

PRESIDENTS' FORUM



Connecting Our Parent Organizations

**Celebrate and Succeed:
Schools and PTOs in Action**

Rockwood School District





Curtis Cain, Ph.D.
Superintendent



Kate Moore
School & Community Relations
Specialist

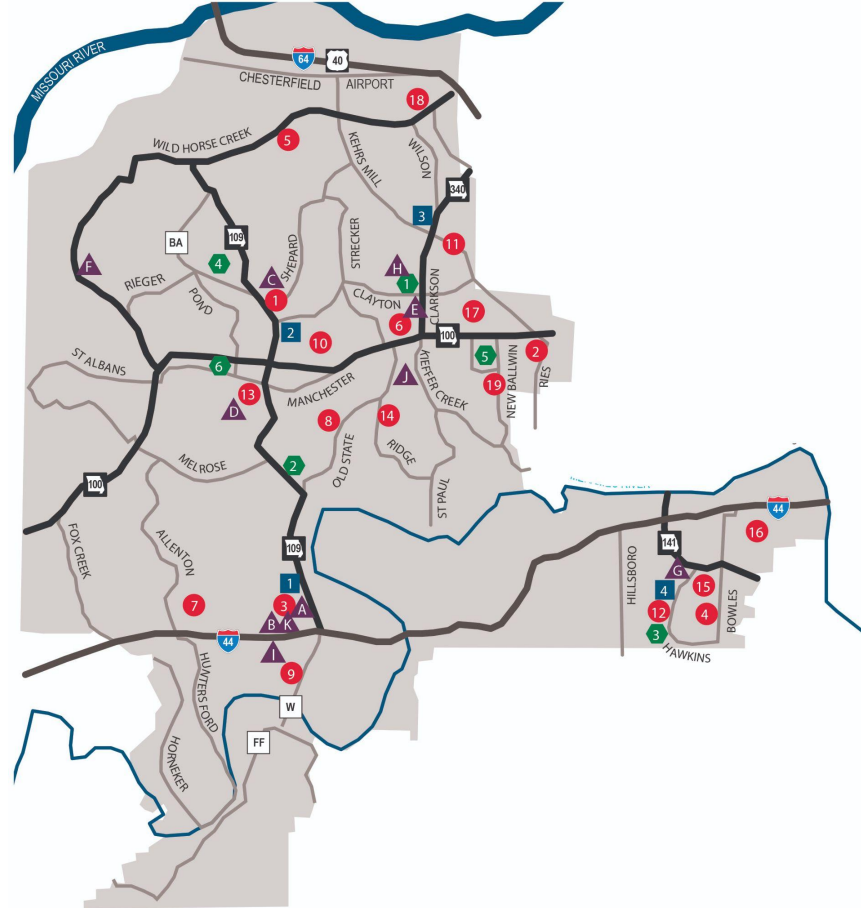




#WeAre



The Rockwood School District has more than 156,000 residents and covers an area of approximately 150 square miles and 722 acres of land.





#WeAre

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Rockwood has **18,935** students K-12 who attend our **29** schools, Center for Creative Learning, **3** Early Childhood Centers and Pathways Wellness Center.

31 Parent-Teacher Organizations



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Rockwood has
1,644 certified staff
and
2,385 support staff.



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We **PARTNER** to listen, We **PLAN** together and We **PROMISE** to bring our collective vision to life.



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BOARD OF EDUCATION - new partnerships

- Student Advisory Group
- Advocacy Committee



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We Are Partnering

- Strategic Plan Steering Committee
- Religious Leaders Meetings
- Annual Crisis Planning Workshop
- Rockwood Learning Council
- Legislative Breakfast
- Chamber, Rotary Meetings
- Community Engagement Meetings
- Student Advisory Councils
- Presidents' Forum Meetings



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At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.

Jane D. Hull



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What is President's Forum?

Presidents' Forum was established in 1991 in Rockwood and is designed to facilitate collaboration, networking and an exchange of ideas among Rockwood PTO presidents.

- Presidents' Forum offers opportunities for meaningful communication between presidents and district administrators.
- Members meet regularly to discuss such topics as fundraising, parent involvement, district objectives and community-building activities.
- Presidents' Forum is organized and separately incorporated in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code in order to serve as the financial umbrella organization for PTOs.





