



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

February 10th, 2023

Dear RMS-CES Families,

You have heard from me frequently this week regarding school safety. Please know that we value transparency and partnership with parents both in the times when we communicate proactive training or when we react to reports. This week reminds us that school safety is now and will always be a community endeavor as each of us takes the responsibility to report any concerns to school authorities or local law enforcement. I would extend to you an open opportunity to always feel that you can reach out if you have a concern. It may sound cliché, but truly our number one priority always is safety and security.

We have been reminded recently about the distracting power of cell phones and the disruptive impact that it can possibly have on student learning. As a friendly reminder, all cell phones can be used during passing time, before and after school and during the lunch period. They are not to be used during class or for the purpose of taking any photos or videos. We have recently heard from a few parents who have blocked access to certain apps during the school day and wanted to pass on this possibility for your consideration. What limits, blocks or access a parent may give to a child's personal device is ultimately the responsibility and choice of each parent, but we wanted to pass on the strategy that a few parents have found helpful during the school day.

February is "I love to read month" and we will be looking forward to the [Battle of the books](#) on February 15th! Consider promoting I love to read month by talking about different types of reading materials that you have found interesting from magazines, books, short stories etc. We will continue to promote a love of reading as a part of our school experience, but I think it is important not to lose sight of what is most important, which is the love of learning. Reading is one of many ways we learn, so feel free to show your child what learning looks like for you, even if it is things like recipes, manuals, technical directions, novels, non-fiction or anywhere in between.

Remember that tonight is the Middle School Dance and Activity night from 6-8 pm and these kids are very excited! Please know that all school rules will still apply, but we look forward to giving this opportunity for our students to come in and have some fun! Please know if a student leaves the dance they may not return. I was asked by a student what my favorite dance move is and I responded with 'Either the shopping cart, lawn mower, or sprinkler'. The blank stare back at me told me that my moves might be a little outdated, so perhaps I will pick up some new dance moves this evening!

Have a great weekend!

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DATES TO CHECK OUT:

Feb.

10th-RMS-CES Middle School Activity/Dance
15th-Battle of the Books
20th-No School-Presidents Day
27th-8th Grade Baker Field Experience

Mar.

8th-5th Grade Baker Field Experience
24th-31st-No School-Spring Break

Apr.

7th- No School
20th-STEM Art & Academic Showcase

ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Send some LOVE to teachers by donating items from their Classroom Wish Lists!

Every year staff spend a lot of their own money purchasing items for their classroom. The Rockford Education Foundation has set up wish lists for all three schools so parents can easily help out. Valentine's Day is a great time to do this!

Steps to Donate:

1. Click here to view [Classroom Wish Lists](#)
2. Use one of these Valentine donation [cards](#) to send along with your donation (or use your own card if you wish)
3. Deliver to the school front office or recipient's classroom

Note: if ordering from a teacher's amazon wish list, please ship to home and then bring to school with your donation card.

> Donate between February 1 - 14

*These are not ISD883 sponsored events

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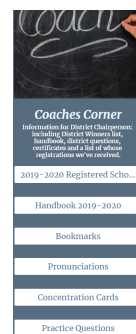
NEWS AND NOTES

Attention RMS-CES Battle participants!

The Battle of the Books is February 15! If you would like to test your book knowledge, visit [AKASL Battle of the Books](#) for access to practice questions. Scroll down to the Coaches Corner to find Practice Questions.

Download "5/6Practice" or "MSPractice" (grades 7/8) questions using password **MovingOn2023**.

Please ignore the questions for the following books, as they are not included in our Battle: *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* and *Norse Mythology*



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 CLOSES FEB 24
5-7 YEAR OLDS - REGISTRATION CLOSES MAR 24

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

Please contact us at raabaseball@raaasports.com if you have questions.

Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event

SOFTBALL REGISTRATION



Registration for the 2023 summer RAAA youth fastpitch softball season is now open at <https://www.raaasports.com/summer-registration> !

