

Ram Life

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR ROCHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2020 Issue

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pride



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Ram Life

SPRING 2020

DESIGNED AND PUBLISHED
ON BEHALF OF ROCHESTER
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BY PACER STUDIOS

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We are proud to present the first issue of the *Ram Life Magazine*. This publication is inspired in an effort to promote positive public relations and to share our story. So many wonderful things are happening in our school and in our community. We are proud to be able to give back to the Rochester residents and encourage you all to participate in the many activities held at the school district on a regular basis! #rochypride



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Calendar Of Board Of School Directors Meetings

Regular Work Sessions and Voting meetings will be held on the second and fourth Monday of each month, except as stated below, at 7:00 p.m. In the Board Room.

Individual committee meetings and Committee as a Whole meetings will be held on Monday evenings, at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings will be held at:

Rochester Area School District
540 Reno Street, Rochester, PA 15074

Regular Work Session

- Monday, May 11
- Monday, June 8
- NO MEETINGS IN JULY
- Monday, August 10
- Monday, September 14
- Monday, October 12
- Monday, November 9

Regular Voting Session

- Monday, May 18
- Monday, June 22
- NO MEETINGS IN JULY
- Monday, August 24
- Monday, September 28
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 23

Rochester Area School District

540 Reno Street,
Rochester, PA 15074

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ABOUT THE COVER

The Girls Varsity Basketball team bring home the 2019 WPIAL Title.



Elementary School Happenings, page 12.

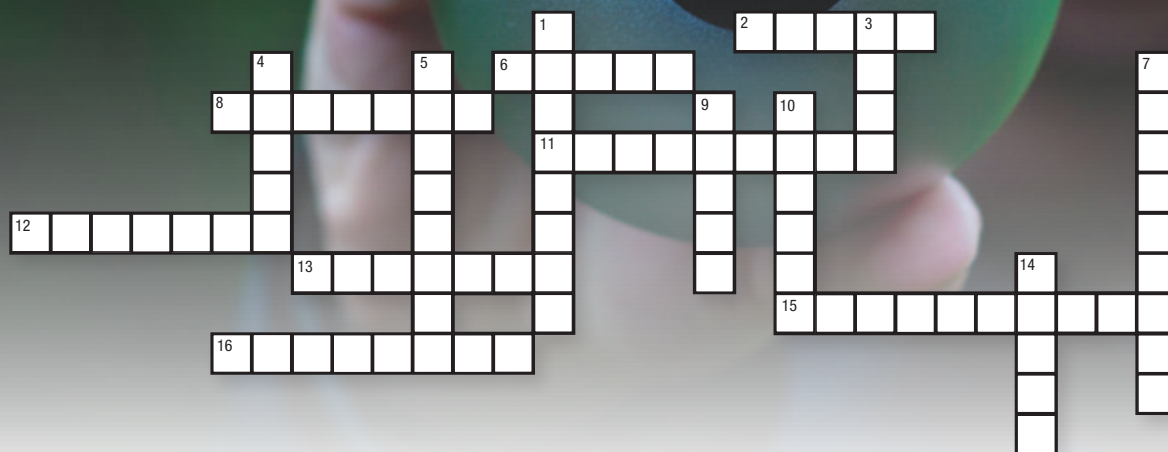


RASD Food Service Staff receives Moments Matter award, page 17.



Spring Crossword Puzzle

It's time for spring cleaning again! As you clear the clutter from your house, you'll probably find a few things you've long forgotten, or don't recognize at all. Do you remember any of these popular items from days gone by? Fill in the blanks and complete the crossword puzzle.



DOWN

1. Steven Spielberg directed _____ Park, a blockbuster movie of the 1990's.
3. Though the Wonder Twins didn't need a _____ to activate their powers, fans of the 1970's heroes still wore replicas of the accessory.
4. _____ was such a popular action figure, a live action movie was produced starring this Master of the Universe.
5. Fast spinning _____ tops were made as part of a dueling game inspired by an anime series of the same name.
7. Players must retrieve game pieces with a pair of metal tweezers in the game _____, which first took off in the 1970's.
9. In 1980, the _____ console took off when the manufacturer developed a home version of the arcade game Space Invaders.
10. Though they toy was first designed in 1983, Polly _____ reached its height of popularity in the early 2000's.
14. First an action figure, then a comic book, TV show, and finally movie character, Max _____ was a hero whose fictional career spanned the early 2000's.

