#### **Weekly Parent Bulletin**

6051 Ash Street Rockford, MN 5537

Phone 763-477-5831 Fax 763-477-5832

November 5th, 2021

## **ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL** CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES





Center for Environmental Studies ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL









#### A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.

We are at the end of Quarter 1. Did you notice a dip in your student's grades from the beginning of the school year to now? That dip is why this building is on quarters and not trimesters or semesters. Our breaks for reporting student achievement need to happen more often at the middle level because it's more in tune to our kids' natural cycles. If I could go shorter, I would! If we went to trimesters, more and more kids would show a line of zeros for assignments in the gradebook. Our students need to reset more often. This is also why passing time is so helpful, our kids get to start over every 52 minutes! (You should try this at home, seriously, just ring a bell and declare a "start over" for everyone in the house, it's so good!).

6051 Ash Street Rockford, MN 5537

### **ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL** CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

#### A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...CONTINUED

Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.

The main purpose of giving grades is for communication, to communicate to you what your student knows and can do, as well as to communicate to your student specifically how they are achieving. Yes, schools use grades for other purposes, but communication to students and parents/guardians is the most

important. We depend upon practice work, projects, and assessments to determine how much students know and can do regarding the state standards we are required to teach. Class work, homework, and other practice work isn't graded, or if it is, is worth very little because it's designed to tell the teacher how kids are doing so they can tailor their teaching accordingly. We call these formative assessments. This is also why students have less homework, students work in front of their teachers so teachers can see where and when struggle is occurring (any type of reading for 30 minutes each night is a great way to help your student at home!). This class work constantly communicates to the teacher when students are ready to move forward.

Where most of our students' grades come from are tests and quizzes, these are called summative assessments. When the teacher is satisfied with the students' practice work, out comes a performance opportunity that allows us to take another, more formal measurement of what students know and can do. As we already know, tests, quizzes, projects, writing assignments, etc. push kids a little harder and give them less adult support to use when doing the work. This is a truer measure than homework and why most of a student's grade is based on summative assessments. Of course, all of these scores put together make up a student's grade, or grades.

This brings me to my last point, at RMS-CES we run 2 grading systems, the 0-4 from the elementary in 5th and 6th grade, and the A-F from the high school in

7th and 8th. Honestly, neither system fits our students well. The 0-4 doesn't provide us with enough grades to effectively communicate where our students are and the A-F doesn't even address the standards we are responsible for. Plus, having two different grading systems in the same school is inefficient for many

### **ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL** CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

#### A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...CONTINUED

Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.

Therefore, we are going to be having lots of conversations about how best to serve our students and families the remainder of this year. When Quarter 1 report cards come out, please think about what your student's grades communicate, or don't communicate, about what they know and can do in regard to state standards. I will be asking what we can do better. Until then, don't forget there is no school on Monday, teachers have professional development (RMS-CES staff is working on grading, not ironically). Also, when Quarter 2 starts on Tuesday, all students will switch one class, their quarter specials class (e.g. Art, Writing, Agri-science, STEM), which will meet the same hour of their current class. Some juggling of student schedules occurs at quarter breaks to balance classes and class personalities, please don't be alarmed if your student experiences a class change. Any change that means a change in rigor or level of difficulty is cleared with parents/guardians ahead of time.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or good ideas, call or email. Have a great weekend!

b Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Phd. Principal



Here's how to give: 1. Go to <u>riverworksonline.org</u> 2. Click on the DONATE tab in the upper right hand corner 3. Click on the DONATE ONLINE tab 4. Click on the FUND drop down menu 5. Select ROCKFORD SCHOOL THANKSGIVING FUND DRIVE

#### **Reminders & Opportunities:**

#### **Publicity Photographs**

Throughout the year, photographs and videos are taken in classrooms and at school activities. Some of these may be published in local newspapers, on the local cable station or in Rockford Area Schools' publications and websites. Parents may request that their child's photograph and identifying their name not be published in district productions or websites. The request must be made in writing and sent to the **Rockford Area Schools District Office**, at **6051 Ash Street**, **Rockford**, **MN 55373**. (This does not apply to pictures of school events taken by the news media.)

PICTURE RETAKE DAY: DECEMBE R 9TH Contact Annie Mickelburg in our District Office



Hello Rockford Families!

Every year we partner with Riverworks Food Shelf to help support our community before the holiday season. Last year we raised over \$800 thanks to all of the generous donations! As we plan our upcoming celebrations, we at Rockford Area Schools, are asking that you take the time to think of others who are less fortunate. Please make a donation that works for your family to help relieve the stress of others during this time. If you are able to donate, we are asking all families and staff to donate money on-line directly to Riverworks. With the financial support, they will be able to purchase the food to fill their shelves. Please follow the directions below to donate. Any dollar amount helps! Thank you for supporting our community and partnering with Rockford Area Schools. Happy Holidays!

