



# *Knight* ♦ Line

Rockwood Valley Middle School



A Missouri Gold Star School  
A United States Blue Ribbon School

## A Letter from Mr. Loiterstein...

September, 2011

Dear Rockwood Valley Community:

We are in full swing at Rockwood Valley, and we're having a great time each day with your kids! Teachers have spent time these first few weeks building the culture and climate for learning, and this will pay dividends throughout the school year. Your children, in return, have already demonstrated that they can be successful learners with great character traits.

As you will read in this *Knightline*, this month's character word is *Responsibility*. I have always appreciated Abigail Val Buren's quote, "If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders", and find that it applies in so many ways to our middle school students. We know that they are at a time in their lives when they are gaining the desire and maturity to handle more responsibility. At Rockwood Valley, we try to measure the amount of responsibility that students can handle, and then provide them with the supports that they need to be successful.

All Rockwood Valley students participated in the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Test last April. Those results were posted last month, and once again, Rockwood Valley has much to celebrate. Our students once again demonstrated their proficiency in a wide range of topics in Language Arts, Math, and Science. This test, while only a snapshot of student performance, also provides us with valuable information regarding ways that we can improve our curriculum, as well as the ways in which we deliver lessons.

I wish you a good end to the summer, and wish you and your child(ren) continued success in this school year!

Sincerely,

Andrew Loiterstein  
Principal

September 2011  
Volume 19 Issue 2

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### Dates to Remember

- Quarter I progress reports posted on Infinite Campus—September 20.
- Quarter I report cards posted on Infinite Campus—October 25.



A NATIONAL SCHOOL  
of  
EXCELLENCE



## Around Rockwood Valley



### September Word of the Month **RESPONSIBILITY**

Responsibility (noun) - (1) The act of being accountable for one's actions, (2) An obligation to others.

### Attention, Parents...

The "Refusal to Permit Disclosure" form was due to Randee McKeever, registrar, in the Counseling Center by Wednesday, August 31, 2011.

Students' names are posted in school and published in the *Knightline* throughout the school year for student recognition. If you do not want your child's name used for these purposes, please let the Welcome Center know by returning the form.



### Welcome, New Staff Members

We welcome the following new staff members to Rockwood Valley:

- ◇ Justin Bottorff, PE/Health
- ◇ Jenna Crowder, 6 Black Science
- ◇ Jaime Finck, Counselor
- ◇ Sara (Helen) McCauley, French
- ◇ Tracey Mulholland, 6 Red Math
- ◇ Steve Patton, Orchestra
- ◇ Stacey Scott, Counselor
- ◇ Alison Smith, Academic Stretch
- ◇ Lynne Walters, Library Assistant
- ◇ Julie Weitzel, Spanish

### Transportation Information



If you have concerns or questions regarding bus transportation, please utilize the following contact information:

VICC Office (Go Ahead buses)—314-721-8657  
First Student Bus Company—636-458-2044

Check the RSD website, [www.rockwood.k12.mo.us](http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us), for the most recent bus lists. (Click on *Transportation* under the Parent tab.)

Students are expected to behave appropriately on the bus. Bus rules and consequences are explained in the *RVMS Student/Parent Handbook*.

Students must be at the bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pick up time and be prepared to wait for 10 minutes after the scheduled time. iPods and other music players are allowed on the bus and are the responsibility of the students. RVMS is not responsible for lost and/or damaged valuables.

### Bus Note Guidelines

Students may ride buses other than their assigned buses under the following guidelines. The approval of bus notes is up to the discretion of RVMS administrators.

- Guest riders must have a note signed by their parent/guardian giving them permission to temporarily ride with the other student. The note must include the date and the first and last name of both students (the guest and the rider with whom the guest is riding).
- No guest riders will be allowed on buses that are near or at capacity. Bus notes are currently not being accepted for buses 65, 70, 77, 80, and 81.
- The note must be approved in the Welcome Center prior to 7:30 am.
- Each student will be allowed a maximum of two guest riders daily.
- A maximum of four guest riders are allowed per bus daily.



