ROCKET NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School encourages student imagination, inquiry, and discovery by using an arts-infused academic curriculum that fosters critical thinking and creativity.

February

February 5-6
Grade 2 Songwriting Residency

February 8
Preschool Screenings

February 12-16
Jump Rope for Heart

February 19
NO SCHOOL

February 21-22
Grade 4 Floor Hockey

February 22
Launching Pad
Preschool Open House



See Page 8 for Calendar of Events



From the Principal

Dear REAMS Families,

Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School staff and students work hard on kindness and including others in all aspects of the school day. We know that this is not an easy practice as students or as adults, and yet, the results are a kinder school, community and world. Because of this continued effort, REAMS participated in the Great Kindness Challenge during the week of January 22nd. Students worked on kindness skills in school and at home, dressed up in fun attire related to kindness for the week, and made new connections to help reduce social isolation. Students already understand the importance of kindness at REAMS, and the Great Kindness Challenge takes kindness to a new level to help with inclusion for all students.

During the month of February, students will participate in a variety of activities for "I Love to Read" month. Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School will have many events planned for the students that center around the wonderful world of literature. The activities will all promote reading in a fun and engaging way. We encourage you to spend time reading together as a family during this month.

Lastly, Kindergarten Round Up is just around the corner! Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet school is proud to offer full day tuition free kindergarten for all students. The staff has a fantastic year planned for students and are thrilled to welcome the Class of 2037 to Kindergarten Round Up on Thursday, March 7th from 5:45-7:00p.m. If you have an incoming kindergarten student, please plan to join us that evening. Do not hesitate to reach out to the REAMS office at 763-477-5837, if you have questions about registration or Kindergarten Round Up. We are excited for our newest little learners to join our REAMS family!

I hope you have enjoyed the beautiful weather this winter and have been able to get outside and play with your kids! Thank you for your partnership and all of your support as we work together to help your kids reach for the stars each day!

Warmly,

Brenda Nyhus
Principal

REAMS | COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Chronic Absenteeism

Since COVID, chronic absenteeism has increased substantially. Up to 30% of Minnesota students are considered chronically absent. The criteria for being considered chronically absent is missing 10% or more of school days. When students are absent from school they miss critical instruction time and are at the greatest risk of falling behind.

Why Chronic Absenteeism Matters: CLICK HERE for What the Research Says

** Chronic absenteeism may prevent children from reaching early learning milestones.

** Irregular attendance can be a better predictor of whether students will drop out before graduation than test scores.

** Frequent absences from school can shape adulthood.

NYSTROM & ASSOCIATES

School-Based Therapy

Please click HERE for February Newsletter

School-Based Therapy is a program in which Nystrom & Associates places clinical mental health providers at a community school to provide therapeutic services to students who have a mental health diagnosis. Therapists will collaborate with teachers, school social workers, and staff to aid the student in working towards their individual goals. The school-based therapist works with all students who qualify for mental health services. They do not need to be receiving special education services or have an individualized education plan (IEP). Guardian involvement is encouraged and recommended. For more information, please contact the your child's teacher or email our school counselors at leisticoa@rockford.K12.mn.us or reynoldsk@rockford.k12.mn.us.

Outdoor Recess

All children must go outside on outdoor recess days. The temperature and wind-chill factor are considered when the decision is made for outdoor recess. The elementary school uses the following weather guidelines for preparing students to go outdoors at recess: 1. Warmer than 0°F -- outside recess for all students. 2. Between 0°F and -10°F -- recess time may be shortened. 3. Colder than -10°F -- indoor recess.



REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

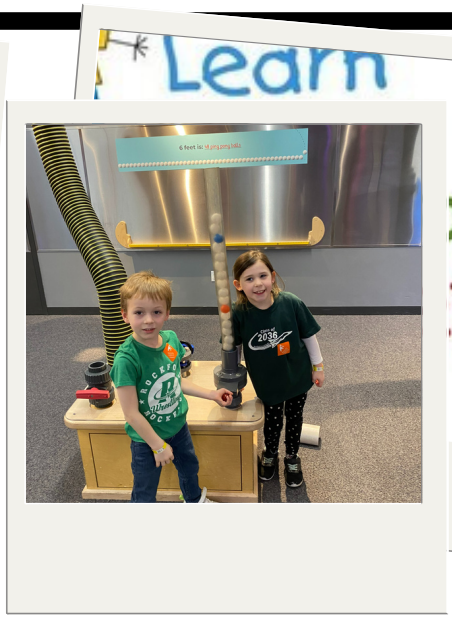
Kindergarten!

