

# RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

**May 2025**



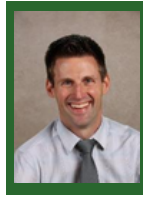
## May/June Dates

**May 14th**  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade To Ney  
Park

**May 21st**  
RMS Band  
Concert

**May 26th**  
No School

**June 4th**  
Last Day of  
School



## From the Principal

RMS Families,

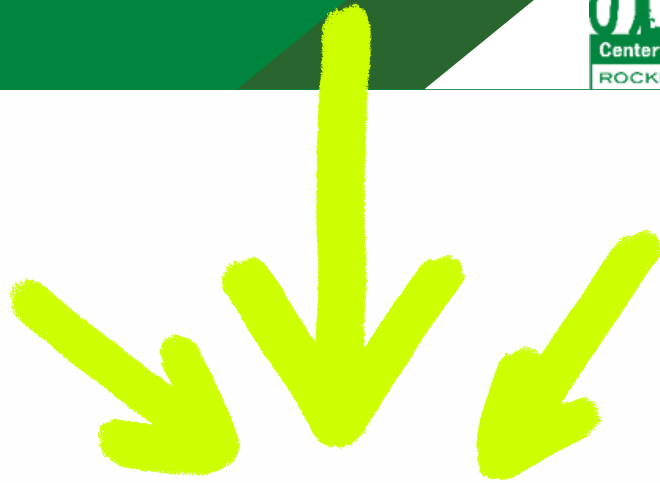
It is truly difficult to imagine that we are already in May, but the sunshine and fields of green bring a special kind of energy that will soon be joined by the long list of end of year events that remind us about how much your child has grown as a person and a student. This month will focus on finishing strong, which means choosing to stay engaged, showing respect, and keeping routines consistent, so that we can end being proud of the work we have done.

A few key updates:

- Please join me this coming week, May 5-9, to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Our teachers sacrifice so much to give their all to help support students as learners and people. A quick thank you goes a very long way.
- Science MCA's for 5th and 8th grade students are wrapping up this week with a few remaining retakes left before we are officially done. Thank you so much for your support of your child through this process as I recognize it can bring up a wide variety of different emotions.
- Each grade has unique ways in which they would like to close out the school year which include a mixture of field trips, celebrations and activities that you can look forward to hearing more about via email.
- Please know that we are tentatively planning to have students turn in their chromebooks on Friday, May 30th.
- If there is an item that you have not seen go through the laundry in a while, and you are curious where it might have gone, you may want to encourage your child to check the lost and found.
- We are grateful for those parents who have volunteered for lunchroom support. As we look into the coming year we are looking for additional opportunities for parents to volunteer. If you have any interest in helping supervise students in the hallways or cafeteria in the morning from 7:30am to 7:50am we would be grateful for the support. If you're interested please email [Monica.Palmer@rockford883.org](mailto:Monica.Palmer@rockford883.org)
- I appreciate families and community members for continued partnership. Your support has been felt throughout the year, but especially as we juggle the end of year details!

Have a great day!

*Paul Marzecha, 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](mailto: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

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

May 2025

### Funding Highlights

In the past month, the Rockford Education Foundation proudly funded several impactful initiatives across the district, including:

- **Various Upcoming Field Trips:**
  - Stork House Field Trip - RMS
  - Ordway Center Field Trip - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Stages Theatre Field Trip - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
  - Three Rivers Park Field Trip - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
  - Minnesota Zoo Field Trip - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- **RHS Band Spring Awards:** supporting an end of year celebration that honors student musicians for their dedication, growth, and achievements throughout the year.
- **Seeds for RMS STEM Showcase:** RMS students educated, created, and distributed seed packets to highlight the native garden in the greenhouse lot and the native prairie restoration.



### COMMUNITY EVENTS



Thank you to those who came out for our Family Bingo night in April. It was so much fun seeing our community come together for a night of laughter, prizes, and friendly competition.

Stay in the know on other upcoming events by following us on [Facebook](#)



## Upcoming Events

### SPRING GRATITUDE GIFTS

Available to order May 1 - 18

**ORDER HERE**

## GRATITUDE GIFTS

Thank a teacher for  
a great school year!



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 \$9,000 to enhance student learning.

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



### STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON - WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Rockford Education Foundation is hosting a Staff Appreciation Luncheon on **Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** to celebrate our incredible Rockford School staff!

Food will be catered by the River Inn. We are looking for:

- ★ Monetary donations to help pay for food and supplies
- ★ Volunteers to help during the event
- ★ Beverages (water, soda, sparkling water, etc)
- ★ Desserts

**DONATE**

**Sign up to Donate Food or Volunteer**



### Catalog Fundraiser Delivery Date

Thank you to those who participated in the Spring Catalog fundraiser! We raised over **\$13,000** toward Arts and Environmental Experiences and Deep Portage for REAMS and RMS-CES.

