

RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

May 2024



May

May 14th

FAST Reading Testing

May 16th

FAST Math Testing

May 27th

No School

May 31st

RHS Graduation

June 4th

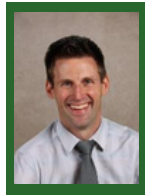
End of Quarter

Last Day of school

8th Grade Farewell Walk
at 2:30

At RMS-CES, students are empowered to become innovators through engaging, authentic and developmentally appropriate opportunities, access to a strong academic foundation, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

We are a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) School with a focus on Environmental Studies.



From the Principal

Dear Rockford Families,

I want to take the opportunity first and foremost to thank all of you for your support throughout the duration of the year. Although the year is not over all that was accomplished, could simply have not been accomplished through the hard work of students and the support from their parents.

*Thank
you!*

As we prepare to finish the 23-24 school year out on a positive note, there are a few announcements that I want to make you aware of both for the end of the year as well as next year...



RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

May 2024



From the Principal...continued

- I want to *thank all of our students, parents, and staff* for their best efforts on MCA testing this year. We know that testing can sometimes bring out a wide variety of feelings, but we know that we will continue to use the results to improve programming and learning outcomes for our students. Thank you for all of your support of your students during MCA testing. We have one last round of testing which is our Spring FAST testing which will happen on May 16th and 17th.
- I would like to invite parents of 8th-grade students and community members or coaches to join the last leg of our 8th-grade walk through the building on the last day of school. We will be lining both sides of the hallway with our 5th - 7th-grade students to celebrate our 8th graders as they take their final lap through the building. If you're interested, please feel free to join us near the top of the steps in the middle school at approximately 2:30 pm on June 4th.
- I wanted to let you know that due to changes in staffing, and input from many stakeholders, we are making a change to have our 25-minute boost occur at the beginning of the day. This allows us an opportunity to focus on starting our day with connection and leveraging our resources to meet the needs of students who might need additional time or support in their learning. If your child has specific programming that currently exists during the boost hour, you will receive additional communication before the end of the year highlighting the changes.
- Another change that we wanted to make you aware of is that starting next year the choice for music (opposite physical education) will be either band or music appreciation. This will allow the opportunity to make choir accessible to all students during the boost hour. All existing fifth, sixth, or seventh-grade students who are in choir, please know that the registration will be changed to music appreciation, and we would ask that if you would like to consider trying band that you please email myself and Molly Wirth at your earliest convenience.
- We are going to blink twice and school supplies will be back in stock in stores. We will soon be sending out the supply lists for each grade. If you are seeking assistance with school supplies you might consider [Project Pencil](#).

We recognize that as we close out our school year there are a lot of things that are competing for our student's attention every day, which is why we appreciate and value any efforts to prioritize ending the school year on a positive note.

Have a great weekend!

Paul Warzecha

CHARACTER STRONG!

These CharacterDare challenges also provide students with more opportunities to practice habits discussed in class such as:

- Conversation Starters: Ways to practice positive communication for the whole family.
- Acts of Kindness: Simple ideas to support each other at home and in the community.
- Recreation and Rest: Fun and relaxing ways to unwind and enjoy each other's company.
- Expressions of Love: A variety of invitations family members can use to give & receive love.

This school year students and staff have been participating in weekly Character Strong lessons during their Boost classes. As we move into the new year we would like to introduce you to Family CharacterDares. Each Family CharacterDare offers families the opportunity to engage in challenges designed to increase connection and conversation at home.



Guided Imagery

Guided imagery can have many health-related physical and emotional benefits. The steps that follow can help you teach teens to use their imaginations to actually change how they are feeling and what they are focused on.

www.changetochill.org

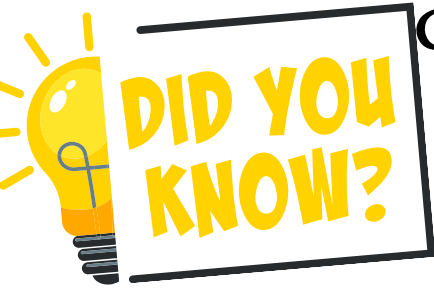


Attendance Works

Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

Please click [HERE](#) to read more about Chronic Absentism

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. Please review the link below to learn more.



