



**Delivering World-Class Education on the Range**

At Rock Ridge Public Schools, we are designing the new schools and education around the 21st Century skills of Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Citizenship, Character, Entrepreneurship, and Global Competence. Our goal is to have the benchmarking standard of “Best in the World,” while using simple but powerful statements such as, “Education to inspire the next generation,” and “Fiercely United,” and “Rock Ridge Rising,” and “Helping students find their magnificent obsession,” as terms to express ways of thinking about things.

This is why we have built a new high school designed around Career Academies. After all, shouldn't we help our students make better decisions about their future? Shouldn't we be giving our students hands-on projects relative to fields which interest them? Shouldn't we be giving our students actual contact with real people who work in the field rather than waiting for students to “figure it out in college?”

**At Rock Ridge, we can. And we will.**

The foundation of our Rock Ridge K-12 system is shifting to a culture of thinking, in which students will need to actually think during the school day. And by thinking I don't mean filling out simple worksheets and looking up answers in a textbook—I mean actually thinking about and making predictions, simulations, doing analysis, and solving problems on their own. However, our students will need to know lots of information before they can tackle all higher order thinking skills such as making predictions, analyzing, and solving problems. Consequently, we believe that direct instruction—from the teacher to the student—continues to be extremely important. Our students need to know lots of information and facts in order to successfully shift into a culture of thinking. For example, in combination with knowing lots of information and facts, at Rock Ridge we are shifting to more project-based, hands-on, relevant learning. This still involves traditional teaching methods and whole class instruction. Because, after all, we can't tell students to make a prediction about something they know nothing about.

To design a culture of thinking, we will need to embrace failure. It is only through failure that any of us really learn anything. Most adults who are highly skilled in their jobs were probably not very good when they started. In fact, they probably failed more often than they succeeded. But the key to success is picking yourself up from failure and readjusting your learning and trying again. Nobody does it perfectly the first time. We sometimes forget that learning is hard work.

Along this journey Rock Ridge is committed to paying attention to neuroscience, how the brain really learns, and what educational researchers have discovered works and doesn't work.

There are other big components which are being integrated into the K-12 educational program at Rock Ridge. We are using many AVID strategies, including WICOR, which intentionally includes more writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading in all classrooms.

The future is here. And the time is now. At Rock Ridge we are excited about the prospects for our students and our communities.

*Dr. Noel Schwirtt*  
Superintendent

**2024**

**August 27-August 30**

Teacher Inservice Days - No School

**September 3**

First Day of School  
Grades PreK-12

**October 17-18**

MEA Break - No School

**November 28-29**

Thanksgiving Break - No School

**December 23-January 3**

Holiday Break - No School

**2025**

**January 20**

No School

**January 24**

No School

**February 17**

No School

**April 18-21**

Holiday Break - No School

**May 26**

Memorial Day - No School

**May 29**

Last Day of School

**May 30**

RRHS Graduation 7:00PM



## ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

218-735-3510

As we prepare to welcome students back for another exciting school year, I hope this message finds you well and that you had an enjoyable summer. I am delighted to welcome our returning students back to Rock Ridge High School, and I am equally excited to greet our new 7th-grade class as we embark on a year filled with growth, learning, and success.

Last year presented many learning opportunities with the opening of the high school and the merging of our two campuses. While we experienced some growing pains and faced challenges we hadn't anticipated, our dedicated staff rose to the occasion. As you are aware, we have one of the finest facilities in the nation, and with our collective effort, we will continue to improve. The possibilities for success in RRHS's second year are limitless, and I am confident that this year will surpass the achievements of our remarkable first year.

We are fortunate to have outstanding students at Rock Ridge, the majority of whom exhibit excellent behavior and attendance. Although no one is perfect, making mistakes is a natural part of the educational process, and we are committed to learning from them. This year, there will be a renewed emphasis on student discipline and attendance in every class. To provide a world-class education, it is essential that disruptions and absences are minimized. Every student is a priority, and our goal is to foster the growth of each individual. I encourage you to refer to the student handbook available on the school district's website for all school rules and policies.

Please note that Rock Ridge High School will continue to maintain a closed campus during lunch and most study halls. The only exceptions will be for students participating in Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) or those with excused appointments. As parking is limited on campus, all vehicles must display a valid parking permit and be parked in designated student areas. Regarding cell phone use, these devices should not be visible during class time. Teachers will establish classroom procedures for cell phone storage, and under no circumstances should cellphones be used during class. In case of an emergency, students can be reached by contacting the main office. Consequences will be enforced for any visible cell phones during class time. However, cell phone use is permitted before and after school, during lunch, and during passing periods.

For the success of all our students, it is crucial that we foster a strong partnership among all stakeholders. We are committed to working closely with families and students, building relationships that allow for open and supportive communication, even during times of high stress. If any concerns or issues arise, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the school staff.



**MARK  
WINTER**  
Principal



*Mark Winter*

Principal, Rock Ridge High School



1403 PROGRESS PARKWAY | VIRGINIA MN 55792 | 218-735-3500 | VISITORS USE DOOR #1 | RRPS.ORG



**MARK WINTER**  
Principal

**SCHOOL HOURS**  
8:10 AM - 3:05 PM  
WEDNESDAY EARLY RELEASE  
2:05 PM

**POWERSCHOOL CODE**  
**SGPL**

## ROCK RIDGE STAFF

**PRINCIPAL**  
Mark Winter  
735-3510

**DEAN**  
Chris Chad  
735-3512

**SECRETARIES**  
735-3551  
Denise Berry  
Cindy Carey  
Kerry Hutchings

**ATTENDANCE**  
735-3550

**ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR**  
Josh Lamppa  
735-3518

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION DIRECTOR**  
Chad Hazelton  
735-3517

**ACTIVITIES/COMMUNITY EDUCATION SECRETARY**  
Julie Eddy  
735-3516

**ART**  
Deb Custer  
Tony Norland

**BAND**  
Kevin Szumal

**BUSINESS**  
Kyle Hammer

**CAREER EDUCATION**  
Susan Ellefson  
Kyle Hammer

**CHOIR**  
Chris Fettig

**COUNSELOR**  
Elisa Boe  
735-3535  
Gr. 7-8 A-H | Gr. 9-12 A-G  
Paula Larson  
735-3534  
Gr. 7-8 I-O | Gr. 9-12 H-O  
Tricia Fierst  
735-3533  
Gr. 7-12 P-Z  
Tricia Harsila, Secretary  
735-3531

**CAREER COUNSELOR**  
Jill Oja  
735-3532

**ENGLISH**  
Dan Berry  
Jill Clennon  
Janessa Knuti-Greenly  
Mary Musich

Benjamin Norman  
Sheila Takanen  
Nick Thompson

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE**  
Jade Andrie  
Jeannine Bauman

