

RMS NEWS



International Day of Peace

On September 20th, the RMS school community gathered under clear, beautiful skies for an annual tradition that captures the essence of unity and peace. It was a perfect day to celebrate our shared values and the strength of our school family. Kelley Flanders welcomed the children and staff, sharing a brief

history of this annual event established by the United Nations in 1981. She emphasized the importance of fostering peace both within ourselves and in the wider world, values that are central to the Montessori philosophy.

The highlight of the event was a sing-a-long led and accompanied RMS Music Guide, Angela, and Aspens Guide, Kelly. Together, the entire student body sang "Light a Candle for Peace" in both English and Chinese. This bilingual rendition symbolized our commitment to global understanding and respect for all cultures. The voice of our youngest Toddlers to our oldest Middle School friends blended together in a reflection of the values we seek to instill in our children—kindness, respect, and a sense of connection with the world around them.

Thank you to Tina for teaching Chinese lyrics and pronunciation, and to Robbie and Isiah for managing equipment needed for a successful event.

We Celebrate

5 Years with RMS!



Ashley Giberson
E1 East Guide

Take Learning Outside

Ecology Lessons Bring Learning to Life in the RMS Garden

Elementary and Middle School Ecology friends have been hard at work in the school garden, applying hands-on learning to grow and harvest food. They begin by starting seeds indoors, preparing garden plots, and planting a variety of crops.

Through the seasons, they learn about composting, plant families, and how to maintain healthy soil. They explore how soil nutrients impact different plant parts and how companion planting and crop rotation support a healthy garden ecosystem.

This Fall, the work continues as they harvest, produce, and prepare food to be enjoyed in class.

This cycle of learning allows students to experience the full cycle of gardening while developing a deeper understanding of the environment and sustainable food production.



Shine a Light on Sustainability

Take a moment during your visit to the Harvest Festival to check out the 100-panel solar array on the roof of the school building. The RMS solar array is a direct result of our commitment to sustainability and of the generosity of many donors!

The solar array captures energy from the sun and converts it into electricity for school use. Any excess energy is returned to the grid and reduces the RMS energy bill! We are working to connect the array to monitoring so that children can observe energy use in real-time.

Be sure to look for the yellow sun on the patio near the media center during the Harvest Festival—a great place to stop, look up, and see the array. Many thanks to all who donated to the two-year campaign to raise funds for this project!

Take Learning Outside

Produce Sales Raise Funds for Future Garden Projects



Elementary students hosted a series of Fall Garden Sales featuring produce harvested from the RMS Garden!

Children worked hard cultivating a variety of fresh produce and shared the bounty with the school community in exchange for free-will donations.

Funds raised support future gardening efforts including replacement of tools broken from normal wear tear; expansion of the growing area; and purchases of materials needed for garden infrastructure such as, trellises and a functional gate.

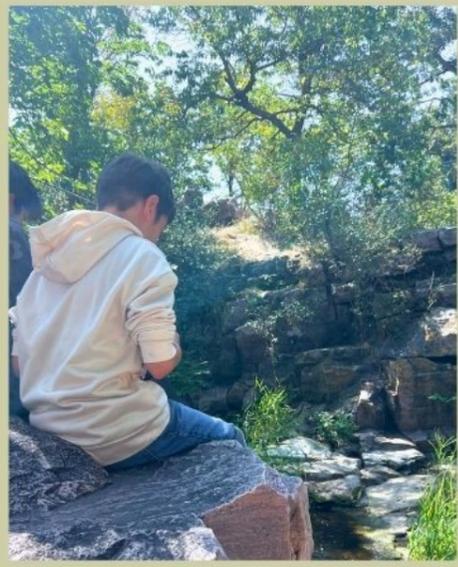
Thank you to all who supported the Garden Sales!



Join us at the Harvest Festival on Friday, October 11th for more Fall Campus Fun!



Middle School Spotlight

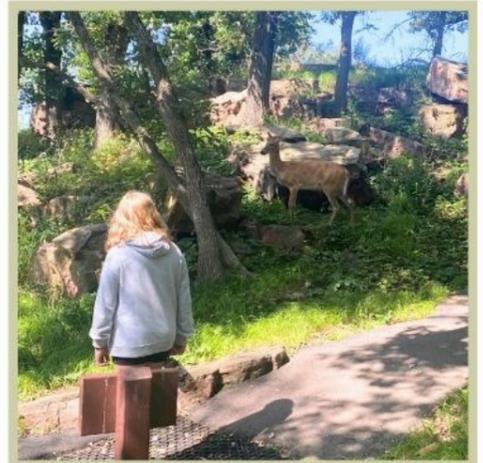


Camping in Blue Mounds State Park

The Middle School Community kicked off the school year with a two-night camping trip to Blue Mounds State Park near Luverne, MN. Visits to the Jeffers Petroglyphs and Pipestone National Monument offered introductions to geology and Native American arts and languages.

The students teamed up to set up camp, plan and prepare meals, and practice fire-starting techniques. Prairie hikes and spotting bison uniquely highlighted the time spent in southwest Minnesota.

The trip provided a fun, educational start to the year, blending outdoor adventure with hands-on learning experiences.



Preparing Bees for Winter

Middle Schoolers harvested 2.5 gallons of honey from the RMS campus beehives—an impressive yield for newly established hives. The students replaced the honey removed from the bees' winter food supply with *bee candy* boards made from a mixture of sugar, vinegar, and water.

