



ROCK BROOK SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES FOR 2015-2016

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Rock Brook School offers a cooperative and compassionate environment that meets the needs of our students and their families through education and a variety of individualized supports. Each student is challenged and motivated to reach his or her full potential.

“Individualized Programs; Personal Success”

Letter from Chairman and Executive Director

In 1974, a Speech Language Pathologist and a Montessori trained Special Education Teacher started Rock Brook School to provide an intensive program that worked on communication and sensory motor difficulties with children. It was one of the first comprehensive pre-school special education program in Somerset County.

Last year, the school celebrated 40 years of providing high quality special education services to children as well as support for families, school districts and agencies. In reaching this milestone, we felt this was the appropriate time to utilize our past successes to review our philosophy and programs as they relate to the current special education environment. During the latter part of 2014, we initiated a process to develop a Strategic Plan for Rock Brook School that capitalizes on the unique elements of our past, but also recognizes that times have changed.

Today, Rock Brook School still provides intensive academic and therapy services for students with communication difficulties. Over the years, our program has grown and adapted to the needs of its students and the community. Last year, we established a high school program with an emphasis on community-based education. Now serving individuals to age 21, students graduate from Rock Brook School with the skills and tools they need to find meaningful employment and become productive, successful citizens. In addition, we are committed to continuously improving our technology program. Rock Brook students receive daily individualized and/or group technology instruction. Using state-of-the art equipment, we focus on teaching students foundational 21st Century skills.

Rock Brook’s updated Strategic Plan went into effect on July 1, 2015, and serves as a guide to showcase our Mission and Values, and ensure that all of our constituencies have a common understanding of what we do.

Rick Sugam
Board Chairman

Mary Caterson
Executive Director



“Children who attend Rock Brook School gain the knowledge and skills they need to become comfortable and successful in society.”



Mission

It is the Mission of the Rock Brook School to provide the highest quality of services for each child, his/her parents and contracting school districts and agencies. Our efforts focus on preparing our students to successfully achieve the skills and experiences that will enable them to successfully move into post-secondary programs of employment and/or education.

Vision

- Children who attend Rock Brook School gain the knowledge and skills they need to become comfortable and successful in society. Through each family’s partnership with the school, they develop a better understanding of their child’s place in both their family and community.
- Rock Brook’s committed teachers view the school as a place where they can use their expertise to help children reach their full potential.
- Sending districts understand how Rock Brook School fills the gap for children who can’t be served in traditional ways, and willingly work in partnership with our school.

Principles

- To meet the individual needs of each student, celebrating and honoring each child’s ability.
- To provide a supportive, positive and nurturing environment.
- To provide intensive speech/language and other therapies as well as academic remediation in a customized approach.
- To help each child reach his/her potential as a fulfilled and self-confident person through proven techniques that foster success.

Programs

- Pre-School
- Elementary Education; 5-14
- Secondary Education; 15-21
- Summer Extended School Year
- Outreach

Rock Brook Model

Unique Approach to Learning - the Teaching Team approach is utilized and collaboration between all staff who are working with the students is required. The Teaching Team is a special education teacher, speech pathologist and an assistant teacher. Other staff professionals include occupational, physical and art therapy, music and physical education and counseling.

- The educational program is individualized for each student.
- Instruction occurs in a variety of groupings.
- Each student is challenged and motivated to reach his or her full potential.
- Parents are always welcome.
- The Least Restrictive Environment appropriate for our students.
- Behavior Management Programs are established by each classroom and on an individual student basis as needed.
- Technology supports all program goals.



Rock Brook Strategic Themes

Commitment

to Rock Brook's Mission, Values, and Culture

Responsiveness

Children, Families, Staff, School Districts, Community

Resources

Human Resources; Financial Resources

2015-2016 Goals

- Maintain quality and consistency of Rock Brook's core educational and therapeutic programs.
- Develop stronger relationship with sending districts, community professionals, and parents.
- Develop opportunities for staff development to maintain level of professional expertise.
- Grow High School program.

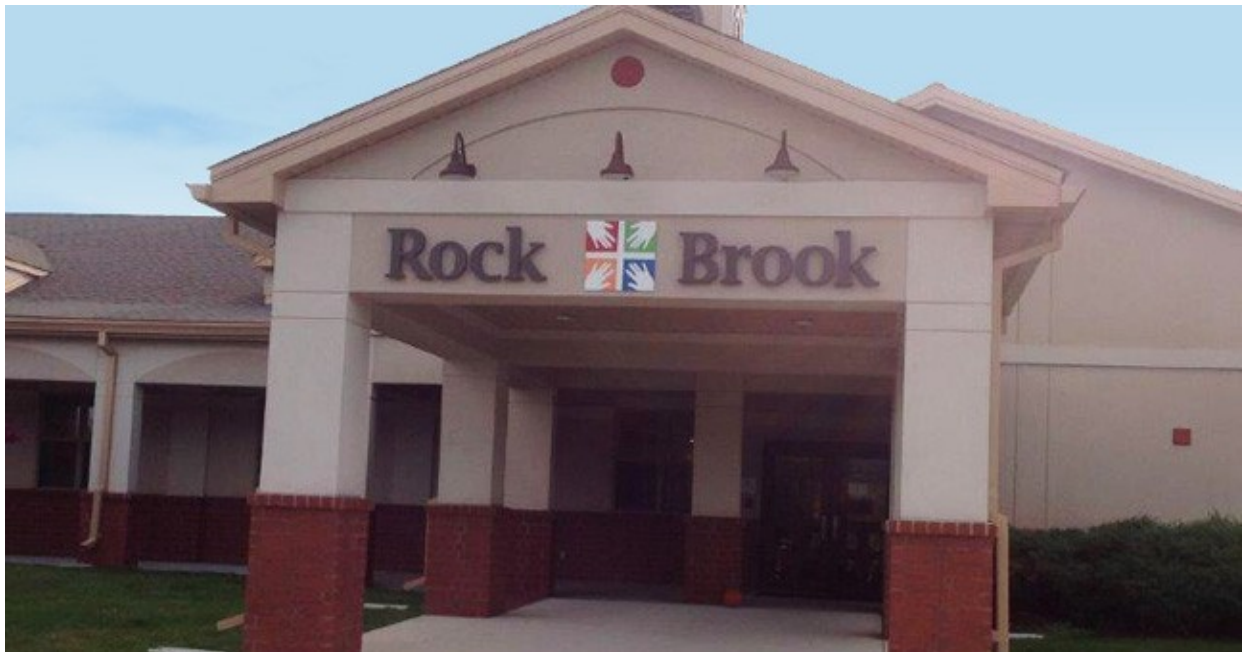
"The Teaching Team approach is utilized and collaboration between all staff who are working with students is required."

Commitment

- Understanding the individualized needs of each student.
- Provide updated behavioral training to all staff that qualifies them for national credentialing.
- Initiate a comprehensive communication plan on the new Rock Brook Teaching Team Model that includes staff; families; school districts; the media; and potential donors.
- Continue to plan for long-term sustainability of the Rock Brook School.

Responsiveness

- Utilize an on-site fully qualified BCBA to develop, monitor, and implement a flexible system-wide behavioral management program that adjusts to individual student needs.
- Remain current with software and technology to facilitate learning, communication and independent life skills.
- Maintain consistency of Rock Brook School's core education programs that provide appropriate supports for children with communication difficulties.
- Provide updated behavioral training to all staff that qualifies them for national credentialing.



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