REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Coming up in December

Dec. 1-5
Gr 3 Artist in Residence

Dec. 11
Gr 1 Spotlight Concert
6:30pm at H.S Auditorium

Dec. 12
KG Winter Program
1:30 at H.S Auditorium

Dec. 18
Terrific Thursday

Dec. 19
KG Polar Express Day

Dec. 22- Jan 2
No School- Winter Break





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

From the Principal

Dear REAMS Families,

The weeks before the holiday break are always busy and filled with exciting activities at Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School. Students are actively involved in each of these activities, gain valuable skills, and make lasting memories along the way.

The Physical Education department hosted the annual Family Fun Night in November where families had the opportunity to come to school and enjoy physical activities together in the gym. It is a way to promote physical well-being and fun family time annually at REAMS. The event was coupled with the Book Fair and many students left with a new book to read!

All students in kindergarten through fourth grade will take the mid-year FAST test at the beginning of December. Students take this test three times per year in Math and Reading. This test is one way that we are able to measure their progress in these vital areas.

Rockford Area Schools has such a unique opportunity for students because they get to participate in three different magnet programs throughout their K-12 experience. Magnet schools are public schools with a focused academic theme, designed to spark curiosity, develop talent, and inspire future pathways. With three signature programs, students can explore their interests while meeting rigorous academic standards. On Wednesday, December 10th, and Thursday, February 12th , the three magnet schools will host a Launch Your Future: Join the Rockford Area Schools Magnet Experience informational event. The event will allow families to come and learn more about the programs offered and opportunities within each magnet theme for their child. The schedule will be as follows and will take place at each of the schools.

Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School &
Rockford High School International Baccalaureate World School
Wednesday December 10, 2025 - 4-7 p.m.

Rockford Middle School-Center for Environmental Studies
Thursday February 12, 2026 - 4-7 p.m.

Come and find out more about what your child will be involved in at the next level or share the information with interested families who want to learn more about the great things happening at Rockford Area Schools!

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

From the Principal Continued....

Many of our students have been sharing their voices in song through their concert rehearsals. Students have been working so hard on all of their special talents this year. The first grade students will have their annual concert on Thursday, December 11th at 6:30p.m. The kindergarten students will have their concert on Friday, December 12th at 1:30 p.m. Both of these upcoming concerts will take place in the high school auditorium. Each grade level has a special concert to highlight their talents during the school year.

Giving our students an opportunity to perform or present in a large group helps to build their confidence in public speaking and performing. At REAMS, students as early as kindergarten are building those skills as they prepare for their holiday concert. The large group performance allows for students to have a performance experience without the pressure of a solo or individual part. In doing this, the confidence of being in front of people is beginning to build. The students are so excited about these special events and can't wait to share them with you! Please take an extra minute to praise your child for all of their efforts and hard work. I hope you all have a warm, wonderful, family-filled holiday season!

Warmly,
Brenda Nyhus
Principal

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

PARENT-COMMUNITY NEWS



Remember to activate your parent portal account!

By activating your parent portal account, you will be able to stay up-to-date on your students' grades, assignments, attendance, lunch accounts, schedules, transportation information, and more. CLICK HERE to log in to your parent portal account. CLICK HERE for helpful information regarding the parent portal account. If you need further assistance with your parent portal account, please email Christa Larson at christa.larson@rockford883.org or call 763-477-7557.

December Lunch Menu

CLICK HERE

Guest Meal Prices

Breakfast:
Adult $2.50

Lunch:
Adult $5.05

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

PARENT-COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOOL STORE

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 StoreHours 5-8:30pm	5	6 Holiday Market @RCC 9am-3pm
7 Holiday Market @ RCC 8am-3pm	8	9 Store Hours 5-8:30pm	10	11 Store Hours 5-8:30pm	12 StoreHours 5-8:30pm	13
14	15	16 StoreHours 5-8:30pm	17	18	19 StoreHours 5-8:30pm	20
21	22	23	24	25 Happy Holidays!	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 Happy New Years!		

Cold Weather Drive



Rockford is partnering with Hennepin County Sheriff's Cold Weather Drive from now until February 28th. New or gently used cold weather donations will be collected in the Drop Box located at REAMS front office. Items include: coats, hats, mittens, boots, scarves, and socks. The donated items will be used for distribution to homeless and unsheltered individuals in Hennepin County.

Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event



Rockford Fire Dept. Toy Drive

Toy donations will be collected in REAMS front office until Dec. 12th. All toys go to families in need in the Rockford/Greenfield community.

Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY NEWS

Join the Rockford Area Schools
Magnet Experience

Do you know families that live in or near Rockford Schools that want to learn more about our magnet pathways?

Please share our Launch your Future: Magnet Experience

Magnet schools are public schools with a focused academic theme, designed to spark curiosity, develop talent, and inspire future pathways. With three signature programs, students can explore their interests while meeting rigorous academic standards
Come tour and experience Our Magnet Programs:

Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School & Rockford High School International Baccalaureate World School
📅 *Wednesday, December 10, 2025*
⏰ *4–7 p.m.*

Rockford Middle School – Center for Environmental Studies
📅 *Thursday, February 12, 2026*
⏰ *4–7 p.m.*

Discover how our magnet pathways can help your student learn, grow, and thrive.
💫 *Three signature programs. One inspiring pathway.*



REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY NEWS

In Need of Food?

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/
- Tuesday 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)

Nourishing Hope
https://www.ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope.htm
Fresh Produce and Dairy pick-up on the 2nd Monday every month at Rockford, Corcoran and Buffalo locations.

Who do I contact?

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

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

KINDERGARTEN

November was a wonderful month in kindergarten!

We learned about our five senses and how to make healthy food choices. This month we also learned about dinosaurs and students got to be paleontologists and dig to find fossils! We also celebrated the 50th day of school by taking a 'trip' back to the 50s. Kindergarten students participated in a sock hop, hula hoop contest, and enjoyed some delicious rootbeer floats. Students also got to learn about what life was like in the 50s and compare it to what life is like today. It was a groovy day filled with lots of fun!

Wrapping up our exciting month, kindergarten students enjoyed a piece of pumpkin pie at their annual Pumpkin Pie Party. We are thankful for the time we spend with your kinder; creating relationships, learning, and having fun. Happy Thanksgiving!











REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

1st GRADE

This month, 1st graders have been learning about stories from different lands. After reading each story, students were able to locate where the story originated on a world map. During this unit, students also learned that many stories told from different lands share commonalities. Students were able to identify various similarities and differences within these stories using a Venn Diagram. In math, 1st graders have been focusing on subtraction facts. Students have been doing a variety of fun activities to help them practice and learn different strategies to solve these problems.











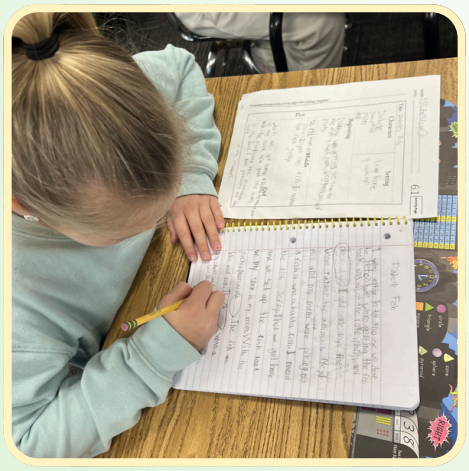
REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

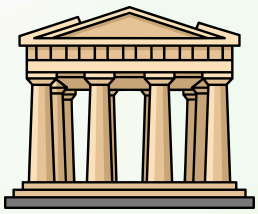
2nd GRADE

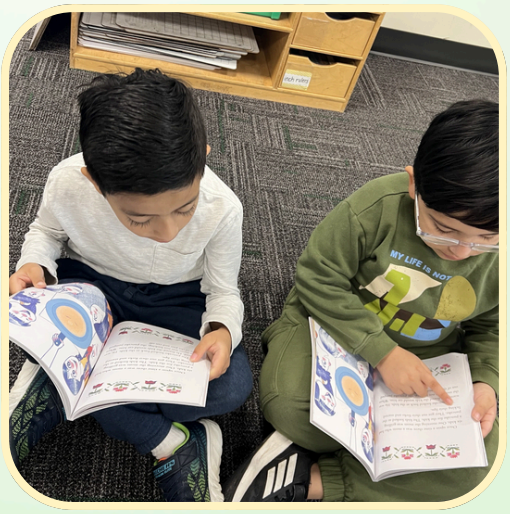
Second graders have had an exciting and busy month of November! After finishing up learning about Ancient Greece in October, we celebrated with an end of month "Greek Olympics" style fall station celebration! It has been fun to shift from learning about nonfiction Greek history and geography to fictional Greek mythology- myths once thought to be true! We have learned all about 12 main Greek gods and goddesses. Some classes even got to open up and sample a pomegranate- learning about the significance and tie to Greek mythology! We wrapped up our study with creating our own "Pokemon cards" to represent the different Greek gods and goddesses we've learned about.

