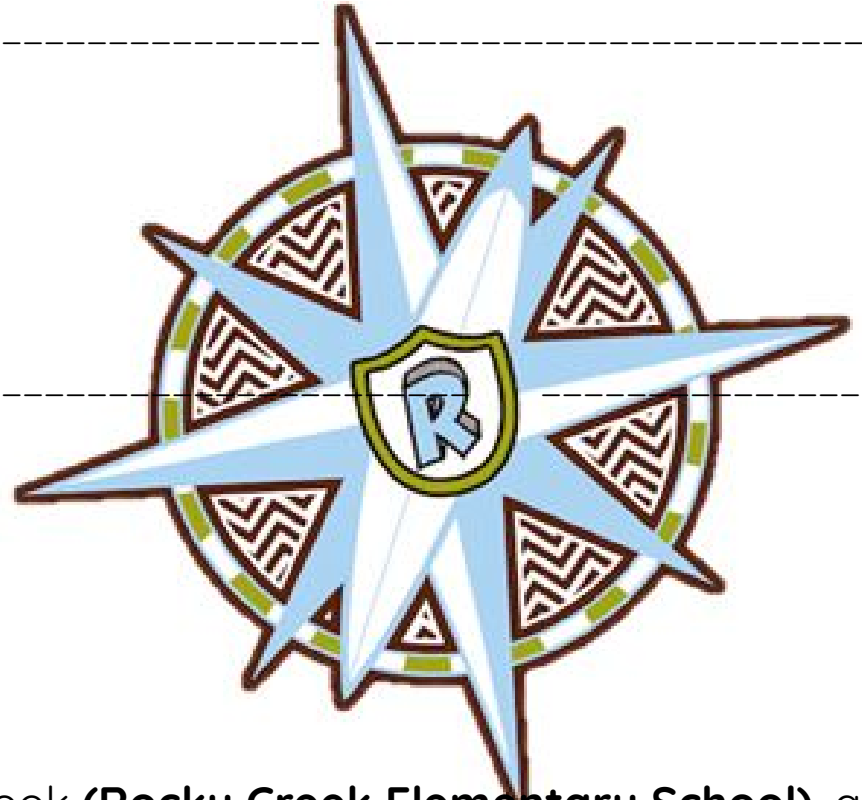


Rocky Creek Elementary School

2023-2024

Family Handbook



Connect with us on Twitter (**@RCESLex1**), Facebook (**Rocky Creek Elementary School**), and
at our school website **<https://schools.lexington1.net/RCES>**

Rocky Creek Elementary School
430 Calks Ferry Road
Lexington, South Carolina 29072
Phone: 803-821-4200 Fax: 803-821-4203
Website: <http://schools.lexington1.net/RCES>

Vision:

Rocky Creek Rangers are self-directed learners, caring citizens, and positive world-changers.

Mission:

In collaboration with our families and community, Rocky Creek Elementary provides an exceptional educational experience for all.

We value:

Children first;
Safety and Well-being;
Kindness and Compassion;
High Expectations;
Collaboration and Critical Thinking;
Resilience and Perseverance;
Creativity and Communication;
Every Child's Ability to Learn.

Motto:

Ready to Learn;
Celebrate each Other!
Exemplify kindness, and
Stay safe!



Leadership development is not regarded as a position but a way of thinking and the desire to make things better. Through a K–12 leadership and global citizenship development program, students examine and apply leadership skills and character traits essential in making sound personal decisions and in taking charge of their own learning.

Students will explore leadership through a variety of structures like counselors' lessons, morning meetings, and closing circles. School counselors, teachers, and leadership teams develop leadership curriculums for these structures using the district power skills and the school's instructional framework to support students' growth in leadership.

Rocky Creek Elementary School

Office Hours 7:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Rocky Creek Elementary School opened in 2010 and is accredited by the South Carolina State Department of Education and Cognia. The school serves approximately 850 students in four-year-kindergarten through fifth grade. The school was designed and constructed using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) strategies that are geared toward energy savings, water efficiency, improved indoor environmental quality and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts. The school mascot is Rocky the Ranger and the school colors are green and brown.

