

ILLINOIS CITY

NOVEMBER 20, 2026

YOUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT OUR SCHOOL!

IMPORTANT INFO:

- WITH FLU SEASON APPROACHING, PLEASE REMEMBER IF YOUR CHILD HAS A FEVER, SHE/HE MUST BE FEVER FREE FOR 24 HOURS WITHOUT FEVER REDUCING MEDS IN ORDER TO RETURN TO SCHOOL.
- PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EXTRA CLOTHES (IN THEIR BACKPACK) FROM SUMMER TO FALL/WINTER.
- REMINDER TO HAVE YOUR STUDENT HERE BY 8:05 TO PREVENT TRUANCY
- THANKSGIVING BREAK IS NOVEMBER 25TH - 27TH

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOV 24 - PREK & 2ND GRADE FIELD TRIPS

NOV 25-27 - NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK

DEC 10 - READING W/ SANTA

DEC 11 - SIP 11:30 DISMISSAL

DEC 16 - K-2 WINTER PROGRAM

DEC 22 - END OF GRADING

DEC 22 - 1:30 DISMISSAL

FULL CALENDAR HERE

CLICK HERE

RR300.ORG/O/ICES

TIMES

SCHOOL START: 8:05
SCHOOL END: 3:12
CAR RIDERS: 3:12

CONTACT US

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ILLINOIS CITY ELEMENTARY

Principal's Corner



Recently, I was able to observe an SEL (Social Emotional Learning) lesson executed by our interventionist Mrs. Stice, and the observation motivated me to share a few thoughts regarding the SEL instruction that our students receive in the school district. First, here's a couple of resources that may be helpful.

5 Myths About Social Emotional Learning - https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/social-emotional-learning/articles/5-myths-about-social-emotional-learning
Character Strong - https://characterstrong.com/purposefull-people/ -- This is the SEL curriculum used by the Rockridge School District to teach SEL.

SEL instruction is a realitively new concept in the field of K-12 education. Parents/Guardians may be more familiar with PBIS or Positive Behaviorial Interventions and Supports, and that "process" basically involved schools having behavior expectations and the devising some sort of award structure to reward good behavior. What was missing in that type of system, though, was providing instruction to students to assist them with meeting or exceeding behavior expectations, and that's what SEL does. SEL is not "brainwashing students", and it's not in anyway attempting to undermine parents/guardians in their parenting efforts. In the lesson I observed last week for example, Mrs. Stice and the students were discussing how we can take a mistake we may have made and productively "make it right". If I was frustrated or just having a bad day, and I pushed another student out of the way to get a drink at the drinking fountain, what could I do instead? Or perhaps what could I do after I made a poor choice and pushed the other student out of the way?

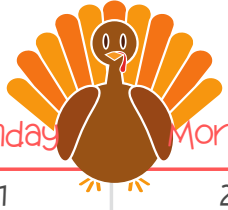
SEL instruction is not a large part of each day. Classroom teachers complete Tier 1 instruction with all students for about 20 minutes each day in the classroom because SEL is for everyone. Using a "screener", students may be identified for additional Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions for a particular SEL area for a litle extra help. This additional SEL intervention instruction can really help students gain confidence, develop healthy relationships with others, and springboard students toward enhanced academic success and engagement with school. Along with our new reading curriculum and our new math curriculum, the new SEL Character Strong curriculum is really benefitting our students and contributing to the great vibes we have in the building!

-Mr. Bizarri





NOVEMBER





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 No School	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 No Pre-K	10	11 Veterans Day Program	12	13	14
15	16 Makeup Picture Day	17	18	19 Wear Blue for Diabetes	20	21
22	23	24 Prek and 2nd Grade Field Trips	25 No School	26 No School 	27 No School	28
29	30					

December





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Reading W/ Santa	11 SIP DAY 11:30	12
13	14	15	16 K-2 Holiday Program	17	18	19
20	21	22 1:30 Dismissal	23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break	25 Winter Break 	26
27	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break		

