RHS homecoming parade, football game, and halftime festivities on October 13! The Panthers made a second half comeback to secure a 22-19 win over Anchor Bay, Dennis Henderson & Presley Rubio were crowned Homecoming King & Queen, and the sophomores earned first place in the float competition! Another homecoming for the storybooks!



The new middle school STEAM courses, introduced this fall, are already fostering creativity and innovation! Students in the new Intro to Robotics class spent a couple weeks in early October building and programming Clawbots. After building was complete, students tested and modified their creations before the final competition, battling for the title of class champion!

## ALUMNI CORNER

Chad and Katelyn (Burns) Golembiewski shared experiences while at Roseville High School, and now they both share a passion for the youth of the area. Chad (RHS Class of 2011) attended Eastland Elementary and Eastland Junior High. Katelyn (RHS Class of 2012) attended Huron Park (now Green Elementary) and Roseville Junior High. Chad and Katelyn were very active students while in Roseville, both serving as members of the National Honor Society, Student Assembly, and the baseball/softball teams. Katelyn was also RHS Salutatorian her senior year. Chad said that some of his favorite RCS teachers/coaches include Mr. Marzec, Mr. Verkeyn, Mr. Gabriel, Mr. Baldes, as well as Mrs. Huber and Mrs. LaFeve from Eastland Elementary. "I used to sing *Hail to the Victors* in first grade with Mrs. Huber and still tailgate with her to this day at Michigan football games!" Katelyn said that she has many memories of her RCS years. "My favorites include sixth grade camp, swim class at RJHS, float parties, sports, and French with Madame Bourgeois." She mentioned several other favorite teachers/coaches, including Mrs. Hansen, her softball coach of four years, as well as Mr. Penhorwood, Mrs. Gabbard, and Mr. Reinowski. She added that taking AP Composition and Literature with Mrs. Jordan at RHS set her up for success in college. "With the vast amount of reading and writing required, the skills I learned in those classes helped me to navigate the demands of college coursework." After high school, Chad attended the University of Michigan, earning a bachelors degree in sports management, as well as serving as the student manager for the U of M baseball team. He also earned his masters degree in sports administration at Wayne State University. He has spent

the last five years at the Grosse Pointe Neighborhood Club Recreation and Wellness Center, serving as the recreation supervisor. "It's awesome being able to provide programming and events for a community and to see the joy that your hard work provides for others." Katelyn attended Michigan State University where she earned a bachelors degree in fisheries and wildlife. She is currently working towards her masters degree in youth development from MSU, which is where her career has landed. She has worked for the past six years as 4-H program coordinator with MSU Extension in Macomb County. "In 4-H, kids explore their interests and find their passions through hands-on learning activities and projects with the help of adult volunteers and staff. In my job, I work to recruit adult volunteers to serve as 4-H club leaders, provide leadership to those volunteers, and facilitate educational programs to youth in Macomb County." Chad and Katelyn recently welcomed their first child, Charlie, to the family. They also share their home with their two cats, Dottie and Kit, and dog, Dugan. "We enjoy hanging out with our family and friends, going on walks, visiting local breweries, going to concerts, and cheering on the Detroit sports teams, along with our household rivals Michigan and Michigan State," Chad added. Chad and Katelyn said that RCS has many great classes and programs to provide students with every opportunity to be successful in the future. "This is not limited to the number of AP classes that are offered. RCS has some of the best career tech and trade programs that any school in the area can provide!" They added that the staff and administration all share a love for the school district and community. "There are many staff members that we still see and connect with to this day. They genuinely care for you and will always be in your corner."



CHAD & KATELYN GOLEMBIEWSKI

Do you know of a former Roseville student who's doing great things? Let us know!

