

Community Update

SPRING/SUMMER 2026 EDITION



ROCHESTER
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

Celebrating the Class of 2026!



1,186 graduating seniors | 65% earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher | 404 earned a 3.9 GPA or higher with 4 or more AP classes
98 earned a 3.8 GPA or higher with 3 or more AP classes | 207 earned a 3.5 GPA or higher with 2 or more AP classes

“Congratulations to the Rochester Community Schools Class of 2026! Graduates, as you leave the nest of RCS, I encourage you to take on different experiences – each one is part of your story. Embrace the unrepeatable and unanticipated. Continue to involve yourself in your community. And find opportunities to contribute through it all. Just like the elements of any great novel, the characters are many, and the storyline has unexpected, exciting, and challenging parts. As the main character and author in your story, accept them all, keep writing, and enjoy each and every chapter. Through it all, know that this community remains here for you, and your positive participation in your community, wherever that may be, remains paramount.” ~Superintendent Nicholas A. Russo, Ed.S.

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- General fund budget
- Oakland County regional enhancement millage

This is the official publication of Rochester Community Schools. Please scan the QR code to view previous editions.



Responsive instruction meets the needs of each student

Teaching is a science and an art.

Highly skilled educators at Rochester Community Schools bridge data-driven instructional strategies with in-the-moment adaptations for a variety of learning styles to meet students' needs.

“Classroom learning goals center the responsive instructional cycle as we strive to meet every learner's needs. Matching research-based instructional strategies with a student's readiness and current mastery from formative assessment drives the decision-making process for classroom instruction,” said Julie Schmidt, middle school math instructional coach.

Responsive instruction is the artistic application of this science. By implementing the three elements of the responsive instructional cycle-- formative assessment, timely feedback and instructional adjustments-- teachers gain a deep understanding of each student, allowing them to adjust their pacing, scaffold the lesson and use different engagement methods to help each student advance.

“Responsive instruction is the essence of teaching and learning,” said Lindsay Woodberg, K-12 English language development coach. “It ensures that teachers proactively recognize and respond to learner needs. The learning goal is the same for all students. However, having a clear understanding of each learner allows teachers to provide adjustments in the process to support or extend the goal.”

Across the district, RCS staff are familiar with the



multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) framework that integrates academic and behavioral expectations to cultivate skills and tools for student growth through levels of proactive support. At their core, responsive instruction and MTSS work together to meet the needs of all learners by adapting to greater levels of support and extension as needed.

Continually assessing steps in the learning process

Through this cycle, daily classroom routines incorporate consistent formative assessments to identify areas of need. These regular, ungraded check-ins provide insight for teachers to better understand where students are in the learning process.

As formative assessments are utilized, teacher feedback is specific, goal-referenced and actionable for each student, so individuals can understand very directly where they need to adjust their learning. Likewise, teachers can adjust instruction accordingly.

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Honoring Excellence in Education

The Rochester Community Schools Foundation awarded Excellence in Education Awards to four exceptional RCS professionals for their outstanding service. Congratulations to Jack Barraclough, math teacher at Van Hoosen Middle School; Claire D'Addario, Spanish teacher at Rochester High School; Lena Haidar, RCS English language development parent liaison coordinator; and Charles Hong, fifth grade teacher at Musson Elementary.



Claire D'Addario



Jack Barraclough



Charles Hong



Lena Haidar

Recipients were selected from over 50 nominations. The Rochester Community Schools Foundation presents these awards annually, in partnership with Michelle Beitelshees of the Pino Insurance Agency. Awardees each receive \$1,000 to benefit students and enhance their classroom, program or school.

We are proud of their commitment to excellence!

Responsive instruction meets the needs of each student

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In order to gather continual feedback, elementary educator Marlee O'Connell likes to do an in-the-moment quick thumbs-up/thumbs-down signal for students to indicate if they are ready to move on.

"These are things teachers already do in the classroom every day," O'Connell said. "Formally gathering, acknowledging and naming these tools serves as a good reminder of the many options available for personalized learning and growth."



Formative assessments help teachers provide specific, personalized feedback for each student. For example, middle school teacher Lindsey Belzyt avoids generic statements like, "Great work." Instead, she provides goal-referenced observations communicating clearly to students their progress toward the learning goal, explaining, "These two examples strongly explain your reasoning, but this last point is not as clear. Try using synonyms of the key words to show the connection."

