

JAMES S. RICKARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Rocket Trails

Volume 2, Issue 1  
September 2017

Team Rickards...Launching into Excellence!

## A Note from Mr. Collado:

Greetings Rickards Community,

Happy New School Year!! We are off to a great start. With brand new programs and initiatives, our teachers and students are looking forward to a year full of success stories. This newsletter will be a great source of information to keep you updated every month. We will also come to you every week on Fridays to give our weekly update. The goal is to strengthen the partnership between parents, teachers and staff, and our students.

This year, we have a new website: [www.rickards.browardschools.com](http://www.rickards.browardschools.com). When you visit our website, you will find even more ways to communicate with us, get updated information, and most importantly, log into your child's Pinnacle account and obtain daily information on your child's academic progress report. Parents, your engagement in your child's progress in school is vital. Be sure to remain knowledgeable to help your child succeed. Open House on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, is an excellent place to get connected. If you have not already done so, open a Pinnacle account that evening or schedule a parent-teacher conference.

And finally, this year we are looking to provide many homework and tutoring programs, extra-curricular activities including clubs, and the ability to participate in our sports teams, performances, art exhibits, and academic fairs. It will be a year replete with great educational opportunities for everyone.

Applications for the School Is Cool, 2017-18 After School Programs are available. We do have limited space. Apply now.

This is a great year to make a great year! Washington B. Collado, Proud Principal



### 6th Grade

Ms. Dias—Assistant Principal

754-322-4419

Ms. Clarke—Guidance

754-322-4431

### 7th Grade

Dr. Drake—Assistant Principal

754-322-4414

Mr. Bascome—Guidance

754-322-4411

### 8th Grade

Ms. Sheffield—Assistant Principal

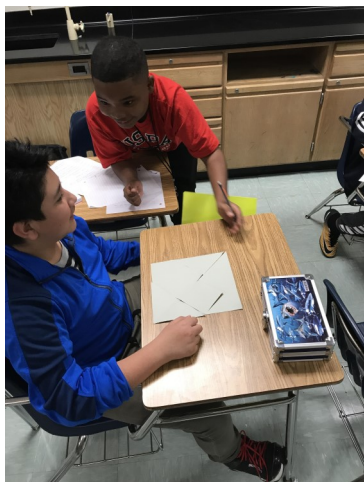
754-322-4416

Ms. Patterson—Guidance

754-322-4433



Please join us for Open House on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00pm. Meet teachers, visit classrooms, and experience RMS!



Mr. Esquiagola's 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are busy working in collaborative groups on inquiry activities.

## Science Department

The Rickards Science Department is excited to be starting a new year! We have a new addition to our Science Team, Mr. Lambert, who is joining the 6th Grade Earth and Space Science teachers. Our department has added several new, interesting and innovative elective choices this year. Students can now choose from a STEAM/Renewable Energy course, Environmental Science, and a High School Biology course. We will also be implementing an accelerated 6th Grade GEARS science class.

Science classes have been busy working on Science Inquiry Activities, as well as working cooperatively in small groups to research different fields of science and safety rules in the lab.

*New Discoveries:* Look for a family Math/Science information night coming up on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Rickards Rockets Science Department

Launching into Excellence!

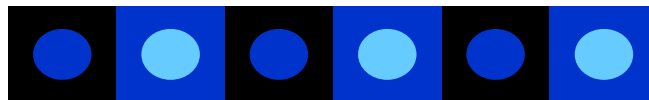
*"8th grade science, so far this year, has been very interesting! I am looking forward to this exciting school year." -Sarah Schonis*

## Student Safety

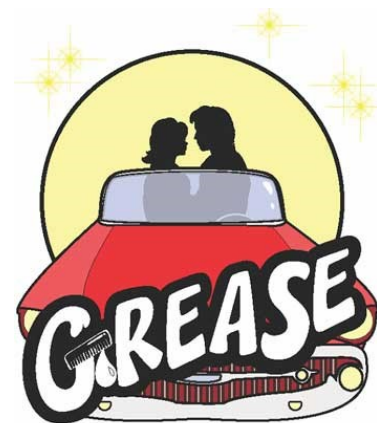
As many of you have noticed, we have modified our car loop process to increase our safety measures for our students. In coordination with Deputy Osbourne, we acquired traffic cones to create a lane of traffic for parents dropping students off. Please be sure to observe traffic speeds and patterns. Do not drop students off outside of the car loop as it will cause your child to have to cross between cars.

Please DO NOT bring your child or drop him/ her off before 8:30am. Our staff begins supervision at 8:30am and be sure to pick them time when they leave school at 3:45pm. Students participating in the various after school programs must re-enter school and attend the programs without leaving campus.

## ASP/Harmony



8<sup>th</sup> graders caught "twinning" on campus - We are so proud of HARMONY and the successful summer GREASE production!





