

Rice Lake High School Student Newsletter August—2016

Welcome Back from Mr. Pacholke, Principal

The start of the 2016-2017 school year is fast approaching. As I write this letter, there is less than a month before the start of a new school year. As summer draws to a close, it is my hope that you have had ample time to rest and recuperate from the challenges of last year, to spend time with family and friends, and to reflect on your previous successes. I know that parents and students alike share my anticipation of the beginning of a new school year. Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find important information and news about the upcoming school year.

Freshman First Day (which also includes new students to the district) will be Thursday, September 1st. This day provides incoming freshmen and transfer students the opportunity to find their classes and calm some of the anxiety that accompanies students entering a new school. The first day of classes for sophomore through senior students will be Friday, September 2nd.

Freshman Orientation and the high school start of the school year Open House will both be held on the evening of Wednesday, August 31st. Freshman Orientation is an evening for parents and freshmen alike to become acquainted with the building and procedures. Freshman Orientation will be held from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the Ole Olson Gym and the Open House will be from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Open House is also a chance for students to meet their teachers and get reacquainted with the building. Parents, please take advantage of this opportunity to meet your son or daughter's teachers and to see the great new spaces and opportunities that the referendum has provided.

Our 37-minute intervention period, known as Resource, continues to prove to be valuable for our students. This year we will continue to provide extensions and interventions for students to meet their individual goals. Upper classmen will be able to start in the least restrictive resource location, provided they met the specified academic, attendance and behavior criteria during 4th term of last year. By design, freshmen will have more structure to ensure success during their transition into a challenging high school educational experience.

This year's Parent-Teacher Conferences will once again be from **4:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.** in terms 1, 2, and 3. During term 4, we will be exploring different options to reach a higher percentage of parents. We will communicate these options in future newsletters. The conferences are scheduled for mid-term of each quarter and the dates can be found on our website and also in this newsletter. This will increase your opportunities to meet with teachers and better enable parents to monitor student progress. Parents and students are also encouraged to communicate and schedule individual conferences as needed throughout the year. Be reminded that you can always access student grades and attendance via Skyward. We encourage all parents to sign-up for Skyward access. As a district, we will be moving toward even more electronic communication in the near future and a Skyward account will be required. For additional information on setting up a Skyward account, please contact the high school office.

I hope all of you are as excited to begin the school year as Mrs. Bergeron, Mr. Lipke and I are. We are very excited about the new changes and opportunities that await us in the new school year. Please do not hesitate to call, email or stop by if there are any questions or concerns.

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! *GO WARRIORS!*

New Staff

Katie Bergeron—Assistant Principal.

Megan Raether—Northern Lakes Regional Academy

Jessica Mackiewicz—Spanish

Rena Christman—Special Ed

School Begins

Freshmen & New Students:

September 1st

All other students

September 2nd

High School Bell Schedule:

1st period 8:03 - 9:25

2nd period 9:35 - 10:57

3rd period 10:57 - 12:59

A lunch 11:02 - 11:32

B lunch 11:34 - 12:04

C lunch 12:29 - 12:59

Resource 1:04 - 1:41

4th period 1:46 - 3:08

Orientation

Freshmen/New Students

Wednesday, August 31st

High School Auditorium

6:00 PM

The purpose of orientation is to introduce new students and their parents to Rice Lake High School. Students and parents will also be given the opportunity to meet members of our staff and student body, and to become acquainted with our building. Please report to the High School Auditorium at 6:00 PM.

Student Handbook Planner

On the first day of school, each student will receive a copy of the student handbook. The handbook/planner contains information about discipline, attendance, and other policies, procedures, and regulations necessary for the smooth operation of the high school.

It is expected that students and parents will read the handbook, have knowledge of the rules, and ask questions about anything they don't understand.

Introducing Our New Assistant Principal

Dear Rice Lake High School Families,

I wanted to take a few moments to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Mrs. Katie Bergeron and I am excited and honored to be joining the RLHS staff as an assistant principal. I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with you and your students.

This year marks my tenth year working in education. I began my career in education as a school counselor and I am excited to be transitioning into the role of assistant principal after recently completing my principal licensure program. I have my Master's degree in School Counseling from Marquette University and I just completed my Educational Leadership program through Viterbo University. While the assistant principal role is new to me, RLHS is a very familiar place; I was a school counselor here at RLHS from 2007 to 2012. For the last four years I was a school counselor in Eau Claire.

As I've said and I'm sure I will say again, I am very excited about the opportunity to come back to RLHS and to work with all of you in this new capacity. I am committed to helping to continue the strong tradition of high academic standards at RLHS. I'm looking forward to collaborating with the administrative team, teachers, staff, students, the community, and you to provide an excellent education for our 21st century learners. My goal in this new role is to provide the leadership that will support a safe and respectful learning environment that allows for excellent instruction and learning.

