

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



AUGUST | 2026



2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

2026

August 24-August 28

Teacher In-service Days
No School

August 31

First Day of School
Grades PreK-12

September 4-7

Labor Day Weekend
No School

October 15-16

MEA Break - No School

November 9

Teacher Inservice Day
No School

November 26-27

Thanksgiving Break
No School

December 24-January 1

Holiday Break - No School

2027

January 18-19

No School

February 12-15

No School

March 25-30

Holiday Break - No School

April 22-23

No School

May 27

Last Day of School

May 28

RRHS Graduation 7:00PM

Welcome back to the 2026-2027 school year!

Here is what is happening behind the scenes (and in front of the scenes) as the Rock Ridge School District gears up for the beginning of the school year for staff and students:

- Teachers are excitedly showing up early for work, starting to get their rooms in shape for the arrival of their students.
- Custodians are pulling weeds and getting buildings ready for open houses and welcome back orientations.
- Principals are fine-tuning building operations and getting processes and procedures set so all goes smoothly on the first day back for students.
- Parents are looking forward to a fantastic school year and looking forward to how their child will grow this year.
- Students are gathering pens, papers, backpacks and supplies and getting excited about seeing their friends in a few days.
- The school board is approving student handbooks and hiring the few remaining positions which need to be filled.
- Coaches are running practices and getting ready for the start of the fall season.
- Cooks are checking their list twice, making sure they have all the food and ingredients on hand for a successful first week of food service.
- The paras are onboarding for training on knowing their students well.
- The nursing staff are getting rooms and supplies ready for the arrival of students.
- The technology department is moving room by room, checking to see that all pieces of equipment are fully functioning.
- Bus drivers are busy learning their routes so all goes smoothly for the kids.
- Secretaries are busy making sure all data bases are correct and up-to-date.
- The superintendent is triple-checking his list so the school district is ready for the thousands of students who will walk through the doors on the first day of school.

It's going to be an awesome school year!

Dr. Noel Schmitt
Superintendent

Go Wolverines!



ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

218-735-3510

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year!

As I begin my second year as Principal of Rock Ridge High School, I continue to be inspired by what we accomplished during our first year of **Our School, Our Responsibility**. We built a school where students take ownership of their learning, support one another, and understand that every individual plays a role in making Rock Ridge a place we are proud to call our own.

As we begin another school year, I am excited about the opportunities ahead. Whether you are entering seventh grade or preparing for your senior year, every student is an important part of the Rock Ridge community.

Our School, Our Responsibility remains the foundation of who we are. It is a shared commitment among students, staff, and families to take pride in our school, treat one another with kindness and respect, arrive ready to learn, and make choices that positively impact our community.

We continue to expand opportunities that prepare students for success after graduation. Through **Rock Ridge University**, students can earn college credit through College in the Schools (CIS) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses while attending Rock Ridge High School. These opportunities strengthen college readiness and can save families thousands of dollars in future tuition. Our new **Rock Ridge University Student Lounge** provides a place to study, collaborate, and connect with peers.

Beginning this fall, all **7th and 8th grade students will participate in a Cell Phone Free Beginning-To-End of School Day**. Students will keep their phones secured in their lockers from the first bell until dismissal. Our goal is to reduce distractions and create an environment where students can focus on learning and building relationships.

Every student will also be assigned a hallway locker and a school-issued combination lock. Students should use only their assigned lock and return it at the end of the school year.

The expectations that contributed to last year's success will continue. We will emphasize strong attendance, punctuality, academic engagement, and respectful behavior. Our campus will remain closed during lunch and most study halls, except for approved schedules and administrator-approved appointments. Students who drive to school must display a valid parking permit, and students in grades 9-12 are expected to follow their teachers' classroom expectations regarding cell phone use.

I encourage every student to become involved outside the classroom. Athletics, fine arts, Career Academies, Career and Technical Education, student leadership, clubs, and service organizations provide opportunities to build friendships, develop leadership skills, and make the high school experience more rewarding.



**SCOTT
MANNI**

Principal

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Rock Ridge High School. Together, we have built something special, and I believe our best days are still ahead. I look forward to welcoming you back and continuing to build a school where every student is known, challenged, supported, and prepared for success.

With pride and excitement, *Scott Manni*

Principal, Rock Ridge High School
Our School. Our Responsibility.



1403 WOLVERINE WAY ■ VIRGINIA MN 55792 ■ 218-735-3500 ■ VISITORS USE DOOR #1 ■ RRPS.ORG

CHECK OUT THE NEW STREET NAME

PROGRESS PARKWAY IS NOW
WOLVERINE WAY!!



