



Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The start of the 2023-2024 school year is fast approaching. As summer draws to a close I hope you have had ample time to rest, recuperate, spend time with family and friends, and to reflect on your previous successes. Enclosed you will find important information about the upcoming school year.

At Rice Lake High School, we are always working to meet the needs of our students and parents. Communication and support from all stakeholders play important roles as we challenge students to reach their full potential. We have made the commitment to enhance accessibility to our learning activities and allow parents access to these resources as well. All courses will continue using Google Classroom this year. To provide equitable access to digital materials, students will receive their own personal Chromebook which will be distributed on the first day of school. It will be students' responsibility to keep them charged and protected throughout the year.

Freshman Orientation and high school Open House will be held on the evening of **Thursday, August 31**. Freshman Orientation is an evening for freshmen and their parents to become acquainted with the building and procedures. Freshman Orientation will be held from **6:30 - 7:00 p.m.** in the high school auditorium. Open House is for all students and will be from **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Parents, please take advantage of this opportunity to meet your child's teachers and to tour our great facilities.

Freshman First Day, which also includes new students to the district, will be **Friday, September 1**. This day allows incoming freshmen and transfer students the opportunity to get acquainted with their teachers and reduces the uneasiness of entering a new school. The first day of classes for sophomores through seniors will be **Tuesday, September 5**.

Over the past several years, staff have strived to become more consistent on grading for learning practices and establishing a culture that encourages students to take academic risks. We will be revisiting these practices to ensure we are consistent. In addition to grading practices, staff have been working hard to identify specific priority standards. This will be an ongoing process as we move from a traditional percentage system to a standards-based reporting system. These standards will provide students and parents with a clear vision of what students must know and be able to do to succeed in their classes. Through our research, discussion and trials, we have two practices connected to Grading for Learning that we have implemented. The first practice I would like to highlight is providing students the opportunity to retake unit assessments. Previously, many staff were offering retakes in some capacity, but we did not have a guiding document that would provide a consistent approach. I encourage you to review the enclosed document; it identifies our execution plan for retakes. Students will be receiving this information from staff in the fall.

A crucial element to future success that we have implemented in all classes is related to non-academic factors that we call Success Skills. As a staff, we have identified a list of skills that have an impact on academic



success. These skills include being: Prompt & Prepared, Persistent & Productive, and Responsible & Respectful. The goal is for students to self-assess their skill set according to the expectations for each category and for staff to use the rubric to help students improve. Self-assessment can be a very powerful tool to motivate individuals. Please review the attached rubric to familiarize yourself with the expected skills we want all students to acquire. Employers share that these soft skills are critical employability skills for all employees. In addition, as we work to prepare our students to be college and career ready, these characteristics are valuable indicators of future success.

A continuous goal in the Rice Lake School District is to have schools that are safe, welcoming and filled with kindness and compassion. Our Student Warrior Leadership Team has been meeting over the summer to continue to develop a framework for our student leaders to create a chain reaction of kindness. We are encouraged by the positive spark they have created and we are committed to continue to improve the culture at RLHS.

I hope all of you are as excited to begin the school year as we are. We are anticipating many positive changes and opportunities. Please do not hesitate to call, email or stop by if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Pacholke", written in a cursive style.

Curt Pacholke

Principal

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! Go Warriors!

Student Newsletter

August—2023

Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year

Electronic communication will be vital for updates and staying connected for the 2023-2024 school year. Please be sure to follow the steps below and update your information accordingly.

Parents/Guardians are asked to **log into their online Skyward Family Access Account** ([click here to be linked to your Skyward log in](#)) 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.

Freshman & New Student Orientation

Freshman and new student orientation will be held on Thursday, August 31st from 6-8 pm. This night is designed as an evening for students and parents to become acquainted with the building, procedures, and staff. The Freshman and new student orientation will be held from 6:30 pm until 7:00 pm in the Rice Lake High School auditorium. The event will continue with an open house until 8:00 pm where parents and students are encouraged to meet the teachers and become familiar with the school grounds.