### Acceptable Use Policy

The appropriate use of communication and information systems (including the Internet) were discussed with RVMS students at the beginning of the school year. Please discuss with your child the importance of using communication systems appropriately, particularly the Internet.

If communication systems are not used appropriately at school, disciplinary consequences will result.

### Clubs and Activities

All RVMS students are encouraged to get involved in after school clubs and activities. The RVMS Clubs and Activities booklet will be available online on the RVMS website during the second week of school.

Clubs and activities will usually be held Tuesday through Thursday after school from 2:30pm to 3:25pm.

A parent-signed permission form is required for a student to stay after school. Permission forms will be available at Student Orientation, in the Welcome Center, and on the RVMS website.

Clubs and activities will begin on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. Get involved at RVMS!



### Student Absences

When a student is absent from school, parents should report the absence to the school office or the attendance hotline at 636-722-4285. If our attendance secretaries, Mrs. Fercho or Mrs. Foye, don't hear from a parent/guardian by 10am, an attempt will be made via AlertNow to contact the student's home.

All absences are considered unexcused unless verified by a parent either by phone or in writing upon the child's return to school. Please refer to the Rockwood School District Attendance Policy in the *2011-2012 RVMS Student/Parent Handbook* for additional information.

### 2011 – 2012 Rockwood Middle School Athletic Events

- Cross Country Meet—TBA
- Swim Meet—Tuesday, November 9, LHS
- Bowling (non-competitive)—Monday, November 28, West County Lanes
- Bowling (grade 6 competitive)—Wednesday, November 30, West County Lanes
- Bowling (grades 7 and 8 competitive)—Thursday, December 1, West County Lanes
- Volleyball Tournament—Saturday, January 21, RSHS
- Table Tennis Tournament—Saturday, March 3, RVMS

### Concert Band Will Play at Busch Stadium



The Rockwood Valley Middle School Concert Band is preparing for another performance at the Cardinal baseball game. The band will perform the *Star Spangled Banner* on Friday, September 9, 2011. Band students who are performing need to wear blue jeans and a red T-shirt. The shirt does not have to be a Cardinal T-shirt.

For additional information, please contact John Menner, RVMS band director, at 636-733-4270.

### Valuables and Cell Phones

Students should not bring valuables to RVMS. Students who do bring valuables do so at his/her own risk.

Students are also reminded that cell phones that are brought to school must be turned off and kept in lockers during the school day. In addition, students are not allowed to take photographs or videos with their cell phones at school, on a school-sponsored field trip, or on a school bus.



### Counselors' Corner

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! Since we are both new to Rockwood Valley, we thought we would take a moment to introduce ourselves as well as the purpose of Guidance and Counseling.

Jaime Finck has been with the Rockwood School District for 10 years. She taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade science for 5 years at Rockwood South Middle School before becoming a counselor for Rockwood South in 2006. Jaime earned her Bachelors in Education at Southeast Missouri State University and her Masters in Counseling at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. Jaime has been married to Mike for 5 years, and the two of them have twin boys, Connor and Logan, who turned 3 at the end of July. Jaime is very excited to start a new journey in her career for the Rockwood School District.

Stacey Scott has worked for the Rockwood School District for 17 years. She began as a drama teacher for 6 years at Rockwood South Middle School before moving to the counseling department in 2000. Stacey earned her Bachelor's Degree from Gettysburg College in theatre and psychology and her Master's in Counseling from St. Louis University. She has worked as a part time counselor for the past several years, including one year at Rockwood Valley, in order to stay home with her two children who are now 5 and almost 7. Stacey is excited to return to full time work and the Rockwood Valley community.

Guidance and Counseling is an integral part in each school's total education program, and prevention and intervention are the mainstays of Rockwood's School Counseling Department. Sequential activities, following the Missouri Comprehensive Model Guidance Program, address the academic, personal/interpersonal, career exploration and post-secondary planning of every Rockwood student.

