

Rock Island Elementary School

A Title I School

Cormic Priester, Principal

Stephanie Ballard, Assistant Principal



Rocket Newsletter



September | 2024

Dear Rocket Family,

The 2024-2025 school year is off to a great start. Open House is almost here. I hope to see everyone present on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00 pm. Arrive on time, so that you can hear opening remarks from our staff and your scholar's teacher.

School begins at 7:55 am. The tardy bell rings at 8:00 am. Arrival to school on time is very important. In addition, scholars should be in school every day, all day. Early dismissal is highly discouraged. Scholars are to remain in school until 2:00 pm. Dismissals prior to that time, count towards truancy minutes. As an example, if you pick up your scholar at 1:00 pm for six days that will equate to missing one full day of school. Help us keep your scholar on track by scheduling doctor's visits after the school day.

At Rock Island, we take pride in our image and in the positive learning environment we offer. Scholars are expected to dress in a way that shows personal pride, and which acknowledges that school is a place to work and learn. There is a strong relationship between neat, appropriate attire and a positive learning environment. Students are to adhere to the unified dress code daily. All PK-2nd grade scholars are to wear navy blue polo tops and all 3rd- 5th grade scholars are to wear red polo tops daily. All tops must have a collar. Scholars may wear a variety of bottoms in (i.e. shorts, skirts, pants, skorts, dress) however, scholars may only wear khaki. Scholars wear their uniform throughout the week.

Arrival and dismissal are always a top priority at the beginning of the school year. Preparation for this process begins well before the start of school. Here are some reminders to keep our scholars safe:

1. Arrival begins at 7:20 am. I made the adjustment to assist with the flow of traffic in the morning and to begin breakfast 10minutes earlier.
2. Scholars are to quickly exit out the right of your car at arrival.
3. Drive forward until the car in front of you stops. Please do not exit your car for any reason to keep you and our staff safe.
4. Dismissal begins at 1:50 pm. Car riders are dismissed directly to cars. Display your car tag hanger on your rear-view window facing forward, which helps alleviates you from having to stop your car to give the name of your scholar.
5. Once the last name is called at 2:15pm, parents that arrive after that time must park and come in to sign their scholar out.
6. Walkers are released at 2:00 pm at the northwest west gate. Parents are to notify their scholar's teacher if they are a walker. Parents are to remain outside of the walker gate for the safety our scholars.
7. A change of dismissal must be done prior to 1:00 pm. Dismissal changes require that you send an e-mail message to RIE_Changes@browardschools.com advising us of the change with the name of your scholar, their teacher, and your picture ID.

I look forward to seeing you for our Open House on Wednesday, September 11th at 6 pm.

Warmest regards,

Mrs. Priester

Proud Principal of Remarkable Rock Island Elementary School

Important Dates

9/2 - No School

9/10 - Grandparents Day

9/11 - Open House @ 6pm

9/24 - Watch DOGS Meeting
Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser Begins

9/25 - SAC/SAF Meeting @ 2:30pm

9/26 - Make-up Pictures

9/27 - 1st Quarter Interims
Dads Take Your Child to School Day



School Hours

7:55am School Day Begins

8:00am Morning Announcements

2:00 PreK - 5th Dismissal

Rocket Newsletter

Ballard's Bulletin

Dear Rock Island Families,

The last three weeks have filled my heart with so much joy! It has been a pleasure meeting our scholars and families. From greeting scholars at the drop off loop to conversing with them during lunch, it is evident that we have the best scholars on the planet here at Rock Island Elementary School.

Our Positive Behavior Support Team analyzes our behavioral data weekly. We look at common infractions and brainstorm strategies to reduce behavior referrals. This leads to an increase in student engagement in the classroom, impacting student achievement.

We encourage you, our Rocket parents, to assist us by reminding your scholar(s) of the importance of following the Rock Island Core Values: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be in Control, and Be Kind. Also, ask them daily about their day and discuss any displays of any potential negative behavior with them.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our scholars and school environment.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Ballard
Assistant Principal



- **Spirit shirts are for sale!** Please see flyer at the end of the newsletter.
- **Become a member of the PTA.** It is only \$10 for the membership, and it gives you the ability to vote on how we spend our funds at the monthly PTA association meeting. This doesn't lock you into volunteering or being present at all the PTA events, it's just a quick and easy way to support our school.
- **Volunteer.** The PTA is a 100% volunteer-run organization, so you can support the PTA by offering your skills and time. We have several open coordinator positions, so please take some time to see if you would be able to help in any way. And the best part about volunteering for the PTA is you become part of a bigger community here at Rock Island AND become more actively involved in your child's education!



