



Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School

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Brenda Nyhus, Principal
Michael Rask, Counselor

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL 09-24-2021



Dear Parents and Guardians,
Elementary school-aged kids never cease to amaze me! We watch wide-eyed, unsure, timid students the first days of school become confident, independent, young learners. We know that this doesn't just happen overnight. It is purposeful, intentional and there are several ways we can work together to set every child up for success:

1. Give children the tools they need to be independent, responsible, and organized. They don't know what to do if we never tell them or show them.
2. Allow kids to make mistakes. It is often faster and easier to do a task ourselves, but then they never learn how to function without us if we do everything for them.
3. Give children choices. Life is full of choices and they will be better decision makers if they have had to make some on their own choices.
4. Give kids chores or little jobs to do. Responsibility starts at a young age. Kids love to help and feel more connected to their home and school when chores or jobs are part of everyone's responsibility.
5. Allow children to be frustrated at times. They will never know how to handle adversity if we protect them from every possible problem.
6. Let kids work out friendships, squabbles and disagreements on their own. Relationships are a big part of our lives and kids will need to know how to interact with each other in good times AND in bad times.
7. Give children the skills to look someone in the eye and say, "Hello", "Thank you" or "I'm sorry". This simple skill can be difficult for kids, and yet, it will be used their entire lives.



It is our job as educators and parents to work together to help all of "our" kids grow and learn and gain those independent skills so they can be the very best version of themselves. We are raising the future and I don't know about you, but I think it is the most important job out there! Thanks for your continued partnership and for working together with us to help every child at REAMS be absolutely amazing!

Warmly,
Brenda Nyhus
Principal, REAMS

Homecoming Week and spirit dress-up days at REAMS

As Homecoming week unfolds next week, students at REAMS can show support through their clothes and hair.

- Monday - **Sports Day** - wear your favorite team apparel (local or national)
- Tuesday - **Hat Day**
- Wednesday - Pony up **Cowboy Day**
- Thursday - lets go **Crazy Hair Day**
- Friday - **Spirit Day**- wear your Rockford or green gear

Oh No! Where has the Gingerbread Man gone?

This week was an exciting week in kindergarten! This week was Gingerbread Man Week! On Tuesday kindergarten students made a gingerbread man and added some special magic. They took him to the school kitchen to bake overnight. When students returned on Wednesday to get him, he was gone and loose in the school! Classrooms spent the next several days looking for him throughout the building. The activity is a great way to show students the different parts of the school.



Preschool picture day and retake pictures

REAMS is reserving Oct. 28 and 29, for school pictures of preschool children and retake pictures for any student. More information will be posted to the REAMS website, when it become available. Keep your eyes on the website.

Student forms

If you still have student forms - parents received them during assessment days - please complete them and send them to school with your child.

Pictures and videos of your child

Throughout the year, photographs and videos are taken in class rooms and at school activities. Some of these may be published on social media, in newspapers, on the local cable station or in Rockford Area Schools' publications and website. Parents may request that their child's photograph and identifying their name **not** be published in district productions or websites. **The request must be made in writing and sent to the Rockford Area Schools District Office, 6051 Ash Street, Rockford, MN 55373.** (This does not apply to pictures of school events taken by the news media.)

Free lunch for EVERYONE

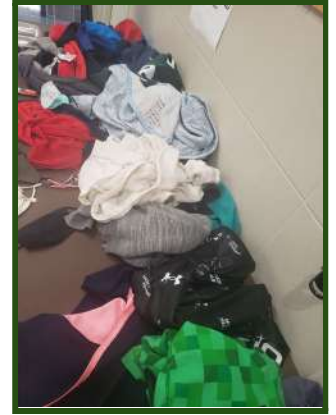
Just a reminder that breakfast and lunch meals will be FREE to all students attending Rockford Area Schools! **A la carte items are NOT free;** for instance if your child brings a lunch from home and takes a milk from school, the child will be charged for the milk. The program will continue until Federal funding is depleted.



Even though these meals are free, please complete your free/reduced applications right away. If or when the free meal program expires you will want to have your free/reduced lunch application approved.

Lost and found - please label your child's items

Last year more than 10 large lawn bags of lost and never found clothing were donated to a local thrift store. The clothing items were not labeled nor were they ever claimed. After the first seven days of school, the lost and found tables are already overflowing with unclaimed sweatshirts, shoes, jackets and lunch boxes. Many of the items are **brand new Rockford spirit wear**. Please encourage your child to check the lost and found tables for their items. If items are left in the hall or on the floor they are put on the lost and found table. If the items on the table are labeled they will make it back to the rightful owner.



Please label your child's jackets, sweatshirts, water bottles, lunch boxes and shoes.

Say hello to....

Please welcome the newest members of the REAMS family.

Kassandra Otto

Special Education teacher. I provide extra support in the areas of reading, writing, math, social skills, functional skills, and behavior regulation.

Favorite Quote

"There is no greater disability in society than the inability to see a person as more,"
Robert M. Hensel

Career History

I graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead with a Bachelors in Early Childhood Education and a Minor in Special Education. After graduation, I started my career as a Registered Behavior Interventionist at a Behavioral Healthcare Clinic, working with children on the Autism Spectrum. After moving back to the area, I taught preschool at Head Start. I am now finishing the last semester of my Special Education Masters program, and will be graduating in December of this year!



