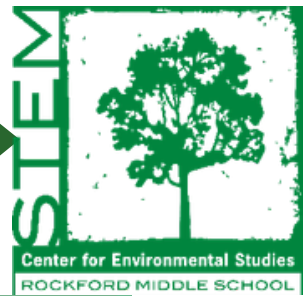


RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



9/16

7th Grade

Baker Field
Trip

9/30

8th Grade

Baker Field
Trip

10/2

5th Grade

Baker Field
Trip



At RMS-CES, students are empowered to become innovators through engaging, authentic and developmentally appropriate opportunities, access to a strong academic foundation, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

We are a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) School with a focus on Environmental Studies.

RMS-CES Families,

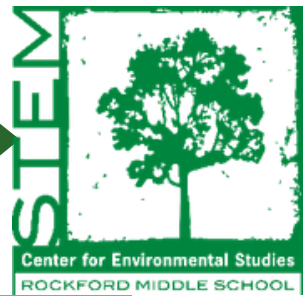
I brag about our families a lot. Rockford Area Schools are blessed with amazing parents. When the schools ask, our parents come through, usually in epic ways. Most recently, we asked parents to partner and get required school supplies in a binder system, and two days into the school year, over 94% of students had what they needed, and the rest soon followed. We appreciate your support. We have had a fantastic start of the school year that has been filled with positive energy and experiences that make us hopeful for a great year ahead. Here are a few updates in a bulleted list to accommodate your busy schedules...

- **Binders:** Please occasionally check your child's binder to help them stay organized and make sure they continue to have what they need.
- **Planner:** In your child's binder, you will find a paper planner that helps to track assignments, upcoming tests and the day's learning.
- **Book:** We have been encouraging students to always have a book to read with them. Most students have had the opportunity to go to the Media Center to get a book, and we strongly encourage them to read it as time allows. Please ask your child what book they are reading.



RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



- **RFall Conferences:** Please know that Fall Conferences are from Tuesday, October 13th (4 Hours) and will be Open to all parents. Please note that the October 27th conferences listed on the district calendar are reserved for targeted, invite-only meetings based on student need.
- **Math Facts Matter:** A friendly reminder to practice basic math facts at home! Anything you can do in daily life to help your child build speed and confidence in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division makes a huge difference in the classroom.
- **Safety Day:** We are pleased to report that Safety day gave students the opportunity to practice all of our safety drills and processes early in the school year while minimizing disruption later in the year.
- **Goals for the Year:** This year, we are focused on boosting student engagement. We are teaching students consistent habits for working in groups, participating in class lessons, and managing independent work time so they can take ownership of their learning. Watch for more details soon on how you can support this at home!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend ahead!

Paul Marzecha
RMS-CES Principal





REF News & Updates

September 2026

Welcome Back, Rockets!

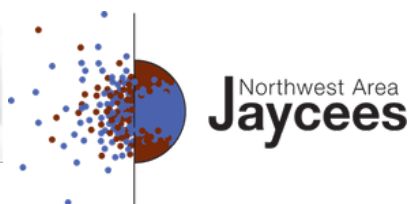
Welcome to a new school year! The Rockford Education Foundation (REF) is excited for another year of enhancing education, maximizing student potential, and bringing our schools and community together. There are lots of ways to get involved this fall - here's what's coming up!



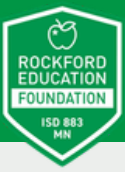
Our biggest fundraiser of the year is headed to a **NEW venue!** Join us Friday, November 13 for **Nashville Nights**, an evening supporting students across Rockford Area Schools.

★ Thank You, Early Bird Sponsors!

We're grateful to the businesses that have already stepped up to support this year's event! Sponsorship opportunities are still available through October 9. Becoming a sponsor is a great way to support local students while showcasing your business to Rockford families and community members.



Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event



REF News & Updates Continued



Arm Wrestling Tournament | Sept 19

The Red Vest - 3:00 - 7:30 PM

Lock hands, test your strength and battle for bragging rights - all while supporting REF!

3 PM | Kids Division - **Sponsored by Dakota Bank**

5 PM | Men's & Women's Division

Compete or come cheer them on!

Scan the QR code for details and to register



Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event

Community Connections Help Shape What's Next

This summer, we asked our community how REF can better connect our schools, families, businesses and community - and you shared some great ideas!

Now we're using that feedback to help shape what comes next, from volunteer opportunities and community partnerships to new ways to share your time, talents, and connections with Rockford students.

