

Dr. Michael G. Shoaf,  
Superintendent of Schools

Rr

*State of the Schools*  
January 12, 2009

Special thanks to Dr. Dianna Foley and Diane Kinlough for their planning and organization of this event and to Carol Eubanks for coordinating our lunch.



# Board of Education

## Committee Leadership

### Curriculum Committee

Chair – Mrs. Rounds  
Member – Dr. Schieda

### Facilities Committee

Chair – Dr. Schieda  
Member – Mr. Milano

### Finance Committee

Chair – Mr. Swartz  
Member – Ms. Goepfert

### Policy & Legislation Committee

Chair – Mr. Milano  
Member – Mr. Swartz

### School and Community Relations Committee

Chair – Ms. Goepfert  
Member – Mrs. Rounds



Back row L to R: Dr. Jim Schieda, Jay Milano (President), Jean A. Rounds  
Front row L to R: Kathleen Goepfert (Vice President), Scott Swartz



# District Administrators

Executive Director of  
Curriculum and Instruction

**Elizabeth Anderson**

Executive Director of  
Human Resources and  
Support Services

**Ted Blank**

Director of Learning  
Resource Services

**Jim Scheer**

Treasurer

**Greg Markus**

Communication  
Specialist

**Dr. Dianna Foley**

High School Principal

**Debbie Bernard**

High School Associate  
Principal

**Alan Wilhelms**

High School Assistant  
Principal

**Sam Gifford**

Athletics/Student  
Activities Director

**Jeff Schultz**

Middle School Principal

**Dr. David Root**

Middle School Assistant  
Principal

**Gweynn Hampel**

Kensington Intermediate  
School Principal

**Todd Murphy**

Goldwood Primary  
School Principal

**Marianne  
Winemiller**

Manager of Food  
Services

**Carol Eubanks**

Manager of Computer  
Operations

**Betsy Lauer**

Manager of  
Transportation Services

**Mary  
Levendusky**

Supervisor of Facilities  
Operations

**Rich Thomas**





# Agenda

State of the Schools

Awards

2008 – 2009 Goals

Academic Standards

Promises Made, Promises Kept!

Finances

Technology and Our Future

Quality Schools

Summary

Questions



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## State of the Schools



- Rocky River City Schools are a great success!
- Student achievement remains consistently high.
- Rocky River City Schools have an exemplary teaching and support staff for our students.



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# Award Winning Schools



## Hall of Fame Award

Goldwood

## National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Rocky River Middle School

Rocky River High School

## U.S. News and World Report Silver Medal Award

Rocky River High School

## Intel-Scholastic School of Distinction

Rocky River High School

## Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting

For 17 years, the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has earned a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association



# Excellent with Distinction

Rating from the Ohio Department of Education



Excellent Rating 8 years in a row!



## Cleveland Magazine's Top Ten

The Rocky River Schools were named to the prestigious Top Ten List of Cleveland Area Schools, as ranked by the editors of Cleveland Magazine, June 2008.

1. Chagrin Falls
2. Solon
3. Hudson
4. Orange
5. Beachwood
6. **ROCKY RIVER**
7. Brecksville-Broadview Heights
8. Bay Village
9. Westlake
10. Revere



Since 1998, the Rocky River City Schools have been named to the list of Cleveland Magazine Top Ten Suburban School Districts.

*Rocky River Schools are the Best in the West!*





## *Rr* Award Winning Faculty

### **Five National Board Certified Teachers**

Anne Davis

Kristen Hargett

Judy Hudson

Daryl Knauss

Megan Toomey-Rose

### **Ann Brokaw**

- 2008 “Success in Public Schools” Award/Coalition for Public Education
- 2008 Conservation Educator of the Year, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District
- 2007 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- 2006 Ohio Outstanding Biology Teacher
- 2006 Ohio Teacher of the Year finalist
- 2006 John H. Wallace Summer Teacher; Research Fellowship Recipient / Case Western Reserve School of Medicine Pathology Department
- 2005 Arthur S. Holden Teacher Award for Excellence in Science Education
- 2004 Radio Shack National Teacher Award for Excellence



## Award Winning Faculty

*Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance Quality Physical Education Program (AHPERD) Gold Award*

2008 / **Linda Neitzel**

*20 year Circa Recognition Award from the Ohio Art Education Association*

2008 / **Patty Tobin**

*Korean Studies Fellow / Korea Foundation and The Institute for Modern Korean Studies*

2008 / **Jeff Smith**

*Plain Dealer Newspaper Golden Apple Award*

2008-2009 / **Cindy Zebris**





# Rr Award Winning Students

## ACT Perfect Scores

2008 - Mary Farah

2007- Jasmine Corbin

2006 - Collin Crawford

## National Merit Scholars

Class of 2009 – 5 Semi-Finalists & 9 Commended Students

Class of 2008 - 3 Finalists & 5 Commended Students

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## Advanced Placement Spring 2008

