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# Community Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Central School District Fall 2006

## Celebrating 60 Years

This school year, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District commemorates its 60th anniversary of centralization. On November 14, 1946, residents of Rush and Henrietta voted to combine their small school districts into a single district to provide children in both communities with more efficient and cost-effective educational services.

In demonstrating foresight and a concern for the future, Rush and Henrietta residents realized that melding their efforts and resources by centralizing the school districts would provide more opportunities for academic achievement and lifelong success. Much like the settlers arriving in the area in the early 1800s, who wanted to improve their lives and provide their children with a quality education, today's families in Rush-Henrietta are to be commended for their unwavering commitment to student learning.

This commemorative 60th anniversary newsletter features facts and images from the past that serve as a record of events that shaped the Rush-Henrietta Central School District as we know it today. While looking toward the future, please enjoy this brief review of the district's humble beginnings.

The Rush-Henrietta Board of Education will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 60 years to the day that community residents voted to form the school district. Prior to the meeting, the Board of Education will host a reception from 6 to 7 p.m. commemorating the occasion. The reception is open to

the public and will be held in Cafeteria A at Roth Middle School, 4000 East Henrietta Road. Roth Middle School was originally called Rush-Henrietta Central School, and was the district's first new school when it opened in 1952. Those who attend the reception will enjoy refreshments, be treated to chamber music performed by Rush-Henrietta student-musicians, and are invited to enjoy an 11-minute historical video produced by the Office of Community Relations that depicts in pictures and words the challenges and opportunities facing the district in its early years.

For more information regarding the special reception hosted by the Board of Education, please call Elizabeth Bevan, district clerk, at 359-5010.

### 60th Anniversary Celebration

All community residents are invited to join the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education at a 60th anniversary celebration reception commemorating the centralization of the district on

November 14, 2006  
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

6:15 p.m. Welcome and Introductions  
6:30 p.m. Historical Video and Resolution  
6:45 p.m. District Vision and Closing Remarks  
7:00 p.m. Regular Board of Education Meeting

Roth Middle School, Cafeteria A  
4000 East Henrietta Road



Guiding Student Success

Rush-Henrietta  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## 2006-2007 Board of Education Meetings

Tuesdays, 7 p.m., NGA\*

\* Unless otherwise noted

July 11, 2006	60th Annual Reorganization/ Regular Meeting
July 25, 2006	Workshop Meeting, 5:45 p.m.
August 8, 2006	Regular Meeting
September 12, 2006	Regular Meeting
September 26, 2006	Regular Meeting
October 10, 2006	Regular Meeting
October 24, 2006	Regular Meeting
November 14, 2006	Regular Meeting
November 28, 2006	Regular Meeting
December 12, 2006	Regular Meeting
January 9, 2007	Regular Meeting
January 23, 2007	Regular Meeting
February 13, 2007	Regular Meeting
February 27, 2007	Regular Meeting
March 13, 2007	Regular Meeting
March 27, 2007	First Public Hearing on the Proposed 2007-2008 Budget
April 3, 2007	Board Adoption of the Proposed 2007-2008 Budget

April 24, 2007	Regular Meeting (preceded by the Volunteer Recognition Dinner)
May 8, 2007	Final Public Hearing on the Proposed 2007-2008 Budget
May 15, 2007	Board of Education Election Results, 9 p.m., TOC (preceded by the Annual Retirement Dinner)
May 22, 2007	Regular Meeting
June 12, 2007	Regular Meeting (preceded by the Board Tenure Recognition Reception)
June 26, 2007	Regular Meeting
December 5, 2006	<b>Special Dates</b> Program and Services Review, 7 p.m., NGA
February 14, 2007	Community Forum on the Preliminary Proposed 2007-2008 Budget, 7-9 p.m., TOC
April 30, 2007	DPAC Candidates' Night, 7-9 p.m., TOC
May 15, 2007	Budget Vote & Board of Education Election, 6 a.m.-9 p.m., TOC



## Mission

*To foster the intellectual and personal development of Rush-Henrietta's students and to prepare them for responsible citizenship, productive employment, and life-long learning in a global community.*

## Vision of Excellence

The Rush-Henrietta Central School District will be a learning community characterized by the following interdependent values:



### *S*afe and caring learning environments

School settings provide physically and emotionally safe learning environments for students and staff. Classrooms and other work environments promote trust, encouragement, mutual respect, and an appreciation for diversity.



### *A*n unwavering focus on student learning

Learning experiences are planned and implemented with an expectation for high levels of achievement by all students. This is accomplished by focusing on four fundamental questions:

1. What do we want our students to know and be able to do?
2. How will we know how well our students are learning?
3. What will we do if our students are not learning at high levels of proficiency?
4. How will we challenge our students already learning at high levels of proficiency?



