



# Mustang Express 2.0

Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School

November 2011

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Dennis Post

**Assistant Principal 7-8:**  
Scott Harshbarger

**USD 323 Superintendent:**  
Dr. Darrel Stufflebeam

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Champs of the Rock



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## Rock Creek Welcomes New Faces

The new school year brought a couple new faces to the Rock Creek building. Cheri Koppes joined the junior high faculty as the English teacher. The vocal music department has a new leader with J. Todd Walters.



Cheri Koppes received her high school education from Westmoreland High School. She then went to the University of Kansas for her Bachelors in Psychology. She attended Kansas State to receive a Bachelor in Education and a Masters in Special Education. She is married and has two kids; one is a ninth grader at Manhattan High School and the other a third grader at Woodrow Wilson. She has taught in the Rock Creek, Geary County, West Franklin, and Manhattan-Ogden school districts. She has been interested in moving up to the middle school because of fond memories of growing up in Westmoreland and her past days as a teacher in the Rock Creek school district. Her hobbies currently include running her kids around to their athletic and sporting events; however, when she has free time to herself she really likes to read.

J. Todd Walters received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Kansas. He is married with four children of his own and four step-children. He states that when they got married, a couple friends threatened to play the Brady Bunch theme song. They also have three grandchildren. Mr. Walters taught at several other schools before coming to Rock Creek. His work experience also includes a five-year stint with a professional rock and roll band called Streetwise that played all over the Western United States. He came to Rock Creek because of the school system and the community support. In his spare time, Mr. Todd loves to travel, spend time with children and grandchildren, and play music, and hike. He says the person that has made the biggest impact on his is Dr. Robert Carlson and his book, "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff (and it's all small stuff)."



## Students Honored for Academic Achievements

The KU Honors Program is a program sponsored by the KU Alumni Association that is in place to honor the top 10% of high school seniors in the state of Kansas. The program holds many regional banquets for the students and recently held the Manhattan regional banquet on November 7 at the Manhattan Country Club. This year six of the Rock Creek seniors were invited to attend the banquet and be honored for their academic success as KU Honors Students. Those six seniors recognized are *Aaron Kuecker, Thomas McAnerney, Logan Miner,*



*Ben Peterson, Adam Schmitz, and Jessica Snapp.* They were each individually recognized at the banquet and receive a dictionary as a trophy for their hard work throughout high school. The night was concluded with a performance of the "Crocodile Rock" that was brought to popularity by Elton John.

KU Honors Students: (from left) Logan Miner, Jessica Snapp, Adam Schmitz, Ben Peterson, Thomas McAnerney; not pictured: Aaron Kuecker.

## Calendar of Events

11/19	Debate @ Salina JHWR @ Rossville	TBD 8:30 a.m.
11/21	JH/6 <sup>th</sup> Grade St. George Band Concert	7:30 p.m.
11/22	JHGB @ Rossville	4:30 p.m.
11/23-11/25	No School – Thanksgiving	
11/26	HSFB State	TBD
11/28	Winter Scrimmages Senior Exit Meeting for Junior Parents	6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
11/29	JHGB @ Mill Creek Valley	4:30 p.m.
12/1	JHWR @ Chapman JHGB vs. St. Marys	4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.
12/2	RC Winter Sports Pictures HSBB vs. Clay Center	2:45 p.m. 4:45 p.m.
12/3	HSWR @ Mission Valley	9:00 a.m.
12/5	HSBB @ Dickinson County Classic JHWR w/Silver Lake & Shawnee Hgts.	TBD 4:30 p.m.
12/6	JHGB vs. Jeff West HSWR @ Council Grove	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
12/8	HSBB @ Dickinson County Classic JHGB @ Silver Lake	TBD 4:30 p.m.
12/9	Jazz Band Concert	7:30 p.m.
12/10	JHGB League Tournament @ Rossville HSWR @ Clay Center HSWR-JV @ Onaga HSBB @ Dickinson County Classic	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
12/12	JHGB League Tournament @ Rossville FRBB @ Abilene	5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.
12/13	HSBB @ Wabaunsee	4:45 p.m.
12/14	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
12/15	RC Scholars Bowl Tournament	4:00 p.m.
12/16	HSWR @ Marion County HSBB vs. Centralia	3:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m.
12/16-17	Regional Debate	TBD
12/20	HS Band/Choir Concert	7:30 p.m.
12/22-1/2	No School – Winter Break	

