

JAMES S. RICKARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Rocket Trails

Volume 3, Issue 1
September 2018



Team Rickards...On "A" Mission to be Outstanding!

A Note from Dr. Collado

Greetings Rickards Community,

I'm really pleased that we are continuing with this communication resource, our Rocket Trails newsletter. Many of our stakeholders became accustomed to its monthly publications. This 2018-19 school year, Rickards Middle has many reasons to be proud of the work done by our teachers and students this past year. Our school gained important ground academically in practically each of the academic indicators! The teachers and staff are continuing the work with ample planning curriculum to address the needs of our students, to expand our student support system with mentoring service, increase the socio-emotional learning initiatives, add diverse clubs and extra-curricular activities, and much more.

Following the February 14th, 2018 tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, our school district has proactively implemented many measures to improve the safety and security systems of the schools. Rickards Middle is doing its part with enhanced security measures with a supervised single point entrance and excellent engagement from our School Resource Officer, Omar Osbourne. Furthermore, our staff has been training along with our students on various drills to ensure that we are all prepared in the event of a true emergency. We have practiced fire drills, tornado drills, and code red or lockdown drills. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community for being so understanding as we are doing our very best to improve the safety process of Rickards Middle School.

Parents and students, this year we want you to be involved and engaged. We are looking forward to our Open House on Sept. 20th, 2018 beginning at 5:30pm. We will be conducting important topic-based monthly meetings with our PTSA, School Advisory Council (SAC), and School Advisory Forum (SAF), and encourage your participation and input. We also encourage our parents to call our school and set up parent-teacher conferences by calling 654-322-4405. Lastly, we are looking forward to engaging our community with our many celebrations: music concerts and art showcases, sports events, and academic and cultural fairs.

It is with much excitement that, on behalf our entire school, we welcome you to another great school year.

Sincerely,

Washington B. Collado, Ph.D.

6th Grade

Ms. Dias—Assistant Principal

754-322-4419

Ms. Alexis—Guidance

754-322-4431

7th Grade

Dr. Drake—Assistant Principal

754-322-4414

Ms. Clarke—Guidance

754-322-4411

8th Grade

Ms. Sheffield—Assistant Principal

754-322-4416

Mr. Bascome—Guidance

754-322-4433

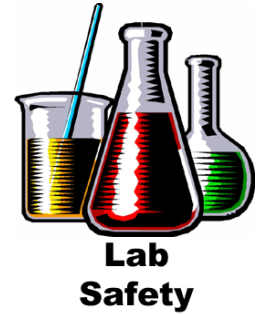


Please join us for Open House on September 20th, 2018 at 5:00 pm. Meet teachers, visit classrooms, buy yearbooks, and experience RMS!



Science Department

Welcome back to school, Rickards Rockets! The Rickards science team is looking forward to a fun filled year of hands-on, investigative activities! We started the new school year out with safety in the laboratory. Remember to always wear your goggles and have closed toed shoes on lab days. The students have also been practicing their investigative measurement skills. Learning how to accurately measure mass, volume, and length were all part of our back-to-school-week activities. Students will also be blending technology into their classroom routines. Look for more information next month about science fair! Rickards rockets young



"You can never be overdressed or overeducated."

- Oscar Wilde

Reading Corner

This month the Peer Counseling program is reading *The Prince of Denial* by Doug Wilhelm.

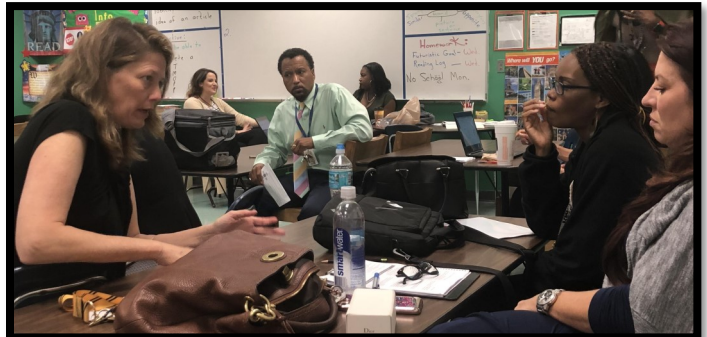


Literacy Department

Our department is excited to welcome Ms. Wright, Ms. Williams and Ms. Lopez to the literacy team! Ms. Wright (Reading) and Ms. Williams (Language Arts) came to us from the Social Studies department, and Ms. Lopez (Language Arts) came from Science.

