Greetings RHS Families,

We have completed our first days of the 2021-2022 academic year! We were so excited to welcome our new students into our community, students who had been learning with us from a distance for quite some time, and our returning students this past week. The energy carried us through the logistics of getting chromebooks, textbooks, and other course materials into the hands of our learners. I had class meetings with our 9th and 10th grade classes; it is my intention to meet with 11th and 12th grade students on Tuesday during Rocket Block. Among other things, I emphasized that adults in the building are here to assist students as they develop skills in organization, decision-making, and deciding their post-secondary future; it is important that students self-advocate and ask the questions. I also expressed that it is up to our students to create the welcoming culture that we are known for (it’s often a reason families look at transferring into Rockford Area Schools) through mutual respect, support, and the effort to include students in various affinity groups. I am confident our students have the skills to make this happen.

I hope you have a restful weekend. We will continue to prepare the lessons of our first units of instruction and continue to get to know your children along with their interests, hobbies, gifts, and talents. There truly is nothing like the excitement of starting a school year, and I’m so glad to have our students back with us. As the last week in September draws near we will push out information for Homecoming Week and the corresponding activities. In the meantime, I invite you to support our Rockets by keeping up to date with our Activities Calendar. Thank you for your support and, “Go Rockets!”

Student Quote (about the first week of school): “It was fun! I like all of my classes and my teachers were pretty straightforward, so I know what I need to do now [to have a successful year].”

Sincerely,

Paul Menard

Principal

**PICTURE DAY:**

Picture Day is on **Wednesday September 15**. Photo packages can be ordered [online](http://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/pictureDayId/EVTFCVCMQ) or students may stop in the front office for hard copies of the photo package forms. Please note that ALL SENIORS will still need to have their photo taken with Lifetouch. A package does not need to be ordered through Lifetouch.

**ATTENDANCE:**

A gentle reminder that there are 8 types of excused absences as defined in state statute. For your reference, here is a [link](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/120a.22).

**PARKING PERMITS:**

Students who drive to school will be issued a parking permit. This [form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr-T9eLHd88rweEbkYmGScZY8ziq9cr-5ZQWRNxVDFJVl4VA/viewform) is required to park in the RHS student lot.

**DONATION OPPORTUNITY:**

Due to COVID-19 protocols and restrictions, our water fountains will not be in service this year and we are in need of reusable/disposable water bottles again this year.

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

Did you know Rockford High School, in partnership with Nystrom and Associates, Ltd., offers mental health therapy services directly on-site at RHS. For more information, click [HERE](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZGN4Vs5qjjeu96cvOZVaKxFyz1wW_Clw/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107508887440779011239&rtpof=true&sd=true).

**FREE & REDUCED LUNCH FORMS:**

If you haven’t already done so, please take a moment to fill out this [FORM](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yPEhWeCNLImO8N2JdQV7Thvyh0tx4hDt/view?usp=sharing). Students who qualify may be eligible for **Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)** to purchase food for days they are not in the school building. Our school also receives state funding for technology based on qualifying families! For more information or a Spanish version, click [here](https://www.rockford.k12.mn.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceID=3519&ViewID=ed695a1c-ef13-4546-b4eb-4fefcdd4f389&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=6967&PageID=135&Comments=true).

**LOCKER REGISTRATION:**

Students may elect to register for a locker this year. If you feel that your child would benefit greatly by having a locker, feel free to register ASAP.

Locker Registration link: <https://forms.gle/DrE9n2m3ECbX8S6z6>