We have also been working to understand the writing process- planning, drafting, writing, and editing! Students worked with partners to edit and revise their writing, checking for complete sentences, capitals, and punctuation. Second graders worked to navigate the writing process, completing two complete writing pieces, a personal narrative and book report.

Students have been working to understand place value, how to represent, compare, and order numbers, and how to add together 2-digit numbers! We have challenged ourselves to add together three and four numbers! Some second graders have preferred the "new groups below" method, while others have liked the "show all totals" method."











REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

3rd GRADE

We've had a fun and productive stretch of learning in 3rd grade in the month of November, and we're excited to share what your children have been working on!

Technology & Typing Skills

Our 3rd graders have been practicing essential typing skills, including home row, google slides, basic word processing, and online safety. They've grown more confident using the keyboard and navigating digital tools responsibly. To celebrate the completion of this unit, students enjoyed a tie-dye activity, creating colorful shirts to show off their hard work!

Reading

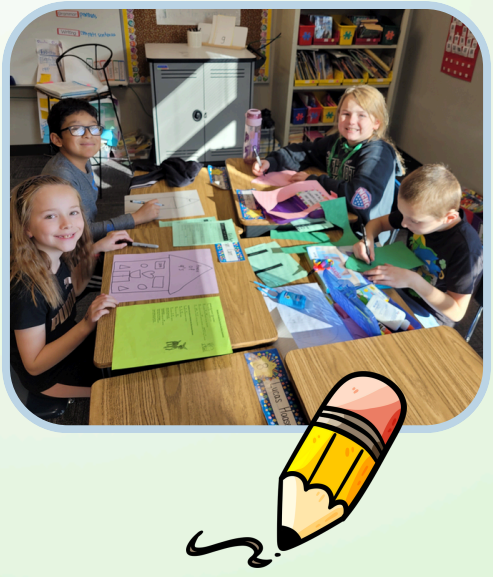
We are wrapping up our animal classification unit with student-led research projects. Each child selected an animal, investigated its characteristics, and will be presenting what they learned. Their curiosity and enthusiasm is truly shining! Next up in reading is our poetry unit. Students will explore different types of poems, learn about rhythm and figurative language, and even try writing some poetry of their own.

Math

We've finished our unit on multiplication and division, and students are becoming much quicker and more accurate with their multiplication facts. Their progress has been amazing! Our new unit is on place value, where students will deepen their understanding of number structure and expanded notation.

Thank you for your continued support at home. We look forward to more learning adventures ahead!







ie

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

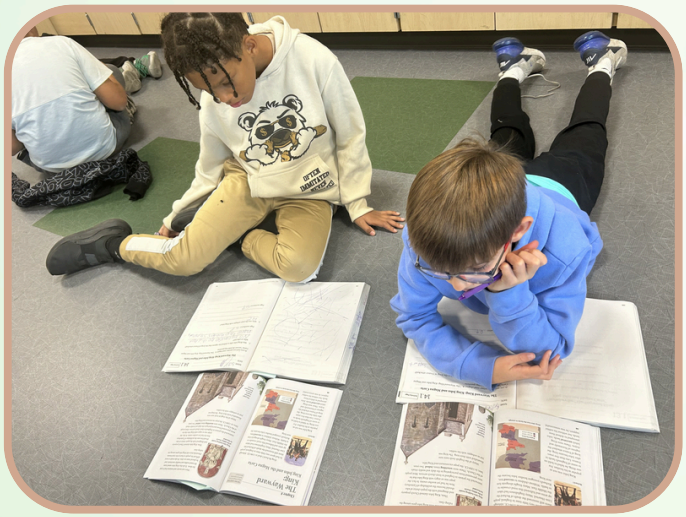
4th GRADE

4th Grade has been rocking and rolling!

In literacy, we have been diving deep into poetry. Students are learning about the structure of poetry and deeper meaning after analyzing poetry. They are getting to see the use of figurative language within poetry as well! We have looked at alliteration, similes, metaphors, idioms, and hyperboles. You can even have them try and spot these in their everyday lives! The kiddos will continue to learn different styles of poems while simultaneously starting to write their own.

In math, we have officially started long division. We have been practicing nonstop to hopefully be able to do "long division in our sleep!" We will continue to work on a variety of long division problems, some with and without remainders.

In social studies, we are finishing up Chapter 1: Exploring the United States. We have learned about so many different topics regarding the US. They have studied locating the US, landscapes, climates, and natural resources. We will just be finishing up our chapter 1 test to then move into Chapter 2: We The People.







