



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

December 16, 2022

I hope your Holiday preparations are going well.

We had a great December in the Rockford Public Schools celebrating the Holidays while still learning. This week as I visited classrooms around the district I saw teachers and students engaged in a variety of learning activities.

I saw our 6th grade orchestra and band concerts at East Rockford and North Rockford Middle Schools and the Collage concert at the high school with our high school bands, choirs, and orchestras. Earlier this month I saw elementary concerts performed at the high school auditorium.

This week, I saw pajama day at the Freshman Center, an Elf on the Shelf at Crestwood, Christmas chemistry at the high school, and preschoolers singing Christmas carols.

It was a good week!

As we head into the break I wanted to update you on two things.

First, the Board of Education is changing starting January 1, 2023. Current trustees Bobbi Jo Blanton, Tim Lewis, and Andrea Jacobsen are leaving the board. Their service to our community, to our students, and to our staff is deeply appreciated.

New members on the board will be Barb Helms, Christie Ramsey, and Tricia Anderson. In addition, Jarrod Folsom will start in a four-year seat on the board. We welcome these committed community members who will work with the staff and community to ensure that we continue to have schools that welcome and support all students.

Second, our [Developing Healthy Kids XI](#) will begin in January. I have attached a flyer that describes the opportunities that will come up in the new year.

The focus for our Developing Healthy Kids XI is to address issues surrounding social media and our students. Click on the Developing Healthy Kids XI link to see our flyer describing the events and the times.

We have two excellent films that will provide parents great insight into the challenges we see today.

We will also have an author, Devorah Heitner, in Rockford to discuss her book Screenwise: Helping kids thrive (and survive) in their digital world. She has studied this issue for several years and has great insight for parents. She will be at our high school auditorium on February 6.

Finally, we conclude our Developing Healthy Kids XI program with an in-person discussion with experts on human trafficking.

Please see the attached [flyer](#) and plan to attend these events all scheduled at the Rockford High School auditorium.

Don't forget to tune in on Monday, January 2, 2023, to watch our Rockford High School marching band participate and perform in the Rose Bowl parade from Pasadena, California. It will be great!

Finally, I wanted to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday season. My wife and I deeply appreciate the welcome that we have received in Rockford and look forward to developing deeper relationships and continuing to ensure that our Rockford Public Schools continues to be a place where students thrive. Enjoy your break!

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews
Superintendent
Rockford Public Schools