

# ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

## CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume".

### A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.*

One of the definite consequences of the pandemic and Distance Learning was the loss of school skills. I have said this to you before, but I wanted to come back to discuss our solution and how it relates to assessing and grading students. I have always worked in middle schools and have 27 years of experience getting elementary kids ready for high school. I will say, though, even I am surprised at the difference just being in the building and meeting adult expectations every day prepares kids for success. Of course, we do everything for a reason here at school and it is nice to see the difference the work has been making in kids. Unfortunately, it took a pandemic and kids being out of the building to know exactly what affects the behavioral things we teach kids have on their overall school success



## ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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

*Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.*

Historically, grades have incorporated behavior. For example, it wasn't long ago we reduced grades for tardies and absences. Kids got points for turning in parent work, such as signing forms, or attending conferences. What does this have to do with how well a student knows a state standard? It doesn't. However, teachers have always known that student behavior affects academic performance, what has been missing is a way to share with students and parents about this behavior without it shading the communication of what a student knows and can do. Missing work is another great example. How can a teacher assess what a kid knows if they don't turn in the work? Easy answer; they cannot. Instead of reducing a student's overall grade for this missing assignment, which doesn't communicate anything about what a student knows about a standard, we need to communicate about behavior separately. We do a bit of this. You will see on some report cards there is behavior feedback included for a few select items such as turning work in on time.



One of the nice things about our current COVID educational situation is that we have all sorts of new data about kids. This data on student behavior has become available to us just as we are reexamining our grading system! It is easy to see, in the daily interactions of the kids, what the important behaviors are that need to be taught and assessed. On our professional development day a couple Mondays ago, the RMS-CES staff worked on listing important school behaviors for kids as well as determining *rubrics*, or *measurement* scales, that clearly explain desired school behaviors to kids and to parents/guardians. Further, we will be able to assess these behaviors each year, for four years, giving us excellent feedback about what a student knows about successful school behavior and how well they are demonstrating that behavior over time. This information will not only help our students to be successful at RMS-CES, it will allow us to make specific interventions to better help our kids. Finally, we will now be able to better judge a student's readiness for high school and again, to step in and address any concerns.

Please be thinking about the skills our kids need to be successful in high school and beyond. It's the real world that we are practicing for! You will see these behavior rubrics before they become finalized and I will ask that you report anything you feel is important but don't see on the list.

***Together we will create a system to better communicate what our students know and can do.  
More to come!***

Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.  
Principal

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

## Reminders & Opportunities:



**RiverWorks**  
**FOOD SHELF**  
*food with love for every table*

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!**

Here's how to give:

1. Go to [riverworksonline.org](http://riverworksonline.org)
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

Contact Annie  
Mickelburg in  
our District  
Office

### 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:  
**DECEMBER  
9TH**

OPPORTUNITIES

### Special Education Paraprofessional:

RAS has open paraprofessional positions for the 2021-22 school year! We are looking for positive, student centered individuals to join us in supporting RAS students. If you know of anyone interested, you can find the job posting [HERE](#) Individuals would work 4-8 hours/day at our hourly rate, with possible bus route assignment. Feel free to reach out to Emily Seitzer via email, text or phone call for more information. Email: [eseitzer@mawseco.k12.mn.us](mailto:eseitzer@mawseco.k12.mn.us) Office Phone: 763-477-5837 Ext 1030

### Bus Route Support Staff:

RAS is looking for an individual to ride a bus route from 6:30am-8:30am. They would be paid an hourly rate. The individual would ride the bus with another adult staff member and students. During the first half of the ride, the individual would support students by talking with them, helping them buckle and stay seated, etc. On the ride back there will be no students. Feel free to reach out to Emily Seitzer via email, text or phone call for more information. Email: [eseitzer@mawseco.k12.mn.us](mailto:eseitzer@mawseco.k12.mn.us) Office Phone: 763-477-5837 Ext 1030



# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

## Reminders & Opportunities:

# ANNUAL STUDENT/REGISTRATION UPDATE

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

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

Infinite  
Campus

Click here

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
- 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](mailto:mickelburga@rockford.k12.mn.us) or (763) 477-9165.

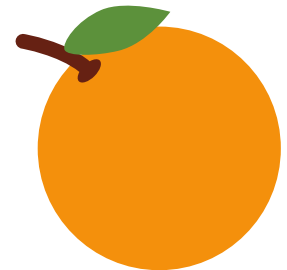
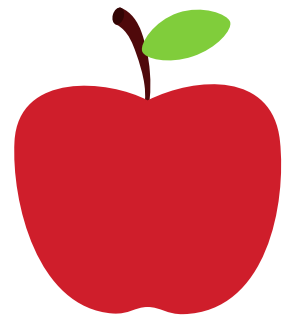
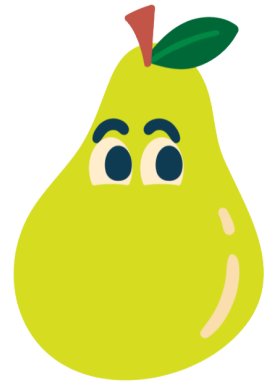


# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL FFA CHAPTER IS HOSTING A FRUIT FUNDRAISER 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](mailto: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



RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

OPENING  
NIGHT!

