REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Coming up in February

February
I love to READ Month

February 2-13
Kid's Heart Challenge Fundraiser

February 5
Kindergarten Roundup
5:30-7:00pm

February 14
Happy Valentine's Day

February 16
No School

February 17
No School
Staff PD Day

February 19
1st Grade Field Trip

February 26
Battle of the Books
3rd Grade: 10:30-11:30am
4th Grade: 1:30-2:30pm



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,

During the month of February, students will participate in a variety of activities for "I Love to Read" month. Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School will have many events planned for the students that center around the wonderful world of literature. The activities will all promote reading in a fun and engaging way. We encourage you to spend time reading together as a family during this month.

This week, Counselors, Katie Reynolds, Allison Leistico, and I visited each classroom for our mid-winter kindness lesson. We talked with the kids about finding all of the traits in each of them, whether they be on the inside or the outside, that make them special and unique. It is always such a joy to spend time with the students celebrating what makes them amazing humans!

Lastly, Kindergarten Round Up took place this week! Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School is proud to offer full day kindergarten for all students. The staff has a fantastic year planned for students and are thrilled to welcome the Class of 2039. If you have an incoming kindergarten student and were not able to join us for Round Up, please be sure that you are registered so we can send you timely information as we prepare to welcome our incoming kindergarten students. Do not hesitate to reach out to the REAMS office at 763-477-5837, if you have questions about registration or next steps for kindergarten. We are excited for our newest little learners to join our REAMS family!

Thank you for your partnership and all of your support as we work together to help your kids reach for the stars each day!

Warmly,
Brenda Nyhus
Principal

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

PARENT-COMMUNITY NEWS



February Lunch Menu

CLICK HERE

Guest Meal Prices

Breakfast:
Adult $2.50

Lunch:
Adult $5.05

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.

SCHOOL STORE

February 2026

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

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

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

PARENT-COMMUNITY NEWS

I Love to Read Month!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	2 HATS OFF TO READING! WEAR A HAT TO KICK OFF ILTRM!	3	4 World Read Aloud Day	5	6 BOOK/CHARACTER TISSUE BOXES DUE TODAY!	7
8 Set family reading goals and read together!	9	10	11 WEAR A READABLE SHIRT DAY!	12	13 Classroom Door Contest ends today	14 International Book Giving Day
15 Ask about the Book-Themed door contest at school!	16 NO SCHOOL	17 NO SCHOOL	18	19	20 PAJAMA & READING DAY!	21
22	23	24 Dress as your Favorite Book Character!	25	26 Battle of the Books! 3rd gr. 10:30-11:30 4th gr. 1:30-2:30	27	28

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

PARENT-COMMUNITY NEWS

EVERY MEAL

WEEKEND MEAL PROGRAM

OUR MISSION

FIGHTING CHILDHUNGER THROUGH COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

OUR STORY

Every Meal isa501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships. We strive to make a difference in children's lives by specifically focusing on food gaps - the times when children aren't at school to access meal programs. Every Meal supports families with programming over the weekends, extended school breaks, and summer.
Providing kids with good food that is nutritious, delicious, and relevant is our focus, and their growth and achievement is at the heart of everything we do.

MEAL PROGRAM

- **Freeforall families**
- No qualifications required
- No contact information collected
- Families may participate in the program at **any time** throughout the school year
- Students will receive food bags each week, typically on Fridays

Weekend Food Bag Options: Families may choose from five options structured around the USDA MyPlate standards. All bag types contain 4-5 pounds of non-perishable food, including a variety of fruits, vegetables, proteins, and grains. Bag types are identified by different colors of Every Meal logo.

Blue Bag — Tailored for East African dietary preferences, this bag is pork-free and may contain items such as tuna, spaghetti, black-eyed peas, corn flour, fava beans, and tomato products.

Green Bag — Tailored to offer the widest variety of food items, this bag may contain items such as chicken, tuna, pasta, rice, mac and cheese, chili/soup, and varied vegetables and fruits.

Or ange Bag — Tailored for Latino dietary preferences, this bag may contain items such as rice, black beans, pinto beans, corn flour, fideo pasta, enchilada sauce, chipotles in adobo, and diced chiles.

Pur ple Bag — Tailored for Southeast Asian dietary preferences, this bag may contain items such as rice, rice noodles, coconut milk, bamboo shoots, curry paste, green beans, and mandarin oranges.