### *A*culture of collaboration

Stakeholders work as partners to support student learning. This is accomplished by timely and responsive communication between and among stakeholders. Opportunities for planning and shared decision making are embraced.



### *A* commitment to continuous improvement

All stakeholders actively search for better ways to do their work. This is accomplished by reflective inquiry and ongoing professional growth. Individual and collective achievements are shared and celebrated as progress occurs.

## *Stakeholders*

The stakeholders of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District include: students, parents, teachers, administrators, support staff, alumni, the Board of Education, community residents, institutions of higher education, businesses, and the State Education Department.

Board approved July 11, 2006

## Young District Handled

*If the old woman who accommodated all the children in her shoe has any extra footgear, overcrowded schools of Rochester's suburban area would be quick to buy them.*" That's how *Rochester Times-Union* reporter Andrew Wolfe described challenges facing the newly formed Rush-Henrietta Central School District in 1949.



*Under the watchful eye of Vice Principal John Parker, students raise the flag for the first time at Rush-Henrietta Central School in 1952.*

The newspaper account was titled, "Suburban Schools, Swamped by Growing Flood of Students, Face Need for New Building Construction." It was an amazing turn of events, considering it had been just three years since Rush and Henrietta residents headed to the polls in 1946, and voted to centralize school operations.

The Rush-Henrietta Central School District opened on July 1, 1947; George Yackel, the former principal in Rush, was named principal of the new district. Students previously attending separate high schools in Rush and Henrietta were combined and attended class at the former Monroe Academy, near the corner of East Henrietta and Lehigh Station roads. Students in grades 1-7 attended school in what is now known as the West Henrietta Education Building, 649 Erie Station Road. Grade 8 was located in an annex to the Monroe Academy building. As detailed in newspaper accounts of the day, an unforeseen challenge quickly tested the will and wisdom of district leaders and community

residents. Soon after centralization, people began moving to the suburbs at an unexpected rate, and many settled in Henrietta. "The population and school attendance spread like a brush fire in the fifties ... We had no way of knowing how much more school facilities we needed when we centralized in the late forties," Dr. John Parker, one of Rush-Henrietta's first administrators, once said.

Not long after centralization, the Board of Education – consisting of two members from Rush and three from Henrietta – astutely advocated for the creation of a new school for all students. In 1949, voters approved by a margin of 656-139 the purchase of 65 acres owned by Clark Stone on East Henrietta Road at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.

The next step to ushering in a new era in Rush-Henrietta schools was presenting for voter approval a proposition regarding the construction of a new school on this site. According to the September 9, 1949, *Rochester Times-Union*, "Voters of the Rush-Henrietta Central District will go to the polls ... to decide on a \$1,475,000 bond issue, which would finance construction of a new central school near East Henrietta. Present buildings are so inadequate that students are scattered through a succession of buildings, which include the Rush Town Hall, the Union Congregational Church in East Henrietta, and a cinder block garage. The high school building itself in East Henrietta is a 123-year-old structure that once housed the old Monroe Academy."

On September 19, 1949, Rush-Henrietta voters approved the proposition to construct the Rush-Henrietta Central School, which was designed to accommodate 1,000 students and serve all grade levels. The margin of support – 728-162 – was overwhelming and helped launch Rush-Henrietta on a course for 60 years of educational excellence.

In 1952, Rush-Henrietta opened its first new school at 4000 East Henrietta Road; the school is known today as Roth Middle School. It was the first school of its kind in the state to be built all on one level. Architect Benedict Ade described the building as "simple and dignified," but it was so state-of-the-art at the time that visitors came from near and far to admire it. In fact, Rush-Henrietta hosted a group of Japanese visitors, who were visiting cutting-edge schools in the United States.



## Early Challenges Well



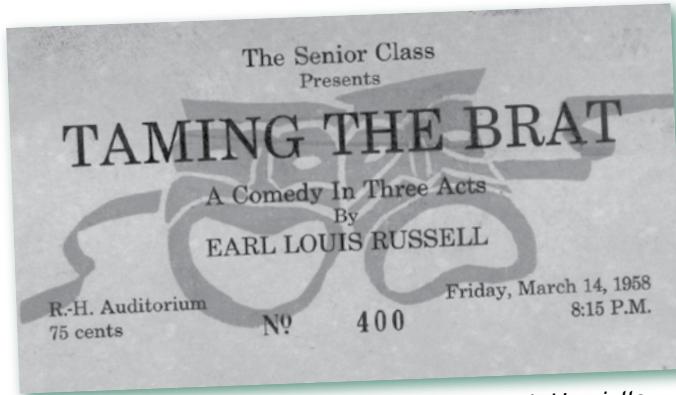
This picture shows the Rush High School band in 1938, eight years before centralization. Today, Rush-Henrietta is known nationwide for its outstanding music program.



