SUMMER 2026

Rocket Report

ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Congratulations Class of 2026







OUR MISSION

In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally-minded citizens.



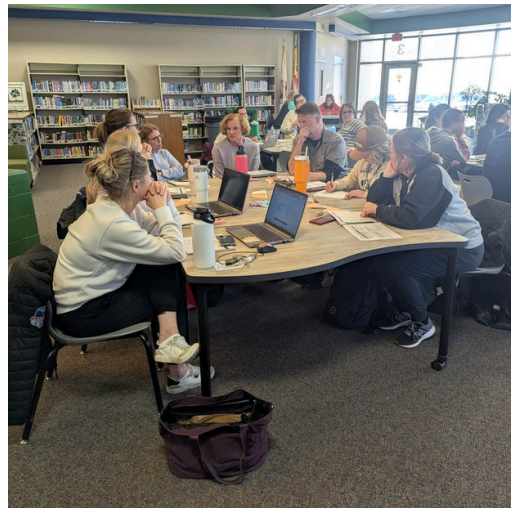
Message From Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover



Reflecting on the past school year, I'm reminded once again how fortunate I am to serve in a community that truly puts students first. Thanks to strong community support and a shared commitment to care, our schools continue to engage in learning through creativity, exploration, and innovation. We are supported by exceptional teachers, staff, coaches, mentors, and a Board of Education that remains focused on student success, well-being, and safety. Our outstanding facilities also provide spaces where students can thrive in the co-curricular activities that families value so deeply.



While I take great pride in all of this, nothing is more rewarding than watching our students grow and succeed. It was an absolute privilege to present diplomas to this year's Rockford High School graduates. I have no doubt they will go on to achieve remarkable things, made possible in large part by the unwavering support of this incredible community.



Even as we celebrate the past year, our staff is already preparing for the 2026–27 school year. We are building strong momentum in the areas of instruction and operations. Our new literacy curriculum is already showing promising results, and we are excited to introduce a new mathematics curriculum this fall. Additionally, we are continuing to expand our innovative Launch Your Future - Early College and Career Preparatory program that is gaining recognition as a statewide model. This program offers students valuable opportunities to earn college credit, attain industry certifications, network with employers, and explore career pathways in high-demand fields. For more information regarding this program, I encourage you to visit Rockford Launch Your Future and see for yourself.



Operationally, as a means of proactive planning, the District has begun work on a comprehensive demographic survey whereas we are planning for the inevitable growth of the cities in which we serve. Connected to this, we are also engaging in a long-term facilities study to ensure that the infrastructure of our schools remains strong and able to support a growing student population.

In closing, I once again thank you for all you do to support Rockford Area Schools.

Kindest regards.

Jeffery P. Ridlehoover

Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover
Superintendent

discover
Graduation

Rockford High School Celebrates 109th Commencement

As we close the 2025-2026 school year, there is much to celebrate! Rockford High School graduated 120 seniors, we had 7 students pursuing the Full Diploma and 10 students pursuing the IB Career Pathway Diploma through the International Baccalaureate Program. We are extremely proud of their efforts in this rigorous program. Our commencement ceremony took place on Friday, May 29, 2026 in the RCC Fieldhouse with school board members, administration, staff, students, families, and guests. The students selected Julie Merila from the English department as their faculty speaker. Co-Valedictorians Anna Feyen and Elisa Xhelilaj delivered the class address, the band and choir performed specifically selected pieces, and diplomas were conferred and awarded by Chair Jessica Johnson of the School Board and Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover, Rockford Area Schools Superintendent.





Rockford High School is proud to be sending 84 students to 2 year or 4 year colleges/universities or specialized employment transition programs, 10 students to trade schools or apprenticeships, 24 going directly into the workforce and 6 students into the United States military!

To mark the occasion, students took a journey back in time and made one last lap through the halls where many of their educational journeys started, Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School, in a senior salute. This tradition is also special to inspire our younger students to persevere in their studies and one day reach the milestone of high school graduation.

We are proud of the accomplishments of the class of 2026, we look forward to hearing of their future endeavors and positive representation of our community, and we remain hopeful that our preparation, in partnership with their parents, coaches, and other influential adults will result in meaningful contributions to society.

