

## A Message from Head of School Dr. Duda



The campuses have been abuzz in recent days with festivities from the all-employee welcome back breakfast to the Back-to-School Open House to the first day of school and our home openers for volleyball and football. I love how the buildings come alive again when our students return to school. The sounds of laughter and friendly conversations make my heart smile.

As we settled into routines this week, I reflected upon the days leading up to our return. The planning and preparation was intentional and purposeful to create a stable and predictable environment for students, faculty, and families - a benchmark that's important to me as those factors are directly tied to overall well-being. The prayer walks, teacher training sessions, new student orientations, and chapels/assemblies were each an integral part of our mission to create an environment where children thrive in their spiritual and academic formation. I look forward to observing now as the Lord is glorified through our work this year.

To our new family members (students, faculty, and families), welcome to the RC family! I pray your first few days have been blessed as you experienced the incredible community that exists at Rockford Christian. We are so glad you are here and look forward to getting to know you over the course of the year!

To our returning family members, welcome back! Thank you for the warm welcome you've extended to our new folks and the way you supported us in all our back-to-school festivities. We are so grateful for your continued partnership!

I invite you to join me in praying Psalm 23 over our community this year. The Lord laid this passage upon my heart this summer, various aspects standing out from time to time, each with reminders of God's love, mercy, and comfort. As our school year becomes busy with homework, games, and student activities, we can be encouraged by the hope Psalm 23 provides knowing the Lord will restore, renew, and refresh our souls along the way.

Father, we pray for Your blessings upon our whole school community. May we grow in the knowledge of Your truth, Your love, and Your wisdom. And may our children thrive as they learn, grow, and go make a difference for You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Blessings,  
Dr. Jahna Duda

## Enrollment Update

Rockford Christian welcomed 103 new students for the 2023-2024 school year, and started the year with a total enrollment of 702 students in PreK-12 grade! Despite several years of decreasing population trends in the Rockford area, we are pleased that Rockford Christian retention rates remain strong (at 95% or higher) and enrollment has stabilized at approximately 50 students per grade level.



## Head of Finance & Operations

We are excited to announce Kim Orr has accepted the position as Head of Finance and Operations. Kim holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and is a certified public accountant. Mrs. Orr was employed by CLARCOR, Inc. for 17 years, serving as a corporate accounting manager and advancing to vice-president of treasury before relocating from Tennessee for family in the Rockford area. CLARCOR, Inc. is a \$1 billion, publicly traded, multi-national company. During her professional hiatus, Kim continued her education in treasury, financial reporting and analysis, and FASB, SEC, and GAAP updates. As an experienced financial executive, Mrs. Orr brings with her a proven record of success and leadership working with all levels of company management. She and her husband Robert, (an alumnus), have been part of the Rockford Christian community since first enrolling their daughter, Allison (7) in PreK. Mrs. Orr officially joins Rockford Christian as the HOF on Monday, August 28th. Please join me in welcoming and congratulating Kim in her new role.



## RC Board Welcomes Roxanne Sosnowski

Roxanne Sosnowski is a principal partner of Sosnowski Szeto, LLP focusing her practice in the areas of labor/employment law and municipal law. Roxanne graduated with honors from Northern Illinois University College of Law. She has been a Rockford Christian parent since 2009. Roxanne and her husband have three children, Rockford Christian alum Aidan '23

and current students, Roman (10), Elle (8).



## CESA Symposium and Athletic Site Visit

In a few short weeks, school leaders will attend the Council for Educational Standards and Accountability (CESA) Symposium in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The symposium provides the opportunity to learn about Biblical worldview integration, creating a Christ-centered culture, planning for facility enhancements, wellness strategies and more from leading Christian schools across the nation. I am excited to spend time together as a team discussing what we learn, connecting with other Christian school leaders, and implementing ideas at RC.

To assist in evaluating and enhancing athletic programming at RC, a team is headed to a CESA school located in Ohio to learn more about nurturing student athletes, spiritually, through sports, enhancing athlete performance, and developing coaches to fulfill the mission of Rockford Christian. We look forward to building this relationship and implementing ideas that fit our school culture and community.

## Tuition Assistance Program

For the 2023-2024 school year, 1 in 11 RC students received tuition assistance for a total of \$214,000. Thank you for your support of our tuition assistance programs and for helping us ensure Christian education remains a viable option for families in the Rockford area.

## Safety Enhancements

Safety Enhancements - The RCS Crisis Team continues to meet quarterly to assess and refine emergency operations protocol and review desired security enhancements. Thanks to the support of generous donors, we were able to purchase and/or install two key features that improve the safety and security of students and staff at both campuses. Each enhancement ensures we are provided the gift of time necessary during an emergency.

To learn more about tuition assistance for families and/or faculty or safety and security enhancements, please contact Head of Advancement, [Cheri Smith](#).

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