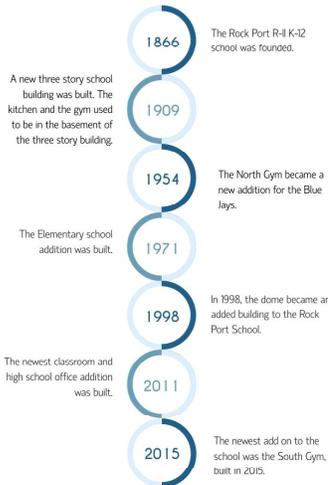


# Blue Jay Corner

**BLUE JAY CORNER**  
Student newspaper of Rock Port R-II Schools | 600 S. Nebraska Street | Rock Port, Mo. 64482  
**Advisor:** Amy Skillen. **Staff:** Darius Skillen, Makenna Farmer, Mackenzie Lager, Rachel Vogler, Macie Hale, Addison Lair, Kate Ottmann, Aubrey Watkins, Anneliese Clauson, Morgan Cofer, Sara Newbanks, Kylie Jo Nuckolls.

## The Blue Jay Journey:

By Makenna Farmer



## Welcome to Rock Port!

By Morgan Cofer  
Rock Port has been blessed with 19 new students this year. Read on to meet a few of them, with more to come in future weeks.



← Matthew Payne, 8th Grade  
**Moved from:** Oak Grove, Mo.  
**Likes most about Rock Port:** "PE."

→ Kaden Perry, 1st Grade  
**Moved from:** St. Joseph  
**Likes most about Rock Port:** "This school is so awesome."

← Teagan Brunk, 6th Grade  
**Moved from:** Shandoah  
**Likes most about Rock Port:** "You don't have to move from class to class."

→ Marissa Roybal, Junior  
**Moved from:** Auburn  
**Likes most about Rock Port:** "I like volleyball and my friends."



## HOLIDAY RIDDLES

By Macie Hale



- Hints:  
1. This chubby North Pole resident brings presents to children.  
2. Has a red nose and saved Christmas.  
3. Santa's helpers.  
4. The main decoration for Christmas.  
5. Build him in the cold and has a carrot nose.  
6. Where Santa falls to place the presents.  
7. Nips at your fingers and toes.  
8. The reindeer pull this around the world.  
9. Dangled among the Christmas tree.  
10. Tradition says if you're caught under this with someone you have to kiss.

**FREE PICK-UP & DELIVERY**  
DRY CLEANING SERVICE  
in Hy-Vee, Tarkio  
**PICK-UP & DELIVERY**  
Tuesdays & Fridays

## School policy change

By Mackenzie Lager  
The newest and most challenging policy change for students to handle is the new phone policy. The new phone policy states that cell phones, ipods, and other personal electronics will not be allowed to be used in the school building during normal school day, 8:00a.m-3:07 p.m. While students can text between classes and at lunch, many have struggled with not being able to have their phone on them all the time.

High school history teacher Thomas Herron said, "Though maybe not perfect, the policy has helped in class and incidents, between students. Being disconnected more is a benefit for all."

"I think the policy is a little extreme, but it is easy for me to follow because before this policy was in place I wasn't on my phone a lot during the school day like most students were," said junior Max Jackson.

Freshman Sara Newbanks, who moved to Rock Port her seventh grade year, said the new policy is still more lenient than

## Different celebrations for different souls

By Darius Skillen

Thanksgiving is sometimes an under-appreciated holiday. It is a day to recognize everything one is thankful for.

"Yes, I think a lot of people get in a hurry to move onto Christmas instead of taking advantage of the great opportunity to spend time with family and eat great food," Amy Skillen, faculty member, said.

Some students at Rock Port High School start preparing for Christmas as soon as Halloween is over. Others take time to celebrate Thanksgiving and wait until after the holiday to start getting into the Christmas spirit.

"I wait [to get in the Christmas spirit] because Thanksgiving is a holiday and I like fall. I do celebrate for Christmas the day after

Thanksgiving," Morgan Lingerfelt, senior, said.

"We have our decorations up before Halloween," Brecken Kelly, freshman, said.