Classrooms in 1955 featured rows of desks. Today, elementary classrooms are less rigidly defined, allowing teachers to adapt to the learning styles of all students.



The technology has changed considerably in the past few decades, but Rush-Henrietta continues to integrate it into the classroom where appropriate.



This school memorabilia is a ticket from the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1958's performance of "Taming the Brat."



Regardless of the era, Rush-Henrietta continues to help students learn basic fundamentals to ensure lifelong success.



District leaders gathered in 1950 for a groundbreaking ceremony to build what is now called Roth Middle School.



## Sixty Years Later: Did You Know?

The pursuit of a quality education in Rush-Henrietta can be traced for some 200 years. Although buildings, students, and staff have changed during that time, a focus on student learning remains the priority. Here are some interesting facts regarding local education:

- The first school in Henrietta opened in 1809 on Wadsworth Road (now Pinnacle Road) near Stevens Corners. The first school on Henrietta's west side was built on River Road near Maple Street (now Bailey Road) in 1810. Both schools were built of logs.
- Early settlers, including James Sperry, namesake of the Senior High School, raised money to build Monroe Academy, a boarding and day school opened in 1826. In 1870, Monroe Academy became a public school and it operated until 1952. The building burned in 1974.

• The original Rush-Henrietta Central School District Board of Education included members from Rush and Henrietta. They were Raymond Bock, of Rush; William Gillette, of Henrietta, first president of the board; Jasper Howlett, of Henrietta; Eldred Koehler, of Henrietta, first vice president of the board; and Charles Roth, of Rush. Prior to centralization, Bock served as president of the school board in Rush.



This bell, salvaged from Monroe Academy after it burned in 1974, was on display in 1996 during the district's 50th anniversary celebration.

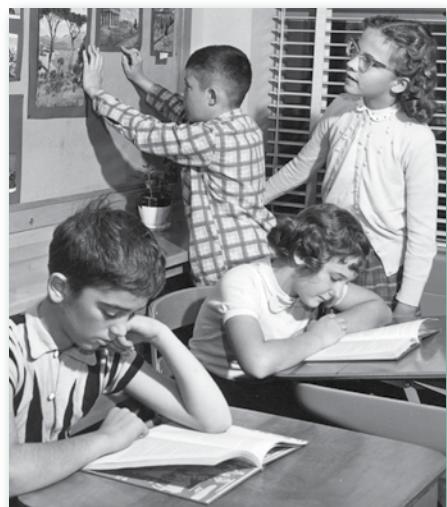
- John Parker, a district forefather who served as principal and vice principal during Rush-Henrietta's formative years, also taught math, social studies, and coached multiple sports. The Parker Administration Building is named in his honor.
- During the 1946-1947 school year, the final year that Rush and Henrietta operated as independent school systems, more children were enrolled in Rush (109) than in Henrietta (69).



Reading in Rush-Henrietta schools is as important today as it was in the district's early days.

- Rush-Henrietta's first graduating class was the Class of 1948. Its motto was: "Not the end, but a beginning."
- Rush-Henrietta adopted the school nickname "Comets" when 56 percent of students voted for it in 1951. The nickname "Falcons" placed a distant second in the balloting.
- Rush-Henrietta has managed dramatic changes in student enrollment. After an impressive period of sustained growth in the 1960s and 1970s, the district had nearly 11,000 students. Although some estimates showed enrollment would soar to 25,000, the pace slowed. Today's enrollment is stable at about 6,000 students.
- The Rush-Henrietta Class of 2006 had more students than the district's first 10 graduating classes had combined.

Our community has come a long way since the early days of Monroe Academy. The Rush-Henrietta Central School District thanks you for your continued support. Together, we are guiding student success ... one child at a time.



Time marches on, but Rush-Henrietta's commitment to education remains steadfast. This year, the district celebrates 60 years of educational excellence.



## Familiar Names, Extraordinary People

*It's important to remember the educational trailblazers who came before us, creating a solid foundation for future Rush-Henrietta students. The people highlighted below have schools in Rush-Henrietta named in their honor.*

### **David B. Crane Elementary School**

David B. Crane was the first principal of Monroe Academy, which opened in Henrietta in 1826. According to the March 14, 1974, issue of *The Henrietta Post*, "Mr. Crane was asked to take four shares in the school and he also contributed a substantial sum toward the purchase of the bell."

