

# BACK TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2019 DATE



# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

First Day of School & Attendance 02

New This Year 03

Beginnings @ Rockway 04

Parent / Student Information 05-06

Connections Weekend 07

Student Services 08

# **WELCOME TO ROCKWAY!**

This "Back to School" package comes to you during our final days of preparation for a new school year. We hope that the summer of hot weather has provided you with the opportunity to rest and rejuvenate with your family and friends!

We are excited and thankful that you and your family have decided to be part of Rockway's school community this year. I believe that students who enter these halls embark on a place of learning, where faculty and staff are committed to forming faith and building character. It is a school that provides unique learning opportunities twinned with a community that helps students develop new skills, encounter new thoughts and ideas, build their faith, and apply their understanding in innovative ways. As we launch into the year, Rockway faculty and staff look forward to mentoring your child as they become responsible, globally minded, compassionate and reflective learners — Rockway's four pillars that extend Rockway's mission.

The year 2020 will mark Rockway's 75<sup>th</sup> year. On February 15, 1945, visionaries from The Mennonite Conference of Ontario (now Mennonite Church Eastern Canada) endorsed the launch of a Mennonite school that would allow for reading, writing, and arithmetic alongside the opportunity to teach Religious Studies and incorporate peace education. Remarkably, Rockway opened its doors a mere seven months later, that September. Seventy-five years onward, big plans are underway to mark this milestone with former, present and future Rockway students, families, friends and Rockway supporters at several events throughout 2020.

Please plan to join us on **Sunday, February 9, 2020** for a very special **Founders' Day Chapel**. It will be a high energy worship celebration, incorporating music, Alumni stories and an address

by Rockway Alumna, Sarah Johnson (Class of 2003). She will use Colossians 3:12-17 to guide her words, a scripture passage that will also be adopted for our school-year chapel theme. This passage is rich in imagery, incorporates musical language, and speaks to the attributes that encourage a healthy and growing community – the foundation for Rockway to continue to grow and prosper into the future!

Later in the year, bring the entire family to Rockway's 75<sup>th</sup> Family Weekend. Enjoy our production of "The Sound of Music," June 3-6, and join in the fun at the Ultimate Rockway Picnic, Saturday, June 6. Our 75<sup>th</sup> festivities will culminate in Rockway's Connections Weekend in October 2020. Throughout, I look forward to celebrating with you, connecting, and creating community.

At Rockway, we value staying connected and keeping you up to date on what is happening in and outside of the classroom. We hope this "Back to School" package will allow you and your child/ren to properly prepare for the 2019-2020 school year as you read important policies, note the first day of school schedule, discover what is "New this Year..." and review upcoming events. Please see page 5 of this Update for more information on how to "Be Informed", "Stay Connected" and "Get Involved" this year.

As the year unfolds, do not hesitate to share your joys, concerns, affirmations and challenges with us. Our hope is that the relationship between your home and the school will be characterized by mutual collaboration, trust and respect.

ann L. Shull

# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

# Tuesday, September 3, 2019

### **ARRIVAL**

Students should plan to arrive at school between **7:45 - 8:05 am** on Tuesday, September 3. If you need assistance in finding your Period 1 class (homeroom), **Student Council members** will be available in the foyer to welcome and assist you.

### FIRST DAY SCHEDULE

7:45-8:05 am Arrival and assistance in main fover

**8:10 am** Homeroom for registration,

locker assignments, form returns, expectations, announcements, etc.

9:00 am Opening Chapel & Assembly

10:45 am Book Sales12:00 pm Dismissal

12:30-4:00 pm International Student Course Selection

Most students will have completed the course confirmation process and book purchase by noon and will be dismissed for the day at that time.

The cafeteria will be closed on September 3.

# **ATTENDANCE**

School begins at 8:10 am and ends at 3:10 pm.

If your child will be late or absent from school for **any** part of the day, it is important that we hear from a parent, host parent or guardian by telephone or email **before 8:00 am.** 

# A SMALL SCHOOL FOR A BIG WORLD

# **ROCKWAY ATTENDANCE**

Please call or email by 8 am if your student will be missing school, arriving late, or leaving early.