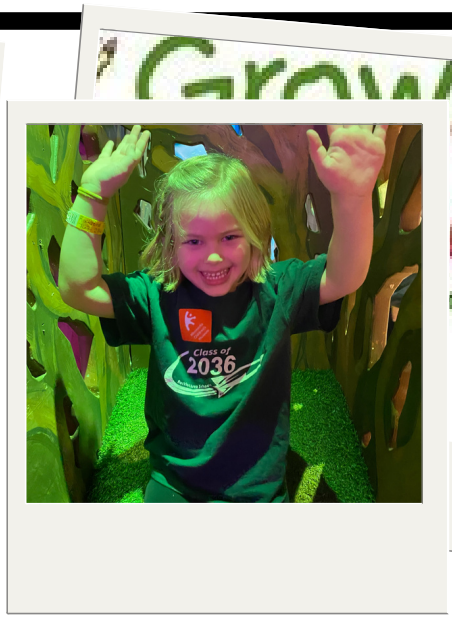
WHAT WE ARE LEARNING:

During the month of January, kindergarteners focused on social/science/health themes of the New Year, the season of winter, germs and Mr. Yuk, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., community helpers and that a resolution is a promise they make to themselves. At the end of January came the long awaited field trip to the Children's Museum! Kindergarten had a blast exploring their creativity and imagination. They took that imagination and brought it to Career Day that same week, where students shared their dreams for their future. We focused a lot on celebrating our own uniqueness and the uniqueness of others. We read the book Elmer the Patchwork Elephant and made our own elephant parade. Kindergarten, after learning about Dr. Martin Luther King, decorated a kindness tree with promises of making Rockford school a place where everybody can be welcomed. We are looking forward to putting our promise into practice in February when we celebrate Valentine's Day, the 100th day of school, and I Love to Read Month!

We are almost two-thirds of the way through the alphabet, and the kindergartners are building on their skills by blending these sounds together to read words. The K teachers are so proud of how hard they are working, and it is so amazing to see them excited to read. In math we are continuing to build our number sense, and learn all the different ways there are to find an answer to a problem. Kindergartners are perfecting strategies that will help them long after they have left the grade.







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

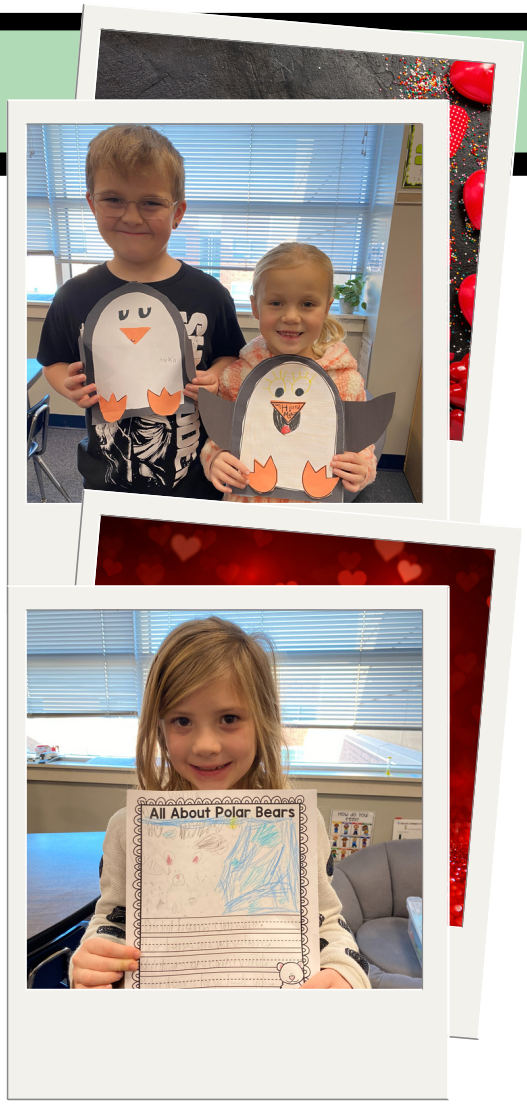
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REAMS
ROCKFORD ELEMENTARY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