162 students took 278 Advanced Placement tests in May 2008

Scores of 5 – 61 tests

Scores of 4 – 78 tests

Scores of 3 – 91 tests

## Class of 2008

91% enrolled in Higher Education

77% attended a 4 year institution

14% attended a two year community college

Over \$8.3 million worth of scholarships were awarded



# Student Academic Awards

- News Channel 5 *Best of the Class 2008*
- *Michelson-Morley Award* Case Alumni Association
- Cleveland Plain Dealer *Senior Standouts*
- Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership
- Phi Beta Kappa Award
- Martin Essex School for the Gifted Nominee
- Rensselaer Medal for Science & Math
- Buckeye Boys' State
- Buckeye Girls' State
- Robert C. Byrd Scholarship Nominees
- Cleveland Technical Societies Council Honor Junior Nominee



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# Student Academic Awards

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- DAR Good Citizen Contest, Western Reserve-Lakewood Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
- Discovery Day
- I Dare You National Leadership Award
- Letters About Literature, Ohio Semi-Finalist
- Look Up To Cleveland Nominee
- Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair / Second Place - Cardiac Cell Research / Cellular Bio-Chemistry
- Ohio Business Week Candidate
- Ohio Board of Regents Academic Scholarship
- Prudential Spirit of Community Awards / President's Volunteer Service Award
- Smith College Book Award



# Student Academic Awards

- Westshore Career Technical Education / Outstanding Career Technical Student Award  
Service Occupations Training
- Cleveland Council on World Affairs Model United Nations Outstanding Delegates
- Jack London Writing Contest / 3rd Place - 18th Annual National Contest
- Kohl's *Kids Who Care* Honorary Regional Scholarship
- National Forensics League State & National Qualifiers
- Networking / Cisco Award
- Regional Scholastic Art Competition Winners



# Rr Student Athletic Awards

“Goody” Marcks Sportsmanship Award / **David Dunne**

Body by Milk Award / **Andy Breidigam**

National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association of America,  
Inc/Academic All-American in Swimming / **Karen Benko & Joe Constantino**

OHSAA State Farm Insurance Scholar/Athletes Award Outstanding Senior Athlete Award / **Jasmine Corbin & Alex Plachta**

Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award / **Kristen Strang & Adam Voll**

US Army Reserve Scholar Athlete Award / **Karen Benko & Bill Evans**

USMC Distinguished Athlete Award / **Allen Mayer**

USMC Scholastic Achievement Award / **Joe Constantino**

Wendy’s High School Heisman Scholarship / **Elissa Brandt**

Miss Cheerleader of America, State Finalist / **Jessica Pampush**





## Staff Athletic Awards

- Greater Cleveland Basketball Coaches Association Div. II, III & IV Coach of the Year / WSC Coach of the Year - Girls' Basketball / **Mike Murray**
- WSC Coach of the Year - Girls' Cross Country / **Laura Brabant**
- WSC Coach of the Year - Swimming and Diving / **Liz Leonard**
- WSC Coach of the Year - Boys' Tennis / **Jeff Sinnema**
- WSC Coach of the Year - Girls' Tennis / **Ben Purdy**
- WSC Coach of the Year - Girls' Track / **Julie Achladis**
- Greater Cleveland High School Hockey League Coach of the Year / **Chris Cogan**