519.342.0007 x3334 attendance@rockway.ca

www.rockway.ca

Key points to remember to keep Attendance running smoothly:

- If your child arrives at school after 8:30 am, they must sign in at the Main Office so we know they are here, and we don't call you.
- If your child is absent, and we have not heard from you, you will receive a phone call from the Main Office by 11:00 am confirming their absence. We would rather not bother you. Where possible, please let us know ahead of time. Thanks!
- Grade 7, 8, 9 students are not to leave campus at lunch without parental permission. Grade 10, 11, 12 students may sign out for lunch, but must sign back in after lunch, in time for class.
- If your child needs to leave Rockway before 3:10 pm (i.e. for an appointment) we need to hear from you before, and they need to sign out at the Main Office.

Thank you for your support.

# **CHAPELS AT ROCKWAY**

Rockway students, faculty and staff gather twice weekly for chapels. These community gatherings give shape to the core of our school's identity and mission to "form faith and build character." Chapels create the opportunity for faculty, staff, students, Alumni and guests to reflect on their faith journeys, how they see the world, and their place within it.

This year, the Faith and Worship team wanted to incorporate the celebration of Rockway's founding with our mission of building community, and our global focus. Our team read the Colossians verse "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds all things together in perfect harmony" and discussed what the idea of perfect harmony



meant to each of us. We began with the idea of music as a metaphor for community, but were unsure of how the intimidating idea of singing in "perfect harmony" fit with those who might struggle to find their voice, or feel unsure of their place in the community.

This brought us to the image of harmony in nature, and how seamlessly perfect this form of harmony can be. The way ecosystems have grown in balance, each element keeping the whole working in what can seem like an effortless manner. And yet, as we have come to realize with humanity's impact on our world, these finely balanced ecosystems can be destroyed by the loss of any one piece, and the health of the whole relies on the health of each species of plant and animal. Out of this discussion, we settled on the Chapel theme *EarthSong: Seeking the Harmony of God's Creation*.

As we look towards celebrating Rockway's 75 years of Christian Education, chapel will be a place to celebrate the idea of creation, our world and our community, as well as a place to reflect on how this process of creation is ongoing; an unfinished work in need of our

dedication, attention, and love.

# **NEW THIS YEAR...**

This year we look forward to some new initiatives! Please note the following:

# EXTENDED FRENCH – GRADE 9 FRENCH GEOGRAPHY

This year, Grade 9 students coming from French Immersion backgrounds, have the opportunity to study Grade 9 Geography in French. Chantale Bessette, Rockway's Grade 12 French teacher, looks forward to launching this new course, as a way to support and enrich students that come to Rockway with significant French backgrounds.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING CLASSROOM

The greater use of portable Chrome books, offering much more flexible use of space, has enabled Rockway to convert the current computer lab by the library into an English Language Learners classroom. This will increase our classroom space and address a need for improved class space for our English Language Learners.

# STUDENTS LEARNING IN COMMUNITY - S.L.I.C.

We look forward to strengthening and extending our partnerships with local organizations as part of our Students Learning In Community (S.L.I.C.) program. S.L.I.C. comprises a variety of opportunities for students across grade levels to enrich their classroom learning by connecting their learning to good work that is being done in our community. Students will build knowledge, skills, and perspective by working at Recycle Cycles, KW Habilitation, the Hascienda Sarria Market Garden, St. John's Kitchen, and the Strong Start for Reading program. This programming only exists because of the generous support of parent volunteers who travel with students. If you are able to give time during the week to help make these experiences possible for students, please see page 6 for details about how to Get Involved at Rockway. We look forward to new partnerships forming this year!

# SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK - SEPTEMBER 24 - 26, 2019

The focus for the week is **Healthy Relationships**: *Let's Talk about Power, Sex and Spirituality* and will feature Carol Penner, who teaches practical theology at Conrad Grebel University College. Penner will give 3 chapel addresses and 1 evening address (September 25 – sponsored by MCEC) for parents and constituents, and will also visit various classes during her time here. Additionally, Rockway looks forward to having *Theatre of the Beat*, a Canadian touring theatre company, and an educator from the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region provide numerous workshops on healthy relationships, that will take place in various classes throughout the week.

