

# Welcome to 2019-2020 School Year

## Excitement for the New Year

Each year, we look forward to meeting over 1800 students at the Rockford High School.

We are excited to see all of the students very soon, at the scheduled orientation.

In the meantime, please take a few minutes to review the information and contact us with any remaining questions. Thank you, in advance, for your partnership in the year ahead.

## Get Involved!

Students who participate in co-curricular activities feel more connected to school, and on average, will perform better and have better attendance than peers who do not.

There are a variety of activities and clubs available to meet the needs of our students at Rockford High School and Freshman Center.

Examples of opportunities to participate include: athletics, fine arts, drama club, theater club, student council, renaissance club, fellowship of Christian athletes, gay/straight alliance, writing club, art club, LEO club, secular student alliance, interact (community service group), thirsting to serve (world water & sanitation), and close-up. Students with a particular interest that is unavailable in current offerings may be able to start a new club too!

Daily announcements are posted on the website and will provide students with information about meeting times and dates. Encourage your students to get involved this year!

## Orientation Day 2019

Orientation is required for all students. Please make every effort to encourage your student to attend their scheduled orientation between 8:00am-12:00pm.

Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>-Seniors

Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>-Juniors

Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>-Sophomores

The make-up date is August 19<sup>th</sup>@ 8:00am-12:00pm. Please have your student view and print his/her schedule through Student/Family Access and bring this to orientation.

During the orientation, students will be photographed and will receive a student ID badge. All students need the ID to check out textbooks, use library materials, and purchase lunch in our cafeteria. Please remind your student to dress appropriately for his/her school photo.

Once students receive their ID, they will check out textbooks and computers (if using a school-issued device). Students may also choose to walk around the building, find locker locations, and identify classrooms.

Orientation is an open-house style format. There is no formal presentation for parents or students.

Things to bring:

- Copy of student schedule
- Completed picture form (sent to guardians in the mail)
- Check to order yearbook (optional)

## **We All Matter!**

Every student and staff member deserves to feel valued and appreciated. We all must do our part to create the environment in which every individual can truly say “We all matter.”

You can do your part:

- Respect the privacy of others.
- Recognize and accept that every person is different.
- Treat your teachers and classmates as you would treat those you care for most.
- Be intentional about meeting new people and looking to include those who may be alone.
- Don't share information UNLESS it is POSITIVE.
- Use maturity and careful judgment when using technology.

## Enrollment Verification, Family Access, and Schoology

Rockford Public Schools is asking parents to complete enrollment verification steps online through Family Access this year. Parents will need to log in to complete these steps. Please ensure that all contact information is accurate, all appropriate boxes are checked, and that all forms are complete to avoid future delays or issues. If you are unable to complete this at your home, please know that we will be happy to provide you access to school computer in this building. Just stop into the main office at orientation or call to let us know when you'd like to come.

Our district uses two programs to communicate with students and families: Family/Student Access (Skyward) and Schoology. Both programs have apps that work well on mobile devices. Family/Student Access will be the source for information related to attendance and grades. Family Access is also the system that the district uses to send messages to parents. Schoology is a learning management system, which is used to connect students with curriculum resources, assignment calendars, and other instructional tools. Teachers also frequently use this program to message students or parents.

Both programs are important tools in the communication between our school and your family. Please be sure that you have access to these programs and adjust your settings to ensure that you receive the information that is important to you. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions, concerns, or would like more help with the program.

## One-to-One Learning including Bring Your Own Device Option

As a reminder, all students in grades 9-12 are required to bring a device to classes each day. Students may opt to bring a family-owned device from home, may rent-to-own through the Tech Defenders company, or may opt to have the school issue a device to their student. Information on these options are available on the RPS webpage for Instructional Technology (<http://www.rockfordschools.org/academics/instructional-technology/>).

Recommended tips for students:

- Be sure to set up a system at home to help you remember to charge your device fully each evening.
- Utilize a protective case to carry your device safely. School issued devices and rent-to-own devices will come with a protective case.
- If bringing your own device, feel free to personalize (school appropriate) so that it is easy to recognize (with your parents' permission).

## Student Drop Off and Pick Up Before and After School

In order to provide a safe arrival and departure for all of our students, parents are asked to use designated student drop off and pick up before and after school. Please do not use the bus lane in front of the building when dropping students off and picking students up.

Please be aware that there is significant traffic before and after school due to the large number of staff, parents, and student drivers coming to and from RHS and RFC. Please leave plenty of time if you choose to have your student ride with you in lieu of using the bus.

### **Students may be dropped off at RHS between 6:30am-7:30am.**

These times coincide with the times that the building is staffed for supervision. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

## Transportation

Students who are residents in the RPS district may take advantage of the school transportation system to get to and from school. Students must remember that the bus ride is an extension of the school day and behavior should reflect this fact. Students must follow all bus rules to provide a safe environment for all students.

Students are assigned to a specific bus and all students must ride the bus they are assigned to. As a general rule, high school students may not ride another bus home. If there is a family emergency, however, a parent/guardian may call transportation directly (616-863-6328) to make arrangements. Neither the school office nor the bus driver accept notes from parents regarding transportation changes.

To be most efficient, most buses will visit more than one school each morning and afternoon. These are called "loads". Buses also line up in the same position each day; this is referred to as "position". Students will receive the load and position information for their bus on the first day of school.

## Absences and Appointments

Consistent attendance is critical to success in high school. Please remind your students that attendance is required by law and is also required to earn credit in high school classes. Every missed day (or class) results in missed opportunities for instruction, learning activities, and collaboration. To support student attendance, parents, please consider the following:

- Schedule routine appointments in advance for after school hours or during scheduled time off from school. If your provider offers limited appointments in these windows, voice your concerns about availability for student appointments.
- Avoid scheduling vacations during scheduled school days.
- Provide medications as appropriate for your student's use in the health office at the school. Parents/Guardians must drop the medications off and fill out a brief form.
- Unless your student is showing signs of contagious illness or is physically unable to attend, he/she should attend each day.
- Provide regular healthcare for your student to ensure overall wellness.
- Take your child to the doctor when illness prevents him/her from attendance on multiple consecutive days.
- Establish a consistent sleep schedule to support the early morning wake-up.

If your student is absent from school for any reason, or will be coming late or leaving during the day for an appointment, please call Attendance Direct Line (616) 863-6032 to report the absence. Rockford High school or Freshman Center will not accept written notes to excuse student absences. We recognize that this is a change from the middle school procedure. Parents do not need to come into the building to sign students out or in when you have called to excuse the absence.

## School Supply List

School supply needs vary between teachers and students.

- Writing utensils
- Highlighters
- Colored Pencils
- Calculator (TI30 Scientific or basic)
  
- Ruler
- 3-ring binders
- Pocket folder
- Single-subject notebooks