

May 22, 2002

Two Rockwood Schools Gain National Recognition

St. Louis, May 22, 2002 - Two Rockwood School District schools have been named National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence. Rockwood Valley Middle and Lafayette High are two of six Missouri schools to receive the honor. The Rockwood School District is the only district in Missouri to have two schools recognized this year.

This is the 19th year of the program, which spotlights some of the nation's most successful schools. Blue Ribbon schools share several characteristics, including; a clear vision and shared sense of mission, a challenging, up-to-date curriculum, policies and practices to ensure a safe campus conducive to learning, evidence of family involvement and a commitment to help all students achieve high standards.

"Lafayette High School and Rockwood Valley Middle School being awarded the prestigious Blue Ribbon serves as an example of what can be accomplished by strong leadership and dedication to quality education. This award demonstrates how the wise use of resources by local officials can make the difference in providing quality education for our children and securing America's future," says U.S. Rep. Todd Akin.

Selection of Blue Ribbon Schools is based on an evaluation of written materials from the nominated schools and the reports of experienced principals and teachers who visit the nominated schools. Reviewers make recommendations to the Secretary of Education for final selection.

This year's 172 recognized schools conducted a thorough self-evaluation, involving administrators, teachers, students, parents and community representatives in the completion of their nomination forms. This process included assessing their strengths and weaknesses and developing strategic plans for the future.

Both schools will be officially notified by the end of this week.

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For more information contact the Rockwood School District Communications office at (636) 458-7337

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Jennifer M. Rolwes  
Rockwood School District  
Media Relations Assistant  
cocm3@rockwood.k12.mo.us  
Phone: 636-458-7337 ext. 355  
Pager: 314-870-5284

Cell: 314-608-8424  
Fax: 636-458-7326