An extra winterization set generously donated by *Hive Hugger* will be used in the coming weeks to tuck the bees in for winter.

Don't miss your chance to sample RMS honey, which will be on sale at the Harvest Festival!



Mixing Bee Candy



Harvesting Honey

Montessori Minute

Don't Miss the Parent Education Event: *Science at RMS* Wednesday, November 6th at 6:00PM

The Montessori Method's approach to teaching science—through hands-on learning, interdisciplinary connections, and respect for nature—provides children an enriched, holistic understanding of science. It fosters not only scientific knowledge but also curiosity, independence, and environmental responsibility.

Experiential learning is crucial in science education. Children actively engage in experiments, handle materials, and observe phenomena, which solidifies their grasp of concepts. Rather than memorizing facts, students learn through observation and experimentation, mimicking real-world scientific practices. This approach makes abstract concepts concrete and allows children to internalize them more effectively.

Science is often integrated with other subjects, such as math and geography. Through Cosmic Education, scientific topics are connected to the universe's grand narrative, sparking wonder and emphasizing the interconnectedness of all life. This interdisciplinary method gives students a broader understanding of how science fits into the world.

Montessori fosters respect for the natural world by encouraging children to observe, appreciate, and care for the environment. RMS's beautiful 15-acre campus offers direct engagement with nature. For example, children learn about ecosystems, plant life, and weather patterns through real-time observation, enhancing both understanding and environmental stewardship.

Montessori encourages inquiry by helping children ask questions, explore, and find answers. Rather than memorizing facts, students focus on discovery, developing a natural understanding of the scientific method. This process-based approach builds critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for scientific inquiry.

The Montessori environment is carefully prepared with access to scientific materials so children can independently explore concepts. This autonomy reinforces their ability to think and act like scientists. By nurturing an experiential connection with science, Montessori helps develop lifelong learners and future scientific thinkers!

Save the Date

October

11: RMCC Meeting
11: Harvest Festival
16: Pinecones Fall Sing-A-Long
17-18: No School - MEA
30: Middle School Conferences

November

1: No School - Conference Day
6: Parent Education Night - Science
8: RMCC Meeting
13: Aspen After School Parent Visit
14: Redwood After School Parent Visit
15: RMCC Soup Night
21: Middle School Night at the Museum Parent Event
25: Birches Muffin Morning
27-29: No School - Fall Break

SchoolCues

Communicate Absences & Changes to Drop-off or Pick-up

View & Pay Tuition

Update Child Records



Quick Links

Board Committees

Email Kellie Mueller to Learn More



Merch Stock Up on Fall RMS Apparel



RMS Commits to Ongoing Improvement through Accreditation

Rochester Montessori School has a long history and solid commitment to continual improvement. From its inception, RMS has sought to be the best Montessori school it could be, with staff continually seeking a deep understanding of children and their learning grounded in Montessori principles. I am incredibly excited to share that we are taking the next step in that established practice by seeking accreditation from the American Montessori Society (AMS) and the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). (The International Baccalaureate already authorizes our Middle Years Programme.) This step is one of five strategic goals of the updated strategic plan, which was informed by community input and approved by the RMS Board of Directors.

What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is a commitment to ongoing reflection and improvement. Schools must meet the accrediting organization's standards and show that they are doing what they say they do. Though different organizations may have slight variations, all accrediting organizations follow a basic process that takes approximately seven years to complete. The key steps in this cycle include a comprehensive self-study, which involves all school constituents in a reflective process to describe all aspects of school program and operations, identifying strengths, challenges, and plans and priorities for each area. The accrediting organization sends a visiting team to the school following the self-study (which usually takes a year to complete). The team is made up of educators with experience in independent Montessori schools. They visit the school for several days to see it in operation. Following their visit, the team provides a report, which includes accreditation nomination (or not), and offers recommendations and priorities for the school. This report frames school improvement efforts for the coming accreditation cycle. (It never ends! We continually work through the seven-year cycle.)

Why multiple accrediting organizations?

We seek to maximize the benefit of the accreditation process by seeking accreditation from three organizations: AMS, IB, and ISACS. We can align the processes to essentially do the cycles for each accrediting association simultaneously. The processes are not either/or; ISACS accreditation will be about our Montessori identity, and AMS accreditation focuses on all school aspects. A Montessori process will ensure we are deeply grounded in Montessori education and that the ISACS accreditation process will help us focus on school operations and programs and connect us to schools from the 13 state region.

What are the benefits of accreditation?

The most significant benefit of accreditation is that it requires us to make the time to do this important improvement work. The process is inclusive; it involves all school employees, parents, some (older) students, alums, and the board in discerning school strengths, challenges, and plans. The visiting team comprises people who know what they are looking at and are guided to provide useful feedback. Their recommendations will build on our strengths and help us to identify priorities. Being an accredited member of AMS and ISACS will also give us access to tremendous resources and professional opportunities, including conferences, professional networks, helpful data, and more. ISACS accreditation will make RMS a Minnesota Association of Independent Schools member. Accreditation for RMS shows that we are serious about being the best school we can be and have made a significant commitment to that end.

I will keep you informed about the process as we move through it. This year, we are applying for provisional membership, submitting needed school information, and preparing for the self-study, which we expect to happen next school year.

Kelley Flanders
Head of School

