Greetings RHS Families,

Happy October 1st! It has been a joy watching our students having a festive and positive Homecoming Week for the first time in quite a while. There seems to be a renewed appreciation for community building events like Coronation, Flag Football, listening to the Pep Band, letting loose at the PepFest and cheering our athletic teams to victory. I’m so proud of how our students are coming together. With much anticipation, students are decked out in Rockford Rocket gear today for the homecoming football game at 7pm. Tomorrow we will round out the week with our dance at twilight on the turf before we enjoy a restful weekend and get back to business on Monday!

Please know that our students are still getting into the groove of the year. This year more than ever it is proving to be quite the process with the loss of learning from COVID-19 and decrease in the stamina for learning due to the various models of instruction students had to experience. We will continue to work with students on academic stamina, but we are also dedicated to making sure they feel confident about their learning ability, their true capacity, and actual potential as we ramp up our lessons, finish our first units, and head into midterm (which is a little more than a month away). Please remain active as parents to check up on your children: their grades, their confidence, their mental health, their choices on how to spend time, and more. A couple of opportunities we have for students to get back on track as quickly as possible are Rocket Block, which includes advisory programming and a 50 minute study hall twice per week, and Homework Help, which occurs every Wednesday from 3-4:15pm in the Media Center (no appointment needed).

Thank you for your support. Have a great weekend. Go Rockets!

Student Quote: “A fun memory that sticks out to me is the Flag Football game. It was cool to see the football players in their element teaching us about the sport and coaching us. They were super encouraging and nice about it.” --Amelia Ehlers

Sincerely,

Paul Menard

Principal

**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.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

Rockford Area Schools currently has an open position in the athletics/activities department for a Robotics Advisor. For more information or to apply, click [**HERE**](https://www.applitrack.com/rockfordmn/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Athletics%2fActivities).

**HOMECOMING EVENTS:**

The homecoming varsity football game is tonight against Minnewaska @ 7:00. The school dance will be tomorrow (Saturday, Oct 2) from 6-9 pm at the RHS stadium. It is $10 at the door and only RHS students. There will be a DJ, concessions, and games. Wear or bring flats, sandals or tennis shoes. High heels are not allowed on the turf.

**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](https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/#/pictureDayId/EVTFCVCMQ). Picture retake day is Oct 28.

**YEARBOOK COMMITTEE:**

Yearbooks are on sale NOW! Please follow this [link](https://yearbookforever.com/schools/rockford_high_school_buy_yearbook_355533/kDVB8G87CerEJiQOMweDWXUd) to purchase a Yearbook for $65! SENIORS - use the same [link](https://yearbookforever.com/schools/rockford_high_school_buy_yearbook_355533/kDVB8G87CerEJiQOMweDWXUd) 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:**

As students start applying for colleges, many families are starting to think about finances! Watch the Weekly Parent Bulletin Board throughout October for ongoing tips on how to pay for college, FAFSA, and more! During the month of October, many colleges waive their application, click [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rhx49tEoVt7xRd7Dc1sFmao9kbR2z6Kx/view) for a list of those colleges!

This week we are looking at the FAFSA! The FAFSA opens on October 1st. Here is a quick video about WHAT FAFSA is, WHY you should fill it out, and HOW to fill it out. A link to the Step by Step Video on completing the FAFSA application is here:  [2021-2022 FAFSA Walkthrough](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kuq_ntSYpAc)

**FALL OPEN HOUSE EVENT @ 12:30 PM TOMORROW, 10/2**

This is not an activity sponsored by Rockford Area Schools District #883

We will be holding a free softball intro event for members of the community to “Get Involved in Fastpitch” at 12:30 pm. High School and Rev players will help run a T-ball game for all 6/8U age kids who are interested in playing softball. Pizza and refreshments will be provided, raffles for bats/helmets/gloves and a meet and greet info with board members about available positions. Sign up for this free event online by visiting this [link](https://forms.gle/62ZyrEfnR6yayCmW6):

**FOOTBALL T-SHIRT RAFFLE**

This is not an activity sponsored by Rockford Area Schools District #883

The prom committee is raffling off a football t-shirt quilt at the homecoming game. Click [HERE](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zx1x14zeKsfhLRX_0rvXCfC-2ThecBBg/view?usp=sharing) for more information.

**MESSAGE FROM ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR:**

Student-owned basketballs, footballs, etc. brought from home to sporting events at the district **are not allowed**. These items will be confiscated at the venue and may be picked up at the concession stand after the event has ended.

**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](mailto:mickelburga@rockford.k12.mn.us), 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)](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebibX1ro8f5HNJzK8umI74SDTa4W4p1vDHEBOfpcWKvWkBeA/viewform?usp=sf_link) or [FORM (Spanish)](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGvsZDsN09AWexFHbsL0y65f56nOGz1q_iaVy_sP_l-AB5AQ/viewform).

Food bags will be available for pick up at your student's school on Thursday and Friday's. Contact Madison Holm at 6125670114 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](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S7Ll1x6Fch-K_WAgumL_C1P8VEFNU0Sy/view?usp=sharing)**.**