



# Rockford Lutheran Junior High College Planning Night

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Rockford Lutheran School provides an exceptional college preparatory education in a challenging and inspiring Christian environment



# What do we really need to talk about?

- What is the big picture?
- What are the challenges involved?
- What are the tools we have to work with?
- What is the parent's role?
- What are colleges looking for?
- Finances



Are you familiar with this quote?

- Our youth now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for their elders and love chatter in place of exercise; they no longer rise when elders enter the room; they contradict their parents, chatter before company; gobble up their food and tyrannize their teachers.
- Socrates, Fifth Century BC



# Challenges of Adolescence:

- Volatile and powerful emotions.
- Complex social networks.
- Peer pressure.
- Tobacco, alcohol and drugs.
- Sexuality.
- Values.
- Parental relationships.
- School.
- Future.



## Challenges of Adolescence:

- They have to figure out what their values are going to be.
- They have to renegotiate relationships with their parents.
- They have to get through school
- They have to figure out how to get enough sleep
- They have to begin to plan their future.
- They have to figure out how to keep the computers, tablets, and cell phones they love from crowding out everything else.
- And all this lasts for 10-15 years.
- And we tend to parent like we were parented...helpful?



# What do we want to accomplish?

- Above all, grow in your relationship with God.
- Respect authority.
- Respect yourself.
- Be a good friend.
- Have compassion for others.
- Be willing to serve.
- Encourage.
- Win and lose gracefully.
- Keep your promises.
- Be generous.



- Demonstrate good manners and common courtesies.
- Be Thankful.
- Pray.
- Succeed at the marshmallow test.
- Seek wisdom.
- Make good decisions.
- Seek God's direction and destiny for your life.
- Stay teachable.
- Seek godly counsel.



- Be Honest.
- Prioritize decisions.
- Tame selfishness.
- Respect all people.
- Be faithful in the little things.
- Don't compare with or be jealous of others.
- Live by commitments, not by feelings.
- Express grace and forgiveness.
- Model a strong work ethic.
- Love





## What do we have to work with?

- A baby arrives in the world with 100 billion neurons (brain cells), each with an average of 10,000 branches. 1 quadrillion connections, in more different ways than there are atoms in the universe. Electric impulse travels down the axon (long cable on cell body) to the branches or dendrites where the charge jumps across the tiny gap and enters the branch of the neighboring neuron.



- The brain generates about 25 watts of power continuously doing this.
- When born, only 17% of the neurons are linked. We spend the rest of our lives wiring those neurons together.
- Genetics provides the hard wiring, experience provides the soft wiring.