**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**  
Emily Jankila -  
Coordinator  
735-3522

**INDUSTRIAL TECH**  
Troy Caddy  
James Eichholz  
Greg Foster  
David Fyre

**MATH**  
Angie Kemp  
Jessica Kortekaas  
Mike Kowalski  
Tara Peshel  
Dawn Savela  
Brian Skadsem  
Andrew Tikkanen

**MEDIA/LIBRARY**  
Bretta Albrecht

**MY FUTURES**  
Susan Ellefson  
Jessica Kortekaas

**NURSE**  
735-3506  
Misty Elliott  
Samantha Chad

**ORCHESTRA**  
Sheila Wilcox

**PE/HEALTH**  
Paul Brainard  
Evan Friedlieb  
Steph Stefanich  
Sean Streier

**SCIENCE**  
Brandon Borich  
Alison Glade  
Betty Parker  
Tim Strasser  
Todd Ufford  
Shane Wetzal

**SOCIAL STUDIES**  
Isaac Christiansen  
Liam Conger  
Gary Cornell  
Susan Ellefson  
Steven Golobich  
Aimee Krebs  
Dave Kunz  
Steph Lutzka

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
Lee Costley  
Rebekah Deedrick  
August Galloway  
Emily Heitke  
Shawn Johnson  
Amber King  
Kianna Martinson  
Cara Pond  
Kortney Rosati

**REACH**  
Lori Ismil

**STEAM**  
Troy Caddy

**WEB**  
Elisa Boe  
Jessica Kortekaas

**WORLD LANGUAGES**  
Terri Kowalski  
Abigail Warner

**ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM (ALP)**  
Steven Golobich  
Nick Thompson  
Andrew Tikkanen



1409 PROGRESS PKWY | EVELETH MN 55734 | 218-735-6201 | VISITORS USE DOOR #1 | RRPS.ORG



**ANGIE WILLIAMS**  
Principal

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year at Laurentian Elementary! We hope you had a wonderful summer break filled with rest, relaxation, and quality time with loved ones. We are delighted to welcome returning and new students to our school community.

This summer, the majority of our dedicated teachers participated in an online language and literacy course focused on enhancing reading instruction. This professional development opportunity provided our educators with the latest strategies and techniques to improve literacy outcomes for all students. We are excited to implement these best practices in our classrooms and continue our commitment to fostering strong reading skills across all grade levels.

We are also excited to announce the introduction of Spanish as a specialist subject for all students in kindergarten through 5th grade this year. Learning Spanish at a young age offers several benefits for children by improving problem-solving skills, creativity, and critical thinking.

The Laurentian Parent Teacher Association (PTA) plays a vital role in supporting our school, and we need more helping hands to continue making a difference. By joining the PTA, you'll have the opportunity to connect with other parents, stay informed about school events and initiatives, and contribute to the educational experience of all our students. Your involvement, whether big or small, can help us organize events, fundraise for important projects, and provide resources that benefit every child at Laurentian Elementary. Plus, being part of the PTA is a great way to show your support for our school community and make lasting connections. We encourage you to get involved—your participation can make a real impact! If you have any questions or would like information about joining please contact the PTA at [rrlespta@rrps.org](mailto:rrlespta@rrps.org).

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your children. We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and the joy of discovery.

*Angie Williams*  
Principal, Laurentian Elementary

## SCHOOL HOURS

8:05 AM - 2:55 PM  
WEDNESDAY - EARLY RELEASE  
1:55 PM

## POWERSCHOOL CODE SGPL

**FOURTH GRADE**  
Kristy Hill  
Samantha Sertich  
Nikki Young

**NURSE**  
735-6206  
Katie Peterson  
Laurie McDowell

**FIFTH GRADE**  
Mandy Brunfelt  
Lori LaLonde  
Michelle Schriber

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**  
Robert Hinrichs

**SIXTH GRADE**  
Natalie Belt  
Stace Landwer  
Ed Thompson

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
Karlene Leseman  
Liz Niemi  
Amanda Rasmussen

**COUNSELOR**  
Tara Fierke  
735-6204

**SMART**  
Maxine Perko

**ECSE/PT/OT**  
Kelsey Everson  
Angela Finseth  
Samantha Claviter-Tveit

**STEAM**  
Hayley Halls  
Debra Meissner-Devries

**ESL**  
Anita Leander-Flores

**STUDENT SUPPORT**  
Kristine Miller

**INTERVENTIONISTS**  
Georgia Epp  
Debra Meissner-Devries  
Melissa Lautig  
Brianne Pellinen

**STUDENT PROGRAMS**  
ADAPT  
Tracie Twite

**MEDIA CENTER**  
Bridget LaCoursiere

**CHECK & CONNECT**  
Sunny Mosher

**MUSIC**  
Julie Sandstede  
Amanda Spotts  
Sheila Wilcox

**SPEECH**  
Annika Lien  
Angela Suihkonen

**WORLD LANGUAGE**  
Abigail Warner

**PRINCIPAL**  
Angie Williams  
735-6202

**ATTENDANCE**  
735-6200

**KINDERGARTEN**  
Joe Grigal  
Jody Negen  
Kim Wolner

**SECOND GRADE**  
Cody Baker  
Becki Carey  
Gaye Lossing

**SECRETARY**  
Stacy Buatala  
735-6201

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
Ellen Ebben  
Gena Flank  
Julia Holien  
Shanon Kush-Jeffery

**FIRST GRADE**  
Heather Gulbranson  
Kaylee Hennen  
Laurie Hipple-Jam

**THIRD GRADE**  
Jessica Kralich  
Laurie Kuoppala  
Deb Tikkanen



411 S 5TH AVE | VIRGINIA MN 55792 | 218-742-3944 | VISITORS USE DOOR #1 | RRRS.ORG



**SCOTT  
MANNI**  
Principal

With great excitement and pride, I welcome you to the new school year at North Star Elementary! We are thrilled to open the doors to our brand-new building and look forward to all the wonderful opportunities it will bring to our young learners.

North Star Elementary is committed to providing a well-rounded education that starts with early learning opportunities and makes time for exploration. This approach helps students make important connections among their studies, their curiosities, their passions, and the skills they need to become critical thinkers and productive members of society. Our state-of-the-art facilities and dedicated staff are

key components in fostering an environment that supports academic excellence and student development. We believe that a diverse set of learning experiences engages students across a variety of courses, activities, and programs, ensuring they receive a comprehensive education.

We are immensely proud to partner with the community on this momentous occasion. Together, we are building a legacy for years to come, creating a thriving and dynamic school community that will benefit future generations. Your involvement and collaboration are invaluable to us, and we look forward to working together to ensure the success and well-being of our students. This partnership with our community is at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to fostering strong relationships that support our mission.

Our dedicated staff has been working hard all summer to prepare for this occasion, and they are incredibly excited about the first day of school. Their commitment to academic excellence and the holistic development of our students is truly inspiring. Thank you for your continued support, and we can't wait to see you on September 3, North Star's first day of school.

