

# Audubon Elementary School

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## Welcome From the Principal

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"Greetings. Audubon is a great place for students to learn. For the past twelve years, Audubon's core values have been the '4-C's: Communication, Cooperation, Collaboration, and Commitment. Our staff at Audubon values these four components of successful organizations as critical for an effective and successful school. We live these four core values on a daily basis with our students, our parents, our peers, and our community.

Our Audubon community is very special and we thank everyone for their involvement in making Audubon a great place to be."

*-- Mr. David Bloom, Principal*

Mr. David Bloom, Principal  
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## Mission Statement

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Excellence every day.

## Testimonials

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### Teacher

"Audubon incorporates collaborative planning among grade level team members and specialists to ensure that best practices are used in standards-aligned daily instruction for all academic areas. Students are empowered to set goals and reach for excellence on a daily basis." – *Deborah*

### Parent

"Through the years Audubon PTA has built a successful relationship with the school administration, teachers, parents, and community. Because of this relationship, Audubon PTA has been able to provide academic grants, parent involvement events, and numerous other activities/projects, which promote the welfare of its children and youth." -- *Jay*

### Student

"What I like about Audubon is that kids get to learn new subjects each year. Also the way that the teacher always motivates us to do our best each and every day. Our principal tells us that if we do our best we can succeed later on in life." -- *Anonymous*

## Academic Programming

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### Core Academics

Rock Island-Milan School District offers a diverse academic program including curricular areas such as: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Languages, Health, Physical Education, and the Arts. Instruction is based on the Illinois Learning Standards and incorporates effective, research-based instructional strategies. Balanced literacy instruction across curricular areas is the basis for instruction. Grading and student assessment practices are constructed to provide optimal feedback on student academic progress.

### **Multi-Age or Looping Grades**

Audubon Elementary School uses a multi-age grade system for grades 1-6. It also uses a looping system for those same grades, which allows students to stay with the same teacher for two years to create long-term relationships. Each year approximately 40% of these classrooms contain returning students who know the teacher's routine and expectations which greatly reduces the start up time needed for the class to work well together.

### **Head Start**

Audubon runs two Head Start classrooms for those in need.

### **Special Programs for Gifted and At-Risk Students**

Gifted/Talented:

Rock Island-Milan School District believes that students with potential for outstanding accomplishments require special provisions to meet their educational needs. The gifted program identifies individuals through teacher referral, cognitive ability, and achievement testing and establishes an individualized academic program for those identified students.

At-Risk Interventions:

In the Rock Island-Milan School District, the mission is to increase the academic performance of all students in all schools. Students learn at different rates and have highly individualized academic and social needs. Curricular, social, and behavior prevention and intervention programs have been established to ensure that all students are provided the necessary support and programming to achieve at his or her potential.

### **Contacts for Special Needs Children**

Gifted/Talented Children:

Jacquelyn Phillis – Email: [jacquelyn.phillis@risd41.org](mailto:jacquelyn.phillis@risd41.org)

At-Risk Children:

Mary Mayhew – Email: [mary.mayhew@risd41.org](mailto:mary.mayhew@risd41.org)

### **Library and Technology Services**

We have an extensive reading resource library (book room) for teachers. In addition, Audubon has a very good student library. All classrooms have three to four computers for student use. Audubon has a TV studio that can broadcast out to all classrooms as well as an electronic scroll screen for information.

### **Special Classes and/or Programs Offered**

- Developed a school improvement team and a curriculum cadre that works together to form strategic goals for Audubon's students.
- In identified problem areas, formal tools of assessment as well as anecdotal notes and student observation are used to improve the students' progress and track their improvement.

### **Languages Offered**

There are no language classes offered at Audubon.

### **Achievement Scores**

In 2003, high scores were received in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math, 4<sup>th</sup> grade science and social studies, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading, math, and writing.

## School Environment

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### Location

2601 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island

18<sup>th</sup> Avenue is a main thoroughfare in Rock Island. The street is comprised of a mix of commercial uses and single-family dwellings. However, the area to the north is comprised of single-family residences.

### School Day Hours

8:35 a.m. to 3 p.m.

2 p.m. early dismissal on Wednesdays

### Calendar

The Rock Island-Milan School District operates on a modified year-round calendar. School starts in early August, and students have 2-week breaks in the fall, winter, and spring.

First Day of School: August 2, 2005

Fall Intercession: October 10-23, 2005

Winter Intercession: December 23, 2005 – January 8, 2006

Spring Intercession: March 20 – April 2, 2006

Last Day of School: June 3, 2005 (pending emergency days)

### Total Enrollment

288 students in 2005

294 Students in 2004

304 Students in 2003

288 Students in 2002

### Class Size

According to the 2004 School Report Card, the average class sizes range from 19 to 25.5 students.

### Student-Teacher Ratio

There are 19 students per teacher.

