

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

SUMMER 2021 EDITION



1918

## Rochester Community Schools Celebrates 200 Years of Excellence

This year, Rochester Community Schools celebrates 200 years of educational excellence that extends across generations.

Rochester Community Schools has a rich history that dates back to 1821, when townships with 50 or more families were required to have a schoolmaster to provide instruction. At that time, three months of schooling was considered reasonable.

In 1889, the community's original school building was constructed at Fourth Street and Wilcox and housed all grade levels together in the Harrison School. As needs increased, the first high school was built on that same site in 1916, which also featured the first high school gymnasium in Rochester. Rochester High School was eventually connected to the Harrison School building with an addition in 1928. Through the years, this building has changed in name and function. The structure currently serves as the Administration Building. If guests look around the Harrison Room where the

monthly Board of Education meetings are hosted, they can still see remnants of the old gym.

During the Great Depression, families struggled and schools were impacted. Local dairies and grocers began providing milk and cookies for undernourished children. Classes for grades 1-5 were reduced to half-days and no meals were served in the cafeteria to reduce costs. Teachers opted for a salary cut instead of eliminating positions, and education continued.

The following years prompted many building and construction projects to keep up with the education and population demands of the greater Rochester area. The class of 1931 was the first to wear caps and gowns for graduation. After World War II, a major influx of students brought the need for additional educational space. By midcentury, the Avon School District No. 5 (as it was then called) changed its name to the Rochester Community School District. Six new schools were built, including the current Rochester High School which opened in 1956.

Throughout the 1960s, an increase in students necessitated the addition of Adams High School, which opened in 1970. It was followed by nine additional new schools and steady growth in the district for the next two decades.

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- *Expanding personalized learning*
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- *Celebrating students and staff*

### Strategic Plan 2025: Future-Focused Education

Rochester Community Schools is resuming its strategic planning process to build on the culture of innovation and create a shared vision for education. The district is committed to a future-focused approach that helps children be better prepared for the jobs and world ahead.

"We are asking what students need to innovate and adapt for deep thinking and real-world success in the future," said Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaner. "Whether the focus is on instruction for emerging skills and knowledge, technology, social-emotional learning, or diversity and belonging, we remain committed to continuing the district's pride in excellence."



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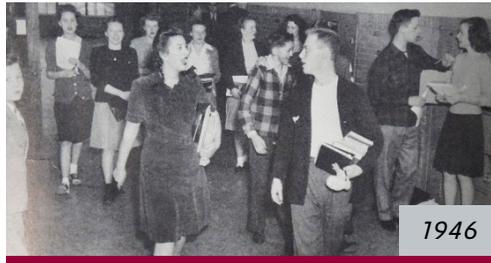
In 1997, voters approved a special high-school bond issue allowing for renovations to the existing AHS and RHS facilities and the addition of a new building: Stoney Creek High School. Stoney Creek construction was completed in 2000.

At present, the Rochester Community School District includes 523 acres of property encompassing 66 square miles primarily within the City of Rochester, the City of Rochester Hills, and Oakland Charter Township. Each year, the district educates approximately 15,000 students in 13 elementary schools, four middle schools, three high schools, a virtual campus, a children's center, and various adult education programs.

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm examined the importance of Rochester Community Schools in this area. Their report concluded, "The school district has expanded to accommodate an exploding population many times

over. It has renovated, rebuilt and constructed newer and better schools to meet the needs of its students during times of prosperity and sometimes years of adversity. Through two centuries and very humble beginnings, Rochester's schools have collectively risen to the challenge of establishing a true educational community to become shining examples of academic excellence."

In the midst of change throughout its 200-year history, the Rochester Community School District continues to lead the way as a world-class public school system.



## Adult education provides lifelong learning

Rochester Community Schools offers lifelong learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Adults who wish to earn their high school diploma or complete GED skills classes can enroll now for the fall. In-person classes are available two times per week from either 3-6 p.m. or 6:30-9:30 p.m.

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are also available for all learning levels, from beginner to advanced conversation. In-person classes are held two times per week from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Rochester Hills.

Don't delay! Call 248-726-5950 to register today!

For more information, visit [www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us), then select SCHOOLS, and ADULT EDUCATION.

*"The school district has expanded to accommodate an exploding population many times over. It has renovated, rebuilt and constructed newer and better schools to meet the needs of its students during times of prosperity and sometimes years of adversity. Through two centuries and very humble beginnings, Rochester's schools have collectively risen to the challenge of establishing a true educational community to become shining examples of academic excellence."*

## Letter from the Superintendent

We are profoundly grateful for the collaboration and commitment of our teachers, administrators, support staff, families, and community partners who work together to ensure student success.

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, we moved forward with great purpose and resolve to provide the best learning options for all RCS children while mitigating health risks in our schools.

As we look to the upcoming school year, love, hope, and inspiration will continue to guide our efforts. We care deeply about our students and embrace every opportunity to nurture the relationships that provide the foundation for learning.

