



A DK-12 Online Rockford Public School

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Dear RPS Families:

The 2020/21 school year has begun and students are engaged in learning with their teachers and classmates. I am proud of the results our teachers and staff have made to support student learning to start the year and we will continue to observe and reflect. Rockford Public Schools is prepared to support students during the school year and as we move toward our opening of face to face (F2F) instruction on September 14th, I wanted to take a moment to respond to some inquiries we have received and clarify instructional options for this year.

Remote and virtual learning have different characteristics:

- Remote learning occurs when there is a school closure for students enrolled in F2F instruction. Students follow a daily schedule that is led by their classroom teacher and includes live instruction and interaction with classmates.
- [Rockford Virtual](#) learning contains an elementary approach that includes pre-recorded lessons with a partner curriculum and limited live instructional interaction with a caseload teacher. The secondary model includes students working independently through prescribed APEX courses and teachers interacting to guide, monitor and assess. Students in virtual have caseload RPS teachers.

Rockford Virtual instruction began on Monday, August 31st. Enrolled students are expected to commit to one full trimester (through November 13th). We are now past the enrollment deadline of August 17th and while it is not best educational practice to change environment and instructional delivery routines, RPS is opening a limited late enrollment for Rockford Virtual for students that have a critical need or circumstance. Given that Rockford Virtual has already begun, RPS would need to react to any new enrollment with additional staff. In other words, there would not be a “next day” transition for students. If a student were to apply for this late enrollment by September 8th and be accepted, they would participate in remote learning until September 11th and orientation the week of September 14th. In order for the district to make preparations with staff and enrolled students, the students’ first instructional day with Rockford

Virtual would be September 21st. To be transparent, those students currently enrolled in F2F elementary classes would not be guaranteed an original classroom/teacher placement if they chose to return for the 2nd or 3rd trimester.

Summary of Rockford Virtual Enrollment Dates

August 31-November 13	First trimester commitment for Rockford Virtual Students
September 8 at 10:00 a.m.	Deadline for limited late enrollment with Rockford Virtual
September 8-September 11	Limited late enrollment applications reviewed and families notified of acceptance/denial Students remain in F2F instruction while awaiting notification of application status
September 14-18	Accepted late enrollment students have orientation week to prepare for virtual instruction
September 21	Virtual instruction begins for students accepted in the late enrollment process

Finally, the deadline for Rockford Virtual late registration is September 8th at 10:00 am. Interested families may submit a registration request by clicking [here](#) or through the registration link on the Rockford Virtual [homepage](#). The district will be in contact with families prior to September 11th regarding the status of your enrollment application.

If you still have questions after reviewing the [Rockford Virtual Website](#) and [Parent FAQ](#), please email venrollment@rockfordschools.org and we will attempt to answer in a timely manner.

Thank you for your partnership in meeting the educational needs of your child.

Respectfully,

Michael S. Shibley, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools