

OPRF NEWS

www.oprfhs.org

August 2005

2005 benchmarks & beginnings

- **Projected 2005-06 enrollment:** 3,210 students
Oak Park - 2,603 ~ River Forest - 607
- 225 teaching or certified administrative staff -
79 % - MA degree; 53 % - 30 hours or more beyond
an MA
- 227 support staff - e.g. clerical, building and
grounds, food and health services
- 90 % of Class of 2005 graduates attended post-
secondary education; 75 % - traditional 4-year
colleges or universities
- More than 200 courses in nine academic divisions,
serving all ability levels
- 60 co-curricular clubs and activities
- 30 competitive sports
- **2004-05 academic benchmarks:**
- Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) Spring
2005 results* - 76.4% of OPRFHS juniors met or
exceeded state standards in reading compared with
59.5% statewide; 65.7% met or exceeded state
standards in math compared with 52.8% statewide;
68.4% met or exceeded state standards in science
compared with 52.5% statewide. *Preliminary data.
- Average composite ACT - 22.9 (20.9 - national;
20.3 - state)
- Mean SAT - 597 Verbal and 603 Math (508 -
national verbal; 518 - national math)
- Advanced Placement exams - 88 % of 987 exams
taken received college-credit eligible score of 3, 4, or
5 with 32 % receiving highest score of 5
- 25 National Merit Semifinalists
(3rd highest number in state)
- 8 National Achievement Semifinalists
(2nd highest number in state)
- 3 National Hispanic Recognition Program Finalists
- 47 National Merit Commended
- 5 National Achievement Commended
- 193 Illinois State Scholars

The **Board of Education's annual goals** focus District resources and energy on the achievement of all students through innovative academic achievement initiatives, interventions and support services.



District 200 Board of Education, from left, Dr. Barry Greenwald-vice president, Ms. Barbara Fernandez, Mr. John Rigas-president, Dr. Dietra Millard, Sgt. Jacques Conway, Ms. Yasmin Ranney-secretary, and Ms. Valerie Fisher.

With our thanks...

On behalf of the Board of Education and the entire school community, I would like to thank the Village of Oak Park for this opportunity to include news about your community's high school in this Village newsletter. This semi-annual insert will provide residents with a quick update of the academic, financial, and operational status of Oak Park and River Forest High School.

Without your support and encouragement, we could not continue to provide the fine facilities and quality programs that remain the hallmark of an OPRF education. Your generous investment in our school strengthens our communities overall and prepares our young people well for the challenges ahead. As we get ready to open our doors for the 132nd school year, please know that our school community greatly values and appreciates your contributions to our continuing tradition of excellence.

Sincerely,

*John P. Rigas, President
District 200 Board of Education*

www.oprfhs.org

The high school's newly redesigned website www.oprfhs.org is scheduled to go "live" in mid-September. We invite you to explore the new site, featuring updated information for key users. Please sign up for HuskiEmail to receive periodic reminders about special OPRF events and performances.

Please join us!

OPRFHS provides top notch entertainment - jazz, classical and pops concerts; dance, theatrical and Spoken Word performances, and an exciting range of athletic events - at a fantastic price for the entire community.

A complete schedule of events is available online at www.oprfhs.org or by calling OPRFHS Communications at 708-434-3099.

Help us celebrate our **2005 Homecoming** on Saturday, October 8!

- 8 - 10 a.m. - Alumni/Community Pancake Breakfast
- 9:30 -10:30 a.m. - School tours
- 11 a.m. - Bi-Village Parade along Lake Street!
- 1:30 p.m. - Huskie Football vs. Downers Grove No.

Games throughout the day!