In order to provide clear direction to achieve our mission, the district remains committed to the development of our strategic plan using a future-focused mindset. This process is

critical to ensure all students have access to a quality education in a safe and caring atmosphere, so they can attain the necessary skills and knowledge to become lifelong learners and contribute to a diverse, interdependent and changing world.

For more information about RCS strategic planning, please visit our website at [www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us).

Thank you for your support as we embrace our history of educational excellence and create a vision for the future. Together, we can continue the legacy that is Rochester Community Schools.

Dr. Robert Shaner  
Superintendent



# Personalized learning meets the needs of each student

*Cohesive MTSS framework focuses on whole-child success*

Individual learners deserve individual attention to reach their fullest potential. In Rochester Community Schools, each student receives tailored resources to support personalized learning through the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework.

"This model helps us operate with continuous improvement," said Karen Gelardi, executive director of instructional practices, K-12. "We are always evaluating student learning to adapt, align and realign resources for positive outcomes as students grow and develop."

## Academics with intentionality

Tier 1 instruction is the foundation of an RCS education. This is where all students receive high-quality core instruction focused on research-based strategies, evaluation, and social-emotional support. Content is presented broadly, while the level, depth, and assistance is adjusted for each individual.

Academically, this includes content from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, along with the high-quality core instruction. To support whole-child development, the Positivity Project, Link Crew, and WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) programs have been implemented districtwide.

For students who require additional support, Tier 2 focuses on small-group interventions and ancillary classroom services. This may include consultation with literacy coaches, paraeducators, special education professionals, and more. "Tier 2 supports fill in the gaps for students so they are on track for mastery of learning," Gelardi said.

For more intensive individualized support, Tier 3 may include reading recovery and summer learning programs at the elementary level, or one-to-one interventions and study skills labs in lieu of electives at the secondary level.

"Through the use of diagnostics and evidence-based instruction, MTSS enables educators to identify needs and adjust quickly," said Debi Fragomeni,

deputy superintendent for teaching and learning. "We are proud of our teaching teams for making a commitment to this framework that supports children as they develop."

"MTSS is both an intervention and an enrichment," Gelardi said. "There is fluidity as students build resiliency and accomplish data-driven goals."

## Social-emotional support is a key component

In addition to academic support, RCS is committed to providing social-emotional assistance at every grade level. This may include the use of psychologists, social workers, therapists, counselors or other members of the school teams.

"High-achieving students may be succeeding academically in Tier 1, but require Tier 3 social-emotional counseling, for example," said Gelardi.

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*Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports can be offered to provide academic or social-emotional resources, which are adaptable to personal growth and goals.*

## Expanding learning pathways: ACE is future-focused for specialized support

The Alternative Center for Education, known as ACE, has been a treasured community resource, providing a more nontraditional high school experience for students who need additional support. Over the years, ACE has done an exceptional job caring for the whole child with teams that include counselors, psychologists, specialists, tutors and family members.

When schools across the nation were required to utilize temporary remote learning during the pandemic, RCS took a thoughtful look at the relationships between the high schools and the support provided for ACE students.

*"What became apparent is that ACE is more than a building. It's a collaborative, student-centered collection of resources for teaching and learning," said Karen Gelardi, executive director of instructional practices, K-12. "It is clear that ACE support can be delivered in innovative ways, regardless of a student's physical location."*

Tier 2-3 supports typically provided to ACE students are embedded in all RCS schools. With a future-focused mindset, new intentional pathways continue to be forged. MTSS options will be available to accommodate fluid growth and development using blended and hybrid ACE services. For example, students may have the option of joining their peers at their home high schools for either half or full days, while attending class at the Dr. John M. Schultz Educational Campus or the RCS Virtual Campus. Additionally, students may take advantage of afterschool tutoring or counseling sessions as needed or throughout the year.

*"Students receiving Tier 2 and Tier 3 services aren't in a fixed state, but rather, remain open to growth," said Gelardi. "ACE programming and all RCS instruction is evolving to become increasingly tailored, adaptive and personalized."*

## RCS Virtual Campus reimagines learning

For the 2021-22 school year, RCS families will continue to have the option to access a full-time, online curriculum through the RCS Virtual Campus. Launched last year to meet the educational needs of diverse learners, this option remains available to serve students across the Multi-Tiered System of Support.

*"We are pleased to share that we have more pathways for our students than ever before," said Jeff Frankowiak, principal of the RCS Virtual Campus.*

In its first year, the RCS Virtual Campus operated as a full-time program. As the program continues to grow, it is anticipated that the RCS Virtual Campus will also be available as a hybrid learning option for students who may benefit from a balance of virtual and in-person instruction. With increased flexibility in scheduling, this option may suit students with employment or family responsibilities, or those exploring career opportunities, or independent learners who prefer a more personalized daily agenda.

*"Students can learn at the highest levels in an environment that meets their unique personal needs," said Frankowiak. "Our MTSS commitment allows us to adjust levels of support, providing the knowledge and tools for students to excel beyond expectations."*

By meeting students where they are, and providing blended opportunities that incorporate virtual learning, independent study and in-person instruction, RCS is reimagining how school can be done differently to meet the needs of all students.