*Come out &  
support the  
AMAZING  
cast & crew*



**Our Rockford Area Schools Fall Musical Returns!**  
**with the permission of MTI**

**November**

**19-20 at 7pm**

**21 at 2pm**

**General Admission**

**Tickets Available at the Door**

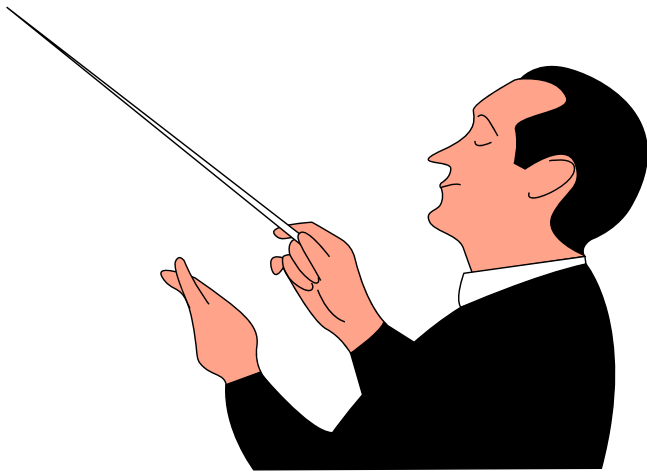
# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

## Reminders & Opportunities:

# #yearbook



ORDER THE 2021-2022 RMS-CES YEAR BOOK [HERE](#)  
OR USE THE QR CODE BELOW



## Middle School Fall Band Concert

When: November 23rd at 8:00pm  
Where: RHS Auditorium

# Join Us!





# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS



## 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.



**NYSTROM  
& ASSOCIATES**

**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**

**[WWW.RAAASPORTS.COM/JO-  
VOLLEYBALL](http://WWW.RAAASPORTS.COM/JO-VOLLEYBALL)**



**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**

**[HTTPS://WWW.RAAASPORTS.COM/JO-VOLLEYBALL](https://WWW.RAAASPORTS.COM/JO-VOLLEYBALL)**

**CONTACT US AT [RAAAJOVOLLEYBALL@RAAASPORTS.COM](mailto:RAAAJOVOLLEYBALL@RAAASPORTS.COM) TO  
SIGN UP!**

**"THIS IS NOT AN ISD #883 SPONSORED EVENT"**

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS



## 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 Resources

### Wright 2 School

#### Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

##### Excused Absences:

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

Please click [HERE](#) to view Truancy Brochure



# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

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.k12.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:**

### **RAS Curriculum Advisory Committee**

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 CLASS NEWS

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## SOCIAL STUDIES

In social studies, 5th graders have been learning about the  
*Age of Exploration!*

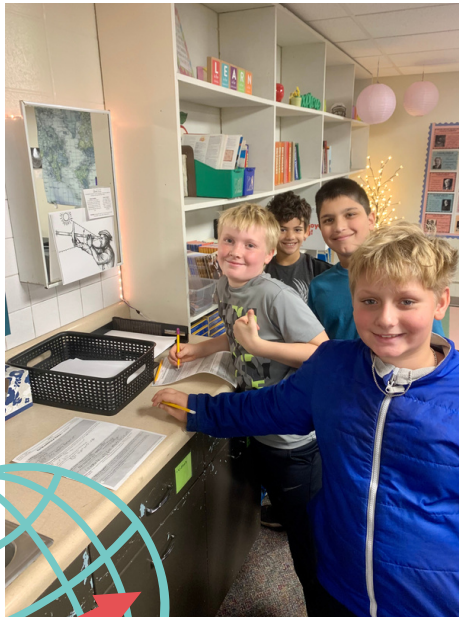
This week we played a board game to identify the challenges explorers faced, took a gallery walk around the room to learn about navigational tools, practiced mapping new places using longitude and latitude, and took a quiz to see if we have what it takes to be an explorer!



On Friday, we focused on current events by reading the most recent issue of Scholastic News 5/6: "Is this the Smartest Animal?"

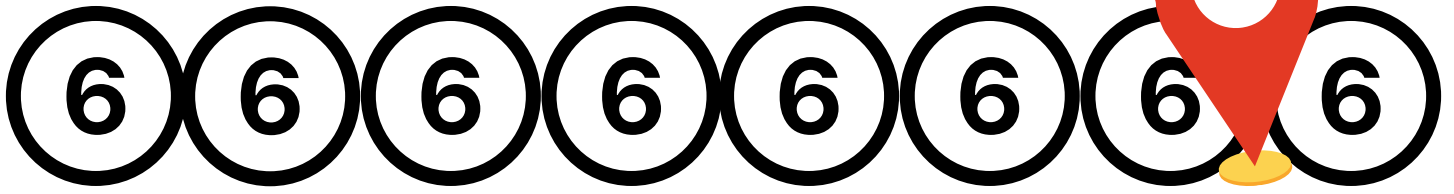


Next week we will take a break from exploration to learn more about the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.





# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## SOCIAL STUDIES

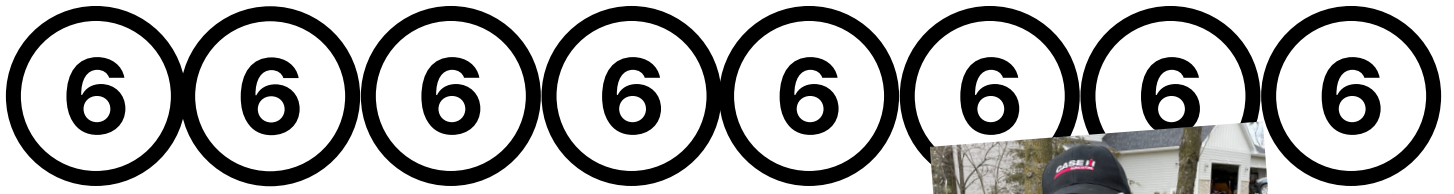
As an introduction to our study of the fur trade, sixth graders spent time outside learning to use a GPS. They practiced entering coordinates into a GPS to find a landmark on the school property. The next day they combined their GPS skills with learning about the fur trade. Students used a GPS to find a specific location on the school property. At the different locations the students read about how beaver pelts were wanted by Europeans to turn into hats and make a profit, the role women played in the fur trade, how fur traders and voyageurs increased their human capital and how guides and interpreters played an important role in the fur trade.



BACK IN THE CLASSROOM STUDENTS EXPLORED THE ROLE THE TRADER, CLERK, VOYAGEUR AND NATIVE AMERICAN PLAYED IN MAKING THE FUR TRADE A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS.



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



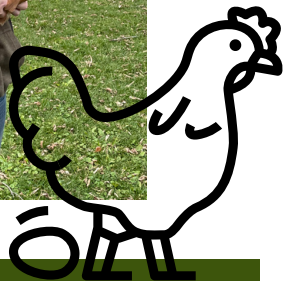
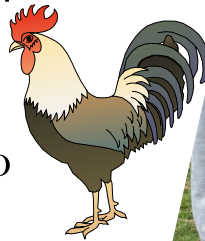
## AGRI-SCIENCE-FFA

FFA members on the Poultry and Milk Quality and Products teams participated in a Career Development Event in Princeton with our region on Wednesday, 11/17.

The Poultry team works to identify parts of turkeys and chickens, both live and processed as well as processed chicken parts including chicken nuggets, wings, patties, and ready to cook carcasses. In addition, this team completes a written exam and also evaluates the interior and exterior of eggs.

The Milk Quality and Products team works to identify and evaluate various dairy products including cheeses, milk, and dairy vs. non-dairy as well as a written exam with problem solving related to the dairy industry.

Both teams practiced numerous hours for weeks prior to the contest and placed in the top half among high school teams at the contest. Seventh grader, Kaia Seevers placed 4th out of 55 FFA members from across the region in Poultry. **Congratulations Kaia!**



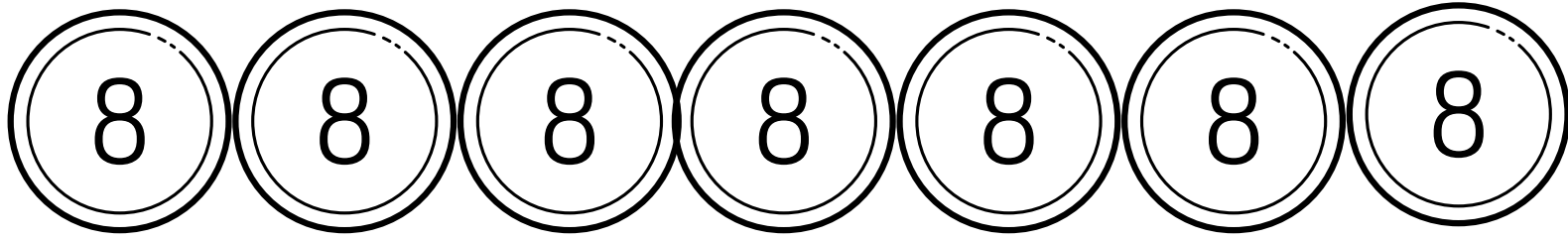
# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## Ms. Kaufman's Volunteer Club

If your student is part of the Volunteer Club here at RMS, the new date for the Riverworks Thrift Store is on **November 30th**. Students will meet after school at 3:00pm in Ms. Kaufman's room. Students will be transported to the Riverworks Thrift Store and back. **PARENT PICK UP is at 5:30pm at the Rockford Middle School.**

## RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



### SOCIAL STUDIES

This week students performed a mini skit on an assigned form of government and started learning about different economic systems.

On Wednesday students *began comparing and contrasting command, mixed, and market economies*. The students continued this work the rest of the week and on Friday, started working on a *visual response to the learning called a One-Pager*.

Students will continue this work next week leading up to Thanksgiving Break, with a fun Thanksgiving Break trivia game planned on Wednesday.

