

Clark, Michael

From: miclark@lwsd.org on behalf of Michael Clark <miclark@lwsd.org>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Clark, Michael
Subject: Rockwell Elementary News September 17th, 2021



Principal's Letter

All Means All at Rockwell Elementary: Continuing our Inclusion Work for All Learners in the 2021-2022 School Year

Dear Rockwell Families,

Good afternoon from the ranch, and happy Friday! I hope this message finds you and your family safe and well as we complete our first FULL week of the school year! Our Beagles may be a bit tired this afternoon as we continue to settle in and find our stamina, but they did a wonderful job, and I'm very proud of them.

Families: now that we are settling in to the new school year, I would like to share some exciting news about one of our major areas of focus for the year ahead. In the year to come, we will continue our work fostering inclusive classrooms and instruction at our school for all learners. We began this important work last Fall with the development of our brand new Inclusion room, through looking at ways in which we can provide greater support and access to grade-level classrooms for our students receiving Specially Designed Instruction, as well as through engaging in professional learning as a staff in the area of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). We will continue and grow upon this work in the year ahead, partnering with district leaders, the TIES Center at the University of Minnesota (the preeminent national organization on inclusive practices), and the University

of Washington Haring Center for Inclusive Education. Our work, along with that of the two other inclusion pilot schools (Twain Elementary and Kirkland Middle), will lay the foundation for greater inclusive practices in schools across our district.

...So what does this all mean? How are we working actively to create safe and inclusive classrooms at our school, and what will that work look like in the months to come? Here are some highlights:

- We will continue to look at ways in which all of our students, including learners receiving Specially Designed Instruction (SDI), can have greater access to their general education classroom, curriculum, and peers.
- We will continue our professional learning as a school team around inclusive practices, including the effective use of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). In fact, a film crew is going to record interviews with several of our teachers that will be part of a documentary on UDL to be shared nationally (more on this to come!).
- Professors and program specialists from the University of Minnesota, University of Washington, and our district will be joining us onsite to offer recommendations and guidance for our work.
- Our students in most grades will attend their IEP meetings, providing their input and voice to the process.
- We will look at ways in which we can provide universal supports for all students at our school (e.g., access to tools like Clickr7, a predictive text program).
- We'll be engaging in lessons with all of our students around inclusion, disabilities, and how to be a good friend and classmate to all students.
- We will be looking at ways in which we can offer interventions and supports for all students, responding to their learning and SEL needs in real-time.

I'm incredibly proud of our school team for their work in this area, as well as for their commitment to the success of every student we serve. I'll share more about our inclusion focus at coffees and PTA meetings throughout the year, and in the meantime, please check out one of our guiding documents, Ties' 10 Reasons to Support Inclusive School Communities for All Students, as it so beautifully articulates the 'why' of this work. You can also learn more about our districtwide inclusion work in the LWSD Strategic Plan.

Take care, everyone, and enjoy a well-deserved weekend. We'll see you on Monday.

Kind Regards,



Michael Clark
Principal



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Integration in Community Life

 TIES Center “10 Reasons to Support Inclusive School Communities for All Students,” Reason #2: Integration in Community Life



Counselor's Corner



September 2021 - Kindness

September Character Trait of the Month: Kindness

Play a game of Kindness Bingo with your family. Have each member of the family fill out a bingo board with different ways you like others to show Kindness to you. Place each bingo board somewhere accessible for the whole family such as the refrigerator. Then, when someone commits an act on your board, color it in! Be sure to celebrate when the family has collaborated to get bingo! Some ideas may include:

- Help with a household chore
- Spend quality time together with no distractions (tv, phone, etc.)
- Play a game together
- Give a hug
- Write a card or letter saying what you love about someone

Pantry Packs: Pantry Packs is a program that provides weekend packs of food for students in Lake Washington School District. Students participating in the Pantry Packs program receive a bag of food to bring home every Friday. Each Pantry Pack has enough food to feed one child for a weekend. If you would like to sign up for your child to be part of this program and receive a weekly pack of food, please complete the Pantry Pack Request Form linked [HERE](#). If you have any questions or would like more information about the program, please contact our school counselor, Mrs. Bauer at kbauer@lwsd.org.



