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# Community Newsletter

*Rush-Henrietta*  
Rush-Henrietta Central School District

Fall 2015

## Update on R-H School Reconfiguration

*A*s you know, the Rush-Henrietta community overwhelmingly supported the Board of Education's Full-Day Kindergarten and Enrollment Management proposal last winter. This plan, which was approved by 75 percent of voters, allows for a comprehensive school reconfiguration that will serve our district well for decades. In September 2017, our district will feature four K-3 schools (Crane, Fyle, Leary, and Winslow), two 4-6 schools (Sherman and Vollmer), and two 7-9 schools (Burger and Roth). The Senior High School will continue as a 10-12 building. Here are some important details about this transition and the efforts the district has made so far.

In March, a Transition Advisory Team was formed to help with the reconfiguration. This team meets monthly with the superintendent to discuss potential transition issues as part of the school reconfiguration. These issues are outlined in a document that is available on the district website at [www.rhnet.org/reconfiguration](http://www.rhnet.org/reconfiguration).

In April, the facility renovation plans required for the school reconfiguration were completed. These plans have been submitted to the State Education Department for approval. When the renovation plans are approved, construction will begin. Documents showing the planned renovations for Burger Middle School, Sherman Elementary School, and Vollmer Learning Center can be viewed on the district website.

In May, the Board of Education established the new school attendance areas for school reconfiguration. These school attendance areas will take effect in July 2017. You can view these attendance areas on the district website.

In June, to support timely renovation of the Vollmer Learning Center, the district reached an agreement to lease the former Good Shepherd School on East Henrietta Road for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. This facility has been leased to allow us to vacate Vollmer during construction. Many of the programs at the Vollmer Learning Center will be moved to Good Shepherd for the 2016-17 school year. Details of this one-year transition plan will be posted on the district website later this year.

In June, the Board of Education also established start and end times for schools when the new school configuration is in place in September 2017.

*Continued on page 7...*



## *NGA Students Studying Biomedical Science*

Students enrolled in the Principles of Biomedical Science class at the Ninth Grade Academy have a mystery on their hands! Designed to inspire CSI enthusiasts, the course starts by presenting students with the mysterious fictional death of Anna Garcia. The case will serve as their challenge throughout the year, prompting them to apply what they learn about the concepts of human physiology, biology, and medicine to determine the factors that led to Garcia's death. During the first few days of class, the kids visited the crime scene and started processing the evidence. During the year, they will continue to investigate the case and examine autopsy reports, investigate medical history, and explore medical treatments that might have prolonged her life! The course also includes a career exploration component where students are introduced to careers in biomedicine.



*With an eye on preparing for college and career, students at the Ninth Grade Academy are taking advantage of new classes, such as Principles of Biomedical Science.*

## *District Thanks Assemblyman Harry Bronson*

During homecoming on Saturday, September 19, the district hosted Assemblyman Harry Bronson and provided a tour to show him improvements that have been made to our facilities, fields, and grounds. He has been a strong supporter of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District since his election to the Assembly in 2010. Before the homecoming football game, we publicly thanked the assemblyman for securing state funding to help us make significant upgrades to our school district's fields and grounds.



*From left to right, Brian Hill, principal, Assemblyman Harry Bronson, and Superintendent Dr. Ken Graham tour the handicapped-accessible playground at Crane Elementary School. Bronson secured state funding to make the upgrades and the Crane PTO donated \$6,000 toward the effort, as well.*

We also visited Crane Elementary School to demonstrate how the district used some funds he secured to make our elementary school playgrounds accessible to children with physical disabilities. In addition, we thanked Assemblyman Bronson for securing funding that helped us make some important safety enhancements to the seating at Elmer Gordon Stadium. To view more photos and read much more about these improvements, visit the district Facebook page at [www.rhnet.org/bronson](http://www.rhnet.org/bronson). Each picture includes details that further explain the story. Thank you, Assemblyman Harry Bronson!