Yellow Bag — Tailored with all ready-to-eat items which require little or no preparation, this bag may contain items such as dried fruit, tuna salad, chicken salad, sunflower seeds, granola, oatmeal, and soups.

SIGN UP following the links below:

English Version HERE

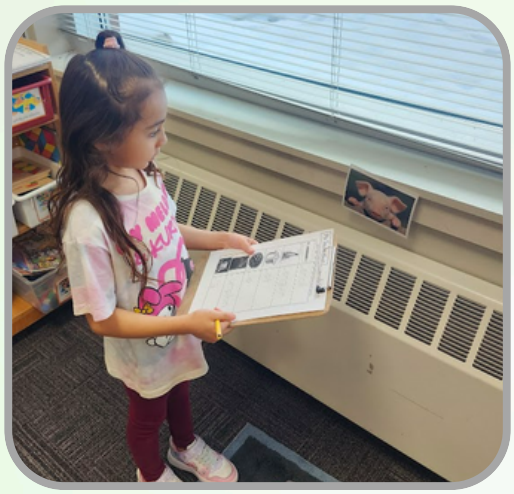
Spanish Version HERE

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarteners started 2026 off right by making New Year's resolutions in class! We read the book: Squirrel's New Year's Resolution to help us get ideas of what would be a good goal to set for ourselves! Students eased back into daily routines with some fun, hands-on phonics activities like classroom sound hunts and an indoor red word snowball fight!

As a grade level, the Kindergartners worked together to create a "Peace Tree" in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Each student created a leaf showing the promise that they made to be kind and caring to others. All of the leaves were put up on the Peace Tree in the kindergarten hallway to show how everyone deserves kindness!









REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

1st GRADE

This month the first graders have learned a lot about geography. We studied maps, atlases, and globes. They learned all about how to use cardinal directions, the different types of landforms, and urban, suburban, and rural cities. At the end of our geography unit the students created their own neighborhood maps.

January is also a big month for place value. The first graders used hands-on materials and pictures to represent the numbers in the tens and ones place. Place value is important to understand bigger numbers and eventually being able to add them together.









REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

2nd GRADE

The 2nd Grade students have been busy learning about Insects, such as Butterflies, Bees, and Beetles! They learned the characteristics of insects, the life cycles of insects, how insects can be categorized as solitary or social, and how insects are viewed as both helpful and harmful.

Students also learned how insects are important to the process of pollination and in the production of honey, some cosmetics, and even medicines.

They learned that Insects are the largest group of animals on Earth, and can be found everywhere in the world except the ocean! They are able to adapt, and survive in some very hot and cold climates.

The students also picked an Insect of their choice to research and draw. They each came up with 3-5 questions they had about Insects, and then they had to do some research to come up with the answers to their questions.

It has been a lot of fun learning about these amazing creatures











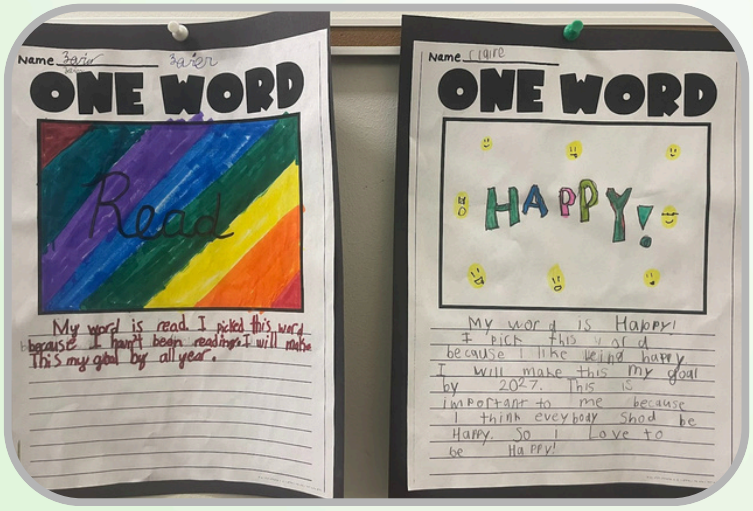
REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