ACROSS

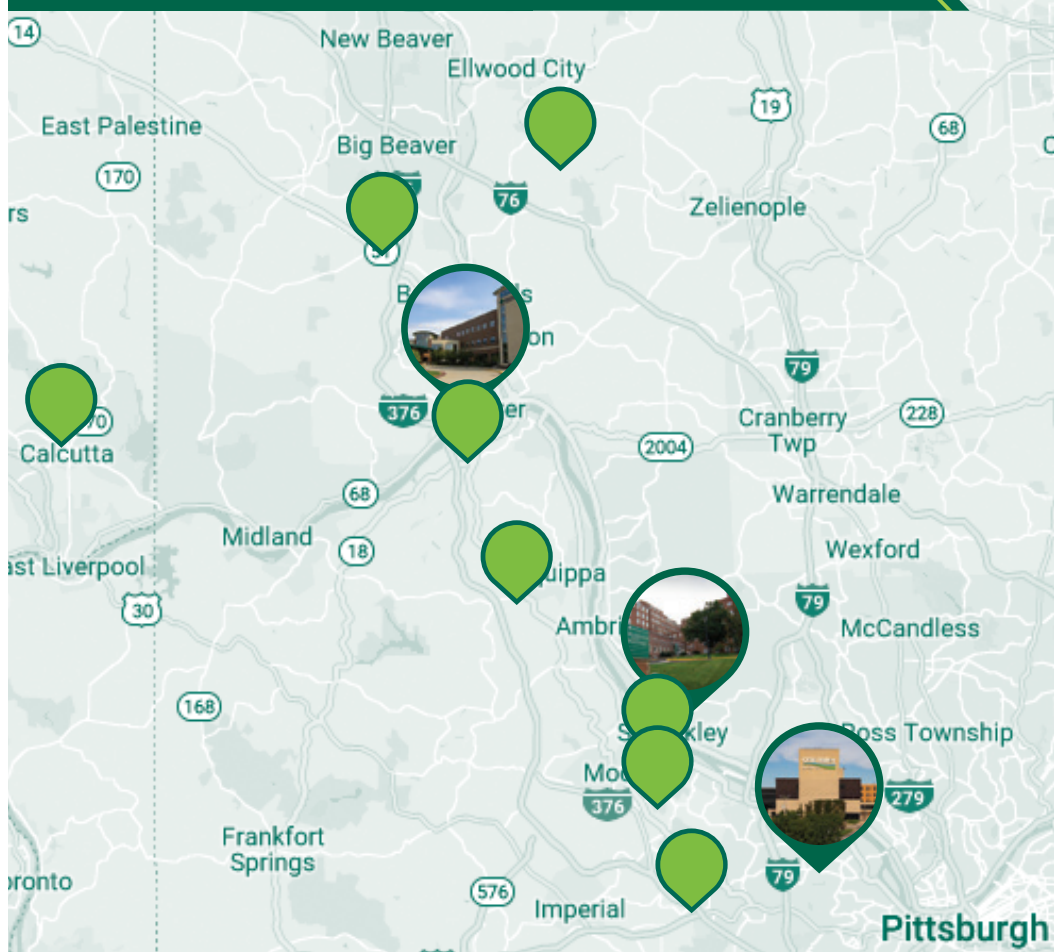
2. The Care _____ were a TV, greeting card, and plush toy phenomenon that lasted for decades.
6. The _____ was an electronic plush toy that could blink, move, and speak in its own nonsense language.
8. In 1983, Mr. T got his own A-TEAM action figure, complete with _____ earring.
11. First sold in 1976, Stretch _____ was a rubbery action figure that could stretch up to four times its original length.
12. Reaching American stores from Japan in 1998, _____ trading cards soon swept the nation.
13. _____ was the title of a jungle themed board game and movie of the 1990's.
15. _____s were the virtual pets of a 1990's digital key chain game craze.
16. _____ were made from two acrylic balls on either end of a string that rebounded of each other noisily.

Puzzle solutions can be found on page 20.

Commitment to Community.

Heritage Valley Health System provides high-quality, easily accessible health care throughout the region. In addition to three hospitals, we provide care at our medical neighborhoods, ConvenientCare walk-in clinics, lab and diagnostic imaging sites, physical and occupational rehab locations, behavioral health satellites and primary and specialty physician offices in the community. **We're expanding locations and services to deliver the best care to you, your family and neighbors.**

Hospital and Medical Neighborhood Locations!



HOSPITALS



Heritage Valley Beaver
Heritage Valley Kennedy
Heritage Valley Sewickley

MEDICAL NEIGHBORHOODS

Heritage Valley Aliquippa
Heritage Valley Calcutta
Heritage Valley Center Twp.
Heritage Valley Chippewa
Heritage Valley Edgeworth
Heritage Valley Ellwood City
Heritage Valley Moon Twp.
Heritage Valley Robinson Twp.



