

SEPTEMBER
2016

ROCKWAY

UPdate



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TRANSITIONS

The start of a new year is a time of new beginnings! We welcome several new and returning faculty and staff to the Rockway community.

We are pleased to welcome back **Sheri Wideman**, who is returning from a six month leave of absence with her family, where she lived in France, alongside travelling to Japan, United Arab Emirates, Italy, Spain and England. Ms. Wideman will be teaching Grade 9-11 French and Grade 12 Sociology.

We also welcome back **Steffen Pauls**, who is returning from an 8 month sick leave. We are grateful he is feeling better following a concussion that took place last December. Mr. Pauls will teach two sections of Grade 12 Chemistry with the hopes of re-entering the Grade 11 International Chemistry class later in the fall and Grade 11 and 12 Biology in Semester II.

Jonathan Spee is no stranger to the Rockway community! He capably taught Mr. Pauls' courses at Rockway last year during Mr. Pauls' sick leave. Mr. Spee will launch the Grade 11 International Chemistry class this fall, alongside teaching Grade 11 Biology and Grade 11/12 College Math this semester.

In June we bid farewell to **Bernie Burnett**, who was Rockway's Director of Development for the last 19 years. We welcome **Christine Rier** who assumed the role of Director of Advancement on July 25th.

Welcome aboard, Ms. Wideman, Mr. Pauls, Mr. Spee and Ms. Rier.

WELCOME TO ROCKWAY!

This Update 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 the Rockway school community this year. I believe that students who enter these walls and halls, embark into 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 to 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 son/daughter as they become responsible, globally minded, compassionate and reflective learners – Rockway's four pillars that extend Rockway's core purpose.

At Rockway, we value staying connected and keeping you up to date on what is happening in and outside of the classroom. To start the new year, we distribute a Parent Update, the only hard copy of an Update you will receive all year. We hope this publication will allow you and your child/ren to properly prepare for the 2016-2017 school year as

you review important policies, peruse the first day of school schedule, discover what is "Coming this Year..." and review upcoming events. In the days, weeks and months that follow, information will be available on our website (www.rockway.ca). Follow our "News Stories," which is one of the most dynamic parts of our website. Read the stories to keep you apprised of what is taking place in your child's classroom, in the gym, on the concert stage, or on a class trip! Follow the banners at the top of our website to stay informed of Rockway community events and alumni highlights. Review daily student announcements, FLASH announcements, calendars, homework, cafeteria menus, Student Account Information – they are all a click away! Finally, I invite you to read "Principal Ponderings," a reflection I post on our website from time to time that will allow you to get to know me better as I discuss an event, a joy, or a deep thought!

As the year unfolds, do not hesitate to share 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. SCHULTZ – PRINCIPAL

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

ARRIVAL:

Students should plan to arrive at school by **8:10 am** on Tuesday, September 6. 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.

SCHEDULE:

The first day will include:

- 7:45-8:05 am** Arrival and assistance in main foyer
- 8:10 am** Homeroom for registration, locker assignments, form returns, expectations, announcements, etc.
- 9:00 am** Opening Chapel & Assembly
- 10:45 am** Book Sales
- 12:00 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 6.

CALENDAR

Parents: Please check the Rockway website for the most up-to-date Calendar information.

SEPTEMBER

- 2** NEW international student orientation @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Kick-Start BBQ for all NEW students @ 10:45 am - 12:30 pm
- 6** First Day of School - Dismissal at noon
- 15** Family Welcome Night @ 6:45 pm
- 19** Student Council Provides Lunch
- 20** Individual Student Photographs
- 20** Grade 9 Day Retreat at Countryside Conference Centre
- 21** Course Drop / Add Deadline (Gr. 10-12)
- 23** Grade 7 Day Retreat at Paradise Lake
Grade 8 Day Retreat at Hidden Acres
- 27-29** Spiritual Emphasis Week (Evening Parent Session – Sept. 28)

OCTOBER

- 2-16** Weierhof Exchange Students hosted by Rockway
- 7** Family Breakfast @ 7:15 am (stay tuned for ticket sales!)
- 10** Thanksgiving Day (no classes)
- 28-29** Connections Weekend (See page 7 for information)