**SCOTT
MANNI**
Principal

SCHOOL HOURS
8:10 AM - 3:05 PM

POWERSCHOOL CODE
SGPL

PARKING PERMITS

**ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN
THE RRHS MAIN OFFICE FOR \$20**

ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

PRINCIPAL
Scott Manni
735-3510

DEAN OF STUDENTS
Elisa Boe
735-3512
Evan Friedlieb
735-3511

SECRETARIES
735-3501
Cindy Carey
Laura Tassoni

**ATTENDANCE
SECRETARY**
Janette Godec
735-3550

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR
Josh Lamppa
735-3518

**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION DIRECTOR**
735-3517

ACTIVITIES SECRETARY
Candy Ofstad
735-3516

ART
Deb Custer
Tony Norland

BAND
Nathan Mitchell

BUSINESS
Kyle Hammer

CAREER EDUCATION
Susan Ellefson
Kyle Hammer

CHOIR
Reida Forsman

COUNSELORS
Tara Fierke
735-3533

Jill Oja
735-3532

**COUNSELING
SECRETARY**
Alice Pelton
735-3531

ENGLISH
Taryn Greiner
Janessa Knuti-Greenly
Mary Musich
Benjamin Norman
Kaiti Schreiner
Sheila Takanen

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

**INDIGENOUS
EDUCATION**
Maria Poderzay
Director
735-3522

INDUSTRIAL TECH
James Eichholz
Greg Foster
Dan Spaeth

MATH
Josh Gibson
Jessica Kortekaas
Mike Kowalski
Tara Peshel
Dawn Savela
Andrew Tikkanen

MEDICAL SCIENCE
Mary Rantala

MY FUTURES
Susan Ellefson
Abby Warner

NURSE
735-3506
Misty Elliott, RN, LSN
Emma Peterson, RN
Shelly Babiracki, RN

ORCHESTRA
Dahyun Hong

PE/HEALTH
Stephanie Stefanich
Sean Streier

PERSONAL FINANCE
Andrew Tikkanen

REACH
Lori Ismil

SCIENCE
Brandon Borich
Lindsay Engel
Betty Parker
Roy Rutherford
Tim Strasser
Todd Ufford

SOCIAL STUDIES
Isaac Christiansen
Liam Conger
Susan Ellefson
Aimee Krebs
Dave Kunz
Steph Lutzka

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Stephanie Aagenes
Director
Rebekah Deedrick
August Galloway
Don Galloway
Emily Heitke
Patrick Hemann Murphy
Shawn Johnson
Kari Mackey
Michelle Pietila

STEAM
Troy Caddy

WEB
Elisa Boe
Jessica Kortekaas

WORLD LANGUAGES
Terri Kowalski
Abigail Warner

**ALTERNATIVE
LEARNING PROGRAM
(ALP)**
Paul Brainard



1409 WOLVERINE WAY ■ EVELETH MN 55734 ■ 218-735-6201 ■ VISITORS USE DOOR #1 ■ RRPS.ORG



**ANGIE
WILLIAMS**
Principal

Welcome Back to the 2026-2027 School Year at Laurentian Elementary! Our entire staff is excited to welcome back returning students and extend a warm greeting to all the new families joining our Laurentian community!

SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD

We are excited to add an additional Student Support Person, giving us two dedicated staff members to support students throughout the school day.

Our Student Support team helps students build confidence, develop relationships, manage emotions, navigate conflicts, make positive choices, and strengthen self-regulation and problem-solving skills. Their academic and social-emotional

support helps students feel connected, capable, and ready to succeed.

WORLD-CLASS SPACES DESIGNED FOR LEARNING & PLAY

Our modern facility includes spaces that support learning, creativity, movement, and collaboration:

- Makerspace & Science Room: Hands-on STEM opportunities to design, build, experiment, and explore.
- Indoor Playground & Courtyard: All-weather spaces for movement, recreation, and outdoor learning.
- Commons Area & Athletic Field: Spaces for gathering, collaboration, and outdoor activity.

GET INVOLVED: LAURENTIAN PTA

The Laurentian PTA supports students and staff through school events, classroom resources, and community enrichment. Whether you can give a little time or a lot, your involvement makes a difference and is a great way to connect with other families and support your child's school experience. PTA Contact: rrlespta@rrps.org

LOOKING AHEAD

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your children. When families and educators work together through communication, respect, and shared purpose, students thrive. Together, we look forward to a 2026-2027 school year filled with curiosity, kindness, growth, and achievement!

Angie Williams
Principal, Laurentian Elementary

PRINCIPAL
Angie Williams
735-6202

SECRETARY
Stacy Buatala
735-6201

ATTENDANCE
735-6200

ART
Susan Lanyk

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
COORDINATOR**
Shanon Kush-Jeffery

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
SPECIAL EDUCATION**
Amanda Delich

ECFE
Ellen Ebben

SCHOOL HOURS

8:05 AM - 2:55 PM

POWERSCHOOL CODE SGPL

KINDERGARTEN

Joe Grigal
Jody Negen
Kim Wolner

FIRST GRADE

Heather Gulbranson
Kaylee Hennen
Laurie Hipple-Jam

SECOND GRADE

Cody Baker
Becki Carey
Matraca Streier

THIRD GRADE

Jessica Johnson
Laurie Kuoppala
Samantha Sertich

FOURTH GRADE

Kristy Hill
Ed Thompson
Nikki Young

FIFTH GRADE

Mandy Brunfelt
Shelley Schriber

SIXTH GRADE

Natalie Belt
Stace Landwer

ADAPT

Tracie Twite
James Jancikla

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Maria Poderzay
Director
Alexander Hayes
Ojibwe Language
Deborah Feth
Advisor

