



RICE LAKE HIGH SCHOOL
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RLHS Parents and Students,

The start of the 2020-2021 school year is quickly approaching. As summer draws to a close, I am confident that we're all ready to move on to a more structured schedule and on to a new school year. Quite obviously, this year will not be without its own unique challenges, but we are excited to get back into the classroom and get our students back to academic pursuits. We first want to thank all RLHS students and families for your support and patience as the direction of school operations seem to alter daily. Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find important information about the upcoming school year.

Our main goal as we proceed this year is to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff, while keeping our educational institution open for our students. [RLHS Covid Norms and Practices](#)

The Rice Lake Area School District has provided a Distance Learning option for families. If your child will not be attending face-to-face courses, additional details will be sent to you along with information on arranging a time to get the district-issued device. If a student has chosen to be a Distance Learner, their content will be provided with a software known as APEX or ALEKS for math and assistance and support will be provided by Rice Lake Area School District staff. In this format, the primary focus will be on courses related to graduation requirements as not all classes are able to be offered.

At Rice Lake High School, we are always looking to maximize our opportunities to meet the needs of our students and parents. With the anticipation of disruptions in learning this year, I want to share what we have learned from last year's experience as we prepare for all possible scenarios for the approaching school year. Since the end of our last school year, the Rice Lake High School Building Leadership Team has been meeting to review the distance education experience and analyze the results of the surveys, with the hope of improving the outcomes for our students. We used the Term 4 survey results from students, parents, and staff and reflected on what practices were effective and what was adjusted if distance education wasn't going well. From our discussions, we created a list of guidelines or non-negotiables that staff will follow to improve the experience. First and foremost, we have made the commitment to improve accessibility of our learning activities and curriculum. In addition, we have identified a list of skills and tools that will enhance the learning for our students. Through feedback on specific challenges, we learned that we needed to develop a universal format for the delivery of content. As an example, a student who had four different teachers may have found the structure of each virtual class varied greatly. This can be confusing not only for the student but also for anyone trying to assist the student. This led us to develop a Task Force to create a Google Classroom template that all staff would use and share with students. This is one way to improve accessibility of our curriculum and allow parents the ability to access the unit plans and course activities.

Conversely, students also have a list of non-negotiables. This includes expectations like first hour begins at 8am, whether a student is at school or working from home on a school day; students need to properly maintain their school-issued laptop; and most importantly, students need to use their best self-advocacy skills, as more than ever teachers are going to need students to clearly communicate their educational needs. A complete list of these student non-negotiables can be found at this link: [RLHS student non-negotiables for 2020-2021](#).

In our plan, we wanted to address the common questions that may be causing unnecessary stress, such as: What is expected to be completed and when is the assignment due? Where do I find the materials? How am I doing in the course? We feel strongly that with a universal Google Classroom template, along with the consistent staff practices for the presentation of the content, we will be able to better serve our students. Also new this year, all RLHS students will be receiving a Chromebook on the first day of school. Prior to students receiving a device, we will be providing an orientation where staff will demonstrate how to access the weekly checklists and course content. With the modifications to our delivery, improvement on accessibility to content, along with consistent staff practices, we will be able to better serve our students. The goal is for staff to keep a linear, logical sequence in their Google Classroom, so students, parents, support staff, and other teachers can easily navigate and understand the connection to Skyward. Some of the additional specifics can be found below.

Examples of Consistency Teaching Practices

For all face-to-face classes, Google Classroom will be used to allow students to access the course content remotely if needed.

Staff will organize and post content one week at a time. The content will be labeled using "week 1, week 2, ..."

Due dates will be used in Google Classroom. These will then post to a student's Google Calendar for easier tracking of assignments.

A general weekly checklist/calendar that includes the required tasks of the week will be posted by 8 am Monday morning. Modifications and updates will occur as the teacher makes adjustments deemed necessary.

Google Classroom titles for assignments will match the assignment titles in Skyward to allow easy tracking of grades and student progress.

Feedback is essential to the learning process. Skyward will be updated weekly at a minimum, so accurate grade feedback is maintained.

