



# 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)

October 28th, 2022

Dear RMS-CES Families,

We have had another great week here at RMS-CES. Here are a few reminders as we end the week!

**No costumes, face paint, etc.:** Just a reminder that our focus on Monday will continue to be on learning and we ask that you support this message by making sure there are no costumes, face paint, dress up activities.

**Bus Loop:** Please know that if all continues to go to plan we hope to use our brand new bus loop to start the second quarter. Please know that our Magnet Vans will then be having pickup on the curb outside of the district office. Parent pickup will continue to be in the same spot.

**Veteran's Day(11/11/22) Update:** The Student Council has exciting ways of acknowledging Veterans Day this year.

- Recordings of veterans reciting the pledge of allegiance each morning Nov. 8th - 11th
- Schoolwide initiative to have students make thank you cards to veterans (to be delivered to the VA and/or local senior living facilities).
- Schoolwide "Hall of Fame". Students will be encouraged to fill out a sheet with a picture of a veteran in their life (past or present) and give a short bio of them. These will be made available for students to pick up from the office beginning on Monday, Oct. 31st - and students should have them turned in no later than Tues. Nov. 8th
- Schoolwide Veterans Day [optional essay challenge](#). Students will have the opportunity to answer one of three essay questions related to Veterans Day. LA teachers were asked to assign a google doc with the questions and instructions for students in their google classrooms- optional for interested students. Winning essays will be read aloud during the Veterans Day program and receive a prize.
- RMS-CES will host the Delano Lions Club Veterans for a program on Nov. 11th. The program will be about 30 min and begin at 1:00pm. This will disrupt 5th hour, please plan accordingly.
- Dress in patriotic colors on Friday, Nov. 11th

**Social Media Challenge:** You may have heard of [One Chip Challenge](#) as being another social media challenge that has negatively impacted some students in schools. Please know that this communication is not in response to an event, but rather a proactive reminder to keep a watchful eye in the coming weeks and months on social media challenges that might influence middle school age children and cause negative effects to their health or well-being.

**Community input session regarding community beds:** On Tuesday evening of this week we had community members join us in the media center to give input on the idea of rebuilding the 14 raised beds in the lot near the greenhouse and potentially using that space as a community garden during the summertime. If you have a passion for gardening, or giving back to the community, I invite you to join us on November 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the media center where we will share a draft version of a plan developed with community input for review, suggestion and refinement. We would love to hear your feedback! To view the Flier, click [HERE](#)

Have a great day!

Paul Warzecha, Principal

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DATES TO CHECK OUT:

Tuesday, November 1st, 2022-District Choral Concert, 7:00pm at RHS Gymnasium

Friday, November 4th, 2022-End of 1st Quarter

Friday, November 4th, 2022-Lockdown Drill at RMS

Monday, November 7th, 2022-No School/Staff Development Day

Wednesday, November 23rd, 2022-Friday, November 25th, 2022-Fall Break

Friday, December 23rd, 2022 through January 2nd, 2023-Winter Break

## NEWS AND NOTES

### District Choral Concert



#### Choir Families:

The District Choral Festival, involving all choirs in the district, is on Tuesday November 1st at the RHS gymnasium beginning at 7 PM. See your email, or hard copy letter given to your student for more info. **DRESS REHEARSAL IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1 AT 7:50 AM IN THE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM. ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR STUDENTS WHO RIDE THE BUS SHOULD GET OFF AT THE HS THAT DAY OR MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE DROPPED OFF AT THE HIGH SCHOOL ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1. STUDENTS WILL BE BUSSED BACK TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM.**

**REMINDER-Please remind your student of this that morning. It is very important they are there. Thank you!**

Ms. Augsburger/[augsburgerm@rockford.k12.mn.us](mailto:augsburgerm@rockford.k12.mn.us)

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



RMS-CES RAS Fall Musical "The Wizard of Oz"

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



Picture Retake Day was **OCTOBER 27th**

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

### 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

There are LOTS and LOTS of Lost & Found items. Don't forget to check this area out at Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 18th.



### MENTAL HEALTH-Exercise & Mental Health

Here is our [monthly newsletter](#) from the School Based team at Nystrom & 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 INFORMATION



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

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

### 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.

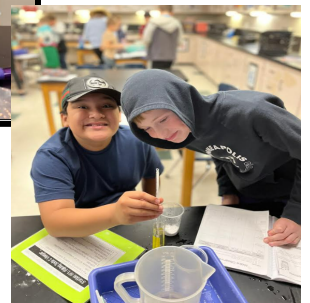
If you have any questions, please contact Christa Larson at [larsonchrista@rockford.k12.mn.us](mailto:larsonchrista@rockford.k12.mn.us) or 763-477-9165.

## CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

### **5TH GRADE SCIENCE-MS. OLIVERIUS**

*This month in 5th grade science, students have been wrapping up their unit on Matter! We identified mystery substances based on their properties, measured matter in different ways such as with a thermometer or scale, witnessed conservation of matter demonstrations, and practiced graphing! It has been a busy month that ended with an assessment this week for students to show what they know.*

*Throughout the year students also have an opportunity to take part in a "Mission to Mars" curriculum that focuses on STEM integration into the science classroom! Students explored hydrophilic and hydrophobic substances, engineered gliders, and even programmed a Mars rover to collect rock samples. It has been a great start to science this year!*



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### 7TH GRADE SCIENCE-MS. SARSLAND

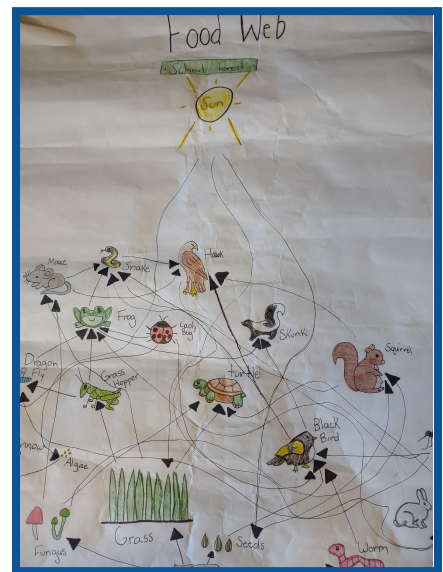
Our 7th graders have been creating experiments, observing ecosystems and measuring data this year in science. Students saw a variety of results from



darkness creating long white stems to heating pads accelerating growth. Outdoors we observed our school forest ecosystem and recorded the results on beautiful posters. Recently we have begun preparing for Bottle Biology projects and learning about photosynthesis, respiration, aquatic ecosystems and fish behaviors in a whole new way.



The "Guppy" project is a chance for students to design an experiment that focuses on animal responses with the data collection. Planning and collecting data help the students demonstrate their understanding of the scientific method while using a genuine ecosystem. Plus, babies add to the excitement of learning about this unique live bearing fish!



### 8TH GRADE SCIENCE-MS.BUDDE



This month in eighth grade science has been all about energy! Eighth graders focus has been on thermal energy and its relationship to temperature and heat. We started our week learning important vocabulary words, while taking the time to delve into the properties of matter that affect thermal energy the most. On Wednesday we discussed different methods of heat transfer, and used examples and illustrations to extend and apply our learning. We are finishing out our week on thermal energy by practicing our laboratory skills. Students will be planning and conducting their own lab investigation to compare the thermal energy of a set of objects!

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### 8TH GRADE WRITING-MS. BEATTIE

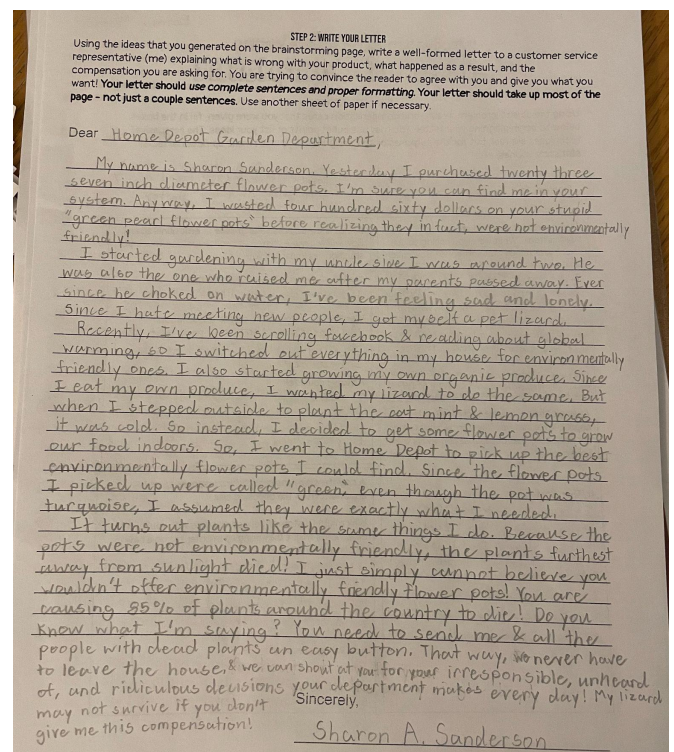
*This month, 8th Grade Writing students dove into the world of persuasive writing. We began by learning about Pathos, which is the art of emotional appeal. Students were given a random item, problem, result, and compensation and were challenged to write a persuasive letter to the customer service department of a fictional store to describe their problem and ask for their compensation. Besides being a fun creative challenge, students had to dig deep to write letters using professional and persuasive language.*