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Word Search

C P O R D N I A R M S F L O O D B N M D R D Y F W
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 T D O D O U A J D S M B H J G I H L V Y D J B M B
 T M C U D M O U I T V U V S T G A R W B X N C M P
 W W I Y D L P S C W F Y G A O Y K G E E I E B S Y
 Y Q J W V B E I R L C T T T E L A V K A Z T M Z P
 T A B Q F L U S V K T I G E M R A I R Q D Y G Z D
 X O T A Y Q D R F O P O U E R P K G L D U T O A K
 K M R B O M U V S I U M D F L R N F I K E F R J N
 H B W Z R F H N C T B F C D M Y G E G U L E D I R
 T R F O B I R E X R H Z Y P W R Y Q H Z U J M K U
 H V T W G H R Q E J I V C F J D Z D T B V B B X O
 U S Z Q G P W L W W Y U F T T A W F N I U Q E T P
 N T M H H Q L P U M L J G C R M N O I S U Z Q M N
 D O J N S A J L B A H N Q G X D S E N R K M M M W
 E O H J Y S I G C U K K V L H N K C G M Q C Y F O
 R B R N I G K K S E A O C U M U L O N I M B U S D
 N Y K O H R G G X S I O G A K U T H O N G F Z C D
 S L I C K E R O U O T J R K V M M V H E K H M A C
 W C I W R O L B F U N D Q G M I F O Y A Y A S P E

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 CLOUDBURST
 CUMULONIMBUS
 DAMP
 DELUGE

DOWNPOUR
 FLOOD
 FOGGY
 GALOSHES
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Must-Have Apps for Summer!

When the sun comes out and the temperatures rise during the summer season, it opens up the possibility to partake in a variety of activities. From hiking, to star gazing, to listening to a great audiobook, there is something to do on every kind of day. Here are some of our favorite apps to help you enjoy the next few months to the fullest!



Cozi Family Organizer

(Free – iOS, Google Play)

Your family's life isn't stationary, so why should your family calendar be? Manage your hectic schedule with this app, which has won awards such as the Mom's Choice Award and Best Parenting App. Cozi is jam-packed with features, such as a family calendar where you can see what everyone is doing and where everyone needs to be, a shared to-do lists, a shared grocery list, recipe storage, and even a family journal.



AllTrails

(Free – iOS, Google Play)

AllTrails has a large collection of GPS trail maps! You can explore trails around you and filter through trails based on difficulty level, trail length, elevation gain, wheelchair accessibility, pet friendliness, and trail traffic levels. The app also lets you know what activities there are to do on the trail, such as backpacking, birding, or fishing, and what can be seen from the trail such as historic sites, rivers, and wildlife! Some maps are available to download offline so you won't miss a step when you're in an area without good cellular service.



Libby

(Free – iOS, Google Play, Microsoft)

If you're looking to exercise your mind this summer, meet Libby! The Beaver County Library System uses Libby to offer ebooks and audiobooks to library cardholders. You can download books and audiobooks to read them offline, or stream them to save space on your phone. Libby can also send your library books to your Kindle device!



SkyView Lite

(Free – iOS, Google Play)

Turn your phone into a planetarium and use it to identify the stars and planets that gaze down on us at night! Just point your phone in any direction and these apps will show you the exact sky you see using your phone's GPS.



Adobe Photoshop Express

(Free – iOS, Google Play, Windows)

If you love to capture your summer memories by photographing every moment, this free app is for you. Easily turn your snapshots into beautiful masterpieces using the many editing tools available in the app such as cropping, auto-fix, blemish removal, lighting corrections, and filters.



UVLens

(Free – iOS, Google Play)

Stay safe in the sun with live UV reports! This app will tell you if the amount of UV is low, moderate, high, or very high depending on the time of day so you can plan the best time to be enjoying the outdoors. You can also enter your eye, hair, and skin color into the app to receive an estimate of how long it could take your skin to burn. Additionally, it makes suggestions on how to protect yourself from the sun! ■

Getting **K** Ready!

Submitted by **MRS. LORI ANTHONY**, Kindergarten Teacher

The Rochester Kindergarten team prides itself on family engagement. We recognize that for many families, this may be the first experience you have with enrolling your child in school and participating in the educational process. For this reason, we hold several events prior to the first day of kindergarten, as well as throughout the school year to welcome families into the building so they can feel comfortable at the place where their children will spend such a large amount of time.

The first peek at kindergarten is a series of events called "K-Ready." Our first K-Ready session is held in the winter, and we host one or two more events during the spring. We have dinner together, followed by informational sessions for parents while the children get to visit the classrooms. The events conclude by inviting the students and parents to try out some games and activities together that they may enjoy trying at home. The next time we see kindergarten families is during registration in late spring. At registration, the parents will register their child for school while the child spends some time one-on-one with a teacher to complete a brief screening. The teacher and parent then sit together and discuss the results of the screening and any possible suggestions or concerns.

A few days before the first day of school, families are invited to spend the morning at the school for "KinderCamp." Parents attend a presentation with the

kindergarten teachers to learn more about our day. We discuss the curriculum, daily schedule, routines, lunch, homework, information from the school nurse, and much more. The kids spend time in the kindergarten getting familiar with their new classroom and having fun. All of these events occur before the first day of school!

During the school year, parents and family members are invited to a variety of special activities, beginning with Open House in early September. We also host a Grandparents' Day event, a Christmas Program, Mother's Day Tea, and End of Year Program. The Christmas Program is in partnership with the Beaver Valley Choral Society, and is held on a Sunday. Open House is on a weekday evening, and the Mother's Day and End of Year Program are during the school day.

