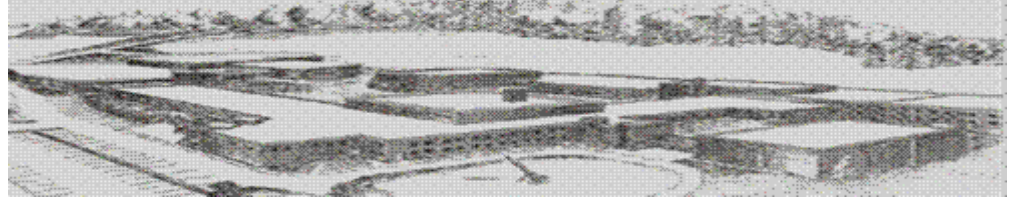


Rockwood School News

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

Community Members of the Rockwood Area School District,

I am hopeful this edition of Rockwood School News arrives as winter comes to an end. The school community is looking forward to many activities that will be occurring in the coming months. Spring is a time of class field trips, spring athletics, academic awards assemblies, spring music concerts, the Junior-Senior Prom, and of course the graduation ceremony for the class of 2024.

Snow Days-Flexible Instructional Days

The community is likely aware of other surrounding districts operating school using Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs) when school is cancelled due to inclement weather. Our District utilizes snow make-up days built into the school calendar before implementing the use of FIDs. In January, parents and students were informed of our Board's decision to add five additional snow make-up days to this year's calendar before resorting to the use of FIDs. The Board's decision was made after considering district stakeholder's views that remote learning does not provide the same quality of education for students as in-person learning with highly qualified classroom teachers. Remote learning may also cause a hardship to families of younger students who need additional

supervision and assistance on remote learning days. However, in the event cancellations go beyond the additional snow days added by the Board, the District will operate using Flexible Instruction Days to avoid extending the school year.

Community Support for District Activities

Our students and staff are fortunate to have the ongoing support of the community. One recent example of this was evident in January when Rockwood seniors presented their career graduation projects to panels of educators and 70 business, government, and community leaders. The involvement of these business and community members who donated their time, resources, and experience to the project, provided the students with an invaluable and authentic learning experience to start their career journeys.

We would like to recognize and thank several businesses for their support of student activities. The District received PA Educational Improvement Tax Credits from Wheeler Brothers, Inc. of Somerset and BDH/Konhaus Agency of Meyersdale. \$8,100.00 of EITC funding was made available to support two important programs. First, "Engineering is Elementary" which offers students in grades 4-6 hands-on engineering/design and problem solving experiences, as well as introducing them to possible careers in engineering. Second, the "Dual Enrollment" program that helps to offset tuition costs for students enrolled in college classes offered at Rockwood. In addition to the EITC funds, Somerset Trust Company generously covered the cost of a Somerset County students' first college class taken in high school.

Once again, the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS) provided grant funds to the District. Rockwood FFA received a \$1,000.00 grant to purchase a new catfish tank. The grant application was written by teacher and club advisor, Mrs. Leanna Weimer. The catfish and trout programs have been a huge success at Rockwood for over ten years. They have raised and released approximately 4,000 catfish into our local waterways. This is in addition to the 100-300 trout released each year into the headwaters of Somerset County. The District is extremely grateful for the support of community organizations, businesses, and individuals.

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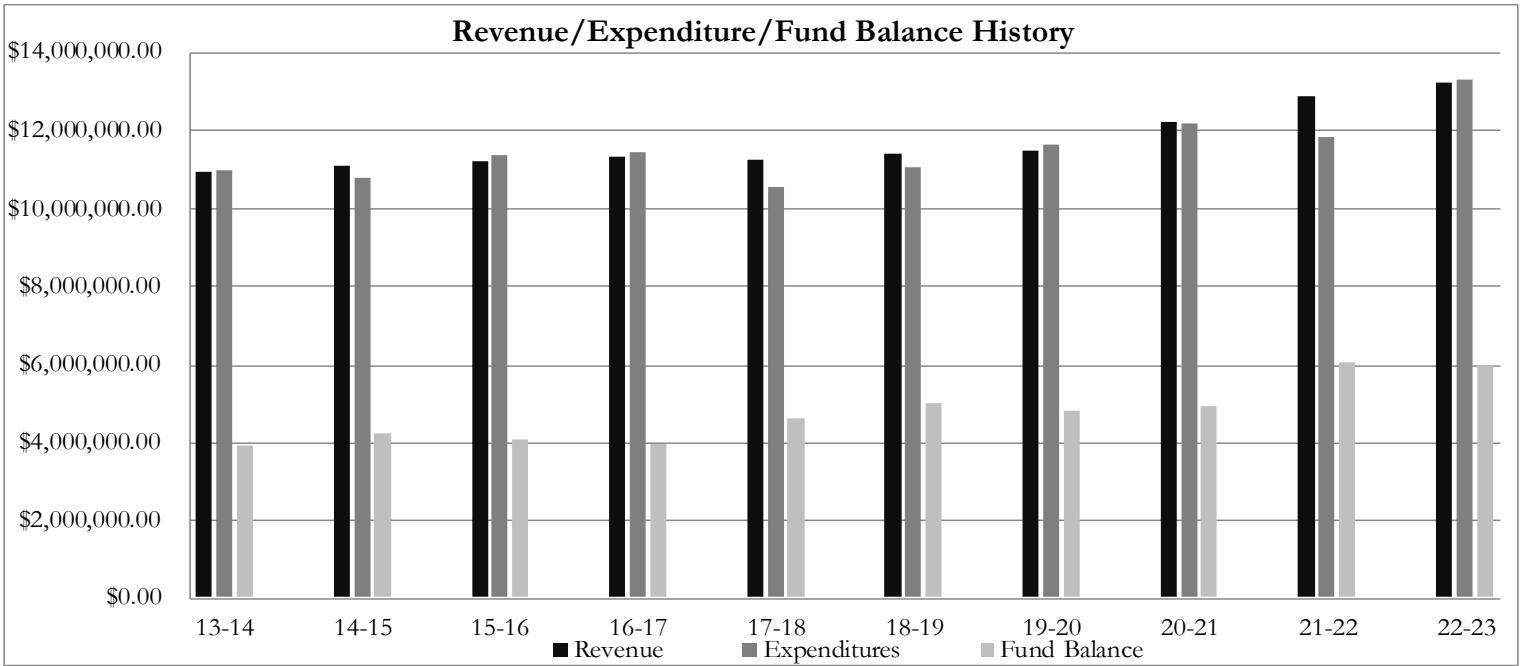
(Superintendent cont.)

