

## From the Desk of Dr. Jahna Duda



I am writing this month's newsletter from our Lower School campus and as I visit classrooms, get hugs from students and staff, gush over our preschoolers dressed up as farmers, and enjoy the constant buzz of an elementary school, my heart is reminded about the value of our partnership in this courageous endeavor to educate today's youth to be world changers.

I shared in a previous newsletter that our children and adolescents are in the crosshairs of a culture and an enemy who wants to destroy them - intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. You and I may shake our heads at the headlines and wonder how we got to this point in history, but like it or not, our youth are being exposed to systems (political, economic, and social) that are normalized through intentional efforts in education, medicine, and entertainment. All with an end result that steals their identity, purpose, and ultimately their joy.

As a missional Christian school, Rockford Christian has accepted the call in the northwestern Illinois region to offer a distinct approach to education for families seeking a foundation based upon core values such as faith, community, and excellence. An education rooted in the universal values of truth, goodness, and beauty made famous by prominent philosophers who believed the world had genuine meaning and that human beings had the internal capacities of logos (reason), ethos (morality), and pathos (emotion). A learning experience designed to pursue things that are true, beautiful, and good. An environment in which each child can flourish in their God-given identity and purpose.

Each day at RCS, students are nurtured by Christian educators and staff who love the Lord and chose this school because they wanted to partner with you to see your child thrive - both now in their PreK-12 education and well into their future. Your commitment to this unique partnership is courageous and, as guides who walk through this journey with you, we are grateful you invited us into your family's story and the story God is telling through the life of your child.

As you consider what it means to have your children at Rockford Christian School, may God impress upon your heart the importance of the collaborative impact we are having on the next generation. We have a unique opportunity to bring up our children in a safe, loving, faith-based environment and as we do so this year, may we give thanks to those who went before us in establishing Rockford Christian as a place set apart to do this work.

In Him,  
Dr. Jahna Duda

## Tips for a Successful School Year

A new school year is underway, and with that come overwhelming piles of papers, endless events, homework assignments, and school projects. Families inevitably find themselves searching for the right rhythm to balance the demands of school, work, extracurriculars, and social activities. While the days are long, the years are short, leaving parents and students undoubtedly wanting to make the most of this year's educational experience. To help set your child up for success, consider these tips for a great school year.

### How can I support my student?

- **Pray** as the first response, rather than the last resort.
- **Keep** communicating, but be quick to listen and slow to speak.
- **Model** college or career readiness skills such as grit, social intelligence, self-control, gratitude, and hope.
- **Establish** home study routines and spaces.
- **Allow** them to experience natural consequences.
- **Make** them participate in at least one activity this year.
- **Network** with other school families. You'll realize your family is "normal."
- **Nurture** hearts to maintain the right perspective.
- **Ask** for help when you see something concerning.



## The Purpose of Schoolwide Assessments

In the spring of 2023, Rockford Christian used a (new to us) summative assessment, called CTP5, with grades 1-10 to assist in evaluating and benchmarking our curriculum and pacing guides. This new assessment replaced the discontinued ACT Aspire and was intentionally selected because it provides a set of comparison data to national independent schools, a comparison not typically provided when using state assessments or those common to public school systems. [Click here to read more about the assessment and when your student's report will be sent home.](#)

## RC Parent University

Rockford Christian School is excited to announce the launch of "Parent University", a series of educational topics and discussions relevant for today's parents who are raising the next generation of Christian thought-leaders and world changers.

Join us for our first RC Parent University, "Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success," at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1 in the Distance Learning Auditorium located at the Upper School. Bring your church small group or neighbors to hear from Dr. Duda and



other community leaders as they highlight ways in which overparenting harms children, you as parents, and society at large. You will learn tips and strategies on breaking free from the trap and preparing your child or teen for success.

# ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Empower Illinois 2023-2024

52

Total Rockford Christian students awarded assistance through Empower scholarships

57

Students who requested RCS as their school of choice and have been waitlisted for Empower assistance in the 2023-2024 school year

\$353,769

Empower scholarships awarded through the 2023-2024 school year

**EMPOWER  
ILLINOIS**

\$535,846

Amount needed to fund the waitlist for the 2023-2024 school year

The Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program has opened the door to thousands of brighter futures, but the waitlist grows longer every day. Ask your lawmaker to save the program so we can make dreams come true for all deserving students!

## ACTION STEPS:

- 1 - Text "RTS" to 52886 to sign up for campaign alerts.
- 2 - Continue to contact your lawmaker to make sure they know TCS is a priority for their constituents.
- 3 - Share scholarship stories with [stories@empowerillinois.org](mailto:stories@empowerillinois.org) to help raise awareness about how TCS has helped families across Illinois.





Congratulations to Rockford Christian senior Connor Magnuson, who has been named a semi-finalist in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program!

Of the over 1.3 million students across the country who take the PSAT/NMSQT exam, just 16,000 semi-finalists continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million. The nationwide pool of semi-finalists represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors. Merit Scholars are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.



Congratulations to RC senior Sara Koshi, who was recognized as a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program! As a Commended Student, Sara was in the top 3% of high scorers on the qualifying PSAT/NMSQ exam.

While over 1.3 million students take the exam, only about 34,000 high scorers are designated as Commended Students. In recognition of their outstanding ability and potential for academic success in college, NMSC honors these talented students with Letters of Commendation.

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## THANK YOU

to our 2023-2024 Royal Lion Ultimate Corporate Sponsors. Sponsorships are a great way to not only support RC but also promote and support our Royal Lion community!

For more information, please contact our [advancement office](#).

**Proud Supporter**

The Subway logo, featuring the word "SUBWAY" in a stylized, italicized font with a yellow arrow pointing upwards and to the right.

**Proud Supporter**

The UWHealth logo, featuring the letters "UW" in red and "Health" in blue.

**Proud Supporter**

## Rockford Christian School

1401 N. Bell School Rd.  
Rockford, IL 61107  
815-391-8000



Rockford Christian School | 1401 N BELL SCHOOL RD, 220 HEMLOCK LANE, ROCKFORD, IL  
61107

[Unsubscribe cheri.grennansmith@rockfordchristian.org](mailto:cheri.grennansmith@rockfordchristian.org)

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