1st Grade

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING:

First graders have been busy learning about polar habitats. We began by learning about the arctic region – near the North Pole. We learned about a variety of different animals that live in the arctic such as polar bears, arctic foxes, walruses and orcas. We learned about the adaptations they have that make it possible for them to live in such a harsh environment. We then moved on to learning about Antarctica. We compared and contrasted the two habitats. We learned that they both experience polar day and night. We learned that some animals live in both habitats, but some only live in one of the areas. We focused on learning about penguins – which for the most part – only live south of the equator. This is an exciting unit that ties in science, geography and writing. Hopefully your first graders are excited to share some of their learning with you.



SNEAK PEEK FOR FEBRUARY

- 100th Day of School
- Valentine's Day
- Dental Health
- The Human Body

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

2ND GRADE

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING:

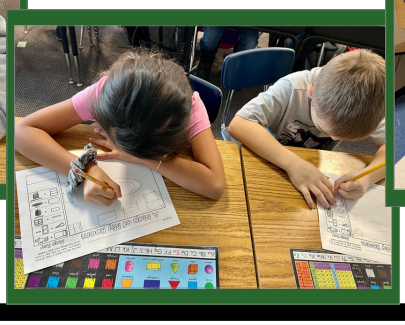
Throughout the month of January, second graders have learned about the positive changes and impact Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have made on society. They wrote about their own dreams and made some goals and resolutions to continue to strive to accomplish, both in and out of school!

They learned about parts of a map (map key, land, water, symbols, landmarks, compass rose, etc.), about the different kinds of maps (atlas, globe, city, state, country, and world maps), and about how to read directions when looking at a map.

They have worked hard to enhance their writing by using quotation marks to create conversations, and turning simple sentences into interesting and detailed compound sentences. They will continue to develop their writing and grammar skills as they practice and create writing pieces throughout the rest of the year! Second graders are looking forward to celebrating REAMS' "Kindness Week" with fun dress-up days, kindness challenges, and lots of other ways to celebrate and promote kindness!









SNEAK PEEK FOR FEBRUARY

- I Love to Read Month
- President's Day Activities
* Subtraction with Regrouping
* Songwriting Residency

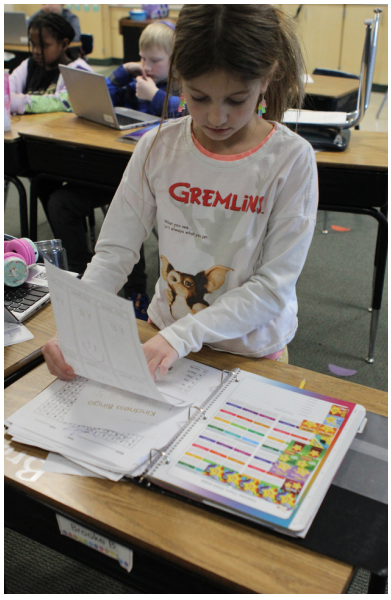
REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

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REAMS
ROCKFORD ELEMENTARY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

3RD GRADE

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING:

January is all about getting back into our routine. Daily schedules are back to normal and homework expectations are back to normal as well. Remember, each third grader should be reading 20 minutes a night. Reading homework and math homework will also come home weekly.



Help your child stay organized by going through their binder daily. Look at their completed work. This will give you an idea of what is going on in the classroom. If your child is not bringing home papers, please ask them about it. Many students just throw away completed work because "my parents don't look at it anyway". Also, pay attention to the quality of work. Can you read what they wrote? Did they answer in complete sentences? These are expectations we have to help students in future years of schooling.

February 1st is our third grade concert. This will be held in the high school auditorium in the evening. Please look for more information from Ms. Larson and Mr. Eliason for times and dress code.