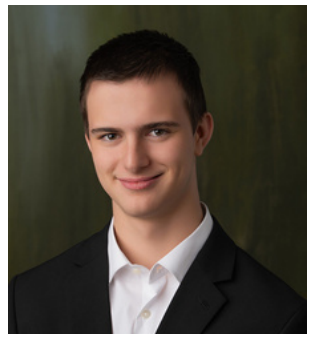






discover Graduation





Jason Allen
Work



Gabrielle Altmann
SD State University
Nursing



Bailey Anderson
Univ. of St. Thomas
Engineering



Tristen Armstrong
UW Eau Claire
Computer Science



Sean Kevin Asangwe
Saint John's Univ.
Computer Science



Owen Ash
Trade School
Plumbing



Ryelee Ash
U of M Duluth
Criminology



Levi Bartels
Univ. of Northern IA
Mechanical Eng.



Aric Beardsley
U of M Duluth
Sciences



Wilmot Bemah
UW Stout
Video Production



Gabriella Berent
SD State University
Nursing



Edison Binsfeld
Trade/Apprentice
Operating Engineer



Adam Boerboom
Academy College
Aviation



Charles Brun
U of M Twin Cities
Economics



Lillyan Bury
SD State University
Exercise Science



Maylee Davis
Work



Braelynn Dawson
Fire & Fragrance
Discipleship

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RHS



Uzair Dewan
U of M Twin Cities
Aerospace Engineering



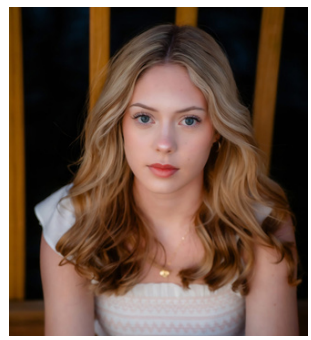
Amelia Dieter
Univ. of Central FL
Hospitality Mgmt.



Garrett Dornsbach
Work
Concrete



Hailey Eagles
Apprenticeship
Ink Sanctum



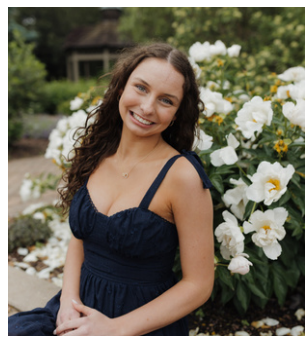
Taylor Eickholt
United States
Marines



Cayden Ellos
St. Scholastica
Business



Evan Fargo
Community College
Generals



Anna Feyen
UW Madison
Biomedical Engineering



Anthony Flowers
Work
Trucking



Josephine Frank
Work
Equine Therapy



Margaret Franklin
U of M Duluth
Mathematics



Ainsley Gill
Work



Jet Gish
Univ. of NW - St. Paul
Kinesiology



Ashley Gonzalez Lucas
Hamline University
Political Science



Seville Graham
PCI Academy
Cosmetology



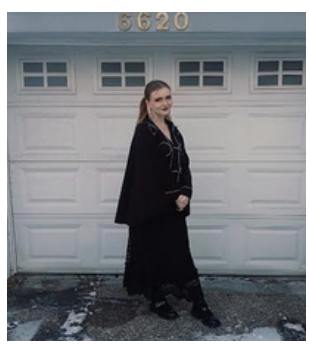
Bradley Graunke
Trade/Apprenticeship
CDL Crane Operator



Kiera Griffin
Winona State Univ.
Nursing



Jenna Halonen
Work
Entrepreneurship



Chloe Hamm
Trade/Apprenticeship
Fashion



Kalyn Hatcher
Univ. of St. Thomas
Computer Engineering

discover RHS



Viktoria Heckelova
Univ. of St. Thomas
Int. Business & Psyc.



Hailey Henrich
Univ. of Central FL
Accounting



Nicole Higuera
ND State University
Architecture Engineer



Kaylyn Holmes
U of M
Education



Kevin Hunter
Trade/Apprenticeship
Plumbing



Khloe Hunter
SD State University
Nursing



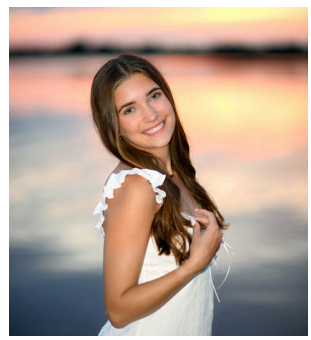
Laura Ickes
U of M Twin Cities
Marketing



Victor Isoe
Univ. of St. Thomas
Nursing



Christopher Jacobson
Hennepin Tech.
Undecided



Madeline Jacobson
UW River Falls
Animal Science



Owen Jeatran
Alex. Tech. & Com. Col.
Comm. Design



Julia Jensen
U of M Twin Cities
Marketing



Elijah Johnson
Work
Plumbing



Olivia Kissner
U of M Duluth
Chemical Engineering



Mason Kowal
Work



Ella Lange
Work



Mila Lee
Augsburg University
Social Work



Edan Lorenz
Work
Construction



Amira Manad
N Henn. Comm. Coll.
Civil Engineering



Autumn Mantz
UW La Crosse
Health Science

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Ismael Martinez
Work
Real Estate