Board Member Recognition

To honor the commitment and time of our school board members, the District celebrated School Director Recognition Month in January. The work of these public servants is vital to the success of our students and school. From voting on budgets, to adopting policy, and conducting strategic planning, school boards make key decisions that drive public education. The work is both complex and diverse. School directors devote, on average, ten hours of unpaid service each month to board business. School directors are often motivated to pursue the role out of a desire to benefit their community. The majority of school directors indicated their primary reason for serving is to give back or contribute to public education or to improve educational outcomes for students. Please take time to thank your elected school directors for the time and effort they provide. Their efforts help to ensure students have opportunities to thrive and to safeguard that our school district continues to have a bright future. A list of current Board members can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

District Finances

The District remains in good overall financial health. Please review the financial charts and graphs below. The District ended the 2022-2023 fiscal year with a small deficit due to the greater than normal one-time expenditure to complete a planned roofing project. The deficit was smaller than projected and was taken from the District’s fund balance to cover the cost of the project. The Board will be meeting in the next few months to develop an operating budget for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, the Board will be prioritizing and deciding which “one-time expenditures” will be included in the budget.



Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Fund Balance
13-14	\$10,927,893.00	\$10,978,079.00	\$3,912,350.00
14-15	\$11,092,170.00	\$10,774,720.00	\$4,229,800.00
15-16	\$11,194,089.00	\$11,370,769.00	\$4,053,120.00
16-17	\$11,343,107.00	\$11,461,423.00	\$3,934,804.00
17-18	\$11,234,083.00	\$10,551,305.00	\$4,617,582.00
18-19	\$11,418,576.00	\$11,054,549.00	\$4,981,609.00
19-20	\$11,466,281.00	\$11,641,501.00	\$4,806,389.00
20-21	\$12,211,284.00	\$12,166,728.00	\$4,905,593.00
21-22	\$12,882,695.00	\$11,849,430.00	\$6,050,563.00
22-23	\$13,227,598.00	\$13,311,169.00	\$5,966,992.00

Building Dreams Together: A Rockwood Elementary Playground Renovation Project

The Rockwood Area School District’s board of directors, staff, and administrative personnel are focused on supplying educational and extracurricular activities that support each student’s potential. Helping students reach their dreams through education is a daily priority. A special project within the district has been slated for development and completion over the next few months. The Rockwood elementary playground has been identified as an area that needs improvement for the engagement and safety of children. The playground area consists of equipment that was installed in the 1990’s. Rockwood Area School District board members recognize the importance of this area and the excitement it brings to children on a daily basis. For the 2023-2024 school year, a budgeted amount of \$250,000.00 was dedicated to this project as a one-time expenditure from the fund balance. This amount will partially fund the completed renovation of the playground area including equipment.

This project is being designed and completed to include all students in playground activities. The playground surface will be installed so that students with wheelchairs and other mobility needs can move with ease to access the equipment. The playground equipment that will be installed will allow all students to participate in a variety of activities. Equipment will include: climbers, slides, rockers, and a merry go round. To support ease of access, a retaining wall and sidewalk will be installed. A team of stakeholders, including community members, have been assembled to support the selection of equipment and review proposed designs.

Fundraising has been initiated to support the cost of this project. Fundraising events have included: student “hat days”, a change drive, and the sale of hoagies and pizzas at the annual homecoming event. Students raised over \$1,500.00 during the change drive. The “hat days” and food sales at homecoming raised approximately \$1,600.00 for the playground project. Thank you to the families, students, and community for supporting this project. Proposed fundraising efforts may include a Rockwood Elementary spirit wear drive and a donation letter campaign. The students, faculty, staff, administration, and school board are extremely appreciative of donations being made to this project.

The EADS Group is currently completing the engineering and bid specifications for the project. Bids for completion of the work are projected to be due in April 2024. Our hope and goal is that construction will begin as soon as the school year comes to a close. If all goes well with construction and installation, a new playground will be awaiting the arrival of students at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.



Help Build the Dream: Playground Project Donation

The renovation of our district’s playground will support the active play of children in our community for years to come. Please consider making a donation towards this project. Any donation is GREATLY appreciated! If you, or a business you know, wishes to donate, please detach this portion of the newsletter and mail your donation to:

Rockwood Area School District
Business Manager - Mr. Jordan Svonavec
439 Somerset Avenue
Rockwood, PA 15557



Please make checks payable to: Rockwood Area School District General Fund ~ Thank you!

Name: _____ Organization/Business: _____
Address: _____ Phone number: () _____
Donation Amount: _____ Check Number: _____

RASD Events and Information



Important Dates & Events

(Dates are tentative and subject to change)

March

- 8 & 9 District Musical
- 21 & 22 Kindergarten Registration
- 27 Early Dismissal - 12:30 pm
- 28 - April 1 Easter/Spring Break

April

- 17 Honor Society Induction Ceremony
- 25 H.S. Band Concert
- 27 Prom
- 30 Elem. Chorus Concert (grades 3-4)

May

- 7 Spring Chorus Concert (grades 5-12)
- 16 Scholar's Reception
- 24 - 27 Senior Trip
- 27 Memorial Day - No School
- 28 Elementary Track & Field (grades 2-6)
- 31 Graduation (tentative)
- 31 Last Day of School (tentative)

Save the Date - Rockwood Homecoming 2024



Saturday, September 28, 2024

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Let's Go Rockets!

