

ROCK SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

307-352-3440



RSHS.SWEETWATER1.ORG



#RISEUPROCKSPRINGS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Senior Graduation Meeting**
Nov. 3 @ 6pm - Auditorium
- * **State Girl's Swim**
Nov. 6-8 @ Laramie
- * **State Volleyball**
Nov. 6-8 @ Casper
- * **Winter Sports Meeting**
Nov. 12 @ 6pm - Auditorium
- * **Thanksgiving Break**
Nov. 24-28
- * **Jazz Band Concert**
Dec. 3 @ 7pm - Auditorium
- * **State Drama**
Dec 4-6 @ Laramie
- * **Winter Ball Dance**
Dec. 5 @ 7pm - Lower Gym



Principal's Message

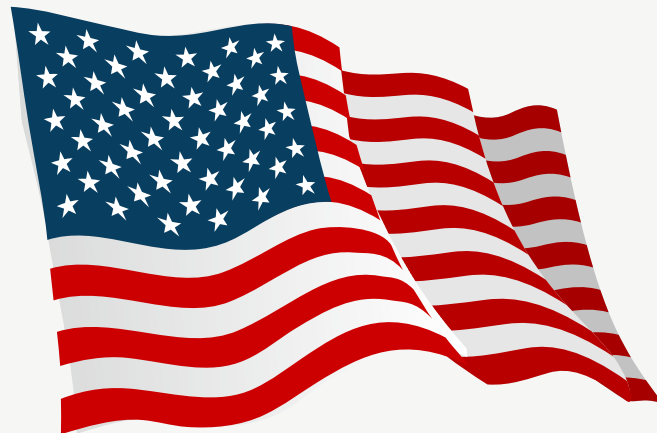
Rock Springs High School October 2025 Update

Rock Springs High School is hitting its stride! With Quarter 1 wrapped and Quarter 2 rolling, our Tigers are showing strong momentum in academics, culture, and college-and-career readiness. From board-meeting highlights to classroom wins, we're celebrating rising achievement, growth, and postsecondary readiness, along with energizing feedback from staff about instructional leadership and work-life balance. Our PLC/MTSS teams are leaning into data-driven instruction, targeted interventions, and Freshman Academy supports. We are keeping students connected, confident, and on track. Fall sports brought the noise, and we're fired up to cheer on swim and volleyball as they chase state finishes in the coming weeks. Testing season launched smoothly with ASVAB and PSAT, report cards went out last week, and credit recapture is underway—please reach out if you need support. With Veterans Day on November 11, we extend our deepest gratitude to all who have served. Don't miss the department highlights and Student Council updates below for more Tiger pride in action. Thanks for partnering with us as we prepare every student for success in life—let's keep the momentum going into November. Go Tigers! 🐾

- Mr. Straka, Principal RSHS

Veterans Day

Rock Springs High School honors the courage and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. In recognition of Veterans Day on November 11, we will hold a special schoolwide assembly for students and staff on Monday, November 10. This program will celebrate service, highlight the history and meaning of the day, and offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have worn the uniform—especially the veterans in our RSHS family and local community. Tigers, please join us in showing respect, gratitude, and unity as we honor those who have served and continue to inspire us.



Thanksgiving Break

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving Break coming up this month from Nov. 24-28. The school and offices will be closed this week for our students, families, and staff. We will reopen on Monday December 1 at 7:30 am



Mesa Weidle 11/1	Stacey Hanson 11/17
Ryan Hollinger 11/11	Deb Jensen 11/22
Dollie Waters 11/13	Richell Rawlings-Carroll 11/25
Andrea Schuck 11/17	Kristi Kettle 11/29

We would like to wish our November Birthday Staff the warmest of Birthdays this month! Thank you!

Academic Highlights



RSHS
Highlights



School Performance:

- Achievement in ELA/Math/Sci (35% → 42%)
- Growth in ELA & Math (41% → 44%)
- Equity MGP (42% → 44%)
- EL Progress (8% → 15%)
- Post-Secondary Readiness (54% → 62%)

UpBeat Survey:

- Instructional Leadership +11
- Work/Life Balance +13
- Recruitment Hiring & Onboarding + 8
- Parent/Teacher Communication +7
- Satisfaction & Purpose + 6



RSHS
Priority Practices and Related Actions

Freshman Academy

- "Social and Emotional Learning and Ninth-Grade Students' Academic Achievement" (University of Texas at Arlington, 2023)
- Key finding: Ninth graders with stronger SEL skills and better connectedness to their school community had higher grades. This suggests that when freshmen feel supported socially/emotionally, it correlates with better academic performance.
- "Intrinsic motivation, Need for cognition, Grit, Growth Mindset and Academic Achievement in High School Students" (2022)
- Key findings: students with higher grit, growth mindset etc., had significantly better grades across disciplines.
- "A tier 1 intervention to increase ninth grade engagement and success: Results from a randomized controlled trial" (2020-2021)
- Key results: statistically significant positive effects on motivation, engagement, attendance, and a moderate-to-large effect on credits earned.