FAIR-FS is a reading screening and diagnostic assessment that is administered three times each school year to students. The first administration will take place within the next few weeks in Reading classes. Additionally, students will also be taking a placement test in Achieve 3000 which will allow them to access reading material on their appropriate Lexile level. Contact your student's Reading teacher or Ms. Tierney (Literacy Coach) if you have questions.

All 6th grade English Language Arts (ELA) students started the year reading "Life Doesn't Frighten Me" by Maya Angelou. The theme in this poem focuses on pushing away fear to overcome obstacles in life. Since these students have just entered middle school, focusing on how we can move past fear to take on challenges is a great way to kick off the quarter.





Math Department

The Math Department started off the school year with a BANG!! All grade levels have completed their IREADY Diagnostics. We are all getting ready for our first Standard Mastery Assessment this week. As a team we continue to ask for support for home so that our students are successful. All Rickards student have access to IREADY program from home and we ask that they practice for at least 45 minutes for the week.



Music Corner

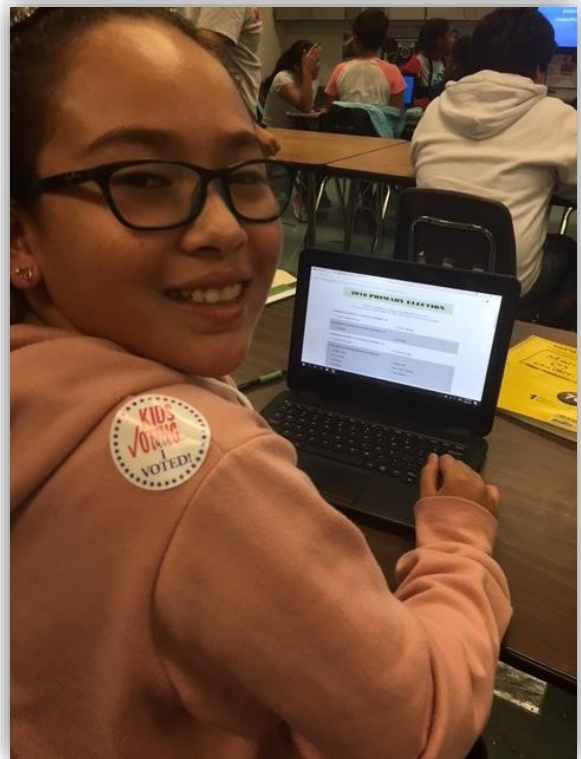
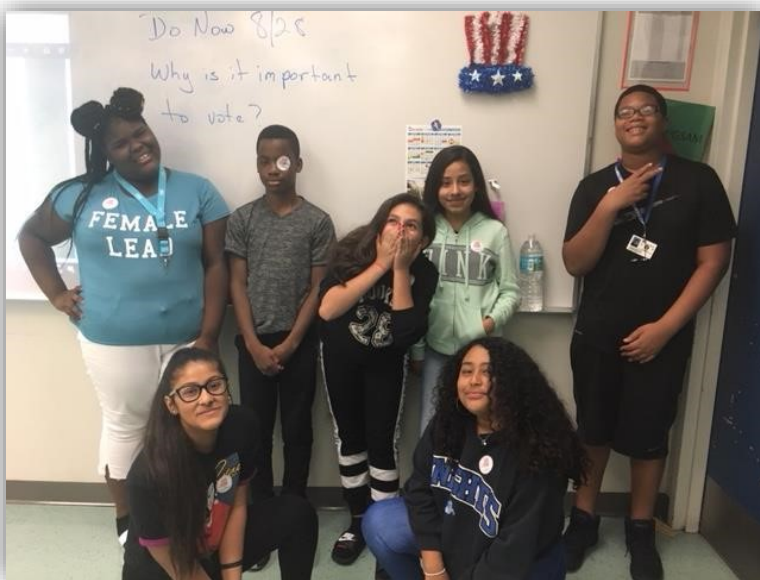


If you are interested in singing the National Anthem for a school event or you just want to learn how to sing it, practices are after school on **Tuesdays** in the Band Room with Ms. McClendon.



Social Studies Department

Students in participated in “mock voting” on August 28th. After they voted they received an “I Voted” sticker from their civics teacher.



FYI

Student Code of Conduct

Reminder parents/students Rickards had Discipline assemblies Friday 8/24 and the Student Code of Conduct was reviewed in all classes during the first week of school. Please make sure you adhere to the Code of Conduct on a daily basis.