Main Office..... (803) 821-4200

RCE Fax..... (803) 821-4203

Attendance..... (803) 821-4204

Health Room..... (803) 821-4198

Cafeteria..... (803) 821-4185

Main Office..... (803) 821-4188

Administrators:

Michelle Smith mlsmith@lexington1.net
Principal

Jessica Robbins jrobbins@lexington1.net
Assistant Principal

Kristen Smalley ksmalley@lexington1.net
Assistant Principal

Lexington District One.....(803) 821-1000

Lexington One General Information.....(803) 821-1299

Lexington One Bus Transportation.....(803) 821-1340

Lexington One Website: www.lexington1.net

Rocky Creek Website: <https://www.lexington1.net/RCES>

School Counselors

Grades: 1st and 5th

Jamie Dawkins..... (803) 821-4181

jdawkins@lexington1.net

Grades: 5K and 2nd

Elizabeth Lilienthal..... (803) 821-4175

elilienthal@lexington1.net

Grades: 3rd and 4th

Hayden Freiburger..... (803) 821-4214

hlance@lexington1.net

All school counselors will serve students in 4 year old kindergarten.

Lexington County School District One's Nondiscrimination Statement

Revised 06-02-2023

Lexington County School District One is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all students, parents/legal guardians, staff, visitors, personnel and community members who participate or seek to participate in its programs or activities. Therefore, the district does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race or ethnicity, religion, sex, pregnancy (including childbirth or any related medical conditions); color, physical or mental disability, age, ancestry, genetic information, national origin, immigrant status or English-speaking status, marital or family status, or any other protected characteristic as may be required by law.

The district will use the grievance procedures set forth in policy to respond to complaints based on alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; and Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The district designates specific individuals to handle inquiries or complaints. To find out whom to contact and how to contact them, please go to our website at <http://www.lexington1.net/contact-us>.

After School Program - AlphaBEST provides a quality after school program that is conveniently located at school. The AlphaBEST program supplements school-day learning in a fun, engaging way, focusing on cutting-edge learning themes - STEM, World Languages & Culture, Arts & Entertainment, Fitness & Wellness, and the Maker Movement - including homework help too. Visit www.alphabest.org or call 866-300-7750 for more details.

Animals at School - For the safety and protection of the children, visitors should not bring family pets on our school grounds. Approval from the principal must be obtained before an animal is allowed in the building.

Arrival Procedures - Our morning arrival and afternoon dismissal procedure goals are to provide a safe and organized environment for arrival and dismissal of all students, to provide for student accountability and to conduct arrival and dismissal in an orderly and timely manner. Since many parents choose to drive their children to and from school each day, drivers should expect traffic congestion in the mornings and afternoons. For the safety of your child and our staff, please refrain from using your phone when dropping off or picking up your child in the loading zone area.

Morning Arrival Guidelines, Options and Procedures

For the safety of your child please DO NOT let your child out of your car until 7:00 A.M. AND you see a staff member. Your child is unsupervised when you do not follow this procedure.

- **Option 1:** Parents may drop off children using the right lane of the main driveway. Staff will be on duty to supervise children as they walk to the building. Drivers should utilize the entire unloading zone curb. This will allow as many cars as possible to unload at one time. Always exit from cars along the sidewalk curb. At no time are children to exit from the left side of the vehicle. The LEFT LANE will be blocked and will not be used for passing. Please make sure your child quickly exits the vehicle order to keep traffic moving.
- **Option 2:** You may park in the parking lot and walk with your child to the building. An adult must accompany children in the parking lot at all times due to the large volume of traffic. You must walk all the way across the crosswalk. Parents and children may cross the school driveway ONLY at the marked crosswalk locations and should obey the crossing guard at all times. Running is not allowed in the parking lots. For the safety of your child, please do not drop your child off in the parking lot.
- **Option 3:** Cars may utilize the bus/daycare driveway between 7:10 A.M. and 7:40 A.M. only. Strict attention must be given to these times so that cars do not interfere with the buses and daycares as they unload. It is unlawful for a car to pass a school bus when it is unloading.

Therefore, cars may NOT pass buses in the bus loop at any time. Cars should utilize the entire unloading zone next to the sidewalk. Staff members will be on duty to supervise the children as they walk to the building.

- Always exit from cars along the sidewalk curb. At no time are children to exit from the left side of the vehicle.
 - Parents and drivers should not leave their vehicle to assist with unloading students.
 - The bus loop doors will be locked at 7:40 A.M. each day. If a staff member is not present on the sidewalk, do not allow your child to unload. Staff will be leaving this area at 7:40 A.M. to report to their classrooms for students.
 - Please drive to the main entrance of the school after 7:40 A.M. and walk your child into the front office.
- **Option 4:** Use the state operated buses. A route schedule is available in the front office or by calling transportation. If you have any bus transportation questions please call (803) 821-1340.

