



# Rockford Middle School

## Center for Environmental Studies

Paul Warzecha, Principal  
6051 Ash Street | Rockford, MN 55373  
Phone 763-477-5831 | Fax 763-477-5832  
[www.rockford.k12.mn.us](http://www.rockford.k12.mn.us)

**September 23rd, 2022**

Dear RMS-CES Families,

What an incredible week we have had with 7th and 8th grade students going on an all day field trip to Baker Park and our 6th graders getting ready to embark on a multi-day trip to Deep Portage starting Monday morning. It is out of these shared experiences that students foster authentic connection and belonging with peers and staff that build our positive school culture and also get a chance to connect content standards and our STEM focus in real world application. During these trips our students have conducted themselves as responsible citizens showing respect for themselves, others, and the locations that we attend.

Here at Rockford Middle School we believe that learning is active and student centered. This is not only our philosophical belief, but has been my observation as I've been in the hallways in classrooms since the start of the year. There's not a day that goes by that I don't walk by student centered learning, rich classroom discussion and students going outside for classes to learn. I asked a 7th grade student about how they were feeling about the trip and his summary speaks to the experience.... "I love this stuff, that's why I go here." When I asked how he was feeling about going on the field trip his response was "I love it, that's why I'm here!"

Last week I wrote to you about student leadership and I'm pleased to report to you that 49 students out of a building of approximately 500 kids applied to be on student council leadership. As I listened and watched every one of their videos I can say that our future is bright in their collective hands. The common themes I heard in listening to the videos were that of kindness, support, belonging, and visions of helping create a school where amazing things happen. I've made the promise that all students who applied for student council will have an opportunity to formally lead this year. The student body voted on the ten student council members who have already begun the process of selecting dress up days for homecoming and making decisions around processes in the building.

We appreciate that students come into their own space as unique individuals. Here at RMS-CES our primary focus is learning and we expect that students are comfortable, but appropriately dressed to learn. We understand that an outfit a student wears in a school setting might be different from another social setting they might choose. Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to clothing appropriate for the weather/ learning activities and does not create a health or safety hazard. We ask that students think critically about the choices they make regarding the clothing they wear for school. Please reference our dress code if you have any additional questions.

I am so very grateful for your support as parents. Every time I have made a request of you I have found parents to be so incredibly supportive. As we continue to help teach responsibility relating to the chromebook I would ask that we maintain a constant message that students are responsible for bringing a charged chromebook to school each day and making sure it gets to each one of your classrooms. You should expect students to bring the chromebook home every day.

Wishing you a fantastic weekend!

Paul Warzecha  
Principal

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### FROM DAN PRATT, ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR



Thanks to all that came out on this chilly morning. This is what the crew had to say after the participants all left. **"That was the best group they have ever worked with. The energy and support this community showed was outstanding".** We had MS students, HS students, youth football players, Cheer team, the band, volleyball and soccer players, teachers, Board members, Administration, community members, other sports coaches and I think I may have seen a REAMS student too. Thanks to an anonymous donor for the Propel, Kris Larson for bringing the propel to the field and everyone that helped promote this event.

Here is a link to the Kare11 sunrise show.

[https://www.kare11.com/video/news/live\\_stream/kare-11-sunrise-at-6am/89-9b1075e5-1329-4c16-809d-967cf4aa98ab](https://www.kare11.com/video/news/live_stream/kare-11-sunrise-at-6am/89-9b1075e5-1329-4c16-809d-967cf4aa98ab)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DATES TO CHECK OUT:

Monday, September 26, 2022-September 28th, 2022-6th Grade Deep Portage Trip  
Monday, September 26th, 2022-Fall Musical Auditions (see below for more info)  
Monday, October 3rd, 2022-Friday, October 6th, 2022 Homecoming Week  
Wednesday, October 5th, 2022-5th Grade Baker/Lake Rebecca Field Trip  
Monday, October 10th, 2022-Wednesday, October 12th, 2022-7th Grade Osprey Wild Trip  
Tuesday, October 18th, 2022-Parent Teacher Conferences  
Wednesday, October 19th, 2022-NO SCHOOL, Staff Development Day  
Thursday, October 20th, 2022-Friday, October 21st, 2022-NO SCHOOL MEA Break  
Tuesday, October 25th, 2022-6th Grade Baker/Lake Rebecca Field Trip  
Friday, October 28th, 2022-District Choral Festival