Data

- Attendance, Behavior, Academics, Assessment all used to drive instruction

Teams

- PLC/MTSS weekly meeting to analyze group and individual student data.

Interventions

- Extension Classes, Graduation Coach, Academics, Friday School, Morning Study Hall, Edmentum, ISTEOP

Transitions

- College and Career Readiness, Post-Secondary Plans

Instruction

- Beyond Textbooks, Aligned to Standards, Aligned with WYTOPP Blueprints, CFAs,



Accreditation - School Performance

Where We Are—and Why You May See “Accredited with Support”

Since the start of the year, we’ve reviewed our performance data and put targeted supports in place—schedule adjustments, extension classes, Freshman Academy, APS, HOCA, CTE Academies & Pathways, Edmentum, Friday School, Summer School, Graduation Coaching, and more. Over the years we’ve strengthened our curriculum and maps to align with assessment blueprints, and our overall metric scores are rising across categories. We’re moving in the right direction

We Are Close!

Why the label? Wyoming’s accountability system reflects multiple years of results. A school can carry an “**Accredited with Support**” designation even while trending up; it signals that the state is providing added resources and oversight to accelerate improvement. It’s a snapshot of where we’ve been—not the end of our story. Our trajectory is positive, and the work you’re doing each day is turning momentum into results.



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We will continue to align our goals to the District Strategic Plan, Our Mission and Vision, and School Improvement Plan to achieve our overall goal:

By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, strengthen data-driven instruction, collaboration, and targeted interventions through the consistent implementation of grade-level PLCs, data reviews, Extension (Math, English, College and Career Readiness interventions, and a structured MTSS process.

Edmentum: Exact Path



Exact Path: Why & Expectation

Exact Path is our district and school-wide tool for targeted acceleration. It uses adaptive diagnostics to pinpoint each student’s strengths and needs and automatically builds individualized learning paths in math, reading, and language arts—so every minute is purposeful and progress is measured along the way.

Directive & time on task

This is a district and school expectation: all Extension Classes will implement Exact Path for 40 minutes per week in Math and Literacy (split between Reading and Language) at this time. Exact Path and Study Island may also be used in any other class at any time. Consistent, short bursts align with Edmentum’s guidance (about 40 minutes/week per subject) and are linked in studies to measurable gains when used with fidelity.

Cell Phones

Review the Cell Phone Procedure below. It is located in the handbook and has been created per District Policy JFCN. This procedure is an expectation and non-negotiable in our buildings and we appreciate your support and help in enforcing our policies.

Cell Phone and Smartwatch Procedures 9-12

Sweetwater School District One recognizes the importance of communication and collaboration and provides devices for students to be productive in the classroom. Students in grades 9-12 will be permitted to bring personal telecommunication devices on school property. To prevent disruptions and distractions to the learning environment, and to keep students focused on academics, use of personal communication devices will be limited as follows:

- Devices shall be silenced and kept in the student's backpack, locker, or other area designated by the classroom teacher during scheduled class periods.
- Device use shall be allowed before the morning bell rings, during passing periods, lunch, and after school is released for the day. The district is not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen electronic device. The use of any device or camera capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in classrooms, locker rooms, or restroom areas at all times.

THE TIGER TIMES

RSHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER EDITION

TIGER INFO

WINTER SPORTS MEETING

If you are interested in a winter sport please attend the meeting Nov 12th at 6:00 pm in the auditorium.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club is meeting in Room 436A in the RSHS Library at 5pm on Wednesdays.

YEARBOOK

Make sure to send in pictures to include in this year yearbook. Photos can be sent to rshsyearbook26 on instagram.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/5 Girls Swim leaves to state
- 11/12 Winter Sports Meeting
- 11/13 Jae Foundation Line Dancing
- 11/17 RSHS STUCO goes to WASC
- 11/21 TRDT goes to regionals
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Break
- 11/24 Wrestling First Practice
- 11/24 Basketball Try Outs

VICTORY LAP

Congratulations to our Marching Band and Color Guard for receiving an "excellent" at state!



TERRIFIC TIGERS

Elias Griffin | Basketball

- For working hard in open gym

Tyodus Angle | FBLA

- Tyodus sold the most raffle tickets for our fundraiser. He is a new member and so far he has shown enthusiasm and hard work.