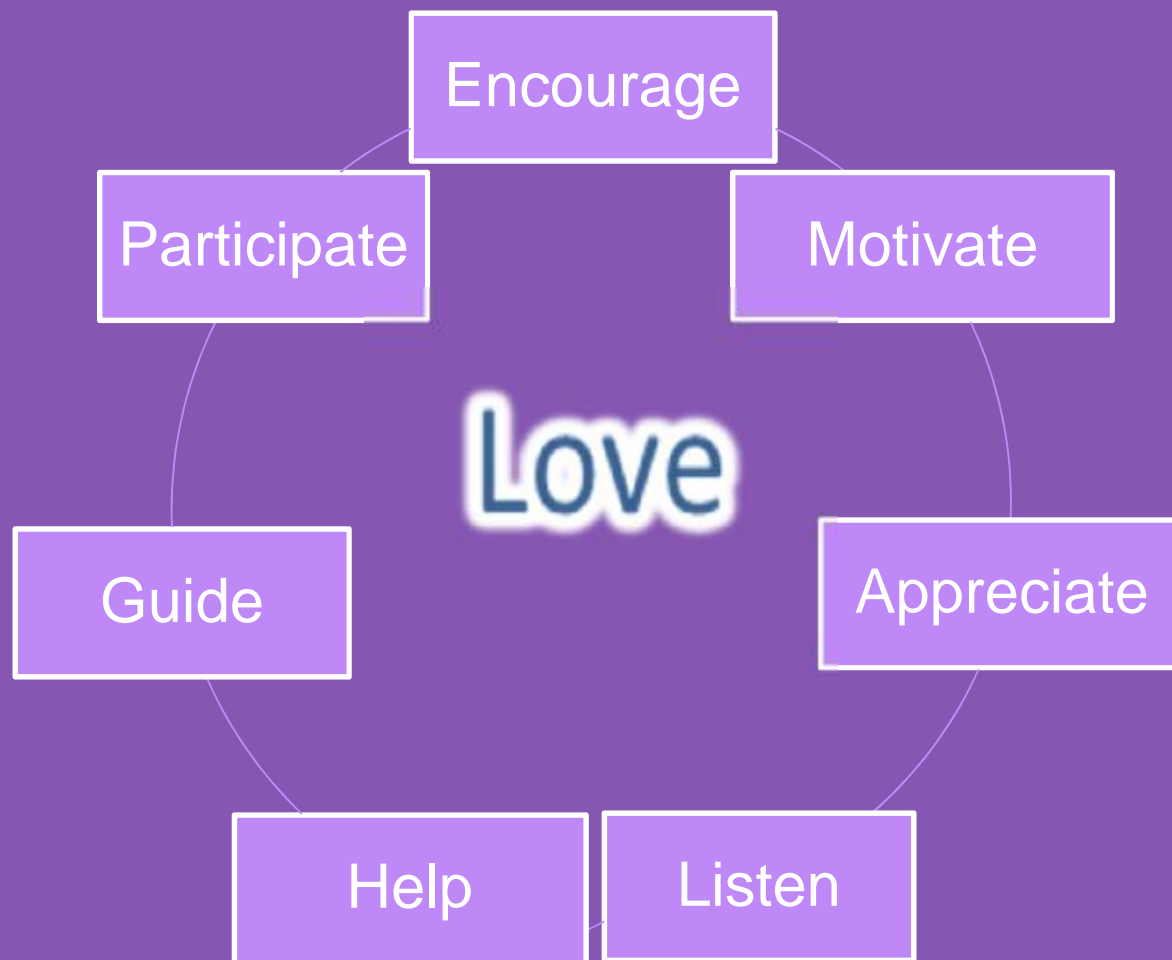




- The more they fire, the stronger the connection becomes.
- The neurons that fire together wire together.



## The key role of a parent.





# Rockford Lutheran Core Values

- Christ Centered
- Excellence
- Service
- Harmony



## Creating the best environment

- Promote sound time management skills.
- Encourage games and leisure activities that require reasoning, computation, and problem solving skills.
- Monitor computer games, television, the use of the telephone and the internet.
- Encourage activities that compliment the educational experience.
- Spend time together.



## Your experiences:

1. What part of helping your student succeed at school do you find most difficult to provide? Easiest to provide?
2. What are some ways in which you help your student prepare for school or practice good study habits?



# What are colleges looking for?

- Graduates
- Academically capable students
- Well-rounded Students
- Socially concerned students





## Grade Point Average (GPA)

- **Grading Scale**

- A 92-100
- B 83-91
- C 74-82
- D 65-73
- F 64 and below

- **GPA Points**

- **Honors Classes Regular Classes**

- |       |     |
|-------|-----|
| • A 5 | A 4 |
| • B 4 | B 3 |
| • C 2 | C 2 |
| • D 1 | D 1 |



# What classes did you take?

- Core Classes
- Honors Classes
- Advanced Placement Classes
- Dual Credit Classes



# What classes did you take?

- 8 credits of Religion (1 for each semester in attendance)
- 8 credits of English
- 6 Credits of Social Studies (including 1 credit each of Government and Economics, 2 credits of U.S. History and 2 credits of either Geography or World History)
- 6 credits of Mathematics at the high school level or a minimum of Pre-Calculus (completing Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II). (If a student completes Pre-Calc as a sophomore, 2 credits of additional Flex courses required).
- 6 credits of Science A min. of 2 credits each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- 2 credits of Fine Arts (Art, Music)
- 4 credits of Foreign Language
- 4 credits of Physical Education (including 1 semester of Health)
- 4 credits of Flex classes
- Additional courses in Science, Technology, Engineering, Fine Arts or Mathematics; or other Dual credit courses (with administrative approval)
- 4 credits of electives
- Minimum total of 52



# What did you do outside the classroom?

1. Sports
2. Drama
3. Leadership
4. Clubs
5. Outside the school



# Help them Reflect

- Make a list
  - What makes your child so wonderful?
  - What do you love about this person you've raised?
  - Is your son kind? Resourceful? Compassionate?
  - Is your daughter industrious? Funny? Patient?
  - What Fruits of the Spirit do they naturally demonstrate?
- Think about qualities and characteristics, not accomplishments
- Use all of this to set goals for the next 4-6 years.



## Choose wisely.

- The culture of the school you choose will shape you.