Jackson McFarland
Army National Guard



Liliana Mendez
U of M Twin Cities
Graphic Design



Elizabeth Millen
U of M Twin Cities
Gender & Sexuality Study



Cody Miller
Mankato State Univ.
Business



Mason Mooney
Hennepin Tech. Coll.
Welding



Simon Morgan
U of M Twin Cities
Architecture



Pierce Morton
N Henn. Comm. Coll.
Undecided



Rose Mousel
ND State University
Nursing



Connor Nelson
ND State University
Engineering



Anna Neu
Lake Superior College
Respiratory Therapy



Blaze Norberg
Continuing Education
Step-Up Program



Britney Ondieki
U of M
Mechanical Engineering



Annaxery Ortega
St. Catherine's Univ.
Sonography



Alexis Perrault
Entrepreneurship
Art



Easton Pikkarainen
Mankato State
Aviation



Ashly Ramirez Garcia
PCI Academy
Cosmetology



Elena Rangel
St. Cloud State Univ.
General Business



Orion Rathbun
UW Stout
Industrial Product Design



Parker Rebischke
Workforce

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Emily Rice
University of FL
Mechanical Engineer



Elisa Rinke
Return Home
Complete High School



Richard Robeck
Dunwoody
Electrical Construction



Rosannia Rosado Arellano
Rasmussen
Nursing



Lucas Sarkinen
Work



Darian Saue
Continuing Education
Step-Up Program



Jaxon Shackelton
Continuing Education
Step-Up Program



Ellie Simonson
University of ND
Nursing



Aida Soebbing
MN St. Univ. Mankato
Pre-Law



Aiden St Cyr
Dunwoody
Cybersecurity



Esther Stoltzman
Work
Music



Ashley Storz
SD State University
Nursing



Oliver Strand
ND State University
Electrical Engineering



Gabriel Stuckmayer
Work



Anthony Sylvester
Alexandria Tech.
Diesel Technician



Delaney Tepley
Work



Kaden Terrell
Bethel University
Business Finance



Amber Tessman
MN St. Univ. Mankato
Dental Hygiene



Alana Thayer
Work
Correctional Officer



Olivia Thomas
UW River Falls
Biology

discover RHS



Peter Thomas
Trade/Apprenticeship
Pipefitter or Boilermaker



Gabriel Thompson
Colorado State
Aerospace Engineering



Natalie Thompson
UW Superior
Undecided



Maxwell Thornton
United States
Marine Corps



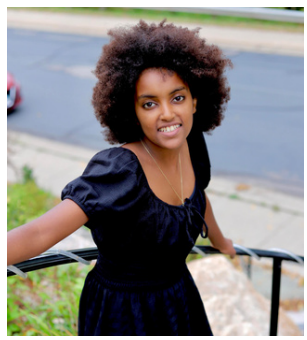
German Tlapa Fernandez
Work
Construction



Trey Tody
U of M Duluth
Criminology



Noah Torborg
U of M Twin Cities
Business



Savanna Torgerson
Work



Kayden Triplett
United States
Navy



Gabriella Valdovinos
Hennepin Tech.
Dental Hygiene



Irene Villarmea Sanchez
Returning Home
Complete High School



Kaylin Vogel
Trade Work



Kyla Vogel
Trade Work
Plumbing



Francine Wachholz
U of M Twin Cities
Finance



Isabella Wagner
UW River Falls
Pre - Health



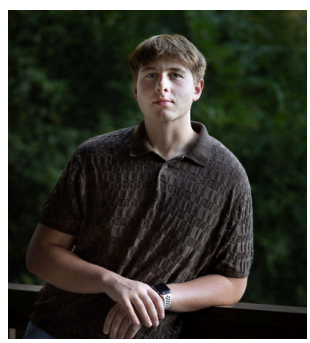
Zachary Walters
MN School of
Horseshoeing - Farrier



Adriana Waschek
University of ND
Elementary Education



Miranda Wenger
Dunwoody
Interior Design



Cyrus West
SNHU Online
Software Design



Sofia Westgaard
University of SD
Exercise Science

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Elisa Xhelilaj
U of M Twin Cities
Genetics



Olyvia Yonak
U of M Duluth
Education

Congratulations!