I look forward to meeting all of you and partnering to support our students. My door is always open, so please contact me with any questions or concerns now or in the future.

Here's to a great 2016-2017 school year! Go Warriors!

Submission of Back to School Forms and Fees

Parents/Guardians are asked to **log into their online Family Access Account** (link available on the district website) and **complete the online "Back to School Forms/Fees" process**. The process includes the following:

- View back to school information
- Verifying Student/Family/Emergency Information
- Entering text message numbers that you want the school to use to contact you about school cancellations and other school communications (required to receive text messages)
- View information from the School Nurse and provide updates to student health information and authorization for medical treatment and medication usage
- Make payments for fees and school lunch
- Complete an application for free/reduced lunch
- Complete the field trip permission form

If you don't have a Family Access account, you can find information for obtaining an account on our district website under the "Skyward Family Access" button



Student Services Department News

Counseling services are provided for all students by the Student Services Department. Counseling is a process to help students in dealing with problems and making decisions. Counselors assist students with high school academic programs, post-high school planning, and personal concerns. Various department functions include group and individual counseling, group achievement testing and interpretation of test results, various career investigation activities to help students with career planning, and scheduling assistance for students as they choose their high school courses.

Counselor assignments, according to students' *last names*, are as follows:

A—L Jessica Ebner Ext. 5470

M—Z Mike Shomion Ext. 5335

Counselors will be available from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM on August 10, 17, 24, and 25th. Watch for the Student Services Fall Newsletter that will be online for information concerning applications and deadlines for post-secondary schools.

Schedule Changes

Login to Family/Student Access to view student schedules. When students make their course selections, having utilized the assistance and advice of teachers and counselors, a schedule is generated. It is expected that the students will follow that schedule.

We do realize that sometimes circumstances change, and some schedule changes must be made if the requests are legitimate and educationally sound. **Any student who needs to change a course must pick up a "Request for Change" form and have it signed by a parent.** Change forms are available in the Student Services Office.

Each completed request is reviewed by a team of administrators and counselors. It should be pointed out that quite often, classroom enrollments and availability of courses do not allow students to switch classes. We appeal to parents to discuss any request for change with their son or daughter before signing it.

Student Fees

Rice Lake has a few set fees that must be paid by each student. Some of these fees are listed below, while others may arise during the year, depending on the types of classes the student is taking. Please pay these fees by the first day of school:

- Registration Fees \$14.00 (To be paid by all students)
- Class Dues \$ 2.00 (To be paid by all students)

Option for paying fees: (paying fees is also included as a step in the "Back to School Forms/Fees" online process)

1. Online through E-Funds (preferred method)
 - ⇒ See the district website (Parents tab) for directions to setup an account and use it to pay online
 - ⇒ The following can be paid through E-Funds

1. School Lunch
2. Class Dues 2016-17
3. Registration Fee 2016-17
4. Student Athletic Pass
5. Family Athletic Pass

If you purchase an athletic pass through E-Funds, please stop in the office to get your pass.

2. Send a check and invoice to Rice Lake High School

Change of Address/ Phone/etc.

When you have changes in demographic information (address, phone number, text numbers, emergency contacts, etc.) throughout the school year—please be sure to log into your Family Access account and make those changes.



Attendance

We need your help, understanding, and cooperation. Attendance is a major predictor in academic success. This requires regular attendance! Please stress this at home.

Warrior Booster Club

The new sports season will soon begin. The Booster Club exists for the purpose of broadening the involvement of students and community citizens who support all high school athletic programs. We encourage all parents to join by becoming a member for the upcoming year (see attached registration form). A sign-up information table will also be set up during the evening of Freshman Orientation/Open House. Membership dues are \$25 per family.
President—Angie Beranek
Treasurer—Kirk Brettingen

Student Fees

A number of "check-points" have been established to assure that students do not accumulate a number of unpaid fines and fees over long periods of time. Students with unpaid fines or fees will not be issued a parking tag, or their high school diploma.

Absences

Please call the school before 8:03 AM on the day of an absence to report your son or daughter absent due to illness. If a telephone call is not received by 2 PM the day of the absence, a note indicating the reason for the absence will be required the day he/she returns to school. Students will be marked unexcused and disciplinary action taken if there is no note or phone call received within 24 hours of the absence. Any other absence must be pre-excused prior to the absence per state law. This can be done by bringing a note to the Attendance Office. **Regular attendance is extremely important, and is expected .**

School Safety

Safety of our students continues to be a priority for our district. Office staff will buzz in visitors after proper identification is determined. Please understand that this inconvenience is being implemented district-wide to improve the safety of our students and staff.

Parking

Juniors and Seniors can come to school to pick up a parking application one week prior to the beginning of school. You will need a parking tag to be able to park in the student lot but there will not be assigned spots. Parking tags cost is \$5.00. All fees and detentions must be paid before applications will be accepted.