INTERVENTIONISTS

Ellen Ebben
Melissa Lautigar
Deb Tikkanen

MEDIA AIDE

Bridget LaCoursier

MUSIC

Reida Forsman
(6th Grade Choir)
Dahyun Hong
(Orchestra)
Nathan Mitchell
(6th Grade Band)
Kevin Szumal
(K-5 Music)

NURSE

735-6206
Katie Peterson, RN
Alexandria Roskoski

OT/PT

Jordyn Collins
Nova Education
Consultants

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Robert Hinrichs
Sean Streier

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Karlene Leseman
Bryce Negen (DAPE)
Liz Niemi
Julie Sandstede

SPEECH

Angela Suihkonen

STUDENT SUPPORT

Lindsay Blackwood
Kristine Miller



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



**DAN
MERFELD**
Principal

I am honored to introduce myself as the new principal of North Star Elementary School. My name is Dan Merfeld, and I come to North Star with twenty years of experience in education, previously serving as a teacher, coach, and principal. I am thrilled to become part of the North Star community and continue the great work already happening with our staff.

As everyone returns for the new school year, I look forward to welcoming new and returning students and staff. We have a highly qualified, veteran staff here at North Star. As I begin meeting students and families, please know that my door is always open. I encourage you to introduce yourself and help me get to know you and your family.

North Star Elementary is proud to offer a well-rounded education in a state-of-the-art building with beautiful grounds. Our staff are well-known for supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally. Everyone in the building is preparing safe, engaging classrooms full of opportunities for all students. North Star provides opportunities for learners to feel both challenged and inspired as they grow, and we strive to help every student reach their potential. Every student matters in our school, and I am excited to get to know your students this year.

Community involvement continues to be a vital part of student success. The partnership between school and home is essential, and I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you and support your child's growth. Whether volunteering in the building or on School Forest trips, attending events, or staying connected through conversations at home, your involvement makes a lasting impact. Together, we will continue on the path of excellence by encouraging our students to take responsibility for their learning and actions while striving to be their very best.

Leading this school community is truly a privilege, and I can't wait to see what this year brings. I look forward to meeting everyone and becoming part of the daily routines here at North Star.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead at North Star—let's make it our best one yet!

Dan Merfeld
Principal, North Star Elementary

PRINCIPAL
Daniel Merfeld
742-3943

SECRETARY
Briana Negen
742-3944

ATTENDANCE
742-3940

THIRD GRADE
Samantha Andrews
Lori LaLonde
Jodi Smith
Kelli Voss

FOURTH GRADE
Drew Aho
Brandon Miller
Jeff Teasck

FIFTH GRADE
Ed Cremers
Eli Little
Bobbie Spry
Sarah Thyen

SIXTH GRADE
Stephanie Aho
Kyle Lawrence
Byron Negen

ADAPT
Bria Johanns

ART
Althea Kure

**DIGITAL LEARNING
SPECIALIST**
Darren Kramer

**INDIGENOUS
EDUCATION**
Maria Poderzay
Director
Alexander Hayes
Ojibwe Language

INTERVENTIONIST
Kate Ludwig
Amanda Morley

MUSIC
Reida Forsman
(6th Grade Choir)
Dahyun Hong
(Orchestra)
Nathan Mitchell
(6th Grade Band)

NURSE
742-3947
Laura Johnson, RN
Alex Roskoski, LPN

OT/PT
Jordyn Collins
Nova Education
Consultants

**PHYSICAL
EDUCATION**
Taylor Skoglund

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Stacy Aune
Rebecca Duvall
Kortney Lundgren
Bryce Negen (DAPE)
Cara Pond
Amanda Rasmussen

SPEECH
Speech Partners, LLC





506 9TH AVE W ■ VIRGINIA ■ 218-742-3801 ■ VISITORS USE DOOR #1 ■ RRP.S.ORG



**SHEENA
STEFANICH**
Principal

As summer comes to a close, we are excited to welcome our students and families back to Parkview Elementary for another incredible school year! The beginning of a new year brings fresh opportunities to learn, make new friends, build confidence, and create lasting memories. We can't wait to fill our classrooms with the energy, curiosity, and smiles that make Parkview such a special place.

At Parkview, we know the early elementary years are the foundation for a child's future. Our dedicated staff is committed to providing engaging learning experiences that challenge students academically while supporting their social, emotional, and physical growth. We strive to create a school where every child feels safe, valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Helping students develop into responsible leaders continues to be an important focus of our school. We want every child to understand that leadership isn't about being the loudest voice—it's about making positive choices, showing kindness, helping others, and taking pride in their learning. These lessons will be woven into our classrooms and daily interactions throughout the year.

Regular attendance is one of the greatest gifts families can give their children. Every school day provides important instruction, opportunities to practice new skills, and meaningful connections with classmates and teachers. Establishing strong attendance habits now helps students build confidence, stay on track academically, and develop routines that will benefit them for years to come.

We value the partnership we share with our families and appreciate the trust you place in us each day. Together, we can ensure every child has a successful, rewarding, and memorable school year. Thank you for being an important part of the Parkview community. We look forward to an amazing year of learning, growing, and celebrating our students together!

