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RR ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

LAURENTIAN GRADES PREK-6 ORBIT EARTH

Rock Ridge Laurentian Elementary P.T.A. was excited to bring a fun and educational traveling program to our school thanks to the fundraising during last year's Booster Glow Run.

The program was called "Orbit Earth". Our presenter brought a huge 14-foot model of the earth along with a proportionate scale moon and students were able to volunteer to help move the models to demonstrate rotation of the Earth and the orbit of the moon around earth. A spotlight represented the light of the sun and students saw how the moon's shadow created a solar eclipse. The program was tailored to each grade level. Younger students used small handheld models to show how the Earth and moon orbit the sun. Older students learned about moon phases, seasons, tides, and how wind is created, then volunteered to hold planet models and "orbit" together to demonstrate a moving solar system.

Our students were well-behaved and eager to participate. The P.T.A. has more fun planned for later this school year, and we thank the parents and teachers for helping us make these experiences possible.

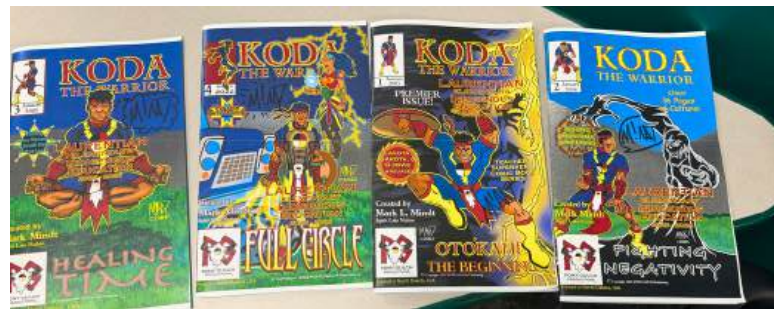


AUTHOR VISIT: MARK MINDT AND KODA THE WARRIOR

Laurentian Elementary was excited to welcome Mark Mindt, author and illustrator of the KODA the Warrior children's book series and a citizen of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation. Mr. Mindt shared an inspiring presentation with our students focused on improving attendance, encouraging positive behaviors, and promoting achievable academic goals. Through KODA's story, students learned about perseverance, courage, and believing in themselves. We're grateful to Mr. Mindt for visiting our school and sparking excitement for reading, learning, and leadership!



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COOKING WITH KIDS

"Cooking with Kids" is a hit with our youngest learners in Early Childhood Family Education Specialty Class. Every Friday, our little chefs put on their aprons and chef hats and prepare a new recipe or two. They are measuring, following 1-2 step directions, and trying new foods.



The young learners stir, use plastic knives for cutting, and mix ingredients to add fruits for yogurt parfaits, peppers for pizzas, and apples for apple pies.



On Halloween, they even made broomsticks out of pretzels and cheese sticks. They also made ghosts out of bananas and mini-M&Ms. And the best part? The kids get to eat their creations when completed! Yum, yum!





ANNOUNCING THE OCTOBER FOCUS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Laurentian Elementary is proud to recognize our FOCUS Students of the Month for October. These students were nominated by their teachers for consistently demonstrating outstanding focus and responsibility in the classroom. Qualifying students show strong attention and listening skills, stay on task, complete their work, and set goals—then put in the effort to achieve them.

Congratulations to our October recipients for modeling excellent work habits and commitment to learning!

HALLOWEEN AT ROCK RIDGE



PARKVIEW

GRADES PREK-2

DID YOU KNOW!?

Second graders learned how to determine a pumpkin with the most pumpkin seeds. The class opened two pumpkins - a small pumpkin and a big pumpkin. The class predicted which pumpkin would have the most seeds in it and how many seeds they thought each pumpkin had. Most students chose the big pumpkin as having more seeds.



Students sorted seeds and skip counted to see how many seeds each pumpkin contained. They observed that the little pumpkin was darker orange and had more lines. A pumpkin that is darker orange has been on the vine longer. The longer a pumpkin is on the vine, the more lines it gets. Each line represents a row of seeds. This is why a little pumpkin may have more seeds than a big pumpkin.

Nature has some pretty cool surprises—our 2nd graders were amazed!



PUMPKIN FUN IN 2ND GRADE

Mrs. Streier's second graders got into the Halloween spirit with a hands-on pumpkin carving activity on Halloween Day — and for a few students, it was their very first time carving a pumpkin!

Students worked together in small groups, demonstrating teamwork, patience, and plenty of creativity as they scooped out seeds and designed their own pumpkin faces. Some students even chose to paint their pumpkins instead, showing that there's more than one way to bring a pumpkin to life.

Whether they carved, scooped, or painted, every student walked away proud of their pumpkin masterpiece and excited to show it off. It was a memorable blend of seasonal fun, creativity, and learning — the perfect way to celebrate Halloween in second grade!



NORTH STAR

GRADES 3-6

FOURTH GRADERS FALL INTO LEARNING AT THE SCHOOL FOREST

This fall, our fourth graders traded the classroom for the great outdoors and spent several mornings learning in the Chris Holmes School Forest! Students enjoyed many mornings outdoors, exploring, building, and connecting with nature.

One of the favorite activities was building survival shelters. Using only natural materials, small groups worked together to create sturdy hideouts that could keep them safe and dry in the wild. It was amazing to see their teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving in action!



