

# History of

# Rock Springs Elementary School

Rock Springs Elementary is located in the northern Gwinnett Rock Springs area. Situated on Rock Springs Road, the school is near Buford Drive. Land originally purchased by Mr. John Meed in 1820 is now home to the school. Mr. Meed bought his 250 acres of property for \$18. In 1836, 202 acres of the Rock Springs farm land was traded to Mr. John Elijah Teague for his horse! During the Civil War, in 1866, some local residents decided to form a Methodist church. They called it “Rock Springs” because of a spring of water which flows into Ivy Creek behind the present day Rock Springs Methodist Church building. They chose “rock” because of the many references in the Bible to “rock” being a firm foundation. As a result, the area around the church became known as Rock Springs, and eventually served as the name for the school which opened August of 1999. Rock Springs Elementary and the Mall of Georgia opened on the same day... August 16, 1999.

Rock Springs Elementary was built to relieve the overcrowded conditions at Walnut Grove Elementary; therefore, all of our Charter Year students who were not new to Gwinnett County came from Walnut Grove Elementary. The students chose the Raptor as the school mascot, and they chose Royal Blue, Kelly Green, and White as the school colors.

The school’s staff members got to know each other as

## FAST FACTS

**Address:** 888 Rock Springs Rd.  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

The following have served as principals of Rock Springs Elementary School:

1999–2007	Cheryl Wilson
2007–2012	Angie Pacholke
2012–Present	Connie Hawkins

**School Colors:** Green, White, Silver

**School Mascot:** Eagle

they worked hard during the summer before the school opened to make sure that everything was in place and ready for the first day of school. The doors of the beautiful new building were open to the Rock Springs families on August 12, 1999, for registration and a tour of the facility.

The official dedication ceremony took place February 6, 2000. A Rock Springs teacher whose great-grandfather had built the original Rock Springs Methodist Church told the history of the Rock Springs area.

Within three years of opening, Rock Springs Elementary grew enough to need 11 portable classrooms, which in 2005 were replaced by a beautiful two-story



addition, a renovated and enlarged media center, and an enlarged cafeteria.

Rock Springs Elementary is proud of its high achievement tradition and its focus on a partnership with families. The school has enjoyed strong support from an active PTA. Numerous community support activities and an emphasis on wellness have rounded out the school's academic success. In 2005, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement awarded Rock Springs a Bronze Award for Highest Percentage Meeting and Exceeding Standards.