Together, let's make it a fantastic year!

Sheena Stefanich
Principal, Parkview Elementary

PRINCIPAL
Sheena Stefanich
742-3802

SECRETARY
742-3801
Amanda Lambert
Kimmy Christenson

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Gena Flank
Elysa Kemen
Kathy Kemen
Dominique Little
Ashley Tikkanen

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
COORDINATOR**
Shanon Kush-Jeffery

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
SCREENING**
Laura Johnson

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
SPECIAL EDUCATION**
Laura Bahktari
Amanda Delich
Amber Lind

ECFE
Ellen Ebben

SCHOOL HOURS

7:50 AM - 2:40 PM

POWERSCHOOL CODE SGPL

KINDERGARTEN

Hannah Davidson-Teff
Carolyn Peterson
Kathy Seppala
Emily Zeidler

FIRST GRADE

Deron Davidson
Caley Hujanen
Annie Nichols

SECOND GRADE

Nichole Reid
Meggie Schroeder
Nina Sporich
Cullen Warren

ADAPT

Rosalie Moschler

ART

Althea Kure

DIGITAL LEARNING SPECIALIST

Darren Kramer

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Deborah Feth
Advisor
Alexander Hayes
Ojibwe Language

INTERVENTIONISTS

Kayla Cochems
Anita Tyminski

NURSE

Pam Frazee, RN
Shelly Babiracki, RN
742-3821

OT/PT

Jordyn Collins
Nova Education
Consultants

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Taylor Skoglund

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Hannah Helander
Bryce Negen (DAPE)
Aubree Schiller
Crystal Scuffy

SPEECH

Jenna Hautamaki
Val Pepelnjak
Roxanne Carter-
Wyatt

**ELEMENTARY
PICTURE DAYS
NORTH STAR
SEPT. 10**

RETAKES OCT. 14

**LAURENTIAN
SEPT. 23**

RETAKES OCT. 20

**PARKVIEW
SEPT. 24**

RETAKES OCT. 20



**STEPHANIE
AAGENES**

Special Education
Director

WELCOME BACK, ROCK RIDGE COMMUNITY!

Dear Rock Ridge Families and Community Members,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! This year marks an exciting new chapter for Rock Ridge Public Schools as we open the Rock Ridge Life & Learning Center.

The Life & Learning Center was created to provide specialized, student-centered programming for students with unique educational, behavioral, communication, sensory, and functional learning needs. The center will serve students from kindergarten through age 22, including our

Bridge to Independence transition program.

Our dedicated teachers, paraprofessionals, related-service providers, and support staff have worked hard to prepare a welcoming, safe, and supportive learning environment. Students will receive individualized instruction while developing academic, communication, social-emotional, independent living, vocational, and community participation skills.

Opening this center allows Rock Ridge students to receive high-quality special education services within their own school district and closer to their families and community. We look forward to building strong partnerships with parents, local organizations, businesses, and community members to create meaningful opportunities for every student.



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Life & Learning Center possible. Your continued encouragement and support demonstrate Rock Ridge's commitment to ensuring that every student is welcomed, valued, and given the opportunity to succeed.

We are proud to welcome our students and staff to the Rock Ridge Life & Learning Center and look forward to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Aagenes
Special Education Director
Rock Ridge Public Schools

LIFE & LEARNING CENTER STAFF

COORDINATOR

Amber King

DEAN OF STUDENTS

Evan Friedlieb

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Nova Education Consultants (virtual)

BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE

Ethan Stachovich

SETTING 4 ELEMENTARY

Martha Jorgensen
Nikki Sundt

SETTING 4 HIGH SCHOOL

Dawn Alto

DAPE/UNIFIED COACH

Bryce Negen

SPEECH

Roxanne Carter-Wyatt

QUESTIONS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

If you have any questions about our special education programs or upcoming changes, please feel free to reach out:

Stephanie Aagenes
stephanie.aagenes@rrps.org

218-735-3570

Together, we are building a brighter, more inclusive future for all learners!

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEAC)

PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS AND INCLUSION

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated Rock Ridge SEAC (Special Education Advisory Council) members for their continued partnership and advocacy. This incredible team provides valuable feedback and guidance to help strengthen our special education programs across the district.

This year, the Council will be fundraising for our Community Inclusive Playground at Rock Ridge.

We're excited about the future and grateful for the passion and commitment of our SEAC members.

2025 ROCK RIDGE SEAC MEMBERS

Scott Manni
Amber King
Jill Devich
Teri Ahlgren

Ashley Huppler
Katie Pogachnik
Christine Nelson
Stephanie Aagenes

Kendra Jones
Michelle Pietila
Jill Oja

MORE UPDATES COMING SOON—STAY TUNED!

UNIFIED SPORTS WILL CONTINUE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL



HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED! TUTOR WITH VOLUNTEERS IN EDUCATION (VINE)

- Choose the grade level of students you wish to tutor
- Choose the content area(s) you wish to tutor
- Set your own tutoring schedule

VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED:

Laurentian Elementary
(K-6), Eveleth

Parkview Elementary
(PK-2), Virginia

North Star Elementary
(3-6), Virginia

If you are interested in this community service opportunity, please scan the QR code below to complete the online Volunteer Information Form or find the form at Vine-mn.org/get-involved.