School-Based Therapy

NYSTROM
& ASSOCIATES

Please click [HERE](#) for March Newsletter



Mrs. McKayla MKent

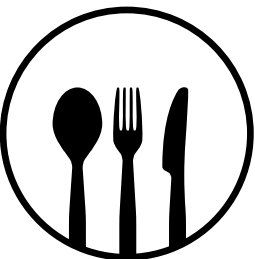
As the school-based therapist at RMS, I am available to work with students before, during, and after school hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with the understanding that I do not request sessions with students during their core classes. Sessions last from 45-60 minutes and, unless needs require otherwise, are held weekly.

On occasion, sessions involving parents and students are required as part of the therapeutic process to ensure that the family dynamics that may contribute to student behaviors are addressed as well. I also am available as a resource for staff to provide any training or input for interventions or needs as they come throughout the year.

My HOURS

Monday-
Thursday 7:30-
5:30pm





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.



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.

ATTENTION

News

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For the 2024-2025 School Year

Picture Day will be on September 12th, 2024

Picture re-takes will be on October 8th, 2024



GRATITUDE GIFTS

Thank a teacher for a great school year!



Celebrate spring and finish the school year with a shout out to our amazing Rockford staff. Every donation to the Rockford Education Foundation will support the Teacher Mini-Grant Program!

Gratitude Gifts

Thank a teacher, para, custodian, bus driver, or any person that made it a great year!

- \$10, \$20 and \$50 donation options
- All gifts include a gift card for the recipient - see [example](#)
- Gifts are delivered to the school between June 3-4.
- All donations support the [Teacher Mini-Grant Program!](#)

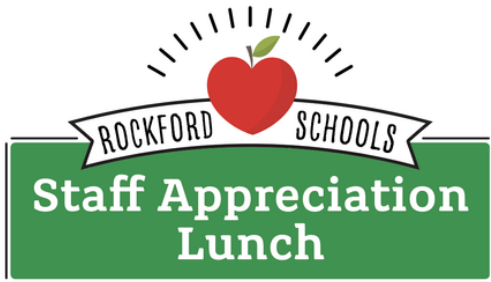
ORDER GIFTS HERE: <https://www.rockfordfoundation.org/gratitude-gifts/>

Deadline to order: May 19th at Midnight

This is not an ISD 883 sponsored event.



News



*Coming Up: Staff Appreciation
Week May 6-10, 2024*

The Rockford Education Foundation will be hosting a Mexican-themed Potluck on Tuesday, May 7th to show appreciation for all our wonderful staff! We appreciate those who donated money, food, or time to show appreciation for all our staff.

If you signed up to bring a dish to share, please drop off at the appropriate location on Tuesday, May 7th between 7:30am - 10:00am.

This is not an ISD 883 sponsored event.

**ATTENTION!
PLEASE!**

Thank you to all who participated in the Club's Choice Catalog Fundraiser! We are still finalizing the numbers but have raised over \$14,000 towards various field trips for schools.

If you have any paper orders or online orders with the ship to school option, you will need to **pick up your orders on Wednesday, May 15th 2:45-6pm @ REAMS gym.**





**PROJECT
pencils**

Providing school supplies for
Wright County's students in need

• donate • request help • volunteer •

www.ProjectPencils.com

News



Project Pencils is starting to collect school supply lists for the 2024-2025 school year.

Our 501(c)(3) organization collects and donates school supplies for children in need in Wright County. Last year, we were able to provide 669 students with all of their specific school supplies, including new backpacks for everyone who needed one. We expect to help 800 students this year.

We are asking for your help in two ways:

- 1) Please send us a copy of or link to your school supply lists so that we can help your students as soon as possible. This saves us the time of searching through many pages to find the lists or following up with you, and it will allow us to help more students.**
- 2) Please share the attached info with any staff or families who might be interested, especially students on the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program.**

Families that have financial difficulty purchasing school supplies for their K-12 students can complete the request form (only available from June 1-July 31 each year) on our website at <http://www.ProjectPencils.com/request.html> and we will post a request in our closed Facebook group for volunteers to "adopt" the student. The only info we share with our volunteers to help them purchase the correct supplies and a backpack for each student is the student's school, grade, sex, and favorite colors (optional).

