



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

ROCK ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Broward County, Florida**

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August 15, 2018

Dear Rocket Family,

Welcome back for the 2018-2019 school year. I hope each of you are ready to join us as we “Blast off to Proficiency and Beyond”! We have so much to look forward to and celebrate this year. We also have a mission ahead of us to reach for an “A” school rating.

Here are a few of our accomplishments to celebrate and share with you:

1. We have an award-winning Robotics Club with a focus on S.T.E.M. Education.
2. We will pilot a looping class on almost every grade level to maintain the momentum of our parent-teacher-student relationships. Although the looping concept is new to Rock Island, the practice is not new and has shown to produce student achievement results. Looping is when a teacher moves up with his/her core class and remains as their teacher for the next school year.
3. We offer a quality YMCA and 21st Century Learners After-School Program.
4. We provide resources to our school community through our School Liaison and School Social Worker.
5. We strive to meet the needs of our families and provide first-class customer service to our parents and children.
6. We will expand a High Achiever’s Class Pilot plan to all grade levels, which gave our children an opportunity to improve overall achievement results in fifth grade during the 2017-2018 school year.
7. Seventeen percent of English Language Learners earned a Level 3 or higher on the 2017-2018 Science Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).
8. We will continue to provide intensive reading interventions or enrichment to all students during the Rocket Power Hour daily.
9. Our School-Wide Positive Behavior Plan decreased the student referral rate by thirty-five percent, which is a great accomplishment.
10. We create a safe and conducive learning environment for our students one hundred eighty days of the year.
11. We offer elective courses to our fourth and fifth grade students.
12. All Kindergarten students were given a reading screening to assist with proper classroom placement based on their reading ability levels.

Blast Off to Proficiency and Beyond! “Every Mission is Possible”



13. We were able to expand our Head Start Program by 10 additional slots due to the expansion of our current program.

I'll be seeking your participation and input in the conversations and actions needed to improve our student achievement and sustain the momentum that we made last year with building relationships and partnerships.

Although our school grade dropped from a "C" to a "D" rating we **ARE** more than a letter grade and our rating is not indicative of all that our school has to offer. I pride our school on the connections that we have with our families through our home-school connections. We will continue to host events at our school to invite our families to learn how to help their "Rocket" at home while we continue the traditions of our beloved Rock Island. A focus on building relationships, having an open door policy and providing each parent with respect will continue to be at the forefront of our vision.

Our leadership team made a spectacular plan for 2018-2019 to be a success, which gave us an opportunity to reflect, plan, focus on the positive, prepare to roll up our sleeves for the work we have ahead of us and begin the work of our Rockets achieving their ultimate level of success. We will continue to believe in our school mission and our children. Our Rocket family will always strive to develop productive, well-rounded and empathetic citizens for the 21st Century.

Our purpose will be to continue leading our Rockets on the path to success. I hope you join me with the same level of determination to make this upcoming year our best yet.

I look forward to collaborating with you as we continue to be a beacon of light and a cornerstone of education in our beloved 33311 community.

We will "Blast off to Proficiency and Beyond" so we can achieve our goals because "Every Mission is Possible"!

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Cormic Priester
Proud Principal of Remarkable Rock Island Elementary School

Blast Off to Proficiency and Beyond! "Every Mission is Possible"