A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

September 13, 2019

If you haven’t already found it, I have the most exciting thing to share with you! On the Rockford Area Schools webpage, under “Choose Your School” choose the Middle School. Then choose “Academics” and “Classroom Sites.” On each teacher’s website there will be a link called Academic Planner, or Daily Planner, or something similar. Go ahead and click on that and be amazed! I know, these teachers are rock stars. Teachers update this page each day of the school year with their learning target (e.g. what students should know and/or be able to do) and any homework given. Now you have all of the ammunition you need if you want to be able to have excellent conversations that go beyond:

“How was school today?”
“Fine.”
“What did you learn?”
“Nothing.”

Additionally, if you have one of those students who forgets what they are supposed to do, or “forgets” what they are supposed to do, now you can dazzle them with your intellect. I wouldn’t even tell your child how you know that Worksheet 5.2 is due tomorrow, just act all mysterious, squint your eyes a little, and move your hands around in a circular motion when you say it. Another fun game is to quiz your child about the learning targets from any class. You can be sitting at dinner and be all, “So, can you tell me the difference between a dependent and an independent variable?” Your kid will look at you with a mixture of what-in-the-heck-is-happening-here and I-will-never-get-away-with-anything-for-the-rest-of-my-life. Trust me, this will really up your street cred. In my house it’s, “Do you have any homework?” Every day the answer is NO and every fourth day or so there is a missing assignment, so I am guessing the answer wasn’t really NO. This tool is also really great any time your student is absent or anytime you just want to know what Jr. is learning here at school.

The next thing on my agenda is to make sure ya’ll know to contact me when you need to. A lot of times parents call me when they are fed up, or super worried, or feel really helpless. You don’t need to wait. A classic example of this is when you feel your child is being harassed or bullied. At first we tell them to try to ignore it (this isn’t great advice — maybe this should be next week’s topic), then we tell them to talk to a teacher, and then one day your kid comes home really upset and scared and then you call me really upset and scared that nothing is happening and I’m not keeping your child safe. The vast majority of the time I don’t even know there is an issue because your child is too afraid to tell someone here. Please don’t wait. If something feels wrong, shoot me an email or give me a call. At the very least I can be at the right place and the right time to see if something is happening and can then catch an act in progress. And that ups MY street cred, and you want your principal to have good street cred. I am a big believer in the power of that little voice we hear and I am not too proud to use your little voice to keep this school safe. Know that I try very hard to return calls and emails before I go home each day.

Finally, I will end with my yearly plea to parents dropping their children off at school in the morning. Please use the upper parking lot, the one with the slide, and please wait in line to drop at the sidewalk. I know it’s tedious and slow and hard to wait when you have a busy day in front of you. However, the alternative is someone getting hurt. We cannot have students walking through the busy parking lot and crossing the line of cars dropping kids off. People are distracted and in a hurry, windows are wet, and soon we will be dealing with low light. Likewise, if you drop your children in the lower lot they have to cross the street in front of buses, vehicles moving too fast, and cars that are ignoring the signage telling them
not to turn right out of the parking lot, and trying to maneuver in and out of buses that are moving to and from the curb dropping literally hundreds of kids. We have a system to keep your children safe, ignoring the system could be a life-changing decision, please don’t put our kids at risk.

Have an amazing weekend. Go Vikes!

Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.
Principal

HAPPENINGS AT RMS-CES

Yearbook Committee
The Yearbook Committee is looking for interested individuals to take pictures, vote on critical design information and help with the promotion and sale of the book. This year we will meet once a month afterschool from 3-4 pm. Meetings will be generally held on Mondays, with the exception of our first meeting that will be held on Wednesday, September 18th in the art room. Please see Mrs. Gunderson with questions.

RMS-CES Yearbooks on Sale Now!
2019-2020 RMS-CES Yearbooks are on sale NOW! Go to www.yearbookforever.com search for “Rockford Middle School”. Each yearbook is $15 and can be personalized for additional fees.