Broward School Attendance Policy (policy 5.5) states:

All compulsory age students are required to attend school every day of the 180-day school year or the equivalent on an hourly basis pursuant to the state board of education. Parents of children of compulsory school age are responsible for their child's daily school attendance. Because poor academic performance is associated with nonattendance, schools will respond in a timely manner to prevent the development of patterns of non-attendance, which may indicate early signs of truancy. Schools will collaborate with appropriate local and state agencies that are involved in truancy prevention, intervention, and judicial action.

Additional information related to attendance can also be found in the current edition of the code of student conduct approved, as school board policy.

Rocket Newsletter

Ms. Juin, ESE. Specialist

Welcome back scholars and parents to another amazing school year. I am extremely excited to share that this year, we have two brand new Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Special Program classes, in addition to the class we had last year. We are so excited about the new addition and look forward to serving our scholars and parents in the ASD community.

There are a few reminders I want to bring to your attention. Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 11th from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Parents, please encourage your children to read at least twenty minutes daily at home. Reading daily increases comprehension skills and students are more likely to be proficient on standardized tests. If you have concerns regarding your scholar's difficulty with learning or behavior, please feel to contact me to schedule a conference. I am here to serve and support our scholars. We will continue to hold Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings in person and virtually. I strongly encourage all parents to participate in the meetings for their children and to be an active member of the IEP team. Your input and partnership are essential to ensure student achievement and success.

Mrs. Green-Clarke, Social Worker



I am Margaret Green Clarke and I take great pleasure in introducing myself as the new School Social Worker. I am excited to be a part of the Rock family and to serve our students, family, and community.

We are rocketing into the 3rd week of school. Congratulations on a successful re-entry in to the 2024 - 2025 school year. September is National Attendance awareness month. We are introducing the Olympics of attendance, and striving for the gold, silver, and bronze for this month.

Gold- no absences or tardy

Silver- 1 absence or 1 tardy

Bronze- 2 absences or 2 tardies

I look forward to working with the Rocket parents and students to ensure a successful school year, starting with attendance. LETS GO ROCKETS!!!

Rocket Newsletter

School Counselors Corner



September 2024

A Warm Welcome from Your School Counselor

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a new and exciting school year at Rock Island Elementary School. My name is Ms. Stephenson, and I'm thrilled to serve as your school counselor for the 9th year in a row. My goal is to support your scholars academic, persona/social and college and career readiness development throughout the year. Together, we can help our students thrive in a safe and supportive environment. Whether it's helping with problem-solving, building friendships, or navigating challenges, I'm here to ensure every student feels valued and heard. I look forward to working closely with you and your scholars to make this school year a successful one!

greetings & salutations!



Warm regards,

Ms. Stephenson

genvieve.stephenson@browardschools.com

Tips for a Great Start to the School Year



- **Open Communication:** Encourage your child to talk about their day and share any concerns.
- **Stay Involved:** Keep in touch with your child's teacher and stay informed about school events.
- **Establish Routines:** A consistent morning and evening routine can help ease the transition back to school.

Upcoming Events

- September 11- Open House
- September 16- Town Hall Meeting
- September 16-20- Choose Peace/ Start with Hello Week
- September 25- SAC/SAF Meeting
- October 1- Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) Meeting



THE S.T.E.M SCOOP

MS. LEE

Welcome
**BACK TO
SCHOOL**



The 2024-2025 school year is off to an amazing start. My name is Synasia Lee, and I am the S.T.E.M Coach for Grades 2-5. This year I will work hand in hand with your children and their teachers to ensure that each and every scholar reaches their full academic potential. I can be contacted via email at synasia.lee@browardschools.com.