Through the RCS strategic plan, educators are inspired to implement and assess responsive instructional practices for students in kindergarten through grade 12 and adult special education. During year

two of the strategic plan, approximately 30 committee members and 12 pilot teachers developed a user-friendly instructional playbook of tangible strategies and resources that help educators deepen their personal understanding and implement the responsive instructional cycle. Participating staff have reported positive results in instructing students who may need support or extension.

Adapting instruction to personalize learning

Using timely data about student learning, teachers can make instructional adjustments related to the content, product, process or environment in the moment. Karen Davies co-teaches high school classes and offers responsive instruction and differentiated support in a variety of ways. She uses colored pencils to color-code related concepts. She restates goals for verbal clarity, saying things like, "Here is another way to describe it" or "I visualize it like this," and she sometimes breaks students into small groups to work through more complex topics, so they can participate in a low-stakes environment, without fear of failure.

There are many tools available to meet students' needs. "Interactive flat panels are a great use of instructional technology to help students make their thinking visible with audio and visual support," Davies said. "Students can create a diagram, sketch a flowchart of steps in the process, listen to audio instructions or review practice questions without worrying about being graded. These creative tools help students develop critical skills and master their learning goals in meaningful, personalized ways."

"It's incredibly satisfying to be a part of those little moments where students 'get it,'" Davies said.

An important component of this particular

strategic plan is professional development and continued districtwide implementation. Elementary teacher Sydney Vancoppenolle expressed gratitude for this instructional playbook that empowers newer professionals and veteran educators to meet every student at their level with the appropriate pacing, breadth, depth and level of challenge.

"It's inspiring to share professional learning, research and resources with our colleagues," she said. "We can learn a lot from one another and will continue to refine the toolbox to impact students and meet their individual needs. We are proud to continue shaping the art and science of teaching and learning in positive, tangible ways."

Save the date

Hometown Hustle 5K & Color Run Sept. 19, 2026

Presented by the
Rochester Community Schools Foundation
to benefit RCS students.



Watch for details at [rcs-foundation.org](https://www.rcs-foundation.org).



2026 RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

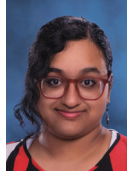
GPA of 3.9 or higher; Complete and pass 4 or more AP courses



Queralt Abaurrea-Pinilla
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Leslie Bahk
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Gray Bhuvaneshwaran
AHS
Purdue Univ.



QiTao Briskin
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Olivia Carline
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



George Abboud
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Estelle Bailey
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Lila Bierlein
AHS
Univ. of Tampa



Carolina Brust Arima
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jacob Carpenter
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Ella Abraham
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Amira Bakari
RHS
Wayne State Univ.



Skylar Bissell
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Joseph Burch
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Mariana Carvalho Heyser
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jonathan Abrams
RHS
Alma College



Sairam Balaji
AHS
Oakland Univ.



Giulia Bockrath
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Junseo Byun
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Anna Cavellier
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



McKenna Adams
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Kanishkar Balamurugan
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



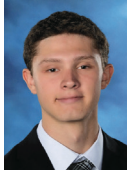
John Boiani
AHS
Oakland Univ.



Briana Cairns
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Isabella Cerini
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Aiden Agostinelli
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Aliya Bartz
RHS
DePaul Univ.



Brielle Bolash
RHS
Grand Valley State Univ.



Alexa Calcamuggio
AHS
Davenport Univ.



Sarah Chan
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



David Ahn
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Giselle Bastos
RHS
Purdue Univ.



Katelyn Bond
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Kaitlyn Calloway
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Elijah Chang
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Yser Al-Saedi
AHS
Univ. of Detroit Mercy



Grace Battershell
AHS
Saginaw Valley State Univ.



Luke Borowski
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Viktor Camaj
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Maria Charaf
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Britta Anderson
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Colin Bauer
AHS
Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison



Matthew Boryczka
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Chris Campbell
SCHS
Indiana Univ.



Elliot Cha-Sida
AHS
U.S. Naval Academy



Sydney Andwan
AHS
Western Michigan Univ.



Olivia Beltran
RHS
Oakland Univ.



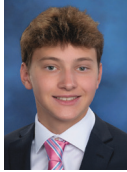
Addison Bowen
SCHS
Grand Valley State Univ.



Thais Campiglia
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Adit Chathakudath
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Aidan Arthurs
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Rebecca Bernier
AHS
Univ. of Miami



Brooks Brady
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Alexander Carbone
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Aidan Chen
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Sophia Bachmann
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Martin Beshir
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Devin Brady
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Madelyn Carcone
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Johnson Chen
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



2026 RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

GPA of 3.9 or higher; Complete and pass 4 or more AP courses



Judy Cheng
AHS
Wayne State Univ.



