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Rockwood School News

Published for the residents of the Rockwood School District

The mission of the Rockwood Area School District is to empower students to reach their full potential as well-rounded, lifelong learners and responsible members of society.

From the Superintendent's Desk

District Residents,

The start of the 2023-2024 school year is just days away, and students will be returning to the District's classrooms, gyms, and athletic fields. Summer is a time of preparing and planning for the upcoming school year. District personnel have been busy reviewing academic assessment data, preparing classrooms, scheduling, cleaning, upgrading, and repairing the District's facilities, as well as outside contractors being on site to complete renovation projects. Before sharing more information about this summer's preparations, I would like to share some highlights from this year's senior class. This year's graduation ceremony included motivational speeches by Abygail Floyd and Grant Mathias, who earned the honor of being named co-valedictorians. Alex Barclay-Senior Class President, and Emily Hostetler-National Honor Society President, also addressed the class and guests. The Class of 2023 included seventy graduates. Forty of the graduates plan to attend college or trade schools this fall. Twenty-four students attended the Somerset County Technology Center, where they learned a trade. Twenty graduates will join the workforce immediately. Eight of the graduates have made commitments to serve in the military, including: Isaiah Brumbaugh, Jacob Griffith, Alyssa Hunt, Jacob Keller, Brayden Mazer, Matthew Mitchell, Candra Newbaker, and Grant Mathias, who received an appointment to attend the Merchant Marine Service Academy. The character and spirit of the Class of 2023 is reflected in their final act as a class. The class values the hard work and dedication of those who work in the trades so much they decided to use their remaining class funds to sponsor an annual graduation award to honor future graduates who plan to dedicate their lives to working in a trade field. The RASD Class of 2023 Award will be given to a graduating senior every year for the next 10 years. Congratulations to the Class of 2023! We wish all of you a lifetime of success, well-being, and happiness.

Retirements and New Staff Members

The District would like to congratulate and recognize Mrs. Dana Weimer and Mrs. Melissa Putman who retired at the end of the school year. Dana and Melissa have been educating children for over 55 years of combined service. Their dedication and commitment to the Life Skills students of Rockwood throughout their careers is commendable. We are excited to welcome several new employees to the District who will be starting their careers in the fall, as well as a few who came to Rockwood in the past year. Please see more information about each of them later in this newsletter.

Facility Upgrades and Budget Update

When students return to school this year, we are hopeful several projects to upgrade the facilities have either been completed or nearing completion. Over the summer, the majority of restrooms and locker rooms have been renovated. Some of the original restrooms dated back to the 1950's and 1970's. Boys and girls restrooms and locker rooms have all been equipped with individual toilet, changing, and shower stalls to protect the security and safety of all students. In addition, the renovated areas will include new sinks, plumbing, and ceramic tile on the floors and walls. Besides the restroom and locker room renovations, the main freezers and coolers in the District's kitchen have been installed. We are very excited to complete these improvement projects, which have been long overdue. The majority of funding for both projects was made available through Federal COVID-pandemic relief funds. One of the greatest challenges for the Board and administration this year has been financial planning within the current economic climate and adopting an operating budget for the 2023-2024 school year. In June, the board approved an operating budget for the upcoming school year. District residents will see a small increase in next year's school property tax millage rate, with the District's property tax rate remaining amongst the lowest throughout the State and local region. Other one-time expenditure projects being funded in this year's budget include: Phase 1 of an elementary playground renovation project, additional funding of the

Superintendent (cont.)

restroom renovation project, new musical instruments in support of the District's growing band program, portable athletic bleachers, support for after-school and summer programming for students, a concrete pad behind the maintenance building, parking lot sealcoating and line painting, and equipment for the District's Technology & Engineering and Family & Consumer Science programs.

School Safety-Mental Health Grant Activities

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. I am pleased to share the District was once again awarded a Mental Health and School Safety & Security Grant for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years to address mental health initiatives and physical security enhancements. The majority of the Mental Health grant is funding in-house summer and after-school programs for school-age students. The programs are providing students with social-emotional learning opportunities and activities to help students build social skills, form healthy relationships, and manage their emotions. Social-emotional learning opportunities and activities include: art activities, mindfulness activities, goal-setting activities, icebreaker activities, physical activities (indoor and outdoor), community service activities, game-based activities, stem activities, journal writing, teamwork activities, etc. The School Safety and Security portion of the grant is funding the first two years of the District's School Police Officer. Additionally, the District's communication and video surveillance systems are being expanded through the purchase of additional radios, computer servers, and outdoor public address speakers.

Community Support

The District's students have once again benefited from the continued support of the community this year. We would like to thank the Rockwood Class of 1965 for their \$1,725 donation for the purchase of band instruments for the District's music program. The Class of 1965 has a long history of giving back to their alma mater in support of student programs. In addition to the monetary donation, members of the class also donated multiple used music instruments for use by future band students. In an effort to support future Rockwood musicians, the District welcomes the donation of used band instruments no longer being used. Please contact the District office if interested in making a donation.

Please review other important information included in this edition of Rockwood School News, including many of the upcoming events and activities scheduled for this fall. On behalf of the school board, faculty, and staff, thank you for your support. Working together, the 2023-2024 school year will be another great year!

Mark R. Bower -Superintendent

Rockwood Area School District Hall of Fame Recognition



The Rockwood Area School District Hall of Fame was started in 1999 to honor past Rockwood graduates who have achieved a level of excellence, as recognized by their peers or media, in one or more of the following areas: Arts, Science, Athletics, Letters of Humanities, or have made a significant contribution to the health, welfare and/or freedom of the local or world community. This year, the recipients selected to receive this award were: Mr. Michael J. Miller, nominated by Clair Saylor and Mrs. Sarah (King) Skeba, nominated by Sandra King.

Mr. Michael J. Miller is a 1966 graduate. After high school, Mike attended Catherman's Business School in Cumberland, MD and Vale Technical College in Blairsville, PA, where he received a degree in automotive technology. He also served in the Army National Guard for over 25 years. Mike started Miller's Body Shop, operating it for many years until taking a position with the PA Turnpike Commission. He retired in 2007 due to serious injuries sustained in an accident; however, this did not stop Mike from going on to work on his true passion - restoration of antique steam powered equipment. He is a life-long volunteer at the Farmers and Threshermans Jubilee and loves to restore tractors and antiques of all types. Mike also enjoys working with other organizations to help raise funds for local charities. His favorite quote is, "What good is having anything if you can't share it." Thank you for serving our community!

Mrs. Sarah (King) Skeba graduated in 2005. Upon graduation, Sarah attended Duquesne University, where she obtained her Master's Degree as a Physician's Assistant. After receiving her degree, she moved to Florida to be part of an Internal Medicine practice. After three years, Sarah returned to Pennsylvania and accepted a job at Jefferson Hospital in the Pulmonary/Critical Care Department. She then transferred to West Penn Hospital. In 2017, Sarah's brother was diagnosed with Monoclonal Gammopathy of Renal Significance, a blood disease that eventually destroyed his kidneys. Sarah tested for donation and was an exact match! She generously donated a kidney to her brother in August 2021. After recovering from surgery, Sarah elected to change her career path to work with the Transplant Surgical Team at Allegheny General Hospital. She has assisted in numerous transplant surgeries since joining the team. Congratulations on your success, and thank you for your dedication to the healthcare industry!

Rockwood Area School District Welcomes New Faculty & Support Staff



Ms. Juliann Picklo - Secondary Art Teacher

Juliann is a graduate of Bishop McCort High School. After graduating, she attended IUP and obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree in Art Education. She also holds a BFA in Graphic Design from Seton Hill University. Juliann has nearly ten years of experience in the marketing world with five years in the educational field. Prior to teaching, she worked in the graphic design and marketing field as a marketing specialist. She has a unique background in both traditional and digital arts. Her enthusiasm for creativity has greatly enhanced the art program.

Ms. Samantha Smith - Special Education Teacher

Samantha is a former graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley School District. Following graduation, she continued her education and obtained Bachelor's degrees in both Education and Human Services and Elementary and Special Education. Samantha comes to the district with several years of teaching experience. She will begin her appointment at Rockwood at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. Having a student-centered focus and helping to make decisions based upon the students' best interest will make her a great addition to the district.



Ms. Hanna Goller - Elementary Special Education Teacher

Hanna is a recent graduate of the Rockwood Area School District. After graduating, she attended the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where she studied early childhood and special education. She will join the district at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. Hanna possesses many characteristics, including her positive and enthusiastic personality, that will make her a great addition to the district. Her lessons focus on the abilities of each student, and she is dedicated to connecting with and helping all students reach their full potential.

Mrs. Heather Hale - Special Education Paraprofessional

Heather is a long-time district resident and a former graduate of Forest Hills School District. She will begin her assignment in the Special Education Department at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. Heather has many years experience working with children, as she previously provided child care services out of her home. Her qualities of being patient, organized, reliable, and her ability to keep a positive attitude with students and staff will be a great benefit to the district.



