REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School encourages student imagination, inquiry, and discovery by using an arts-infused academic curriculum that fosters critical thinking and creativity.

October

Oct 6-10
Fire Prevention Week

Oct 7
Gr K-2 Retakes/Pre-K Pictures

Oct 8
Gr 3-4 Retakes/Pre-K Pictures

Gr 2 Stages Theater Field Trip

Kindergarten Fire Station Field Trip

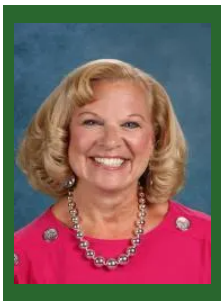
Oct 10
Gr 4 Kindness Retreat
Wear Yellow-
Health & Wellness Day

Oct 15-17
No School – MEA

Oct 30
Terrific Thursday

Oct 31
Grades K-4 Fall Harvest Parties
ECFE L'il Punkin' Fall Party

From the Principal



Dear REAMS Families,

We are a few weeks into the start of another school year and the students are settling in well. REAMS staff and students recently shared a wonderful homecoming week. Thank you all so much for helping your kids with their outfits for our dress up days. They looked so cute and spent the week sharing their outstanding school spirit!

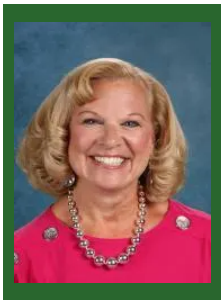
Counselor, Katie Reynolds, and I have recently visited with every class at REAMS. We do this each fall to welcome the students back in a small setting, begin to get to know our new students, and we talk about Rocket Pride and Kindness. It is always such a joy to visit with the students again after the summer. We have such amazing kids in Rockford!

This fall, two very important questions will appear on the November 4th general election ballot and the outcome of the election will have a significant impact on our school operations. The passage of the first question will allow us to sustain, and in some instances reduce, class size and the passage of the second question will allow us to upgrade and enhance school safety and security.

Rockford Area Schools continue to lag behind other local districts in school funding and because state funding has not kept up with inflation, we are facing a critical funding gap. If you have not done so already, please visit https://www.rockford883.org/vote2025 to become informed of the impact of the ballot questions.

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

October 2025



From the Principal.... Continued

It has been such a treat to be outside enjoying the beautiful weather and watching the fall colors start to emerge. As the weather begins to change and colder days are upon us, please remember to send a sweatshirt or jacket with your child as the bus stop and recess times can be a bit chilly. I try to always remind them the day before at school on the morning announcements if I know we will be in for a significant weather change. Lots of kids have been telling me about their plans for fall family pictures, visiting apple orchards, or walks in the woods. Whatever your fall plans may be, I hope it involves some outside time. It is a special time of year and it seems as though the beautiful leaves come and go so quickly.

We are so excited to embark on another school year and make some amazing memories together at REAMS!

Warmly,
Brenda Nyhus
Principal



Reminder

Our schools provide healthy meals each day. All students are eligible for one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day through the Minnesota Free Meals for Kids Program at school. Milk is $0.60 if students choose to purchase one to accompany their lunch from home. Payments for meal account balances can be made online through the parent portal account, or check or cash payments can be made in any school office.

Please contact the Rockford Area Schools District Office with any questions at 763-477-9165.

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

Kindergarten!

Kindergartners have been busy this first month of school making new friends, learning classroom rules and procedures and building up their stamina for a full school day! We are now learning phonics, knowledge building, math and science/social/health curriculum. The students had a unit to learn about each other called, "All About Me". They even got public speaking practice while sharing their favorite color, food, animal and book with their classmates. Mrs. Anderson's Kindergarten class worked on a STEM activity based on the story, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Students had to collaboratively work to build a letter tree and problem solve when plans didn't work out.











REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

1st Grade

Happy September! We are off to a wonderful start in first grade, and I'm excited to share what we've been up to so far! We kicked off the year with a fun 'All About Me' project where students made personal posters to introduce themselves to the class. We're also reading stories that focus on friendship and community as we build our classroom culture. First grade also jumped right into our new knowledge building reading curriculum. Our first unit was on fables. Students had the opportunity to read a variety of fables. We discussed the story elements of each fable along with lessons learned from each fable. We wrapped up the fable unit by visiting the school forest to read our final fable and creating an art project to go along with the fable.