Safety and Security

Parent and Students it is MANDATORY for student to wear their Student ID Badges (Students will be given badges with their grade level color coded lanyard: 8th-Green 7th- Purple 6th Yellow). ID Badge checks will be done 1st period and if a student has lost/misplaced badge they will be issued a new one for \$5.00 and will be considered a student obligation.



Drop off is not to be before 8:30 a.m., there is not supervision for students before this time. Also pick up needs to be by 4:30 p.m., again there is no supervision after this time. Please adhere to these times for the safety of everyone.

Also that Safety Drills (Fire, Tornado, Code Red) will be conducted periodically each month.



Around the School

Students in Ms. Sookdeo's critical thinking classes are learning to work collaboratively with their partner when reading. Students turn and have accountable talk with guiding questions to keep students engaged in the text and move their thinking more deeply.



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

What is Social and Emotional Learning?

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process in which students and adults are able to recognize and manage emotions, solve problems effectively and establish positive relationships with others. SEL provides direct instruction in skills that enable students to succeed in college, career and life by being responsible citizens and decision makers.

Instruction in SEL enables students to see themselves and others in a positive light, manage emotions, set and achieve goals and solve problems they encounter effectively. It supports school cultures and climates to allow students to practice life skills throughout their school experience.

<https://casel.org/>



Things to Look Forward To!!

Oakland Park Chess

Ethel M. Gordon Oakland Park Library will be having chess every 3rd Saturday of the month in the Marie Wright Room from 2:30-4:30 pm for both students and parents.

September 15, 2018

2:30 to 4:30

Ethel M. Gordon Oakland Park Library

1298 NE 37th St.

Oakland Park, FL 33334

954-630-4370



CONSTITUTION DAY

Constitution Day will be September 17th. It is a day that our Civics Teachers shine and bring the Constitution to life for the 7th grade students of Rickards Middle School. If you would like more information or would like to help please contact your students Civics teacher.

CONSTITUTION DAY ★
SEPTEMBER 17TH



PEACE WEEK

Peace Week is in September, so look in the next issue for student work around the school!!

Title One

As we begin the year, there is a lot of new information that we all need to be aware of. Below you will find links to really important information about James S. Rickards Middle School. If you need additional information, please contact the Title I Liaison, Nicole S. Brown at 754.323.4400.

Important Information to know:

If you are interested in finding out information about James S. Rickards Middle School's academic success, please access the following websites:

School Public Accountability Report can be accessed: <http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbpar/index.cfm>

Florida Standards Assessment and Science FCAT school score information: <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/results/2018.stml>

LEA Report Cards (School Grades): <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/>

Based on the data from the previous year, we created our School Improvement Plan. Please review it and submit any suggestion at the upcoming SAC/SAF meeting scheduled for this month

To gain Access to the School Improvement Plan for Rickards Middle School : http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/ospa/school_info.asp?school_number=2121&cadre_number=12

PARENT ENGAGEMENT:

In the month of September, we will have the Annual Title I public meeting at Open House. In this meeting we will discuss how Title I helps support school initiatives and how you can participate to make your child's time at Rickards memorable.

You can also access the School Parent engagement plan through the School Improvement portal listed above, click on Title 1. You will see all of the Title I initiatives that we are working on this year.

RMS Soccer Schedule

DAY	DATE	TIME	SITE	OPPONENT
Tues	9/4	4:00pm	Wimberly Field	Parkway
Thurs	6/6	4:00pm	Wimberly Field	Lyons Creek
Tues	9/11	4:00pm	Wimberly Field	Deerfield
Thurs	9/13	3:30pm	Wimberly Field	North Broward
Mon	9/17	4:30pm	Lauderdale Lakes	Lauderdale Lakes
Tues	9/18	4:00pm	William Dandy	William Dandy
Mon	9/24	4:30pm	Margate	Margate
Thurs	9/27	4:00pm	Wimberly	Academic Village



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



No School	Sept 3
Faculty Meeting	Sept 7 8:20 am
No School	Sept 10
PTSA — Donuts in the Car Line	Sept 11 8:30 am
PTSA—Meeting (Media Center)	Sept 12 5:00 pm
SAC—Meeting (Media Center)	Sept 12 6:00 pm
SOAR Mentor Introduction Meeting (Media Center)	Sept 14 8:20 am
Peace Week	Sept 17-21 School Wide
Q1 Interims	Sept 17
No School	Sept 19
Debate Competition (Glades Middle)	Sept 20 4:00 pm
OPEN HOUSE	Sept 20 5:00 pm
All State Band Competition	Sept 22
PICTURE DAY	Sept 24 All Day
Cross Country Meet	Sept 25 4:00 pm—6:00 pm