



C.W. Ruckel Middle School
Niceville, Florida
Okaloosa County School District

"A" Rating
for 2016!
And every year
since 2001

August 19, 2016

Dear Ruckel Parents, Students and Community,

Welcome to the 2016 - 2017 school year. We are proud of the accomplishments that we had this past year and we look forward to all that we will have an opportunity to achieve for this upcoming school year. I am happy to report that Ruckel Middle School received an A school grade for the 2015 - 2016 school year. We were the highest scoring traditional middle school in the Okaloosa County School District and among the highest scoring in the state of Florida. Once again we were able to adhere to our triple A standard, by attaining many awards and accolades in Academics, Arts and Athletics. I want to challenge all of our students to set goals that will surpass the great year that we had this year. Ruckel students did particularly well in Mathematics in FSA testing with 6th grade increasing their proficiency by 16 points from the previous year, 7th grade increasing their cohort proficiency by 23 points and 8th grade score at an all-time high of 95 percent proficiency.

We lead the district art show in awards. Band and chorus once again lead the district in the number of all-district and all-state students. We had a successful year in athletics and won 8 championships and 6 runners-up in girls and boys sports.

New for this year we will have added one more section of STEMM for the 6th grade. We are now offering high school credit earth and space science. We are offering more sections of critical thinking. WE will look to utilize the RAM class for peer tutoring. We have expanded the Coach program as a learning tool for mathematics. Teachers feel that this program was instrumental in greatly increasing FSA math proficiency. We also will utilize the Study Island program as a tool to increase proficiency and learning gains in language arts. This program has been successful with both science and math in the past. The front office will be using an electronic check in system this year for attendance that will aid parents with checking in and out their children. We also have an app that will enable parents to use their mobile device to keep up with the latest news and activities at the school, contact teachers, access school menus, and use the online grading system and to get important documents. We have also been able to add to our mobile computer pool and have upgraded our security system. Our schedule has also been adjusted to increase our lunch time to 30 minutes.

We lost Donna Barnett to retirement after serving Ruckel for 36 years as an ESE teacher. She will be replaced by Christine Moore. Geoff Watson will take his talents to NHS and will be replaced with veteran language art teacher Allison Mareello. Other new faces at Ruckel will include Tiffany Granger, math and science; Karmen Broaddus, math and Sara Geisler, math. Mr. Ashworth will move from lunch monitor to classroom aide, along with Martha Swords and Ashley Kempton will serve as the intensive math aide.

I encourage all parents, grandparents and guardian to be active in our school. Ruckel is among the leaders every year in number of volunteers and mentors. We need and appreciate your help and your involvement at Ruckel Middle School. Many students are able to prosper when they are paired with a mentor. It is our goal this year to match students that can use a mentor early in the school year so please sign up for this very important endeavor. Ruckel is fortunate to have one of the most active Parent Teacher Organization in the school district. I encourage all to join and participate with this outstanding organization. You can find information about the PTO and many other events and activities by visiting our website (cwruckel.com). We look forward to what all of us can do to create another exciting and prosperous school year for 2016 – 2017. We look forward to seeing you this year and GO RAMS.

Sincerely,
Paul Whiddon

As always, It's Great to Be a Ram!

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