## Rock Creek Holds Play

On November 12, Rock Creek High School presented the play, "You Can't Take it With You," by Moss Hart and George Kaufman which was set in 1938 New York. For the first time the theater department held a meal before the play. The cast included *Hanna Ruder, Sarah Marek, Jessi Snapp, Mason Swenson, Travis Blenn, William Henry, Trey Basa, Devin Muir, Sara Nider, Chance Maginness, Shane Adams, Jacob Miller, Ellie Leonard, Michaela Huffman, Ashton Umscheid, Jackson Meyer, Amanda Del Toro, Justin Ward, Sam Wilson, Spencer Bowers, and Brittny Fensom.*

## 2011-2012 ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5-18, 2011
February 11, 2012	January 13, 2012	January 14-20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10-23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5-18, 2012

## Rock Creek Achieves Standard of Excellence State Assessments

Each year, Kansas school students in grades 3-8 and one grade in high school are required to take a state test in math and reading as well as other exams. The results of these tests determine school and district accreditation. The primary goal is to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which requires an increasing percentage of students to score in the top three of five performance categories. If test results are very high, test results may achieve the state's Standard of Excellence, which requires many students to score in the top category of "Exemplary" and very few students to score in the bottom category of "Academic Warning".

This past spring, our students took 26 assessments and achieved the state's Standard of Excellence on every test! The credit for this amazing achievement goes to our teachers, administrators, support staff, kids, parents, and school board members. We could not achieve these results without the support of our patrons as well because they help pay for the people, programs, facilities, and equipment we need to deliver such a high-quality service.

## Emily Forge Benefit

A successful benefit meal and silent auction was held on October 15, 2011, for the Forge family at Rock Creek. Emily and her family have spent the past many months driving to Kansas City hospitals, while incurring many medical bills. FFA, StuCo, and FCCLA organized a benefit and silent auction. Blankets, cooking utensils, clothing, sports items, candles, beauty products, tanning products, games, children's items as well as other items were donated to the silent auction from high school organizations, 4-H clubs, elementary classes, elementary and high school staff, business, and community members. FFA and the Ag classes cooked a hog and scalloped potatoes meal. An estimated 250-300 people attended and \$10,256.50 was raised. "We live in a wonderful community where people will help other individuals in need," said FACS teacher Mrs. Siderewicz.