### **Ethel K. Fyle Elementary School**

Ethel K. Fyle, a native of Rush, is remembered as an outstanding educator. A member of the school faculty when the newly centralized Rush-Henrietta school district opened its doors in 1948, she taught grades 6-7 for seven years before retiring in 1954. Previously, Fyle taught 23 years at West Henrietta School.

### **Monica B. Leary Elementary School**

Monica B. Leary was born in Seneca Falls on February 11, 1883. A graduate of St. Mary's Nursing School, she married Dr. James Leary in 1912. She succeeded her husband as a school board member in Rush, serving in the 1930s and 1940s. When Monica Leary died in 1953, she had built a reputation as one of Rush's most respected citizens.

### **extraordinary (adjective)**

1. beyond what is usual, ordinary, regular, or established
2. exceptional in character, amount, extent, degree, etc.; noteworthy; remarkable; an extraordinary man or woman

### **Emma E. Sherman Elementary School**

Emma E. Sherman dedicated her life to teaching in the West Henrietta School District. A native of Henrietta, her love for children endeared her to many. Sherman was born November 1, 1863, and died in 1935; she is buried in Maplewood Cemetery on Middle Road in Henrietta.

### **Floyd S. Winslow Elementary School**

Dr. Floyd S. Winslow, former teacher and headmaster of Monroe Academy, was accomplished in the education field, but his professional pursuits were far-reaching. A graduate of Cornell Medical School, Winslow served as a medic in the U.S. Army during World War I, became a physician, and served as county coroner.

### **Henry V. Burger Middle School**

Henry V. Burger was born in Mendon in 1870, but lived most of his 83 years in Henrietta. He worked tirelessly to establish a

high school for the Henrietta community. Burger was a member of the Board of Education for 25 years, serving as clerk during most of that time.

### **Charles H. Roth Middle School**

Charles H. Roth is remembered for his outstanding contributions to the community as a member of the original Rush-Henrietta Central School District Board of Education. He helped oversee creation of the Rush-Henrietta Central School, which opened in 1952; it is now known as Roth Middle School.

### **Ninth Grade Academy**

Known for years as the Carlton O. Webster Building, this former junior high school was named for Carlton O. Webster, a respected English and drama teacher in the district. The building, which has been the district's first Ninth Grade Academy since 2000, still bears Webster's name.

### **James E. Sperry Senior High School**

Today's high school is named for surveyor James Sperry, who provided leadership in fostering education during the pioneer days. He lived in Henrietta from 1811 to 1861. In 1825, Sperry was part

of a group that considered building an educational academy. The following year, they helped open Monroe Academy.

### **Mary K. Vollmer Learning Center**

On April 12, 1970, Rush-Henrietta dedicated Mary K. Vollmer Elementary School. "Vollmer was a very special teacher," the program from the event said. "In tribute to her many years of devoted service to children and the teaching profession, we now proudly dedicate this new school in the Rush-Henrietta district." Vollmer taught music and kindergarten at Rush-Henrietta.

Rush-Henrietta has closed and sold several former schools, including Crittenden Elementary School on West Henrietta Road in Brighton; it was named in honor of Austin Crittenden, an early settler. The district also sold William Gillette Elementary School, on Groton Parkway in Henrietta, which was named in honor of the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education's first president. Gillette Elementary is now the School of the Holy Childhood.



*Guiding Student Success*

Rush-Henrietta  
RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



*Guiding Student Success*

Rush-Henrietta  
RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Celebrating 60 Years of Guiding Student Success . . . One Child at a Time

*Yesterday . . .*



This drawing, by John Wenrich, depicts Rush School No. 10 in Summer 1887. In 2006, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District celebrates its 60th anniversary of centralization.



Students attending Henrietta High School posed for this picture in the 1930s. Before centralization, dozens of small school districts were scattered throughout the Rush and Henrietta countryside.



In 1952, the *Democrat and Chronicle* reported that Rush-Henrietta boasted 12 buses to transport 930 students. In 2006, 101 buses transport some 6,700 students more than 8,000 miles each day.



Children gather outside one of Henrietta's first schools, at the corner of Lehigh Station and Pinnacle roads. This photo was taken in the late 1800s, some 75 years before centralization.



Hundreds of Rush and Henrietta residents turned out for a special meeting in 1949 to learn more about the new school district's proposal to build the Rush-Henrietta Central School. Soon after, voters overwhelmingly approved the project.

*Today . . .*



Parent involvement is more important today than ever in Rush-Henrietta. From parent group organizations to classroom helpers, there are hundreds of opportunities to become involved.



