



Community Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Central School District

Fall 2007

Two Enshrined in Rush-Henrietta Hall of Fame

A banking executive and a professor of microelectronic engineering are the first members of the newly formed Rush-Henrietta Alumni Hall of Fame.

Bruce Smith, Ph.D., a 1977 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is an internationally known expert in lithography and serves as director for the Center of Nanolithography Research at Rochester Institute of Technology. He has authored more than 100 publications and is credited with a number of patents. He is an entrepreneur, having created a business based in Henrietta in 1998. His company, Amphibian Systems, sells multi-million dollar lithography research tools worldwide. While attending Rush-Henrietta, Smith took classes at the college. After graduating from the district, he earned B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in imaging science at RIT.

Karen L. Hayden Davis, a 1973 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is vice president and branch center director for ESL Federal Credit Union. As a member of a 12-person management team, Davis was involved in separating ESL from the Eastman Kodak Company to form an independent credit union, one of the largest in the region. She is responsible for branch expansion, including managing of branch construction projects and overseeing sales and operations of the 18-branch

network. Davis, who has a bachelor's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology, is active on several local and national foundations, including the Lakeside Hospital Foundation in Brockport.

The two new honorees will be inducted into the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, September 29, 2007, at the Senior High School, 1799 Lehigh Station Road. The ceremony precedes this year's homecoming football game against Penfield. During halftime, the honored graduates will meet friends, family members, and fellow graduates in an alumni tent at the north end of Elmer Gordon Field. Community members are invited to meet these outstanding graduates.

The Hall of Fame is funded through the Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation, the organization that underwrote expenses for past recognition of Distinguished Alumni. A new plaque naming all Distinguished Alumni, as well as the two new Hall of Fame inductees, will be displayed in the Senior High School. Next spring, RHAC will seek additional nominees for this honor. Those whose names were submitted for this year's induction will continue to be considered for future recognition.

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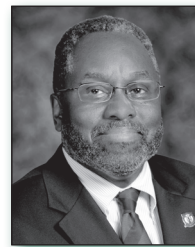
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2007-2008 Board of Education Meetings

Tuesdays, 7 p.m., NGA*

* Unless otherwise noted

July 10, 2007	61st Annual Reorganization/ Regular Meeting
July 24, 2007	Workshop Session, 5:30 p.m.
August 14, 2007	Regular Meeting
September 11, 2007	Regular Meeting
September 25, 2007	Regular Meeting
October 9, 2007	Regular Meeting
October 23, 2007	Regular Meeting
November 13, 2007	Regular Meeting
November 27, 2007	Regular Meeting
December 4, 2007	Program & Service Review
December 11, 2007	Regular Meeting
January 8, 2008	Regular Meeting
January 22, 2008	Regular Meeting
February 12, 2008	Regular Meeting
February 26, 2008	Regular Meeting
March 11, 2008	Regular Meeting
March 25, 2008	First Public Hearing on the Proposed 2008-2009 Budget

April 8, 2008	Board Adoption of the Proposed 2008-2009 Budget (Meeting preceded by the Volunteer Recognition Dinner)
April 22, 2008	Regular Meeting
May 13, 2008	Final Public Hearing on the Proposed 2008-2009 Budget
May 20, 2008	Board of Education Election Results, 9 p.m., TOC (Meeting preceded by the Annual Retirement Dinner)
May 27, 2008	Regular Meeting
June 10, 2008	Regular Meeting (preceded by the Board Tenure Recognition Reception)
June 24, 2008	Regular Meeting
Special Dates	
February 13, 2008	Community Forum on the Preliminary Proposed 2008-2009 Budget, 7-9 p.m., TOC
May 5, 2008	DPAC Candidates' Night, 7-9 p.m., TOC
May 20, 2008	Budget Vote & Board of Education Election, 6 a.m.-9 p.m., TOC

Focusing on Student Learning

Rush-Henrietta welcomed nearly 6,000 students back to school on September 5, 2007, and the learning began immediately. Within minutes of arriving at school, students were hard at work. As we begin a new school year filled with exciting learning opportunities, we ask the community for its continued support as we collaborate for the sake of all students.