Attendance - Students should be present at school each day in order for optimum learning to take place. Students will be excused from school only for the following reasons: illness, medical or dental appointments, death in the immediate family, recognized religious holidays, and participation in approved school events or activities. The principal may approve unusual circumstances. Within three days of an absence, students should bring a written note, which explains the reason for the absence and is signed by the parent, guardian, or physician.

Due to state chronic absenteeism reporting procedures for the state, students are required to be at school for 50% of the day in order to be counted present, regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused. At the elementary level, students who arrive after 11:10 A.M. or are dismissed prior to 11:10 A.M. are not counted present for the day. On Early Release Days, students who arrive after 9:45 A.M. or are dismissed before 9:45 A.M. will not be counted present for the day.

Students are responsible for finding out what assignments need to be made up and will be given an opportunity to make up work during the first week following the return to school. Except in extreme circumstances, this make-up work must be completed within that week. For students who will be missing more than two or three days due to illness and special circumstances, teachers will assemble make-up work to be completed at home. Parents should call the school office in advance to give teachers sufficient time (at least 24 hours in advance) to get all of the materials together.

Birthdays - Birthday parties may not be held in class. However, parents may send a store bought snack to be enjoyed by the entire class during lunch or order birthday treats through the school cafeteria by calling or emailing our cashier, Anne Carter at acarter@lexington1.net. Individually wrapped snacks are preferred for easy distribution. So that they do not interrupt instruction, birthday treats will not be distributed during class time. Invitations to private parties may not be distributed at school unless the entire class is invited.

Bullying - Bullying behavior disrupts a school's ability to educate students and threatens public safety. All students have a right to learn in a safe, supportive environment that is free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Reports of being bullied or witnessing bullying should be reported to an adult immediately.

Bus Conduct - Students who ride the school bus must observe school bus rules, remain seated and conduct themselves in an orderly and safe manner at all times. Students who break any bus rules are subject to disciplinary actions. Depending on the severity of the rule broken, a student may be suspended or expelled from the bus.

Bus Transportation - The District Coordinator of Transportation arranges all bus transportation. Any questions concerning bus numbers, schedules, bus stops, etc... should be referred to the district transportation office at (803) 821-1340. If a student wishes to ride home on any bus other than the one he/she normally rides, parents must make the request in writing to the school office for approval. A bus pass will then be issued from the office, provided space is available.

Change of Family Information - Parents are asked to keep mailing addresses, all phone numbers, email addresses, place of employment, legal custody rights, and emergency contact information up to date and accurate at all times. Please notify Sandra Ewing, RCE Student Records Operator immediately in the event there are any changes to important family information. These changes require proper identification to ensure the proper person is making these changes. Although you can inform your child's teacher about these changes, teachers are not authorized to make these changes in PowerSchool.

Class Parties Class parties may be held on the day before the Winter Break and on the last day of school for students. Participation in bringing food and drinks for these parties is voluntary.

Collaboration Days - Teacher led collaborative planning provides quality time for teachers at school to get together to discuss and solve instructional issues. This shared time significantly improves the quality of instruction that we are able to provide our students, which as a result improves students' academic performance. Six days have been designated as early release days so that teachers may meet to plan together. These days are September 27, October 25, November 29, February 7, March 20, April 17. Students will be served lunch and will be dismissed at 11:20.

Communication - Effective family-school communication and related family involvement in education contribute to improved student achievement and better learning outcomes. RCES uses a variety of ways to communicate with our families including emails, ParentSquare, Facebook, school webpage, PeachJar, Twitter, and newsletters. All emails and phone messages will receive a response from RCES staff within 24 hours of the initial email, phone message or letter. Follow us on Twitter @ RCESLex1 or using the hashtag #oneRCE and like us on Facebook @Rocky Creek Elementary School.

Conferences - Regular conferences and/or conversations between parents and teachers provide an excellent opportunity to discuss many details about the child's school experiences that cannot be conveyed on the nine weeks progress report. Parents are encouraged to schedule conferences with teachers to share information about their child and to gain a better understanding of how their child is performing at school. October 13 is designated for parent/teacher conferences.

