

the

Volume 7, Issue 4
March 13, 2025

Rocket Press



SCHOOL
CALENDAR



AUG
13

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

2025-2026 School

Calendar is here!

MAR
12

END OF 3RD QUARTER

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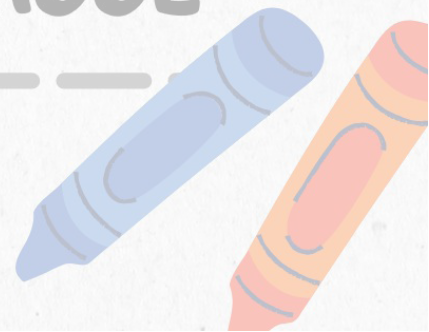
Key dates for next year's calendar

Rocket wrestling wins state and sets records

Reece Petty named new football coach

MAY
20

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



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The logo for ACT Student is displayed on a dark blue rectangular background. The word "ACT" is in a large, white, serif font, with a red swoosh underline under the letter "A". Below "ACT", the word "Student" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

YOUR SCHOOL. YOUR MAGAZINE.

ROCKET LIFE



Junior Alex Gullledge completes a race at a January swim meet.



Ella Swearingen and Gus Cornejo-Arambula were crowned the 2025 Winter Homecoming Queen and King.

STAFF

REPORTERS

KIMBERLIN
LOVELL
DANIELLE
MCPHERSON

The Rocket Press is the official news magazine of Rose Hill High School that is published four to six times a year. The Rocket Press is a student publication, written and produced by students. Opinions expressed in The Rocket Press are of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the USD 394 Board of Education, the administration, the faculty or the adviser.

Petty hired to lead Rocket Football

by danielle mcpherson, reporter

Reece Petty was hired for the head football coach position at the Monday night board meeting. He is currently coaching at Maize South as a wide receivers coach. Petty thinks highly of Rose Hill as a district and a community, and already is familiar with how the admin, coaches, and students do things around here.

“Rose Hill is a great community that provides a lot of support for education and athletics,” said Reece Petty. “My brother is the head basketball coach at Augusta High School, so I’ve been around the league and area and know it’s a great school and district.”

His previous coaching experience is really extensive and impressive, as he has been an assistant coach at KU, Iowa State, and Buffalo University. With all that previous coaching Petty has learned what it takes and what to ask for from his players and the people around him to make a successful football program for everyone involved with the sport.

“Time and effort. I am fully committed to making the high school football experience a rewarding one for Rose Hill football players,” explained Petty.

Before he started coaching he even played for KU’s Orange Bowl team in 2008. Being an athlete and then in different coaching positions over the years, Petty has seen things done in every way. But he is ready to start the next school year off strong, and needs as much support and enthusiasm from the community and players as he is ready to give us.

“I’m very excited. I can’t wait to meet all the players/parents, my future co-workers, and members of the community,” said Petty.



Daniels to take over high school weights program

by kimberlin lovell, reporter

Rose Hill High School officially hired full time Professional Trainer and Coach, Rashad Daniel as the full time weights coach. Daniels is coming from Northwest High School where he held a similar position.

"I am excited to be coming to Rose Hill to change the culture," Daniels said. "The biggest thing I'm looking to see is growth and development from every athlete."



After two years at Northwest High School, Daniels is ready to take on the new challenge at Rose Hill and rebuild the weights program. Daniels believes the program has great potential and wants to make true athletes out of every one of his students.

"Their program has great potential and they knew I would be the guy to add some disruption and make them uncomfortable," Daniels said. "They have assured me complete autonomy over their program to make an impact."

While this transition for the students will be completely different than normal, there is no doubt Daniels will further the program and push the students to their full potential to become the best versions of themselves.

"We will win state titles, but it will take commitment from the players, the staff, the administration, and the whole community as one," Daniels said.

Board approves 2025-2026 calendar

by danielle mcpherson, reporter

On Monday night, February 10th, at the monthly school board meeting, the board members approved the school calendar for next year, which was voted on by staff members of USD 394.

There is a detailed process that goes into building two calendar options for the district to vote on. Calendar A received 71 percent of the vote this year.

“On the Superintendent’s Council, there are two teachers from every building, so Ms. Jenny Page and I are on it for the high school,” said Matt Browning. “We have to come up with different options for the teachers to vote on. And they’re supposed to be pretty different, so they have to be really contrarian, but with the way Christmas falls on a Thursday and so is New Year’s Day, it’s hard to really do that.”

