REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

June 2024



September

September 3
11am-7pm: Assessment Day

September 4
8am-4pm: Assessment Day

September 5
First Day of School for REAMS

Click here for School Supply Lists and Back to School Information that will be updated over the summer.



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



From the Principal

Dear REAMS Families,

I can't believe we are at the end of the school year! It seems like we just started school last week and in the blink of an eye, we are saying, have a great summer!

Students have had the wonderful opportunity to spend time growing and learning with each other this year and have truly become like family in their classrooms. It always warms my heart when I hear the kind words that they share with each other on a daily basis. The staff, students, and parents take our kindness project to heart and go out of their way to make REAMS a very special place to make special memories.

We have spent the year celebrating our 20th year as an Arts Magnet School and we have made lasting memories with the special events that we have had the students involved in. On Thursday, May 23rd, students joined their voices together to sing, I Am But A Small Voice, our first all school song. Captivate Media captured our time together and the video was released on the last day of school. The students and staff have done so many special things to highlight the 20-year anniversary, and it has truly been a joy to watch the pride pour out of our kids in each event.

REAMS students once again had the opportunity to congratulate the graduating seniors in their annual Senior Salute on Friday, May 31st. The 2024 graduating class made their way through the halls of the elementary school, donned in caps and gowns, and were honored by students and staff at REAMS clapping and cheering. We are SO proud of these students and always excited to share with our REAMS students how important their education is for their future.

Thank you for your amazing partnership this year! When we work together, we can make your child's school experience as successful as possible. I hope you enjoy the end of the school year with your kids, giving them every opportunity to make special memories in their last days of the 2023-2024 school year!

Have a fantastic summer! See you on Assessment Days on September 3-4, 2024!

Warmly,
Brenda Nyhus
Principal

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

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ROCKFORD ELEMENTARY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

Kindergarten!

During the month of May, kindergarten classrooms learned about all kinds of different animals, including animals at the zoo. On Friday, May 31 our kindergarten classes went on a field trip to the Como Zoo. It was a fun filled day full of lions, tigers and bears ~ oh my! Kindergarten students also counted down to the last day of school with the ABC countdown. They enjoyed exciting events like Popsicle Day, Glow Day, Yoga Day, Outside Day, and many other fun filled things. Students have learned so much this year! Throughout this school year, kinders have been introduced to the letters of the alphabet, learned the sounds they make and how to put them together to make words. They have learned many new Red Words and have become better readers and writers! We are so proud of all that they have accomplished this year and can't wait to see what they do in 1st Grade! Have a great summer!



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ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

1st Grade

First grade students studied the life cycle of birds and butterflies. We began the month with each class choosing a bird to research and write about. Students in each class researched information to create a display about their bird. We studied the habitats, nesting habits, food, predators and other attributes of each bird. Each student also created a model of his/her bird. The bird board displays and models were available for viewing at the REAMS Arts and Academics Showcase.

First graders also learned about the life cycle of the Painted Lady butterfly. Students documented the changes from larva to full grown butterfly within a few weeks. We let the butterflies go once they hatched.

Finally, students studied rocks, sand and soil. We learned to classify rocks in terms of color, shape and size. We learned about the different observable physical properties that make them useful. That was a lot of really fun science learning packed into one month!

May is a fun month in math as well! We learned about 2D and 3D shapes, measuring and 2-digit addition. Students learned about the shapes' attributes. Students explored and created different pictures using the shapes. The first graders learned about non standard measurement. We measured using paper clips and cubes. Lastly, we started introducing 2-digit addition. The students loved the challenge. We used base 10 blocks to help us solve our problems. So many fun hands-on activities in May!









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2ND GRADE

The second grade students celebrated Grandparent's Day on Friday, May 3rd.This is always a big day at REAMS, and this year was no exception. Grandparents and grandkids could be seen throughout the building smiling and enjoying their time together!

The grandparents arrived around noon, where they were escorted into the gymnasium by second grade helpers and treated to an awesome program that consisted of student performances and songs. The program concluded with the song "Grandma and Gramps I Love You!", which is always a favorite! After the program, the grandparents and grandkids were treated to a delicious lunch before heading up to the second grade classrooms to check out all the special projects that the students had prepared for grandma and grandpa. The highlight is when the grandparents have to try and find the portrait of themselves on the wall that their grandchild had drawn and colored. The kids ended the afternoon by giving their grandparents a tour of the school and also their classroom.

