

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

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Rockwell Register

Happy Fall!

We only need to look out the windows to know that Fall is upon us in all its glory with the red, yellow and orange landscape all around. I try not to let much time go by without really looking around our Rockwell Elementary campus and admiring the beautiful setting that we are so fortunate to enjoy- especially in the fall. We are nearly at the end of the first marking period and I am happy to share that our children are moving forward and making terrific progress in their academics as well as their ability and skills to work with one another positively and to handle their busy and demanding school days with success.

When our staff teams meet weekly, we put time aside in our curriculum planning meetings to discuss how our students are doing in general. We call this "SWAP" which stands for Student Wellbeing and Progress. At this time teachers discuss individual students, small groups of students as well as the overall large groups in a class or grade level. We brainstorm with classroom teachers as well as special service providers and specialists for techniques, strategies, and good ideas for helping our students move forward efficiently and successfully in many different areas. We value this time together as it gives the opportunity to share good news about progress as well as lean on colleagues for support and new ideas when a staff member is stumped with how to break through with a child's academic or behavioral progress. Together, our staff can solve any of these challenges and I feel fortunate to lead such a talented group of professionals. I believe your children are in the best of hands here at Rockwell!

The first marking period of this year ends on Friday, November 4, 2022. Teachers will work on grading and planning to close the first marking period and gear up for the next one on Monday, November 7, 2022. School is closed to students on this day. Also, the following day is Election Day, so schools are also closed on November 8, 2022. Enjoy all of the activities that fall in Damascus brings!

All my best to all of our Rockwell Families!

~Cheryl Clark

Principal





Parent-Teacher Conferences

Teachers have been in touch with parents via email and phone calls to set up conferences for each of their students. It's important for all parents to be informed about how their child is performing and what parents can do at home to partner with teachers for student success. If you have not yet set up a parent/teacher conference with your child's

teacher, please be in touch with him/her right away. You can email all Rockwell staff using the [Staff Directory](#) on our website.

In preparation for a conference with your child's teacher, consider reviewing a helpful publication from MCPS: [Preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences](#). We look forward to sharing all of the good news of your child's growth in academics and in their social emotional development as well.

Our goal is to hold Parent-Teacher Conferences for 100% of our students!



We will recognize Veterans Day at an outdoor flag raising ceremony on Friday, November 11, 2022 9:30-10:00 AM in the front of the building. Students, staff, and parents will be outside for the event. We expect to have some representatives from the American Legion Post 171- Damascus in attendance. This activity will be weather permitting.

At our ceremony, we recognize any parents/guardians/caregivers in our Rockwell School Community who have served or are currently serving in our military at this event. All Veterans and Service Men and Women from our school community are invited to a breakfast hosted by our PTA in our staff lounge and courtyard. We will have breakfast treats available at 9:00 AM. We would love to take the opportunity to honor you and say thank you!



Join Us for Open House on Friday, November 11, 2022

We are happy to invite parents/guardians and caregivers to visit classrooms at Rockwell on **Friday, November 11, 2022** immediately following our flag raising ceremony. Open House will begin at 10:00 AM and we invite you to stay as long as you'd like up to your child's lunch time. Unfortunately, we do not have space in our cafeteria for parents to eat lunch with students.

All visitors for Open House (visits to classrooms) will need to check in at the office and use our Visitor Management System which requires a state issued identification card (i.e. driver's license). Visiting classrooms does **not** require you to be cleared as a volunteer since you are only observing in classrooms.

We will begin checking parents in for Open House at 8:45 AM (before the flag raising ceremony) and continue with check-ins until 9:30 AM. After check-in, parents will wait in the lobby and/or outside to participate in the flag-raising ceremony at 9:30 AM. We will resume checking additional parents in at 10:00 AM when the flag raising ceremony is over. Parent visitors will accompany students back to class following

the ceremony if desired. Please bring your ID into the office and we will have assistants to help with the check-in process. After checking in, you will be issued a visitor badge which is required for the duration of your visit. We ask that you check-out in the office by scanning your visitor's sticker prior to leaving for the day.



Awesome Night of Exploration, Sharing & Fun!

One of our priorities is to provide opportunities for students and families to come together. We have planned several Community Engagement & Outreach events during this school year.

Our turn out for our first event- STEM Night was a great success! It was so terrific to see students and parents together at Rockwell engaging in activities that could be done together. We had **184** students with their parents attend to build, explore, create, and have a lot of fun side by side. Special thank you to our STEM Night Teacher Leaders, Mariea Allnutt, Paige Bell, Julie Selby and Kelly Winovich for organizing and planning the

event- Great job! Also thanks to staff who attended to engage in the fun with students and families- Amy Blache, Morgan Gunn, Jenn Hinkelman, Stefanie Kucsan, Brooke Lawrence, Mary Maya, Sally Merollini, Coleen McIntyre, Mike O'Neil, Kym Petronio, Jenny Rose, Megan Sparks, Alexis Suther, Ashley Whittles, and Katie Zitrick. Congratulations on a fun evening for all!



