

RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

April 2025



Spring Dates

April 7th

Rockford Education
Foundation Catalog
Fundraiser Kick Off

April 15th & April 16th

Reading MCA's (Makeups
4/17-5/2)

April 18th

No School

April 22nd

Earth Day

April 22nd & April 23rd

Math MCA's (Makeups
4/24-5/2)

April 24th

RMS-CES SHOWCASE

April 4/29-May 2nd

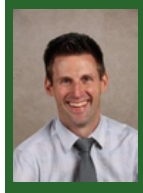
Science MCA's (Makeups
by 5/9)

May 1st

Summer School
Registration Deadline

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 RMS-CES Families,

I hope each of you had a wonderful spring break and got a chance to enjoy the extra time with loved ones and the unseasonably warm weather we had. It is hard to imagine how quickly this year has gone, and I want to share a few items below with you as we transition to the fourth quarter.

Staying Engaged: I am incredibly proud of our students' hard work and dedication. From the classroom to extracurriculars, our Rockets continue to excel and grow. As we near the year's end, please encourage your child to stay engaged despite distractions and make the most of every opportunity.

Safety Reminder: The safety and well-being of our students remain our top priority. We are committed to a safe, nurturing environment where every child thrives. Please remind your child to follow school rules and protocols for a positive experience. Also, remember our See Something, Say Something anonymous reporting system



RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER



from the Principal....continued

Lunchtime Volunteer Opportunity! SEE NEXT SLIDE

5th Grade D.A.R.E. Program Begins: Our 5th graders are starting the D.A.R.E. Program, meeting weekly until June 3rd, when they'll celebrate D.A.R.E. Graduation at the high school. Led by Wright County Officer Brandon Lamack, D.A.R.E. teaches students to make safe choices, resist peer pressure, and develop strong decision-making skills. We're excited for their journey!

MCA Testing Begins Soon: MCA testing is coming up! Reading tests will be on April 15-16, Math on April 22-23, and Science (for 5th & 8th grade) between April 29-May 2 in the student's science class. This year, students will test in their Boost class at the start of the day, followed by a two-hour late start schedule for the rest of the day (for Reading and Math). Please ensure your child gets plenty of rest and arrives on time, ready to do their best. We look forward to seeing their hard work and growth shine during testing!

Upcoming Events: Spring promises to be an exciting time with many opportunities for students to engage in a variety of events. I have included some highlights of coming events below for your awareness.

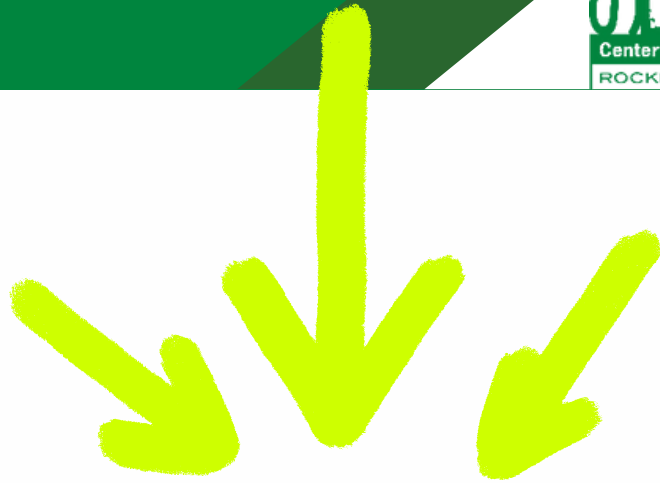
4/7- REF Catalog Fundraiser Kick Off	4/15 & 4/16 Reading MCA (Makeup 4/17 - 5/2)	4-18 No School	4-22 Earth Day
4/22 & 4/23 Math MCA's (Makeup 4/24-5/2)	4-24 STEM Showcase	4/29-5/2 Science MCA (Makeups by 5/9)	5-1 Summer School Registration Deadline
5/13 Reading FAST testing	5/14 5th Grade Field Trip to Ney Park	5/15 Math FAST testing	5/21 Band Concert
5/26 No School	6/3 D.A.R.E Graduation	6/4 Last Day of School	

As we look ahead to the final months of the school year, we are excited about the opportunities and achievements that await our students. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making Rockford Middle School a place where every child can reach their full potential.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Paul Warzecha, Principal





Lunchtime Volunteer Opportunity!

