REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Coming up in May

May 11-12
4th Grade Artist in Residence

May 12
Arts & Academics
4:00-6:00pm

May 14
Terrific Thursday

May 27
2nd Grade Field Trip

May 27
KG Field Trip

May 28
4th Grade Field Trip

Looking Ahead in June

May 11-12
4th Grade Artist in Residence

May 12
Arts & Academics
4:00-6:00pm



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 Parents,

The school year is rapidly coming to a close and there are still a few fun and engaging events for REAMS families this year. We always enjoy having families join their child to celebrate their successes, large and small. We will continue to keep you informed of these dates for upcoming special events and hope you will join us. Thank you for always being so involved in your child's educational journey!

The second grade students shared a wonderful day with over 200 grandparents today for the annual Grandparents Day. They did several skits with artist in residence, Julie Boada, an Anishinabe artist, storyteller, puppeteer, and arts educator. They made hand puppets and hat puppets to accompany stories, sang songs, and enjoyed a special lunch with their grandparents. We appreciated everyone who was able to join us for this special event.

REAMS will host the annual Arts and Academics Showcase on Tuesday, May 12th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Students will have an opportunity to share talents in the Arts through many live performances from grade level choral performances to world drumming. In addition, The Showcase will also feature an array of classroom projects from the entire school year. We hope you can all join us for this exciting event.

It has been an incredible year and we are excited to celebrate some of these final events with you and your family. Thank you for your partnership and for your support in all that we do at REAMS. We appreciate you all!

Warmly,

Brenda Nyhus
Principal

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

PARENT-COMMUNITY NEWS

May Lunch Menu

CLICK HERE

Guest Meal Prices

Breakfast:
Adult $2.50

Lunch:
Adult $5.05

Keep your child's reading skills sharp with a 1:1 tutor this summer

Are you looking for a 1:1 tutor for your child to keep the summer slide at bay?

Register for personalized tutoring sessions with a structured literacy trained teacher.



Program Details:

- 50 min sessions
- Sessions take place at REAMS, transportation is not included
- Sessions offered Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday
- Sessions will run June - August
- Schedule is custumizable to your needs

Check the Rockford Community Education Spring Brochure for more details.

https://rockford.ce.eleyo.com/course/1453/summer-26/rockets-1-1-tutoring

REAMS ROCKET NEWSLETTER

PARENT-COMMUNITY NEWS

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

REF News & Updates

May 2026

Small Grants, Big Impact

How Mini-Grants Are Making a Difference

Whatif afew hundreddollarscouldsparkcuriosity,support a struggling learner, or create a moment a student never forgets?

That is exactly what the Rockford Education Foundation's Mini-Grant program does - every single year.

Since 2010, the Foundation has invested more than $141,000 into classrooms across the district through mini-grants. These grants empower teachers to bring innovative ideas to life - ideas that often fall outside traditional school budgets but make a powerful difference for students.

From preschool through high school, mini-grants are helping create meaningful, hands-on learning experiences:

- **Bringing learning to life:** Middle school students connect with author William Durbin, turning reading into a real-world experience and inspiring young writers.
- **Supporting all learners:** Tools like sensory bags, fidget-based learning games, and speech iPads are helping neurodivergent students thrive.
- **Enhancing classroom experiences:** Teachers are using grants for everything from science lab supplies and magazine subscriptions to flexible seating and art room organization.
- **Expanding opportunities:** Field trips to theater performances and interactive experiences give students access to learning beyond the classroom walls.

What makes mini-grants so impactful is their immediacy and flexibility. Teachers identify a need, apply, and - thanks to community support - quickly put resources directly into students' hands. And that support truly comes from you!

Mini-grants are made possible through the generosity of our community—whether you:

- Purchase Gratitude Gifts during the holidays or in the spring
- Join us for Bingo at Clays through our partnership with DAYHA
- Order school supplies through our School Tool Box fundraiser

Each of these simple actions adds up to something powerful—direct support for classrooms, teachers, and students.

