



Rochester CUSD #3A

4 Rocket Drive Rochester, Illinois 62563-9282, United States

Superintendent's Report

To: Board of Education

From: Dan W. Cox, Superintendent of Schools

Date: September 18, 2024

Gratitudes and Celebrations

I want to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude for the tremendous start to this school year. The time from the start of the school year, leading up to Labor Day is always a whirlwind of activity, but it's also filled with excitement and fulfillment. Labor Day weekend, a personal favorite of mine, gave us all a valuable chance to recharge, reflect, and refocus. Now, as we return refreshed and ready, we're excited to be back to the rhythm of school life, committed to making a meaningful difference for our students and families in the months ahead.

The past few weeks have been filled with energy and enthusiasm, with a strong sense of community evident throughout our schools. Our band proudly represented us in multiple parades, showcasing their remarkable talent and school spirit. Extracurricular activities are off to a great start, providing our students with many opportunities to pursue their passions and strengthen their connections with each other and our schools. Equally inspiring is the way our families have embraced the start of the year, supporting their children and our schools.





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We are deeply appreciative of the dedication, collaboration, and support from our students, staff, families, and the entire Rochester community. Together, we are making this an outstanding year to be a Rocket.

Recent Actions and Highlights

Strategic Planning Process Update

After taking a brief pause to get the school year underway, the strategic planning process is back in progress. In September, our writing team leads will meet to share and review their work, as well as receive feedback. Following this meeting, they will return to their teams to revise and refine their sections of the plan.

In early October, all teams will come together for a comprehensive review session with our plan facilitator. After this, a draft of the strategic plan will be finalized for presentation to a focus group in early November. This focus group will include students, families, and staff, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives are considered.

Once feedback from the focus group has been incorporated, the revised plan will be presented to the board for consideration in December.

Stay Interviews Launch Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to recognizing and valuing the contributions of every employee, we are excited to launch the district's stay interviews in September. These interviews are designed to help us understand what we're doing well and where we can improve to create an even more positive and supportive working environment.

Participants will be selected through a random sampling process, and we plan to conduct interviews with 50 employees at a time over the course of six months. These interviews will provide valuable insights to help us ensure that Rochester Schools not only remains the best place for students to learn, but also becomes an outstanding place for staff to work.

We are grateful to our staff for their dedication and encourage them to share their thoughts and ideas during these interviews. Together, we can continue making Rochester a great place to teach and learn.

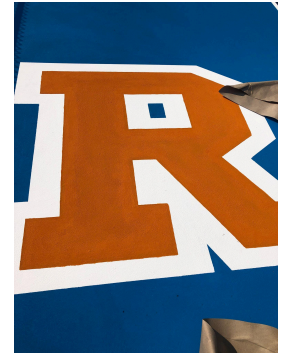


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District Spotlight

We're excited to have a date to host our first home tennis match in two years. On September 24th Rochester Girl's Tennis will host Springfield High on our new tennis courts. Despite the delays, our student-athletes have been patient with the process. The courts are in the final stages of construction and the vision is coming to reality as painting crews place the Rockets "R" logo on the courts. This also brings excitement ahead of the other updates that are coming to the District that will enhance our student's learning experience for years to come.





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Positive Launch

Thank You for Joining EC-1's "High Five Friday" Celebration!

Thank you for attending our "High Five Friday" celebration at RES EC-1! Your presence truly enhanced the spirit of the event, and we appreciate the time you took to be part of this uplifting experience. Our students, families, and staff enjoyed sharing the energy and excitement with you as we wrapped up another successful week.



Mrs. VanFossan has done a remarkable job fostering a strong sense of community through this weekly tradition. Your support helps strengthen the connections we are building across our school and district.

We hope you enjoyed the event, and we look forward to welcoming you back for future celebrations!

It's a great day to be a Rocket!!! 🚀

"A Tradition of Excellence!"