Rockwood High School Musical



March 8th & 9th @ 7:00 p.m.

From the era that brought the world The Rubik's Cube, Max Headroom, and The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles comes the "totally awesome" musical **Back To The 80's**. In the style of movies such as Back To The Future, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, and The Karate Kid, Back To The 80's is a nostalgic romp through the greatest hits of the decade!

This totally tubular musical tells the story of the senior class of William Ocean High School as remembered through the eyes of now 30-something Corey Palmer. 17-year-old Corey is madly in love with his next-door neighbor, Tiffany Houston, one of the coolest girls in the school. However, she is too busy mooning over Michael Feldman, the hottest guy around. Michael and his friends are athletic and good-looking - the kind of guys that Corey and his two best friends dream of being. However, while they may not be the coolest guys in school, they are still one up on Feargal McFerrin III, whose best friend is his computer and who believes the crazy notion that one day CD's will replace cassette

Congratulations Class of 2024



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ansell, Tyler | Peck, Makayla |
| Barkman, Jake | Phillippi, Abby |
| Bittner, Savana | Phillippi, Talyn |
| Coho, Dylan | Pletcher, Emma |
| Cramer, Kyle | Poghosyan, Mariam |
| Cramer, Kylie | Polak, Rachael |
| Dran, Dustin | Pyle, Jordan |
| Edwards, Lily | Raley, Madelyn |
| Escontrias, Journey | Ream, Aidan |
| Farkosh, Andrew | Ream, Elwood |
| Fieg, Miranda | Reilly, Ian |
| Gary, Chloe | Romesburg, Benjamin |
| Goulding, Olivia | Ross, Aliyah |
| Haer, Elizabeth | Sanner, Harlie |
| Hay, Makayla | Savage, Reylynn |
| Hay, Michael | Saylor, Travis |
| Hinzy, Anna | Schrock, Christian |
| Hoover, Christian | Shearer, Tyler |
| Hostetter, Cole | Shiple, Harleigh |
| Hoyman, Makenna | Shiple, Shelby |
| Hutchison, Emily | Show, Aaron |
| Judy, Sara | Snyder, Brooke |
| Kimmel, Cody | Strait, Violet |
| Kreger, Jocelyn | Streczywik, Chloe |
| Lambert, Rachel | Struckoff, Robert |
| Lintz, Alexa | Wagner, Joshua |
| May, Sarah | Walden, Jonathan |
| Miller, Brayden | Weimer, Connor |
| Miller, Gavin | Weimer, Riley |
| Missiroli, Giada | Wentz, Evan |
| Mitchell, Logan | Wheatley, Mollie |
| Nealon, Brayden | Whipkey, Hunter |
| O'Neill, Walter | Wilson, Roger |
| Peck, Brayden | Wright, Tristan |
| Peck, Hannah | |

tapes. But, this isn't the only relationship on the rocks: teachers Mr. Cocker and Ms. Brannigan are fighting in their not-so-secret romance, Michael is posing as new girl Eileen's mysterious secret admirer, and Tiffany's friend Cyndi doesn't want to give love sick Billy the time of day! Join us to see what happens!!

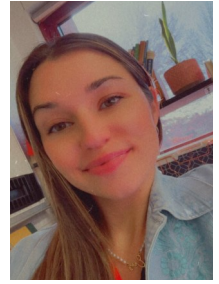
Ticket prices: Adults \$5 Students \$2

To purchase tickets, please call Susie at 814-442-5385 or email smbanam@icloud.com.

RASD Welcomes New Faculty and Support Staff

Ms. Lauren Boczar - Secondary Social Studies Teacher

Ms. Boczar is a graduate of Ligonier Valley High School. Following graduation, she obtained her Masters degree in Secondary Social Studies and is also certified in English Language Arts. Lauren joins the district with over five years of teaching experience. A priority for Lauren is to communicate regularly with students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Her energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to provide all students with opportunities to learn and succeed have made her a great addition to the district. Lauren also serves as a high school ski club advisor.



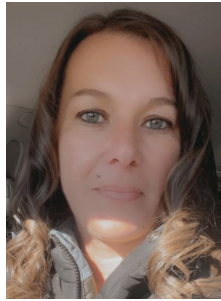
Mrs. Jessica Fazenbaker - Elementary Teacher

Mrs. Fazenbaker is a former graduate of Rockwood. Upon graduation, she attended Shippensburg University; where she obtained her Bachelors degree in both Elementary and Early Childhood Education. In addition, Jessica holds a Masters degree in Reading Curriculum and Instruction. Prior to beginning her assignment at Rockwood, Jessica served as a substitute teacher at various school districts, including Rockwood. She also filled the role of pre-k teacher for several years. Jessica's educational experience and desire to meet students' needs has made her an asset to the district.



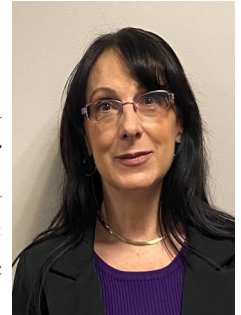
Ms. Elisha Fazenbaker - Elem. School Security Receptionist

Ms. Fazenbaker is a graduate of Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District and has resided in the district for several years. Elisha accepted the role of school security receptionist in mid-September. Her skills and previous experience have been extremely beneficial in her new assignment. Elisha's ability to communicate effectively with district staff, students, and visitors has made her a great addition to the district's school safety and security team.



Mrs. Melissa Kemp - H.S. School Security Receptionist

Mrs. Kemp attended Eureka High School in the state of Missouri prior to moving to Pennsylvania. Missy and her family have been a part of the community for many years. Before beginning her assignment as a school security receptionist in October, she spent time caring for children in her home and assisting her husband in their family business. Missy's organizational skills, bubbly personality, and desire to keep our students and staff safe has made her a tremendous asset.



Faculty & Staff Member Retirements Congratulations & Best Wishes!