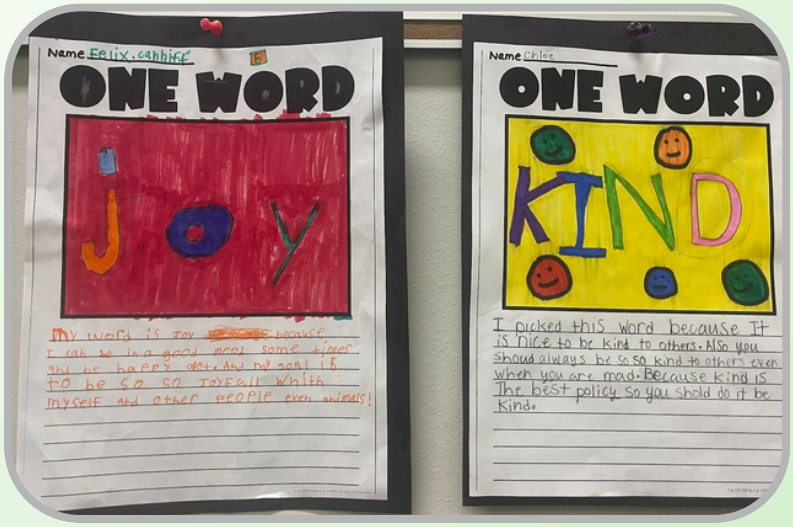
3rd GRADE

Happy New Year, from third grade! January brought a handful of new learning opportunities for our students. We kicked off 2026 with each student choosing a focus word. We read the book *The Word Collector* by Peter H. Reynolds to spark ideas for word options. After exploring ideas using various strategies, students narrowed down their "One Word," wrote about, and created a "pop art" picture of the word. We proudly display these "One Words" in our hallways!

Prior to winter break, our new reading curriculum allowed us to dig deep into the world of poetry and figurative language. Students read a series of poems by a variety of authors, analyzed them, and practiced using figurative language throughout the unit. We studied haikus, free verse, and rhyme schemes to name a few. To conclude our unit, students wrote their own poems and participated in a poetry slam in their classroom.

In math, our learning focus has been multi digit addition and subtraction. Poems are also a part of math! We use them to help us remember when to regroup. For example, "More on top, no need to stop" or "More on the floor, go next door, and get 10 more." We tied the skill of adding and subtracting multiple digits with story problems and used the CUBES acronym to help us solve those problems. Our next units will focus on multi digit multiplication and fractions.





ie

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

4th GRADE

We are back into the swing of things after Winter Break!

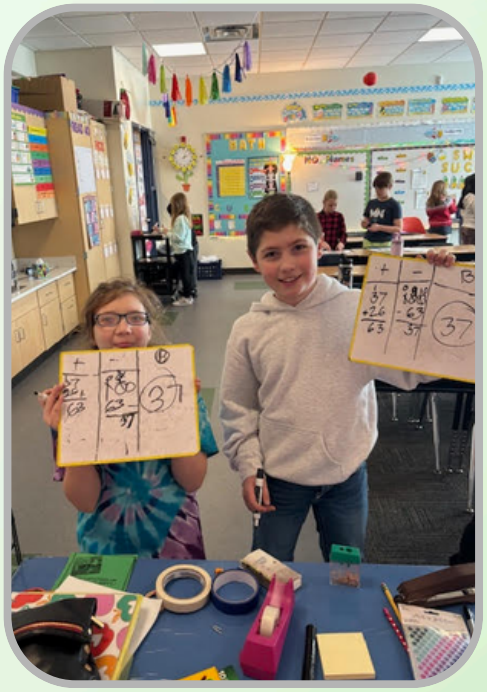
Here's what we're up to in class…

- Social Studies: Immigration Lap Book Project
- Math: Algebra and Problem-Solving
- Science: Weathering and Erosion
- Reading: Geology and The False Prince
- Language Arts: Volcano Paragraph and Rock Brochure

The kids have been exercising their creativity this month with some fun projects. In our CKLA reading unit, we have been reading about geology. The kids are creating a Rock Brochure, explaining one of the types of rocks (igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic). The kids have also been working hard on their Immigration Lap Book projects. Stay tuned for these projects to show up at Arts and Academics in May. The kiddos have also begun preparing for their 4th Grade Spotlight concert with Mr. Eliason. We are excited to see them wow us with their singing, drumming, dancing, and recorder skills in March!







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

ARTS- Theater & Music

Theater

The 2-4th graders have been hard at work creating their plays for their classes! They created a character, made their costumes, and performed for their classmates!





Music

The Third grade students had their Spotlight Concert at the end of January. Students performed historical songs of the USA and incorporated instruments including Glockenspiels, Tambourines, train whistles, and stick pounding.