Thanksgiving NEWSLETTER

Feeling Very Thankful ….For Our Parents/Guardians…As They Are…

- Helping students demonstrate great attendance and arriving to school on time - our attendance is currently 96% for the school year so far!
- Understanding and following guidelines for the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up times.
- Communicating with teachers and staff through Class Dojo, emails, phone, and in-person conversations.
- Attending backpack night at the start of the school year and parent-teacher conferences.
- Keeping our classrooms supplied with delicious snacks!
- Supporting the recent book fair.
- Encouraging their students to give their best with their academics, as well as in music and P.E.
- Appreciating and supporting the substitute teachers, substitute bus drivers, and other substitute staff.
- Ensuring their students have healthy meals - either through the hot lunch program or packing nutritious cold lunch meals.
- Calling the office if their students will be absent or have an appointment during the day.
- Supporting teachers in their efforts to help students learn and grow - our academic increases continue to shine!
- Encouraging their students to follow building behaviors/expectations - Be Well, Be Kind, Be Strong. (Our referrals to the office for misbehaviors is significantly down compared to last school year!)
- Helping all of the building be healthier by monitoring fevers and waiting at least 24 hours for students to be fever free without medication.
- Being sure students arrive to the building ready with the appropriate clothing - shoes for P.E. and cold weather gear when the temps drop - snowpants and boots and hats and gloves when the snow flies!
- Communicating with bus drivers and thanking them for their efforts!
- Supporting the PTO with their fundraising efforts to support our students like the recent Trunk-or-Treat event or the Fun Run with the high school cross country team or this month's McTeachers' Night.
- Helping students have fun with dress-up days during the school year.
- Reading the newsletter at the end of each week to keep up-to-date with school happenings.
- Attending upcoming special events like the Reading with Santa night on December 10 and the Christmas program on December 16.

IC Elementary Staff Appreciate All the Parents/Guardians!

SCHOOL HEALTH GUIDELINES: STAYING HEALTHY AT SCHOOL

MONITORING STUDENT WELLNESS

Monitor yourstudents closely for contagious illnesses andfollowtheguidelinesbelow.Ifyou have anyquestions, please do nothesitate tocallthe schoolandtalktothehealthoffice.

Symptom	Stay Home If	Go Back to School After
Cough and Cold Symptoms	Too sick for regular activities	Fever is gone for 24 hours without medication and your child feels better
Eye Discharge	Yellow or green pus appears	24 hours after the first dose of antibiotic drops have been given.
Fever	Temperature reads 100°F or higher	No fever above 100°F with using fever reducing medication for 24 hours.
Flu Like Symptoms	Body aches, fever, severe fatigue, persistent cough, excessive nasal drainage	Nofever above100°F with usingfever reducing medication for 24 hours. Feels well enough to participate in classroom.
Rash	Please ensure that any new onset of a rash is evaluated by a healthcare provider before your student comes to school	24 hours after medication started (if needed) and doctor gives okay to return to school.
Sore Throat	Strep throat diagnosis	24 hours after beginning antibiotics.
Stomachache	Vomited more than once or had diarrhea more than twice in last 24 hours	24 hours after no vomiting or diarrhea without medication.

Amanda Lewis RHS, RJHS
Jesssica Stubbs, Andalusia & Taylor Ridge
Kristin Tucker, Illinois City Elementary

NOVEMBER

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 **No School** **In lieu of** **P/T Conferences**	3 Bosco Stick / Marinara Cooked Carrots Pineapple Pudding Cup Milk	4 Chicken Patty on Bun Baked Chips Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk	5 Crispito Chips & Salsa Corn Mandarin Oranges Milk	6 Hamburger on Bun French Fries Fruit Cup Teddy Grahams Milk
9 Chicken Nuggets Mixed Vegetables Peaches Sherbet Cup Milk	10 Mini Corn Dog Baked Beans Goldfish Crackers Mandarin Oranges Milk	11 French Bread Pizza Side Salad (dressing) Cantaloupe Teddy Grahams Milk	12 Meatball Sub w/ Mozzarella Cheese Baked Chips Green Beans Grapes / Milk	13 Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Crackers Apple Slices Milk
16 Pizza Crunchers Goldfish Crackers Corn Pears Milk	17 Chicken & Noodles Mashed Potatoes Peaches / Dinner Roll Pumpkin Dessert Milk	18 Chicken Strips Cooked Carrots Fruit Cup Cookie Milk	19 Rocket Rite on Bun Baked Chips Baked Beans Pineapple Milk	20 Uncrustable Baked Chips Cucumber Slices Fruit Cup Milk
23 Goulash w/ Meat Sauce Bread Stick Peas Pears / Milk	24 Hotdog on Bun Tater Tots Mandarin Oranges Cookie / Milk	25 **No School** **Thanksgiving** **Break**	26 **No School** 	27 **No School** **Thanksgiving** **Break**
30 Cheeseburger on Bun French Fries Peaches Fruit Snack / Milk	1	2	3	4