SNEAK PEEK FOR FEBRUARY

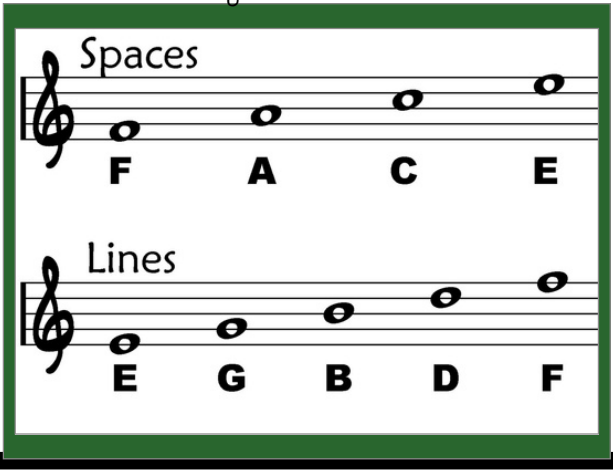
- Valentine's Day Party
- Singing Valentines
- Battle of the Books
- I Love to Read Month

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING:

Squeak! Squawk!Squeal!

Do you remember playing recorder in elementary school?The first few times playing recorder makes for some interesting noises, but fourth graders at REAMS are getting better each week! The squeaks are less and the learning is improving greatly. Besides learning to play an instrument with correct breath and finger placement, students are also learning to read music on the staff. "FACE in the Space" and "Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge" are terms we use in fourth grade music quite often. Ask your fourth grader to show you the line and space pitch names on their hand—they should be able to! Students have been working hard to showcase their learning. Some of this will be shared at their Spotlight Concert on Tuesday, March 12.





UPCOMING EVENTS

3/12 - Grade 4 Concert

4/11 - Grade 2 Concert

5/3 - Grade 2 Grandparent's Day

5/21 at 4-6pm Arts and Academics

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

Message from our ADSIS and Title Team



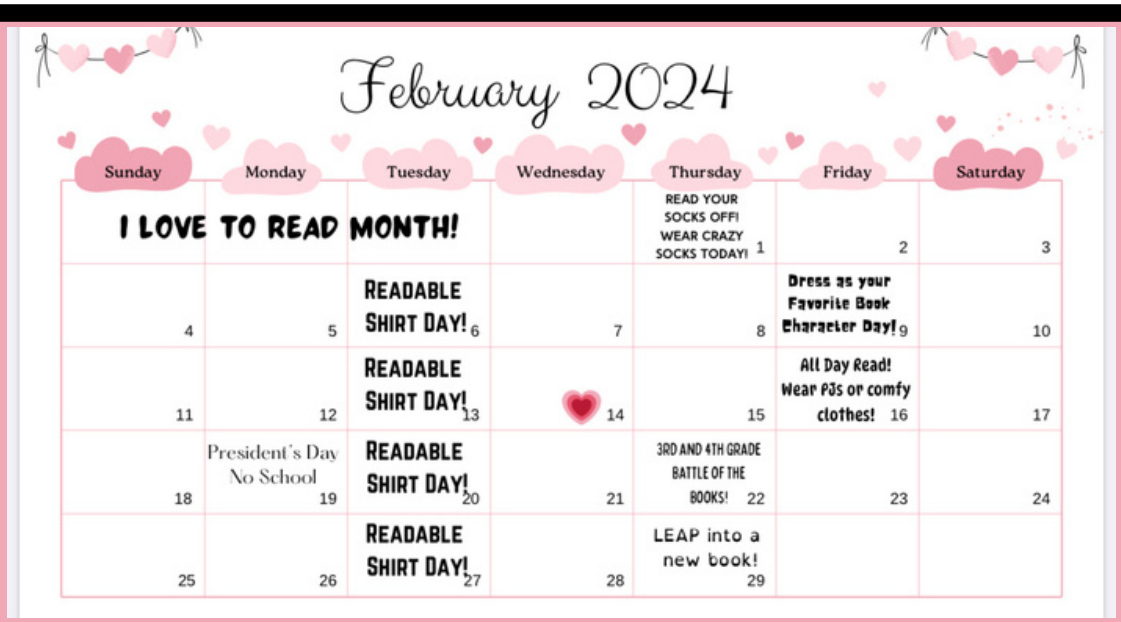
As educators we often hear the question, "How can I help my child to become a better reader?" The most important thing that you can do is to read WITH your child.