# LAUNCHING ROCKWAY'S 75th ANNIVERSARY - FOUNDERS' DAY CHAPEL

We look forward to launching into Rockway's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations on **Sunday, February 9**, with a high energy worship celebration including music, Alumni stories and an address by Rockway Alumna, Sarah Johnson (Class of 2003). All Rockway music students will participate in this community building event, which will mark the official beginning of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2020.

# MUSICAL YEAR - THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Every three years Rockway produces an All-School Musical. This year, students in Grades 7-12 will have the opportunity to participate in *The Sound of Music*, the story of Maria who brings music, life and love to the Von Trapp Family. Rockway performed this musical in 1996, and looks forward to returning this story to the stage June 3-6, 2020.

# REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS

Over the past 10 weeks, there have been substantial upgrades and renovations at Rockway. In late June, we added air conditioning to Gym A and over the summer we re-roofed Gym A and the flat roof sections of north and south hallways. In addition to this work, the silo received new siding and air conditioning was added to the foyer, north and south hallways and classrooms 101-106.

Revitalizing our facilities is one of four key priorities, part of *Lead Us Onward* (LUO), a road map to Rockway's upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. LUO is a 4 year, \$3 million campaign entering its final year. As an independent school, Rockway relies on tuition fees, a small amount of rentals, and fundraising to cover all operating costs, tuition assistance and facilities maintenance and improvements. Thanks to all who helped make these upgrades possible.

# BEGINNINGS @ ROCKWAY

We welcome the following new faces to the halls of Rockway this September:

# • Ron Cornies - Facilities Manager

Ron joined the Rockway community in June and has enjoyed getting to know the people and buildings. It's been an adventure so far and he looks look forward to what September will bring.

### • Eric Dettweiler - Grade 8 Instrumental Winds

Eric is looking forward to joining the Rockway community and working with the students of the Grade 8 Wind Ensemble to further develop their creativity and musicality.

### Veronica Leacock - Food Services Assistant

Veronica has four children, loves all things crafty, and can't wait to meet and get to know everyone in the Rockway family.

## • Elizabeth Lepock - Private Music Voice Instructor

Elizabeth is thrilled to be joining the close-knit and musical community at Rockway. She looks forward to helping students hone their skills and share their voices.

# • Maggie Liang - International Student Guardian

Maggie began her work at Rockway in June and is excited to become part of Rockway's strong and dynamic team supporting our International Students.

• Rebecca Penfold (Class of 2000) – Grade 7 English and Religious Studies, Grade 7&8 History and Geography
Rebecca is excited to be returning to Rockway in her dream job! She is most looking forward to getting to know her students and being involved in The Sound of Music.

### Danya Poetker – Grade 9 Girls PE

Danya looks forward to sharing her knowledge of Physical Education and love of teaching in a setting that promotes character building and a passion for peacemaking.

# • Vanessa Snyder-Penner (Class of 2011) - Grade 7,8,10 French, Grade 12 OLC

Vanessa is excited to be back at her alma mater as a teacher and looks forward to sharing her passion for languages with Rockway students.

## • Pearl Van Geest - Grade 7,8,9 Visual Arts

Pearl is looking forward to working with the students at Rockway, as she is continually impressed and delighted by the reflective and expressive work young artists make.

We are happy to welcome back faculty and staff who started mid-year during the 2018-2019 school year.

- Chantale Bessette Grade 12 French, Grade 9 French Geography, started February 2019
- Ashely Cizman Custodian, started December 2018
- Michael Cook Custodian, was on leave last year
- Fiona MacKay Administrative Assistant, started November 2018
- Carlos Ordonez Custodian, started February 2019



# **SHOP ROCKWAY**

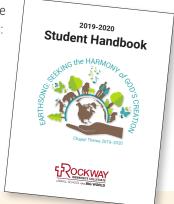
**SHOP ROCKWAY** is a Rewards Program that gives you the opportunity to earn credits towards Rockway tuition or textbook payments for the following school year, while also supporting the school's Go Rockway! Annual Fund.