Every mini-grant tells a story—of a student engaged, a teacher empowered, and a classroom transformed. **Thank you for being part of that story!**








Upcoming Events



Celebrate spring and finish the school year with a shout out to amazing Rockford staff. Every donation to the Rockford Education Foundation will support the Mini-Grant Program!

Gratitude Gift Details:

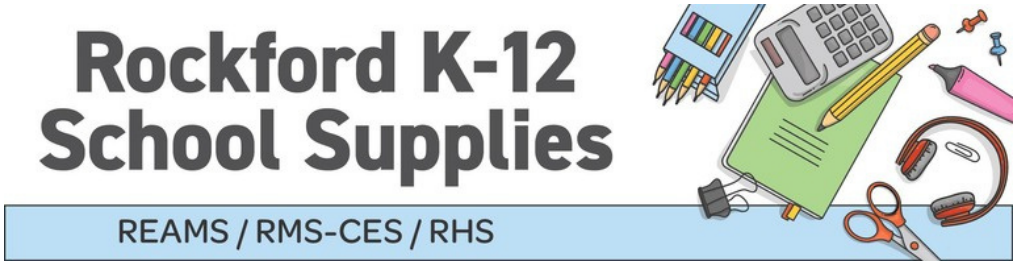
- $10, $20 and $50 donation options
- All gifts include a gift card for the recipient - see example
- Gifts are delivered to the school between May 27-29
- All donations support the Mini-Grant Program!

Thank a teacher, para, custodian, bus driver, or any person that made it a great year!

ORDER GIFTS HERE: https://www.rockfordfoundation.org/gratitude-gifts/
Deadline to order: May 17th at Midnight

This is not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event.





Skip the Store - Have School Supplies Delivered to Your Door!

Get a head start on next year and order your 2026-27 school supplies online. They will be delivered right to your door - no lines, no fuss.

- Super convenient
- Fun for kids to open their box
- Customize your kit - remove any items you already have
- 15% of your order supports our Mini-Grant Program

ORDER HERE

Site opens June 1st and orders typically ship within 5 days

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/

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

KINDERGARTEN

April was such a fun month for our Kindergartners!

The Students were able to go on our annual Field trip to the Children's Museum. The students had to work together as a team to choose which exhibits they would go to. The fan favorite was definitely the scramble (Four-Story Climber, Giant Spiral Slide & 40-Foot High Catwalk). The Kindergarteners were able to explore the forces at play exhibit using air flow and ping pong balls as well as water!

Stay tuned for our next Field Trip to the Como Zoo at the end of May!







