

Rock Lake Middle School

RAIDERS' S LOG

SEMINOLE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



A Publication for the Parents, Staff, and Community of Rock Lake Middle School

JULY/AUGUST 2018
VOLUME IV
ISSUE I

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MISSION STATEMENT

As a team, we strive to develop responsible students with positive self-concepts who will fulfill their academic potential and who will be provided exploratory opportunities for a variety of experiences within an enthusiastic and supportive atmosphere.

A Message from the Principal

Greetings RLMS parents,

We are eagerly awaiting the start of the 2018-2019 school year here at RLMS. As many of you have heard, RLMS once again earned an "A" rating by the Florida Department of Education. RLMS has earned an "A" rating since the inception of school grades in 1999. RLMS is the only school in Central Florida to earn this designation and one of only eighteen schools in the entire State of Florida to achieve this impressive feat.

Although we are extremely proud of our "A" rating, we know that there are certainly areas where we can continue to grow. Moreover, we look forward to the continued evolution of our course offerings on campus. This year, we will be offering Digital Art for the first time, which will offer our students the opportunity to earn certification in Adobe Photoshop. RLMS, in addition to all other middle schools, will also be offering iChallenge. iChallenge will offer students an opportunity to learn about the fundamentals of coding. We are also in the process of implementing a 6th grade homeroom workshop entitled Overcoming Obstacles, which focuses on social-emotional learning. Additional details will be forthcoming about the Overcoming Obstacles course.

Although it is easy to get caught up in the prestige of being an "A" school, we remain focused on ensuring that all of our Raiders understand that Character Comes First. Our top priority at RLMS is engraining in our students the importance of being an individual with high moral character and a strong work ethic. Being kind, resilient, positive, and diligent will lead to great things.

Best regards,
Dr. Jordan Rodriguez
Principal



Rock Lake Middle School
250 Slade Drive
Longwood, FL 32750
Phone: 407 746 9350
Fax: 407 746 9399

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Dr. Jordan Rodriguez
Principal

Marybeth Delfiaccio
Assistant Principal

Nicole Wysong
Assistant Principal

Ryan Dufrain
*School Administrative
Manager*

GUIDANCE STAFF

Babita Hinduja
Counselor
6th Grade M - Z / 8th Grade

Tara Carlsen
Counselor
6th Grade A - L / 7th Grade



Important Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, August 8th: Schedule Pick Up (Gymnasium) and Parent Technology Seminar (Media Center).

Times: 8th Grade Schedule Pick Up: 9:00am
7th Grade: 10:00am
6th Grade: 11:00am

Friday, August 10th: First Day of Student Attendance

Thursday, August 23rd: 6:00pm: Open House

Monday, August 27th: School Pictures (Gymnasium)

Monday, September 3rd: School System Closed



Middle School Sports Physicals

If you have not already done so, schedule your Sports Physical today! On August 15th, 16th and 20th, we will be offering Sports Physicals from 5-8 p.m. in the front office. A Sports Physical is required to try out for our Volleyball, Cross County, Track and Field, and Basketball teams and is good for the entire school year. A Sports Physical is different from the standard School Entry Physical. You will need to make an appointment and you can do so by e-mailing Janice Winn @ J_Winn@scps.k12.fl.us with your name, your student's name, and a cell phone number. The cost is \$20.00, cash only.

Stay Connected

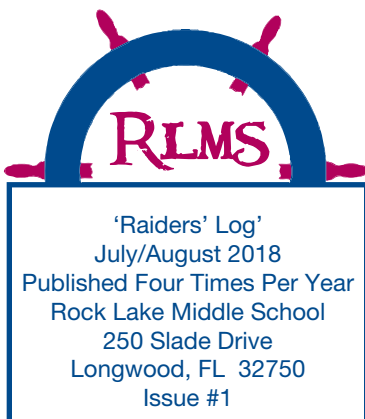
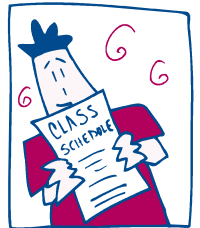
At RLMS, we pride ourselves on our high level of communication. To ensure you stay up to date with everything that is going on at RLMS, please consider following us on social media. The links below will bring you to our social media pages:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RLMSTheRock/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RockLakeMiddle>
- Remind 101: <https://remind.com/join/rlmssc>

Schedule Changes

A popular topic at the beginning of every semester is that of schedule changes. Parents, please understand that with 930 students on our campus, requests can quickly become chaotic. For that reason, we limit schedule change requests to the following reasons:

- A student has a hole in their schedule (typically a computer error)
- A student has previously completed the same course
- A student is requesting a change in level (standard to advanced or vice versa).



