Taylor Ridge Elementary School

Updates and Information

Happy Friday, TRE Families and Friends.

Two weeks in the books and we're diving right into curriculum and a lot of learning!

MAP testing will take place next week. We use MAP as a progress monitoring tool to help us follow student growth throughout their years in school from kindergarten through 8th grade.

Our first fire drill will take place next week! We will knock out other safety drills throughout the year in accordance with state guidelines.

There is a heatwave on its way next week. Please have students dress accordingly and make sure to send a water bottle with them to school! **Monday, 8/31 and Tuesday, 9/1 will be 1:30 p.m. dismissal days due to the weather conditions.**

The SEL Newsletter, Music News, Nurse Updates, and the September Kitchen Menus are attached below.

As always, if you have any questions for us at TRE, feel free to contact the office at (309) 793-8070.

-Mr. Goben

Important Dates for this Week / Near Future

Monday 8/31 and Tuesday 9/1 will be 1:30 dismissal days due to the weather conditions.

School Improvement Early Dismissal - 11:30 - 9/25

Picture Day 10/2

Breakfast & Lunch Pricing

Breakfast: $2.75

Elementary Lunch: $3.45

Milk: $0.44

If your family is interested in financial assistance for food, please fill out the free or reduced lunch pricing waiver form. This is available to ALL families. If you would like to fill one out, please email me directly at tgoben@rr300.org and I will make sure to get one to you!

TR/IC SEL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

Respect

This month's focus is Respect. One way to think about Respect is "seeing value in all people and things & treating them with care." Throughout the school, students will be developing skills like perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and leadership.

Kindergarten:

Listening to others is an important life skill – and it takes practice! In Kindergarten, we are focusing on listening skills this month. Being a good listener helps us show Respect to other people and treat them with care.

First Grade:

Friendship skills are life skills! In 1st grade this month, we are focusing on friendship. An important part of being a good friend is seeing value in others and treating them with care, which is practicing Respect!

Second Grade:

We all experience conflict in life. Whether we are frustrated with a friend or in an argument with a family member, we need tools to help us navigate conflict successfully. This month's focus for 2nd grade is on understanding conflict resolution through practicing Respect for others. This month, students will practice using the Tree of Choices, which is a simple tool to lead us toward successful conflict resolution

Skills:

Great listeners have:

1. Eyes are ready.
2. Ears are listening.
3. Brain is focused
4. Heart is caring

Tree of Choices:

1. The Roots of the Tree: Identifying if the problem is big or small.
2. The Heart of the Tree: Naming the emotions you are feeling.
3. The Branches of the Tree: Make a choice to:

Move it out
Talk it out
Breathe it out

Conversation Starts

- Can you share or show what Respect means?
- Why do you think it is important to use Strong Listening when practicing Respect?
- Why do you think it is important to be Respectful as a friend?
- Tell me about the Tree of Choices. Which part is easiest for you? Most challenging?

Thank you,

Mrs. Sywassink & Mrs. Stice

MUSIC NEWS

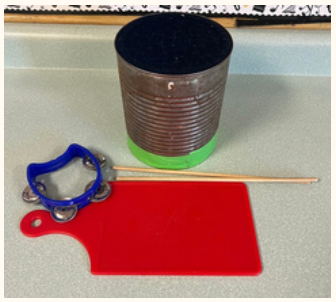
EMAIL:
awinn@rr300.org

HELLO, FAMILIES!

My name is Anna Winn and I am your child's music teacher this year! This is my 3rd year teaching at both Taylor Ridge and Illinois City. I am very excited for the year ahead, and to continue seeing each class every day for 20 minutes of music. My hope is that throughout the year, students will develop a love and appreciation for music while building skills through singing, movement, listening, and playing instruments. I will put out a newsletter once per quarter with info and updates on what's happening in the music room :)

PLAYING:

This quarter we will be doing a lot of activities that reinforce expectations when it comes to playing unpitched percussion instruments (pictured above). Games like "Silent Instrument Ninja" help students practice keeping instruments quiet until it's time to play. Kindergarten will participate in a farm unit where each instrument is represented by a different animal. They will learn how to play the above instruments properly and will learn lots of animal songs.



1st & 2nd graders will also use can stations - kind of like a mini drum set

SINGING:

Learning about the different types of voices and how we use them is a big focus at the beginning of the year, especially in kindergarten. Puppets will be used to help kids gain confidence in their singing voices, and children's books will be used for more vocal exploration. Some I will use this fall include We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Fortunately, and the Listening Walk.

