



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

November 15, 2022

Good afternoon,

As I sit in my office today (Tuesday, November 15), snow is falling outside my window. Today on my visit to East Rockford Middle School I had three students ask me about snow days!

We know that snow is coming. I will try and communicate as quickly as I can about weather delays or cancellations. What I have learned in my 15 years as a Superintendent is that it is impossible to predict the weather. But with patience and a bit of luck, I am sure we will manage through the winter just fine.

We have reached the end of our first trimester. We have had a number of highlights this school year. To recap just a few:

- Our Rockford High School marching band won the Division One Michigan Competing Band Association State Championship
- The Rockford/Sparta girls' rugby team won a state championship
- The Rockford High School fall play - The Play That Goes Wrong - was spectacular
- Band, choir, and orchestra concerts were wonderful and in-person
- Parent-teacher conferences were offered in both virtual and in-person formats

Two administrative changes have occurred this fall. Larinda Fase has moved from the high school assistant principal position to the Director of Special Programs within our Department of Special Services. To take her place, Rachel Dekuiper has moved to the Assistant Principal role at the high school.

We began a process in the past couple of years to ensure that our teaching staff works together to support student learning. We have organized around four critical questions:

1. What do we want students to know?
2. How will we know if they learned it?
3. What will we do when they don't learn it?
4. What can we do to extend learning?

Our teaching and administrative staff organizes into professional learning communities to work together to support our students. We want to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be successful and learn and grow in our schools. Through this effort we want to guarantee that all students will learn and be prepared for that next step in their lives.

As you are aware Michigan per-pupil school funding from the state primarily pays for day-to-day operations in the district. It pays for staffing, maintenance, utilities, transportation, business services, and other similar items. To support larger building projects and upgrade facilities, a school district usually passes bonds. In 2019, our district passed a bond to support our district facilities.

Information on bond projects can be found on our district website under the News link or here: [HOME | Rockford Rams Bond \(rpsbond.com\)](https://www.rockfordschools.org/news/2021/08/11/home-rockford-rams-bond-rpsbond.com)

Bond projects continue. Work on the new elementary on Edgerton is proceeding well. Work has begun on an addition to Crestwood. Bids on renovations to North Rockford Middle School are in process. Work on the athletic entrance and upgrades to a team room for swimming is progressing. We are appreciative of our community for their support of these and many other exciting bond projects.

Thank you once again for supporting our non-homestead millage renewal on November 8. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Our East Rockford Middle School band was invited to perform as a "featured band" for the Western Michigan University Middle School Honors Band program. We are very excited for Ms. Kilgore and her band.

As you see me in and around our district and community please say hello.

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews
Superintendent
Rockford Public Schools