'Raiders' Log'

July/August 2018

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250 Slade Drive
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RLMS PTO Welcomes You!

We believe involvement is for everyone. Our focus is to provide flexible volunteer options, so that everyone can be involved in some way. Any help makes a huge difference for our kids, especially in middle school!

- **Raider Rally Fundraiser: NEW!** Monetary donations only; no products to buy!
- **School Store:** Before school
- **Book Fair** - day or evening
- **8th Grade Activities Holiday and Spring Candy Grams:** school hours or candy donations
- **Holiday Teacher Luncheon:** school hours / food or monetary donations
- **Teacher Appreciation Week:** food and gift card donations
- **Pasta for Pennies:** Homeroom- Annual Campaign by Olive Garden. Help count change for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- **Monthly Spirit Nights** Enjoy a great meal with your family to support the school!

How do you sign up to help with events?

Look out for occasional signups in your Skyward emails throughout the year.

No time for e-mails? Sign up for our Remind and we'll send a signup link directly to your phone.

Facebook or websites are your thing? The signups are there too!

Website <https://rlmspto.weebly.com/>

Remind Text @rocklakemi to 81010 to get updates by text or email

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rlmspto/>

Feel free to email anytime: rocklakepto@yahoo.com

Melissa Velazquez, RLMS PTO President 2017-2019



Supply List

At RLMS, we have a generic supply list that we recommend for all students. Students should come prepared with the following items: paper, Number 2 Pencils, blue and black ink pens, a highlighter, three-ring binders, and folders. Any additional items unique to a specific course will be communicated by the teacher on the first day of school.

Open Board Positions

- A positive, teamwork attitude is required.
- Co-chairing and committees are encouraged!
- Board Meetings last mostly one hour, once a month.

We know middle school is a time that many parents prefer to take a break from volunteering, so we promise you won't get "sucked in!" The goal is to keep things simple. If we all just commit a little time, no one person will be overwhelmed.

School Store Chair: Do you have a little time to spare from 8:30AM -9:30AM? School store might be your jam! The days are flexible. It can be set up once or more during the week. Signups are encouraged.

Grant Oversight Committee: Would you like to work directly with teachers to help them fulfill their grant requests? This can be an especially rewarding experience! Teacher grants are for items or projects that they would normally have to pay out of pocket or do without.

Stop by our table during Schedule pick up and Open House to become a PTO member!

We will also be selling our Raider Gear!

"Skip the line" by using our website to purchase ahead of time.

100% of your membership dues pay for RLMS teacher and staff grants for items that greatly enhance your child's education! Here are just a few examples:

- Bottle Rocket kit and air compressor for SECME
- Digital scales and headphone splitters for all science classes
- Classroom copies of Sunshine State books
- Supplies and equipment for "Helping Hands," a homeroom that creates crafts to distribute to hospitals and other worthy causes in our community

Welcome to New Faculty & Staff Members

Over the summer, we have made some great additions to an already stellar faculty and staff. Please join us in welcoming the following personnel:

- Mr. Ryan Dufrain: School Administrative Manager
- Ms. Nancy Ferreira: 8th Grade English
- Ms. Jenny Gaylan: Reception / Front Desk
- Ms. Amy Kruse: Exceptional Student Education
- Dr. Dayle Peabody: 7th Grade Mathematics
- Ms. Amy Tirado: Speech Language Pathologist

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Advanced Opportunities

Parents, we strongly encourage our Raiders to attempt advanced and/or gifted and talented courses. If your child has never attempted to take an advanced course, middle school is a great time to dip their toe in the water. Success in an advanced course can change the trajectory of a student's academic experience. As a caveat, a student should have been earning consistently earning A's or B's in standard level course work before consideration in an advanced course. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to a school administrator or guidance counselor.



