

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Richard Freedman

Welcome to River Dell Middle School. We are excited to be part of your child's educational journey as they enter the middle level of their school careers.

River Dell strives to provide every learner with a combination of rigor and compassion that produces a learning climate conducive to individual student success. We want our learners to realize their full academic potential while continuing to grow and to mature into young adults. We are committed to maximizing the potential of each student and to encourage all of our learners to participate in their school experience, broadening the horizon beyond what was possible in elementary school. You are invited to preview our school by visiting the RDMS website at www.riverdell.org.

There is something for everyone to participate in and to enjoy here at River Dell Middle School, including extracurricular clubs, sports, intramurals, and a children's peace garden—so reach out and explore all that is available to you.

We have a wonderful year planned, filled with exciting events and happenings and we are waiting for you to begin it with us. Please use this resource to help you discover more about your school and how it can help you to continue your successful journey to educational adulthood.



River Dell Golden Hawks

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

HEALTH FORMS

All incoming 7th graders are **REQUIRED** to submit a physical according to River Dell Board of Education Policy 5141.3 and the New Jersey Statutes and Administrative Code.

7TH GRADE STUDENTS: A physical is **REQUIRED** for all incoming 7th grade students. *Physicals for 7th grade students **must be handed in on the first day of school!** Physicals dated between 9/1/2015 and 9/1/2016 will be accepted.*

8TH GRADE STUDENTS: A physical is **REQUIRED** to participate in an interscholastic sport and/or intramurals in 8th grade, otherwise a physical is NOT required.

Full details may be found on our website at www.riverdell.org. Click the MIDDLE SCHOOL tab, then the HEALTH SERVICES tab under QUICK LINKS, and then choose the appropriate link for either **7th Grade Health Packet—Incoming 6th Graders** or **8th Grade Health Packet**. These packets include the Annual Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form (Parts A & B), Asthma Treatment Plan, Food Allergy Plan, and Private Physician's Order for Administration of Medication.

ATHLETIC FORMS

PLEASE NOTE: The date of physicals for Athletics differs from the date of physicals for entrance into school. Athletic physicals MUST be dated AFTER May 1st for the school year beginning in September.

If your child will be participating in a sport in the middle school, their physical must be sent to the Athletic Department at River Dell High School, 55 Pyle Street, Oradell, NJ 07649 **prior** to September 1st. (Once the physical is reviewed in the high school, it will be sent to the Nurse, Mrs. Puleo, in the middle school.) Full details may be found on our website:

Click MIDDLE SCHOOL tab, ATHLETICS tab, PHYSICALS tab, PHYSICAL INFORMATION FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL link, ATHLETIC FORM link (this is the same health form found on the Health Services website).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – Cont’d.

COMMUNITY PASS

Community Pass is a convenient, safe and secure way to approve district forms, pay laptop insurance fees and student activity fees. You will be receiving login information for an account that has been created for your family in mid-summer. Please be sure to activate your account as soon as information is received. Students entering 8th grade will continue to use their existing account.

Please pay the following fees through Community Pass:

- **Laptop Insurance Fee**—\$75.00 per student (prior to your child being issued a laptop, this fee must be paid and the MS Technology Policy (noted below) must be completed.
- **Activity Fee**—\$50.00 per student (student may participate in an unlimited number of sports/clubs).

The following forms must be completed through Community Pass:

- **MS Technology Policy** (complete online)
- **Registration Form** (complete online)
- **Physicians Order for Administration of Medication** (download, complete & return)
- **Athletics Physicals** (download, complete & return)
- **Free and Reduced Lunch** (download, complete & return, if applicable)
- **7th and 8th Grade Health Packets** (download, complete & return)

GENESIS PARENT PORTAL

Genesis is a student information system which provides families with the opportunity to view and monitor their child’s attendance, class schedule, grades, any discipline issues that may arise, along with report cards. Details about registering for this services will be e-mailed to you mid-summer. Please be sure to register for this service as soon as information is received. Students entering 8th grade will continue to use their existing account.

RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Patrick J. Fletcher Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Thomas Bonfiglio Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. William Feldman Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Richard Freedman Principal
Mr. Michael Giorgio Assistant Principal

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Jennifer Ali Supervisor of Mathematics
Mr. Charles Lange Director of Special Services
Mr. Denis Nelson Director of Athletics
Ms. Lisa Torres Supervisor of English and Social Studies
Ms. Marianthe Williams Director of Computer Services

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Ms. Lisa Brown Counselor
Ms. Marnie Ross Counselor
Dr. Randie O'Neil Student Assistance Counselor

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Ms. Barbara Balkin Speech Pathologist
Ms. Mara Campbell School Psychologist
Ms. Alison Donoghue Transition Counselor
Mr. Patrick Keane School Psychologist
Ms. Grace Marie Lamparillo Learning Disability Teacher-Consultant
Ms. Maria Meo Learning Disability Teacher-Consultant
Ms. Linda Rothenberg School Social Worker

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2015 – 2016

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A Counseling Services Publication

COUNSELING SERVICES

River Dell Middle School offers a comprehensive counseling program that is an integral part of the school's educational environment. The counselors serve as liaisons between students, school, and home. The main focus of Counseling Services is to help students reach their maximum potential by assisting them in making academic and life choices often faced during adolescence.

There are two counselors at the Middle School. *Each counselor remains with the same class for two years.* Counselors facilitate the transition from elementary school to middle school, from middle school to high school, and help students plan their educational schedules for the upcoming year.

Parents with questions should contact their child's counselor:

- Ms. Lisa Brown, 7th Grade Counselor for 2016—2017
201-599-7250, ext. 2305
- Ms. Marnie Ross, 8th Grade Counselor for 2016—2017
201-599-7250, ext. 2300

Current 8th grade students will be scheduled for the 9th grade by their assigned high school counselor, who may also be contacted by parents with questions:

- Mrs. Barlow, (last name beginning A—Cor), 201-599-7298
- Mr. DiUbaldo, (last name beginning Cou—Ja), 201-599-7226
- Mrs. Garcia, (last name beginning Je—Mel), 201-599-7230
- Ms. Curatola, (last name beginning Mes—Sca), 201-599-7224
- Ms. Nolan, (last name beginning Sch—Z), 201-599-7289

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River Dell Middle School

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2016-2017

LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 7

This course provides students with a framework to meet the State's Literacy Core Curriculum Content Standards. Students learn grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and other skills within the contexts of meaningful reading, speaking, writing, listening, and viewing experiences. Drawing from an extensive list of traditional and young adult titles in classroom, school, and community libraries, teachers engage students in strategies that promote the independent reading of assigned and self-selected works (novels, short story and poetry, plays, and works of non-fiction). Readings are also selected from a prescribed anthology and a syllabus of prescribed works. Students will begin to develop a sophisticated portfolio of writing utilizing a variety of modes.

ENGLISH 8

This course continues to provide students with a framework to meet the State's Literacy Core Curriculum Content Standards. Students learn grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and other skills within the contexts of meaningful reading, speaking, writing, listening, and viewing experiences. Students read and respond in writing and through discussion to various fiction and non-fiction selected works from the English syllabus. A major component of the 8th grade English program includes self-selected independent reading. All students will be required to maintain a portfolio of written work to be assessed at regular intervals. Major research components comply with the scope and sequence of nationally accredited information literacy (research) skills.

RESEARCH 4 TODAY 7

Rapid change in today's world places unprecedented demands on today's students. This course addresses critical literacies needed by our students now and in the future. Knowing how to learn, how to find and use information, and how to present knowledge and understanding are integral to the learning process. This course teaches students competencies that will serve them as learners by building literacy skills, teaching them how to apply digital learning tools to research, cultivating their ability to communicate new learning effectively, and using information gained through research ethically.

LANGUAGE ARTS – Cont'd.

RESEARCH 4 TODAY 8

Rapid change in today's world places unprecedented demands on today's students. This course addresses critical literacies needed by our students now and in the future. Knowing how to learn, how to find and use information, and how to present knowledge and understanding are integral to the learning process. This course teaches students competencies that will serve them as learners by building literacy skills, teaching them how to apply digital learning tools to research, cultivating their ability to communicate new learning effectively, and using information gained through research ethically.

