Taylor Ridge Elementary School

Updates and Information

Happy Friday, TRE Families and Friends!

Today is the midterm of Quarter 2! The school year is flying by.

This week, we attended the district Veterans Day Assembly. Thank you to everyone who helped put together a great morning honoring those who have served our country!

Picture Retake Day will be this coming Monday, Nov. 16th.

Please check out the information below regarding the K-2 Holiday Concert, as well as the music newsletter.

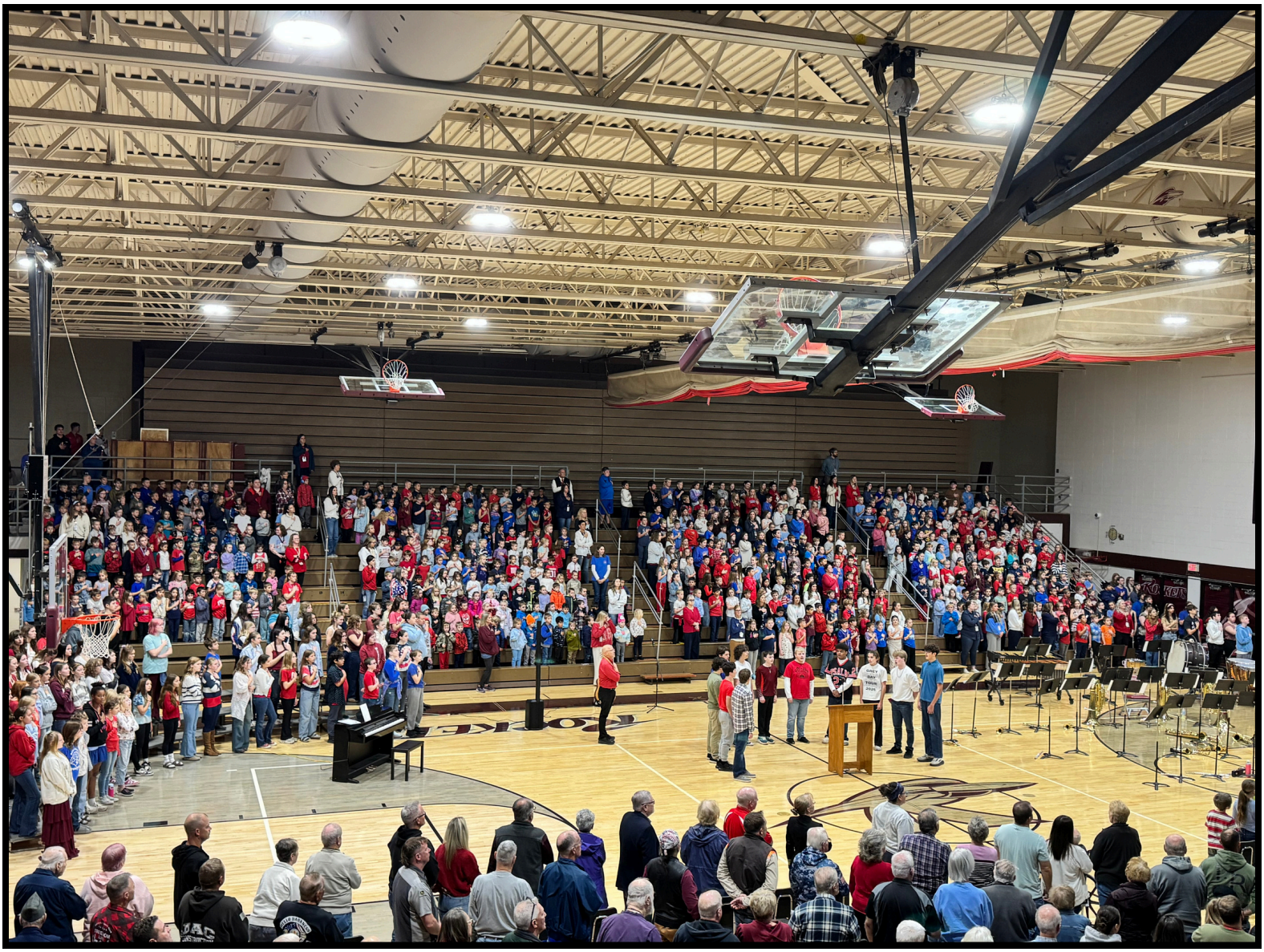
The weather is getting cooler! We will go outside on dry days as long as the RealFeel Temp is 18º or above. We use the child care weather watch chart to help make outdoor recess decisions. https://www.isbe.net/Documents/wind-heat-chart.pdf

Please be sure to send students to school with warm layers as we will try to get outside as often as possible for recess.

