



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

Dear RMS-CES Families,

Words cannot express how much I have truly enjoyed getting to know your children in the first two weeks of school. As I have started the first two weeks of school, I'm intentionally trying to spend a lot of time in the hallways and in doing so I can tell you how impressed I have been with our middle school student hallway behavior. Specifically, our students are doing an excellent job of keeping their hands to themselves, using appropriate language, making room for others in the hall, and most of all expressing kindness to their fellow classmates and teachers as they encounter one another throughout the day.

I am incredibly grateful for the partnership with parents to support the message of cell phones being off and away when students enter the classroom and throughout the learning experience. I know that cell phones have an enormous amount of influence and distraction, but I am proud of how our students are pushing back to resist the temptation to check their electronics throughout the school day and focus on connecting with their peers and learning. I would ask that you continue to keep this message when you talk to your child about school, specifically reminding them that at no point in time, is it okay to take a photo, video and/or audio recording throughout the day unless given permission by staff. I appreciate the continued partnership.

I've heard from staff and students and it is incredibly clear the importance that we all place on having a kind school environment. This week, we specifically taught our students common definitions of bullying, behavior and harassment so that we can identify and address words and actions that are opposite of the kind school culture we aim to build. In addition, we have created an [anonymous bully report form](#) that students can fill out either in the office or online on our website. Although this is truly an anonymous form, we encourage those who fill it out to include as much specific detail as possible to help fully investigate situations of bullying. Thank you in advance for help with coaching, guiding, and teaching your child how to handle situations that might feel new to them during their middle school years.

I've made it known to students and staff that every human being in the school is a leader, as everyone has the ability to influence others positively. For those students who are hungry for formal opportunities to lead, we are accepting applications for student council throughout the weekend and ask that all applications be submitted by Monday morning. Students interested in running for student council were to email Kaufmana@rockford.k12.mn.us and ask for a link to flipgrid where they will make a short video highlighting their candidacy. Students will get a chance to review the videos of those who are running for student council and vote on Tuesday, September 20th. The first Student Council meeting is on September 22nd where student leadership will help define the homecoming week activities. Please know that this is not the only opportunity your child will have to lead either formally or informally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Warzecha".

Paul Warzecha
Principal

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NEWS AND NOTES

JOSTENS SCHOOL PICTURES



RMS-CES Picture Day was on Thursday, September 14th. If you would like to order pictures, Please click [HERE](#) ordering information.

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.



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 to call your child in absent.

ROCKET BOOSTER'S SCHOOL STORE



CLICK [HERE](#) FOR STORE HOURS

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ROCKET BOOSTER'S TAILGATE PARTY



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

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](#)

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 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 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

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EXPLORE 4-H DAY

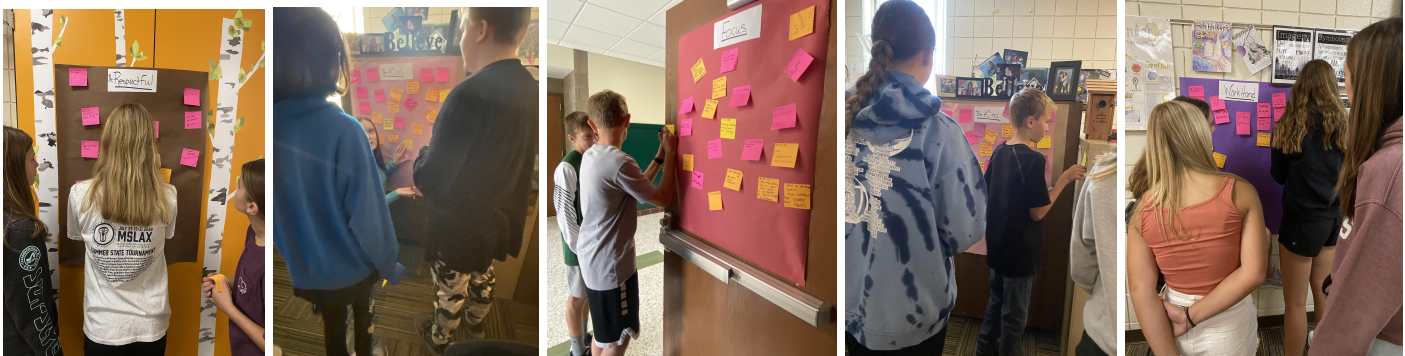


Please click [HERE](#) to learn more about the 4-H Explore Day

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS-Ms. Hendrickson

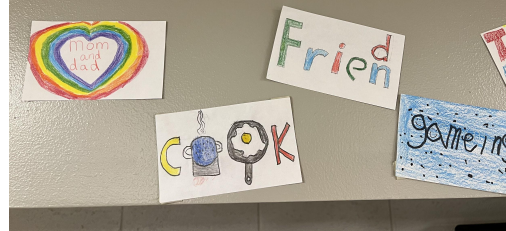
Aesop once said that *"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."* With that in mind, LA8 people continued to get to know each other and our expectations for this year. Students shared some of their Hopes & Worries for the year, took a "Room Tour", and ran an analysis for the LA8 Syllabus. Together, we are exploring how we all embody the power to learn, to strive for improvement, and to value each other in this new, 8th Grade Community!



5TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS-Ms. Mateyka

Fifth grade reading students have been busy this past week with a variety of items. First, they completed the FAST Reading test early in the week. The rest of the week focused on other classroom procedures, such as what kind of teacher they need in order to be successful and what kind of classroom expectations they need from each other to be able to learn at their best. Students also learned about "Rainbow Days" and "Cloudy Days" and how focusing on a little bit of happiness or joy can lift those clouds on the not so good days. Students created a "Happiness Card" with something or someone that they can focus on when they need it. The cards are hung around the room and students know exactly where his/her card is.

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Fifth grade readers also have been sharing their sacks from the "Sack Activity." Students brought in sacks with 5 items that tell the rest of the class about themselves. It has been wonderful to see how many of them have the same interests or to just learn something completely different and interesting about each other.

6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS-Ms. Korzendorfer



Sixth graders started their week working through their FAST READING assessment. By mid-week they practiced proper email format and etiquette on their Chromebooks. Students wrapped up their week making observations, recording evidence, and analyzing their new ELA surroundings.



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