Want to be part of it? Take our 5 minute survey



Join Rocket Launch Make an Impact All Year Long

Make an impact all year long by becoming a **Rocket Launch monthly donor!**

NEW MEMBERS:

Join at \$10 or more per month and receive our signature **white Rocket Launch YETI tumbler.**

Scan the Code to Join



ALREADY A MEMBER? JOIN THE MISSION CREW

Increase your monthly gift by \$5 or more and become part of our Mission Crew - with a special thank-you coming your way!

Increase your gift

Email nikki@rockfordfoundation.org

Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event

THANK YOU, ROCKET COMMUNITY!

Whether you donate, volunteer, attend an event, sponsor a program or share your time and talents, you are part of the REF mission. We're looking forward to an incredible school year together!

Rockford Education Foundation

Enhance Education - Maximize Students' Potential - Inspire the Community



Prom Fundraiser

Rockford High School Class of 2028 prom committee is teaming up with the *NW Area JCs* in selling **Christmas wreaths** and other items as a fundraiser for Prom 2027. The funds raised will help bring a fun and safe night for students attending prom. Ordering is open now and will go until November 4, 2026. The anticipated date to pick up your order(s) will be the week of November 30th in the Rockford Community Center parking lot. More details will be shared at a later date regarding pickup. Please use the link provided to place your online order: [Wreath Online Order](#)



Preferred payment method is our class VENMO account (@RHS2027) or a check payable to Rocket Boosters Class of 2028.

If you have any questions, you may email Sarah Schmidt at sarahschmidt006@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting Rockford High School prom and NW Area JCs!

Not an ISD883 sponsored event

Get ready for
picture day!

ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 26, 2026

OCTOBER 20, 2026 - Retake



Please, don't wear green.

Our green screen lets you choose your background when ordering your photos, but it also makes green clothing disappear.

YOUR EVENT CODE IS: FE120626

Your Photos, Your Way.

About one week after picture day, you'll be able to customize and order your photos online at jostenspix.com/shop, and your order will be shipped directly to your home.

ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL FE120626



Preview

We'll let you know when your pictures are ready to order.



Personalize

Get creative with fun (and free!) customization options.



Pay

Order a photo package, collage, calendar or à la carte item and enjoy easy, at-home delivery.

*Order
Now!*



ORDER YOUR PHOTOS TODAY!

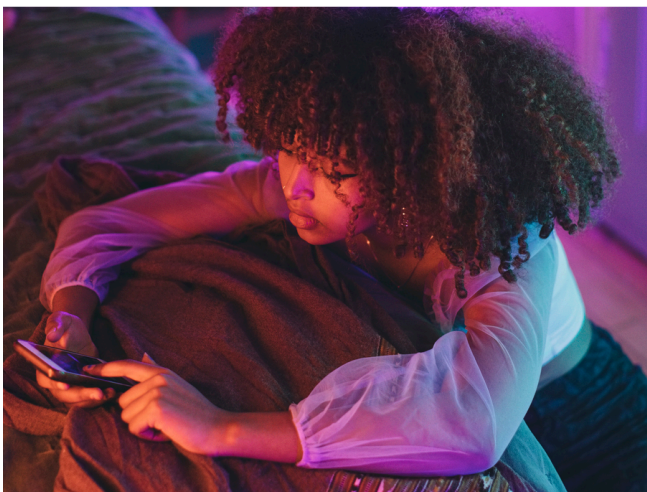
jostenspix.com/shop

Questions? Visit our website for FAQs, or call us at 1 (877) 515-1447.

Jostens takes its responsibility to keep children's images and data safe very seriously. Learn more at jostens.com/security.

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS FOR YOUTH

You Are Not Alone



It's time to take action if you notice these signs in family or friends:

1. Talking about or making plans for suicide.
2. Expressing hopelessness about the future.
3. Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress.
4. Showing worrisome changes in behavior, particularly in combination with the warning signs above, including significant:
 - Withdrawal from or changing social connections/situations.
 - Changes in sleep (increased or decreased).
 - Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context.
 - Recent increased agitation or irritability.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

Text or call 988 or chat 988lifeline.org,
or reach out to a mental health professional.