Benjamin Collins
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Drew Davis
SCHS
Wayne State Univ.



Michal Dubiel
SCHS
Undecided



Nolan Farris
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Alexandra Cherian
SCHS
Lawrence Tech Univ.



Grace Colucci
RHS
Univ. of Kentucky



Lauren Denby
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Maxime Duclair
AHS
Indiana Univ.



Arun Feldt
AHS
Chalmers Univ. of Technology



Mark Chernolutskiy
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Kayla Condon
RHS
Western Michigan Univ.



Leah Dennis
AHS
Indiana Univ.



Dominic Dumitrescu
AHS
Aquinas College



Alexander Felton
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Ayden Childs
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Alexis Contreraz
AHS
Univ. of Kentucky



John Dente
SCHS
Ohio State Univ.



Leanna Dusenbury
SCHS
Wayne State Univ.



Joshua Fernandes
AHS
Oakland Univ.



Avery Chmielewski
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Nicholas Cook
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Aubrey Dettloff
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Olivia Dushaj
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Kathleen Fetterman
AHS
Emerson College



Jeongmin Cho
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Sydney Cooper
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Aarya Devali
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Anna Edwards
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Ange Luciole Foudie-Nganguia
SCHS
Oakland Univ.



Michael Cho
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Leah Corby
SCHS
Bowling Green State Univ.



Brooke Dieterle
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Samuel Edwards
RHS
Brigham Young Univ.



Kieran Fraser
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Eunchan Chung
SCHS
Univ. of Detroit Mercy



Kelsey Corey
SCHS
Oakland Univ.



Marco Dixon
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Ramzi Elaridi
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Charlotte Fredenberg
SCHS
Miami Univ.



Nicholas Cirenese
SCHS
Oakland Univ.



Cooper Crandell
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Ian Do
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Carson Eleccko
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jack Fredenberg
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Lauren Clark
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Claire Croissant
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Ella Douglas
RHS
Wayne State Univ.



Santiago Escoto
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jadelynn Freeman
SCHS
Oakland Univ.



Hendrik Claussen
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Gabriel da Silva
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Mackenzie Doyle
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Isaac Fandakly
SCHS
Purdue Univ.



Kelsey French
SCHS
Oakland Univ.



Ella Clor
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Brooke Dalton
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Melvin Du
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Lindsay Farhood
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Joelle Gadoua
RHS
Univ. of Michigan





2026 RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

GPA of 3.9 or higher; Complete and pass 4 or more AP courses



Ivy Galens
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Mia Grigg
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Nadia Heppner
AHS
Grand Valley State Univ.



Abigail Johnston
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Kellen Keighron
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Tyler Gardner
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Sloan Grzymkowski
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Emilio Hernandez Becerra
AHS
Indiana Univ.



Ryan Jom
RHS
National Guard



Ty Keller
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Molly Geibel
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Mary Guitron Ortiz
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Joseph Hinderer
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Claire Jones
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Kendall Keller
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Michael Gemellaro
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Isaac Hacker
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Charlotte Holcomb
SCHS
Univ. of Kentucky



Jayden Joseph
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Adrianna Kello
RHS
Univ. of Tampa



Jesse Geottes
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Nikala Hall
AHS
Univ. of Detroit Mercy



Makhella Holt
SCHS
Univ. of Kentucky



Elliott Kachucha
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Declan Kelly
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Lola Gjurashaj
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Aisha Haq
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Natalie Hopkins
AHS
Univ. of Kentucky



Justin Kachucha
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Jessica Kennedy
SCHS
Univ. Of Nortre Dame



Endri Gllavata
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Jeffrey Harna
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Maria Ignaczak
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Evan Kacy
SCHS
Spring Hill College



Katelyn Kerr
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Lucas Godfrey
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Kennedy Hartley
AHS
Southern Methodist Univ.



Lily Imlay
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Eva Kalaj
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Donovan Keyes
RHS
Wayne State Univ.



Colin Goldstein
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Aden Hassan
AHS
Oakland Univ.



Nagahasini Ippili
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Elizabeth Kamlay
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Choyeon Kim
AHS
Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Maeve Goymerac
SCHS
Univ. of Notre Dame



Ellery Hauberg
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Anupama Iyer
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



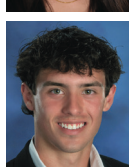
Reika Kaneko
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Christopher Kim
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Noah Graham
AHS
Michigan Technological Univ.



Connor Helferich
AHS
Adrian College



Sarah Jabeen
RHS
Wayne State Univ.



