RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

UPCOMING DATES:

11/11/25
Veterans Day

11/21/25-11/23/25
RAS Musical

11/26/25-11/28/25
Fall Break

12/4/25
RMS Band Concert





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

RMS-CES Family,

As temperatures dips, most leaves have fallen, and the term 'flurries' reappears in our forecast. There is a definite presence of a season change. Fall always causes me to pause and reflect with gratitude and I am thankful for students, parents and staff for all they have done to create such a positive and supportive start to the school year. Below are a few updates as we head into the second quarter…

- We have continued to promote student engagement at RMS and across the district. Our students have done reflection before conferences and 95% of our students indicate that they have seen and used the "Engage to Learn" framework in classes and 90% of students identify they are able to identify their own level of engagement. We appreciate any and all support to encourage your child to stay curious and engaged in their learning.
- We're excited to launch STEM IRL, a lunchtime speaker series connecting students with real-world STEM careers. If you or someone you know would like to inspire our students by sharing your career story, please complete the STEM IRL Speaker Interest Form.
- Please know that we will be honoring Veterans on November 11th (Veterans Day), by having grade level wide assemblies in the Media Center during Boost.
- As we head into colder temperatures, just a reminder that we will still try to go outside as much as we possibly can for recess, PE, and some classrooms. I encourage students to begin wearing a coat as this time of year temps can change rapidly and unexpectedly.
- Please know that Quarter 1 grades have been posted in your Infinite Campus parent portal. If you have questions about your child's grades please connect with teachers as needed.
- Academic Planners are a digital resource that you can use to help your child see what is happening in the classroom.

We have had a fantastic school year so far and we are seeing students do amazing things in their learning in the classroom. We are grateful for their growth in and out of the classroom!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend ahead!

Have a great day!

Paul Warzecha, Principal

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STEM Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

RiverWorks
COMMUNITY HELPING COMMUNITY

As many of you are aware the need this year is greater than ever. As we lean into the Thanksgiving season I am asking you to consider donating this year to our community partner Riverworks. They are an incredible organization that provides food, meals, clothing and assistance to our students and families in the Rockford Community. It sounds like they are in great need this year of our support.

We are asking for a huge push from our Rockford School District Staff and Teachers to ease the need for them to provide assistance to our Rockford Community members.

Riverworks Donate Now

To make your donation today please use the QR Code which will take you to a drop-down box. At the drop-box choose Rockford School Food Drive and complete your donation.

RiverWorks FOOD SHELF
food with love for every table





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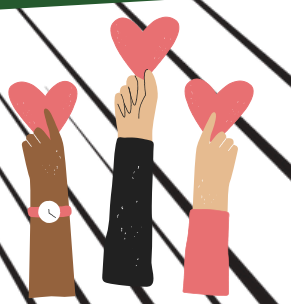




WEB LEADERS WILL BE ASSIGNED A 5TH GRADE BOOST CLASS FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, LEAD ACTIVITIES, AND ALLOW THE LEADERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PASS ON SOME VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT BEING SUCCESSFUL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) is a mentorship program that welcomes the fifth grade class on the first day of school as well as continues to support them throughout their first year of middle school. Our desire is to offer support for the fifth grade class as well as help give our eighth graders the opportunity to become leaders and mentors throughout the school year.

2025-2026 WEB LEADERS: Bridger C, Colton G, Bailey M, Audrey M, Russell P, Cole A, Camilla H, Edrin X, Thaddeus P, Vance B-P, Natalie Z, Samantha F, Douglas S, Reese R, Cora S, Gabbi A, Treynor S, Joey P, Lydia T



STAFF LEADERS: MR. MADSON, MRS. RUSSELL, MRS. WIRTH, & MS. ENGSTROM

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School News

STEM Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT COUNCIL
RMS-CES

The Future is Bright at Rockford Middle School!

Meet our 2025–2026 Rockford Middle School Student Council. This group is a powerhouse of leaders ready to spark school spirit, bring fresh ideas, and make every student voice count!

Guiding the way are our 8th Grade Council Co-Leaders: Tony Barwu, Evan Bakken, Douglas Stark, and Xander Valiant.

Supporting them are our amazing Grade Level Representatives:

- 7th Grade: Samuel Oluwafemi & Aubrielle Marx
- 6th Grade: Amelia Radde & Keaton Schultz
- 5th Grade: Conley Freed & Clara Braaten

This team is ready to launch into action, building community, inspiring pride, and taking RMS to new heights.