We're looking for some consistent parent volunteers to help out *during lunch from 10:45 AM to 12:45 PM each day* in our lunchroom and/or recess. If you're available to lend a hand, we'd love to have you! *Please know that a background check will be required to be a volunteer.*

Please email monica.palmer@rockford883.org to inquire about this volunteer opportunity.

Here is a quick review of the lunch/recess supervision volunteer opportunity

Parent Chaperone Expectations: Lunch & Recess Supervision



SAVE THE DATE RMS-CES SHOWCASE

4:30-7:00

April 24, 2025

Excel Mini Golf

Scholastic Book Fair

Choir Performances

Jazz Band Performance

Three Rivers Parks

Ash Street Art Gallery

Three Sisters Gardens

Rockford Food Truck

Community Partners

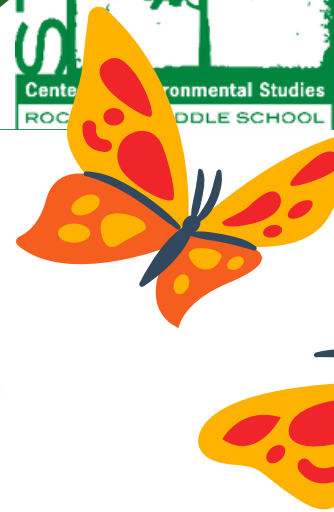
Student Projects

Make and Take Items



RMS-CES | PARENT-COMMUNITY

Survey



Looking for your
FEEDBACK

**This will only take a few
moments of your time!**

**Please click [HERE](#) to fill out a few questions
regarding our Monthly Parent Newsletter!**

We appreciate your feedback!

**THANK
YOU!**



REF News & Updates

April 2025

Funding Highlights

In the past month, the Rockford Education Foundation proudly funded the following initiatives:

- **William Durbin Author Visit:** Funding secured for an upcoming visit by celebrated author William Durbin to engage students in discussions about writing and literature.
- **Vocal Jazz Academy:** Provided resources for RHS students to explore jazz vocal techniques and performance.
- **Brass Clarinets:** Assisted with Music Partners in funding the purchase of new brass clarinets to enhance the music program.
- **Jet Spindle Sander:** Supported hands-on learning in woodworking and technical education.
- **RHS Banners:** Supported the purchase of new IB panels to enhance educational displays and resources.
- **Stainless Steel Tables & Stools for Food Science Room:** Improved facilities for the Food Science room for hands-on learning.

Mission:

To support and enhance education, maximize students' potential, and inspire the community.



GO [HERE](#) to view more info on all the exciting things happening with Rockford Education Foundation!

Upcoming Events



Catalog Fundraiser Kick-Off: April 7th-21st

Spring fundraising is here! Keep an eye on your email and child's backpack for details. Proceeds will support:

- REAMS Arts Experiences
- 4th & 5th Graders' Deep Portage Field Trip Accounts
- RMS-CES Environmental Experiences
- RHS DECA Activities Account

More Details: www.rockfordfoundation.org/events/catalog

Order Deadline:
April 21st

Delivery Date:
May 21st

Family Fun Bingo Night - Friday, April 11th

Looking for a fun family night out? Join us for a **FREE** evening of bingo, prizes, and community fun!

Location: REAMS Gymnasium - Door 35

Doors Open: 6:00 PM | **Bingo Begins:** 6:30 PM

Registration Required: [Sign up here!](#)



Other Important Dates:

★ May 7th - Staff Appreciation Luncheon

In honor of **Teacher Appreciation Week**, REF will be hosting a **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** to thank our dedicated Rockford educators and staff who make a difference every day. We will be seeking **monetary donations, desserts, beverages, and volunteers** to help make this event extra special! Stay tuned for more details on how you can contribute!

