



# Mustang Express

Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School

December 2008

**Principal 9-12:**  
Dennis Post

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

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

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Rockin' at the Rock



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## Rock Creek Earns Honors

Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School received the Governor's Achievement Award for scoring in the top 5% in both reading and mathematics assessments. Qualifying schools must achieve the Standard of Excellence in both Kansas state assessments. There were a total of 44 elementary schools, 12 middle/junior high schools, and 18 high schools recognized this year. The building principal received the award at the December 10 school board meeting.

Kansas State Department of Education has nominated Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School for participation in the national 2008-2009 No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Program. This program honors elementary and secondary schools whose students achieve in the top 10 percent in the state on reading and mathematics assessments as well as those schools that have 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and have dramatically improved student performance. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program has set a high standard for the past 26 years. Five schools have been nominated from Kansas – four elementary schools and one high school. The final selection will be made in September 2009.

U.S. News & World Report has also named Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School in their second annual list of America's Best High Schools. Three categories of distinction are recognized – gold, silver, and bronze. Ratings are based on standardized test performance, proficiency rates of all students (including the least advantaged), and challenging college-ready curriculum. Rock Creek received a bronze medal which means the school met the first two criteria but not the third. Other schools in Kansas were named to this list. To see the complete list, go to [www.usnews.com/highschools](http://www.usnews.com/highschools) or [www.schoolmatters.com](http://www.schoolmatters.com).

## Laurel Lauer Benefit

On December 6, 2008, the communities surrounding Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School showed what they were made of. Over 425 people helped the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Chapter raise \$13,372 for Laurel Lauer who was injured in an auto accident in September.



Friends, family and other community members donated over 200 items for the silent and live auctions. Groups and individuals donated items for the meal that served around 375 people. Mrs. Siderewicz (FCCLA advisor) said, "I wish we could publicly thank everyone who donated money, food, auction items or time, but I would not want to offend anyone by accidentally leaving them off the list. So thank you for all of your support. We could not have done it without everyone's help."

# Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
12/24-1/4	No School PK – 12	
1/6	HSBB @ Riley County JHBB vs Royal Valley	4:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m.
1/8	JHBB @ Mill Creek Valley	4:30 p.m.
1/9	HSBB vs Silver Lake	4:45 p.m.
1/10	HSWR Tournament @ Burlington FRGB Tournament @ Holton HSWR JV Tournament @ Hiawatha	9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
1/12	JHBB vs Carbondale FRGB Tournament @ Holton	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
1/13	Rock Creek Scholars Bowl Tournament HSBB @ Rossville	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
1/14	BOE Meeting	7:00 p.m.
1/15	JHBB @ Rossville	5:30 p.m.
1/16	HSWR Tournament @ St. Marys HSWR JV @ Abilene HSBB @ Wabaunsee	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m.
1/17	HSWR Tournament @ St Marys Rock Creek FRBB Tournament	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
1/19	No School PK- 12 FFA Speech FFA Ag Mech FFA Ag Business	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
1/20	HSBB Tournament @ Canton Galva HSWR Holton w/Wamego (Senior Night)	TBA 6:00 p.m.
1/22	JHBB/JHCL Pictures HSBB @ Canton Galva JHBB vs Mill Creek Valley	2:45 p.m. TBA 5:30 p.m.
1/23	State Debate KSU Honors Band HSBB @ Canton Galva HSGB @ St Marys	TBA TBA TBA 4:45 p.m.
1/24	KSU Honors Band FFA Ag Symposium HSWR Tournament @ Holton	TBA TBA 9:30 a.m.
1/25	KSU Honors Band	TBA
1/26	HS MEL Scholar's Bowl @ Rossville JHBB vs Riley County	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.
1/27	HSGB Tournament @ Hiawatha	TBA
1/29	HSGB Tournament @ Hiawatha FGBB vs Marysville JHBB @ Silver Lake HSWR @ St Marys	TBA 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
1/30	HSWR JV Tourney @ Manhattan HSBB @ St Marys	4:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m.
1/31	Forensics Meet Rock Creek	9:00 a.m.

## Counselor's Notes

Graham Briggs, Monica Ebert, Morgan Eichman, Megan Jilka, Caleb Schmitz, and Brian Sixbury have been designated Kansas Honors Scholars via the University of Kansas Alumni Association. Congratulations to them for their accomplishments.

Seniors may apply for various American Legion Scholarships. Visit [www.ksamlegion.org](http://www.ksamlegion.org).\*

Any grade 9-11 students who might be interested in participating in a foreign exchange program during the 2009-10 academic year should contact Mr. Sullivan.

Seniors planning to pursue four-year college degrees may want to apply for the 2009 McKelvey Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship. This is a \$40,000 value.

Seniors planning to attend Washburn University may apply for the 2009 Leadership Scholarships should visit [www.washburn.edu/leadership](http://www.washburn.edu/leadership).\*

High school students may be interested in participating in the 2009 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest. Awards range in value from \$500 - \$5,000. The submission deadline is January 10, 2009. Visit [www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org).