2018-2019 Student Appearance and Dress Code

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in the Seminole County Public Schools primarily rests with parents and the students. Some student apparel, however, may not be appropriate to wear to school even though that same apparel may be appropriate to wear in other settings. To assist parents and students in making appropriate fashion and grooming decisions for school, the School Board has established the following minimal guidelines for the appearance and dress of students.

The standards of appearance for students shall insure that the students be clean, neat, and properly dressed. They shall observe modes of dress and standards of personal grooming which are appropriate for the academic environment.

It is the responsibility of the Principal to see that the dress appearance of any student shall not be extreme, to the point of creating a disturbance, or is hazardous to oneself, others, or school property, whether or not the specific case is covered by the information below. The Principal or Principal's designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student's apparel/appearance conforms to the dress code.

All schools have the option of adopting a standard dress code (uniform) when developed and agreed upon in collaboration with their School Advisory Council. Schools that adopt a standard dress code policy should include the following: collared shirts, sleeves, khaki or dark pants/ shorts/skorts, defined shirt colors (e.g. school colors).

(1) Head

(a) No hats, caps, visors, hoods, bandanas, sunglasses or other head gear may be worn on campus except with administrative permission (i.e. medical necessity, religious, school related events).

(2) Upper Garments

(a) Garments must be of a length and fit that are suitable to the build and stature of the student.

(c) Necklines of all upper garments must be modest. Low cut necklines are prohibited, and the cut of garments must not expose undergarments or cleavage.
(d) Shirts must touch, at minimum the top portion of lower garments at all times.

(e) Garments that are distracting or inappropriate are prohibited, including but not limited to those with see-through materials, skin-tight items, pajamas, trench coats, rips/tears, printed profanity, or language/symbols/styles that promote the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, gang-related or other illegal activities.

(b) The following items are prohibited: halter tops, tube tops, backless dresses/tops, spaghetti straps, tank tops.

(d) Shirts must touch, at minimum the top portion of lower garments at all times.

(c) Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be at least mid-thigh or below in length. Rips/tears above mid-thigh not permitted.
(d) The waistband of pants, shorts, or shirts must be worn and secured between the hips and the waist.

(e) Undergarments as outerwear, pajama pants, bathing suits, cheer shorts, bike shorts, **jeggings**, leggings, spandex material and any skin tight bottoms are prohibited.

(3) Lower Garments

(a) Pants and shorts should conform to the build and stature of the students.

(b) Cleats, slippers, and shoes with wheels are not permitted on campus. Non-metal cleats may be worn for appropriate extracurricular sports in proper areas.

(b) Undergarments and the buttocks MUST remain entirely covered even while seated.

(d) The waistband of pants, shorts, or shirts must be worn and secured between the hips and the waist.

(b) Jewelry or accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or others are prohibited. Dog collars, wallet chains, large hair picks or chains that connect one part of the body to another are prohibited.

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Bullying And Harassment

At RLMS, we have zero tolerance for bullying and harassment. Our students are entitled to a safe and secure environment, where they can focus on their academic achievement. To ensure this opportunity, we have multiple ways in which students can report any concern(s) related to bullying / harassment.



Bullying is any systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students. Any unwanted repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior.

Harassment is any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, any written or use of data through social media directed against a student.

Additionally, **cyber stalking** is considered bullying and/or harassment, which means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or cause to be communicated, words, images, or language through electronic devices which cause emotional distress to a person for no legitimate purpose, **this behavior will be reported to law enforcement.**

Students are made aware of our informing process and the various ways to report any bullying behavior through Good Morning Rock Lake, announcements throughout the year and through one-on-one communication. We have established with all teachers a central location on the web to get forms for a student to readily report any concern with bullying. Students are informed about other locations to report a bullying matter i.e. the guidance office, main office, or to any administrator, dean, or security. Additionally, we have a locked **Bully Box** located in the media center for any student to present their concern about a bullying matter. This box is checked daily and investigated.

Students are asked to give their reports of bullying in the form of a written statement in any of these locations. The student's statement is immediately dated upon receipt to begin the investigation process. The student is given written notification, if any further bullying incidents occur, they are to report the concern immediately to administration.