[productions@roseville.k12.mi.us](mailto:productions@roseville.k12.mi.us)



# A LOOK INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS...



Roseville Middle WEB leaders exhibited teamwork during 6th grade orientation



RHS students prepping some delicious food during their Culinary Arts class in October



Fountain third graders experimented with gravity in September



New 6th grade students learning all about Eastland Middle School during August orientation



Patton students had a great Walk-A-Thon in late September



RHS Student Assembly visited CMU for a student leadership conference in September



Steenland first graders worked on their letters during their first week of school



Congratulations to Mrs. Baranski, who won a \$1,000 grant from Meemic for RMS



Mrs. Clos' students at Kaiser loved receiving a book to read with families



Knecht students enjoyed "Beach Day" during their spirit week in early October



Our staff represented RCS at Macomb Mall's Back-To-School event in August

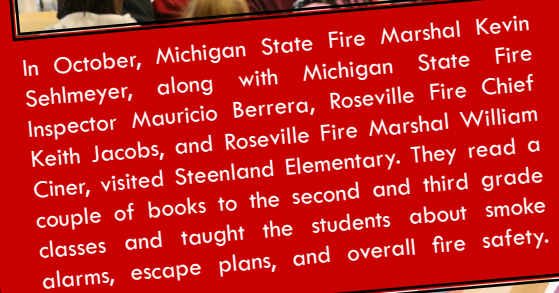
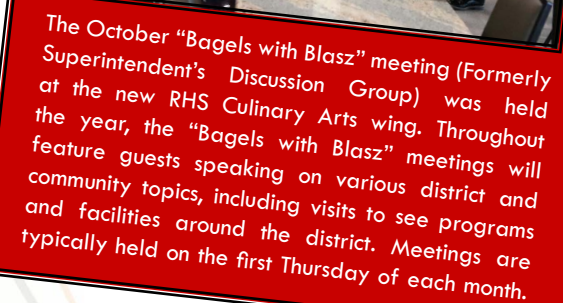
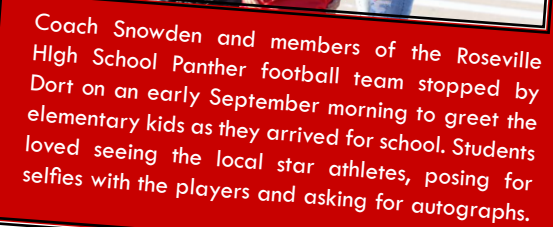
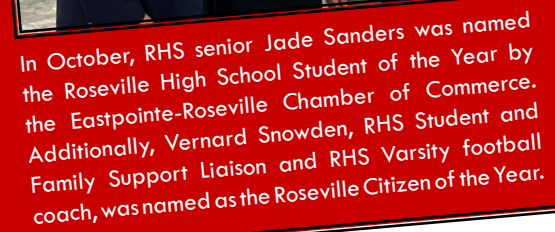


Students (and Pete) had a blast at the RHS Homecoming pep assembly in October



Over 500 students experienced an additional five weeks of awesome learning this summer! Our Extended Learning Summer Program students mixed their daily curriculum with a trip to the RHS planetarium, a fun summer field day, and an introduction to some unique animals through a visit from the Exotic Zoo. We held two sessions of the 5th Grade Girls' STEM camp this summer. Students programmed LEGO Spike Prime vehicles, learned how to solder circuit kits, got hands-on with 3D printers and power tools, and had a Q&A with female STEM professionals. We also hosted many students in the MISD KinderConnect and First Fundamentals programs, the middle school Math Mindset & ELA camps, as well as the traditional credit recovery courses.

A collage of seven photographs showing various activities: students working on a robot, a woman and student working on a project, a woman and student reading, a boy waving, a woman and children with a flag, a woman holding a turtle, and a group of students sitting in an auditorium.

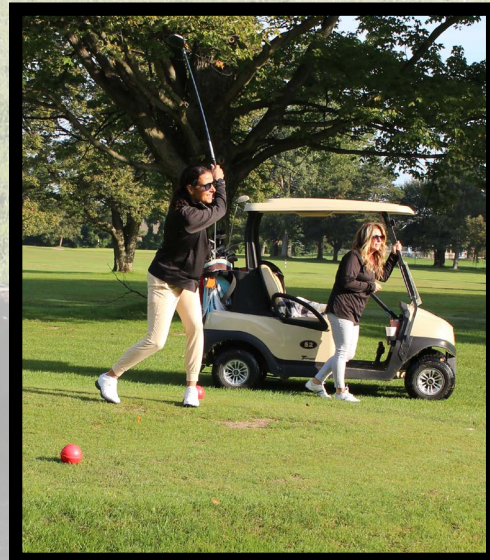


November 7: No School (Professional Development)  
November 22-24: Thanksgiving Recess  
December 25-January 5: Holiday Recess  
January 15: No School  
January 25: Half Day (Afternoon Professional Development)  
January 26: Half Day (End of 1st Semester)  
February 19-20: Midwinter Break  
March 25-29: Spring Recess  
April 5: Half Day (End of 3rd Marking Period)  
May 22: Seniors' Last Day  
May 27: No School  
June 6: RHS Graduation  
June 10-12: Half Days (End of 2nd Semester)



