SPRING 2024

Rocket Report

ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER









Congratulations Class of 2024







OUR MISSION

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



Message From Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover

Perhaps I have reached the age where I may feel this way every year, but I truly believe that this school year has gone faster, and been more fun, than any other in recent memory... And, what a year it has been!

Our students have thrived in the classroom, learning new skills in literacy, mathematics, science, and in their chosen elective areas. They have also demonstrated extraordinary aptitude within the confines of our three incredible magnet programs, showcasing skills in the visual and performing arts, investigating our world and the environment in which we live, and embracing the rigor and excellence that accompany our International Baccalaureate curriculum. In addition, our students have shined on stage, on the court, and on the various competition fields, always representing Rockford Areas Schools with outstanding skill, abundant class, and outstanding sportsmanship.



Behind the scenes, our devoted staff has continuously stretched their minds with respect to innovation, demonstrating continuous improvement, inquiry, and the use of best instructional practices to provide each and every student with the skills they need to succeed in an ever-changing global society. Additionally, they have cared for our students with compassion, kindness, dignity, and grace.

As we approach the conclusion of the school year, our focus shifts toward planning for the future. The School Board will soon approve our annual goals, via our transparent and innovative District Operational Plan, and you will soon receive a community survey, aimed at improving our already strong programs and seeking your feedback regarding opportunities for collective growth and improvement. Through these endeavors, and others, we will continue our pursuit of becoming a premier destination school district and I am confident that this will soon become a reality.

It remains an honor and privilege to serve Rockford Area Schools as your Superintendent. The momentum we have established this year is significant and, through communication and partnership, we will continue to provide our students and families with a tremendous educational experience.

Kindest regards.

Jeffery P. Ridlehoover

Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover
Superintendent

Technology Levy

The District's administrative team recently presented the Rockford Board of Education with a thorough evaluation of our district's technology needs. After careful deliberation and assessment of both instructional and operational requirements, it's clear that our technology needs surpass our current budgetary limitations.

In order to ensure that our students are equipped with the necessary tools to thrive in an ever-evolving global landscape, while also providing essential instructional resources, infrastructure components, and safety measures, the Board will be exploring various options, including a potential capital levy.

In line with our commitment to openness and transparency, we extend an invitation for you to attend a School Board meeting for further discussion. Alternatively, if it's more convenient, please don't hesitate to contact Superintendent Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover (ridlehooverj@rockford.k12.mn.us) for additional information.

discover
Graduation

Rockford High School Celebrates 107th Commencement



As we close the 2023-2024 school year, there is much to celebrate. 124 of our seniors graduated from Rockford High School, 8 attempted to earn the IB Diploma, 5 students completed the IB Career Program, and all are on their way to future college and/or career success.

Our commencement ceremony took place on Friday, May 31, 2024 in the RCC Fieldhouse with school board members, administration, staff, students, families, and guests. The students selected Julie Merila from the English department as their faculty speaker. Co-valedictorians Gwen Keller, Eli Von Holtum, and Ty Kulavik delivered an address, the band and choir performed specifically selected pieces, and diplomas were conferred and awarded by Director Jessica Johnson of the School Board and Dr. Jeffery Ridlehoover, Rockford Area Schools Superintendent.



To mark the occasion, students took a journey back in time and made one last lap through the halls where many of their educational journeys started, Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School, in a senior salute. This tradition is also special to inspire our younger students to persevere in their studies and one day reach the milestone of high school graduation.

We are proud of the accomplishments of the class of 2024, we look forward to hearing of their future endeavors and positive representation of our community, and we remain hopeful that our preparation, in partnership with their parents, coaches, and other influential adults will result in meaningful contributions to society.

Sincerely,
Paul Menard





Jackson Angell
Trade School
Plumbing or Electrical



Jade Ashfeld
Winona State Univ.
Nursing



Austin Babatz
Normandale Comm. Col.
Assoc. of Arts



Haedyn Barkeim
Univ. of WI Eau Claire
Nursing

discover Graduation



Jesse Barrera Castro
N. Henn. Comm. Col.
Economics



Ashley Begin
Bemidji State Univ.
Biochemistry



Morgan Belin
Winona State Univ.
Nursing



Sydney Beumer
Anoka Ramsey
Business



Owen Boerboom
Univ. of MN Twin Cities
Biology



Brett Bohnen
Work



Alexander Booth
Hennepin Tech. Col.
HVAC



Milayna Boulton
Pennsylvania St. Univ.
Psychology



Samantha Boyd
Arizona St. Univ.
Business (Law).



