

School Board of Brevard County

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



Dear Brevard Families,

Congratulations! You are hereby invited to participate in a special educational journey called *Lagoon Quest*, where important questions such as “*What’s changing in our lagoon?*” are answered.

- Did you know that Brevard County, which is both culturally and economically diverse, boasts one of the most biodiverse estuaries in North America?
- Did you know that the Indian River Lagoon contains over 4,000 species of plants and animals, including a number of threatened and endangered species?
- Did you know that this natural and fragile treasure is influenced by our daily activities and that its health is critical to the economy and quality of life for Brevard’s residents?
- And what about the quality of life for the residents of the lagoon itself - the aquatic organisms?

Brevard Public Schools is proud to have partnered with the Brevard Zoo to create *Lagoon Quest*, an Indian River Lagoon program for every fourth grader. As a “Lagoonie,” each student is participating in hands-on lessons designed to enhance and extend the lagoon field experience. At the lagoon, Brevard Zoo staff and Brevard teachers assist students in capturing and identifying juvenile organisms with seine nets, performing water quality tests, and investigating human impact on the lagoon. The activities in *Lagoon Quest* allow students to record their observations, data, and conclusions while they search for answers to “*What’s changing in our lagoon?*” In the “Family Activities” section of the program, students can share their new understanding with their family members.

The Family Activities also provide opportunities for “Lagoonies” to lead their families through lagoon learning experiences. In addition, the Brevard Zoo has generously donated a one-time free family admission to the zoo. Please be sure to use the redemption certificate supplied by your child’s teacher by the expiration date to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

We appreciate the Brevard Zoo’s partnership in creating *Lagoon Quest* to inspire our students to become wise stewards of the delicate Indian River Lagoon ecosystem. With your involvement and support students will gain an appreciation and understanding of the fragile estuarine environment that passes through their communities, and they will be better prepared to make informed decisions while simultaneously having an enriching learning experience.

Thank you in advance for your involvement in this new and exciting program. Enjoy the *Lagoon Quest* journey!

Sincerely,

Elementary Programs
Brevard Public Schools