Extreme summer makeover

More than \$3.4 million in summer construction projects will be completed by the August 24 opening of school. Major work done to keep our vintage building in working order includes:

•**Kitchen and Cafeteria Serving Areas** – Extreme Makeover, Huskie Style! The renovation of the nearly 40-year-old kitchen and the staff and two student cafeteria serving areas will allow for improved traffic flow and greater food variety;

•**East and West Pools** – About \$2.2 million in repairs and upgrades included restoration of original plaster frescoes, new air handling and dehumidification systems, and other extensive basic updates to keep the nearly 80-year-old pools functional;

•**Ticket Booth** – Improved electrical service and a new marquee will welcome audiences with improved ticket reservation, printing and tracking capabilities;

•**Roof Replacement** - The \$6.4 million roof renovation project – including replacement of all flat roofs on the 1927 athletic building and the 1967 addition, as well as of the century-old clay tile roof on the original 1906 building – was completed this summer nearly a year early and \$2 million under budget!

Contract incentives, diligent project management oversight, and contractor compliance saved crucial time and money. Roof project cost savings allowed the school to accelerate the much-needed kitchen, serving area, and pool renovations.

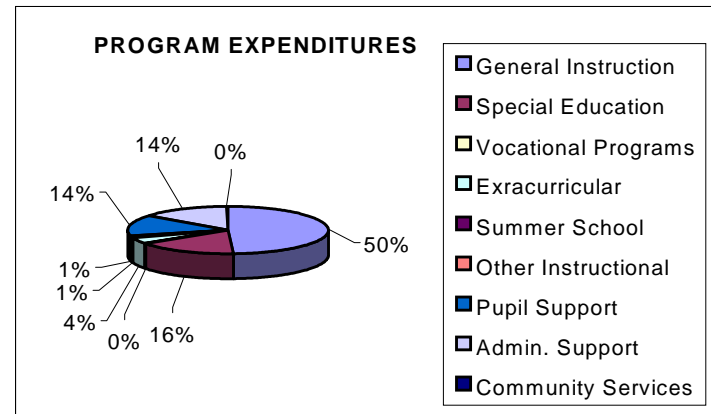
Looking ahead, the school plans to start the first phase of the East Avenue Mall renovation next summer and will provide opportunities throughout the school year for community input.

The Board of Education plans to discuss this Fall whether the District will continue to explore the feasibility and desirability of Stadium lighting.

Finance projections on target

Aggressive and creative cost containment efforts are keeping District 200 on target to extend the life of the March 2001 referendum to the year 2010 – two years beyond projections at the time voters approved the increased tax rate for the Education Fund. About 89 % of the revenues supporting OPRFHS come from property tax and other local sources, with 7.5 % from state and 3 % from federal sources.

The District last year successfully renegotiated contracts with its faculty, buildings and grounds, and secretarial collective bargaining groups and is currently negotiating with its security staff. These contracts reflect diligent, collaborative efforts to contain spiraling health care costs, modify costly early retirement benefits, and keep wages and benefits competitive within the District's financial limits and current market realities. Increased revenues, thanks to the District's Tax Increment Financing agreement with the Village of Oak Park, have enhanced the revenue picture.



The chart shows 2005-06 expenditures by program type, including 50 % for general instruction, 16 % for special education, 14 % for pupil support services and 4 % for student activities - focusing resources on programs of direct benefit to students.

The 2005-06 \$58.1 million budget includes \$38.8 million in Education Fund spending. The chart, above, shows that 86 % of 2005-06 Education Fund expenditures will be spent on instructional, pupil support, and student activity programs, with 14 % for administrative and operational costs.

The District's priority remains to continue to increase the percentage of funds spent on programs directly impacting students.

Board of Education

Mr. John P. Rigas, President	Ms. Barbara P. Fernandez
Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Vice President	Ms. Valerie J. Fisher
Ms. Yasmin A. Ranney, Secretary	Sgt. Jacques A. Conway
Dr. Dietra D. Millard	

Dr. Susan J. Bridge, Superintendent/Principal

OPRFHS

201 N. Scoville Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60302

708-383-0700
www.oprfhs.org