



# SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

September 24, 2024

Good afternoon,

Welcome to fall!

I wanted to share wonderful news about one of our elementary schools. Meadow Ridge Elementary was designated an Exemplary High Performing School and was named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2024 by U.S. Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona. Meadow Ridge is one of just 356 schools in the nation and one of only 12 schools from Michigan to be recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools in 2024. Meadow Ridge will be officially honored in Washington DC in November. Congratulations to the students, staff, and parents of Meadow Ridge for creating such an exemplary school.

Last year every sophomore at Rockford High School took Advanced Placement Seminar as their English course. The College Board informed us that Rockford High School had the largest enrollment from one high school in AP Seminar in the nation. Over 64% of our students earned a three or better on the AP exam which means, depending on the university or college they attend, they will have earned college credit.

More importantly, every sophomore at Rockford High School was able to learn key content in critical thinking, understanding and analyzing information, and communicating effectively in both writing and speaking. These key skills support our RAMS XII strategic plan key student outcomes.

Our 2024 – 2027 RAMS XII strategic plan is available for review on the district website. I would encourage you to review this document. In this document you will see the vision of our district. We are committed to fostering a cohesive learning environment that challenges and supports each student, equipping them for success now and in the future. This work will require the best effort from our students, staff, parents, and community.

On Friday, October 18, the class of 2024 Rockford Public Schools Hall of Fame inductees will be celebrated with a reception from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Blythefield Country Club. This year's Hall of Fame class includes 11 members of our community who have made significant contributions to our community and school district. You can find details on the Rockford Education foundation website under the events tab. Home : [Rockford Education Foundation \(rockfordeducationfoundation.org\)](https://www.rockfordeducationfoundation.org)

This is Homecoming Week at Rockford High School and the Freshman Center. Activities will culminate with the football game on Friday evening at Carlson-Munger Stadium at 7:00 PM and the Homecoming Dance on Saturday.

There are several ways to keep updated on district news. You can listen to our district podcast Rams News and Views. You can find it on Spotify, Apple, or Amazon podcasts. A link is on our district website. You can also see my updates on Instagram @docsmatthews or the former Twitter @docsmatthews.

Steve

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