Rockwood Area School District is accepting applications for the following positions:

JOB OPENINGS

- Substitute Teachers: qualification requirements - applicants must be certified and/or have a Bachelor's Degree.
* Pay rate for sub teachers is \$125.00/day
- Substitute Nurses - RN License Required:
* Pay rate for certified school nurses who provide coverage during the absence of the regular school nurse is \$200.00/day.
* Pay rate for an RN, LPN, or CSN who provides coverage on a field trip or provides health assistance or coverage for the regular school nurse under the direct supervision of the regular school nurse is \$150.00/day.
- Substitute Instructional Aides
- Substitute Custodians

Interested teaching applicants should send a letter of interest and application information (standard PA teaching application, letters of reference, transcripts, certificate, clearances, physical, etc.) to: Mark Bower, Superintendent, Rockwood Area School District, 439 Somerset Avenue, Rockwood, PA 15557. All other applicants should call 814-926-4688 for an application. Applications and forms can also be found on our website: rockwoodschoools.org under Departments; Administration; Applications.



Faculty Member Retirements Congratulations & Best Wishes!

Mrs. Dana Weimer
27 years of service



Mrs. Melissa Putman
11 years of service

Thank you for your many years of service and dedication to the Rockwood Area School District!

Highlighting Student Activity

Engineering & Technology Department News

In May 2023, thirty-three students from the Rockwood Engineering & Technology Club and classes participated in field trips to learn about the manufacturing process and the abundant STEM-related jobs that are available in the area. Students toured Guy Chemical, JFW Industries, Galliker's Dairy, Martin-Baker America, Kongsberg Defense, and Rockwood Manufacturing-ASSA ABLOY. Students were given the opportunity to meet and ask questions of various employee groups, ranging from floor operators, engineers, purchasers, and chemists, as well as individuals working in human resources and CEOs. Students learned about the hard and soft skills needed to succeed in their future careers and the impacts that robotics, mechanization, and IA (artificial intelligence) are having on jobs. Students finished the day with a dinner at Hoss's Steak and Sea House in Johnstown. A special thanks to Mrs. Sharon Clapper for coordinating with the businesses and also to JARI and PA Career Link / Tableland Services who assisted with funding the trip to make it so successful!

In June of 2023, students in grades 5th – 9th had the opportunity to take various enrichment summer classes. In the STEM 'Building Camp,' students learned to solder, built a walking machine, designed a golf ball pulley game made from cardboard, and explored 3D design. Students in 7th and 8th grade who took part in the woodworking program made a mini pinball game. A grant from the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS), funded a week-long summer welding program. Students learned shielded metal arc welding (SMAW) and gas metal arc welding (GMAW) processes, plasma cutting, and plasma computer numerical control (CNC) design and operation. Students enjoyed exceptional tours of Edgewood Welding and Fabrication, which manufactures storm truck bodies that are shipped globally and Super City Manufacturing, which makes a variety of truck bodies. After the tours, students had lunch at the historic Summit Diner in Somerset.

Looking forward to September, students will be invited to join the Christmas display project team funded by Somerset Inc.. The team designs and builds a Christmas-themed project to compete against other Somerset County schools. Students will learn a variety of skills, tools, and troubleshooting during the building process. The completed project will debut in November on Light Up Night in Somerset.



Rockwood Area School District

Homecoming 2023

Sponsored By: Rockwood High School Student Council



Date: Saturday, September 23

Time: To Be Announced



Please join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and games.

We will be recognizing our district fall athletes and crowning the homecoming king and queen!

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!



Dear Families and Community Members,

As summer winds down, we hope everyone had an enjoyable break. We are eagerly awaiting the return of our students and hopeful that students are excited to start the new school year. It will be a delight to have students, teachers, and support staff back in the classrooms for another year of learning and growth. As we begin the 2023-2024 school year, we want to share some important information.

School Facilities: During the summer months, several projects were completed to enhance district facilities. Improvements and renovations made to restrooms and locker rooms was an extensive project. Additionally, the weight room was upgraded with new fitness and weight training equipment.

Academic Programs: The district continues to grow the college-in-high school experience for college prep students. In addition to the courses already offered, three additional college-in- high school courses will be added: Cyber Security, Speech, and Foreign Language.

Technical Programs: Beginning in 10th grade, students can enroll and attend programs at the Somerset County Technology Center. A new heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration program is now available for students starting this school year.

Student Support: Every student has unique strengths and challenges. Our dedicated support staff, including counselors and learning specialists, are available to provide guidance and assistance to ensure the success of every student. We encourage open communication between parents, teachers, and staff to create a collaborative approach to student support. Over the summer, camps related to outdoor adventures, mindfulness, self-esteem, and summer welding were offered.

We look forward to a fantastic year of learning, growth, and achievement. Together, we will create an environment where our students will continue to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for your ongoing support. We can't wait to see our students on the first day of school!

Sincerely,
Misty Demchak – Jr./Sr. High School Principal

From the Elementary Principal's Office



Dear Families, Friends, and Community Members,

Fall is in the air. The excitement for the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year is likely building in the homes of children within the district. The first day of school will be here before we know it. We hope each family experienced a safe and joyous summer with family and friends. In the upcoming weeks, children will rush into the school building happy to see their friends and meet their teachers. The educational and social experiences each child will experience will support personal growth. The teachers, support staff, and members of the administration are excited to serve and assist students and families throughout the upcoming school year.

Last year, students experienced learning standards, activities, and assignments that were more aligned with the educational practices in place prior to the pandemic of the 2019-2020 school year. This school year we will continue to support the return to normalcy of learning and behavior expectations. Expectations for learning will continue to challenge children academically in all content areas. Behavior expectations will support classroom learning and kindness among all students, as well as members of the community. It is essential to hold high academic and behavioral expectations for all children within the district. Being kind, considerate, and mannerly throughout the school day is expected of all students. Challenging academic content, activities, and assignments will require students to put forth their best effort, use time management, and maintain organization. The administration, teachers, and staff will support the efforts of students to meet these expectations daily.

Elementary Principal (cont.)

Learning within the elementary school covers many aspects of child development. Children learn academic content but also develop fundamental skills that support positive behavior, relationship building, and well-rounded creativity. Throughout the year, students will participate in activities that challenge their understanding of academic content. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) lessons support exploring and using technology and problem-solving skills. Creativity is fostered through art, music, and classroom lessons. Career/job awareness is supported through lessons in social studies and through the guidance counselor. Field trips planned by teachers, and supported by the Board of School Directors, allow for academic content to be connected to real-world experiences. Students have opportunities to participate in reading competitions, student council, ski club, the district musical, chorus, band, and other events throughout the year.

Families are encouraged to attend school events. At the beginning of the year, please plan to attend “ Meet the Teacher” night. This is a great opportunity to connect with teachers and staff members and develop a connection to school processes and procedures that will support your child. Maintaining open communication, understanding classroom expectations, and participating in school activities can aid in the success of children. Parents of kindergarten students will be asked to attend orientation on August 29th. Parents are also encouraged to participate in classroom events by contacting their child’s classroom teacher. Parents and community members are always welcome to reach out to me with questions, concerns, or comments. My office door is always open. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the education of the children of our community.

Yours in education,
Mr. Jonathan Hale - Elementary Principal



Parent Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures:

- Parent drop off and pick up procedures will remain the same; by entering and exiting onto Somerset Avenue and proceeding around the rocket. Please stay in the line of vehicles and remain in your vehicle as you proceed around the rocket.
- Do not park in the line or in the parking spaces.
- If possible, pull all the way up to the cone on the sidewalk.
- All children should enter and exit the vehicle on the passenger side of the vehicle.
- Please have your child enter and exit the vehicle when they are on the sidewalk.
- After dropping off or picking up your child, please check your surroundings and move forward with traffic.
- Please be patient with staff and other parents in this process. The safety of each child is important.

Student Drivers/Staff Morning Arrival and Dismissal Procedures:

- Bridge Street will be used as the entrance for student drivers and staff in the morning and as the exit during dismissal.
- Arrival - Bridge Street Entrance 7:30 am - 8:30 am ONE WAY ONLY
- Dismissal - Bridge Street Exit 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm ONE WAY ONLY

Important Dates to Remember

Aug. 9	Elementary Orientation for new students/parents wishing to learn more about the school & programming - see page #7	Oct. 23-31	Red Ribbon Week
		Nov. 3	Act 80 Day
		Nov. 13	Act 80 Day
Aug. 14	Mandatory Varsity Sports Practices Begin	Nov. 22	Early Dismissal
Aug. 24	7th Grade Orientation	Nov. 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
Aug. 29	First Student Day	Nov. 28	Teacher In-Service
Aug. 31	Meet the Teacher Night	Dec. 22	Early Dismissal
Sept. 4	Labor Day Holiday - No School	Dec. 25 - Jan. 1	Christmas Break
Sept. 7	Student Picture Day	Jan. 2	Snow Make-Up Day (if needed)
Sept. 23	Homecoming/Bonfire Activities	Jan. 15	Act 80 Day
Oct. 9	Teacher In-Service	Feb. 19	Act 80 Day



Right to Request Teacher Qualifications

As the parent of a student in the Rockwood Area School District, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and paraprofessionals that instruct your child. The No Child Left Behind and the Every Student Succeeds Act federal law allows you to request certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires school districts to give you this information in a timely manner. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- ◆ Has the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects they teach?
- ◆ Has the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances?
- ◆ What is the teacher's college major? Does the teacher have any advanced degrees? If so, in what subjects?
- ◆ Do instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child? If so, what are their qualifications?

If you would like to receive additional information about any teachers or paraprofessionals who work with your child, please contact Jon Hale, Elem. Principal, at 814-926-4688. Our district is fully committed to the success of your child.