RLHS Yearbook – The Aurora

Buy yours today!

Yearbook purchases can be made online via our publisher's website. Just go to www.yearbookforever.com, type in Rice Lake High School and you can buy a book and choose a variety of options. Options include, name stamping and nicknames on the front cover, sports and club icons on the front cover, plastic covers, autograph inserts, a year in review insert and even gel pens for autograph signing.

Again, be sure to visit the website to purchase your yearbook:

www.yearbookforever.com

If you have issues with the website or an internet connection, see Ms. Einum in the Student Services area of the high school or email Mr. Panasuk at panasukt@ricelake.k12.wi.us. We have also enclosed an order sheet if you want to order directly from the school.

Forrest Run—A Fight Against Brain Cancer

Save the Date—September 17

The sixth annual Forrest Run will be held Saturday, September 17 at 9:00 am at the UW Barron County campus by the RLHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Last year over \$12,000 was raised for the fight against brain cancer! The Forrest Run is in memory of Forrest Olson, an alumnus of RLHS, who passed away from brain cancer. The run is family-friendly—a one mile run featuring 9 different obstacle courses for kids under 12, and a 5K course for 12 and up. All the profit goes to research brain cancer and support families who have loved ones suffering from brain cancer. You can find the registration form and more information enclosed www.forrestrun.org.

Hope to see you there!



Supplemental Student Insurance

Students and their parents/guardians are responsible for providing accident insurance for the student. The school assumes no financial liability in connection with any accident at any time. Although many families have adequate health and accident insurance, there are some families whose coverage is not adequate or who have no insurance. A low cost group insurance plan is being offered through the First Agency Insurance Company for those who feel they do not have adequate coverage or wish to have additional protection. An explanation of the benefits and cost of each type of coverage is explained on First Agency website.

If the decision is made to purchase this supplementary student insurance, visit the First Agency website at

www.1stagency.com/voluntaryaccidentcoverage.htm to enroll.

Do not send premiums to the school.

Website Notice

Check our school website for calendar of events and athletics at:

www.ricelake.k12.wi.us

Athletics

Students can register for sports by stopping in the high school attendance/athletic office. Athletes need to have the following to be eligible to participate: All forms can be found on our website.



1. Current or alternate year physical card
2. Registration/medical information card
3. Concussion waiver
4. Signed Athletic Code

<http://rlhs.ricelake.k12.wi.us/athletics>

Athletic Passes

Student - A season athletic pass will again be offered this year. The price will be **\$25.00** per year. The purchase of a season pass is voluntary. If students purchase tickets at the gate they will have to pay the regular student price of \$4.00. Student passes can be purchased at Freshmen Orientation or in Student Services. This pass will be good for admission to all regular season home contests, excluding multi-team tournaments and WIAA tournament contests.



Adult (Season) - Adult season passes are available for **\$75** and are not transferable. This pass will be good for admission to all regular season home contests, excluding multi-team tournaments and WIAA tournament contests.



Senior Citizen 62+ (Season) Senior Citizen passes 62 or older are available for **\$50**. This pass will be good for admission to all regular season home contests, excluding multi-team tournaments and WIAA tournament contests.

Family (Season) - Family athletic passes are available for **\$150**, which entitles parents and their children through high school grade 12 admission to all regular season home contests, excluding multi-team tournaments and WIAA tournament contests.

Admission prices to all regular season sporting events:

Adults	\$5.00
Seniors	\$4.00
Students	\$4.00

Upcoming Events

- August 31—Freshmen/New Student Orientation
6:00—7:00
Open House All Students and Parents 5:30—7:30
- September 1 - Freshmen & New Students
- September 2—All Students
- September 14—Education Fair
UWBC & WITC
- September 14—Student pictures
September 15—Student pictures
- September 30—Teacher In-Service
No School
- October 4—Parent/Teacher Conference 4:00—6:30
- October 14 - Homecoming
- October 15- Fall Formal
- October 18—ASVAB Testing
- November 4—End of First Term

Education Fair Set for September

The Education Fair, sponsored by WITC and UW-Barron County, is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th from 9 to 11 AM. Representatives from many universities, technical colleges and the military will be on hand to answer questions. Transportation will be provided for juniors and seniors who want to attend. Please find information for Juniors and Seniors enclosed in this mailing.

Student Pictures

Pictures of underclassmen are scheduled for September 14th and 15th. More information on student picture packages will be made available after the start of school.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

- Wednesday, August 31st—Open House 5:30—7:30 p.m. High School
- Tuesday, October 4th 4:00—6:30 p.m.
- Monday, December 12th 4:00—6:30 p.m.
- Monday, February 27th 4:00—6:30 p.m.