

# 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)

**January 13th, 2023**

Dear RMS-CES families,

As I interacted with many families last night at conferences, I'm reminded just how supportive our families are here at Rockford Middle School. I'm grateful to have the support of amazing parents who consistently help to navigate and guide their child through the unique challenges of the adolescent years.

A large part of the middle school years is being able to gain independence. Sometimes in the journey of gaining independence students experience setbacks along the way. As we end quarter two in the coming days, this is a great time to have students declare their goals, create steps to accomplish their goals, and then monitor their progress. These skills can be difficult for middle schoolers to navigate at this developmental stage, and even if they don't really admit it, they appreciate the helping guidance of trusted adults to be able to point them in the right direction.

People matter! During the middle school years, students focus predominantly about finding who they are as an individual and how that they fit in different social circles. As these friendships change, it's important that we continue to promote valuing others through concepts like kindness, compassion, and tolerance while avoiding devaluing others through behaviors such as bullying and harassment with unkind words or actions. If your child were to experience any loss or change of friendships during the middle school years I think it is very important to take the time and ask how they intend to treat the old friend in the future. This not only creates opportunities to build respectful interactions, but also leaves open a door if students wish to re-establish friendships in the future.

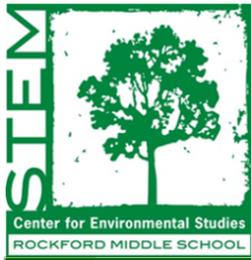
On Wednesday of this week when a student was walking into school on our two hour late start a student asked me "Mr. Warzecha, why are there so many snowstorms this year?" This made my day. One of the brightest lights I get to see is the genuine curiosity of middle school students. Oftentimes the simplest questions lead to the richest learning opportunities. I encouraged the students to explore that question by perhaps looking into some weather data to see how this year is similar or different to years past. This simple question can lead to so many connections with all content areas. It was truly a great reminder of just how impressive middle school students can be when they are authentically curious and take the time to explore possibilities in order to discover new understandings.

Have a great day!

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

Paul Warzecha, Principal

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### DATES TO CHECK OUT:

Monday, January 16th, 2023-No School-Staff Development Day

Friday, January 20th, 2023-End of Quarter 2

Monday, January 29th-No School-Staff Development Day

Tuesday, January 24th-Start of Quarter 3

February 20th-No School

March 24-April 7th-No School-Spring Break

### ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



#### RMS-CES WISH LISTS

Please click [HERE](#) to view the RMS-CES WISH LISTS...

Donations can be dropped off at the school's front desk with the teacher's name attached or sent to class with your child. Thanks for your support!

#### RMS-CES - MEDIA CENTER RENOVATION

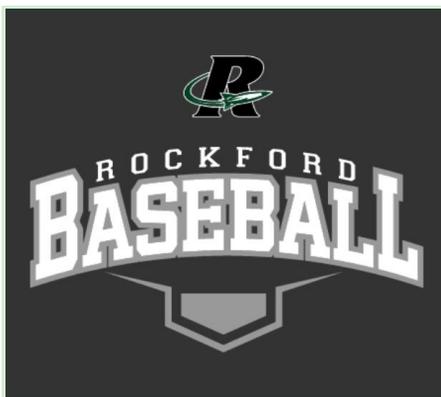
Please click [HERE](#) for information on a **FUND-A NEEDS**

**\*These are not ISD883 sponsored events**

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### SCHOOL STORE HOURS:

Please click [HERE](#) to view the calendar for the school store hours



THE 2023 RAAA BASEBALL SEASON IS COMING  
5-14 YEAR-OLDS = REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 16  
8-14 YEAR OLDS - REGISTRATION CLOSSES FEB 24  
5-7 YEAR OLDS - REGISTRATION CLOSSES MAR 24

REGISTER NOW:  
[HTTPS://WWW.RAAASPORTS.COM/RAAA-BASEBALL](https://www.raaasports.com/raaa-baseball)

*Please contact us at [raabaseball@raaasports.com](mailto:raabaseball@raaasports.com) if you have questions.*

Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event

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With snow and cold season upon us and in the event of school cancellation due to inclement weather, please be reminded that Rockford Area Schools will use e-learning days to support student learning during school cancellations.