Drop-Off / Pick-Up / Parking Lot

As we continue to get back into the groove of a new school year, here are a few reminders about the drop-off and pick-up process:

- Thank you to everyone who is walking, riding their bikes, or carpooling. We appreciate it!
- Please arrive no earlier than 8:35 and go directly to your line-up spot. Our playfields are closed before and after school.
- Buses only use the lane closest to the building.
- Drop off/pick-up is in the right lane of the upper lot. Please have all students exit from the right (passenger) side of your vehicle.
- The left lane of the upper lot is only for cars driving through or to park.
- Continuously pull forward – please do not park or let your child out if the car in front of you is moving.
- Reserved spaces are for staff – we have itinerant staff members who need to arrive just before the start of the day.
- Rockwell is an idle-free zone. Thank you for turning off your engines as you wait in the pick-up lane.

Attendance Message from Mrs. Hatch

If your child is unable to attend school, please use one of the following methods to report the absence (in order of preference):

- Call our Safe Arrival number, 425-936-2671, before 8:50am. Leave your name, student's LAST and FIRST name and reason for the absence.
- Submit Absence in Skyward family access. <https://www.lwsd.org/help/skyward-family-access/submit-absence-in-skyward>
- Email Stacy Hatch by 8:50am StHatch@lwsd.org



LWSD Updates

Highly Capable Services for Elementary and Middle School Students

Lake Washington School District (LWSD) will accept applications for Highly Capable programs from September 8 until 4:00 p.m. on October 1, 2021. Students must live in the Lake Washington School District to apply.

Please note: Pares of first-grade students attending LWSD schools should not apply during this application period. LWSD first-grade students are screened for Highly Capable Programs in their general education classrooms.

In order to ensure access for all families, we have recorded our yearly parent information presentation. The video and additional information about application timeline and services are available at <https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/accelerated-programs/highly-capable-application>. Or contact us directly: 425-936-1238; quest@lwsd.org.

Too Sick for School

One of the best ways to avoid community transmission of COVID-19, and other infectious illness, is to stay home when you are sick. Students and school employees who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influeza (flu) or COVID-19 should stay home and seek medical evaluation, which may include testing for COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

While the school will no longer require an attestation form at the start of each day, we ask families to please answer the following questions at home before deciding to send your child to school. If you answer "YES" to any of the following questions, keep your student home and contact your school.

1. Has your student been in close contact with anyone with confirmed COVID-19?
2. Does anyone in your household have COVID-19 like symptoms &/or is anyone in your household being tested for COVID-19?
3. Has your student or anyone in your household had a positive COVID-19 test for active virus in the past 10 days?

4. Within the past 14 days, has a public health or medical professional told your student to self-monitor, self-isolate or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19?

For more information, please visit our “Too Sick for School Webpage”: Too Sick for School - Lake Washington School District (lwsd.org)

District tip line

Safety is one of our district's top priorities and to help safeguard our school community, we've taken an important step that we want to share with you. Our district is now using *Vector Alert*, a tip reporting service that allows students, staff and parents to submit safety concerns to our administration five different ways:

1. **App:** Search for “**Vector Alert**” in the App Store to download for free
2. **Phone:** 425.529.5763
3. **Text:** Text your tip to 425.529.5763
4. **Email:** 1342@alert1.us
5. **Web:** <http://1342.alert1.us>

If an administrator is not nearby or available to take your tip, you and your child can easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism, threats of violence or any safety issue you're concerned about through Vector Alert. When you submit a tip, be sure to use our district's identification code: 1342 in your communication.

Every tip Vector Alert receives about our district is immediately logged in the system and our administration is notified so that they can investigate and take appropriate action. And, tips may also be submitted anonymously if you prefer.