#### Mission Statement

All students will be valued and provided results-based instruction in the areas of Career, Academic, and Personal Social Development, through a comprehensive guidance program, as they acquire skills, abilities and attitudes that empower them to be lifelong contributing

members of society.

Our guidance and counseling program includes:

- ⇒ CURRICULUM consists of classroom lessons and large group presentations
- ⇒ INDIVIDUAL PLANNING consists of activities that help all students plan, monitor, and manage their own learning as well as their personal and career development.
- ⇒ RESPONSIVE SERVICES consists of activities to meet immediate needs and concerns of students.
- ⇒ SYSTEM SUPPORT consists of management activities that establish, maintain, and enhance the total guidance program.

We are looking forward to the school year and have much planned for your child. Please don't hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can do to help your child have a fabulous year!

*Mrs. Jaime Finck*  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade and Team 8-Red Counselor  
Phone: 636-733-4297  
finckjaime@rockwood.k12.mo.us

*Mrs. Stacey Scott*  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade and Team 8-Black Counselor  
Phone: 636-733-4296  
scottstacey@rockwood.k12.mo.us



### St. Louis County Police News

Officer Widdis, our School Resource Officer (SRO), continues to work together with staff members to make our school a safe and secure learning environment.

In the interest of keeping RVMS safe and drug-free, St. Louis County police dogs may search our campus without advance notice. We appreciate your support of this effort.

## Food Allergies

Food allergies are on the rise with some students requiring special medication to help them avoid serious health reactions in the community and at school.

All staff members at RVMS are trained to identify and possibly treat a food allergy or anaphylaxis. While the Rockwood School District is not a "peanut-free" district and does not restrict students from bringing various food items to school, an awareness of special needs of students with allergies is addressed. Some special adjustments include seating in the cafeteria or classroom, restricting ingestion of food to certain areas of our school, special cleansing of desks and cafeteria tables, and encouraging frequent hand washing. We encourage all students to be sensitive to these issues and to alert an adult if a friend has an obvious allergic reaction.

Please help us by checking with our staff or school nurse before bringing food to school that is meant for your child's friends and classmates. Ask your child if he/she is sitting at a lunch table with a friend that has an allergy to food such as peanuts and cannot tolerate being near another student eating that certain food. Talk to your child about not sharing food items at lunch or after school if they are with friends with allergies. And encourage your child to wash hands after eating to clean off any allergen that might be passed to a student with an allergy. Being aware of health issues and accepting of all students is another skill that middle school children learn.



## Library News

The library is open to all students before school and between classes. Students wishing to use the library during lunch may get a pass during their lunch shift. Books are checked out for a period of three weeks.

The RVMS library does charge fines of \$.05 per school day for overdue materials. However, students needing materials longer than three weeks may recheck the items for an additional time period.

Please call Mrs. Worley, RVMS librarian at 636-733-4270 for more information.



## Notes from the Nurse

Thanks to all students who have turned in completed Student Health Information forms and signed updated medical physicals. Both forms provide information that is used to assure your child is safe at school and gives us direction concerning any health need. RVMS requests that 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and any student new to the Rockwood School District have a recent medical physical on file by October 1, 2011.

Please remember that ALL medications given at school require a newly signed order from the child's physician or clinic and a permission note from his/her parent. Inhalers or other emergency medications such as epipens may be carried by the student with a signed note from the child's doctor on file in the nurse's office. All medical permission forms and food allergy alert forms can be found on the RVMS website under "nurse". The nurse's office now has "stock" Ibuprofen 200mg and Acetaminophen 325mg available which may be given to students with a permission note from their doctor and parent. All other over the counter medication should be stored in small original containers in the nurse's office.

School health vision screenings for all sixth and eighth graders will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011. Hearing screenings will be held on November 4, 2011 for all seventh grade students. All students new to the district and all SSD students will be screened as well. Please help by having your child rested and ready with necessary eyeglasses, contact lenses, and/or hearing aids.