Harrison Brun
Univ. of MN Twin Cities
Kinesiology



Sydney Bryant
Working
Real Estate



Trigg Bryngelson
Work



Sarah Buchholtz
College of Wooster
Undecided



Alayna Buttke
South Dakota St. Univ.
Nursing



Braydon Clarkson
North Hennepin
Generals



Sydney Colton
Concordia - Moorhead
Secondary Education



Sebastian Correa
Trade School
Undecided



Jacob Curtis
Trade School
Electrician



Elise Dieter
Univ. of WI Madison
Environmental Science



Christopher Dominguez
Step Transition Program
for Employment

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RHS



Carter Dornsbach
Work



Brenda Ebba
Univ. of San Francisco
Computer Science



Jacob Eisentrager
South Dakota St. Univ.
Construction Mgmt.



Hannah Ekman
North AZ Univ.
Exercise Science



Chase Evans
Luther College
Music Performance



Tristan Faber
Univ. of St. Thomas
Biology



Robert Ferdig
Univ. of MN Duluth
Biology



Grace Feyen
Univ. of WI La Crosse
Elementary Education





Matthew Franzen
Electrical
Apprenticeship



Garrett Frizell
Drake University
Athletic Training



Katlyn Fuchs
Gap Year
Work



Victor Garcia
Gap Year



Ellen Gordee
Univ. of WI La Crosse
Pre-Physical Therapy



Phillip Gorder
Univ. of North Dakota
Mechanical Engineering



Carter Graham
Augsburg University
Accounting



William Graunke
Univ. of St. Thomas
Business



Joeseph Graves
Hennepin Tech. Col.
HVAC

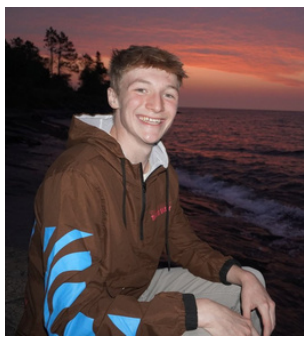


Sophia Grimm
Gustavus Adolphus
Business

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RHS



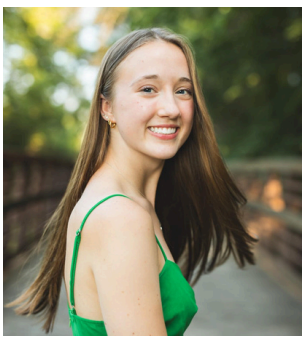
Bradley Gusse
Trade School
Electrician



Hunter Hannegrefs
Work
Real Estate



Samuel Heitke
Trade School
Welding/Machining



Anastasia Jankowski
Drake University
Biology & Neuroscience



Benjamin Johnson
Univ. of MN Twin Cities
Finance



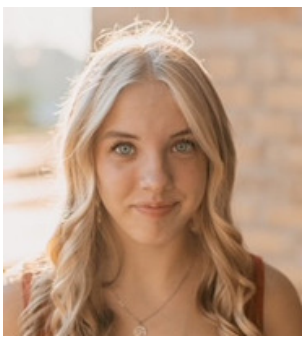
Rayna Johnson
Iowa State Univ.
Interior Design



Lillian Jorgenson
Univ. of WI River Falls
Elementary Education



Gwen Keller
Purdue University
Actuarial Science



Chloe Kisch
Youth with a Mission
Kona



Joseph Klaith
Univ. of WI Eau Claire
Finance



Katarina Klopotek
Univ. of WI Stout
Computer Science



Bradley Kruse
Central Lake Comm.
Col. - Undecided



Ty Kulavik
Univ. of MN Twin Cities
Electrical Engineering



Elijah Lewis
Univ. of MN Duluth
Computer Science



Quinn London
Univ. of St. Thomas
Undecided



Colton Lundberg
Trade School
HVAC



Avery MacDonald
Undecided



Hanna Menth
Univ. of St. Thomas
Economics



Anika Merila
Univ. of WI River Falls
Conservation Science



Justine Miller
Work
Finance

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RHS



James Morton
N. Henn. Comm. Col.
Psychology



Alexander Munsey
Hennepin Tech. Col.
HVAC



Lily Natzel
St. Cloud State Univ.
Psychology



Trenton Nelson
Ridgewater College
Agricultural Power



Alexandra Nixon
Minn. Col. of Art & Design
Comic Art/Illustration



Christopher Paulsen
Hamline University
Marketing Strategist



Makenna Pedersen
ND State University
Undecided



Annie Pennings
Col. of St. Scholastica
Nursing



Logan Perkins
Loyola Univ. Chicago
International Business



Anika Perlich
ND State University
Undecided



Gwendolyn Peterson
ND State University
Animal Science



Auna Pikkarainen
University of MN
Accounting



Ashli Pineda Cortez
University of MN
Hospitality & Tourism



Adryana Powell
Minn. Tech. Comm. Col.
Criminal Justice



Lily Qualle
Kauai HI Bible School
Ministry



Auryn Rayller
Univ. of South Florida
Music Performance



Ebin Redinger
Trade School
Restoration Masonry



Leland Remigio
Work



Kayla Robberstad
Univ. of WI Stout
Digital Animation



Meghan Roggenkamp
SD State University
Nursing

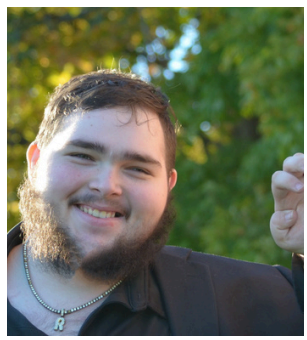
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RHS