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Presidents' Forum Structure

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Connecting Our Parent Organizations



Co-Presidents



Executive Board

(President, Vice-President, Secretary,
Treasurer)



PTO Presidents





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Bylaws and Standing Rules

Bylaws are written and reviewed every two years by the Presidents' Forum. PTOs use this as a template for their bylaws. There are limited areas they can change to help adjust for their school. (Bylaws committee reviews every two years)

Standing Rules are tailored to fit the needs of the school and their operational year.





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Monthly meetings throughout the school year

- Locations rotate to different elementary and middle schools;
 - High Schools rotate hosting the conference
- Students and principal are part of the welcome;
- Executive board determines topics based on annual survey of presidents and key district initiatives;
- Expectation that each school has representation at each meeting - typically PTO president;
- Board members are encouraged to attend as many monthly meetings as possible.



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Typical Agenda

- Welcome from PF president
- Welcome from host school principal
- Superintendent presentation
- Update from Board of Education president
- PF treasurer's report
- Presentations/Training - topic selected from annual survey results
- Breakout sessions/time for collaboration/personal development

PRESIDENTS' FORUM

Connecting Our Parent Organizations

Presidents' Forum Meeting Agenda
November 8, 2023
9:30-11:30 a.m.
Pond Elementary

Welcome

Kate Moore, Presidents' Forum President

Welcome from the Superintendent

Dr. Curtis Cain, Superintendent of Rockwood Schools

Board of Education Update

Jaime Bayes, Board of Education President

Secretary Meeting Minutes Approval

Stacie Dixon, Presidents' Forum Secretary

Financial Update

Andrea Kraus

Rockwood Gives Back Update

Jaime Bayes

District Resources AR Sandbox

Susanne Moar, Science & STEM Coordinator - AR Sandbox

Breakout Sessions

Parent Involvement to Parent Engagement
Presentation & Activity

Adjournment & What's Coming Up

Next Meeting - Kahrs Mill Elementary
December 13, 2023
Coffee with the Superintendent
9:30-10:30 a.m.



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Past Topic Examples

- District Resources
- Partners in Education update
- New curriculum updates
- Ballot initiative explanations
- Technology updates
- Safety and security
- Transportation
- Child Nutrition



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Annual Leadership Conference

- The Presidents' Forum Leadership Conference is an annual conference for Rockwood PTO presidents, their executive boards and their school administrator(s).
- The conference rotates annually among the four high schools and serves as a place for presidents and their executive boards to gather information from the district, district administrators, Presidents' Forum and fellow presidents on how to best run their PTO.



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Annual Leadership Conference

- Welcome from PF president(s)
- Welcome from host school principal (includes performance from a school group)
- Welcome from Board of Education president
- Superintendent presentation
- Breakout sessions
 - Communications
 - President (mandatory)
 - Secretary
 - Fundraising & Community Events
 - Grade-Level Networking
 - Treasurers (mandatory)



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Annual Leadership Conference - Past Topics

- Fundraising ideas
- How to use online auction tools
- Treasurer breakouts
- ParentSquare and PTO Today
- How to recruit volunteers
- PTO President 101
- Building Back Your PTO Community
- Team-Building



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Coffee/Lunch with the Superintendent

- No agenda; very informal
- Opportunity to learn more about timely topics of interest
- Opportunity to ask questions
- Board members are present
- Usually very well attended





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Fundraising

- PF doesn't fundraise – it collects dues for food at the annual conference
- Help with fundraising ideas for PTOs by researching trends
- Help PTOs with appropriate money-handling procedures





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Fundraising

- Rockwood PTOs regularly support their own families through Rockwood Gives Back and Got Your Back Pack, which provides weekly weekend meals for those who need it.
- Facilitates corporate match programs for PTOs
- Working together to improve profits by sharing experiences they have had with local businesses.





