

Testimonials from Teachers, Principals, and Counselors

San Carlos Park Elementary

Young Fives Class Teacher Ms. Bowman:

“In my classroom, I look at kindness as the opposite of aggressiveness. We collect data on student behavior/referrals, so kindness would be measured by the lack of aggressive behavior. Students who exhibit unkind behaviors are often sent to my classroom to cool down, think about their behavior and **experience the kindness and empathy of my students**. Just this year a kindergarten student who had been in our classroom several times due to behavior issues, told another teacher he liked coming to our room because ‘they’re kind to me.’”

“[...] We've had a kindergarten visitor come into our classroom for some ‘time away’ several times this week and last. Another kinder teacher told me yesterday that she'd talked to this student, and he told her he really liked coming into our room because ‘they're so nice to me[...]

”

“Also, our McKenna made friends with a student in one of Ms. Trimner's classes. He said he would read to her some time, so at the beginning of recess she stayed in while he read a book of her choice. When we came inside from recess and were getting ready to go home, she took her kindness coin from her backpack and asked about giving it to the student. My heart was bursting!”

Bonita Springs Charter School: ROCK's Impact on Third Graders

“Having FGCU students come into the classroom and work hands on with my students has been such a powerful experience. Watching them build relationships with these students while learning such valuable lessons has been exciting to watch. They have benefitted from acquiring these skills on a deeper level. Most students can tell you how to be kind, but my students explored what it means to be kind, empathetic, and compassionate and they can **connect and apply what they have learned to their everyday experiences.**”



Mrs. Brittany Jones

Third Grade Teacher and
Kindness Team Leader

Bonita Springs Charter School

Bonita Springs Charter School Middle School Peer Mentoring Program:

“The mentor program flourished this year with the help of the FGCU students. Their lessons and activities were informative and engaging and allowed the students to develop social-emotional skills on a **personal and interpersonal level**. We paired ‘at risk’ students with the middle school mentors and their relationship was bolstered by the important content provided by the ROCK students - relationships that will continue to grow into the next semester as we build onto the program.”



Ms. Marissa Dever
Peer Mentor Coordinator
& Student Support Services K-5
Bonita Springs Charter School

Impact at Cypress Palm Middle School

"I am so proud to be the teacher that facilitated the FGCU Rock program at Cypress Palm Middle School. I have had six classes go through the program this year, and have had the privilege of seeing the outcomes of the collaboration between the college students and my 6th graders. Students have exhibited more thoughtful and deeper understandings of Compassion, Kindness and Empathy not only through their work in class, but also in the different social situations that they are in throughout the school day. What is especially noticeable to me is the way my students are **better listeners**. The awareness my students now have, as far as listening with compassion and empathy, **attentiveness, positive body language and eye contact**, is incredible. I give a lot of credit to our FGCU Rock collaboration for that."



Ms. Anita Saunders
6th grade teacher
Cypress Palm
Middle School

Impact at Cypress Palm Middle School

“Having the ROCK program here at CPM has had a significant impact on our students and their overall experience throughout the year. The students would often reflect on the lessons and talk about how they have an impact on their **daily interactions with other students and their families**. I would often notice that the students would **advocate for others** if someone made a mean comment because they knew the importance of treating others with kindness and compassion. Our students have expressed how the lessons through ROCK have helped them to have **a greater sense of belonging and overall improved self-esteem**. We are so grateful for the ROCK program and the positive impact it has had on our students, and we look forward to being able to reach even more students next year.”



Ms. Brandy Williams
School Counselor
Cypress Palm
Middle School

Impact at Babcock Neighborhood School

"I am deeply thankful for the opportunity for Babcock Neighborhood School to engage in the ROCK experience. This experience and interaction with our students were encouraging and came **at a time when our youth needed it most.** I am proud of their vulnerability with the learning, but even more proud of the projects, ideas, and reflections that I witnessed as some of them **found their passion and pursued sharing kindness beyond the classroom experience.** I am passionate about this work and developing our children beyond academia to be **successful, global citizens, who demonstrate kindness in any environment.** BNS, and me personally, are committed to engaging in any capacity to help develop, implement, and sustain the ROCK model. Thank you for the opportunity, we are grateful."



Principal Shannon
Treece

Babcock
Neighborhood School

Impact at Babcock Neighborhood School

“Being able to partner with FGCU and the ROCK program was amazing. The ROCK students had **engaging lessons** that allowed the kids to learn and speak about compassion and kindness in **different capacities**. I hope with the partnership our students will continue to learn, but to also go out and **SHOW** others what it means to have compassion and kindness.”



Sarah Labrador
School Counselor
Babcock
Neighborhood School



FLORIDA
GULF COAST
UNIVERSITY

fgcu.edu

www.fgcu.edu/rock