In addition to these events, we plan to hold three individual parent/teacher conferences this year. We are implementing a new "badge" system to replace our current report cards this year. Students will earn badges for each skill that they master, and at conferences we will discuss progress toward these badges. In addition to the October parent/teacher conference that occur in the elementary, we plan to invite parents to two more conferences to discuss progress at the end of each grading period.

Each teacher also has other ways of communicating with families as well, including newsletters, email, phone calls and various social networking methods such as webpages, classroom Facebook pages, and Remind 101. We love to hear from our families share all of the exciting things happening in the kindergarten! ■

Kindergarten Registration & Screening

Register Online: <https://www.rasd.org/Page/1587>

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, kindergarten screening is postponed. Parents may register their children online and will be notified when the screening is re-scheduled.

Please call 724-775-7500, ext. 1302 to schedule an appointment.

Required: Children must be five years of age before September 1 to be eligible for entry into Kindergarten.



Elementary School Happenings



STORYTELLER TIME

On September 20, 2019, we had the pleasure of hosting storyteller Don White. The students really enjoyed his stories and singing along to his songs!

GRANDPARENTS DAY

We hosted another wonderful Grandparents Day at Rochester Elementary on October 2, 2019. The event was well-attended. Here is a picture of one of our second grade classes singing a song to their grandparents!



MOTHER/SON MONSTER MASH

We hosted the annual Mother/Son Boo Bash on October 24, 2019. 118 families attended the event!

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK POSTER CONTENT

The Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest winners got a chance to ride to school on a Fire Truck on October 25, 2019!



LIGHT UP NIGHT AND KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Kindergarten class performed on December 8, 2019 as part of Rochester Area School District's Community Christmas Carol Sing and Light Up Night. The performance was broadcasted on Beaver County Radio!



SANTA'S WORKSHOP

The Rochester Township and Borough Police Departments along with the Lions Club donated money so each kindergarten student was able to shop at Santa's Workshop! Both police departments also provided a pizza party for the kindergarten classes! These special events were held December 9-13, 2019.

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Every student in grades K-5 received a free book on December 17, 2019. The students have the opportunity to choose a book of their interest!



KID'S HEART CHALLENGE ASSEMBLY (K-5)

The Kickoff Assembly was held on January 28, 2020 for our American Heart Association Kid's Heart Challenge Fundraiser supporting the fight against Heart Disease & Stroke. Tim Creamer from the American Heart Association led us off and the Mars Stars Jump Rope Team performed for grades K-5.

100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

Kindergarten classes celebrated the 100th Day of School on February 10, 2020! We dressed up like 100-year olds, counted 100 items, ate 100 snacks, and participated in lots of fun activities surrounding the number 100!



MR. YUK LESSON

On February 14, 2019, first grade students participated in a "Mr. Yuk" lesson. The Mr. Yuk program is presented by Master Gardeners and extension educators from Penn State. Children learn about safe practices including identifying signal words on labels that indicates that a product is potentially poisonous, proper storage locations, and the importance of using the Mr. Yuk symbol to alert everyone in the home of dangerous products. A major focus of the lesson is learning, and teaching younger siblings, relatives, and friends, about using Mr. Yuk to warn of danger and help keep everyone safe. ■

A wide-angle photograph of Rochester Elementary School, a modern brick building with large windows, set against a clear blue sky. The school is surrounded by a green lawn and some trees with autumn-colored leaves. An American flag flies on a tall pole to the right.

ROCHESTER ELEMENTARY

School Wide Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports

Rochester Elementary has implemented School Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, which focus on our school-wide behavioral expectations: R.A.M.S. (Respectful, Accountable, Make a Difference, Success). The SWPBIS program is a proactive approach

to school-wide discipline and focuses on creating and maintaining an environment for achieving social and learning outcomes while preventing problematic behaviors through a collaborative team approach.

The SWPBIS team also analyzes discipline related

behavioral patterns and responds to them by teaching the positive behaviors expected by our students. The SWPBIS team meets monthly to analyze data monitor interventions and strategies.

The SWPBIS program has influenced the culture and climate of our school by providing more of a proactive approach to support individual student needs within our school by providing more opportunities for positive behavior interventions. The Rochester Elementary SWPBIS program excels in recognizing and promoting positive student behavior within all areas of the school by utilizing a punch card system to recognize positive student behavior. Each month individual students as well as classrooms are recognized for their efforts.

On January 16th, representatives from the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Tac Team and PaTTAN PBIS Staff completed a Tier 1 School-Wide Positive Behavior Tier One review for Rochester Elementary. We are proud to say that Rochester Elementary received a Tier One distinction with a score of 100%! Congratulations to our staff and students for all of their hard work! ■

A close-up photograph of moss-covered rocks with water flowing over them, creating a small waterfall effect. The water is white and frothy, contrasting with the vibrant green moss.