Rockford Education Foundation: Supporting Students from Day One

The Rockford Education Foundation is a local nonprofit dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for students in the Rockford Area School District. Since 2004, the Foundation has partnered with our community to fund innovative classroom projects, student experiences, career pathways, arts programming, environmental learning opportunities, and much more for students from PreK–12th grade. Through donor support, fundraising events, and community partnerships, REF helps bring learning experiences to life that would not otherwise be possible.



ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
ISD 883
MN

As we look ahead to the future Rockets of Rockford, families with incoming kindergarteners in the Class of 2039 can receive a FREE “First Day of Kindergarten" yard sign to celebrate this exciting milestone! Scan the QR code to sign up and signs will be delivered by mid-August. Deadline to sign up is August 14th.

REF is also excited to launch our annual School Supply Fundraiser. Families can conveniently order school supplies online and have everything delivered directly to their home before the school year begins. Not only does this save time and simplify back-to-school shopping, but 15% of every order goes directly back to the Rockford Education Foundation to support teacher mini-grants across the district. These mini-grants help fund creative and innovative learning opportunities that make a direct impact in our classrooms each year.

Thank you for supporting the Rockford Education Foundation and helping us continue to inspire learning, support students, and strengthen our schools and community.



Scan here to view your school's boxes and place your order today!

Elementary | Middle School | High School

RHS
ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Letter from Principal Menard

I'm pleased to share a glimpse into the major events and milestones that occurred in the latter half of the 2025-2026 school year at Rockford High School:



- Our CP Diploma students submitted their Reflective Project in January of 2026. This involves choosing an ethical dilemma in your chosen career field and writing a research-backed essay with proposed solutions. We are so proud of their ability to identify issues, articulate their thoughts, and use sound research skills. As an example, one project that stands out is the exploration of backlash that whistleblowing nurses experience from physicians when bad practices are reported.
- We have hosted five organizations that have visited our school to learn more about how we prepare students for employment with Launch Your Future and IB. RHS is gaining attention across the state due to the hard work of our staff, and as a principal, I'm proud of them.
- 10th Grade students completed their IB Personal Projects earlier this spring. This project asks students to identify a passion area, document and explain that project in an innovative way (such as a video, slideshow, scrapbook, music or visual art). Some projects will be selected and displayed at spring conferences.
- RHS teachers are continuing to map their curriculum to better support students who struggle near the end of the semester; there will be targeted efforts to satisfy specific standards so students can pass their course and potentially avoid summer school. This will also keep the maps as an interactive, 'living' document.
- RHS IB leaders and Art Teacher visited Annunciation School to deliver a moving re-creation of 'The Annunciation', a 15th century painting. Minnesota asked IB schools to send a message of support so, as we usually tend to do, Rockford High School took it to the next level and created a work of art that shows our support as they continue through this difficult school year.



- 9th Grade students were treated to nationally recognized guest speaker Joe Beckman in April, who encouraged them to love themselves, push through hard things, and make human connections. This was followed by the entire grade engaging in their IB Community Projects, which included sidewalk chalk to motivate the elementary students, curb and parking lot trash pickup, Summer School snack bags, cleaning the bleachers in the stadium, letters of love and inspirational fortune cookies.
- Through district-wide efforts, we hosted "Can't Look Away" and an expert from "ClickSafe" to discuss statistics and approaches to teaching teens about the potential dangers and pitfalls of social media.
- The 2nd Annual MAWSECO DAPE Extravaganza was hosted by Rockford Area Schools again in the RCC. It was a wonderful morning featuring adaptive phy ed activities for all MAWSECO partner schools.



- IB testing began in late April. This is a massive undertaking for teachers, proctors, and students. A great many of our students are putting forth a lot of effort, and we look forward to receiving their scores in early July. Historically, some students who score a 4 or higher on a 7 point scale receive 4 College in the Schools credits and the equivalent to 3 additional credits being waived--knocking out 7 college credits in one high school course.
- Rockford High School has been awarded the MASSP Silver Star of Innovation Award for their early college and career program entitled, "Launch Your Future". In addition to a video and four external visits, Mr. Menard and Mrs. Gordee will present to principals across the state about their goal to afford every student the opportunity to receive college credit, career certification, or both.
- The Class of 2026 is proud to be sending 82 students to 2 year or 4 year colleges; 7 students to trade schools or apprenticeships; 3 students to STEP transition program; 24 students going to work or travel, and 6 students to the United States Military. This class boasts 33 high honor students, 16 honor students and 18 National Honor Society members.

Thank you for supporting our schools!

