



Rockford High School

Paul Menard, Principal

Samantha Bloom, Counselor

Daniel Pratt, Activities Director

Jill Gordee, IB Coordinator

7600 County Road 50 | Rockford, MN 55373

Ph. 763-477-5846 | Fax 763-477-6123

www.rockford.k12.mn.us

Greetings RHS Families,

I hope this message finds you well, enjoying the falling leaves, and raking or blowing the appropriate amount of piles to keep your yard looking fresh before the frost.

I wanted to briefly share some of our building goals prior to presenting them at the board meeting this coming Monday. We began the year with specific foci in mind, and we remain committed to these goals, which will drive many of our decisions throughout the year:

- ***Supporting the IB MYP verification visit and launching the DP and CP courses, RHS staff will engage in ongoing PD with IB roundtables, internal meetings, and external trainings to ensure ongoing fidelity to IB standards. Part of this continuous improvement includes networking with the MNIB partner schools, building collaboration efforts with existing community partners, and building additional partnerships with local organizations.***
- ***During the 2021-2022 school year implement two non-traditional drills where authentic situations are explored (i.e. passing time, lunch, before school, just after school). 100% of RHS staff will be ALICE Trained and communicate with students before, during, and after drills take place***
- ***In the 2021-2022 school year decrease % of students failing courses, school-wide, by 5% compared to the 2020-2021 school year***
- ***By 4th quarter every teacher incorporates a mindfulness activity at least once a week***
- ***To reduce the number of iTeam referrals through refining processes and using tools for student self-advocacy***
- ***By the end of the first quarter, 100% of students will have a mutual "strong connection" (HQC) with at least one staff member. A "strong connection" will be measured by utilizing the "dot activity".***

We continue to exert our efforts fully to engage students in the teaching and learning process to address the learning loss, meet them where they are at, and prepare them adequately for college and career readiness.

Have a great weekend and Go Rockets!

Student Quote: "I am proud of how well the fall sports teams are doing, and I'm looking forward to rooting them on deep into the playoffs." -Anonymous

Sincerely,
Paul Menard

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Principal

FALL CONFERENCES - OCTOBER 28:

Driven by our SIP goal mentioned previously, we will offer open in-person conferences from 3:30-4:30 on October 28. We will be running grade checks on Monday, October 18 and a messenger will be going home to families of students with D/F's inviting them to sign-up for virtual conference meetings from 4:30-6:30pm on October 28th. We will send an additional messenger for parents who wish to attend a virtual conference to sign up for remaining spaces on October 25th. Please know that you can also contact teachers at your convenience using our school email domain. It is your right as a parent to reach out to teachers with questions about your student's performance. We are fortunate to live in an age of technology where this communication access is not limited to once per semester. Please consider attending conferences in person from 3:30-4:30, virtually as needed, or as scheduled by yourselves.

COVID MESSAGE FROM NURSE:

As we get back into the swing of things and spend more time together, there are going to be cases of COVID, especially with the Delta variant making its way through. In order to not inundate you with emails, we will not be sending a general notification letter to an entire grade level after every positive case of COVID. We will be alerting you if your child is a close contact of a positive case of COVID. *Please be vigilant in monitoring your child for symptoms and keep them home if any present.*

QUARANTINE HOMEWORK:

If your child must quarantine, we have drafted procedures to assist them in remaining current with their work. Please [click here](#) for more information.

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTACT:

This is a great school, close-knit community, and we offer a world class IB program. I want so many people to know the wonderful things happening in and out of the classroom. I can no longer contain my excitement. Please consider following me on social media and look for the occasional boast post about our fantastic kids!

Instagram: @MrPaulMenard883

Twitter: @MrPaulMenard883

DONATION OPPORTUNITY:

The high school is in need of tissues and bottled water or reusable water bottles. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and happily accepted!

