



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

November 26, 2024

Good afternoon,

Happy Thanksgiving!

Our first trimester is in the books. During the first trimester our district continued to focus on creating engaging, meaningful instructional experiences for our students, including the following:

- Outdoor education for our elementary students
 - Including a dedicated space that all 2nd grade students will experience this year at the Edgerton Trails outdoor education space.
- Consistent STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) experiences for all elementary students
 - Every elementary building has dedicated STEAM space and elementary students have STEAM experiences each week
- New language arts curriculum for elementary students
 - The Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) was implemented this fall in all elementary buildings

Congratulations are in order for the following:

- Our girls' volleyball team finished 2nd in the state.
 - They had a marvelous run in the state championship tournament winning the district and regional championship before falling the state championship game.
- Our girls' swim and dive finished 7th in the state
 - Several individual and relay performances earned our students all-state in both swim and dive.
- Our Rockford High School marching band concluded their season by qualifying for the Bands of America national championship semi-final and finishing 25th in the nation.
- Our boys' water polo team place 4th in the state.

As a reminder, winter is coming! At some point, we will receive snow and probably enough snow that we will need to call school. We will send out messages to all families via School Messenger – a phone call and a text. We will alert the news stations as well. I will also post on Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and Threads @docsmatthews. Also, on Bluesky @docsmatthews.bsky.social.

We will try and call it as early as we can. But even though I wish it to be true, snow does not come when I want it. It usually comes on its own time schedule. I will get the word out on school closings as quickly as I can.

We will also have days when there is snow but not enough to call off the day. On those days, buses will run late, traffic in and around schools will be slow, and patience will usually be in short supply. So, any grace that you can give to us and to each other would be appreciated on those days.

But those worries are for another day. Right now, I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews
Superintendent
Rockford Public Schools