### Beginning and Ending Grades

This school serves students in grades pre-kindergarten to sixth grade and includes a Head Start program.

### Number of Classes At Each Grade Level

Kindergarten – 2 Classes

Multi-Grade 1-2 – 4 Classes

Multi-Grade 3-4 – 3 Classes

Multi-Grade 5-6 – 3 Classes

### Proximity to Housing and/or Neighborhoods

85 percent of the students walk to school, 5 percent use automobile transportation, and 10 percent utilize the bus system.

### Hot Breakfast/Lunch Programs

Like all Rock Island-Milan Schools, Audubon does have daily hot breakfast and lunch programs.

### **Before or After-Care Programs**

Audubon also offers before and after school childcare programs through the Two Rivers Y PALS Program.

### **Special Features of Building or Grounds**

Audubon was built in 1922. Much of the original architecture still exists and is in very good condition. Most of the rooms have hardwood maple floors.

### **Recent and Planned Upgrades**

Within the last five years, a climate control system was installed in the school. Currently, there are no future upgrades in progress.

### **Parent Involvement and Opportunities**

Student planners are written in daily for parent/child/teacher communication. "Monday Folders" go home with the week's information and phone calls are made to the home when needed. There are school and classroom newsletters published as well as an Audubon web page. We also have a parent contract to give parents a structured opportunity to volunteer and/or provide service hours with the school.

### **Outstanding Awards / Records Achieved by Students**

- State Awards: 2004 Illinois Spotlight Schools Award for Academic Achievement. Audubon was recognized for exemplary performance in closing the achievement gap, meeting high standards, and opening a world of opportunities. Awarded by Governor Rod R. Blagojevich.
- Grade 3 ISAT scores raised in reading (50% to 78%) and writing (32% to 63%) for 3 consecutive years from 2000 to 2002.
- Grade 4 ISAT scores raised in science (56% to 71%) and social studies (41% to 74%) for 4 consecutive years from 2000 to 2003.
- Grade 5 ISAT scores raised in reading (36% to 67%) and math (34% to 81%) for 4 consecutive years from 2000 to 2003

### **Conflict Resolution or PBIS (Positive Behavior In Schools)**

The district discipline handbook is followed at all times. STAR students (Students Taking A Right Step) are recognized every Friday and acknowledged over the TV station or intercom.

### **Peer Mediation**

Peer Mediators are used at all lunch recesses.

### **Safety, Parking, Crossing Guards**

For safety, there is a designated pick up and drop off area on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There is onsite parking for parents and visitors. Audubon also has both child and adult crossing guards.

### **Playground Time & Supervision**

There is regular playground time scheduled during lunch recess every day. During this time, aides, teachers, and the principal supervise the children in their play.

## **Student Fun**

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### **During Academic Hours**

Audubon quarterly hosts the student recognition celebrations. There is also the Science Olympiad, the Taste of Audubon, and many class field trips. The Dr. Seuss Reading Celebration, the City of Rock Island Job Shadowing Day, the Minority Teacher Incentive Program and a weekly STARS (Students Taking A Right Step) celebration for students

making good choices are all programs targeted as fun activities to celebrate learning with the students.

### **After Academic Hours**

Audubon offers a Student Council, a Safety Patrol, the Wise Owl Club, the Penny Carnival, a May Craft Sale, the Taste of Audubon, and the annual PTA fundraiser.

### **Student Involvement in Non-School Organizations**

Audubon students have the opportunity to participate in:

- Rock Island Park Program After School Tutoring
- Two Rivers YMCA Before and After School Care Program
- Good Shepherd Presbyterian After School Tutoring
- South Park Presbyterian After School Tutoring

## **Partnerships**

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### **Academic**

- City of Rock Island Adopt-A-School Partners
- Newspapers in Schools
- Augustana and Western Illinois University pre-teaching programs

### **Mentoring**

- City of Rock Island Adopt-A-School Partners

### **Boosters**

- PTA

## **Faculty / Staff**

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### **Faculty and Staff Contacts**

#### **Classroom Aides & District Tutors**

There are classroom aides provided for all grades kindergarten through sixth.

#### **Faculty Special or Notable Awards / Achievements**

- Carol Van DeWalle  
LYSOL/NSTA Science and Your Health Challenge, 2001-02 Who's Who? in American Education, 2004 Maurice G. Kellogg Award for Excellence in Science Teaching, 2004 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, state and national winner, Christa McAuliffe Fellow, WIU Alumni Achievement Award, Master Teacher
- Lisa Maxwell  
Recently received a masters in Science Education and received a participation award for her involvement in the Minority Teacher Incentive Program
- Cheryl Chiavario  
PTA: 2004 Audubon Educator of the Year Award
- Meg O'Connor  
PTA: 2003 Audubon Educator of the Year Award

### **Audubon Web Page**

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<http://homepage.risd41.org/audubon/>

### **Rock Island – Milan School District Home Page**

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<http://www.risd41.org/>