Third grade Blues Troupe also started last week by writing their own blues songs!









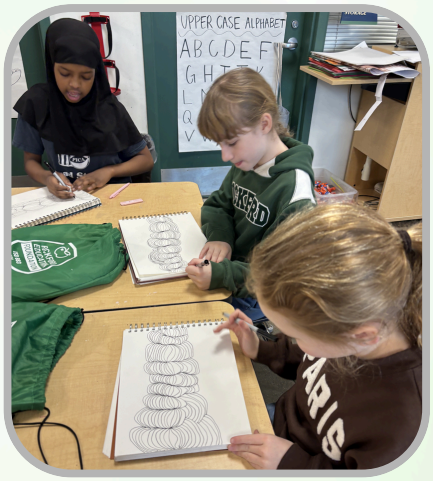
REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

ARTS- ART

Art

All students have learned a little about art history this month and looked at some famous artists. Kindergarteners learned about abstract art and created watercolor paintings. Kindergarten artists also created penguin drawings inspired by the book "Hiku" by Coralie Saudo and Nicole Snitselaar. 1st grade students learned about abstract art and created lines by pushing a penny across the page, then they painted in the shapes. They also are learning about Claude Monet and his famous water lily painting. 2nd graders created paper weavings inspired by the optical illusion art movement. 2nd grade artists also are working on paper mosaic food collages. 3rd grade learned about color field paintings and experimented with mixing their own colors. They also have been creating landscape drawings for their concert. 4th grade students have learned about the Op Art movement and created optical illusion drawings.











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 4 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

February 2026

Happy New Year!

As we begin 2026, we want to start with one simple but powerful message:

THANK YOU!

Your generosity, partnership, and belief in Rockford students continue to make an incredible impact. Because of our donors, sponsors, and community supporters, students across the district are experiencing innovative programs, hands-on learning, and opportunities that help them discover their passions and plan for their futures.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support and excited for what's ahead.

Funding Story Spotlight: Food Science

Thanks to the generosity of REF donors, Rockford high school students are benefiting from an exciting and growing career pathway: **Food Science, Restaurant, and Culinary Skills.** This program gives students the opportunity to explore nutrition, food systems, chemistry, and culinary techniques through meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.

Students are not just following recipes — they are learning how science applies to food production, safety, and nutrition while building practical skills used in professional kitchens and food-related industries. From understanding chemical reactions in cooking to exploring food sourcing and sustainability, this pathway connects classroom learning to everyday life in powerful ways.

Programs like this demonstrate how donor support fuels curiosity, increases engagement, and creates real-world learning opportunities that prepare students for future education and careers.



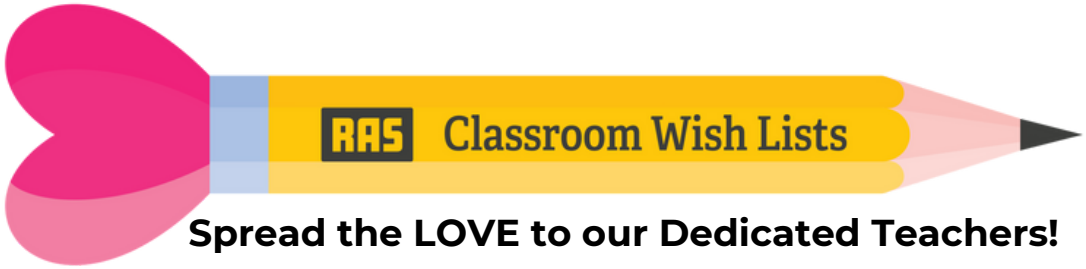






MADE POSSIBLE BY DONORS OF ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION ISD 883 MN SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND GROWTH

Upcoming Events



Spread the LOVE to our Dedicated Teachers!

DONATE BETWEEN
February 1 - 14

This Valentine's Day, show your appreciation for the incredible teachers and staff who go above and beyond for Rockford students by donating items from their **Classroom Wish Lists**.

Each year, teachers spend their own money to enhance learning in their classrooms. The Rockford Education Foundation has created wish lists for **all three schools** to make it easy for families to help support them.

How to Donate:

1. View Classroom Wish Lists – Click the link to choose items to donate
2. Include a Valentine Donation Card – Use one of our special cards (or your own!)
3. Deliver Your Donation – Drop items off at the school front office or directly to the teacher's classroom

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!



As REF 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/