Mrs. Susan Tressler
6 ½ years of service



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

Mrs. Heather Tims - Elementary Paraprofessional

Mrs. Tims is a former graduate of Rockwood. She joined our staff in January 2024. Heather has served as a volunteer in the district for many years. Her desire to assist children has been beneficial in the classroom.



Rockwood Area School District Employment Opportunities:

The district actively seeks and accepts applications for the following substitute positions:

- * Substitute Teachers
- * Substitute Custodians
- * Substitute Nurses
- * Substitute Instructional Aides

Please call 814-926-4688 to discuss information and requirements on becoming a substitute.

Please Note: Coaching applications are accepted for each sport for a two-week window after completion of the final competition (regular and/or playoff game, whichever is later).

Please contact the Athletic Director for information regarding coaching positions.

All RASD employment opportunities and applications can be found on our website www.rockwoodschooldistrict.org

As we welcome an early spring, I am delighted to share some exciting highlights and updates from our high school. It is exhilarating to see the wonderful opportunities and student accomplishments.

To mention some of our academic accomplishments, we are thrilled to announce we had 147 high honor roll (3.5 GPA or higher) and 64 honor roll (3.0 - 3.4 GPA) students. Congratulations to all! The "College in High School" (CHS) courses continue to be a great opportunity for students to earn college credits while in high school. This past year, the district added CHS French (St. Francis University) and CHS Spanish (ACM), as well as two additional hybrid courses: Speech and Cyber Security (ACM). It is exciting to share that students have the opportunity to earn up to 32 college credits by the time they graduate. Somerset County Technology Center students also shine by earning certifications within their trade. Currently, there are nine students participating in co-op programs, meaning they spend half their day in the classroom and the second half working in the industry.

It is satisfying to see students as they volunteer in the community through their classes and as part of school organizations. The following are a few service activities students participated in recently: National Honor Society students volunteered at the Winter Special Olympics held at Seven Springs, foreign language students taught French and Spanish lessons and read to elementary students, students assisted with preparing and distributing backpacks for the backpack feeding program, FFA students built fish habitats for the Fish and Boat Commission to place in the Quemahoning Dam, and students in the ACM Sociology class accumulated 410 hours of volunteer work in just one semester! As you can tell, our students are extremely proud to give back to our great community.

This past semester, students in the video broadcasting course created a series of morning video announcements that were broadcast to the student body and staff. Students were interviewed and worked together to report on: academic achievements, sports highlights, and important student information. It is the start of Rockwood's official WROCK-TV. Students in the course did a great job with editing and broadcasting!

We continue to recognize that students and families face many challenges. Mental and emotional support is offered and supplied to students through a variety of avenues. Teachers support students daily in the classroom. In addition, the district has a Student Assistance Program (SAP), and additional support can be coordinated through the SAP team. The guidance counselor, school social worker, and school-based therapist are available to support students. If you feel your child needs additional mental/emotional support, please contact us. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Misty Demchak - Jr./Sr. High School Principal

Spotlighting Student Activity

Welding Class Connection to Industry

Rockwood's welding class meets during the second semester. Students learn SMAW, GMAW, and TIG welding in addition to plasma CNC operations and basic hand tool applications. This year, Mr. Dana Keith of Highland Tank in Stoystown, graciously donated a large load of scrap metal to support the class. The scrap metal will be used by students to make a variety of projects. Some of the scrap metal was cut into coupons by the students in the SCTC welding program using a hydraulic shear. Welding coupons are 2" x 4" pieces of metal that students use to practice the five basic welding joints. Two former students from Rockwood's welding class work for Highland Tank. After discovering how much they enjoyed welding and fabricating in the high school class, Hunter Sanner and Brady Pritts attended and graduated from Rosedale Technical College and now weld and fabricate storage tank products at Highland Tank.

Engineering & Technology News

In September, students are invited to join the Christmas Display Project Team. This team designs and builds a Christmas-themed project to compete against other Somerset County Schools and is featured on Light Up Night in Somerset. The contest is hosted by Somerset Inc. and our sponsor this year was Rockwood Casualty Insurance. Students learn a variety of skills, tools, and troubleshooting during the building process. This year, the theme was "Sweet Treats." Rockwood won first place and \$500.00 with their "Giant Fruitcake Game!" The winnings were split between the Art Department and the Engineering & Technology Club.

(cont. page 7)

(Spotlighting Student Activity cont.)

This year, the after-school club was commissioned to design and build projects to benefit Rockwood students. The club was contacted by Mrs. Melinda Singo, who teaches the Pre-K program through Tableland Services at Rockwood Area School District. The Pre-K students were too small to reach the classroom sink to wash their hands; therefore, club members, David Murphy, Matt Truszka, and Abram Minor, designed and built a sturdy stepstool for them. Another project was commissioned by Mrs. Carissa Shipley, a Student Services Support Specialist for Rockwood students. The club designed and built three movable clothing storage racks. The racks will hold and help organize donated clothing for students in need at Rockwood. The club is also working on building a 'Little Free Library' for a former Rockwood teacher.

For the third year, Rockwood life skills students were asked to make award plaques for the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce Award Ceremony. The awards are presented to individuals who have gone above and beyond with their achievements in eight different categories. Students in the life skills class use woodworking machines and a laser engraver to process rough-cut lumber into professional-quality awards for the event. Students include: Savana Bittner, Jacob Collier, Rachael Polak, Jonathan Walden, and team leader Dylan Coho.

Rockwood FBLA

Rockwood FBLA continues to demonstrate great success in the 2023-2024 school year, starting just as strong as they left off last year. On December 13, our Rockwood Chapter attended the annual Region 17 Leadership Conference, achieving awards and placements allowing members to advance to the State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA. In our chapter, we have placements for testing events and competitive performances. Our testing event members include: Julianne Barto, Addison Barto, Kalynne Ohler, Ruthie Mathias, Hunter Berkey, Sydney Beals, Jaden Gross, Lillian Hetz, Mollie Wheatley, Brooke Snyder, Nathan Show, Fredrika Sutton, Nellie Keller, Autumn Mowry, Taylor Demchak, Avri Wareham, and Adeline Barkman and Aaron Show (team). Our competitive performance members include: Elika Pletcher and Devin McCauley (team), Alexa Lintz and Chloe Weaver (team), and Paul Sembower. We would like to recognize all the hard work these individuals have shown in FBLA and wish them the best of luck as they compete at our State Leadership Conference this April!