## *Supporting Elementary Education With Chromebooks*

Rush-Henrietta third graders have a lot to learn, like their multiplication tables, the names of all 50 states, the difference between a folktale and a fable – and how to use that brand new Chromebook! In each of our elementary schools, third graders are already getting familiar with that new technology. For example, at Crane Elementary School, students recently participated in four fast-paced Google training sessions that gave them a great start in Google Drive, Classroom, Gmail and a crash course in Google Apps for Education. At the end of the sessions, each class received a certificate of recognition, proclaiming their achievement of “Google Greatness.” We think our young learners are pretty great, too! Need more information about our instructional technology initiative in Rush-Henrietta? Just visit the district website at [www.rhnet.org/technologyfaq](http://www.rhnet.org/technologyfaq). Thanks for your continued support!



*Third graders are using Chromebooks as part of their daily learning in Rush-Henrietta elementary schools. It's just one part of the district's comprehensive five-year technology plan.*

## *Rush-Henrietta Continues Partnership With Deputies*



*The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is making its presence known on our school campus, visiting buildings in between calls.*

We are pleased to announce that the long-standing working relationship between the Rush-Henrietta Central School District and Monroe County Sheriff's Office continues to thrive. Last year, sheriff's deputies began visiting school grounds on a more frequent basis. The deputies visit our schools and district buildings in between calls to increase their visibility on campus and help provide our students with an even safer place to learn and grow. We appreciate the relationships we have built with all first responders in our community, and we thank the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for its continued efforts to keep our students and staff members safe.

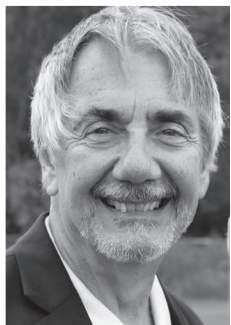


### *R-H Information is Only a Click Away!*

Visit the district's website for comprehensive information about Rush-Henrietta schools. Also, consider subscribing to one of the district's most popular 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!



## *Four Graduates Inducted*



**Joe Bellanca**  
**Class of 1965**

Joe Bellanca, a 1965 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is a longtime supporter of the Royal Comets and the driving force behind the good work done by the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council.

A retired banking administrator, Joe has a long history of service to his community and alma mater. In 2006,

for example, he identified a need to reconnect graduates with the school district and became one of the founding members of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council. That is the very organization that sponsors the annual Alumni Council Hall of Fame induction ceremony. His selection was made this year without his knowledge.

Joe has served as president of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council since its inception and has been relentless in his efforts to connect graduates with one another and with their school district. As part of his work supporting the council, Joe assists the district with alumni communication, guides and supports class reunions, and informs and advises the school district on matters of interest to Rush-Henrietta alumni. He has given countless tours of Rush-Henrietta schools to alumni who are attending class reunions and is always available to provide advice and support to those interested in organizing alumni events.

In 2009, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District recognized Joe for his efforts by honoring him with its annual Volunteer of the Year award. In addition to his service to the school district, Joe helps the community in other roles. For example, he volunteers as a member of the town of Henrietta's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and as chair of the Henrietta Board of Assessment Review. Joe is a packer and driver for the Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal, and has volunteered for the LPGA Rochester International golf tournament, Neighborhood Housing Association, Catholic Family Center, and Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation.

This year, when the Henrietta Foundation assumed operation of the former Executive South Golf Course on East Henrietta Road, Joe stepped up to volunteer as its first range manager. It's just the latest in a long line of examples that demonstrate his willingness to help the community.

Joe and his wife, Connie, live in Henrietta. They have two children, Joe Jr. and Wendi, both of whom are Rush-Henrietta graduates.



**Scott Clark**  
**Class of 1956**

Scott Clark, a 1956 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is an emeritus professor in environmental health at the University of Cincinnati and a leading authority on the lead content of household paint. From Rush-Henrietta to the international stage, his contributions to the public health field through both education and research have made an

impact around the globe.

Scott attended Antioch College, earning his bachelor's degree in engineering and science in 1961. Afterward, he graduated from Johns Hopkins University, where he received a master's degree, and then a doctoral degree, in environmental engineering and science. During the two years that followed, Scott pursued his passion by working as an engineer with the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission. There, he took part in efforts to reduce the impact of acid pollution from coal mines.