Lauren Kantzer
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Hyunjun Kim
AHS
Syracuse Univ.



Hailey Graunstadt
RHS
Grand Valley State Univ.



Caleb Helms
SCHS
Kalamazoo College



Iman Jaber
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Alexander Kawasaki
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Anna Kipfmiller
AHS
Central Michigan Univ.





2026 RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

GPA of 3.9 or higher; Complete and pass 4 or more AP courses



William Kirkness
AHS
Western Michigan Univ.



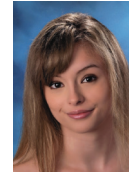
Maanya Krishna Rao
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Lillian Limberg
RHS
Univ. of Alabama



Ava Mac Donald
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Natalie Mason
SCHS
School of the Art
Institute of Chicago



Angelo Kizy
SCHS
Oakland Univ.



Ananya Kumar
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Scarlett Locke
AHS
Michigan Technological Univ.



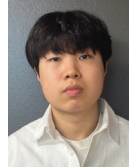
Arisara MacDonald
RHS
Albion College



Emma Max
RHS
Saginaw Valley State Univ.



Curtis Klinger
RHS
Wayne State Univ.



Hyeonwoo Kwon
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Luke Loftus
RHS
Western Michigan Univ.



Friedrich Luis Madamba
RHS
Wayne State Univ.



Adam Maxwell
AHS
Oakland Univ.



Ainsley Klomp
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Jacob LaBrosse
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Emma Loosvelt
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Johann Carlo Madarang
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Emma McClain
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Jonas Kobus
SCHS
Oakland Univ.



Maggie Lamb
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Olivia Lopez
SCHS
Univ. of Chicago



Marlow Makarewicz
AHS
Univ. of Arizona



Spencer McCormick
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jane Korson
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Jonah Lanier
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Luke Loscher
RHS
Wayne State Univ.



Lillian Maritzak
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Julia McDermott
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Kenneth Kottenko
SCHS
Oakland Univ.



Alexander Larson
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Luke Lower
RHS
Univ. of Florida



Stella Marlow
RHS
Grand Valley State Univ.



Amelia Meier
RHS
Univ. of Colorado Boulder



Lina Kotonski
SCHS
Oakland Community College



Mason Le
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Eleanor Luhmann
SCHS
Hope College



Joseph Marra
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Tyler Mellet
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Caroline Kovtun
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Yeada Lee
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Marissa Luiggi
RHS
Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison



Jacob Martincic
AHS
Michigan Technological Univ.



Esha Mengle
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Eli Kozlowski
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Matthew Leigh
SCHS
Indiana Univ.



Greta Lyons
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



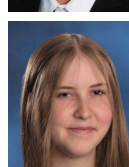
Melissa Martinez Serna
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Lucy Meteyer
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



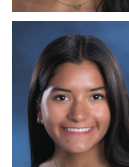
Brooke Kratz
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Emily Lewis
AHS
Michigan Technological Univ.



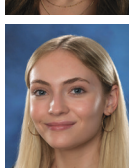
Dylan Ma
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Valeria Martinez Serna
AHS
Tulane Univ.



Julianna Mett
SCHS
Oakland Univ.



Cecilia Kreiter
AHS
Wayne State Univ.



Katherine Lick
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Justin Ma
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Addison Martz
AHS
Univ. of Detroit Mercy



Addison Michalak
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



2026 RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

GPA of 3.9 or higher; Complete and pass 4 or more AP courses



Madison Michalkow
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Nadia Murray
AHS
U.S. Military Academy



Triet Nguyen
AHS
Georgia State Univ.



Chaerin Park
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Eliza Pizzuti
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Joseph Miller
SCHS
Western Michigan Univ.



Wyatt Musson
RHS
Northern Michigan Univ.



Ryan Ni
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



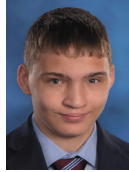
Downon Park
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Logan Pleasant
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Peter Milne
AHS
Purdue Univ.



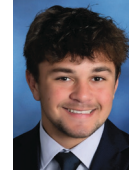
Isaac Mutart
AHS
The George Washington Univ.



Luca Nickel
RHS
Kettering Univ.



Gianna Parmentier
AHS
Tiffin Univ.



Jack Pokorny
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Karina Mitchell
SCHS
Howard Univ.



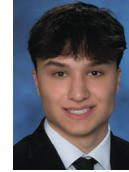
Shivaen Myneni
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Cassidy Niester
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Taylor Parsons
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Daniel Pompa
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Kasthuri Molakaluri
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Kaylin Nagaitis
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Zara Nigl
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Dylan Pascoe
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Miles Priest
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Aubrey Moore
AHS
Clarkson Univ.