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Importance of Checks and Balances

- Guidance to help maintain budget accuracy, compliance with the IRS and district policy.
- Given the tools to assist with
 - Internal audits
 - Bank reconciliations & financial statements
 - Document retention (four years)
 - Filing state and federal tax returns
 - Insurance coverage
 - District General Liability Coverage - paid for by RSD
 - D&O (Directors and Officers), Contract Bond and Crime - Paid by PTO





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Evolution and Benefits of Presidents' Forum

- Meetings have changed as PTO needs have changed;
- The years of experience each PF Board member has helped the awareness of shifting needs and climate of PTOs;
- Ensures fiscal responsibility and consistency;
- Smoother transition with new school administration.





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Evolution and Benefits of Presidents' Forum

- Cultivates our PTO presidents as great district ambassadors.
- Very helpful avenue to inform and update about district initiatives:
 - Ballot measures
 - CSIP
 - Curriculum
 - Programs
- We have a large district, and PF helps connect our four quadrants.





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Evolution and Benefits of Presidents' Forum

- Providing a resource to help administrators and parents work together
 - Speaking the same language by teaching the PTOs through training - personal development
 - Mediation & conflict negotiations - The Essential Process of Mediation





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Evolution and Benefits of Presidents' Forum

- Advocacy regarding legislation that impacts schools;
- Enhance networking opportunities among PTOs and administrators;
- Brings together PTO leaders, district administrators, BOE;
- Building next generation of Board members.





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Building Stronger Relationships with Administrators

- New Administrators
 - Set up procedures on how the school year will operate
- Current Administrators
 - Review treasurer and presidents' roles and practices
- Facilitate effective problem-solving early on to enhance communication and collaboration.





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Building Stronger Relationships with Administrators

Involvement = Participation

Engagement = Partnership

- Understand and clarify the purpose and traditions of the school and the PTO.





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Building Stronger Relationships with Administrators

Involvement = Participation

- Involvement - Doing For
 - Parents participate in school activities
 - Often task-oriented

Example: Parents sign up for the Book Fair





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Building Stronger Relationships with Administrators

Engagement = Partnership

- Engagement - **Doing With**
 - Parents actively collaborate with the school staff and teachers to improve student outcomes
 - Relationship-driven and includes shared decision-making





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Building Stronger Relationships with Administrators

Engagement - **Doing With**

- Schools thrive when parents move from helping at a school to partnering with school leaders.
- What committees can you ask a PTO member to sit on?



Involvement is great but engagement is transformative.





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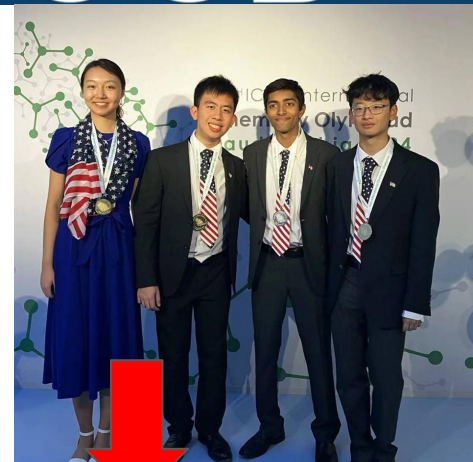
Our WHY - *kids like Alice Liu*



2017
National Spelling Bee



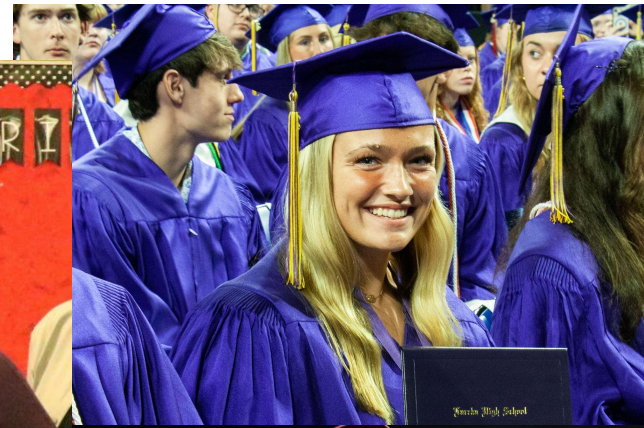
2024
Marquette Graduation



2024 International
Chemistry Olympiad



#WeArePromising





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YOU are a BIG  part of ALL we do

No role is too small when working toward a shared goal. Our PTOs and Presidents' Forum are an integral part of our team.

Thank You!

Any questions?