Please also continue to encourage your child to eat breakfast before attending early school hours. Research suggests that beginning a day with a healthful breakfast helps to fight obesity and contributes to school success. Be aware that PE classes are in full swing with students training for cross country runs. Dehydration, stomach cramps, and feeling unwell are all symptoms of inadequate nutrition and fluid intake. Talk to your child about drinking enough water throughout the day to avoid problems and do their best!



### Rockwood's AlertNow Needs Accurate Information

Giving parents the most up-to-date information is important to Rockwood. That is why the district adopted the AlertNow automatic notification system. This service allows the district as well as individual schools to send a message within minutes to all Rockwood parents on multiple contact numbers.

The successful delivery of information is dependent upon accurate contact information obtained from school records. If your household and/or emergency contact information changes, please let Mrs. Randee McKeever, RVMS registrar, know as soon as possible. She can be reached directly at 636-733-4290.

### Proud of My Child

Parents and/or community members notified Rockwood of the outstanding accomplishments of these students outside of school:

#### *Sixth Graders*

Cierra Presson ran 6 mile race and is training for a half marathon.

Anika Pulumati raised over \$700 during 5<sup>th</sup> grade and this summer. This money was donated to the Red Cross to support Joplin tornado victims.

#### *Eighth Graders*

Devin Meyrer was part of a mission trip this summer in which he helped with the elderly, played with pre-school age children and helped other teens.

Ryan Rigabar won the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Division and four special awards at the great St. Louis Science Fair. Ryan's project was about the Hubble telescope and included a model, facts about how it works and other information related to its importance in deep space discovery.

### Permission Needed for Walkers

Students are not permitted to walk home from RVMS without a signed parent permission form on file in the office. If you would like a permission form, please contact the Welcome Center.

### RVMS Student Dress Code

The RVMS dress code, explained in detail in the 2011-2012 *RVMS Student/Parent Handbook*, notes that "Short shorts, shirts that expose the mid-section (front and back), spaghetti straps, and/or other items of apparel considered revealing will not be allowed."

The appropriate dress of all students contributes to a school atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Parents, please review the dress code with your child and help him/her comply with it. Thank you!



### AM and PM Drop-Off/ Pick Up Procedures

Parents who drive students to school should enter the staff parking lot at the first entrance (on the right), go to the corner near the recycle bin, turn left, and pull up to the south side entrance of the building. Please pull up as far as possible along the curb and continue to do so as cars move forward. Students should exit vehicles and enter the building at this location. Parents should pull up to the same area after school to pick students up.

For the safety of the students, we ask that all drivers stay in line during drop off. Also, please do not pick up or drop off your child in the front (west) parking lot. This area is designated before and after school as a school bus area.

## Rockwood Valley PSO Page

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### Orientation 2011

Thanks for everyone's help during Orientation. Things ran very smoothly due to all the volunteers showing up and being such great helpers. I have a large list of people to thank and hope I didn't miss anyone. If I did, please forgive me, your help was greatly appreciated. Thanks again for a great Orientation.

*Beth Caraway*

A big thank you to the following parents for their help:

*Mary Breiten, Cherie Arnold, Caitria Arnold, Jill Rector, Dania Catalano, Julia Rector, Ariana Catalano, Brigitte Underwood, Laura Gigliotti, Erica Cohen, Rhonda Goedeker, Beth Bonney, Deb McDaris, Jenine Nowicke, Peter Nowicke, Helene Lekkerkerker, Isabel Hansen, Kelli Christian, Sherry Ueblein, Barbara Morris, Julie Houldsworth, Mary Elizabeth Huffines, Jennifer Jackson, Donna Hennrich, Daun Holdmeyer, Jill Hollander, Bethany Meuret, Karen Meyer, Karen Carney, Loreen Deantoni, Shannon Willhite, Sami Willhite, Justina Hudak, Naimish Patel, Karina Patel,*