★ May 1st - Spring Gratitude Gifts

Celebrate spring and wrap up the school year with a **Gratitude Gift** for our incredible Rockford staff! Your donation will **directly support REF's Mini-Grant Program**, funding creative and impactful projects for students. For the **2024-2025** school year, we have awarded 20+ mini-grants totaling over \$8,000 to enhance student learning.

Donation Options: \$10, \$20, or \$50 and each donation includes a gift card for the recipient.

Get Involved - We Need Volunteers!



As REF expands its community events and fundraisers, we need volunteers to help bring these opportunities to life! **Sign up to volunteer:** www.rockfordfoundation.org/get-involved/



Outdoor Club: A New Partnership Between RMS-CES and Three Rivers Parks



The Outdoor Club is here to provide students with an exciting after-school activity. This new collaboration between RMS-CES and Three Rivers Parks highlighted hands-on sessions led by experienced naturalists.

Bundled up tight and with their GPS in hand, students ventured through the woods of Baker Park Outdoor Learning Center to find waypoints in the woods.

The club not only provides a break from screens but also promotes an appreciation for nature, teamwork, and essential outdoor skills. It's an opportunity to learn, have fun, and make new friends, all while exploring Baker Outdoor Learning Center. The program is divided into four sessions, each diving into different aspects of the environment, outdoor skills, and exploration: snowshoeing, orienteering, archery, and rock climbing. After the success of this spring's program, we hope to expand to additional sessions next school year.



RMS-CES | PARENT-COMMUNITY

Staff Spotlight



Sarah Gunderson
Art, Yearbook

This is my 9th year at RMS-CES. I teach 5th-8th grade Visual Art and I am also the yearbook advisor. I received my Bachelor of Science in Art Education from The University of Wisconsin- Stout and I am licensed to teach k-12. I also completed my Master's in Education coursework from Hamline University.

Favorite Things:

I have always loved art, even as a young child. I remember creating, tinkering and drawing to fill my free time. Nowadays, I enjoy my free time traveling with my family, gardening, enjoying being on the lake and of course still making art.



Kaari Binsfeld
Media Center Paraprofessional
Agri-Science Teacher

I have lived in the Rockford area for most of my life and am a graduate of Rockford High School. I joined the RMS-CES staff three years ago. I teach 7th and 8th grade Agri-Science and I also work in the media center

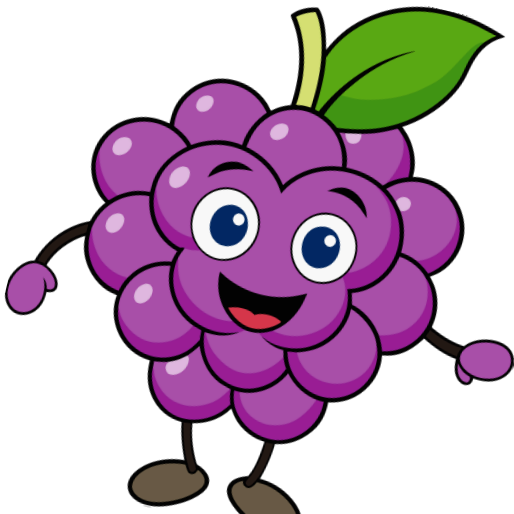
Favorite Things:

My family and I live on a small hobby farm with our three ponies, a dog, and a cat. We spend much of our freetime outdoors biking, camping, gardening, and playing many sports. I also love to read, cook, and watch Wheel of Fortune!

RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE
7th Grade Science
w/ Ms. Sarsland



**Seventh
graders on Ms.
Sarsland's class
have begun
the harvesting
process of
Grape-ology.
We can't wait
to see which
variables
work the best!**

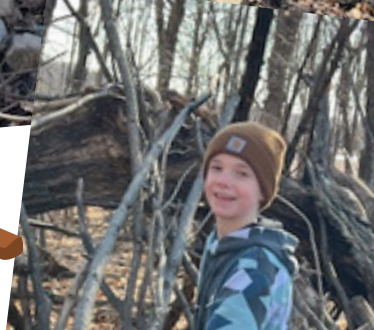
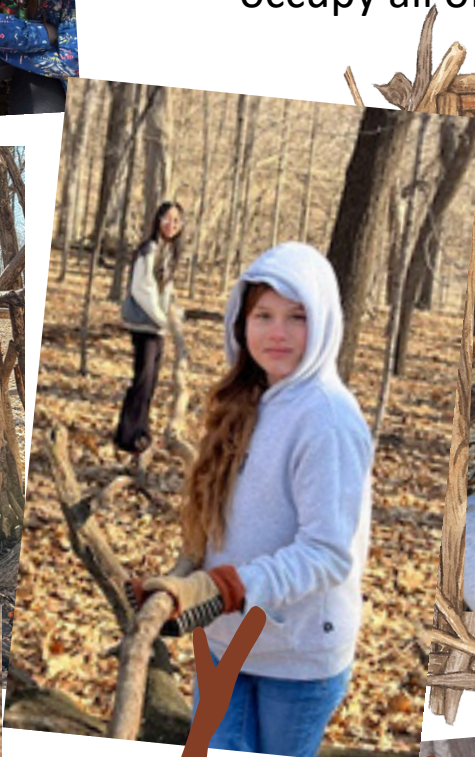


RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

5TH GRADE BAKER FIELD EXPERIENCE AT BAKER OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER



Fifth grade students enjoyed a wonderful, learning experience at Baker Park recently! Students learned about how to survive in the wilderness and put their skills to the test with creating a shelter in the woods that would occupy all of their group inside.



RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

5TH GRADE BAKER FIELD EXPERIENCE AT BAKER OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER



Fifth graders also learned about the maple syrup process. They learned about the tools used and even tried their hands at tapping a tree. Students taste tested store bought syrup versus Baker Park's authentic maple syrup.

Students also learned how to make a fire and see if they could get their fire to boil water.

It was a great day to learn outdoors in the woods, collaborate in groups and enjoy each other's company!



RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

8th Grade Language Arts
w/ Ms. Hendrickson



1st Place Dani Ward & Divya West

Last Friday, Language Arts 8 students cast their ballots for their favorite Theme Collage, which was part of their Final Assessment for the novel, “Home of the Brave”, by Catherine Applegate. On 3/12/25, we all gathered in the Media Center for the Awards Ceremony and honored the winners