A reimbursable lunch menu consists of 5 offered components which are set by the new USDA meal pattern in certain varieties and portion sizes determined by student age. Meat/Meat Alternate minimum, Grain minimum, Vegetable, Fruit, Fluid Milk

DECEMBER

ROCKRIDGE ROCKETS

December 2026 Lunch Menu for All Buildings

Skim, Chocolate and 1% White milk served everyday

MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
30 	1 Mini Corn Dog Baked Beans Grapes Teddy Graham Milk	2 Pretzel Bites w/ Cheese Sauce Mixed Veggies Apple Slices Milk	3 French Bread Pizza Side Salad (ranch) Mixed Fruit Gold Fish Crackers Milk	4 Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Soup Crackers Carrots / Fruit Cup Milk
7 Super Nacho Chips / Salsa Refried Beans Mandarin Oranges Milk	8 Chicken Strips Green Beans Peaches Pudding Cup Milk	9 Cheeseburger on Bun Baked Chips Carrots Pears Milk	10 Crispito Corn Pineapple Cookie Milk	11 **School Improvement Day** **11:30a Dismissal**
14 Bosco Stick w/ Marinara Sauce Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk	15 Walking Taco (Meat, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes) Cantaloupe Milk	16 (TR & IC Subject to Change) Pizza Corn Grapes Teddy Grahams Milk	17 Chicken & Noodles Mashed Potatoes Peaches / Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	18 Hotdog on Bun Baked Beans Apple Slices Goldfish Crackers Milk
21 Chicken Nuggets Tater Tots Pears Pudding Cup / Milk	22 **1:30pm Dismissal** Uncrustable Baked Chips Carrots Fruit Cup / Milk	23 **No School** **Holiday Break**	24 **No School** **Holiday Break**	25 **No School** 
28 **No School** **Holiday Break**	29 **No School** **Holiday Break**	30 **No School** **Holiday Break**	31 **No School** **Holiday Break**	1 **No School** 

Trading Cards and Toys



No trading cards or toys of any type are allowed at school because of the problems they create when students attempt to trade or show off these items. Students are to keep these items at home.



WE HAVE A FEW SHIRTS REMAINING

$11 - T-SHIRT (LIMITED ADULT/KID SIZES)

$11 - SLING BAGS

CONTACT THE OFFICE 309-793-8090

KZAMPOGNA@RR300.ORG

ROCKRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

2026 Holiday Performances

Rockridge High School – Choir
Sunday, 12/13/26 | 2:00 PM | Auditorium

Rockridge High School – Band
Thursday, 12/17/26 | 7:00 PM | Auditorium

Rockridge Junior High Band and Choir
Tuesday, 12/15/26 | 7:00 PM | South Gym

Illinois City & Taylor Ridge Elementaries
Wednesday, 12/16/26 | Rockridge High School
South Gym
Kindergarten – 5:30 PM
First Grade – 6:15 PM
Second Grade – 7:00 PM



ILLINOIS CITY & TAYLOR RIDGE ELEMENTARY

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

Santa Story Time, Make A Craft, and Cookies! Pre-K will end the evening with a song at 6:30.

DECEMBER 10, 2026
FROM 4:30 PM TO 6:30 PM
WHERE: ROCKRIDGE HS CAFETERIA

OPEN TO OUR ROCKET FAMILIES! LET'S GET THIS HOLIDAY SEASON STARTED!

Help support a Rockridge family!



CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE A SHIRT!

HELP A ROCKRIDGE FAMILY AND A FUTURE ROCKET!

Miles' family is selling these shirts to help support Miles and his fight. Every shirt purchased is another way to show love, spread awareness, and remind Miles that he has an entire squad standing behind him!

Order Deadline: Nov. 20th

Join our team!

WE ARE HIRING SUBSTITUTES

Great pay, flexible hours, & a LOT of fun!

Contact Dawn Finley to find out more!
309-793-8001
dfinley@rr300.org



Do not hesitate to reach out and ask questions!

HIRING SUBS FOR: TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS, SECRETARY, KITCHEN, BUS DRIVERS, NURSE