

Rockford Area Schools K-12 Magnet Program



MUSIC • THEATER • DANCE • VISUAL ARTS • CREATIVITY



HANDS-ON-LEARNING • STEM



GLOBAL • INNOVATION • COLLEGE & CAREER PREPARATION



A member of the
Northwest Suburban Integration
School District (NWSISD)

ROCKFORD, MINNESOTA

Watch this video about
Rockford Area Schools



Three Signature Programs. One Inspiring Pathway.

Who We Are

As a proud member of the **Northwest Suburban Integration School District (NWSISD)**, Rockford Area Schools offers students access to high-quality magnet programming that celebrates diversity, fosters academic excellence, and broadens opportunity. Free transportation is available for students in eligible communities, helping remove barriers and ensure equitable access.

A Seamless K-12 Magnet Pathway

Rockford Area Schools stands out as one of the few districts in Minnesota offering a continuous, tuition-free magnet program from kindergarten through 12th grade. This integrated approach allows students to build upon their passions and strengths at each educational stage, ensuring a cohesive and enriched learning experience.



GRADES K-4
ARTS
MAGNET



GRADES 5-8
ENVIRONMENTAL STEM
MAGNET



GRADES 9-12
IB WORLD SCHOOL
MAGNET

ROOTED IN ARTS.

GROUNDING IN NATURE.

READY FOR THE WORLD.



About Magnet Schools

Magnet Schools are public schools with a focused academic theme.

Magnet schools are designed to inspire learning and attract students from beyond traditional attendance zones. These programs allow students to explore their interests, talents, and career goals – all while meeting rigorous academic standards.



Students Eligible to Attend:

✓ Live in the ISD 883 School District

Includes the communities of Rockford, Greenfield, and Corcoran.

✓ Open Enroll from Another Community

Students from communities outside these districts may apply through open enrollment.

✓ Live in a NWSISD Member District

Students from the following districts are eligible and receive **free transportation**:

- Anoka-Hennepin
- Brooklyn Center
- Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose
- ISD 728 (Elk River, Otsego, Rogers, Zimmerman)
- Fridley
- Osseo



Family and Community Partnerships

Families from a wide range of cultural and economic backgrounds come together here, creating a welcoming, inclusive school community where differences are respected and every student is valued.



Elementary students learn through the arts including puppetry, theater, and performance. **This is the magnet experience.**



Middle School students explore science hands-on, learning through every season. **This is the magnet experience.**

High School students gain real-world career experience through IB pathways like construction and welding. **This is the magnet experience.**



Rocket Track and Field gives back to the community every year by volunteering to serve during Rockford's annual Thousand Hearts Serve Day. **This is the magnet experience.**



125 Students
Is the Average
Grade Size



95%
Graduation
Rate

Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School

Instruction that integrates content and skills from the **arts areas of dance, theater, music, and visual arts** with core subjects.

ARTS INTEGRATION



GRADES K-4

- **The arts are integrated into EVERY subject:**

Students don't just create – they learn math through movement, explore history through theater, and deepen reading comprehension through visual storytelling.

- **Students experience all artistic disciplines:**

- Visual Arts
- Music
- Theater
- Dance

- **Specialized Arts Staff:**

Traditional schools typically offer one general art teacher. Here students work with licensed specialists in visual art, music, theater, and dance.

- **Creative Spaces:**

From a classroom stage with real sound and lighting to a full keyboard lab and diverse instruments, our school is built for artistic expression. Students showcase work in a permanent art gallery and are just a one-minute walk from the high school auditorium.

- **Artist in Residence Visits:**

Local artists, musicians, and other creatives share their skills at our school with each grade level.

- **Exclusive Partnerships/Enriching Field Trips:**

In addition to traditional field trips, Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet offers students exclusive partnerships not typically found in other schools. These collaborations immerse students in professional-level arts experiences.

MAGNET BENEFITS

- Engages creative, hands-on learning
- Cultivates understanding shown through the arts
- Builds critical thinking and inquiry
- Encourages collaboration and communication
- Develops well-rounded, expressive students

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Schedule - 8:05am - 2:55pm
- 1:1 technology integrated into classrooms
- Rocket Ready Days – designed to ensure a smooth and focused start of school with school photos, assessments, and teacher meetings
- EXCEL program for gifted and talented learners
- All school Fabulous Friday assemblies
- Kindness retreats and assemblies
- Galaxy Kids Program, an on-site, before and after school child care program

MAGNET COORDINATOR

Darren Eliason, Arts Magnet Coordinator



darren.eliason@rockford883.org



[@isd883](https://www.instagram.com/isd883)



[RockfordAreaSchools](https://www.facebook.com/RockfordAreaSchools)



20+ Years as an Arts Magnet

Rockford Elementary became an Arts Magnet in 2004!