**Volunteer
Registration Form**

Teresa de Venecia
Volunteers in Education
teresad@vine-mn.org
715-817-1565
www.vine-mn.org

ROCK RIDGE EARLY CHILDHOOD

SCHOOL READINESS

ROCK RIDGE SCHOOL READINESS provides children with a welcoming first preschool experience at two elementary school locations. Our program supports the whole child through social-emotional, language and literacy, health and nutrition, and physical development. Children learn classroom routines, build friendships, and gain confidence in

a safe, caring environment.

Through engaging learning centers and play-based activities, children explore science, art, music, dramatic play, sensory experiences, and fine and gross motor skills. These hands-on opportunities build school readiness, independence, creativity, and a love of learning.

SCHOOL READINESS 3-YEAR OLD PROGRAMS LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY

PROGRAM	DAY	TIME	ORIENTATION DATE & TIME	FEE PER MO.
Terrific 3's Oct 5 - April 27	Mon.-Tues.	8:00am-12:00pm	Oct. 5 9:00am-10:00am	\$120 mo
Terrific 3's Oct 7 - April 30	Wed.-Thurs.	8:00am-12:00pm	Oct. 7 9:00am-10:00am	\$120 mo

SCHOOL READINESS 4-YEAR OLD PROGRAMS PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY

PreK - 4 Aug 31 - May 27	Mon.-Fri.	7:50am-2:40pm	Aug. 31 9:00am-10:00am	\$200 mo
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Tuition help is available to families whose household income meets requirements.

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
Shanon Kush

PARKVIEW
Gena Flank
Elysa Kemen
Kathy Kemen
Dominique Little
Ashley Tikkanen

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 AUGUST 31

NORTH STAR, PARKVIEW AND LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Students PreK-6th Grade
After School Session: After School-5:30pmM
Before School Session: 6:30AMM-7:30amM
Held only on days school is in session.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT:

<https://forms.gle/pBKuVswbBjMsS5jB8>

AFTER SCHOOL COST:
\$17/DAY \$80/WEEK

BEFORE SCHOOL COST:
\$25/WEEK

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT AMANDA MATHSON
AMANDA.MATHSON@RRPS.ORG.

2026-2027 PATHWAY II PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Early Learning scholarships are available to 3 and 4 year olds by September 1, 2026. If you or your child participate in or meet any of the following criteria your child may qualify for a Pathway II scholarship.

- A parent under the age of 21 who is pursuing a high school degree or course of study for a high school equivalency test (GED).
- Have experienced homelessness in last 24 months
- Child is in foster care

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.

- Have been referred as in need of child protective services
- SNAP
- Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program (FRLP)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Have a parent that is incarcerated 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).

PATHWAY I SCHOLARSHIPS

Rock Ridge school readiness programs accept Pathway I early learning scholarships. Apply for the scholarship at the link provided.
https://earlylearningscholarshipshub.mn.gov/s/?language=en_US

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE)

is a Community Education program that recognizes parents and caregivers as a child's first and most important teachers. We partner with parents and families to provide high-quality early childhood and family education experiences that support children's learning, growth, and development. Through engaging classes, parent education, family activities, and community connections, ECFE helps strengthen families while fostering positive relationships and lifelong learning. Together, we create a strong foundation for children's success at home, in school, and beyond.

ADDITIONAL ECFE COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

HOME VISITS:

Home Visits provide personalized support for families who would benefit from additional guidance from a Parent Educator. During a home visit, families can discuss individual child development, parenting questions, family concerns, or specific challenges in a comfortable and familiar setting. Parent Educators offer information, resources, and practical strategies tailored to each family's unique needs. Home visits are designed to strengthen family relationships, support children's healthy development, and connect families with helpful community resources when needed. Visits can also be done by phone or virtually.

FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR:

Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Care Provider sessions are designed for grandparents, relatives, family friends, neighbors, and older siblings who help care for young children. These FREE gatherings offer opportunities to connect with other care providers, learn helpful strategies, and support children's learning and development through play. Participants enjoy engaging activities with the children in their care while receiving FREE books, project supplies, and resources to use at home.

ROCK RIDGE EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION "READY, SET, GROW" KICK-OFF EVENTS

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 9:00AM-10:00AM

LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 9:00AM-10:00AM

Meet the teachers, visit your school building and enjoy a morning of friends, activities, and snacks.

