



From the Principal's Pen...

DECEMBER 2020!! We are near the midpoint of our school year and ready to enjoy our Winter Holidays. Parents, while some of our cherished traditions may have to be put on pause this year, we can still find creative ways to enjoy the seasons and holidays we typically celebrate with our families. This may be a good time to have a conversation with your children to discuss how and why things are different this year. They may even offer some novel ideas of how to celebrate as a family; children are often more resilient than we give them credit for.

If your economic circumstances permit, teach your children the value of giving by letting them help you choose one or more areas where your family can provide assistance. If you are the recipient of assistance from others, it's okay to discuss that with your child as well. It's also a good time to teach your children gratitude for those who give and to plant the thought in their hearts and minds that when things get better, you will in turn pass on the gift of giving to others. We are living in difficult times, and it's during times like these that caring people reach out to help others. Showing children how to give from the heart will open up the pathways of compassion and benevolence toward those less fortunate; learning to love and share is a gift that will endure for generations to come.

Our second grading period will end on Friday, December 18, 2020. RFES will be closed for all students during our Winter Holidays: Monday, December 21, 2020, through Wednesday, January 6, 2021. **Students return to school on Thursday, January 7, 2021.**

Please Note: Students and staff in Cumberland County Schools will return to school under Plan B on Thursday, January 7, 2021, if all goes as planned. More information will be forthcoming.

When we return, our third grading period will begin. Parents, it is crucial that you assure your children are in attendance and on time each day — promptness and regular attendance are vital to learning.

Be safe as you enjoy your Winter Holiday break with families and friends. Students, I want to encourage you to read some great books over the holidays.



Pre-K

It is hard to believe that the winter holidays are almost here! Our Pre-K students are working hard and learning every day! We would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL of our parents for helping our youngest learners at Rockfish each and every day! We could not do it without your help. Monday, December 21, 2020, is the start of our winter holidays for staff and students. Students will return to school on Thursday, January 7, 2021! We hope everyone has a great winter break. We look forward to seeing you in the NEW YEAR!



DECEMBER 2020

- 14 ~ SIT Meeting - 2:45 pm
- 18 ~ End of Second Grading Period
~ 2 Hour Early Release
- 21-Jan 1 ~ Student/Staff Winter Holidays - NO SCHOOL



JANUARY 2021

- Jan 4-6 ~ Student Holidays/TEACHER WORKDAYS - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- Jan 7 ~ Students Return to School under **Plan B!**

From the Media Center

Many parents have asked how to access more online books from sites other than EPIC.

You can apply for a library card for you and your child online at <https://cumberland.nccardinal.org/eg/opac/register>. The card will allow your child to place books on hold for curbside pickup and give him/her access to numerous online databases such as Brainfuse that offers assistance with homework and test preparation. The card will also allow your child to download ebooks to any device they have. Another online resource available to all North Carolina students is NCWiseOwl at <http://www.ncwiseowl.org/>. If prompted, the password is wiseowl19. You may also download ebooks from Destiny. Please visit our Student Resources Page on our school website for more information.

A good book is a great gift for children and adults!!



Reading gives us some places to go when we have to stay where we are.

From the Counselor's Corner

The holidays are quickly approaching and so is the New Year. I challenge you all to make New Year's resolutions or goals together as a family. Talk with your children about their wishes and goals. Encourage a resolution that supports wellness and mental health. Examples might include: start a daily gratitude journal, participate in weekly meditation or yoga, get 8-10+ hours of sleep each night.

I also challenge you to participate in some "Nature Therapy" as a family. Although the weather is chilly, encourage your children to play outside. Research has shown that benefits of contact with nature for children include: reduces impulsivity, reduces stress, stimulates imagination and creativity, reduces depression, increases self-esteem, improves the attention of children with ADHD symptoms, has a calming effect on children with ADHD, and so much more.

I hope all RFES students, families, and staff have a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to working with you all in the New Year!



Winter Break!
is on the way!!