#### **Reminders & Opportunities:**

# ANNUAL STUDENT/REGISTRATION UPDATE

This year, Rockford Area Schools has implemented an Annual Update which <u>can be found in the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus.</u>

Keeping this information up-to-date will help families stay connected and be informed on upcoming plans and other important announcements.

> This online update will replace the emergency medical form you have received in the past. Most of the information will auto-populate from data already entered in Infinite Campus. Required fields are marked with a red asterisk(\*) and information highlighted in yellow needs to be updated. There are also fields required by the Minnesota Department of Education such as technology access and ethnicity.

#### Once you are logged in to your Parent Portal:

Click More

Campus

Click here

- Followed by Online Registration, and a new window will open.
- Follow the prompts by clicking the Annual Update button to begin.

We are asking all families to complete this year's update AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Going forward, the Annual Update will take place yearly in August.

If you have any questions, please contact Annie Mickelburg at mickelburga@rockford.k12.mn.us or (763) 477-9165.

OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL FFA CHAPTER IS HOSTING A <u>FRUIT FUNDRAISER</u> THIS MONTH! MEAT STICKS, CHEESES, AND NUTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE. THE ITEMS WILL BE DELIVERED TO RMS IN EARLY-MID DECEMBER AND THEN A PICK-UP DATE WILL BE ARRANGED. THE FRUIT MAKES A GREAT GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS! IF YOU'D LIKE TO ORDER OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MRS. GREGORY, THE FFA ADVISOR, GREGORYM@ROCKFORD.K12.MN.US.

#### **THANK YOU!**

MCKENZIE GREGORY | 5-8 AGRICULTURE EDUCATION MS FFA ADVISOR, WEB CO-COORDINATOR ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 6051 ASH STREET, ROCKFORD, MN 55373 T: 763-477-5831 X 2010 | FAX:763-477-5832| WWW.ROCKFORD.K12.MN.US













# DONATE WHILE YOU DINE



Support Rockford Middle FFA at Culver's of Albertville on Wednesday, November 10 from 5-8 pm. Culver's will donate 10% of sales to the RMS FFA Program.





#### **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



Culver's of Albertville 11025 61st St. NE Albertville, MN 55303

763-497-1042

© 2013 Culver Franchising System, Inc. 6/2013

Come out & support the AMAZING

cast & crew



Our Rock ford Area Schools Fall Musical Returns with the permission of MTI



**19-20** at **7pm** 

21 at 2pm

#### **General Admission**

**Tickets Available at the Door** 

#### **Reminders & Opportunities:**

Flearbook

Walsworth yearbooks

202 -2022 Rockford Middle School

Resume order Help ≔ Saved Items 🐂 0



#### ORDER THE 2021-2022 RMS-CES YEAR BOOK <u>HERE</u>! OR USE THE OR CODE BELOW







# Depression in Children & Adolescents

- Crisis Text Line: 741741
- In a life-threatening emergency call 911

#### Symptoms of depression in Children & Adolescents:

- Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities
- changes in appetite (increased or decreased)
- changes in sleep (sleeplessness or too much sleep),
- crying or temper tantrums
- difficulties with focusing, concentrating, thinking, making decisions, or remembering things.
- Fatigue and low energy
- worrying more
- physical complaints such as stomach or headaches
- feelings of sadness, anger, irritability, hopelessness, emptiness, worthlessness, or guilt.
- Withdrawing or isolating from family and friends, low self-esteem, extreme sensitivity to rejection or failure, and the need for excessive reassurance, thoughts or talk of death, dying, or suicide.



# **School-Based Mental Health Services**

https://www.nystromcounseling.com/our-

services/school-based-mental-health-services/

#### **RMS-CES SPORTS NEWS**



ROCKFORD AREA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

**JO VOLLEYBALL** 



<u>WWW.RAAASPORTS.COM/JO-</u> <u>VOLLEYBALL</u>

LOOKING FOR A FUN ACTIVITY THIS WINTER WHERE YOU CAN MEET NEW FRIENDS AND DEVELOP LIFELONG SKILLS? JOIN THE ROCKFORD AREA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION JO VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR OUR 2021/22 SEASON. ROCKFORD JO VOLLEYBALL IS OPEN TO BOYS AND GIRLS IN GRADES 3-12 AND IS A GREAT WAY TO STAY ACTIVE AND HAVE A LOT OF FUN!

> GATHER YOUR FRIENDS AND SIGN UP! REGISTRATION REGISTRATION OPENS FOR GRADES 3-8 ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021 REGISTRATION OPENS FOR GRADES 9-12 ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION <u>HTTPS://WWW.RAAASPORTS.COM/JO-VOLLEYBALL</u> CONTACT US AT <u>RAAAJOVOLLEYBALL@RAAASPORTS.COM</u> TO SIGN UP!

