

School Board of Brevard County

2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way • Viera, FL 32940-6699



Dear Brevard Teachers,

What's changing in our lagoon?

Our county, which is both culturally and economically diverse, boasts one of the most biodiverse estuaries in North America. The Indian River Lagoon contains over 4,000 species of plants and animals, including a number of threatened and endangered species. This natural and fragile treasure is influenced by our daily activities and is critical to the economy and quality of life for Brevard's residents to say nothing of the quality of life for the residents of the lagoon -- the aquatic organisms.

As educators, we have a tremendous responsibility in providing educational opportunities that will inspire our students to become stewards of this delicate ecosystem. By gaining an appreciation and understanding of the fragile estuarine environment that passes through their communities, students and teachers will be better prepared to make informed decisions about the quality of life of these precious environments while simultaneously having an enriching learning experience.

So, what's changing in our lagoon? *Lagoon Quest* is one way to find out. Brevard Public Schools has partnered with the Brevard Zoo to create *Lagoon Quest*, an Indian River Lagoon Program, designed to provide a quality learning experience for every fourth grade student in our district. By providing a myriad of hands-on experiences that link learning with fun, *Lagoon Quest* provides a relevant integrated curriculum covering Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in science, social studies, math, and language arts. This "Quest" is not intended as something more that fourth grade teachers have "to do," but is instead an opportunity to teach an integrated, thematic unit that has many of the standards that are currently being taught. This program is also designed to encourage family involvement in learning and stewardship activities.

It is our hope that the activities in *Lagoon Quest* will provide learning experiences that will inspire your students to become stewards of the natural environment that we all share. Thank you in advance for your involvement in this exciting program, and, of course, the continuing role you play in our students' learning experience.

Sincerely,

Elementary Programs

Brevard Public Schools