To Proficiency & Beyond



Each month I will highlight in this newsletter ways that you can support your scholar at home. It is essential that scholars build knowledge in and outside the classroom. Learning at home may look like: additional iReady lessons, learning based games, hands-on exploration, or teacher assigned homework practice. An easy way to stay involved in your child's learning is to view their weekly homework packet. Homework is assigned to help scholars practice previous concepts introduced in class.



Falling in Love with Literacy: A Parent-Student Connection

Discovering the Joy of Reading Together

In the bustling world of today, finding moments of connection and shared experiences can be a challenge. One powerful way to foster bonds and enrich lives is through the simple act of reading. When parents and students embark on a literacy journey together, they create a space for imagination, empathy, and intellectual growth.

The Benefits of Shared Reading

- **Strengthened Relationships:** Reading aloud creates a cozy atmosphere where parents and students can bond over shared stories. It's a time to connect on a deeper level, exchange ideas, and laugh together.
- **Enhanced Language Skills:** Exposure to a variety of books expands vocabulary, improves grammar, and develops critical thinking skills.
- **Increased Empathy:** Through the characters and narratives in books, children can learn about different perspectives, cultures, and emotions, fostering empathy and understanding.
- **Lifelong Love of Learning:** Introducing children to the joy of reading at a young age can spark a lifelong passion for learning and exploration.

Tips for a Successful Literacy Journey

- **Choose Books Together:** Let your child help select books that interest them. This will make reading more enjoyable and engaging.
- **Create a Cozy Reading Nook:** Designate a special place for reading, whether it's a comfortable armchair or a cozy corner of the bedroom.
- **Discuss the Story:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings about the book. Ask questions and engage in meaningful conversations.
- **Set a Reading Goal:** Establish a reading goal, such as reading for a certain number of minutes each day. Celebrate your achievements together.

By making reading a regular part of your family's routine, you're not only nurturing your child's literacy skills but also creating lasting memories and a foundation for a lifelong love of learning. So, grab a book, cuddle up, and embark on a wonderful adventure together.

Embarking on a journey in Love and Literacy,

Ms. Wilson

RIE Literacy Coach Grades 2-5

ROCKET READ OF THE MONTH

Encouraging the Love of Reading at Home!

Our Rocket Read of the Month is **Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn by Kenard Pak**! It's a heartwarming story about the change of the season. The book takes the reader into a whirlwind of the colorful changes within the seasons and it's effect on the elements. While reading, families may get a sense of the crisp fall air and the luxury of sweater weather. Pick up a copy at your local library or at your nearest bookstore.



PRIMARY NEWS

WITH MS. JORDAN

Welcome Back Parents! My name is Valencia Jordan, I am the Instructional Coach for Kindergarten and First Grade here at Rock Island Elementary School. This school year, I would like to partner with all families to aid in building up strong readers, mathematicians and scientists in our primary grades. I can be reached via email at Valencia.Jordan@browardschools.com or by phone at 754-322-8300.

1.



NEW YEAR, BETTER GOAL!



Just like that, we are back at it again for the 2024-2025 school year! Last year, our kindergarten and first grade scholars did an amazing job with F.A.S.T., this year we will work even harder to surpass last year's results. It is important to connect with your child's teacher so that you are well informed on how they are doing in class.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

There are so many great places to take your children in the Broward County area. Each month I will spotlight one event that is going on in the area for you to check out with your families. It is important for students to have learning experiences inside and outside of school. These community events promote learning and allow students to have productive conversations with their parents.

2.



ROCK ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Annual Title I Meeting

6PM

OPEN HOUSE

2024 - 2025

Come meet your scholar's teacher, learn all about their grade level expectations for learning, and how to prepare your scholar for success!