NOVEMBER

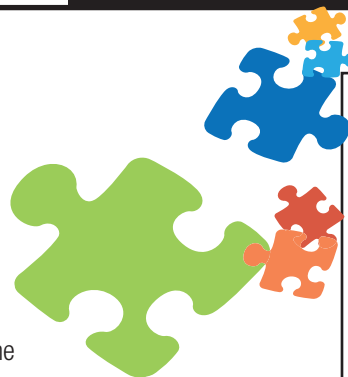
- 7** PD Day (no classes)

CHAPELS AT ROCKWAY

Rockway students, teachers and staff gather twice a week 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 teachers, students, alumni and guests to reflect on their faith journeys, how they see the world, and their place in it.

This year's chapel theme is *Piecing it Together: Finding Your Place in the Puzzle*. Developed from the image of a puzzle, the theme recognizes that our lives, our relationships, our understandings of faith, the Bible, and the world in which we live can all feel like puzzles. However, in working together, testing our way, valuing diversity, and learning from the example of Jesus, we can gain wisdom, and we can find places to connect, to share our gifts, and contribute to a bigger picture. Guided by this theme, we affirm that relationships matter, and unity and beauty can emerge when we listen deeply to the diverse voices in our midst. Students are encouraged to share their faith convictions and questions with sensitivity, valuing the perspectives of others as they piece together communities of compassion, justice and peace, locally and globally.

We trust that chapels can be central in shaping Rockway's community experience.



CHAPEL SCHEDULE

THEME:

**"Piecing it Together:
Finding Your Place in the Puzzle"**

SEPTEMBER

- 6** Opening Chapel & Welcoming Assembly - Ann L. Schultz
- 8** Faith and Worship Team
- 13** Student Council Assembly
- 15** TBC
- 20** TBC
- 22** TBC
- 27-29** Spiritual Emphasis Week with David Balzer, Assistant Professor of Communications and Media at CMU

See website calendar for updated Chapel Schedule

COMING THIS YEAR...

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

Wi-Fi

Over the last four months, a great deal of research and attention has been given to our Wi-Fi infrastructure, with a plan to bring consistent connectivity for students and teachers. With the support of IT experts, we hope to have open Wi-Fi up and running in September!

NEW ROLE

We are excited to announce that Christine Rier will assume the role of Director of Advancement. While Rockway has had a Director of Development for many years (a position most recently held by Bernie Burnett), the responsibilities of the Director of Advancement will be full-time and extend more deeply in the area of donor cultivation, fund-raising, planned giving, alumni and volunteer development and systems and data management.

CHROMEBOOKS

Rockway continues to work at enhancing its technology and this year we look forward to integrating additional chromebooks into the Grade 7 and 8 Department. This year, thirty-six chromebooks will be housed on a new cart that will be permanently housed in Rooms 105/106, allowing for easy accessibility and manoeuvrability.

ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS

This year the Math and English Departments will facilitate academic workshops that will take place on Wednesday, September 14 and Wednesday, February 1st during the MARS period. These workshops designed for all students, will be facilitated by Math and English teachers and will work at honing calculator skills and education on "What is Plagiarism," outlining Modern Language Association referencing form.

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK – Social Media

September 27 – 29th will be Spiritual Emphasis Week. The focus of the week will be on "Social Media," and will feature David Balzer, Assistant Professor of Communications and Media at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is in demand as a public speaker, addressing new media, communication theory, alongside topics such as Christianity and the mass media in Canada. Mr. Balzer will give 3 chapel addresses, an evening address for parents and constituents, and will also visit classes during his time here.

MUSICAL YEAR – The Wizard of Oz

Every three years Rockway produces an All-School Musical. This year students in Grade 7-12 will have the opportunity to participate in a musical that incorporates comedy, drama and fantasy! Auditions will be the last week of September with performances taking place on March 2-4, 2017. Please plan to attend this great community building event!



The Wizard of Oz

MARCH 2-4, 2017

- ◆ THURSDAY - SATURDAY Evening Shows @ 7:30 pm
- ◆ SATURDAY Matinée @ 2 pm

ADULTS \$15
12 and under \$10

Tickets are reserved seating and can be purchased with credit card by phone 519-342-0007 ext. 3012 or in person by cash, cheque or credit card at Rockway during school hours.

