

# Rock Lake Middle School RAIDERS' S LOG

SEMINOLE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

**DECEMBER 2018**  
**VOLUME IV**  
**ISSUE 2**

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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**

Dear RLMS Parent / Legal Guardian,

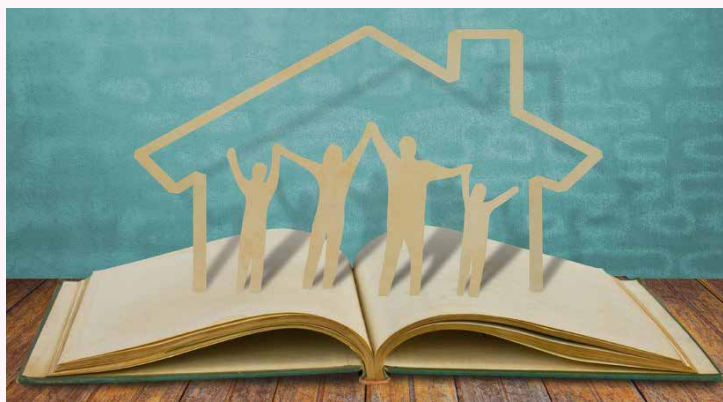
Our 1st semester of the 2018-2019 school year has flown by. I can proudly state that the students, faculty, and staff of RLMS continue to showcase why RLMS is one of the premier middle schools in all of central Florida. Our students continue to shine, as evidenced by our strong showing at the recent Beta Convention, where RLMS students brought home an unprecedented number of awards. In addition to the Beta Convention, RLMS 8th graders raised our average student score on the recent PSAT by 39 points over the previous year. This substantial improvement is a testament to our hardworking students and top notch instructors. Whether is academically, athletically, or related to performing arts, RLMS students continue to set the bar.

I hope each and every one of our 946 students has a wonderful Winter Break. When the break concludes, we will continue to keep our foot on the gas pedal and strive toward our 20th consecutive year as an "A" Rated school. Go Raiders!

Best regards,

Dr. Jordan Rodriguez, *Principal*

**Rock Lake Middle School – Where Character Comes First**





### 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

## PTO Welcomes You!

### Just One Hour!

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

- **School store** before school -year-round
- **8th Grade Activities Holiday & Spring Candy Grams** school hours or candy donations
- **Membership – 100% benefits teacher grants** -year round

### Upcoming Events

- **January - TBD Pasta for Pennies:** Homeroom - Annual Campaign by Olive Garden. We need assistance counting change for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- **Interested in joining the PTO Board?** We will have several 8th grade parents who will be moving on to the high school level. Stay tuned for an upcoming interest meeting.
- **May 15 and 17 - 8th Grade Field Day and Dance:** We will need volunteers and supplies to ensure these events are a success. Additional information will be forthcoming.
- **May 6-10 - Teacher Appreciation Week:** food and gift card donations will be greatly appreciated!

### 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 website are your thing? The signups are there too!

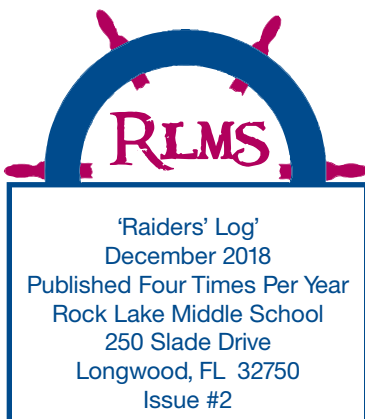
- **Website:** <https://rlupto.weebly.com/>
  - **Remind:** Text @rocklakemi to 81010 to get updates by text or email
  - **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/rlupto/>
  - Feel Free to email anytime: [rocklakepto@yahoo.com](mailto:rocklakepto@yahoo.com)
- Melissa Velazquez, RLMS PTO President 2017-2019

### Follow us on Social Media



## 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 item 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.



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## PSAT Scores for 8th Graders

PSAT scores are now available for viewing online for all RLMS 8th graders who sat for the exam. As a reminder, a student's Khan Academy account and their College Board account can be linked. This will allow the students to easily access material that will assist them in strengthening their performance in areas identified as areas of need. If you have any questions related to PSAT, please email our Testing Coordinator / Educational Technology Facilitator (Jianna Dalton) at [Jianna\\_Dalton@scps.us](mailto:Jianna_Dalton@scps.us).

## Human Trafficking Presentation

RLMS will be hosting a nationally renowned expert on human trafficking on January 9th. This opportunity was sought out after our principal had the opportunity hear this speaker at a recent Seminole County Chamber of Commerce event. This is an important topic for our students to be aware of, as Central Florida has the 3rd highest volume of calls to law enforcement pertaining to human trafficking in the entire country. The presentation (which was offered to a handful of elective courses) will focus on informing students of what exactly qualifies as human trafficking and warning signs of human trafficking that should raise a red flag. If you have any questions about the presentation, please email Dr. Rodriguez at [Jordan\\_Rodriguez@scps.us](mailto:Jordan_Rodriguez@scps.us).