Seniors are eligible to apply for the Tuition Giveaway. By the completion of this essay, a student can be awarded \$10,000. You can apply now at [www.tuitiongiveaway.com](http://www.tuitiongiveaway.com). Deadline set to January 31, 2009.

Grade 7-12 students are eligible to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> annual *Images of Aging* photo contest sponsored by the KU Medical Center. Winning entries will receive \$350 awards (February 23, 2009 deadline).\*

Juniors interested in law enforcement and criminal justice degree programs and careers may be interested in attending the 2009 Cadet Law Enforcement Academy in Salina. The week-long event, which is sponsored by the Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary, will be conducted from May 31-June 5, 2009.\*

Seniors with a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA may apply for the 2009 KFC Colonel's Scholarships. \$20,000 awards will be presented to qualified students (application deadline – February 10, 2009). Visit [www.kfcscholars.org](http://www.kfcscholars.org).\*

\*See Mr. Sullivan for more information

## Groups Help Community

During the first two weeks of December, Business Professionals of America conducted a school-wide food drive to benefit local food pantries. Megan Jilka organized the activity which was a competition between classes at Rock Creek. Three hundred cans and packages were collected with the seniors edging out sophomores for first place. They were rewarded with an ice cream treat.

On December 15, 2008, students with the Business Professionals of America and National Honor Society, bolstered by choir students, sang carols at the Westmoreland Care Home.

Students involved were Courtney Brown, Josh Camacho, Brittany Chasser, Trevor Clark, George Dille, Chelsea Ebert, Morgan Eichman, Nolan Fike, Lane Frazier, Justin Fronce, Tim Herrs, Megan Jilka, Cassie Marker, Amanda Oakley, Torrey Peterson, Greg Pushee, Derek Saueressig, Caleb Schmitz, Kallie Sidewicz, Brian Sixbury, Becca Snapp, Elke Thompson, William Trieb, Sierra Webber, and Tony Wilborn. Betty Chatham accompanied them on the piano.

## Debate News

The Rock Creek Debate Team has been successful of late, bringing home trophies from their last four meets. On November 6 the team went to Riley County High School and won first place overall. Debating for the Mustangs were *Justin Fronce* and *Jackie Gonzalez* who went 3-1 and finished sixth, *Ben Peterson* and *Mandi Blenn* who went 4-0 and finished first, *Amy Eshelman* and *Cody Liming* who went 2-2, *Skylar Myers* and *Josh Lohse* who went 2-2, and *Lane Frazier* and *Brenda Stevenson* who went 2-2.

Two days later the team went to Clay Center and won first place again. *Sam Cott* and *Torrey Peterson* went 4-0 and finished first, *Jackie Gonzalez* and *Justin Fronce* went 4-0 and finished second, and *Ben Peterson* and *Mandi Blenn* went 4-0 and finished third. Also debating for the Mustangs were *Jeran Fry* and *Brenda Stevenson* who went 2-2, and *Lane Frazier* and *Josh Lohse* who went 2-2.

After taking a weekend off to put on the fall play, the students were back at it. Rock Creek hosted a debate tournament on November 22 and also sent some students to the Salina South High School Junior Varsity Tournament. Rock Creek finished second out of 21 schools at Salina South. *Luke Goodenow* and *Alyssa Donoho* went 5-0 and finished fourth out of 60 teams. *Ben Peterson* and *Mandi Blenn* went 4-1, *Jackie Gonzalez* and *Justin Fronce* went 3-2, and *Jeran Fry* and *Brenda Stevenson* went 3-2. The school that won the tournament, Buhler High School, only had two losses on the day. Both of Buhler's losses were to Rock Creek.

The debate team also went to Concordia High School. The team brought home the first place trophy for the second year in a row. In the open division *Ben Peterson* and *Mandi Blenn* were 4-1 and finished third while *Alyssa Donoho* and *Jackie Gonzalez* went 3-2 and finished seventh, one place away from a medal. In the novice division *Lane Frazier* and *Jeran Fry* went 4-1 and finished fifth, while *Cody Liming* and *Skylar Myers* went 3-2.

The Rock Creek Debate Team competed at the National Catholic Forensics Debate Qualifying Tournament held at Marysville High School. The team did well, winning the first place sweepstakes trophy and qualifying two teams for the national tournament to be held in June. Qualifying for the Mustangs were *Sam Cott* and *Torrey Peterson*, who went 5-0 and finished in first place overall. *Mandi Blenn* and *Ben Peterson* went 4-1 and finished in fourth place. Falling just short of qualifying were *Luke Goodenow* and *Alyssa Donoho*, who finished seventh. "If they had won one more ballot, they would have qualified as well," said Coach Keith Miller.