BACK TO SCHOOL SHOPPING LIST

Here is your **suggested** "BACK TO SCHOOL SHOPPING LIST", in order to be prepared for classes in September:

- good backpack
- pencil case
- metric ruler
- pencils, pens & markers
- pencil crayons
- glue stick
- small scissors
- correction tape, only – no fluid
- appropriate sport shoes for phys. ed.
(see page 6 for requirements for phys. ed. shorts and shirts)
- calculator
- 3-hole lined paper
- 3-ring binders and subject dividers
- geometry set (not Grade 9)
- highlighters
- combination lock (may be purchased for \$6.00 at Rockway)

Don't FORGET!

Bring the following forms to your homeroom teacher on **Tuesday, September 6**

- Health (pink)
- Photography Consent (blue)
- Responsible Use Policy (white)
- Private Music Lessons (yellow)
- Family Welcome Night Response (neon yellow)
- Athletic Participation Consent (buff)

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Whenever your child is absent from classes (either for a full day or a partial day), **it is imperative** that our Attendance Secretary receive parental notification, whether a phone call or a written note. An **Attendance Mailbox** is active for you to record a voice message regarding your **son's or daughter's absence or lateness from school during and after school switchboard hours.**

You may **dial 519-342-0007 extension 3334 to leave a message in the Attendance Mailbox at any time.** An **email** option is available as well at **attendance@rockway.ca.** Another option is that a note may be dropped off in the Main Office **before classes begin.**

Be sure to include:

- your name and relationship to the student
- date and time student will be late or absent
- name of the student and his/her grade
- specifics as to why student will be late or absent
- telephone number where you can be reached during the school day.

BELL SCHEDULE

Warning Bell: 8:05 am
Class Begins: 8:10 am

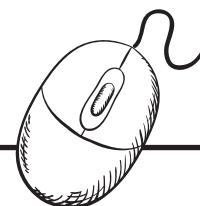
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT BY INFORMING US EARLY, IT SAVES YOU FROM BEING DISTURBED AT WORK OR AT HOME BY A PHONE CALL FROM US!

STAY INFORMED...

Up-to-date information is found under the "students" link on our website:

- Announcements (daily, cafeteria menu, FLASH)
- Homework
- Calendars (school events and sports schedules)
- Student Account Information
- and more

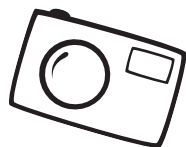
www.rockway.ca



TIMETABLES

- Students in Grade 9 will have their Open Course selections, homerooms and phys.ed/music schedule confirmed on the first day of school.
- Returning students in Grades 10-12 selected courses in May. The confirmed timetables for all returning Grade 9-12 students were distributed in July.
- Students in Grades 9-12 will find a timetable in this mailing. If you have not chosen courses yet, please refer to page 8 for course selection information.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS



Individual student photographs will be taken on **Tuesday, September 20**. All students **must** be photographed during this time in order to receive a **RMC Student ID Card**, as well as for our school yearbook, *Lighthouse*. Those wishing to order pictures must bring **EXACT** change or a cheque with them on September 20. **All cheques need to be made out to the photographer, Lifetouch**. More information will be sent home at a later date.



2016-2017 STUDENT PLANNER

The **Daily Planner** includes standard policy statements, scheduling information and helpful study aids. Please ask your son/daughter to show you the **Daily Planner** which will be issued to all students on Tuesday, September 6.

Student accounts will be billed \$6.00 for the planner. We are confident that students, parents and teachers will find this planner an invaluable aid. There is **only one copy per student**; please **put your name in it** and take good care of it.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are not allowed to use their electronic devices in school chapels / assemblies, testing situations, change-rooms or washrooms within the school.

Students may use their electronic devices in class if deemed appropriate by the teacher. This means that expectations for electronic device usage in classes will vary from teacher to teacher / class to class. Expectations for each class will be explained by the teacher at the start of each semester and reviewed from time to time throughout the semester.

