

RHS August/September Newsletter

Opening Day: Opening day for students will be Tuesday, July 27th. All busses should be running normal routes to and from school. Students will report to the auditorium at 8:20 am for an all-school assembly and will be released at approximately 9:45 am. Wednesday, July 28th will be the first full day of school.

Personnel Changes: We have only one teaching change for this upcoming school year. Bo Gum will take over as our Health and Behind the Wheel instructor, replacing Ms. Stinson. Mr. Gum is a Pleasant Plains native who has spent the past four years teaching at Illini Central High School.

Chris Koerwitz will take over Athletic Director duties, replacing Mr. Wagahoff. Mr. K will continue his duties as assistant principal at the middle school and split his time in both buildings. All athletic inquiries should be directed to his office at 629-6003 ext. 203.

Jamie Selinger will return to the classroom part time while continuing to work with our faculty in the areas of reading strategies and professional development.

High School Administration: Other than the athletic director's position, there have been no major changes at the high school. Michael Gum will continue as assistant principal and take over duties in scheduling auditorium and fine arts events. Mr. Price will once again handle discipline as our dean of students.

Parents' Advisory Council: The first meeting of the RHS Parents' Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, September 22nd, beginning at 6:00 pm in the high school library. The council meets once each quarter with topical discussion on academics, discipline, and school climate. Parents interested in attending the council meetings should contact Mr. Lamkey at ext. 205.

Student Registration: With registration day past, parents may still register their children for the 2010-11 school year in the high school office during the week of July 19th through 23rd. Office hours are from 8:00 am till 3:00 pm. New students must schedule an appointment with the high school counselors when they register.

Lunches: Daily lunch prices are \$1.80 again this year. Lunch payments are to be made in the high school Athletic Office (Joni Marsh, secretary). Parents are encouraged to track their child's account balances through individual student's online Skyward page. Last year we encountered many problems with overdue accounts. *Most overdue problems occurred as students spent more than the \$1.80 each day on ala carte items – with parents being unaware of the purchases. Parents may want to have a conversation with their child on allowable daily purchase amounts to prevent overdue issues this year.*

Skyward: Parents are encouraged to use Skyward, our online school to home communication system. Using a secure password, parents have the ability to monitor their child's individual classroom grades as well as lunch account status. Passwords from last year can still be used for returning students to the district. Parents of new students should contact Jeanne in the high school office to set up their account.

Assignments and Grade Posting: Daily student assignments are required to be posted by all teachers each Friday (or the last day of the week) for the upcoming week. Assignments can be found by going to rivertonschools.org and clicking on the HS home page. Assignment and teacher tabs are located on the left hand side of the screen. If you have trouble locating assignments, please notify either of the building principals.

Grades are required to be posted by teachers on Thursday of each week. Parents can check their child's grades by clicking on the "family access" tab on the high school home page. Questions or concerns about grade posting should be directed to either of the building principals.

PE Uniforms: All high school students enrolled in physical education classes are required to wear uniforms. Uniforms may be purchased at the time of registration for \$15.00.

Any parents wishing to apply for free and/or reduced lunches should pick up a form in the high school office. The deadline for applying is September 7th.

Student Handbooks: Each student will receive a student handbook on the first full day of classes. They will be asked to review the handbook with their parents and return a signed handbook agreement form by Friday, July 30th. The handbook will also be published on the high school home page under the Principal's page tab. The handbooks include student rules and guidelines in addition to a school calendar and daily assignment pages. Please encourage your child to use this tool as they organize academics throughout the year.

Cell Phones: We are entering the second year of our current cell phone policy – ***no phones on the student's person during the school day.*** Phones should be left in vehicles or turned off and placed in lockers as they enter the building. Many of our violations from last year were not actual use of phones; but students still insisting on carrying them on their person. (*Mr. Price wishes he had a dollar for every time a student told him "but I wasn't using it!"*) Please make an effort to have a discussion about our policy with your child – it may save you multiple trips to the school to pick up their phone!

Attendance and Tardies: Student attendance is always a major concern for us as we begin each year. Research tells us student attendance is directly related to student achievement – missing one day of an important concept can adversely affect a student's grade and future learning. Please take time to review our attendance policies on pages 2 and 3 of the student handbook. Students are allowed ten days per year, excused or unexcused. If you are having problems with getting your child to school, contact us immediately to set up a meeting.

Tardiness to school is also an issue we deal with on a daily basis. Chronic tardiness can greatly affect students and their first hour classes. Please encourage your child to be on time each and every day.

Freshman Preview Night: Freshman Preview Night will be held on Monday, July 26th, beginning at 6:30 pm in the auditorium. After introductions and a brief overview of student expectations, parents and their child will run through an abbreviated daily schedule, meeting teachers while travelling from class to class. Please make plans to attend!

ACT Testing: On Saturday, October 23rd, RHS will host a fall ACT testing date which is open to all Riverton High School juniors and seniors. The deadline for registration is September 17th. PSAT testing will be held over fall break on Tuesday October 13th. Students wishing to sign up to take either test should see Mrs. Penk.

Fall Athletics: RHS offers many opportunities for students to participate in fall athletics. Practices for boys' soccer, football, girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' golf and cross country will begin on Wednesday, August 11th. Students should listen for announcements regarding mandatory team and parent meetings as we begin the year. *All students must have proof of insurance and a current physical on file before they will be allowed to participate in tryouts or practices. Call Joni Marsh at ext. 203 for athletic questions.*

Athletic fees will remain the same as last year. High School fees are \$50.00 per sport with a \$100.00 maximum per family. *Fees will be payable to RHS and must be turned in to respective coaches before students will be allowed to participate.* Students participating in athletics must also have current year school registration fees paid before they will be allowed to participate. Families wishing to set up a payment plan for any or all fees should contact their building principal.

Underclassmen Pictures: Individual student pictures will be taken on Tuesday, August 10th. Students will be given picture packet information the week before and should return it with payment the day of pictures. Picture retakes will be taken on September 14th.

Sophomore Ring Orders: Jostens will be in the building on Thursday, August 12th to talk to sophomores wishing to purchase a class ring. All students will receive a packet and will be able to order online or with a representative.

Senior Cap and Gowns: Jostens will also be in our building to talk to seniors about ordering graduation announcements and cap and gowns on Wednesday, August 11th. All orders will be due the week of August 16th.

Riverton Sports Boosters: Due to the current financial situation of schools across the state, booster organizations are becoming more important than ever. **If you have a child who is involved in district athletics, we need your help!** Parents are invited to the first Riverton

Sports Boosters meeting of the year on Wednesday, August 4th, beginning at 7:00 pm in the high school cafeteria. For more information call Deb Behrens at the high school office.

The *Sports Booster Kickoff* will be held on Friday, August 20th. Please watch the website for more information.

2010 Homecoming: This year's homecoming activities will be held during the week of October 18th. The parade and pep rally will be held on Wednesday, October 20th. The Hawks will play Kincaid on Friday, October 22nd with the dance being held on Saturday the 23rd at the high school. More details will be announced at a later date.

2011 Graduation: Graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2011 will be held on Sunday, May 29th, beginning at 2:00 pm in the Hawk Center. Please mark your calendars!