

JANUARY 2025 | ISSUE 31

ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

LAURENTIAN GRADES PREK-6 WOLVERINE STUDENTS EXCEED FOOD DRIVE GOAL

The students and staff of Laurentian Elementary are proud to announce the success of their recent Food Drive, which far surpassed initial expectations. Between the donations brought in by students and those collected at the school's music concert, the community rallied together to donate over 600 pounds of food and \$1,251.25 in cash to support local families in need!

The donations were delivered to the Quad Cities Food Shelf an organization dedicated to helping those facing food insecurity. The school's commitment to service and giving back continues to inspire both students and families alike.

A special thank you goes out to all who contributed, as well as to the volunteers who helped organize the donations. Way to go, Wolverines!

A MOST-FAVORITE TRADITION

The fourth grade students went skating at the Hippodrome before the holiday break.



PARKVIEW GRADES PREK-2 HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The holiday season was in full swing at Parkview Elementary in December and we are excited to share all the wonderful festive activities that took place throughout the school!

Pre-K Gingerbread Houses

Our youngest learners in Pre-K got into the holiday spirit by crafting their own gingerbread houses. With frosting, candies, and imagination, these little ones created some truly sweet masterpieces.



Kindergarten Painting and Holiday Center Activities



Kindergarten classrooms were bustling with holiday excitement as students engaged in festive painting projects and participated in holiday-themed center activities. These hands-on experiences brought joy and creativity into the classroom during this special time of year.

1st Grade Sing and Gingerbread Houses

Our talented 1st graders spread holiday cheer with their annual holiday sing-along performance. Families enjoyed this musical treat as the students sang their hearts out to beloved holiday classics. After the performance, everyone joined in for a fun gingerbread house-making session where creativity and holiday spirit came together in a delightful activity.



ECFE Holiday Special Night for Families

Families joined us for a special ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) holiday night. This fun-filled evening included various holiday-themed activities, crafts, and a chance for families to come together and celebrate the season in a warm and welcoming environment.



Rock Ridge High School Band Performance

We were thrilled to welcome the Rock Ridge High School band to Parkview Elementary! They performed holiday music in the hallways, filling our school with the sounds of the season. This special performance inspired and delighted students and staff alike.



We loved seeing our Parkview-Elementary community come together to celebrate the magic of the holidays!

LEADING THE WAY AT PARKVIEW

Congratulations to these rock-star students at Parkview who were recently recognized for being positive leaders in the classroom and around the school!



NORTH STAR

GRADES 3-6

3RD GRADE READING CHAMPIONS

In the heart of Minnesota’s Iron Range, third graders at North Star Elementary School are embarking on a reading journey tied to one of the region’s most beloved sports—hockey. Principal Scott Manni is proud to announce that North Star has been selected as the first school in Minnesota to pilot U.S. Steel’s “Reading Champions Program,” an initiative designed to improve literacy while fostering community connections.

“This program is a fantastic opportunity to combine our school’s commitment to literacy with the Iron Range’s deep mining roots,” said Manni. “Partnering with U.S. Steel allows us to provide meaningful and engaging learning experiences for our students while celebrating the heritage of our community.”

Through a partnership between U.S. Steel and the Pittsburgh Penguins, the program delivers 25 carefully selected books to each third-grade classroom. Over the course of eight weeks, students will dedicate 20 minutes daily to reading these books, a nod to the 20 minutes in a hockey period. The initiative is designed to make reading enjoyable and impactful, with themes ranging from hockey and active lifestyles to fiction and non-fiction, ensuring materials cater to various reading levels.

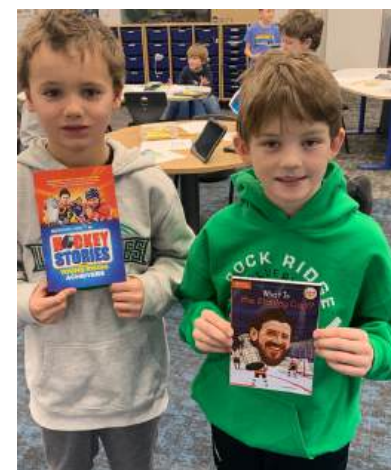
The program, which originated in Pittsburgh’s Mon Valley schools in 2021, has demonstrated impressive results, including a 20% improvement in third-grade reading proficiency over three years. North Star’s third graders will have the chance to earn prizes, such as the “Steel Cup”—a playful homage to hockey’s Stanley Cup—and plaques for classroom achievements.