**Delivery Day is Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at REAMS Gym from 2:45 - 6:00pm**

REAMS Parking:

2:45 - 3:30pm - you must use parking lot in front of Door #1 (main office)

3:30 - 6:00pm - you may park near Door #35 (REAMS gym)

**Delivery Date:  
May 21st**



### 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/](http://www.rockfordfoundation.org/get-involved/)



# RMS-CES | PARENT-COMMUNITY

2025 Arts &  
Academics  
STEM Showcase

## RMS-CES News



We are thrilled to share the highlights of our 13th Annual RMS-CES STEM Showcase, made special by the enthusiastic participation of RMS-CES students and their families. This year's event was full of fun, learning, and creativity, thanks to the activities and performances that brought our school community together.

**EXCEL Mini Golf**



**Fishing Clinic for Kids**



**RMS-CES Greenhouse-Three Sisters Gardens**



**RMS-CES CHOIR**





# RMS-CES | PARENT-COMMUNITY

## RMS-CES News



### 2025 Arts & Academics STEM Showcase

# Student Artwork





# RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY

## 2025 Arts & Academics STEM Showcase



**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to making this event a success, from our dedicated staff and volunteers to the families and students who joined us. RMS-CES STEM Showcase is a great opportunity to see what our school is up to and a chance for young kids, and the community to see what we are all about.

*Mark your calendar for another fantastic event next year!*

2026 RMS-CES STEM Showcase

April 30, 2026

4:30 - 7:00

### RMS-CES Rock Wall



### Pulsera-beautifully crafted bracelets



### Robotics



### Three Rivers Park District





# RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

## OUTDOOR CLUB



This month for Outdoor Club, RMS-CES participants had a fun-filled afternoon learning the art of archery! Students practiced using a bow and arrow, honing their skills with a challenging target—aiming for an apple perched on a stick. While waiting for their turn, some creative members took the opportunity to build a fort, adding a bit of adventure to the day. It was a perfect mix of focus, teamwork, and outdoor fun!





# RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Abbey Kaufman

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

Ms. Kaufman has been teaching social studies at RMS-CES for over 9 years, but her connection to Rockford runs much deeper — she's a proud Rockford grad, did her student teaching in the very same classroom she teaches in now, and her family has been part of the Rockford community for over 60 years. At this point, she's practically a historical landmark herself.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from UW–River Falls (go Falcons!) and her Master of Science in Teaching from The College of St. Scholastica (go Saints!). She's also the advisor for the Volunteer Club and Student Council, which means she's never far from a to-do list, a clipboard, or a Canva flyer.

Outside of school, Ms. Kaufman enjoys traveling cross-country in a camper with her husband, energetic toddler, and four (yes, four) dogs — which is about as relaxing as it sounds. She loves the outdoors, National Parks, historical sites, and finding unique coffee shops.

### Ms. Kaufman's Favorites

📖 Favorite historical figures: Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Teddy Roosevelt

🍿 Favorite snack: Popcorn, especially during family movie nights

🎉 Favorite part of teaching: When students ask really big questions or make a historical pun that actually lands

Many years ago, I began subbing for Rockford Area Schools, and I was offered a long-term substitute position at RMS. From that point on, I never looked back or considered looking anywhere else to call home. Now in my 26th year, I realize how richly blessed I have been by being a part of the RMS-CES family as both a Special Education teacher and as a Language Arts 8 teacher. Away from school, you can find me spending time with friends and family, preferably up at Birch Lake, near Babbitt, Minnesota, at all times of the year. This fall, I am excited to fill a brand new role as Grandma!

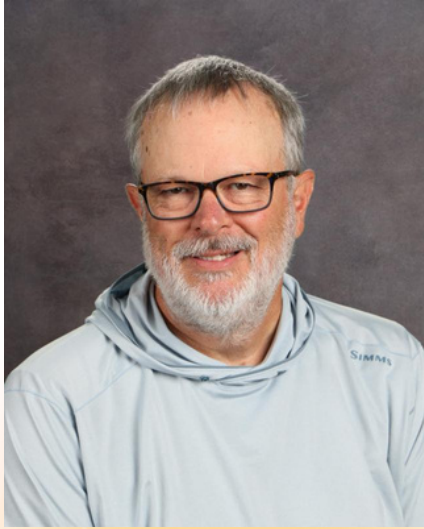


Jan Hendrickson

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

# RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Jason Hester  
PE Teacher

I teach physical education at the middle school and high school.

This is my 30th year at Rockford and year 3, teaching at the middle school.

I enjoy traveling, art museums, spring training baseball, growing things (pumpkins, corn, etc) and fishing.

I am married with three kids, the youngest of which is graduating from the U of MN Twin Cities this spring.

**We**  **Teachers**



# RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

## BAND



On Saturday, April 26th, eight Rockford Middle School band students performed in the Allegro Honor Band hosted by St. Michael-Albertville Middle School West. Ava Dumonceaux, Alexis Johnson, Derek Byers, Callen Van Denheuvel, Mackenzie Lockwood, Vance Bodey-Phillips, Lake Lee, and Marshall Borders rehearsed and performed alongside band members from Buffalo, Delano, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winstead, Monticello, St. Michael Albertville, and Watertown-Mayer Middle Schools. Thank you to these students for their hard work on their instruments and their dedication to music! Congratulations on a great performance!