A continuous goal in the Rice Lake School District is to have schools that are safe, welcoming, and filled with kindness and compassion. Please never hesitate to contact me if you have information or concerns about our commitment to this essential goal. I hope all of you are as excited to begin the school year as we are. We will continue to plan and prepare for the challenges and opportunities that await us in the new school year. I know there are still many questions that you may have and we are doing our best to provide you with information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Curt Pacholke

Rice Lake High School Student Newsletter

August—2020

Registration for the 20-21 School Year

Electronic communication will be vital for updates and staying connected for the 2020-21 school year. Please be sure to follow the steps below and update your information accordingly.

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
- Verify/update Student/Family/Emergency Information
 - Verify/update guardian email addresses
- Enter 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/update information from the School Nurse for student health information and authorization for medical treatment and medication usage
- Make payments for fees and school lunch: [E-Funds](#)
- Complete an application for free/reduced lunch: [Food Service](#)
- Complete the field trip permission form
- And any other additional information that is relevant to your student

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.

Parent/Teacher Phone Conference

In order to keep our staff and students safe, instead of an open house on **Thursday, August 27th from 6-8 p.m.** there will be an opportunity to talk with your students' teachers for the school year by phone. To sign up visit your family access account then select Parent Teacher conference starting **Friday, August 21st**. You will receive information on how to sign up through your family access account.

Freshman & New Student Orientation

Families will receive a link to a video during the week of August 24th-28th that will share the information we traditionally do face-to-face. If you are unavailable to attend, the video will be available on the RLHS website.

School Safety

Safety of our students continues to be a priority for our district. We will continue keeping our building secure during the school day through the use of a security camera and access system controlled by our office staff at the S1 visitor's entrance. Please understand this system is in place district-wide to improve the safety of our students and staff, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation with this process. Students will be allowed on campus for school-based functions only; visitors will be limited by appointment only.

School Begins

Freshmen & New Students:

September 1st

All Students

September 2nd

High School Bell Schedule:

1st period 8:00 - 9:24

2nd period 9:34 - 10:57

3rd period 11:02 - 1:00

A lunch

B lunch

C lunch

4th period (Homeroom/Resource)

1:05 - 1:43

5th period 1:48 - 3:12

Distance Learning

If your student will be participating in distance learning to start the 2020-21 school year, you can also expect a separate communication soon.

Laude/Honors

As we had disruptions in scheduling, our laude scale will be under review this fall, so it does not hinder the ability for students to earn honors.

Parchment

In order to get a copy of your high school transcript:

- Visit RLHS website
- Student Services page
- Request transcripts
- Select Parchment
- Set up an account with your personal email.

If you request a transcript to be sent to yourself, it is an unofficial document. If you a request a transcript to be sent to any other party if is an official document.

Schedule Changes

Schedules will be available in Family/Student Access on Friday, August 21st. If you have questions or concerns, please email or call your counselor. Counselors will be available starting the week of August 24th. When students made their course selections- having utilized the advice of teachers, counselors, and parents/guardians- a schedule was generated. It is expected 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 or online on the Student Services tab under [Student Services Forms](#).

Each completed request is reviewed by a team of administrators and counselors. 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 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, 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

Distance Learning Erika Spear Ext. 5726

Watch for the online Student Services Fall Newsletter for information concerning applications and deadlines for post-secondary schools.

RLHS Academic and Career Plan (ACP) Information

As of the 2017-2018 school year, all school districts in Wisconsin are required to implement Academic and Career Planning (ACP). At RLHS, this means we will be continuing with many components of the E-Portfolio requirement but will be adding even more career supports through embedded career exploration and help students plan for and achieve post-secondary success. More information on the ACP is available on the ACP website linked from the RLHS website. [RLHS Academic Career Plan](#)

Upcoming Events

- August 27th- Parent/Teacher Phone Conference
- August 27th- Freshman & New Student Orientation– Virtual Only
- September 1st- Freshmen & New Students First Day
- September 2nd- All Students First Day
- September 7th- NO SCHOOL– Labor Day
- September 10th- Student pictures
September 11th- Student pictures
- October 1st- Parent/Teacher Conference 4:30-7:30p.m.
- October 2nd- Homecoming
- October 3rd- Fall Formal
- October 14th- PSAT Testing
- November 3rd- End of First Term

Save the Date

Parent-Teacher Conferences

- October 1st 4:30-7:30p.m.
- December 10th 5:00-7:30p.m.
- February 25th 5:00-7:30p.m.
- May 4th 5:00-7:00p.m.