Arts Experiences

Scan here to learn more.

Rooted in Arts.



Rockford Middle School Environmental STEM Magnet

Instruction that integrates **science, technology, engineering, and math** with an **environmental emphasis** with core subjects.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEM INTEGRATION



GRADES 5-8

• **Unique Campus for Learning:**

Greenhouse and vegetable gardens
MN DNR certified school forest
1.2 acre restored native prairie
Rain gardens, flower gardens and snow garden
Student designed grape gardens
Trout in the Classroom
Walking distance to the Crow River

• **Instruction Grounded in Nature:**

Teachers believes in the restorative power of nature to reduce stress, promote exploration, and ground teaching and learning in concrete, place-based education.

• **STEM Exploratory Classes:**

Students will explore Engineering, Agriculture, and Technology in their core content classes.

• **Digital Skills:**

Students learn how to create a web page, code, and create visual projects.

• **Partnerships and Specialized Field Trips:**

Three Rivers Park District
MN Department of Natural Resources-School Forest Program
University of Minnesota Raptor Center Minnesota
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Rockford Historical Society
Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

• **Deep Portage Field Trip:**

6th graders attend a 3-Day trip to Hackensack, MN to engage in a variety of immersive, hands-on activities that foster environmental literacy, teamwork, and personal growth.

MAGNET BENEFITS

- Fosters environmental literacy
- Builds real-world problem-solving skills
- Emphasizes project-based learning
- Strengthens critical thinking
- Encourages multiple perspectives

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Schedule 7:50am - 2:45pm
- 1:1 technology
- A time everyday for students (Boost)
- Gifted and Talented services (EXCEL)
- 5th Grade - first day welcome and year round support with WEB program
- Grade-level instruction focuses on Minnesota's four unique biomes – students learn about plants and animals that live in each region

