



The Rickards Register

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MAY/JUNE 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It's hard to believe that we have only 5 and one-half weeks of school left. The FCAT seems like a distant memory and the year is flying by. We anxiously await the news regarding our FCAT scores and school grade. The students and staff certainly worked hard throughout this year.

There is a lot going on the month of May. The flag football season is underway and off to a great beginning. You don't want to miss the boys and girls teams as they represent the school. Please be sure to visit our website for a complete listing of all upcoming school events and activities (www.rickardsmiddleschool.net).

Finally, I would like to encourage you to review your child's academic performance to date to ensure that everything is in order for promotion. Students' need 4 points to pass each course to be promoted to the next grade level. Furthermore, current 6th, 7th and 8th grade students need to pass Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies each year or they are required to make up the course(s) failed. Eighth (8th) grade students will be retained if they do not pass the four aforementioned core courses. If you have any questions about promotion or retention please call (754) 322-4400 and ask to speak to a guidance counselor.

Sincerely,

Ronald H. Forsman, Jr.
Principal

SCHOOL CHOICE

On a different note, I would like to take a moment to address School Choice. The School District recently mailed a letter that discussed your options under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the School Choice option. This option is only available to students from Title I schools that have not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three or more years in a row. This does not mean that the school they will be attending has made AYP, only that it is not a Title I school and accountable under the NCLB legislation. In fact, no middle school made AYP in the 2008-2009 school year. Furthermore, Rickards made an "A" grade and out scored many of the surrounding schools by a significant margin. I know it is very confusing and a little frustrating. However, we have discussed the legislation and School Choice at each of our SAC and PTSA meetings. If you have questions or would like additional information, please attend the next SAC/PTSA meeting on May 18th at 6:00 p.m. or contact the school and speak with a guidance counselor or administrator. I want you to have all of the information that you need to make an informed decision for your child.

MAY/JUNE COMING EVENTS

May 3-7 Resolution in Support of Teacher Appreciation Week
May 4 Teacher's Day
May 9 Mother's Day
May 11-14 Washington DC 8th grade Field trip
May 15 Armed Forces Day
May 16-22 Resolution in Support of National Educational Bosses Week
May 28 Employee Planning
May 31 School Closed-Memorial Day

June 9 Early Release-Last Day of School
June 14 Flag Day
June 20 Father's Day
June 21 Summer Begins
June 25 Report Cards mailed home



ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR 2009 - 2010

Absences are considered excused only for these reasons: illness of the student; illness of an immediate family member; death in the family; religious holiday of the student's own faith; required court appearance or subpoena by a law enforcement agency; special event (e.g. conferences, state/national competitions, exceptional cases of family need); scheduled medical or dental appointments; and the student having or suspected of having a communicable disease or infestation.

If a child misses school or is going to miss school, it is very important that the parent or guardian let the school know which of the eight reasons caused or will cause the absence. Otherwise, the absence will be counted as unexcused and make-up work will not be counted for credit or toward the child's grade.

Rickards Middle School Attendance line is 754-322-4402. Please call this number when calling your child in sick.

YOU MUST PRESENT A VALID PICTURE I.D. WHEN PICKING UP OR ATTENDING ANY CONFERENCE/MEETING FOR YOUR CHILD, OR YOU MAY BE DENIED ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL.

PLEASE REMEMBER IT IS IMPERATIVE TO UPDATE ANY CHANGES IN WORK, CELL, OR HOME PHONE NUMBERS THAT MAY OCCUR DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. IF AN EMERGENCY ARRISES AND WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU REGARDING YOUR CHILD IT IS VITAL TO YOUR CHILD'S WELL BEING THAT WE HAVE WORKING PHONE NUMBEERS! MANY TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WE CORRESPOND THROUGH THE MAIL SO WE NEED TO HAVE YOUR CURRENT ADDDRESS ALSO, IF YOU MOVE PLEASE BRING IN PROOF OF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGE SO OUR RECORDS MAY BE UP-DATED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Dedication Page
By Phelan Kenyon-Jones/8th Grade