New Student Orientation

New student orientation will be held on
Wednesday, August 9, 2023, beginning at 6:30pm.

This event is open to all families of children enrolling in Pre-K through 6th grade.

If you have any questions, please contact Jon Hale, Elementary Principal, at 814-926-4688 ext. 1114 for additional details.

We look forward to meeting you at orientation, as well as serving the families of the Rockwood Area School District.

Kindergarten Orientation

Rockwood Elementary Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 29, 2023.**

Children registered for kindergarten should report to the elementary school, accompanied by an adult. A schedule for this event will be mailed to each family.

Kindergarten students should **not** ride the bus on the first day.

Please contact Cindy Miller at 814-926-4688 ext. 1117 for enrollment information or the orientation schedule.



Elementary Parent Reminders

Student Drop Off: All students being dropped off for school should enter the building by using the Jr./Sr. High gym lobby entrance. **The elementary parking lot is closed to traffic from 7:30am – 8:15am and from 2:35pm - 3:40pm.** Supervision within the school building is not available until 7:45am; therefore, your child should **NOT** be dropped off before 7:45am. The Jr./Sr. High gym lobby entrance will be locked at 8:05am. Students are considered ½ day absent if they arrive after 8:05am.

Primary and Secondary Bus Stops: As a reminder, primary and secondary bus stops must be updated, if needed. Students are only able to ride the bus to preapproved stops. Please complete an updated Bus Stop Form.

Rockwood Area School District Transportation

The 2023-2024 school year may bring about some changes to our transportation routes. In the event your child's bus schedule has changed, you will be notified by the school. If you do not receive notification, your child's bus schedule should remain the same as last year.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a **Bus Stop Request Form** (see page 27). This form should only be completed if your child needs a stop other than their primary stop. Each student is assigned a bus stop based on their home address. Stops are assigned as close to your residence as possible; keeping in mind the safety of the students, state regulations, and road conditions. In the event you need to request an additional or alternate stop for your child, such as a daycare or relative's address, please keep in mind stops will only be made at already established bus stops closest to the alternate address you provide. For your convenience, the bus stop request form can also be downloaded from the school website at www.rockwoodschoools.org under Parents; Parent Documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Jordan Svonavec, Transportation Director, at 814-926-4688 ext. 1106.



Rockwood Elementary Homeroom Assignments

Parents/guardians enrolled in the SchoolMessenger automated contact system will receive a phone call from the Rockwood Area School District informing them when PowerSchool has been updated with new classroom assignments. Parents/guardians can then login to the PowerSchool system to see their child's homeroom assignment for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

Instructions on how to login to PowerSchool through the RASD website:

- Go to: www.rockwoodschoools.org
- Parents tab. Select "Check Grades"
- Sign into PowerSchool using your username and password. If you have not created an account, you will have to do so under the Create Account tab.

After logging in, you will be able to see which homeroom your child has been assigned to. You will also be able to view/edit contact information, such as phone numbers and email addresses, to ensure that the most accurate and up-to-date information is listed. To view/edit contact information, click Contact Manager at the bottom of the Navigation bar. Next, click the ☰ icon located in the top, left area of the screen. Select Preferences. Make any necessary changes and click SAVE when finished.

If you have difficulty accessing the PowerSchool system, please contact the Rockwood Elementary Office at 814-926-4688 option #4.

PTO News & Information

As the school year is set to begin, the PTO has been busy at work planning fun activities for elementary students, teachers, and staff. Event dates, along with additional activity information, will be posted on the Rockwood PTO Facebook page. Flyers will also be sent home with students throughout the school year.

The PTO appreciates the continuous support of staff, families, and community members. Your involvement assists the PTO in their mission to give back to the students within our district.

Please consider becoming a PTO volunteer. Parents are invited to attend monthly PTO meetings, which will be posted on the PTO Facebook page when dates are finalized.

Elementary Teacher Assignments

Kindergarten _____	Mr. Josh Bowlin Ms. Kelsey Pletcher
Grade 1 _____	Mrs. Jaime Gross Mrs. Sue Slope
Grade 2 _____	Mrs. Sarah Hay Ms. Cassandra Kemp
Grade 3 _____	Ms. Valerie Friedline Mrs. Beth Mapes
Grade 4 _____	Mr. Carter Bower Mrs. Mindy Sarver Mrs. Shanna Wilson
Grade 5 _____	Mrs. Melissa Gindlesperger Mrs. Jenna Sembower
Grade 6 _____	Mrs. Elyse Cordaro Mrs. Kristen Mumau
STEM/Intervention _____	Mr. Ben Baker
Psychologist _____	Mrs. Megan Hetrick
Speech Therapist _____	Mrs. Amber Caddy
Life Skills Support _____	Mrs. Jenna Wintersteen
Learning Support _____	Ms. Samantha Smith Ms. Hanna Goller
Reading Specialists _____	Mrs. Beth Miller Mrs. Jessica Miller
Art _____	Mrs. Jane Holt
Library _____	Mrs. Christy Hay
Music _____	Ms. Kari Hostetter Mr. Doug Spiri
Phys. Ed. _____	Mr. Chandler Enos
TBA _____	Ms. Faith Hemminger
TBA _____	Ms. Olivia Latuch

10 Ways To Help Your Child Succeed

1. Attend "Meet the Teacher" night & conferences
2. Visit the school's website: rockwoodschoools.org
3. Make sure your child is eating a nutritious breakfast
4. Get involved - volunteer for school activities
5. Take time to talk about school on a daily basis
6. Teach your child good study skills
7. Support homework expectations
8. Teach organizational skills
9. Take attendance seriously
10. Know the disciplinary policies



Important Notes from the Nurse

Reminder about School Immunizations, Physicals, and Dental Requirements

The beginning of the 2023-2024 school year will be starting very soon. As a reminder, Pennsylvania State Law (28 PA. CODE CH.23), regarding school immunization requirements **affects ALL students in grade levels K-12**. If you received a letter stating your child needs to turn in updated immunization records prior to the start of the school year, please do so ASAP. Immunizations or written medical/religious exemptions are required by law for entry into Pennsylvania schools.

The law only allows for a five (5) day provisional period to show proof of complete immunizations/exemption. If the district does not receive the proper paperwork by the 5th day of school, the child will be excluded from school. Immunization records can be turned into the elementary or high school offices, mailed to Rockwood Area School District, Attn: School Nurse, 437 Somerset Ave., Rockwood, PA 15557, or faxed to 814-926-2043.

Kindergarten - 12th Grade REQUIREMENTS for ALL students:	
Vaccine	Number of Doses Required
DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis)	4 doses required (1 dose must be on or after 4th birthday)
Polio	4 doses required (1 dose must be on or after 4th birthday)
MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella)	2 doses (1st dose on or after 1st birthday)
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	3 doses (properly spaced, 3rd dose after 6 months old)
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 doses (1st dose on or after 1st birthday)

7th - 12th Grade ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:	
Vaccine	Number of Doses Required
MCV (meningococcal conjugate vaccine)	2 doses required (1 dose before entering 7th grade and 2nd dose before entering 12th grade)
Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis)	1 dose before entering 7th grade

Vaccines are the most successful and cost-effective way to prevent disease. Help your child stay healthy by making sure they are immunized **BEFORE** the start of the school year.

If your child doesn't have health insurance coverage or your insurance does not cover immunizations, children can get the required vaccines for little to no cost at one of the local health departments. Please call 1-877-PA-HEALTH to get more information or to schedule an appointment.

In addition, per the PA School Health Law, students entering kindergarten, 6th grade, and 11th grade are required to have physical examinations completed. Students entering kindergarten, 3rd grade, and 7th grade are required to have dental examinations. All examinations should be completed and returned to the school as soon as possible.

REMINDER: Students requiring ANY prescription medications during school hours must have a "Prescription Medication Form" signed by the parent, as well as the physician prescribing the medication. This includes inhalers and epi-pens.

Physical and dental forms, as well as the Prescription Medication Form, can be found on the Rockwood Area School District's website at www.rockwoodschoools.org under Parents; Parent Documents.

Thank you for your cooperation in completing these state required mandates.

Rebekah Marietta, MSN, RN, CSN - School Nurse



High School Guidance:

- * Schedules will be mailed home before the beginning of the school year.
- * Please try to avoid making appointments and scheduling vacations during testing windows.

7th & 8th Grades:

- ◆ 7th Grade Orientation and New Student Orientation will be held the week of August 21-25, 2023. Information will be mailed home with class schedules.
- ◆ If you need to make changes to your schedule for an elective or club, please contact Mrs. Opfar via email at popfar@rockwoodschoools.org prior to the start of school.

9th Grade:

- ◆ During the beginning of the school year, all 9th grade students will attend a tour of the Somerset County Technology Center (SCTC). This trip is intended to introduce students to the programs SCTC has to offer and begins the discussion of which academic/career path they may take. Students who are interested in attending classes at SCTC during their sophomore year will have the opportunity to attend a “9th Grade Experience” fieldtrip to SCTC, where they will spend time in two programs of their choice. Interested students will need to complete an application shortly after the fieldtrip.