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. Food delivery services such as: Doordash, Uber Eats, and Grub Hub will not be allowed to deliver to the school building.

School Supplies

School supplies vary by class requirements. RLHS does not have a specific list of school supplies. Students are encouraged to use traditional organizational materials or items that would work best for them.

Important Dates

Freshmen & New Students:

September 1st

All Students

September 5th

High School Bell Schedule:

1st period 8:00 - 9:24

2nd period 9:34 - 10:57

3rd period 11:02 - 1:00

11:02 - 11:32 A lunch

11:44 - 12:14 B lunch

12:29 - 1:00 C lunch

4th period 1:05 - 1:43

(Homeroom/Resource)

5th period 1:48 - 3:12

Parchment

Seniors: 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 request a transcript to be sent to any other party it is an official document.



Schedule Changes

Schedules are now available in Family/Student Access. If you have questions or concerns, please email or call your counselor. 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. We ask parents to discuss any request for change with their son or daughter before contacting a counselor.



Upcoming Events

August 31st - Freshman & New Student Orientation

September 1st - Freshmen & New Students First Day

September 4th - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

September 5th - All Students First Day

September 12th - Student pictures

September 13th - Student pictures

September 29th - Homecoming

September 30th - Fall Formal

September 28th - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.

October 2nd - NO SCHOOL - Inservice

October 11th - PSAT Testing

November 3rd - End of First Term

November 6th - NO SCHOOL - Inservice

December 6th - ASVAB

Student Services Department Information

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 **(Please note: Your student's counselor may have changed!)**

A—G Jerrett Kowalski Ext. 5836

H—N Erika Spear Ext. 5726

O—Z Kyle Dachel Ext. 5885

Watch for the online Student Services Fall Newsletter for information including 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 adding even more career supports through embedded career exploration and helping 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](#)

Student Pictures

Pictures of underclassmen are scheduled for September 12th and 13th, with retakes being November 15th. More information on student picture packages will be made available after the start of school.



Save the Date

Parent - Teacher Conferences

September 28th 4:30-7:30 p.m.

December 7th 5:00-7:30 p.m.

February 22nd 5:00-7:30 p.m.

May 2nd 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Graduation

May 24th 7:00 p.m.

Parking

Parking is on a first come, first serve 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. Parking in the student lot is a privilege. Students with outstanding detentions, fines or behavior referrals can lose parking privileges.

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.

Expectations of your Chromebook

Each student will be issued a Chromebook to access content for their courses. The care and maintenance of this device is the responsibility of each student and their families. Accidental damage protection is optional and information is available online under Parent Resources and can be purchased through E-Funds.

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!** 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 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 2:00 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 or leamyt@ricelake.k12.wi.us with any questions.

Cellphone Usage

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

1. In hallways during passing time. (Prohibited in locker rooms).
2. During lunch hour. (Prohibited in locker rooms).
3. Before and after school. (Prohibited in locker rooms).

Any student possessing a cell phone in a classroom will need to bring their phone to the office. The cell phone will be returned to the student or parent/guardian, depending on the number of offenses. Refusal to turn over a cell phone will result in disciplinary action.

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 2023-2024](#)

RLHS Yearbook

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 panasukt@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 2023-24
3. Registration Fee 2023-24

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 the Financial Secretary at 715-234-2181.

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 [2023-2024 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 in the main office of the High School starting in August. The prices are as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| Adults \$60.00 | Seniors \$50.00 |
| Admission prices to all regular season sporting events: | |
| Adults \$5.00 | Seniors \$4.00 |

There will continue to be no charge to Rice Lake Students at Rice Lake Sporting Events, with proof of enrollment.

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 the First Agency website.

If the decision is made to purchase this supplementary student insurance, enroll via the [First Agency website](#).

Do not send premiums to the school.