# SWINGING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

On September 16, the RCS Scholarship Foundation held their 20th annual golf outing. It was the largest outing yet, featuring 124 golfers and 47 hole sponsors. Through golfers, volunteers, hole sponsors, and donations, the RCSSF raised \$13,500, all to benefit the RHS Class of '24!



# ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

## Winter Gala

**SATURDAY,  
MARCH 9, 2024**

VINTAGE HOUSE  
31816 UTICA RD, FRASER

**DINNER,  
DANCING,  
BASKET RAFFLE,  
DOOR PRIZES,  
& MORE**

## JOE MANFREDI DREAM DASH



**SATURDAY,  
MAY 4, 2024**

ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
17855 COMMON RD.

Event held snow, rain or shine  
9:00am registration  
10:00am race begins

**OFFICIAL TIMING  
PARTICIPANT MEDALS  
PRIZE RAFFLE**

## 21st Annual CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

RAMMLER GOLF CLUB  
38180 UTICA RD, STERLING HEIGHTS

INCLUDES:  
\* 18 holes

- \* Continental breakfast
- \* Food/Drink Tickets
- \* Prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin & raffle prizes

**SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AVAILABLE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (586) 445-5505 OR VISIT THE RCS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION ON FACEBOOK OR LINKED IN



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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## School Directory

<b>Dort Elementary</b> .....	445-5750
Brenda Baker, Principal	
<b>Eastland Middle School</b> .....	445-5700
Robert Beato, Principal	
Alexandra Ward, Dean of Students	
<b>Fountain Elementary</b> .....	445-5765
Joseph Trobaugh, Principal	
<b>Green Elementary</b> .....	445-5780
Donna Ambrose, Principal	
<b>Kaiser Elementary</b> .....	445-5785
Kelly Grider, Principal	
<b>Kment Elementary</b> .....	445-5756
Donovan Stec, Principal	
<b>Patton Elementary</b> .....	445-5795
Brandon Komarowski, Principal	
<b>Roseville Middle School</b> .....	445-5600
Chris LaFave, Principal	
Eric Gauthier, Assistant Principal	
Joe Jelsone, Assistant Principal	
<b>Roseville High School</b> .....	445-5540
Jason Bettin, Principal	
Katherine Reith, Assistant Principal	
Kirk Duncan, Assistant Principal	
Keith Marzec, Athletic Director	
<b>Steenland Elementary</b> .....	445-5745
Charles Felker, Principal	
<b>Early Childhood Programs</b> .....	445-5688
<b>School Aged Child Care</b> .....	445-5688

## Central Administration

<b>Administration Building</b>	<b>(586) 445-5500</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>(586) 445-5505</b>
Mark Blaszkowski, Superintendent	
<b>Instruction &amp; Curriculum</b>	<b>(586) 445-5508</b>
Dave Rice, Assistant Superintendent	
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>(586) 445-5513</b>
Peter Hedemark, Assistant Superintendent	
<b>Business</b>	<b>(586) 445-5519</b>
Rayetta Ashbaugh, Exec. Director of Business & Finance	
<b>Special Education</b>	<b>(586) 445-5675</b>
Teresa Tomala, Director	
<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>	<b>(586) 445-5697</b>
Joe Smith, Director	
<b>Transportation and Maintenance</b>	<b>(586) 445-5699</b>
Scott Sikorski, Supervisor	
<b>Food Service</b>	<b>(586) 445-5685</b>
Andrea Dysard, Supervisor	
<b>Technology</b>	<b>(586) 445-4380</b>
Michael Antoine, Director	
<b>State &amp; Federal Programs</b>	<b>(586) 445-5688</b>
Nicole Provo, Coordinator	
<b>Marketing/Communications</b>	<b>(586) 445-5517</b>
Joe Genest, Facilitator	