"Let Nature be your Teacher."
William Wordsworth



Students also learned about plant and tree identification. They practiced recognizing different species by looking closely at leaves, bark, and shape. Each student then "adopted" a tree to observe in the fall and will check in on their tree in the spring, keeping notes on how it changes with the seasons.

Throughout the fall, students collected leaves to include in their own field guides. They carefully labeled and pressed each one, building a personal record of the plants they found.

To wrap up their fall forest adventure, the students built fires at the campground, roasted marshmallows, and enjoyed hot chocolate.

This fall, the Chris Holmes School Forest was filled with hands-on learning, laughter, and fresh air. Our fourth graders came back with muddy clothes and shoes, big smiles, and a deeper appreciation for the forest!



RRHS GRADES 7-12

This fall has been a season of achievement, exploration, and community partnership across Rock Ridge High School. From championship victories to leadership in the arts and service, our students continue to embody the spirit of “Our School, Our Responsibility”.

GIRLS TENNIS HISTORIC VICTORY



Congratulations to the Rock Ridge Girls Tennis Team for capturing the first-ever state team title in Rock Ridge history! This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the hard work, determination, and teamwork of our student-athletes and coaches. Their success has united our school and community in pride and celebration.



MUSICAL EXCELLENCE AT UMD

On October 23, members of the Rock Ridge High School orchestra took part in the UMD Honors Orchestra Day, joining talented musicians from across Northern Minnesota and Superior, WI.



Students rehearsed throughout the day and capped the event with an afternoon concert that showcased the region’s outstanding musical talent and collaboration.



CORE STUDENTS LEAD IN PREVENTION EDUCATION

Rock Ridge CORE students represented the school at the Minnesota Prevention Program Sharing Conference, a statewide event focused on preventing substance use and promoting healthy choices. Students met with organizations, attended breakout sessions, listened to a keynote speaker, and collaborated with regional partners to develop new prevention strategies for their peers.



CELEBRATING LOCAL VOICES IN LITERATURE AND MEDIA

In partnership with the Friends of the Library groups from Virginia and Eveleth, RRHS hosted a special event celebrating local authors, journalists, and photographers.



Students from Mrs. Greenly's Journalism and Mrs. Takanen's Media Studies classes attended, engaging in thoughtful discussions about storytelling, ethics, and creative careers. The event offered a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning to real-world experiences in writing, media, and communication.

UNIFIED ATHLETICS PROGRAM LAUNCHES AT ROCK RIDGE

This fall marked the beginning of the Unified Athletics Program, an initiative that brings together students with and without disabilities to train, compete, and build friendships through inclusive sports. The program reflects the Rock Ridge belief that every student has a role in building a stronger, more connected school community.



STUDENTS EXPLORE FUTURE CAREERS

Eighty Rock Ridge students celebrated Manufacturing Month with a full-day tour of industries across Duluth and Superior. Students from Mr. Eichholz's welding class and Mr. Fyre's small engines class visited businesses including GPM Inc., Exodus Global, Hydro Solutions of Duluth, Arctic Compressor, and Genesis Attachments, gaining a firsthand look at every stage of the manufacturing process — from product design and planning to fabrication, quality control, and final distribution.



The experience gave students a real-world understanding of how modern manufacturing combines technology, precision, and teamwork to turn ideas into finished products. Learning about manufacturing not only connects classroom lessons to practical applications but also helps students explore potential career paths in high-demand technical fields. Tours like this highlight the importance of skilled trades and manufacturing careers in supporting both local industry and the broader economy.



RRHS'S NEWEST NHS INDUCTEES

RRHS National Honor Society inducted 23 new members on Oct. 29 in the traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony. NHS serves to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. NHS officers Sophie Roark, Samantha Bartovich, Jase Matuszek, and Alley Anderson explained the significance of each pillar of the National Honor Society.

New members: Emma Berg, Savanna Bergman, Aiden Bird, Bryson Borich, Anna Fierst, Addison Golden, Madeline Hadrava, Corbet Hainey, Hannah Hartman, Lennon Hilde, Livia Houdek, Erin Hughes, Ava Johnsen, Miia Johnson, Lindsey Kramer, Sophia Lamppa, Amelia Mackey, Gianina Paulsen, Emmi Peterson, Noah Peterson, Carson Robinson, and Connor Saxhaug.



GIRLS TENNIS

2025 STATE TOURNAMENT



STATE CHAMPS!

Rock Ridge Wolverines
Class AA





Help Students Succeed at the Rock Ridge Elementary Schools!



Tutor with Volunteers in Education

- Support Student Learning at the Rock Ridge Elementary Schools (Laurentian, Parkview, and North Star)
- Experience the fulfillment of helping others
- Make a positive difference in your school and community
- Choose the grade level of students you wish to tutor
- Choose the content area(s) you wish to tutor
- Set your own tutoring schedule (options available during the school day and during out-of-school hours)

If you are interested in this community service opportunity, please scan the QR code below to complete the online Volunteer Information Form, or visit VinE-mn.org to find it.

Hard copy forms are also available on the website.



Online Volunteer Form

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Volunteers in Education
teresad@vine-mn.org
715-817-1565
www.VinE-mn.org