Rockwood FFA "Dare to Be"

"Dare to Be" is the 2024 theme of the PA FFA. Daring our students to be leaders, achievers, dreamers, and challenging them to go above and beyond for both themselves and the greater community. Rockwood FFA started this year off with the Somerset County Fair. Our students do very well at the fair every year, and this year, Audrey Marko was appointed the Dairy Princess Alternate. We are so proud of Audrey for her commitment to agriculture! Congratulations everyone!



(cont. page 8)

(Spotlighting Student Activity cont.)

The school year has been as busy as ever with competitions, conventions, workshops, and field trips. To begin, in October, our FFA Officers attended the Leadership Event at SCTC with the FFA State Officers. This event also featured our keynote speaker, Makayla Feathers-Frazier, who is Mrs. Pennsylvania Agriculture. She provided an inspiring presentation on the future of women in agriculture.

The wildlife class spent countless hours prospecting in the forest and learning about tree identification, harvesting and sizing, invasive species, and biodiversity. They are now identifying animal signs and putting those skills into place. Students are looking forward to the Envirothon and meeting with some of our law enforcement individuals from The Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission. They will visit the classes to engage our students in the facets of environmental conservation and stewardship.



Rockwood FFA received a “grant for growing” from the National FFA and purchased aquaponics equipment for the classroom, which has been a huge hit with the students. Students who participate in plant and soil science built, maintain, and troubleshoot the equipment. They have grown a variety of produce in them.

The National Convention took place in November. A former Rockwood FFA student joined the ranks of American Degree recipients, the highest national FFA degree. Allison Schmuck, daughter of Steve and Kim Schmuck, was honored as our Rockwood recipient this year. We are so proud of Allison! The district also received word that another former graduate of Rockwood, Cameron Goodyear, will be receiving this prestigious degree during the 2024 National Convention. Congratulations to both of our deserving former Rockwood FFA members!



The Mid-Winter Convention is always a big hit with the students, as they love traveling to the PA Farm Show. This year, six Rockwood FFA students received their Keystone Degree, the highest FFA degree in the state of PA. This year’s recipients were (from left to right): Audrey Marko, Cody Kimmel, Mollie Wheatley, Hunter Berkey, Tessa Smith, and Amelia Beener. This degree is earned by students whose commitment to agriculture goes above and beyond the classroom. Students need to have at least 300 hours in an agriculture related field outside of school (or made \$1000), 25 community

service hours, a 2.5 GPA, take two or more credits of agriculture, and attend at least five above chapter events and competitions and ten chapter level events. We are elated to have these students represent our FFA chapter. Congratulations to all! This spring, FFA members are looking forward to county (and hopefully regional) public speaking, spring skills, catfish release day, trout release day, the Envirothon, FFA week, and county and chapter banquets.

RASD Students Giving Back to the Community

Students in Mr. Kush’s after-school program have been commissioned to make five to seven benches for the Great Allegheny Passage trail. For the past twenty-plus years, until he recently passed away, Gene Kelly of Rockwood made the benches. The project is funded by the Somerset County Parks and Recreation Board. The durable benches are made from pressure-treated lumber and galvanized hardware. Each bench is engraved to highlight a person or organization who sponsored the bench. Students are learning many manufacturing techniques to mass produce the benches and they are having fun while working on a great community service project.



(cont. page 9)

Rockwood Ski Club - Slope Days

The Rockwood Ski Club has been carving up the mountain this year! Both elementary and high school students have been visiting Seven Springs on Thursday evenings to take advantage of the opportunity to practice their snowboarding or skiing skills and create memories with friends. Slope Days, a Seven Springs after school program, offers a great deal for students to get



started with the sport. For more information, don't hesitate to contact any of the following advisors: Lauren Boczar, Carissa Shipley, Jaime Gross, Carter Bower, and Ben Baker. We hope to see you on the slopes next year!!

2024 ROCKWOOD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

(all schedules are tentative and subject to change)



Jr. High Baseball

Mar.

15	@ North Star	4:00pm
21	Everett	4:30pm
25	Ferndale	4:30pm
27	Tussey Mt.	4:30pm

Apr.

4	@ Meyersdale	4:00pm
5	@ Ferndale	4:15pm
9	Con. Twp.	4:00pm
16	Berlin	4:00pm
19	Shanksville	4:30pm
22	Southern Fulton	4:30pm
23	@ McConnellsburg	4:00pm
26	@ Everett	4:30pm
29	@Shanksville	4:30pm
30	Meyersdale	4:00pm

May

2	North Star	4:00pm
8	@ Berlin	4:30pm

Jr. High Softball

Mar.

21	Everett	4:30pm
----	---------	--------

Apr.

4	@ Meyersdale	4:00pm
5	@ Ferndale	4:15pm
9	@ North Star	4:00pm
16	Berlin	4:00pm
22	Southern Fulton	4:30pm
23	@ McConnellsburg	4:00pm
26	@ Everett	4:30pm
30	Meyersdale	4:00pm

May

2	North Star	4:00pm
8	@ Berlin	4:30pm

Student athletes that participate in varsity and junior high boys' and girls' track are part of a cooperative sponsorship of sport between the Meyersdale Area School District, the Rockwood Area School District, and the Salisbury Elk Lick School District. These schedules, along with other athletic events, can be found on the athletic calendar of our district website: rockwoodschoools.org.

Please visit our website throughout each athletic season to confirm official game times.

