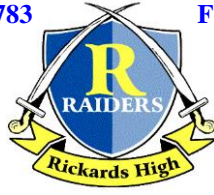


JAMES S. RICKARDS HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Zachary Ansley, AP – Administration/Discipline
Dr. Deborah Barnes, AP – Attendance/Curriculum
Mr. Mike Holmes, AP – Facilities/Evaluation
Ms. Claudette Farmer, Athletic Director
Mr. Sam Striplin, Dean

Dr. Joe Williams, IB Coordinator
Dr. Aretha McNeil, AP Coordinator
Mr. Earl Hankerson, AVID Coordinator
Mr. Bobe McBride, Assistant Athletic Director
Mr. Fred Varn, IB Dean

Mr. Douglas Cook, Principal

May 2, 2019

Greetings Classmates, Family, Friends and Raider Supporters:

In case you haven't heard, I was hired as the proud Athletic Director of my beloved alma mater, James. S. Rickards High School on July 31, 2018. The 2018-19 school year has been a bitter sweet one for me. I was humbly blessed to be chosen to serve in this capacity and excited about being a vital part of all the changes that are taking place right now to transform the campus facilities as we know it and to help raise needed funding for our sports programs. Unfortunately, I encountered a health challenge and was eventually hospitalized November 1st when my observant Principal made a very critical, timely and lifesaving decision to call an ambulance for me at school. I did not return to school until January 7, 2019 (start of 2nd semester) on light duty per my surgeon's directives.

I have been trying to play catch up as you might imagine while I continue to heal and deal with recurrent flare ups. Through it all I still proclaim "But God" is so good and merciful, and if I had ten thousand tongues, I couldn't thank him enough! I can just feel the resounding Amen coming from you! I will be brief and tell you what resonated most was once I got out of the hospital and saw my Primary Care doctor for the first time was his look of amazement and comments "you know you are lucky to have your leg" and he followed up with "you know most people that go over there for 2 weeks with what you had, we usually don't see them anymore". I was there for 2 1/2 weeks! Further, once at home and reflecting on this ordeal, I realized that the doctors let nine (9) days pass before they did surgery to take care of my septic knee which had created sepsis in my body, and it was questionable if I would make it. Well my friend all I can say is "I'm still here by God's grace & mercy."

I know that you will pray for me to continue good progress and to fulfill the dreams and visions that I have to make an impact at Rickards while making you very proud of the end product. I need your help and more than ever with the setback I've endured. When I was hired, I became the first African American Female Athletic Director in Leon County School System, which has been in existence for 162 years. There was a lot of excitement about this historical moment and many of you reached out to me in a special way—thank you!

Those of you who fully know me, know that I am creditable, a hard worker, a winner and I deliver consistently on promises and goals that I set. My vision in pursuit of the \$20,000.00 that I was charged with raising this school year took an obvious back seat to my health, as I was just lining up to run the race. Nevertheless, many of my dearest supporters either responded immediately with the \$100 I asked for the cause, some did even more, and others

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made a pledge to donate the amount that I still need to collect. The few checks that I received just before I was hospitalized have been turned into the bookkeeper and credited to the "A.D. Farmer 162 Campaign Fundraiser" which is to help supplement our sports teams with financial resources we so need desperately. I obviously was given extended time to meet this goal and I hope that I can count on you to help me reach the goal.

I still believe what was laid on my heart from the beginning is still sufficient, which was to make a personal appeal to my friends, family, supporters and the community to donate \$100.00 for the cause. I was told to: "Ask, and it will be given to you; Seek, and you will find; Knock, and the door will be opened. That is the faith I am stepping out on.

I have always exceeded expectations in most of my pursuits and truly want to be known as the impact person! You can help me, by showing the love and support we have in this community and the belief that women can get it done, too, when given a fair chance. I am seeking 162 women and 162 men to contribute \$100.00 to Rickards High School Athletic Department in support of my campaign to exceed the \$20,000.00 goal. I would like to reach my goal by July 31, 2019 to commemorate my hiring date. However, the campaign will continue the goal is reached.

Your donation is tax deductible and a donors' reception will be held in the Fall of 2020 to recognize and thank the supporters. Plans are to publish the names of our donors on the school's website and local newspaper. You will be notified as we get close to the goal and again when the goal has been reached.

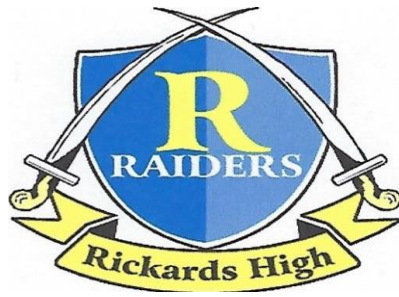
Attached is a form with more details for you to list your contact information, your shirt size and how to return your check or money order to me at 3013 Jim Lee Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Please, be sure to write in your check memo section "A.D. Farmer 162 Campaign donation" and make your Check payable to **Rickards Athletic Dept.** You can count on transparency and accountability with your hard earned money. I look forward to telling you how your dollars helped our sports teams.

If you are local and would like to have your contribution picked up, it can be arranged. Please feel free to call me at (850)445-1227 (cell) or 850-414-5500 (office) or (850) 488-1783 (main office).

Thanks in advance for your support and prayers! Looking forward to celebrating with you.

Sincerely yours,

Claudette Lorraine Farmer, Athletic Director



Rickards 162:
Supporting the First African American Female Athletic Director

I pledge a tax-deductible donation of \$100 to Rickards Athletics program.

Name:

(First)

(M.I.)

(Last)

Address:

Shirt Size (Male / Female)

Cell Phone Number: May we text you? Y N

Email address: May we add you to our email list?

If you are you a Rickards High School alumnus, what year did you graduate? _____

Please make your check or money order payable to: **Rickards Athletics**

In the memo field: **AD Claudette Farmer 162 Campaign**

Many thanks in advance for your sponsorship of our academics and athletics programs! GO RAIDERS!!!

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