

RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS POINTS OF PRIDE 2022-2023

New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) - Completed in August of 2022

The district was designated a “high-performing school district” during a thorough review by the New Jersey Department of Education. The evaluation is based on five areas: Instruction & Program, Fiscal, Governance, Operations, and Personnel.

College Board Honor Roll status for Rutherford High School

RHS met each of the following criteria for its students in the most recent graduating class; these criteria are anchored in research-based relationships between AP and college outcomes:

College Culture: 40% or more of the graduating cohort took at least one AP Exam during high school.

College Credit: 25% or more of the graduating cohort scored a 3 or higher on at least 1 AP Exam during high school.

College Optimization:

2% or more of the graduating cohort took 5 or more AP Exams during high school. At least 1 of those exams was taken in 9th or

10th grade, so that students are spreading their AP experience across grades rather than feeling disproportionate pressure in any single year.



Rutherford High School students' 2023 AP results

AP Scholars: 25 students

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams

AP Scholars with Honors: 8 students

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

AP Scholars with Distinction: 14 students

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Dual enrollment programs

Students earn college credits through programs offered through Fairleigh Dickinson University and Bergen Community College.

Recent college admissions

Students have been accepted at the following prestigious post-secondary institutions: Boston College, Brown University, Cornell University, College of William and Mary, George Washington University, Harvard University, Howard University, Oberlin College, Princeton University, University of Florida, University of Michigan, UNC Chapel Hill, University of Notre Dame, University of Virginia, Vassar College and Wake Forest University. Numerous students have been accepted to honors college and programs at various colleges and universities.

Two students in the past three years were accepted via direct admission to medical school out of the undergraduate programs at New Jersey Institute of Technology and University of the Sciences. They are guaranteed admission to medical school through these highly selective programs.

Students selected for highly competitive music ensembles over the past year:

Bergen County Band: Liz Dunlop, Faith Santana, and Danny Fencik

Bergen County Choir: Amelia Perlmutter, Danny Fencik, Angelica Rodriguez, Marley Santana, Veronika Virostko, Elizabeth Zeidler

All-State Choir: Danny Fencik and Amelia Perlmutter

All-National Choir: Danny Fencik

Other musical 'notes'

The Concert Choir performed at the Kennedy Library in Boston.

The Concert Band performed in downtown Boston.

RHS had its first-ever alumni choir concert in May, which saw a return of 50-60 RHS alumni return to the school stage. Alumni graduation years ranged from the 1980s to 2012.

Metro Award for acting

Amelia Perlmutter won a Metro Award for her performance as Cady Heron in RHS' “Mean Girls.” She took home the award for “Acting Performance – Female.” She was presented her award by Broadway stars Kerry Butler and David Josefsberg at Tarrytown Music Hall during the awards ceremony. This was RHS' third nomination and first-ever Metro win. The Metros, or The Metropolitan High School Theatre Awards, spotlight exceptional musical theater productions, talented actors and actresses and devoted creative teams who take to the stage every spring in high schools in Rockland, Westchester, Putnam and Bergen counties.

Consumer Bowl team comes out ahead

RHS' Consumer Bowl team, under the direction of Ms. Bott and Mrs. Leonard, won the Bergen County Championship and went on to win the Northern Regional Competition. Consumer Bowl was established in 1997 to educate high school students on a variety of consumer issues.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional Competition

More than 40 RHS students competed in business-related events: Business Calculations, Business Procedures, Accounting, Advertising, Cyber Security, Economics, Introduction to Business Communications, Introduction to Business Procedures, Marketing, Sports Management, Entrepreneurship and Personal Finance. Nine students won the FBLA Regional Competitions and moved on to the FBLA State Competitions in Atlantic City:

Thomas Fedarick – 4th, Zack Herninko – 7th and Horatio Nelson – 8th for Accounting

Thomas Messiha – 1st and Ian Ensuncho – 8th for Advertising

Kia Parikh – 5th for Business Communication

Wesley Schlimer – 2nd for Introduction to Business Procedures

Pranav Sridhar – 6th for Introduction to Business Concepts

Sarah Iorio – 4th for Introduction to Business Communication

Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Fall Leadership Conference

Battle of the Budget - Autumn Coleman, Lauren Pflieger, Michelle Pflieger- 1st Place Gold

Apple Bake-off - Samantha Kaczmarek - Silver

Cupcake Challenge - Maya Forte, Ahmet Djurkovic - Gold

Raena Forte, Molly Sullivan- Bronze

Chapter Spotlight - Mia Olivo, Francesca Perrotti, Bella Cardinali, and Mia Luciano - Gold

Edible Centerpiece - Bella Cardinali - Gold, Francesca Perrotti - Gold

Go Green: Planter - Mia Luciano - Gold

What's the Buzz?? - Mia Olivo - e Gold



FCCLA Spring Leadership Conference

Fashion Design - Gerisa Asllani - Silver

Repurpose and Redesign - Bella Cardinali, Mia Luciano - Bronze

International Food - Francesca Perrotti, Anna Perrotti - Silver

Power of One - Madison Silverstein - Silver

Manner Matter - Hannah Kane, Sarah Sabia, Lauren Pflieger - Gold

Yarn Art - Mia Olivo - 2nd Gold

Effective Teacher - Hannah Kane, Sarah Sabia - Silver

Academic Decathlon Team

The team took second place in the Regional Competition, took third in the State Competition and advanced to the National Competition. The group finished 5th place out of 11 in the nationals. RHS has won the state championship four times.