Kindergarten

Our small groups continue, and we appreciate the time and efforts our families are making to have their children attend. It is truly making a difference.

We are currently working on identifying the final sound in literacy and continuing to practice rhyming words. This is a difficult concept to grasp, but we are confident we will see improvement soon!

In math, students have learned to recognize teen numbers and are currently working with 2D and 3D shapes as well as positional words.

Kindergarten students were able to attend a live virtual field trip with Fighter Calloway from Charlotte, which they really enjoyed.

We would like to wish all our Rockfish families a safe and happy holiday season. We appreciate your continued support at home!



First Grade

With only a few weeks left in our second nine weeks, first graders are rocking and rolling like true Rock-stars in every subject. In math, we learned how to solve word problems using addition and subtraction. We are blending and dictating with confidence, understanding story structure, and increasing our reading comprehension skills in ELA. In writing, we have learned how to write a letter.



We enjoy exploring new and exciting things in science and social studies. This month, all first grade classes plan to travel around the world as we discuss how others celebrate Christmas and/or their Winter Holidays. Going forward, we will continue to work hard to become the best possible readers before moving on up to second grade.

Second Grade

The end of our second nine weeks is approaching quickly! Parents please check with your child to make sure all assignments for these nine weeks have been completed and turned in. Students should be completing 20 minutes of Istation and 20 minutes of SuccessMaker daily. They should also be completing two AR tests weekly after reading a book 3-5 times. This will help to ensure they are achieving at least 85% accuracy on tests taken within their reading level range.

Our students have done a wonderful job transitioning to Webex. Thank you for your continued support in making virtual learning a success for your child!

Happy holidays to you and your family!



RFES MISSION STATEMENT

Rockfish Elementary School is committed to providing a quality education for all students within a safe and supportive atmosphere where all feel secure, loved, and challenged.

Terrific Third Grade



Our third graders are remote Rock-stars! We are very proud of their efforts and hard work! Thank you for all your support at home. We have been hard at work with two-step word problems in math. It is a tricky concept; however, our students

have done a tremendous job showing their work and tackling the challenges. Encourage your child to keep reading at home; it makes such a difference. Please attend our small group sessions in the afternoon. These sessions are a great opportunity for individualized instruction and attention. Some students prefer the small group setting to ask questions and receive support. We want to help everyone succeed. Thank you for your open and ongoing communications with the teachers as we navigate this new experience!

Fabulous Fourth Grade

Happy Holidays! We had a great time celebrating our students' accomplishments for the first quarter and are looking forward to them finishing strong in the second quarter. Please remember to check your child's progress on PowerSchool — every assignment counts! Missing homework and classwork contributes negatively to overall grades. If you do not have access to your child's grades please reach out to his/her teacher. As we move forward in math, please encourage your child to memorize all multiplication facts 0-12. Students should be reading books on their level each night and taking AR tests to meet their goals. The best way to improve reading comprehension is to read, read, and read some more! We are very excited to be learning about Christmas around the world and learning of other cultures in social studies.

Thank you families for all you do at home to help ensure that students are successful. You are greatly appreciated.



Fifth Grade

- ✓ Please make sure your child is reading and testing for AR. Independent reading is the key to improving your child's reading level and ability.
- ✓ Math Fluency tests will continue. Students should be proficient in 0-12s multiplication tables. We will begin division after the holidays.
- ✓ Please check PowerSchool grades weekly. You can see if your child is missing assignments that may possibly be turned in. Don't look back at Quarter 1 as the grades are unable to be changed now.
- ✓ We are planning a Virtual Rocket Redemption Party before Winter Break to celebrate our students' first semester accomplishments. Work and AR goals completion will increase the celebration for your child. More information to follow.
- ✓ The help that our parents and families are giving to our students is so appreciated. We could not do this without you.

KIDS' CORNER!



What do snowmen eat for breakfast? "Snowflakes!"

Who delivers presents to pets? "Santa paws!"

What music does Santa's elves like the best? "Wrap music!"