Delayed Openings/Emergency School Closings - Inclement weather may cause a delayed opening or early school closing. On a two hour delay, school begins at 9:40 A.M. Buses will run their normal routes. Breakfast will be served on delayed opening days. Local radio and TV stations will

have information regarding specific instructions about such matters. You will also receive emails and phone messages through ParentSquare about delays or early school closings.

Delivery of Items If a flower, balloon or edible arrangement is made to school for a student, the student will be notified at the end of the day. These will not be delivered to the classroom. Bus riders are not allowed to take glass containers or helium balloons on the bus. A parent will need to come to school to pick up the delivery.

Designated Way Home - Each student must have a designated way home each school day. At the beginning of the school year, parents must indicate in writing their child's way home each day. See Dismissal Changes for the procedure to notify teachers of changes.

Dine Out Nights - If you eat dinner at these restaurants on the designated days on our school calendar, a portion of sales will come back to our PTO.

Discipline - Our school must be a place where effective learning can occur. We maintain standards of conduct and discipline because students and staff have a right to a safe and orderly learning environment. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times within the school, on the playground, the school bus or any school site, while going to and from school or on any school related outing.

School staff members will utilize positive reinforcement to instill the desire within children to do well. Compliments, special privileges, and rewards are examples of reinforcements used. Students will receive "Creek Cash" for demonstrating positive behaviors. Teachers, administrators, housekeepers, bus drivers, and our cafeteria staff will give "Creek Cash". Students can redeem their "Creek Cash" at the Ranger Station, which opens one day every six weeks. Students are expected to monitor their own behavior by making good choices and accepting consequences for poor choices.

Disciplinary procedures will be progressive in nature. Specific consequences for infractions may include but are not limited to verbal reminders, verbal reprimands and/or removal from group/reassign seating or line order, participation in formal practice sessions, conferences with parents, or referral to the principal or assistant principals.

No weapons (including pocket knives) or look-alike weapons (including toy guns) are allowed at school. Any student who brings a weapon to school faces disciplinary action, which could include suspension and/or expulsion. Students may not use cell phones during the school day. They must be turned off and kept in book bags. 1st offense - conference with student; 2nd offense - conference with student and parent; 3rd offense - conference with student and parent and student receives detention; additional offenses - conference with student and parent and student receives in-school or out-of-school suspension. Continued violations may result in recommendation for expulsion.

School personnel commit to maintaining close communication with parents regarding disciplinary issues involving their children. Parents are asked to support the school's efforts to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment by enforcing all disciplinary policies. Staff members and parents will work together to correct any disciplinary problems that may develop.

Dismissal Changes - For the safety of our students, the school will deviate from a student's designated way home only with the following procedure: All dismissal changes must be requested by sending a note to their child's teacher letting them know the change. Do not send transportation changes to email. If the teacher is absent, no one will receive notice to make this change. The teacher will send the note to the front office and a transportation change will be made for the child. Our office staff notifies teachers of daily dismissal changes beginning at 1:45 P.M. each day. If an emergency occurs and you need to make a transportation change in the middle of the day, please contact our front desk before 1:45 P.M. They will ask you to send an email requesting the change. Please do not send the front desk secretaries an email changing transportation until you speak with one of them to ensure they are present at work that day.

Dismissal Procedures - Our morning arrival and afternoon dismissal procedure goals are to provide a safe and organized environment for arrival and dismissal of all students, to provide for student accountability and to conduct arrival and dismissal in an orderly and timely manner. Since many parents choose to drive their children to and from school each day, drivers should expect traffic congestion in the mornings and afternoons. For the safety of your child and our staff, please refrain from using your phone when dropping off or picking up your child in the loading zone area.

Afternoon Dismissal Groups

- Bus Riders: Students ride assigned buses.
- Daycare Riders: Students ride assigned daycare buses/vans.
- Car Riders: A parent remains in his/her car to pick up their child from the school's front sidewalk area.

Traffic Control Procedures

- Traffic at the front of the school will use both lanes until directed to merge into one lane nearest the sidewalk.
- Cars must have a car number tag with family ID # hanging from the rear view mirror or clearly displayed in the windshield. Please be prepared to show your driver's license at the Gold Cone if you do not have the car number tag. The staff out front will direct you to the Gold Cone.
- Staff will direct traffic into the loading zone (approximately 7 cars at a time) and hold waiting traffic.
- Cars should be put in park while staff and students are in the loading zone and drivers must remain in cars.
- Traffic will be directed to move when the loading zone is safe and all students are secure in cars.
- Traffic will proceed at a slow pace in the right lane.
- Please do not use cell phones while in our loading zone area.