MATHEMATICS

PRE-ALGEBRA 7

Pre-Algebra 7 is designed to prepare students for the future study of Algebra and Geometry. This course will be approached from two perspectives: a process-oriented perspective and a conceptual understanding perspective. The goals of the class include problem solving, communication of mathematical concepts, mathematical reasoning, and connections with different strands of math and real-life problems. Instruction will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

ADVANCED PRE-ALGEBRA 7

This course is designed for the exceptional math student who has demonstrated consistent success and an innate ability in mathematics. This course will be approached from two perspectives: a process-oriented perspective and a conceptual understanding perspective. The goals of the class include problem solving, communication of mathematical concepts, mathematical reasoning, and connections with different strands of math and real-life problems. Instruction will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Although content is the same as the Pre-Algebra 7 class, it is more rigorous and the applications are more complex.

MATHEMATICS – Cont'd.

ALGEBRA 8

Algebra 8 is designed to prepare students for the future study of higher level Algebra and Geometry in high school. This course will be approached from two perspectives: a process-oriented perspective and a conceptual understanding perspective.

The goals of the class include problem solving, communication of mathematical concepts, mathematical reasoning, and connections with different strands of math and real-life problems. Instruction will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

ADVANCED ALGEBRA 8

Advanced Algebra 8 is designed to challenge students to go beyond the 8th grade standards by providing exposure to high school Algebra 1 topics. This course will be approached from two perspectives: a process-oriented perspective and a conceptual understanding perspective. The goals of the class include problem solving, communication of mathematical concepts, mathematical reasoning, and connections with different strands of math and real-life problems. Instruction will focus on the first three critical areas, with exposure to areas 4 and 5: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem; (4) compare and contrast linear and exponential functions, distinguishing between additive and multiplicative change, and (5) comparing the key characteristics of quadratic functions to those of linear and exponential functions by solving and graphing quadratic equations.

MATHEMATICS – Cont'd.

HONORS ALGEBRA 1

Honors Algebra 1 is designed for the exceptional math student who has demonstrated consistent success and an innate ability in mathematics. This course is equivalent to Algebra 1 in high school. Honors Algebra 1 will be approached from two perspectives: a process-oriented perspective and a conceptual understanding perspective. The goals of the class include problem solving, communication of mathematical concepts, mathematical reasoning, and connections with different strands of math and real-life problems. Instruction will focus on five critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem; (4) compare and contrast linear and exponential functions, distinguishing between additive and multiplicative change, and (5) comparing the key characteristics of quadratic functions to those of linear and exponential functions by solving and graphing quadratic equations.

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 7

In the 7th grade, Science principles are explored. Students investigate the interconnectedness of life and make sense of the complexity and diversity of life on Earth. Students design and conduct experiments to collect and use qualitative and quantitative data to understand the living and physical worlds, and the scientific and mathematical rules that govern them.

SCIENCE 8

In the 8th grade, Science principles are explored including fundamental ideas about matter, energy, and motion. Students make sense of phenomena in physical, living, and Earth systems. Specifically, students learn how the Earth operates as a set of complex and dynamic interconnected systems, and is a part of the all-encompassing system of the universe.

SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS 7

World Civilizations 7 provides a detailed examination of human culture from pre-history to the fall of Rome. The course studies the emergence of civilization in the Nile Valley, Fertile Crescent and Asia, and includes a detailed analysis of the rise and fall of the Greek and Roman civilizations. The emphasis is on global themes of developing civilizations, and includes an analysis of the world's major religions, as well as family and community life in each era.

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS 8

World Civilizations 8 is a continuation of the 7th grade history program and will pick up where that class left off. This class will cover from approximately 500 A.D.—approximately 1750 A.D. Topics will include post-Roman Europe, the rise of Islam, the Crusades, the late Middle Ages in Europe, the Renaissance and Reformation, the Age of Exploration and the Enlightenment. It will also include detailed study of non-western cultures such as the Maya, the Aztecs and medieval Africa, Japan, China, and India. This is the second course in a three-year World Civilizations curriculum. It will conclude in the 9th grade.