# Financing College

- Scholarships/Grants
- Loans



## Savings Plans-529 Plan

- Private College 529 Plan offers something that no other 529 plan can; a guaranteed way to purchase tuition at today's rates at participating private colleges and universities across the country. You get tomorrow's tuition at today's prices, for up to 30 years after it was purchased—guaranteed.
- <https://www.privatecollege529.com>





## Where can I get more info?

- [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov)
  - Info about aid programs
  - Links to free scholarship and college searches
- [www.LutheranColleges.org](http://www.LutheranColleges.org)
- <http://rockfordlutheran.org/academics/counselor-s-corner>
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com)
- [www.collegegreenlight.com](http://www.collegegreenlight.com) (First generation)



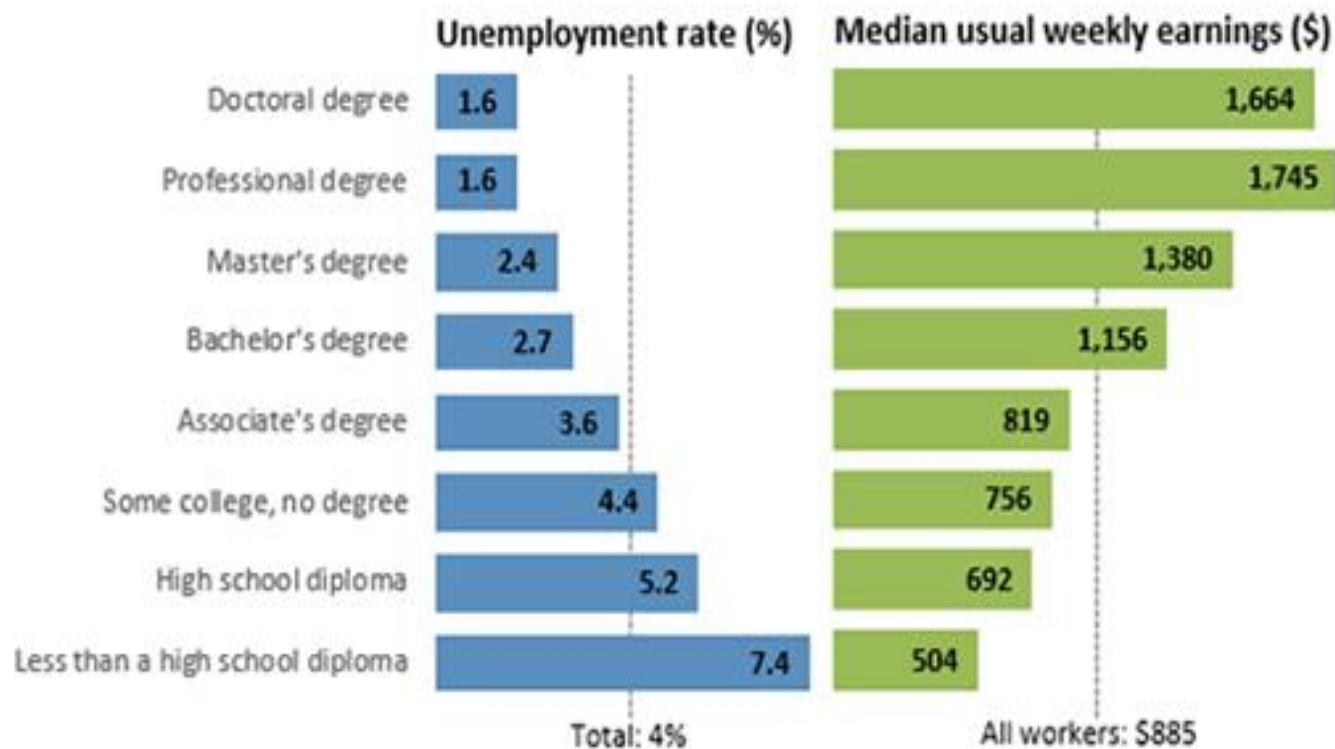
# ACT SCORES

SCHOOL	ENGLISH	MATH	READING	SCIENCE	COMPOSITE
RLS (2016)	22.2	21.4	23.1	22.2	22.9 (24.4/27.5)
Illinois	20.0	20.6	20.5	20.4	20.5
205(2015)	17.4	18.4	18.6	18.4	18.3
National	20.1	20.6	21.3	20.8	20.8
Boylan					22.9



# Education Pays...

## Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2016



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.



# Colleges attended by the Class of 2017:

- Ball State University
- Bowling Green State University
- Bradley University
- Carroll University
- Clarke University
- Colorado State University
- Columbia College Chicago
- DePaul University
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Florida State University
- Gannon University
- Gavilan College
- George Mason University
- Grand Canyon University
- Hampton University
- Illinois State University
- Judson University
- Loyola University
- Marian University Wisconsin
- Michigan State University
- Morehead State University
- Northern Illinois University
- Olivet Nazarene University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rockford University
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Toronto International College
- University of Alabama
- Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- University of Dubuque
- University of Iowa



## Colleges attended by the Class of 2017:

- University of Kansas
- University of Kentucky
- University of Nebraska Kearney
- University of South Florida
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- University of Wisconsin-Parkside
- University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- Valparaiso University
- Wartburg College
- Webster University