10th, 11th and 12th Grades:

- ◆ **PSAT** - All students in 10th grade, enrolled in College Prep English classes, will take the PSAT at the school in October. Date will be announced after school resumes. This year begins digital testing for the PSAT. There is no fee for this test, and it is a good indicator of how the student would perform on the SAT. More information on the PSAT can be found at www.collegeboard.org. Other students who are interested in taking the PSAT may stop in the Guidance Office to sign up.
- ◆ **SAT School Day** - All CP English 11 students will take the SAT free of charge at the school on October 11, 2023. This will be the last paper/pencil administration of the SAT. All future administrations will be digital. The digital SAT will be offered to students again in March 2024. Other interested 11th and 12th grade students may sign up in the Guidance Office to take the test. There is no charge for juniors. Seniors will be expected to pay a fee.
- ◆ **ACT** - College bound students are also encouraged to take the ACT, especially those going into any STEM related career field. More information on this test can be found at www.act.org.
- ◆ **College Representatives** - College representatives will begin visiting the school in the fall. Interested students are encouraged to stop in the Guidance Office to inquire about which schools will be visiting and to request a pass to meet with selected representatives. Meeting with college representatives is beneficial for any college-bound student, as it enables students to explore different majors/programs, get college application advice and financial assistance opportunities.
- ◆ **College Visits** - Students planning to visit a college campus during the school day are reminded to get a college visit form from the Guidance Office. The form must be signed by a representative at the college and turned into the High School Office for attendance purposes.
- ◆ **College Fair** - Interested students will have the opportunity to attend the College Fair in the spring of 2023.
- ◆ **PHEAA** - A PHEAA representative will be at the school on September 14, 2023, at 6:00pm to give a presentation on Financial Aid to any interested parents.
- ◆ **FAFSA** - On January 25, 2024, a PHEAA representative will be at the school to assist parents of college bound seniors with completing the FAFSA. * There are changes in the FAFSA application as well as changes in the date you can submit. The date has been moved from October to January.
- ◆ **ASVAB** - In November 2023, the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) will be given to all

Guidance News & Information (continued)

10th grade students and interested 11th and 12th grade students. The ASVAB is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program. It helps students identify their areas of strengths and weaknesses when considering career exploration and can be used by ALL students, not just those planning to join the military. Any student interested should stop in the Guidance Office. There is no cost to the student for this test.

- ◆ **Scholarships** - Students interested in scholarship opportunities should visit the Guidance Office throughout the school year. Scholarship information may also be found on our district website www.rockwoodschoools.org under the Departments tab; Student Services; Scholarship Information.
- ◆ **Keystone Testing** - Keystone testing dates are as follows:
December 4 - December 15, 2023 May 13 - May 24, 2024

Elementary Guidance:

Back to School Tips:

- Get back into your bedtime routine so you are able to wake up in time for school. Get back into the habit of going to bed on time every night, getting a good night's sleep, and waking up at a set time every morning. Remember 8-10 hours is recommended for the best success.
- Get your brain ready by practicing your reading and math skills. Sit down with a parent/guardian, a sibling, etc., to read at least one book a day and practice the math skills that challenge you.
- Go over school rules and expectations with a parent/guardian prior to the first day.
- Go over home expectations for the school year prior to the first day. Children and parents/guardians can discuss bedtimes, homework times, behavior expectations, etc.
- Go over safety concerns, such as: rules for the bus, waiting at the bus stop, talking to strangers, crossing the road, and health related concerns.
- Start the school year off with good work and study habits.
- Get involved in sports, activities, and clubs.
- Use mindfulness and gratitude exercises to help with stresses you may be feeling.
- Have a POSITIVE attitude!!



Rockwood Area School District - New Student Registration

New residents of the Rockwood Area School District, with school aged children, should contact Cindy Miller at 814-926-4688 ext. 1117 to schedule an appointment to register new students. Registration forms are available in the High School Guidance Office or can be found online at www.rockwoodschoools.org under the Parents Tab; Parent Documents.

All forms must be completed and returned to the school along with the documents listed below:

- ◆ Birth Certificate
- ◆ Current Immunization Records
- ◆ Custodial Papers
- ◆ Two Proofs of Residency - Proofs of residency can be any of the following: lease/rental agreement, current income tax return/W2's, current utility bill, current pay stub/welfare statement, current bank statement, property tax statement/home ownership title/mortgage statement, or military leave & earnings statement. You may use your driver's license as proof of residency; however, you will still be required to provide an additional document showing your current address.
- ◆ Previous school attended including: address, phone number, and fax number
- ◆ Student's special education documents (if the student received special education services from the previous school)

Providing these documents in advance will make the registration/enrollment process more efficient.

To ensure your child is able to start school on August 29, 2023, we request you have your appointment scheduled and all required documents at the school by 3:00pm on Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

Student Lunch Information

The Rockwood Area School District will once again participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) meal service program through the Pennsylvania Department of Education during the 2023-2024 school year. All enrolled students of the district will receive a daily breakfast and lunch at no charge.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Students who purchase a la carte items (extras), additional lunches, and milk during elementary milk breaks WILL RECEIVE A CHARGE TO THEIR ACCOUNT.

Rockwood Area School District - Student Lunch Policy

The district permits students to incur reasonable charges for school meals. In an effort to ensure the effective operation of the district's food service program, the district established the following procedures for student payment of school meals:

- ◆ When a student reaches a balance of \$2.50 in their account, the cashier will notify the student of their current positive balance.
- ◆ When a student reaches a debt of five or more meals in their lunch account, the parents will receive a courtesy letter from the School Food Service Liaison to inform the parents of their child's status. The School Food Service Liaison will attach a copy of these procedures and the district's Food Services Policy to the letter.
- ◆ When a student reaches a debt of five or more meals in their lunch account, students will only be able to purchase a school food program meal (reimbursable meal). Additional individual items (extras) and a la carte items will not be available for purchase. However, students may purchase a meal from the a la carte line if the meal qualifies as a school program meal.
- ◆ When a student reaches a negative -\$25.00 balance, a formal letter will be sent home by the School Food Service Liaison. This letter will inform the parents that unless the balance is corrected, a meeting with the building principal and the School Food Service Liaison will be requested. Additionally, further action may result with the local magistrate.

EFFECTIVE MARCH 24, 2022

* **NOTE:** STUDENT LUNCH ACCOUNT BALANCES CANNOT BE ACCESSED THROUGH POWERSCHOOL. TO ACCURATELY TRACK YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH TRANSACTIONS, YOU MUST USE THE PAYFORIT SYSTEM.

PayForIt.net is an online web-based payment system that provides wide flexibility to both parents and schools managing lunch account programs for students.



In general, PayForIt.net offers the following features geared specifically to parents:

- ◆ Add money to your child's account 24/7
- ◆ Review your child's account balance and purchases 24/7
- ◆ Set up an option to automatically replenish your child's account when the balance falls below a certain amount
- ◆ Set up email alerts so you know when your child's balance reaches a certain amount, when a payment is due, or when a payment has been made
- ◆ Receive school messages electronically through email

Following are instructions on how to sign up for PayForIt:

- ◆ Go to www.rockwoodschoools.org, hover over the Parents dropdown, then select Lunch Balances & Payments
- ◆ Click on "Sign Up"
- ◆ Follow the directions as outlined.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT PARENTS SIGN UP FOR THIS VALUABLE SERVICE!

ROCKWOOD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Rockwood Area SD offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.00; lunch costs \$1.50 for secondary (high school and jr high school) and \$1.30 for elementary level. Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

If you received a **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** letter for free meals, **do not** complete the application. But **do** let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** letter you received.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR SPECIAL MILK?

- All children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school’s head start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household’s income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY REDUCED PRICE GUIDELINES JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$1,124	\$1,038	\$519
2	\$36,482	\$3,041	\$1,521	\$1,404	\$702
3	\$45,991	\$3,833	\$1,917	\$1,769	\$885
4	\$55,500	\$4,625	\$2,313	\$2,135	\$1,068
5	\$65,009	\$5,418	\$2,709	\$2,501	\$1,251
6	\$74,518	\$6,210	\$3,105	\$2,867	\$1,434
7	\$84,027	\$7,003	\$3,502	\$3,232	\$1,616
8	\$93,536	\$7,795	\$3,898	\$3,598	\$1,799
Each additional family member add:	+\$9,509	+\$793	+\$397	+\$366	+\$183

2. **HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?** Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven’t been told your children will get free meals, call or email Mr. Jonathan Hale at (814)926-4688 ext 1114 or jhale@rockwoodschoools.org.
3. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. You may request a paper application from the school at any time. Return the completed application to: Jenny Beckner, 439 Somerset Ave., Rockwood, PA 15557 or jbeckner@rockwoodschoools.org.
4. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** No, but read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification letter, contact Jenny Beckner, 439 Somerset Ave., Rockwood, PA 15557 or (814) 926-4688 ext 1129 or jbeckner@rockwoodschoools.org immediately.
5. **CAN I APPLY ONLINE?** Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit www.rockwoodschoools.org or visit the PA Department of Human Services website at www.compass.state.pa.us.
6. **MY CHILD’S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?** Yes. Your child’s application is only good for that school year and for the first 30 operating school days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

7. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Send in an application.
8. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. **IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and/or reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Mark Bower, 439 Somerset Ave., Rockwood, PA, 15557, (814) 926-4688 x 1109 or mbower@rockwoodschoools.org.
11. **MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
12. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
13. **WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?** Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
15. **WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. Contact Jenny Beckner, 439 Somerset Ave., Rockwood PA 15557 or jbeckner@rockwoodschoools.org or (814) 926-4688 x1129 to receive an application.
16. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, visit www.compass.state.pa.us, contact your local county assistance office, or call 1-800-692-7462.