Please find information, expectations, and an FAQ regarding our use of e-learning days under the "Resources" tab on the district's [website](#). A direct link to our e-learning days webpage is [here](#).

## ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER



Need ideas for getting outside w/the kids this WINTER ?

[Explore Minnesota](#)

Whether it's flip-flop weather or snow boot season, Minnesota's always got something good going on. From sun-drenched music fests along a lively urban waterfront to a celebration of ice fishing in a friendly small town, Minnesota events and festivals keep the fun going all year long. Join in to celebrate art, culture, music, food, sports, seasonal fun and more.



### **FOOD SERVICE REMINDER:**

Please check your parent portal for notifications (letters) regarding current food service balances.

### **EVERY MEAL SIGN UP**

This is a completely FREE program for the district and families of the district. Anyone has the opportunity to receive a bag of nonperishable food every week that is delivered to your child's school and can be picked up by the student or delivered to the class depending on the age or what is preferred.

Click on the following link for the English version: <https://forms.gle/Q6SSZrJi5VHnPRhHA>

Click on the following link for the Spanish version: <https://forms.gle/AggGauqyGoLw5jrs7>

If you have any further questions about the Every Meal program in general, the website is listed below <https://www.everymeal.org/>

WORK WITH KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY YOU LOVE!

PREFERRED GRADE FLEXIBILITY!

JOIN OUR TEAM

CHOOSE WHAT DAYS YOU WORK!

### **Substitute Opportunities at Rockford**

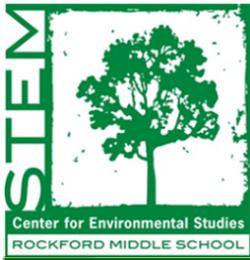
**Age requirement: 18**

**Must have a HS degree, Teachers on call will provide additional needed training!**

**Paid Weekly!**

**For more information, click [HERE](#) or call Teachers On Call/Email 800-713-4439/<http://www.teachersoncall.com> more information**

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### **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**

**Please have your child look for any items they may be missing!**

**TIP: Please label your student's lunch box, water bottle, hoodie, hat, etc....**



### **MENTAL HEALTH-ADHD**

Please click [HERE](#) (English) [HERE](#) (Spanish) for 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.



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.

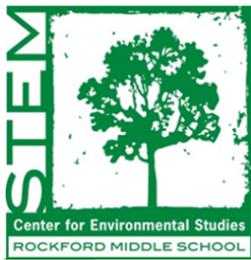
*To complete the annual update, log in to your Parent Portal Account and select "More". From there, select "Online Registration", then select "22-23 School Year Annual Update for Existing Students".* The

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.**



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### SPARK 2023

After a crazy winter weather reschedule, a group of 5th and 6th grade student applicants had the opportunity to attend a student conference called SPARK, hosted by Resource Training and Solutions. Our thirty students joined 8 other districts on the St. Cloud State University campus where they attended a variety of science and nature topic presentations and hands-on learning experiences. Sessions ranged from How we get to Ice Cream: Milk production & Ice Cream manufacturing, ESports, It's not magic, It's STEM, to How to Practice Math by Folding Origami. Students participated in four 60 minute sessions, out of 20 possible sessions that were exciting and educational. Sessions were led by professionals in their fields such as paleontologists, entomologists (insects), or civil engineers. This was an opportunity brought to 5th and 6th grade through our Excel Gifted and Talented Program and funded through the Education Foundation. The purpose of the conference is to introduce students to a variety of scientific and natural elements to inspire their natural interests and talents in the field. The group experience was provided to students who show an intense and advanced interest in science topics.

### The student-scientists reported the following discoveries!



"I liked all of the experiments, especially the air cannon. It knocked the cup off my head the first time." Mylah Olsen. Pictured Mylah, Addison Gilbertson, and Natalie Zednik.

"He made a potato candle and ate the wick, which surprised me, but the wick was made from an almond." Natalie Zednik

"We got to shoot potato cannons and rockets. It was fun to realize the science, or what was behind the scenes of the science experiments."