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ROCHESTER ELEMENTARY

Reading and Mentoring Program

Written by **MRS. PAMELA GILL**, Title 1/Curriculum Coordinator

This fall began the fifth year of the Reading and Mentoring Partnership Program. This program supports the literacy of the Rochester Kindergarten students with community volunteers reading to the children in small groups every Thursday.

The Reading and Mentoring Program is a ministry of Church Union. For the past four year, the volunteers have been members of the Faith Community United Methodist Church in Rochester. All of the volunteers commit to participating in the program for the school year. They spend an hour each week meeting in the library to read with three small groups of children for twenty minutes. This program offers the volunteers a time to share wonderful picture books with children and an opportunity to be a mentor for our youngest Rams who are in their early learning years. Some volunteers are able to read every week and others come when they are available. It has been shared by some

volunteers that it is one of their favorite ministries to be involved with in the community.

Research shows that reading to children builds vocabulary and understanding of stories. The "church readers," as they are fondly referred to by the children, select books from a wide collection available or bring some of their own favorites to read to their small groups.

The students are selected based on their teacher's recommendation of those who would benefit from the program. The children who spend time with the readers add book titles to their reading log to earn the monthly incentive of being read to each day. By participating in this program, many of the students achieve the recognition of being a **Star Reader** at the end of the year.

We greatly appreciate Faith Community United Methodist Church volunteers for giving over 150 hours each year by reading

to the Kindergarten students. We also are grateful to the Church Union organization who has provided free books twice a year to every Kindergarten child, whether or not they participate in the Reading and Mentoring Program.

In addition to the Reading and Mentoring Program, Church Union has also funded several field trips for our primary classrooms. Our students have benefited from Church Union's generosity with trips to the Pittsburgh Zoo and Westminster's Celebrity Series the last two years.

If you belong to a community or church group who might like to participate in this program, we would love to add volunteers to the program so that more children can enjoy being read to each week. We welcome those who can come each week as well as those who can come when available. ■

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS



CONGRATULATIONS ROCHY BOCCE!

Congratulations to the Rochester Bocce Team and coaches Lou Campisi and Jen Milne on qualifying for the state competition in Hershey! #rochypride



1,000 POINTS On January 9 in a game versus the New Castle Red Hurricanes, Junior Guard Alexis Robinson scored her 1,000th point!

PMEA

Angela Grimes and Shyann Pearce represented Rochester at PMEA Jr. High Chorus this year, which was hosted by Mercer High School.



SENIOR PROJECT SUCCESS

Senior Grace Vreen presented a check in the amount of \$1746

to Denise Wickline, a representative from Magee Women's Hospital. Grace raised this money for her senior project under the supervision of her mentor, Tina Buckenheimer. Grace would like to thank everyone who bought a t-shirt or made a donation for the event. Special thanks to Todd Rebich for being our main sponsor!



WPIAL CHAMPS The Lady Rams opened the season by raising the 2019 WPIAL Championship banner! Congratulations to the coach and team on a successful season and for making Rochester history!



RAMSICLES TOOK THE PLUNGE Rochy Ramsicles took the plunge for Special Olympics!



Moments Do Matter

Congratulations to the RASD Food Service Staff on receiving the **Moments Matter Award** presented by The Nutrition Group. Food Service Manager, Jenny Pearson, nominated the staff for their hard work and dedication to the students in the district. Mrs. Pearson's letter stated:

"We are the 'small staff' with a big heart! I have 12 ladies that work hard to feed breakfast and lunch to over 650 plus K-12 students, a Head Start Pre-K class, and Early Head Start with 6-month old babies to 2-year old toddlers, a Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program for our elementary students and a dinner program, EVERY DAY!"

Half of my staff also works in the summer to provide meals for the Beaver County YMCA Summer Food Service Program. At the peak of the summer, the ladies prepare and pack over 2,000 meals a day to be sent out to summer feeding sites throughout Beaver County.

One site is in our school in the elementary cafeteria. That is where their story begins.

Over the summer, my staff found out that one of our students and his Dad were suddenly homeless. They encouraged both to come in for lunch. The ladies made sure they both were fed and paid for the Dad's meal out of their own pockets. They worried when they wouldn't come in.

My staff brought this situation to the attention of the school district, which in turn assisted the students' father in getting connected to programs to assist them and to get them in a place to live. This week they have fallen on more hard times but our student is still being well cared for due to the love and care of so many people in our school district.

Today I spoke with the district administrative assistant who has been involved in the welfare of this students. She praised my staff who brought this to their attention back in the summer. The straight

"A" student with so much potential will hopefully have a positive future because of so many caring people.

Like a proud Mama would say, "If it weren't for my ladies, who knows what the outcome could have been."