"THIS IS NOT AN ISD #883 SPONSORED EVENT"

#### **Reminders & Opportunities:**

A message from the nurse regarding COVID notification:



As we get back into the swing of things and spend more time together, there are going to be cases of COVID, especially with the Delta variant making its way through. In order to not inundate you with emails, we will not be sending a general notification letter to an entire grade level after every positive case of COVID. We will be alerting you if your child is a close contact of a positive case of COVID. Please be vigilant in monitoring your child for symptoms and keep them home if any present.



Wright County MINNESOTA Truancy Rescources

#### Wright 2 School

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences <u>Excused Absences:</u> Family emergency Illness/Medical or mental health appointments (documentation may be required) Religious holidays

> Unexcused Absences: Babysitting Working Needed at home Child is not immunized Car trouble Missing the bus Oversleeping Weather

Habitual truant means a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven full school days. If the child is in elementary school for one or more class periods on seven school days. If the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or the child is 17 years old and has not lawfully withdrawn from school. Truancy and Educational Neglect Intervention Program

A message from Kevin Keller, Ed.S. Director of Teaching and Learning/District Assessment Coordinator

#### You are Invited to Join the Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting on November 30th

The **Curriculum Advisory Committee** is a volunteer group of parents or guardians, community members, teachers, and administrators that advise the district regarding the implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards in our schools. The purpose is to provide input, advice, and make recommendations regarding distance learning, local graduation requirements, World's Best Workforce (WBWF), Achievement and Integration (A&I) requirements, K-12 curriculum, and other relevant issues.

If you are interested, please email or call Kevin Keller, Director of Teaching and Learning, Kellerk@Rockford.kl2.mn.us or 763-477-9165 x4005, to attend the *virtual Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting on November 30th*, 6:00-7:00 pm. A meeting link will be provided to those that call, email, or fill out this form by Friday, November 26: <u>RAS Curriculum Advisory Committee</u>

Se le invita a unirse a la reunión del Comité Asesor de Currículos (CAC)

El Comité Asesor del Plan de Estudios es un grupo voluntario de padres o tutores, miembros de la comunidad, maestros y administradores que asesoran al distrito con respecto a la implementación de los Estándares Académicos de Minnesota en nuestras escuelas. El propósito es brindar aportes, consejos y hacer recomendaciones con respecto al aprendizaje a distancia, los requisitos de graduación locales, los requisitos de Mejor fuerza laboral del mundo (WBWF), Logros e integración (A&I), currículo K-12 y otros temas relevantes. Si está interesado, envíe un correo electrónico o llame a Kevin Keller, Director de Enseñanza y Aprendizaje, Kellerk@Rockford.k12.mn.us o 763-477-9165 x4005, para asistir a la reunión virtual del Comité Asesor de Currículo el 30 de noviembre a las 6:00 -7:00 pm. Se proporcionará un enlace a la reunión para aquellos que llamen, envíen un correo electrónico o completen este formulario antes del viernes 26 de noviembre: https://forms.gle/6zH7LVyT8S9tBxqL9

# **RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS** District Choral Festival Returns!





We are so excited to have our District Choral Festival again this year! After the last year with only a few outdoor concerts, it was good to be able to "**lift our voices and sing**" again! Under the direction of Mr. Eliason, Ms. Larson, and Ms. Augsburger, 4th-12th grade choirs each performed a song, and then came together at the end to sing "I Will Lift My Voice and Sing!" by Victor C. Johnson. The students all worked really hard to learn these songs in just a few weeks. We've had some great reflection and evaluation times since the concert, and students are already planning how they will be improving for their next concerts. Music Partners also raised a lot of money through the donations for root beer floats. So thank you for your generosity and your help in keeping the arts in our community strong!

# **RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS** District Choral Festival Returns!

In 5th and 6th grade choir we just performed at the District Choral Festival last Friday. We performed individual pieces and a group piece with 4th-12th graders that are involved in choir in the district. The choir students have worked really hard so far this year and we can't wait to show you more at our Holiday Concert on Monday, December 20 at 7pm. We hope to see families there!