With leaders like these, RMS is ready to soar!



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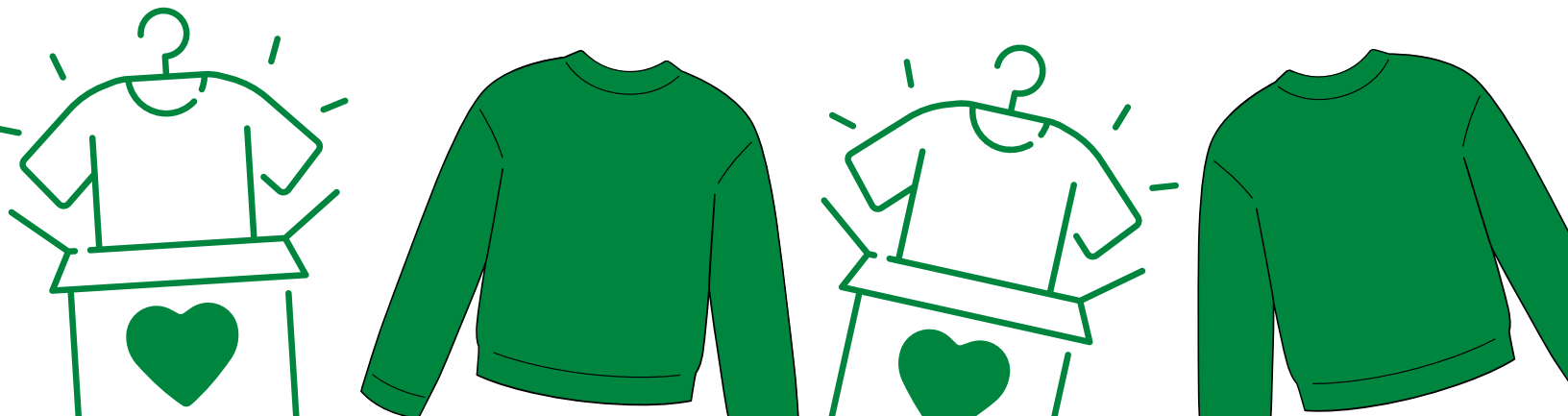
STOP BY THE SCHOOL STORE!

SCHOOL STORE

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Store Hours 5:30-7:30pm	4	5	6 Store Hours 7-9pm	7	8
9	10	11	12 Store Hours 5-7pm	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Store Hours 6:30-9pm	22 Store Hours 6:30-9pm
23	24	25	26	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29	30

Dates and times subject to change based on event changes. Any changes will be updated and posted on our social media platforms.



RMS-CES| POINTS OF PRIDE

STUDENT OF THE WEEK!!

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CONGRATS!



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Student Support Services

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ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

In Need of Food?

Rockford Area Schools offers FREE Breakfast and Lunches for Students!

Every Meal

Reach out to a school counselor or click the link below
Donate or Accept Food Here

Find a Local Food Pantry

Find a Food Pantry Near You!
Search Here

Loaves & Fishes - Plymouth Covenant Church

Prepared/Community Meals
https://www.loavesandfishesmn.org/

- Saturday from 5:30-6:30pm

River Works Food Shelf

https://riverworksonline.org/

- Monday 3:30pm - 7:00pm
- Tuesday 9:30am - 11:30am

WeCAN Mobile Market

https://www.wecanmn.org/get-help

- Mobile Food Market delivers groceries to those in need, who may not be able to access a traditional food shelf.

Hanover Food Shelf

Hours on their website
Serves: Hanover, St. Michael, Albertville, NW Loretto
Families can visit once per month

Buffalo Food Shelf

https://buffalofoodshelf.com/

- Tuesdays 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- Fridays 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Westonka Food Shelf

https://westonkacommunityfoodshelf.com/

- Monday-Friday 9:30am-3pm
- (*Wed special hours: 9:30am-3pm & 6pm-8pm),
- Saturday 10am-12pm (appointment)

Who do I Contact?

REAMS	RMS-CES	RHS
Katie Reynolds	Molly Wirth	Samantha Bloom
Allison Leistico	Ellie Engstrom	Ellie Engstrom

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RMS Nurse Lindsey

STEM Center for Environmental Studies

Parents:

20 seconds could save your and your kids weeks in bed this cold & flu season



Parents:

Nurse Lindsey is starting a hand hygiene program for our 5th graders to help them build healthy habits and stay well this year and will be teaching a lesson in the classroom in November.





RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY REF News

REF News & Updates

NOVMEBER 2025



Impact in Action: Author William Durbin Inspires Young Writers

Last spring, thanks to the generosity of our donors, **6th graders at RMS-CES** had an unforgettable opportunity to learn from Minnesota author **William Durbin**, whose visit was funded through the **REF Mini-Grant Program.**

This hands-on workshop turned reading into real-life inspiration. After studying Durbin's The Broken Blade in class, students were able to meet the author behind the story, ask questions, and dive into what it truly means to be a writer. For many, it was a spark that lit a new passion.

> ***"I always thought I didn't like to write, but I realized I just don't like being told what to write. I love to free write. This workshop helped me realize that."*** - Ethan

Others found themselves brimming with new story ideas and confidence:

> ***"I liked the writing workshop and got a bunch of ideas for a story that I want to write"*** - Thor
>
> ***"The writing workshop was really fun and made me want to get back into writing again"*** - Reegan
>
> ***"I honestly enjoyed when he came and taught us how to write. He taught us that if you write a page every day, you can write a whole book. I really liked his encouragement"*** - Chioma



Their teacher, Mrs. K, saw the impact firsthand:

> ***"It was really cool seeing RMS-CES students work with William Durbin after reading The Broken Blade in class. It made the story come alive and inspired them to keep exploring writing. Experiences like this truly make learning come to life."***

This unique experience – where literature, creativity, and real-world connect meet – was possible ***only because of donor support***. REF's Mini-Grant Program empowers teachers to dream big and bring opportunities like this directly into classrooms, where they have a lasting impact on students' growth and confidence.

When you give to the Rockford Education Foundation, you're not just funding a program – you're **inspiring the next generation of readers, writers, and dreamers.**

RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY

REF News

ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
ISD 883 MN

Events

REAMS Kindness Fundraiser: Students Paying it Forward





Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School students recently completed their **Kindness Fundraiser**, and the results were incredible!

Together, students raised over $11,000 to support REAMS Arts Experiences – including field trips, artist in residency, theater programs, the all school song, and so much more.

Even more inspiring? Each act of kindness performed by students reminded us what community truly means. From helping neighbors and teachers to writing kind notes and sharing smiles, our students made kindness the most meaningful currency of all. They completed over 400 acts of kindness AND donated over 1,300 food items to Riverworks Food Shelf.

Thank you to every family and donor who contributed – you've made it possible for our youngest learners to express themselves through the arts and experience the joy of giving back.

Get Ready to Play! 80's TV Game Show Night



Saturday, November 22, 2025 | Rush Creek Golf Course

The Rockford Education Foundation is turning up the volume and throwing it back to the ultimate era of **neon, big hair, and buzzer-beating fun!**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of **games, dinner, and fundraising**, all supporting educational excellence in Rockford schools.

Tickets on sale now through November 15!

Don't miss your chance to be part of this high-energy night that's sure to have you laughing, reminiscing, and giving back.

Buy Tickets Here » https://secure.qgiv.com/event/rockford25/

Thank You for Fueling the Future

From author visits and art experiences to STEM integration and career pathways—your support continues to make learning come alive across Rockford schools.

Together, we're inspiring the next generation to dream big, work hard, and shine bright.

Stay connected:

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for stories, updates, and ways to make a difference.

www.RockfordEducationFoundation.org

RMS-CES| POINTS OF PRIDE

5TH GRADE BAKER FIELD TRIP

Center for Environmental Studies



















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Annual Deep Portage Experience with our 6th Graders

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THANK YOU

THANK YOU



THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Parent Volunteers

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6th Grade Happenings

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Sixth graders set personal reading goals this year - challenge by choice. They add a ribbon to their bookmark for every book they read and conference. Students are a quarter of the way through the challenge. Reading daily fuels the mind.