Student Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures

Car Ramp

The following procedures have been implemented to insure the safety of students being picked up and dropped off in cars:

Morning drop-off

After 8:30 A.M. cars are not allowed on the ramp in front of the school, as this is reserved for bus traffic ONLY. Students are to be dropped off on the ramp in the rear of the school. Please pull up as far as possible or to where directed by law enforcement and school staff. After the last bus has arrived for the day, visitors should use the parking lot.

Dismissal pick-up

In order to ensure student safety and to promote efficiency during afternoon car rider pickup, the following procedure must be followed:

PLEASE follow the instructions given by our security officer / law enforcement officer and other school personnel at the car ramp. Parents / guardians of car riders will use the road named Poplar that leads to the north side (back) of the school. At dismissal time, cars will proceed in single file to the ramp to the designated passenger-loading area. If the student is not present as his / her car enters the loading zone, the driver will be asked to pull up near the gym to wait for the student.

At dismissal time, car riders will not be permitted to leave the covered walkway to meet cars in the parking area or further down the car ramp unless accompanied by a parent. Only 5 cars at a time will be permitted to load students. For the safety of your child, and to manage traffic, please do not use any other procedure or location to pick up your child from school.

Cars will circle the loop and exit by way of Poplar. Please resume a safe speed of 5 miles per hour while on the car loop.

Please do not park on the pick-up ramp and exit your car. If you must exit your car for any reason, please park in a parking space. Watch for pedestrians walking in the lot and on the ramp. To ensure the safety of your children, your cooperation with school staff and other parents is greatly appreciated.



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Positive Behavior Support (PBS)

Rock Lake Middle School will continue with Positive Behavior Support (PBS) this year. The purpose of PBS is to facilitate positive behavior change in our students and staff through the application of the PBS Approach. Our goal this year is to reduce the number of inappropriate behaviors, and increase academic achievement by educating the students and staff and reinforcing appropriate behaviors.



School Advisory Council

Rock Lake's School Advisory Council (SAC) is made up of our Principal, 3 teachers, 1 staff and 6-7 parents. It is the responsibility of SAC to assist in the preparation and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan and to provide a communication link between the school and parents. The Rock Lake Middle School SAC (School Advisory Council) Visitors are welcome and encouraged!

Cell Phones And Other Items

RLMS nor the Seminole County School Board is responsible for the replacement or repair of any technology students bring to school. Students are not to bring any unauthorized items to school as defined by the Code of Student Conduct which includes, but are not limited to: skateboards, radios, electronic music devices, headphones, toys, video games, and other electronic devices. Teachers will send a release form home if the use of personal technology is allowed in their classroom for academic purposes.



Speakout Hotline

You can give tips 3 ways:

On-line	Call	Text
www.speakouthotline.org You may give an anonymous tip on the website	800-423-TIPS No caller ID No recorded calls	'speakout' plus your tip information to CRIMES (274637)



Medication

Whether your student takes a daily medication at school or simply needs to take a pain reliever or cough drops, the following information is of importance to you. Authorization forms must be on file in the front office for medications to be taken on campus during the school day. Please review the regulations and keep a copy, so that should the occasion arise and your child needs to take medication at school, you will be aware of the paperwork necessary to make that happen.

The following is the State of Florida medication policy:

- Middle school **students are not permitted to deliver medication** to school. All medication must be delivered by the parent/guardian.
- **All medication must be accompanied by a Student Medication Authorization form (SCPS Form 157).** This includes over-the-counter (aspirin, Tylenol, cough drops, vitamins, drops, etc.), sample drugs and prescription medications. There are no exceptions to this policy.
- **All medications** (over-the-counter, samples, prescription) must be in their original containers.
- If the medication is over-the-counter or samples, **it must be labeled as follows:**
 - Child's full name
 - Medication name
 - Dosage directions (how many to administer)
 - Time of day to be taken (specific hours or as needed)
 - Physician's Name

Over-the-counter medications can be self-administered and the student can carry with him/her a daily dose if this is indicated on the Student Medication Authorization form on file in the front office at Rock Lake. Students cannot carry over-the-counter medications without this authorization form, which must be signed by a parent.

THERE ARE **NO EXCEPTIONS** TO ANY OF THESE POLICIES.

1. A staff member delegated by the principal must administer medications.
2. An Authorization for Medication form must be completed prior to the administration of any medication to student. This authorization must be renewed annually each school year.
3. Administration by school personnel of injectable medication must be planned on an individual basis with parent, physician and School Board nurse of the student involved.
4. Each school will keep a current record of students needing medication during school hours, including name, dosage, and usual time of administration.