Graduation
May 28th 7:00p.m.

*All dates subject to change

Student Pictures

Pictures of underclassmen are scheduled for September 10th and 11th More information on student picture packages will be made available after the start of school.



Expectations of your Chromebook

This year each student will be issued a Chromebook to complete their assignments. The care and maintenance of this device and accessories is the responsibility of each student and their families.

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.

Parking

Parking is on a first come, first service basis. If your student plans to utilize the parking lots at the Rice Lake High School, please go to your Family Access account to register your vehicle information.

Attendance

Parents, we need your help, understanding, and cooperation in promoting good attendance habits. Attendance is a major predictor of academic success, and every period of absence is a lost learning opportunity. This requires regular attendance - whether we are in person or virtual! Did you know that missing even one day of school every two weeks can negatively affect student grades? Research on student achievement shows that maintaining a 97% attendance rate is important in maximizing academic success. That calculates to missing fewer than five days of school throughout the year. Please stress consistent daily attendance at home and help your child aim to meet the 97% attendance rate!

Absences

Please call the school before 8:00 a.m. 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.** Please contact Tonia Leamy at 715-234-2181 ext. 5641 with any questions.

Cellphone Usage

Student cell phones are not permitted in the classroom. Devices must be stored in lockers during the school day (bell to bell) with the following exceptions:

1. In hallways during passing time.
2. During lunch hour.
3. Before and after school.

Cell phones are always prohibited in locker rooms!

Student Handbook

During the first week of school, each homeroom class will review the RLHS Student Handbook. The handbook contains information about discipline, attendance, and other policies, procedures, and regulations necessary for the smooth and safe 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. An electronic copy of the handbook can be found on the high school website under the Parent/Student resource tab. [Student Handbook 2020-2021](#)

RLHS Yearbook –The Aurora

Yearbook purchases can be made online via our publisher's website. Just go to www.yearbookforever.com, which can be found via our Activities tab on our RLHS website. Once in the site, type Rice Lake High School into the School Name search box to shop.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Panasuk at panasuk@ricelake.k12.wi.us



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 2020-21
3. Registration Fee 2020-21

2. Send a check and enclosed invoice to Rice Lake High School
 - ⇒ Mail to RLHS, 30 S. Wisconsin Ave., Rice Lake, WI 54868

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 allowed to participate in graduation. To check your student’s balance, visit your Skyward Family Access and select Fee Management.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alissa Young at 715-234-2181 ext. 5510.

Athletics

Students can register for Rice Lake High School sports through their Skyward Family Access account. A WIAA physical/WIAA alternate physical form that is completely filled out and signed can be uploaded to Family Access or dropped off to Ms. Lenhart in the RLHS Athletic office. Check out the [RLHS website](#) for more information and a copy of the [2020-21 Athletic Code](#).

Sign up to receive auto notifications for High School activities or High School Sport events by signing up on the [Big Rivers](#) website. An app version of this schedule is called *rSchool Today*.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tim Lipke at 715-234-2181 ext. 5245 or Jodie Lenhart at 715-234-2181 ext. 5242.

Athletic Passes

Athletic passes will be sold when the determination of sports is announced.

Admission prices to all regular season sporting events:
 Adults \$5.00 Seniors \$4.00

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, enroll via the First Agency website at

www.1stagency.com/voluntaryaccidentcoverage.htm

Do not send premiums to the school.

New Staff

- Kyla Bergstrom –
FACE Dept
- Jodie Lenhart –
Athletic Secretary
- Mackenzie Narins –
Special Education Dept
- Zach Schradle –
Science Dept
- Erika Spear –
School Counselor
- Alissa Young –
Financial/Student
Services Secretary