Please see the corrected lunch menu calendar below. Nov. 20th is a full attendance day.

As always, if you have any questions for us at TRE, feel free to contact the office at (309) 793-8070 or tgoben@rr300.org

-Mr. Goben



Important Dates for this Week / Near Future

Picture Retakes - Mon. 11/16

Thanksgiving Break - No school 11/25 - 11/27

Winter Family Night - 12/10 @ RRHS

K-2 Music Program - Wed. 12/16

Taylor Ridge Elementary &
Illinois City Elementary

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

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.





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



ILLINOIS CITY & TAYLOR RIDGE ELEMENTARY

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

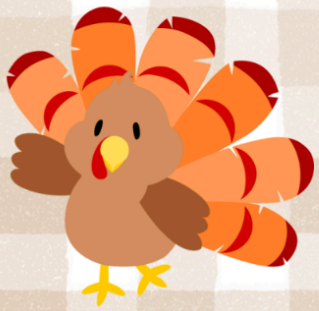
Santa Story Time, Make A Craft, and Cookies! Pre-K will end the evening with a song at 6:30.

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!

TR/ICE SEL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026



Gratitude

Kindergarten

Naming our emotions is an important first step to managing our emotions. This month, Kindergarten students will focus on identifying their emotions using the Emotion Elements.

First Grade

Understanding how we are feeling helps us build self-awareness. This month, 1st grade students will work on emotion awareness by using the Emotion Elements. We will also use body cues to help us accurately identify our emotions.

Second Grade

It's important to be able to understand and manage our emotions. This month, 2nd graders will use the Emotion Elements to name their emotions, and practice applying strategies to regulate their emotions.

Emotion Elements

- **Bree** represents feeling silly, nervous, playful, or distracted.
- **Brooks** represents feeling sad, lonely, tired, or embarrassed.
- **Ember** represents feeling angry, frustrated, excited, or scared.
- **Terra** represents emotions like calm, focused, proud, or happy.

Overview

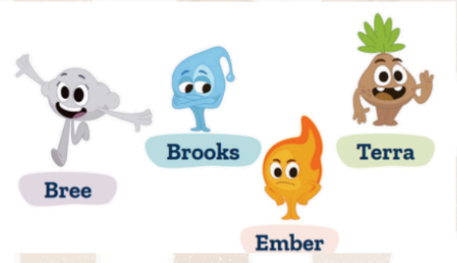
We are looking forward to focusing on Gratitude this month! One way to think about Gratitude is "choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives." Practicing Gratitude can increase our well-being and our happiness. Gratitude is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students Be Well. Throughout the school, students will be developing skills like emotion regulation, positive self-talk, and stress management.

Emotion Regulation Strategies

- Breathe It Out - take a nice deep breath or try out a specific breathing strategy
- Move It Out - move away from the situation or get some exercise
- Talk It Out - talk to a trusted adult about how you feel

Be Kind, Be Strong, Be Well,

Mrs. Sywassink & Mrs. Stice



November 2026 Breakfast Menu for All Buildings

MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 **No School In lieu of P/T Conferences**	3 Pop-Tart Yogurt	4 Mini Pancakes Syrup	5 Bagel & Cream Cheese	6 Donut
9 Scrambled Eggs & Bacon	10 Biscuits & Gravy	11 Breakfast Pizza 	12 French Toast Sticks Syrup	13 Muffin String Cheese
16 Mini Pancakes Syrup	17 Cheese Omelet Toast	18 Bagel & Cream Cheese	19 Breakfast Sandwich Bacon, Egg & Cheese	20 Cereal Bar String Cheese
23 Breakfast Burrito 	24 Scrambled Eggs & Bacon	25 **No School Thanksgiving Break**	26 **No School** 	27 **No School Thanksgiving Break**
30 French Toast Sticks Syrup	1	2 **Served Daily: cereal, toast, fruit or juice & milk**	3	4

Skim, Chocolate and 1% White milk served everyday

November 2026 Lunch Menu for All Buildings

Skim, Chocolate and 1% White milk served everyday

MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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



https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BADAC2EA6F8C25-66709638-winter#/

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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

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 25 ..... End of Fourth Grading Period (tentative) – 1:30 dismissal
May 26 ..... No School Teacher Institute (tentative)
May 27, 28 ..... Emergency Days (tentative)
June 1 ..... 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	37
October 13 – December 22	46
January 7 – March 12	45
March 15 – May 25	46

BOE Approved 9.14.2026