# District Focus Areas

Accountability

Communication

Curriculum

Development of Responsible Citizens

Financial

Professional Growth

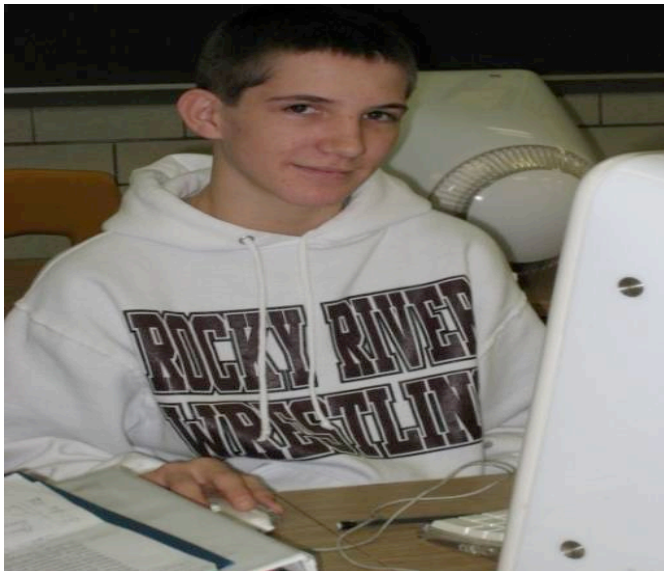
Technology

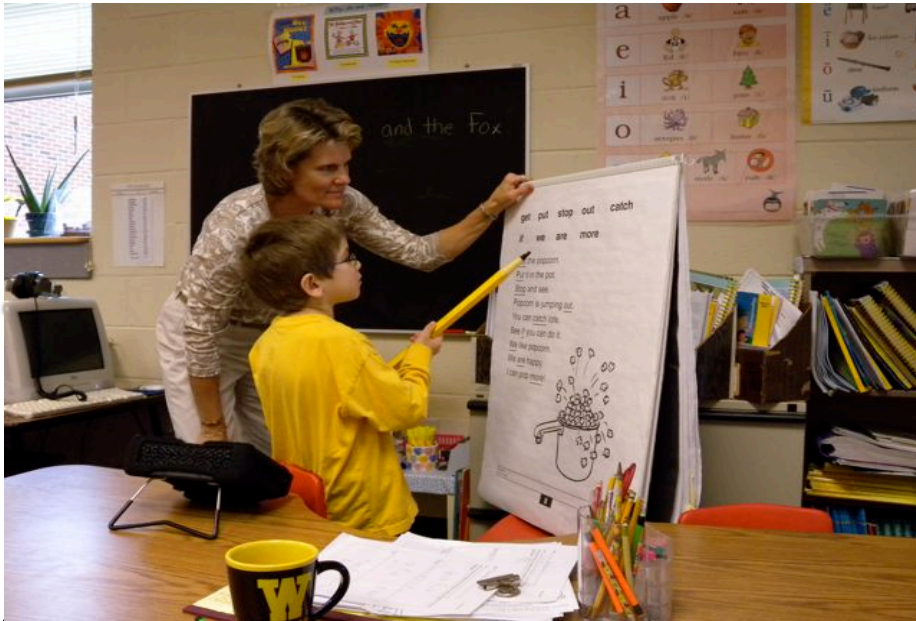


# District Goals

## 2008-2009

- Support academic achievement for all students in a safe learning environment.
- Comply with new gifted regulations and changing special education mandates.
- Become an educational leader in technology instruction for all students.
- Renew the District Strategic Plan.
- Engage community members in school district events and initiatives.





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade OAT Reading Performance Fall 2008

*This test is designed to measure student reading proficiency at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.*



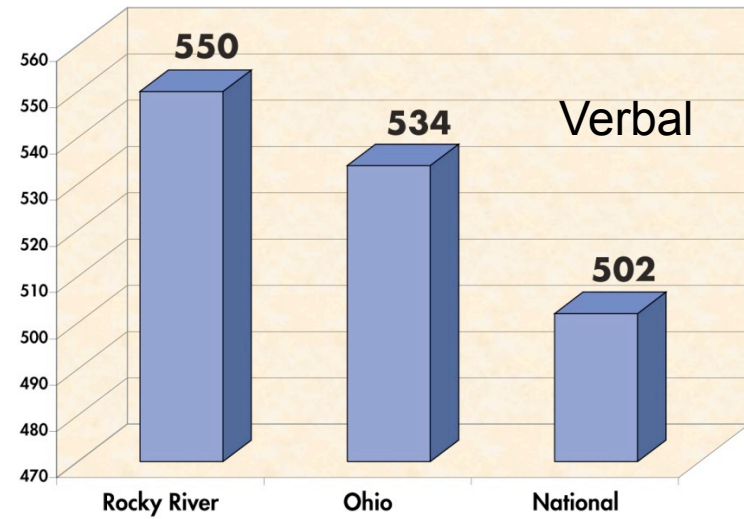
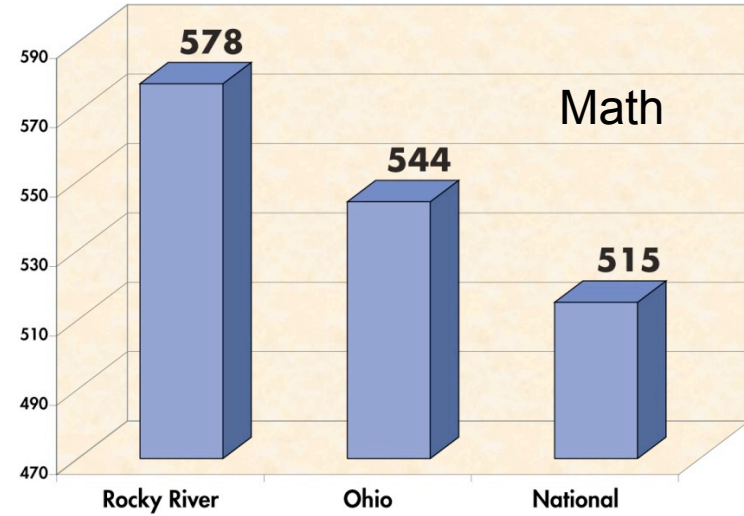
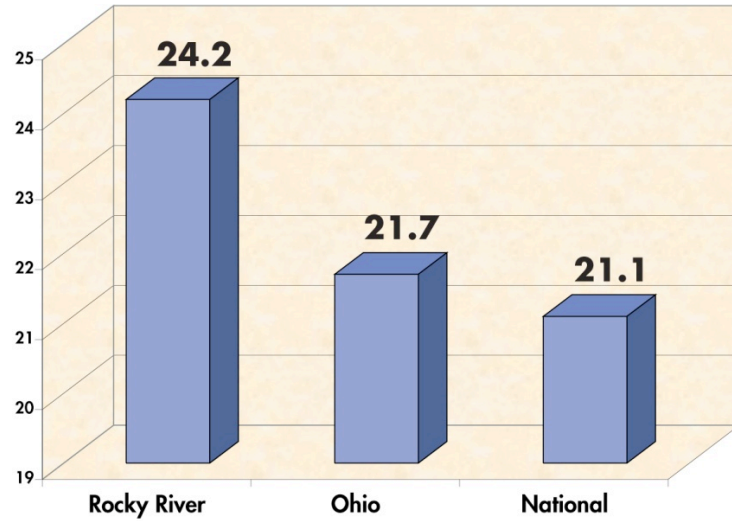
	Scale Score	% Limited	% Basic	% Proficient	% Accelerated	% Advanced	% Proficient & Above
State of Ohio	407	24%	16%	14%	22%	25%	61%
<b>Rocky River City Schools</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>91%</b> (2007 - 86%)