RMS-CES

ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL - CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

STEM IRL

We are thrilled to celebrate the success of STEM IRL (In Real Life), an exciting new initiative designed to spark curiosity and open doors for our students. By connecting academic concepts with real-world applications, we aimed to inspire the next generation of innovators in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This program offers a unique opportunity for students to hear firsthand from industry professionals about their career journeys. Each session went beyond a simple presentation; speakers lead engaging, hands-on activities that gave students a literal feel for what it's like to work in their field. It's about making STEM tangible and showing students that these careers are within their reach.

In December, RMS-CES hosted the first session of the STEM IRL (in real life) Speaker Series. While participants ate lunch, Jessica Lappe shared how Land O'Lakes works cooperatively with local farmers. Students then explored the science of butter making, ultimately dining on the fruits (actually butter) of their labor. This work continued with community experts who shared their knowledge and helped students see how STEM is used in the world around them. Highlights include learning about how technology helps to mitigate blood clots, emergency "owl surgery" with Dr. Sara, and planting seeds for the cut flower garden with Heidi.

As we continue this program, students are also looking ahead to next year, thinking about how they can build on what they've learned and continue growing as designers, problem-solvers, and innovators. As students learned from Rob, a package design engineer, some of your designs will fail. That's part of engineering. The goal isn't just to protect the egg—it's to learn how to think like an engineer.

Speakers have included,

Jessica Lappe
Senior Talent Acquisition Manager - Land O'Lakes

Tony Bennett
Strategic Growth Program Coordinator - Minnesota North College

Marissa Qunell
Nurse Anesthetist - United Hospital

Heidi Heiland
Garden Designer - Heidi's Growhaus

Chad Stark
Sr. Staff Engineer - Teleflex Medical

Scott Sarkinen
Sr. Principal Electrical Engineer - Medtronic

Rae Besser
Director, Clinical Operation - Okami Medical

Dr. Sara Williams
Veterinarian - Northwest Animal Hospital

Jyll Pohl
Radiologic Technologist - Twin Cities Orthopedics

Rob Kaszubowski
Managing Director - Packaging Optimization - NTT DATA

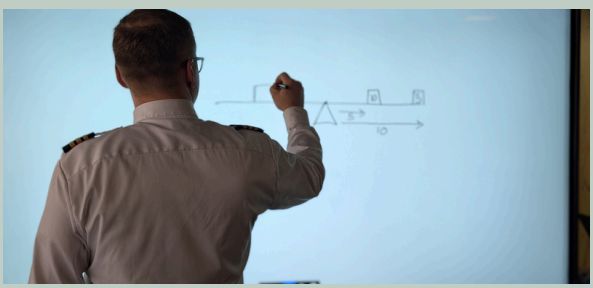
Daniel Dixon
Sergeant, Crash Reconstruction - Minnesota State Patrol











discover
RMS-CES

Trout in the Classroom



Trout in the Classroom was back for another year at RMS-CES with an expanded footprint. This year we supported trout tanks in both 5th and 7th Grade science classes. The eggs arrived in early December and moved quickly to the sac fry (alevin) stage. They remained in this stage for 14 - 21 days until the fry began to swim up and eat.

In early January, the 7th Grade trout fry took a turn for the worse. In one weekend the tank went from a mortality rate of 3% to 92%. We lost approximately 300 trout fry and the tank never recovered. While we are still unsure of the cause of the die off, and were disappointed, this is how we learn.

In late February, as the trout were maturing and growing, we were visited by volunteers who shared their fly tying skills and knowledge of biomimicry to design a fly that mimics a caddisfly larvae. At that time, the 5th Grade trout were still on target for spring release.



May 4, 2026 was a big day for the RMS-CES Trout in the Classroom program. 207 trout fry were loaded up in aerated buckets and made the voyage down to the Vermillion River in Farmington, where they were released into the wild! We were proud to say the mortality rate was under 8% for that tank.

Along the way, students learned about water chemistry, macro invertebrates, fly tying, trout habitats, feeding, life cycle, and cleaning the tank! It has been a journey but we did it! Special thanks to the Rockford Education Foundation and Minnesota Trout in the Classroom for their ongoing support of the program.

phe·nol·o·gy



The study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life. It helps us notice patterns such as when leaves begin to fall, flowers bloom, birds migrate, or insects become more active.

Phenology has been a focus of 6th Grade Language Arts this year. Students update the phenology calendar, record signs of spring, and journal their phenology reflections. Collaborating with other students and parent volunteers, these observations and reports are recorded and submitted to the KAXE Weekly Phenology Report. If you listen closely, you will hear RMS-CES students on seven different occasions sharing their observations.