## NEWS AND NOTES

### RAS FALL MUSICAL "The Wizard of Oz"



RMS-CES **auditions** for RAS Fall Musical "The Wizard of Oz" **will be held on 9/26/22 from 3-4pm** in the HIGH SCHOOL Choir Room. → Students can ride their bus from the middle school to the high school after classes and will need to be picked up at high school (door 1, main office entrance) promptly at 4:00pm.

A link to the tentative rehearsal schedule is below. Please make sure you will be available for performances and rehearsals before auditioning. The participation fee for middle school students is \$90.

The fee will be assigned a few days after auditions have ended. **Please click [HERE](#) for the Calendar**

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Please click [HERE](#) for more information about becoming a substitute in RAS!

### JOSTENS SCHOOL PICTURES



RMS-CES Picture Day was on Thursday, September 14th. If you would like to order pictures,

**[VIEW AND ORDER PHOTOS HERE](#)**

### DID YOU KNOW?

- You can personalize your photos with a variety of backgrounds and text
- Photos are shipped directly to your home
- High-res digital downloads are available
- If you have more than one child, you can order together and pay once

### FREE & REDUCED LUNCH FORMS:

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to fill out this [FORM](#). Students who qualify may be eligible for **Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)** to purchase food for days they are not in the school building. Our school also receives state funding for technology based on qualifying families! For more information or a Spanish version, click [HERE](#).



### LOST & FOUND

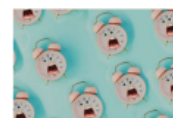
Last year more than 10 large lawn bags of lost and never found clothing were donated to a local thrift store. Please label your student's items and have them check often for items that they may have misplaced or left behind. Items left before MEA Break will be gathered and donated to a local thrift store.



### MENTAL HEALTH

#### Sleep Hygiene:

Here is our [monthly newsletter](#) from the School Based team at Nystrom and Associates.



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### Suicide Prevention Month:



September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. In recognition of this awareness month, please check out Change to Chill's suicide prevention resources. The new National Mental Health Crisis line is now 988.

### YEARBOOK'S FOR SALE



The 2022-2023 yearbooks are on SALE now!

*Please click [HERE](#) to order!*

Cost is \$20

### RMS-CES ATTENDANCE LINE



Please use our [ATTENDANCE LINE at 763-477-7525](tel:763-477-7525) to call your child in absent.

### ROCKET BOOSTER'S INFORMATION



Please click [HERE](#) for **School Store Hours!**

Please click [HERE](#) for information about the **Tailgating Homecoming Event**



Please click [HERE](#) for information about our 2022-2023 Meal Rates Return for Nutritious School Meals



Please click [HERE](#) for more information about the Rocket Launch Monthly Giving!

**FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY...**



Sign up for \$10/month or more between now and September 30th,

and receive this signature white YETI® Tumbler!



### INFINITE CAMPUS ANNUAL UPDATE:



*Be sure to complete your Annual Update!*

It is very important to ensure the school district has current household and contact information for all students. Before school starts, be sure to log in to your Parent Portal account to complete the Annual Update. This online update will replace the emergency forms you have received in the past. Keeping

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household information updated will help families stay connected and be informed of upcoming events, and will ensure you receive information regarding any important announcements.

To complete the annual update, log in to your Parent Portal Account and select "More". From there, select "Online Registration", then select "22-23 School Year Annual Update for Existing Students". The information that is in our system will auto-populate for parents to review or update. Please be sure to submit your annual update as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Christa Larson at [larsonchrista@rockford.k12.mn.us](mailto:larsonchrista@rockford.k12.mn.us) or 763-477-9165.