Registration Deadlines

- 8U Travel, 10U and 12U registration closes on Feb. 27
- 6U and 8U House registration closes on March 31

You'll find all the details on the [registration page](#).

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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 ?

[Three Rivers Programs](#)

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/>



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

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH FORMS:

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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.

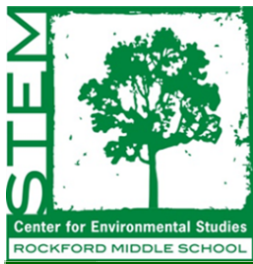
To complete the annual update, log in to your Parent Portal Account and select "More". From there, select "Online Registration", then select "22-23 School Year Annual Update for Existing Students". The

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 or 763-477-9165.

CLASSROOM CORNER

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6th & 7th Grade Baker Field Experiences

Blue skies and temperatures climbing towards 40 degrees were added benefits to this week's Baker Outdoor Learning Center experiences. 6th and 7th graders had the opportunity to engage in lessons and activities with Baker Park naturalist staff to learn about winter ecology, conduct insulation experiments, and experiment with hiking through deep snow using snowshoes.

Students and staff connected to nature while experiencing authentic learning opportunities outside our classroom walls. The beautiful weather made us all remember that Minnesota's winters are so enjoyable! Three Rivers Parks has many winter activities and programs that can be found on their website-- your family may find a great reason to get outdoors!

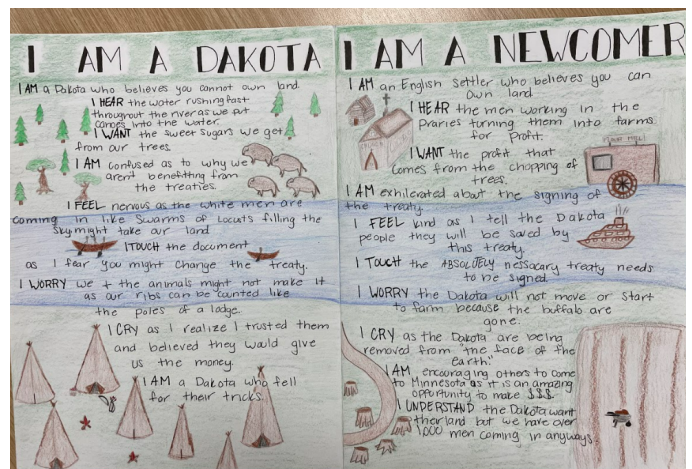
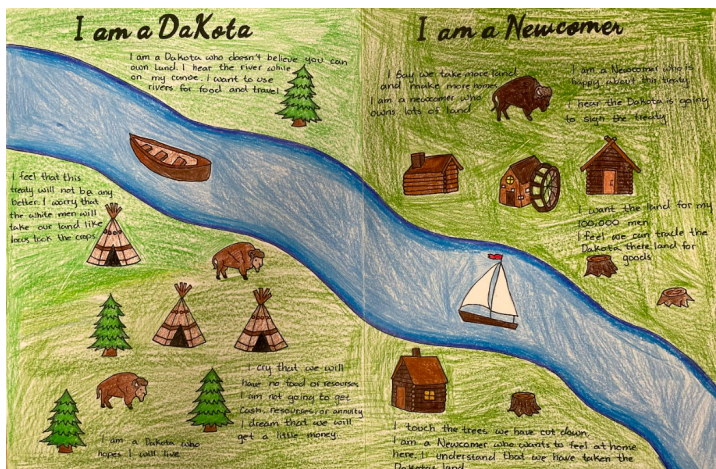