If used inappropriately, these devices will be confiscated by the teacher and turned into the main office. The receptionist will inform the Assistant Principal of the situation. Students may pick up their cell phone at the end of the day, following a conversation with the Assistant Principal. If inappropriate use continues, Rockway's Discipline Policy will be implemented, including contact with the parents.

ROCKWAY'S DRESS CODE

At Rockway, we stress the principles of **personal cleanliness, self-respect, and good taste** when determining guidelines for appropriate school attire. We strive to reinforce in all students a sense of responsibility to self and others, by encouraging all to dress in a manner which promotes a positive and productive learning environment, rather than in a manner that detracts from it. We believe that fashion industry and trends do not necessarily dictate what is appropriate at school, so Rockway's expectations for appropriate school attire are as follows:

- Briefs and boxers should not be visible.
- Muscle shirts, low-cut shirts, off the shoulder tops, halter tops and spaghetti straps should not be worn unless they are covered with a sweatshirt, sweater, shrug or shirt.
- Shorts must cover the entire bum with an additional 1½ or more inches of length below the bum.
- Skirts and dresses need to reach to the mid thigh, so when the student bends over, their bum will not be exposed.
- Footwear must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons.
- Clothing with inappropriate words, phrases, or graphics that do not align with Rockway's Mission and Four Pillars are not to be worn.
- Hats, hoods and ear buds need to be removed during chapel.

In the interest of enhancing community life at Rockway, students are encouraged to refrain from using ear buds in the hallways and in the lunchroom. Students are asked to respect the direction of their individual teachers regarding this expectation in their individual classes.

CONSEQUENCES:

Students who choose to disregard these guidelines will be sent to the office and asked to change their clothing (with clothing from their locker, from the school clothing box, or from home) before proceeding to their next class. Repeated reminders will result in further conversation and contact with home.



BUSINESS OFFICE INFORMATION

Please refer to the enclosed, **Student Accounts** (white), for information related to **Student Accounts, Textbooks and Locks/Lockers**. Your first statement was mailed to you in early August and **Payment is due August 25th**. If you have any questions, please call our bookkeeper, Dawn Zehr, at 519-342-0007 x 3013.

FOOD SERVICES

Food Services welcomes students to buy a lunch or something to complement a sack lunch. In addition to the hotplate of the day, we offer soup, salad, sandwiches and a variety of desserts and beverages.

The weekly hotplate menu is posted outside the servery door as well as on the website. Frequent buyers may wish to buy meal tickets (packages of 10) at the Main Office. Meal tickets speed up your exit at the cash register and save you money.

If you bring your lunch from home, you are expected to bring your own cutlery, plates, condiments, etc.

For menu and pricing information, please check out the latest information on the website.

JOANNE JANTZI, FOOD SERVICES SUPERVISOR



LUNCH SCHEDULE

All Grades have the same lunch times.

- Monday and Friday
11:55 am - 12:40 pm.
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
12:15 - 12:50 am.

Please note that lunch is after period 3 every day.



COMING EVENTS

SPORTS TEAM TRY-OUTS & PHYS. ED. REQUIREMENTS



- Try-outs for Junior (Grade 9, 10) and Senior (Grade 11, 12) school teams will begin Wednesday, September 9 after school! We invite any interested high school girls to try out for Basketball and boys for Volleyball!
- In addition, any students in grades 7-12 may participate in our fall Cross Country Team.
- Information regarding try-outs and practice times will be available on the website calendars.
- Please note that every student in Grade 7-10 who takes Physical Education must wear shorts and a t-shirt. See the enclosed flyer for information on purchasing a Rockway uniform for Phys. Ed. Classes.

Family Welcome Night



Thursday, September 15, 2016
6:45 - 8:30 pm

- 6:45 pm Registration in Foyer
- 7:00 pm Dedication Service in Assembly Area
- 7:20 - 8:30 pm Cookies and Connection
 - Grade 7 & 8 Information Session
 - Host Family Meeting
 - Meet the Teacher

New and returning families will have the opportunity to connect with other families, meet the teachers, and enjoy the famous Rockway cookie!

Please fill out the enclosed neon yellow response form and return it on Tuesday, September 6, 2016.

We look forward to meeting you and your family!