"[I wait to get in the Christmas spirit] because it's not Christmas yet," Aricin Weber and Jaylynn Garst, seventh graders, said.

"[I think Thanksgiving is under appreciated] because it's a lot of good food," Aidan Burke, freshman, said.

"[I get in the Christmas spirit early] because it's my favorite time of the year and it makes me happy. I just love Christmas," junior Gabriel Abbott said.

"I think that I listen to Christmas music early because [Christmas] is a giving time, but Thanksgiving is also a giving time. Both holidays just make

me really happy," Makenna Farmer, junior, said.

"I skip being in a Thanksgiving mood because I only have one big gathering without many of my close family members. But I am thankful for those I celebrate with," Kate Ottmann, sophomore, said.

"[I get in the Christmas spirit before Thanksgiving] because it makes everyone happier when they get in the Christmas spirit," Aubrey Watkins, sophomore, said.

"[I get in the Christmas spirit right after Halloween] because it makes me happy," Macie Hale, sophomore, said.

"I have to wait until after Thanksgiving. I am a one-holiday-at-a-time girl. I do not like to rush through life," Rachel Jenkins, faculty member, said.

## Favorite Winter Activities

By Anneliese Clauson



## Closing out 2019:

### Semester summary

By Rachel Vogler

For Rock Port students, the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year is quickly coming to a close. With homecoming falling on just the third week of the school, it felt like we were further through the year than we actually were.

The students have already had a busy year filled with several educational trips and organizational conventions. Freshmen through juniors took trips to help get ideas of future careers they might want to pursue. The freshmen went to the career fair held at the city park while the sophomores went to career day in Saint Joseph. The juniors went to a career day that was hosted by Atchison County Development Corporation and traveled to different businesses across Atchison County.

Student Council hosted the annual Veterans Day Assembly with Todd Stevens as the speaker. Before the assembly, veterans visited with the sixth graders, who fundraise for the Atchison County Memorial Building every year.

On December 6, many Rock Port students gained first-hand history experience: the sophomores went on a field trip to the National World War I Museum

her former schools.

While the new policy has taken some getting used to, students have adapted to being more "unplugged" than they were the last few years.

and Memorial, and the seventh and eighth graders had a guest speaker who is a historian of both World Wars.

FCCLA took four of their six officers to National Fall Convention held in Dallas, while the FFA chapter took four members to National Convention in Indianapolis.

In regards to fall athletics, the cross country team sent Aubrey Watkins and Rebekah Lucas to state, where Aubrey brought home a medal. The volleyball team became conference and back-to-back district champs to wrap up their season.

The band had a busy fall with several parades and parades and field shows at Trenton and Carrollton, although Clarinda was canceled due to weather.

The National Honor Society inducted 10 new members in early October. The night consisted of the induction ceremony where students received their certificates, followed by treats and snacks for the members and their families.

As the semester draws to a close, high school basketball and wrestling are just beginning. The students still have so much to look forward to but are hoping the remainder of their year continues to fly by.

## COLOR BY NUMBER

- 1 - gray
- 2 - blue
- 3 - light blue
- 4 - dark brown
- 5 - light brown
- 6 - green



By Kate Ottmann

**Joesting DRAINAGE**  
ROCK PORT, MO  
**Cody Joesting**  
**(660)253-0260**  
Tile Repair & Installation • Trenching • Backhoe Work

Serving Northwest Missouri and Southwest Iowa since 1995!  
**• ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS • GUTTERING • FASCIA**  
**JASON BROWN**  
Since 1995  
**ROOFING**  
Call Today for a FREE ESTIMATE!  
**(660) 582-7604**  
(Maryville)  
**(816) 216-9128**  
(Savannah/St. Joseph)  
Visit us on the web at [jasonbrownroofing.com](http://jasonbrownroofing.com)  
e-mail: [jasonbrownroofing@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonbrownroofing@yahoo.com)

**WANT TO BUY FARM LAND**  
**80 Acre to 160 Acre Tracts**  
*Upland or bottom land.*  
**Britt Harmon**  
**660-744-4072**

**NCH**  
**3x5**