If you have other questions or need help, call (814) 926-4688 x1129.

Sincerely,

Jenny Beckner

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

ATTENTION: If you speak Spanish, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Contact your child's school.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Comuníquese con la escuela de su niño.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free and reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in the Rockwood Area School District.

The application must be filled out completely to determine the eligibility of your child(ren) for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Jenny Beckner 814-926-4688 x1129 or jbeckner@rockwoodschools.org.

Please use a pen (not a pencil) when filling out the application and do your best to print clearly.

Step 1: List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12

Tell us how many children not in school and elementary/middle/high school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a formal foster arrangement through a court or state/local agency, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending (regardless of age) Rockwood Area School District

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper (or a second application if completing electronically) with all required information for the additional children. This also applies to adults in Step 3. "MI" is short for middle initial. Print the first letter of each child's middle name in the box.

B) Is the child a student? If "Yes," write the grade level of the student in the "Grade" column to the right.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing Step 1, go to Step 4.
Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to Step 3. Note: Adopted children are not considered foster children. A foster child is a minor child who has been taken into state custody and placed with a state-licensed adult, who cares for the child in place of their parent or guardian.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application. Homeless, Migrant, Runaway status must be confirmed with the appropriate program staff. If the school district cannot confirm your student's homeless, migrant, or runaway status, then the school district will contact you to complete an income-based application. You may choose to provide income information now in order to prevent the school district from potentially needing to contact you later.

Step 2: Do any household members currently participate in SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or call 215-560-7226
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or call 215-560-7226

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Check "No" in Step 2 and go to Step 3.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact one of the numbers listed above. Go to Step 4.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

How do I report my income?

- Use the lists titled "Sources of Income" & "Examples of Income for Children," on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes and deductions.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on the application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated. • Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field. <p>3.A. Report income earned by adults – Who should I list here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, <u>even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.</u> • Do NOT include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household. ◦ Infants, children and students already listed in Step 1. 	<p>1) List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Include college students, unless they are declared independently on taxes (all college students are considered adults). <u>Do not list any household members you listed in Step 1.</u></p>	<p>2) List earnings from work. List all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. Net income is your income after taxes and deductions have been subtracted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What if I have multiple jobs? List each job separately by entering your name and income from each job on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary. • What if I am self-employed? List income from your business as a net amount. This net amount is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue). Gross receipts or revenue are all the income earned from the sale of any products or services offered. If a child listed in Step 1 has income, follow the instructions in Step 3, Part B. 	<p>3) List income from public assistance/child support/alimony. List all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. <u>Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.</u> If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.</p>	<p>4) List income from pensions/retirement/all other income. List all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What if I receive income from multiple sources in this category? List each source separately by entering your name and income from each source on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary. 	<p>5) List total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in Step 1 and Step 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.</p>	<p>6) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no Social Security Number."</p>	<p>3.B. List income earned by children List all income earned or received by children. List the combined gross income for ALL children listed in Step 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household. What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid directly to your child. Many households do not have any child income.</p>	<p>All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the statements on the back of the application.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1386 109 1542 546"> <p>A) Provide your contact information. Write your current mailing address in the fields provided, if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, that is okay. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1386 546 1542 1134"> <p>B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1386 1134 1542 2034"> <p>C) Mail completed application to: Rockwood Area School District 439 Somerset Avenue Rockwood, PA 15557</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>A) Provide your contact information. Write your current mailing address in the fields provided, if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, that is okay. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.</p>	<p>B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."</p>	<p>C) Mail completed application to: Rockwood Area School District 439 Somerset Avenue Rockwood, PA 15557</p>
<p>A) Provide your contact information. Write your current mailing address in the fields provided, if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, that is okay. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.</p>	<p>B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."</p>	<p>C) Mail completed application to: Rockwood Area School District 439 Somerset Avenue Rockwood, PA 15557</p>									

Pennsylvania Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

APPLY ONLINE:
RETURN TO Rockwood Area School District
ADDRESS: 439 Somerset Ave Rockwood PA 15557

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1 List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need space for more names.

List ALL children in the household. Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This includes children not related to you in your household.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Grade	Foster Child	Migrant	Runaway	Homeless
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check all that apply

If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the Application Instruction's Step 1: Part C & Part D.

STEP 2 Do any household members (including you) participate in: SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR?

NO → Go to STEP 3. YES → Write case number here and proceed to STEP 4. Write only one case number in this space.

STEP 3 List ALL household members and income for each member (before taxes and deductions)

A. All Adult Household Members (Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related, including you.)

List all Adult Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work			Public Assistance, Child Support, Alimony			Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA Benefits, All Other Income			How often received?			
	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x-Month	Monthly	Annual	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x-Month	Monthly	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x-Month	Monthly
\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Total Household Members (Children and Adults) Last Four Numbers of Social Security Number of Primary Wage Earner or other Adult Household Member (if Applicable)

Please see application's back for list of income sources.

B. Child Income

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income.

Include the TOTAL income (before taxes and deductions) received by ALL children listed in STEP 1 here.

Child Income \$

How often received?

Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x-Month	Monthly	Annual
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature. RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL. Insert school address here

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (confirm) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Print Name of Adult Signing the Form Signature of Adult Today's Date

Mailing Address (if available) City State Zip

Phone (optional) Email (optional)

SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

Sources of Income		Examples of Income for Children
Earnings from Work Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support <input type="checkbox"/> Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions <input type="checkbox"/> Net income from self-employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: <input type="checkbox"/> Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances) <input type="checkbox"/> Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing	Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) <input type="checkbox"/> Private Pensions or disability benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Income from trusts or estates <input type="checkbox"/> Annuities <input type="checkbox"/> Investment income <input type="checkbox"/> Earned interest <input type="checkbox"/> Rental income <input type="checkbox"/> Regular cash payments from outside household	<input type="checkbox"/> A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages <input type="checkbox"/> A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits <input type="checkbox"/> A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits <input type="checkbox"/> A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money <input type="checkbox"/> A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

OPTIONAL Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race) Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White

Return this completed form to your child's school. *Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

DO NOT FILL OUT For school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Total Income How often?

Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x Month	Monthly	Annual
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

 Categorical Eligibility

Free	Reduced	Denied
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

 Eligibility

Determining Official's Signature Date
 Verifying Official's Signature Date

Use of Information Statement

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met. Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, check if no Social Security Number. Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-08ASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>. From any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

* MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
 FAX: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
 EMAIL: Program.intake@usda.gov

* Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Return completed form to your child's school.

Annual Public Notice of Gifted Education Services and Programs

Rockwood Area School District, 439 Somerset Ave, Rockwood, PA, 15557

It is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure that gifted children residing in the Commonwealth who are in need of specially designed instruction, are identified, located, and evaluated. This responsibility is required by a federal law called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997 (IDEA '97).

The IDEA '97 requires each state educational agency to publish a notice to parents, in newspapers or other media, before any major identification, location, or evaluation activity. The IDEA '97 requires this notice to contain certain information. Another federal law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which protects confidentiality, requires educational agencies to notify parents annually of their Confidentiality rights. The Rockwood Area SD (RASD) fulfills the above duties with this annual notice.

Gifted Education Services and Programs:

The RASD is required by the IDEA '97 to provide a free appropriate public education to school age children who have been identified as gifted and in need of specially designed instruction.

GIEP:

School-age children who have been identified as gifted and are in need of specially designed instruction must be provided with supports and services, correlated to their individual strengths and needs, in a Gifted Individualized Education Program (GIEP).

Screening:

Each educational agency must establish and implement procedures to locate, identify, and evaluate school-age students suspected of being eligible for gifted education. The Rockwood Area School District provides a variety of opportunities for the screening and evaluation of students thought to be gifted. Students in Grade 2 are annually screened using an evidence-based, group cognitive ability screening assessment. Students throughout the elementary school (K-3) are monitored for superior academic achievement in both literacy and math by a bi-weekly review of student data in an ongoing fashion throughout the school year. Data team meetings to review literacy and math scores for students continue in a bi-weekly schedule for upper elementary students as well (4-6th grades). Throughout K-12, screening process activities within the district may include, but are not limited to: Readiness/Developmental tests; Achievement tests; Ability tests; Group intelligence tests; Anecdotal information from parent/guardian, educator, other; Subject area assessment (i.e., student portfolio); Syllabus-based examination; Curriculum-based assessment; College aptitude test, PSAT/SAT, CLEP test; Extracurricular academic performance/achievements, Rating scales, Interest inventories, Cumulative records, Enrollment records, Parent inventories, Health records, Report cards; and other forms of information determined necessary by GIEP Team and/or evaluator (certified school psychologist).

If parents need additional information about the purpose, time and location of screening activities, they should call or write to their child's Building Principal or the Supervisor of Special Education Services.

Evaluation:

When a review of screening data through a comprehensive matrix utilized by Rockwood Area SD indicates that a student may be eligible for gifted education, the RASD will seek parental consent to conduct an evaluation. "Evaluation" means procedures used in the determination of whether a child is gifted and the nature and extent of the specially designed instruction and related services that the child needs. This evaluation is called a Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation (GMDE). It is conducted by a multidisciplinary team (MDT) which includes a teacher, other qualified professionals who work with the child, and the parents. The GMDE process must be conducted in accordance with specific timelines and must include protection in evaluation procedures. For example, tests and procedures used as part of the multidisciplinary evaluation may not be racially or culturally biased.