Please remember, for everyone's safety, pets are **NOT** permitted on school property (except for service animals). *Thank You!*

Varsity Baseball

Mar.

15	North Star	4:30pm
21	@ Everett	4:30pm
25	@ Windber	4:30pm
27	@ Tussey Mt.	4:30pm

Apr.

4	Meyersdale	4:30pm
5	Ferndale	4:30pm
11	@ N. Garrett H.S	4:30pm
16	@ Berlin	4:30pm
18	Fannett-Metal	4:30pm
19	@ Shanksville	4:30pm
22	@ Blacklick	4:15pm
23	McConnellsburg	4:30pm
25	Windber	4:00pm
26	Everett	4:30pm
30	@ Meyersdale	4:30pm

May

2	@ North Star	4:30pm
3	Shanksville	4:30pm
8	Berlin	4:30pm

Varsity Softball

Mar.

15	North Star	4:30pm
18	United	4:30pm
21	@ Everett	4:30pm
25	@ Windber	4:30pm
27	@ Tussey Mt.	4:30pm

Apr.

4	Meyersdale	4:30pm
5	Ferndale	4:30pm
12	@ N. Garrett H.S.	4:30pm
16	@ Berlin	4:30pm
18	Fannett-Metal	4:30pm
19	@ Shade	4:30pm
22	@ Blacklick	4:15pm
23	McConnellsburg	4:30pm
25	Windber	4:00pm
26	Everett	4:30pm
29	Shade	4:30pm
30	@ Meyersdale	4:30pm

May

2	@ North Star	4:30pm
8	Berlin	4:30pm



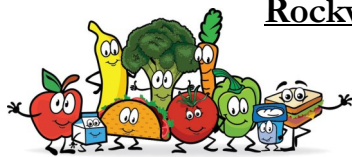
The Importance of School Bus Safety

As we look towards the end of the school year, it's important to keep bus safety in our minds. With our schedules filling up and the weather getting nice, it's common for safety practices to go by the wayside when we're in a hurry. These 10 rules from the PA Department of Transportation are a reminder to all students when riding the bus:



1. Never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
2. Be aware - cross with care! Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping onto the road.
3. Talk quietly; do not distract your school bus driver.
4. When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic. Line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway to wait for the bus.
5. Get to the school bus stop five minutes early so you won't have to run across the road to catch the bus.
6. When the school bus is moving, always stay in your seat. Never put your head, arms, or hands out the window.
7. Never cross the street behind the school bus.
8. If you leave something on the bus or drop something outside of the bus, never go back for it. The driver may not see you and begin moving the bus.
9. If your school bus crosses railroad tracks, be calm and quiet so that your driver can listen for a train. Always obey your school bus driver's instructions so that he or she can make safe decisions.
10. Never push when getting on or off of the school bus.

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 establishes 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.

If a student is not eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under federal school meal programs and the student's school meal account reaches a negative balance of more than \$50.00 in a school year, the district may provide the student with alternative meals instead of school food program meals until the unpaid balance in the student's school meal account is paid or a payment plan has been established with the district to reduce the unpaid balance.

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

Guidance Information & Student Services

High School Guidance Information

PSSA: PSSA spring testing dates are as follows: (note: elementary and high school testing dates may differ)

* English Language Arts: **April 23 - 26:** Grades 3 through 8

* Math: **April 29 - May 3:** Grades 3 through 8

* Science: **April 29 - May 3:** Grades 4 and 8



Keystone Testing: The testing window for the Keystone exams is **May 13 - 24**. The exams are in the areas of: Biology, Literature and Algebra I. Testing is for students who are currently enrolled in those classes and for students who did not score proficient or above during previous Keystone testing.

Parent cooperation throughout the state assessments is greatly appreciated. It is important that all students who are required to take the PSSA and Keystone exams are present during testing dates. Please keep these dates in mind when scheduling appointments/vacations. Detailed information regarding state assessments will be sent home closer to the testing dates.

Seniors: Please view the Student Services webpage (under the "Departments" tab) on the Rockwood Area School District website, rockwoodschoools.org, for college and scholarship information. Students planning to attend post-secondary education should have completed the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). If you have not done this, please complete the application as soon as possible. Please direct all transcript requests to Shanda Pletcher at spletcher@rockwoodschoools.org or by calling 814-926-4688 ext. 1127. Transcripts can take several business days to complete. Please stop in the Guidance Office regularly for scholarship opportunities or if you have any questions.

SATs: SATs will be given at the Rockwood Area School District on **March 20**, during the school day. Interested seniors may sign up. They will be responsible for the cost of the test, which is \$60.00. In addition, all juniors enrolled in CP English 11 will take the SAT on this date. Other interested juniors are eligible to take the test as well. There is no fee for juniors to take the test. Please sign up in the Guidance Office.

Juniors: College bound students should be looking into colleges and admissions criteria. This is also the time to be preparing if you plan to participate in the School to Work Program during your senior year. This program is for students who are on track to graduate but are requesting to report to their job during the school day. Information regarding this program will be discussed in detail during an upcoming meeting with juniors. Questions can be directed to the Guidance Office.

Sophomores & Freshmen: All 9th grade students will be given the opportunity to tour the programs offered at the Somerset County Technology Center (SCTC) during the fall of their 9th grade year. In December of the same year, students who are interested in SCTC may choose two programs of interest to visit again. Interested students can then apply for SCTC for enrollment their 10th grade year. Once enrolled in SCTC, students must successfully complete their four core courses to remain in the program. This is a good time to be exploring career interests and post-graduation plans. Please be sure to stay on track with credits, and continue to explore career paths of interest.

7th & 8th Grade: Students should check their grades on a regular basis, and reach out to their teachers if they need assistance or tutoring. Students who fail two or more core subjects will repeat the grade level the following year.