Reading to your children is important because language and the development of literacy skills begin at birth. Parents share a pivotal role in reading and language development by introducing reading to their children before they even begin school. If you want your child to become a confident, successful and self-motivated reader there are several simple things that you can do to help your child.

Put books in your child's hands at home. Visit the local library for story hour. Read a nightly bedtime story to your child. Once your child is able to read, set a schedule and ask your child to read with you for 15 minutes every night. Model good reading for your child by reading to him or her. Ask questions about the story as you read to improve comprehension. Explain unfamiliar words or phrases and give your child the opportunity to ask questions about the stories that you are reading together. Try "Buddy Reading" with your child. You read a page and then ask your child to read a page. It is a great way to model good reading fluency for your child.

Reading to your child stimulates their imagination, introduces them to new vocabulary, helps them to develop listening skills and most importantly, encourages a positive attitude about reading. Your children are watching you. If you show them that you love reading, they will want to follow your lead!







Mark Your Calendars: REAMS Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

5-6 Grade 2 Songwriting Residency
8 Preschool Screenings
12-16 Jump Rope for Heart
15 K 100th Day of School
19 No School - President's Day
21-22 Grade 4 Floor Hockey
22 Grades 3-4 Battle of the Books
@ 5:30-7 LP Preschool Open House

MARCH

7 Preschool Screenings
Kindergarten Roundup
12 @ 6:30pm Grade 4 Concert
14 Preschool Screenings
REAMS Conf
@ 2:30pm REF Fundraiser Kickoff
18 REAMS Conferences
18-20 Gym Classes @ RCC
21 @ 2:15pm Terrific Thursday
22 Half Day Work Day/Full No School Day
25-29 Spring Break - No School

APRIL

2-4 Kindergarten Artist in Residence
4 Grade 2 Stages Theater Field Trip
8-12 Grade 1 Artist in Residence
11 Preschool Screening
11 @ 6:30pm Grade 2 Concert
15-19 PhyEd Gymnastics
22-26 PhyEd Obstacle Course
25 Launching Pad Parent-Child Night
25-26; 29-30 Grade 2 Artist in Residence
29-30 PhyEd Track

May

2 Preschool Screenings
Grade 2 Artist in Residence
3 @ 12:15pm Grade 2 Grandparents Day
6-10 All Grades at Track for PhyEd
14-16 Grade 4 Artist in Residence
15 Education Foundation Fundraiser Pick Up
20-21 Grade 4 Artist in Residence
21 @ 4-6pm Arts & Academics
24 @ 2:15pm Fabulous Friday
27 Memorial Day - No School
29 Grade 4 Field Trip to Capitol and Flint Hills

June

4 Last day of School

June 5- September 2 Summer Break

Sept 3-4 Assessment Days
Sept 5 First Day of School

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND LAUNCHING PAD PRESCHOOL| POINTS OF PRIDE

2024-25 LAUNCHING PAD PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Launching Pad Preschool provides an outstanding and unique public preschool experience!





- Children 3 to 5 years old
- Full and half day options, 2, 3 and 5 days a week
- Reggio Emilia-Inspired Approach to education
- Rich in opportunities to discover and explore
- Encouraged to problem solve and try new ways to do "old" things
- Nurturing and accepting surroundings
- Caring and highly trained staff, including licensed early childhood teachers
- Located at Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School

The entire program is designed to be engaging and fun so children don't just learn, they love to learn! On-line registration and information are available at www.rockford.ce.eleyo.com. Or visit our website at: www.rockford.k12.mn.us. Under the Community tab, click Early Childhood Programs. For more information, please call us at 763-477-7500.

ECFE POP-IN & PLAY

Come and explore our early childhood classroom especially set-up for your little ones. This is all about play, play and more play! A change of scenery, something new, maybe something messy that you don't have to clean up. Activities will change each week and be fun and engaging for your child. Come and play once, or every time. Pre-registration is requested at rockford.ce.eleyo.com, or by CLICKING HERE.