ACT

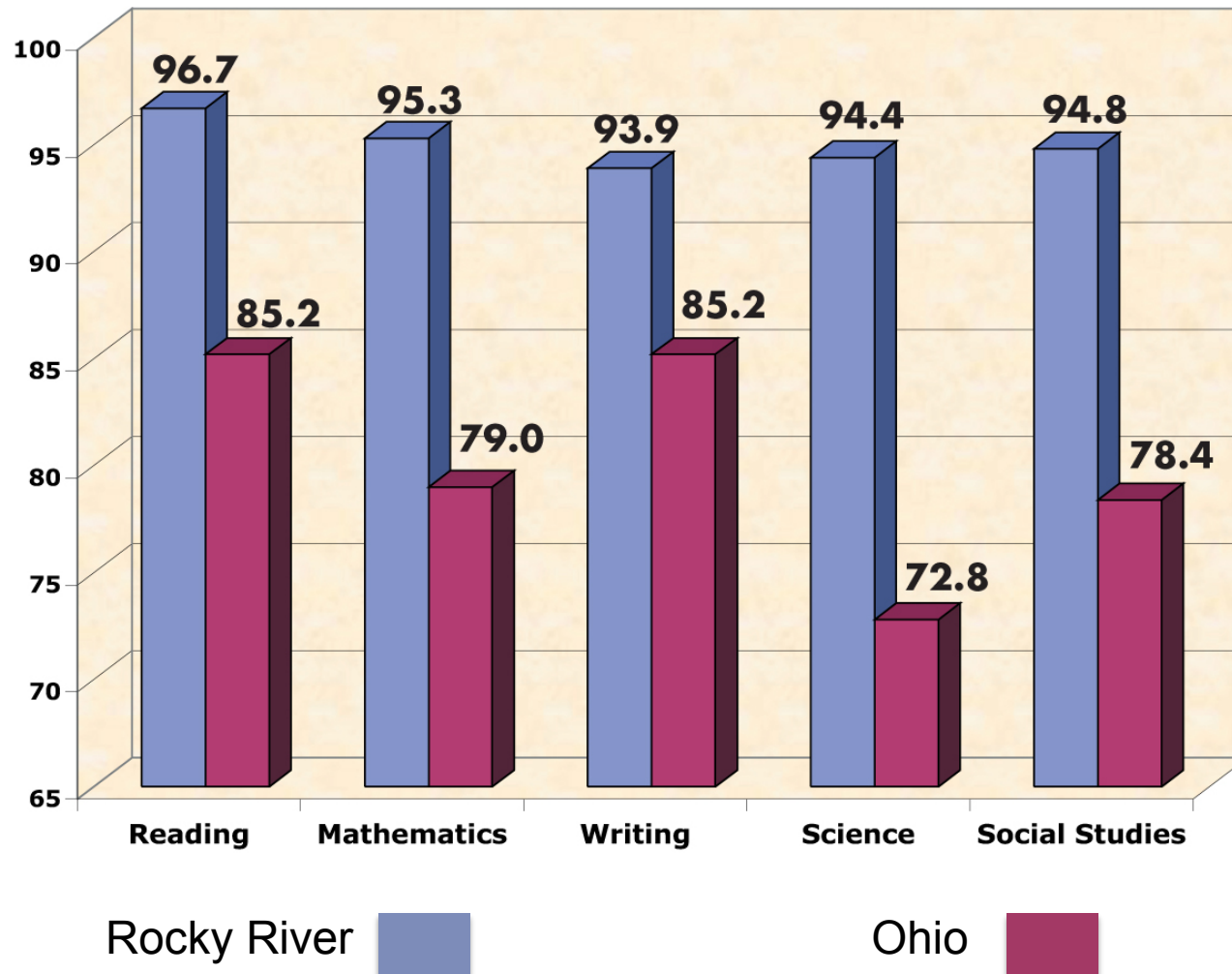
2008

SAT



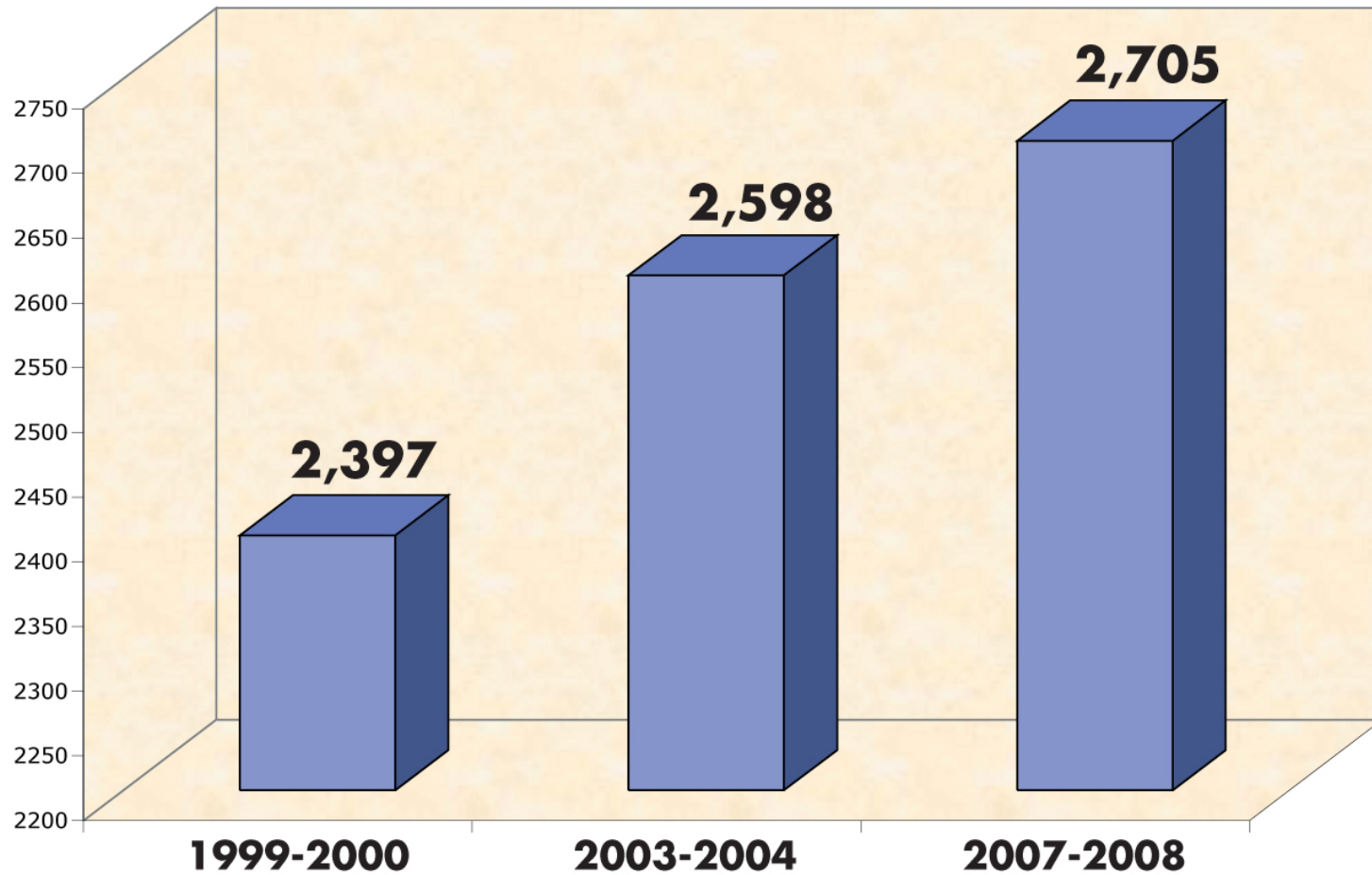


# Ohio Graduation Test • 2008





# Student Enrollment





## 2008-09 Class Sizes

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Student Enrollment</b>	<b>Number of Classroom Sections</b>	<b>Class Size Average</b>
Kindergarten	175	8	22.25
Grade 1	182	8	22.75
Grade 2	206	9	22.88
Grade 3	178	8	22.25
Grade 4	212	8	26.5
Grade 5	196	8	24.5

### **Class Size Goals**

Kindergarten – Grade 2 = 22:1

Grades 3 – 5 = 24:1

Grades 6 – 12 = 25:1



# Safe Schools are a Priority

## Safe School Helpline

24-hour hotline service launched in August

Students, staff, parents & community members  
can anonymously report unsafe behaviors,  
threats or criminal activities.

Safe Schools Helpline

1-800-4-1-VOICE ext. 359

1-800-418-6423

[www.safeschoolhelpline.com](http://www.safeschoolhelpline.com)



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# State of the Rocky River City Schools We are the Best in the West!