They can pick up the supplies at Hollee's home in St. Michael (we send the address to anyone who completes the form) on the following dates:

Saturday, August 17 from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Tuesday, August 20 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Our website is www.ProjectPencils.com. We post information in our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ProjectPencils>, about those who need to be "adopted." Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks for all you do. We hope you have a fun, relaxing, and rejuvenating summer!

Yours in Service,

Hollee Saville
President, Project Pencils
www.ProjectPencils.com



RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE



RMS-CES
2024
SHOWCASE



At RMS-CES, we believe in the restorative power of nature to reduce stress, promote exploration, and ground our teaching and learning in concrete, place based education.

This event embodies everything we love about this place. We could not be more proud of the way our students and staff stepped up to contribute to the success of the evening. Thank you to each and every one of you for sharing your talents. We welcome any feedback as we retool and revise for the 2025 RMS-CES Showcase.

RMS-CES| POINTS OF PRIDE

Lunch HERO Day



Taher and Chef Harlan wanted to let you know we are celebrating our staff on May 3rd, Lunch Hero Day! We hope you all will join us in thanking the kitchen staff for their awesomeness and for wonderfully serving our kids everyday.



SUPER HEROES

RMS-CES

2024

SHOWCASE

CHOIR

WITH MR. ANDERSON



Each of our choirs did an excellent job in their Showcase performances! Highlights include 5th grade's "Don't Stop Believin'," 6th grade's "Baby," 7th grade's "Let It Grow," and 8th grade's "Unwritten." Mr. Andersen is very proud of the work that each student put into learning and presenting these songs for an audience.



RMS-CES
2024
SHOWCASE

Jazz Band with Ms. Bauer



The middle school jazz band has their first performance at the RMS-CES Showcase.

Several soloists showcased their improvisation skills. Congratulations to our fine musicians on a successful performance!

Next Up!

The jazz band will be performing again on Thursday, May 9th in the high school auditorium at 8:00pm.

RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

RMS-CES

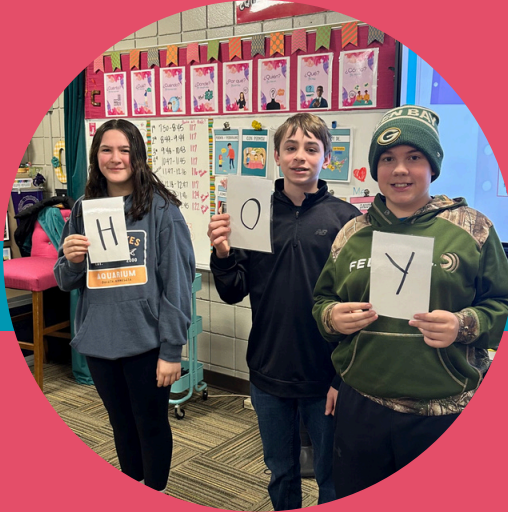
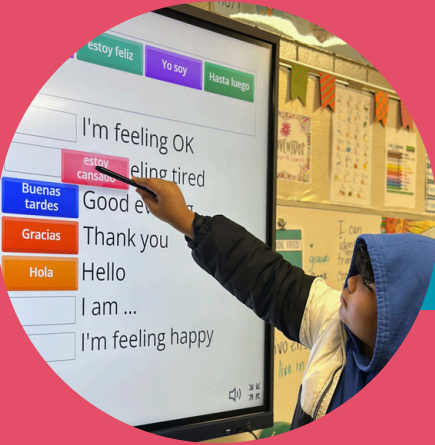
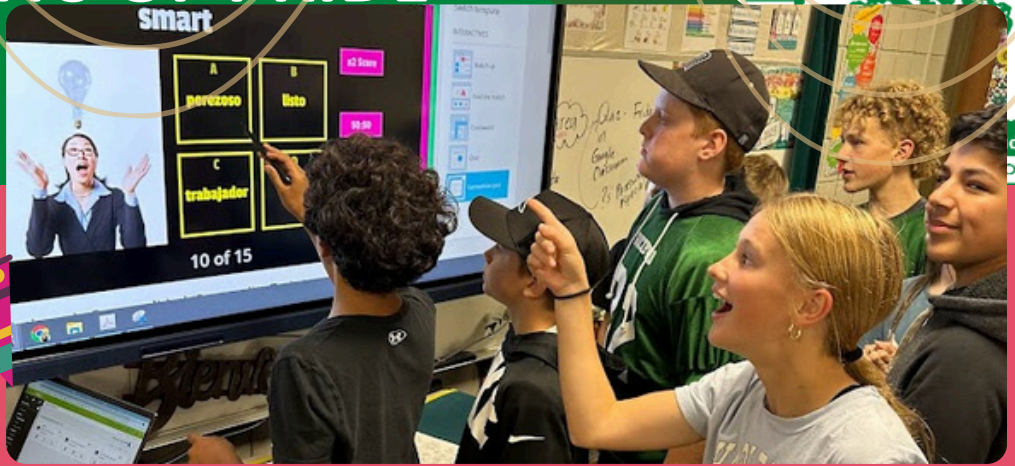
2024