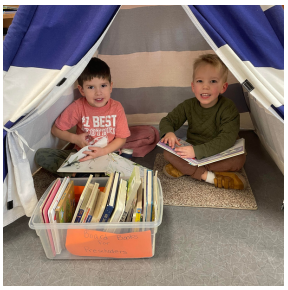
Tuesdays
11 am to 12 pm
Winter: Jan 9 to Mar 12, $2 /child/ session
Spring: Apr 9 to May 14, $2/child /session
REAMS ECFE room 213



GALAXY KIDS SCHOOL-AGE CARE| POINTS OF PRIDE

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING:

Galaxy Kids will hold their annual January non-school days for families within the program that need care on January 15th and 22nd. Students are able to participate in many fun filled activities throughout each day that are tied to the Snow/Winter Theme. They also are able to enjoy the weather and go outside and play on the playgrounds/outdoor spaces around the school.





Galaxy Kids is a certified before and after school child care program for preschool-6th grade students offered through Rockford Area Schools Community Education. We are conveniently located in Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School right across the hall from ECFE and the Preschool classrooms. We are open Monday-Friday from 6:00am-6:00pm, to assist with family child care needs. We have many different registration options that are sure to accommodate most families' busy schedules. If you are looking for child care, before, during, or after school, then this may be the program for you.





EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Identifying possible concerns early in young children is the best way to prevent serious problems later. Children need to complete Early Childhood Health & Development Screening before they may enter public kindergarten. The ideal time to screen children is between ages 3 to 4. Early Childhood Screening also provides an opportunity for parents to discuss questions and concerns, and find out about resources in the school and community.

The Screening Process

Screening includes a health history, height and weight, immunization review, follow-up with parents and screening in the following areas:

- Hearing & vision
- Fine & gross motor skills
- Speech & development
- Social-emotional development

Make your appointment by calling the Early Childhood Programs Office at 763-477-7500. Appointments are needed and letters are sent to families with age-eligible children. If you have a child in this age group and do not receive a letter, please call us.

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REAMS

Welcome Class of 2037!

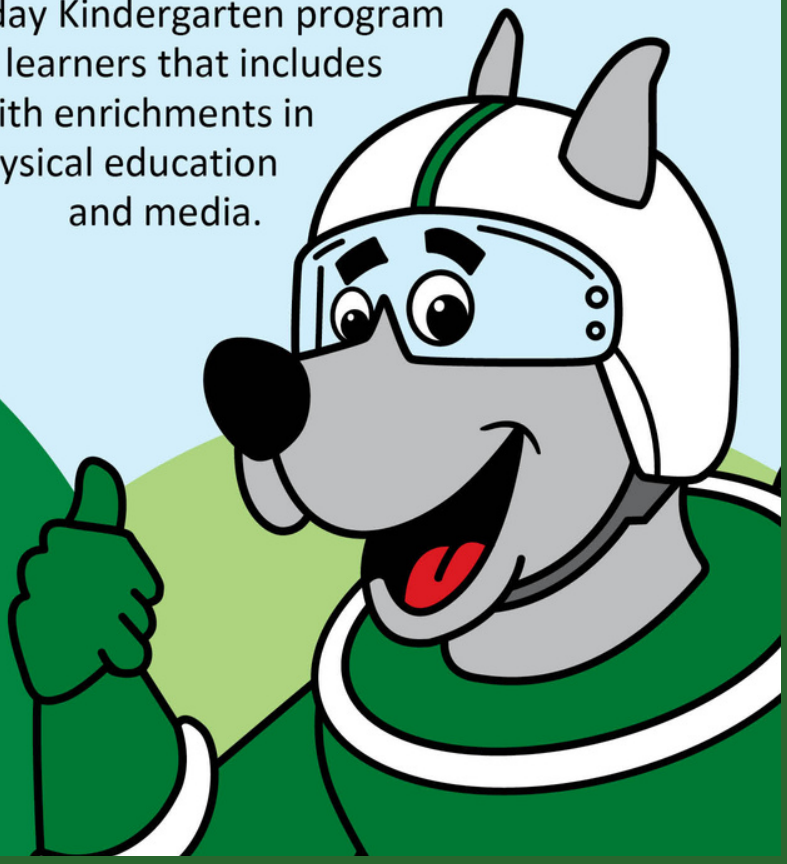
Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School

Kindergarten

Now Enrolling for 2024-2025

Open enrollment & transportation available!