Yearbook Photos
Send us your photos to potentially be used in this year’s yearbook!
- Download Yearbook Snap on your mobile device.
- Once app is launched, search and select: Rockford Middle School
- Enter access code: rockets
- Upload photos in the appropriate category, then enter your name and email to submit your photos.

(Pool) Noodles are Needed
While you work to clean up the last of your summer supplies, please consider donating your pool noodles to RMS-CES for a project in the works for the STEM Showcase (Thursday, November 14). If you have any just sitting around and are willing to donate for the cause, Holly Biorn would be ever so grateful to you for your contributions.

All noodles are acceptable...even ones with chew marks!! Thank you oodles!

5th GRADE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Reading/Language Arts - 5
Fifth graders were focused and ready to take on the NWEA MAPS Reading test this past week. They also brainstormed classroom expectations that will become part of the classroom contract next week. Students also thought about one thing that brings them much happiness in their lives. They were given an index card which they designed with the word. These cards will then be displayed in the 5th grade hallway for students to look at on those days where they may be struggling or feeling down about something. It is just a little pick me up when they may need it.
First homework assignment, the “sack with 5,” is due by SEPTEMBER 20th.
Science – 5

In science this week students ventured out to the school garden for the first time! They were then challenged with creating a 3D model of the garden in groups with random supplies. We then converted our 3D model into a bird’s eye view map of the school garden. Students applied vocabulary such as cartographer, key, and symbol during the map making process. We ended the week comparing maps and models, discussing their benefits and limitations.

Social Studies - 5

This week in 5th grade social studies, students examined how the early Americans adapted to life in North America after the ice age. They learned how agriculture helped shaped early civilizations, as well as more about specific groups of people such as the “Mound Builders (Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian),” Pueblo, Aztecs, and Mayans.

Math - 5

Our second week of math was focused on Fermi math problems. These types of problems are ones where we will never know what the exact answer is. As a class, we discovered we would have to line up a little over 112 million hockey pucks to reach the Thessaloniki Airport in Greece from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport in Minnesota. For the rest of the week, students worked in teams and discovered that all of Australia’s population holding hands would be roughly 25,000 miles long and it would be able to wrap around the world slightly more than one time. Students did a great job persevering while completing this challenging problem. Next week, students will be taking the NWEA Maps Mathematics test.

Writing - 5

This week in writing, students practiced commonly confused homophones. After taking a pretest on Monday, students participated in either visual notes and practice or an extension activity. We took notes on the differences between “your” and “you’re,” “there,” “their,” and “they’re,” and “its” and “it’s,” among other homophones. We practiced these homophones with games and coloring sheets on Friday. Next week, we will continue to review homophones while practicing the first two parts of speech: nouns and verbs.

6th GRADE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Art – 6

Students have been working on their drawing unit for the last two weeks. We have studied contour line and the different approaches artists use to draw contour lines. We drew continuous line nature drawings outside in the Rain Garden area in the front of the building. We had the opportunity to see over 100 butterflies lift up into flight simultaneously, super cool! Students finished the unit with an observational contour line drawing of their shoes, focusing on being accurate, drawing big and including lots of details. Our next unit is Color & Cubism inspired by Pablo Picasso.
Language Arts (LA) – 6
Sixth graders have wrapped up their NWEA MAPS reading test this week - ROCKSTARS! They worked hard and gave their best to help us gather some baseline data. Anyone that hasn’t finished will do so during Boost in the next couple weeks. Once finished, they had some time to fall into a good book towards the end of the week. Up next is Introduction to Phenology - nature’s rhythms using nature’s notebook and Minnesota Conservation Volunteer - Young Naturalists informational text.

Science – 6
Science students began to dig into the core science idea of using evidence and reasoning to make claims. Students have had a few opportunities to practice making observations and claims and ended the week trying to make claims about our puzzling inquiry cubes. As your child what they claim is on the bottom of the box!!

Social Studies - 6
This week, sixth grade social studies students worked on creating a collage about Minnesota.

