

NEWSLETTER

ROCHESTER MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

FROM THE ACADEMIC TEAM

February has been a month full of energy and growth across all grade levels. Students have been sharpening their academic skills with MCA preparation front and center — from context clues and literary analysis in Language Arts to focused review in Math and Science. Beyond the classroom, our fencers competed at the Cupid's Arrow tournament, our 3rd graders dove into Black History Month research and the 2026 Winter Olympics, and our seniors took meaningful steps toward Fall college course registration. As we head into March, the momentum is strong — and March Madness energy in the gym is only adding to it. Thank you for your continued support at home; it makes a real difference.

February Highlights: HS seniors registering for Fall 2026 college courses, fencing team at Cupid's Arrow tournament, 3rd grade Winter Olympics + Black History Month projects, WIDA ACCESS testing + MCA prep in ELA, Math MCA review with IXL/Study Island, Science units across 6th–8th grade, PE classes + March Madness preview, and Students of the Month.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



High School Seniors (Dr. Mauel)

Our high school seniors are making incredible progress as they prepare for life after graduation. Over the past several months, they have taken meaningful steps toward their future careers by researching programs, exploring career pathways, and applying to the colleges that best align with their goals and aspirations.

Many students have also registered for important placement and entrance exams such as the Accuplacer, ACT, and other required assessments to ensure they are ready for the next phase of their academic journey. In the coming weeks, our seniors will take another big step as they begin signing up for Fall 2026 college courses.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



High School Seniors (Dr. Mauel)

Course registration marks the transition from planning to action and brings them one step closer to achieving their academic and career dreams.

We are proud of the responsibility, initiative, and maturity our 12th graders have demonstrated throughout this process. Way to go, Class of 2026! Your hard work is paying off, and we cannot wait to see all that you accomplish next.

FENCING TEAM (CORLIS)



RMSA had 3 fencers compete at the Cupid's Arrow on Saturday, held at the RCTC field house.

Sabirin Mohamed competed in women's epee. This was her first tournament, and she finished 25th out of 28.

Hafida Ali competed in women's saber, finishing 11th.

Adna Hassen also competed in women's saber, finishing 12th.

FENCING TEAM (CORLIS)



There are many factors that contributed to the lower placement, and we, as a young team, need to work through them.

What I was most proud of was the community's turnout to support these girls.

Parents, grandparents, fellow students, and former RMSA fencers came out to see them compete.

The beauty of a fencing tournament is that spectators can be fairly close to the action as it happens. Our former fencers served as strip coaches, easily switching between languages as they guided beginners.

SOCIAL STUDIES SPOTLIGHT



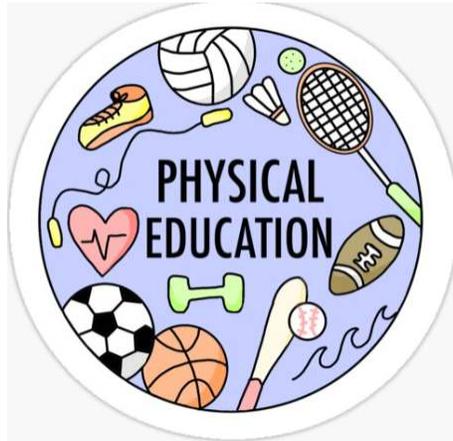
Mr. Max Lunardi (MS Social Studies)

6th grade finished with a lesson where we acted as townspeople and created a unique town. We then applied information we learned about Minnesota in the early 1800's to our unique community and practiced skills such as argument creation and reasoning. Students also scored very high on a quiz related to Minnesota's landscape. We are moving on to studying industry in Minnesota and its effect.

7th grade has almost concluded with a unit on the Civil Rights Movement. Our next step to conclude the Civil Rights Movement is to research influential figures and create a social media post related to their life and accomplishments.

8th grade concluded with our Movement and Economy lesson by having the opportunity to learn more about migration by examining examples of ancestors'/family migration. There were many students who created high-quality presentations, and their effort and learning impressed me. Our final step in this unit is to complete a short-answer quiz before moving on to the next unit of study, World Cultures.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATES



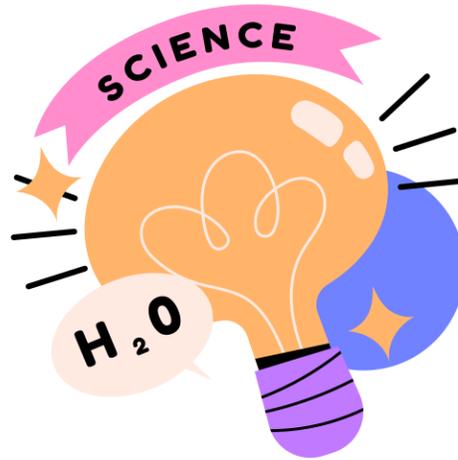
Mr. Charles Muchemi (PE)

Physical education classes are progressing well this semester, with students actively participating and showing strong enthusiasm in all activities. From fitness drills and team sports to skill-building exercises, engagement has been high and improvement is clearly visible. Students continue to demonstrate teamwork, sportsmanship, and a positive attitude toward staying active and healthy.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for March Madness, one of the biggest sporting events of the year. The tournament will tip off right after IDD, giving students something exciting to follow and discuss. Many classes plan to incorporate basketball-themed activities and friendly competitions to connect learning with this national event.

