



From the Principal's Pen...

APRIL 2021!! When I think back over the past year, I have some mixed thoughts and feelings. As I reflect on the things we've missed and lost in the midst of the COVID pandemic, I also consider how very much we've gained. While we missed the joy of seeing our students search for their new classrooms at Open House and on the first day of school, we watched them acquire difficult technology skills that permitted them to meet their virtual teachers and classmates and go to school over the internet—no doubt those skills will continue to be beneficial for them in the future. While we lost the sense of security found in uniformity, in the ordinary, in the commonplace, we found a renewed sense of community and an appreciation for the extraordinary lengths that RFES staff and families will go to assure success for all our Little Tigers. We gained a deeper understanding of the idea that "it takes a village to raise a child." Additionally, while delivering remote instruction, we maintained the high level of instruction, care, and concern that is traditionally experienced and expected at Rockfish Elementary School. Considering all things, I would say our gains outweigh our losses.

On Monday, March 15, we welcomed our students back into the building for the first time in a year. Their masks could not conceal their excitement and beautiful smiles along with some first-day-back jitters for some. Thank you for your cooperation and support to ensure that your child completes the CCS Symptoms Screener survey each day before reporting to school. I also want to express my appreciation to those parents who helped prepare your child for a safe and positive return experience.

Spring break for students is Friday, April 2 through Friday, April 9. Continue to take caution and practice safety as you enjoy a relaxing and rejuvenating break. When we return from spring break on Monday, April 12, we will resume our plan of instruction to accomplish our highest goal of student success. We will return under Plan A: All in-person and virtual learning students will return to their in-school or virtual classes on Mon., Tue., Thur., and Fri. Wellness Wednesday will be an Independent Remote Learning Day for all students.

Progress Reports reflecting your child's performance will be in the Parent Portal on Wednesday, April 21. Review the report and contact your child's teacher if you have questions regarding his/her progress at this mid-point of our final nine weeks grading period.

We will appreciate your continued support as we complete the final nine weeks of this school year.

Pre-K

Spring is in the air! Our Pre-K students continue to grow and learn each day! Friday, April 2, is a student/teacher holiday. Spring break is April 5-9. We hope everyone has a relaxing and safe break. Be ready to come back and learn on Monday, April 12!



2021

- 1 ~ **Awards:** 4th - 8:30-9:00 am - Virtual/Classrooms
- 1 ~ **Awards:** 5th - 9:15-9:45 am - Virtual/Classrooms
- 2 ~ **HOLIDAY** - Students and Staff - **NO SCHOOL!**
- 5-9 ~ **SPRING BREAK** - Students and Staff - **NO SCHOOL!**
- 12 ~ **Students Return to School** - Our Spring Break is Over!!
- 12 ~ **SIT Meeting** - 2:45 pm

From the Media Center

Don't forget!! Our spring book fair will be open online through April 4, 2021! Discover the characters, series, and collections kids love. All purchases benefit our school.

We are quickly approaching the end of the school year, which means all Rockfish students must turn in all their Media Center materials by Friday, May 7. Please help your children find all of their media books by the week of May 3 so they will be able to clear the Media Center. Overdue notices will be delivered to students by May 14 for any outstanding books or fines. Please feel free to contact the Media Center if you have any questions. Thank you!



From the Counselor's Corner

It has been wonderful transitioning into Plan B and seeing so many smiles sparkling through so many beautiful eyes – such beauty cannot be hidden behind a mask.

I hope everyone has a safe, happy, healthy, and restful Spring Break.

April is Month of the Military Child.

Shout-out to all of our military children: you are resilient, you are resolute, you are remarkable. You are appreciated! April is also National Child Abuse Prevention Month: It shouldn't hurt to be a child. If you ever suspect child abuse or neglect, call The Cumberland County Department of Social Services Child Protection Services at 910-677-2450 (M-F 8am-5pm) or 910-489-4583 (after hours). Protecting Kids – It's everyone's job.



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.



Kindergarten

It was wonderful to welcome our kindergarten students and teach them in person for the first time this school year. They were very happy to be learning in a real classroom! We enjoyed watching them get acquainted with Rockfish Elementary and their classmates.

In literacy, students have improved their phonemic skills and learned to substitute phonemes. Learning to Identify new sight words is helping them build their reading fluency.

We have introduced subtraction while continuing to learn about addition and decomposing numbers in math.

In science, we have begun studying animals. We are exploring likes and differences in one another in social studies.

We look forward to seeing all of our students back in class for Plan A! Thank you for your continued support to assure your child is prepared for class each day! Have an enjoyable and relaxing spring break.

First Grade

Wow! We have learned a lot this year, and we're very proud to say that we are almost ready for second grade. First grade exemplifies excellence daily with positive outlooks for a successful fourth quarter. The seed has been planted and watered, and we are seeing evidence of a beautiful growing flower in this season of spring. Readers are diving deeper into books. Students are continuing to meet in small groups with their peers. Reading at home is still highly encouraged. We look forward to enjoying our holiday and Spring Break - April 2-9, 2021. This time of year is filled with excitement so don't forget to visit our school's website for upcoming events and updated information.



Second Grade

Second grade teachers are so excited that our students have returned to the building. Parents please remember every day to pack your child's fully charged Chromebook, charging cord, 2 face masks and any other necessary supplies that your child's teacher may require. Since Wednesdays are remote learning days, your child will not meet with his/her teacher for live instruction. Don't forget that Istation and Success Maker are required every day for a minimum of 20 minutes.

Terrific Third Grade

We are excited about all the progress our third graders have made with virtual learning. They come to class with positive attitudes and smiles on their faces!

We have just started our unit on fractions. Students will be identifying unit fractions, comparing fractions, and creating equivalents. Multiplication skills will come in handy with this unit. Please keep practicing basic facts at home.

For the remainder of the year, we will be working on cursive handwriting. Students have a packet of lowercase and capital letters that will be used for in school and at home practice.

Our Science unit will begin with the skeletal system. Students will be learning about the functions of the skeleton as well as all the major bones. They will become experts very quickly!

Fabulous Fourth Grade

Greetings from fourth grade! We want to thank our parents/guardians and our students for a smooth transition into Plan B. We love having students back in the classroom with us. We are equally excited to transition into Plan A soon and have as many students back with us as possible. During the month of April, students will continue working hard to prepare for the upcoming EOGs. We will finish our fraction standards in math and move into metric measurements and geometry. In ELA, we will continue reinforcing all of the reading standards taught this year. Students will read many types of passages and stories while practicing their skills. Please encourage your child to work on AR daily! We will also continue learning new science and social studies standards through engaging lessons. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. We thank you for your efforts to make all of these recent changes as easy as possible.

Fifth Grade

- ✓ Welcome to our in-person students! It is so nice to have you back.
- ✓ Thank you to all the parents who make sure their child is in class on time every day. We begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 2:25 p.m. Every instructional minute counts when teaching skills that will be needed at the next level.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ This is the last quarter for your child to make his/her AR goal. Independent reading is the key to improving your child's reading level and ability.
- ✓ Please check PowerSchool grades weekly. We are in our last quarter. You can see if your child is missing assignments that need to be submitted.
- ✓ Have your child study their science definitions and concepts we are learning in class. Mastery of the terminology is the key to understanding science. We are finishing force and motion and preparing to do our Weather unit.
- ✓ Thanks again for all of the assistance you provide us with your child. We could not do this without your help!



CORNER!

What did the stamp say to the envelope? "Stick with me and we will go places!"

What did one toilet say to the other? "You look a bit flushed."

How many books can you put into an empty backpack? "One! After that it's not empty."