Scott joined the Department of Environmental Health at the University of Cincinnati in 1967 as a research associate and became a full professor in 1985. During this time, he spent 15 years as director of the university's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Education and Research Center.

Among Scott's major research activities at the university were two multi-year projects involving lead-based paint exposure in the residential environment. One was a series of projects that comprised a nationwide evaluation of the HUD Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control program. Results from this program have been used in efforts across the nation, including here in Rochester, to design programs to reduce the hazards resulting from past use of lead paint.

As a result of his efforts, Scott has played a major role in the examination of the lead content in new paint. Thirty-five countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America are using his findings today to help manage public health.

Throughout his career, Scott has received many awards, produced nearly 100 publications, written about 50 book chapters and reports, and presented his findings throughout the world. Now in his 70s, Scott continues to participate in international efforts designed to eliminate the use of lead in paints in developing countries.

Scott and his wife, Madelon, live in North Carolina. They have two children, both of whom have earned doctorate degrees.



## into the Hall of Fame



**Bob Harder**  
**Class of 1965**

Bob Harder, a 1965 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict who has devoted his time in retirement to helping returning veterans and families through his service as a member of the Patriot Guard Riders.

Bob entered the United States Air Force in 1965, trained as an aircraft electrician, and was deployed to Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in 1968, having attained the rank of sergeant. Bob later graduated from Monroe Community College and began his career as an electrical apprentice and worked hard to create a career as a successful electrician. He served as project manager for major construction projects throughout the country.

An active member of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 20, Bob understands what it is like to be a member of the military who is returning home after wartime. That is why he has made it his personal mission to welcome the military men and women of today back home.

His work as a ride captain with the Patriot Guard Riders also includes escorting fallen soldiers to their final resting places and standing in Flag Lines to support World War II veterans returning home from Honor Flight trips. In addition, he has worked tirelessly to support an outreach program called "Help on the Homefront." This initiative provides support to veterans, the families of deployed service members, and Gold Star families. In fact, he has helped raise more than \$20,000 for the cause.

In addition, Bob is involved in the Patriot Guard Riders' Veterans Recovery Program. Working with private, state, and federal organizations, the mission of this program is to locate, identify, and inter the unclaimed remains of veterans and provide honor and respect to those who served our country by securing a final resting place for them. Bob recently helped the families of five World War II veterans and two Vietnam veterans in this endeavor.

In May 2015, Bob was honored by Sen. Patrick Gallivan and named to the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the state capitol.

Bob and his wife, Marie, live in Henrietta. They have three children, Shannon, Erinn, and Sean, all of whom are Rush-Henrietta graduates, and nine grandchildren.



**Karl Hirschman**  
**Class of 1985**

Karl Hirschman, a 1985 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is a full professor in the Electrical and Microelectronic Engineering Department at Rochester Institute of Technology. His work, both in teaching and research, are widely respected in his field of expertise.

After graduating from Rush-Henrietta, Karl received his bachelor's degree in microelectronic engineering and a master's degree in electrical engineering from RIT. After working as a process engineer at IBM, he went on to earn his doctorate degree in electrical engineering from the University of Rochester.

During his graduate studies, Karl developed a passion for teaching undergraduate students. He has been teaching microelectronic courses at RIT for more than 20 years. One of his favorite courses to teach is integrated circuit technology, which he says "is the greatest opportunity for me to share excitement and enthusiasm for microelectronics and to begin to shape the students into process and device engineers."

In addition, his research program has secured more than \$2 million in research grants from private and public entities, and he is directly responsible for the acquisition of millions of dollars of high-tech equipment and cash donations made to RIT. During his career, he has published more than 70 technical papers.

In addition to his outstanding academic credentials, Karl is well known for his community-service activities. He is an assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 334 and helps lead service projects in both Rush and Henrietta. He has volunteered his time to teach about engineering to the Rochester Engineering Explorer Scout post, even offering in-depth tours of RIT's Semiconductor and Microsystems Cleanroom. In addition, Karl has given back to the school district, providing tours to many Rush-Henrietta students interested in pursuing engineering in college.