Matthew Rothi
Undecided



Wilson Sanderson
Bethel University
Business



James Sandford
Work



Tomas Sarkinen
Work



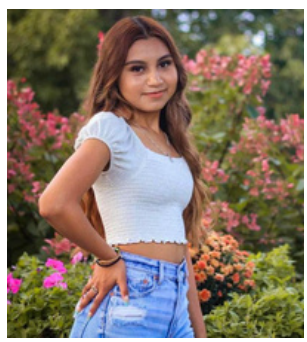
James Schiebel Sharp
Work
Electrician



Brian Schloeder
US Naval Academy
Econometrics



Rylee Secor
Wright Hennepin Tech.
Heavy Diesel Mechanic



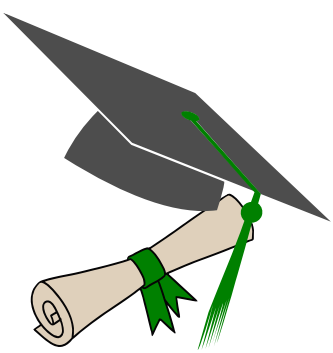
Daisy Silva Tapia
Cosmetology



Aiden Smith
IA Central Comm. Col.
Aviation



Elizabeth Smith
Brigham Young Univ.
Biology/Pre-PA Track





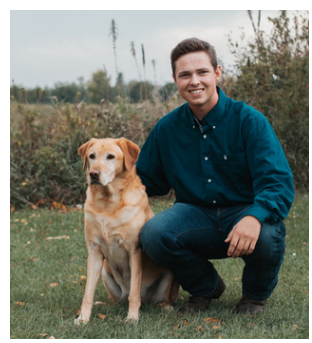
Logan Stedman
Bemidji State Univ.
Business



Riley Strehler
Work



Samuel Stuckmayer
Bethel University
Undecided



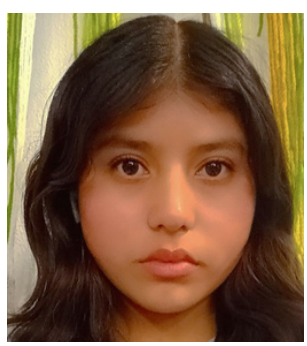
Cole Sundeen
Ridgewater College
Agri-business



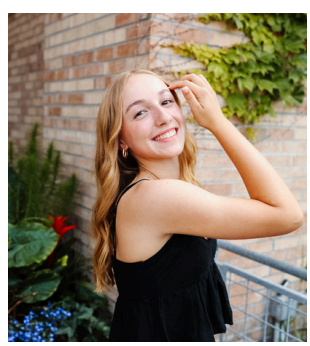
Evan Swanson
Work



Raymond Tempany
Univ. of MN Duluth
Chemical Engineering



Iron Tlapa Fernandez
Work



Kennedy Torborg
Univ. of MN Twin Cities
Biology



Joshua Torres Lopez
Hennepin Tech. Coll.
Undecided

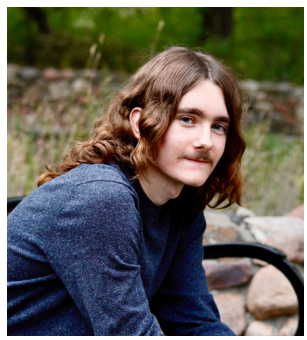
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RHS



Karol Velasco
College in
Mexico



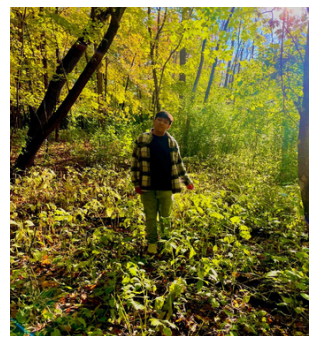
Erick Velasco Agustiniano
Hennepin Tech. Col.
Welding