Beyond the books and prizes, U.S. Steel employees and volunteers will also engage directly with students, reading to classrooms and reinforcing the importance of literacy. “This partnership shows how invested U.S. Steel is in the future of our students and community,” Manni added.



The ultimate goal of the program is to address learning gaps exacerbated by the pandemic and to cultivate a lifelong love of reading among students. “It’s amazing to see the energy this program brings to our classrooms,” Manni said. “I’m incredibly proud of our students, staff, and community for embracing this opportunity to make a real difference in literacy and learning.”

With the program’s success at North Star, U.S. Steel envisions expanding it to other Iron Range schools, further solidifying the connection between industry, education, and the region’s future



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to these North Star Elementary Students of the Month for the month of December!

These amazing students demonstrated *Habit 1: Be Proactive* by taking responsibility for their actions and making positive choices. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People help our students develop leadership skills, build strong character, and create a culture of excellence. Thank you for being role models and leading the way at North Star Elementary!



THE SWEETEST THANK YOU

North Star students are living out their building goal of "Our School, Our Responsibility" every day!

On Fridays, students cook and deliver treats to thank the staff who work so hard for them—a thoughtful token of their appreciation. (BONUS: Without being asked, they washed and put away all the dishes afterward!)

We're so proud of our students for their kindness, initiative, and responsibility. They're showing everyone what it means to care for our school community!



RRHS GRADES 7-12 ROCK RIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Rock Ridge Construction students were challenged with making a much-needed improvement to the baseball/softball complex this past fall.

The problem was that there is a steep bank located behind the varsity baseball press box and dirt would wash out onto the sidewalk resulting in the path always being covered in mud. The solution that the class came up with was to add an additional sidewalk and a retaining wall to deflect the runoff away from the cement sidewalks.

The students installed forms, set the rebar, and then poured and finished the concrete. The retaining wall was a little more complicated which involved building reinforced forms, with a lot of bracing to keep the forms in place.

This was the first larger-sized concrete project completed by Rock Ridge students and it turned out looking really good! Thank you to Benz Construction for completing the dirt work, and Twin City Seed Company for donating the seed.



SHOWING AN INTEREST IN NETWORKING

In Mr. Caddy's 9-12th Grade Computer Science class, students learned about networking and security with Mr. Keith Boelk. Keith is the IT Network and Security Instructor from Minnesota North - Hibbing Campus. Thanks, Mr. Boelk, for sharing your knowledge with our Rock Ridge students.



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WINTER CARNIVAL 2024

Just before winter break, CORE students hosted Rock Ridge's first ever Winter Carnival! 7th-12th grade students were able to spend quality time with their friends and teachers playing broomball, snowshoeing, playing board games, making arts and crafts, or playing games in the gym. Mr. Norman and Mr. Christiansen took turns challenging students to broomball; Mr. Tikkanen could be seen playing basketball in the gym; and Ms. Jankila spent time alongside students coloring and making winter themed crafts. It was a great way to end the last day of school.

CORE (Creating Our Range Everyday) is a student group focused on building their own leadership skills as well as providing fun, safe activities for all students to participate in. Students who enjoy participating in community/school traditions and who feel a sense of belonging in high school actually have better health outcomes and have higher levels of school engagement.

This was a great opportunity to have fun while supporting students!



CIVIL WAR STUDIES

The seventh grade U.S. Studies and English classes recently completed an extensive Civil War cooperative learning project.

Students, individually or in groups, had the opportunity to explore a wide variety of topics and issues centering around the Civil War era. After a week of researching their chosen topic, students created well-organized slide presentations, dioramas, posters or videos.

Finally, students shared their work in a gallery walk, evaluating each other's work.



NHS CLASS OF 2025

Students who were selected for the Rock Ridge National Honor Society were inducted recently. NHS officers and current members lead the inductees through the traditional candle lighting ceremony.