Key dates for the upcoming school year:

- School starts on Wednesday, August 13th
- Fall conferences will be the week of October 13th
- For the second consecutive school year, school will not be in session during Thanksgiving week.
- Christmas Break runs from December 20th through January 4th
- Spring Break is the week of March 16th
- Last day of school for seniors May 13th and graduation is May 17th
- Last day of school for the district is May 20th

The calendars that were up for the vote were pretty similar to the one this year. And the only major difference between Calendar A and Calendar B was that B started a day later and the students got out of school a day later for summer. But the district still has 16 days for Christmas and a full week off for Thanksgiving.

USD 394 Rose Hill Schools

2025-26 DISTRICT CALENDAR

DRAFT A



JULY

TBA

31-AUG 5

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS

NEW TEACHERS REPORT

AUGUST

6

TEACHER INSERVICE; NO CLASSES

7

TEACHER INSERVICE; NO CLASSES

8

TEACHER WORK DAY; NO CLASSES

11

TEACHER INSERVICE; NO CLASSES

12

TEACHER WORK DAY; NO CLASSES

13

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES!

SEPTEMBER

1

LABOR DAY; NO CLASSES

OCTOBER

9

END OF FIRST QUARTER

10

TEACHER WORK DAY; NO CLASSES

16-17

PARENT TEACHER CONF; NO CLASSES

NOVEMBER

24-28

THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER

19

END OF SECOND QUARTER

22

TEACHER WORK DAY; NO SCHOOL

23-JAN 2

WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

19

TEACHER INSERVICE; NO CLASSES

FEBRUARY

26-27

PARENT TEACHER CONF; NO CLASSES

MARCH

12

END OF THIRD QUARTER

13

TEACHER WORK DAY; NO CLASSES

16-20

SPRING BREAK

APRIL

6

TEACHER INSERVICE; NO CLASSES

MAY

15

LAST DAY FOR SENIORS

17

RHHS GRADUATION

20

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS!

21

TEACHER WORK DAY

25

MEMORIAL DAY

1ST QUARTER: 41

2ND QUARTER: 43

3RD QUARTER: 46

4TH QUARTER: 42

NOTE: 1 HOUR AND 15 MINUTE LATE START EVERY WEDNESDAY THAT SCHOOL IS IN SESSION.

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST

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31						

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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30						

DECEMBER

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28	29	30	31			

2026

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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29	30	31				

APRIL

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MAY

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

KEY

● SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION

● TEACHER INSERVICE DAY; NO CLASSES

● TEACHER WORK DAY; NO CLASSES

● NEW TEACHERS REPORT

● PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES; NO CLASSES

● FIRST/LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

└ END OF QUARTER

This calendar may be altered at the discretion of the Board of Education and/or the administration. The policies of the Board of Education of USD 394 prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion and sex in all programs and activities of the district. Additionally, discrimination on the basis of age is prohibited in employment.

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Adopted by the Board of Education:

Ziggi's quickly becoming town favorite

by danielle mcpherson, reporter

then another group. The first one with me and one owner and the second one with the other owner. It was just basic questions, like what's your experience and what's your availability," explained Dunn. "We do have a lot of high school kids, so their availability is a little more limited like working but we have them working at night time because we close at seven so four to seven."

There is one other Ziggi's Coffee that is located in Colorado, so when our Ziggi's opened they brought in trainers from the other location to help get the Rose Hill store on its feet. Now that it's been a couple weeks without them, the location is finding its footing and timeline.

"We had trainers here from Colorado that came in and helped us, but they've been gone for two days. So we've closed by ourselves for two days and the past two days we've been past seven thirty," said Dunn. "But usually it's a shift leader or me and a barista and we'll just send them home because we're not going to make them stay past eight o'clock, cause two nights ago we stayed until nine but we closed at seven, and the other night it was eight fifteen. And we're still trying to get the timing right."

Ziggi's Coffee opens at five on the weekdays and six on the weekends. They also close at seven so their employees are able to get everything cleaned and restocked for the next day, without staying too late. Even with all this work from the employees General Manager Maddie helps in the mornings and nights by making sure little things are done and everything is going smoothly.

"We open at five am on the weekdays and six am on the weekends, so on weekdays I go in at six am, and I do deposits, change time clocks, just a bunch of little things. It's

Ziggi's Coffee opened in Rose Hill on December 31st, which was their first Kansas location.

"Last year the owners wanted to do something with coffee, and they looked into different franchises. Found Ziggi's, liked what they stood for and how they ran stuff and decided to be the first one in Kansas," said General Manager Maddie Dunn on the At The Hill Podcast. "There is a second one in the works... in West Wichita."

Dunn and Ziggi's owners started conducting interviews a couple weeks before the store officially opened. There were open interviews with questions being asked to two groups by Dunn and one owner and then Dunn and the other owner.

"We did open interviews for everyone, we set a time frame and it was me and the owners. We sat down with each individual person, we had one group and

hard to remember off the top of my head because there's so many, I have a list of things on my computer that says everything, still new and trying to get the hang of all of it," said Dunn. "So seven o'clock I'll jump on the floor or before it if they need it, we've been busy the past couple of days. But I'll make drinks, stock things, and clean."