ECFE CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY

DAY	TIME	AGE	GROUP	SCHOOL
Friday	8:30am-10:00am	Mixed Ages	Birth to 5	Laurentian
Friday	10:30am-12:00pm	Mixed Ages	Birth to 5	Laurentian

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY

DAY	TIME	AGE	GROUP	SCHOOL
Tuesday	8:30am-10:00am	Babies	Birth-Not Yet Walking	Parkview
Tuesday	8:30am-10:00am	Specials	18 months-5 years	Parkview
Wednesday	8:30am-10:00am	Toddlers	12-36 months	Parkview
Thursday	8:30am-10:00am	Mixed Age	Birth to 5	Parkview

FOUR WEEK ECFE SPECIALS \$50/SPECIAL

COOKING WITH KIDS FALL SPECIAL

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY TUESDAY 8:30AM-10:00AM
10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10

MESSY CONCOCTIONS AND GYM WINTER SPECIAL

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY TUESDAY 8:30AM-10:00AM
1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16

GARDENING SPRING SPECIAL

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY TUESDAY 8:30AM-10:00AM
4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27

ECFE FEES PER TRIMESTER

\$80,000 +	\$100
\$60,000-79,999	\$75
\$45,000-59,999	\$50
\$25,000-44,999	\$25
UNDER \$25,000	\$5

* **ADDITIONAL CHILDREN: 50% OFF ORIGINAL FEE**

NO FAMILY IS EVER DENIED PARTICIPATION DUE TO INABILITY TO PAY

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY THURSDAY 8:30AM-10:00AM

This mixed age class is designed to help children build important social skills as they learn how to make friends, share, take turns, communicate and work together with others. Through play, hands-on activities, stories, and exploration, children will gain confidence while discovering the joy of learning. Parent education will include information on developmental, age-related concerns and allows time to get to know other parents.

TODDLER TIME (GRADUAL SEPARATION)

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY WEDNESDAY 8:30AM-10:00AM

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

LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY FRIDAY 8:30AM-10:00AM
LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY FRIDAY 10:30AM-12:00PM

The Play and Learn class offers young children a fun and engaging environment where they can learn through play, exploration and movement. This class combines classroom learning experiences with active playland time to support the development of the whole child. The class will provide children with opportunities to discover new skills, make new friends, and develop a love of learning in a safe, nurturing environment. Parent group time includes information on developmental age related concerns and allows time to get to know other parents.

BABY CLASS

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY TUESDAY 8:30AM-10:00AM
9/29, 10/6, 11/17, 12/1, 1/5, 1/12, 2/23, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 5/4

FREE class designed for babies. Our baby class is designed for infants and their caregivers to learn, play, and grow together during these important years. This class provides a warm and welcoming environment where babies can explore new experiences while parents and caregivers connect with one another. In addition to interactive activities, caregivers have the opportunity to participate in parent discussions focused on child development, parenting topics and the joys and challenges of raising young children. These conversations provide support, resources, and a chance to share experiences with other families.

PART-TIME BUS DRIVERS

\$25.14 PER/HR.

AFSCME Union Position
Monday - Friday
Approx. 6:15 AM - 8:15 AM
Approx. 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

CASUAL BUS DRIVERS

\$23.64 PER/HR.

QUALIFICATIONS:

TRAINING IS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU EARN THE REQUIRED LICENSE AND ENDORSEMENTS. YOU WILL HAVE 30 DAYS FROM START DATE TO OBTAIN.

Must have a Minnesota Class B Commercial Driver's License.
Must have a valid School Bus and Passenger Endorsement.
Must pass a Department of Transportation Physical.
Must not have any disqualifying offenses as outlined by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

QUESTIONS:

Please contact
Bob Voss,
Transportation Director
(218) 742-3969

Submit application online at
WWW.RRPS.ORG

under "Employment".
Open until filled.

DISTRICT DIRECT CONTACTS

DISTRICT	218 - 735-3500
TRANSPORTATION	218 - 742-3969
FOOD SERVICE	218 - 742-3660
COMMUNITY EDUCATION	218 - 735-3517
EARLY CHILDHOOD	218 - 742-3805
SPECIAL EDUCATION	218 - 735-3570
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION	218 - 735-3522
ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS	218 - 735-3518

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Free early childhood screenings will be held at Laurentian and Parkview Elementary. Email 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.

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Roy RUTHERFORD

ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
7TH GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

HOMETOWN: Boulder, CO

COLLEGE: University of Colorado Denver,
University of Colorado Boulder

DEGREE: Bachelors of Arts (Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology), Masters of Science
(Integrative Biology)

PERSONAL NOTE: I'm a botanist and urban
ecologist in my spare time. I enjoy botanizing,
making plant pressings, hiking, camping, road
trips, and conducting ecological research, if
possible with my dog Goose!



Martha JORGENSEN

LIFE & LEARNING CENTER
SPECIAL EDUCATION

HOMETOWN: Mequon, WI

COLLEGE: University of Minnesota Duluth,
Minnesota State Moorhead

DEGREE: Elementary and Special Education,
Masters in Curriculum and Instruction

PERSONAL NOTE: This summer I recently
moved up to the Iron Range from Duluth
where I taught special education for 5 years. I
love to run, read, and spend lots of time with
my family and two cats named Sven and
Lena. I am also a huge football and Green Bay
Packers fan!