His desire to support high school students is based, in large part, on the outstanding experience he had while attending school. "The education I received at Rush-Henrietta gave me the desire to continue learning," Hirschman says. "I must thank the exceptional teachers that I had in all subjects, ranging from calculus to metal shop."

Karl and his wife, Theresa, a 1986 Rush-Henrietta graduate, live in Henrietta. They have three children, all of whom are Rush-Henrietta graduates.



## School Board Members Outline 2015-2016 Goals

By Diane McBride, Board of Education President

Much like our students and staff, the seven members of the all-volunteer Rush-Henrietta Central School District Board of Education have set goals for themselves this year. My colleagues and I would like to share some of these objectives with you.

Our first goal this school year is to engage in strategic planning that will benefit the district in the long-term. We already have participated in the district's annual strategic planning forum and adopted district priorities for 2015-2016. During the next few months, we plan to update the district's mission and vision statement, upgrade the district's instructional space plan, adopt program implementation plans for school reconfiguration, and explore wrap-around child care services.

Second, in terms of policy and governance, we will continue our yearly review of one-third of school district policies and regulations. By doing this, we are able to review all Rush-Henrietta policies and regulations every three years. At the same time, our goals include reviewing the process for designating the top 10 percent of graduating seniors, as well as the process for board recognition of outstanding music services. We also intend to adopt policy changes required for school reconfiguration related to attendance areas, class size guidelines, and out-of-district child care transportation. Finally, we will develop a position paper on the Common Core Learning Standards and assessments.

Third, we will make every effort to embrace wise decisions in the areas of staffing and resource management. Our goals for the year include establishing successor contracts with several of our bargaining units, adopting a facility transition plan for the Vollmer Learning Center, adopting an educationally sound and fiscally responsible budget for 2016-2017, updating the district's reserve fund

and five-year capital projects plans, and developing a SMART Bond expenditure plan.

Finally, we will continue to advocate externally for our school district by establishing local legislative positions and informing our community and representatives of these positions. We are also exploring the possibility of video-streaming Board of Education meetings, although this is still in the research phase.

We hope you find this information useful. If you would like more information, please contact us. Our contact information is available at [www.rhnet.org/meettheboard](http://www.rhnet.org/meettheboard). In addition, we encourage you to use the BoardDocs link on the district website for easy access to agendas and minutes.

*Members of the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education are shown in the below photo. First row: Jean M. Chaudari; Diane E. McBride, president; and Phyllis P. Wickerham. Second row: Robert L. Cook; Robert C. Bower; superintendent Ken Graham; Sean P. McCormick; and Sue A. Smith, vice president. To view meeting agendas, dates, and minutes, please visit [www.rhnet.org/boarddocs](http://www.rhnet.org/boarddocs).*





## Update on School Reconfiguration cont'd...

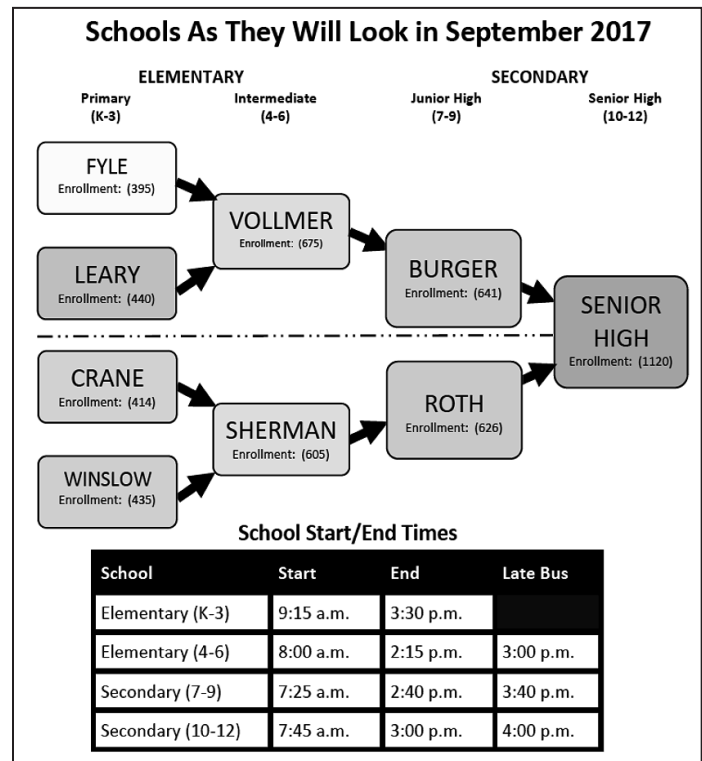
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Primary (K-3) schools will begin at 9:15 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Intermediate schools (4-6) will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 2:15 p.m. and will be followed by an Enrichment Period that begins at 2:15 p.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Our junior high schools (7-9) will begin at 7:25 a.m. and end at 2:40 p.m. The Senior High School will begin at 7:45 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. We had hoped for a later start time for the Senior High School. Unfortunately, we discovered that our busing schedule made a later high school start time impractical.