Four students chosen for Hoby Conference

by kimberlin lovell, reporter

Every year, Rose Hill sends a group of students to a leadership conference called the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation or HOBY. This conference teaches a variety of leadership activities from games you can bring home to school, to handling different situations in your respective club.

"We are excited to send four sophomores to the HOBY Leadership Seminar this year. Recent attendees are Clarie Crosby, Trey Campbell, and Samuel Lovell," Student Council Advisor Mrs. Evans said.

This year four students were selected to attend. Sophomores Emme McNaul, Kaitlin McIlrath, Payton Bradford, and Emma New. After a series of interviews, these students were selected due to their leadership skills in their clubs, their adaptability to solve problems, and their friendliness with other students.

"I am excited to go to HOBY and get out of my comfort zone," McIlrath said. "So I can build my confidence to be a better leader for my community."

All of these students are already involved in many other activities and clubs within the school or outside of the school. HOBY has become one of the best recommended camps for students to be able to learn and grow as people and students for their academic future.

"Students who attend will learn new ways to expand their leadership skills and meet many like minded students from across the state of Kansas," Evans stated. "Recent graduate Dawson McNaul will serve on the leadership team as the host for the event."

Swearingen, Cornejo-Arambula crowned Winter Homecoming Queen and King

by kimberlin lovell, reporter

On February 21st, Rose Hill Student Council held their yearly Winter Homecoming. However Tuesday through Thursday, the school was under snow days, but that did not stop them from making homecoming a memorable night.

"The weather put a damper on the spirit days but we had a good crowd at the basketball games and coronation," StuCo Advisor Mrs. Evans said. "We had about 200 students in attendance at the dance where they danced until we turned the lights on and kicked them out."

President Jonah Lemasters was in charge of making sure everything went smoothly and that he was able to hype up the students for a fun time. Lemasters used this as a learning experience to become a better leader and how to think under pressure when things are cutting close.

"Planning the assembly in one day was definitely stressful," Lemasters said. "There are some aspects that I wish went differently but at the end of the day I feel like we still made it work."

With all of the stress for the pep assembly, there is still a coronation to be planned as well. Seniors Ella Swearingen and Agustin Cornejo-Arambula were crowned as the winter homecoming queen and king for the evening.

"Winter Hoco is fickle in my opinion," Lemasters stated. "It is outdone by fall homecoming every year, but I think the planning of it all is much less stressful. This year was definitely different, but still fun in every way possible."

Rocket Wrestling goes back-to-back at state

by kimberlin lovell, reporter

The Rocket boys wrestling team took home another team championship and broke numerous records at the 4A Tournament including 11 state medalists, which is also a new 4A record, and a record amount of points scored, scoring 215.5.

“We actually set the most team points record as a goal last year and we came up a little short. This year it was another goal of ours but also we wanted to try and score 200 points as a team. To score 215.5, we accomplished our goal and then some,” coach Chris Saferite said. “We also had the goal of having 10 state placers, we were one situation away from going 12/12 but ended up with 11 placers. I am extremely proud of the guys for how well they wrestled. Even though some of them did not quite get what they set out for, they still wrestled outstanding.”

Senior Johnny Leck became a three-time state champion and finished the season with 155 wins, which is also a school record for the most wins.

“This year was fun to say the least,” Leck stated. “We were able to win our second state title as a team. This team is just a good group of guys to be around and I would take them anywhere with me. They’ll be back next year no doubt.”

Senior Damon Ingram became a two-time state champion and also became the only wrestler in school history to go undefeated on the season.

“There’s no greater feeling than hoisting that trophy twice in a row, knowing you’ve left your mark on history,” Ingram said.

Senior Samson Whitted also became a two-time state champion. Along with Whitted, freshman Thunder Page became a state champion and became the second freshman to win state taking after Leck.

“The feeling is surreal and being surrendered by my dudes felt great,” Whitted said.

It was the perfect ending to an historic two-year run for the Rockets.

“Every year there are goods and bads at the state tournament, but how we overcome the bads is pretty special. You don’t always get what you want in life but you have to be able to hold your head high and overcome whatever those challenges are.” Saferite stated. “That’s what I am most proud of with these guys, even when their back is against the wall we find a way. Wrestling season is a long grueling season and we have a ton of expectations with these guys and they just handle everyday like champions do. I am very proud of each and everyone of them and all of our coaches.”



Don't stress, it's just a test!

an editorial by danielle mcpherson

The ACT is a test that all juniors are able to take come April 8th. The scores that you get on the test determine different colleges and scholarships you can get.