Daniel SPAETH

ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

HOMETOWN: Virginia, MN

COLLEGE: UW-Stout

DEGREE: B.S. Technology Education

PERSONAL NOTE: I am an avid outdoorsman,
Fishing, hunting, camping, canoeing hiking, I have
guided for 6 seasons in and around the BWCAW
and love traveling to fish or camp in exotic places



Dahurui HONG

RRHS / NORTH STAR / LAURENTIAN
ORCHESTRA TEACHER

HOMETOWN: St. Paul, MN

COLLEGE: Boston University

DEGREE: Bachelor's degree in Cello Performance
and a Master's degree in Music Education

PERSONAL NOTE: I enjoy playing chamber music,
taking walks outside, and drinking different kinds
of coffee and tea



Kari MACKEY

ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION

HOMETOWN: Biwabik, MN

COLLEGE: College of St Scholastica, UMD
DEGREE: Bachelors of Arts in Psychology/
Sociology, SLD Special Education

PERSONAL NOTE: I have a son who is 14 years
old. We love to be outdoors 4-wheeling,
hunting, fishing, camping, biking and
gardening. One of our favorite things to do is
going on driving adventures to find new trails,
lakes or cool abandoned areas. We also spend
a lot of time with family and friends. I also love
crafting!



Dawn ALTO

LIFE & LEARNING CENTER
SPECIAL EDUCATION

HOMETOWN: Aitkin, MN

COLLEGE: St Cloud State University, Bemidji
State University Online, and Kaplan University
Online

DEGREE: K-12 Art Education; K-12 Special
Education- EBD; Psychology specializing in
Advanced Studies on Children

PERSONAL NOTE: My family is my everything.
Next to getting baby squishes in with grandkids,
I love taking "Elusive Moose" scouting trips every
year with 2 of our daughters. On a special note,
I have a 20-year old son with Down Syndrome
who will be joining the Transition Program here
at Rock Ridge.



Bryce NEGEN

DISTRICT DAPE SPECIALIST & UNIFIED COACH

HOMETOWN: Mountain Iron, MN

COLLEGE: Mesabi Range College and Mayville
State University

DEGREE: Associates of Arts, Physical Education

PERSONAL NOTE: I am excited to join the Rock
Ridge district this year! While I'm not in school,
I enjoy hunting, fishing, and sports. I am married
and have one daughter who is in the district as
well. We are all excited to see what this year has in
store for us.

Amber LIND
PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

Patrick MURPHY
ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Nikki SUNDT
LIFE & LEARNING CENTER
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Northon MITCHELL
RRHS / LAURENTIAN / NORTH STAR BAND



BOARD OF EDUCATION

John Uhan | Chair
 Lisa Westby | Vice Chair
 Nicole Culbert-Dahl | Clerk
 Brandi Lautigar | Treasurer
 Jennifer Bonner | Alternate Clerk
 Tim Riordan | Director
 Jodi 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 Wolverine Way, Virginia

Meeting details are subject to change.
 Please check the website.

rrps.org/district/calendar/

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS...

BECOME A SUBSTITUTE!

Looking for a flexible way to support students and schools in your community? Rock Ridge School District is partnering with Kelly Education (formerly Teachers On Call) to recruit enthusiastic substitutes to work alongside our amazing students and staff. Whether you're interested in substituting as a Teacher or Paraprofessional, we'd love to hear from you.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Substitutes play a critical role in keeping students learning and schools thriving. Enjoy flexible work opportunities while making a meaningful impact in the lives of students every day.

PARAPROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTE REQUIREMENTS

You qualify if you meet one of the following:

- Completed two years of college coursework (typically 60 semester credits) from an accredited institution
- Hold an associate's degree or higher
- Earn a passing score on an approved assessment demonstrating the knowledge and ability to assist in reading/language arts, writing, mathematics, or readiness skills

Teacher Substitute Requirements

- Hold a bachelor's degree in any field
- Obtain a Minnesota Short Call Substitute License through the Minnesota Department of Education (available to individuals with a bachelor's degree)

Getting Started Is Easy!

You can do one of the following:

1. Complete the Kelly Education - Minnesota Substitute Interest form
2. Schedule a virtual meeting with local Kelly recruiter Angela - MN K-12 Interview Session (Virtual) - Angela Johnson

Prefer to talk with someone?

Call Kelly Education on 800-713-4439

BECOME A ROCK RIDGE SUBSTITUTE TODAY!

#RockRidgeRising

P13



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 Wolverine Way, Virginia, MN 55792

Send any questions to me at

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 and choose: **#RockRidgeRising**. Great pictures, videos and even podcasts are located at 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



FIERCELY UNITED

ROCK RIDGE TICKET INFO:

SINGLE GAME TICKET PRICES

Adult	\$7
Seniors (62+)	\$5
Students	\$5

SEASON PASS PRICES

GOOD FOR ALL

HOME GAMES EXCLUDING PLAYOFFS

Adult	\$120
Seniors (62+)	\$80
Students	\$40

(Family max for Student Passes is \$80/school year)

ACTIVITY FEES

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

Grades 7-8	\$200
Grades 9-12	\$220
Knowledge Bowl	\$60
Poms	\$125

FINE ARTS & ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Grades 7-8.....	\$110
Grades 9-12.....	\$120

(Family max is \$800/school year)

rrps.org for more fee information

ROCK RIDGE ACTIVITIES & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Independent School
District #2909

"Future Ready/
Community Strong"

Community Education Director

Office735-3517

Activities Director

Josh Lamppa735-3518

Admin. Assistant

Candy Ofstad.....735-3516

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

RRPS.ORG

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

ARBITERLIVE.COM

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 rrps.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@rrps.org or your building principal for additional questions regarding specific digital tools used in classrooms.



ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1405 Wolverine Way, 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

MARSS AND DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

Michele Keyport
742-3903

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Stacie Lamppa
742-3900

HUMAN RESOURCES

Debbie Wiirre
744-7700



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

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**.



ACTIVITY CALENDAR 2026-2027

AUGUST 2026

August 27, 2026	Open House 3:30-5:30pm (Elementary) 9-4 (RRHS) 4:30-6:30pm (LLC)
August 31, 2026	First Day of School

SEPTEMBER 2026

September 4, 2026	NO SCHOOL
September 7, 2026	NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)
September 10, 2026	North Star Picture Day (Retakes Oct. 14)
September 23, 2026	Laurentian Picture Day (Retakes Oct. 20)
September 24, 2026	Parkview Picture Day (Retakes Oct. 20)
September 28, 2026	NO SCHOOL (In-Service Day)

OCTOBER 2026

October 5-9, 2026	Homecoming
October 12, 2006	LES Conferences 3:30-6:30pm
October 13, 2026	RRHS Conferences
October 13, 2026	LES Conferences 3:30-6:30pm
October 15-16, 2026	NO SCHOOL (MEA Conference)
October 22, 2026	NSE Conferences 3:30-6:30pm
October 27, 2026	NSE Conferences 3:30-6:30pm

NOVEMBER 2026

November 3, 2026	PES Conferences 3:30-6:30pm
November 4, 2026	End of Quarter 1
November 5, 2026	PES Conferences 3:30-6:30pm
November 9, 2026	NO SCHOOL (In-Service/Flex Day)
November 12-15, 2026	Fall Play (Tentative)
November 19, 2026	Band Concert Gr. 9-12 7:00pm
November 25, 2026	End of Trimester 1
November 26-27, 2026	NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Break)

DECEMBER 2026

December 3, 2026	Choir Gr. 6-8 7:00pmM
December 3, 2026	Band Concert LES Gr. 6
December 4, 2026	Band Concert NSE Gr. 6
December 8, 2026	Band Concert Gr. 7-8 7:00pm
December 11, 2026	Winter Sing: NSE
December 14, 2026	Orchestra Concert Gr. 5-8 7:00pm
TBD	Holiday Concert: Choir, Band, Orchestra Gr. 9-12 7:00pm
December 18, 2026	Winter Sing: PES
Dec. 24, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	NO SCHOOL (Winter Break)

JANUARY 2027

TBD	Winter Sing: LES
January 15, 2027	End of Quarter 2
January 18, 2027	NO SCHOOL
January 19, 2027	NO SCHOOL (In-Service Day)

FEBRUARY 2027

February 11, 2027	Band/Orchestra Concert LES and NES Gr. 5-6
February 12, 2027	NO SCHOOL
February 15, 2027	NO SCHOOL
February 18, 2027	RRHS Conferences 3:30 - 6:30pm

MARCH 2027

March 2, 2027	End of Trimester 2 RRHS Band and Orchestra 9-12 7:00pmM
March 19, 2027	End of Quarter 3
March 23, 2027	MiOSM Choir Concert: Gr. 7-12
March 25-30, 2027	NO SCHOOL

APRIL 2027

April 22, 2027	NO SCHOOL (In-Service/Flex Day)
April 23, 2027	NO SCHOOL

MAY 2027

May 1, 2027	Prom
TBD	Spring Sing: LES
May 5, 2027	Band Concerts: Gr. 6-8 6:00pm / Gr. 9-12 7:30pmM
May 7, 2027	Spring Sing: NSE
May 10, 2027	Orchestra Pops Concert Gr. 5-12
May 11, 2027	Track & Field Day LES Gr. K-2 (Make-Up Day May 12)
May 13, 2027	Track & Field Day LES/NSE Gr. 3-4 (Make-Up Day May 14)
May 13, 2027	Choir Concert: Senior Farewell Gr. 9-12
May 14, 2027	Spring Sing: PES Gr. K-2
May 16, 2027	Senior Scholarship Ceremony
May 17, 2027	Choir Concert Gr. 7-8
May 18, 2027	Track & Field Day PES Gr. K-2 (Make-Up Day May 19)
May 20, 2027	Track & Field Day LES/NSE Gr. 5-6 (Make-Up Day May 21)
May 27, 2027	Last Day for Students
May 28, 2027	Graduation Ceremony 7:00pm

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WELCOME TO THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

ROCK RIDGE ROUSER

**Rock Ridge High School, fight on for all,
brave and bold, we answer the call.**

**Proud of our colors, we're black and green,
with our spirit, let them hear it: GO WOLVERINES!**

**We are here to stand up and cheer, to our school be true,
and FIGHT! and FIGHT! With all of your might,**

We're here to honor you.

LET'S GET SOCIAL



facebook.com/rockridgewolverines



@rockridgewolverines



@RRWolverines



1405 Wolverine Way
Virginia, MN 55792