*Scott Manni*  
Principal, North Star Elementary

## SCHOOL HOURS

7:55 AM - 2:45 PM  
WEDNESDAY - EARLY RELEASE  
1:45 PM

## POWERSCHOOL CODE

**SGPL**



### SIXTH GRADE

Stephanie Aho  
Lindsay Engel  
Josh Gibson  
Byron Negen

### ART

Althea Kure

### COUNSELOR

Brandon Miller  
742-3946

### INTERVENTIONISTS

Jackie LeBeque

### STEAM

Drew Aho (LTS)

### MEDIA/LIBRARY

Candy Ofstad

### MUSIC

Reida Forsman  
Julie Sandstede  
Sheila Wilcox

### NURSE

744-7711  
Laura Johnson  
Emma Peterson

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Wayne Roberts  
Taylor Skoglund

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Stacy Aune  
Jace Friedlieb  
Don Galloway  
Kim Plesha

### SPEECH

Angela Suihkonen

### PRINCIPAL

Scott Manni  
742-3943

### SECRETARY

Laura Tassoni  
742-3944

### ATTENDANCE

742-3940

### THIRD GRADE

Samantha Andrews  
Katie Hunter (LTS)  
Jodi Smith  
Ashley Tikkanen  
Kelli Voss

### FOURTH GRADE

Beth Collins  
Elysa Kemen  
Amanda Morley  
Jeff Teasck

### FIFTH GRADE

Ed Cremers  
Eli Little  
Bobbie Spry  
Sarah Thyen



506 9TH AVE W | VIRGINIA | 218-742-3801 | VISITORS USE DOOR #1 | RRRS.ORG



**SHEENA STEFANICH**  
Principal

**Welcome Back!**

I am thrilled to welcome you to the start of a new and exciting school year at Parkview Elementary. As we embark on this journey together, I want to extend a warm welcome to both our returning families and those who are joining our school community for the first time.

Our dedicated staff has been working diligently over the summer to prepare for the upcoming year. We are committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our goal is to foster a love for learning, encourage curiosity, and support the development of each child's unique potential.

**Here are some of the things that you can expect this year at Parkview:**

1. **Engaging Curriculum:** Our teachers have designed an engaging and challenging curriculum that meets the needs of all learners. We are excited to introduce new programs and resources that will enhance your child's educational experience.
2. **Safety and Well-being:** The health and safety of our students remain our top priority. We will continue to implement necessary protocols to ensure a safe learning environment for everyone.
3. **Community and Communication:** We believe that strong partnerships between home and school are essential for student success. We encourage you to stay involved, attend school events, and maintain open communication with your child's teacher.
4. **Support Services:** Our school is equipped with various support services to assist students in their academic and personal growth. If your child needs additional support, please do not hesitate to reach out to our dedicated staff.

As we begin this school year, let's work together to create a positive and enriching environment for all students. Your involvement and support play a crucial role in making our school a wonderful place to learn and grow. I look forward to seeing the amazing things our students will accomplish this year.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

*Sheena Stefanich*  
Principal, Parkview Elementary

**SCHOOL HOURS**

**7:50 AM - 2:40 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY EARLY RELEASE**  
**1:40 PM**

**POWERSCHOOL CODE**  
**SGPL**

**PRINCIPAL**  
Sheena Stefanich  
742-3802

**SECRETARY**  
742-3801  
Amanda Lambert  
Kimmy Christenson

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
Kayla Cochems  
Kathy Kemen  
Shanon Kush-Jeffery  
Dominique Little

**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
Shelby Corey-Semo  
Kayla Evans  
Laura Gregorich

**KINDERGARTEN**  
Hannah Davidson-Teff  
Carolyn Peterson  
Kathy Seppala  
Matraca Streier  
Emily Zeidler

**FIRST GRADE**  
Kate Barnes  
Deron Davidson  
Caley Hujanen  
Annie Nichols  
Meggie Schroeder

**SECOND GRADE**  
Nichole Reid  
Nina Sporich  
Cullen Warren

**ART**  
Althea Kure

**COUNSELOR**  
Tessa Peterson  
742-3804

**INTERVENTIONISTS**  
Beth Spelts  
Anita Tyminski

**MUSIC**  
Reida Forsman

**NURSE**  
Pam Frazee  
742-3821

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**  
Wayne Roberts  
Taylor Skoglund

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
Aubree Schiller  
Crystal Scuffy

**STUDENT SUPPORT**  
Nikki Sundt

**SPEECH**  
Jenna Hautamaki

**TECHNOLOGY & CURRICULUM INTEGRATION**  
Darren Kramer

# ROCK RIDGE EARLY CHILDHOOD

## SCHOOL READINESS

**ROCK RIDGE SCHOOL READINESS** is a welcoming place for your child's first preschool experience. School Readiness classes are offered at two of our elementary campuses - Laurentian and Parkview. We focus on building social emotional skills, language & literacy, health & nutrition, physical & development for all children. We will provide your

child with the opportunity to get comfortable in a group setting, learn about simple class routines, meet new friends and explore new and exciting activities in a safe and nurturing environment. The classroom will offer a variety of learning activities/centers such as science, art, dramatic play, music, sensory exploration, and small/large motor experiences.

### SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY

PROGRAM	DAY	TIME	ORIENTATION DATE & TIME	FEE PER MO.
<b>Terrific 3's</b> Oct 9 - April 30	Wed. & Thurs.	8:00-12:00	Oct. 2 8:00-9:00	\$160 mo
<b>PreK - 4</b> Sept 3 - May 29	Mon.-Fri.	8:05-2:55	Sept. 3 12:00-1:30	\$550 mo

### SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY

<b>Terrific 3's</b> Oct 7 - April 29	Mon. & Tue	8:00-12:00	Sept. 30 8:00-9:00	\$160 mo
<b>PreK - 4</b> Sept. 3 - May 29	Mon.-Fri.	7:50-2:50	Sept. 3 9:00-10:30	\$550 mo

#### TERRIFIC 3'S

Children who are 3 years old by September 1st of the current school year are eligible to participate in this program. Classes meet twice per week for four hours per day with a licensed educator and trained support staff.

#### PREK - 4

Children who are 4 years old by September 1st of the current school year are eligible to participate in this program. Classes meet Monday-Friday full days for the school year with a licensed educator and trained support staff.

## ROCK RIDGE EARLY CHILDHOOD STAFF

**EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATOR**  
Shanon Kush-Jeffery 742-3805  
shanon.kush@rrps.org

**SECRETARY**  
Kimmy Christenson

**LAURENTIAN**  
Ellen Ebben  
Gena Flank  
Julie Holien  
Shanon Kush

**PARKVIEW**  
Kayla Cochems  
Kathy Kemen  
Shanon Kush  
Dominique Little

## WOLVERINE BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Before and After school child care program will be offered as a community service by Rock Ridge Community Education.

**BEGINS SEPTEMBER 3**

NORTH STAR, PARKVIEW AND LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
Students PreK-6th Grade

After School Session: After School-5:30PM  
Before School Session: 6:30AM-7:30AM  
Held only on days school is in session.

**REGISTER AT:**

[HTTPS://RRPS.SACC.RSCHOOLDAY.COM/  
PUBLIC/HOME/](https://rrps.sacc.rschoolday.com/public/home/)

**AFTER SCHOOL COST:**  
**\$15/DAY \$70/WEEK**

**BEFORE SCHOOL COST:**  
**\$25/WEEK**

**FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT AMANDA MATHSON**  
[AMANDA.MATHSON@RRPS.ORG](mailto:AMANDA.MATHSON@RRPS.ORG)

## 2024-2025 PATHWAY II PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Early Learning scholarships are available to 3 and 4 year olds by September 1, 2024 who attend Rock Ridge preschool. If you or your child participate in or meet any of the following criteria, your child may qualify for a Pathway II Scholarship which could include free tuition.