Vance Bodey-Phillips

All comments from **It's Not Magic, It's STEM** session

Molly Shedlock pictured assisting the **Hillbilly Scientist's** Elephant Toothpaste experiment.



Douglas Stark pictured crawling across their student made bridge in the **Bridge Up** Session

"I liked playing the different ESport games. I got to try the Beat Saber Virtual Reality game." Cecelia Callahan, **ESports** Session

-MacKenzie Fitch, Theo Zwiefel, Helenna Conser, and Molly Shedlock

Pictured playing Beat Saber

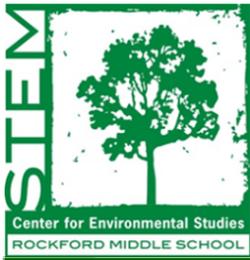


"I liked the Origami class. We made top spinners. I learned when it folds in, it's a valley, and a mountain when it folds out. Also, it's called a blintz when you fold them all toward the center." Tabitha Hermanek

Pictured Ben Smith, Cade Kaszubowski, and Derek Byers having a top battle, along with the other 6th graders having a group battle.



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## Rockford Middle School's District



For the 2nd consecutive year, 7th Grader, Imani Gladney reigns as Rockford Middle School's District Spelling Bee champion!

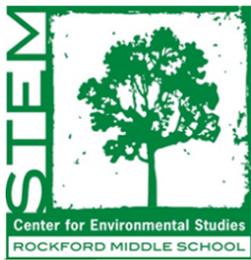
Next Stop... the Regional Spelling Bee!



The room was quiet, the tension was mounting, not even a buzz of the bee was heard. Rockford's annual district Spelling Bee was in progress. On Tuesday, January 10th, 34 5th through 8th grade students displayed their spelling abilities in the district-level spelloff. After a suspenseful 6 rounds going head to head with fellow 7th grader, Grace Oluwafemi, Imani Gladney secured a win in the 18th round, reigning as our 2023 RMS-CES Spelling Bee champion! Imani's winning word was "elude," meaning "to avoid slyly or to evade." Our 2<sup>nd</sup> place contestant, Grace Oluwafemi, ended with the word "illimitable." Our 3<sup>rd</sup> place contestant, Kaia Seevers (8<sup>th</sup> Grade), ended with the word "marauding" in the 12th round. Congratulations Imani! Miss Gladney will go on to represent Rockford Area Schools at the Regional Spelling Bee on February 7 in Sartell, MN. Congratulations to all of Rockford's qualifying Spelling Bee participants!



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

This week Eighth Grade Social Studies Historians let the creativity flow as they worked on a personal **Coat of Arms** that would represent them in battle. They discussed how fun peasant life could be in the "Dark Ages." The peasantry might wake up to start work with the sun at three in the morning, and after being required to give much of their crops, products, or materials away to vassals, have nothing to show for it. They also designed a castle that they hoped would protect against a siege. Students are focusing on methods of government, and how historical ideas of Democracy,

Republic, and Feudalism carry over to today due to geography.



### 5TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES-MS. MILLER

This week in 5th grade Social Studies, we started our **Colonization Unit**. Students have spent the week learning about the journey from Europe to America, some of the earliest settlements of the Americas, and the importance of farming and agriculture in the lives of colonists. We will continue to take a deeper look at other colonies and important historical figures as we progress through our unit.

*Students also had the opportunity to complete a STEM Challenge by creating their own model of a colonial plow. They learned about why farming and technology like plows were important to the survival of the colonies, and discussed how these technologies worked. In small groups, students worked together to brainstorm, hypothesize, and draw out their own models of a plow before creating a model with their group. I enjoyed watching their creativity shine! Many students have expressed interest in engineering, and loved the design-and-build aspect of this STEM Challenge.*



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### 7TH GRADE AGRI-SCIENCE-MR. RAMSTAD

We made beef jerky on the late start day this week, but I had to use the supplies up or they were going to go bad and it is an expensive lab. I have never made jerky in less than 40 minutes before so fingers crossed... 😊



### 6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS-MS. KORZENDORFER

*One Word for Kids. The finished mural*



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