Lessons such as this science experiment at the middle school level are one way Rush-Henrietta is making its curriculum more understandable and relevant to students.



Rush-Henrietta students take community service seriously. At the Senior High School, the Community Art Club has been involved in several high-profile events, including the recent "Pumpkins on Parade."



In 2006, the American Music Conference named Rush-Henrietta one of the Best 100 Communities for Music Education. In 2005, the Senior High School won a Grammy Award from the Grammy Foundation.



## Because You Asked . . .

**D**uring the school budget vote in May 2006, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District solicited comments from registered voters. In this and upcoming newsletters, the district will address some of the questions posed by residents. In this issue, we examine the concept of a contingency budget and explain why voting is held in one location.



### **How can a contingency budget be higher than the proposed budget?**



In its annual proposed budget, the district includes only what it believes is necessary to effectively guide student success. Each year, the base budget is calculated by rolling over current programs and services, and adjusting for contractual salary and benefit increases. The costs of supplies and materials also are adjusted based on the regional Consumer Price Index.

The contingency budget, the amount the school district would be allowed to budget for if voters rejected its proposed spending plan, is based on a State Education Department formula. Based on contingency budget guidelines, the state may allow the district to operate with a larger budget than it has proposed. When this occurs, contingency budget information is presented to taxpayers solely because state law requires all districts to do so.

The fact that the contingency budget may be larger than the proposed budget is evidence that the Rush-Henrietta Central School District is mindful of maintaining a balance between the needs of students and fiscal responsibility.



### **Why is the district now voting at one location?**

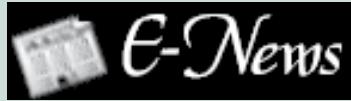


The district now holds budget and capital project votes at a single location, rather than at its five elementary schools. This decision was made to enhance access and convenience, improve safety and security of both students and staff members at the district's elementary schools, to minimize disruptions in K-5 buildings, and reduce expenses associated with multiple voting sites.

Many residents have complimented the district for its efforts to enhance safety and security at elementary schools by consolidating voting to a centralized site. The district also has received positive feedback based solely on the fact that taxpayers avoid more than \$10,000 in additional expenses when a vote is held in one location.

The decision to vote at a centralized location has been publicized widely since Fall 2005 in district and school publications including the 2005 Facility Renovations Proposition brochure which was mailed to all households in the district, in the media, and on the district Web site, among other venues. Future votes will be held at the Transportation and Operations Center, 1133 Lehigh Station Road, conveniently located near the corner of Middle and Lehigh Station roads in Henrietta.

## *R-H Information is Only a Click Away!*



Visit the district's redesigned Web site for comprehensive information about Rush-Henrietta schools. Also, consider subscribing to one of the district's latest services, E-News, which provides brief e-mail notifications, announcements, and reminders about important meetings, activities, and issues. Visit [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) today!



## News From Around the District

### RHTV Offers District, School Insights

Many Rush-Henrietta Central School District activities and events are videotaped and presented on one of two regularly scheduled cable television programs airing throughout the year. Residents are encouraged to tune in to RHTV programs, which are aired in both Henrietta and Rush. RHTV generally airs in Henrietta on cable channel 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. This year, RHTV again airs in Rush on cable channel 19, but at a new, improved time - from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Tapes of each program are available for loan to residents. To reserve videotapes, please call the district at 359-5000.

### Schools Offer Ways to Get Involved

Throughout the year, there are various events taking place in the schools that provide plentiful opportunities for parents and guardians to get involved with their child's education. Now is a good time to do so! Please check the Web site at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) for school-specific information, and contact your school or parent group to find out how you can get involved. Become an active participant and demonstrate an interest in your child's education today!

### Class Reunions Being Planned

Reunions for the Rush-Henrietta classes of 1960, 1980,

1982 (Roth), 1986 (Sperry), and 1996 are being planned. To learn more about these upcoming reunions, please visit [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) and search the Alumni Center, one of 15 Quick Links on the left-hand side of the home page. The district also encourages alumni to visit the Alumni Center and register as part of the listing for their class.

### Students Can Take Free College Courses

Eligible Rush-Henrietta Senior High School students can take college courses at Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester - for free! Some Rush-Henrietta students have graduated from high school already having completed a year's worth of college courses, meaning they essentially enter college as a sophomore. Please talk with your son or daughter about the many benefits of taking college classes while still in high school, including getting a head start on a four-year degree and saving the family a considerable amount of money on college tuition. Only a small percentage of eligible high school juniors and seniors are taking advantage of this valuable benefit, which comes with living in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. In an effort to spread the word about the program, the Senior High School's Counseling Office is inviting students and parents to call for more information. For more information about the program, contact Katie Mason, director of counseling, at 359-7954.