MAGNET COORDINATOR

Jamie Madson, STEM Coordinator

@ jamie.madson@rockford883.org

@isd883

f RockfordAreaSchools

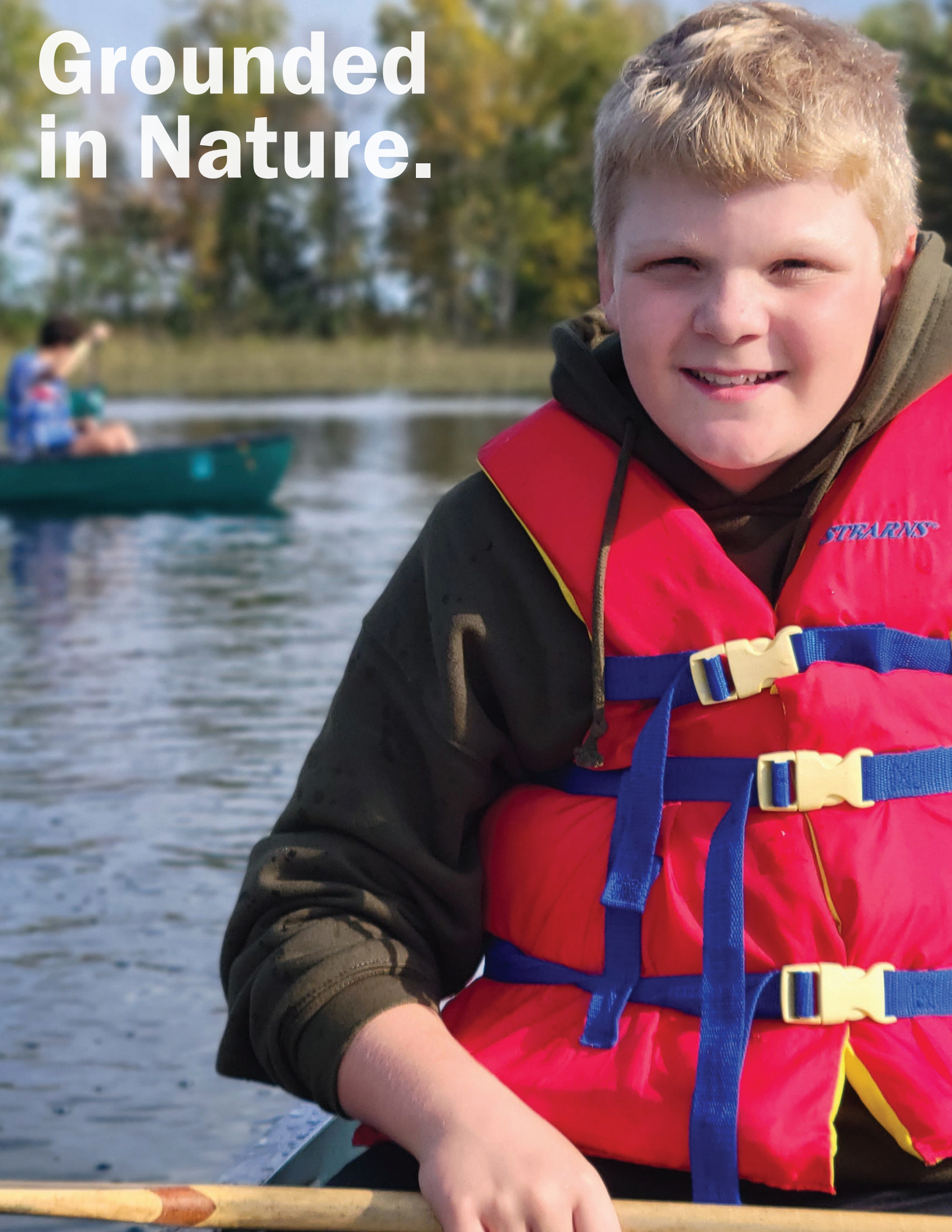


NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
as a U.S. Department of Education
Green Ribbon School



◀ **Unique Outdoor Spaces**
Scan here to learn more.

**Grounded
in Nature.**



Rockford High School IB World School Magnet



The International Baccalaureate (IB) program blends core academics with a **global perspective**, helping students grow as responsible world citizens.

IB INTEGRATION



GRADES 9-12

Grades 9–10: Building Strong Foundations

All students participate in the Middle Years Programme (MYP), which strengthens academic habits, critical thinking, and global awareness across core subjects.

Grades 11–12: Choosing a Personalized Path

Students select the option that fits their goals:

IB Course Work: Students not enrolled in CP or DP still benefit from the IB teaching philosophy and global mindset in their classes and have access to all courses. It is a great way to explore potential career pathways and earn college credits and/or a certification.

Career-related Programme (CP):

Real-world, career-focused learning for students interested in hands-on experience. Four career pathways are offered:

- Business
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Craftsmanship (Construction & Welding)
- Education
- Theater
- Vet Assistant

Diploma Programme (DP): A rigorous academic track that promotes deep learning, personal growth, and a strong advantage in college applications.

A Diploma is earned with:

- A score of 4 or higher on three or more high level courses
- 4,000 word Extended Essay
- 150 hours of a non-academic activity

MAGNET BENEFITS

- IB approach shapes students into well-rounded, global citizens
- Research-driven, student-led learning
- Studies aligned to personal interests
- IB builds skills in writing, research, collaboration, and time management
- Competitive edge for college and careers

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Modified Block Schedule - 8:00am - 2:50pm
- Small class sizes (18-28)
- 83% of RHS teachers have a master's degree
- High school programs build on K–8 magnet learning with focused pathways
- Students contribute to the community through local partnerships with service based projects within their clubs and extracurricular activities
- College credit opportunities through IB courses, and College in the Schools (CIS)

MAGNET COORDINATOR

Jill Gordee, IB Coordinator

@ jill.gordee@rockford883.org

@isd883

f RockfordAreaSchools



IB Authorized World School

This is a multi-year process that includes intensive teacher training, curriculum development, and a comprehensive review by the International Baccalaureate Organization.



← **Course Offerings**
Scan here to learn more.

Ready for
the World.



Extracurriculars

Rockford Area Schools offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities and sports for students in **grades 7-12** to participate in throughout the school year.