MOVEMENT:

Being able to keep a steady beat is an essential 1st quarter skill, as students will need this skill for the rest of the year in music. Kids will practice steady beat through locomotor and non-locomotor movement and passing games. We will also use our steady "BEET" friend (below) when learning a new song to show where the beat is.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The K-2 Holiday Program will be held the evening of Wednesday, December 16th. More details to follow in the coming months.

IF YOU GET A CALL FROM US...

A call from one of us doesn't automatically mean your child needs to go home.

- AMANDA LEWIS, DISTRICT RN
- JESSICA STUBBS, ELEMENTARY RN
- KRISTEN TUCKER, ILLINIOS CITY HEALTH AID

1 If they HAVE to go home, we will tell you.

If your child meets exclusion criteria or otherwise needs to leave school, we will specifically tell you they need to be picked up. That decision will be based on health and safety criteria we are required to follow. If we send your child home there will be instructions for return to follow.

****This absence is considered a Nurse EXCUSED absence and additional days if necessary****

2 If we DON'T say they have to go home, YOU HAVE OPTIONS

If they don't meet exclusion criteria but you still get a call from us, it's because I want your input on what to do next.

You can:

Talk to your child. We are always happy to put them on the phone

Send them back to class. You know your child best.

Pick them up anyway. That choice is always yours.

most times this will not be an excused absence

One quick note: Our offices can get pretty busy, you may not receive a call for every minor visit.

If you need to reach us:

- Amanda Lewis JH/HS/IL City
  309-793-8040
  alewis@rr300.org
- Jessica Stubbs Elementary
  309-793-8080
  jstubbs@rr300.org
- Kristen Tucker Illinois City
  309-793-8090
  ktucker@rr300.org

Every day in the classroom counts! While we always want to make sure your children are safe and comfortable, our main goal is to keep them in school and engaged in learning.

We know that minor, everyday aches and pains pop up from time to time. Often, a quick rest in the health office, a glass of water, or a little encouragement is all it takes to get them feeling ready to conquer the rest of their school day without needing to go home.

September Menus

September 2026 Breakfast Menu for All Buildings

MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

*Served Daily: cereal, toast, fruit or juice & milk

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
31	1 Breakfast Sandwich Bacon, Egg & Cheese	2 Donut Yogurt	3 Mini Waffles Syrup	4 Poptart Yogurt
7 **No School Labor Day**	8 Mini Pancakes Syrup	9 Muffin String Cheese	10 Cheese Omelet Toast	11 Uncrustable Granola Bar
14 Biscuit & Sausage Gravy	15 Breakfast Burrito	16 French Toast Sticks Syrup	17 Scrambled Eggs Toast	18 Breakfast Sandwich Bacon, Egg & Cheese
21 Donut Yogurt	22 Mini Pancakes Syrup	23 Breakfast Bagel Pizza	24 Cheese Omelet Toast	25 Muffin String Cheese
28 Mini Waffles Syrup	29 Scrambled Eggs Toast	30 Breakfast Burrito	1	2

Skim, Chocolate and 1% White milk served everyday

September 2026 Lunch Menu for All Buildings

MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Pretzel Bites w/ Cheese Sauce Cooked Carrots Strawberries / Milk	2 Quesadilla Chips & Salsa Corn / Grapes Milk	3 Walking Taco (Meat. Lettuce, Cheese) Mixed Fruit Teddy Grahams / Milk	4 Cheeseburger on Bun French Fries Apple Slices Cookie / Milk
7 **No School Labor Day**	8 *Breakfast for Lunch* Biscuit & Gravy Tri-Taters Fruit Cup Granola Bar Milk	9 Chicken Patty on Bun Baked Chips Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Milk	10 Pizza Mixed Vegetables Applesauce Cup Teddy Grahams Milk	11 Crispitos Chips & Salsa Corn / Peaches Pudding Cup Milk
14 Chicken Nuggets Tater Tots Fruit Cup Sherbet Cup Milk	15 Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Goldfish Crackers Grapes Milk	16 French Bread Pizza Side Salad (dressing) Strawberries Cookie Milk	17 Meatball Sub w/ Mozzarella Cheese Baked Chips Green Beans / Peaches Milk	18 Uncrustable Baked Chips Carrots Apple Slices Milk
21 Pizza Crunchers Goldfish Crackers Corn Pears Milk	22 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Green Beans Bread Stick Fruit Cup Milk	23 Hotdog on Bun Baked Beans Baked Chips / Peaches Pudding Cup Milk	24 Sloppy Joe on Bun Mixed Vegetables Mixed Fruit Rice Krispy Treat Milk	25 **School Improvement Day 11:30am Dismissal**
28 Bosco Stick / Marinara Cooked Carrots Fruit Cup Teddy Grahams Milk	29 Hamburger on Bun French Fries Mandarin Oranges Fruit Snacks Milk	30 Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Pineapples Cookie Milk	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.	