School Renovations are Well Underway

In an effort to minimize classroom and school disruptions, many Rush-Henrietta building projects were completed throughout the district this summer. Capital improvement projects, however, continue at Burger and Roth middle schools. Please use caution when in these areas. Thank you for your cooperation regarding any inconvenience you may experience as a result of these ongoing projects, which will enable the district to better meet student and community needs.





Parents, Community Members Invited to Take Rachel's Challenge

"I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion then it will start a chain reaction of the same." – Rachel Joy Scott

This year, Rush-Henrietta is introducing Rachel's Challenge to students in grades 7-12. Rachel's Challenge is a national campaign designed to help schools, parents, students, and community members create safer and more productive places to learn and live. The goal is to motivate and equip all of us to embrace new values of kindness and compassion in order to bring positive change to our schools, our communities, and ourselves.

Students in grades 7-12 will experience multi-media presentations introducing them to the concept of Rachel's Challenge on the following dates:

- All students in grades 7-8, October 4, 2007, at Roth Middle School
- All students in grades 9-10, October 3, 2007, at the Senior High School
- All students in grades 11-12, October 5, 2007, at the Senior High School

Rush-Henrietta is committed to sharing this important initiative and invites all parents of children in grades K-12 and community members to become involved. To support its parent education efforts, the district will host an evening presentation of Rachel's Challenge, which is designed specifically for parents and community members, at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 4, 2007, in the Senior High School auditorium. The content for this event will inspire adults, but it is not designed for elementary-age children. We strongly encourage you to attend!

Rachel Joy Scott was one of the students killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion, coupled with the contents of her six diaries, have become the foundation of Rachel's Challenge, one of the most life-changing school/community programs in America. Rachel lived out this challenge in her own life and was known at Columbine for being a friend to students who were not popular or who had difficulties in school.

To learn more, please visit www.rachelschallenge.com, or visit the district Web site at www.rhnet.org and click on the "Rachel's Challenge" Quick Link. You also may call Chris Barker, Senior High School Associate Principal, at 359-5204, or e-mail cbarker@rhnet.org.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

Each school year, numerous opportunities arise for parents and guardians to become involved in their child's education. With so many back-to-school events and activities, it's a perfect time to get involved and to let your child and his or her teacher know that you are interested in their education and want to take an active part in it. Please check the district Web site, www.rhnet.org, or the district calendar for school-specific information and then contact your school or parent group to find out how you can become involved.

Talking to teachers about your children is the best way to learn how well they are doing and how you can help them be more successful. Parent-Teacher conferences help parents and guardians become acquainted with teachers and to learn about the school curriculum. It also gives teachers an opportunity to learn what will help to improve your child's educational program and to better understand your child.

These conferences will be held on the following dates:

Monday, November 5, 2007

- Elementary School: 1-7:45 PM
- Middle School: 1-8 PM
- NGA/SHS: 1-8:30 PM

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

- Elementary School: 1-7:45 PM
- Middle School: Noon-7 PM

Parents of Rush-Henrietta students also are encouraged to attend Parent Education Programs (PEP) offered throughout the district, including programs offered by schools not attended by their children. Parent Education information, about programs such as Rachel's Challenge and Parent University (featured on these pages) also is available at www.rhnet.org.



Parent University Gives Adults the Inside Track

Ever wanted to visit school and talk to staff members about the important issues of the day? From reading to bullying, and from athletics to preparing for college, here's a great opportunity to do that!

Parent University, which will be held in November, is a free event that empowers parents and families to make educational decisions, build confidence and competency, enhance child-parent relationships, and better understand children's personal, emotional, and academic needs. Parents, grandparents, students, teachers, administrators, child care providers, business leaders, residents, town leaders, and visitors are

After this year's keynote address, parents and community members will have the opportunity to attend two of the many workshop sessions that will be offered. Topics include reading strategies, anti-bullying efforts, kids and drugs, college recruitment for athletes, setting boundaries and expectations for students, and childhood obesity. Many other workshop sessions are being planned. Online registration will be available at www.rhnet.org beginning October 1. In addition, a brochure/registration form will be mailed to homes of district children. The registration deadline is Friday, October 26. For additional information about Parent University, contact Mrs. Beverly Burrell-Moore, at 359-5534 or bburrell@rhnet.org.