*This aerial photo depicts Rush-Henrietta Central School in the 1950s. The school attracted interest from near and far when it opened in 1952. This building is known today as Roth Middle School. Scheduled maintenance and renovations approved by voters in 2005 help keep the school modern.*



## District Priorities Focus on Improving Student Achievement, Closing Learning Gaps

In the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, improving student achievement on New York state learning assessments (proficiency and mastery) and closing achievement gaps continue to be priorities. During the 2006-2007 school year, we will strengthen our capacity for accomplishing these goals in the following ways:

### *Curriculum and Instruction*

**Curriculum Development:** Curriculum-mapping will be used to make explicit content and skills that students are expected to learn for each course of study at each grade level. By making these learning outcomes explicit, instruction can be better planned to ensure that every student achieves the expected level of mastery. Since July 2003, 183 curriculum-mapping projects have been completed. This means that 68 percent of the district's current course offerings have initial curriculum maps. Many of these initial curriculum maps have been subsequently reviewed and updated.

**Assessment and Grading:** Common assessments, aligned with curriculum maps, will be developed and used in all content areas. These assessments, with scoring rubrics and exemplars, will help teachers monitor student progress and target instruction. In addition:

- At elementary schools, standards based reporting of pupil progress will continue for the third year. Emphasis will be placed on better aligning teacher grading practices with quarterly reporting.
- At secondary schools, homework and grading policies will be reviewed. Special attention will be given to the practice of assigning zeros (no credit) for work not completed.

**Class Size:** Class sizes will be reduced to an average of 15 students per class at kindergarten, first, second, third, and fourth grades. In addition, no kindergarten, first, second, third, or fourth grade class will have more than 17 students. Teachers with smaller classes will have more time to diagnose and support students, both

those who are struggling and those who can benefit from enrichment.

**Academic Intervention:** The classroom teacher's role as a student's primary academic intervention service provider will continue to be emphasized and supported, and Instruction Support Teams will continue to help classroom teachers develop strength-based learning profiles and interventions for targeted students. In addition:

- At middle schools, a new Instruction Support Team referral process will be implemented, and
- At the Senior High School, at grade 10, an on-site alternative education program will be established.

**Technology Integration:** Student and teacher use of computers, instructional software, distance learning, and other electronic learning technologies will be expanded at all grade levels. Assured experiences requiring technology integration will appear in all curriculum maps, teacher access to electronic instructional technologies will improve, and on-site support for effective technology integration will be available at all schools. Areas for improved access to electronic learning technology will be as follows:

- All teachers will receive laptop computers by June 2007;
- Projection units will be added to all schools;
- Mobile labs will be added to all elementary schools;
- Computer-based integrated learning systems will continue to be piloted at three schools (Winslow, Burger, and Roth);
- Smart Boards will continue to be piloted at middle schools; and
- Student Response Systems (SRS) will be piloted at the NGA and SHS.

To support expanded technology integration, additional funding has been allocated for replacing and upgrading equipment, software, and infrastructure. In 2006-07,



\$1.25 million has been budgeted for this purpose. However, technology experts inform us that \$1.5 million will be required each year to do this job well. For this reason, an additional \$250,000 will be budgeted for 2007-2008.

## *Student Management and Support*

**Student Safety and Conduct:** In recent years, significant steps have been taken to improve student conduct and safety. Student codes of conduct have been revised, as have student attendance procedures, student discipline procedures, and emergency management plans. In addition, school staff members have been trained in crisis prevention techniques and the Monroe County Sheriff's Department is providing School Resource Officer services. School year, student conduct and safety will be further strengthened in the following ways:

- Emergency Management Plans will be practiced and updated at all schools;
- Digital security cameras will be added at elementary schools and on buses;
- Student dress codes and electronic device use policies will be strictly enforced;
- Anti-bullying and teasing programs will be established at all schools; and
- A peer mediation program will be established at the NGA and SHS.

## *Home and Community Partnerships*

**Family Involvement and Support:** High levels of student achievement require active, supportive family involvement. To strengthen family involvement and support for student learning, the following initiatives will be emphasized:

- School-based parent education programs that promote better parent understanding of curriculum and instruction;
- A districtwide Parent University in November 2006;
- Teachers communicating more frequently with parents about their child's accomplishments at school;
- More teachers having a home page on the district's Web site,
- Outreach programs for pre-school parents; and

- Outreach programs for new non-English speaking students and families.