In the fall RMS-CES 6th Graders were visited by John Latimer. John began watching the rhythms of nature while delivering mail 41 years ago. His curiosity has led him to explore the world with a childlike sense of wonder. It was a beautiful morning to notice, observe, and wonder about the changing seasons on the RMS-CES campus. During his time with students, he encouraged them to slow down, pay attention, and recognize that nature is always offering clues about what is happening in the environment. John's visits reminded students that science often begins with simple curiosity: noticing, wondering, and recording what we see. His time with our class supported students in becoming more thoughtful observers of the natural world.

To wrap up the experience John Latimer returned to RMS-CES in the spring. Students were encouraged to compare and contrast their observations from fall to spring. John, once again, shared his passion for the outdoors and keen sense of observation with the students. In years to come, we look to expand upon this connection to John and his passion for the outdoors.

REAMS
ROCKFORD ELEMENTARY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

Letter from Principal Nyhus

It has been an amazing year at Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School. Every student and staff member worked hard to make REAMS the best place to grow and learn every single day. REAMS had so many events that allowed the students skills and talents to shine. Their hard work and special kindness make REAMS an amazing place to get an education, make friends, and create so many special memories. Some of the highlights include:

Artist in Residence

The Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School staff partnered with many local artists who are providing experiences for students at REAMS in the areas of dance, theater, music, and visual arts during the 2025-2026 school year. Students had the opportunity to work with many of the artists for several sessions to enhance their learning. The teachers have also related the work with the artists to the core curriculum in their classrooms to enhance the students' learning. The goal is to ensure that each child has the opportunity to expand their learning in a fun and creative way at REAMS. The REAMS students and staff are honored that so many of the local artists in residence return to partner with them each year. The partnerships and special relationships that the REAMS students and staff have cultivated with these local artists in the past few years have become so valuable to student learning and growing.









Arts and Academics

REAMS students shared their many talents building-wide during the annual Arts and Academics Showcase, which featured an array of student projects, artwork, and live performances throughout the school. Classrooms highlighted projects from the entire school year ranging from Barnyard Buddies, Habitat Fair, Artist in Residence Puppets, Earth's Spheres Diorama Projects, Native American Study Projects and Paintings and much more. The world drumming ensemble, recorder ensemble, xylophone players, grade-level choirs, theater students and the fourth grade Science and Movement students with artist in residence Roxanne Wallace had the opportunity to share their talents through acting, singing, movement, and instrument playing. Visual art class projects were displayed throughout the hallways and students and their families could participate in a visual art demonstration together. Arts and Academics night has many scheduled events and several opportunities to come and go at your leisure. This allows families to spend time celebrating their children in a relaxed and fun environment.

All-School Song

Students K-4 joined their voices together in March for their third annual all-school song. All REAMS students performed "We Are the People of the 21st Century", a song about our REAMS students who are the promise of the future. Through their laughter and dreams we hear the melody of a better world, one shaped by hope, kindness, and peace. REAMS staff again worked with Captivate Media to record this event and make it available to families and on social media. Check it out on the Rockford Area Schools website!





discover ACTIVITIES

Winter/Spring Season Highlights



Girls Basketball: Our Varsity Girls Basketball team made some great strides this season by winning 12 games. That was most wins since the 2019-20 season. We had two games that we scored 83 and 85 points. The Girls Basketball team has only scored that many points in a game one other time since the 2008-09 season. We have seven of our eight top scorers returning next season. We expect to be even better next season and continue building on that momentum. Our summer camps are filling up fast! The future is looking bright for Rockford Girls Basketball!

Boys Basketball: Rockford Boys Basketball enjoyed another successful season with 39 players participating in grade 9-12. We replaced a quality group that graduated from the year before and experienced some challenges but had guys step up into those roles to find success for our team. The lower level teams also had good seasons and showed improvement throughout the year. Rockford Boys Basketball wishes the seniors well and looks forward to more success with the returning boys next year!



Dance: The Rockford Dance Team wrapped up a successful winter season after competing at 10 competitions, earning multiple top placements across all four routines, including first-place finishes for Varsity Jazz at the Hutchinson Invite and JV Kick at the PACT Invite. After moving into the Single A division this season, the team embraced the opportunity with hard work, strong performances, and continued growth both on and off the floor.





Gymnastics: Last season we said goodbye to 10 seniors and that left us with only five team members. Luckily we had 10 members join, including five 7th graders! The season went great and we slowly worked our team score up throughout the season which is exactly what you want to do. JV started the season with a 111.65 and mid season got their team high of 113.7. Our varsity team started the season with a 126.075 and got their season high at the Section 5A meet with a 131.15. We lost four meets and won four meets. My favorite memory this season was when our varsity team started off our section meet by sticking ALL five of our beam routines!! Our new member and 8th grader, Emmy Haag, qualified for the State Tournament on bars, beam & floor. We had a blast and can't wait for next season with most of our members returning and looking forward to welcoming some seventh graders!