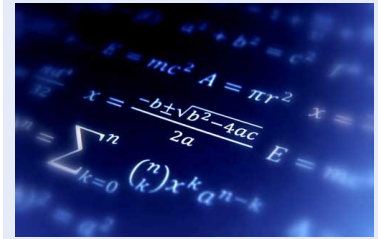
8<sup>th</sup> grader Mario Valerio points to writing goals created by Mrs. Aucella's Language Arts classes to target areas of improvement. Working on these goals should result in higher FSA Literacy Scores!

## Literacy Department

Changes have come to the Reading and Language Arts department this year. We are now a united Literacy team. The Literacy department is committed to collaboration and communication to help all students meet levels of proficiency on the Language Arts Florida Standards. We are meeting weekly in order to support one another and ensure we are meeting the reading and writing needs of all students.

We are excited to have a Speech and Debate track in all three grades this year. 6<sup>th</sup> graders are working with Ms. Samuel on foundational skills in speech and debate. Ms. Wilkins is our 7<sup>th</sup> grade Speech teacher and will be preparing students to participate in District-wide Speech competitions this year. Ms. LaPlant is the Debate Coach and will be taking the Debate students to many District competitions this year. Both Speech (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and Debate (8<sup>th</sup> grade) are High School credit courses.

After much success in the 2016-17 school year, we have expanded our Critical Thinking with Technology course into all three grades this year. The technology curriculum taught by Ms. Rios (6), Ms. LaPlant (7), Ms. Sookdeo (8), and Mrs. Underhill (8) will prepare students to pass an IC3 exam that will earn the students a Digital Tool certificate. The Rickards community continues to embrace business and technology for our students. Ms. Sookdeo is teaching Advanced Information Technology with Code.org curriculum to 8<sup>th</sup> graders, while Mr. Gay is teaching Computer Applications for Business courses to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders.



## This Year in Math

The Math Department is excited to begin a new school year of learning, fun, and discovery. We are hitting the ground running by using learning progressions that support student learning. 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin looking at Numbers, 7<sup>th</sup> graders are focusing on Operations with Numbers, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are working on Exponents and Scientific Notation.

6<sup>th</sup> graders at RMS will work collaboratively to complete monthly STEAM challenges where students are innovators and problem-solvers.





## Rickards Respect

One of the best things about being a Rickards Rocket is having a school we are proud of. Let's face it, one of our favorite times of the day is lunch. Doing your part to clean up after eating will make a big impact in the cafeteria. Picking up your area, keeping your eye out for trash, and helping in the cafeteria are small efforts that have big impacts in making our meals more enjoyable!



## Social Studies

Our mission is to provide a classroom environment that can help students grow character, build teamwork, build better reading and language skills, and inspire students to cherish our national heritage. We, the Social Studies department, hope all students will have a great 2017-2018 year. Go Rockets!

*In the News:* Civics will be leading a Constitution Day assembly on September 18<sup>th</sup> where students will explore the history of the Constitution.

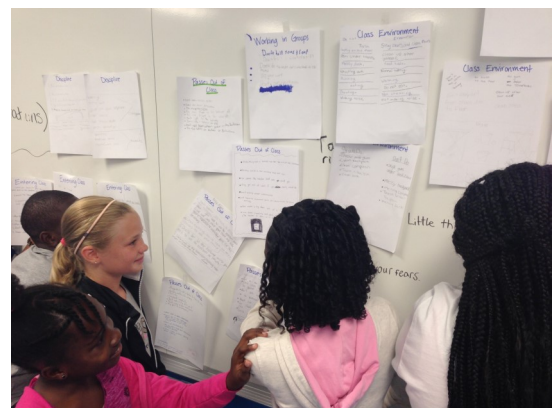


*"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." -B.B. King*

## Social Emotional Learning



6th grade students in Ms. Wilkins' class designed rules and expectations to promote responsible decision-making, self-management, and self-awareness.



## RMS Soccer Schedule

DAY	DATE	TIME	SITE	OPPONENT
Wed	9/6	4:00pm	Wimberly Field	Crystal Lake
Mon	9/11	4:30pm	Sunrise	Sunrise
Wed	9/13	4:00pm	Wimberly Field	William Dandy
Tues	9/19	3:30pm	Deerfield	Deerfield
Mon	9/25	4:00pm	Wimberly Field	Margate
Wed	9/27	4:30pm	Lyons Creek	Lyons Creek
Tues	10/3	4:00pm	Wimberly Field	Pompano
Thurs	10/5	4:00pm	Parkway	Parkway

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29



## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



No School	Sept 4
NJHS and Student Council 1st Meeting	Sept 6 4pm to 5pm
Rickards Middle Band & Athletic Information Meeting	Sept 7 5:30 pm
Rickards Middle Open House	Sept 7 6pm to 8pm
PTSA Luncheon for Staff	Sept 8
Picture Day	Sept 11
SAC/PTSA Meeting	Sept 12 8am
Early Release Day	Sept 14
RMS Band Performing at Northeast High School Football Game	Sept 15 6pm
Peace Week-various daily activities	Sept 14-Sept 22
Constitution Day-7th grade	Sept 18 1st Period
Quarter 1 Interims	Sept 19
Broward's Day of Peace: Wear White	Sept 20
No School	Sept 21