You didn't have to look too hard to see that Grandparent's Day was another huge success!











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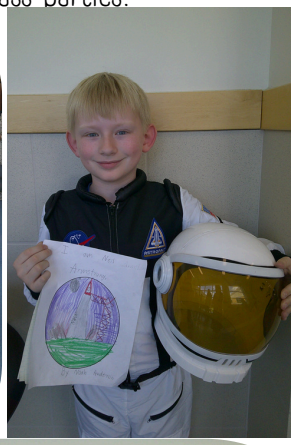
3RD GRADE

Third grade students diligently worked on preparing world leader reports and presentations. Students focused on finding research into four main areas: background information, childhood information, why he/she is famous, and his or her legacy after earning fame. We used internet and book resources. Through this research project, we were able to improve our paragraph writing skills. Students enjoyed creating Google Slide shows, booklets, bobbleheads, and posters to showcase their world leaders.

We enjoyed our annual field trip to the Rockford Public Library and Lion's park. This field trip was a fun day filled with a picnic lunch, relay races, kick ball, playing on the playground and decorating the sidewalk with chalk. Students also were able to learn about the upcoming summer library reading program. Students are encouraged to participate in this reading challenge to continue to read over the summer to maintain and improve their reading abilities. We wrapped up the school year with many exciting events including yearbook signing and class parties.

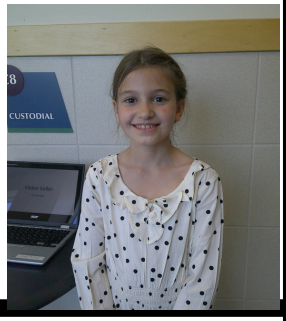
















Third Grade Field Trip to Stages Theater

Third grade students had the opportunity to experience a field trip to Stages Theatre in Hopkins. Students saw the musical "Matilda" and did a compare and contrast after reading the book in their classrooms. Students discussed props, sets, lighting, costumes, and characters in theater class as well. What a fun and educational morning learning through literacy and the arts!

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4th Grade

With the nice weather and lively energy each day, the end of the school year has been an adventure in 4th grade! May has been jammed packed with many events and activities, including the spelling bee, artist in residence, performing our all school song and a middle school informational meeting. We wrapped up the month of May with our field trip to the Capitol, Ordway and Flint Hills as well as track and field day!

Students have been working hard in their performing arts classes this month. With our visiting Artist in Residence teacher, fourth grade students have been implementing math concepts using different poses and dances. In music class, students practiced the all school song that was so exciting to hear! In theater and music classes students geared up for Arts and Academics Night that was on Tuesday, May 21st.

Topics of Learning:
Math: Geometry and Math projects
Reading: Ruby Bridges Questioning project on a topic of choice
Writing: Informational Writing
Social Studies: All About Minnesota research
Digital: State Research projects and presentations



















REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

What's the Buzz All About?



The buzz is that we have amazing spellers at REAMS! This past Friday, students in grades one through four had the opportunity to showcase their spelling talents in a two-round Spelling Bee, brought to you by the EXCEL Gifted and Talented Program.

All students in grades one through four participated in the first round of the Spelling Bee – a written spelldown in their classrooms, using words taken from the Scripps National Spelling Bee list. Students were not given these words to study ahead of time.

The top twenty-five"ish" spellers at each grade level advanced to the final round of the Spelling Bee – an oral spelldown – on Friday, May 10th at the High School Auditorium. Students were given a word, read the word in a sentence, and then asked to spell the word aloud. As the rounds advanced and words became increasingly difficult, it was amazing to see the spelling abilities of our students! Equally impressive was the poise and decorum with which our students presented themselves!