Alexander Vetsch
ND State University
Pharmacy



Logan Vicino
Univ. of Manitoba
Engineering



Brian Villela
Work



Eli Von Holtum
Univ. of WI Madison
Biomedical Engineering



Allison Voss
University of ND
Elementary Education



Megan Voss
ND State University
Architecture Design



Chloe Vraspir
Univ. of MN Twin Cities
Psychology



Andrew Wandersee
Trade School
Pipefitter



Alexander Weber
Undecided



Landon Weege Welter
Work



Hayden Wehmas
Work



Mae Weiss
Univ. of MN Twin Cities
Accounting & Marketing



Jasmine Wichern
St. Cloud State Univ.
Anthropology



Kaleb Williams
Airfor



Aiden Wilts
Step Transition Program
for Employment



Payton Wolbeck
Hennepin Tech. Col.
IT

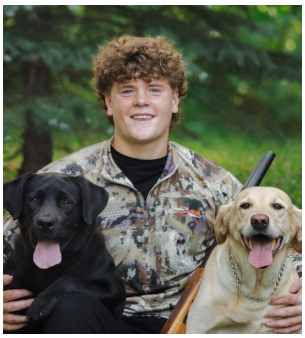


Morgen Woods
Work
Nail Technician



Nathan Woodward
Univ. of MN Duluth
Mechanical Engineering

discover
RHS



Josiah Zilmer
Univ. of MN Twin Cities
Computer Engineering



Desiree Rusinel
Foreign
Exchange



Eleonora Caspani
Foreign
Exchange



Hajin Lee
Foreign
Exchange



Daniela Ferrera Garcia
Foreign Exchange



Rockford Education Foundation: Enhancing Education for PreK-12 Grade

The Rockford Education Foundation is dedicated to supporting and enhancing education, maximizing students' potential, and inspiring our community. With over $2.2 million raised to support our mission, we fund a variety of impactful initiatives including Teacher Mini-Grants, technology, curriculum, literacy, furniture, and field trips! We also serve as the school's PTO and support events like the Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Classroom Wish Lists, and Rocket Wish and Staff Recognition. Visit our website to learn more! https://www.rockfordfoundation.org/

Sign up for our communications at https://www.rockfordfoundation.org/family/ and follow us on Facebook to learn about fundraising events and the many ways you can participate to support education.



Sign up to get this sign for your Kindergartner!

Special Offer for New Kindergarten Families!

If you have a new kindergartener for the 2024-25 school year, sign up for our communications and receive a free First Day of School sign for your kindergartner. Please sign up by July 31, 2024 and signs will be distributed in mid-August.

RHS
ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Leadership at RHS



At Rockford High School, we've created a Building Leadership Team, composed of teaching staff, and a Student Leadership Team, composed of students. Both of these groups will work parallel and jointly to issue monthly challenges, awareness campaigns, and celebrations to continue to enrich our unique and highly praised school culture. This group will also boldly analyze operational aspects of the school and suggest improvements. BLT and SLT are an enhancement to previous efforts to provide more voice in positive student leadership. We are thrilled to announce that 29 students stepped up to participate and seven staff members, respectively. I'm excited to intentionally focus on the good; the more we praise positive efforts and achievements, the more we underscore the importance of integrity, academic stamina, and perseverance. We often hear from families, experienced and new to our community, how Rockford High School feels like a family, and we want to put the time and energy into making sure everyone in the 'family' is doing their best and being their best self. These groups will play a key role in those efforts.

New this year to RHS - The Certified Nursing Assistant Program

During the 2023-2024 school year Rockford High School implemented the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Career Pathway through the International Baccalaureate program. Students take the CNA course for eighteen weeks and learn to care for residents in long term care facilities and patients in hospitals. Each student will take their CNA exam (paid for by the IB grant) and if they are able to pass it they are eligable to obtain employment as a Certified Nursing Assistant. This course is taught by our District Nurse Becca Morgan, and Phy Ed/Health teacher Alayna Maher.







Rockets

REAMS
ROCKFORD ELEMENTARY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

Celebrating 20 Years as an Arts Magnet School



Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet school has celebrated its twentieth year as an Arts Magnet program this year, and staff and students spent the year finding unique and creative ways to celebrate this accomplishment! An arts magnet school provides a strong academic core with opportunities for students to create at many levels, providing students with learning adventures that take them beyond the traditional instructional classroom experience.

Students began the year on the football field near the elementary school participating in an aerial view photo with each student in preschool through fourth grade, and joined by the staff, spelling out REAMS 20 YEARS with their bodies. It was a beautiful fall sunny afternoon and excitement was in the air for the celebratory year ahead.

The fourth grade students continued the special 20 year celebration with a light show that they shared with the entire student body in December. The choreographed show with flashlights and the Mannheim Steamroller version of Deck the Halls filled the gymnasium with excitement and holiday cheer.



In February, second grade students spent two days with visiting artist, James Hursch. Each class wrote an original song with him and one of the classes focused their writing on REAMS and its 20 years as an arts magnet school. The students sang their songs at their annual concert and the celebration was a focal point once again.

Students will have a final celebration at the end of May when they join their voices together in an all school song. They will be performing “I Am But A Small Voice”, a song about being a young child with a lot to say! REAMS staff is working with Captivate Media who will record this event and make it available to families and on social media on the last day of school.

The development of magnet schools is based on the premise that all students learn differently. Students who attend classes with a unifying theme will learn more in all subject areas. A student who wants to be in school and makes the choice to be there has a greater likelihood of achievement, satisfaction, and success.