# Community Involvement Communication

www.rrcs.org



SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DISTRICT OFFICES


FORMS & LINKS

ORGANIZATIONS

- Goldwood
- Kensington
- Middle School
- High School

- About The District
- Athletics
- Lunch Menus
- Progress Book
- Registration
- Employment
- District Report Card

### Quick Links

Select Below 

### Schools List



#### Rocky River High School

20951 Detroit Road  
Rocky River, OH 44116

Principal: Debra Bernard  
Asst. Principal: Samuel Gifford  
Vice Principal: Alan Wilhelms

Important Numbers:  
Main Office 440/356-6800



#### Rocky River Middle School

1631 Lakeview  
Rocky River, OH 44144

Principal: David Root  
Asst. Principal: Gweynn Hampel

Important Numbers:  
Main Office 440/356-6870



#### Kensington Intermediate

20140 Lake Road  
Rocky River, OH 44116

Principal: Todd Murphy



# Community Involvement

## Facilities Planning

- Burt, Hill Educational Facilities/Technology Planners retained to develop plan.
- They will be engaging community members and district employees in a study of our facilities.



# Community Involvement

## Strategic Planning

In April 2009 the **Strategic Plan** for the District will be reviewed and updated.

- Created by our educational stakeholders – parents, staff, students, community members, and business leaders - who want to shape the future of our schools.
- Updated strategic plan will set the course for the next ten years.
- You are invited to join a committee and be involved in the strategic planning process.



# Community Involvement

## Strategic Planning

### **CORE PLANNING TEAM:**

Time Commitment:

- Two Full days in April (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Evening Meeting in June
- Possible annual / semi-annual meetings thereafter

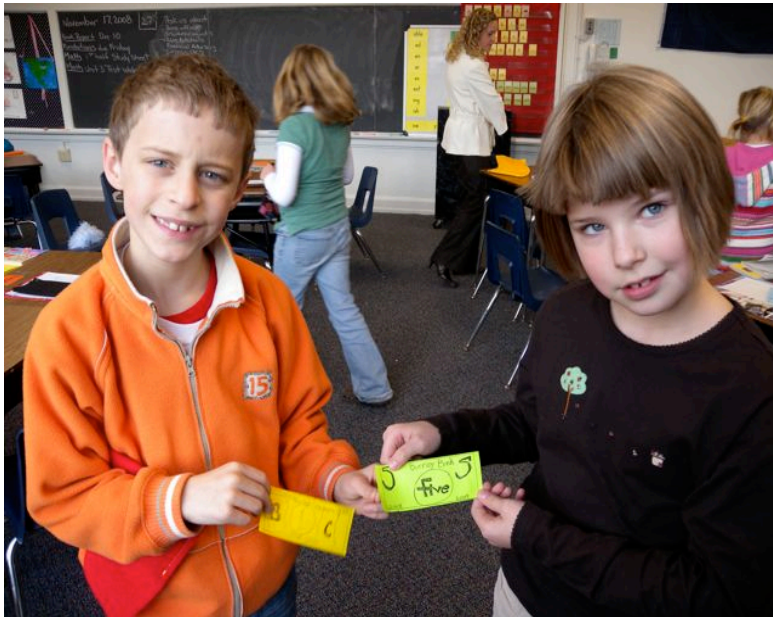
### **ACTION PLANNING TEAMS:**

- Communication
- Curriculum
- Facilities
- Human resources
- Finance
- Technology

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# Promises Made, Promises Kept!

We are still very thankful for the community support of the operating levy last March!





# Promises Made, Promises Kept!

Melissa Ferchill Swingos, Levy Chair

- During the levy campaign, we promised to focus our financial resources on *Technology, Textbooks and Teaching*
- We have been, and will continue to be, true to our levy promises!



# Promises Made, Promises Kept!

Melissa Ferchill Swingos, Levy Chair

- Additional teaching staff hired (2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and RRMS) to ensure that class sizes are optimal for teaching and learning.
- Additional Smart Boards purchased for this school year – paid for by the Education Foundation and levy.
- Had 15 Smart Boards last year, now have 60 across the district.





# Promises Made, Promises Kept!

Melissa Ferchill Swingos, Levy Chair

- With a grant written by Cherie Pandora and matching funds from the RREF and the District, 31 new computers were installed in the RRHS library.
- Leased 214 new computers
  - Updated the computer lab at Goldwood
  - Added computers at Kensington and RRMS
  - Replaced a computer lab at RRHS
- New textbooks and instructional materials totaling \$232,357 were purchased for this school year.



# Promises Made, Promises Kept!

Melissa Ferchill Swingos, Levy Chair

- Implemented a carpet and tile replacement plan.
- Repaired leaking roofs at RRHS and Goldwood.
- Installed swipe card alarm check-in at the RRHS pool to improve security.
- Purchased 4 new school buses, leased 2 new school buses, and installed GPS identification units in all buses.