Skim, Chocolate and 1% White milk served everyday

ROCKRIDGE PTO

FUN RUN

Come run 1 mile with the RHS Cross Country team!

Saturday: September 26

START AT 9:00AM
@ the RHS Track

2026

$30 T-Shirt & Registration

Register Here!

*All ages welcome to run!

Fun Run

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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 5 - 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

Bring joy to your journey!

Explore all the sweet things you'll do as a Girl Scout!

Join us for an evening of sweet treats, community fun, and learn more about joining **Girl Scouts!**

Event: Ice Cream Social
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026
Time: 6:00PM -7:00PM
Location: Andalusia Community Center | 302 2nd St. W., Andalusia, IL 61232

If unable to attend, please scan the QR code below to register on-line or please contact us with any questions. **We hope to see you there!**

Be a Girl Scout!
Get started today

Questions? Contact:
Bettendorf Office @ 563-823-9940

Scan the QR code or visit our website.
800-798-0833
www.girlscoutstoday.org

girl scouts of eastern iowa and western illinois

2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR
ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT 300

August 12 ..... No School Teacher Institute
August 13 ..... No School Teacher Institute
August 14 ..... .Classes Begin – 1:30 dismissal
September 7……..……...No School – Labor Day
September 11……...Quarter 1 Mid-Term
September 25……..School Improvement Day – 11:30 dismissal
October 9..... End of First Grading Period
October 9.....School Improvement Day – 11:30 dismissal
October 12.....No School – Columbus Day
October 16.....Quarter 1 Report Cards Sent Home
October 29 ……Parent-Teacher Conferences-3:00–8:00 p.m.
October 29 .....1:30 dismissal
October 30 ……Parent-Teacher Conferences-8:00–1:00 p.m.
October 30..... No School – P/T Conferences
November 2.....No School – in lieu of P/T Conferences
November 13..... Quarter 2 Mid-Term
November 25-27……..No School – Thanksgiving Break
December 11 .....School Improvement Day – 11:30 dismissal
December 22……End of Second Grading Period – 1:30 dismissal
December 23-January 5…….. No School – Holiday Break
January 6……. No School Teacher Institute
January 7 ..... School Resumes
January 11 .....Quarter 2 Report Cards Sent Home
January 15 .....School Improvement Day – 11:30 dismissal
January 18 ..... No School – M.L. King's Birthday
February 5 ..... Quarter 3 Mid-Term
February 12 .....School Improvement Day – 11:30 dismissal
February 15 .....No School – President's Day
March 12……End of Third Grading Period
March 19 .....School Improvement Day – 11:30 dismissal
March 19 .....Quarter 3 Report Cards Sent Home
March 22-March 29 ..…… No School – Spring Break/Easter Break
April 9 .....School Improvement Day – 11:30 dismissal
April 9 ..... Quarter 4 Mid-Term
April 23 .....School Improvement Day – 11:30 dismissal
May 16……High School Graduation – 2:00
May 20.....End of Fourth Grading Period (tentative) – 1:30 dismissal
May 21……...No School Teacher Institute (tentative)
May 24, 25, 26, 27, 28.....Emergency Days (tentative)
May 27.....Quarter 4 Report Cards Sent Home (tentative)

Quarterly Attendance Report Periods are as follows:

DATES	NUMBER OF STUDENT DAYS SCHOOL IS IN SESSION
August 14 – October 9	40
October 13 – December 22	46
January 7 – March 12	45
March 15 – May 20	43

BOE Approved 6.8.2026

Join the Rockets Team!

Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Kitchen Staff!

Teachers - $130.00/day

Paraprofessionals - $15.00/hr

Kitchen Staff - $15.00/hr

Flexible days! You decide when you want to or are able to! Staff will prepare everything for you to jump in that day! Breakfast and lunch is free when you sub. Substitutes also receives passes to athletic events! Email Dawn Finley (dfinley@rr300.org