*Learning consultant Tracye Schwartz says new hybrid options for ACE and the RCS Virtual Campus provide flexible, tailored tools to meet the needs of students.*

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"We are responsive to these personal needs and are committed to overall wellness and success."

Through a partnership with the Center for Trauma Resilient Communities (CTRC), RCS staff is trained to work with students using a trauma-informed lens, which enables students to be supported within the context of their unique personal experiences.

"We work to promote resilience and comprehensive wellness," said Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaner. "Our strategic plan guides our efforts to deepen learning and provide supports for children of all backgrounds and circumstances. Through our work with CTCR, we are continually incorporating social-emotional and behavioral considerations into our teaching and learning practices at every level using the district's MTSS framework."



## Rochester Community Schools Foundation continues tradition of giving

The Rochester Community Schools Foundation is committed to supporting and advancing learning for all Rochester Community Schools students. Through scholarships, school grants, support for enrichment programs, and fundraising, community members can make a difference.

"The greater Rochester Community recognizes the value of supporting students across our district. These partnerships have provided donations to fund the RCS orchestra program, social-emotional wellness initiatives, literacy instruction and many other opportunities in academics, athletics and arts," said Joann Beydoun, RCS Foundation director.

The premier fundraiser of the RCS Foundation is the 5K Hometown Hustle, which is generously sponsored by Chief Financial Credit Union. Individuals and groups of all ages and fitness levels can participate in person by running or walking a 5K loop in downtown Rochester. There is also a child-friendly 1K option.

The Hometown Hustle brings the community together for a common goal: excellence in education! Details about the event will be available on the RCS Foundation website at: [www.rcs-foundation.org](http://www.rcs-foundation.org).



*Literacy coaches, paraeducators, special education professionals and counselors share tools, strategies and support that is tailored to each child.*

**Save the date for the Hometown Hustle 5K!**  
Saturday,  
September 18, 2021



*Last year's COVID-19 challenges required the RCS Foundation to adjust to a virtual Hometown Hustle 5K. It included a color run that featured clouds of washable chalk-powder to celebrate at the finish line.*



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begins with



**ROCHESTER  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

3838 N. Rochester Road  
Oakland Township

## Athletes earn state championships

*RCS is proud to recognize our 2021 Michigan High School Athletic Association state champions!*

Jack VanHowe from Rochester High School placed first in the boys 100-yard backstroke. He beat his personal record by nearly two seconds to finish at 49.35 at the Division 1 state finals. Jack is Rochester High's third athlete to win an individual state swim title and the first to win in the 100 backstroke.



The Rochester Adams Competitive Cheer Team won the Division 1 state championship. These athletes made history, becoming only the fourth team ever to win back-to-back state titles in Division 1 competitive cheer. The Highlanders persevered through pauses in their season during public health epidemic orders, and continued to practice in their own homes to be competition-ready.



*We are proud of these exemplary student-athletes for their commitment to excellence!*

# Hart Middle School recognized as a National School of Character

Students and staff at Hart Middle School are committed to being helpful, accountable, respectful and thoughtful through their Lead with HART philosophy. These core values and actions have earned them the prestigious designation as one of 46 schools nationwide, and the only middle school in Michigan, to be named a 2021 National School of Character by Character.org.

"This is powerful work," said Hart Principal Allison Roberts. "It's about reshaping our school community: the way we lead; the way we interact with each other; the way we embrace teachable moments; and the way we care for each other. Through curriculum, relationship building, and purposeful interactions, students learn about being an upstander versus a bystander. They know the difference between being sympathetic and empathetic, and they practice self-discipline and control."

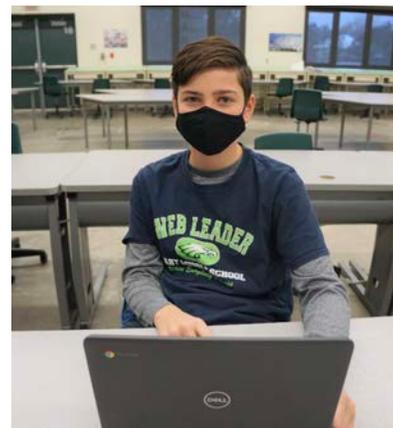
Student Zoe Ley agrees. "I was new here in seventh grade and I immediately felt welcomed. I was able to make friends and everyone was nice and kind. I could get

help from people I didn't really even know. Everyone treats others with respect."

To earn this prestigious ranking, Character.org states that schools and districts must put into place "a comprehensive approach that inspires their students to understand, care about and consistently practice a set of core values that will enable them to flourish in school, in relationships, in the workplace, and as citizens."

Hart underwent a rigorous evaluation process while documenting how they researched, planned, implemented, evaluated, and sustained the standards represented in the Character.org 11 Principles Framework for Schools.

"The process helped guide us in developing an all-inclusive approach, where students and staff can model, communicate, and live our core values and virtues," said Assistant Principal Mike Bennion. "This common language generates meaningful conversations so students understand the bigger picture of what's important in life, in addition to the math and science lesson."



