



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

January 6th, 2023

Dear RMS-CES Families,

First and foremost, I hope that you and your families have had a wonderful holiday season! It was truly a unique winter break with so many weather related delays, cancellations and early releases both before and after break. Changes in routine are hard for students and adults and I thank you for all you've done to be flexible and support the changes in routine that your child has experienced before and after break due to weather. It is my hope that we can get back to our normal routine in the days and weeks ahead. After our E-Learning day, we looked at attendance and student engagement and we were able to determine that 95% of our student body was able to check in and engage in their work during our E-Learning Day. This is a testament to our students showing responsible habits and our amazing parents that helped encourage and support them through the process.

On Thursday, January 12th, Rockford Middle School will be hosting parent-teacher conferences from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for parents to be able to conference with their child's teacher to better support them in their learning. We understand that three and a half hours is a limited amount of time, so we ask parents to attend only if they have concerns about their child either academically or behaviorally. The format of this round of conferences will allow parents to be able to follow a map to find their child's teacher(s) and connect with them. We will not require appointments using this format, however, an open conference layout may bring longer lines waiting to see teachers. In the event that teachers have many people in line the conference time might be reduced to approximately five minutes in order to accommodate everyone.

As we welcome the new year, many choose to make a New Year's resolution, which I think is fantastic. However, research tells us that a high percentage of resolutions are left unmet. Long-term goals can be complex and difficult, especially for middle school students, but there can be great success with short-term goals. As you go through the coming days and weeks ahead I would encourage you to ask your child 'what is their goal for any given day?' and then follow up with them later in the day to see if they made their goal. We know that success is more of a process than a result. We will continue this work in the school setting as well.

For student's who use transportation through Northwest Suburban please reference the following [link](#) to review and have access to information regarding your student's transportation regarding significant weather during this winter season.

Have a great day!

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DATES TO CHECK OUT:

Thursday, January 12th-Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7

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

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

Monday, January 23rd-No School-Staff Development Day

Tuesday, January 24th-Start of Quarter 3

RMS-CES ATTENDANCE LINE

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

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



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](#).

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#1: 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

#2: CLICK [HERE](#) FOR INFO ON OFFICE SUB APPLICATION

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/>

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.

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

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ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER



December 21st is the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. In 2022, the sun will set at 4:34 pm on December 21st and sunrise occurs at 7:49 am on the 22nd. On the bright side, it is not even New Years yet and we can consider this the turning point. We're officially heading back toward spring after this! While we tend to celebrate rebirth in the spring, it really begins at this time of year.

In the Twin Cities we love to celebrate with night hikes, Tomte and stargazing. Sign your family up for one of these fun events:

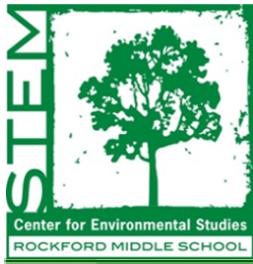
[CELEBRATE WINTER SOLSTICE 2022 IN THE TWIN CITIES](#)

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS-MS.HENDRICKSON

Wow, talk about Mother Nature shaking things up a bit! Despite the many schedule changes, LA8 students worked hard and stayed on track no matter what we faced. We finally logged some time in the "Poetry Corner" as writers shared their original Free Verse Poetry. I am always amazed at how deeply 8th Graders tap into their experiences and views on life and express their thoughts through their writing. For our first E-Learning Day, students created a slide that included a short piece of writing and images related to "Snow Days, Flurries, & Figurative Language". Last month, we went to the polls, and students cast their ballots for the winning "Tell-Tale Heart" movie poster! **The winners were as follows: 1st Place - Alexa Meyer & Jenny Vongphachanh; 2nd Place - Emma Hall, Alexis Hollins, & Moth Thomas; 3rd Place - Livi Koshiol & Natalie Woodward.**





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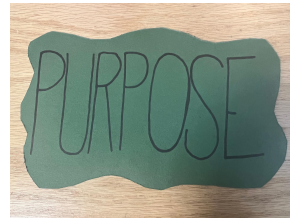
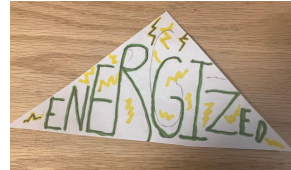
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5TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS-MS.MATEYKA

This past week began with fifth grade readers reviewing classroom procedures/routines and expectations as they head into the new year. Their E-Learning day involved completing a "Wednesday Write" while at home on Wednesday of course. Students chose a writing prompt that centered around either snowflakes, a snow day or a snowman. They finished the week reading an article about an award-winning snowflake expert, Kenneth Libbrecht. He is a scientist that studies and photographs snowflakes.

6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS-MS.KORZENDORFER

Sixth graders started the new year with the story **One Word for Kids**. They brainstormed one word resolutions and how they plan to live it throughout 2023 like Stevie did in the story. Students are creating a word mural near the sixth grade hallway to remind themselves to continue to work towards their goal. *Check it out at conferences.*



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