Parental involvement is key to the success of students in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Parent University is offered as part of the district's Parent Education Program (PEP) initiative, which was developed to provide parents with access to informative workshops and presentations on a wide variety of topics related to a child's academic, emotional, personal, and social development and needs. Parent University is one of many activities that Rush-Henrietta offers to encourage more family involvement. To support the district's parent involvement initiative, a brochure highlighting the importance of participation – and describing ways to become involved – is available in PDF format at www.rhnet.org/involvement. When parents display positive attitudes toward school and their child's education, children experience greater success. We look forward to seeing you at Parent University on November 3!

invited to attend and learn more about how to support children of all ages.

Parent University will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, November 3, 2007, at the Senior High School, located at 1799 Lehigh Station Road. The keynote speaker, Dr. Michele Borba, will discuss "Raising our Children to be Confident, Compassionate, and Morally Courageous." The author of 21 books, she is an expert on character development, child development, and violence prevention.



Dr. Michele Borba
Award-winning Author and International
Speaker on Character Education and Social
Development of Children

Dr. Michele Borba, keynote speaker at Parent University, will discuss "Raising Our Children to be Confident, Compassionate, and Morally Courageous." Online registration for Parent University, which also includes a variety of informative workshops, starts October 1 at www.rhnet.org.



District Priorities Focus on Improving Student Achievement, Closing Learning Gaps

Improving student achievement on New York state learning assessments (proficiency and mastery) and closing achievement gaps, will continue to be priorities for the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Special emphasis will be on improving student achievement in literacy and mathematics. We will accomplish these goals in the following ways:

Curriculum and Instruction

Program Development: Curriculum-mapping will continue to be used to make explicit the content and skills that students are expected to learn during 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 expected proficiency. Initial curriculum-mapping projects have been completed for 183 of the district's course offerings (68 percent). This year, 55 additional initial curriculum maps will be completed (90 percent). Many initial curriculum maps will also be reviewed and updated.

Class Size: Smaller class sizes will be continued at elementary schools. In addition, middle school core academic class sizes will be reduced to an average of 20 students per class. Small class sizes provide teachers with more time to diagnose and support students, both those who are struggling and those who can benefit from enrichment.

Assessment and Grading: Common assessments, aligned with curriculum maps, will continue to be developed and used in all content areas. These assessments, with scoring rubrics and exemplars, clarify expectations and help teachers monitor student progress. For more specific information, visit www.rhnet.org/priorities.

Academic Intervention: At all schools, classroom teachers are expected to provide strength-based interventions for their students. These interventions take the form of differentiated instruction and extended time. When classroom teachers recognize their need for additional support to meet their students' needs,

they are expected to seek out colleagues with whom they can collaborate. After consulting with colleagues, including coaches and consultant teachers placed at each school for this purpose, there may be a need for a more formal review of student progress. This takes the form of a referral to the school's Instructional Support Team (IST) or to another team specifically created at the school for this purpose. The role of the IST is to identify appropriate Academic Intervention Services (AIS), monitor their impact, and, when appropriate, initiate other referrals. For more specific information, visit www.rhnet.org/priorities.

Technology Integration: Student and teacher use of computers, instructional software, distance learning, and other electronic learning technologies will be expanded at all grade levels. For more specific information, visit www.rhnet.org/priorities.

Student Management and Support

School Climate: In recent years, significant steps have been taken to improve student conduct and school climates. Codes of conduct, student attendance procedures, and student discipline procedures have been revised. In addition, school staff members have been trained in conflict resolution, and School Resource Officer services have been secured through the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. During the 2007-08 school year, school climates will continue to be strengthened in the following ways:

- Student dress and electronic device use policies will be strictly enforced.
- Anti-bullying programs will continue.
- Asset development programs will continue and Rachel's Challenge will be introduced at all secondary schools.
- At the Senior High School, an associate principal will be added to initiate and oversee programs aimed at making the Senior High School a more safe and caring learning environment.