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

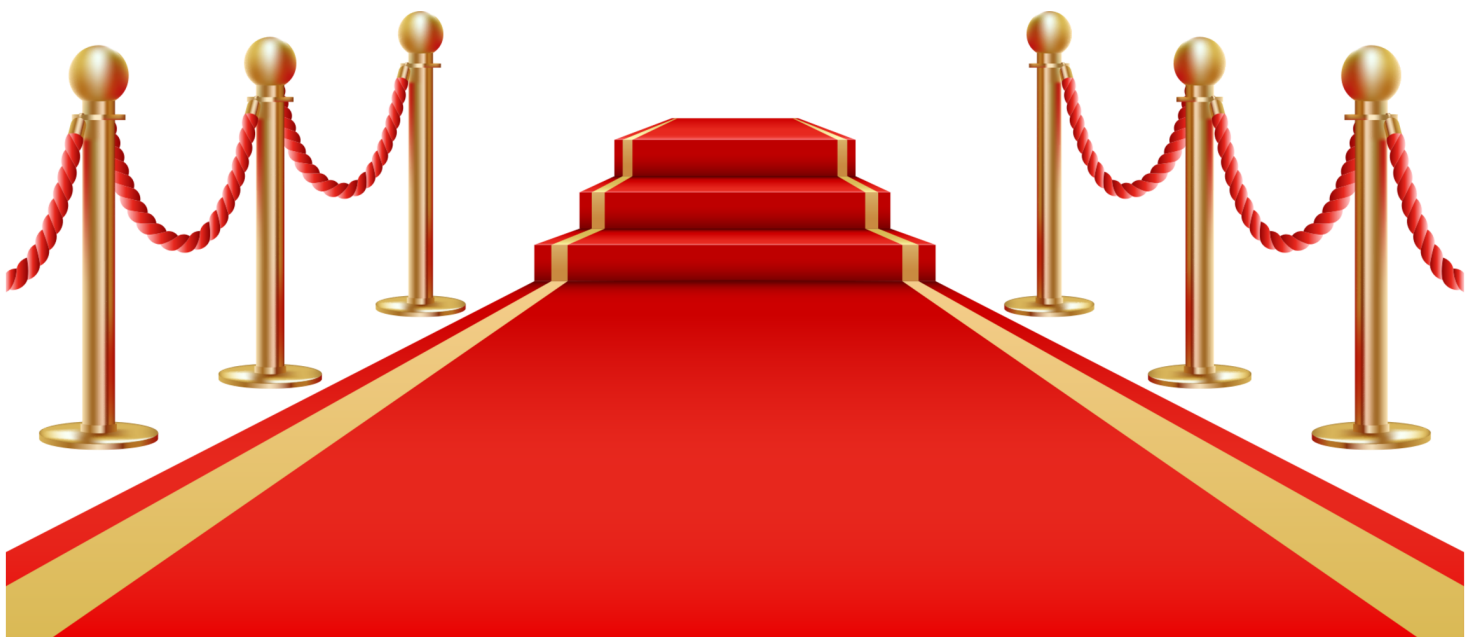


**CALLING ALL
FATHERS, STEPFATHERS, GRANDFATHERS,
UNCLES, BIG BROTHERS, FOSTER FATHERS
AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT MALE ROLE MODELS**



Bring your scholar
to school on Friday, September 27th.
Walk the red carpet
with you Rocket Scholar.

This special activity will begin at 7:20 am
and end at 8:00 am.





FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



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APLICACIÓN DE INFORMES DE ACTIVIDAD SOSPECHOSA

Enviar reportes sobre seguridad de forma rápida y sencilla

Al acceder a FortifyFL, los estudiantes pueden brindar una descripción de la amenaza, compartir fotos y videos, y (de forma opcional) enviar su información de contacto.

Anónimo o no

Tú decides si deseas incluir tu nombre y tu información de contacto.

Conveniente

Enviar un reporte es fácil y rápido usando nuestra aplicación móvil o nuestro sitio web.

Incluye fotos y videos

También puedes incluir fotos o videos junto a tu reporte.

Se envía rápidamente a las autoridades

FortifyFL envía tu reporte de forma automática a las agencias de cumplimiento de la ley y a los oficiales escolares apropiados.



Tus oficiales escolares

El reporte se envía a los oficiales escolares locales.

Cumplimiento de la ley local

El departamento policial o la oficina del sheriff local recibirá copias de tu reporte automáticamente.

Oficiales a nivel estatal

Los oficiales a nivel estatal también tienen acceso a tus reportes para asegurar que se tomen las medidas apropiadas.

FortifyFL es una herramienta para reportar actividades sospechosas que te permite enviar información a las agencias del cumplimiento de la ley apropiadas y a oficiales escolares. FortifyFL fue creado y fundado por la 2018 Florida Legislature como parte de la ley Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

#FORTIFYFL
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