AUDITIONS FOR...



Auditions will be held in the Assembly Area on Monday, Sept. 26 and Tuesday, Sept. 27 after school. All students who audition must attend the dance/movement audition on Thursday, Sept. 29 from 3:20 - 4:30. More information about auditions will be available at www.rockway.ca in the coming weeks.

CONNECTIONS

2016
WEEKEND
October 28 -29



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

5-7 pm



Join the Grade 10 class as they prepare and serve you and your family at their annual **Spaghetti Supper** fundraiser! This is one of the ways the Grade 10s fundraise for their Quebec trip in May. What a delicious way to spend a Friday night!

ALUMNI SPORTS CHALLENGE - VOLLEYBALL



7 pm – Alumni Women vs Rockway Flames Sr. Girls

8:15 pm – Alumni Men vs Rockway Flames Sr. Boys

After dinner, head to the Gym for the always entertaining showdown between the Alumni and current Rockway teams. Played volleyball while you were a student? There's a place for you on the team!

Email advancement@rockway.ca to secure your spot and show these youth what a spike really looks like!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29



ENTERTAINMENT GALA WITH DINNER AND AUCTION

With the success of our first Entertainment Gala last year, we are pleased to announce our next entertainer!

Prepare to be amazed and astounded at our Entertainment Gala 2016 by **CHRIS FUNK - THE WONDERIST!** Chris has been performing on the stage since the age of 7. First as a musician, then as a Winnipeg Magician and now as a brilliant, witty performer who pieces together various art forms to create a truly unique experience! He combines intuition, influence and illusions with hilarious comedy to create moments that will leave us with some lasting memories and a feeling of being thoroughly entertained!

Tickets are \$85 per person and will go on sale September 1 over the phone (call Jackie at **519.342.0007** ext 3012) or in person at the main office by cash, cheque or credit card. More details will be available at www.rockway.ca in September.

5 pm – Auction viewing, registration and refreshments

6 pm – Dinner & Dessert followed by Entertainment

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services exists to offer support and resources for students, parents and teachers in three key areas:

- 1) Academic
- 2) Post-Secondary Planning
- 3) Emotional-Social

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

- Connecting students with peer or professional tutors
- Consulting with teachers, parents and psychologists to obtain psychological-educational 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

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 12s and their parents by email with updates on scholarship, post-secondary and graduation information (Please note: Watch the Flash for updated information)

EMOTIONAL-SOCIAL SUPPORT

- 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

QUICK FACTS

- COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES - Over 20 Colleges and Universities are booked to make a lunch time visit to the school this Fall.

- POST-SECONDARY FAIRS - Stay tuned for Flash announcements in your inbox to find out about information events for the many post-secondary 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 a bulletin board inside Student Services and will be announced in homerooms and in the Flash.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS - Forms are available on the bulletin board outside Student Services but must be returned to the FRONT OFFICE for administrative approval. Filled out forms left in Student Services will delay the process of having your hours approved and added to your transcript.
- Each GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR has a different teaching schedule so please check their individual schedules on their office doors for availability.

All Course Selection and Changes

MUST be made through Student Services.

Guidance Counsellors will be in their offices beginning on **Monday, August 29th**. 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.

1. **EMAIL** - If you are a returning student who has a straightforward course change request or a question, please email a Guidance Counsellor. Be sure to check your email for a response. *If your course change request requires further discussion, please include your phone number and the best time to reach you.*
2. **MEETING** - If you are a **new** student please make an appointment by calling the Main Office (prior to Aug. 29th).

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST 2016-2017

During the 2016-2017 school year, EQAO will offer eligible students two opportunities to write the OSSLT online. The early opportunity will count as a formal attempt to fulfill the literacy requirement.

At Rockway, all eligible students will write the literacy test on October 20th online. Students will have two preparation sessions facilitated by the English Department prior to October 20th. The regularly scheduled OSSLT on March 30th will also be available to students who were unsuccessful following the first attempt.

More details will follow in September.

STUDENT SERVICES GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS



DANETTE ADAMS

ext. 3030

danettea@rockway.ca



DEB BAXTER HEENY

ext. 3028

debbh@rockway.ca