- Have experienced homelessness in last 24 months.
- Child is in foster care.
- SNAP.
- Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program (FRLP).
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation.
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).
- A parent of the child is under the age of 21 and currently pursuing a high school or general education equivalency diploma (GED).
- Have a parent currently in jail, prison, detention center or on active supervision.
- Are in or have a parent currently in a substance use treatment program.
- Are in or have a parent currently in a mental health treatment program.
- Have experienced domestic violence.
- Currently have an Individualized Education Program (IEP, ages 3 to 5) or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP, ages birth to 3).
- Scholarships can be awarded based on family size and income as well.

Please contact Rock Ridge Early Childhood office at 218-742-3805 for more information.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE)** is a community education program of the Rock Ridge Public Schools. We understand that parents are a child's first and most important teachers. We partner with parents and families to offer the very best in early childhood and family education.

We provide classes, programs, and services for families with children from birth to kindergarten age. ECFE classes include time for parents and children to learn together, parent discussions facilitated by a parent educator and interaction among children to engage, learn and grow together within an early childhood classroom.

We are eager to welcome your family and young children as an important part of our school community.

**ECFE ALSO OFFERS:**

**HOME VISITS:**

For families who need additional support from a parent educator visiting them to address individual child, parent or family needs. If you have questions about home visiting, please contact our office. Visits can also be done by phone or virtually.

**CHILD CARE PROVIDER MENTORSHIP:**

For licensed childcare providers who would like a visit from a early childhood educator once a month. The educator will provide an hour long lesson to children and materials for the child care provider.

If you would like to be part of this program, please contact our office.

**FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR:**

For care providers (grandparents, friend of the family, neighbors in the community, aunts or uncles, older sisters or brothers) in the quad city area. Meet other care providers, help children learn and build skills through play, and learn helpful tips for caring for them. FREE books, project supplies and resources. Sessions are designed for care providers to bring children with them.

**ROCK RIDGE EARLY CHILDHOOD EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE)**

ECFE is a program that offers classes, events, playtimes, and other opportunities designed to give families ideas and skills to support their child's growth and development from birth to kindergarten.

The fall Kick-Off event is **"RED, WHITE, AND BLUE"**. The Kick-Off event is a great time to meet the teacher, tour the classroom and learn more about our early childhood programs.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY KICK-OFF EVENTS**

<b>LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 17</b>	<b>5:00-6:30</b>
<b>PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 19</b>	<b>5:00-6:30</b>

Meet the teachers, visit your school building and enjoy an evening of friends, activities, and snacks.

**ECFE CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY**

DAY	TIME	AGE	GROUP	SCHOOL
Monday	8:00-10:00	Stepping Stones	4-5 Years	Laurentian
Tuesday	8:30-10:00	Toddler Time	Birth to 5	Laurentian
Tuesday	10:30-12:00	Bright Beginnings	Birth to 5	Laurentian

**EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY**

DAY	TIME	AGE	GROUP	SCHOOL
Wednesday	8:30-10:00	Toddler	12 mo.-36 mo.	Parkview
Wednesday	10:30-12:00	Bright Beginnings	Birth to 5	Parkview
Thursday	8:30-10:00	Play and Learn	Birth to 5	Parkview
Thursday	10:30-12:00	Play and Learn	Birth to 5	Parkview
Friday	8:00-10:00	Stepping Stones	4-5 Years	Parkview
Friday	10:30-12:00	4 Week Specialty Class(see page 9)	18 mo.-5	Parkview
Friday	10:30-12:00	Baby Class (see page 9)	Birth-Not Walking	Parkview

**STEPPING STONES**

<b>LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>8:00-10:00</b>
<b>PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>8:00-10:00</b>

Stepping Stones is a class is for 4-year old children entering kindergarten in the 25-26 school year. We will provide your child with two hours of social and emotional opportunities in a group setting learning class routines, meeting new friends and exploring new and exciting activities in a safe and nurturing environment. \$50/month



## BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

<b>LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>10:30-12:00</b>
<b>PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10:30-12:00</b>

This mixed age class is a great opportunity for families with more than one child to be able to experience ECFE. Classes start with parent-child activity time. Parents and children play and learn together in a safe and educational environment. During the Parent Education time, children stay with the early childhood teacher and staff. This is an opportunity for children to play with peers and enjoy activities in all areas of development. Parents attend a discussion group led by a Parent Educator. The parent group includes information on developmental, age-related concerns and allows time to get to know other parents.

## TODDLER TIME (GRADUAL SEPARATION)

<b>LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>8:30-10:00</b>
<b>PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8:30-10:00</b>

Your toddler's road to independence has begun. Enjoy time playing with your toddler in a safe and educational environment. Children will have time to play with peers and enjoy activities in all areas of development, while parents engage in a discussion led by a licensed Parent Educator. The parent group includes information on developmental and age-related concerns and allows time to get to know other parents. We realize separation from toddlers can be difficult. One-year-old classes will begin a gradual separation when each group is ready.

## PLAY AND LEARN

<b>PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>8:30-10:00</b>
<b>PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>10:30-12:00</b>

This mixed age class is a great opportunity for families with more than one child to be able to experience ECFE. Jump, crawl, and build in a variety of learning areas in the small gym returning to the classroom setting for a hands-on learning experience. Parents will engage in discussions led by a licensed Parent Educator. The parent group includes information on developmental, age-related concerns and allows time to get to know other parents.

## BABY CLASS

<b>PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>10:30-12:00</b>
<b>10/11, 10/25, 12/6, 12/13, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 4/4</b>		

FREE class designed for babies. Infants learn best by interacting with people and objects in their environment. Learn about the importance of the early years and what you can do to promote healthy development. This class includes parent and child activity time, parent discussion, and time to connect with other parents. Sibling care will be available to older children.

## ECFE FEES PER TRIMESTER

<b>\$75,000+</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>\$60,000-74,999</b>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>\$45,000-59,999</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>\$25,000-44,999</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>UNDER \$25,000</b>	<b>\$5</b>

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Free early childhood screenings will be held at Laurentian and Parkview Elementary. Email [laura.johnson@rrps.org](mailto:laura.johnson@rrps.org) for an appointment. Children 3 1/2 years of age and older are eligible for screening. Early childhood screening is an enrollment requirement for kindergarten and Pre-K.