988 | SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE



WELCOME TO
ROCKFORD

*Lauren
Rupp*

SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGIST

RMS-CES & RHS



WELCOME TO
ROCKFORD

*Emma
Olson*

5TH GRADE MATH
& SOCIAL STUDIES

ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



WELCOME TO
ROCKFORD

*Finn
Herrmann*

BAND DIRECTOR

ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



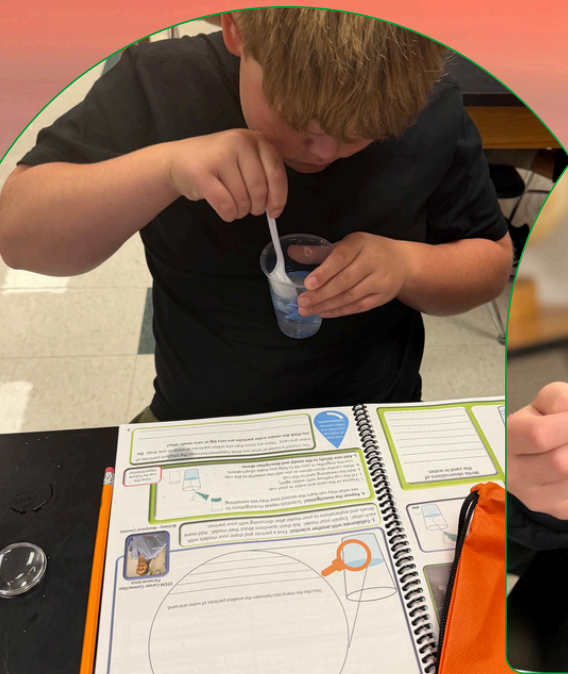
NEW STAFF

RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE



5th Grade Science w/Mrs. Oliverius

In 5th grade science, students have been practicing expectations and procedures this week. This included how to learn outside with phenology as well as how to conduct an experiment. Fifth graders began their "Mission to Mars" curriculum which began with an investigation into an unknown substance. Students made observations and created a model predicting how the "mystery sand" stays dry, even when in water. At the end of the lesson, students learned the word hydrophobic, breaking the word down into its word parts. We are off to an exciting year in fifth grade science!



RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

STEM with Ms. Sarsland



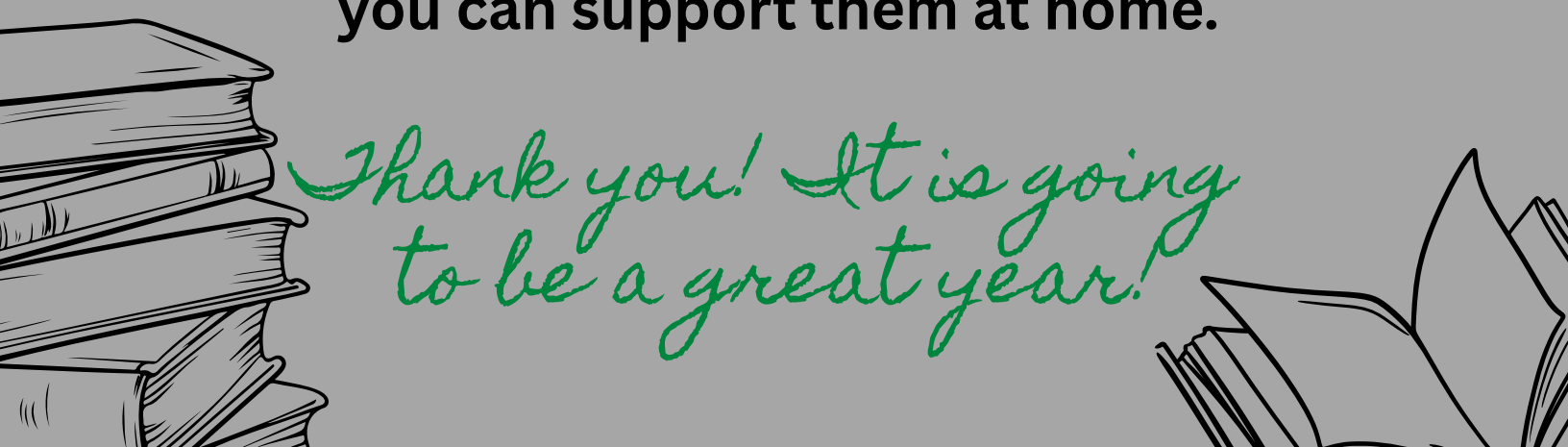
Our 5th grade
STEM
students were
exploring the
outdoors!



Our school year is off to a great start! The students are settling into our Language Arts routine, and I am excited to learn more about them and to help develop a love of reading and writing.

Please encourage your child to read their independent reading book each day. Reading each day is one of the best ways to build vocabulary and comprehension skills. As part of our class routine, students should also be tracking their pages read on the bookmark they receive each week.

Additionally, please check your email for a parent letter regarding our vocabulary studies for the year. It will be sent out at the end of this week. This letter outlines what your student will be learning and how you can support them at home.



Thank you! It is going to be a great year!

RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

College & Career Pathways w/ Ms. Toso Carlson



In College & Career Pathways, 8th grade students are learning about framework for college and career readiness, and doing activities to help build connection and relational capacity.