Early Dismissals - Please avoid early dismissals except in emergencies since students who leave early miss valuable information and teachers will not be able to stop their instruction to prepare missed assignments or homework. However, if a parent must pick up his/her child during the school day, he should come to the office in order to properly sign the child out of school. Please be prepared to show your driver's license. No early dismissals will be made after 1:45 P.M. The office area becomes very busy at this time with end of day procedures and we want to ensure all students get home safely.

Dress - RCES recognizes the importance of encouraging high standards in dress and personal grooming. Students should dress in a manner conducive to good behavior and to the creation of a good educational atmosphere in the school. We encourage our students to dress with care and dignity.

No clothing should be worn that will distract from the orderly process of learning. As fashion trends continue to change, the dress code at RCES is generally governed by the standards listed below..

Shoes should be chosen with practicality in mind (PE class). Midriff shirts, spandex bottoms, leggings without being covered by a top, tank tops, halter tops, see through mesh shirts or clothing displaying objectionable words, symbols or advertisements (including tobacco or alcohol products) are not to be worn to school. Gang attire, gang colors or gang symbols are not permitted. All pants and shorts must be worn at the natural waistline. Shorts may be no shorter than the fingertips or mid thigh length when standing straight and arms relaxed by side.

Wearing accessories or clothing that could pose a safety threat to one’s self or other is not allowed. Hats and hoods are not to be worn on campus unless part of sanctioned school activity or “hat day”.

If a student’s dress is deemed inappropriate, the office or a faculty member will notify him/her privately. Parents will be called to bring a change of clothing. If there is doubt about the acceptability of a particular item or style, please check with the administration. The decision of the school as to the acceptability of school clothing is final. RCES dress code is aligned to Board Policy JICA and JICA-R.

Family Engagement - (See PTO, SIC, and Volunteering.)

Food Service Program - The Rocky Creek Elementary cafeteria stresses good nutrition and follows the patterns for meals as advised by the US Department of Agriculture. We participate in the Offer versus Serve Program. This means a student may elect to take 3 of 5 food items offered. A la carte and special sales items may also be purchased for an additional charge. These items are not intended to replace the regular meal but simply to supplement the regular meal purchased.

Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:00 A.M. in the cafeteria. The Cafeteria closes at 7:40 A.M. to prepare for lunch.

Elementary Meal Prices 2022-2023		
	Breakfast	Lunch
Student	\$1.80	\$3.30
Reduced Meals	\$0.30	\$0.40
Adult	\$TBD	\$TBD

No variations from the school menu will be allowed unless a written prescription from a doctor is provided to the food service manager. While we work to complete the digital menu integration through the Titan Family Portal, menus will be available each month on the school’s and district’s web page. Sometimes failed shipments or other emergencies may necessitate changes in daily menus. Whenever possible, the school will notify parents and students of such changes in advance.

The SC Student Health and Fitness Act of 2005 prohibits foods of minimal nutritional value and certain carbonated beverages from being sold or given away on school premises by the school, non-school organizations, teachers, parents, or any other person or group during the school day.

All students must eat during the lunch period. If a meal is not brought from home, a school meal will be provided to the child and charged to their account.

Feedback Driven Progress Reporting - In Lexington County School District One, we recognize that giving feedback to students is an essential part of their learning journey. We expect all students to perform at high levels and to revise their work as they learn to master content and skills. We support their learning by redesigning the elementary (kindergarten through Grade 5) grading system to show their use of Feedback Driven Progress Reporting clearly.

You are probably familiar with the traditional system of grading, where students earn numerical grades that are averaged and converted to a letter grade. The Feedback Driven Progress Reporting system, on the other hand, reflects students' progress toward meeting specific grade-level standards with purposeful and intentional feedback from their teachers. Reporting their work toward meeting standards instead of letter grades shifts the focus to their mastery of learning rather than their work toward achieving a certain number or letter grade.

What will that look like? With the Feedback Driven Progress Reporting system, teachers will report each child's progress on standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

The standards listed on the Feedback Driven Progress Report are End-of-Year expectations. The progress report will show all the standards that a student is expected to accomplish by the end of the year. Any standard that the student has not yet been introduced to would show an NA (Not Applicable).

We are confident that this Feedback Driven Progress Reporting system will help you have a better understanding of your child's strengths and areas for growth. Families can expect to receive progress reports at the end of each quarter, and student progress will be reported as:

NYM — Not Yet Met (Student is not able to demonstrate mastery of the grade-level standard at this time.)