Upcoming in October: knowledge building unit about the human body and our fall party







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

2ND GRADE

Second Grade students are having a great time getting to know their classmates, learning new procedures, and reviewing first grade skills. Second grade is a year of significant growth and academic achievement and we are so excited to watch our students learn and grow!









REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

3RD GRADE

Welcome to 3rd Grade! During the first month of school students collaborated to build relationships, community, routines, and skills! Small groups of students took part in a STEM spaghetti challenge to create the tallest towers using raw spaghetti noodles, masking tape, and mini marshmallows! Partner groups brushed up on their addition math facts using a movement activity called "Quiz, Quiz, Trade."

Each third grade class also spent the first seven days of school creating a recipe for success using books and themes. Books included: Enemy Pie, Rainbow Fish, We Don't Eat Our Classmates, Our Class is a Family, Pigsty, Do Unto Otters, and Chrysanthemum. Themes from each book connected with important aspects of any classroom. They included kindness, growth mindsets, respect, friendship, teamwork, responsibility, and being yourself. Our classes will use these themes as a focus while we learn and grow throughout the school year.

September also brought our newest math venture, multiplication! Third graders began learning their multiplication fast facts in a pattern using skip counting, songs, tricks, games, strategies, and lessons that will prepare them for multi digit multiplication late in the year.







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

4th Grade

Our fourth grade year is off and running! We are having a fabulous September! Everyone is doing a great job getting into the swing of the new routines and procedures. Switching classes is a new venture for most of our kiddos, but everyone is adjusting really well.

We're kicking off our learning with these topics...

- **Social Studies:** My Location - Alien Project
- **Math:** Place Value with Addition/ Subtraction
- **Science:** Observations and Scientific Method
- **Reading + Writing:** Personal Narratives

We are super excited for our first, big fourth grade event, which is our Kindness Retreat coming up in October. We are looking forward to welcoming Youth Frontiers to our school. Students in all fourth grade classes will come together for a day of practicing and celebrating kindness. Students will be placed in small groups and partnered with a Rockford High School student to discuss what kindness looks like and feels like for us! We're excited to see how the students will implement these new strategies as we continue in our school year.







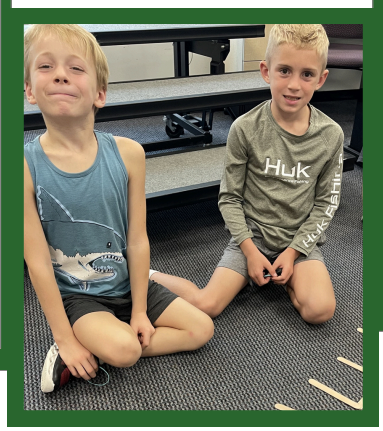
REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

Music

Third and fourth grade musicians have been learning to sing as a group again using a variety of pitches and rhythms. Third grade has been using ta, ti-ti, and rest rhythms as a review from second grade. Fourth grade has been learning the French song "Frere Jacques." Students have been getting back into the swing of music!

First and second grade musicians have been practicing singing together, keeping a steady beat, and creating rhythms using ta and ti-ti.







Theater

K-4 theater students have been celebrating International Talk Like a Pirate day and learning about how to act like a pirate! They have also been learning safety procedures through fun pirate games!







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

Art

During the first week of art, 3rd and 4th grade students learned about the artist Jackson Pollock and created their own splatter paintings. 2nd grade students practiced various clay techniques such as rolling coils and building pinch pots with model magic clay. 1st grade artists listened to the story, "If I Built a School" by Chris Van Busen and then drew their own schools in their sketchbooks.







PE

Students are working on striking during a game of GAGA ball and having a blast. They love playing this at recess when they get the chance. Kindergartners got the chance to play with their friends using scoops. Watching them work on coordination on throwing and catching is always worth a smile.(and maybe a giggle!)







CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025-2026

September

2-3 Assessment Days
4 REAMS First Day of School
First Day Expectations
15-19 Kindergarten Gingerbread Man Week
22-26 Homecoming Week

October

6-10 Fire Prevention Week
7 Gr K-2 Retakes/Pre-K Jostens Pictures
8 Gr 3-4 Retakes/Pre-K Jostens Pictures
Kindergarten Fire Station Field Trip
Grade 2 Stages Theatre Field Trip
10 Grade 4 Kindness Retreat
15 No School/PD Day
16-17 No School – MEA
30 Terrific Thursday
31 Grades K-4 Fall Harvest Parties
ECFE L'il Punkin' Fall Party

November

3 No School – PD Day
Grades K-4 Evening Parent-Teacher Conf
6 Grades K-4 Evening Parent-Teacher Conf
11 Veteran's Day Program
17-21 Scholastic Book Fair
17 Grades K-2 REAMS Family Fun Night
18 Grades 3-4 REAMS Family Fun Night
Kindergarten 50th Day of School
20 Launching Pad Pre-K Parent-Child Night
21 RHS Musical Preview
26-28 No School – Thanksgiving Break

December

1-5 Grade 3 Artist in Residence
11 Grade 1 Spotlight Concert
12 Kindergarten Winter Program
18 Terrific Thursday
19 Kindergarten Polar Express Day
22-31 No School – Winter Break

January

1-2 No School – Winter Break
19 No School – Staff PD Day-MLK Day

January(continued)

28 KindergartenChildren'sMuseumFieldTrip
29 Grade 3 Spotlight Concert

February

5 Kindergarten Roundup
13 Grades K-4 Valentine's Day Parties
16 No School – Presidents' Day
17 No School – PD Day
18 Kindergarten 100th Day of School
19 Grade 1 Children's Theatre Field Trip

March

5 Grade 4 Spotlight Concert
12 &16 Grades K-4 Evening Parent-Teacher Conf
16, 18, 20 Kindergarten Artist in Residence
18 Grade 4 Informance at RHS Band/Choir
24-25 All School Song
26 Terrific Thursday
27 No School - Half PD Day
30-31 No School – Spring Break

April

1-3 No School – Spring Break
6 No School – PD Day
13-17 Grade 1 Artist in Residence
16 Grade 2 Spotlight Concert
20-24 REAMS Obstacle Course
22-28, 30 Grade 2 Artist in Residence

May

1 Grade 2 Grandparents Day
5-7 Grade 4 Artist in Residence
7 Grade 3 Stages Theatre Field Trip
8 KindergartenFarm Day
REAMSSpellingBee
11-12 Grade 4 Artist in Residence
12 REAMS Arts & Academics
14 Terrific Thursday
25 No School – Memorial Day
27 Kindergarten Como Zoo Field Trip
28 Grade 4 Capitol and Ordway Field Trip
29 Senior Salute

June

4 Last Day of School



EARLY CHILDHOOD AND LAUNCHING PAD PRESCHOOL| POINTS OF PRIDE

Launching Pad Preschool provides an outstanding and unique public preschool experience!





- Children 3 to 5 years old
- Full and half day options, 2, 3 and 5 days a week
- Reggio Emilia-Inspired Approach to education
- Rich in opportunities to discover and explore
- Encouraged to problem solve and try new ways to do "old" things
- Nurturing and accepting surroundings
- Caring and highly trained staff, including licensed early childhood teachers
- Located at Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School

The entire program is designed to be engaging and fun so children don't just learn, they love to learn! On-line registration and information are available at www.rockford.ce.eleyo.com. Or visit our website at: www.rockford.883.org. Under the Community tab, click Early Childhood Programs. For more information, please call us at 763-477-7500.



GALAXY KIDS SCHOOL-AGE CARE| POINTS OF PRIDE

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING:

Galaxy Kids holds opportunities on non-school days for families within the program that need care. Students are able to participate in many fun filled activities throughout each day that are tied to different Themes. They also are able to enjoy the weather and go outside and play on the playgrounds and outdoor spaces around the school.





Galaxy Kids is a certified before and after school child care program for preschool-4th grade students offered through Rockford Area Schools Community Education. We are conveniently located in Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School right across the hall from ECFE and the Preschool classrooms. We are open Monday-Friday from 6:00am-6:00pm, to assist with family child care needs. We have many different registration options that are sure to accommodate most families' busy schedules. If you are looking for child care, before, during, or after school, and over the summer, then this may be the program for you. For more information contact Cody Hallahan at 763-477-7555 or cody.hallahan@rockford883.org.





EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Identifying possible concerns early in young children is the best way to prevent serious problems later. **Children need to complete Early Childhood Health & Development Screening before they may enter public kindergarten.** The ideal time to screen children is between ages three to four. Early Childhood Screening also provides an opportunity for parents to discuss questions and concerns, and find out about resources in the school and community.

The Screening Process

Screening includes a health history, height and weight, immunization review, follow-up with parents and screening in the following areas:

- Hearing & vision
- Fine & gross motor skills
- Speech & development
- Social-emotional development

Make your appointment by calling the Early Childhood Programs Office at 763-477-7500. Appointments are needed and letters are sent to families with age-eligible children. If you have a child in this age group and do not receive a letter, please call us.

REF News & Updates

OCTOBER 2025

Welcome Back to School!

The Rockford Education Foundation (REF) is excited to kick-off another amazing school year! Thank you for supporting our mission to enhance education and create opportunities for Rockford students from PreK-12.

Fundraiser Successes



Your generosity continues to make a difference!

- **DAYHA "Support Our Teachers" Bingo** at Clays in late August raised **$1,000** to support our Mini-Grant fund and provided schools and staff with additional school supplies.
- **School Toolbox Fundraiser** raised **over $2,300** to help fund impactful and innovative projects throughout the district.



Because of your ongoing support, REF has recently funded:

- **REAMS & RMS Student Planners**
- **Hospitality & Tourism Management Course Textbooks** for the RHS Career Path program
- **Activities for Rocket Block Responsive Sessions** at RHS
- **New Staff Gifts** for 27 new hires







MADE POSSIBLE BY DONORS OF ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION ISD 883 MN

SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND GROWTH

Upcoming Events

Family Bingo Night & Costume Swap



Friday, October 3rd doors open at 5:30pm | Bingo starts at 6:00pm
REAMS Common Area - enter through door 35
FREE Event - bring the family for a fun night of fun! **Register Here**
Concessions available for purchase



REAMS Kindness Fundraiser

October 14-30

Join us in raising funds for ARTS EXPERIENCES - including field trips, artist in residency, theater program, and much more - while spreading acts of kindness throughout the community.

80's Game Show Night



✨ Our biggest fundraiser of the year! ✨

We're calling for **sponsors** and **in-kind donations** to help make this night unforgettable.

For more information, visit:
https://www.rockfordfoundation.org/events/fall-event/
or email Nikki Arvold at nikki@rockfordfoundation.org

Tickets on sale October 24 for the general public. Don't miss your chance to join the fun!

Stay Connected

Stay up to date on events, fundraisers, and the impact you're making!

Get Involved - We Need Volunteers!

AsREF 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/

Class Sizes School Safety

Two important questions. One stronger future.

Like many districts in Minnesota, Rockford is facing a fiscal crisis that threatens to raise class sizes next year and for the near future. As a result, residents will be asked this fall to approve an operating levy and a capital projects levy.

What should voters know?

1 **A successful operating levy will continue to maintain current class sizes for the next five years.**



2 **An unsuccessful operating levy will prompt an increase in class sizes.**

- The district will lose more than $2 million in the next two years alone.

That's the equivalent of 20–25 teachers.

Class sizes	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Elementary schools	23.5	30-34	32-36
Secondary schools	27	35-40	37-42

Most districts already have this dedicated funding source.

3 **A successful capital projects levy will improve school security.**

- Technology security improvements will include:
  - Expanded security camera coverage.
  - Updated visitor management systems.
  - An enhanced 911 system.
  - Continued cybersecurity programs to protect student data.

4 **An unsuccessful capital projects levy will significantly slow school security efforts.**



Residents can calculate their specific tax impact using a tax calculator at **rockford883.org/vote2025**.

Vote on or before November 4!

Find polling locations and review ballot questions at **rockford883.org/vote2025.**

Prepared and paid for by Rockford Area Schools (Independent School District 883), 6051 Ash Street, Rockford, MN 55373. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.