## *Organizational Development*

**Professional Development:** High levels of student achievement require well-trained staff with high expectations for all students, enthusiasm for creating caring learning environments, and high standards of professional conduct. To encourage and reinforce these professional practices, the following staff development initiatives will be emphasized during the coming year:

- Literacy instruction (reading/writing in content areas);
- Differentiated instruction;
- Technology integration;
- Diversity awareness and cultural competence (Diversity Advisory Council);
- Embedded staff development (i.e., colleagues as consultants and mentors) and
- Teacher study groups.

**Staff Engagement:** People actively search for better ways of doing their work when they are truly engaged in their work and share responsibility for the values and goals of the organization. To encourage and reinforce high levels of staff engagement, a Professional Learning Communities Advisory Committee will be established. This advisory committee will monitor and recommend actions that can be taken to provide meaningful opportunities for staff collaboration in planning and decision-making.

## *Administration and Operations*

**Facility Renovation:** Well-maintained buildings and grounds contribute significantly to student and staff morale, and student learning. On December 13, 2005, the Rush-Henrietta community approved the following facility renovations:

- Burger Middle School (auditorium, music rooms, main entrance, gym space, library, classroom space);
- Roth Middle School (cafeteria space, music rooms, grade level wings);
- Sperry High School (parking lot/traffic flow); and
- Parker Administration Building (replace).

Site work and construction will begin by spring 2007.



## District Takes School Meals Seriously

The Rush-Henrietta Food Service Program is an integral part of the educational system, providing each child seeking breakfast or lunch a variety of nutritious offerings.

The Rush-Henrietta Central School District participates in National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, and offers a daily selection of food choices at all grade levels. In fact, the district offers five to six side dishes daily. Elementary students can choose two of these, and secondary students may choose three. Many parents are happy to learn that fresh fruit is offered every day; a minimum of three choices, such as apples, bananas, and oranges, are offered, as are seasonal fruits, such as grapes and tangerines, when available. In the secondary schools, tossed salad also is offered as a daily side dish.

At Rush-Henrietta, the nutritional content of all planned menus are analyzed for calories, fiber, iron, vitamin A, vitamin C, fat, and saturated fat. For snack items, the district follows the New York School Nutrition Association's "Choose Sensibly" program. Interestingly, since we started offering more nutritionally sound snacks – baked chips, low-fat ice cream, and water, for example – snack sales have decreased 20 percent.

In terms of drinks, the district offers white and chocolate milk – including fat-free and 1 percent – and multiple varieties of 100 percent juice. Soda pop is offered only at the Senior High School, and is sold only after school per state regulation.

For years, Rush-Henrietta has led the way in offering more healthful food choices, and more school districts nationwide are following suit. According to the School Nutrition Association's 2006 Back to School Trends Survey, more than 71 percent of school districts nationwide have made "significant" efforts within the past two years to offer healthy meal choices through the National School Lunch Program.

For the convenience of families, Rush-Henrietta recently made meal plans easier than ever. Parents and guardians can make payments to a child's meal account quickly and securely using a new automated pre-payment system that is available 24 hours a day. Among the many benefits:



- Access the system around the clock
- Eliminate the possibility of lost meal money
- Low account balance e-mail notification
- Prepay with your credit or debit card
- Review your child's purchases

The \$2 convenience fee is charged by [www.mealpay.com](http://www.mealpay.com), not by the school district. However, the fee is waived if more than \$100 is charged with a credit card. Please note that parents may put \$50 on one child's account and \$50 on another child's account, and the fee still would be waived.

To take advantage of the district's new system, simply visit [www.mealpay.com](http://www.mealpay.com), register your child into the K-12 school lunch system, and make a prepayment using the secure Web site. Or, you may call 866-735-2783 and prepay over the phone. For specific menu information, visit [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) and click on Lunch Menus in the Quick Links section. If you have any questions regarding the food service program, call Joan Weicht, food services director, at 359-5388.

From the classroom to the cafeteria, we in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District take student learning and well being seriously, and we appreciate your continued support. Together, we are guiding student success ... one child at a time.



## R-H Names 2006 Distinguished Alumni

**F**ive Rush-Henrietta graduates were named Distinguished Alumni as part of the district's homecoming celebration this fall at the Senior High School. Superintendent Dr. Ken Graham presented the awards to five very deserving graduates.



**Joan Hoffman**, Class of 1966, is Vice President for Education at the recently expanded Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester. She is responsible for all programs and staff related to public events, visiting school groups, scouts, after-school groups, and the Charter School. A former teacher and counselor, Joan was co-owner of Knowledge Systems, Inc., specializing in educational programs for schools, businesses, and financial institutions. She later joined Information Associates, Inc. and developed classroom and instructor materials. In April 2005, Joan received the Phi Delta Kappa Education Leadership Award, and in July 2005 was named a Fellow at Harvard University's Project Zero Summer Institute.



