Greetings RHS Families,

Our fall semester is in full swing as we prepare to enter the last week of September--can you believe it? Students are competing in athletic events, the Pep Band brings the energy to several events, our fall musical is cast and students are beginning to memorize lines, and our first field trips are scheduled in our CTE programs. We are so thankful to be pushing our way toward a normalized high school experience!

Next week we will host several homecoming events, celebrations, and contests. We are thankful for our student council for busily working out details to make memorable social events and build community. Please see the link below for more details. If your child would like to suggest other community building ideas, please have them contact a student council representative. They are eager to hear the thoughts of their peers!

In other news, our teachers and students are learning together as we begin our IB DP and CP courses. Please encourage your child to speak with teachers about adjustments and challenges to consider along the way. At our staff meetings this week we talked about being aware of striking a balance between a return to normal for our students and our call to prepare students successfully for college and career amidst potential learning loss over the past 20 months. Two key opportunities for students to take advantage of assistance are Rocket Block (twice per week they are afforded at least 45 minutes of independent work time) and Homework Help (Wednesdays after school from 3:00-4:15pm).

I hope you have a wonderful weekend. Go Rockets!

Student Quote: “I’m looking forward to Homecoming Week and all the activities and events. It’s a great way to show school spirit!”

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.

**OPEN HOUSE WALK-THROUGH CANCELED:**

We will **NOT** be holding the Open House Walk-Through on September 27. Information on all students' classes (including teacher contact information and class syllabi) can be found on the Rockford High School website. Parents are invited to meet with teachers during Fall conferences.

**HOMECOMING EVENTS:**

Our Student council has planned all kinds of fun activities next week for Homecoming Week! Click [HERE](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZGad_8JtJ7lt3YNnwmXnPD4bTyzunR3MLq7jSYuqfxM/edit?usp=sharing) for a schedule of events.

**YEARBOOK COMMITTEE:**

We had a great turnout for the yearbook committee meeting and now have a group of students eager to get started on a great yearbook for you this year!

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

**HOMEWORK HELP:**

We are bringing back Homework Help for the 21/22 school year! Homework Help will start on September 22nd 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.

**FALL OPEN HOUSE EVENT @ 12:30 PM ON 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.

**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).

**SUICIDE PREVENTION:**

Did you know that September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month? Click [HERE](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q5ZnDTt5a3p6sl2yre3OylcL-_UztknW/view?usp=sharing)for more info.

**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).

**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](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebibX1ro8f5HNJzK8umI74SDTa4W4p1vDHEBOfpcWKvWkBeA/viewform?usp=sf_link). 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.