



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 17th, 2023

Dear RMS-CES Families,

As I sit to write this weekly parent bulletin, I find myself having great difficulty in determining what my favorite part of the week has been with so many great highlights. So I'm going to change it up a little bit this week in the style of the former late show host David Letterman's top 10 list.

#10- The dance was absolutely incredible with over 200 students representing. We had a great time and the kids made good choices.

#9- Battle of the Books was on February 15th in the Media Center and although I could not make it to this event, their excitement and energy could be felt reverberating through the walls! Love their passion!

#8 - I was grateful to receive an unexpected call from some REAMS students with a special Valentine's day song. They sounded great and I appreciated them making the time!

#7- In being in classrooms this week I have heard words like evidence, reasoning, claim, infer, inquiry, and hypothesis. I appreciate hearing the language of STEM education and it is great to hear our students use evidence based communication.

#6- I am grateful for having gotten the chance to flip some pancakes for our amazing staff on the morning of Valentines Day. This staff has a huge heart for kids and I am grateful to be able to work with them!

#5- Our Student Council gave a discount to the dance if students brought an item to donate to our local food shelf. The count is in and students have donated **180** items weighing approximately **181** pounds.

#4- The Band Concert was fantastic last night and I thoroughly enjoyed hearing our students improve in their sound and I am so very impressed with how our community comes out to support these young musicians.

#3- Today, students could wear pajamas and spend time celebrating I love to read month by reading in their Language Arts class. I was grateful to spend a little bit of time today reading with some students in class.

#2- On Thursday we did Alice training and our students and staff did a great job to help teach students the ALICE concepts including the strategies of evacuating, barricading, and countering. In addition, we reviewed a rally point of where we would meet to get bust to safety in the event we were to evacuate.

#1- Students had a choice over the songs under the supervision of staff and much to my surprise the closing song they chose was "let It go" from Frozen. Given the grumbling that I heard as the song started to play, I wasn't quite sure how it was going to go, but listening to 100 plus kids singing "Let It Go" at the top of their lungs was a memory maker indeed and a great way to close out our night.

FFA WEEK-February 20th-24th, 2023

Have a great weekend!

Paul Warzecha, Principal



In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally minded citizens.



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

DATES TO CHECK OUT:

Feb.

20th-No School-Presidents Day

23rd-Choir Concert

27th-8th Grade Baker Field Experience

27th-Spring Sports Meeting

Mar.

8th-5th Grade Baker Field Experience

24th-31st-No School-Spring Break

Apr.

3rd-Start of Qtr 4

7th- No School

20th-STEM Art & Academic Showcase

NEWS AND NOTES



Spring Sports Registration is now OPEN to students in grades 7-12.

RAS offers the following spring sports opportunities: baseball, golf, lacrosse, softball, tennis (boys), track & field and trapshooting. Registration information and required forms can be found on the [Activities Registration](#) page of the district website.

SCHOOL STORE HOURS:



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

In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally minded citizens.



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



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 raaabaseball@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](#).



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.

In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally minded citizens.



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

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:

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

In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally minded citizens.



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



RMS-CES ATTENDANCE LINE

Please use our [ATTENDANCE LINE](tel:763-477-7525) 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

Battle of the Books WINNERS

Grades 5/6

- 1st place: Marshall Borders, Liam Anderson, Derek Byers
- 2nd place: Makayla Varhol, Zoe Heidgerken, Landan Lorenz
- 3rd place: Emma Wilts, Callen Van Denheuvel



In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally minded citizens.



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

Grades 7/8

- 1st place: Britta Johnson and Laura Ickes
- 2nd place: Hannah Kartak, Lucy Zednik, Veronica Ferdig
- 3rd place: Belinda Armstrong, Thora Binsfeld, Olivia Larson



Here are some fun pictures of our staff enjoying a Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast! A huge thank you to our staff for all they do each and every day!









Here is Mr. Warzecha flippin' pancakes for our staff! THANK YOU!



In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally minded citizens.

8th Grade Science-Ms. Budde

Eighth graders are putting their research skills to the test in our unit on Natural and Synthetic Materials! Students are improving in skill when gathering information from written articles and digital sources, while keeping an eye out for sources that have incorrect or biased information. We will use this skill and the information they have collected to help complete a project about materials that have and/or will change the world, for better or worse!

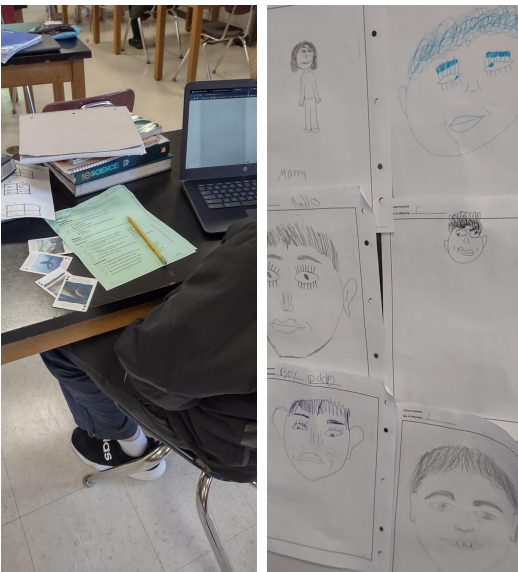
Examples of Natural and Synthetic Polymers			
Natural polymers are made by living organisms.		Synthetic polymers are made by chemical reactions in a lab.	
			
DNA	Rubber	Nylon	Polyester
			
Cellulose	Wool	Teflon	Epoxy

sciencenotes.org



7TH GRADE SCIENCE-Ms. Sarsland

Genetics and traits are being wrapped up in 7th Grade Science. From licorice genes to DNA extraction, students have had great experiences with hereditary. Flipping pennies to determine child characteristics and drawing the pictures was fun and demonstrated genotypes and phenotypes. Nice work students!



In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally minded citizens.

5TH GRADE SCIENCE-Ms. Oliverius

In science class recently, we have been soaking up the warm weather with a little phenology at the Crow River! Students made observations using their senses and compared their observations to our previous visit in the fall. It sure has changed quite a bit since October!

The past few weeks in fifth grade science have consisted of exploring patterns in our skies. We have graphed daylight hours in different cities, modeled eclipses, and figured out why the sun looks bigger and brighter than other stars, even though it is not! Fifth graders really enjoyed our space unit and will continue working on these concepts for a few weeks before their final assessment.