*Character-building activities at Hart included sending messages to health care and frontline workers during the pandemic, providing peer mentoring to students, and showing appreciation to teachers and staff.*

Hart has embraced this character-building journey for the past six years. "I am extremely proud of our school community for embracing opportunities to exemplify what it means to be honest, trustworthy, caring, and kind," said RCS Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaner.

## Tri-high charity week supports crisis intervention

Student leaders at Rochester Adams, Rochester High and Stoney Creek join together each year to plan tri-high charity week events to support a cause that is important to them.

This year, RCS high schools raised nearly \$35,000 to serve local individuals and families in crisis through Common Ground. School communities donated generously through various fundraisers and friendly competitions to strengthen suicide prevention programs, support groups, crisis hotlines, and mental health services.

"While this is an enormous amount of money, I'm even more grateful for the awareness that you all generated among your classmates and among your friends," said Jeff Kapuscinski, chief external relations officer for Common Ground. "It's our goal and our mission to help people find a way to move from crisis to hope. You all have taken a big step toward that."

Through peer mentoring programs, engagement with counselors, and destigmatizing conversations about anxiety, depression, and suicide, RCS continues to make social-emotional wellness a priority beyond charity week.

"As we come out of the pandemic, providing mental health support and focusing on social-emotional wellness is going to be critical to us growing and moving forward as an organization," said Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaner. We are extremely proud of these students for their efforts to make a difference."



*Tri-high charity week events raised nearly \$35,000 for Common Ground to provide behavioral health support to families and individuals in crisis.*

# RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

GPA of 3.9 or higher • Four or more Advanced Placement courses

\* National Merit Scholar Finalist



Nada Abukamil  
Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Robert Adams  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Zoya Ahmed  
Rochester  
Undecided



Hera Akmal\*  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Ava Andreshak  
Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Allison Antaya  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Valerie Antenucci  
Stoney Creek  
Indiana Univ.



Renata Arkan  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Gianna Arnone  
Adams  
Purdue Univ.



Sarah Atang  
Stoney Creek  
Grand Valley  
State Univ.



Delaney Badgley  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Jessica Bailey  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Megan Baker  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Isabella Balza  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Victoria Balza  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Kermina Banoub  
Rochester  
Wayne State  
Univ.



Riley Barber  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Jonathan Barretto  
Stoney Creek  
Purdue Univ.



William Bass  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Polly Jane Bates\*  
Stoney Creek  
Oakland Univ.



Mariam Bazzi  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Aleksei Beck  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Jack Beglin  
Stoney Creek  
Mercer Univ.



Zakaria  
Benchbana  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Erin Benitez  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Hannah Bennett  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Mallory Bergmann  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Emma Beyer  
Stoney Creek  
Oakland Univ.



Emily Beylerian  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Ryan Beylerian  
Rochester  
Savannah College  
of Arts and Design



Faizan Bhagat\*  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Sanjay  
Bhuvaneshwaran  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Ava Biordi  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Elizabeth Blaine  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Julianna Bland  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Nicole Blankenship  
Adams  
Grand Valley  
State Univ.



Isabella Boiani  
Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Peyton Bolach  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Ryan Bolin  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Aubrey Borschke  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Lindsey Bower  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Leah Bowyer  
Stoney Creek  
Oakland Univ.



Nicole Brabant  
Adams  
Wayne State  
Univ.



Dylan Bradley  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Kate Breitschuh  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Dayton Briggs  
Stoney Creek  
Wayne State  
Univ.



Colin Brigmann  
Stoney Creek  
Oakland Univ.



Andrew Brown  
Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Colton Brown  
Stoney Creek  
Kettering Univ.



Zachary Brown  
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Florida State  
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Univ. of Michigan



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Michigan State  
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Val Buchheister  
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Univ. of Michigan



Brooke Bui  
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Michigan State  
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Adams  
Hofstra Univ.



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Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



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Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Dominic Cassar  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan

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\* National Merit Scholar Finalist



Carson Chambers  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Alexei Chen  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Alison Chen  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Joseph Choi  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



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Stoney Creek  
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Univ. of Michigan



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Rochester  
Grand Valley  
State Univ.



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Univ.



Claire Clemans  
Adams  
Hope College



Allison Coen  
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Gweneth Combs  
Rochester  
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Adams  
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Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Hannah Crist  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Claire Crutchfield  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Ian Czerkis  
Stoney Creek  
Milwaukee School  
of Engineering



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Adams  
Cornell Univ.



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Stoney Creek  
Western Michigan  
Univ.



Delanie Davidson  
Stoney Creek  
Oakland Univ.



Brendan Davis  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Wilson Day  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Benjamin de  
Chazal\*  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Adam de la Fuente  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Addison DeClercq  
Rochester  
Adrian College



Allison Deluna  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Nicholas Demetral  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Samihan Desai  
Adams  
Purdue Univ.



Robert Dessy  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



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Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Samantha Deys  
Adams  
Arizona State  
Univ.



Grace DiSessa  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Aiden Dixon  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



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Adams  
Ashland Univ.