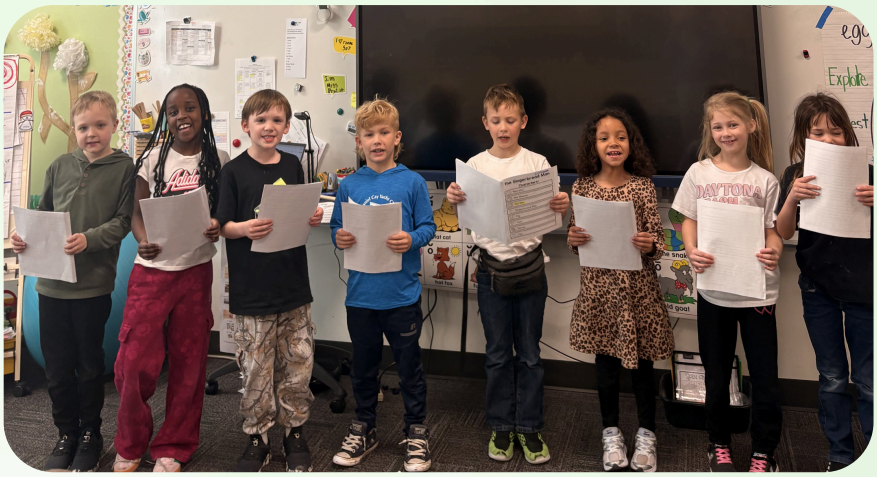


REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

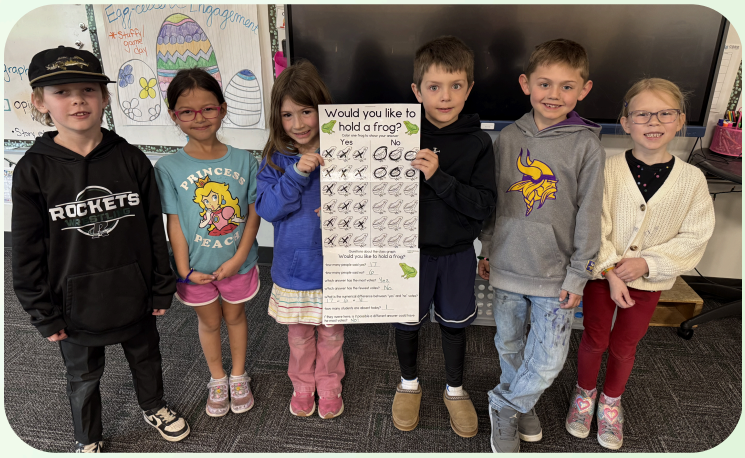
1st GRADE

In April, 1st-grade students have been continuing their learning about fairy tales. Some 1st grade classrooms were able to further practice these fairy tales by doing reader theatre. This is where students are able to read a script and narrate a character from the story. In math, students have been collecting data and making simple graphs. They have been able to compare the data they collected using the words more, fewer, most & fewest. They also had the opportunity to learn about the life cycle of a frog with our Artist in Residence, Ms. Karla. The 1st graders are also very excited to go on their field trip to the Stages Theatre to see the play "The Right Thing to Do: The Joe Mauer Story".

Preview for next month:
Ancient Maya, Inca & Aztecs
2D & 3D Shapes
Measurement
Arts & Academics Night









REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

2nd GRADE

2nd graders have had a busy spring! In math, classes are wrapping up their math units on graphing and starting to learn about place value, adding, and subtracting 3-digit numbers. Some classes did data collection projects, surveying peers and creating graphs to represent data. The next unit comes at a great time of year, because they've already learned all about representing numbers and how to add and subtract 2-digit numbers. They are excited to apply their skills to work to solve even trickier problems!

Students are learning all about nutrition and the human body in reading. They have spent time learning about tissues, cells, organs, body systems, nutrients, and how to eat a well-balanced diet! They will get the opportunity to create a balanced and healthy school lunch including some of their own favorite foods. It is fun to be part of the planning process- maybe some of their suggestions could be considered for a future lunch menu!

In preparation for 2nd Grade's Artist in Residency, classes have been learning about the Anishinaabe culture and artwork. Classes learned about the symbolism, traditional colors, and common designs used in Anishinaabe and Native American artwork, getting to design, decorate, and color their own bandolier bags. Students are looking forward to working with Julie in the upcoming weeks to prepare their Native American hand-puppets out of recycled materials for 2nd Grade Grandparent's Day! This is always a very exciting time of year, where 2nd graders invite grandparents to school to perform, enjoy lunch together, and show them special projects they have been working to prepare.

2nd graders performed an exciting "Spotlight Concert," featuring songs to explore nature, animals, and different seasons. Students used a variety of instruments and their voices to captivate the audience in bringing them on a fun musical journey!