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

ARTS- MUSIC

Music

REAMS 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders recently performed "Veterans, We Love You" for the Veterans Day Program. The mallet and folk dance 3rd grade arts troupes performed at Terrific Thursday, and a drumming troupe is getting ready for the next one! 1st grade music is hard at work preparing for their upcoming spotlight concert!





Theater

The kindergarten and 1st grade have been busy with station rotation and character creation this month! The 2-4th graders are creating different animal, individual, and fairytale creatures. The 4th grade theater troupe has been learning theater games and performance.







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

ARTS- ART

Art

Kindergarten has been learning about the art element of line and has practiced drawing different types of lines. Kindergarten students have also learned about the abstract artist Piet Mondrian and created paintings inspired by him using primary colors. 1st grade artists have been using modeling clay to create sea turtle sculptures. 2nd and 3rd grade students have been designing their own robot drawings. 4th graders have been creating scratch art and learning about printmaking processes. They have also been designing their own candy shoe drawings.

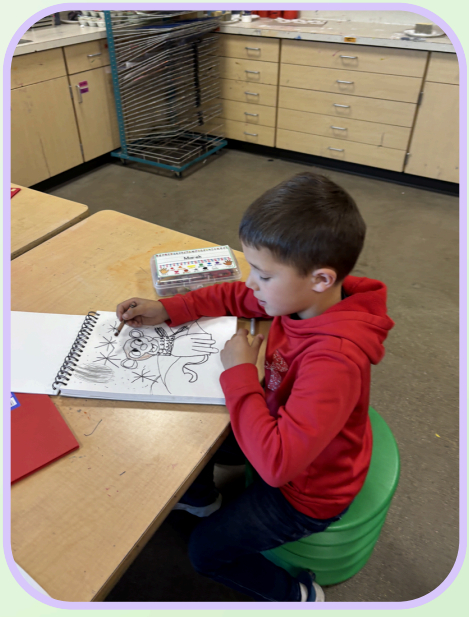












RTR & ROCKET STARS STUDENTS













VETERANS DAY













CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025-2026

learn.explore.create.imagine
REAMS
ROCKFORD ELEMENTARY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

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 3 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 Veterans 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 Kindergarten Children's Museum Field Trip
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 Kindergarten Farm Day
REAMS Spelling Bee
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

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

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 .

REF News & Updates

DECEMBER 2025

Rockford Education Foundation Fall Event

An 80's TV Game Show Success!

Thank you to everyonewho joined us - whether in person or fromafar-forour 80's TV Game Show Fall Event! Because of your incredible support, along with our sponsors, volunteers, donors, and dessert auction bakers, we enjoyed a night full of nostalgia, fun, and community spirit.

We a thrilled to share that together, we raised **more than $110,000** to support Rockford Area Schools! These fund directly fuel innovative learning experiences, including art enrichment, environmental programming, hands-on career pathways, and student support initiatives across the district.

Missed the event or still feeling inspired to give?
You can continue supporting our Fund-a-Need initiatives here:
https://www.rockfordfoundation.org/fund-a-need/

Every dollar helps bring meaningful, enriching opportunities to Rockford students













Events

Gratitude Gifts



HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR ROCKFORD STAFF

December 1-11, 2025

It is time to THANK teachers, paras, principals, office staff and so many others for giving it their all each day for our Rockford students! You can do it with Rockford Education Foundation's Gratitude Gifts! Staff love these gifts that support their classrooms with grant opportunities PLUS they get a gift card to treat themselves.

Gratitude Gift Details:

- $10, $20 and $50 donation options
- All gifts include a gift card for the recipient - see example
- Gifts are delivered to the school between Dec 15-19
- All donations support the Mini-Grant Program!
-

ORDER GIFTS HERE: https://www.rockfordfoundation.org/gratitude-gifts/

Deadline to order: December 11th at Midnight

Questions: Email Nikki Arvold, nikki@rockfordfoundation.org

This is not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event

❤️ Coming in February: Spread Love, Not Germs Bingo at Clays

Join us in February for our *Spread Love, Not Germs* Bingo Night at Clays—a fun-filled evening of laughter, prizes, and community spirit. All proceeds support the REF Mini-Grant Program.

February also features our annual **Classroom Wishlist Drive**, giving families a direct, meaningful way to help teachers purchase their most-needed items.

Your generosity helps ensure students have access to enriching, hands-on learning opportunities throughout the school year.

More details coming soon. Stay up-to-date by

📱 Following us on Facebook & Instagram
🌐 Joining our mailing list at www.RockfordEducationFoundation.org