

MATTIE V. RUTHERFORD
MIDDLE SCHOOL

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Arvin Johnson
Principal

Mr. Phillip Mitchell
Assistant Principal



Who are we?
MVR!



THE ANCHOR

THE ANCHOR - VOLUME 2

JANUARY 2010

Principal's Address

Dear Mattie V. Rutherford Stakeholders,

I want to reaffirm our commitment to our students and their families. At Mattie V. Rutherford we are working tirelessly to continually improve the services we provide to our students. This involves continuous professional development, active community engagement, building partnerships, and providing a rigorous curriculum enhanced with technology.

As we approach the halfway point this school year, there are several areas in which we are focusing our energies. Our primary focus is student achievement. However, our definition of student achievement goes far beyond grades. We have committed to providing an excellent holistic educational experience to our students. This means their academic, behavioral, and social experiences must be excellent.

Another focus is parental involvement. Our motto, "Anchored in Excellence" represents our collective pledge not only to our students, but also to their families. We recently opened a parent resource center at the school. This center is available for parent use during school hours. It contains valuable information and strategies that parents can use to help their children. In addition, we provide parents several methods to monitor student progress from home. We are also sponsoring several events in an effort to increase parental involvement.

One of our goals is to equip our students with 21st century skills. To that end, we are dedicated to using innovative technology to prepare our students. Our goal is to retrofit our entire building to accommodate the demands of an ever-changing digital society. We plan to bring worldwide expertise to our students, because we believe that education is not exclusive to the classroom teacher. Please explore our website at www.duvalschools.org/mvr, as it provides information on many wonderful things that are occurring at our school.

We have also committed to engaging the community in innovative ways. We understand the value of forming and maintaining partnerships within the community. Accordingly, we are aggressively seeking community partners to help us better serve our students. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mr. Michael Sanders or me at (904) 630-6782.

I hope this new year brings great prosperity to you! Let's work together to build formidable allegiances to destroy ignorance, illiteracy, and intolerance in our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arvin Johnson
Principal

Anchored In Excellence

*"He who dares to
teach, must never
stop learning"*

Teachers and Parents

*Please purchase your school
items from Office Depot.
Office Depot provides MVR
a portion of every purchase
when our school identifica-
tion #(70021752) is provided.*



Ms. Melva Jackson-Batts

2009-2010 MVR Teacher of the Year

Ms. Batts has been an 8th grade ELA teacher for the past 5 years at Mattie V. Rutherford. She is currently a technology teacher in our Compass Odyssey Lab. Ms. Batts graduated from Edward Waters College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. She is certified in English 6-12. She is honored to represent Mattie V. Rutherford as teacher of the year for a second time. She won in 2006-2007 and is our 2009-2010 teacher of the year. Ms. Batts has a strong passion for teaching students, especially those who are considered at risk. Her future goal is to obtain a specialist degree in Urban Education.

Congratulations!



Anchor Spotlight Mr. Thomas James



Mr. James has been teaching at Mattie V. Rutherford for 8 years and he wears many hats. He is a traveling social studies and technology teacher. In addition, he is the school technology contact (STC). In this huge role, he assists staff members with the any and all technology issues. Furthermore, Mr. James is the E-portfolio teacher. In this course, he teaches student how to develop their E-portfolio using MAC laptops. Mr. James is also responsible for setting up student pre/post testing and submitting the growth results to the administration. We really appreciate Mr. James for his 8 years of dedicated service and all the roles he fulfills at Mattie V. Rutherford. Thank you for all you do, you truly have earned the fall SPOTLIGHT!!!!



IMPORTANT DATES

Early Release Day

Jan. 6, 20
Feb. 3, 17
Mar. 3, 24
Apr. 14, 28
May 12

Report Cards

Feb. 1
Apr. 16
June 15-21

Student Holidays

Winter Holiday	Jan 1
MLK Holiday	Jan 18
Planning	Jan 22
Presidents' Day	Feb 15
Planning Day	Apr 1
Spring Holiday	Apr 2
Spring Break	Apr 5-Apr 9
School Closed	May 28
Memorial Day	May 31

FCAT Window

FCAT Testing windows
FCAT Writes (8th) Feb. 9-11
FCAT Testing (6- 8th) Mar. 9-19

Upcoming Parent Events

Orientation-Daily (8:00 AM)
Literacy Night—January 25
Parent Day— February 15
Open House— March 1
Parent Resource Center-Grand
Opening— TBA

LEARNING TIPS FOR PARENTS

The Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT) is used to measure student achievement in Math, Reading, Writing, and Science. Parents can do several things to help prepare their child for this test and learning in general. Parents must ensure that their child's basic needs (food, shelter, hygienic needs, etc.) are met, because these needs provide a good foundation for learning. Another step involves forming a partnership with teachers. This partnership means conferencing, sharing information, and active participation. Monitoring your child's classwork and homework will also increase his/her odds of doing well in school. Providing dedicated time and an off campus location for students access to online material, such as www.fcatexplorer.com, can provide support in core academics areas. Talking to your child about how he/she learns best (visual, auditory, kinesthetic) and what strategies help them learn is a good strategy for parents. Another powerful tool is determining your child's interest; linking learning to it, and encouraging further reading and exploration of the topic. Finally, spending time with your child and participating in school events can contribute to his/her success in school.

Parent/Student Resources

Mattie V. Rutherford www.duvalschools.org/mvr

Compass Odyssey <https://odyssey.duvalschools.org>

Parent Portal <https://dcps.mygradeportal.com>

FCAT Explorer www.fcatexplorer.com

Gizmo (math and science) <http://www.explorellearning.com>

The MVR Parent Resource Center is located in room 30!