Diana Dolezalova  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



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Grand Valley  
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Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



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Stoney Creek  
Albion College



Thomas Dunn  
Adams  
Hope College



Elizabeth Dyar  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Jenna Efthyvoulidis  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



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Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Mia Angelika  
Espedido  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Molly Evans  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Katherine Faglie  
Rochester  
Albion College



Michelle Fajardo  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



James Fan  
Adams  
Univ. of Detroit  
Mercy



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Rochester  
Undecided



Eliza Farrell  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Aisha Fayyaz  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Margaret  
Fetterman  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



John Flater  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Edward Florescu  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Caroline Francis  
Adams  
Kalamazoo  
College



Kelsey Francis  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Gabriella  
Franzone  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Kentucky



Brooke French  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Joseph Funke  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
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Balaji Ganeshbabu  
Rochester  
Michigan State Univ.



Luis Garcia Lopez  
Rochester  
Wayne State Univ.



Anna Gaudreau  
Stoney Creek  
Miami Univ.



Sarah Gianakopoulos  
Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Stephanie Glaspie  
Rochester  
Michigan State Univ.



Charles Glover\*  
Rochester  
Ohio State Univ.



Abigail Gnass  
Rochester  
Point Park Univ.



Neha Gopalakrishnan  
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Rochester  
Central Michigan Univ.



Paige Gordon  
Rochester  
Univ. of Southern California



Reva Goyal  
Adams  
Univ. of Rhode Island



Rachel Graham  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State Univ.



Megan Greenwald  
Stoney Creek  
Purdue Univ.



Mackenzie Grifka  
Adams  
Hillsdale College



Jonathan Grindem  
Stoney Creek  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.



Anjali Gupta  
Adams  
Wayne State Univ.



John Haddad  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Andrew Hampton  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State Univ.



Margaret Hann  
Stoney Creek  
Grand Valley State Univ.



Mariam Hanna  
Rochester  
Michigan State Univ.



Vincent Hansell  
Rochester  
Lawrence Technological Univ.



Sabah Haque  
Adams  
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Stoney Creek  
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Julia Harrison  
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Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Ethan Holwey  
Rochester  
Undecided



Jessica Hrynkiw  
Rochester  
Michigan State Univ.



Annie Huang  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Lucy Huang  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Mallory Hubbard  
Stoney Creek  
Loyola Univ.



Abigail Huddleston  
Rochester  
Purdue Univ.



Jacqueline Hurst  
Rochester  
Elmhurst Univ.



Isabel Hutchinson  
Stoney Creek  
Indiana Univ.



Kate Hutchinson  
Stoney Creek  
Indiana Univ.



Katherine Huthwaite  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Keri Iwasko  
Adams  
Rutgers Univ.



Maya Iyer  
Rochester  
Indiana Univ.



Connor Jackson  
Adams  
Undecided



Yumna Jahangir  
Adams  
Wayne State Univ.



Andrew Jankowski  
Adams  
Michigan State Univ.



Ryan Januszek  
Stoney Creek  
Wayne State Univ.



Linden Jensen  
Rochester  
Brigham Young Univ.



Sangwoon Jeong  
Adams  
Michigan State Univ.



Seong Hoon Jeong\*  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan

# RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

GPA of 3.9 or higher • Four or more Advanced Placement courses

\* National Merit Scholar Finalist



Aiden Johns  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Austin Jordan  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Tanvi Joshi  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Urvi Joshi  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Melana  
Kaafarani\*  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Megan Kabel  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Giovanna Kalaj  
Rochester  
Madonna Univ.



Alexios Kardasis  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Wynn Kaza\*  
Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Andrew Kelly  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Ryan Kendra  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Macy Kerr  
Stoney Creek  
Hope College



Brendan Khelifa  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Brian Kim  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Jacob Kim  
Adams  
Andrews Univ.



Soodong Kim\*  
Adams  
Cornell Univ.



Andrew Kirsh  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Govind Kishan  
Rochester  
Univ. of Wisconsin



Gabrielle Kitka  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Stepheno Kizy  
Stoney Creek  
Wayne State  
Univ.



Audrey Kleber  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



William Knish  
Stoney Creek  
Purdue Univ.



Megan Ko  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Seoyeon Koo  
Adams  
Undecided



Joshua Korson  
Stoney Creek  
Undecided



Nolan Kosnic  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Sydney Koss  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan  
Technological  
Univ.



Grace Krajewski  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Emma Ksoll  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Brandon Kuehnel  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan  
Technological  
Univ.



Kendall Kuhl  
Stoney Creek  
Indiana Univ.



Esha Kumblekere\*  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Soja Kureekkattil  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Nathaniel  
Kurokawa\*  
Rochester  
Ohio State Univ.



Matthew Lajoie\*  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Grace LaLonde  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Riley LaMendola  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Madeleine Lawson  
Rochester  
Kalamazoo  
College



Paige Lawson  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Brendan Lee  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Bryce Lee  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Daniel Lee  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Grace Lee  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Joyce Lee  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Aden Libin  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Anne Libin  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Detroit  
Mercy



Alexander Ligeski  
Stoney Creek  
Undecided



Sara Lin\*  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Michelle Liu  
Adams  
Johns Hopkins  
Univ.