WORLD LANGUAGE

FRENCH 1A

Students learn how to speak and write about themselves and others. Vocabulary topics include descriptions, family, home, school subjects, time, numbers, after school activities, eating in a restaurant, stores, the airport, and the train station. Grammar includes the present tense of *er* and *ir* verbs, as well as some irregular verbs such as *aller*, *avoir*, and *faire*. The “near future” is also taught. Other grammar includes the partitif, the use of *a* and *de*, possessive adjectives, agreement of adjectives with the nouns they modify, singulars, and plurals. Students become acquainted with the geography and culture of France and other French-speaking countries through the use of short readings and classroom discussion. Letter writing is also taught.

FRENCH 1B

This course begins with a review of all grammar learned during French 1A, as well as new vocabulary. New vocabulary topics include summer activities, stores & clothing, health & daily routines, car driving, sports, winter & winter sports, and hotel vocabulary. Students continue to expand their speaking and writing ability. New grammar includes the verbs *prendre*, *apprendre*, *comprendre*, *croire*, *voir*, *conduire*, *lire*, *crire*, and *dire* in the present tense. They also learn the stress pronouns and the use of reflexive pronouns with certain verbs. Irregular adjectives and colors are taught. Students learn to compare items using both the comparative and superlative structure. The relative pronouns *qui* and *que* are introduced. The passé composé’ (past tense) is taught with *avoir* and *etre*. Direct and indirect object pronouns are also introduced and the pronoun *en*. Students continue to learn about the culture of Francophone countries through readings and classroom discussions.

SPANISH 1A

Spanish 1A promotes a positive, communicative environment to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish. Students will begin to compare and contrast aspects of their culture and language with those of Spanish-speaking countries. Communication and cultural awareness is enhanced by addressing topics of family, school, community, geography, travel, and themselves.

SPANISH 1B

This course expands on the experiences of Spanish 1A and continues the emphasis on spoken language skills, with an increasing use of reading and writing to reinforce the spoken word. Students will learn to talk about weather (summer & winter sports), health (food and good nutrition), cultural activities (art, music, theatre, movies), transportation (train & airplane travel), camping, sightseeing, and personal grooming. Students are also exposed to basic aspects of both Spanish and Hispanic cultures as it relates to our increasingly cosmopolitan world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 7/8

In the Physical Education curriculum, students participate in activities which provide:

1. opportunities and challenges for students to gain and to maintain the knowledge and procedural techniques for physical fitness conditioning;
2. a variety of team and individual sports to give students a wide basis for choosing lifetime recreational pursuits;
3. experience to enhance such social growth and developmental skills as loyalty, decision-making, camaraderie, cooperation, and a sense of sportsmanship;
4. a means of achievement, accomplishment, and success;
5. programs that meet and exceed state mandates.

The Physical Education curriculum progresses from larger motor activities through team play to an emphasis on the development of lifetime sports. The Physical Education/Health program emphasizes physical fitness, lifetime skills, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Knowledge of body systems, building positive self-esteem, and the development of lifelong health and safety habits are stressed and integrated with other curriculum areas and special events. The overall goal is to offer a challenging and varied program that is responsive to community and to student's needs.

Health education encompasses one marking period of instruction.

Health Curriculum 7

1. Drug Education
2. Nutrition
3. Social and Emotional Health

Health Curriculum 8

1. Drug Education
2. Sexuality
3. Social and Emotional Health

TECHNOLOGY

S.T.E.M. 7

S.T.E.M. 7 will be offered to all students at River Dell Middle School in Grade 7 as an elective. S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) has become an essential educational initiative across the nation. The blending of these four areas is a natural fit when implementing meaningful hands-on problem-solving activities for students.

This course will allow students the opportunity to apply specific mathematical and scientific principles in order to develop solutions to various engineering challenges. Student's creativity and risk taking are emphasized in a design and problem-solving format that allows them to test their original solutions in an encouraging environment. This course is not a prerequisite for S.T.E.M. 8 so students in 8th grade who later develop an interest in S.T.E.M. will be able to enroll.