Emma Nagey
RHS
Albion College



Brenden Niu
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jonlucas Pateqi
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Miguel Pruneda Contreras
SCHS
Oakland Community College



Eden Moran
AHS
Wentwork Institute of Technology



Swadha Naik
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Nil Okutkan
SCHS
Univ. of Illinois Chicago



Jenny Pepaj
RHS
Univ. of Detroit Mercy



Abbey Pudlo
RHS
Western Michigan Univ.



Kayla Mordovanaki
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Livy Nania
AHS
Oakland Univ.



Claire O'Neill
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Carol Peralta Terrazas
AHS
Oakland Univ.



Austin Pursley
SCHS
Wayne State Univ.



Karina Morfin Munoz
SCHS
Wayne State Univ.



Kiyann Nascimento
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Lauren O'Quinn
AHS
Oakland Univ.



Aarush Phadke
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Danielle Quesnell
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Olivia Morrison
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



William Newport
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Maya Orlowsky
AHS
Central Michigan Univ.



Caden Phan
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Yashika Rajput
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Yanis Moulaoui
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Christine Nguyen
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Pedro Ortiz Juarez
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Elizabeth Phillips
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Quentin Rangi
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Morgan Muir
AHS
Univ. of Findlay



Eda Nguyen
AHS
Cornell Univ.



Maurinne Paredes Elizalde
SCHS
Oakland Community College



Triantafyllo Pistikaki
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Basaam Rathur
RHS
Kettering Univ.



2026 RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

GPA of 3.9 or higher; Complete and pass 4 or more AP courses



Drew Ray
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Evan Rutter
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Andrew Scott
RHS
Heidelberg Univ.



Valentina Silveira Hianke
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Anna Suwalkowski
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Lauren Redmond
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Veronica Rybchenko
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jacob Scott
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Sofia Simionato
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Drew Szymanski
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Madeline Revard
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jacob Sajdak
SCHS
Leiden Univ.



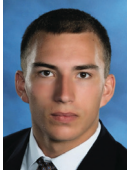
Brayden Sebert
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Anahita Sinha
AHS
Undecided



Frank Tanguy
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Drew Rheault
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Edin Salkic
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Sia Segan
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Shaurya Sinha
RHS
Stony Brook Univ.



Julianna Taylor
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Brady Ricketts
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jimena Sanchez Aguirre
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jenna Seidell
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Owen Smith
RHS
Univ. of North Carolina
Wilmington



Joshua Telang
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Molly Rigney
SCHS
College for Creative Studies



Calen Sanders
AHS
Oakland Community College



Eric Seo
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Kylie Smyth
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Andrew Thomas
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Harper Roche-Kelly
AHS
DePaul Univ.



Abiraj Singh Sandhu
AHS
Wayne State Univ.



Vivian Sesi
RHS
Grand Valley State Univ.



Dah In Sohn
SCHS
Univ. of Toronto



Hasini Thonta
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Alexander Rossey
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Chloe Scharf
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Maren Shay
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Jennifer Song
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Stella Tobiczky
AHS
Grand Valley State Univ.



William Rowland
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Elizabeth Schultz
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Siddh Sheth
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Victoria Sotomayor-Losoya
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Nathan Tocco
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Hannah Roy
AHS
DePaul Univ.



Daniel Schultz
RHS
Wayne State Univ.



Gaeun Shin
RHS
Univ. of Michigan



Charlotte Stringer
SCHS
College of Wooster



Layla Tomezak
AHS
Pennsylvania State Univ.



Gracelyn Ruddle
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Evelyn Schultz
RHS
Pennsylvania State Univ.



Chirag Shivakumara
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Spencer Sun
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Allyson Toomey
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Benjamin Ruprecht
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Kurt Schuster
SCHS
Indiana Univ.



Anirban Shome
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Marina Super
AHS
Oakland Univ.



Ana Trevino-Nunez
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan





2026 RCS Scholars of Highest Distinction

GPA of 3.9 or higher; Complete and pass 4 or more AP courses



Charlotte Trombley
RHS
Oakland Univ.



Gabriella Vrana
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Davis Waterfield
SCHS
Indiana Univ.



Zachary Witt
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Vladyslava Yashchynska
AHS
Univ. of Detroit Mercy



Anthony Trybus
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Caitlyn Wagner
AHS
Grand Valley State Univ.



Ryland Watters
AHS
Central Michigan Univ.