Grades 7 - 11: In the coming weeks, Mrs. Opfar will be meeting with students in each grade level to discuss schedules. All students will be completing their scheduling forms for next year. Each student will bring home a scheduling sheet that needs to be signed by a parent/guardian. Please keep in mind, students are required to earn 26 credits between their 9th - 12th grade years. In addition to earning 26 credits and completing the senior project, required by the district, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has enacted new requirements for graduation. The requirements consist of five graduation pathways. Students must successfully meet requirements in ONE of the five pathways to meet Pennsylvania's graduation requirements. The pathways can be found on our website under Departments; Student Services. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that their yearly credit requirements (at least seven per school year) are being met. If you have any questions regarding your child's schedule for next year, please contact the Guidance Office at 814-926-4688.

“Notes” From The Nurse

The Importance of Eating Breakfast Every Day

We’ve all heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Beginning each day with a healthy and nutritious breakfast is a great habit that can help children and adults on the path towards a healthy weight. Breakfast may help children pay attention, perform problem solving tasks, and improve memory. Breakfast may also improve school performance such as improved test scores and a decrease in the number of visits to the school nurse. The Rockwood Area School District participates in the Community Eligibility Provision program through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. All students of the district receive breakfast at no charge.

For many of us, breakfast has to be a fast, portable meal; however, it should include a serving of the following:

- A protein-rich food such as: low-fat milk, yogurt, cheese, or peanut butter
- A whole-grain (complex carbohydrate) such as: a whole-grain bagel or whole-grain cereals
- A fruit or vegetable rich in vitamin C such as: an orange, apple, or strawberries.

Breakfast supplies important nutrients that are typically not made up during the day.

Did you know, an apple's primary nutritional benefit is in the pectin and fiber? Apples contain as much fiber as a whole bowl of cereal. Natural chemicals called flavonoids may play a role in prevention of certain cancers and heart disease. The average American eats about 120 apples each year. Add chopped apple to yogurt, oatmeal, or cereal. Top toasted whole-grain bread with peanut butter or spread peanut butter on apple slices.

These following tips may help ease the rush of breakfast in the mornings:

- Stock your kitchen/pantry with healthy breakfast options.
- Prepare as much as you can the night before. Let kids help plan and prepare breakfast.
- Wake up 10 minutes earlier in the morning.
- Eat breakfast prepared by the school cafeterias.

Below is a breakfast recipe the whole family can make together and enjoy.

Apple Pie Oats Recipe



Ingredients:

6 cups water
2 cups apples, cored and chopped
½ cup honey or pure maple syrup
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon vanilla
4 cups rolled quick oats

Instructions:

Bring water to a boil in a 4-quart pot. Add each ingredient in order. For a sweeter taste, add more honey or maple syrup. Simmer for 5 minutes. Turn off heat and let sit for 5 minutes with the lid on. Serves 6.

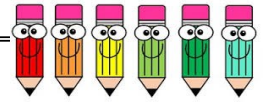
Bedtime Tips for Children and Teenagers

A good night’s sleep is about getting to sleep, staying asleep, and waking up feeling refreshed in the morning.



- Set up a bedtime routine
- Relax before bedtime
- Keep regular sleep and wake times
- Keep older children’s naps early and short
- Make sure your child feels safe at night
- Check noise and light in your child’s bedroom
- Avoid the clock
- Eat the right amount at the right time
- Get plenty of natural light in the day
- Avoid caffeine

Turn off devices at least one hour before bedtime. Pausing screen-related activities at least an hour before bedtime gives your brain a chance to wind down and signals to your body that it's time to sleep. Keep digital technology out of your child’s room at night. Dim the lights an hour before bed for children of preschool age and younger. If your child uses a night-light, choose a dim, warm-coloured globe, rather than a bright, white, cool-coloured globe.



Dear Families and Community Members,

Great things are happening at your local elementary school. Students are participating in learning and social activities that are preparing them to become leaders within our community. The 2023-2024 school year has been a great year for all involved. The staff and administration would like to thank everyone for their continued support of school programs and the everyday learning opportunities of our children. Each day, everyone plays a part in the lives of these students. Whether we are members of their family, their teacher, a neighbor, cub scout leader, coach, or another important adult, the positive and encouraging support we supply them will foster success. At Rockwood, the focus is school success through academic, emotional, and social growth. We are hopeful that each family has seen their child grow and gain knowledge that will support them throughout life.

Our students have the **POWER** to do great things. The district has adopted a focus on **POWER**. Power represents: **P**ride, **O**wnership, **W**orking together, **E**mpathy, and **R**espect/Responsibility. The children, teachers, staff, and administrators have discussed the **POWER** of positive decisions and behaviors. Students are encouraged to take pride in their work and positive decisions. Taking ownership of one's actions and behaviors can support each child and learning environment. When the school community works together to support learning, reinforce positive behavior, and build connections within community programs, all children benefit. Empathy for others and thinking about the impact our actions have on others can build connections and positive relationships. Respecting ourselves and others supports learning experiences. Completing tasks, homework, and in class activities is part of a child's responsibility in school.

I would like to thank the students, teachers, board of school directors, Parent Teacher Organization members, and the community for their efforts towards maintaining a positive school environment. Students participate in a number of exciting activities throughout the year, such as: educational field trips, classroom activities, Veterans Day assembly, career fair, trunk or treat, the geography bee, scrabble tournament, reading competition, and a long list of other events. These events are possible through the support of the individuals and organizations listed above. These activities allow students to be well rounded learners.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) instruction has been led by Mr. Ben Baker in all grade levels. With some adjustments to the schedule, Mr. Baker has been able to meet with students to develop scientific knowledge, incorporate engineering concepts, build mathematical connections, and motivate students to learn concepts that prepare them for future experiences. The use of technology, hands-on learning, and research has



Kindergarten Registration



Children of the Rockwood Area School District, who are five years of age by September 1, 2024, are eligible to enroll in the Rockwood elementary full day kindergarten program.

Registration is scheduled for March 21st and 22nd

Parents/guardians must contact Cindy Miller at 814-926-4688 ext. 1117 ASAP to receive enrollment information and begin the registration process.

We are excited about serving your family!