*Melanie Hortsman, Sonja Meyrer, Maxwell Mick, Jennifer Moore, Xander Moore, Michol Mullen, Judy Holt, Shraddha Kumthekar, Sharon Swanson, Brenda Longstreth, Theresa Stebner, Chris Stebner, Olivia Stebner, Nancy Stine, Drew Stine, Deb Swedbeg, Rhonda Tarpey, Karla Broz, Xiao Wang, Cheryl Zimmerman, Ashley Gormley, Colleen Moriarity, Anuradha Kabra, Lisa Uphoff, Sydney Uphoff, Lisa Flynn, Nicholas Flynn, Ashley Flynn, Jacki McDaniel, Carren Rogan, India Branch, Michelle Ray, Julie Schoemehl, Cheryl Lohmann, Ilyse Mazza, Panechanh Carpenter, Darci McCracken, Denise Cox, Laurie Charow, Dawn Morrissey, Yan Hua, Aaron Bi, Corrine Lagoy, Jennifer Penney, Wendy Curry, Agatha Ijei, Grace Breiten, Lisa Mannion, Jordan Longstreth, Nick Holt, Jodi Treat, Kristen Emms, Sam Lagoy, William Penney, Alana Krone, Kayla Carpenter, Cameron Carpenter, Scott Caraway, Kristian Finneman, Eric Bonney, and Dionne Blackler*

The RVMS PSO Board would like to thank Beth Caraway for her hard work organizing Orientation 2011 and making it a great start to the new school year. We hope all new and returning students (and their families) have a great year at RVMS!

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### Check out the Counseling Website/Parent Tutor for After School Help Needed

Please visit the Rockwood Valley Guidance and Counseling website! We will be continually adding information regarding Counselor Coffee Presentations, Parent Opportunities, Helpful News Articles, Crisis Resources, as well as other Announcements.

The Rockwood Counseling Program is considering holding Counselor Coffee Presentations as a quadrant this school year. Please pay special attention to the location, as it will not always be held at Rockwood Valley Middle School. The first Counselor Coffee Presentation is scheduled for Friday, September 2 at 9am. The topic is Cyber-Safety & Your Child, and will be held at Wildwood Middle School Library.

If you are interested in being an after-school tutor for a student, please contact Jaime Finck or Stacey Scott in the RVMS Counseling Center.

**Central Services**

Administrative Center Annex  
500 North Central Avenue  
Eureka, MO 63025-1203

636.733.2141  
636.938.2365 Fax  
pulsjaffrey@rockwood.k12.mo.us

**Jeff Puls**  
Coordinator of Testing

August, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This fall your 8<sup>th</sup> grade child will participate in our district-wide testing program by taking the EXPLORE test. The EXPLORE test is the first in a series of three tests produced by ACT, Inc. In Rockwood the EXPLORE test is administered to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders or 9<sup>th</sup> graders who did not take the EXPLORE as 8<sup>th</sup> graders. 10<sup>th</sup> graders take the PLAN, and upper level high school students take the ACT test. Colleges and universities frequently use the ACT test for college entrance and placement purposes. The EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT assessments, when used together, give educators at the middle-school and secondary school levels a powerful, interrelated sequence of instruments to measure student development and monitor instructional impact from 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Taking the EXPLORE in the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade will provide early planning information regarding students' strengths and weaknesses and a lot of time to establish a program of studies to help students achieve their career and educational goals.

