

4500 Kroes Road  
Rockford, MI 49341  
Phone: (616) 863-6348  
Attendance: (616) 863-6352

# Rockford High School Freshman Center

Guidance: (616) 863-6350  
Fax: (616) 866-7134  
[www.rockfordschools.org](http://www.rockfordschools.org)

*Tom Hasford*  
Principal

*Kelly Amshey*  
Assistant Principal



*Holly Normington*  
Counselor

*Jennifer Lutz*  
Counselor

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Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools

November 3, 2017

Dear Freshman Center Families,

It's hard to believe that we are almost through Trimester 1 already! Thank you for your communication and feedback up to this point. We appreciate the partnership in helping your student have the most successful start to their high school career as possible!

This letter has updated information regarding the Freshman Center transition to the 1:1 environment and the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative. The purpose of this initiative is help increase student engagement and better prepare our students for the next chapter in their life with a college placement and/or beginning a career. For clarity, the term "1:1" means that all students will bring a device to every class period, every day. The term "BYOD" means that students are encouraged to bring a device from home. High school students will be encouraged to bring their own device which is different than the elementary and middle school 1:1 initiatives.

In previous communications, we stated that the Freshman Center would begin our 1:1 initiative, involving the BYOD concept, starting second trimester of this school year. Due to some unforeseen situations, we are going to adapt our transition to beginning of the third trimester, which is the beginning of March 2018. Rockford Public Schools feel this additional time is necessary to make sure the implementation is done in the correct manner. Then, beginning in the fall of 2018, the 10th-12th grades will implement their BYOD initiative.

We encourage students to bring their own device for many reasons, including the following:

- They can download their own information
- They will need one for college and/or career
- Many other reasons which will be discussed at a later meetings there going to be a meeting – when would this take place?

The timing of this letter is important because we know the holiday season is coming up, and a laptop or tablet device since it can be that as well (tablet) would be a great present for any student. During the holiday season there are sale prices, and parents may be able to get a laptop at a real low price. A reminder, the following guidelines are recommended for efficient functionality:

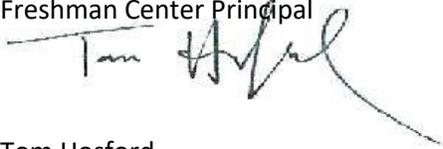
- A 9.5" diagonal display
- A keyboard physically attached
- A web browser (Chrome, Safari, Microsoft IE or edge – Note that other browsers may create frustration for students while accessing content designed for the "big 3 browsers")
- A wireless WiFi connection capability

Once again, we encourage students to bring their own device at the 9-12th grade level. The FC students will begin the BYOD program in March and the 10-12th grade students will implement in the fall of 2018. As we get closer to these start dates, more information will be provided. If you have any questions,

don't hesitate to contact me at 863-6348. I really feel we need to be stronger on WHY BYOD and the benefits and what the FC learned last year from the teachers in the pilot. We need to take this opportunity to not only inform parents of the push back on the start date but all of the good things that this program will provide their students. We need to do more PR

Sincerely,

Tom Hosford  
Freshman Center Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hosford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Tom Hosford  
Principal  
Rockford High School Freshman Center  
(616) 863-6348  
[thosford@rockfordschools.org](mailto:thosford@rockfordschools.org)