Viktor Wojtasiuk
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Anna Zellen
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Jacob Uhler
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Alyssa Walker
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Moriah Wedderburn
AHS
Univ. of South Carolina



Seo-yun Woo
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Aiden Zhang
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Mia Van Hulle
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Ciara Walker
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Alexander Weisenstein
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Renée Wrobel
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Yueyi Zhang
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Mihira Vedula
AHS
Purdue Univ.



Carson Walker
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Noah Weiss
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Hannah Wu
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Nicholas Zhu
RHS
Oakland Community College



Julian Vettrano
SCHS
Indiana Univ.



Riley Walsh
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



Sydney Welch
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Yueyang Wu
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Lauren Ziehm
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Olivia Viazanko
AHS
The George Washington Univ.



Yang Wang
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Ruby Whybrev
RHS
Michigan Technological Univ.



Annabelle Xie
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Lily Zora
RHS
Central Michigan Univ.



Natalie Vigneau
AHS
Michigan State Univ.



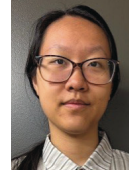
Sarah Warner
SCHS
Univ. of Michigan



Brody Wilcox
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



Lagion Yang
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Zhuoyun Zou
AHS
Univ. of California San Diego



Maxim Vostryakov
AHS
Univ. of Michigan



Brock Washburn
SCHS
Michigan State Univ.



Alec Willey
RHS
Michigan State Univ.



John Paul Yang
AHS
Arizona State Univ.



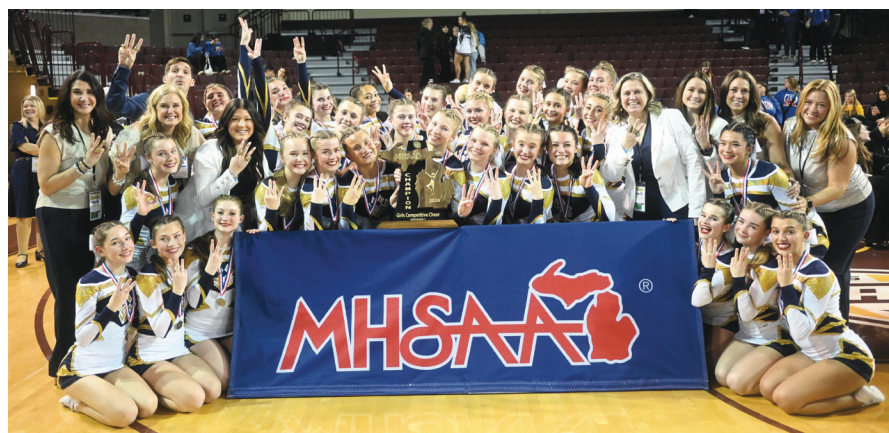
Celebrating Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) state champions

Stoney Creek High School Competitive Cheer

For the third consecutive year, the Stoney Creek High School competitive cheer team earned the MHSAA Division 1 state champion title.

Athletes: Mia Badalucco, Katerina Baros, Emerson Bellestri, Laila Biondo, Taylor Brandimarte, Briana Cairns, Lauren Clark, Lillian DeCarlo, Meredith DeGraw, Adelynn Fisher, Gianna Haener, Audrey Harvath, Brooke Jaroma, Kate Kacy, Kendall Keller, Lisa Ladewig, Natalie Marco, Norah Marco, Julia McDermott, Kiara Nascimento, Cassidy Niester, Gianna Perrera, Kelsey Phipps, Kara Pratt, Adriana Saglimbene, Lily Schultz, Maya Shamyer, Brenna Smith, Isabella Stuckey, Eva Tucciarone, Isabel Williams.

Coaches: Head Coach Tricia Williams; Assistant Coaches Andrea Cairns, Angela Kashani Garavi, Kayla Kenan, and Mandy Schneider



Chad Anderson
Rochester High School senior, Chad earned the MHSAA Division 1 boys singles tennis state champion title and was voted Mr. Tennis by the Tennis Coaches Association.



Morgan Rea
Rochester Adams High School junior, Morgan earned the MHSAA Division 2, 1-meter diving title with a score of 431.75 points.



Jilly Knoester
Rochester High School freshman, Jilly won the No. 4 singles championship in the MHSAA Division 1 Girls Tennis State Finals.

Tune in to be inspired!

RCS remains committed to leveraging a variety of communication methods and tools to provide updates, celebrate excellence, build trust, and offer windows into life of school buildings. Tune in to the RCS Be Inspired podcast with Superintendent Nicholas Russo to learn more about topics that impact K-12 education. The podcast is available on Spotify, Apple podcast, Vimeo, and the district website.