<u>Looking ahead:</u>
2nd Grade Artist in Residency
Native American hand-puppets
Grandparent's Day
MN Zoo and Lake Rebecca Park field trips







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

3rd GRADE

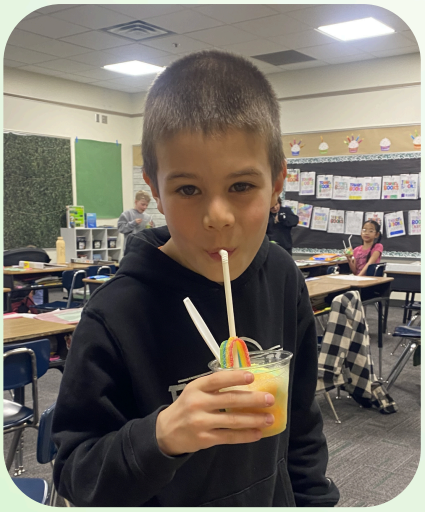
"Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together make this world a beautiful garden." As we near the end of the school year, we are celebrating all of the growth from our 3rd graders while continuing to teach them new skills that'll prepare them for the upcoming school year.

Reading/Writing: We have finished our Solar System unit, and each student represented their knowledge by writing an informational piece describing the life of an astronaut. For this project, students wrote 3 paragraphs on the following challenges of being in space: working, eating, exercising, sleeping, and day-to-day routines. In doing this, students also reviewed the writing process: plan, draft, edit, and finalize. Now, we continue with our Native American unit, which ties into our Social Studies standards and teaches students about the regions and cultures of Native American tribes.

Math: We are consistently reviewing our multiplication/division skills and the songs that help us build fluency for each number. We recently completed a unit on Geometry, where students used geoboards to help understand the following vocabulary words about shapes: lines (parallel, perpendicular, intersecting), rays, open-and closed shapes, quadrilaterals, polygons, and angles (right, obtuse, acute). Students also created a "Quadrilateral City". Currently, we are studying perimeter and area and will continue doing so through the end of April.

WIN: For the remainder of the year, 3rd grade is implementing a new system called WTS (Walk to Success). This will allow students to work with other teachers within the grade level. Each teacher will be the "leader" of a specific skill for math or reading, and students will rotate to the skill where they need the most support. Groups will change after 3 weeks as needed. We look forward to implementing this system to best support all student needs.

The third-grade teachers appreciate your support from home and look forward to seeing how much more progress your children can make.







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

4th GRADE

April has been a busy month for the 4th grade classes! Students had the opportunity to try multiple band instruments and figure out which one will be the best fit. They took the MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment) tests. Students in 4th grade take two tests, math and reading. These tests are mainly used to inform instructional decisions at the classroom, building, and district level.

In the classroom, we read an adapted version of the classic novel Treasure Island. Students were engaged in the adventurous treasure hunt! During the unit students learned about characters, story elements, and narrative writing. Students got the opportunity to create their very own adventure story using adventure story characteristics they have learned about. In math, students learned about area and perimeter. They worked hard trying to figure out the area of complex shapes to prepare for the MCA test. Then 4th graders created their own city using geometry skills they have learned. We wrapped up our measurement unit with liquid and weight conversions. Towards the end of the month, students started learning about graphing and data.

Science was packed with finishing our diorama projects, which show interactions between earth's spheres. Students expressed their creativity along with their understanding of how the spheres can change each other. In Social Studies class, students have been hard at work learning all their states and capitals. They are learning about each region in the 50 Nifty United States!



Sneak Peek for May

- Artist in Residence (May 5-7 & 11-12)
- Spelling Bee (May 8)
- Middle School Preview (May 15)
- Field Trip to the Capital/Ordway (May 28)