7th GRADE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Field Trip to Baker Park-Near Wilderness and Lake Rebecca Park
The week ended with seventh grade’s first field trip of the year! RMS-CES’s partnership with the Three Rivers Park District provides amazing opportunities for our students to participate in outdoor learning and experience activities that engage their minds and bodies. Half of the day was spent at Lake Rebecca, where students encountered birds of prey and hiked to a swan viewing area. The other half of the day students were at Baker Park Near Wilderness Center and they worked on team building through various outdoor challenges.
Social Studies - 7
This week, students combined their math and history skills as they worked out a Fermi math problem pertaining to the World Trade Center Towers. The question challenged students to figure out how many dollar bills would it have taken to cover the entire outside of both towers. On September 11th, students looked back 18 years as they learned how the events of the day unfolded. They viewed primary sources in the format of news segments, recording transcripts, and President George W. Bush’s address to the nation from that day. Discussions ensued as students tried to wrap their minds around the “whys” and “hows”. Through empathy and critical thinking students understood the importance of remembering that day, and the lives lost and impacted.

Science - 7
Students in Science picked grapes this week that were planted by last year’s seventh graders and were pleasantly surprised by what they found.

8th GRADE NEWS OF THE WEEK
Social Studies – 8
On Tuesday in Global Studies, students learned a little bit about brain science and the importance of repetition in human learning. On Wednesday, students were introduced to and began practicing a note-taking strategy called the Cornell Method. All students are being asked to learn and use this strategy throughout the school year. There will be a lot of practice opportunities in the coming weeks so don’t worry if your child does not “get it” yet or has questions. It takes time. On Thursday, students reviewed basic Chromebook and Google Drive functions, while also exploring a few new internet-based tools that will be used in Global Studies. As part of this activity, students practiced logging in to the online textbook. It is identical to what they may remember from 7th Grade with Mr. Pennings. It is very important that students have the textbook site bookmarked and know how to sign-in, because students will not be receiving a hard copy of the textbook this year (unless a parent/guardian requests one). Please check with your child to make sure they know how to log-in at home, and discuss whether or not a hard copy of the book at home would be helpful. Students wrapped up the week playing a review game called The Unfair Game. It was fun, frustrating, and ruthless.

Math - 8
Non-Linear Algebra students learned about three Trigonometric functions; Sine, Cosine, and Tangent. Students learned what the functions meant in relationship with right triangles and how to use the functions to solve various problems involving right triangles. On Friday students went outside to indirectly measure the heights of trees, the school building, and light posts using their skills.

Eighth grade Algebra students learned how to use the inverse functions of addition/subtraction and multiplication/division to solve one-step equations. This was mostly review work and it was great to see how much they recalled and how quickly they got going. Students were shown how those equations will be different this year, using more decimals, fractions, and pi.
Language Arts – 8
Aesop once said that “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” With that in mind, all of us in LA8 continued to get to know each other and our expectations, completed a “Room Tour”, and dove into the LA8 Syllabus. Together, we are exploring how we all embody the power to learn, to strive for improvement, and to value each other in this new, Eighth Grade Community!

Agri-Science - 8
Students spent time in Agri-Science learning the lay of the land last week. For returning students, many moving parts of our classroom remain the same as previous quarter. For new students, it is important that they too know where supplies are located, how we start the class period, and such. As we got to know each other a bit better we did a “Would you rather...?” activity, created representation photos projects on Google Drawing, had our first class meeting, and began a “student to student interview” project.

This week, students shared their “Student to Student” interview projects and learned expectations of the Ag Student News project that is completed one time throughout the quarter. We spent time on 9/11 discussing the day’s meaning and viewing a documentary titled “Hero Dogs of 9/11.” The end of the week included starting our book study book titled The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind and made our first of many visits to the school forest on Friday.

ACTIVITIES

RMS-CES FFA
Seventh and eighth grade students are able to join FFA. Check out the membership form below or encourage your student to attend the informational meeting on Wednesday, 9/18 at 7:25 in the Agri-Science classroom. Membership in the FFA organization and program at RMS-CES offers students leadership opportunities, community service projects, and a chance to compete in agriculture related contests across the state. Email Mrs. Gregory for more info. gregorym@rockford.k12.mn.us

FFA Membership form for 7th & 8th grade

RAS Presents “State Fair”
This year’s musical production, “State Fair,” has chorus parts available for middle school students!