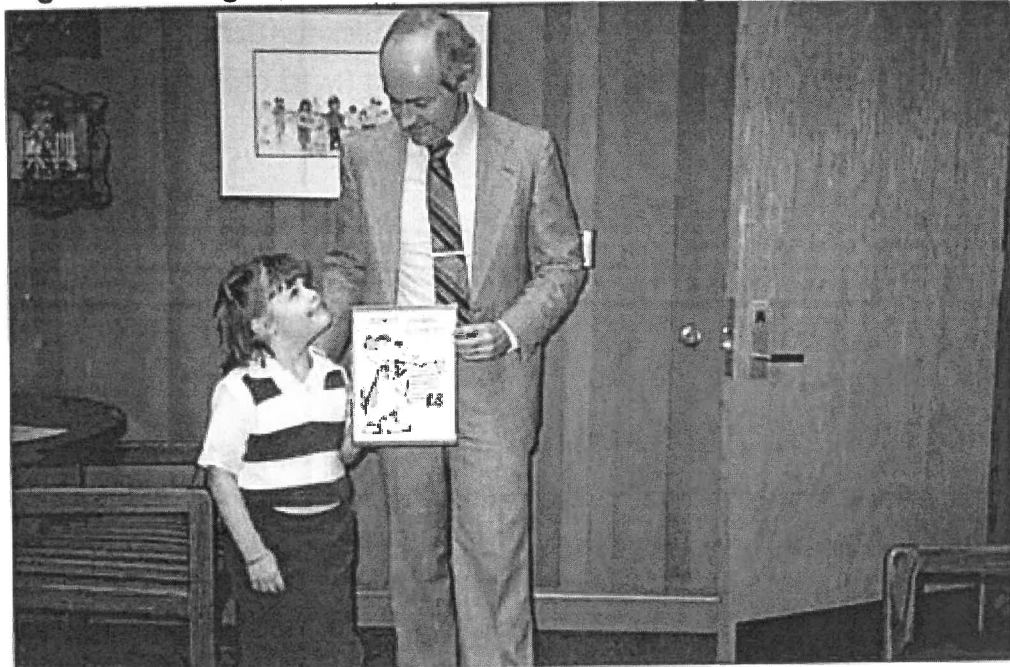
Together, using Vector Alert, we can make our district a safer place to work and learn! Thanks in advance for your support.



Snapshots of Rockwell Learning

Throughout our 40th anniversary year, we will be sharing pictures of our school's history from the Rockwell archives. In the photograph below, student teacher and past staff member Lise Powell, receives a special

recognition from Rockwell's first Principal, Mr. Horchover (1981-1987). Long before the "Beagle's Den," in the very early years of our school, there was the "Beagle Big Shot Award." In the picture below, a second grade Mrs. Powell receives a 'Big Shot' recognition from the first Chief Beagle, Mr.



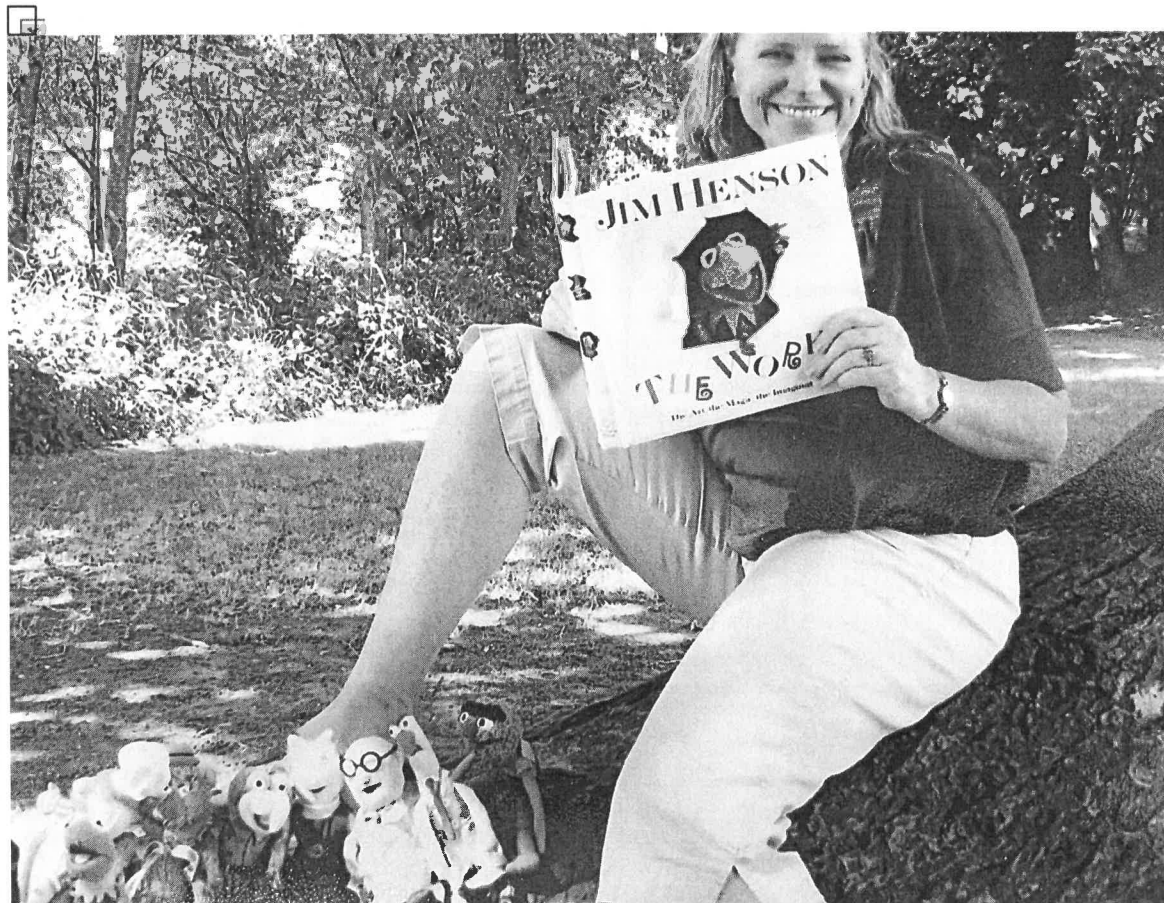
Horchover.