The GMDE process results in a Gifted Written Report (GWR). This report makes recommendations about a student's eligibility for gifted education and the need for specially designed instruction. Once parental consent for evaluation is obtained, the school has timelines and procedures specified by law that it must follow. Parents who think their child is eligible for specially designed instruction may request at any time that RASD conduct a GMDE. Requests for a GMDE should be made in writing to a child's building Principal or the Supervisor of Special Education.

Annual Public Notice of Gifted Education Services (continued)

Educational Placement:

The determination of whether a student is eligible for specially designed instruction is made utilizing various sources of student information, including student cognitive ability, student achievement, input from parents and teachers, classroom work samples, observations(s), and other information as determined as necessary by the psychoeducational evaluator (e.g., school psychologist) and/or GIEP Team. A single test or procedure may not be the sole factor in determining that a child is exceptional; therefore, Rockwood Area SD utilizes a Gifted Screening and Identification Matrix in determining eligibility for gifted support services so multiple factors are considered within the eligibility determination. The matrix for gifted screening and identification can be found on the Rockwood Area School District website www.rockwoodschoools.org.

The GIEP team must include at least three members in addition to the parent(s). Other required members include at least one regular education teacher of the child (if the child is, or may be participating in the regular education environment), at least one gifted education teacher, or where appropriate, at least one gifted education provider, and a representative of RASD acting as the LEA. If the student demonstrates a need for specially designed instruction, the team develops a written education plan called a GIEP. The GIEP shall be based on the results of the gifted multidisciplinary evaluation completed by a certified school psychologist.

A GIEP describes a student's current educational levels, goals, objectives, and the individualized programs and services which the student will receive based on the student's areas of strength. GIEPs are reviewed on an annual basis. The GIEP team will make decisions about the type of services, the level of services, the level of intervention, and the location of intervention. Placement must be made in the least restrictive environment in which the student's needs can be met with specialized instruction.

Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs for School-Age Children with Disabilities

It is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure all children with disabilities residing in the Commonwealth (including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities), and who are in need of special education or related services, are identified, located, and evaluated. This responsibility is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Amendments of 2004 (IDEA 2004).

The Rockwood Area School District provides Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to children with disabilities who need special education and related services. FAPE is provided to students who need specially designed instruction and have one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities: Autism, Deaf-blindness, Deafness, Developmental Delay, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Visual Impairment including Blindness. The District engages in identification procedures to ensure all students receive an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services, which are individualized to meet the educational needs of the student and reasonably calculated to yield meaningful educational benefit and student progress at no cost to the parents and in compliance with State and Federal law.

Notice to Parents: According to state and federal special education regulations, an Annual Public Notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding Child Find responsibilities. School Districts, Intermediate Units, and Charter Schools are required to conduct Child Find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 Services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled "Implementation of Chapter 15." Also, school districts are required to conduct Child Find activities for children who may be eligible for Gifted Services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. For additional information regarding Gifted Services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence. This Notice shall inform parents throughout the School District, Intermediate Unit, and Charter School of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure the confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities or eligible young children. In addition to this Public Notice, each School District, Intermediate Unit, and Charter School shall publish written information in the handbook and on the website. Children of ages three through 21 can be eligible for special education programs and

Annual Public Notice (continued)

services. If parents believe the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact Megan Hetrick, Supervisor of Special Education, Rockwood School District at (814) 926-4688.

Parents who think their child is exceptional may request, at any time, the school district conducts a multidisciplinary evaluation. This request should be made in writing to the Building Principal or Supervisor of Special Education. If a parent makes an oral request for a multidisciplinary evaluation, the school district shall provide the parent with a written request form. Parents also have the right to obtain an independent educational evaluation. The Rockwood Area School District will provide parents, upon request, information about where an independent educational evaluation may be obtained. Under certain circumstances, such an independent educational evaluation may be obtained at public expense.

Identification Activities: Screening - The Rockwood Area School District has established and implemented procedures to locate, identify, and evaluate children suspected of having a disability. These procedures involve screening activities which include, but are not limited to: yearly review of group-based data (cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, and report records), hearing screening (at a minimum of kindergarten, special ungraded classes, first, second, third, seventh, and eleventh grades), vision screening (every grade level), motor screening, and speech and language screening. In addition, the Rockwood Area School District uses early intervening services to verify the student was provided appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of: reading instruction, appropriate instruction in math, and an assessment of the student's performance in relation to State-approved grade-level standards. Screening or early intervening services do not serve as a bar to the right of a parent to request evaluation, at any time, including prior to or during the conduct of early intervening activities. Except as indicated above or otherwise announced, public screening activities take place in an ongoing fashion throughout the school year. Screening is conducted in the child's home school unless other arrangements are necessary.

Evaluation: When screening indicates a student may be a child with a disability, the Rockwood Area School District will seek parental consent to conduct an evaluation. Evaluation means procedures used in the determination of whether a child has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services the child requires. The term means procedures used selectively with an individual child and does not mean basic tests administered to or procedures used with all children. In Pennsylvania, this evaluation is conducted by a multidisciplinary team (MDT) that includes parents and qualified professionals. The evaluation process must be completed no later than sixty calendar days after the district receives informed written parental consent and must include "protection-in-evaluation procedures". For example, tests and procedures used as part of the multidisciplinary evaluation process may not be racially or culturally biased. The evaluation process results in a written evaluation report that specifies a student's eligibility for special education based on the presence of a disability and the need for specially designed instruction.

Consent: School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or with the initial provision of special education and related services without the written consent of the parent(s). For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice, which can be found at the PaTTAN website at www.Pattan.net. After written parental consent is obtained, the district will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can then request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

Educational Placement: If it is determined the student is eligible for special education services and the parent agrees to initiate services, the IEP team develops an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This team includes at least one regular education teacher of the child, at least one special education teacher, a representative of the local education agency, the student whenever appropriate, or beginning at age 14, and the parents. The IEP describes the child's present levels of educational performance, goals, objectives (when required), and the individualized programs and services the child of transition service needs will be included. In determining student placement, consideration will be given to ensure that, to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children who are non-disabled. Classes and services that involve removal of children with disabilities from the regular environment will occur only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes, with the use of supplementary aids and services, cannot be achieved satisfactorily. For information or to request an evaluation to determine if there is a need for special education, contact Megan Hetrick, Supervisor of Special Education, Rockwood Area School District, 437 Somerset Ave., Rockwood, PA 15557, (814) 926-4688 Ext. 1116.

Annual Public Notice (continued)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Chapter 15 of the regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. The following serves as Annual Public Notice:

Services for Handicapped Students (Section 504): The Rockwood Area School District maintains policies and procedures compliant with Section 504 and ensures non-discrimination in the provision of educational services to students with disabilities. Students who are not eligible to receive special education programs and services may qualify as protected handicapped students and; therefore, be protected by other federal and state laws intended to prevent discrimination. The school district must ensure that protected handicapped students have an equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for each individual student. In compliance with state and federal law, the school district will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities, to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in, or access to, an aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" may be distinct from those applicable to exceptional or thought-to-be exceptional students. The school district or the parent may initiate an evaluation if it's believed a student is a protected handicapped student. For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services for a protected handicapped student, parents should call their child's principal or Supervisor of Special Education. Section 504 is a regular education service and not one required by IDEA or Chapter 14.

Gifted Services: The Rockwood Area School District utilizes a system in accordance to 22 PA Code Chapter 16 to locate and identify all students within the District who are thought to be gifted and in need of specially designed instruction. For information regarding Gifted Services, please contact the Building Principal or Supervisor of Special Education.

Early Intervention: The IDEA 2004 also requires the provision of FAPE to children with disabilities between three years of age and the school district's age of beginners who have a developmental delay or one or more of the physical or mental disabilities listed in the first section may be identified as an "eligible young child". Eligible young children are afforded the rights of school-age children with disabilities, including: screening, evaluation, individualized education program planning, and provision of appropriate programs and services. Potential signs of developmental delay and other risk factors that could indicate disabilities and the possibility that a child is an eligible young child could include: **By the age of 3** - not saying many words, not using 2 or 3 word phrases and sentences, not walking, awkward gait (walking), drooling, not able to answer "who" or "what" questions, not using a utensil to feed self. **By the age of 4 (all of the above included)** - not toilet trained, difficulty with directional words (in, on, under, out), not playing with other children, not able to draw a circle, cross or imitate a vertical line, not able to understand the child's speech most of the time, difficulty following simple two-step directions (pick up the paper and put it in the garbage). **By the age of 5 (all of the above included)** - unable to answer "where" questions, unable to recall details from a story, not drawing a person with at least 6 parts, immature speech patterns (me instead of I), not able to hop forward with one foot without support. **Other warning signs-at any age** - little or no eye contact, over/under sensitivities to pain, light, noise, hand flapping, no awareness of space (always bumping into other people or things), awkward hand or foot positioning, won't touch or eat certain textures, child no longer can do things he/she used to do, developed normally, then stopped, echoes what is said, plays with toys inappropriately (watches wheels spin on the car but doesn't play with the car).

