

Rocky Creek Elementary School

RACER Parent Newsletter

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Sarah Waugh, K, 3, 5, & ESE Assistant Principal Morgan Dentler, 1-2 & 4 Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

During the months of September/October, please be sure to schedule a parent-teacher conference with your child's teacher!

September 3: Curriculum Night

September 4: Henry County Schools Asynchronous Learning Day: *No In-Person School for Students*

September 7: Labor Day: School is Closed

September 8: All Club Day Forms are due for students in Grades 1st-5th

September 10: Fall Fundraiser Begins-Students who participate will be able to attend our Epic Day of Fun in October!

September 18: First Club Day for Students

September 24: Book Fair Begins

September 25: Grandparents Day

October 1: Bookfair Ends

October 4: Henry County Schools Asynchronous Learning Day: *No In-Person School for Students*

October 5-9: Fall Break: School is Closed

Principal's News



As we roll into the 2nd month of the 2026–2027 school year, we are proud to share that Rocky Creek is off to a great start! Our RACERS have been learning classroom routines, building positive relationships, and demonstrating what it means to be Respectful, Accountable, Compassionate, Engaged, and Ready. Across our classrooms, students are strengthening their reading, writing, and mathematical thinking skills while exploring new concepts in science and social studies. We remain deeply committed to sustaining a positive school culture and a high-performing learning environment.

Our focus for the 2026–2027 school year is “Focused Forward.” As we move into the next month of school, we will continue building upon our early successes, addressing areas for growth, closing learning gaps, and accelerating students who are ready for greater challenges. We look forward to partnering with our families as we remain focused on what matters most: helping every RACER learn, grow, and move forward with purpose.

Things to Know!

- Our Fall Fundraiser is set to begin September 10th! **All students who participate will be able to engage in our EPIC Fun Day with Bounce Houses, Inflatables, Music, and other fun activities.** This is our main schoolwide fundraiser which allows us to purchase recognition items for students and staff, books for our Book Vending Machine, and other resources not provided by the county. Please look for more information that will be sent home next week!
- **Please remember that school hours are 7:35-2:15.** Students who are chronically tardy or chronically picked up late will be issued notices. Excessive tardiness may result in additional steps being taken including, but not limited to, school choice revocation and official documentation being submitted. Please get your child here on time! Most of our classes begin core instruction FIRST THING in the morning. If your child arrives at 8:00 a.m. each morning, they are missing 125 minutes of instruction per week, 500 minutes per month, and 4,500 minutes per year! That is 75 hours of instruction! Coming to school on time matters! In addition, please make sure that you



Things to Know!

- **Morning Arrival:** Please remember that students **SHOULD NOT** be dropped off prior to 7:10. This means, students should not be allowed to leave their vehicle and stand outside of the front entrance. Staff are not on duty at that time. Finally, please make sure that you do not park in spaces marked Reserved.
- If students wish to eat breakfast with us, they **MUST ARRIVE TO SCHOOL NO LATER THAN 7:25 A.M.** If your child will arrive after 7:25, you will need to ensure that they have breakfast at home.

APs' Message (Ms. Waugh and Ms. Dentler)

We've had a great start to the school year! It's hard to believe that our students have already completed four weeks of learning. Over the past several weeks, students have completed a variety of beginning-of-year diagnostic assessments, including Amira, MAP, and i-Ready.

Students in grades 1–5 have completed their Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments in both Math and Reading. Individual student MAP reports will be shared with families to provide insight into your child's current academic performance and growth. MAP is a computer-adaptive assessment, meaning each student receives a unique set of questions based on their responses to previous questions. The final result is a RIT score, which reflects your child's current level of understanding and helps identify academic strengths and areas of need. Throughout the school year, MAP results are used to measure student achievement and growth and to help teachers provide targeted support, including small-group instruction.

We are also excited about our first PBIS Party of the school year! Students who meet their Class Dojo point goal will have the opportunity to participate in The MVP Experience. We are thrilled to partner with Hampton High School student-athletes, who will join us for games and activities with our students while building positive connections. Please encourage your child to make positive choices and demonstrate our RACER expectations so they can participate in the exciting celebrations we have planned throughout the year! In addition, please be aware that the Henry County Schools Code of Conduct has been updated for the 2026–2027 school year. We encourage all families to review the Henry County Schools Handbook, with particular attention to the Code of Conduct and updated behavior expectations.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together to make this a successful school year for every student!