Zoë Schmidt | Girls Swimming

- For qualifying for state swimming in her 100 yard freestyle and her 200 free which she cut more than 10 seconds off her time.

Maxwell Gard | APS

- He is always reliable and provides quality work to group projects.

Karley Keslar | Cheer

- For having a positive attitude, encouraging her teammates and working hard!

IMPORTANCE OF THANKFULLNESS

Thankfulness is important because it helps us focus on the positive aspects of our lives, even during challenging times. It strengthens our relationships, improves mental well-being, and fosters a sense of contentment. When we express gratitude, we not only uplift ourselves but also spread kindness and positivity to those around us.





Building Skills, Confidence, and Independence

- **Provide individualized instruction based on students' IEP goals.**
- **Collaborate with general education teachers, families, and support staff.**
- **Teach and reinforce essential academic, social, behavioral, and life skills.**
- **Monitor student progress, adjust instruction as needed, and advocate for student needs within the school environment.**

Science

APS just worked on their burn towers, learning engineering skills for safety applications. Biology is finishing our Carbon Cycles Unit and are starting the Heredity Unit.

Physical Science will be solidifying our understanding of chemical bonding and balancing equations.

All Science Classes: We are also working to help practice the school wide effort to improve our annotation skills!





Department Newsletter



ENGLISH



This month, the English department is emphasizing annotation skills, teaching students to mark key ideas and make meaningful connections within texts. Strengthening these skills is enhancing comprehension, critical thinking, and analytical writing across all classes.



WORLD LANGUAGES & EL



**IN SEPTEMBER, THE WORLD
LANGUAGE & EL
DEPARTMENT, LEARNED
ABOUT AND CELEBRATED
MEXICO'S INDEPENDENCE
DAY (SEPTEMBER 16) IN OUR
SPANISH ONE CLASSES.
UPCOMING CULTURE
CELEBRATION = DAY OF THE
DEAD (NOVEMBER 1 & 2)**





Department Newsletter



The math department has been busy helping our students strengthen their logical reasoning and critical thinking skills in their courses, from Algebra 1 to PreCalculus. The school year started off with some review of previous years' material, but now our students are fully immersed in learning the respective standards for each class. We've also been adapting Math Foundations to best meet the needs of our students, whether that's to fill in missing knowledge or to prepare for the ACT.

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PE/HEALTH

PE

Playing a unique game called Tchoukball. Working on social skills and teamwork with the Sport Education Model

PlayFit

Students are enjoying the choice of their weekly activities and tournaments get intense. Embracing the nice weather outside while we can for activity.

Challenge Course

Students have been working on team building and how to rock climb. Been able to use the Civic center in our community.

Strength & Cond.

Improving speed, quickness, & explosive movement and body control. Students are all at different phase of lifint depending on season/knowledge.

Health

Annotating our standards for students to break down and understand what they need to learn. .

Recently had Donor Connect come as a guest speaker and students discovered that organ and tissue donation can give others a second chance at life. They can make their own informed decision whether they want to be an organ donor or not when they get their permit & license.





Department Newsletter

STUDENT

Services!



In September, the Student Services team supported our students in their educational journey by hosting Post High School Planning Days. This event provided our seniors and juniors with valuable guidance for their future academic and career plans. Additionally, we collaborated with Health teachers to present vital suicide prevention information to our freshmen, fostering a supportive environment within our school. We also participated in the fun of Homecoming Week and the Homecoming Parade, proudly displaying our school spirit and **TIGER PRIDE**! We were so excited to travel with a group of senior students to Laramie on October 3rd to visit the University of Wyoming campus and learn more about the opportunities available there. We have a few more college trips planned this year to help give students exposure to many opportunities.



PERFORMING

ARTS



Theatre



The Theatre Department is in full swing preparing for working on productions for The Wyoming State Thespian Festival in December. We are beginning work on our One-Act **Dracula** and building the set for **Legally Blonde** this spring.



Band



The Marching Band is off to an incredible season, filled with hard work, dedication, and some truly amazing sounds! Excitement is building as we gear up for state competition on October 18th! With your support and our band's passion, we are poised to make an unforgettable impression. Go Tigers!



Choir



Choir students are diligently working to prepare for their Fall Concert on **October 28th at 7:00pm**. In addition, students are sharing their talents with the community through singing the National Anthem at Rock Springs High School Sporting Events! **October 22nd** the tenors and basses will travel to Laramie to learn more about vocal technique and participate in singing with other tenors and basses around the state. Thank you for your support!