# Schools, Community, and Taxes

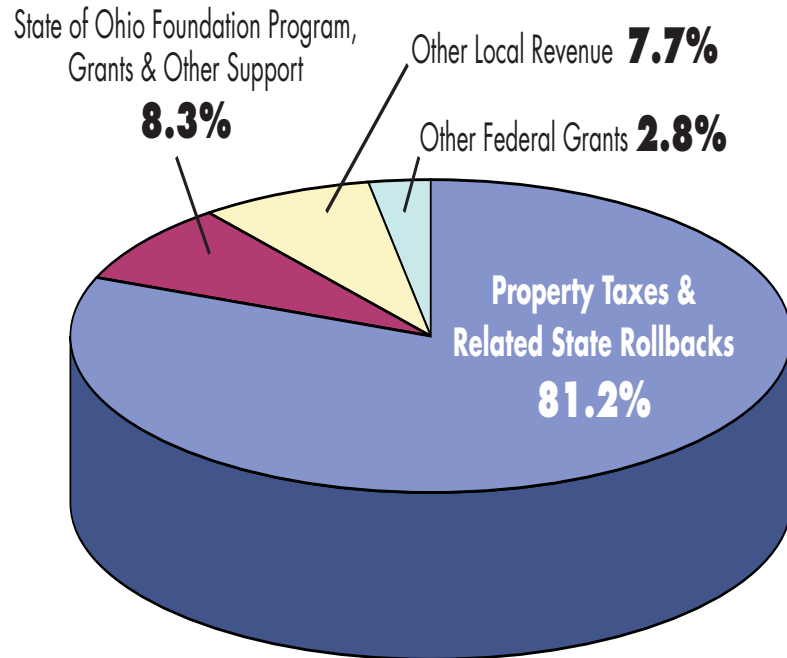
Greg Markus, District Treasurer

- Five Year Forecast for the School District is available for your review at [www.rrcs.org](http://www.rrcs.org).

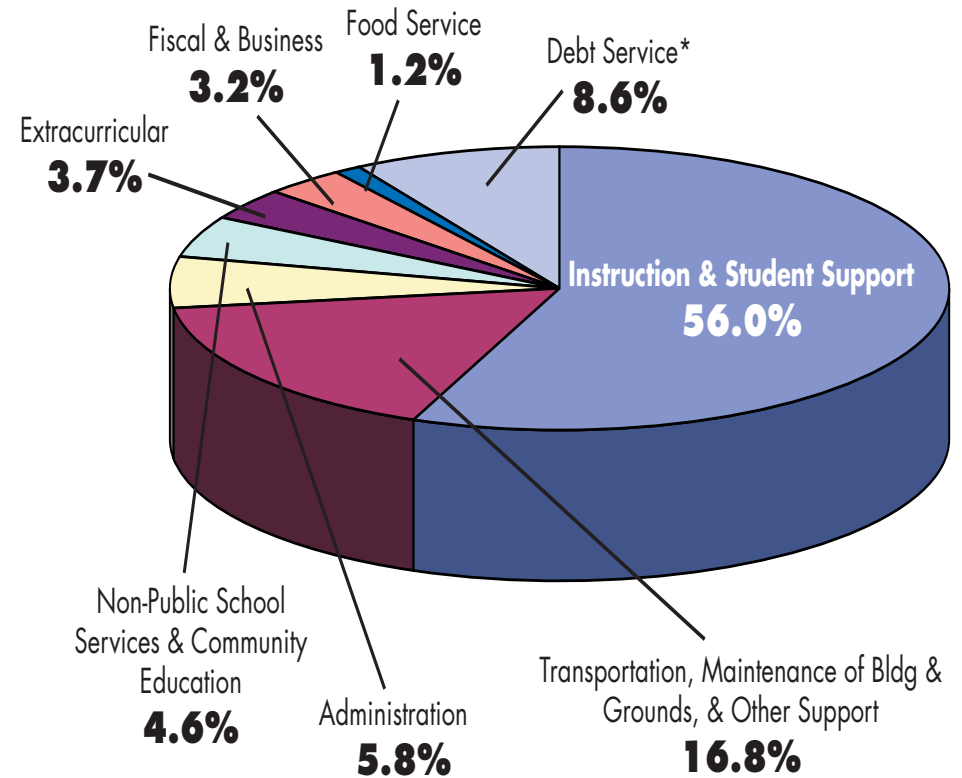


# 2007-2008 Revenues / Expenditures

## Revenues



## Expenditures



\* For bond and note debt related to middle school construction, school bus purchases and other renovations and equipment.



# Community Tax Bill Comparison

Rank	School District	School District - Res/ Agr Effective Rate	Res/Ag School Tax Bill on \$100,000 Market Value*	Additional Homestead Credit for 65+ and/or totally and permanently disabled (Net)*
	<b>SORTED BY RES/AGR EFFECTIVE RATE:</b>			
1	Fairview Park	53.926	1,651.50	(412.87)
2	Chagrin Falls	47.822	1,464.53	(366.13)
3	Lakewood	45.965	1,407.69	(351.92)
4	Bay Village	45.848	1,404.10	(351.02)
5	Hudson	44.734	1,369.98	(342.49)
6	Olmsted Falls	43.692	1,338.08	(334.52)
7	North Olmsted	43.174	1,322.19	(330.55)
<b>8</b>	<b>Rocky River</b>	<b>40.823</b>	<b>1,250.19</b>	<b>(312.55)</b>
9	Orange	40.148	1,229.54	(307.39)
10	Solon	39.936	1,223.04	(305.76)
11	Kenston	38.757	1,186.95	(296.74)
12	Beachwood	36.351	1,113.25	(278.31)
13	Westlake	31.747	972.25	(243.06)
14	Revere	27.718	848.86	(212.22)