Athletics

FALL

- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Tennis (Girls)
- Football
- Robotics
- Soccer
- Volleyball

WINTER

- Alpine Ski (Girls)
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Speech
- Wrestling

SPRING

- Baseball
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Softball
- Tennis (Boys)
- Track and Field
- Trapshooting

Fine Arts

MUSIC & THEATER

- Chamber Choir
- Concert Band
- Concert Choir
- Flag Twirlers
- Jazz Band
- Major/Majorette
- Marching Band
- Musical
- Musical Pit Orchestra
- One-Act Play
- Pep Band
- Varsity Band

CREATIVE & MEDIA

- Essence
- Sound & Light Tech
- Yearbook

Clubs/Activities

CAREER AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

- AVID
- DECA
- Educators Rising
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Letters of Love
- Robotics - FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)

LEADERSHIP

- Link Crew
- National Honor Society
- Statistician
- Student Council
- Team Managers

MENTORSHIP/CHARACTER BUILDING

- Step Up
- STRIVE

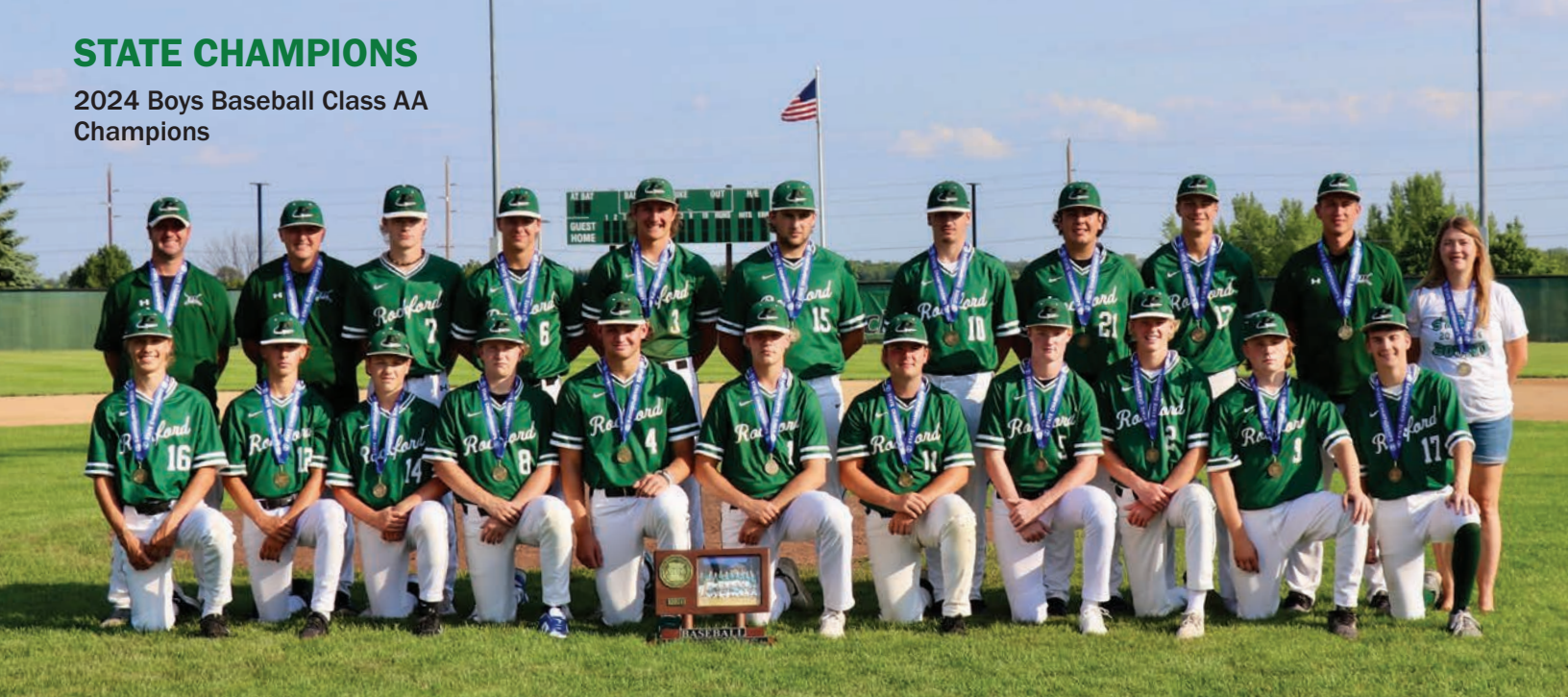
71%

Rockford Students participate in two or more extracurricular activities!



STATE CHAMPIONS

2024 Boys Baseball Class AA
Champions



Middle School Clubs & Athletics

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

- Envirothon
- FFA for Middle School
- Jazz Band
- Musical
- Outdoor Club
- Rockford Area Indigenous Student Education (RAISE)
- Robotics – FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)
- Student Council
- Volunteer Club
- Where Everyone Belongs (WEB Leaders)
- Yearbook

ATHLETICS

- Middle School Sports: Baseball, Basketball (Boys and Girls), Robotics, Softball and Volleyball
- High School sports available to 7th & 8th grade students: Alpine Ski, Cheer, Cross Country, Dance, Gym, Golf, Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Speech, Tennis, Track & Field, Trap Shooting, and Wrestling
- 6th Grade Track and Cross Country through Community Education

Elementary Activities

ACTIVITIES (during school day)

- Battle of the Book Buttons
- Concert Program Artwork
- Kindness Culture
- Smile Squad
- Student Council
- Music Troupe, Dance Troupe, Theater Troupe, and Visual Arts Troupe
- Yearbook Cover Illustrations

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- Art Classes
- Dance Classes
- Flag Football
- Gymnastics
- Summer Musical
- Robotics – FIRST LEGO League (FLL)
- Soccer

Launching Futures. Shaping the World.

Meet a few of our inspiring alumni who began their journey at Rockford Area Schools — and are now thriving in careers fueled by creativity, innovation, and impact.

**ARTS
MAGNET**



**Graphic Designer
North Hennepin Community College**

Jacob Cain >

Founder of Cains Designs and Wraps, Jacob's creativity races ahead. His Rockford arts education led to a career as a graphic designer and entrepreneur specializing in custom race car wraps.



2014 RHS Graduate

**STEM
MAGNET**



**OTD, Occupational Therapy
Creighton University Graduate**

< **Dr. Maddy Hudlow**

Rockford's STEM-focused education helped shape Maddy's path toward a career in healthcare. Now an Occupational Therapist at St. David's Center, she's helping children thrive through care and innovation.



2018 RHS Graduate

**Actuarial Science Student
Purdue University, Indiana**

**IB WORLD
MAGNET**



Gwen Keller >

Earning her full IB Diploma, Gwen left Rockford with confidence and a competitive edge. Her passion for data and problem-solving is taking shape at one of the nation's top universities.



2024 RHS Graduate

Think Magnet. Think Career.



Arts education increases long-term academic performance and creative problem-solving – skills essential in over 85% of future careers.



2021 RHS Graduate

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing
College of St. Scholastica Graduate**

← Yared Garcia Ramirez

A first-generation college student, Yared gained valuable hands-on experience through Rockford's STEM program, helping prepare him for college-level science and healthcare courses. He recently graduated with a nursing degree.

**Interior Designer
UW-Stout Graduate**

Olivia Heitke >

Olivia's love for design began with early exposure to creative projects in the classroom. Today, she transforms spaces as a professional interior designer – proof that a foundation in the arts leads to lasting careers.



2021 RHS Graduate

**Founder, Plastic Reprocessing Startup
NDSU Graduate**

← Nick Hall

Nick's environmental roots were planted at Rockford Middle School Center for Environmental Studies. Now, he's turning passion into purpose—building sustainable solutions through his own company, Prime Extrusions, focused on plastics recycling.




2015 RHS Graduate


**Political Science & International Studies Student
Trinity University, Texas**

Maggie Johnson >

Maggie is pursuing a degree in Political Science and International Studies with a minor in Spanish. As an IB Diploma graduate, she credits the program for strengthening her global perspective and academic discipline. After graduation, she hopes to work in public policy and serve the city of San Antonio in a civic leadership role.



 Environmental and sustainability jobs are projected to grow faster than average over the next decade (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

 IB alumni report greater global awareness, college readiness, and leadership skills in their careers.

Big Opportunities in a Small School Setting

- ✓ Closer connections with staff
- ✓ Tailored learning designed around student's needs
- ✓ Faster support or intervention
- ✓ Easier participation in athletics & activities
- ✓ Supportive community

Questions about
Rockford magnet schools:
magnet@rockford883.org




< Scan Code to
Enroll Today!



Schedule a tour – see the difference for yourself!

 763-477-9165

 @isd883

 District Office
6051 Ash Street
Rockford, MN 55373

 Rockford883.org

 @RockfordAreaSchools