

Rochester School Department

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Dear Rochester School Department Staff,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I hope you were able to enjoy some valuable rest and relaxation with friends and family during the summer months. Our district team has been preparing for the start of the school year and I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the work of our administrators and facilities team who have worked diligently this summer in preparation for our entry into the 2022-2023 school year. We have many new professionals joining "TEAM ROCHESTER" and I know they will be happily welcomed and supported as they enter new roles this year. We are so excited for everyone to begin work on our team this upcoming school year and we know your talents and experience will enhance our team and family. The 2022-2023 school year is a year of hope, potential, and positivity. I challenge all of us to find the good around us and to share or highlight that good with everyone we meet.

As educators, we work to serve those around us often times placing the needs of others prior to our own. It is important to remember that self-care is our own individual responsibility. Please make every effort to find time in your busy schedules to do something each day that brings you joy. If we all make self-care a priority we will have the capacity needed to excel in our roles.

If you need help, it is okay to ask. Our employee assistance number is 1-800-527-5001. They can help by answering questions or referring you to someone that can help. It may be that a family member is struggling, or perhaps you just want advice. From their brochure: *From child care and elder to drug and alcohol counseling, from financial and legal consultations to finding a plumber, Life Resources has services that can help.* The Rochester School District will not know if, or why you seek their help. It is completely confidential and is available to any staff member. You do not need to have insurance with the district to seek assistance.

Opening day for all non-Maple Street Magnet School teachers and all paraprofessionals will be Monday, August 29th. On the 29th, from 2:30-3 pm there is an optional virtual meeting conducted by the Rochester Federation of Teachers. Students start school on Tuesday, August 30th. Please be on the look out for school specific schedules from your building principals.

As a competency-based school district, we believe in meeting all students where they are and personalizing their education. Personalized Learning is the foundation of the Rochester School District and student learning is the goal. We believe that Competency-Based Learning, Work Skills Competencies, and Multi-Tiered System of Supports are the pillars that support this goal.

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We realize that nearly all of our teachers have traditionally returned to their classrooms before the initial contract day to start their preparation for the first day of school. We appreciate that this *is* a voluntary extra that you give because of your dedication and professionalism. We recognize that, even with these extra days, you still have final tasks to complete before your students arrive. We also know that many support staff would do the same were it not for the federal Fair Labor Standards Act that prohibits us from allowing hourly employees to volunteer their time. We appreciate all the important work you do to ensure a great start to school for your students and families.

I hope you had a great summer break and look forward to seeing you during our visits at schools throughout the school year.

Once again, welcome and best wishes for a wonderful year!

Respectfully,



Kyle Repucci
Superintendent of Schools



Christine Hebert
Assistant Superintendent of Schools