



# SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

August 23, 2023

Good afternoon,

Three important updates.

First, it is hot! But, to jump to the end, we will have school on Thursday.

This afternoon those of us who work in the Admin Building went out to our schools to see how things were going. We talked with staff. We talked with students. We saw fans in our classrooms and hallways. We saw teachers teaching. We saw students learning.

We pulled room temperatures for all rooms throughout the district. Rooms were warmer than normal, some would say hot, but not dangerous.

We also looked at the forecast. The National Weather Service heat advisory ends at 8:00 AM Thursday morning. That does not mean the temperatures will suddenly go down, but the humidity is forecast to go down throughout the day tomorrow. As a result, tomorrow should be slightly better than today.

So, to repeat, we will have school on Thursday. Dress appropriately. Bring a water bottle. And we will have a good day tomorrow.

Second, this year the state budget allocated money so that we have free breakfast and lunch for all students in the district. We had a couple of bumps this week as we rolled out the program. But every student is eligible for these free breakfasts and lunches. The breakfasts are being distributed in various ways at each building. If you have questions don't hesitate to ask at the buildings. Our goal is to provide a breakfast and lunch to every student.

Students who eat a healthy breakfast are better prepared for the academic demands of the school day. Students pay attention. Students are able to process information. Students are more successful. So, please take advantage of this program.

I know mornings can be chaotic at times. School starts early. So, free breakfast and lunch this year for our students.

Third, and finally, our high school went to two lunch periods this year.

At the high school we have traditionally had three lunch periods. That meant "B" lunch divided an instructional period. So, kids would go to class, then go to lunch, then go back to class. That was fairly disruptive to learning.

This year we added some tables and with that additional capacity we went down to two lunches. On the first day with more students in each lunch period things were a bit chaotic. We had enough food but wait times were a bit longer than normal. Day two was better and day three even better.

Going to two lunches is better for our instructional program. We have made it through three days now and we think things are in a good place.

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me - [smatthews@rockfordschools.org](mailto:smatthews@rockfordschools.org). You can also find pictures of my visits to buildings and events on Instagram, X - formerly Twitter, and Threads. Find me @docsmatthews.

We are excited to have everyone back in school. It has been a good first week. I look forward to seeing your students in school and you at our activities and events.

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews  
Superintendent  
Rockford Public Schools