REAMS staff and students have been so proud to celebrate 20 years as an Arts Magnet School this year. The students have participated in many events throughout the year and have made lasting memories by sharing their talents and coming together in unique and creative ways.



discover
REAMS

A Harvest of Memories, A Partnership of Learning



In 2010, the REAMS Kindergarten Team started teaching a farm unit to their students. Fourteen years later, some of our district's youngest learners continue the tradition of spending about two weeks learning about farm animals with their classmates, teachers, and parents.

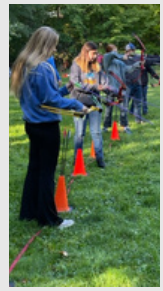
Kindergarten teachers enjoy teaching this unit because it allows kids the opportunity to discuss habitats, the needs of living things, specifically farm animals, and it helps them form connections to how the world around them functions. Students also spend time with their families building a model to represent this knowledge and practice early public speaking when they share projects with their class. Farm models are on display in the REAMS media center throughout the month of May as well as during the Arts & Academic Showcase.

As a culminating experience to their farm unit, students participate in "Farm Day." On this day, kids sport their best "farmer" clothing, usually boots, overalls, plaid, and hats as they travel from station to station meeting animals, farmers, and much more. Our student populace comes from a variety of backgrounds, and farm day is exciting for all of them! Kids who are familiar with farm life can share their knowledge and stories, whereas the students who have never been exposed have a brand new experience interacting with animals and farmers alike.



This year students met local dairy farmers and their three day old calf, petted a miniature cow named "Kevin", brushed a pony named "Rooster", and fed a goat named "Hank." A longstanding relationship with MN Agriculture in the Classroom lets our kids interact with an agriculture education specialist who taught the kids about sheep's wool and then they spun wool bracelets with buddies. A tractor collector brought his Farmall-H and gave each class a wagon ride across the RAS campus. Our district is fortunate to have such an array of partners who volunteer their time to create truly engaging Farm Day experiences for students! The volunteers who give their time include Rockford graduates, local residents, and Wright County 4H Leaders, along with former and current teachers. The district's FFA students are also active in helping to guide students throughout the Farm Day stations. The thrill of Farm Day is evident on students' faces as they bounce with excitement from station to station asking real farmers questions such as how many gulps of water a cow takes in one day! Thank you to all who make this unit and day a success!

We need your feedback!



In our commitment to continuous improvement, Rockford Area Schools is inviting the community to provide feedback on our current successes and areas for potential growth and improvement. The survey will be available through multiple channels, including our website, social media platforms, and the spring 2024 edition of the Rocket Report. We intend to use the initial survey results as baseline data and we will administer the same survey again to track and evaluate community input over time. Results of this survey will be shared at a meeting of the Board of Education, in the fall. Ether scan the QR code or visit https://forms.gle/RHTiamXzB8H2hugD8 to share your feedback! If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Dr. Ridlehoover or Courtney Neibert.



RMS-CES

ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL - CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Letter from Principal Warzecha



Rockford Community,
As a Center for Environmental Studies, we recognize the power of seasons to shape and transform the environment around us. Much like our natural environment, there is indeed a lot of energy that comes with Spring in a Middle School. Spring is also a time to see the progress of our students as they complete their end-of-year learning projects, see growth on MCA & FAST testing, and most importantly watch students value their relationships with staff and students as they prepare for summer vacation.



I want to take this opportunity to specifically thank our 8th-grade students at Rockford Middle School for all they have done to learn and grow as people in their time at RMS-CES. The growth of this group is truly amazing to me! We will miss them dearly next year, but we know that they are ready to start a new chapter in their journey in High School and we cannot wait to see all the amazing things they will accomplish.

As I reflect on the school year there is indeed so much to be grateful for as we have watched these children grow. Below are a few highlights of this year...

- Watching our elected Student Council members lead the way and be a constant representative for student voice. Their leadership has paved the way for future student council memberships to have open dialogue with the building's food services, buildings and grounds, and the staff's Building Leadership Team in order to amplify ideas resulting in actual change in the student experience. The positive impact of their leadership continues to echo throughout our school community.
- Watching our students respond to challenges. At the middle school our students have frequently heard the phrase 'challenge by choice'. We recognize that life is full of unforeseen challenges and the promise of education is that students learn the skill sets and mindsets and respond to those challenges with thoughtfulness, creativity, and perseverance. Our recently added Rock Wall has embodied this as students can learn about not only how to challenge themselves, but also how to be a support person for someone else who is attempting to challenge themselves.
- One of our core values is 'Community' and it has been such a joy to watch this community come together no matter the cause in the spirit of care and consideration with a willingness to help. We know that raising our children takes a village and we appreciate your collective efforts as adults who lead by example. A simple tour of our building and its grounds gives a beautiful example of what it means for the community to support our schools.
- This year we began a partnership with the University of Minnesota at Cedar Creek who came and did some professional development with our teachers around the four biomes of Minnesota, which will be implemented within each grade level here at the middle school to promote connection between subject areas as we also learn about our natural environment.