S.T.E.M. 8

S.T.E.M. 8 will be offered to all students at River Dell Middle School in Grade 8 as an elective. Building on S.T.E.M. 7 experiences, students will be challenged with more in-depth engineering problems and use more sophisticated tools and machines to solve them. Students can enroll in S.T.E.M. 8 without having taken S.T.E.M. 7 because the first unit of S.T.E.M. 8 reviews the essential learning of the design process and tool safety.

This course allows students the opportunity to apply specific mathematical and scientific principles in order to develop solutions to various engineering challenges. Students are introduced to programming and robotics and the challenges of designing and building robots, which are then programmed to perform different tasks and solve specific problems.

RELATED ARTS

ART OF THE 20TH CENTURY 7

This course introduces 20th Century art through a range of projects based on art styles of modern artists. The concepts of aesthetics, art criticism, art history, and art production are applied and reinforced throughout the program.

Students will study five movements in the 20th Century: Cubism, Surrealism, Expressionism, Pop Art, and OP Art. Students will refine skills through a wide variety of media: drawing, painting, and sculpture. In addition, students will view a modern art collection at a New York City museum. Past trips have included the Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Modern Art.

ART OF THE 20TH CENTURY 8

In this course, students will explore studio work, art history, and computer art-based projects. Students will also study the artistic movements that revolutionized the 20th Century: Dada, Photo Realism, and Social Realism. It offers students an opportunity to use a variety of materials and processes, working in painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing, and computer art. Art 8 teaches various areas of Photoshop Elements utilizing the computer labs and wireless laptops in the middle school. A museum trip is also a possibility.

NUTRITIONAL LIVING AND WELLNESS 8

Nutritional Living and Wellness 8 will be offered to all students at River Dell Middle School in Grade 8 as an elective. The course promotes and encourages positive attitudes related to issues of healthy life styles, independent thinking, decision making, career opportunities, wise consumer choices and community service. Students learn about safe food handling, food preparation techniques, nutrition and wellness and career opportunities in the food industry. Learning activities include planning and preparing snacks and simple meals, analyzing their own food choices, practicing food etiquette appropriate to a variety of cultural, social and professional situations, and participating in service learning for the benefit of themselves and others.

CHORUS 7

Chorus is open to all 7th grade middle school students who enjoy singing. Students learn proper singing techniques, develop music-reading skills, and broaden their musical tastes through the study of choral literature. Concerts feature choral performances at the winter concert in December and at the spring concert in May.

RELATED ARTS – Cont’d.

CHORUS 8

Chorus is open to all 8th grade middle school students who enjoy singing. Students learn to develop music-reading skills and broaden their musical tastes through study of a wide range of choral literature. Many different genres are explored and sung throughout the course of the year. Concerts feature choral performances with the winter concert in December and with the spring concert in May.

THE WORLD OF MUSIC & MUSIC TECHNOLOGY 7

This course teaches the fundamentals of music. Students learn scales, chords, and music notation, as well as the basics of digital music recording, editing, and basic sound design. Classes are conducted in our digital state-of-the-art Recording Studio and Music Lab. Wide varieties of genres of music, composers, (both contemporary and established), and music areas are researched and discussed in class.

MODERN MUSIC & RECORDING 8

This course is designed to nurture both passive and active skills within the setting of our professional music studio. It seeks to foster an understanding of music’s nature, underlying structure, and its cultural significance through performance and listening. Students also learn composition and arranging through the use of professional music sequencing programs. In addition, students produce a multimedia project incorporating music, photography, and videography. Music of various genres is used to illuminate matters of melody, rhythm, and form with strong emphasis on elements shared among different musical styles. Students learn the elements of music technology, as well as digital recording, editing, notation, and sound design.

CADET BAND 7

The Cadet Band is comprised of 7th grade students who have been involved in previous band activities in elementary school or who can demonstrate an appropriate level of musicianship. Students work on different genres of music, culminating with the winter concert in December and with the spring concert in May.

CONCERT BAND 8

The Concert Band is comprised of 8th grade students who have been involved in band activities in the 7th grade. As with the Cadet Band, the Concert Band works on various elements of music, as well as performance techniques, culminating with the winter and spring concerts. In addition, “an audition only” stage band performs at the spring concert, as well as at the special Senior Citizens’ concert in May.

RELATED ARTS – Cont'd.