## FOUR WEEK ECFE SPECIALS

**\$50/SPECIAL**

### CREATIVE KIDS FALL SPECIAL

**PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY FRIDAY**  
**11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22 10:30-12:00**

### WINTER LITERACY SPECIAL OF AUTHOR LEO LIONNI

**PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY FRIDAY**  
**1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21 10:30-12:00**

### MATH IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT SPRING SPECIAL

**PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY FRIDAY**  
**4/11, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9 10:30-12:00**

## DISTRICT DIRECT CONTACTS

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>218 - 735-3500</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>218 - 742-3969</b>
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>	<b>218 - 742-3660</b>
<b>COMMUNITY EDUCATION</b>	<b>218 - 735-3516</b>
<b>EARLY CHILDHOOD</b>	<b>218 - 742-3805</b>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>218 - 735-3570</b>
<b>INDIGENOUS EDUCATION</b>	<b>218 - 735-3522</b>

# WELCOME NEW STAFF

*Angela* **SUIHKONEN**

**NORTH STAR AND LAURENTIAN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST**



**HOMETOWN** - Tower, MN

**COLLEGE** - University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire

**COLLEGE DEGREE** - Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders

**PERSONAL NOTE:** In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, being by the lake, cooking, and reading.

*Chris* **FETTIG**

**ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

**7-12 VOCAL MUSIC TEACHER**



**HOMETOWN** - East Grand Forks

**COLLEGE** - Bemidji State, Univ. of Illinois

**COLLEGE DEGREE** - Bachelor of Science in Music Education, Master of Music in Choral Conducting

**PERSONAL NOTE:** I enjoy many outdoor activities like biking, running, snow and water skiing, camping, and tennis. I am also a "classic movie" enthusiast. I have been married to my wife, Tiffany, for the past 27 years and we have three kids - Christian 23, Conner 21, and Abbie 19.

*Kianna* **MARTINSON**

**ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**



**HOMETOWN** - Mountain Iron, MN

**COLLEGE** - U of M Mankato, Grand Canyon University

**COLLEGE DEGREE** - B.S. in Communication Disorders, M.A. of Education in Special Education

**PERSONAL NOTE:** I enjoy spending my time with friends and family. I also love being outside on the water using paddle boards/kayaks, boating, swimming, fishing and camping.

*Chris* **CHAD**

**ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

**DEAN OF STUDENTS**

*Katie* **HUNTER**

**NORTH STAR ELEMENTARY**

**3RD GRADE LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER**

*Stephanie*  
**JASPERSON-AAGENES**

**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION-  
ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**HOMETOWN** - Aurora, MN

**COLLEGE** - Mesabi Community College, Bemidji State University, Saint Cloud State University, Saint Mary's University

**COLLEGE DEGREE** - Associate of Arts (AA), Bachelor of Science (BS)-Elementary Education, Early Childhood. Special Education licensures: SLD, EBD, DCD. ASD

Master's Special Education, School Administration certificates: Director of special Education, School Principal

**PERSONAL NOTE:** I enjoy spending time outdoors gardening, swimming, kayaking, and walking my golden doodle dogs (Oliver and Daisy Lou). I like reading books and watching movies. I love watching sports, especially the Minnesota Vikings. I enjoy volunteering within the community. My favorite pastime is going on vacation with my family (Jason-husband, Alexa (20), Hailey (18). Alexa is attending Saint Thomas and is in the nursing program. Hailey will be off to the University of North Dakota this fall and is focusing on biology.

*Lee* **COSTLEY**

**ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**



**HOMETOWN** - Two Harbors, MN

**COLLEGES & DEGREES** - UMD - BA in Education, St. Mary's University of Minnesota - MA Special Education

**PERSONAL NOTE** - Fishing, coaching hockey at a high level.

*Shawn* **JOHNSON**

**ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**

*Drew* **AHO**

**NORTH STAR ELEMENTARY**

**STEAM LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER**

*Anita* **LEANDER-FLORES**

**LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY**

**ESL TEACHER**

*Amranda* **SPOTTS**

**PARKVIEW AND LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHER**



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

- Bill Addy | Chair**
- John Uhan | Vice Chair**
- Brandi Lautigar | Clerk**
- Nicole Culbert-Dahl | Treasurer**
- Tim Riordan | Alternate Clerk**
- Pollyann Sorcan | Director**
- Lisa Westby | Director**

**Rock Ridge School Board**

meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the

**Rock Ridge Administration Building**  
1405 Progress Parkway, Virginia

Meeting details are subject to change.

Please check the website.

[rrps.org/district/calendar/](http://rrps.org/district/calendar/)

**BE A SUBSTITUTE AT ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Rock Ridge School District is partnering with Teachers On-Call to hire the best substitutes to work with excellent students and staff!

**Paraprofessional Requirements:**

- Minimum qualification high school diploma / GED

**Teacher Requirements:**

- Minimum of a four-year degree (does not have to be in a field of education)
- Successful completion of Minnesota Department of Education Two Year Short Call Substitute License Application (visit the Minnesota Department of Education website)

**Great Benefits:**

- Great Pay for paraprofessionals and substitute teachers. Teachers On-Call offers bonus and holiday pay. All this and many more benefits including free online training and flexible scheduling to fit your needs.

**The application process is easy:**

- Apply online today at [www.teachersoncall.com](http://www.teachersoncall.com) or call 800-713-4439 and a Staffing Coordinator will offer personalized support to help you get started.

# #RockRidgeRising



You can give online at:  
**alumni.rrps.org**

Or you can write a check out to:  
**Rock Ridge Public Schools**

And mail it to:  
**Rock Ridge Public Schools**

1405 Progress Parkway, Virginia, MN 55792

Send any questions to me at [willie.spelts@rrps.org](mailto:willie.spelts@rrps.org) or 218-290-1237

Greetings!

I'm Willie Spelts and I am the Director of School to Work Engagement and Fundraising Coordinator for **Rock Ridge Public Schools (RRPS)**. As Director of School to Work Engagement, I collaborate and coordinate with school staff, students and local businesses to get our students work experiences off campus and professional introductions on campus. Our students, while attending our Academy Model, identify areas of interest for post high school areas of study. We then bring in speakers from these various professions to introduce them to the students. As our students progress through our Academy Model, we move them to the next level; job shadows, internships, and externships. We want our students to know what they want to do, experience it to confirm their interest, to then be best prepared for post high school studies. Please contact me if you would like to come and speak and/or host our students.

The second part of my job is Fundraising Coordinator. The mission of our **#RockRidgeRising** fundraising campaign is to make this an even more incredible campus, to enrich and enhance the entire project and student experience and to allow alumni, local businesses, and friends the opportunity to be a part of this once in a lifetime project. We have been fortunate to receive wonderful donations and partnerships from alumni, local businesses, and supportive friends of RRPS. These donations and partnerships have allowed us to provide increased funding to academics, arts, and athletics. Our new campus will rival any metro school in the state and nation!

Please contact me should you be interested in helping fund opportunities at **Rock Ridge Public Schools**. To view our **#RockRidgeRising** campaign online, please visit [rrps.org](http://rrps.org) and choose: **#RockRidgeRising**. Great pictures, videos and even podcasts are located at [alumni.rrps.org](http://alumni.rrps.org). One can choose to give to academics, arts, or athletics. All donations are tax deductible and will immediately impact the students and school community at Rock Ridge. You can also donate in memory of a special person, teacher, or coach from their school or community years. We will apply your donation to the area of your choice and/or passion.