### ROCKFORD GIRL SCOUTS - New Member Night/Informational Meeting

*\*Not an ISD 883 sponsored event.\**



Join local Girl Scouts and troop leaders to learn what being a Girl Scout is all about! The perfect opportunity to meet new friends and find new adventures. Whether they're sleeping under the stars, creating the most colorful work of art, or teaming up with their new friends to build a robot, Girl Scouts grow into their strongest, kindest, most resilient selves. [Please click HERE to view more information!](#)

Our new member night and informational meeting for girls and parents will be hosted on Tuesday, September 20th from 6pm - 7pm at Our Father's Lutheran Church. 3903 Gilbert Ave SE, Rockford, MN 55373.

If you are unable to attend this meeting but have questions, reach out to our Registrar, Megan Cook at [mcook.rescue@gmail.com](mailto:mcook.rescue@gmail.com)

### EXPLORE 4-H DAY



Please click [HERE](#) to learn more about the 4-H Explore Day

### RAAA WRESTLING



Please click [HERE](#) to view information about registering your child!

## CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

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### 8TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

"This last week, Monday, 8th graders had the wonderful opportunity of going on a field trip with the Baker Park naturalists. It was a beautiful day with sunshine and



warm temperatures. Students were able to walk around in prairie lands cultivated by Crow Hassan Parks. This is not an area generally open to the public it was a real treat to walk around the prairie grasses, flowers and wildlife. While students were

walking through the prairie they were practicing their stewardship of land and nature by gathering certain seeds to help replant prairieland. Students also did a mapping project with Baker naturalists that tied in nicely with Mr. Riley's mapping class projects. Students learned the components that make a map good. On the Baker Wilderness Park site students practiced outdoor cooking and archery. Students had the opportunity to make hash browns, pancakes and popcorn over open fires. Most students enjoyed their cooking. The popcorn was a bit tricky. Archery is always a hit and we

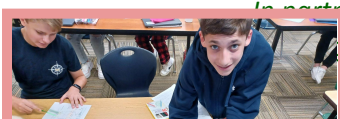
witnessed lots of students that were able to hit their targets!"



so



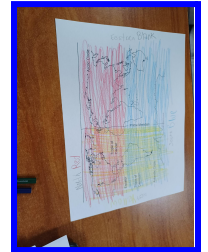
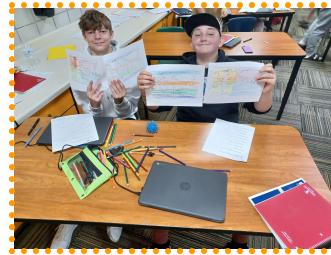
### 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES-MR. RILEY



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In addition to practicing being brave by shooting archery at Baker Park this past Monday, 8th grade social studies students practiced map skills by creating and reading maps. For part of one class, students practiced their coloring skills as they learned about the earth's three main climate zones and layered them onto a map. Mapmaking was another skill stressed in both Baker Park and in class. Since the beginning of this year, students have created three of their own maps and followed two of each other's maps in an attempt to find locations.



### 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES-MS. WILTS

Students have been exploring the question, "What is Minnesota" in sixth this week. Students brainstormed answers to the question and then created a Minnesota collage.

grade social studies



### 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES-MS. KAUFMAN

**What a week it has been in 7th grade Social Studies!** Students learned about the foundation and core values that our government was built upon. Historians collaborated as they worked to analyze the articles of the Constitution by working on a scavenger hunt. At the end of the week, they were able to define the rights of citizens that are protected by the Bill of Rights, and created a playlist to represent



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each of the first ten amendments.

On Thursday, our 7th graders went on their first field experience of the year to Baker Park and Lake Rebecca. It was a perfect day with the sun shining, smiling faces, and lots of hands-on learning! Students were able to explore using GPS<sup>1</sup>, analyze the health of a wetland area, learn

about flight- even creating a rocket! We are so grateful for our partnership with Three Rivers Parks and the opportunity bring our learning out of the classroom and think outside the box!

to



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