From the Archives: Rockwell's Ninth Principal - Kirsten Gometz (2011-2017)

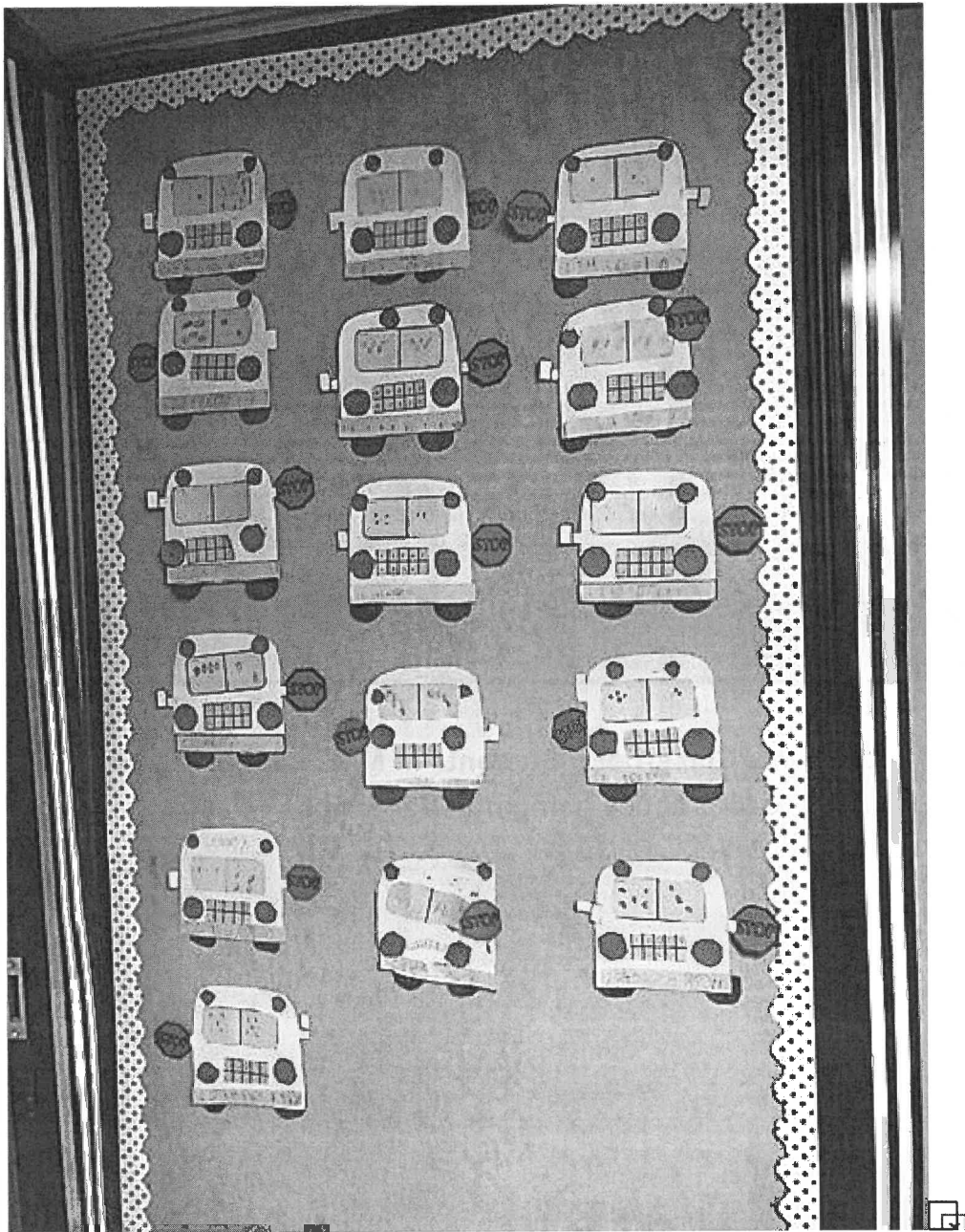
As the 10th Principal of Norman Rockwell elementary, I had the privilege of following a very dedicated, passionate, and student-centered leader: Kirsten Gometz. Principal Gometz served as the Chief Beagle from 2011-2017, and many elements of her principalship remain, such as our focus on equity, the beautiful planter boxes around our school, and our schoolwide focus on one of the most important aspects of Beagle Best: kindness. Kirsten was masterful at focusing on what our namesake Norman Rockwell referred to as "the joy of childhood," and our annual Halloween parade was a gala affair during her tenure. In the photos below, Principal Gometz poses with her son, Rory, as Star Wars legends Princess Leia and R2-D2 for one of the parades, joins a presentation by the student Anti-Bullying Action Committee (a group designed to make sure no kids are ever lonely or left out), and poses for one of our school's posters for the "Read" campaign. Kirsten now serves as the principal of Redmond Elementary.

