



RPS Parent/Guardians and Student,

As you know, this year Rockford Public Schools created a program to support students in the difficult time of a global pandemic. This program, Rockford Virtual, provides educational opportunities to students who are unable to attend classes in the traditional school building at this time.

In August, RPS established an enrollment process for the start of the year. During that time, we welcomed over 900 DK-12 students, each of which was asked to make a one trimester commitment to the program. As we approach the end of this first trimester, we recognize that some families may wish to request a change in placement, in response to experience and/or changes in our community.

Before making a decision, we ask that you take time to review our educational programs. Most families have a good understanding of the programs offered in our traditional schools, but are less familiar with the virtual program in Rockford. Please consider the information about our programs, in concert with your understanding of your families needs during this unprecedented time before making a decision.

On **October 20 and 21**, families who are committed to a transfer between Rockford Virtual and In Person Instruction at our traditional buildings will be asked to complete a transfer request in Family Access. This information is critical to the planning that must occur in order to move these students successfully between programs. The planning may include staffing changes, redistribution of students, and other high-stakes decisions. For this reason, it is critical that families make a sound and thoughtful decision, that they can stand behind for the duration of the second trimester.

On behalf of the district, thank you for taking the time to carefully consider your options. We recognize how supportive our community is and appreciate you so much!

Rockford Virtual Elementary Program (DK-5th Grade)

Rockford Virtual elementary-aged students will be placed into a virtual classroom led by an RPS teacher. Classes meet each morning via Google Meet. The intention of the morning meeting is to develop social connections and to learn about the lesson and activities planned for the day. Twice per week, students will also attend small group meetings in Google Meet. The purpose of the small group meeting is to encourage more teacher-student interaction and to help teachers develop an understanding of the student's progress in real time. Outside of these scheduled meetings, students will work on lesson activities and assignments that are provided by the teacher. As you might imagine, this requires a high level of adult support for the bulk of the time that students are working. Students are highly encouraged to maintain a daily routine, taking breaks between different activities and assignments as they would at school.

What it is:	What it is not:
Rockford Virtual is a partnership between RPS and families to ensure student access to educational opportunities.	Rockford Virtual is not a program that elementary students can manage independent of parent support.
Rockford Virtual is a combination of Google Meet, video, and other activities that may be completed in a student's home.	Rockford Virtual is not a full day of live lessons.
Rockford Virtual is a combination of synchronous and asynchronous work, allowing some flexibility within the daily schedule.	Rockford Virtual is not an a la carte program, where students pick and choose which things they participate in and/or complete.
Rockford Virtual is a program that provides lessons in core content areas, with a heavy emphasis on literacy and math.	Rockford Virtual is not a comprehensive replacement for all components of the curriculum in traditional schools, such as specials, Spanish Immersion, or Gifted/Talented programs.
Rockford Virtual is a program staffed by adults who will do our best to help every student succeed.	Rockford Virtual is not a promise of consistency. Just as in person schools are somewhat at the mercy of the current state of our community, Rockford Virtual may make adjustments and changes in response to changes in our district.

Rockford Virtual Secondary Program (6-12th Grade)

Rockford Virtual secondary students will gain access to the curriculum through a fully online platform, Apex Learning. Apex courses are supported by Rockford Teachers, who will oversee progress, coach students in the process, and grade submitted assignments. Student learning through the Apex platform requires substantial reading and note-taking, in addition to scored assignments, quizzes, and tests. Successful students are those who are motivated to learn in this way and are highly independent. Students may work at their own pace, but are encouraged to spend one hour per day per course as a guide to finish all courses in twelve weeks. Adults in the home provide support by monitoring progress, ensuring time on task, and helping to problem solve technical difficulties.

What it is:	What it is not:
Rockford Virtual is a partnership between RPS and families to ensure student access to educational opportunities.	Rockford Virtual is not an easy way to get an education. Students must show a high level of independence and motivation to succeed.
Rockford Virtual is a literacy focused, secondary curriculum.	Rockford Virtual is not live lessons or videos to support learning.
Rockford Virtual is mainly asynchronous, allowing some flexibility with student schedules. Teachers availability will be limited to a standard work day.	Rockford Virtual is not a program that we recommend be completed largely during evenings and weekends, as teacher support is limited during this time.
Rockford Virtual is a program that provides lessons in core content areas with limited elective options. Modern language is not being offered through Rockford Virtual.	Rockford Virtual is not a comprehensive replacement for all components of the curriculum in traditional schools. Students will need to select electives from the Apex catalog to replace certain RHS electives.
Rockford Virtual is a program that allows students to work ahead of schedule.	Rockford Virtual is not a program that will allow students to advance in grade level.
Rockford Virtual is a program that provides students with flexible targets for work completion, meaning late work is accepted without penalty.	Rockford Virtual is not intended for students to attend only sporadically. Successful students are those who engage every day, as they would in the traditional setting.
Rockford Virtual is a program staffed by adults who will do our best to help every student succeed.	Rockford Virtual is not a promise of consistency. Just as in person schools are somewhat at the mercy of the current state of our community, Rockford Virtual may make adjustments and changes in response to changes in our district.