Wrestling: The team did very well in individual tournaments this year. We struggled to win team events because of our low varsity numbers. Our Girls Varsity Wrestling team had their first team win. Several of the girls competed at Sections, which was the first time that Rockford has competed. Looking to increase numbers next year and improve team wins and send wrestlers to State.

Speech: The Speech team had an exceptional season this year! They were tournament champions at Maple Lake, and multiple times students took first in their respective categories. Three students advanced to state, and took 4th and 8th in their categories.



One Act: The One Act group did a fantastic job this year! We had three shows, and we received 3rd place at our Subsection performance. We had 25 members with multiple leadership opportunities available for the kids.

Baseball: This season was a tough one on the wins column compared to the past few years. But there still were a lot of positives and underclassmen experience to build upon for the future.

discover ACTIVITIES

Girls Golf: The Girls Golf program has grown tremendously in the past four years and we are now at 20 golfers in the program. We only had three just a few short years ago and so many of our student-athletes have not only learned this life-long sport, but many have competed at the varsity level and improved their skills. Multiple 18-hole personal records were broken at the WCC Championship meet this year, and even while that is exceptional, many bonds and friendships have been formed between the girls amongst themselves at Rockford and at other conference schools. The future looks bright for the Rockford Girls Golf program!

Trap Shooting: The Trap Team had an awesome season! We are currently sitting in 2nd place in the conference in a very close race with Robbinsdale Armstrong with one week left of the regular season. We will compete for a State Tournament bid on June 20th at Alexandria in the statewide championship. From there we have 10 students going on to represent Rockford at Nationals in July in Mason, MI.



Choir: The Concert Choir earned all superior ratings at large group contests. At solo/ensemble contest, eight entries received superior ratings and seven received excellent ratings. Of those superior ratings, the Chamber Choir and Madi Jacobson earned "Best in Site" awards. Earlier in March, eight students traveled to Bemidji State to participate in their BSU Sings Festival and performed in a world premiere of a new choral work.



Band: The High School Wind Ensemble received all "superior" ratings at large group contests. Rockford had a total of 29 entries at solo/ensemble contest with 23 entries receiving the highest rating of "superior". The Jazz Band received a score of 40/40. Senior Olivia Kissner performed for the second time at All-State Band. Junior McKenna Evans was selected to the 2026-2027 All-State Band.

Girls Lacrosse: Girls Lacrosse earned a repeat conference championship. Both of Rockford's varsity players were the top scoring leaders. Senior Olivia Thomas tied the school record with 22 assists in a season; she also had the third most goals with 24. Junior captain Addilyn Dietman lead with 54 goals and was second on the team with 15 assists. The team finished the regular season 11-2 and went undefeated at 8-0 in conference action.



FFA: We had a successful year with FFA! We had more than 20 students represent us at the State Level competing in six different areas. We also had one member get their State Degree, another place 3rd in the state with her Equine Placement Proficiency and our chapter was recognized as a 3 Star National Chapter. When not competing and getting ready for Contests, we did a variety of community projects and leadership development activities.

Track & Field: The Rockets Track & Field team capped off a historic season with both the boys and girls securing WCC West Conference Championship titles—marking a 5-peat for the boys and a 3-peat for the girls. The mixed 4x400m relay team set a school record and qualified for Nationals at the Hamline Elite meet, while the boys team advanced to the True Team State meet to finish 6th overall. Following a strong Section 6AA performance, 12 Rockets qualified for the MSHSL Class AA State Meet on June 5-6 at STMA, alongside seven individual conference champions and multiple new school records. Go Rockets! 212!



Robotics: Robotics had a strong season with a lot of new roles being taken on this year. With only three seniors there was a ton of training and transitions. We were able to perform well but didn't make Worlds. We have some very strong programmers and a great plan for training. It's an exciting growth year and we look forward to great things.

Softball: Softball had another fantastic season capturing their 6th consecutive conference championship, winning the Section 5AA tournament and going to state! With a team full of seniors (11), we had great leadership and a lot of softball skill on the field.

Boys Golf: The Boys Golf Team had a great year! We finished 3rd in the very tough Wright County Conference, and had a strong finish at Sections finishing 6th out of 17 teams! Benton Blanchard and Daniel Franklin advanced to the 2nd day of Sections, and Benton advanced to the State Tournament for the 2nd year in a row!

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COMMUNITY EDUCATION

2026-27 Launching Pad Preschool Registration

Launching Pad Preschool is accepting registrations for the upcoming 2026-27 school year.