Best Regards,

*Willie Spelts*

Director of School to Work Engagement  
Fundraising Coordinator  
Rock Ridge Public Schools  
**#RockRidgeRising**



# FERCELY UNITED

## ROCK RIDGE TICKET INFO:

### SINGLE GAME TICKET PRICES

Adult .....	\$7
Seniors (62+) .....	\$5
Students and College Students.....	\$5

### SEASON TICKET PRICES

GOOD FOR ALL  
HOME GAMES EXCLUDING PLAYOFFS

Adult .....	\$100
Seniors (62+) .....	\$60
Students and College Students.....	\$20

(Family Cap is \$40/school year)

## ACTIVITY FEES

(These fees do not apply to clubs or curricular activities.)

Grade 7 .....	\$140
Grade 8 .....	\$140
Grade 9-12.....	\$150
Knowledge Bowl .....	\$35
Poms .....	\$75

(Family Cap is \$600/school year)

[rpps.org](http://rpps.org) for more fee information

## ROCK RIDGE ACTIVITIES & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Independent School  
District #2909

“Future Ready/  
Community Strong”

**Community Education Director**  
Chad Hazelton.....735-3517

**Activities Director**  
Josh Lamppa .....

**Admin. Assistant**  
Julie Eddy .....

Visit our website for  
a complete list of  
activities and classes.

**RRPS.ORG**

**FOR UP-TO-DATE  
SPORTS SCHEDULES**

**LAKESUPERIORCONFERENCE.ORG**

## DIGITAL TOOLS

Rock Ridge Public Schools uses a variety of digital tools to support student learning. Technology vendors and software is utilized to support work as we help all students develop the skills necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world. We have an inventory of our curriculum, testing, and assessment tools posted at [rpps.org/digital-tools/](http://rpps.org/digital-tools/) and include an outline of the student data Elements within each tool. This list is maintained and communicated annually to all families at the start of the school year. Please reach out to [tech@rpps.org](mailto:tech@rpps.org) or your building principal for additional questions regarding specific digital tools used in classrooms.

The Superintendent, Business Office, Human Resources, and Director of Maintenance are all located here along with our school board meetings.

## ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1405 Progress Parkway, Virginia, MN 55792  
(across the parking lot from the new Rock Ridge High School)

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Dr. Noel Schmidt  
742-3901

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
Andrea Lintula  
742-3902

**DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE**  
Mike Hoag  
410-0184

**DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL TO WORK  
FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR**  
Willie Spelts  
410-3097

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
Stacie Lamppa  
742-3900

**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
Debbie Wiirre  
744-7700

## BUS SCHEDULE

Individualized bus assignments were emailed to each family’s email on file. If you have not received a letter regarding your child’s or children’s bus assignment or are new to the area and have transportation questions,

please contact **BOB VOSS**, Transportation Director **742-3969**.

A PUBLICATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2909

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL, ROCK RIDGE COMMUNITY!

Dear Rock Ridge Families,

As the new school year begins, I am thrilled to welcome you back on behalf of the Rock Ridge School District's Community

Education department. My name is Chad Hazelton, and I am honored to serve as your Community Education Director.

Our mission is to foster a vibrant, supportive community where everyone—youth and adults alike—can learn, grow, and thrive.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community education is a cornerstone of our district, providing enriching opportunities beyond the traditional classroom. Our programs aim to enhance the educational experience, promote lifelong learning, and strengthen our community bonds.

## YOUTH AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our youth after-school programs offer a variety of activities designed to engage students in meaningful, fun, and educational experiences. From homework help and STEM clubs to arts and crafts, there's something for every interest. These programs provide a safe and nurturing environment where children can develop new skills, make friends, and enjoy their time after school.

## YOUTH SPORTS

We are proud to offer an extensive array of youth sports programs. Whether your child is interested in swimming, basketball, volleyball, softball, or our new ninja gym,

we have something to keep them active and healthy. Our sports programs focus not only on physical fitness but also on teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.

## ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Education doesn't stop at graduation. Our adult education classes cater to a wide range of interests and skill levels. Whether you're looking to learn a new hobby, enhance your professional skills, or simply meet new people, we have classes for you. From cooking and arts to technology and fitness, our adult education offerings are designed to inspire and empower.

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR – NOVEMBER 23

Mark your calendars for our First annual Holiday Bazaar on November 23rd! We hope this will become a beloved community event featuring local artisans, crafts, food vendors, and festive activities for the whole family. It's a wonderful opportunity to kick off the holiday season, support local businesses, and connect with your neighbors.

## NEW NINJA GYM

We are excited to announce the opening of our new ninja gym! This state-of-the-art facility offers a unique and fun way for kids to build strength, agility, and confidence. With obstacle courses and challenges designed for all skill levels, the ninja gym is sure to become a favorite among our youth.

Thank you for your continued support of our Community Education programs. Together, we can create a vibrant, inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to succeed. If you have any questions or would like more information about our programs, please don't hesitate to contact us.

*Here's to a fantastic school year filled with learning, growth, and community spirit!*

Warm regards,  
*Chad Hazelton*  
Community Education Director  
Rock Ridge Public Schools

# ROCK RIDGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASS OFFERINGS

## YOUTH CRAFT CLASSES

### BACK TO SCHOOL CRAFT

THURS. SEPT. 12 3:00-4:30PM  
NORTH STAR ELEM. \$15

THURS. SEPT. 19 3:00-4:30PM  
PARKVIEW ELEM. \$15

THURS. SEPT. 26 3-4:30PM  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$15

Celebrate school spirit by making projects using apples, creating a school themed magnet for

homework reminders, an owl on a stick, plus other fun projects.

### HALLOWEEN CRAFTS

THURS. OCT. 3 3:00-4:30PM  
NORTH STAR ELEM. \$15

THURS. OCT. 10 3:00-4:30PM  
PARKVIEW ELEM. \$15

THURS. OCT. 24 3:00-4:30PM  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$15

It's October and time to craft up a Halloween spider that holds a lollipop, decorate a witch hat, a Halloween ghost scene and another with Halloween dogs, plus paint a wood pumpkin decoration and more!

### FALL & THANKSGIVING

THURS. NOV. 7 3:00-4:30PM  
NORTH STAR ELEM. \$15

THURS. NOV. 14 3:00-4:30PM  
PARKVIEW ELEM. \$15

THURS. NOV. 21 3:00-4:30PM  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$15

Turkeys, colored leaves, scarecrows, and woodland critters will all be part of our Thanksgiving and Fall Craft class.

# YOUTH CRAFTS

## HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS

**THURS. DEC. 5 3:00-4:30PM**  
NORTH STAR ELEM. \$15

**THURS. DEC. 12 3:00-4:30PM**  
PARKVIEW ELEM. \$15

**THURS. DEC. 19 3:00-4:30PM**  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$15

Create ornaments to make your tree sparkle, we'll decorate some holiday cookies, paint, and color! Let's prepare for "almost" everyone's favorite holiday!! (Unless you're a Grinch, and we'll make a craft with him in it too:)

## BUILD YOUR OWN GINGERBREAD HOUSE

**TUES. DEC. 7 5:30-7:30PM**  
NORTH STAR ELEM. \$27

Build and decorate your own gingerbread house. This is a family event, so Mom, Dad, or even Grandma can bring a child or two to work together on a house. **Must include 1 Adult.** Space is limited, so register early!

