



From the Principal's Pen...

JANUARY 2021!! Greetings and Happy New Year!! After experiencing a year quite like no other in our lifetimes, we are encouraged and filled with confidence for a new beginning. The foundation of year 2021 is just the beginning of many exciting learning opportunities for RFES students. Even though our current events and circumstances may be different, our hopes and expectations for RFES students and staff remain the same; thus, we continue to *Expect the Best* and plan accordingly.

In the days ahead, we anticipate further communications to guide student reentry into the school building. CCS and RFES will notify the community of any updates or changes through local news and media outlets, emails, social media, and other methods of contact available to us.

I want to express my appreciation to those students, parents, and extended families that have made an extra effort to maintain a positive outlook while navigating the demanding environments of remote instruction and learning. It may have been challenging at times; however, the practices our students are learning will help them when they return to their classrooms. Parents, please continue to assure your children are logged in on time and prepared for school each morning.

You will receive report cards, reflecting your child's academic progress and attendance data from the second remote reporting period, on Friday, January 15. Please take time to review and discuss the report with your child.

Remote Parent-Teacher Conferences are planned for the week of January 11-15. In order to provide a quality education for RFES students, our parents and teachers must maintain close contact; therefore, we would ask that you attend a scheduled conference with your child's teacher. During the conference, you and the teacher can discuss your child's progress to date as well as develop strategies to support his/her continued progress. More information for time and method of the conference will be forthcoming.

Times, dates, and locations for Student Awards Assemblies are not yet determined. You will receive information from your child's teacher if your child will receive a certificate or award for the second nine weeks grading period. Earning an award is a very significant honor for children; therefore, I encourage you to recognize your child's efforts by attending the specified time and place for your child's grade level.

School is closed on Monday, January 18, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Students do not attend school on that day. Please encourage your children to read over the long weekend and help them stay on track with their AR goals for the third nine weeks.

Pre-K

Happy New Year! Welcome back Rockfish Tigers and parents! We are excited to get 2021 started and eager to get back to learning! We hope everyone had a fun filled winter break. School will be closed on Monday, January 18, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day!



JANUARY 2021

- 11 ~ SIT Meeting - 2:45 pm
- 11-15 ~ Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 15 ~ REPORT CARDS GO HOME
- 18 ~ **MLK Jr. Day - Student/Staff Holiday - NO SCHOOL**



From the Media Center

Parents, please make sure your children are reading every day and AR testing on their Media books. Students are also to test on weekends. Please do not help them while they are testing. Our Media Center has over 500 eBooks online. You may access them from our catalog, which has a link on our school website. Find and click on Rockfish Elementary School. Following is a reminder two different ways your can retrieve your books:

1. Sebcu eBooks or Britannica eBooks:

- Click on the link Sebcu eBooks or Britannica eBooks.
- The username is Rockfish and the password is tigers. Click on log in.
- If prompted for your child's ID number, key it in and click log in. The numbers are not saved. They are used only to assure proper access.
- You may access any of the eBooks there.

2. Catalog:

- Click on the Catalog tab.
 - Click on the drop-down menu Material Type and select Electronic Book (eBook).
 - Click on the Keyword icon to bring up all of our eBooks.
 - When you click on a book, you will be prompted for the username Rockfish and the password tigers.
 - When you finish reading a book, you may click RETURN TO LIBRARY to select another book or Log out.
- When you are completely finished, please make sure to Log out so others have access.

Reading is one of the most valuable skills children learn in life, so encourage your children to read, read, read, and then read some more!



From the Counselor's Corner

As we begin 2021, it is important that we encourage our children to begin the New Year in a positive way. Historically, the New Year is a time where we make plans and set goals for things we want to change. Our children may consider the New Year as an opportunity for renewal, a time to assess their life and consider how they might want to improve it. Goal setting is beneficial for children in many ways and is a life skill necessary for success and happiness. It teaches children to be responsible for their own successes and failures, to prioritize and manage their time, and to identify their strengths and abilities. Goal setting will also help to build a child's self-esteem and confidence. I encourage you all to work with your children to set positive goals for 2021.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students continue to learn more phonemic awareness skills as their literacy lessons challenge them to identify the beginning, middle, and final sounds in words. They are also using their writing skills to create amazing sentences with nouns, adjectives, and verbs!

In math, students are doing their best to identify the number of objects within 10 and greater than, less than, or equal to counting strategies.

We have studied physical properties in science and explored holiday celebrations around the world in social studies.

Navigating our way through Webex has helped kindergarten students become confident in computer skills. They are even able to troubleshoot some technology issues!

Please continue to work with your child on the skills we are covering in class. Your help at home is greatly appreciated!

First Grade

Happy New Year Firsties! Our teachers understand the power of connection; therefore, as your Champions, we are excited to welcome you back to your second home, RFES. We insist that you become the best you can possibly be, coupled with an emphasis on the 3Ws: Wear a mask. Wait 6ft from others. Wash your hands.

As we flow into the third quarter, we will learn the physical properties of earth's materials and explain how neighborhoods and communities change over time. All students will apply understanding of the equal sign to determine if an addition or subtraction equation is true or false and solve equations with three whole numbers. In ELA, students' skills will be enriched as they gain more knowledge in the proper way to blend words as they learn other foundational concepts necessary to become great readers and scholars.

Second Grade

Second grade teachers want to wish everyone a toasty January as we begin the third nine weeks of our 2020-21 school year. We would like to remind parents and students that students should continue to work in Istation and SuccessMaker daily for a minimum of 20 minutes on each one. Parents, please encourage your child to log in to Epic, choose a book, and take an AR test.



KIDS' CORNER!

What kind of crackers should you never put in your soup on New Year's Eve?

“Fire Crackers!”

What does a ghost say on January 1st?

“Happy BOO Year!!!”

What is a cow's favorite night of the year?

“MOO Years Eve!”

Terrific Third Grade

Happy New Year! We are excited to get back to work with all our amazing students. In math, we will be starting our new units on area and perimeter. As always, we are working on basic multiplication and division facts along with single and multistep word problems.

Third grade literacy units will look at traditional literature of legends along with cause and effect skills. We will also move to nonfiction text features as we learn about K-9 police dogs. Parents, please encourage your child to read with the Epic resources and meet our challenge of at least 2 AR tests a week! Please remember: IStation and SuccessMaker are available for students to work with each afternoon during independent work time. This is good skill practice for students.

Fabulous Fourth Grade

We hope everyone enjoyed your well-deserved break! In fourth grade, we are looking forward to the greatness to come during third 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 0-12 multiplication facts. 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 beginning our social studies government unit which includes local, state, and federal. Students will continue to be successful scientists and explore the various forms of energy in science. Thank you families for all you do at home to help ensure that your children 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. At this time, fifth graders should be proficient in 0-12s multiplication tables. We are now beginning division.
- ✓ Your child can do SuccessMaker at home. Many have fallen behind the amount of time they need per week so please encourage your child to work on it during his/her free time.
- ✓ Check PowerSchool grades weekly. You can see if your child is missing assignments that may be turned in. We can only adjust Q2 grades.
- ✓ Thanks again for all of the assistance you provide us with your child. We could not do this without your help!

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.

EXPECT THE BEST