## Counselor's Notes

Deadline:	Description:
	Seniors interested in studying mathematics at KSU, may wish to apply for the <b>2012 KSU Freshman Mathematics Scholarships</b> . See Mr. Sullivan for application information.
	Seniors with a minimum 3.50 GPA or 23 ACT score who reside in Pottawatomie County, demonstrate financial need, and are planning to pursue a four-year degree are eligible to apply for the inaugural <b>2011 Hagan Scholarships</b> . Awards range in value from \$8,000-\$40,000. Apply at <a href="http://www.hsfmo.org">www.hsfmo.org</a> .
	Students who are military dependents are eligible to receive free <b>ACT Exam Prep</b> courses. Visit <a href="http://www.eknowledge.com/military">www.eknowledge.com/military</a> for more information and registration details.
12/01/11	Seniors may apply for the <b>2012 AXA Achievement Scholarship</b> . Awards range in value from \$2,000-\$25,000. Learn more at <a href="http://www.axa-achievement.com">www.axa-achievement.com</a> .
12/02/11	Seniors may be interested in applying for the <b>2012 Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarships</b> . Awards range in value from \$600-\$40,000. See Mr. Sullivan for more information and applications or visit <a href="http://www.elks.org">www.elks.org</a> .
12/12/11	Seniors planning to attend Kansas State University may apply for the <b>KSU Civic Leadership Scholarships</b> (\$2,000-\$4,000). Apply at <a href="http://www.k-state.edu/scholarships/selectiveapp/">www.k-state.edu/scholarships/selectiveapp/</a> .
12/15/11	Seniors residing in the Bluestem Electric Cooperative service area may apply for the <b>2012 Bluestem Electric Cooperative Scholarships</b> . Awards are \$400-\$600. See Mr. Sullivan for the applications and program details.
12/12/11	Seniors planning to attend Kansas State University may apply for the <b>KSU Civic Leadership Scholarships</b> (\$2,000-\$4,000). Apply at <a href="http://www.k-state.edu/scholarships/selectiveapp/">www.k-state.edu/scholarships/selectiveapp/</a> .
1/5/12-7/15/12	Seniors may apply for the <b>2012 American Legion Scholarships</b> . See Mr. Sullivan for program details, qualifications, and information sheets. The award amounts and deadlines vary.
1/6/12	Seniors with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and 22 ACT score are eligible to apply for the <b>2012 ESA Outstanding Senior High Youth Awards</b> . Scholarships range in value from \$250-\$1,000. See Mr. Sullivan for more information and applications.
1/6/12	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to apply for the <b>2012 Outstanding Junior High Youth Awards</b> . Scholarships are \$250. See Mr. Sullivan for details and applications.
1/10/12	Seniors with a minimum 2.5 GPA may apply for the <b>2012 Burger King Scholarships</b> . Apply at <a href="http://www.haveyourwayfoundation.org/bksp_scholarship_eligibility.html">www.haveyourwayfoundation.org/bksp_scholarship_eligibility.html</a> . Awards range in value from \$1,000-\$50,000.
1/13/12	Seniors diagnosed with multiple sclerosis or whose parent has MS are eligible to apply for the <b>2012 National MS Society Scholarships</b> . Awards range in value from \$1,000-\$3,000. Visit <a href="http://www.nationalMSSociety.org/scholarship">www.nationalMSSociety.org/scholarship</a> to apply.
2/1/12	Seniors may apply for the <b>ESA Foundation Scholarships</b> . Program information, scholarship qualifications, and award details are available at <a href="http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/esaf">www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/esaf</a> .
2/1/12	Seniors may apply for the <b>2012 AXA Achievement Community Scholarship</b> . Awards range in value from \$2,000-\$25,000. Apply at <a href="http://www.aca-achievement.com">www.aca-achievement.com</a> .
2/10/12	Seniors currently employed at Hy-Vee or whose parents are Hy-Vee employees are eligible to apply for the <b>2012 Hy-Vee Scholarships</b> . Forty/\$1,000 awards will be presented to deserving applicants. See Mr. Sullivan for applications or visit <a href="http://www.hy-vee.com">www.hy-vee.com</a> .
2/23/12	Grade 7-12 students are eligible to participate in the 10 <sup>th</sup> annual <b>Images of Aging Photography Contest</b> , sponsored by the University of Kansas Medical Center. Awards range from \$50-\$350. See Mr. Sullivan for more information and registration details or visit <a href="http://www2.kumc.edu/coa">www2.kumc.edu/coa</a> .
3/23/12	Seniors whose families utilize Wamego Telecommunications as service provider are eligible to apply for the <b>2012 WTC Primo Scholarships</b> . Preference afforded those students choosing marketing, public relations, or telecommunications related fields. Five \$500 awards will be presented to deserving applicants. See Mr. Sullivan for applications or visit <a href="http://www.primomkt.com">www.primomkt.com</a> .
4/1/12	The <b>2011-12 Virtual Business Scholarship</b> application is now available online to juniors and seniors enrolled in business, marketing, or personal finance. The application is accessible at <a href="http://www.KnowledgeMatters.com/scholarships">www.KnowledgeMatters.com/scholarships</a> . Applications will be judged nationally and the winner will receive \$2,000.
6/3/12	Juniors boys interested in attending the annual <b>Boys State Leadership Academy</b> at Kansas State University should see Mr. Sullivan for program details and registration information.

# ★ Champs of the Rock ★



## Mid-East All-League Volleyball

*Bailey Elliott, First Team*

*Megan Srna, Honorable Mention*

## Kansas City American Royal

**Cale Hinrichsen**

**Champion Beef Showmanship Winner**

## DEBATE

### Osage City

*Rock Creek Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place*

*Jacy Johnston and Rachel Forrester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place*

*Chance Maginness and Dani Rakowitz, 4<sup>th</sup> Place*

### Shawnee Heights

*McKenzy Umscheid and Wyatt Fouts,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Novice Division*

### Sacred Heart Novice Tournament

*Kelsey Cook and Christine Thompson, 1<sup>st</sup> Place*

### Highland Park

*Rock Creek Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place*

*Josh Roberts and Dylan Meyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place*

***Congratulations!***

***Mole King Chance Maginness***

***Mole Queen Larissa Fshelman***



## 3A State

## Cross Country

*Jacy Johnston, 25<sup>th</sup>*

*Ryan Schneider, 65<sup>th</sup>*

## KMEA North Central District Middle Level Honor Band

*Brandon Mallon, Alto Saxophone*

*Jackson Fike, Baritone Saxophone*

*Carson Becker, Bass Clarinet*

*Adam Thew, French Horn*

*Brett Schwarz, Trombone*

*Riley Mocabee, Trumpet*

*Luke Turnbull, Tuba*

## District Band

*Anna Jilka, Bassoon*

*Rachel Frank, Flute*

*Spencer Bowers, 1<sup>st</sup> Alt., Baritone Saxophone*

## District Jazz Band

*Jackson Meyer, Guitar*

*Trey Basa, 1<sup>st</sup> Alt., Trumpet*

## District Choir

*Sara Nider*

*Kennedy Brown*

## State Treble Choir

*Destiny Mathos*