



**For Immediate Release: March 21, 2025**

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## **Students from School No. 33 Take Learning to New Heights Inside Hot Air Balloon**

### **Who:**

Students from John James Audubon School No. 33

### **What:**

Hot air balloon demonstration and interactive STEM lesson

### **When:**

Monday, March 24, 2025, 11:35 a.m.

### **Where:**

John James Audubon School No. 33  
500 Webster Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14609

### **Details:**

John James Audubon School No. 33 students will engage with science like never before, stepping inside a real hot air balloon inflated inside their school gym. This event is part of a District-wide initiative that will reach more than 3,500 students across seven RCSD elementary schools, bringing the wonder of flight to young learners.

Made possible through the Rochester Education Foundation’s (REF) Smile Program, this hands-on learning experience is designed to spark curiosity and excitement about STEM education. The demonstration is led by Liberty Balloon Company, whose instructors will teach students about the mechanics of hot air balloons, the science behind flight, weather patterns, and the history of ballooning. The Smile Program, created by local philanthropist Dave Beck, funds field trips and experiences that deliver a well-rounded education and put smiles on students’ faces.

The event begins with the inflation of a full-size hot air balloon using fans inside the gymnasium, allowing students to walk inside and observe its structure up close. Weather permitting, students will also move outside to witness the balloon’s burners in action, bringing science to life with an unforgettable visual and auditory experience.

With more than 3,500 students participating in this initiative, RCSD and REF are making hands-on, engaging learning opportunities for young students across the District. Founded in 2005, REF’s mission is to provide programs and resources to improve learning and success for all City of Rochester students through partnerships with educators, businesses, and the community. For more information, visit [www.rochestereducation.org](http://www.rochestereducation.org).