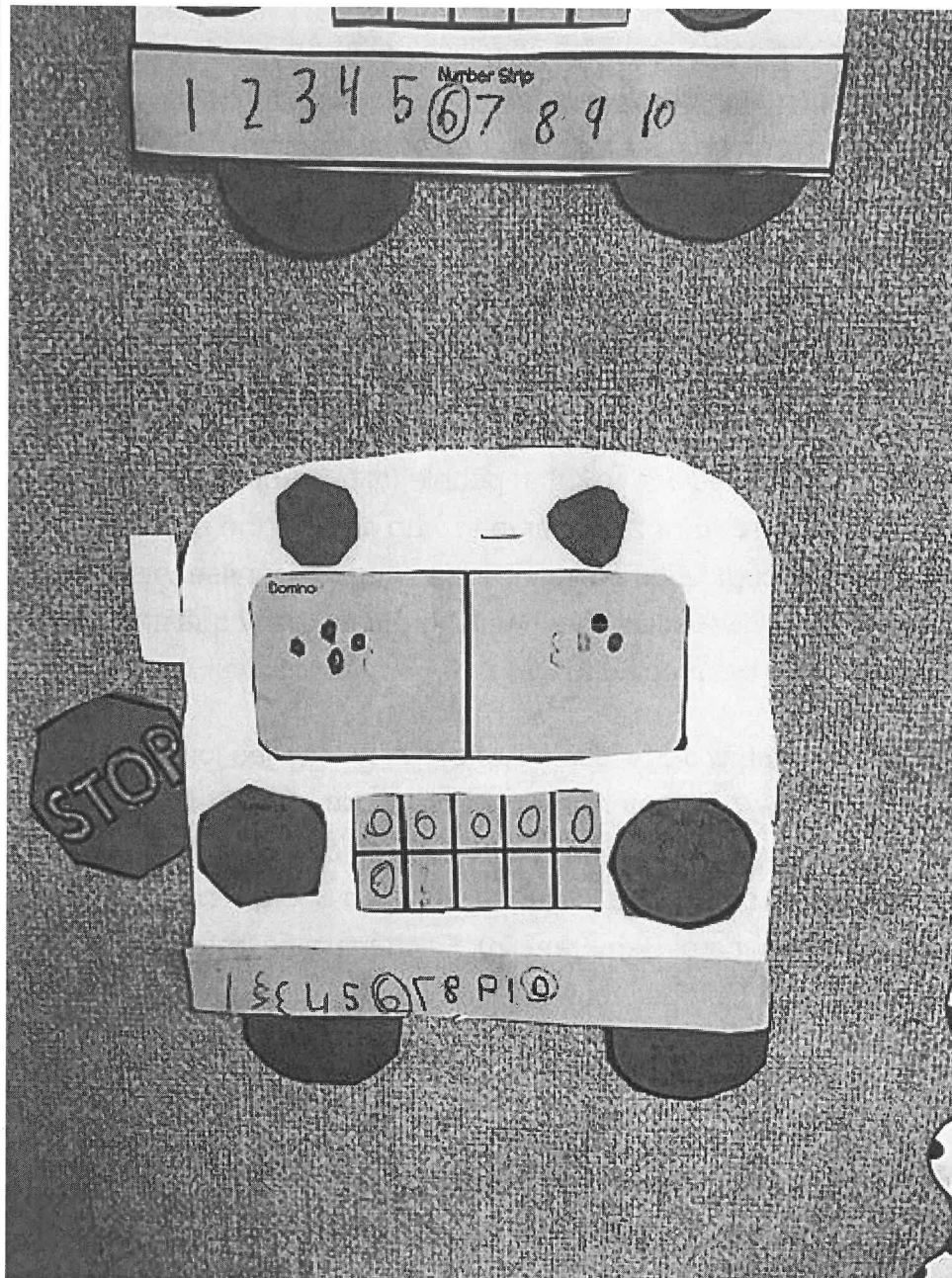






Math Fun in Mrs. Gibson's Classroom! Students in Mrs. Gibson's room engaged in an art project to practice using number strips.





PTSA Updates

Highlights from your Norman Rockwell PTA:

- Please join us at the Welcome Back Picnic on **September 24th from 5:30pm – 7:30pm** (at the Norman Rockwell campus). This is the PTA's annual welcome back event for all families and grade levels! It's a great opportunity to meet your student's new classmates and to connect with other families. Extended family members are welcome to join as well.

We'll have balloons across campus specifying different grade level areas (so it will be easier for your kiddos to find friends from class). This is a picnic style event, so pack a brown bag or picnic dinner. Don't forget your lawn chair or a blanket (there will be some folding chairs on campus for families who don't have lawn chairs). The PTA will provide dessert for everyone. **We're thrilled to announce that Redmond Mayor Angela Birney will be joining us at 6:30pm** to sing happy birthday to Norman Rockwell Elementary (40 years old this year!) and to help the PTA celebrate our "School of Excellence" status. We are following CDC guidelines and ask that people follow proper social distancing. We also **require** that everyone who attends the event remain masked, except when eating. Parents must supervise their own children at the event (especially on the playgrounds). Any questions about the event can be directed to events@normanrockwellpta.org.

- The PTA's **membership drive** is in full effect! Anyone who joins the PTA by September 25th will be entered into a special raffle. We have a dozen different prizes available (including \$25 gift certificates to Spark Pizza, Dough Zone, and Village Café, as well as a \$50 gift certificate towards custom framing at Ben Franklin). Each morning between September 27th and October 1st we will randomly select two winners from the total PTA population. If you haven't joined the PTA yet, [Click here to join today](#).
- The PTA has an urgent need for a volunteer to chair the Reflections program this year. We will provide training and support for any interested volunteers. Please contact volunteering@normanrockwellpta.org.