# ENRICHMENT

## STEAM DESIGN CHALLENGE

**TUES. SEPT. 24 3:00-4:30PM**  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$20

The challenge, if you choose to accept it: Using only pencils and masking tape, design the tallest tower you can that is capable of supporting the weight of an apple on top.

## SAFE ON MY OWN GRADES 3-6

**MON. OCT. 7 2:55-4:30PM**  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$10

Learn basics of 1st Aid and Safety for latch key children. A great class for children so they know what to do and how to handle situations. Snack & materials included. Class size limited to 20 students.

## STEAM DESIGN CHALLENGE

**TUES. OCT. 8 3:00-4:30PM**  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$20

Your mission for this challenge is to build the largest free-standing arch that you are able to build using only sugar cubes and frosting.

## STEAM DESIGN CHALLENGE

**TUES. NOV. 12 3:00-4:30PM**  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$20

Your mission for this challenge is to use a balloon for your base, then add other materials to it to design and build a balloon float that can be used in a parade.

## BABYSITTERS' TRAINING

**AGES 11-15**  
**MON-WED. 12/2-12/4 2:55-5:30PM**  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$56

For boys and girls who want to be responsible babysitters. You'll receive the Babysitters' Handbook and other useful handouts. Students receive a certificate if they are age 11 or older. Bring a snack for after school. Class size limited to the first 12 paid participants. Early Release Wed. will be 1:55-4:30PM Anna Amundson, Instructor.

## STEAM DESIGN CHALLENGE

**TUES. DEC. 10 3:00-4:30PM**  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$20

Your mission is to build the most beautiful and festive Christmas tree or reindeer that you can using green straws and red playdough. Your main material for the reindeer will be cardboard but you may use other material as well. Your goal is to think outside the box!

# GENERAL INTEREST

## INSTANT PIANO FOR HOPELESSLY BUSY PEOPLE

**MON. NOV. 25 6:30-9:30PM**  
VIA ZOOM \$69

You can learn enough secrets of the trade to give you years of musical enjoyment. Since this class is held online with ZOOM there is no pressure and includes an online book and follow up video lessons, you will be able to continue and study on your own. Call for more info. 218-735-3516. Online registration.

## INSTANT GUITAR FOR HOPELESSLY BUSY PEOPLE

**TUES. NOV. 26 6:00-9:00PM**  
VIA ZOOM \$69

This crash course will teach you some basic chords and get you playing along with your favorite songs right away. Since this class is held online with ZOOM there is no pressure and includes an online book and follow up

video lessons, you will be able to continue and study on your own. For students 13 years or older. Online registration

## EXPRESSIVE ACRYLIC PAINTING

**WED. SEPT. 25 5:00-7:00PM**  
NORTH STAR ELEM. \$35

Instructor will lead you through drawing and painting an apple on an 8x10 canvas. Learn to use color and texture to make an expressive painting. All supplies included. Online registration.

## EUCALYPTUS WREATH

**THURS. NOV. 21 6-7:30PM**  
LAURENTIAN ELEM. \$85

We will use a variety of eucalyptus to make a fragrant textual, and lush wreath. With a short demonstration, you will leave with a one-of-a-kind wreath. Greenery can be sticky and might stain, so if you'd like to bring an apron to work with and older clothes- please do.

## LET'S PAINT SLEDS

**WED. DEC. 4. 6:00-8:30PM**  
ROCK RIDGE H.S. \$48

Come with a willingness to learn and be creative and you will paint a winter themed sled to hang up for the winter! The sled measures 18" and you pick from the designs pictured! Fee includes all project supplies.

## MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS WREATH

**WED. NOV. 20 4:30-5:30 OR 5:30-6:30**  
ROCK RIDGE H.S. SHOP ROOM

Make your own Christmas wreath using balsam boughs, beads, and bows. All supplies provided by instructor. Bring a pair of hand pruners and gloves if you have them. Register by Nov. 9th so that we can be sure to have enough supplies for you! \$35 for 24-inch wreath or \$50 for a 30-inch wreath. Add \$5 if you want to add lights to your wreath.

## DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS -VIRGINIA CAMPUS

**ROCK RIDGE H.S. \$20**  
**MON. SEPT. 30 4:00PM - 8:00PM**  
**MON. OCT. 28 4:00PM - 8:00PM**  
**MON. DEC. 9 4:00PM - 8:00PM**

You must be 55 or older to participate. Classes are \$1 per person. This class is for the individual who has had a previous 8-hour class. Participants will receive a reduction in their car insurance after completing this class. Call Julie at 218-735-3516 to register. Bryan Carey, Instructor.

## ESTATE & NURSING HOME PLANNING

**TUES. OCT. 1 5:30-7:00PM**  
ROCK RIDGE COMM. ROOM FREE

Get your estate in order by planning for incompetency and/or death. Learn why you need a Power of Attorney, Health Care Directive, and Will. Also, get up-to-date information about nursing home planning and learn how titling your assets impacts your estate and nursing home planning. This class is free, but registration is required. Please call 218-735-3516 to register! Alicia L. Cope Instructor.

## FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS: RETIREMENT INVESTING

**TUES. SEPT. 17 6:00-7:00PM**  
ROCK RIDGE COMM. ROOM FREE

Attendees will learn four smart retirement planning moves, tactical changes they can make that set up their retirement foundation. You will also learn the answer to that nagging question about Social Security. This class is free, but registration is required. Please call 218-735-3516 to register! Online registration also available.

## SOCIAL SECURITY- TIMING IS EVERYTHING

**TUES. OCT. 8 6:00-7:00PM**  
ROCK RIDGE COMM. ROOM. FREE

Social Security is a vital income source for many retirees. It can be a confusing topic and making the most of it can have a lot to do with timing it right. Get answers to their questions and learn what Social Security can mean to you. Class is free, but registration is required. Please call 218-735-3516 to register! Online registration also available.

## KEEPING THE FARM IN THE FAMILY

**TUES. NOV. 12 6:00-7:00PM**  
ROCK RIDGE COMM. ROOM FREE

You worked hard for your family cabin or small business. Gain a basic understanding of how to identify and overcome transitions obstacles. Protect assets and develop a strategy to smoothly transition their cherished place to family. This class is free, but registration is required. Please call 218-735-3516 to register! Online registration also available.

# FITNESS

## YOGA

**ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**WED. OCT. 2, 16, 23, 30**  
**5:30-6:30PM \$45**  
**WED., NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**5:30-6:30PM \$45**  
**WED., DEC. 4, 11, 18**  
**5:30-6:30PM \$35**

Gain flexibility and strength, reduce stress, sleep better, feel better, and calm your mind and body with a flow of yoga poses. Bring your yoga mat and dress in clothing you can move freely in. All levels welcome. Nancy Henderson-Korpi has decades of experience and training in fitness and yoga-based instruction. Pay instructor at class upon arrival. Please note that the schedule may be subject to change and will be posted.

