



# SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

August 30, 2022

To our Rockford families,

I hope your school year has started well. The beginning of the school year is full of promise.

As I mentioned in my last email, starting the year off on the right foot is important. Try to establish good patterns and habits early. Routines are important.

It is often difficult to establish those good routines. Our busy schedules, at times, get in the way. Between school, after-school activities, sports team, dance teams, church activities, family commitments, and a host of other important events, establishing a schedule and good routines is hard. But, it is important.

I would like to invite parents to "Cookies with the Superintendent." This will be a time for us to get to know each other and to discuss some important topics. I promise to bring some homemade cookies as well. These events are scheduled for the Board Room at the Administrative Offices at 350 N. Main St. Rockford. Parking behind the building is probably the best bet but enter through the front door on N. Main.

Here are the upcoming dates, times, and topics for "Cookies with the Superintendent":

September 26, 6:30 - 7:30 PM: Student safety - At school and online. Special guests: Scott Beckman - Rockford Public Schools Director of Security and Officer Ryan Morin, School Resource Officer

October 24, 6:30 - 7:30 PM: Student success - How to help students succeed at school and in life. Special guests - Rockford Public Schools counselors

November 28, 6:30 - 7:30 PM: Student mental health - How to reduce stress and anxiety, what to watch for, how to help. Special guest: David Jangda - Rockford Public Schools Mental Health Liaison

This week we had a surprise storm roll through just as school was dismissing. Our priority during events like that is to keep students safe. Your patience with delayed release or delayed bus runs is appreciated.

We also lost power at one of our schools during the storm. Luckily the power returned before school started the next day.

As a reminder, if we have to make adjustments to our day because of power outages, weather issues, or other unexpected events, we will keep you informed. You may receive phone calls, emails, or text messages. We have a variety of tools at our disposal. Family Access and School Messenger will most likely be the tools that we will use.

I may even put out information on social media - like Twitter or Instagram. You can find me on those social media platforms here: @docsmatthews.

I will also use social media to highlight the good things that go on inside of our schools. Whether it is reading to a classroom, visiting a school, watching the band, or attending a sporting event, there are a lot of really positive things that happen every day in our schools. I have encouraged our staff to use social media as well. I know that social media can be used to divide communities but I am trying to use it to unite us by showing all of the positive things that go on every day in our Rockford Public Schools classrooms and schools. If you want to follow me - @docsmatthews - you will see many of those things. You may also learn a little bit about my interests and my family as well.

Again, thank you for the welcome that you have provided to my wife and me. We have enjoyed getting to know you. Don't hesitate to say hello when you see me at an event or downtown.

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews  
Superintendent, Rockford Public Schools