- Please donate to the ABC (Annual Beagle Contribution fund) to help support the programs we want for all students. [Click here to donate to ABC today](#) (it's step #3 in the on-line welcome packet, after you join the PTA). As you'll see in the "Big Give" letter that went home in every student's first day packets, your PTA relies on ABC contributions to run our academic enrichment programs and to give grants to our teachers that supplement **every** student's learning opportunities.

- Make sure you're keeping track of your PTA's news! To sign up for our weekly newsletter, the Beagle Bugle, [Click here](#). Please also "like" our Facebook page so you can see updates there (look for "Norman Rockwell Elementary PTA").
- Please consider volunteering your time to support our teachers and staff. Email volunteering@normanrockwellpta.org to find out more about our open committee chair positions, and the various ways to get involved.

Band / Orchestra Information for 2021-2022

Welcome Back!!

Please see attached link for information regarding Band.

<https://sway.office.com/vP5KD4Pq9SdfnNu5?ref=Link>

Please see attached flyers for information regarding Orchestra.

Orchestra Welcome Flyer 2021-2022

Redmond Region Orchestra 21-22

Student's Rights and Responsibilities

Families: here is a link to our district Student Rights and Responsibilities page:

<https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/student-services/student-rights-and-responsibilities>. Please let Mr. Clark know if you have any questions.

Thank you!



Upcoming events

Calendar

- September 24th - Welcome Back PTA Picnic.

- October 11, 12, 14 – Fall Conferences
- October 15 - October Leap (In-Service) Day for Staff: No School



Quick Links

For information on Free Wi-Fi for families, follow this link:
LWSD Free Internet webpage

Resources for LWSD Families & Staff During School Closure

- Free Meals for Students
- Technology Support for Students & Families
Email for Students: ftaccess@lwsd.org or
Email Address for Parents: parentquestions@lwsd.org
- Educational Resources
- Child Care Resources



Contact Info

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Redmond, WA 98052
(425) 936-2670 Office
(425-885-5528) Fax
<https://rockwell.lwsd.org/>
<https://normanrockwellpta.org/home>



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