Note: Parents/guardians are reminded to provide a list of each child's immunizations.

been successful within this program and supports preparation for success in academic areas and careers.

Education today is more than academics. Students are coming to school with more social and emotional needs. Academic needs are met through supplemental reading services like: Title I, MTSS, remediation periods for math and reading, and classroom interventions. The social and emotional side of child development has to be a focus within the home and then supported through programs at school. Our programs include a positive behavior support plan known as the Leaders of Tomorrow that looks at good behaviors in the school environment and rewards students for their efforts. Students also receive support related to: school, friendships, bullying, growth mindset, emotional health, and self-confidence through lessons taught by the elementary school

(Elem. Principal cont.)

guidance counselor and social worker once during each six-day learning cycle. Interventions and further discussions are being supplied to grade levels and students when a need is identified.

I would like to invite parents or community members who have comments, concerns, or questions to contact me for assistance. My office door is always open. I am here to support our students and community so that all individuals are successful. Education is not just the duty of the school; we need to work together to support our children. Children learn through observation and practice. Each day is precious and important to reaching goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any need you may have related to the Rockwood Area Elementary School. I would like to thank each of you for your continued support of our children.

Yours in Education,
Mr. Jonathan Hale - Elementary Principal



PTO News & Information

Getting closer to the end of the school year, provides an opportune time to update the Rockwood community on everything your local PTO has accomplished and the events that are still to come.

PTO held it's weeklong Fall Book Fair in October. In addition to fueling our children's desire to read books, we were pleased to be able to purchase some new books and new releases for the elementary school library. Family Fun Night was also held in October, which featured a family film and popcorn for all who attended.

In November, the PTO supported the 6th grade Christmas Craft Store event held in the elementary gymnasium. The community actively participates in this yearly event and supports our local vendors and craftspeople.

Our largest fundraiser of the year, the Little Caesars pizza kit sales, was held in February. The PTO would sincerely like to thank the community and parents for their support by purchasing items from the elementary school students. Funds raised are used to provide prizes to students throughout the year for special events, in addition to activities like the end-of-year snow cone truck for the elementary grades.

As we look forward to spring – our Spring Book Fair will be held the week of March 4th through 8th.

Additional events are currently being scheduled for the remainder of the school year. Members of the PTO joyfully support the elementary students and staff by assisting with the following events: provide an egg hunt for pre-k through 1st grade children, assist with track & field day, provide snacks for students during PSSA testing, coordinate a Marianna's sub & pizza sale, and provide two scholarship stipends to two senior year students.

The PTO's success is largely based on the generosity of the community in supporting our fundraisers. We want to also recognize local businesses that continue to step forward to fund and help our mission - to fully support the children, staff, and faculty of the Rockwood Area School District through events, activities, recognition, and appreciation. Thank you all for your support!

For the most up to date information on PTO events, please reference our local Rockwood PTO Facebook page.

Keep in mind, we are ALWAYS looking for new members or for those that just want to help with specific events throughout the year. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm in the elementary library. Please join us in making wonderful moments and memories for our children!

Thank You
for your support



Current PTO Officers:

President – Joanie Pritts Secretary – Alyssa Thomas
Vice President – Ami Miller Treasurer – Ashley Shrum

Rockwood Area School District

Hall of Fame Nomination Form - 2023-2024



Criteria:

- A Rockwood High School graduate of at least five years
- Achievement of excellence as recognized by peers and/or media
- Fields of excellence:
 - Letters and Humanities
 - Arts
 - Athletics
 - Science
 - A significant contribution to the health, welfare and/or freedom of the local, national or world community.

Awardees will be honored at the annual high school awards assembly in May/June, and their name will be added to a permanent plaque in the school. All nominations will remain on file for five years and can be reconsidered. If you would like to nominate someone, please complete the nomination form below and **return it no later than April 15, 2024** to:

Rockwood Area School District
Attn: Sherry/Administration Office
439 Somerset Avenue
Rockwood, PA 15557

Name of Nominee: _____ Phone#: _____

Address: _____

RAHS graduating class of (enter year): _____

Field(s) of excellence (please mark all that apply):

- Letters and Humanities
- Arts
- Athletics
- Science
- A significant contribution to the health, welfare and/or freedom of the local, national or world community.

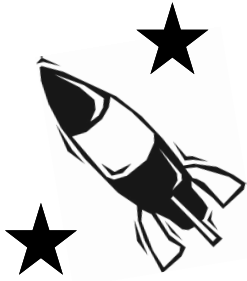
***Please include a brief summary of the above nominee's achievements on a separate page.**

Nominated by: _____ Phone#: _____

Address: _____

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

Non-Profit Organization
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ROCKWOOD, PA 15557

School Board

Dr. Tyler Pritts

President

Mr. Adam Sembower

Vice President

Mr. Brad Pletcher

Treasurer

Mrs. Ashley Baker

Mr. Seth Foreman

Dr. Hailey Miller

Mrs. Melanie Monticue

Mr. Matthew Pritts

Mr. Noah Wareham

Administrative Staff

Mr. Mark Bower

Superintendent

Mrs. Misty Demchak

H.S. Principal

Mr. Jonathan Hale

Elem. Principal

Mr. Nicholas Buterbaugh

Asst. Principal K-12/A.D.

Mrs. Megan Hetrick

Supervisor of Spec. Ed/School Psychologist

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

High School Office	814-926-4688 Opt. 3
Elementary Office	814-926-4688 Opt. 4
Administration Office	814-926-4688 Opt. 5
Guidance/Student Services	814-926-4688 Opt. 6
IT/Computer Dept.	814-352-4269
Metz—Food Service Dept.	814-926-4688 ext. 1111

Visit us on the Web

www.rockwoodschoools.org

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

- Cafeteria Menus
- Cafeteria Balances - **PayForIt Program**
- Contact Information
- Forms & Downloads
- Guidance Office Information
- Lesson Plans for Teachers
- Parent Notification System - **School Messenger**
- 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.