Overall, P.E. classes remain on track, and the upcoming basketball season's energy is sure to keep motivation strong as we move into the next phase of the term.

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT



Mr. Mohamed Mohamed (MS Science)

6th grade is studying earth science, where students are learning about how matter gets transformed by energy, but the same matter is still present. Sediment forms when any type of rock is weathered, a process driven by energy from the sun. Magma forms when any type of rock is melted, a process driven by energy from Earth's interior.

7th grade students are learning about hemophilia as one example of how genes provide instructions for making the protein molecules that determine an organism's traits. A person with hemophilia has genes that do not provide the right instructions for making the clotting factor proteins needed to form scabs.

8th grade is studying physical science; students are learning about thermal energy, such as things that are made of molecules or other types of atom groups. When a thing gets hotter, its molecules are moving faster. When a thing gets colder, its molecules are moving more slowly.

3RD GRADE SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Emma Uftring (3rd Grade)

Miss Uftring's third-grade class has been working on a project for the 2026 Winter Olympics. Each student has a country that they need to keep track of their medals and cheer on as the Olympics unfold. Attached are Ibadah's and Khadar's posters.

3RD GRADE SPOTLIGHT

Barack Obama

- **Birthday:** August 4 1961
- **Lived with:** 5 siblings
- **Known for:** being a president
- **Importance:** he is the only black president
- **Fun Fact:** he wants peace for everyone



Shuaib

Ruby Bridges

- **Birthday:** September 8 1954
- **Lived with:** 8 siblings
- **Known for:** first black child to enter an all white school
- **Importance:** she showed that black and white kids can go to school together
- **Fun Fact:** the president gave her a medal



Samira

Ms. Emma Uftring (3rd Grade)

Students in Miss Uftring's 3rd-grade class have been celebrating Black History Month this February. Each student got assigned a famous black person to research and present on. Attached is Shuaib's and Samira's slide.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Currently, we are taking the WIDA ACCESS test for English Language Learners in my class. The time not spent on that is helping to prepare students for their upcoming MCA tests. The first two weeks of the quarter had a heavy focus on using context clues to identify the meaning of challenging vocabulary words encountered in a text.

Now, we are reading MCA-style literary texts and answering MCA-style questions to help familiarize students with the types of questions they will see on the real exams.



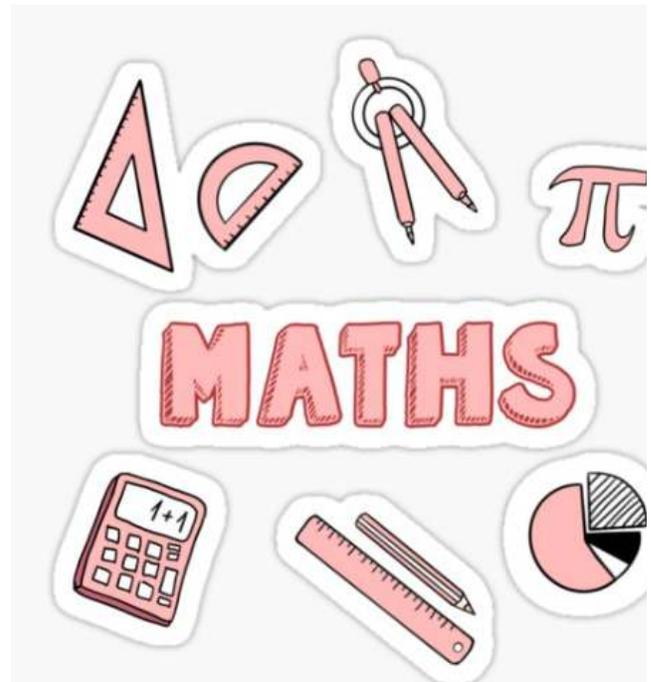
MATHEMATICS

MS. SULAF

8th Grade: Rational & Irrational, Exponents, Scientific Notation, Sequences, Symbolic with Linear Equations and Inequalities, Linear Equations, Simplify and Evaluate Expressions.

7th Grade: Absolute Value, Ratios and Proportions, Real World Problems, Proportional Relationships, Simplify Expressions, Formulas, Volume and Surface Area, Similar Figures & Scale Factors

6th Grade: Percents, Fractions, and Mixed Numbers, Ratios, Multiplication, and Division, Expressions, Properties of Arithmetic, Solve Equations, Angle and Lines, Surface Area and Volume, Convert units



STUDENT OF THE MONTH



6th grade

[Muscab Musse](#): He is eleven years old and is excited that he was awarded student of the month. He loves to play basketball and soccer, and his favorite subject in school is math. His goals this year are to get better grades in all of his classes.

[Qismah Mohamed](#): She is twelve years old and is excited about her upcoming birthday. She enjoys playing volleyball, and Social Studies is her favorite subject. She aspires to get straight A's this school year and to get even better at math.

7th grade

[Hanad Hilowle](#): He is twelve years old and is excited for winter to end. He has many hobbies, including soccer, arts and crafts, and computer science. He enjoys all of his classes at school and hopes to do well on the MCAs.

[Samsam Warsame](#): She is twelve years old and is a TV series buff: "The Apothecary Diaries" and "Black Clover" are her current favorites. She is looking forward to her birthday and enjoys playing soccer, basketball, and volleyball. She enjoys the social aspects of her school day.

8th grade

[Hamza Mohamed](#): He is thirteen years old and is excited for the March Madness tournament coming in March and for graduation this May. He is good at basketball and physical education class.