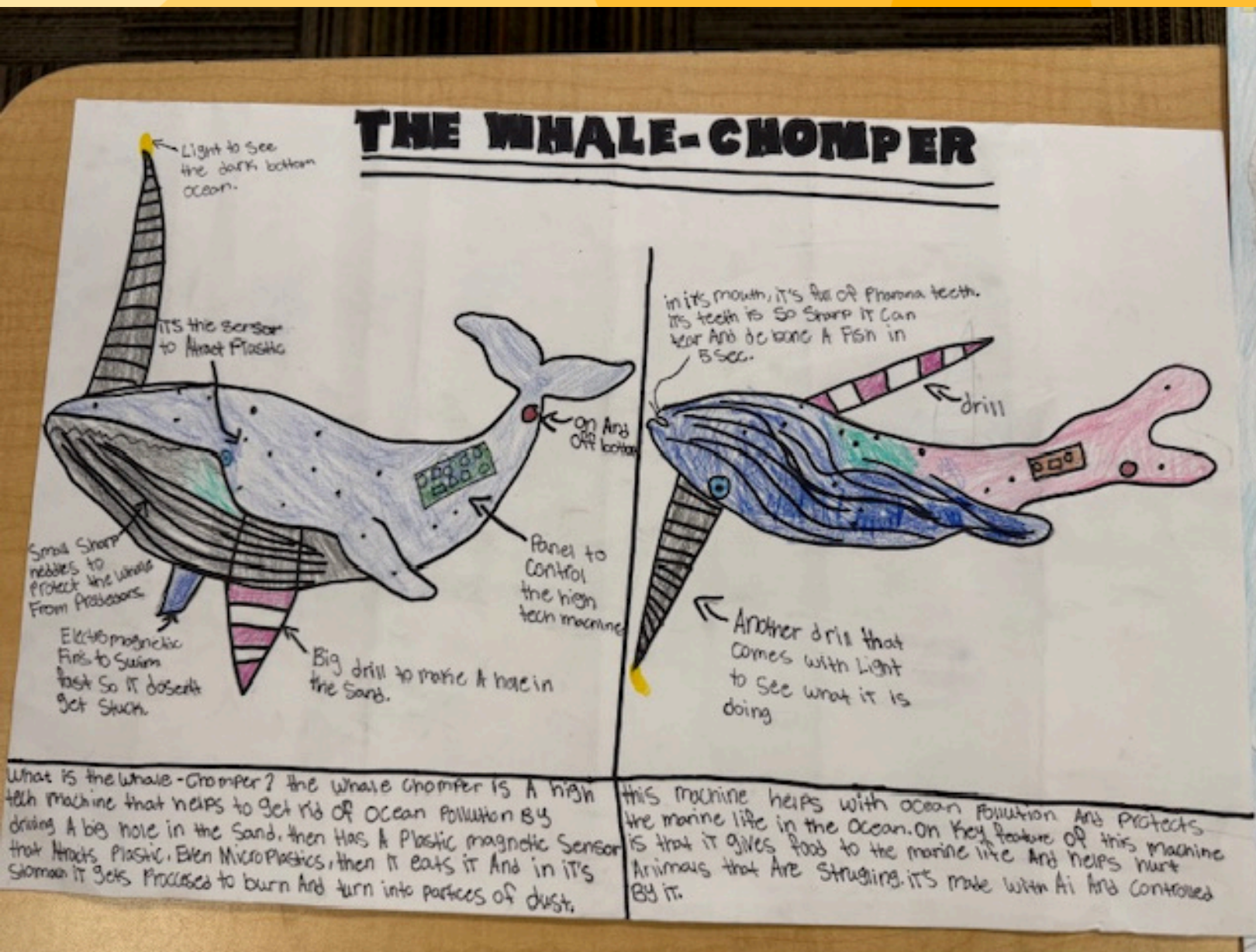
CONGRATS!!

2nd Place David (Elton) Ray & Landan Lorenz

3rd Place Gio Valdez Del Angel & Sully Moran



8TH GRADE GLOBAL STUDIES STUDENTS COMPLETED THEIR BIGGEST PROJECT OF THE YEAR RIGHT BEFORE SPRING BREAK. THIS PROJECT HAS STUDENT EXPLORE GLOBAL ISSUES, WHERE AND WHY THEY ARE HAPPENING, AND HOW THEY COULD BE SOLVED. PROJECT TOPICS RANGED FROM WORLD HUNGER, CLEAN WATER, POLLUTION, DEFORESTATION, ENDANGERED ANIMALS, HEALTHCARE, AND MUCH MORE.



RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

8th grade Social Studies with Mrs. Miller
continued....



THE FINAL PIECE OF THE PROJECT WAS COMING UP WITH AN INVENTION TO IMPROVE OR SOLVE THE ISSUE, WITHOUT THE CONSTRAINTS OF MONEY OR TECHNOLOGY! THIS RESEARCH PROJECT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO PRACTICE DEEP RESEARCH AND CITATION WORK, ORGANIZING INFORMATION, ESSAY WRITING, AND CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING. WHILE IT'S A LOT OF WORK, THIS IS A FAVORITE PROJECT FOR MANY STUDENTS AS THEY ENJOY CREATING AND INVENTING!