Student Community Service

Fundraiser for Suicide Prevention and Awareness

Donations for Sloan Kettering Lung Cancer Research

Coin drive for Hurricane Fiona and Ian relief funds

Collecting Gifts of Kindness (more than 500 holiday stuffed shoeboxes) for middle school students in Newark

Donations for Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation

Contributions to breast cancer research

Food drive collected for the Rutherford Food Pantry

Bag A Lunch - Help a Bunch fundraising

Bear drive for Christmas gifts for underprivileged school children

Sock drive for homeless youth shelter

Coin drive for Turkey-Syria earthquake relief

Fundraiser for Imagine, a Center for Coping with Loss

Donations to Tomorrow's Children's Fund

Donations to Mental Health America



NJ Seal of Biliteracy for 2023-24

The NJ Department of Education gives the award in recognition of students who have gained proficiency in at least one language in addition to English by high school graduation. So far, in the 2023-24 school year, seven students have obtained the seal in Spanish, Hindi, Turkish and Japanese.

21st-century learning at Union Middle School

The Robotics/STEAM Team has placed in the top 1 percent of the world in the Vex Robotics World Championship every year since 2017.



The STEM club has won the majority of its competitions in New Jersey from Bridge Building, Drones, etc. Union is one of the first middle schools in the country to create a Drones class. Our Drones class will participate in upcoming competitions throughout the state. Union is also one of a few Middle Schools in the country to offer 20-plus electives, including Coding 101, 201, Architecture, Amusement Parks and Bridges, and Drama.

The library was converted into a "makerspace" where students can work on different technological and hands-on stations to disassemble, investigate and build various items. Furthermore, students utilize 3-D printers to boost analytical thinking, increase comprehension, and generate greater retention. Union School has three 3-D printers that are utilized throughout the school.

Union Middle School clubs and programs

National Junior

Service Club

Honor Society

Yearbook Club

STEAM Club

Jazz Band

Rachel's Club

Select Choir

Studio Art Club

World Language Club

Union Middle School 4Cs rubrics

The school focuses on creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills (4Cs), which are vital to success in a competitive world. These rubrics are from Edleader 21.

Union Middle School is at the forefront of this paradigm shift by enhancing and increasing opportunities for self-directed learning and inquiry in the arts, sciences, academics, career, and life skills. In 2015, Union received recognition for performing in the top 5 percent in New Jersey for academic excellence, according to Schooldigger.com. Union School ranked 36 out of 714 schools in New Jersey.

Union Middle School Concert Choir

Most Recent Performances:

Bergen Teen Arts Festival - May 2023

American Dream Mall - December 2022

Kip Center - December 2022



Notable Accomplishments

UMS Concert Choir students have performed with MEBCI's Bergen County Choir and NJSMA's Region 1 SATB and SSAA Choirs since 2008. Throughout the years, many students have received scores within the top 10 of their respective vocal categories.

High Note Music Festival Award Standings

Superior - 2019

Superior - 2018

Superior - 2017

The UMS Concert Choir looks forward to returning to the festival this year!

Notable Past Performances

New York Grand Opera Company's performance of "La Boheme" at the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park - 2011

New York Grand Opera Company's performance of "Tosca" at the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park - 2012

Verismo Opera Company of New Jersey's performance of "Carmen" at the Bergen Performing Arts Center - 2015

Union and Pierrepont Schools' Positive Behavioral Support in School (PBSIS) system

Implemented in partnership with The Boggs Center, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports framework is associated with increases in positive student outcomes (e.g., increase in instructional time) and decreases conduct infractions as measured by office conduct referral and suspension data.

"Bulldog bucks" are used as an incentive for positive behavior choices. Whether a small behavior (e.g., holding the door) or a big behavior (e.g., helping a friend who is being bullied) Bulldog bucks can help us reinforce the kinds of behaviors we want to see.

Building foundations in elementary schools

The district begins developing students' academic, artistic and athletic skills, and passion for community service at an early age. Students have the opportunity to compete in local and county spelling bees, perform in choirs and plays, and have their artwork displayed throughout the borough. Last year, 10 students from Lincoln School had poems published in a national anthology, Young American Poetry Digest. Pierrepont students had their artwork selected for the Bergen County calendar distributed to schools. At the K-Center, as well as Washington, Lincoln and Pierrepont, daily lessons, field trips, and special programs nurture future scholars.