The Nutrition Group's Moments Matter motto was established in 2018 to identify food service employees who may have affected someone's life by taking a moment to care. Staff members were surprised with cake, flowers and balloons to share, and each food service employee received a \$100 bill for their exemplary work and dedication. ■

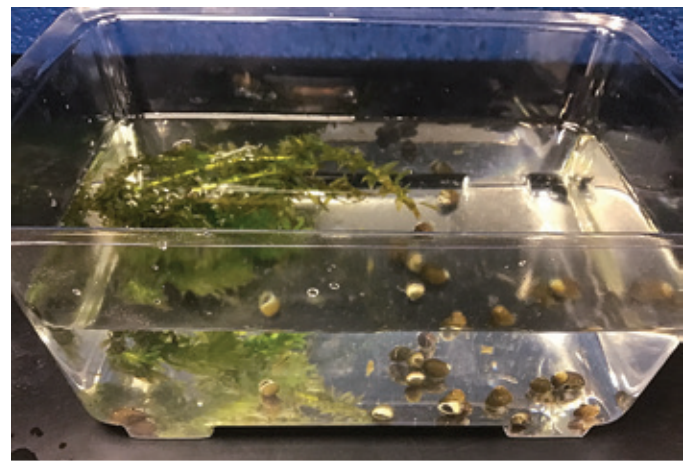
Photo: Susan Veitch, The Nutrition Group's Vice President, visited the school with regional manager Kim Cassidy to present the awards.

High School Science

Written by **ALLISON BENEDUM**, Science Teacher

Our goal in the science department is to teach by experiences. Having been generously awarded the Shell NSTA lab upgrade grant for the past two years has given us the ability to do just that.

The award of \$10,000 per year has given us the opportunity to update our equipment and give the students a more rewarding scientific experience. The students have been able to experiment with live specimens, such as planarians, water fleas, snails, water plants and fruit flies. They have done forensic dissections of fetal pigs, isopods rabbit muscle, and other mammalian organs. The most exciting improvement has been to our Biotechnology equipment and lab kits. The students have been able to run gel electrophoresis simulations, follow a gene as it becomes a glowing protein, and see how DNA is mutated by UV light.



Contributing to the Carbon Cycle Lab (Snails and Elodea plants)

The chemistry and biology classes have been able to work together to solve Forensic Case studies, completing labs in both classes that give them the data necessary to make a conclusion. The environmental classes have been working on hydroponics and aquaponics while also experimenting on the environmental impacts on plant growth.

We continue our STEAM focus as the students build and design bridges and earthquake-resistant buildings, and learn how best to clean up oil spills and other environmental disasters. The students have taken on STEAM case studies as they play the role of veterinarians treating cows with brain damage, train conductors trying to figure out what to do when chlorine gas is released during an accident, forensic meteorologists trying to confirm or refute alibis using weather data, and geneticists trying figure out the immune deficiency baby Lucy has and in a different case understanding what makes a calico cat so unique. ■

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Effects of Osmosis on an Unshelled Egg Lab



HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

in Rochester

Submitted by **MR. JASON RUSSO**, Social Studies Teacher

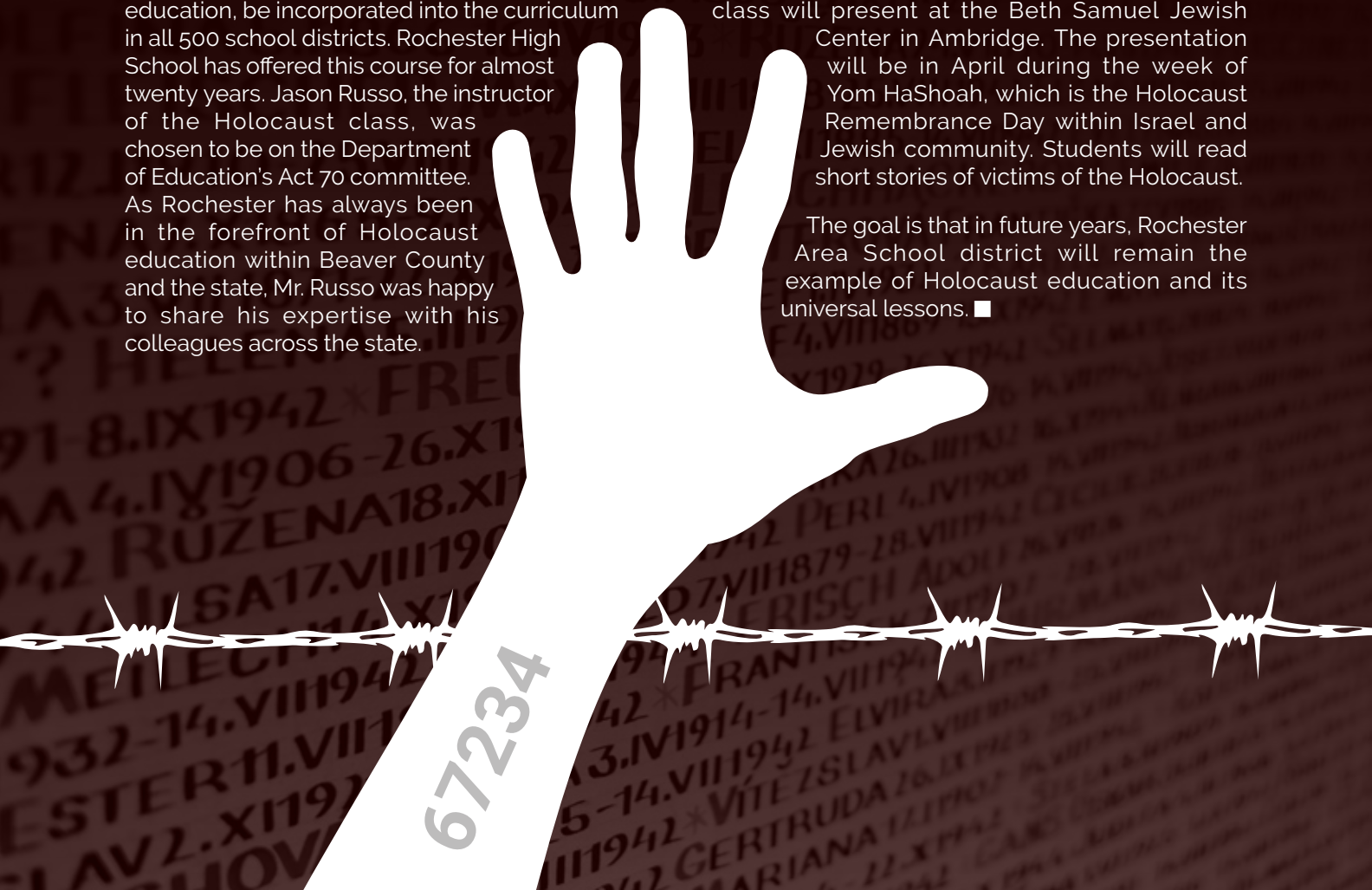
This year marks the nineteenth year of a long-standing tradition of Rochester students visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. On the 21st of February, 45 students traveled to Washington, D.C. to experience this powerful site. The trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum is sponsored by the **College in High School Holocaust** class. Students who participate in the course can obtain three college credits through Seton Hill University.