Look for the **SHOP ROCKWAY** Rewards Program card in your Back to School package for more information, or visit **rockway.ca** 

# BE INFORMED...

Policies and other important documents can be found at **rockway.ca/myrockway** for your reference. Some of these will be given out the first day of school, and others will only be available online. Please take a look, so you and your family can **be informed**.

- 1. The **2019-2020 Student Handbook** is available online and a hard copy will be given to each student in the first week of school. Students and parents are encouraged to review the handbook to find information on:
  - · Bell times and key dates for the school year
  - · School policies and procedures
  - Diploma requirements
  - Assessment, evaluation, and reporting guidelines
  - · Supports and Resources available to students
- 2. Individual **Time Tables** were sent home in July. Students will receive final timetables detailing teachers and classroom locations on the first day of school. Or visit **rockway.ca/myrockway** to print off your copy.



# STAY CONNECTED...

Rockway communicates with families and students regularly throughout the school year. From a weekly FLASH email and web page for parents, to a detailed calendar of student life, we do our best to help you **stay connected**.

Be sure to check out the following on rockway.ca/myrockway

- **FLASH** The FLASH is a webpage on our myRockway website that is continually updated throughout the week. A reminder link to the latest version is emailed to parents every Friday. If you only read one thing, parents, this is the one!
- CALENDARS Rockway has a Main Google Calendar which keeps you up to date on *student events* (i.e. field trips, Christmas Concert etc.), *special events* (i.e. Family Breakfast, Connections Weekend etc.) and *school activities* (i.e. Parent/Teacher Interviews). *Sports calendars* are also filled with try out, practice and game dates. Click on any calendar event to see more details about the event, and check back regularly.
- DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS This is our daily communication tool for STUDENTS. Each morning, teachers read this to students during part of homeroom. It is also posted on the bulletin board outside the Main Office and is available online until 4 pm each day (when it is updated for the next morning).
- **HOMEWORK** Classroom teachers regularly share details of homework with students on the secure Google Classroom platform. To help parents keep a sense of upcoming tests, assignments and due dates, teachers will also be posting regular information on the Homework page of myRockway: **rockway.ca/myrockway/homework**

### **WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

Follow Rockway on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to like and share photos/videos, to read posts about student life and to find out about school closures or cancellations (we no longer announce closures or cancellations on the radio).



# **GET INVOLVED...students**

It's important that students find ways of getting involved in their school experience. Here are just a few ways they can get involved:

- ALTHLETICS Try outs for Junior (Grades 9, 10) and Senior (Grades 11, 12) school teams will begin **Wednesday, September 4** after school. We invite any interested high school students to try out for the Girls Basketball or Boys Volleyball Teams. Any student in Grades 7-12 may participate in the fall Cross Country Team.
- MARS Committees are student leadership committees that meet in a specially designated period on Wednesday mornings.

  Students will have lots of options of MARS groups to join this year, and will be emailed a form to complete during the second week of school, to indicate their preferred MARS groups for semester 1.
- ALL SCHOOL MUSICAL Grade 7-12 students are encouraged to get involved with *The Sound of Music* this year. From acting, singing and dancing on stage, to ushering at performances, there is a place for students to get involved. Stay tuned for more information.

# **GET INVOLVED...parents**

As students make new friends, join clubs and teams, and create new connections within the Rockway community, we encourage parents and families to do the same. Consider getting involved online or in person. Click and follow social media (see page 5), come out to school events, or volunteer your time.

Getting involved in Rockway Events or Programs means getting to know other parents, your child's peers, faculty and staff. Helping hands support the fundraising efforts that Rockway relies on to build bright futures.

Your involvement creates a better understanding between parents and students of what goes on at school, while building that sense of *belonging* Rockway is known for.