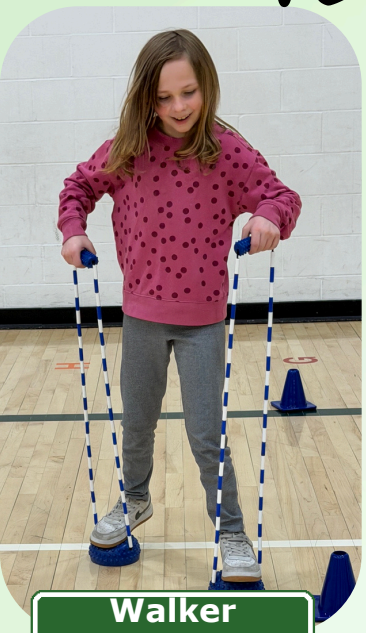




REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

PE

PE's Minnesota Obstacle Course



Walker Walking Cups



Mississippi River



Target Field

Target Field



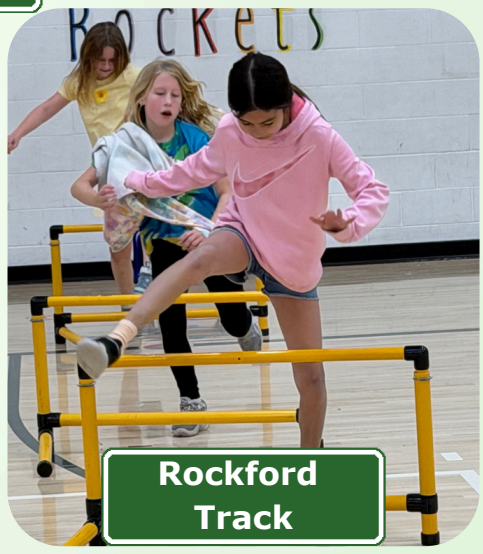
The Depot



Ft. Snelling Army Crawl



Lowery Tunnel



Rockford Track



Vikings Training Camp



Elko Speedway



Bemidji Beam

REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

ARTS- Music

Music- 2nd Grade Spotlight Concert









Music

Pre-school students at REAMS visited a music class where students were learning different rhythms on world drums. Our youngest learners came to hear a performance by 4th grade musicians, and even got to try out the drums with the older students. There was an abundance of drum playing and smiles for all involved! Way to be great leaders, Mrs. Thell's class! The students loved having the pre-school classes as an audience and trying out the drums!







REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

ARTS- Theater

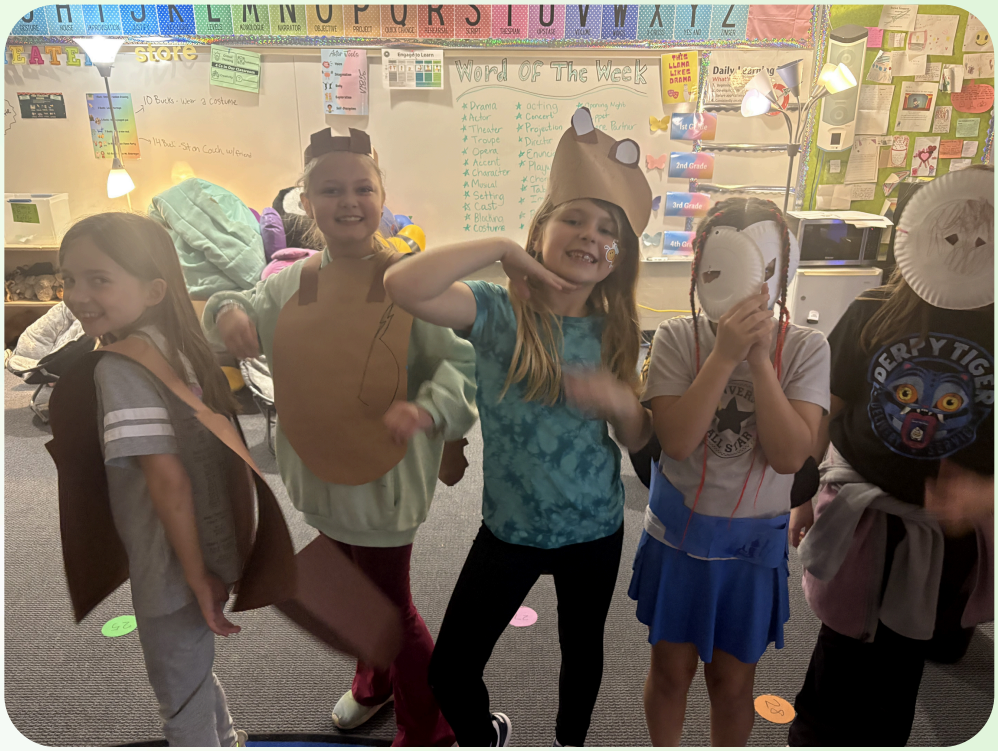
Theater

Kindergarten and 1st grade finished their puppet and puppet shows and are going to be doing station rotation next!