Kennedy Lloyd  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Megan Loren  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Devin Losh  
Rochester  
Kettering Univ.



Tyler Louton  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Grant Joseph  
Lowery  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Rochester



Cole Luhmann  
Stoney Creek  
Hope College



Liliana Lulgjuraj  
Rochester  
Northwood Univ.



Katie Lundquist  
Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Anna Machak  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Megan MacKenzie  
Adams  
DePauw Univ.



Laila Magid  
Adams  
Univ. of Detroit  
Mercy

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Rea Marfatia  
Adams  
Case Western  
Reserve Univ.



Ella Markevics  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Luke Martin  
Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Awtry Massa  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Kristin Maust  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Abigail McCarty  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Sarah McClellan  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Alexander  
McCormick  
Adams  
Boston Univ.



Jack McCormick  
Adams  
Boston Univ.



Grace McDermott  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Ethan McKenna  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Avery McNamara  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Cameron Metiva  
Rochester  
Kettering Univ.



Nicola Meyer  
Adams  
Undecided



Emily Mikami  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Nicole Miller  
Rochester  
Grand Valley  
State Univ.



Megan Mills  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Tamara Monjaras  
Rochester  
Undecided



Brayden Moore  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Benjamin Morin  
Rochester  
Western Michigan  
Univ.



Savannah Morisot  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Anna Muench  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Claire Murphy  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Samuel Najera  
Stoney Creek  
Oakland Univ.



Nathan  
Nakkapalli  
Rochester  
Undecided



Nicholas  
Napolitano  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Govind  
Narayanan\*  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Zena Nasiri  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Sanya Nigam  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Aditya  
Nisankararao  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Benjamin Nitz  
Stoney Creek  
Purdue Univ.



Joseph Nolan  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Ainsley O'Neil  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Sabrina Ormsbee  
Stoney Creek  
Oakland Univ.



Carly Ortwine  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Sara Pacella  
Rochester  
Wayne State  
Univ.



Kavya Parikh  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Jake Parks  
Stoney Creek  
Indiana Univ.



Sneha Patel  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Rachel Patyi  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Charlotte Perry  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Parker Perry  
Stoney Creek  
Hope College



Lauren  
Petersmark  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Chloe Peterson  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Grace Phillips  
Rochester  
Adrian College



Anthony Piccirilli  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Briana Popa  
Rochester  
Undecided



William Postma  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Elizabeth Powers  
Stoney Creek  
Oakland Univ.



James Kaleb Price  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Michael Puchalski  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan  
Technological  
Univ.



Zaina Qadri  
Adams  
Wayne State  
Univ.



Lucille Radabaugh  
Adams  
Loyola Univ.



Caprice Radman  
Rochester  
Central Michigan  
Univ.



Sulakshita  
Ramamoorthi  
Rochester  
American Univ.



Gargi Ramekar  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Martha Ramirez-  
Pinto  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Ananya  
Rangarajan  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Skye Ranghi  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Douglas Ray  
Stoney Creek  
Kettering Univ.

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\* National Merit Scholar Finalist



Victoria Redruello  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Wesley Reif  
Rochester  
Michigan  
Technological  
Univ.



Vivek Revankar  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Megan Rinke  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of  
Tennessee



Alexandria Ritchie  
Adams  
Monash Univ.



Molly Rodgers  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Kalina Ross  
Rochester  
Purdue Univ.



Evan Rossio  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Ben Rupprecht  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Michael Saad  
Rochester  
Wayne State  
Univ.



Megan Sabanski  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Neil Sawkar  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Ellen Schenden  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Abigail Schreck  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Caroline Marie  
Schultz  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Lara Sebastian  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Holly Sederlund  
Stoney Creek  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Samantha Seneker  
Stoney Creek  
Grand Valley  
State Univ.



Rea Sharma  
Adams  
Indiana Univ.



Shirvil Sheth  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Allen Shi  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Cary Shu  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Gerardo Sierra  
Reyes  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Jack Sigelko  
Stoney Creek  
Kettering Univ.



Nicholas David  
Smith  
Rochester  
Indiana Univ.



Derek Snyder  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Hannah  
Soderstrom\*  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Yujin Son  
Adams  
Univ. of Chicago



Cyrus Soonavala  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Jack Stanley  
Adams  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Demetrios  
Stathakios  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Nicholas Steiner  
Stoney Creek  
Oakland Univ.



Lily Stellmacher  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Lauren Stern  
Rochester  
Michigan  
Technological  
Univ.



Kate Stice  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Micah Streetman  
Rochester  
Oakland  
Community  
College



Sarah Streetman  
Rochester  
Liberty Univ.



Kyle Stross  
Rochester  
Univ. of Dayton



Sydney Stuermer  
Stoney Creek  
Ohio State Univ.



James Stukenborg  
Stoney Creek  
Ohio State Univ.



