



Superintendent's Report September 8, 2026

Personnel Update

Name	Position	Effective Date
New Staff		
Shayna Miller	EPIC Site Coordinator	8/17/26
Resignations		
Alojajeun Nunez	Elementary Teacher/NE	8/28/26
Erika Mead	Paraeducator	8/19/26
Aaron Berman	Paraeducator	8/27/26

Open House Schedule

Allen Street/Pierpoint Campus -- Friday, September 11, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Rutland Intermediate School-- Tuesday, September 15, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Northeast Primary School-- Wednesday, September 16, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Stafford Technical Center -- Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Rutland High School-- Friday, September 18, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Northwest Primary School-- Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Rutland Middle School -- Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Fine Arts & Athletics Calendar

The calendars and schedules for fine arts and athletic events can be found on the RCPS website: [Fine Arts & Activities Schedule link](#).

In the News/Media

[New year, new rule: No phones in Vermont schools \(Podcast\)](#)

[Heard it School: First Day Memories](#)

[Rutland City Public Schools welcomes students back from summer](#)

[Rutland City Public Schools welcomes staff at convocation](#)

[Rutland City School Board continues policy governance transition work](#)

[Editorial- Reed: Back to School](#)

Teaching & Learning

Inservice Days

As we commence the 2026–2027 academic year, our recent in-service days were strategically designed to ensure that our faculty, educational support professionals, and specialized staff are fully prepared to meet the district's rigorous standards. These sessions focused on essential objectives, including mandatory compliance completion, instructional alignment across all grade spans (PreK–12), and the implementation of evidence-based practices. Staff engaged in comprehensive training covering literacy instruction, data-driven assessment tools, student safety and legal compliance, emergency care certification, and specialized departmental planning—all intended to foster a high-quality, supportive learning environment.

Core focus areas included:

- **Literacy & Curriculum:** Science of Reading (SoR) Kick-off, UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Initiative) Foundations, and Math Menus.
- **Assessment & Data:** i-Ready assessment training and implementation strategies across all levels.
- **Safety & Legal Compliance:** Harassment, Hazing, & Bullying (HHB) / Title IX training, SafeSchools, and CPR & First Aid certification.
- **Specialized Supports:** Dedicated Special Education collaboration, Health Plan updates for nurses, and departmental planning.

The schedule balanced district-wide mandates with highly targeted, role-specific professional development:

- **Science of Reading (SoR) & Literacy Integration:** Primary and intermediate teachers (PreK–6) and support staff launched new literacy initiatives with dedicated SoR kick-off sessions and structured grade-level literacy integration.
- **Data-Driven Mathematics & Instruction:** Elementary and middle school teams engaged with "Math Menus" and hands-on i-Ready training, led by instructional trainers, to support diagnostic administration and differentiated math frameworks.
- **Mandatory Legal & Safety Training:** Legal expert Heather Lynn led comprehensive sessions focused on HHB and Title IX compliance across all grade levels. Additionally, staff completed the required online SafeSchools modules.
- **Health & Life Safety:** School nurses and designated staff completed updated student Health Plans and CPR/First Aid training, and educational support professionals participated in Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training.
- **Special Education & Student Support Services:** Dedicated time was provided for specialized instruction for special education staff, psychologists, and counselors across elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Tapestry and EPIC (summary provided by Executive Director Marie Gilmond):

We had an amazing and magical summer, and we served 296 RCPS students this year. As you saw in the new District newsletter, the Rutland Herald, and on WCAX, students in grades 1-12 built on their social and emotional toolboxes through magic. They took on new challenges, learning tricks and stage presence techniques to showcase them. They also learned perseverance, how to overcome failure, and team building (cheering for others' success!), which are skills they will employ as more successful students and continue to build upon.

Another success, due to our RIS Teacher and Site Coordinator, Andrew Levesque, was having nine (9) RIS teachers working in the fold of our 35 staff at RIS Tapestry. Nicole Joyce summed it up, saying, "This program is amazing in what it offers kids, and my ability to teach through fun activities gave me a new way to connect with the kids."

Tapestry & EPIC for the school year will begin on Tuesday, September 8th. We are excited and have many returning experiences, as well as even more new ones. We welcome our EPIC Program Coordinator, Shayna Miller, to our ranks this year. She comes to us from a blended path of journalism and teaching, most recently at Killington Mountain School. She is looking forward to working with students at RHS and expanding programming there, while also supporting our continuum of learning from Tapestry through EPIC.

The only downside this year is our inability to recruit a site coordinator for RMS EPIC. We are formulating plans to open, even on a limited basis, but it is, of course, challenging without a site leader. More to come.

Lastly, in Tapestry, to continue our improvement, we have shifted a valued, experienced, and well-trained employee to a new role. Amanda Gurney has assumed our new Family & Student Success Navigator position and is excited to be working with the three Tapestry programs to continue to remove barriers to participation by helping families navigate child care financial assistance and other supports while strengthening the program's systems for student behavior, social-emotional learning, and family engagement, and program quality supports.

Thank you for your support as we continue to strengthen and enhance our programming as a part of the RCPS learning environment.

Evolution of Wellness Through Inclusive School Communities

Students have enjoyed the new playground equipment at NE! The structure provides access for all students, grades preK-2, to engage in healthy, active play. The shift from wood chips allows students with mobility challenges to access the playground more easily. Finally, the communication board is an interactive way to ensure all students can “talk” with each other, and for students who use assistive technology for their voice, they now have a tool for effective communication on the playground.



Resources for Success

We are deeply appreciative of the substitute educators who support our students when regular staff are unavailable. Prior to the start of the 2026–2027 academic year, we conducted our inaugural professional development training for substitute personnel. Facilitated by Human Resources Manager Ara Penny, this session addressed critical topics including confidentiality, mandated reporting, and protocols for responding to hazing, harassment, and bullying. Attendees were briefed on district expectations, provided with RCPS handbooks, and introduced to essential instructional resources. Our objective is to ensure that all individuals working with our students are fully equipped for success.