PM — Partially Met (Student demonstrates mastery of some, but not all, of the grade-level standard.)

M — Met (Student demonstrates mastery and application of the grade-level standard.)

Forgotten Items - Forgotten assignments, books, or other items brought to the office will be delivered by one of our office staff members. Parents will not be allowed to deliver items to the classroom, and students will not be called to the office in order to limit interruptions to instruction. Lunch boxes brought to the office should have the student's name and teacher's name taped to the box and be brought to the school before 10:15 A.M. so they can be taken to the cafeteria.

Gifted and Talented Program - Lexington One serves all qualified academically gifted and talented students in the E.A.G.L.E. program (Educational Activities Geared for Learning Experience) beginning in grade three. Identified gifted and talented students spend a specific amount of time with an EAGLE teacher for instruction with an accelerated and enriched curriculum. E.A.G.L.E. students are responsible for the concepts covered while they are gone. If needed, they may complete a reduced amount of the work to support their understanding of the concepts covered. At no time should they be expected to complete everything that was done while they were gone.

Health Services - Our school is fortunate to have Lindsey Forche, a full time registered nurse, and a full time health room assistant to coordinate our health program. They assess illness and accidents at school in addition to screening for vision and hearing. They act as a liaison between school personnel and community organizations. The health room phone number is (803)821-4198.

All medications (including over the counter) must be brought to school by a parent in the original container with a doctor’s prescription and instructions for how to administer. Under no circumstances may a student carry medicine at school. Students who have medication in their possession may be suspended or recommended for expulsion.

Parents are asked to follow these guidelines when determining if your child should remain home:

- Any contagious disease
- Sore throat and/or swollen glands with fever
- Undiagnosed red eyes or drainage from eyes
- Earaches with fever
- Undiagnosed rash or skin eruptions
- Head lice or scabies
- Fever over 100 degrees within the past 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours

If a child becomes ill at school or if an injury occurs that needs medical attention by a physician, a parent will be contacted and will be responsible for taking the child home. If, in any best judgment of the school nurse, an ambulance is needed to quickly transport a child to a hospital, appropriate emergency medical personnel will be authorized and called by the school administration. This special assistance will be the financial responsibility of the parent.

Homebound Services - Homebound instruction is available for students that cannot attend school for more than a two-week period due to an accident or serious illness. For a student to be eligible, a physician must complete the required form to certify the need for home instruction. This form can be obtained from special services at the district office.

Homework Policies Homework extends time for learning and can help students develop study skills and habits as well as keep families informed about their child’s learning. Our teachers assign homework using these guidelines: Homework assignments should not ever be graded but are checked for understanding. Parents should inform their child’s teachers about any homework concerns. The minutes below include reading and studying assigned by the teacher.

Kindergarten:	10-15 minutes	Grade 1:	10-15 minutes
Grade 2:	20-30 minutes	Grade 3:	30-40 minutes
Grade 4:	40-50 minutes	Grade 5:	50-60 minutes

Instructional Organization - The four-year-old kindergarten program serves four-year-olds that are in need of early intervention in a full day program. The students follow the same time schedule as other grade levels. Children must be four on or before September 1 to be eligible and must be screened as part of the eligibility criteria.

Full day five-year-old kindergarten serves children who turn five on or before September 1. State kindergarten standards are taught through active learning experiences involving all subject areas.

Students in grades kindergarten through five are grouped heterogeneously. State Standards are the foundation for all core subjects (English language arts, math, science, social studies, and health).

Students in kindergarten through grade 5 have the opportunity for instruction in art, music, Spanish, and physical education.

Special services teachers provide instruction for students that qualify for and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). As well as academic instruction, these students may qualify for speech services, visual and hearing assistance, occupational and physical therapy.

Lost and Found - Lost and found articles such as coats, lunchboxes and backpacks are stored on the hall near the cafeteria. Smaller items are kept in the office. Unclaimed items are donated to a charity at the end of each semester. Students' names should be on all personal items. It helps us get the lost and found items back to students.

Make-up Work - Students will be given an opportunity to make up work during the first week following the return to school after an absence. Students are responsible for finding out what assignments need to be made up and completing them in a timely manner. For students who will be missing more than two or three days due to illness and special circumstances, teachers will be glad to assemble make-up work to be completed at home. Parents should call the school office at least 24 hours in advance to give teachers sufficient time to get all of the materials together.

