

DECEMBER 2025 | ISSUE 39

ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

LAURENTIAN GRADES PREK-6 VETERANS, WE THANK YOU

Laurentian Elementary held a special Veterans Day program November 11, to honor the men and women who have served our country. Students filled the heart space with excitement and respect as we welcomed three special guests, veterans Rodney Fielder, Gary Westerberg, and Jay Urban.



Beautiful music was provided by members of the Rock Ridge High School Orchestra and the Rock Ridge Choir, adding a meaningful tone for reflection and gratitude to the program. Their performances were a highlight of the event, and we are grateful for the talent they shared with us.

Our Laurentian students showed amazing respect, gratitude, and patriotism throughout the event, and we are very proud of how they represented our school. It was a simple, heartfelt celebration of gratitude for our veterans.

Thank you for your service, Veterans. Go Wolverines!



ROTARY DELIVERS

Our third graders were excited to receive brand-new Rotary dictionaries this month, and they jumped right into learning how to use them. Volunteers guided the students through a hands-on lesson, showing them how to look up words, use guide words, and explore all the extra features inside.

The kids were fully engaged—heads bent over pages, sharing discoveries with one another, and practicing new skills as they flipped through their dictionaries. It was a wonderful learning experience, and the students left feeling confident, proud, and eager to use their dictionaries in class.



WOLVERINES IN THE WILD

Exciting news to share!

As a part of our commitment to *Leader in Me*, Laurentian Elementary has created a board in the main thoroughfare to the gymnasium to celebrate our students' achievements and activities here at school and in the community.

Students and guardians are invited to send pictures to share on the board with their peers and school community. It's a great way for all of us to see all the great things happening with Wolverines here and all over.

If you are in the school, stop and have a look. Send any pictures your student would like to share with them to school or by email to sondra.mosher@rrps.org.

Please don't send anything that you need returned to you.



STUDENTS GLIDE INTO WINTER THANKS TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The 4th graders at Laurentian would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the Eveleth-Gilbert Golden Bear Foundation for their incredibly generous donation of \$500 toward new skates! It has been a long time since our fleet has been updated, and this gift will make a big difference for our students.

We also want to send a heartfelt "thank you" to Power Play Sports for their generous contributions, helping us stretch that funding to purchase as many skates as possible. Because of your support, many of our students are trying skating for the very first time—discovering confidence, joy, and a brand-new winter hobby!



PARKVIEW GRADES PREK-2 A WILD DAY OF LEARNING

Before Thanksgiving break, Mrs. Tyminski shared her expertise in identifying mammals, reptiles, birds, and insects with her students. They have been working hard toward their W.I.G. goal (Wildly Important Goals), and to celebrate their progress, she created a hands-on exploration day where students could touch and examine a variety of furs, bones, reptile skin, teeth, and full skeletons.

Her small groups were especially fascinated by how the moose bones connected to form the leg joint, sparking thoughtful questions and discussions.



In between learning reading and math, students also get to experience Mrs. Tyminski's deep love and respect for nature—something that truly enriches their time at school. Our students at Parkview are so thankful for Mrs. Tyminski and the unique learning experiences she provides!



HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

We enjoyed a wonderful "Spot of Feelings" party with our preschool families! Grown-ups joined their children to rotate through a variety of emotion-themed stations designed to spark conversation, creativity, and connection. Together, they created soothing calming jars filled with glitter and color, decorated cozy worry pockets to help little ones manage big feelings, made cheerful happy-face crafts that encouraged self-expression, and frosted cookies as a sweet celebration of all the emotions we experience.



It was truly heartwarming to watch families working side-by-side—laughing, learning, and talking with their children about how emotions shape our day. Our preschool classrooms were filled with bright colors, engaged learners, and countless joyful moments. The event not only strengthened our school-family partnership, but also reinforced the importance of emotional awareness, kindness, and supporting one another as we grow.



NORTH STAR

GRADES 3-6

5TH GRADERS CONNECT MATH, CONSTRUCTION, AND WRITING

Fifth graders in Mr. Cremers' class recently wrapped up an exciting cross-curricular project that blended math, hands-on construction skills (in our very own North Star Pohaki Lab), and creative writing.

After completing their fractions unit in math, students applied what they learned in a practical and engaging way by designing and building their very own book binders in construction class.