In 2014, the state of Pennsylvania passed the Act 70 Holocaust, Genocide and Civil Rights Law which mandated that these topics, including Holocaust education, be incorporated into the curriculum in all 500 school districts. Rochester High School has offered this course for almost twenty years. Jason Russo, the instructor of the Holocaust class, was chosen to be on the Department of Education's Act 70 committee. As Rochester has always been in the forefront of Holocaust education within Beaver County and the state, Mr. Russo was happy to share his expertise with his colleagues across the state.

In partnership with the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh and the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, Rochester High School will also again host the Israeli student winners of the Holocaust Arts and Writing competition. These Israeli students will visit Rochester, share their art work and tell what it is like to live in Israel. Our students will have the opportunity to interact with the Israeli students in a small, personal setting. Rochester has been told that we are the model of how these visits are done, and the Israeli students always enjoy their visit at Rochester the most.

Also, in a unique first, students from the Holocaust class will present at the Beth Samuel Jewish Center in Ambridge. The presentation will be in April during the week of Yom HaShoah, which is the Holocaust Remembrance Day within Israel and Jewish community. Students will read short stories of victims of the Holocaust.

The goal is that in future years, Rochester Area School district will remain the example of Holocaust education and its universal lessons. ■

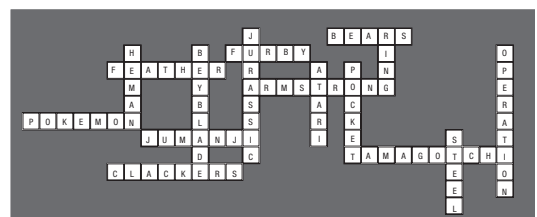


OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Rochester currently offers seven **College in High School** courses. These courses are taught at the high school, within the regular instructional day, by our highly qualified instructors. Students obtain college credit for these courses upon successful completion of the coursework. Some courses, like CHS Chemistry, require the students to participate in occasional labs and/or lectures at the University.

Currently, two of our business courses, Financial Accounting and Entrepreneurial Experience, are three-credit courses through CCBC. Students who participate in these courses next year will receive four credits through Pittsburgh Technical College. In addition, the University of Pittsburgh has approved our biology course as a three-credit CHS course for the 2020-2021 school year!



COURSE	CREDITS	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
CHS Honors English 12	3	Community College of Beaver County
CHS Calculus	4	Community College of Beaver County
CHS Statistics & Probability	4	University of Pittsburgh
CHS Chemistry	4	University of Pittsburgh
CHS Holocaust	3	Seton Hill University
Financial Accounting	3	Pittsburgh Technical College (20-21, 4 credits)* Community College of Beaver County (19-20)
Entrepreneurial Experience	3	Pittsburgh Technical College (20-21, 4 credits)* Community College of Beaver County (19-20)
CHS Biology*	3	University of Pittsburgh

**New for the 2020-2021 school year*

Community College of Beaver County High School Academies

Through our partnership with the Community College of Beaver County, juniors and seniors have the option of attending one of five Academies and earning 28 college credits while in high school. The Academies include: Aviation Academy, Health Academy, STEM Academy, Criminal Justice Academy, and Mascaro Construction Academy.