**James Comstock**, Class of 1971, is the full-time Chief of the Henrietta Fire District. A 30-year veteran of the department, James began as a volunteer with the West Henrietta Fire Department. In 1984, he became a full-time employee of the fire district, rising to the rank of Battalion Chief. James' service extends to the county and state levels as trainer and a lecturer of the Monroe County Criminal Justice Training Center. He serves on the school district's Health and Safety Shared Decision-making Team, is an assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop #7, an assistant coach for the R-H travel soccer club, a member of R-H SAVE (Safe Schools Initiative), and a parent volunteer with R-H cross country and track teams.



**Laura Jeanne Sadowski**, Class of 1977, is Vice President for Marketing and Development for the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester. She has been an Assistant Vice President and Regional Public Relations Manager for HSBC Bank, formerly Marine Midland, and Coordinator of Creative Services for Verno Advertising Associates. Laura Jeanne is a member of three boards of directors, including Career Development Services, the Rochester Arts and Lectures, and Sojourner House. She makes frequent national presentations, has served on the Colonial Williamsburg faculty, and at the University of Colorado Boulder's Museum Management Program. She was

the 1997 Matrix Award winner from the Association for Women in Communication, and received the 2004 Marketer of the Year Award from the American Marketing Association.



**Patrick Sloan**, Class of 1980, produces "Pregame" for ESPN News. Since 1995, Patrick has written and produced daily features for ESPN's popular "Sports Center" and "RPM 2DAY" programs. Patrick also served as sports director and anchor for TV stations in Richmond, Virginia, and Monroe, Louisiana. In 1996, 2003, and 2004, he received Emmy awards for ESPN's "SportsCenter." He also received a "Best Sports Feature" award from the Louisiana Associated Press, a First Place Sports Operation award from Virginia United Press International, and the "Best Year-Round Sports Coverage" award from Virginia Associated Press.



**Dr. Karl Thompson**, Class of 1994, studies microbiology as a post-doctoral fellow with the National Institutes of Health and a post-doctoral research fellow in the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. He earned a doctorate in microbiology in 2006 from Howard University in Washington, D.C.; he also earned a bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences from the same college. He earned an undergraduate research assistantship in Howard University's Department of Microbiology in 1998, completing his B.S. in 2000. During his doctoral studies, Karl's interests focused on pneumonia-causing bacteria and on bacterial genetics. His expertise, recognized by peers, led to presentations at the University of Wisconsin, Harvard Medical School, and at this year's general meeting of the American Society for Microbiology.

### Alumni Council Established

In 2006, the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council (RHAC) was established to strengthen ties between the district and its graduates. The council strives to reconnect graduates through communication and through events. This is especially important as the district celebrates its 60th anniversary of educational excellence. RHAC will assist the district in maintaining an up-to-date alumni directory and with alumni communication; guide and support class reunions; coordinate the annual Alumni Hall of Fame recognition program; and inform and advise the superintendent and Board of Education on matters of interest to Rush-Henrietta alumni. Visit [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) and click on Alumni Center in the Quick Links menu.

# Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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## Community Invited to Celebrate 60 Years

This school year, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District celebrates its 60th anniversary of centralization. On November 14, 1946, residents of Rush and Henrietta voted to combine their small school districts into a single district to provide children in both communities with more efficient and cost-effective educational services.

The Rush-Henrietta Board of Education will hold a regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 60 years to the day that community residents voted to form the school district. Beforehand, the Board of Education will host a reception from 6 to 7 p.m. to commemorate the occasion. The reception is open to the public and will be held in Cafeteria A at Roth Middle School, 4000 East Henrietta Road, Henrietta.

For specific program details, please see the front cover of this newsletter. For more information regarding the reception hosted by the Board of Education, please call Elizabeth Bevan, district clerk, at 359-5010.

An important historical note: On the front cover, three pictures are shown behind the Table of Contents. The top photo shows Mr. Jim Starkweather, who worked tirelessly to help shape the school district as we know it today. The late Mr. Starkweather is pictured at the district's 50th anniversary in 1996. The middle photo shows the placing of the cornerstone at Burger Middle School in the 1960s, and the bottom photo shows students and staff members taking part in a tree-planting ceremony in the 1950s. If you have historical photos or memorabilia relating to the school district that you'd like to share, please call the Office of Community Relations at 359-5065.