



This image of student, Allison W. and staff, Phyllis Begay, is from the Rehoboth 2025 school calendar. You can request a free calendar by emailing advancement@rcsnm.org

Dear Friends,

Food Service might not be the first thing you think of on your list of things that are important for schools to provide for students. Maybe you grew up in a school where parents came in once or twice a week to slice up pizzas or make Sloppy Joes as part of the hot lunch program. Here at Rehoboth, food service is actually hugely important, and all of our students are eligible to receive two free meals (breakfast and lunch) every day because so many children in our area are food insecure. Dozens of our students take school-provided boxes of food home on the weekends for this reason as well.

Of course, young people need good nutrition in order to pay attention in class and think well throughout the day. But they also need to feel loved—to know that there are people here who are excited to see them and serve them every

day. That's where our food service staff, like Phyllis Begay, come in. Phyllis has a unique ability to instantly become a mother figure or grandmother figure for students and staff alike. Whether she is dishing up their favorite entree or making sure that they eat all of their vegetables, people going through the line in our fellowship hall know that Phyllis loves them.

As we turn the page into the new calendar year of 2025, many of us will be thinking about resolutions—how we can change our habits and lifestyle for the better. We'll eat healthier and exercise more. Maybe we'll aim to be more like Phyllis, loving those around us. Those are good things, to be sure, but my thoughts always turn to Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" It's truth like this that propels our work at Rehoboth. It's why Phyllis demonstrates so much hospitality to our students, and it's what we want young people to remember long after they leave us.

Happy New Year to all of you! In 2025, may each of you live into the new creation you are in Christ. As always, thank you for your partnership and support of our work at Rehoboth Christian School.

With gratitude, Dan Meester
Executive Director

Praise & Prayer Requests

- Coming back to school from an extended break means that people are excited to see each other, but it also means that many of our students will need to

recalibrate to the more structured environment of school. Pray that this goes well for them and for their teachers.

- Basketball season is in full swing for our middle school and high school students, with multiple games each week that often require travelling great distances on winter roads. Please join us in praying for the safety of our student athletes and families on these trips.
- New students will be joining us in January. Sometimes these are students returning to Rehoboth, but others will be trying to make friends and fit in after their classmates have had a semester together already. While we're confident in the welcoming environment Rehoboth offers, we ask your prayers for our new students as they start their learning journeys with us.

Current Needs

Keith Kuipers Gym Project

We are excited to have the final design package and updated budget for the Kuipers Gym Project. We will be encouraging gifts to finish this campaign over the winter months, with the hope of breaking ground later in the spring if the financial need has been met.

Please visit our project webpage at www.rcsnm.org/support/kuipers.cfm for more detailed information. The remaining campaign need as of December 16 is \$714,098.

Tuition Assistance Need

We are thankful for the upcoming Christmas break and continue to be thankful for your support as we seek to help families with tuition assistance this year. Our annual tuition assistance need for the 2024-2025 school year is \$1,910,000. Through December 16, we have

received \$913,126 for which we are grateful! Please consider helping us meet the remaining financial need of \$996,874 for this school year.

SALT Program

This school year we are working hard to maintain the great programming and supports that we have been able to implement over the past year. We are currently able to offer speech, occupational, and physical therapies, as well as life skills experiences through community work study placements. We are also actively working to expand the mental health and counseling supports for our students as well. The total remaining need to fund the SALT program for the 24-25 school year is \$96,961.

Volunteer at Rehoboth

If have any questions or feedback about our volunteer program, please give our Groups & Guests Coordinator, Laura Blystra, a call today at (505) 726-9603 or email lblystra@rcsnm.org.

How Can You Help Our Teachers?

Teachers and staff continue to regularly update the Amazon Wishlist. They appreciate your help!



We are thankful for your support and prayers!
If you have any questions, please contact us:

- **Dan Meester**, *Executive Director*
dmeester@rcsnm.org
505-726-9623
- **Ken Zylstra**, *Advancement Director*
kzylstra@rcsnm.org
505-488-3900
- **Dave Sytsma**, *Advancement Officer*
dsytsma@rcsnm.org
616-283-4495