MHSAA is a nonprofit organization with more than 1,500 public and private Michigan high school members. Earning an MHSAA state title is one of the highest honors for a student athlete.

Remembering 100 years at Baldwin Elementary

As part of Baldwin Elementary's centennial celebration, Superintendent Nicholas Russo and Principal Marco Marando joined students and staff on the playground for a ceremonial ringing of the bell that called children to the original one-room schoolhouse 100 years ago.

Additional activities included 100 acts of kindness, shared memories from alumni, an old-time carnival, art projects and school murals celebrating 100 years of learning and a video screening of "Baldwin: A Century of Learning."



RCS earns national recognition for sound financial management practices

Rochester Community Schools continues to maintain sound fiscal management and budgetary policies that have been recognized by the Association of School Business Officials International.

For nine consecutive years, the district has earned the Meritorious Budget Award, which is conferred only to school systems whose budgets have undergone a rigorous review by financial professionals and met or exceeded the programs stringent criteria.

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

	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Proposed	2025-26 Amended
Revenue	\$231.5	\$226.6	\$234.5
Expenditures	\$231.2	\$233.1	\$238.4
Surplus (deficit)	\$0.3	(\$6.6)	(\$4.0)
Ending fund balance	\$48.3	\$47.1	\$44.3
Ending fund balance as a % of expenditures	20.90%	17.90%	18.60%



2026-27 School Calendar

August

Tu	Aug. 18	Teachers report
W	Aug. 19	Teacher work day Full-day professional development districtwide
Th	Aug. 20	Teacher work day
M	Aug. 24	First day of school Half day of school, grades TK-12 and ATPS
Tu	Aug. 25	Full day of school, grades 1-12 and ATPS TK and kindergarten, student group A, determined by building
W	Aug. 26	Full day of school, grades 1-12 and ATPS TK and kindergarten, student group B, determined by building
Th-F	Aug. 27-28	Full day of school, grades TK-12 and ATPS

September

Th	Sept. 3	Labor Day recess begins at end of day
Tu	Sept. 8	Classes resume
F	Sept. 25	No school; full-day professional development districtwide

October

W	Oct. 7	After-school parent-teacher conferences, grades 6-8
Th	Oct. 8	After-school parent-teacher conferences, grades 9-12
M	Oct. 12	No school
W	Oct. 14	After-school parent-teacher conferences, grades 9-12
Th	Oct. 15	After-school parent-teacher conferences, grades 6-8
F	Oct. 30	Half day of school, grades TK-12 and ATPS End of first quarter, grades 6-12 and ATPS

November

M	Nov. 2	No school Asynchronous professional development, a.m. Records p.m., ECSE-ATPS
Tu	Nov. 3	No school
F	Nov. 6	End of first trimester, ECSE- grade 5
M	Nov. 9	Elementary parent-teacher conference window opens
Tu	Nov. 24	Elementary parent-teacher conference window closes
W	Nov. 25	No school Fall conference compensatory time, ECSE-grade 12 and ATPS
Th	Nov. 26	No school
F	Nov. 27	No school
M	Nov. 30	Classes resume

December

W	Dec. 9	No school Full-day professional development districtwide
F	Dec. 18	Winter holiday recess begins at end of day

January

M	Jan. 4	Classes resume
W-Th	Jan. 13-14	Half day of school, a.m., grades 6-12 and ATPS; teacher records p.m.
F	Jan. 15	Half day of school, a.m., grades TK-12 and ATPS End of second quarter/first semester, grades 6-12 and ATPS; teacher records p.m.
M	Jan. 18	No school

February

Th	Feb. 4	No school Full-day professional development districtwide
F	Feb. 12	Midwinter recess begins at end of day, ECSE-grade 12 and ATPS
W	Feb. 17	Classes resume
W	Feb. 24	After-school parent-teacher conferences, grades 6-8
Th	Feb. 25	After-school parent-teacher conferences, grades 9-12
F	Feb. 26	Half day of school, a.m., ECSE-grade 5 Teacher records, p.m. End of second trimester, ECSE-grade 5

March

W	March 3	Elementary parent-teacher conference window opens
Th	March 4	End of second trimester, ECSE-grade 5
Tu	March 9	No school; full-day professional development districtwide
F	March 19	Half day of school, a.m., ECSE-grade 12 and ATPS Teacher records, p.m. Spring conference compensatory time, p.m., ECSE-grade 5 Elementary parent-teacher conference window closes
Th	March 25	End of third quarter, grades 6-12 and ATPS Spring recess begins at end of the day