There are many volunteer opportunities available to suit the time, talents and abilities of all. Here are just a few ways you can make a difference:

### SPECIAL EVENTS at ROCKWAY

- · Connections Weekend October 18 & 19, 2019
- Community Silent Auction: Friday, October 18, 2019
- Retired and Former Faculty & Staff Breakfast: Saturday, October 18, 2019 (morning)
- BIG Night Out Fundraising Pig Roast Dinner & Barn Dance: Saturday, October 19, 2019 (evening)
- Christmas Banquet Thursday, December 19, 2019
- "An Evening of Gratitude" Donor Appreciation Dinner Wednesday, April 29, 2020
- Ultimate Rockway Picnic Saturday, June 6, 2020
- Grade 12 Grad Banquet Saturday, June 20, 2020

# **PROGRAM SUPPORT**

- S.L.I.C Volunteers Students Learning In the Community (read the write up on page 3 for more information)
- Envirathon Servathon Monday, May 4, 2020
- Trips Week Chaperones Tuesday, May 19 Friday, May 22, 2020
- All School Musical The Sound of Music June 3-6, 2020 (stay tuned for more information about ticket sales and show times)

# I want to GET INVOLVED! What do I do next?

### BE INFORMED...

- Read the **Get Involved at Rockway** letter in your Back to School package for immediate volunteer opportunities during Connections Weekend. There's a spot for you!
- Visit rockway.ca to view specific roles for each event.

### STAY CONNECTED...

- Watch your email for the FLASH reminder (see page 5). New involvement opportunities are posted there throughout the year.
- Jump on social media to like, share and retweet Rockway posts (see page 5).
- Visit **rockway.ca** regularly to keep up to date on the latest events happening at school.

### **GET INVOLVED...**

• We encourage you to reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Jenn Maxwell (volunteers@rockway.ca), to answer your questions, share ideas about how you can contribute, and connect you with a meaningful opportunity. Connecting your unique gifts with the needs and vision of Rockway is our goal.



JENN MAXWELL



# FOR THESE IMPORTANT FAMILY FRIENDLY AND COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR:

- Thursday, September 12, 2019 @ 6:45 pm Family Welcome Night (be sure to RSVP online)
- Wednesday, September 25, 2019 @ 7 pm Evening Session of Spiritual Emphasis Week
- Friday, October 4, 2019 @ 7:15 am Family Breakfast
- Friday, October 18 & Saturday, October 19, 2019 Connections Weekend, check the brochure in your Back To School package for information
- Wednesday, November 20, 2019 @ 7 pm Annual General Meeting
- Tuesday, December 10, 2019 @ 7:30 pm Christmas Concert @ St. Peter's Lutheran Church
- Sunday, February 9, 2020 (afternoon) Founders' Day Chapel celebrating our 75th Anniversary
- Tuesday, April 21, 2020 @ 7:00 pm Grade 7-12 Visual Arts Exhibition
- Wednesday, June 3 to Saturday, June 6, 2020 The Sound of Music; stayed tuned for more information
- Saturday, June 6, 2020 Ultimate Rockway Picnic; stayed tuned for more information



## **ALMOST THERE!**

In 2016-2017, Rockway launched a 4 year/\$3 million fundraising campaign (rockway.ca) to support bright futures.

We asked our community to Lead Us Onward with their generosity. They have since contributed \$2.6 million in donations and pledges! And:

- ✓ renovated the basement, Assembly Area (AA) and two music portables
- ✓ added new program offerings
- ✓ enhanced tuition assistance
- ✓ completed numerous updates around the school - website. athletics achievement banners. faculty and staff photoboards, display wall by AA, more Chrome books, landscaping, Gym A air conditioning, D&T roof...

# Thank you!

We're almost there. This year, we aim to raise the remaining \$400,000 of the campaign in advance of Rockway's 75th Anniversary in 2020, and finish replacing roofs and HVAC systems (improving classroom environments).

Rockway's community, including parents, families and Alumni, are important partners in this effort.

Please consider how you can get involved and build bright futures with your time, talent and treasure.

To learn more about Lead Us Onward. contact Christine Rier in Advancement at 519.743.5209 ext. 3011

or advancement@rockway.ca.





# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019 5:00 - 9:30 pm

Each year, Rockway hosts a weekend of events and fun for the entire Rockway community—former, current and future. As a small school, we welcome 'home' everyone to participate. All Rockway families, Alumni, and friends come together to connect and support Rockway. Foin us!