Using precise fraction measurements, students cut materials and assembled functional binders that showcased their understanding of accuracy, proportional thinking, and real-world application of math concepts. Their craftsmanship and attention to detail were impressive, and the pride they felt in creating something tangible was clear.

The project didn't end there. Students then took their binders and transformed them into fully original books that they wrote, illustrated, and organized themselves. From imaginative stories to thoughtful reflections, each book became a personalized showcase of creativity and hard work.

This project beautifully highlighted how learning is interconnected. By using math to build tools for writing, students experienced how academic skills can support one another. We are proud of our fifth graders for their collaboration, creativity, and effort, and we can't wait to see what they build and write next!



RRHS GRADES 7-12

ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES A MONTH OF ACHIEVEMENT, LEADERSHIP, AND WOLVERINE PRIDE

Rock Ridge High School has experienced a remarkable month filled with student achievement, hands-on learning, and a growing culture of responsibility that continues to define what it means to be a Wolverine. Across academics, activities, leadership, and safety, students and staff have embraced the belief that success is not accidental—it is the result of a community living out “Our School, Our Responsibility.”

This month, Rock Ridge students shined in academic competitions, including outstanding performances in the Voice of Democracy audio-essay contest. Lucia Steele earned first place, Abigail Deedrick took second, and Noah Marks finished third—an incredible representation of the thoughtful, articulate students within our school.



In STEAM, students brought learning to life as Mr. Caddy's eighth graders applied real-world concepts through circuitry and electrical design, demonstrating the impact of hands-on learning. Meanwhile, 80 Rock Ridge students participated in Manufacturing Month tours across Duluth and Superior, connecting classroom instruction to meaningful career pathways in welding, small engines, and advanced manufacturing.



Rock Ridge's Career & Technical Education programs also reached a new milestone as Building & Construction students showcased “The Wolverine”—a fully student-designed and student-built ice-fishing house—during a public open house. The pride on display was unmistakable, proving once again that students rise to exceptional levels when given the opportunity to build, create, and contribute. As Principal Manni noted, these projects take learning to the next level and reflect the innovative spirit of the Iron Range.





The school also celebrated another major accomplishment as Rock Ridge High School received an international design award for its state-of-the-art, student-centered facility. This recognition highlights the creativity, collaboration, and vision that shaped a building designed not just for instruction, but for community, connection, and future-ready learning. The building itself has become a daily reminder of the possibilities that occur when a district dreams boldly.



School culture continued to strengthen as staff and students worked together to reinforce expectations around hallway transitions, locker use, attendance, and responsible behavior. Weekly problem-solving meetings helped staff align expectations, address concerns such as class skipping, and apply the Broken Windows Principle to maintain a clean, orderly environment that supports positive behavior. Principal Manni also delivered an important winter driving safety message—reminding students that safe choices behind the wheel protect lives, particularly during harsh Minnesota winters.

Student leadership remained front and center as Rock Ridge continued empowering students to take ownership of school cleanliness, safety, and welcoming environment initiatives. These efforts, paired with strong staff presence and consistent expectations, have helped strengthen the culture of accountability throughout the building.

Across all these accomplishments, one message continues to resonate through the halls of Rock Ridge High School: when every student and adult embraces responsibility for the school, incredible things happen. Whether students are building fish houses, competing academically, touring regional manufacturers, or simply choosing to meet expectations each day, their actions reflect a shared commitment to pride and excellence. As Principal Manni often reminds the community, “The power is in our consistency and in the message we send together.”

This month once again demonstrated that Our School, Our Responsibility is more than a motto—it is the driving force behind a school that is growing stronger each day. The Wolverines are building something special, and the results speak for themselves.



Blood Drive

**More seasons.
Made possible
by blood donors.**



Did you know 67% of the population in the US is eligible to donate blood, but only 3% do? Cancer patients need 25% of the collected blood supply. A single donation can help save up to 3 lives!

Each blood donation also contributes \$10 to the RRHS scholarship fund for graduating seniors.

Come donate at the Rock Ridge High School Blood Drive! Tuesday, December 9 from 9:00am – 1:00pm at RRHS. If you are not able to donate that day but still want to donate to our scholarship fund, you can stop at any site from Dec. 8 through Dec. 13. Provide the donor code to the Collection Specialist when you donate. Donor Code: 5086. (Scan QR code to sign up to give blood.)