Medication - All medications (including over the counter medications) must be brought to the school by a parent in the original container with a doctor's prescription and specific instructions for how the nurse is to administer the medicine. All prescription and over-the counter medications must be kept in the health room and administered by the nurse. Parents must transport all medication to and from the school. Children may not transport medication under any circumstances.

Newsletter - School newsletters are published monthly and sent home on the first of every month through ParentSquare with a link to the digital newsletter. These are also maintained on the school's web page. Teachers will send home a weekly newsletter through ParentSquare.

ParentSquare® - Lexington One will now use ParentSquare for all district, school and teacher communication — keeping you informed and connected! ParentSquare consolidates all Lexington One communications into one single tool and allows families the option to choose how they want to receive their communications (text, email, or app notifications) and when they receive them. Instead of having to check email, text, voice messages, Class Dojo, Remind, Google Classroom, and more, to find important information, families can simply login to ParentSquare to find everything in one centralized location.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) - This association of parents and staff members is designed to support the programs of the school. Meetings will promote pertinent information and family fun opportunities. Fundraising efforts will support the needs of the school. All families and staff are encouraged to join the PTO. Connect with Rocky Creek Elementary on Facebook (Rocky Creek Elementary PTO).

PeachJar - The district does not distribute fliers directly to students. The district makes approved electronic fliers available to parents through Peachjar for your convenience and refers all requests from groups or individuals to PeachJar to make information about not-for-profit activities or enrichment services available to Lexington County School District One students. RCES has its own Peachjar site where parents can find and view fliers. Go to our school's webpage and click on the Peachjar logo to see the approved fliers.

Personal Communication Devices - Elementary school students may possess a personal communication device as long as the device remains off

and is not visible during the school day. They are not permitted to use personal communication devices during the school day. Board Policy JICJ outlines consequences for violations of this policy.

Recess - Outdoor recesses are scheduled most days. When temperatures are higher than 90°F with a heat index of 100°F or lower than 32°F, recesses may be altered or canceled. Students' clothing should be suitable for outside play activities. For example, sandals, flip flops and open toe shoes are not appropriate for outside play. Students should have a coat or jacket for cold weather days.

We want our students to enjoy a safe playground and recreational environment. Students must use the playground equipment safely. Physically aggressive sports such as tackle football are not allowed. Students should report any problems immediately to an adult on duty.

Release of Student Information - Teachers are not permitted to share class rolls, students' addresses and/or phone numbers. Individual student information and progress will only be shared with parents or legal guardians.

Information on a student may be released to the public through news releases, photographs, slides or videos. This "directory information" may include a student's name, photograph, grade level, school in which he/she attends, years of attendance at that school, awards received and participation in officially recognized activities.

This information will be released to any person or media representative requesting unless a parent refuses in writing to allow the information to be used. Parents wishing to make this request should complete the form during online registration at the beginning of the school year. Please be aware that if you request that this information is not released, your child's photo will not be published in the yearbook.

Under certain situations, student information may be released with or without parental consent. At the official request of law enforcement officers, a student's address, telephone number and date of birth may be released. Also, release of information to emergency workers is permitted if necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or other persons.

School Safety - Our school safety measures are extensive. We work diligently throughout the year to ensure our school's emergency plan is current and that all staff members are prepared for all types of contingencies. Emergency drills for fire evacuation, tornado, earthquake, lockout and lockdown situations are conducted on a regular basis. Our school participates in a safety audit annually and has an Emergency Response Plan in place.

School Counseling Program - Through a comprehensive developmental school counseling program, RCE school counselors work collaboratively with the school staff, parents and the community to create and support a safe and caring learning climate. RCE school counselors guide all students in the areas of academic achievement; personal/social development and career development, ensuring today's children become the productive, well-adjusted leaders of tomorrow. The RCE guidance curriculum is delivered and systematically presented by school counselors in collaboration with other professional educators in classroom and group activities. Our school counselors are Ms. Dawkins, Mrs. Freiburger, and Mrs. Lilienthal.

School Improvement Council (SIC) - Elected and appointed parent representatives will join staff members to monitor the operation of the school. Information regarding the school's attainment of its goals will be studied and suggestions for improvement made. This group of representatives will also offer guidance as to how to spend certain funding made available during the year.

Snacks - As designated by their classroom teacher, students may be allowed to bring healthy snacks and water to enjoy during recess or other designated times during the school day. Spills from drinks with sugar attract ants, so we ask that students bring only water as a snack beverage.