April

M	April 5	Classes resume
W-Th	April 14-15	Secondary standardized testing – tentative, subject to change

May

M-Tu	May 17-18	Senior exams
Tu	May 18	Last day for seniors
M	May 31	No school

June

Tu	June 1	Classes resume
M-Tu	June 7-8	Half day of school, a.m., grades 6-12 and ATPS Teacher records, p.m.
W	June 9	Half day of school, a.m., grades 6-12 and ATPS Teacher records, p.m., End of fourth quarter/second semester, grades 6-12 and ATPS End of third trimester, ECSE-grade 5 End of school year

Calendar-specific notations

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and Adult Transition Program and Services (ATPS) will follow the calendar of their similar grade-level cohorts.

Acronym Key

AM	Morning
PM	Afternoon
ATPS	Adult Transition Program and Services
ECSE	Early Childhood Special Education
TK	Transitional Kindergarten



Regional Enhancement Millage

- Election: Aug. 4, 2026
- 1.5 mills levied over six years
- Generates about \$781 per pupil annually for a six-year period for each Oakland County public school student
- Passes or fails on a countywide basis, not by local communities
- Each district has local control over how the money is spent

Oakland County Enhancement Millage

On Aug. 4, 2026, voters in Oakland County, Michigan, will be asked to consider a new regional enhancement millage.

If approved by voters, the proposal would levy 1.5 mills for six years to provide additional funding for all public school districts and eligible public school academies in Oakland County.

This funding would be collected by the intermediate school district and distributed on a per-student basis, which is estimated at approximately \$781 per student annually, or \$4,686 per student over the life of the millage.

A regional enhancement millage is the only mechanism school districts may use to increase per-pupil funding beyond

what is provided by the state.

This millage passes or fails on a countywide basis, not by local communities. Each district has local control over how the money is spent.

The proposal is a voter-approved property tax that would cost approximately \$300 per year on a home valued at \$400,000 (taxable value of \$200,000). Residents can review their individual costs using a tax calculator on the Oakland County Enhancement Millage website.

Rochester Community Schools serves as a donor district of approximately \$202,300 but would benefit from receiving an estimated \$10.7 million annually for six years.

If approved, the millage collection would begin in December 2026.

Why this matters

School districts across Oakland County continue to face financial pressures as costs rise faster than state funding.

Districts are working to address increasing student academic, safety, wellness and transportation needs; staff recruitment and retention; and rising costs of construction, goods, services, operational and supply materials.

Currently, approximately 44 percent of students in Michigan already benefit from a regional enhancement millage in their county.

For more information about the regional enhancement millage, voters are encouraged to go to the Oakland enhancement millage website.

Learn more at OaklandEnhancementMillage.com

Michigan School Funding Basics

In 1994, Michigan voters approved legislation, known as Proposal A, that would dramatically change how schools are funded in Michigan.

After Proposal A, local homeowners' property taxes no longer funded local schools. Instead, a statewide education tax of 6 mills on all property was established, and districts began receiving a per-pupil payment from the state, called the foundation allowance. This enabled the lowest funded schools in the state to receive a basic level of funding, which helped narrow the funding gap between school districts. Other sources like state sales and income tax, lottery revenue, tobacco and use taxes also contribute to school funding.

The state decides the amount of foundation allowance for each school district and multiplies that number by the number of fully qualified students in the district.

The foundation allowance has two components: state aid and local non-homestead property taxes. The state calculates their portion of the foundation allowance as if the district is collecting 18 mills, whether it actually does or not. If the voters do not approve the 18 mills levy, the district does not receive the full foundation allowance. While the foundation allowance is the major source of funding, districts also get a small amount of federal funding.

Increasing demands on RCS general fund

The general fund is the primary operating fund for the district and accounts for everything it takes to teach a child in a classroom, such as teachers, paraeducators, ancillary staff, administrators, bus drivers, custodians, and grounds and maintenance staff.

Increasing demands on the general fund include:

- Student technology (Chromebooks) cost \$1.4 million per year.
- Rising costs of construction, goods, and services. For example, softball/baseball turf replacement totals \$5.1 million.
- The majority of lighting, audio, rigging and architectural systems in RCS auditoriums date back to the early 2000s. Replacement costs total \$9 million for all three high schools.
- Rising costs of safety and security products and services. For RCS, that investment equates to \$1.5 million per year.
- New course offerings.
- Rising healthcare costs. RCS health coverage now requires an annual investment of approximately \$25 million.