

Good morning, Rockdale Ram Nation!

I consider myself beyond blessed to serve the Rockdale community with our amazing group of talented, dedicated, and passionate educators! With that said, I need your help. The Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry has partnered with local Joliet school districts to offer an opportunity to recognize the amazing work of area educators. I strongly encourage you to nominate a Rockdale School educator for the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry 2023 Great Teacher Award. You will find the nomination form in both English and Spanish below. The nomination process is quick and easy, and includes a summary of 500 words or less allowing you to explain your reasoning that the teacher you are nominating is deserving of the award. Please realize the deadline to complete the nomination form is Monday, November 14.

English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023GreatTeacher>

Spanish: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PremioDeGranMaestra2023>

Rockdale School District 84 received a message from the Illinois State Board of Education last week which included a report of our annual State Report Card Summative Designation, which will be released last Thursday. I'm happy to report that Rockdale 84 received a "commendable" summative designation. You will see that I attached two documents to this message, which explain the four possible summative ratings (exemplary, commendable, targeted support, and comprehensive support) and how the state determines those ratings.

I attribute the summative designation we have earned to your partnership with and support of our educators; the Board of Education's partnership with administration; the hard work and dedication of our team of educators; and the efforts and focus of our learners. Great job to all!

We are excited to announce that Mr. Domenico, Mr. Mesiter, Dr. Merritt, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Puckett, and Mr. Whalen have all agreed to participate in our No Shave November Campaign. Our Rams will have the opportunity to "vote" for which of the participants' beard is their favorite. They will vote using a Penny Wars fundraiser by placing loose change or dollars into a collection jar exclusive to each of the six participants. The collections will take place each weekday during the week of Monday, November 28. The proceeds of the Penny Wars fundraiser will be donated to a local service organization chosen by our Student Council.

The Rockdale 84 Board of Education has approved a partnership with Veregy, which is an NAESCO accredited Energy Service Provider (ESP) and Energy Services Company (ESCO) to complete an initial phase of much-needed facilities and building improvements beginning next summer. I am grateful for the time and energy the members of our Facilities Committee have put forth since last April to highlight many needed areas of facilities improvement and develop an initial phased approach to address the improvements over the next several years. Our initial work will be focused on improving the drainage and plumbing infrastructure in and around the building, as well as replacing all windows with high-performing insulated windows intended to add more security (less transparency) within our classrooms.

Looking ahead over the next few weeks:

Sunday, Nov. 6 - Daylight Savings Time ends (turn clocks back one hour)

Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Election Day, No School

Friday, Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Assembly

Monday, Nov 21 - 12:30 Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22 - Parent Teacher Conferences 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov 23 - Friday, Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving Break

I encourage you to reach out to me should you have any questions or thoughts to share. I can be reached at 815-725-5321, Ext. 248.

Be sure to enjoy the remainder of your day!

Yours in Education,

Dr. Michael Merritt

Superintendent

Rockdale School District 84