

*Rochester Community Schools*

# **PARENT INVOLVEMENT HANDBOOK**



**Rochester Community Schools  
501 W. University Drive  
Rochester, MI 48307  
Telephone: 248.726.3000  
FAX: 248.726.3105  
[www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us)**

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

Welcome to Rochester Community Schools! The staff and Board of Education are pleased that you have selected Rochester Community Schools to educate your children. We are proud of the dedication of our outstanding teachers and support staff who serve over 14,300 students on a daily basis. New families enter the school system at varying times, with most starting at the beginning of the school year. It is our hope that whenever families enroll their child(ren), this handbook will help to make the transition to a new school district a positive experience.

In 2002, the Rochester Community Schools Board of Education approved a policy to help strengthen involvement by parents and guardians in classrooms, schools and at the District level. The policy is based on the following National PTA standards for Parent and Community Involvement:

Standard I: Communicating – Communicating between home and school is regular, two way, and meaningful.

Standard II: Parenting – Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

Standard III: Student Learning – Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.

Standard IV: Volunteering – Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.

Standard V: School Decision Making and Advocacy – Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

Standard VI: Collaborating with the Community – Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families and student learning.

In closing, we invite you to become involved in our schools and our greater community. Rochester Community Schools has established strong partnerships with business and community leaders, and supports the many organizations that provide services to the families in our community. Rochester has so many attributes to offer residents including an outstanding school district. For additional information please contact the Rochester Community Schools Community Relations Department by calling 248.726.3185.

Sincerely,

Rochester Community Schools Board of Education,  
Administration and Staff Members



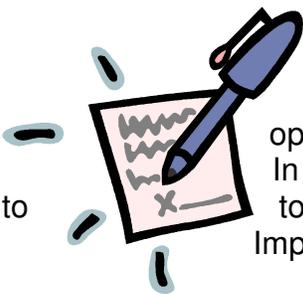


## **PARTNERING WITH PARENTS, BOOSTERS, & PAC**

Rochester Community Schools is proud that each elementary, middle and high school has an active Parent Teacher Association (PTA). PTA units are a part of Rochester PTA Council, whose mission is to advocate for the academic, social, and emotional well being of each student. While PTA activities vary from school to school, each PTA provides many opportunities to support school and District initiatives. Attending regularly scheduled PTA meetings gives parents a tremendous amount of information about their child's school and how to volunteer within the school community.

At the middle and high school levels, parents may join booster groups, which are established to provide support to certain school based programs. Middle school boosters have been established to support music programs, and booster programs at the high schools support both music and athletic programs. Parents who are involved in booster organizations assist teachers and coaches in a number of ways through volunteer efforts and by helping with fundraising opportunities.

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) has been established to provide a network of parents who provide support and advocacy for students with special needs. In addition to classroom support, PAC members join together to stay abreast of state and federal legislation affecting special education programs. A highlight of the school year is the annual PAC Appreciation Evening where staff, students, and community members are recognized for their work to advocate for and support special education students, staff, and families.



## **PARTNERING WITH YOUR SCHOOL**

Parents, guardians, and community members have many opportunities to volunteer in several areas throughout the school. In addition to volunteering in the classroom, parents may choose to volunteer in the: Media Center, Main Office, on School Improvement Committees, and in art, gym and music programs.

School level volunteer opportunities may be regularly scheduled, or may be of a short-term nature designed to support certain programs or school-based special events.

Please see your building principal to learn more about how you can help!

## **PARTNERING WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER**



You are encouraged to make time to volunteer in your child's classroom. Research consistently demonstrates that there is a direct correlation between parent involvement and student achievement. While some classroom activities may be more time consuming than others, teachers have a variety of different volunteer opportunities for you to choose from to support your child's classroom.

You will find many opportunities within your child(ren)'s classroom to support classroom instruction. Teachers and staff members provide information about these opportunities at the beginning of each school year. Parents enrolling children after the school year begins should talk to the teacher about how your volunteer efforts can make a difference. These opportunities may be slightly different at each level and may include:

- ♣ Guest Speaker
- ♣ Classroom Helper
- ♣ Chaperone on Field Trips
- ♣ Parent Teacher Conference attendance
- ♣ Special Event or Classroom Committee Volunteer

## **PARTNERING WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Rochester Community Schools serves over 14,000 students at thirteen elementary, four middle and four high schools. The sixty-six square mile school district provides a multitude of services for students, parents, and community members. Parents and guardians are invited to get involved at the District level by attending school board meetings, District Dialogue, and special school district sponsored programs. School Board meetings and District Dialogue are held at the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 W. University, Rochester, MI 48307. Please see the Rochester Community Schools district calendar for specific dates and times of meetings. Parents are also encouraged to read the Rochester Community Schools Update newsletter, which is published and sent to postal patrons three times per year. Specific volunteer opportunities that include serving on curriculum committees are publicized in the RCS Update.