Student Organization and Management

School Leadership: To encourage and reinforce high levels of staff engagement, a Professional Learning Communities Advisory Committee was established. This advisory committee will continue to meet to better understand the philosophy and principles of professional learning communities, and to assess and recommend actions that should be taken to provide meaningful opportunities for staff involvement in instructional planning and decision-making. In addition:

- Structured reviews of student work will be emphasized at all grade levels.
- Faculty and department meetings will be organized to provide additional opportunities for teacher collaboration.
- At elementary schools, School Improvement Plan (SIP) days will be used to provide additional time for teacher collaboration.

Professional Development: High levels of student engagement and achievement require well-trained staff with high expectations for students and a passion for providing every student with a caring and supportive learning environment. High standards of professional conduct are also required. To encourage and reinforce these professional standards, the following aspects of professional development will be emphasized:

- Literacy Instruction (reading and writing in all content areas.
- Math content knowledge
- Technology integration
- Assessment and grading
- Targeting and differentiating instruction
- Behavior intervention and support
- Diversity awareness and cultural relevance
- Collaborative leadership

To support these professional development priorities, embedded professional development will continue to be emphasized (i.e., consultant teachers, teacher coaches, teacher study groups, and formative supervision). To support this professional development strategy, math coaches will be added to Burger and Roth middle schools, a literacy coach will be added to the NGA, and a science coach will be added to the Senior High School. Faculty and department meetings also will be used as professional development forums

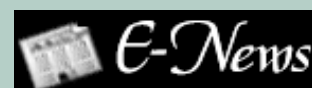
Home and Community Partnerships

Home/School Communication: High levels of student achievement require active, supportive family involvement. Effective and timely home-school communication is essential. During the 2007-08 school year, home/school communication will be strengthened in the following ways:

- At all schools, teachers will communicate more frequently with parents about their child's accomplishments at school.
- At all schools, more teachers will maintain up-to-date "home pages" on the district's Web site.
- At all schools, new forms of electronic communication will be explored (i.e., list-serves, automated voice messaging, and podcasting).
- At elementary schools, parent satisfaction with standards-based pupil progress reports will be improved.

School Operations

Facility Management: Well-maintained buildings and grounds contribute to school climate and student learning. Renovations are in progress at Burger Middle School and Roth Middle School. This work should be completed by September 2008. This school year, the district will begin work on the Senior High School parking lot and improving traffic flow, the Parker Administration Building, and converting locker rooms to classrooms at elementary schools. Renovations at the Senior High School and elementary schools should be done by September 2008, followed by the administration building in 2009.



*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 today!

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Fall Parent Education Programs

Rachel's Challenge

An evening Parent Education Program

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 4, 2007, at 7 p.m.

Rush-Henrietta Senior High School • No registration required

Rachel's Challenge is one of the most sought-after school based programs in the United States. It is designed to help schools, parents, students and communities create safer and more productive places to learn and live. Rachel Joy Scott was the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999. This program is based on entries found in her diaries, which are the inspiration behind this program. The goal is to motivate and equip the Rush-Henrietta school community to embrace kindness and compassion in order to bring positive change. Like all parent education programs, this special event is open to all parents of children in grades K-12, as well as community residents. For more information contact Chris Barker, Associate Principal, at 359-5204.

Parent University

A Saturday morning Parent Education Program

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 3, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rush-Henrietta Senior High School

Online registration and workshop selection begins October 1 at www.rhnet.org

"Raising Our Children to be Confident, Compassionate, and Morally Courageous"

Come and hear 2007 Parent University keynote speaker, Dr. Michele Borba, who is the author of 21 books and a recognized expert on child development, violence prevention, and character development. Attendees will choose from a variety of informative workshops and presentations dealing with many topics related to a child's academic, emotional, personal, and social development. For more information, contact Beverly Burrell-Moore at 359-5534.