The EXPLORE is a standardized assessment which measures English language (usage/mechanics and rhetorical skills), Mathematics, Reading and Science Reasoning. This assessment has a heavy emphasis on complex cognitive skills important for future education and careers. Your child's EXPLORE test scores will be reported as a national rank, a composite score and a projected PLAN composite score. The National Rank compares your child's results to the national norming sample. For example, a national rank of 75 indicates that the student scored at or above 75 percent of the students in the norming sample. The Composite score is an average of the four main content area test scores. The Composite score rank is an estimate. The test will also provide an estimated composite score range for your child indicating how your child might do when he/she takes the PLAN test in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

The EXPLORE also includes a needs assessment and interest inventory section. The results of the needs assessment and interest inventory are used to help 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade students explore the world of possibilities open to them, make the most of their opportunities in high school and beyond, and guide them as they start thinking about future educational and career planning. The student report also contains information regarding the types of work environments and career areas that best match your child's interests and activities, based on their responses to the EXPLORE interest inventory.

The results obtained from EXPLORE will help show what your child has or has not yet learned, their areas of interest, and areas in which your child reported wanting more help. Teachers can use this information to better plan classroom instruction during the remainder of the school year. Counselors can use this information to help with planning High School courses for your child. This assessment is only one measure of student performance, a snapshot in time. To get a more complete picture, you also need to know how your child does with daily class work and other activities.

If you have any additional questions about how schools will use the assessment please feel free to contact your child's school. Additional information is also available at <http://www.act.org/explore/results.html>.

Thank you for your time, effort, and support of the Rockwood School District as we strive to improve education for all students.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Puls**  
Coordinator of Testing

*Join the conversation with the*  
**Rockwood Superintendent**

Dr. Bruce Borchers, Rockwood Superintendent, invites you to join him and other parent/community members as he shares his action plan that will improve student achievement and increase district accountability. Dr. Borchers and his administrative team will discuss:

**Vision Scorecards ~ Professional Learning Communities  
Curriculum Revision Process ~ School Improvement Plans**

Learn more about how every school community and department will focus on improving learning for all students.



**September 12**

10-11 a.m.

Administrative Annex  
in Room A100  
500 North Central  
in Eureka

**September 14**

7-8 p.m.

Crestview Middle School  
in the Theater  
16025 Clayton Road  
in Ellisville

*If you are unable to attend the conversations, please view the presentation and information on the Rockwood website:*  
**[www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/superintendent](http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/superintendent)**



**Rockwood Valley Middle School  
1220 Babler Park Drive  
Glencoe, Missouri 63038**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### **SEPTEMBER 2011**

5—No School-Labor Day  
6—First Day of After School Activities  
9—Band Performs at Cardinals Game; Student Sportswear Order Forms Due  
12—PSO Meeting, 9:30am  
14—PD Day; Dismissal at 11:15 am  
15—PSO Committee Chairperson Meeting, 9:30 am; Vision Screening  
16—Band/Choir Fundraiser Begins  
20—QI Progress Reports Posted on IC  
21—Picture Retake Day, 7:30-10am  
27—Band/Choir Fundraiser Ends  
29—6 Red Fishing Trip (1/2 team)  
30-6 Red Fishing Trip (1/2 team)

### **OCTOBER 2011**

3—PSO Meeting, 9:30am  
6—Senior Citizens' Dance, 3pm-4pm, commons  
10—National School Lunch Week  
12—8<sup>th</sup> Grade EXPLORE Testing, 7:30am-10am; PD Day; Dismissal at 11:15am  
13—EXPLORE Makeups, 7:30am-10:40am  
17—6<sup>th</sup> Grade Jesus Villahermosa Assembly, 9:15am-10am; National School Bus Safety Week  
18—First Day of Quarter 2  
19—6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Meeting for Parents, 7pm, commons; RVMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band to LHS in am  
20—Flu Shots, 1:30-3:30pm; MIOS Choir Concert at LHS, 7pm, LHS gym  
24—SLSMEA Honor Band Audi-

tions, 6pm  
25—Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30pm-7pm; QI Report Cards on Parent Portal  
26—MIOS Orchestra Concert at LHS, 7pm, LHS gym; Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30pm-7pm  
27—No After School Activities  
28—No School  
31—SAT 10 Testing for 6th Graders



Rockwood Valley Middle School  
*Dream It. Believe It. Achieve It.*