## **COMMUNICATING WITH YOU**

Rochester Community Schools strives to make two-way communication regular and meaningful as indicated in the Parent and Guardian Involvement Policy approved by the Board of Education in 2001. Efforts are made by teachers, principals, and District administrators to communicate important information about



your children' s classrooms, schools, and school district. In addition to report cards and parent teacher conferences, communication opportunities may include:

- ♣ Classroom Newsletters
- ♣ Annual Curriculum Nights
- ♣ School Newsletters
- ♣ Teacher, School and District web pages
- ♣ Rochester Community Schools Update – District Newsletter
- ♣ Cable Television Access Station
- ♣ Annual Elementary Spring Open House

Parents who have specific questions about their child's classroom progress are encouraged to schedule an appointment at a convenient time to address your concern(s) with the classroom teacher. Parents may choose to contact teachers by e-mail or by calling your child(ren)'s school.

## **RESOURCES**

Parents and guardians who have specific classroom concerns should always contact



the child's teacher to discuss problem-solving strategies. At the secondary level, guidance counselors may also be helpful. Should parents continue to need additional information, they are encouraged to contact a building administrator for help. District administrators are available after other building resources have not been able to resolve the issue.

Other resources that may provide information to parents, guardians, and community members include:

Rochester Community Schools website – [www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us)

Michigan PTA website – [www.michiganpta.org](http://www.michiganpta.org)

Rochester Community Schools cable community access television station:

Wide Open West - Channel 15 and Comcast - Channel 59

Neighborhood House

Rochester Hills / Auburn Hills Community Coalition

Rochester Hills Public Library

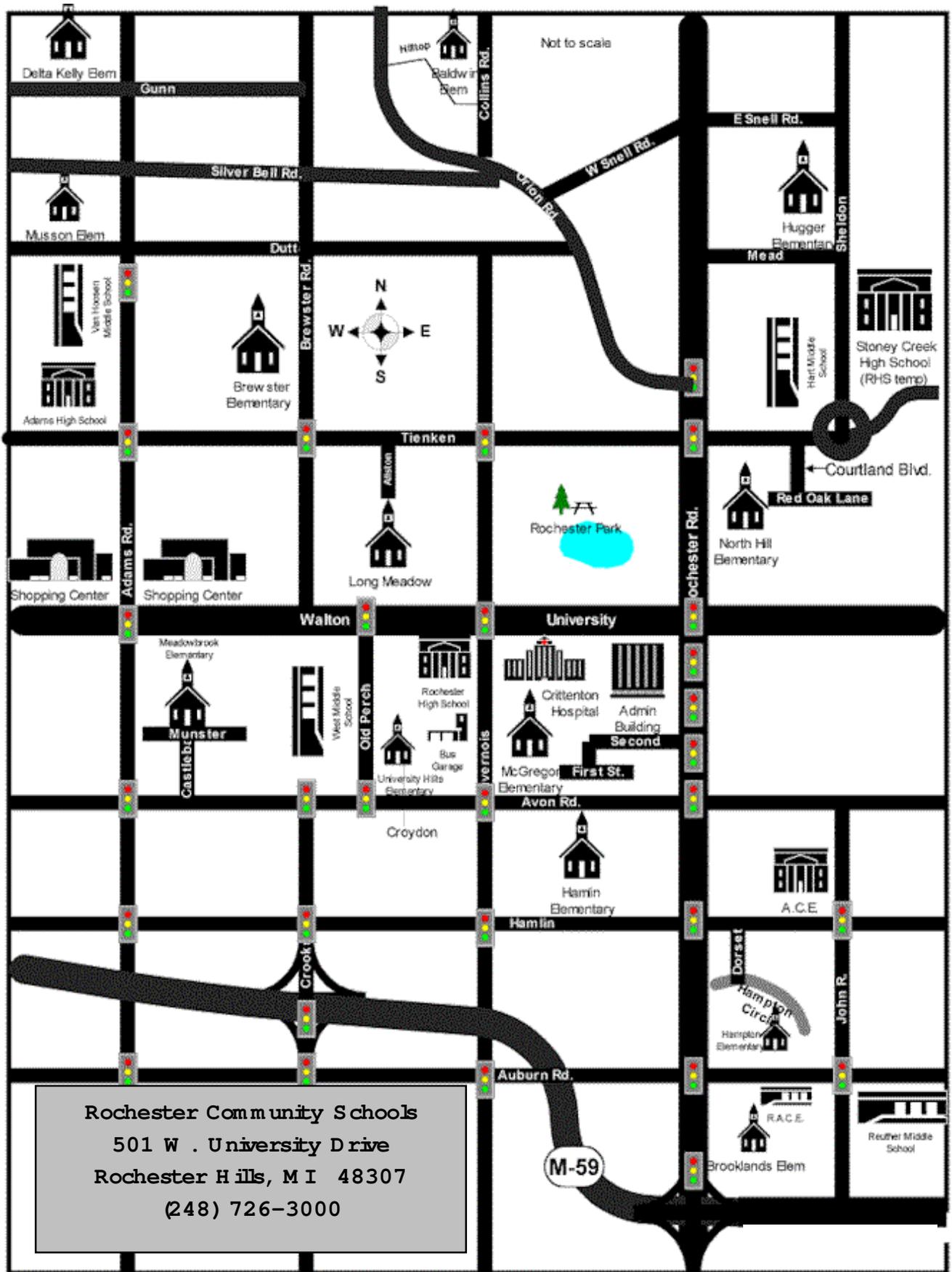
For additional information, please contact the Rochester Community Schools Community Relations Department at 248.726.3185, or visit the Rochester Community Schools website at [www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us).

