

## **Rockford Public Schools**

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August 29, 2023

Dear RPS Families,

Welcome back to another school year here at Rockford Public Schools! The RPS School Resource Officer (SRO) team looks forward to working with students and their families as we start out the 2023-2024 school year. Your Rockford SROs are a team of certified law enforcement officers from the Kent County Sheriff's Office and the Rockford Department of Public Safety. Our role as an SRO is based on a concept that divides our responsibilities into three areas: Law Enforcement Officer, Educator, and Informal Counselor/Mentor. We receive extensive training focused on these areas throughout our time serving the schools in which we are assigned.

As SROs, our work day starts and ends at the schools and we attend various extracurricular activities throughout the school year. We work closely with the RPS Security Team and our fellow law enforcement officers to ensure that we are all on the same page with issues at schools both inside and outside the city limits of Rockford. The safety and security of your child is our top priority.

As a reminder, Rockford Public Schools participates in the OK2SAY program. OK2SAY is a student safety program which allows students to confidentially report tips on potential harm or criminal activities directed at students, school employees, and schools. We ask that you encourage your kids to utilize this great tool by downloading the app onto family smart devices, or by submitting tips on the OK2SAY website at <a href="https://ok2say.com">ok2say.com</a>. Anonymous tips can also be submitted through Silent Observer of West Michigan by going to <a href="mailto:silentobserver.org">silentobserver.org</a>.

If students wish to speak to their SRO, they can do so by reaching out to us in person, sending us an email, or by going to their school office and asking for us. We highly encourage students and their families to reach out to us with any questions or concerns that may arise throughout the year.

We hope that all of our students have a fun, productive, and safe school year. Go Rams!

Sincerely,



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