Students in grades 5-8 are invited to audition on Thursday, September 19th, 3:00-4:15 pm in the Rockford High School auditorium.

Students may catch the RMS-CES to RHS transfer bus, but will need to have arrangements to be picked up from the High School at 4:15 pm.

Audition forms may be picked up from the front office or from choir teacher Ms. Augsburger. All who audition should bring their completed form with them on Thursday the 19th.

Students interested in being in the musical, but who may be involved in other conflicting fall activities are welcome to speak with Ms. Augsburger to make arrangements.
RAS Activities Season Passes Available for Purchase
Season Passes are available for purchase through the Activities office (located in Rockford High School) and at all home varsity events.

Payment by cash or check is accepted:
- Student pass: $33
- Adult pass: $85
- Family: $242

Fall Team Picture Schedule
Team pictures for Fall activities have been scheduled for both middle school and high school athletics. Please save the date for your student’s team pictures. Detailed information including date, time and location is on the Activities page of the district website - click here for Team Picture Day Information.

If you have any questions, please contact your player's coach or the Activities office. Go Rockets!

ROCKFORD COMMUNITY ED

Youth Dance Camp is BACK!
Join our Dance coaches and Dance Team members for a one week dance camp from Sept. 30th-Oct. 4th and is for students in grades K-6th ** Registration for this camp closes at 11:59pm on Sept. 25th. Campers will learn a routine that they will perform at the Varsity football game on Friday, Oct. 4th. This camp will run from 6pm-7:30 pm the week of Sept. 30th and is a fundraiser for our dance team! Thank you in advance for supporting us! Dancers will receive a t-shirt to perform in that they get to keep. Click HERE to Register

RMS-CES Art Club!
Sign up today for our Middle School Art club! It starts Sept. 19th, so sign up today! MS Art club allows kids to experience the creative process and the joy of making art in a collaborative and welcoming environment. It also allows more opportunities and freedom to try new techniques and materials. Students will work in a variety of different mediums from acrylic paint, clay, and oil pastels to found object sculptures. Click HERE to Register

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Wright County Wave Swim Club – Registration is Open
This is not an ISD 883 sponsored event.
New swimmer and parent information nights will be held on Tuesday, September 24th and Friday, September 27th at the Buffalo Middle School Pool beginning at 6:45 pm each night.

Click HERE or visit www.waveswimclub.com for more information.

Boys and Girls in Grades K-5: Join Cub Scouts
This is not an ISD 883 sponsored event.
Come see what being a Scout is all about on Thursday, September 19 – 6:00-7:00 pm at REAMS or sign up anytime online at JoinCubs.org. Click HERE for more information or call 612-261-2300.
SAVE THE DATE
More dates and events can be viewed on the Rockford Area Schools 2019-20 Parent Calendar.

September, 2019
18: Grade 8 - BNWS/Crow Hassan Field Trip
23-25: Grade 6 - Deep Portage Field Trip
30: Late Start Day (District-Wide)

October
1 and 8: Q1 Parent-Teacher Conferences – Grade 5
7: Grade 7 - MN Landscape Field Trip
8: Grade 5 - BNWS Field Trip
11: Picture Retake Day
15: Q1 Parent-Teacher Conferences – Grade 8
17 and 18: No School – MEA (District-Wide)
21: Grade 6 - BNWS Field Trip
22: Q1 Parent-Teacher Conferences – Grade 7
28: RAS Choral Festival, RHS Gym, 7-9 pm (District-Wide)
29: Q1 Parent-Teacher Conferences – Grade 6

November
4: No School – Staff Dvpt/Work Day (District-Wide)
14: RMS-CES STEM Showcase, 5-7 pm
28 and 29: No School (District-Wide)

December
3: RMS-CES Winter Band Concert, RHS Aud, 6-8 pm
23-31: No School – Winter Break (District-Wide)

January, 2020
1-3: No School – Winter Break (District-Wide)

NEWS ACROSS THE DISTRICT
Infinite Campus Parent Portal News
A NEW look for online payments!
With changes to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal over the summer, there was an update to a new payment module for paying fees and adding funds to lunch accounts.