Solemnly, I wish to dedicate this project to changing weather. In my thoughtful mind, I view the world I walk in as just that-a relatively short stroll to a place your not ready to reach yet. Although I'm not old enough, in some minds, to have any inkling to know what it is I'm talking about. Walking on this path of life whether a straight line, or one with diverging roads there is always going to be weather; regardless if it hinders or encourages you on your way. Let's say that certain times you wish to go on your way is sunny maybe slightly windy weather, while times that have you stop and wait it out are rainy and cold weather. A close friend of mine once told me, "I may be intelligent enough to know better, but that doesn't change the fact that I'm scared of confrontations and troubled times. I always act passive to avoid any difficult, conflicting times and with that I won't get as far as most people no matter how smart I appear to be." I believe he's the type of person to shy away, to shelter or turn back to the last place he was at the first sign of rain and wait it out when it turns out that it was a beautiful, sunny day. Now in my life I found that whatever the weather I will push past troubled times, but for the majority of my life there has been rainy weather and little to no signs of it letting up. I trudged through the rain with those who waited, being left behind with awed faces of my determination and I pushed and pushed my way to the front. I knew that with so much rainy weather I was always pushing always pushing until suddenly it did, in fact, let up and I had a time of blissful Sun-which I took advantage of and lazily basked in the seemingly eternal sunshine. All those who once looked at me while looking forward, got a chance to look back at me and this was where mistakes began. I did poorly on standardized tests and got extremely poor marks and this was a bout of self-inflicted rain. I WAS afraid and waited under cover of the relentless rain because it was brought about by my selfish actions. Lethargically, I pushed along as was mandatory, and nobody tried to push me forward with sun because they expected me to pass through the rain as I always did in the past, but alas I could not. Then few tried to encourage me, they tried to push me themselves, with tasks and risks that were selfless on their side. It gave me ideas and it gave me a look towards more gruesome times ahead, which I could not go through with little effort if I wished to be even moderately happy. I had a reason to go through the rain again and it cleared up, I was free of it, and this time I did not stop but increased my pace and didn't look back. While there may be times ahead that again will have bad weather, stormy weather, even weather that will be as if it will never stop, and too harsh too pass through. I know that what I have learned of that experience is that there will always be others to help and I will get past it.

**The following Poem was composed
by
Rebecca Parks 7th Grade**

Haiti



**Shake, shake
Mom help
Hang on honey
Where are you?
In the bathroom**

**Shake, shake
Mom, I'm scared
The lights, Mom
Help!**

**Shake, shake
I love you, Mom
Be strong don't give
Up keep crawling
Mom, where is Beery?
In your room
I have to get Beery**

**Shake, shake
No! I Love you
Run outside**

**Shake. shake
Mom, where are you?
All you hear
Is "help" and cries
He never saw his
Mother again**

DISTRICT LAUNCHES NEW ENVIRONMENTAL WEB SITE

Environmental stewardship is one of Broward County Public Schools goals, along with student achievement, employee excellence and safety.

In support of the District's Environmental Strategic Plan, Broward County Public Schools will launch a new Environmental Web site (www.BrowardSchoolsGoGreen.com) on March 25.

The site will give the District an opportunity to highlight its many "Go Green" initiatives and will also showcase the many innovative projects and programs underway in schools. Schools will be encouraged to share their environmental/conservation projects and photos. On the site, students, parents and community members will find a wide range of information and resources and can explore an interactive "Virtual Green School" to learn more about ways to "Live Green. Learn Green."

Be sure to bookmark this informative and educational Web site (www.BrowardSchoolsGoGreen.com). The site is a work in progress and will be updated regularly as new information becomes available and new programs and projects are introduced.

PARENT ALERT FROM THE CAFETERIA !!!! NEWS FROM THE BROWARD COUNTY DISTRICT

**AS OF MAY 7TH CHECKS WILL NO LONGER BE
ACCEPTED FOR PAYMENT IN THE CAFETERIA.
EFFECTIVE MAY 10TH STUDENTS WILL NO LONGER
BE ALLOWED TO CHARGE ANY MEALS!!**



TIPS FROM TITLE 1

Supplemental Education Services (SES) provides free after school tutoring for students who receive free or reduced lunch. It is imperative that parents pay attention to application form/s that you will receive during the summer. Forms are to be sent to the Title 1 and students are placed on a “first come first served” basis. This year many applications were turned in late and so qualified students did not receive tutoring.

Parent involvement in education is essential for student success. Thanks to those parents who did our online survey and those who have helped in developing the Parent Involvement Plan. Next year, we will have this plan in English, Haitian Creole, and Spanish and they will all be on the School’s website. Please take some time to read the plan and see how you participate to make our students successful.

At our school we have many helpful booklets in our parent resource center. Topics include: How to get more out of what you read, Ayudar a los Estudiantes con la Lectura, Reading for Meaning, Preventing Colds and Flu, Building Reading Skills, Ayudar a los Estudiantes con las Matemáticas, and What Parents Should Know About Title 1. Stop by and browse; you may just see something that you have been looking for.