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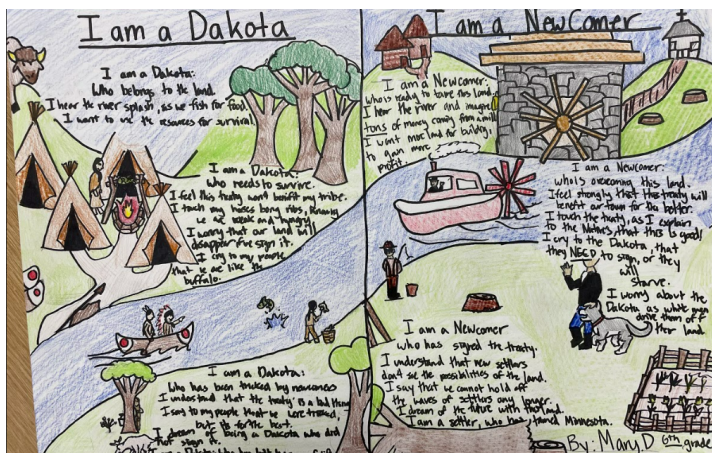
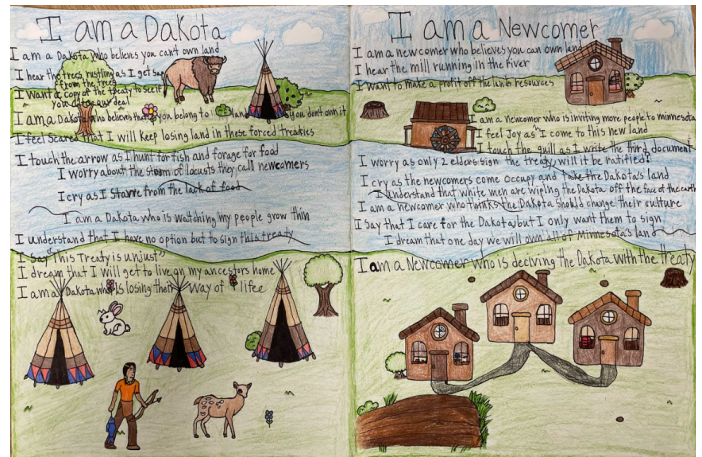
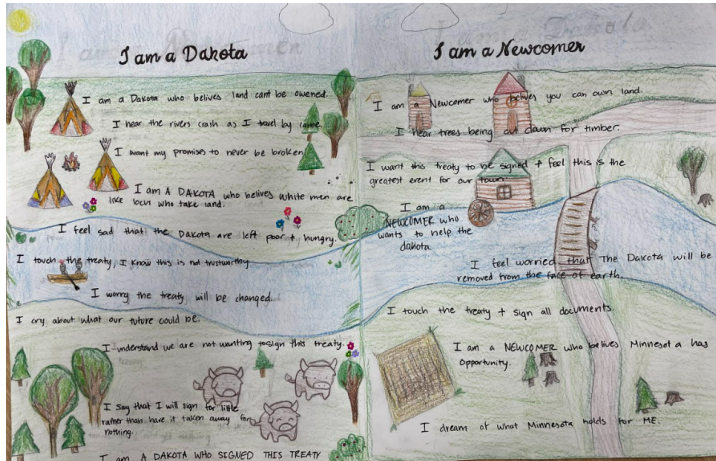


6TH Grade Social Studies-Ms. Wilts

Sixth grade social studies students have been learning about how the United States was a young nation that was growing quickly and desired more land. During the mid-1800s, it acquired millions of acres of land from Minnesota's Dakota and Ojibwe. Land changed hands through a series of treaties. Students explored different perspectives on the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota. Then using a series of primary sources students created an I Am poem showing the perspective the Dakota Native Americans and the European newcomers had about land, resources and the treaty signings.



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Digital Skills-Ms. Russell

Please enjoy some of the animations students have made during our first unit in Digital Skills. We used Brush Ninja, Piskel, and Google Slides to create our animations, and some students chose to share theirs on the Padlet.

Please view [Animations!](#)

Students could also choose to use their pixel animation to be their character in our current project where we are coding a video game.