Student Recognition - Rocky Creek Elementary believes in recognizing students for growth in the areas of academics and behavior. Two leaders from each class will be selected by their teacher to be recognized in a “Clap Around” every nine weeks.

Tardiness - It is very important that students get to school on time each day. In addition to missing valuable class time, instructions may be given at the beginning of the school day that will affect the whole school day. When students arrive after the 7:40 A.M. bell rings, they must have an adult walk them into the office to be signed in for school and given a tardy pass to enter class.

Technology - Due to the integration of technology in the educational process and the curriculum, student use of technology is not optional. However, access to technology is a privilege and with this privilege comes a responsibility to use this access solely for educational purposes and not for inappropriate purposes. Personal devices should not be brought to school.

Testing Program - Students participate in the state and district testing programs. Testing dates will be communicated to parents. Students in grades 5k-5 participate in iReady Testing three times a year. Students in grade 2 participate in CogAT and IOWA testing. Students in grade 4 participate in CogAt Testing. Students in grades 3-5 participate in state testing.

Textbooks - Books are provided by the State Department of Education and are issued to students at no cost. Students are responsible for the books and must pay fines for lost books or damaged books.

Visitors - All visitors must sign in at the front office. A driver’s license is required to visit our campus. Visitors are not invited to eat lunch with their child until after the first three weeks of school. This allows teachers and students to learn procedures in the cafeteria before having visitors. Visitors are only invited to eat lunch, not attend recess. Anyone who comes to eat lunch with a child must be listed as a contact in PowerSchool. If they are not, they will not be allowed to go to the lunchroom.

World Language - Students in all grades will learn Spanish. Students will receive instruction from our Spanish teacher as part of the related arts rotation. School-wide activities will be planned to emphasize Spanish customs to help enhance student appreciation and understanding of cultures in other parts of the world.

At Rocky Creek, we are

Ready to learn, we Celebrate each other, we Exemplify kindness and Stay safe.

The following chart outlines how our Rangers demonstrate these expectations for behavior throughout all areas of our school.

At RCE, We will...	Stay Safe	Exemplify Kindness	Ready to Learn
Common Area Expectations	<p>Walk facing forward.</p> <p>Keep hands, feet and objects to self.</p>	<p>Use kind words and actions.</p> <p>Wait for our turn.</p> <p>Clean up after self.</p> <p>Follow adult directions.</p> <p>Be honest.</p> <p>Be an active listener.</p> <p>Communicate well.</p> <p>Take ownership for our actions.</p>	<p>Take proper care of all personal belongings and school equipment.</p> <p>Be prepared with all materials.</p> <p>Follow procedures in a timely manner.</p> <p>Make strong choices.</p>
Cafeteria Expectations	<p>Walk.</p> <p>Sit with feet on the floor, bottom on bench and facing table.</p>	<p>Use appropriate table manners.</p> <p>Ask permission to be excused.</p> <p>Use voice level 0 while in serving line and voice level 2 when speaking to others at the table.</p>	<p>Get all utensils, milk, etc, when first going through the line.</p> <p>Keep all food to self including purchased snacks.</p> <p>Clean up after self.</p>
Bathroom Expectations	<p>Keep feet on the floor.</p> <p>Keep water in the sink.</p>	<p>Knock on stall door.</p> <p>Give people privacy.</p> <p>Use voice level 1.</p>	<p>Wash hands with soap.</p> <p>Turn off water when finished.</p> <p>Flush toilet after use.</p> <p>Return to room/area promptly</p>

Noise Levels for ALL Common Areas at RCE

0 = Silent, No Talking

1 = Whisper Voice

2 = Conversation voice (lunch)

3 = Recreation Voice (outside)

Specific consequences for infractions may include but are not limited to the following:

- Verbal reminder
- Verbal reminder and/or removal from group/reassignment of seating or line order
- Participation in formal practice session
- For any repeated infractions, note/conference with parent/referral to Principal

Students will receive “Creek Cash” for demonstrating positive behaviors. “Creek Cash” will be given by teachers, administrators, housekeepers, bus drivers, and our cafeteria staff. Students can redeem their “Creek Cash” at the Ranger Station which opens every School Spirit Day and is listed on the calendar. If a child is absent the days the Ranger Station is open, they will need to wait until its next opening.



We are excited and looking forward to a great school year!