# AS PARENCI COMMUNITY NEWS

6th graders are finishing up their quarter in Art class. They worked hard on a variaty of projects over our time together. We studied Cubism, Surrealism, Contour line drawings and observational drawing techniques printmaking and watercolor painting. Our clay unit was a hit! They wrote a haiku about a Minnesota season and impressed it into the surface of their clay vessel using alphabet noodles. Once fired the poorlies disappeared and the shape of the letter remained. They enjoyed having the 6th graders and will miss them. Next quarter they will have Agri Science with Mrs. Gregory. Look for their artwork today as they are bringing everything home. -Mrs. Cunderson

CONSIDER THE PROPERTY OF



# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS ART continued

# TELLOW MORNONCE





# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS ART continued





# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

#### 7th and 8th grade PHY ED Reasons why volleyball is so AWESOME!

1- Lifetime sport 2-Teamwork 3-An aerobic sport with so many health benefits 4-Can play safely from age 7-70 5-Can adjust ball/net to fit your ability 6-And so many more reasons volleyball is part of our 7th and 8th grade phy ed

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS AGRI-SCIENCE



#### Ag Literacy at RMS-CES

Each quarter at RMS, one grade level of students participates in the class of Agri-Science. For the past three years, each grade level has read an ag related book during their time in the classroom to help us become more agriculturally literate. Below is a list of the books read by each grade.

> 5th grade: Charlotte's Web 6th grade: Who is Temple Grandin? 7th grade: A Long Walk to Water 8th grade: The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

While each grade takes a bit of a different approach with the books, all of the titles are purposefully selected to help us better understand how the ag industry works. Not only where our food comes from, but who grows it, and how agriculture affects the economy, environment, technology, lifestyle, and its relationship to livestock.

Eighth graders in the agri-science class this quarter recently finished reading their book,
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. To show their understanding, students completed an open ended project using their choice of a learning target as the foundation for research. A popular project choice among students was building a model windmill.
Students used all types of household materials, some were even recycled to create a model that worked with a fan blowing as the wind would. Another popular project choice was comparing and contrasting our own culture to the main

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS AGRI-SCIENCE continued...





#### MATH

This week in math, 5th graders started their next unit on Multiplying Decimals. 5th graders made the connection between multiplying whole numbers and decimals and how the only difference is that they have to move around the decimal point in their product. We found patterns in multiplying decimals by powers of 10, assessed the reasonableness of decimal products, and multiplied decimals by 1- and 2-digit numbers. We ended our week practicing math vocabulary words, such as sum, difference, product, and quotient. They had a great end to Quarter 1!



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS 66666666666666 MATH

Students have been recently solving tax, tip, and discount problems. They have learned about our taxing system as well as how and why different communities do not have common sales tax rates. Going out for dinner and figuring out the total bill (including tax and tip) is one example of the type of problems they are solving. Students have also practiced some shopping at Lowe's and Menards. They needed to calculate discounts and taxes (and rebates) for imaginary purchases using the stores' advertisements.

	B) New Tatal Price plus State and Local Tax + Final Price			7.525%	
here	Price	11% discount	New Total Price	State/Local Tax	Heal Price
Unter Giant 22 foot Ladder	\$159	ª 17.49	*[H].5)	\$10.65	152.16
50-Peck of 42 Gallon Tresh Begs	\$ 30.48	3.35	\$27.13	32.04	29.17
Caldwell Chrome Bathroom Fascet	\$79	8.69	70.31	5.29	75.6
	\$ 49.98	\$5.50	\$4448	\$3.35	947.83
TOUCHBUILT 15-in Teel Tete Bag	\$1909	\$220	\$1779	\$1.34	\$19.13
Jobsite Earbeds	92498	\$385	\$31.13	\$234	\$3347
2 Pack 25-R Shockforce Nite Eye Tape Memory	\$1708	1127	\$1166	\$1.94	\$17.54
DUTE 7-X in 24T Framing Circular Saw Blode	\$149	1130	122/	\$200	STHD E9
2-Tool 18-Volt Brushless Combo Kit	119	10.19	102.6	\$521	
30 ft Self-Leveling Cross-Line Laser Level	\$ 7998	8.20	\$71.18	\$356	16.59
1.000 Pack Nylon Zip Cable Ties	\$2498	\$2.75	\$22.2	37167	\$23.90

**VEMBER**EVENT

YOUR \$99

LOWES

\$8998



# WRITING

This week, 7th Grade Writing students are working on their final projects before once again moving on to a new Quarter Special class.

This year, 7th grade students began by reviewing and learning grammar basics, then focused on informational writing and research.. We covered a number of difficult concepts like subject and predicate, indirect and direct objects, and types of sentences. Students practiced their skills through games, puzzles, and even became secret grammar agents in Washington, D.C. with a Grammar CSI activity.

Students then used their grammar knowledge to write beautiful travel paragraphs about a country or culture of their choice. Students explored countries and cultures from all over the globe - from Kyrgyzstan to Peru, and Finland to New Zealand. We will enjoy learning about each other's countries or cultures as the quarter wraps up!



Quarter 2 starts out with graphing linear equations.

MATH

Students learned about Y = MX + b last year, the slope intercept form of a linear equation. Students will start with that concept and we will review and build in some depth. 8th grade algebra students will then learn two other ways that linear equations can be written in. Students will compare and contrast different equations and learn how in certain circumstances one format works better than another. Students will also learn how to transform one format to the others.