Juniors and Seniors who have shown high academic achievement are invited to apply for NHS in the fall. Applications are reviewed by the faculty council looking for students who have shown a commitment to service, leadership, and character.

NHS students work on service projects for their school and communities as well complete 30 individual hours of tutoring and volunteering each year.

Congratulations, Rock Ridge National Honor Society Class of 2025!



SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

Members of the RRHS Orchestra attended the UW-Superior Honors Orchestra Day on December 3.

The theme was music from around the world. They learned music from Africa, Singapore, Iceland, the U.S., and Sweden.

They worked with other students from Superior, Duluth, Hibbing, and Bemidji, and performed a concert for the public at the end of the day.

Many thanks to Dr. Erin Aldridge for a spectacular day!



SEAC LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

Interested in joining the Special Education Advisory Council? Rock Ridge Public Schools is looking for community members, staff, and parents to join in the discussions and provide input on special education issues. The SEAC, along with the District's Special Education Director, will collaborate to promote respect and inclusion for all students and families, build strong relationships between families and school, empower and support parents to effectively advocate for children. Please fill out this form if you are interested! We would love to have you!

[Special Education Advisory Council Application](#)



REMINDER:

**NO SCHOOL FOR ALL ROCK RIDGE STUDENTS
MONDAY, JANUARY 20 &
FRIDAY, JANUARY 24**



Community Education Classes

YOUTH CLASSES

Valentines Cookie Decorating \$25/child

Thurs, Feb. 13 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM | RRHS

Kids, grab an adult and come join Zaden and his mom decorate Valentine's Day cookies. Each child will receive all the ingredients needed to decorate a dozen pre-cooked sugar cookies and take them home. Enjoy all the fun and leave the clean up to us! Each child needs to have an adult present to help during class. Class size limited to 15 children. Register by February 1.

Elementary Swim Club \$90/session

M, W, F | 5:30 - 6:30 PM | RRHS

For students in Grades 3-6. This is for the swimmer who wants 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.

Ninja Warrior Classes \$75/session

NSE NINJA GYM

Ninja Warrior Welcome to the Ninja Warrior Class, where young warriors aged 5-15 embark on an epic adventure filled with excitement, agility, and fun! This action-packed class is designed to develop essential ninja skills through engaging and dynamic activities that keep kids moving, learning, and smiling. Classes are 3 days a week for 6 weeks. Check the website for registration and more information.

Warrior Kid Club \$55/month

Mondays | 3:30-4:15 PM | NSE NINJA GYM

Becoming a Warrior Kid 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.

January 2025



Snowmobile Safety Training Rock Ridge

Community Education is partnering with the DNR to offer Snowmobile Safety Training at Laurentian Elementary School (1409 Progress Parkway, Eveleth). This essential training, led by DNR volunteers, will ensure participants are prepared to safely operate a snowmobile within Minnesota. Class Schedule: Day 1: Tues, February 25, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Registration 5:00 PM). Day 2: Thurs, February 27, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Driving Test: Sat, March 1, 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM at the DNR Office on HWY 37, Eveleth. Requirements: Participants must be 12 years old by Dec 2025. A parent/guardian must sign in at registration. Those completing the online course must still pre-register for the driving test. Bring birth certificate or other safety certificate to verify age. Reminder: Anyone born after December 31, 1976, must have a Snowmobile Safety Certificate or a driver's license with a snowmobile endorsement to legally operate a snowmobile in MN. Questions or to register: Contact Bill or Patty at 218-865-4664. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and ensure safe snowmobiling!

ADULT CLASSES

Yoga at Rock Ridge High School

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM | \$45

Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM | \$45

Gain flexibility and strength, reduce stress, sleep better, feel better, and calm your mind and body with a flow of yoga poses. Bring a yoga mat and props. Dress in clothing you can move freely in. All levels welcome.

Morning Lap Swim

M, W, F | 6:00 - 8:00 AM | RRHS

Adult Lap Swim for ages 12 and up. \$5/class or punch cards available. Lifeguard on duty.

Aqua Rock Fitness

Wednesdays | RRHS | 6:30 - 7:15 PM

\$5/class or punch cards available: 6 punches (\$25), 12 punches (\$50).

For more information and to sign up online go to: rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com or call (218) 735-3516.