Our sixth graders reflected on their time at Deep Portage by writing a six room reflective poem that focused on a single idea: their favorite Deep Portage class. This exercise guided them to explore a topic through six "rooms," each focusing on a different aspect like a description of what they saw: light, sound, questions, feelings, and repeating a key phrase, before rearranging the material into a final poem. This method helps writers "show, don't tell". While writing students followed the writing process: pre-write, rough draft, revise, edit, and final draft

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Thanks to Scholastic storyvoice, students are able to celebrate stories and boost reading excitement by streaming author read-alouds every few Fridays during sixth grade lunch periods. On October 31st, students heard from Goosebumps author R.L. Stine. He read an excerpt from his book Slappy World: Haunting with the Stars. Bob shared that he writes because he loves telling stories and wants to help reluctant readers get excited about read. When writing he outlines his books in detail, chapter by chapter, and then can finish a book in about two weeks. Students enjoyed a game of MadLibs and were excited to get R.L. Stine to say, "67" in the story. He shared that his next book was going to be called Camp Bigfoot.

Future Read Aloud Events

Friday, Nov. 7th - Chickenpox by Remy Lai

Friday, Nov. 21st - Refugee: The Graphic Novel by Allan Gratz

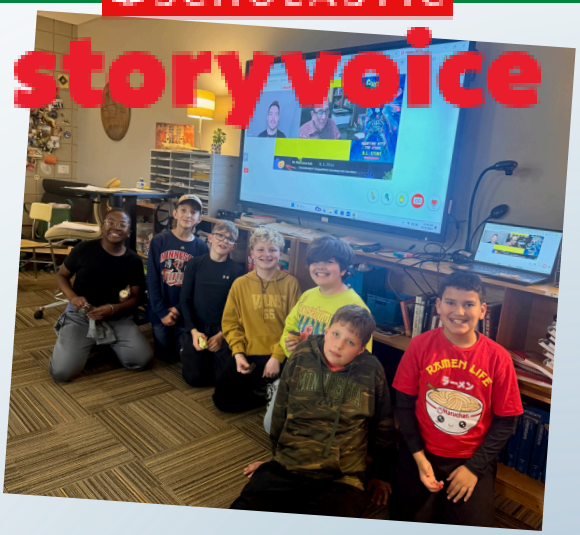
Friday, Dec. 5th - Wings of Fire: Escaping Peril - The Graphic Novel by Tui T. Sutherland

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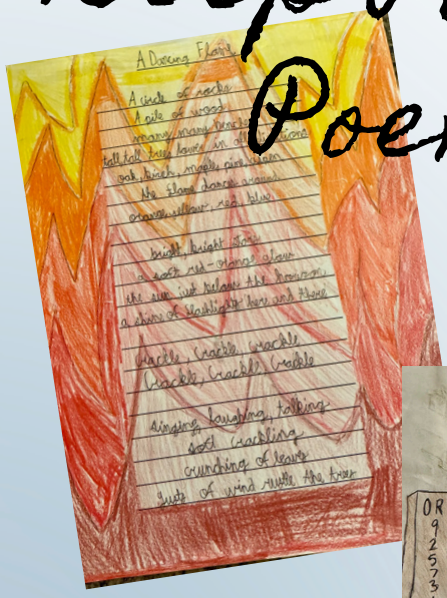
6th Grade Happenings

STEM Center for Environmental Studies MIDDLE SCHOOL

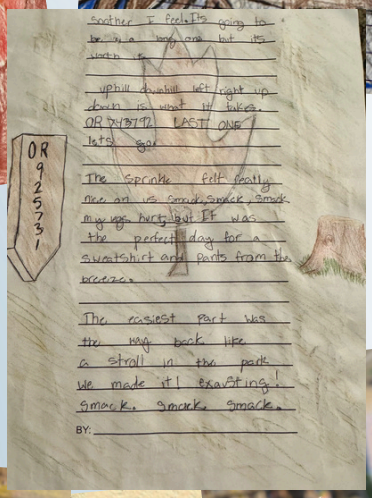
SCHOLASTIC storyvoice



Deep Portage Poems

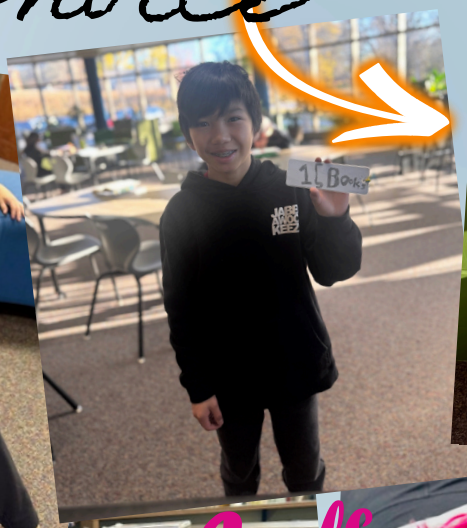






Challenge by Choice











Goals









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Deep Portage 2025

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Deep Portage 2025

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5th Grade LA-Mrs. Mateyka

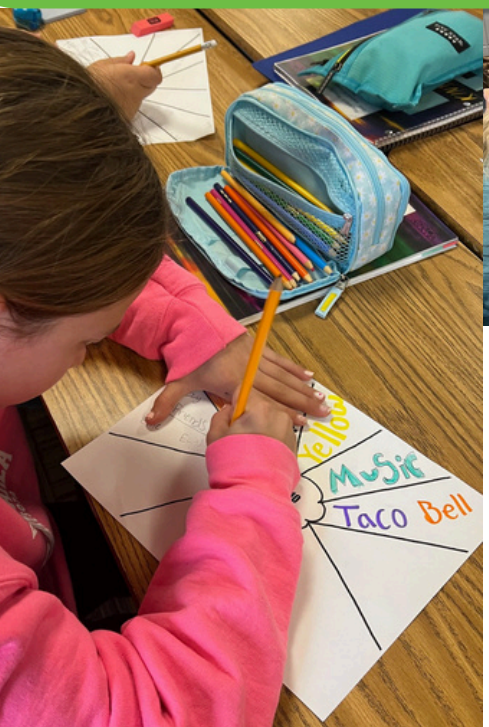
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Fifth graders began the year navigating the challenges of middle school, such as learning their locker combinations and finding their way between classes. After some adjustment and familiarity, Language Arts students then began discovering what they value most. They created "Top Ten" lists of things they can't live without. Some of the items that made their lists were: Friends, Family, Faith, Pets, Favorite foods/sweets, Sports and other activities

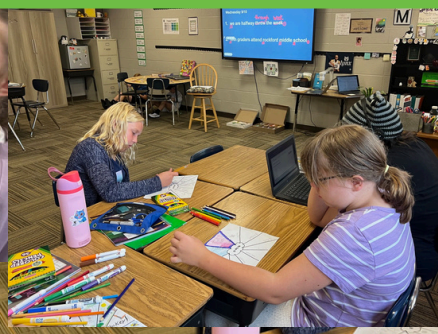
In support of their school's environmental focus, students created "Nature Bookmarks". They collected natural items from the outdoor learning spaces. Fifth graders used these items to design their own unique reading bookmarks, with no two looking exactly alike. Students also began learning about genres. To prepare for an upcoming quiz, the fifth graders engaged in several review activities.

- "I Have...Who Has..." game: A full-class activity used to review the genres they had learned.
- Small groups collaborated to play Quizlet, a digital learning tool, as another review method.

FIFTH GRADERS ARE OFF TO A GREAT START OF THE YEAR IN LANGUAGE ARTS!







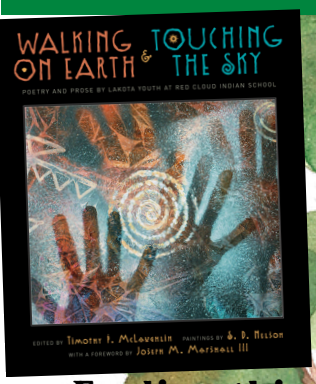


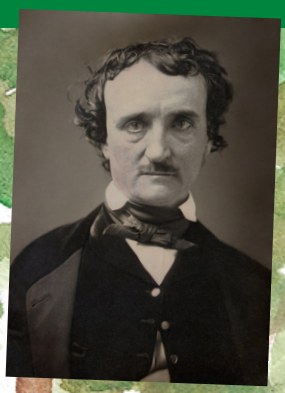


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8th Grade LA-Ms. Hendrickson

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Earlier this fall, LA8 students studied the Oglala Lakota culture, which also helped us gain a better perspective on how Native Americans value Nature. The teenage writers who contributed to the book, Walking on Earth & Touching the Sky, attend the Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and have written about their relationships with Unci Maka, Grandmother Earth. Since our School Forest provides a perfect backdrop, we headed up the hill and worked through a "Poetry in the Forest" activity. Rotating through different stations, students read and analyzed a selection of poems from the book. From there, they let their inner poet shine and wrote a Haiku based on their observations in Nature. Next, we moved on and met the "master of the macabre", Edgar Allan Poe before studying his short story, "The Tell-Tale Heart". While reading, students analyzed his use of Dramatic Irony, Mood, Tone, and Suspense Techniques. After all, we are in the "spooky season" of October!