Congratulations to all of our Super Spellers! Here are the top spellers by grade level:





1st Grade

1st Place - Haven Molina (winning word "howdy")
2nd Place - Briggs Hutton
3rd Place - Nora Williamson





2ND GRADE

1st Place - Sadie Johnson
(winning word "wheezy")
2nd Place - Owen Langemak
3rd Place - Kenny Lema Aguilar





3RD GRADE

1st Place - Nate Akufor (winning word "Arabic")
2nd Place - Sylvia Shun
3rd Place - Wesley Pohl





4th Grade

1st Place - Barrett Kaszubowski
(winning word "disclaimer")
2nd Place - Audra Davis
3rd Place - Chael Nevala

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

REAMS Arts and Academics

REAMS students and staff celebrated their annual Arts and Academics Showcase on Tuesday, May 21st. All students were invited to participate, and all families and friends were invited to enjoy an evening of artwork and learning from a variety of classrooms along with music and theater performances. Fourth Grade Art students guided attendees through some of the Artistic Foundations and demonstrated ways to use them. Visitors were welcome to experiment! Also, the Rockford Food Truck was available to sell dinner items and the Scholastic Book Fair was open for book purchases. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase the outstanding learning each student has done this year academically and artistically!





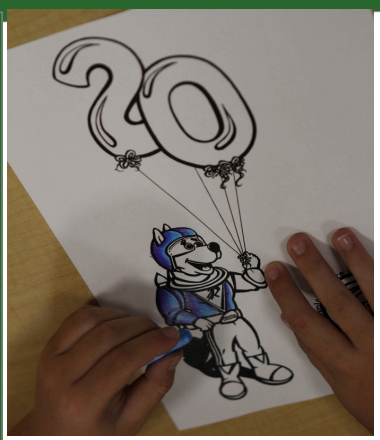














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The students in PE have worked really hard this year building strength and having a blast. We completed our fitness testing with huge improvements. Students also had fun with the wrestling team coming to demonstrate their skills and then tumbling. Students are ending the year with fun-filled capture the football- everyone's favorite!









REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

Fabulous Friday

REAMS staff and students celebrated Fabulous Friday at the end of May. This gives students the opportunity to showcase what they are learning in their classrooms and their unique talents. Some of the highlights were piano solos, dances, bucket drumming, playing recorders and metallophones, RTR book give away winners and singing "Rockford Elementary." We have a lot of very talented students at REAMS! The finale of the event was the final performance of R2G2!

















RTR (Respect, Trust, Responsibility) Super Stars

RTR Superstar tickets are handed out to students as a positive way to recognize RTR behavior with all students in the building. We do a drawing and share the winners in the announcements. These students come to Mrs. Nyhus' office to receive a prize. Pictured are the students who have been recognized as RTR Super Star prize winners this month!

Mark Your Calendars: REAMS Assessment Days

Assessment days will be on Tuesday, September 3rd and Wednesday, September 4th. You are invited to bring your child into school for an individual appointment with their classroom teacher for a scheduled time between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3rd or between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4th. If you have multiple children, you can plan to schedule each appointment an hour apart and visit the other activities together as a family. Appointment sign-up links will be emailed in late-August.

Please allow about two hours (a little more for multiple children) to participate in the following activities:

1. **TEACHER MEETING**: Meet with the teacher as a family to get acquainted and discuss any needs for your child (10 minutes) and your child will have an individualized reading assessment (20 minutes) --parents can fill out paperwork and sign up for the Parent Portal during this time.

2. **SCHOOL PICTURES**: Individual student pictures with Jostens.

3. **BUS SAFETY**: Bus safety training for all students to cover transportation to/from school and field trips (required by the State of Minnesota).

4. **SCREENING**: Students in first and third grade will have hearing and vision screenings with the Health Office.

5. **HEALTH OFFICE**: Parents have an opportunity to meet with the Health Office to discuss other medical concerns and drop off medication, if needed.

6. **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**: Bring in school supplies (please click here for the REAMS K-4 School Supply Lists).

PLEASE NOTE: The assessment day activities open at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday and 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday. Also, if your teacher meeting is scheduled for 5:30, 6:00 or 6:30 on Tuesday, September 3rd, please plan to arrive by 5:00 p.m. to complete the assessment activities and visit the Health Office, if needed, before and after the teacher meeting. If your teacher meeting is scheduled for 2:30, 3:00 or 3:30 on Wednesday, September 4th, please plan to arrive by 2:00 p.m. to complete the assessment activities and visit the Health Office, if needed, before and after the teacher meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the REAMS office.