SHOWCASE

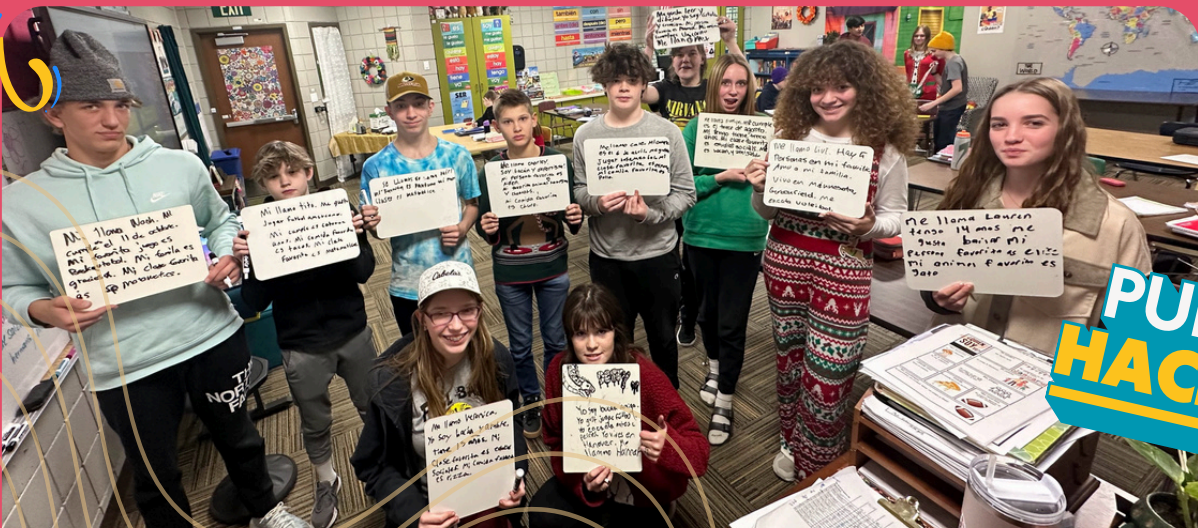


RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

La clase de *español*



7th & 8th graders had the opportunity to take one quarter of Spanish this school year. Students were introduced to pronunciation and a variety of phrases used for basic conversation. They enjoyed practicing Spanish words for games, cultural activities, listening to music and special events. Here are some highlights from the year. ¡Fue muy divertido! It was a lot of fun!



TÚ PUEDES HACERLO

RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

Track



ROCKET RECORD ALERT

CONGRATS to 8th grader Maiya Roelofs for breaking a 39 year old school record in the girls 2-mile at home at a meet earlier this week of the 2024 season!

Congrats



Maiya breaks Kim Helmes 1985 record of 12:12 with a time last night of 11:56. Her performance also earned her our coveted Big Dog award at practice today! (Pictured ready for softball practice, as she is also a dual sport athlete...And a childhood cancer survivor - go Maiya! So proud of you!)

RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

FFA with Ms. Pinkerman



Rockford Middle School was **ranked 2nd place chapter in the state, this is the second year in a row that we have been in the top 3 chapters in Minnesota.**

We also had several of our middle school teams including poultry production and nursery/landscape that achieved silver placings. Our conduct of chapter meetings team placed 4th in the state and our Middle school marketing plan team placed right under the high schoolers at 4th place as well. We had students participate in delegate meetings and **we all cheered on our high school state officer candidate, Cole Sundeen, who was inducted as the state treasurer.**

A fulfilling time that have made our teams eager to do better next year and get even more involved in the countless opportunities that FFA offers.



RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

FFA spring 2024 plant sale



Just in time for mother's day, we will once again be selling a wide variety of annual and perennial plants along with hanging baskets and patio planters. Some of our selection can be found [here](#) Check out our [Rockford FFA Facebook page](#) sometime before the sale if you would like to see pictures.

We will be open on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, 5/8 - 4-6 p.m.

Thursday, 5/9 - 4-6 p.m.

Friday, 5/10 - 4-6 p.m.

Saturday, 5/11 - 9-11 a.m.



The greenhouse is located at Rockford Middle School (6051 Ash St, Rockford, MN 55373). Please park in the parking lot adjacent to the greenhouse and bring your own cardboard boxes/carriers if you are able, as we only have a limited amount on hand. You are more welcome to keep or recycle any pots or containers purchased but if you would like to return them you are welcome to drop them off outside the greenhouse to be reused next year.

RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

AVID



RECENTLY, OUR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO ARE ENTERING THE HIGH SCHOOL AVID PROGRAM NEXT FALL ATTENDED AN AVID CELEBRATION TO RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATES OF ACCEPTANCE.



RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

Math with Mrs. Sincelir



6TH GRADE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE SCHOOL FOREST THIS SPRING! IN MATH CLASS STUDENTS HAVE "ADOPTED" A TREE, DEEPENING THEIR AWARENESS OF INDIVIDUAL TREES OVER TIME AND ENCOURAGING A GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THEIR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.



RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

ENVIROTHON



RHS and RMS-CES students recently competed in the [Metro Area Envirothon](#) at the Isaak Walton League. The envirothon is a problem-solving natural resources competition for Junior and Senior High students.

Students are tested on their knowledge of *Minnesota's natural resources—aquatics, forestry, soils, and wildlife*. For 2024, the current events theme was “Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future in Minnesota” Students visited four in the field test stations, many of which are hands on and identification type questions.

Special shout out to the 6th Grade Team for taking 1st Place in the Junior Division.



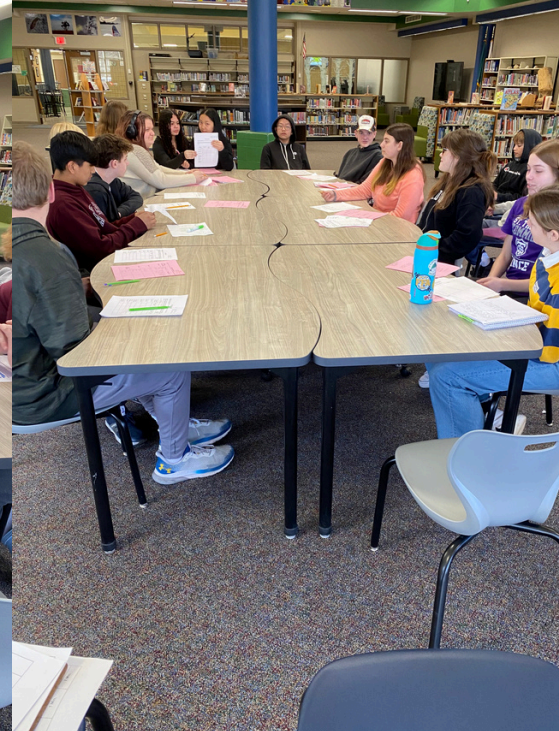
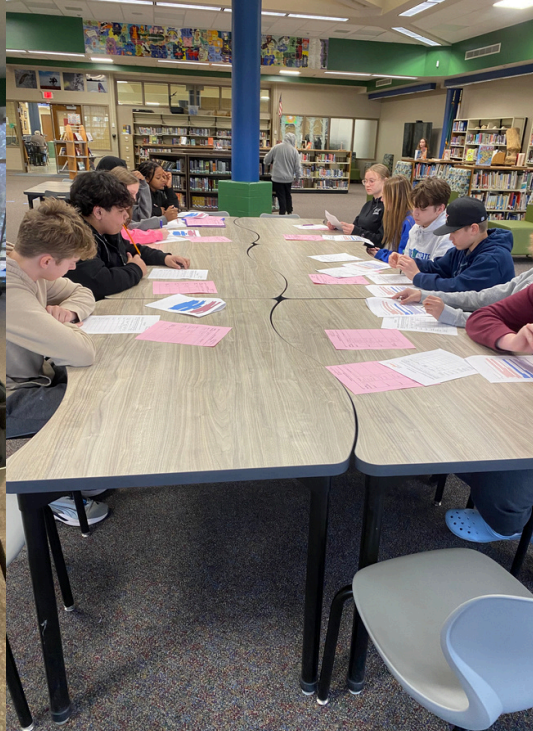
RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