Beaver County Career and Technology Center (BCCTC)

The Beaver County Career and Technology Center, which is an extension of the school districts in Beaver County, offers a variety of vocational and technical programs for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Each occupational program prepares students to enter the job market with an occupational skill or certificate. CTC programs include:

- Automotive Technology
- Business Information
- Carpentry
- Collision Repair
- Commercial Art
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Electrical Occupations
- Graphic Arts & Printing
- Greenhouse/Landscaping
- Health Occupations
- HVAC-R
- Logistics & Materials Management
- Machine Tool Technology
- Masonry & Bricklaying
- Technology
- Veterinary Assistant
- Welding

Talk with your guidance counselor for more information!



Promoting the Arts Through Our Partnership With the Beaver Valley Choral Society

The Rochester Area School District and the Beaver Valley Choral Society established a partnership in 2017 to raise awareness of the arts. The BVCS is a landmark, community, intergenerational, choral and orchestra, 501 (c) (3) charitable music arts organization that performs throughout the county. Through this partnership, we have collaborated on many events like the summer academy and the annual community carol sing that have provided unique opportunities for our students and our community.

SUMMER CHORAL & INSTRUMENTAL ACADEMY

The Summer Choral and Instrumental Academy, is open to all high school students in grades 8 through 12 and graduating seniors, from any school, who are interested in extending their

vocal or instrumental experience and performance opportunities. The high school student program offers intermediate and advanced music students the opportunity to work with renowned faculty in a challenging yet supportive environment. Students participate in large ensembles, chamber ensembles, masterclasses and an array of music courses, seminars and clinics. At the conclusion of the academy, the students perform a concert.

This past summer's academy brought back favorites choral director Sharon Burchill and instrumental conductor Dr. Timothy Winfield. The students entertained the concert-goers with a variety of genres including Latin, jazz, and blues. The academy welcomed conductor, Bruce Harrington. In less than one week, Mr. Harrington taught the

students how to play a ukulele. The ukulele numbers were a highlight of the Saturday evening performance! What a great evening enjoying the arts!

The Academy would not be successful without the support of our partners in music, the members of the Beaver Valley Choral Society! We also express our sincere appreciation to those who donated scholarships: Beaver Valley Choral Society, Rochester Alumni Scholarship Association, Rotuna Family Living Trust, Rick Murphy, Lynn Murphy, Murphy Funeral Home and John Goray.

Because of COVID-19, the 2020 Academy had to be cancelled; however, we are working on planning the 2021 Academy. March your calendars for June 14 - 19, 2021. ■





Educating During COVID-19



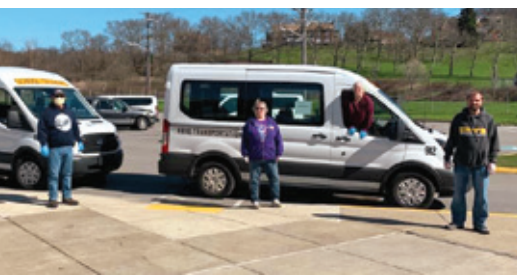
Our teachers paraded through our streets to show students how much they miss them!



Students lined the parade route — the teachers loved seeing them and all of their signs!



Frye Transportation has been working hard to deliver lunches to Rocky students.



Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera issued a mandatory closing of all K-12 schools March 16 - 27, 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Since that time, the mandatory closure has been expanded through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. As a result of the closure of our schools, our administrators and staff completely revamped our educational program and transitioned to a blended program in just two weeks.

We were fortunate to receive the PAsmart grant through a collaborative effort with Hopewell Area School District and Beaver Area School District last year. Rochester administration chose to use our portion of the grant, \$158,000, to implement a one-to-one iPad program. We worked with Apple to provide devices to all K-12 students, teachers, paraeducators and administrators. In addition, Apple consultants have been providing professional development to our staff since May 2019. Having access to technology provided a seamless transition for our staff.

Our elementary staff are educating children in grades k-5 utilizing a blended program. Our core curricular materials have online components that we were able to incorporate into our lessons. In addition, the elementary staff are supporting their students through small group and one-on-one sessions using Google Hangouts.

Our middle school and high school staff are primarily using Edgenuity and Google Hangouts to provide continual and meaningful educational opportunities for our students. Like their elementary colleagues, they are using Google Hangouts and Google Classroom to further support the learning and meet the needs of our students.

Throughout the past six weeks, we have been faced with many difficult decisions. With every new issue, we try to make our decisions with the best interest of our students as the primary focus. As educators, we realize this is not the optimal situation for continued learning. As parents, we understand how difficult it may be for our families. As a school district, we are here to support our students, our parents, our families and our community. We will get through this together! #rochypride

Stay safe,

Jane W. Bovalino, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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