As we close out the year I wish you all an amazing summer and I am hopeful that you can enjoy making memories with loved ones. It truly will not be long until we start seeing school supplies in stores so be looking for the 2024-2025 school supply lists in our June Newsletter! Thank you for another great year, we wish you an amazing summer and we can't wait for an exciting time in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Paul Warzecha

discover RMS-CES



2024 RMS-CES Showcase: A Celebration of Nature, Exploration, and Place-Based Education

RMS-CES is a school that believes in the restorative power of nature to reduce stress, promote exploration, and ground teaching and learning in concrete, place-based education. The annual RMS-CES Showcase embodies everything the school loves about its place, and this year's event was no exception.

Students and staff stepped up to contribute to the success of the evening, sharing their talents and showcasing their work. The event featured a variety of activities, including:



- Exploring a topographic map of the RMS-CES campus and learning about the relationship between the closeness of the lines and the steepness of the slope.
- Planting succulents and learning about their unique ability to store water in their fleshy leaves, stems, or roots.
- Shopping at the Scholastic Book Fair, which doubled its sales from the previous year.
- Listening to performances by the RMS-CES choirs and jazz band, including a standout performance of "Don't Stop Believing" by the 5th grade.
- Appreciating student work in the Ash Street Gallery, which showcased the talents of the school's artists under the guidance of the amazing Ms. Gunderson.
- Climbing the rock wall, which was a hit thanks to Mr. Roelofs and Ms. Binsfeld.
- Mixing up a sugar scrub and learning about its exfoliating properties.



The 2024 RMS-CES Showcase was a resounding success, and the school is already looking forward to next year's event. The showcase is a testament to the school's commitment to providing students with a rich and engaging learning experience that is grounded in the natural world.

RMS-CES FFA

The 23-24 academic year for the Rockford Middle School FFA was filled with great successes. We awarded 27 discovery degrees to 7th and 8th graders that have shown interest in agriculture education and who have put forth the effort to be recognized by the chapter for their participation. 13 of our 16 CDE and LDE teams finished in the top 10 regionally with 7 teams advancing to state. At State Convention our chapter was awarded 2nd place chapter in the state and we had both incoming and outgoing officers accept the award on stage. Proud doesn't even begin to cover the sentiments towards these students delving into the world of agriculture by developing their career and leadership skills. Our middle school chapter is just the start for some of these students and we can't wait to see how they grow and develop as they prepare for high school. The chapter inducted 5 new officers to lead us into the 24-25 academic year. They will fully take over their roles this summer to plan out the activities for the coming year, so keep an eye out for those events as we announce them!



discover ACTIVITIES

It's been a great year of memorable performances on the stage, track, courts, and fields! Enjoy looking back at the 2023-24 highlights from this year.

Academics, Arts and Athletics Award: Ty Kulavik & Sarah Buchholtz
Athena Award: Ellen Gordee
Male Athlete of the Year Award: Brian Schloeder





Band: The Rockford Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band received the highest rating of "Superior" at section contests. Two students: Levi Bartels and Olivia Kissner were nominated to the 2024-2025 All-State Band. McKenna Evans (gr. 9) and Veronica Ferdig (gr. 8) were named to this year's MBDA All-State Bands.

DECA: DECA's biggest chapter accomplishment was achieving THRIVE status for the first time ever. Individually, we had over 40 competitors at state and seven who attended International competition.





Choir: The Rockford Concert Choir had a very successful year. They competed in large group contest and had three very successful concerts. They have grown a lot individually as musicians and as a large group. Chamber Choir received the highest rating of "Superior" at section contests. We had six chamber choir students chosen to perform at the Wright County Honor Choir, nine other "Superior" performances and one "Excellent" performance at solo/ensemble contest.

FFA: Rockford's FFA Chapter had a really incredible year: 55 students qualified for state convention in over 15 different competition areas and both our middle and high school chapters were named into the top three in the state. Additionally, four students have qualified for nationals and senior Cole Sundeen was elected to the office of Minnesota FFA State Treasurer for the 2024-2025 year!



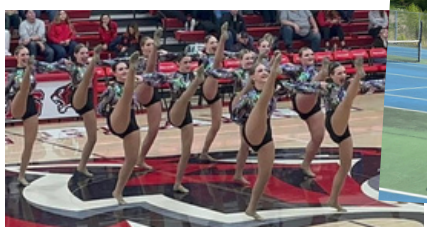

Dance: The Rockford Dance team had a great 23'-24 season! The team doubled in size and added a Varsity Kick and JV Jazz team. The dancers were so excited to have placed 2nd at the Big Lake invite in Varsity Kick and to place 3rd in JV Jazz. It was a wonderful season for continued growth!