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WINTER SPORTS:

The 2021-22 school year is in full swing and that means that fall activities are winding down and the start of winter activities for students in grades 7-12 is rapidly approaching! Links on the Activities section of the district website contain information about the following:

- Save the date for the [Winter Sports Meeting](#) October 25, 2021 at 6:00pm, RHS Auditorium
- Now open: [Registration for Winter Activities](#)

Please note: Practice for dance team and middle school girls basketball begins on October 25, 2021. Your child's registration must be completed prior to this date to be eligible to participate. If you have registration questions, please contact the Activities office:

- Dan Pratt, Activities Director: pratt@rockford.k12.mn.us
- Stacey Larson, Activities Coordinator: larsonst@rockford.k12.mn.us

ORDERING PICTURES/PICTURE RETAKE DAY:

School pictures have arrived. Please remind students to stop by the front office to pick up their pictures. Photo packages can still be ordered online using this [LINK](#). Picture retake day is Oct 28.

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE:

Yearbooks are on sale NOW! Please follow this [link](#) to purchase a Yearbook for \$65! SENIORS - use the same [link](#) to upload your senior pictures! SENIOR FAMILIES - use the same link to upload your baby picture and purchase the ad space! Senior pictures are due by November 30. Access code: rockets

COLLEGE IS KNOWLEDGE MONTH:

This week we are highlighting [Financial Aid 101](#). The video below contains great information and compares the various ways to help pay for college including loans, grants, scholarships, 529 college savings plans, military benefits, and more.



Mark your calendars for **FAFSA night at RHS!!** We will be hosting an interactive virtual visit with a FAFSA financial aid advisor. Walk through the application process and ask questions. *This will be combined with parent/teacher conference night. More information to come!!*

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The National College Fair has information from colleges and universities nationwide. High school students, transfer students, and families are welcome to attend for free. Sign up at:

virtualcollegefairs.org

Watch the RAS [High School Guidance page](#) for information on college fairs, upcoming RHS college visits, FAFSA links, and other helpful college planning tools.

Click [HERE](#) for a list of Minnesota colleges and universities waiving their application fees. There are many schools across the country waiving application fees during College Knowledge Month so check the schools you are interested in for specials.

Students can sign up through Google Classroom to come to the Guidance Office for help with college applications and post high school planning.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

Rockford High School occasionally receives requests to share student directory information with third party vendors to advertise businesses, share correspondence, or for other purposes. This is a fairly common practice, but with the increase of activity and sharing of digital information online over the past years I wanted to call special attention to this request.

I ask that if you would not like your children's directory information to be shared (including, but not limited to, name, address, phone number, email address) to any outside vendor, business, or representative of other agencies please inform Ms. Chalupsky in the main office by Friday, October 8th at 3:00pm. Thank you.

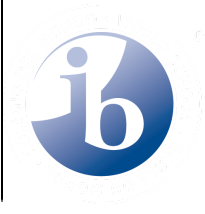
PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPHS:

Throughout the year, photographs and videos are taken in classrooms and at school activities. Some of these may be published in local newspapers, on the local cable station or in Rockford Area Schools' publications and websites. Parents may request that their child's photograph and identifying their name not be published in district productions or websites. The request must be made in writing and sent to the Rockford Area Schools District Office Attn: **Annie Mickelburg**, at 6051 Ash Street, Rockford, MN 55373. (This does not apply to pictures of school events taken by the news media.)

EVERY MEAL WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAM:

The Every Meal weekend food program is back! This is different from the RAS lunch that is available for students on week days. The Every Meal Program is free for all families, there are no qualifications, and your privacy is protected. Families can enroll at ANY time throughout the school year. You are in the program once you fill out this [FORM \(English\)](#) or [FORM \(Spanish\)](#).

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Food bags will be available for pick up at your student's school on Thursday and Friday's.
Contact Madison Holm at 612-567-0114 or at holmm@rockford.k12.mn.us with any questions.

HOMEWORK HELP:

Homework Help is back for the 21/22 school year! Homework Help is each Wednesday from 3:00pm-4:15pm. This is a great opportunity for students to work on homework and get help from their teachers. Transportation will not be provided at this time and students will need to arrange for transportation at 4:15. Online Tutoring is also now available through [Around Cloud Tutors](#).

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