Language Arts

with Ms. Hendrickson



At the beginning of 4th Quarter, LA8 students began a journey in studying “The Art of Persuasion”. Applying what they learned and already knew, we began preparing for “The Great Debate” on a topic impacting our own state and its Coniferous Biome. On the day of the debate, classes gathered in the RMS-CES Media Center and sat across the table from the opposing side to present their Claim, Supporting Evidence, and Reasoning. While no clear winner was determined, all teams demonstrated skills for organizing their research, presenting evidence, and considering and listening to both sides of the same issue.



Language Arts



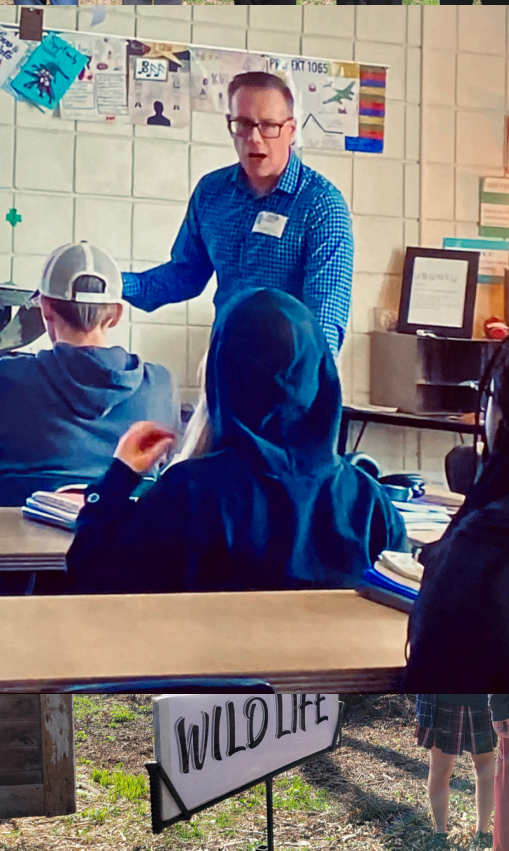
continued with Ms. Hendrickson



Following the “Great Debate”, LA8 students had the honor (no pun intended) of listening to **Judge John Bowen share his perspective on how the Art of Persuasion relates to life** – both in and out of the courtroom. *As a District Judge for Wright County*, Judge Bowen sees how effective argument and critical thinking skills impact outcomes for people. 8th Graders had an opportunity to ask him a variety of questions, and he connected each of his answers to how students can use these skills every day.

Thanks, Judge Bowen!

The last leg of our journey culminated with students writing a Persuasive Essay on a debatable topic of their choice. With each step of this writing process, they learned, practiced, and applied their knowledge to draft, edit, and revise their work. They not only wrote using their authentic voices, but they also supported their ideas using valid, relevant, and credible sources to support their Thesis Statement (claim). Along



with a Final Copy, students attached a clean “Works Cited” page (Google Citations) and a Peer Edit Sheet, marking a successful end to our “Art of Persuasion” journey.

