



Bi-Annual Newsletter

At Alignment Rockford, we are working to support an enriching learning environment for Rockford students of all ages. We've been hard at work this summer, prepping for the upcoming school year.

To keep you informed, we're rolling out our new and improved newsletter to be delivered on a bi-annual basis. So sit back, relax, and read about what Alignment Rockford has been up to!



Director's Note

"We thank you for your interest and support in Alignment Rockford initiatives. This year has been an exciting one with a lot of changes. We have a new team, new projects, and new look, and are still dedicated to supporting our Rockford Public Schools. Enjoy!"

Anisha Grimmett
Executive Director

First Up



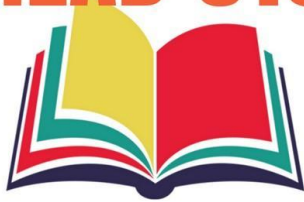
Website Launch!

We got an upgrade! Find volunteer opportunities, calendar events, team updates, and more on our new website.

[Visit our website](#)

Alignment News

READ 815



#READ815 #BOOKAWEEK #READINGSELFIE



3rd Grade Reading Initiative

In June, Alignment Rockford held a Stakeholder's Forum focusing on 3rd grade reading solutions. The community listened, and Winnebago County has launched a regional summer reading challenge!

Participants were challenged to read a book a week to support and increase a culture of literacy in Rockford (and take a selfie!). Participants posted the selfie on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter using the hashtags: #READ815 #BOOKAWEEK #READINGSELFIE

Dean Lowry and Fred VanVleet joined the movement too! [See what others are posted](#) and look for another READ815 initiative coming soon!

Service Spotlight - Jessica Hendon

Jessica Hendon is a participant in our Healthy Starts Team and the BAMIT (Business, Arts, Modern Languages, IT) Academy Support Team Chair at Jefferson High School. She also volunteers her time with the Academy Expo every year. We sat down with Jessica to get the inside scoop on volunteering and the importance of giving back.

Why did you want to be a part of these teams/projects?

JH: A co-worker could not continue to participate as an AST at Jefferson and asked me to fill her spot remembering that I had graduated from there (a long time ago). I really liked the team and as more volunteer opportunities opened up, I filled those as well. I continue to volunteer because I want to be a part of the progress I see, bettering the schools of RPS for all children, including my own.

Do you think it's important for community members to volunteer for these initiatives? Why?

JH: Absolutely! Our children are the future and we should invest in them. Time is the most valuable thing we have to offer.

What change do you hope to see in RPS because of these initiatives?

JH: I hope to see a continuation and acceleration of student successes, like increased graduation rates and college/career placement. I look forward to seeing our entire community benefit from this.

What do you hope to see from Alignment Rockford in the future?

JH: More projects that bring all the great resources in our area together so we can capitalize on them.



"Our children are the future and we should invest in them."

If you'd like to get involved like Jessica, click the button below!

[Volunteer](#)

Open ITPs™ (Invitation to Participate™)



The Academy Expo is looking for booth hosts and hospitality partners! If you are an industry expert and would like to host a booth or would like to help with setting up and behind the scenes of the Academy Expo, please fill out an ITP™.

Industry Expert

Hospitality Ambassador

If your business is looking to impact the community, become an institutionalization partner for the Academy Expo! We are looking for one or multiple businesses to take all or part of the Academy Expo so our Alignment Teams can develop other initiatives. If you are interested, please fill out the Institutionalization ITP™.

Institutionalization Partner



Our **Capstone** team needs: ideas for capstone projects, volunteers, mentors, and consultants for high school seniors in the upcoming school year. If you are interested in participating or have an idea for a capstone project, please fill out the current ITP™.

Capstone ITP

Upcoming Events

Capstone Kick-off - 9/5
Strategic Planning - 9/13
Academy Expo - 10/24

Team Updates



College & Career Readiness

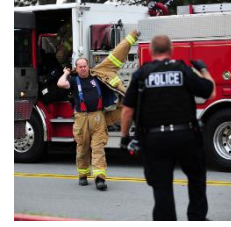
- Academy Expo
- Job Shadow
- Capstone
- Curriculum Design Support

See how Alignment's A-Teams support Rockford Public Schools by [clicking here!](#)



Healthy Starts

- A Single Point of Entry (SPOE) card was created to help case workers and families navigate the range of organizations that provide basic needs. [View the SPOE card here!](#)



Fire & Public Safety Industry Council

- Our team is currently working on increasing K-12 student interest in public and fire safety careers. These tactical plans are in the beginning stages, as we look for efficient ways to increase public and fire safe industry experts.

See the details of the Industry Councils [here!](#)

Want to learn more about our process and our teams?

Visit our website

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STAY CONNECTED