Cross Country: Cross Country had nine All-Conference Academic recipients across boys and girls teams with four athletes earning All-Conference awards (two boys, two girls). The boys team had their best conference finish since rejoining the WCC in 2015 (3rd), and they took 4th at Sections. The girls team placed 5th at Conf. and 7th at Sections. Junior athlete, Ruby Gifford set the school record with her 5th consecutive All-Conference honor.

Baseball: The Baseball team has had a great season so far and won the conference title for the second year in a row. Throughout our entire lineup, players have stepped up their game and helped us to continue to achieve our goals for the season. Our pitchers have been very consistent and kept us in every game this year.

Musical: One hundred students in grades 5-12 took roles on stage, backstage, and in the pit orchestra to produce the RAS Fall Musical, Bye Bye Birdie. The show's three performances were nearly sold out each performance!

Boys Tennis: Even though we had a small Boys Tennis team, we were competitive in all of our matches, and we really developed our skills throughout the year. The players were immaculate representatives of Rockford High School.



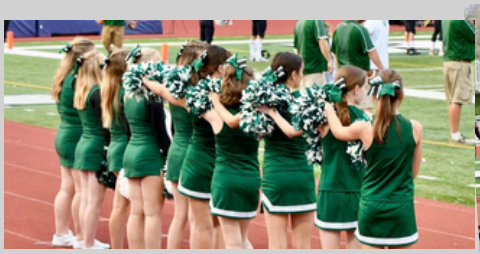

Football: Rockford Football three-peated as district champs. The team tied the most wins in school history (eight); only five other teams have been this successful. Harrison Brun and Will Luckett were each named district player of the year at their respective positions. Harrison Brun was also named to the KARE 11 All Metro & All Star Game.

Girls Soccer: With a very competitive team, the Girls Soccer program earned their best season record since 2017. With all sports, there are challenges and goals to achieve, but the team was always having fun together! Whether new to soccer or an experienced player, playing soccer = fun!

Boys Soccer: Rockford Boys Soccer fielded a very young team that is filled with plenty of promise for the future. This year's squad competed well against some tough competition and this experience will pay dividends in the coming years.

discover ACTIVITIES

Girls Tennis: In Girls Tennis, over 20 players competed across a variety of levels from experienced players to those picking up a racket for the first time. Whether at practice, matches, or our year-end tournament, the girls always found ways to have fun.





Girls Lacrosse (co-op w/Delano): The Girls Lacrosse team has been having a winning season with a record of 8-2! Our junior captain, McKenna Bernard has had a huge impact on that record after getting her 500th save against South West Christian. Also Addilyn Dietmann scoring the game winning shot against conference rivals Hutchinson tigers! We are looking to keep the momentum going for our last three games and the upcoming section tournament.

Girls Golf: The Girls Golf program continued to grow as 14 student-athletes participated this year. Ten different girls participated in varsity meets this year. Senior Sarah Buchholtz, a two-time All-Conference player, wrapped up her Rockford career before heading to the College of Wooster to play golf for their program. .







Trap Shooting: The Rockford Trap Shooting team are conference champions! Captain Jake Eisentrager is currently in the top 100 shooters in the state! We currenlty have 11 shooters in the top 25 in conference. We will compete in the state tournament at Alexandria on June 14th which will determine if we go onto the state championships. We expect to field a team at Nationals in July for the 4th consecutive year!

Girls Hockey: Girls Hockey had a great season finishing tied for the second most wins in program history. Rockford player, McKenzie Perry lead the way scoring 30 points in 25 games.

Boys Hockey: The Boys Hockey team had a great season! We had three RHS players (E. Pikkarainen, A. Boerboom & J. Evans) make big impacts on the JV team combining for 20 goals and 12 assists. The JV team finished with an overall record of 18-6-1 including big JV wins over Warroad, Buffalo, St. Cloud Cathedral and Hermantown.

Cheerleading: Cheerleading had a great year introducing six new 7th graders to Rockford Cheer. The Fall team competed in the MCCA Competition and Evelyn Engebretson was selected to the ALL STATE SIDELINE CHEER TEAM performing at the MCCA State Competition.

Volleyball: Rockford Volleyball finished a fun and very competitive season with a record of 17-10. A team highlight was sweeping Annandale 3-0 for the first time in at least 12 years.

Speech: This year, the Speech team grew exponentially with more predicted growth going into next year. Students competed hard all season, and two ninth graders advanced to the state tournament in Shakopee.

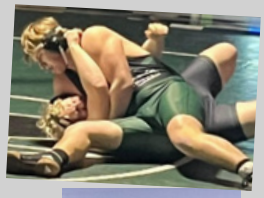
Track & Field: Both Boys and Girls Track and Field teams are strong. The 2024 season has been magical. Currently, the boys team is ranked #1 in State for Class AA. They won True Team Sections and took 2nd at the True Team State meet. The boys team dominated with a Conference Championship. The girls team is young but show a lot of potential. Girls won the Conference Championships and are going into Sections as a top 3 team.