Art Update (Mr. Colson)

I am thoroughly enjoying the beginning of the school year with our RCE artists! Every grade level has started paintings that may be featured in art shows throughout the year. Student artwork will be displayed in our school hallways beginning in September, at the Superintendent's Office, the county Kaleidoscope Show, and the Hampton Cluster Show at the PAC.

Families who would like to donate supplies may send facial tissues, erasers, or those tiny handheld pencil sharpeners. Most students attend art on a six-day rotation, so please check which day your child has art and consider sending them in art friendly clothing. We do our best to stay neat, but creative accidents sometimes happen! The most important part of my job is to help your child enjoy art to motivate them to start creating on their own. So, if your child seems to be interested in a certain medium or style that we practiced in class this year, I encourage you to facilitate art activities at home. One or two classes a week just isn't enough to develop their skills and see their real potential.

Spanish Update (Ms. Sarante)

In Spanish class, students have been learning greetings, colors, and numbers. This month, we will build on these skills by learning how to express likes and dislikes and describe objects using colors. Students will also practice talking about where they live and will explore the culture, traditions, and geography of Nicaragua. Through engaging activities, students will continue developing their Spanish vocabulary while learning about the Spanish-speaking world.

STEM Lab Update (Ms. Noel)

STEM is off to a great start with students exploring animal classification, food chains, Georgia regions, states of matter, weather, seasons, and sorting objects. Over the next month, students will continue building their knowledge through exciting hands-on activities. Kindergarten will investigate sinking and floating before designing aluminum foil boats; first grade will study weather instruments, track daily weather, and create graphs; and second grade will explore solids, liquids, and gases through experiments such as making cornstarch mud. Third grade will learn about Georgia's regions and their unique plants, animals, and landmarks, while fourth grade will study how producers, consumers, and decomposers work together within ecosystems. Fifth grade will move from classifying plants and animals to investigating cells and microorganisms using microscopes. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of STEM learning and discovery!

P.E. Update (Coach Rusk)

Greetings from the Gym! I'm Coach Rusk and I'm the PE teacher at RCE. The start to this school year has been one of the best yet! All grades are coming in with a great attitude and ready to participate in PE activities. September will bring many opportunities for teamwork and cooperation. We will begin to learn how to rotate through stations and use various equipment in the gym. K-2 students will continue to work on their locomotor movements and spatial awareness, while 3-5 will begin some fitness pre-tests so that we can compare our progress from beginning to the end of the year. Looking forward to a great year!

Music Update (Mr. Wallace)

Greetings from the music room! Over the last month in music class, our Kindergarten and 1st grade students have been exploring the difference between beat and rhythm through movement and singing. Students in 2nd-5th grades have been creating and performing their own rhythms while developing the ability to perform contrasting rhythms simultaneously, an important ensemble skill that strengthens listening and musical independence. In the coming month, students will continue building skills by reading and performing increasingly complex rhythmic patterns, developing steady beat accuracy, and connecting rhythm to melody.

In addition, chorus auditions for 4th and 5th graders went very well, and rehearsals will be starting soon. Also, 3rd-5th graders should be on the lookout for information about auditions for this year's school drama production. We are excited for another great month of music-making!

Media Update (Mrs. Crumbley and Mrs. Sewell)

In the media center, we are exposing students to various genres, authors, and topics in a pursuit of helping students find books they are interested in to read and enjoy.

For kindergarten, first and second grade we are reading picture books. We are also continuing to review the procedures for checking out books as well as taking care of our library books.

For 3rd -5th, grade we are learning about eBooks on the SORA app and how to use the Destiny app to find books in the media center.

You can order a reading shirt to help support the Ferst Foundation. All orders are due by Sept. 3rd. If you need an additional order form have your student visit the media center or email casey.crumbley@henry.k12.ga.us.



Meet the MHWF

My name is Jennifer Foster and I am the Mental Health and Wellness Facilitator. I am excited to serve RCE in this role for the 2026-2027 school year! Within my role, some of my main responsibilities are assisting students and teachers with the following:

- Crisis situations
- Behavior management
- Leading small groups on social emotional topics
- Attendance concerns/issues

I enjoy caring for the students and staff of RCE, so please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist or if your student has a need we might need to know about. My contact information is listed if you have any questions.

Jennifer Foster

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Office Hours: M-F 7:05 (am)-3:05 (pm)