The first place sweepstakes trophy was a first for Rock Creek who has never won a CFL qualifying tournament sweepstakes trophy before, in either debate or forensics. "We have five second place plaques and a third place plaque, but this is the only first place plaque for the school," said Coach Miller.

"It was certainly a total team effort," said Coach Miller. "In debate, the students who travel on any particular weekend rely on the research efforts of everyone, including those who stay behind. For example, this past week *Brenda Stevenson* found a great piece of evidence that *Sam* used on Saturday. Even though *Brenda* didn't travel, her efforts helped make it possible for those who did travel to succeed. This work ethic, this effort on everyone's part, has been the key to our success," summarized Coach Miller.

On Friday and Saturday, the team travels to Emporia High School to compete in the 4-Speaker Regional Tournament. The team will then have Winter Break off. The state meet is scheduled for January 23 and 24.

## Winter Weather Notification

Whenever inclement weather threatens, you should stay posted to school announcements on the front page of our website or to any of the television or radio stations listed below.

WIBW Channel 13	KMAN 1350 AM	KSNT Channel 27	Angel 95
KTKA Channel 49	Sunny 102.5	WIBW 580 AM	Z 96.3
94.5 Country	KROCK 101.5	KTPK 106.9	B 104.7



# Rockin' at the Rock

Flint Hills Player of the Year for 2008  
*Dustin Miner*

Flint Hills Coach of the Year for 2008  
*Mike Beam*

## Renaissance Drawing Winners

*Sara Liming, Rachel Frank, Caitliné Christenson, Lucas Commerford, Levi Anderson, Ashley Altenhofen, Codi Ebert, Bailey Elliott, William Trieb, Josh Camacho, Taylor Ebert, Frances Nelson, Tiffany Stewart, Lane Frazier, Megan Feldkamp, Josh Rieck*

### 4A All State Football

*Dustin Miner, 1<sup>st</sup> Team RB*  
*Andrew Wahlmeier, Honorable Mention LB*  
*Matt Gee, Honorable Mention DB*  
*Brad Duncan, Honorable Mention OL*  
*Jared Hawkins, Honorable Mention OL*

### All-League Honors

*Dustin Miner, 1<sup>st</sup> Team RB*  
*Jared Hawkins, 1<sup>st</sup> Team OL*  
*Brad Duncan, 1<sup>st</sup> Team OL & DL*  
*Chris Wahl, 1<sup>st</sup> Team DE*  
*Kegan Rawhouser, 1<sup>st</sup> Team LB*  
*Andrew Wahlmeier, 1<sup>st</sup> Team LB*  
*Logan Lauer, 1<sup>st</sup> Team LB*  
*Matt Gee, 1<sup>st</sup> Team DB & Punter*  
*Tyler Umscheid, Honorable Mention DB*

### 2008 All-Flint Hills Team

*Dustin Miner, 1<sup>st</sup> Team RB*  
*Kegan Rawhouser, 1<sup>st</sup> Team QB & DB*  
*Matt Gee, 1<sup>st</sup> Team DB & RB*  
*Brad Duncan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team OG*  
*Jared Hawkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team OT*  
*Tyler Umscheid, Honorable Mention RB*

### Dickinson County Tournament

*High School Boys Varsity*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
*High School Girls Varsity*  
1<sup>st</sup> Place

### Kansas Volleyball Association All-State First Team

*Dana Elliott and Becky Lightfoot*

### KMEA North Central District Middle Level Honor Band

*Rachel Frank, Flute*  
*Anna Jilka, Bassoon*  
*Tiffany Stewart, Clarinet*  
*Susie Willi, Bass Clarinet*  
*Trey Basa, Trumpet*  
*Jacob Miller, Trombone*  
*Jared Lovin, Trombone*  
*Dylan Meyer, Alternate Trumpet*  
*Josh Roberts, Alternate Percussion*

Wendy's High School Heisman Competition  
*Dana Elliott*

### Monster Volleyball Team Weers, Champion

### Mission Valley Wrestling Tournament

*Rock Creek High School Wrestling Team, 4<sup>th</sup> Place*  
*Matt Unruh, 1<sup>st</sup> Place*  
*Andrew Wahlmeier, 1<sup>st</sup> Place*  
*Colin Duncan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place*  
*Levi Anderson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place*  
*Gabe Gomez, 4<sup>th</sup> Place*  
*Shane Schaake, 4<sup>th</sup> Place*  
*Justin Weers, 5<sup>th</sup> Place*  
*Wes Theirolf, 5<sup>th</sup> Place*

### Clay Center Invitational

*Andrew Wahlmeier, Champion*  
*Matt Unruh, Runner-up*  
*Colin Duncan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place*  
*Shane Schaake, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place*  
*Jeran Fry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place*

### Onaga Double Classic

*Trevor Sutton, Champion*  
*Cody Liming, Champion*  
*Josh Rieck, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place*  
*Jace Bruce, 4<sup>th</sup> Place*