## MORNING LAP SWIM

**ROCK RIDGE H.S. POOL**  
**M, W, F 6:00AM-8:00AM**  
**MON-THURS. 11:30AM-1:00PM**

Adult Lap Swim for ages 12 and up. There will be at least one certified lifeguard on duty. \$5 per swim or punch cards will be available. Nancy Reed, Instructor.

Check [rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com](https://rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com) for upcoming Family Swim Nights and added swim lessons! Also coming is Aqua Rock Aerobics! Watch for details!

## ELEMENTARY SWIM CLUB

**ROCK RIDGE H.S. POOL**  
**M, W, F 5:30-6:30PM \$90/SESS.**  
**SESSION 1 SEPT. 9-NOV. 2**

For students in Grades 3-6. This is for the kids who want to prepare to be on the swim team someday. Must be able to swim the length of the pool unassisted and have a basic understanding of the 4 competitive strokes. Sign up online. <https://rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com>

# SPORTS

**MONDAYS MONTHLY- \$55**  
**STARTS SEPT. 30 3:30-4:15PM**

**NORTH STAR NINJA GYM**  
 Join the Warrior Kid Club at the NEW Ninja Gym! Becoming a warrior kid isn't easy. It involves a lot of exercise, eating right, studying hard and staying disciplined. Do you have what it takes to become a warrior Kid? Each week you will have a set of Warrior tasks to complete and discuss at the next class.

## NINJA WARRIOR CLASSES

**NINJA INSTRUCTION FROM A LICENSED NINJA COACH!**  
**NORTH STAR NINJA GYM**  
**\$75 / 18 HOURS**

**STUDENTS AGES 5-8**  
**T-TH 3:30-4:30 SEPT. 10 - OCT. 17**

**STUDENTS AGES 9-15**  
**T-TH 4:30-5:30 SEPT. 10 - OCT. 17**

**STUDENTS AGES 5-8**  
**T-TH 5:30-6:30 SEPT. 10 - OCT. 17**  
**MORE DETAILS ON WEBSITE!**

# TRIPS

**WHITE CHRISTMAS**  
**SAT. NOV. 23, 2024 \$153**

The cost of this day trip includes deluxe-motorcoach-bus fare, show ticket, and lunch from the menu at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre (tax and gratuity included). Tickets are limited; there are no refunds for cancellations unless seat can be sold to another party. All patrons will be refunded if the trip is canceled. Register online at [rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com](https://rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com) or contact Julie or Chad at 218-735-3516 for information. Students must be 5 years old and up; 17 and under must be accompanied adult. Registration deadline is Thurs., Oct. 24, 2024 at 5:00PM.

**HOLIDAY TEA AT THE HISTORIC COTTON MANSION IN DULUTH**  
**\$41 PER PERSON**

**SUN. DEC. 15 1:00- 3:00PM**  
**COTTON MANSION 2309 E. 1ST ST**  
 Listen to a short history of the mansion which was built in 1908 by Joseph B. Cotton, the attorney for John D. Rockefeller and US Steel. Wander through the beautifully decorated

mansion, and step back in time as you enjoy sandwiches, cookies, scones, small cakes, and tea (included in the cost). Free parking is available on the street. No refunds for cancellation unless ticket can be sold to another party. All patrons will be refunded if the event is canceled. Registration deadline is November 14 at 5:00 P.M. Please note that the mansion is not wheelchair-accessible; a rear entrance with 2 steps can be utilized by anyone with mobility issues—indicate when registering.

# COOKING

**CHARCUTERIE BOARD PERSONALIZE BUILD CLASS**

**WED. OCT. 30 5:30-7:30PM**  
**ROCK RIDGE H.S. \$60**  
 Take home a personalized cutting board with a lovely spread of goodies. Choose design when you sign up! We will discuss many different boards that are fun and easy to assemble. Choose your board- limited quantities.  
 24x8 Live Edge Board  
 18x14 Teak Board  
 17.5x8.5 Board /long Handle  
 20x11 Live Edge Board  
 15x12 Board with Handle  
 14x11 Beveled Board  
 Online registration.

## APPETIZER EXCHANGE

**WED. OCT. 9 5:30-7:00PM**  
**ROCK RIDGE H.S. \$10**  
 Tired of bringing the same appetizer to the party? Well, your old tried and true recipes may be new to others, and they might have some that are new to you! Come to this class with 1 of your favorites, with enough to share with others, and the recipe. (We will make copies for others). We can have a fun night of sharing and socializing! Plates, napkins, and drinks will be provided. Online registration.

## APPLE STRUDEL CLASS

**WED. NOV. 13 5:30-7:00PM**  
**ROCK RIDGE H.S. \$35**  
 Learn how to prepare an Apple Strudel like your grandma did! Enjoy the fruits of your labor by taking home a delicious Apple Strudel! Please bring a paring knife and a rolling pin to class. Everything else will be provided. Sign up early class is limited to 6 participants. Online registration.

# COOKING FOR THE FREEZER

**THURS. NOV. 7 5:30-8:00PM**  
**RRHS CULINARY ARTS ROOM \$90**  
 Prepare 4 main dishes, for a family of 6, that goes from freezer to crockpot or Instant pot. All the shopping will be done except for a few things listed below. Recipes include Chicken/Spinach Pasta- (this recipe make 2 9x13 pans), Baked Teriyaki Chicken Vegetable and Rice, Garlic Pork Stir-Fry, Upside down Meatloaf. Each meal will include cooking instructions and a list of any ingredients/toppings. Please bring shredded chicken from a Rotisserie Chicken, 6 small boneless, skinless chicken breasts, 3 lbs. pork loin or pork roast-cut into 1-inch cubes, 1.5 lbs. hamburger. Online registration.

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

**TUES. DEC. 10 5:30-7:00PM**  
**ROCK RIDGE H. S. \$10**  
 Get into the Holiday spirit and get a great variety of Christmas cookies for your Holiday! Bake 5 doz. of your favorite Christmas cookies and bring them along with a printed copy of the recipe to share! You'll go home with a variety of holiday cookies to enjoy during the holiday season. Class is limited to 10 people. Appetizers and drinks will be served. Online registration.

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR VENDORS FOR OUR HOLIDAY BAZAAR!

Great opportunity to become involved in your community and share your products!  
**SAT. NOV. 23 NORTH STAR ELEM.**  
 Contact Chad Hazelton [chad.hazelton@rrps.org](mailto:chad.hazelton@rrps.org) if interested

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR INSTRUCTORS!

We are always seeking to offer a diverse range of classes to our community members, and we believe that your expertise and passion could make a valuable addition to our program. If you have a special skill, hobby, or area of expertise that you are passionate about sharing with others, we would love to hear your ideas for potential classes. If you are interested in teaching this class or have any other class ideas that you would like to explore further, please reach out to Chad Hazelton ([chad.hazelton@rrps.org](mailto:chad.hazelton@rrps.org))

# WELCOME TO THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



## LET'S GET SOCIAL



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