Please note: Internet Explorer is no longer supported as a browser! Supported browsers are Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge and Safari. The mobile apps work on both iOS and Android devices, provided they are up to date.

For more details on the changes, please CLICK HERE.

Is your contact information current and up-to-date?
Each year families are asked to take a moment to view their family contact information and emergency phone numbers listed for their student on Infinite Campus Parent Portal. This information is important to have the most current and up-to-date means for Rockford staff and teachers to reach families for communications and should an emergency occur.

Connect with us at www.rockford.k12.mn.us:
➢ Hover over “RESOURCES” (on green banner) > Select “Families” > Click on “Infinite Campus Parent Portal” link

If you are not yet connected on Infinite Campus, please contact the District Registrar at 763-477-9165 or wanousp@rockford.k12.mn.us.

News from Rockford Food Service
• All Kindergarten students receive FREE breakfast every day!
• All students who qualify for free or reduced price meals will receive one FREE breakfast and one FREE lunch per day (extra items are not included).
• Applications must be filled out EVERY YEAR to qualify.

Click HERE to download your 2019-2020 application.
Ala Carte purchases do not qualify for free/reduced lunch.

Questions? Contact Deb Graunke, Rockford Food Service, at 763-477-5846, X 3052.
International Baccalaureate (IB) Update

Hello RMS-CES,

We complete the first full-week of the 2019-20 school year, and there is a lot to celebrate! As an International Baccalaureate (IB) candidate school for the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme (DP), and the Career-related Programme (CP), we are fully engaged in learning, communicating, reflecting, and working hard to create the best possible learning environment at RHS.

One week ago, Rockford High School was featured on FOX 9 newscast. The focus was the implementation of International Baccalaureate programming at RHS, and we are excited to highlight the efforts of students and staff as we immerse in the change process. Please click here to view the positive news story.

As we continue the gradual implementation of MYP at RHS, students will begin to experience new technologies (e.g., portable large-screen televisions, mobile presentation tools, etc.) and new terminology (e.g., the Learner Profile). Mr. Pennings’ (above left) MYP U.S. History 9 class and Mr. Nichols’ (above right) MYP English 9 class are a few examples of how students are analyzing and applying the attributes of the IB Learner Profile. Mr. Nichols engaged students in an assessment activity that focused on reinforcing the notion that rubrics, and words we use in rubrics, are intended to clarify exactly “what” and “how” students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge for an assessment.

The Student of the Month celebration is a tradition in which students are recognized for their effort, attitude, achievement, and growth. We are excited to share the news that we will utilize the attributes of the IB Learner Profile when we recognize our Students of the Month. There are ten attributes of the IB Learner Profile, and we will honor our “Thinkers” at our first Student of the Month celebration on Friday, October 4, 2019.

New this year, we are asking our students to nominate an adult in RHS that demonstrates the attribute of the month. Beginning Monday, September 16, 2019, RHS students will be able to submit nominations by completing a form and turning it in the main office.

The ten attributes of the IB Learner Profile are Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, and Reflective.

Finally, we are working closely with teachers and administrators of the Minnesota Network of International Baccalaureate (MNIB) Schools. The MNIB Executive Director Jon Peterson is facilitating a series of podcasts called “IB Matters,” and one recurring podcast focuses on the IB implementation process at Rockford High School. You may access episode 1 by clicking here, and episode 2 by clicking here.

Have a wonderful weekend and please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

Matthew J Scheidler, Ed. D.
Rockford High School

STAY CONNECTED

Rockford Area Schools is growing on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to keep parents, students, community, and alumni in the loop of what is happening at our schools, to promote events, and share information.

Facebook - @ISD883 Twitter - @ISD883

Instagram - @isd883 YouTube - Rockford Area Schools MN

RMS-CES @ http://www.rockford.k12.mn.us Click HERE for the RMS-CES Student Daily Announcements