Why she loves teaching

My motivation stems from personal experience, watching my younger brother with Down Syndrome navigate Special Education. My mother and I are HUGE advocates for him, ensuring he is receiving the support he needs to have a successful and enjoyable school experience. I want to provide my students the same support. Teaching doesn't only encompass core subjects like reading, writing, and math, but also everyday skills such as waiting, taking turns, motivation, confidence, and work completion. I am looking forward to making connections with my students and helping them see their fullest potential. What I love most about REAMS is that it provides students with hands-on, art-based learning experiences, teaching creativity and individuality!

Beyond ECCE (Parenting Support for the K-3rd Grade Years)



Parenting doesn't get any easier when your child heads off to kindergarten or grade school, but now your time to connect with other parents while discussing topics like big transitions, friendship, self-esteem, schedules, child development and family life is back. An hour just isn't long enough so we extended our discussion time to an hour and a half. Bonus, you'll already have a parking spot to pick up your child after school! Join us on Thurs, Sept. 30 - Dec 16 from 1:30 - 3 p.m. at REAMS! [Click to register on Eleyo](#) or call 763-477-7500 .

It's not too late! Rockford ECFE has openings

ECFE has openings in the fall classes and events for parents and children ages birth to 5 years! Check out Baby and Me, Play and Learn, Walk and Talk, Almost Ready for Preschool, Parent-Only classes (including one for parents of K-3rd graders), and one-time events!

Programming is choice based, family friendly, engaging for your little ones, and supportive for you as parents. Classes begin soon with daytime and evening options. Class fee assistance is available to qualifying families, so classes are affordable to all. [Click to explore ECFE classes](#) and to register online. **Not sure what ECFE is, call 763-477-7500 for more information.**

Other Opportunities

Get to know Fastpitch Softball - Oct. 2

(Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event)

Fall Open House Event 12:30 pm on Oct. 2

We will be holding a free softball intro event for members of the community to "Get Involved in Fastpitch" at 12:30 p.m. High School and Rev players will help run a T-ball game for all 6/8U age kids who are interested in playing softball. Here are some highlights for the event:

- Pizza and refreshments will be provided
- Raffles for bats, helmets and gloves
- Meet and greet information with board members about available positions.

Sign up for this free event online at: <https://forms.gle/62ZyrEfnR6yayCmW6>

Every Meal Weekend Food Registration

(Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event)

Reminder: This is different than RAS lunch that is available for students on week days.

The Every Meal Program is free for all families, there are no qualifications, and your privacy is protected. Families can enroll ANYTIME throughout the school year. You are in the program once you fill this out until we hear otherwise.

Food bags will be available via pick up at your student's school on Thursday and Friday's

[Sign up today!](#)

Contact Madison Holm at 6125670114 or at holmm@rockford.k12.mn.us with any questions

Rockford Rockets Football T-shirts Quilt Raffle

(Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event)

The Rockford Rockets football team is selling raffle tickets for a Football T-shirt Quilt. Get your raffle ticket at the Homecoming Game on Oct. 1.

Tickets

\$5 each

Winner will be announced at the the homecoming game on Oct 1. Need not be present to win.



Calling all 3rd and 4th grade basketball players

(Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event)

Calling all 3rd and 4th grade students who are interested in playing basketball or learning more about the youth basketball program in Rockford! RAAA Basketball provides girls and boys the opportunity to play organized basketball with both competitive traveling and in-house league options. Practices start in late October (teams typically practice twice a week), and the kids will play in a series of games over the course of a few weekends, wrapping up with a state tournament in early March.

Please [click HERE](#) to register or go to www.RAAASports.com and select basketball.



Registration

Now through Sept. 28 for 3rd and 4th grade boys and girls.

Parent meeting

October 4

7 - 8 p.m.

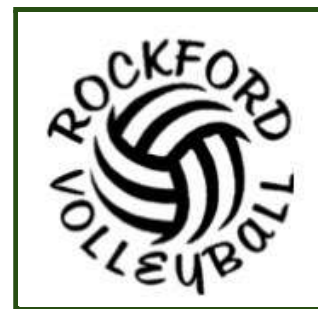
Rockford Community Center.

Please reach out to us with questions and please spread the word!

Youth Night at the Rockford High School Volleyball game

(Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event)

Youth Night at the Rockford High School Volleyball game for Girls and Boys in Grades 3 – 8 will be on Sept 28. Bring your aspiring volleyball athlete to watch the Rockford High School volleyball team take on Litchfield and learn more about the sport and the RAAA JO Volleyball program. Registered RAAA Volleyball players from the 2020/21 season receive free admission to the games; parents need to purchase admission. Stop by the RAAA JO Volleyball table and learn more about our upcoming season and how to join a team!



When

Tues, Sept. 28

Time:

5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

C-Team and JV games start at 5:30 p.m; Varsity game starts 7 p.m.

Where:

Rockford High School Gym

Questions

raaajovolleyball@raasports.com

Rockford Youth Wrestling - Pre K through 6th grade

(Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event)

Why should kids wrestle?

- There is room for everyone and wrestlers only compete against others in a similar skill/weight.
- Wrestling builds intensity, footwork, agility, balance, strength and body awareness.
- It is one of the few sports where a child's foot speed, ball-handling skills, hand-eye coordination, and size do not matter.

**PreK-Kinder or
1st Year Wrestlers**
Mondays

**1st-2nd Grade or
2nd Year Wrestler**
Tues./Thurs. 11/9 – 1/22

**3rd-6th Grade or 3rd
Year Wrestler**
Tues./Thurs. 11/9 – 1/22

11/15-1/22
6 - 6:45 p.m.

5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Register online: <https://www.raasports.com/raaa-wrestling>

Questions? Or join our two-week FREE Intro Class, email: raawrestling@raasports.com