- Children 3 to 5 years old by September 1, 2026
- Half and full day options 2, 3 and 5 days a week
- An outstanding and unique public preschool experience
- Rich in opportunities to discover, explore and create
- Reggio-Emilia Inspired philosophy
- Creative Curriculum
- MN licensed teachers
- Located at Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School
- Tuition assistance available to qualifying families

The entire program is designed to be engaging and fun so children don't just learn, they love to learn!

On-line registration and more information are available at www.rockford.ce.eleyo.com. You may also visit our website at: www.rockford883.org. Under the Community tab, click Early Childhood Programs. For more information, please call 763-477-7500.

Early Childhood Screening

Identifying possible concerns early is the best way to prevent serious problems later in young children. State law requires all children to participate in Early Childhood Health & Development Screening before they may enter public kindergarten. The ideal time to screen children is at age 3 to 4. 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 includes a health history, height and weight, immunization review, follow-up with parents and screening in the following areas:

1. Hearing & vision
2. Speech & development
3. Cognitive, fine & gross motor skills
4. Social-emotional development



Make your appointment by calling 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 the Early Childhood Programs office at 763-477-7500.



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COMMUNITY EDUCATION

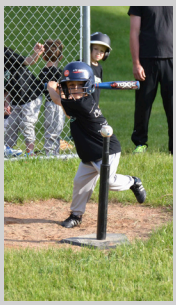
From Little Learners to Leaders: A Full Circle Journey

As these graduates take their next steps beyond Rockford Area Schools, we are reminded that learning is truly a lifelong journey. For many of our seniors, that journey began years ago in Rockford Community Education programs — on playgrounds, in camps, classrooms, activities, and community spaces where curiosity, confidence, and friendships first began to grow.

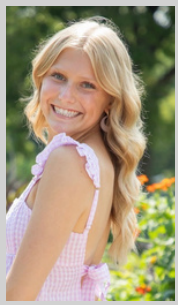
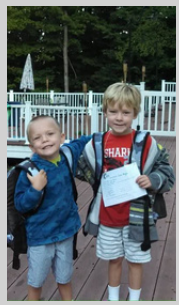
These photos tell a special story: a glimpse of who they were as children alongside the young adults they have become today. From little learners exploring new interests to graduating seniors preparing for futures filled with opportunity, each student's path has been uniquely their own.

Community Education is proud to have been a small part of their story. Whether they are heading to college, the workforce, the military, technical training, or new adventures still to be discovered, we celebrate the growth, determination, and resilience that brought them to this milestone.

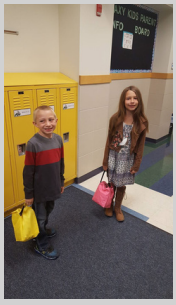
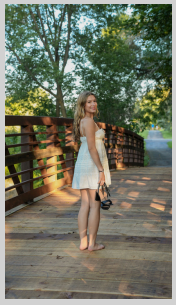
Congratulations to the Class of 2026. Your roots began here in the Rockford community, and we cannot wait to see where your lifelong learning journey takes you next.

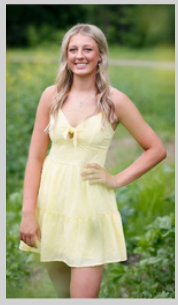


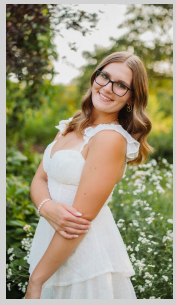


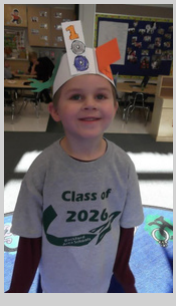








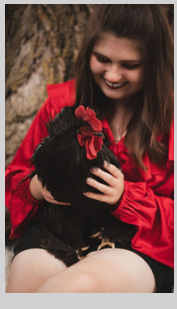




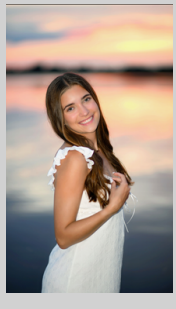












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IB World School (Gr. 9-12)



STEM Magnet School (Gr. 5-8)

Magnet School benefits

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- Innovative Curriculum & Professional Development
- Academic Excellence
- High-Quality Instructional system
- Family & Community Partnerships
- Life-long skills

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- Small class sizes
- Multi Activity Opportunities
- Positive Culture
- Integrated Technology
- Unique learning environments
- Member of the Northwest Suburban Integration School District
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

More Information

763-477-9165
rockford883.org

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