

ILLINOIS CITY

NOVEMBER 13, 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
- PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY IS MONDAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOV 16 - MAKEUP PICTURE DAY

NOV 19 - WEAR BLUE

NOV 24 - PREK FIELD TRIP

NOV 25-27 - NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK

DEC 10 - READING W/ SANTA

DEC 11 - SIP 11:30 DISMISSAL

DEC 16 - K-2 WINTER PROGRAM

FULL CALENDAR HERE

CLICK HERE

RR300.ORG/O/ICES

TIMES

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

CONTACT US

MR BIZARRI - JBIZARRI@RR300.ORG
MRS ZAMPOGNA - KZAMPOGNA@RR300.ORG
OFFICE: 309-793-8090
FAX: 309-791-0710
24017 122ND AVE W
ILLINOIS CITY, IL 61259

ILLINOIS CITY ELEMENTARY

Principal's Corner

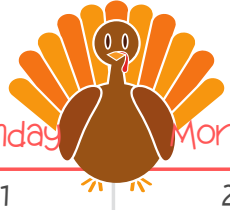


The Veterans' Day celebration this week was once again - amazing! Our students and staff members that participate help make the day special and beautifully expressed our thanks and admiration for our military heros - past, current, and future. November is often the month that giving thanks for our blessings shines a bit brighter - along with Veterans' Day this week, we soon will be celebrating Thanksgiving with friends and family. And in the spirit of being thankful, I've recently been granted the opportunity to learn just how thankful I am (and we all should be) for our school bus drivers! A couple of years ago, my wife Amber decided to pursue her bus driving license during a time when the school district was experiencing a shortage. I agreed to tag along with her and also pursue my bus driving license, just in case there was a last minute need that surfaced. We in the Rockridge School District need additional bus drivers - to serve as substitutes and ocassionally assume a before school and/or after school route. And understand that Rockridge is not alone when it comes to a shortage of drivers and substitutes. Unfortunately, recently some "shifting" occurred among the Rockridge bus drivers, leaving the furthest most western route open without a "route driver" available. While I wasn't expecting to ever be a long-term route substitute bus driver, that's the situation that has occurred. This is NOT a "pat-the-back" of Mr. Bizarri story....this is instead a message of appreciation and hope that our parents/guardians, students, and community also from time-to-time demonstrate their appreciation for our school bus drivers. Not only is acquiring a school bus driving license challenging, fulfilling the role of bus driver is challenging, and it's much more than flipping on the yellow lights and then the red lights to pick up and drop off students. School bus driving is also about developing relationships with students, developing and maintaing expectations of behavior, communicating with parents/guardians, and caring for the cleanlness, fueling, and basic care for how the bus runs and operates. I've learned a lot recently, and hats off to our school bus drivers. If and when you ever get a chance to thank your student's bus driver, please do! (And here's to hoping that my long-term substitute bus driving experience soon is concluded.)

-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	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		



November 2026 Lunch Menu for All Buildings

ROCKRIDGE ROCKETS

Skim, Chocolate and 1% White milk served everyday

MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 Happy Thanksgiving	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

Taylor Ridge Elementary &
Illinois City Elementary

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

December 16, 2026

KINDERGARTEN	5:30 PM
1ST GRADE	6:15 PM
2ND GRADE	7:00 PM

ALL PERFORMANCES WILL TAKE PLACE IN
THE ROCKRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH GYM

Music News

November 2026

Dear families,

Some very exciting things have been happening in the music room this fall! Here is another quarterly update on what your kids have been learning, We are getting into Holiday Program season next, so be on the lookout for plenty of details / updates in the coming weeks!

Ms. Winn
awinn@rr300.org

Singing / Voices

- Five Little Pumpkins – speaking chant with actions to practice the different types of voices
- Pumpkin Stew – kids sang by themselves to add their ingredient to the stew!
- Vocal Exploration ghosts – Kindergarteners created ghosts on popsicle sticks that they used for singing high and low sounds



Steady Beat and Rhythm

- Pass the Pumpkin – pass to the steady beat… if the pumpkin lands on you, you're out! Students who are out play the rhythm on instruments.
- In the Hall of the Mountain King – students experienced a steady beat that changes from slow to fast

Form

"Form" in music is like the map of the song. 1st and 2nd grade practiced identifying different sounding sections of The Addams Family Theme Song, then demonstrated the form with a cup passing routine. All students practiced identifying form by playing a movement game to the song Fossils.



Instruments

- Autumn is Here – each fall item in the song has its own instrument sound effect. Kids took turns with each one.
- The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything – a spooky sound story where students played instruments and can stations as sound effects
- Up the Creaky Stairs – Boomwhackers

Veterans Day

First performance of the year! Students sang "Soldier, This Song I Sing for You"at the district Veterans Day assembly and sounded amazing! Watch their performance HERE.

Holiday Program

Kids have been working hard the last couple of weeks to learn their Holiday Program music. As in recent years, each grade is preparing their own set of songs. The program is on the evening of Wednesday, December 16th with an afternoon rehearsal / grandparent performance.

Dec 16



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!

Winter Mini Photo Sessions

with Missy Myers: Capturing Fireflies

When: November 14th & 15th
15 minute slots from 10am-4pm
Where: The Hicks Farm
7914 134th Ave W
Taylor Ridge, IL 61284
Cost: $100 per time slot with proceeds benefiting the Rockridge Elementary PTO

Sessions must be paid in full at the time of booking and are non-refundable. Venmo (@for-freckles-sake) or checks to Rockridge PTO are accepted.

Time slots are available at:
Sign-Up Link

Please direct questions to: capturingff@gmail.com
ahicks@rr300.org

Photo background will look like the picture behind this flyer.

venmo

DIABETES Awareness Month



Wear BLUE

NOVEMBER 19

to show support to
our friends with Diabetes
for Diabetes Awareness Month!

SUPPORT • EDUCATE • SPREAD AWARENESS

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

ROCKRIDGE

School Break Planner

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Labor Day	***3 DAY WEEKEND*** SEPT 5-7 - NO SCHOOL
Columbus Day	***3 DAY WEEKEND*** OCT 10-12 - NO SCHOOL
P/T Conferences	***4 DAY WEEKEND*** OCT 30-NOV 2 - NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break	***5 DAY WEEKEND*** NOV 25-29 - NO SCHOOL
Christmas Break	***14 DAY BREAK*** DEC 23-JAN 6 - NO SCHOOL
MLK Day	***3 DAY WEEKEND*** JAN 16-18 - NO SCHOOL
President's Day	***3 DAY WEEKEND*** FEB 13-15 - NO SCHOOL
Spring & Easter Break	***8 DAY BREAK*** MAR 22-29 - NO SCHOOL

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