## Boys & Girls Basketball Tryouts

We will hold our tryouts for both the Girls and Boys Basketball team upon our return from Winter Break. Specific dates and times will be forthcoming. We recently called a Basketball Interest Meeting to order. We saw a great turnout for the meeting and took the opportunity to share with the students what the expectations are for a RLMS student-athlete. As we always do, a strong emphasis on character was discussed during the meeting. If you have any questions pertaining to tryouts or physicals, please email our Sports Coordinator (Janice Winn) at [J\\_Winn@scps.us](mailto:J_Winn@scps.us).



## Schedule Change Request Information

At a middle or high school, it is common for students and parents to request schedule changes throughout the year. The RLMS guidance team looks at each request on a case by case basis. A few things to be mindful of when requesting schedule changes:

- If a student is struggling with a course, there is an expectation that the parent and instructor have communicated to address any concerns. Your first point of contact with an academic concern should be the instructor. Often times, issues are quickly resolved when the instructor and parents are in communication.
- A single schedule change request could result in multiple periods on your child's schedule being modified. One of the things RLMS students enjoy is the manageable number of students we have on campus. One consistent issue that arises because of our small enrollment is that we do not offer the number of sections of courses that other schools offer. As an example, we have several courses on campus that are only offered once per day. This limits the flexibility we can provide with change requests.

## Speakers: We Need You!

If you are looking for ways to get involved with RLMS, we are always looking for guest speakers. If you or someone you know may be interested in coming in, please email our principal at [Jordan\\_Rodriguez@scps.us](mailto:Jordan_Rodriguez@scps.us).



## 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.

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## 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.

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

(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.

Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be at least mid-thigh or below in length. Rips/tears above mid-thigh not permitted.

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

Undergarments as outerwear, pajama pants, bathing suits, cheer shorts, bike shorts, **leggings**, 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.

(c) 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.

(e) 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 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 raÙ in front of the school, as this is reserved for bus traffic ONLY. Students are to be dropped off on the raÙ 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 raÙ. 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 raÙ 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 raÙ 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 raÙ 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 raÙ. 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!

## Speakout Hotline

You can give tips 3 ways:

<b>On-line</b> <a href="http://www.speakouthotline.org">www.speakouthotline.org</a> You may give an anonymous tip on the website	<b>Call</b> 800-423-TIPS No caller ID No recorded calls	<b>Text</b> 'speakout' plus your tip information to CRIMES (274637)
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## 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 for medication 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.), safe drugs and prescription medications. There are no exceptions to this policy.
- **All medications** (over-the-counter, safe, prescription) must be in their original containers.
- If the medication is over-the-counter or safe, **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.



# 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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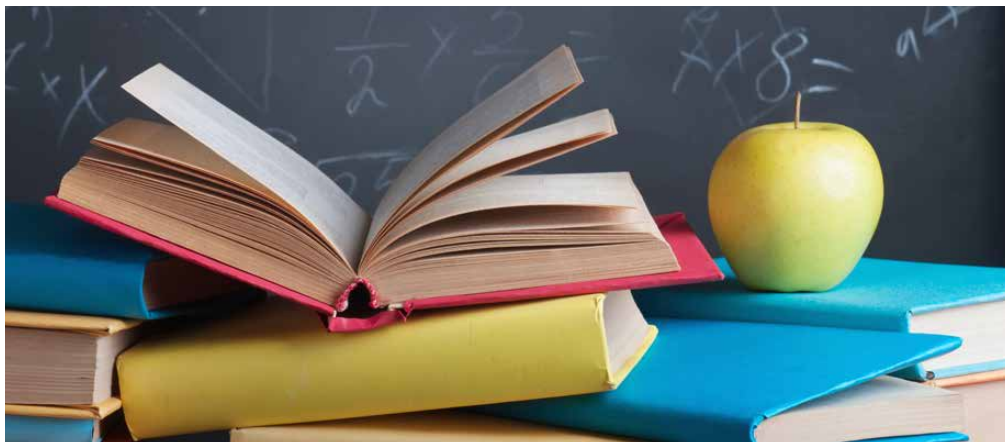
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## Skyward

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 at [www.rocklakemiddle.scps.k12.fl.us](http://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](http://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](http://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 at [www.scps.k12.fl.us](http://www.scps.k12.fl.us) and the Rock Lake website at [www.rocklakemiddle.scps.k12.fl.us](http://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 information in this directory information includes is having your student's work or pictures published on our website, **school yearbook**, 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.