The past couple of weeks I've been talking to the counselors about what the ACT actually is, and different strategies I might need to use. But the thing is, I don't normally study for tests or stress about them too much because I just normally do well on them. The perfect score on the ACT is a 36 even though it's extremely rare that someone gets that high or even gets that score, it's a good idea to shoot that high.

There are different classes and books that other people are using to get the best score they can. Some of the study materials that the counselors have suggested are found on the College and Career web page on USD394.com, or doing practice tests on IXL. One of the big things I've been noticing other juniors do is taking the ACT Prep course.

This year we're able to do a digital version of the test and have new graphing calculators. Over the years the way we're able to take the test has changed, like where we're able to sit and what we're able to have around us. I heard from seniors who took the test last year that they were able to sit with whoever they wanted, which is different from the past years where we had to sit in alphabetical order.

The test itself should take three hours, and we have breaks in between each section. The sections are English, Reading, Science, and Math. When you first start each section they are easy and progressively work up to harder and harder material. And for science or math I am not looking forward to 45 minutes of that. But I think that English and Reading should be easier since it comes more naturally for me.

But overall I don't think I'll do much studying but I'll most likely end up taking the test again for a better score and chance at higher end scholarships or colleges. Right now though I'm not stressed or worried about the outcome, and talking with some of my friends I've found that they also aren't worried about it.

I'm going to go into the test just ready to see the outcome but not really heartbroken if I get a lowish score. What I'm aiming for the first time is anything 20 and above then taking the test again and doing better.

ROCKET LIFE



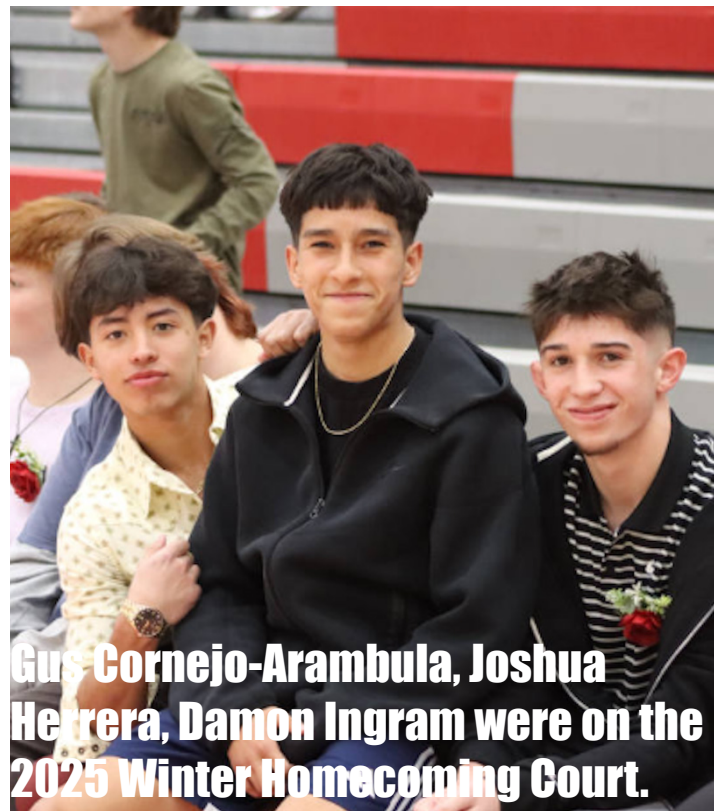
Nathan Jones, Cooper Bates and Sebastian Bentley cheer on the Rocket basketball team.



Katie Leck, Stefania Aranguiz, Carrigan Dellinger and Phoenix Probasco all qualified for the state wrestling tournament.



Rose Hill students before a home basketball game in December.



Gus Cornejo-Arambula, Joshua Herrera, Damon Ingram were on the 2025 Winter Homecoming Court.

THOUGHTS

from a Rocket...

WHAT ARE YOUR SPRING BREAK PLANS?



**"I PLAN TO WORK AND HANG OUT OVER
SPRING BREAK."**

—SENIOR BRODY ROBERTS



**"OVER SPRING BREAK I USUALLY GO ON VACATION
SOMEWHERE. THIS YEAR I AM GOING TO COSTA RICA."**

—JUNIOR EMERSYN HEROD



**"OVER SPRING BREAK I USUALLY GO OUT OF TOWN
FOR A SOCCER TOURNAMENT."**

—SOPHOMORE BRADY LIEBL



**"OVER SPRING BREAK I USUALLY TRAVEL. MY GRANDMA TAKES
MY SISTER AND I SOMEWHERE. SOMETIMES WE GO ON CRUISES
AND OTHER TIMES WE JUST SPEND THE WEEK IN ONE PLACE."**

—FRESHMAN RAYMIE KROEKER

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