*Students then used their logical appeal, called Logos, to create and sell a "haunted" house. Students had to think about what would make someone want to buy a house, and how to put the most positive spin on a spooky situation. It was fun to see what students came up with, and we may have some future successful real estate agents in our midst!*

*Students culminated their persuasive writing unit with a persuasive essay. Students chose from a list of 53 potential topics and began to research. Many students learned that having an opinion is not the same thing as having evidence to support that opinion! Once students had their research and claim, we wrote thesis statements explaining what students would be teaching the readers of their essay. Then, students practiced quoting and paraphrasing information and writing organized paragraphs. Essays will be due next Friday!*

*As the quarter wraps up, I am so sad to say goodbye to this group of students! They have been through a lot during their middle school years, and I am so proud of the people that they are becoming. I will miss them when they start Art class next quarter!*

→ *Photo of letter by Emma Mueller*



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### **5-8 BAND-MS. BAUER**

Band is off to a great start this year! 5th grade band students are learning the basics of band, like how to make a good sound on their instrument, practicing sitting with a tall posture, and brushing up on their note name knowledge. 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band students are working hard preparing for the **fall band concert** which is on **Thursday, December 1st**.

### **Band Concert Dates for 2022-2023**

#### **5th Grade Band**

Thursday, February 16th at 6:00pm  
Wednesday, May 24th at 6:00pm

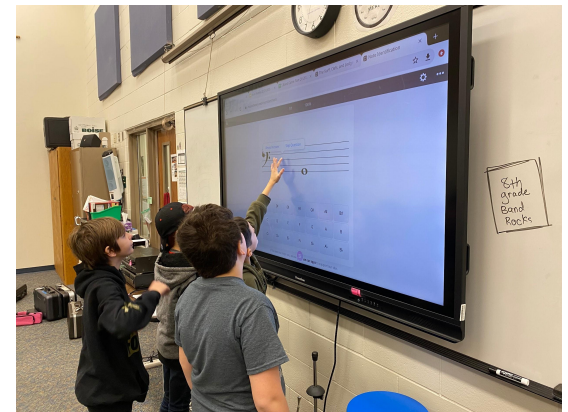
#### **6th Grade Band**

Thursday, December 1st at 7:00pm  
Thursday, February 16th at 7:00pm  
Wednesday, May 24th at 7:00pm

#### **7th and 8th Grade Band**

Thursday, December 1st at 8:00pm  
Thursday, February 16th at 8:00pm  
Wednesday, May 24th at 8:00pm

***\*All band concerts are in the Rockford High School Auditorium.***



A big **thank you** to the **Rockford Education Foundation** for purchasing two tubas for our 5th grade tuba players to use!

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### 6TH GRADE SCIENCE-MS. WERTH

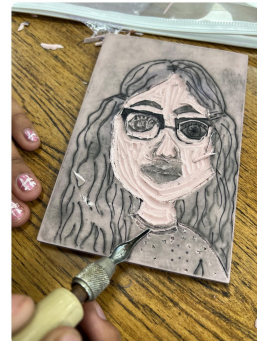


Over the last few weeks in sixth grade science, students have been investigating a variety of sites on and off the school property to see if there are any differences between the soil found in those sites. After much research, most students have determined that there is, in fact, a difference between the soil found in those sites. The question now is, "Why?" To pursue this further, 6th graders have been looking into how moving water may have played a part in why we are seeing differences in the soil at these different sites. This week, students started investigating with stream tables and are currently discussing what questions they might wish to investigate further using the stream tables.



### 6TH GRADE ART-MS. GUNDERSON

*Sixth grade students are just finishing up their quarter of visual arts. We have been busy creating artworks of many genres. Everything from contour line drawings to watercolor painting, self portraits and printmaking, cubism and learning about the Ojibwe tribe and their bead weaving technique. Next quarter they will have digital skills with Mrs. Russell.*



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