We offer an all day, every day Kindergarten program in a small, caring community of learners that includes a robust core curriculum with enrichments in art, music, theater, physical education and media.



Kindergarten Roundup

Thursday, March 7, 2024
5:30-7:00pm

Doors Open at 5:30pm
Pre-Registered Sibling Care Drop-Off at 5:45pm
Kindergarten Roundup Program at 6:00pm

PARENT- COMMUNITY NEWS

Attention: Governor Walz signed a bill into law to provide breakfast and lunch at no charge to students at participating schools, beginning in the fall for the 2023-24 school year.

APPLICATION FOR EDUCATION BENEFITS:

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to fill out this FORM. Our school also receives state funding for technology based on qualifying families! For more information or a Spanish version, click HERE.

FOOD SERVICE REMINDER:

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

Please note, per our School Board approved School Meals Policy, Low Account Balance and Negative Account Balance email reminders will continue to be sent. Since Rockford Area Schools are not receiving additional meal funding at this time, it remains the parent(s)' or guardian's responsibility to ensure adequate funds are available in the meal account.

CAMPUS

It is very important to ensure the school district has current household and contact information for all students. Please be sure to log in to your Parent Portal account to complete the Annual Update. The 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 it will ensure you receive information regarding any important announcements.

To complete the annual update, please do the following:

1) Log in to your Parent Portal Account
2) Select "More."
3) Select "Online Registration"
4) Select "23-24 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.

Please call our attendance line to report your child absent.

SCHOOL Attendance

763-477-7525

Option 1: REAMS Option 2: RMS-CES Option 3: RHS
Option 4: Galaxy Option 5: Launching Pad Preschool

PARENT- COMMUNITY NEWS

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Not an ISD 883 Event

Kids Heart Challenge: Time to CELEBRATE Heart Health!

Our students will learn about heart and brain health, meet kids with special hearts, and raise funds for the health of all hearts. Our students will feel good by doing good, knowing they made a difference for kids just like them!

Help Save Lives by following these three steps:

1) Get started NOW: Download the AHA Schools APP and Register. (in the APP Store or Google Play).
2) Click "Send a Message" and TEXT 10 Friends and Family asking for support.
3) Be a Heart Hero and Complete Finn's Mission and learn TWO lifesaving skills as a family TONIGHT! or REGISTER HERE and Click "Sign Up"

We have some BONUS incentives for our students this year.

- School Goal: 200 Students Register and 54 Students Complete Finn's Mission
- Classroom Challenge Incentive: Help your classroom teacher earn $50 in Amazon rewards when you Register and Complete Finn's Mission.
- Complete Finn's Mission: Receive "Finn's Lifesaver Award"

NFL Bonus: The American Heart Association is excited to extend our work with the NFL to support improving health outcomes at home and beyond through the Hands-Only CPR education. Students that complete the Finn's Mission learning module will earn an entry for Two tickets to Super Bowl LIX in 2025 and your school will be entered to receive a $10,000 fitness equipment makeover for every 18 completed Finn's Mission.

Thank you for being part of the Kids Heart Challenge, supporting our school and the American Heart Association.

Rockford Education Foundation: Click here to view Classroom Wish Lists

Spread LOVE to our dedicated staff by donating items from their Classroom Wish Lists!

This Valentine's Day, express your gratitude and appreciation to the incredible teachers and staff who go above and beyond for our students by donating items from their Classroom Wish Lists! Every year staff spend a lot of their own money purchasing items to enhance their classroom. The Rockford Education Foundation has set up wish lists for all three schools so parents can easily help out.



Steps to Donate:

1.View Classroom Wish Lists using the link above and choose items to donate.

2.Valentine Donation Card: Click here to use one of our special Valentine donation **cards** to send along with your gift (or use your own card if you wish).

3.Delivery Options: Drop off your donation to the school front office or recipient's classroom.

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

> Donate between February 1 - 14