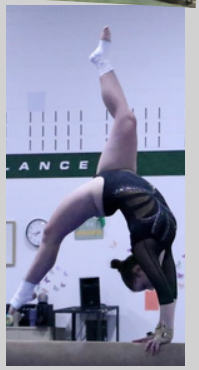
Softball: Rockford Softball completed another successful season capturing Conference Champions for the 4th consecutive year. The Rockets compliled a 14-6 record including a 12-2 conference record. The Rockets also earned the Academic Gold Award for team GPA of more than 3.75. Senior Ellen Gordee was named to the All-Star Team.



Girls Basketball: The Girls Basketball team showed a lot of great strides this season in learning new offensive and defensive strategies. One highlight the team was excited about was when we beat Litchfield for the first time in three years and as a team we had over 300 steals.

Boys Basketball: The Rockford Boys Basketball program enjoyed another successful season! After overcoming some inexperience and injuries to main players the team had a very strong second half of the season and ended up with a winning record and in the top half of the conference for the 12th consecutive year. We had 45 students participating this year in another fun and enjoyable season!





Wrestling: Wrestling had our first State participant since 2015. Many of the wrestlers placed on the podium at tournaments we attended. Three wrestlers qualified and wrestled in the State Ninth Grade League tournament.

Gymnastics: Gymnastics had a large team of 21 athletes this season! Both JV and Varsity scored ten points higher from the beginning of the season which is huge in the gymnastics world. We were able to take home a few W's during this fun season!

Boys Golf: The Rockford Boys Golf team was led this year by Senior Captain Phil Gorder, who finished 9th overall in the Wright County Conference West Standings. Gorder earned his second All-Conference selection. Freshman Benton Blanchard earned Honorable Mention for his play this season. Rounding out the Varsity team were Junior Captain Braden Blanchard, Senior Evan Swanson, Junior Ben Vanyo, Sophomore Gabe Thompson and Freshman Danny Franklin.

discover
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

2024-25 Launching Pad Preschool Registration

Launching Pad Preschool is accepting registrations for the upcoming 2024-25 school year.

- Children 3 to 5 years old by September 1, 2024
- Half and full day options 2, 3 and 5 days a week
- An outstanding and unique public preschool experience
- Rich in opportunities to discover, explore and create
- Reggio-Emilia Inspired philosophy
- Creative Curriculum
- MN licensed teachers
- Located at Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School
- Tuition assistance available to qualifying families

The entire program is designed to be engaging and fun so children don't just learn, they love to learn!

On-line registration and more information are available at www.rockford.ce.eleyo.com. You may also visit our website at: www.rockford.k12.mn.us. Under the Community tab, click Early Childhood Programs. For more information, please call 763-477-7500.

Early Childhood Screening

Identifying possible concerns early is the best way to prevent serious problems later in young children. State law requires all children to participate in Early Childhood Health & Development Screening before they may enter public kindergarten. The ideal time to screen children is at age 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 includes a health history, height and weight, immunization review, follow-up with parents and screening in the following areas:

1. Hearing & vision
2. Speech & development
3. Cognitive, fine & gross motor skills
4. Social-emotional development



Make your appointment by calling763-477-7500
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 the Early Childhood Programs office at 763-477-7500.

JOIN AN AMAZING TEAM AT ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS!

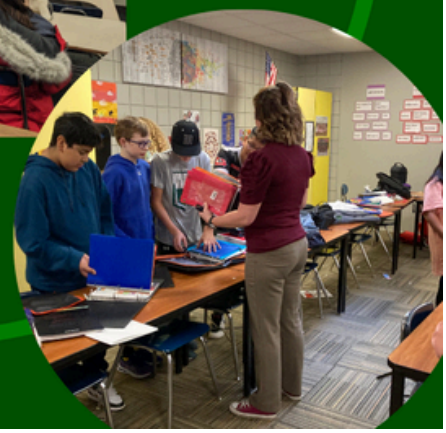
- Work close to home
- Summers off
- Similar schedule to your kids
- and so many other great opportunities!

Check out our website for more information on open positions

https://www.rockford.k12.mn.us/district/departments/human-resources/employment







discover
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

2024 Graduates Then and Now

Rockford Community Education would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2024! To think that these wonderful humans got their start in Rockford Area Schools in one of our many CE programs is an honor, to say the least. Community Education encompasses many programs for youth and adults, including ECFE, Launching Pad Preschool, Galaxy Childcare, and many school year and summer classes and camps! Our goal is to increase opportunities for community learning, development, and connection across all age groups, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for everyone. Rockford Community Education is proud to be a vital part of this amazing community!



Braydon Clarkson



Brian Schloeder



Ellen Gordee



Grace Feyen



Jacob Eisentrager



Justine Miller



Kennedy Torborg



Mae Weiss



Nathan Woodward



Robert Ferdig



Sophia Grimm



Sydney Bryant



Wilson Sanderson

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