# FRIDAY NIGHT includes a trilogy of family fun:

- 1. The Spaghetti Supper, Gym A, 5-7 pm
- 2. The Community Silent Auction, Gym A, 5-7:30 pm
- 3. The Alumni Sports Challenge, Gyms B/C, 7-9:30 pm



# **ANNUAL GRADE 10** SPAGHETTI SUPPER **FUNDRAISER**

in support of the Grade 10 Quebec Trip

Tickets sold at the door (cash or cheque): stay tuned to **rockway.ca** for more information

# **COMMUNITY SILENT AUCTION**

While enjoying supper, take a look at the Silent Auction tables. All Auction proceeds support the 'Go Rockway! Annual Fund'.

Support your school: email christiner@rockway.ca

to donate to the Auction. And be sure to buy your prize table tickets or place a bid that evening on your favourite items.



# **ALUMNI SPORTS CHALLENGE**

- BASKETBALL
- 7 pm Alumnae Women vs Rockway Flames Sr. Girls
- 8:15 pm Alumni Men vs Rockway Flames Sr. Boys

ALUMNI - Reserve your spot on an Alumni **Basketball Team!** 

Email: andrewm@rockway.ca

Visit rockway.ca for more information about all Connections Weekend activities!

# STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services offers support and resources for students, parents and teachers in four key areas:

- 1) Academic Assistance
- 2) Post-Secondary Planning
- 3) Emotional-Social Wellness
- 4) Career Education

## **ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE**

- Connecting students with peer or professional tutors.
- Consulting with teachers, parents and psychologists to obtain psychologicaleducational assessments for students struggling with observable learning challenges.
- Collaborating with the Resource Centre to offer study skills, strategies, individual academic support for all students, as well as exam accommodations for students with IEPs.
- Connecting students with online learning opportunities.

### POST-SECONDARY PLANNING

- Hosting College and University visits during lunch throughout the fall.
- Posting volunteer/job opportunities.
- Advising Grade 12 students on the post-secondary research and application process.
- Communicating with Grade 12 students and their parents by email with updates on scholarship, post-secondary and graduation information. Watch the FLASH for updated information.

### **EMOTIONAL-SOCIAL WELLNESS**

- Providing short-term counselling for students struggling with personal concerns and relationship issues.
- Connecting parents and students to community services and professional therapists for concerns that require longer term support.

• Implementing mindful, resilience strategy information through classroom and extra curricular sessions.

## CAREER EDUCATION

 Online, Individual Education & Career portfolios will be implemented for students over the next two years.
 Students will continue to build the portfolio through to their graduation.

### **QUICK FACTS**

- COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES Over twenty Colleges and Universities are booked to make a lunch time visit to the school this Fall.
- POST-SECONDARY FAIRS Check out the new Student Services Blog on the Rockway website and watch for weekly FLASH announcements to find out about information events for the many postsecondary options in Ontario, the US and abroad.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE, WORK AND LEARNING – Opportunities to get volunteer hours, student jobs or experiential learning are posted on the Student Services Bulletin Board and in the Daily Announcements.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS Forms are available from a wall pocket in Student Services but must be returned to the FRONT OFFICE for administrative approval.
- Each GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR has a different teaching schedule so email is the most effective means of making contact.

# ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST 2019-2020

The EQAO 2019-2020 Literacy Test is scheduled to be written by all eligible students on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

More details will follow.

All Course Selections and Changes MUST be made through Student Services.

Guidance Counsellors will be in their offices beginning on Monday, August 26, 2019. During that week, they are also committed to several days of meetings and a Professional Development session so please be patient as they get back to all their messages in a timely manner.

- EMAIL If you are a returning student who has a straightforward course change request or a question, email a Guidance Counsellor. Be sure to check your email for a response.
- 2. **MEETING** If you are a **new** student, make an appointment by calling the Main Office 519.743.5209 (prior to August 26).

# STUDENT SERVICES GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS



DANETTE ADAMS ext. 3030 danettea@rockway.ca



DEB BAXTER HEENEY ext. 3028 debbh@rockway.ca