## **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS – Call 248.726.3022 for additional information**

- ♣ **PRE – K** - A variety of classes are available for three and four year old children that include two and three half day sessions. Classes are held at several locations throughout the District to meet the needs of families. Enrollment is limited to space available.
- ♣ **SCHOOL AGE CARE** – Comprehensive before and after school childcare is available at all elementary classes. School Age Care (SAC) provides kindergarten through fifth grade children with an outstanding program that is offered in a safe and caring atmosphere.
- ♣ **TEAMS** – The TEAMS program has been available at all four middle schools the past few years. This program provides working parents with a place for their middle school child(ren) to attend that is safe and age appropriate.
- ♣ **SUMMER DAY CAMP** – Rochester Community Schools offers summer programs for elementary school students at two locations throughout the summer. Summer Day Camp includes arts and crafts, field trips, special events, and fitness activities.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES – Call 248.726.3165 for additional information**

- ♣ **BASES** – Before and After School Enrichment Services are classes offered to elementary children before or after school. These enrichment opportunities are not only fun, they are packed with learning. Sample classes include Modern Language, Drama, Sport Classes and Cooking for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Watch for the BASES bulletin for specific course offerings.
- ♣ **AQUATICS** – A variety of swimming classes are available for children age three and up. Registration takes place through the Rochester Community Schools Enrichment office. Specific information is mailed home in the Rochester Community Program Guide which is mailed three times per year, and is posted on the website, [www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us).
- ♣ **SPORT CAMPS** – After school ends in June, Summer Sport Camps are offered for elementary age children. A variety of camps are available to meet the needs of the beginner and advanced student.
- ♣ **ENRICHMENT CLASSES** – Be sure to check the Rochester Community Program Guide for the large number of classes that are available for adults. Courses include arts and crafts, finance, computers, dance, language, home and garden and more.





# *Rochester Community Schools Directory*

**Administration Center**  
**248.726.3000**  
501 W. University Drive  
Rochester, MI 48307  
www.rochester.k12.mi.us

**Children' s Programs**  
**248.726.3022**

**Enrichment 248.726.3165**

**Transportation 248.726.5925**

## ***ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS***

**Baldwin Elementary**  
**248.726.3200**  
4325 Bannister  
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

**Brewster Elementary**  
**248.726.3300**  
1535 Brewster Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

**Brooklands Elementary**  
**248.726.3400**  
490 E. Auburn Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

**Delta Kelly Elementary**  
**248.726.3500**  
3880 Adams Road  
Oakland, MI 48363

**Hamlin Elementary**  
**248.726.3600**  
270 Hamlin Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

**Hampton Elementary**  
**248.726.3700**  
530 Hampton Circle  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

**Hugger Elementary**  
**248.726.3800**  
5050 Sheldon  
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

**Long Meadow Elementary**  
**248.726.3900**  
450 Alston  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

**McGregor Elementary**  
**248.726.4000**  
1101 W. First Street  
Rochester, MI 48307

**Meadow Brook Elementary**  
**248.726.4100**  
2350 Munster  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

**Musson Elementary**  
**248.726.4200**  
3500 Dutton  
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

**North Hill Elementary**  
**248.726.4300**  
1385 Mahaffey  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

**University Hills Elementary**  
**248.726.4400**  
600 Croydon  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

## ***MIDDLE SCHOOLS***

**Hart Middle School**  
**248.726.4500**  
6500 Sheldon Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

**Reuther Middle School**  
**248.726.4700**  
1430 E. Auburn  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

**Van Hoosen Middle School**  
**248.726.4900**  
1339 N. Adams Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

**West Middle School**  
**248.726.5000**  
500 Old Perch  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

## ***HIGH SCHOOLS***

**Alternative Center (ACE)**  
**248.726.5900**  
1440 John R  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

**Adams High School**  
**248.726.5200**  
3200 Tienken Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

**Rochester High School**  
**248.726.5400**  
180 S. Livernois  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

**Stoney Creek High School**  
**248.726.5700**  
575 E. Tienken Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

## ***ADULT EDUCATION***

**Rochester Adult Center for  
Education**  
**R.A.C.E. 248.726.5950**  
480 E. Auburn Road  
Rochester, MI 48307