Arya Sunil\*  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Claire Sweetwood  
Adams  
DePauw Univ.



Adam Szura  
Stoney Creek  
Grand Valley  
State Univ.



Claire Tamer  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Mason Tannar  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Juliana Tasevski  
Rochester  
Grand Valley  
State Univ.



Alessia Taylor  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Jacklyn Tedesco  
Stoney Creek  
Clemson Univ.



Snigdha Tenneti  
Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Keshav  
Thiagarajan  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Nicholas Tobin  
Stoney Creek  
Butler Univ.



Rachel Toma  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Jonathan Toomey  
Rochester  
Michigan State  
Univ.



Nicholas  
Traficante  
Adams  
Texas Christian  
Univ.



Rishi Tripathi  
Adams  
Oakland Univ.



Omaima Uddin  
Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Connor Ulfig  
Adams  
Albion College



Olivia Urbano  
Adams  
Univ. of California



Bode Van Stee\*  
Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Ethan Yi Vang  
Rochester  
Oakland Univ.

# RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

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\* National Merit Scholar Finalist



Clayton VanOphem Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Nicholas VanOphem Adams  
Michigan State Univ.



Jade Vargo Adams  
Eastern Michigan Univ.



Abigail VeCasey Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Elise VeCasey\* Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Mathav Vignesh Adams  
Michigan State Univ.



Devin Vowels Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Andrea Waack Adams  
Grand Valley State Univ.



Luke Waechter Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Grace Walters Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Noah Wiederhold Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Dana William Rochester  
Undecided



Kaija Windeler Rochester  
Michigan Technological Univ.



Thomas Witten Rochester  
Michigan State Univ.



Alexis Wolas Adams  
Michigan State Univ.



Mitchell Wolfe Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Mackenzie Wright Stoney Creek  
Michigan State Univ.



Joshua Wu Adams  
Michigan State Univ.



Caroline Xu\* Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Karl Yan Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Grace Yang\* Adams  
Stanford Univ.



Jessica Yang Rochester  
Univ. of Michigan



Moira Yee Rochester  
Oakland Univ.



Isabella Yoon Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Andrew Young Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Jihoon Yuhm Rochester  
Univ. of California



Ashley Yuran Stoney Creek  
Michigan State Univ.



Leah Zajac Stoney Creek  
Michigan State Univ.



Ava Zarewych Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Ann Zhang Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Jessica Zhang\* Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Kenneth Zhang Stoney Creek  
Univ. of Michigan



Andrew Zhao\* Adams  
Univ. of Michigan



Allen Zhu\* Adams  
Univ. of Michigan

## Staff members honored for Excellence in Education

The Rochester Community Schools Foundation presented Excellence in Education Awards to five staff members for their extraordinary service and dedication to our students and families. Selected from 96 nominations, these honorees represent the pride of RCS excellence.

Congratulations to the 2021 Excellence in Education Award recipients: **Amy DiCresce**, public relations specialist in community relations, for her respectful and positive support of RCS students, families, and staff; **Jeff Fosnaugh**, Rochester High School teacher, for empowering students with his attention

to whole-child education; **Linda Key**, Hart Middle School secretary, for making sure families have what they need for their students to be successful; **Elizabeth Lang**, McGregor Elementary School transitional kindergarten teacher, for her dedication to advancing learning through a wonder-filled, play-based education; and **Julie Schmidt**, RCS Virtual Campus teacher, for excellent instructional techniques that demonstrate her caring nature and build confidence in all students.

RCS is grateful to Michele Beitelshees of the Pino Insurance Agency, for continuing this 20-year tradition to recognize exemplary service. Each winner is provided with a generous donation to be used for a school-related project or program.



## RCS Board of Education: Point of pride

Did you know that the Board of Education of Rochester Community Schools is comprised entirely of unpaid volunteers who are elected by the community?

This honorable team of dedicated public servants perform their duties with love for the greater Rochester community and uphold the belief that all children have the right to a safe, quality education. Students remain at the center of every decision.

With diverse educational and professional backgrounds, the RCS board provides a solid foundation to ensure the stability of the district.

Rochester Community Schools is grateful for President Kristin Bull; Vice President Kevin Beers; Treasurer Mike Zabat; Secretary Michelle Bueltel; Trustee Barb Anness; Trustee Scott Muska; and Trustee Andrea Walker-Leidy.



### Each RCS board member shares the following qualifications:

- ✓ *RCS parent*
- ✓ *Volunteer*
- ✓ *Elected by the community*
- ✓ *Dedicated to student success*

### Stay informed with RCS news.

To receive district email updates about news and events, community members may sign up for SchoolMessenger alerts by going to the RCS webpage at [www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us). Please click on "about us," then "departments," followed by "community relations" for sign-up instructions.

### Talk to RCS

Visit [www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us). Click on the Talk to RCS button to ask a question, offer a compliment, or provide a comment.