2nd-4th grade finished their costumes, props, set projects and will be creating their own puppet shows featuring shadow puppets, hand puppets, and sock puppets











REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

ARTS- ART

Art

Kindergarten students learned about clay and made pinch pots. Kindergarten artists along with 1st grade students learned about the stars and what Dakota and Ojibwe people believe about the stars. They then use splatter painting to paint the stars. 1st grade also learned about blending chalk. 2nd grade created paper sculptures using different line and fold types. 3rd grade rolled coils out of clay and created bowls. 4th grade artists also explored clay and made cupcakes by sculpting a pinch pot and coil frosting top.











REAMS | POINTS OF PRIDE

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REAMS
ROCKFORD ELEMENTARY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

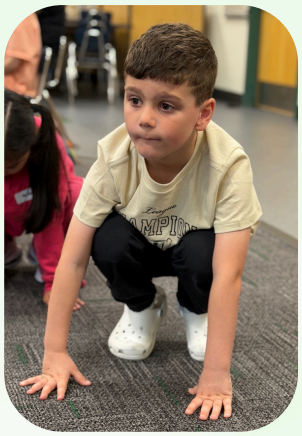
Special EVENTS

Artist in Residence- 1st Grade

First grade students had an incredible experience with Karla Nweje, a dance artist in residence, in mid-April for one full week. First graders were learning about the life cycle of a frog, starting as an egg, moving to froglet, tadpole, and eventually full size frog.

When working with the guest artist, students used their bodies and imaginations for movement. In addition, students learned the basic principles of dance: body, action, space, time, and energy. Learning with the use of their bodies, or kinesthetically, is a natural fit for first graders!







4th Grade- Instrument Tryouts

Fourth grade students had a special opportunity in mid-April to try out band instruments as they approach being a middle schooler in the fall. Students picked 3 instruments that they liked, and did their best to make a sound on each of them. Schmitt Music and Band Director Mr. Ferdig were leading the charge to have students try out woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments.

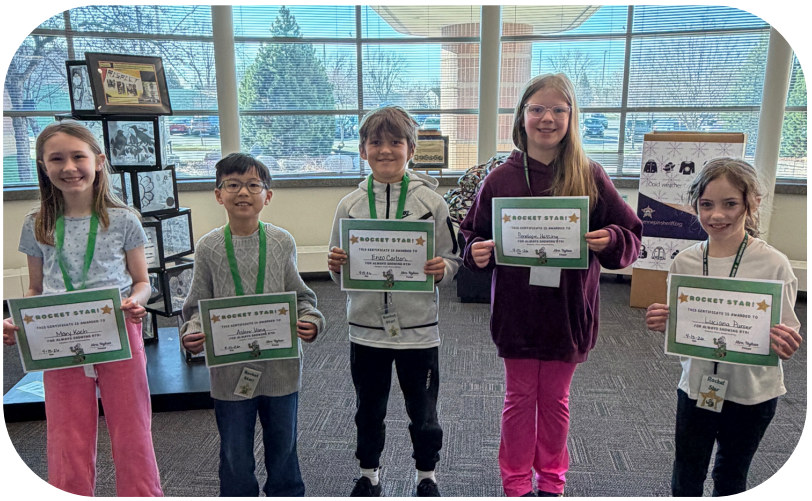






RTR & Rocket Stars Students















CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025-2026

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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 Performance 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
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or
cody.hallahan@rockford883.org