MCPS Hosting Virtual Curriculum Night on Nov. 2

Parents and staff can learn more about MCPS curriculum during live virtual presentations from 6-8:30 p.m. on Nov. 2. Sessions will focus on topics such as the shift to structured literacy in elementary school, English language arts in middle and high school, mathematics at all levels, the shifts in science requirements for graduation and high school health education.

All sessions are virtual and access to all presentations is available [here](#).

Our Lost and Found Collection is Growing!

Our lost and found rack is located directly beside the doors to the All-Purpose Room. We have a collection of sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets and water bottles already after only 8 weeks of school. Please ask your child to check for any missing items. We will be clearing out the lost and found approximately every six weeks so that it does not build to an unmanageable number of items.





From Mrs. Hinkelman, Reading Specialist: We often get asked..."What can I do with my child at home to help them learn to read better?" Here's a few ideas to consider when you are driving in the car with your child: *Take Reading on the Road*



Take Reading on the Road (adapted from IMSE Impact)

Our students have to get from point A to point B each day. Whether it's in a car, on a bus, or on foot, this is a great time to practice foundational reading skills. Print out this activity sheet and keep it in your bag, purse or car and practice reading on the go. Enjoy!

*When you see a letter in between slash marks, that represents the sound.../b/ says or spells b.

FIND A LETTER

(Skill: Letter recognition)

Adult: Find the letter M.

Reader: I see the letter M on the McDonald's sign!

Adult: Great! Now you tell me a letter to look for.

Reader: Find the letter x.

Adult: I see the letter x on the Exit sign!

-repeat-

I SEE SOMETHING

(Skill: Isolation of beginning sound)

Adult: I see something that starts with the /s/ sound

Reader: Is it a semi-truck?

Adults: I like your thinking, it is not a semi-truck. Look for something else that starts with the /s/ sound.

Reader: Is it a street sign?

Adult: It is!

-repeat-

I SEE SOMETHING

(Skill: identify rhyme)

Adult: I see something that rhymes with right.

Reader: Is it light?

Adult: It is!

-repeat-

ROBOT TALK

(Skill: blending sounds)

Adult: I am going to tell you a word but I'm going to talk like a robot. When you know the word I'm saying, shout it out.

Ready? R-oo-d

Student: Road!

Adult: Great! Here's the next robot word...g-a-s

Fall Costume & Fun Day at Rockwell ES Monday, 10/31/22



On Monday, October 31, 2022, we will have “costume day” at Rockwell. We invite your child to plan to bring a costume for a Fall celebration with his/her class. *It is completely optional to bring and wear a costume on this day!* Students will change into costumes at 1:50 PM. We will have a parade of costumes at 2:00, weather permitting, in front of the school. Parents with younger siblings are welcome to come for the parade. Following the parade, students will return to classes for games, crafts, and fun activities. *We will not be serving food or drinks.* Parents and teachers will create “goody bags.” These bags will go home with students at the end of the day to enjoy at home. Below are some do’s and don’ts with regard to costumes to help you plan with your child.



Yes, this will work!	No, this is not allowed!
Dress up as a favorite book, television, movie character or historical figure	Dressing in scary or bloody costumes or masks
Dress up as a favorite profession or career (i.e. teacher, nurse, firefighter, police officer, professional athlete, pilot, hair stylist)	Wearing costume masks of any kind
Dress up as your favorite animal	Bringing or planning to carry any costume props (swords, bats, weapons, etc.)
Dress up as any appropriate seasonal or holiday character	Dressing in any blow-up costume or one that prevents a student from properly sitting in their seat for class

If you disapprove of this activity and would like to exclude your child from this school-wide activity, please email your child’s teacher and we will schedule an alternative activity



October & November Dates to Note

October 31- Fall/Halloween Costume Parade & Parties- 2 PM

November 4- Marking Period 1 Ends

November 3- School Photo Retake Day

November 7- No School for Students- Teachers will grade & plan

November 8- Election Day- Schools Closed

November 11- Flag Raising Ceremony, 9:30 AM & Open House, 10:00 AM (Parent check-in for Open House begins in the office at 8:45 AM- All will need identification for check-in)

November 14- Report Card Day

November 14-18- PTA Sponsored Book Fair @ Rockwell



November 21-22 Early Release Days for Conferences- Dismissal at 12:55 PM (No PEP Program)

November 23, 24 & 25- School Closed- **Happy Thanksgiving!**