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing programs and services to eligible young children under Act 212 of 1990 - The Early Intervention Services System Act. Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 provides programs and services to eligible young children on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Preschool-age children information, screenings, and evaluation requests may be obtained by contacting: Dr. Amy Woomer, Intermediate Unit 8 Director of Educational Programs and Services, at the Intermediate Unit 8 Executive Office, 4500 Sixth Ave., Altoona, PA 16602. Phone: (814) 940-0223 Ext 1372.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age, certain rights with respect to the student's education records. Parents or students (over 18 years of age) have the right to inspect/review that student's education record. The school district will comply with the request to inspect/review education records without unnecessary delay and before any meeting regarding an IEP or due process hearing, but in no

Annual Public Notice (continued)

case more than 45 days after the request has been made. Requests should be submitted in writing, indicating the records the parents wish to inspect, to the Building Principal or Student Services Supervisor. Parents have the right to a response from the school district to a reasonable request for explanations and interpretations of the records. Parents have the right to request copies of the records. While the district can't charge a fee to search for or to retrieve information, it may charge a copying fee, as long as it doesn't effectively prevent the parents from exercising their right to inspect/review the records. Parents have the right to appoint a representative to inspect/review their child's records. If any education record contains information on more than one child, parents or students (over 18 years of age) have the right only to inspect/review the information relating to their specific child.

If a parent or student (over 18 years of age) thinks information in an education record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of the child, an amendment of the record may be requested. Requests should be made in writing and clearly identify the part of the record to be changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. The school district will decide whether or not to amend the record and will notify the parents (student over 18 years of age), in writing, of its decision. If the school district refuses to amend a record, it will notify the parents (student over 18 years of age) of their right to a hearing to challenge the disputed information. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parents (student over 18 years of age) when notified of the right to a hearing. The school district will inform parents (student over 18 years of age) when personally identifiable information is no longer needed to provide educational services to a child. Such information must be destroyed at the request of the parents (student over 18 years of age). Parents (student over 18 years of age) have a right to receive a copy of the material to be destroyed; however, a permanent record of the student's name, address, and telephone number, his or her grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed may be maintained without time limitation. "Destruction" of records means physical destruction or removal of personal identifiers from information, so that the information is no longer personally identifiable. The school district will provide, upon request, a listing of the types and locations of education records maintained, the school officials responsible for these records, and the school personnel authorized to see personally identifiable information. Such personnel receive training and instruction regarding confidentiality. The school district keeps a record of parties obtaining access to education records, including the name of the party, the date access was given, and the purpose for which the party is authorized to use the records.

Parents (or students over 18 years of age) have the right to consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorized disclosure without consent. "Consent" means: the parent(s) (or student over 18 years of age) have/has been fully informed regarding the activity requiring consent, in the native language or other mode of communication; they understand and agree in writing to the activities, and they understand that the consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time. Information may be disclosed without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility.

Directory information, as defined above, may be released without parent consent. Parents have the right to refuse to let an agency designate any or all of the above information as directory information. Upon request, the district discloses education records to officials of another school district, in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Confidentiality of Information: The Rockwood Area School District protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information regarding children with disabilities, children thought to have disabilities, protected handicapped students (if not protected by IDEA 2004 or Pennsylvania's Special Education Regulations) and children who are identified as gifted, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and other applicable federal and state laws, policies, and regulations. The School District, Intermediate Units, and Charter Schools maintain records concerning all children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Parental consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of

Annual Public Notice (continued)

disclosure, and destruction stages. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information. For additional information related to student records, parents may refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Parent(s) (or student over 18 years of age) have a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

“Education records” means those records that are directly related to the student, including computer media and videotape, which are maintained by an educational agency or a party acting for the agency. “Educational Agency”, for purposes of this notice, means the local school district and/or the Appalachia Intermediate Unit. For all students, the educational agency maintains education records, which include, but are not limited to:

- **Personally Identifiable Information** - Confidential information that includes, but is not limited to the student’s name, name of parents and other family members, the address of the student or student’s family, and personal information or personal characteristics which would make the student’s identity easily traceable.
- **Directory Information** - Information contained in an education record of a student which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy, if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to, the student’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study (secondary students), participation in officially-recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the name of the most previous educational agency or institution attended.

Retention/Destruction of Student Records - Special Education: In accordance with state and federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), this notice is hereby given that in accordance with 24CFR 300.573, the School District, Intermediate Unit and Charter Schools may destroy the special education records of students who exited from any special education program. Special education records, which have been collected by the School District, Intermediate Unit and Charter Schools related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of the Special Education in the district, IU or charter school must be maintained under state and federal law for a period of seven years after Special Education services have ended for the student. Special Education services end when the student is no longer eligible for services, graduates, completes his or her educational program at age 21, or moves from the School District, Intermediate Unit, or Charter School. After seven years, the records are no longer useful to the School District, Intermediate Unit or Charter School and will be destroyed in accordance with state and federal law unless the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student contacts the responsible district that the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student wishes to maintain the information as a personal record. These records may be useful to the parent/guardian or former student when applying for post-secondary education/training, benefits or social services. Records including student’s name, address, grades, attendance, dates attended, grade level completed and year completed may be destroyed after seven years have passed from the student’s 21st birthday. If you wish to request records or need additional information, you may contact the Student Services Office. Destruction will proceed where parents/guardians or eligible (adult) students have not requested records in accordance with the School District’s, Intermediate Unit’s or Charter School’s Notice of Destruction of Special Education Records.

Destruction of State Exams: In accordance with 34 CFR 300.624 Pennsylvania Department of Education has advised that the PSSA, Keystone Exam and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets. PSSA and Keystone Exams answer booklets and PASA media recordings will be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment. Please note that these test materials are housed with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and not at the Rockwood School District. Complaints may be filed with: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Washington, D. C. 20202-4605.



RAHS ATHLETIC SCHEDULES 2023-2024

NOTE: All schedules are tentative and subject to change.

Please visit our website calendar at www.rockwoodschoools.org

throughout each athletic season for official game times.



JV/Varsity Volleyball

Aug.		
28	@ Shade	6:00pm
31	North Star	6:00pm
Sept.		
1	@ Southern Fulton	6:00pm
7	Windber	6:00pm
8	Salisbury	6:00pm
11	@ Ferndale	6:00pm
12	Berlin	6:00pm
14	Everett	6:00pm
18	Shade	6:00pm
19	@ Glendale	5:30pm
21	Meyersdale	6:00pm
25	@ Con. Valley	6:00pm
26	Fannett-Metal	6:00pm
28	@ North Star	6:00pm
Oct.		
2	Con. Valley	6:00pm
3	@ Salisbury	6:00pm
5	@ Windber	6:00pm
10	@ Berlin	6:00pm
12	Northern Bedford	6:00pm
16	Ligonier Valley	6:00pm
17	@ Meyersdale	6:00pm

Boys Varsity Soccer

Aug.		
28	@ Forbes Road	5:30pm
Sept.		
5	Northern Bedford	4:00pm
6	@ Everett	7:00pm
12	@ North Star	7:30pm
13	@ Southern Fulton	4:00pm
18	Berlin	4:00pm
20	@ Mount Union	4:00pm
25	Windber	4:00pm
27	@ Fannett-Metal	4:00pm
30	McConnellsburg	3:00pm
Oct.		
2	@ Northern Bedford	4:00pm
5	@ Con. Twp.	7:00pm
7	@ Berlin	5:00pm
9	Everett	4:00pm
11	North Star	4:00pm
16	@ Northern Cambria	7:00pm
18	@ Windber	7:00pm
19	Northern Cambria	4:00pm

Girls Varsity Soccer

Aug.		
31	@ McConnellsburg	6:30pm
Sept.		
5	@ Fannett-Metal	4:00pm
7	Con. Twp.	4:00pm
9	Moshannon Valley	11:00am
11	@ N. Garrett	6:30pm
12	@ North Star	5:30pm
14	@ Southern Fulton	4:00pm
18	@ West Branch	4:00pm
19	Berlin	4:00pm
21	Fannett-Metal	4:00pm
26	Windber	4:00pm
30	McConnellsburg	1:00pm
Oct.		
3	Southern Fulton	4:00pm
5	@ Con. Twp.	5:00pm
7	@ Berlin	7:00pm
12	North Star	4:00pm
17	Cambria Heights	4:00pm
19	@ Windber	7:00pm

Junior High Volleyball

Aug.		
28	@ Shade	4:30pm
31	North Star	4:30pm
Sept.		
1	@ Southern Fulton	5:00pm
7	Windber	4:30pm
8	Salisbury	4:30pm
11	@ Ferndale	4:00pm
12	Berlin	4:30pm
14	Everett	4:30pm
18	Shade	TBD
19	@ Glendale JH	4:00pm
21	Meyersdale	4:30pm
25	@ Con. Valley	4:30pm
26	Fannett-Metal	4:30pm
28	@ North Star	4:30pm
Oct.		
2	Con. Valley	4:30pm
3	@ Salisbury	4:30pm
5	@ Windber	4:00pm
10	@ Berlin	4:30pm
12	Northern Bedford	4:30pm
17	@ Meyersdale	4:30pm



Student athletes that participate in wrestling and football are part of a co-op with Berlin Brothersvalley School District.

These schedules, along with other athletic events, can be found on the athletic calendar of our district website:

www.rockwoodschoools.org

Junior High Co-Ed Soccer

Aug.		
28	@ Forbes Road	4:00pm
Sept.		
6	@ Everett	5:15pm
11	Con. Twp.	4:00pm
12	@ North Star	4:00pm
14	@ Southern Fulton	5:30pm
18	Berlin	5:30pm
21	South. Huntingdon	5:30pm
25	Windber	5:30pm
30	McConnellsburg	11:00am
Oct.		
3	Southern Fulton	5:30pm
4	@ Windber	4:00pm
7	@ Berlin	3:00pm
9	Everett	5:30pm
11	North Star	5:30pm
13	@ Con. Twp.	4:00pm

Let's Go Rockets!



