



# RSD Community Newsletter

December 2022



*Encuentre opciones de traducción en la parte superior de la página. Find translation options at the top of the page.*

Dear Rochester Parents and Community,

Our buildings are bustling with events and activities as we wrap things up and head into the winter break. Winter performances, sports, and activities continue to fill our calendars and are truly one of the highlights of the year for me personally.

This is the time of year when our staff and parent groups are working harder than ever. Our schools are working with our community partners ROOF, Local 3825 - West Thurston Regional Fire Authority, 4 The Love Foundation, All Kids Win, and Faith-Based teams to make sure our families have needed resources, especially during the upcoming Winter Break. The ongoing collective work to care for our students and families is humbling and I am so grateful to all of you.



It is important to remember that we all experience this time of year differently. While many of us welcome a two-week break and look forward to celebrating traditions that bring loved ones together, others face difficult challenges, especially during breaks when they don't have the daily support from their schools. Being aware of this and reaching out to provide support and assistance when possible is often appreciated.

When we return in January, we will continue our collective focus on student success and recovering lost learning. I encourage you to talk with your child about what they are learning and check in with your child's teacher if you have questions about their progress.

My sincere thanks to the entire Rochester School District community for your ongoing support of our schools. Please be safe and have a peaceful winter break. I wish everyone the best in 2023.

Jennifer Bethman  
Superintendent

---

## Important Dates



### **December 19-30**

Winter Break: Friday, Dec. 16, is a half day and the final day of school for 2022, students begin winter break on Monday, Dec. 19. School resumes on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023. Please note the District Office will also be closed to the public over winter break, and most staff will not be working. Due to this, responses to inquiries made after Dec.16 will likely be delayed.

### **January 2, 2024**

School Resumes

### **January 16, 2024**

No School - Martin Luther King Day

---

## Rochester Warrior T-Shirts

Thank you, RPS, GMES, and RMS Parent Boosters, for assuring all our young Warriors have access to Rochester Warrior T-Shirts. What a wonderful way to increase students' sense of belonging and to support student pride in their school! Go Warriors!!



## PAPER - Free Tutoring for Middle and High School Students

PAPER is a tutoring and homework-help service that Rochester middle and high school students can access. They provide academic support to students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365

**PAPER**

days a year. The tutors are trained educators, so students can log in, ask questions, and work through problems in real-time. All middle and high school students have been provided the information needed to log into this resource. [Information about PAPER.](#)

---

## Now Available: RSD Annual Report for 2021-22 School Year

The Rochester School District invites the community to view our [Annual Report for the 2021-22](#) school year. The report provides a summary of information about student achievement, programs and services. In addition to the summary report you can also review specific information about [Rochester School District on the OSPI website.](#)



---

## Dual Language



### Dual Language Task Force Meets To Explore Program

A Dual Language Program Task Force has been meeting since the beginning of the year to explore the implementation of a Dual Language program in Rochester. The task force consists of parents, community members, teachers, and building and district administration. The team has been researching the benefits, learning about successful program structures, exploring the curriculum, and visiting existing Dual Language programs.

Dual Language programs are in schools throughout the state. The goals of dual language programs are to promote academic development, language proficiency in two languages, and cross-cultural understanding. In the program, students are taught in two languages allowing students to become linguistically proficient in English and one other target language by 3rd grade and develop academic proficiency in two languages (English and one other) by 5th grade. Academically, students in Dual Language programs exit the program as biliterate, and research shows they score higher on standardized reading and math assessments than other students. Depending on the program model and grade level, students spend 50% to 90% of their day in the target language and the remainder of the day in English. Spanish is the target language being considered for the Rochester Dual Language program.

Currently, we have eight sections of Kindergarten at Rochester Primary School. If a Dual Language program is implemented, one to two sections of Kindergarten would be offered in the Dual Language format. Enrollment in the Dual Language program would be optional.

If the Dual Language Task Force recommends implementing a program, it will begin in the fall of 2023 or 2024. More information will be provided as the task force continues to explore the

---

## Universal Free Meals Ended for Students in Grades 6-12



The universal free lunch program provided in past years ended for students in grades 6-12 at the start of this school year. Students who have not been approved for free or reduced-priced meals, may purchase breakfast for \$1.55 and lunch for \$2.90. Check your child's meal account information through Skyward Family Access; it may be time to make a payment.

[Click here for the Free Meal Application](#)

---

## Board Recap: December 7, 2022

The Rochester School Board held a regular meeting Wednesday, December 7. Topics included presentation and approval of the School Improvement Plans (SIPs), Student Report from Ashton McClain, and an update on the Year End Budget Status.

The next school board meeting is on January 25, 2023, at 6:30 pm. A recording of the December 7 meeting and other previous meetings can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo-mrEr2O9h2loBhFq\\_fLIA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo-mrEr2O9h2loBhFq_fLIA)



---

## Visit a Library

### BookJoy Book Bus

Visit the Rochester BookJoy Book Bus! Every Saturday beginning January 7 the BookJoy Book Bus will be at the Half Pint Farm Bakery located across the street from RMS. Books are available for kids of all ages.



### Timberland Regional Library

Consider an outing to the Timberland Regional Library during winter break. The library has many [events](#) planned at its different locations - [Events for Elementary](#), [Events for Teens](#). Find more information on the Timberland Regional Library website - [trl.org](http://trl.org)



---

## Flash Alert

Have you signed up for Flash Alert?

When schools are closed or delayed because of severe weather you want to be "in the know".

Please sign up for [FlashAlert](#) to receive and important updates.

School schedule modification updates also will be available via:

- The website: [Rochster.wednet.edu](http://Rochster.wednet.edu)
- School Messenger phone message
- Email and/or text

---

## PeachJar Flyers

We are now using Peachjar to distribute electronic flyers to our families through email. Peachjar is the leading digital flyer management system used by over 17,000 schools across the country. This change brings efficiencies that save considerable time and ensure that flyers make it home. You can check out the approved flyers on each school's website by [clicking the Peachjar | E-Flyers link](#) on the homepage.



---

## Non Discrimination Statement

Rochester School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, the use of a trained guide dog or service animal, or any other basis prohibited by law. We also provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Civil Rights Coordinator: Jennifer Bethman (360) 273-9242, [jbethman@rochester.wednet.edu](mailto:jbethman@rochester.wednet.edu)

Title IX Coordinator: Will Maus (360) 273-5958, [wmaus@rochester.wednet.edu](mailto:wmaus@rochester.wednet.edu)

504/ADA Coordinator: Laura Staley (360) 273-5536, [lstaley@rochester.wednet.edu](mailto:lstaley@rochester.wednet.edu)

Address: 10140 Highway 12 SW, Rochester, WA 98579.

Rochester School District is an Equal Opportunity School District. If you need interpretation of this document, please call the RISE Center at [360.858.1818](tel:360.858.1818). You can also select the Translate option at the top of the page to select a language for translation.

*El distrito escolar de Rochester es un distrito escolar que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades. Si necesita interpretación de este documento, llame al Centro RISE al 360.858.1818. También puede seleccionar la opción Traducir en la parte superior de la página para seleccionar un idioma para la traducción.*



## Jennifer Bethman

Jennifer is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters