RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

April 2026

upcoming DATES:

April 14th-15th
MCA Testing-Reading

April 21st-22nd
MCA Testing-Math

April 28th-29th
MCA Testing-Science

April 30th
STEM Showcase Night



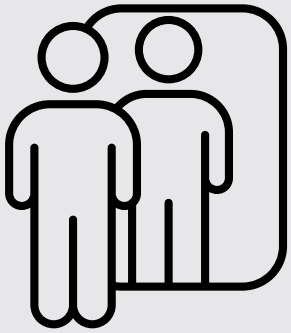
At RMS-CES, students are empowered to become innovators through engaging, authentic and developmentally appropriate opportunities, access to a strong academic foundation, and a commitment to lifelong learning. We are a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) School with a focus on Environmental Studies.

From the Principal

RMS-CES Families,

We are thrilled to welcome spring weather and a fresh start to a new quarter. Our students came back from spring break refreshed and ready to close out the school year. I would ask that, as parents, you continue to partner with us and keep those conversations around engaging in school going, especially as we wrap up the school year.

One of our focus areas this year has been student engagement, and we have noticed that the vast majority of students can reflect on their own engagement and now we will shift our focus on developing the skills to either re-engage when we get distracted, or how to engage more actively beyond just participating. Our collaborative partnership between home and school is our first step in helping our students realize that achieving at high levels always starts at engaging in the work and leaning into learning and challenging themselves to grow.



RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

CONTINUED....

Please know that Reading and Math MCA's will take place in students' 1st hour classes in the dates listed below. Students report to their 1st hour as usual on these days and we will run a two hour late start on each of these days to give students a large section of time to complete the work. Some ways parents can partner with the school is to remind their child of all their efforts they have put in this school year, encouraging their child to do their best on each question, make sure to get a good night sleep and stay hydrated. We would ask students to bring an independent reading book to MCA's each day for when they have completed the test.

- Reading MCA- Tuesday April 14th and Wednesday April 15th (Makeups April 16 to May 1st)
- Math MCA- Tuesday April 21st and Wednesday April 22nd (Makeups April 23rd to May 1st)
- Science MCA- Tuesday April 28th and Wednesday April 29th during their Science class(Makeups April 30th - May 8th)

Last night we hosted the community screening of the Jolt Films documentary, "Can't Look Away". After the screening, we held space for important and timely conversations about the many dangers of social media and discussed practical strategies for raising children in this constantly changing digital age. If you were not able to attend but wish to watch the panel discussion, led by industry expert Jessica Smith from ClickSafe, you can find the link to watch HERE, and viewer discretion is advised. Additionally, you can find a one-page overview of the event HERE. We appreciate the collaboration between school, parents, students, and the community at large as we try to navigate the complex and ever-changing landscape of social media.

RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY

Announcements

STEM
Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Get your order in NOW, limited stock available!

To place a yearbook order, please click on the link HERE or scan the QR code



RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY

Announcements

STEM
Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

RMS-CES SHOWCASE

4:30-7:00

April 30, 2026

- Excel Escape Rooms
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Choir Performances
- Jazz Band Performance
- Three Rivers Parks
- Ash Street Art Gallery
- Raptor Center
- Rockford Food Truck
- Community Partners
- Student Projects
- Survival Scenarios
- World of 8 Billion Videos







RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY

Announcements

STEM Center for Environmental Studies
FORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

FUNDRAISER for RAA



GROW YOUR YARD WHILE SUPPORTING OUR GIRLS ON & OFF THE FIELD!

Rockford Fastpitch

SCAN QR CODE TO ORDER!

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS IMPROVE PLAYING FIELDS, PURCHASE EQUIPMENT, AND INVEST IN RAAA & RHS SOFTBALL PROGRAMS!



What we are Selling:

- *Dark Brown Mulch (2CF/Bag) $6*
- *Natural Mulch (2CF/Bag) $6*
- *Topsoil (.75CF/Bag) $6*
- *Potting Soil (.75CF/Bag) $6*

***ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY APRIL 2nd, 2026*

All purchased items will be delivered directly to your home on *APRIL 25th, 2026* for your convenience (If within School District) or pick up at RHS

For More Information
emilybidne@raaasports.com

This is not an ISD 883-sponsored event.

RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY Announcements

STEM Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

LUNCH BOX EXPRESS

RiverWorks
COMMUNITY HELPING COMMUNITY

LBX is not an ISD 883 sponsored program

SUMMER 2026 LBX REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DUE BY MAY 24TH

LBX is a RiverWorks program that helps ensure all children residing in the Rockford Area School District have access to nutritious meals during the summer season.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Deliveries every Wednesday
- June 17th - August 12th
  NO delivery on July 1st
- Meals delivered between 10:30 - 11:30 AM

IS LBX FOR MY FAMILY?

- Students must live within the boundaries of the Rockford School District.
- Your family receives free or reduced school lunches.
- Financially the cost of groceries is a concern for the summer months.

Scan the QR Code.
When you complete the application hit submit; and it's that easy you are registered!

Questions? Please email The RiverWorks Food Shelf at foodshelf@riverworksonline.org or call 763-477-6098 and leave a message

RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY

The Nurses Corner

STEM Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

MENTAL Health MATTERS

The Big 5 (+1) for Mental Health

Research continues to support a handful of basic lifestyle factors that help keep us mentally healthy.



The Big 5 (+1) are interconnected. Making improvements in one area often helps with the others too!



Mrs. Lindsey Menard

REF News & Updates

April 2026

Empowering Every Student, Every Day

Growing Opportunities. Inspiring Potential. Stengthening Our Schools

The Rockford Education Foundation is proud to fund more than just equipment. We are committed to enriching the student journey by removing barriers and opening doors to new possibilities.

This work is only made possible by our amazing donors. Whether you support us through **Rocket Launch monthly giving, event sponsorships,** or by **participating in our fundraisers,** your generosity creates these experiences:

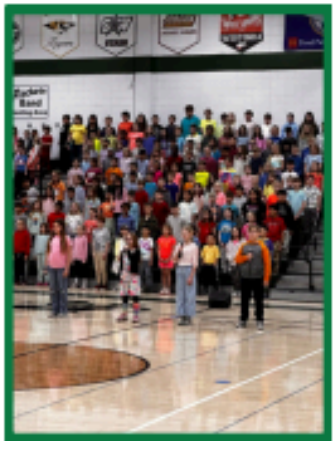


Field Trip Access: From the **MN Zoo** and **Children's Museum** to **Stages Theatre** and the **Historical Society**, the Foundation regularly funds admission for every grade level to ensure all students participate in these vital learning experiences.

Career Pathways: We are helping our high schoolers build their futures! We've provided essential supplies for the **CNA program** (scrubs, watches, and exam fees) and the **Craftsmanship Pathway** (grinders and metal supplies) to name a couple.

Technology & Arts: Our funding has brought cutting-edge technology into classrooms and supported creative milestones like the **REAMS All School Song Production.**









Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATE

FREEFamilyFunBingoNight+ Swap!

Friday, April 17th
Doors open at 5:30pm
Bingo starts at 6:00pm

- Multiple rounds of bingo
- Concessions available for purchase
- Fun prizes
- Board game, book, & puzzle swap

Registration Required
https://secure.qgiv.com/for/familybingofunnightregistration/event/freefamilybingoswap/

Stay Connected

Follow the Rockford Education Foundation on Facebook, Instagram, or sign up for our newsletter to stay up to date on funding stories, upcoming events, and the incredible impact happening in our schools every day.

Thank you for being part of the REF community. Together, we are investing in students, supporting educators, and building strong futures for Rockford.

Get Involved - We Need Volunteers!

AsREF expandsitscommunity eventsandfundraisers, we need volunteers to help bring these opportunities to life!
Sign up to volunteer: www.rockfordfoundation.org/get-involved/

RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY

Rockets Boosters

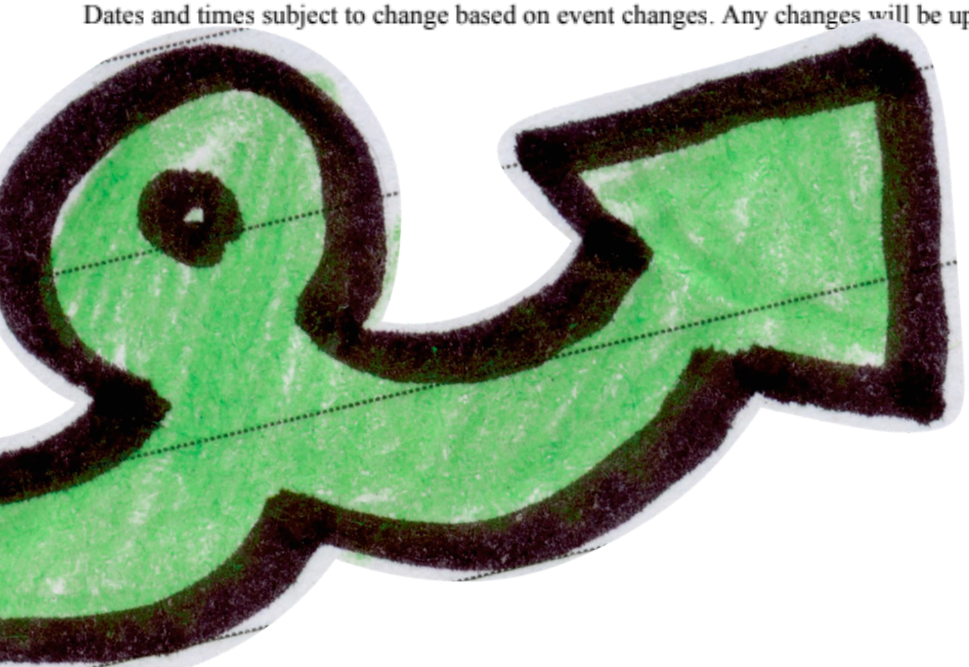
STEM Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOOL STORE

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Store Hours 6-8pm	17	18
19	20 Spring Sale 5-7pm	21	22 Spring Sale 5-7pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	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

5 Baker Field Experience

STEM
Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL



5TH GRADE STUDENTS RECENTLY VISITED BAKER PARK RESERVE FOR A WINTER FIELD TRIP. STUDENTS UTILIZED THEIR SURVIVAL SKILLS TO BUILD SHELTERS IN THE WOODS. IN ADDITION TO THIS, FIFTH GRADERS ALSO LEARNED ABOUT MAPLE SYRUP AND THE PROCESS IT GOES THROUGH TO BE MADE. STUDENTS TASTE TESTED REAL MAPLE SYRUP AND THE STORE-BOUGHT VERSION. IT WAS A GREAT DAY TO BE OUTDOORS LEARNING!



RMS-CES| POINTS OF PRIDE

5 Baker Field Experience

STEM
Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL







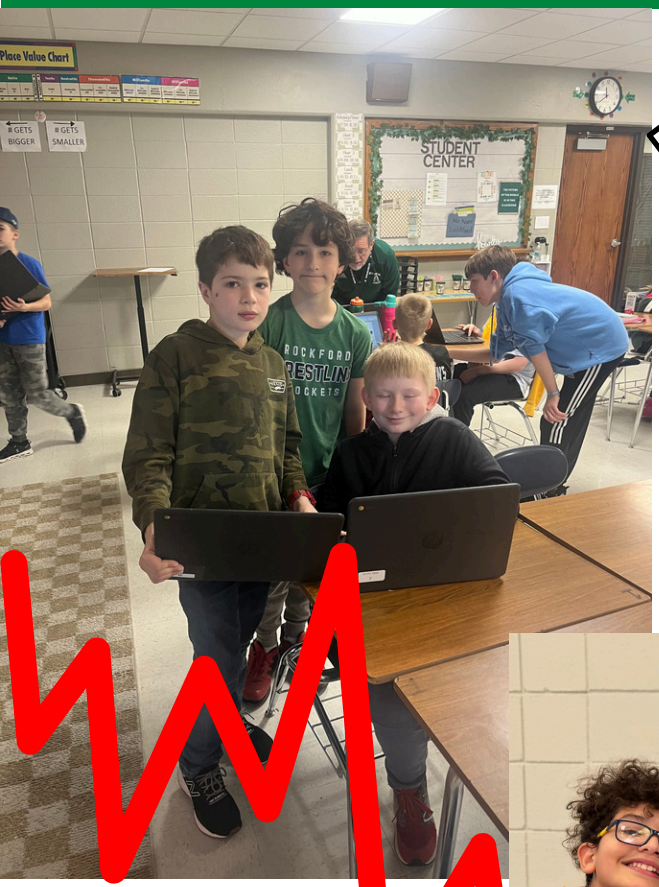


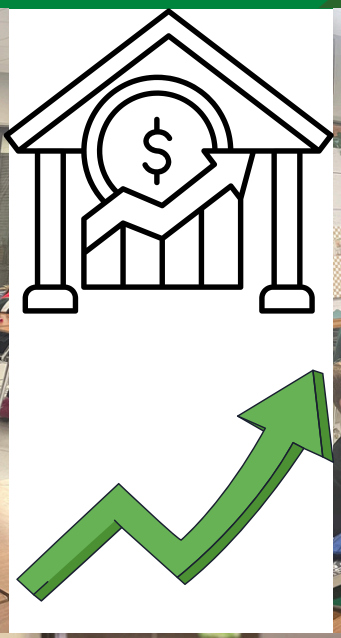


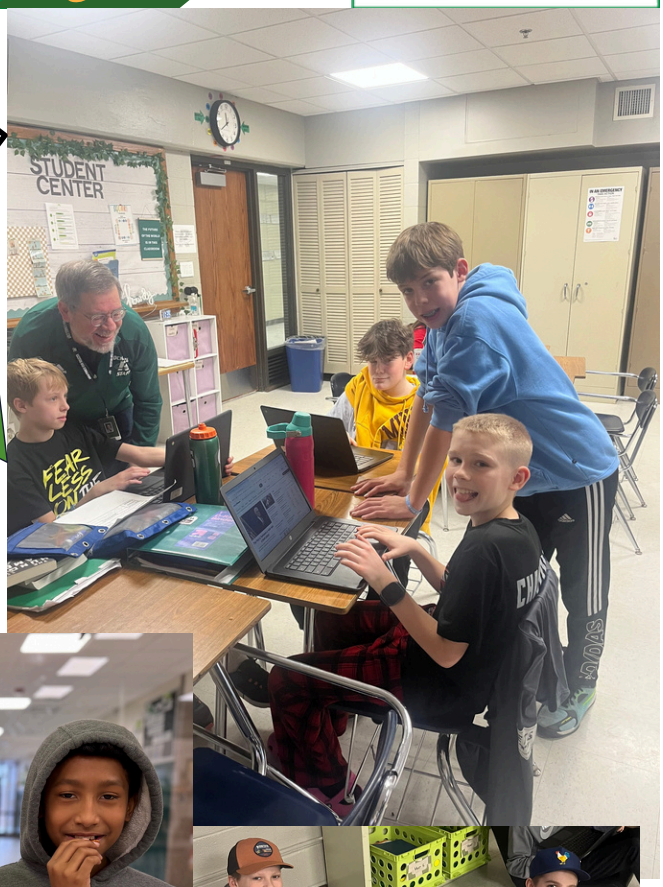

RMS-CES| POINTS OF PRIDE

Stock Market Exchange

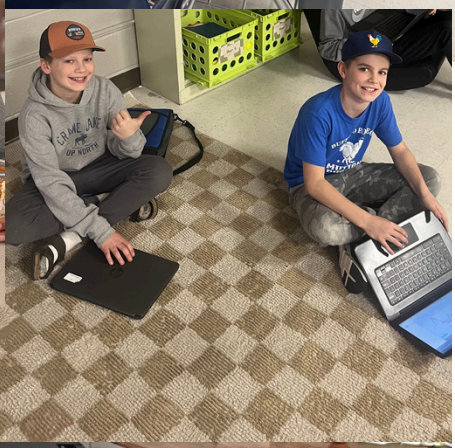
STEM
Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL











5th grade students have been selected to participate in the Stock Market Game, where they explore the world of economics and financial literacy by researching companies and making investments.

RMS-CES| POINTS OF PRIDE

7th Grade Science w/Ms. Sarsland

STEM
Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL













We have enjoyed the weather and going outside to work on our science projects. Our seventh grade scientists have planted seeds, planted cuttings and for the first time are trying to grow the prairie seeds. Our students are exploring different variables. They are comparing seeds (from two parents) with cuttings (from one parent) and looking at their growth. Each group is trying their own unique variables and it will be fun to graph and analyze their data. Who knows, maybe the heating pad, plastic bag or even chicken feathers will grow the cuttings the best!

RMS-CES| POINTS OF PRIDE

8th Grade Language Arts

STEM
Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE GREAT DEBATE





At the end of 3rd Quarter, LA8 students were digging into *The Art of Persuasion* by applying the CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) strategy, which culminated with "The Great Debate 2026". Students collaborated to provide valid, credible, and relevant evidence to support their Team's claim. This year, we "stayed" in our state and focused on the issue of Sulfide Mining in Minnesota. To showcase their work, teams faced off in the Media Center to support their side of the argument. While no clear winner was determined, all teams demonstrated skills for organizing their research, presenting evidence, and considering and listening to both sides of the issue.

RMS-CES| POINTS OF PRIDE

Minnesota Outdoors

STEM Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. Honza and her Minnesota outdoor students took a day to use their engineering skills to build some creative Masterpieces!













RMS-CES| POINTS OF PRIDE

Minnesota Outdoors

STEM
Center for Environmental Studies
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th graders just finished the fire unit in their MN Outdoors class - they practiced primitive fire building skills and created model dugout canoes

Thank you REF for providing the equipment for our unit on "fire buidling skills" thank you!