September

Sept 3-4 REAMS Assessment Days

Sept 5 REAMS 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.

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:

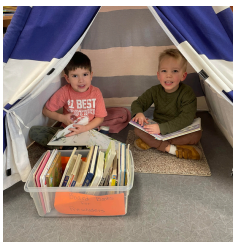
- Hearing & vision
- Speech & development
- Fine & gross motor skills
- Social-emotional development

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.

GALAXY KIDS SCHOOL-AGE CARE| POINTS OF PRIDE

2024 Galaxy Kids Summer Program June 10th -August 23rd

Galaxy Kids offers a summer care program for students going into preschool through 6th grade. The summer care program provides a variety of structured activities in a fun and safe learning environment. Galaxy Kids offers a choice-based program, offering opportunities in the areas of art and drama, music, sports, science, math, engineering and technology, language arts/literacy, mentoring and community services, and self-guided activities. Galaxy Kids is certified through the Department of Human Services.



Summer Program Highlights

- Flexible schedules and open 6:00am-6:00pm every week day
- Enrichment Programs
- Interest Groups
- Field Trips
- Volunteer and Community Service Opportunities
- Yard and Field Games
- Water Day
- Galaxy Kid's staff can bring your child to most Community Ed. programs, camps, or classes, located at REAMS, RCC, or High School, while your child is at Galaxy, and pick them up when it's over!
- Galaxy Closed June 19th (Juneteenth Holiday), July 1st -5th (program maintenance) and August 26th -30th (School Year Prep)

Registration Information for Summer

- More information and our Parent Handbook are available at: https://www.rockford.k12.mn.us/community/galaxy-kids-school-age-childcare
- Register at: https://rockford.ce.eleyo.com/ and click on Galaxy Kids Program and follow the prompts
- Registration window is April 1st -May 15th to guarantee your child's spot
- Auto-Pay is required for all Galaxy Accounts
- Registration options include Full day and Half day care
- Weekly Rate available for full day care scheduled Monday-Friday every week.
- Summer Registration Fees: $40 per child or $75 max per family



2024-2025 Galaxy Kids School Year Program

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.



Registration Information for School Year

- More information and our Parent Handbook are available at: https://www.rockford.k12.mn.us/community/galaxy-kids-school-age-childcare
- Register at: https://rockford.ce.eleyo.com/ and click on Galaxy Kids Program and follow the prompts
- Registration window is April 1st -July 31st to guarantee your child's spot
- Auto-Pay is required for all Galaxy Accounts
- School Year Registration Fees: $40 per child or $75 max per family

Please contact Galaxy staff at 763-477-7555 if you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour

PARENT- COMMUNITY NEWS

Not ISD 883 Sponsored Events

Welcome Summer from the Rockford Education Foundation

Thank you for an amazing year!

Your contributions, including donations, time and effort have made it possible for us to enhance and support education, maximizing the students' potential. What an amazing year! To date, $93,048 has been funded for the 2023-24 school year! This includes $55,483 for the RMS-CES Media Center updates, $9,786 for the REAMS Theater Stage and $3,278 in supplies for the new RHS CNA classes!

Don't miss out!

Stay up-to-date on all the incredible projects you helped fund and what's coming in 2024-25 by following us on Facebook or joining our mailing list.

School Supplies for 2024-25!

Get ahead on your back-to-school to-do list by ordering prepackaged school supplies through School Supply Toolbox. It's a breeze!



- Order here: https://schooltoolbox.com/school-supplies/
- Find our school, and select your child's new grade.
- Each box supply box matches the teacher's approved list, with the option to customize as needed
- Ships directly to your home
- Best of all, supports the Rockford Teacher Mini-Grant Program.

New Executive Director for 2024-25

Starting July 1, 2024, Nikki Arvold will be stepping into the role as Executive Director for the Rockford Education Foundation.

Thank you to Kelly Grimm!

We would also like to express our deep gratitude to Kelly Grimm for her outstanding service over the past 10 years. Under Kelly's leadership, the Foundation has grown significantly, making a lasting impact on our community. Thank you, Kelly, for your dedication and hard work.