### Get social



Like us on Facebook.  
[@RochesterCommunitySchools](https://www.facebook.com/RochesterCommunitySchools)



Follow us on Twitter.  
[@rochcommschools](https://twitter.com/rochcommschools)



Follow us on Instagram.  
[Rochesterschoolsmi](https://www.instagram.com/Rochesterschoolsmi)



Follow us on LinkedIn.  
[Rochester Community Schools](https://www.linkedin.com/company/RochesterCommunitySchools)

## Budget overview

With a student-centered focus, Rochester Community Schools has developed budgeting processes and transparency reporting standards that have earned accolades. The Association of School Business Officials International Meritorious Budget Award was presented to RCS for the fourth consecutive year, which indicates excellence in school budget presentation. For the second year, RCS has earned a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for meeting the highest standards for financial reporting and transparency. These designations are awarded only to school districts who have undergone a rigorous review by professional auditors and continue to meet or exceed the program's stringent criteria.

"The courageous decision-making of our Board of Education has put us in a steady financial position over the past several years. We remain committed to maximizing every available resource to do what's best for our students," said Executive Director for Business Operations Matthew McDaniel.

The 2021 debt fund millage rate required to support principal, interest, abated taxes and servicing costs of previously voter-approved bond debt is 1.64 mills. The 2021 sinking fund millage rate is 1.4732 mills.

The general fund budget in its broadest terms is outlined below. (Amounts are in millions.)

	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Amended	2021-22 Proposed
Revenue	\$178.8	\$190.2	\$184.9
Expenditures	176.4	192.0	186.7
Surplus (Deficit)	2.4	-1.8	-1.8
Ending Fund Balance	38.5	36.7	34.9
Ending Fund Balance as a % of Expenditures	21.83%	19.11%	18.69%



Continuing the *Pride in Excellence*

**POSTAL PATRON  
ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

# 2021-2022 District Calendar

## August

- 30 First day of school, half day AM districtwide
- 31 Full day of school (1-12 and ATPS)  
TK/kindergarten student last name A-M approx.

## September

- 1 Full day of school (1-12 and ATPS)  
TK/kindergarten student last name N-Z approx.
- 3 No school districtwide
- 6 No school, Labor Day

## October

- 6 Parent/teacher conferences (6-8)
- 7 Parent/teacher conferences (9-12)
- 8 No school districtwide  
Professional development districtwide
- 11 No school, Indigenous People's Day
- 13 Parent/teacher conferences (9-12)
- 14 Parent/teacher conferences (6-8)
- 29 Half day for students AM (6-ATPS)  
Records PM (6-ATPS)  
End of 1st quarter (6-ATPS)

## November

- 2 No school districtwide, Election Day  
Professional development districtwide
- 19 Half day for students AM (ECSE-5)  
Records PM (ECSE-5)  
End of 1st trimester (ECSE-5)
- 22-Dec.15 Parent/teacher conference window (ECSE-5)
- 23 Thanksgiving recess begins end of day districtwide  
Thanksgiving recess Nov. 24-28
- 29 Classes resume

## December

- 17 Holiday recess begins end of day districtwide  
Holiday recess Dec. 18 - Jan. 2

## January

- 3 Classes resume
- 12 Half day for students AM (6-ATPS), Exams;  
Records PM (6-ATPS)
- 13 Half day for students AM (6-ATPS), Exams;  
Records PM (6-ATPS)
- 14 Half day for students AM (6-ATPS), Exams;  
Half day for students AM (ECSE-5)  
Records PM (6-ATPS);  
Professional development PM (ECSE-5)  
End of 2nd quarter/1st semester (6-ATPS)
- 17 No school, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

## February

- 18 Midwinter recess begins end of day districtwide  
Midwinter recess Feb. 21-22
- 23 Classes resume

## March

- 2 Parent/teacher conferences (6-8)
- 3 Parent/teacher conferences (9-12)
- 4 Half day for students AM, districtwide;  
Records PM (ECSE-5); end of 2nd trimester (ECSE-5);  
Professional development (6-ATPS)
- 7-25 Parent/teacher conference window (ECSE-5)
- 18 Half day for students AM districtwide  
Records PM (6-ATPS), End of 3rd quarter (6-ATPS)
- 25 Spring break begins end of day districtwide  
Spring break March 26 - April 3

## April

- 4 Classes resume
- 12-14 PSAT/SAT/Work Skills testing, specific details and  
schedule to be announced
- 15 No school, Good Friday

## May

- 6 No school districtwide  
Professional development districtwide
- 27 Memorial Day recess begins end of day districtwide
- 30 No school, Memorial Day
- 31 Classes resume

## June

- 8 Half day for students AM (6-ATPS), Exams;  
Records PM (6-ATPS)
- 9 Half day for students AM (6-ATPS), Exams;  
Records PM (6-ATPS)
- 10 Half day for students AM (6-ATPS), Exams;  
Half day for students AM (ECSE-5)  
Records PM districtwide  
End of 4th quarter/2nd semester (6-ATPS)/  
3rd trimester (ECSE-5)  
End of school year

## Key:

- ATPS - Adult Transition Program and Services
- ECSE - Early Childhood Special Education

*\*\*Please note that any potential future changes to the Oakland Schools calendar may affect the above dates. \*\**