Dividends:

Hands that serve, Hearts that care!

The Dividends School Volunteer program is a district-wide effort that encourages and promotes community involvement in Seminole County Public Schools. Parents, family members and the community are required to register on the Seminole County Public School website prior to visiting any school. If you would like to volunteer time at your child's school, please go to <http://www.scps.k12.fl.us/> and click on the Dividend School Volunteer link. Please complete the online application and be sure to register with all schools where you might assist. **The Dividend application needs to be updated yearly.** We appreciate your support.



2018-19 Student Calendar

Start Date August 10, 2018, End Date May 28, 2019

JULY 2018				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

AUGUST 2018				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER 2018				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

OCTOBER 2018				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	*11	*12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2018				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2018				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	*21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

JANUARY 2019				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2019				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2019				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	*15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

APRIL 2019				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

MAY 2019				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	*29	30	31

JUNE 2019				
M	TU	W	TH	FR
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

1st Quarter: Aug. 10th - Oct. 10th	43 Days	Semester 1	87 Days	8/10-12/20
2nd Quarter: Oct. 15th - Dec. 20th	44 Days			
3rd Quarter: Jan. 7th - March 14th	47 Days	Semester 2	93 Days	1/7-5/28
4th Quarter: March 25th - May 28th	46 Days			

8/6 - 8/9		Pre-Planning
8/10		First Day of School
9/3		Labor Day Holiday
10/10		End of 1st Quarter
10/11		District PD Day / Student Holiday
10/12		Tchr Workday/Student Holiday
10/15		Beginning of 2nd Grading Period
11/19 - 11/23		Thanksgiving Break
12/20		End of 2nd Quarter
12/21		Tchr Workday/Student Holiday
		Early Release Days

12/24 - 1/4		Winter Break
1/7		Beginning of 3rd Grading Period
1/21		Martin Luther King Holiday
2/18		Presidents Day Holiday
3/14		End of 3rd Quarter
3/15		Tchr Workday/Student Holiday
3/18 - 3/22		Spring Break
3/25		Beginning of 4th Grading Period
5/27		Memorial Day Holiday
5/28		End of 4th Quarter/Last Day of School
5/29 - 5/30		Post-Planning

*Make-up days for inclement weather are listed in the order in which they will be taken: 10/11/2018, 10/12/2018, 12/21/2018, 3/15/2019, 5/29/2019.



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Skyward

If you have not already done so, we would like to encourage you to sign up for Skyward. It is a program designed for you to keep up daily with your student's grades and attendance. Forms are available in our front office or you can download a form from our website (www.rocklakemiddle.scps.k12.fl.us) and bring it to the front office with a copy of your driver's license (or you can send in the form with a copy of your ID). On the front page of our website, you can click on **Trouble Logging in to Skyward?** and it will show step by step instructions. You may also direct any Skyward questions to our Administrative Secretary, Debi Magamoll at 407-746-9355.

SCPS And RLMS Websites

Have you visited Seminole County Public Schools' website located at www.scps.k12.fl.us? It has tons of information, including the 2018-2019 School Calendar, lunch menus, school bus route information, school board agenda, etc. You can visit Rock Lake Middle School's website from there by going to: schools, middle, Rock Lake or go to www.rocklakemiddle.scps.k12.fl.us to go directly to our site.

Internet Exclusion Form

Seminole County Public Schools believes technology is a valuable educational tool. We offer our students access to the district computer network and the Internet for instructional purposes.

If you do not want your student to have this access, you need to complete an Internet Exclusion Request form. This form is available on the SCPS website (www.scps.k12.fl.us) as well as the Rock Lake website (www.rocklakemiddle.scps.k12.fl.us).

Privacy Laws

The School Board of Seminole County, Florida reserves the right to release "Directory Information" without obtaining prior permission from a student's parent(s) or adult student.

We want our parents to understand that some of the items this directory information includes is having your student's work or pictures published on our website, **school year-book**, honor roll or recognition lists (your student is identified on our website by first name only). Parents must request in a written letter to the principal annually if they do not want his/her student's information published. **This is an "all or none" policy** and therefore your letter requesting the information not be released will include all publications, etc.