As you can see, we have made a lot of progress with our planning for school reconfiguration during the past six months. Our planning efforts included the possibility of keeping the Ninth Grade Academy open for one additional year to help with the transition to two intermediate schools (grades 4-6) and two junior high schools (grades 7-9). Unfortunately, this past spring, the Board of Education reached the conclusion that our desire to keep the Ninth Grade Academy open for another year was not feasible because it required more than \$1 million in additional operating costs. This means that in September 2017, sixth grade will begin at Sherman Elementary School and Vollmer Elementary School and ninth grade will begin at Burger Junior High School and Roth Junior High School. At that time, programs currently housed at the Vollmer Learning Center will be relocated to the Carlton Webster Building, the original name for the building that houses the Ninth Grade Academy.

This summer, we developed a student transition plan. As promised, this plan provided school choice options for parents who wanted to avoid having their child attend a different school for a single year during the transition, and/or to avoid having their children attend different elementary or middle schools at the same time. All of the families who were eligible to choose were contacted during the summer.

This fall, the district began holding Program Advisory Team meetings. The goal of these meetings is to facilitate a comprehensive review of the superintendent's plan for school organization and agree on necessary modifications. A team has been



*This is how Rush-Henrietta schools will operate beginning in September 2017.*

established for each of the K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 levels.

In addition, discussions are ongoing with the town of Henrietta to shape our new wrap-around child care offerings. Although these plans are still in the early stages, we are excited about the benefits that this additional on-site care will provide for our families.

As we look to the future, staff members are interested in how the district will be staffing its buildings under the new school structure beginning in September 2017. The goal is to have placement information finalized and shared with employees by next spring.

This is an exciting time in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District! As we move forward, please consult the district website at [www.rhnet.org/reconfiguration](http://www.rhnet.org/reconfiguration) for future updates. If you have questions about the process, please visit the website and click the Contact Us button. Thank you for your continued support of our schools!



## *Rush-Henrietta* **Rush-Henrietta Central School District**

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### **2015-2016 Board of Education**

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Mrs. Sue A. Smith, Vice President  
Mr. Robert C. Bower  
Mrs. Jean M. Chaudari  
Mr. Robert L. Cook  
Mr. Sean P. McCormick  
Mrs. Phyllis P. Wickerham

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### **Superintendent of Schools**

J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Ph.D.

**Published by the Office of Community Relations**

## **Did You Know?**

- **Our Food Services department prepares and serves nearly 4,000 meals each day.**
- **Rush-Henrietta buses travel more than 1.4 million miles each year to transport our students.**
- **Our school nurses respond to more than 3,500 student office visits each month.**
- **Students check out more than 21,000 books each month from our school libraries.**
- **Nearly two-dozen community groups use district buildings and grounds – for more than 13,300 hours – each year.**
- **Each day, our custodians and cleaners clean nearly 1.2 million square feet, the equivalent of nearly 600 homes that are each 2,000 square feet.**
- **During the first month of this school year, the district website was visited 100,735 times.**
- **The Rush-Henrietta Central School District is grateful for your continued support!**

**facebook**

Our district Facebook page, which can be found at [www.facebook.com/rhschools](http://www.facebook.com/rhschools), has been liked by 2,000 people since its inception last year! Please “like” us today and stay up to date on all things Rush-Henrietta!

[www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org)