ATHLETIC SCHEDULES 2023-2024

NOTE: All schedules are tentative and subject to change.
Please visit our website calendar at www.rockwoodschoools.org throughout each athletic season for official game times.

Let's Go Rockets!

Golf

Aug.		
17	North Star @ Curwensville	3:00pm
21	Claysburg-Kimmel/North Star	3:00pm
24	Everett/Tussey Mt. @ North Star	3:00pm
29	McConnellsburg/North Star	3:00pm
31	Tussey Mt/Claysburg-Kimmel/North Star @ Everett	3:00pm
Sept.		
5	@ Con. Valley	3:00pm
12	Curwensville @ North Star	3:00pm
18	Our Town Tournament	TBD
21	North Star @ McConnellsburg	3:00pm
25	ICC Tournament	TBD
27	@ North Star	3:00pm

Rifle

Dec.		
12	N. Cambria	2:30pm
14	@ Meyersdale	4:00pm
18	Portage	2:30pm
21	Salisbury	2:30pm
Jan.		
8	Forest Hills	2:30pm
9	Shanksville	2:30pm
10	@ Somerset	4:00pm
12	Berlin	2:30pm
15	Turkeyfoot	2:30pm
17	@ Bishop Carroll	4:00pm
19	@ Everett	4:00pm
22	@ Chestnut Ridge	3:00pm
24	North Star	2:30pm
30	@ Con. Twp.	5:00pm
Feb.		
8	AMRC Championship	TBD

JV/Varsity Boys Basketball

Dec.		
6	@ Blacklick	6:00pm
8	@ N. Bedford	6:30pm
11	Salisbury	6:00pm
14	@ Windber	6:00pm
15	@ Ferndale	6:00pm
18	Forbes Road	6:00pm
21	Meyersdale	6:00pm
Jan.		
5	@ N. Garrett	6:00pm
8	@ Berlin	6:00pm
11	@ North Star	6:00pm
15	@ Shanksville	6:00pm
16	@ Salisbury	6:00pm
19	@ Claysburg-Kim.	6:00pm
23	Windber	6:00pm
26	@ Meyersdale	6:00pm
29	Shanksville	6:00pm
30	N. Garrett	6:00pm
Feb.		
2	Berlin	6:00pm
6	North Star	6:00pm
15	Tussey Mount.	6:00pm

JH Boys Basketball

Dec.		
4	@ JCS	5:15pm
6	@ Blacklick	4:30pm
8	@ N. Bedford	4:00pm
11	Salisbury	4:30pm
14	@ Windber	4:00pm
15	@ Ferndale	4:00pm
18	Forbes Road	4:30pm
21	Meyersdale	4:30pm
Jan.		
4	JCS	5:15pm
8	@ Berlin	5:00pm
11	@ North Star	4:30pm
15	@ Shanksville	4:00pm
16	@ Salisbury	4:30pm
19	@ Claysburg-Kim.	4:30pm
23	Windber	4:30pm
26	@ Meyersdale	4:30pm
29	Shanksville	4:30pm
Feb.		
2	Berlin	4:30pm
6	North Star	4:30pm
15	Tussey Mount.	4:30pm

JV/Varsity Girls Basketball

Dec.		
1	Ferndale Tourn.	TBD
2	Ferndale Tourn.	TBD
5	@ Blacklick	6:00pm
11	@ Shade	6:00pm
15	Windber	6:00pm
19	@ Forbes Road	6:00pm
22	@ Meyersdale	6:00pm
27	Holiday Hoopfest	TBD
28	Holiday Hoopfest	TBD
Jan.		
3	@ Ferndale	6:00pm
5	N. Garrett	6:00pm
9	Berlin	6:00pm
12	North Star	7:00pm
16	Shade	6:00pm
18	Claysburg-Kim.	6:00pm
22	@ Windber	6:00pm
25	Meyersdale	6:00pm
30	@ JCS	7:00pm
Feb.		
1	@ Berlin	6:00pm
5	@ North Star	6:00pm
12	@ N. Garrett	6:00pm



JH Girls Basketball

Dec.		
4	@ JCS	4:00pm
5	@ Blacklick	4:30pm
11	@ Shade	4:30pm
15	Windber	4:30pm
19	@ Forbes Road	4:30pm
22	@ Meyersdale	4:30pm
Jan.		
3	@ Ferndale	4:00pm
4	JCS	4:00pm
9	Berlin	4:30pm
12	North Star	4:30pm
15	Turkeyfoot	4:30pm
16	Shade	4:30pm
18	Claysburg-Kim.	4:30pm
22	@ Windber	4:30pm
25	Meyersdale	4:30pm
Feb.		
1	@ Berlin	5:00pm
5	@ North Star	4:30pm
8	@ Turkeyfoot	6:00pm

Rockwood Area School District Bus Stop Request Form

For the safety of students, parents may choose to designate a secondary and emergency bus stop to be used by their child throughout the school year. These designated bus stops will be used as the only pick-up and drop off points for your child, other than the primary stop that is established near your residence.

If your child is in need of a secondary or emergency bus stop, please update this form. Parents are required to note the days of the week on which each stop will be used. These designated bus stops shall include any stops that the child may need, for example a secondary or emergency bus stop could be: daycare provider, grandparents, close family friend, emergency location for early dismissals, or other location you as a parent deem appropriate.

** Daily requests for bus changes will only be honored for emergency situations.*

** Requests for students to travel home with a peer for after school activities will not be honored.*

Student's Name: _____ Original Bus Number: _____
 Parent's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please complete the following information for all necessary bus stops. You may only select one secondary and one emergency stop throughout the year. Please keep in mind that the stops must be within the Rockwood Area School District borders, and your child will only be dropped off at an **established stop closest to the address provided.** At the end of each school year, all previous secondary and emergency stops will be deleted from our records. **Parents must update this information annually.**

Ex: Primary Bus Stop – This child will use only this bus stop throughout the year!

Address:	Person Responsible for Supervision:
435 Somerset Ave. Rockwood, Pa 15557	Mr. Jonathan Hale
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monday (AM) (PM) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuesday (AM) (PM) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wednesday (AM) (PM) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thursday (AM) (PM) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friday (AM) (PM)	

1: Current Primary Bus Stop Location:

Address:	Person Responsible for Supervision:
___ Monday AM PM ___ Tuesday AM PM ___ Wednesday AM PM ___ Thursday AM PM ___ Friday AM PM	

2: Secondary Bus Stop Location:

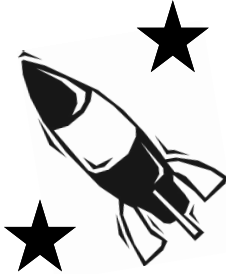
Address:	Person Responsible for Supervision:
___ Monday AM PM ___ Tuesday AM PM ___ Wednesday AM PM ___ Thursday AM PM ___ Friday AM PM	

3: Emergency Bus Stop Location:

Address:	Person Responsible for Supervision:
___ Monday AM PM ___ Tuesday AM PM ___ Wednesday AM PM ___ Thursday AM PM ___ Friday AM PM	

Parent Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

This form must be updated/completed annually, if needed.



Deliver to Addressee or Current Resident

RESIDENT
ROCKWOOD, PA 15557

School Board Members

Mr. Irvin Kimmel, Jr.
President
Mr. Adam Sembower
Vice President
Mr. Brad Pletcher
Treasurer
Mrs. Ashley Baker
Mrs. April Hutchison
Dr. Hailey Miller
Mrs. Melanie Monticue
Dr. Tyler Pritts
Mr. Noah Wareham

Administrative Staff

Mr. Mark Bower
Superintendent
Mrs. Misty Demchak
H.S. Principal
Mr. Jonathan Hale
Elem. Principal
Mrs. Megan Hetrick

School Psychologist/Spec. Ed. Supervisor

Mr. Nicholas Buterbaugh
K-12 Asst. Principal/A.D.
Mr. Jordan Svonavec
Business Manager

Student Services Staff

Mrs. Patti Jo Opfar
H.S. Guidance Counselor
Mrs. Brandi Wedge
Elem. Guidance Counselor
Mrs. Rebekah Marietta
School Nurse
Mrs. Susan Clark
School Social Worker

School Phone Numbers

814-926-4688

High School Office	Opt. 3
Elementary Office	Opt. 4
Administration Office	Opt. 5
Guidance/Student Svc.	Opt. 6
School Nurse	Opt. 7
Athletic Director	Opt. 8
IT/Computer Dept.	814-352-4269
Metz - Food Service Dept.	814-926-4688 x. 1111

Visit us on the Web

www.rockwoodschoools.org

Below is a partial listing of information and links that can be found on our website:

Cafeteria Menus
Cafeteria Balances - **PayForIt.net Program**
Contact Information
Forms & Downloads
Guidance Office Information
Lesson Plans for Teachers
Parent Notification System - **SchoolMessenger**
School Board Meeting Info.
School Calendars
Sports Scores and Schedules
Student Grades & Attendance - **PowerSchool**

If you haven't visited our site yet,
please take a few moments to check it out.