\* Net of 12.5% Credit - State Rollback (10%) + Owner-Occupied Homestead Exemption (2.5%)



# Per Pupil Expenditure

<b>District</b>	<b>2007-2008 School Year*</b>
Beachwood City	\$20,482
Orange City	\$18,915
Solon City	\$12,266
Lakewood City	\$12,180
Westlake City	\$11,914
Hudson City	\$11,880
North Olmsted City	\$11,531
<b>Rocky River City</b>	<b>\$11,197</b>
Revere Local	\$11,087
Fairview Park City	\$11,081
Kenston Local	\$10,938
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village	\$10,875
Bay Village City	\$10,645
Olmsted Falls City	\$10,180

\*Source: Ohio Dept. of Education



# 10 Year Percentage Increases in Per Pupil Expenditure

<b>District</b>	<b>Percentage Increase</b>
Lakewood City	6.50%
Orange City	5.60%
North Olmsted City	5.51%
Revere Local	5.42%
Hudson City	5.37%
Beachwood City	5.21%
Bay Village City	5.05%
Kenston Local	4.89%
Fairview Park City	4.54%
Olmsted Falls City	4.44%
Solon City	4.15%
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village	4.04%
Westlake City	3.64%
<b>Rocky River City</b>	<b>3.44%</b>



# Instructional Technology & Our Future

- Develop a meaningful systemic instructional technology plan.
- Make instructional technology a part of our students' learning experience.

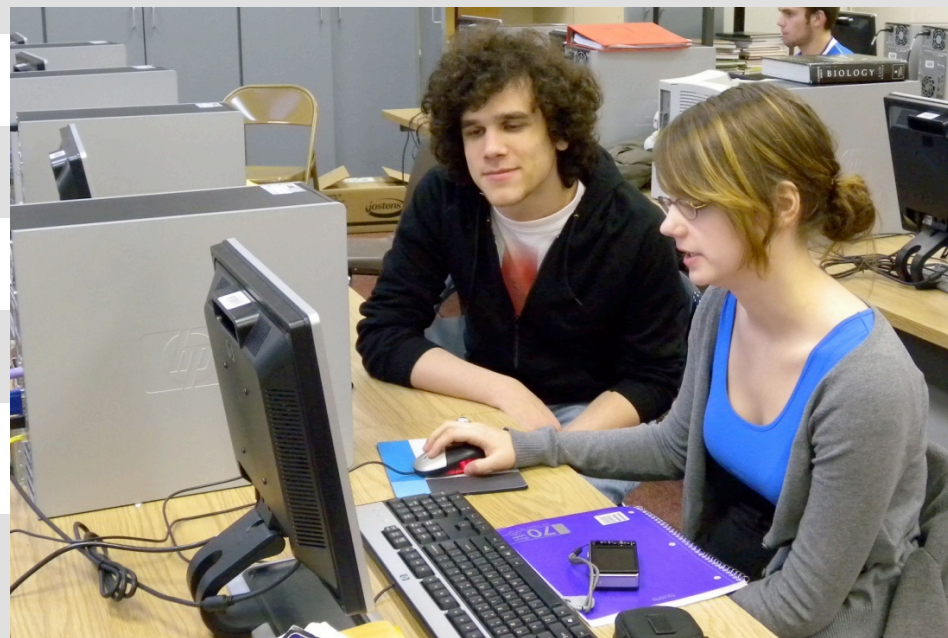






# Technology Purchases

Year Computers were Purchased	Number of Student Computer Purchases	Number of Student Computers Purchased before 2006	Number of Student Computers Purchased after 2007
Before 2000	160	570 or 70.5%	239 or 29.5%
2000 - 2001	222		
2002 - 2003	151		
2004	18		
2005	19		
2006	0		
2007	25		
2008	214		





# Technology Inventory 2008

School Building	Student Computers	Student / Computer Ratio	Smart Boards per Building
Goldwood	133	4.2:1	22
Kensington	123	4.8:1	13
RRMS	237	2.6:1	6
RRHS	175	5.4:1	19
District Totals	668	4:1	60

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# The Future of Instruction in Rocky River Classrooms

Kristen Stephens





## Quality Schools for Rocky River

High academic achievement for all students

Outstanding services in gifted and special needs programs

Updated instructional materials for students

Updated technology for teaching and learning

Stabilization and reduction of escalating class sizes at all four schools

Ability to attract and retain highly qualified staff

Community access to school facilities and support programs

Retention of high property values for homes and businesses

# Community Pride





## Questions?

Rocky River City School District  
21600 Center Ridge Road  
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

Phone: 440.356.6715

Fax: 440.356.6014

[info@admin.rockyriver.k12.oh.us](mailto:info@admin.rockyriver.k12.oh.us)

[michael\\_shoaf@admin.rockyriver.k12.oh.us](mailto:michael_shoaf@admin.rockyriver.k12.oh.us)



Rocky River City School District

Thank you for attending the  
*State of the Schools!*