MARCHING BAND 7/8

This course is designed to give the learner a comprehensive experience in musical/visual performance. Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the precise craft of choreographed routines. The program looks to instill the beauty of music, movement, sensitivity, and freedom of responsiveness as related to multiple genres of music. The Marching Band performs at High School football games, winter and spring concerts, and at various other programs throughout the school year. **Late afternoon/evening rehearsals.**

GIFTED & TALENTED

PROJECTS & PERFORMANCES 7 & 8

Pre-requisite for Grade 7:

Current enrollment in a 6th grade Gifted and Talented (academically talented) program, by teacher recommendation.

Pre-requisite for Grade 8:

Teacher recommendation.

Projects and Performances is the gifted and talented enrichment course at RDMS. The course is developed to compact and accelerate learning for an identified group of students. Students will look at a variety of unit projects such as Political Cartoons, NJ Mock Trials, Fractured Fairytales, Persuasive Writing—Defending the Outrageous, Rube Goldberg, Fiction and Non-Fiction studies, and independent projects are encouraged. Students also learn to play American Contract Bridge. According to recent studies, learning bridge can increase a math score up to 50 points, depending on the testing instrument. Performance and writing are also a part of the program. The class is about process, and the skills necessary to understand, execute, and achieve the required results in education.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) 7/8

This course prepares English Language Learners (ELLs) to participate successfully in our English speaking classrooms and for life in the United States. We strive to provide our ELLs with the skills necessary in speaking, listening, reading, and writing to successfully participate and learn in the mainstream classroom. At the same time, we encourage our students to maintain their native language and cultural heritage. The ESL class provides explicit English language instruction, along with support for the materials covered in the content area classes. When a student passes the exit requirements, which include the ACCESS for ELLs state test, reading and writing assessments, and teacher recommendations, the student is transitioned into the regular schedule with minimal support.

A & B DAY SCHEDULE

- Our schedule consists of A Days and B Days.
- Three A Days in a row are followed by three B Days in a row for the entire school year.
- AAA BBB AAA BBB AAA BBB AAA BBB AAA
- Weekends, vacations and holidays do not count in a cycle; in case of an emergency closing, we skip the letter and resume the cycle as scheduled.

A & B DAY SAMPLE CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 A	2 A	3 A	4 B	5 B	6
7	8 B	9 A	10 A	11 A	12 B	13
14	15 B	16 B	17 A	18 A	19 A	20
21	22 B	23 B	24 B	25 A	26 A	27
28	29 A	30 B	31 B			

7TH GRADE SAMPLE SCHEDULE

- Core courses meet daily.
- Courses labeled A/B meet on a three-day sequence from September to June.

<i>SAMPLE</i>		
PER	TIME	SUBJECT
	7:50 - 8:05	Homeroom
1	8:05 - 8:48	English 7
2	8:51 - 9:34	Science 7
3	9:37 - 10:20	Phys. Ed/Health 7
4	10:23 - 11:06	French 1A
5	11:09 - 11:35	LUNCH
6/7	11:38 - 12:21	Research 4 Today 7A Chorus 7B
8	12:24 - 1:07	Pre-Algebra 7A Art 7B
9	1:10 - 1:54	Pre-Algebra 7
10	1:57 - 2:40	World Civilizations 7

8TH GRADE SAMPLE SCHEDULE

- Core courses meet daily.
- Courses labeled A/B meet on a three-day sequence from September to June.

<i>SAMPLE</i>		
PER	TIME	SUBJECT
	7:50 - 8:05	Homeroom
1	8:05 - 8:48	English 8
2	8:51 - 9:34	Science 8
3	9:37 - 10:20	Phys. Ed/Health 8
4	10:23 - 11:06	French 1B
5/6	11:09 - 11:52	S.T.E.M. 8A Research 4 Today 8B
7	11:55 - 12:21	LUNCH
8	12:24 - 1:07	Algebra 8A Nutritional Living and Wellness 8B
9	1:10 - 1:54	Algebra 8
10	1:57 - 2:40	World Civilizations 8

GUIDANCE FAST FAQs

READING YOUR SCHEDULE

When and where is my homeroom?

Homeroom is 7:50 to 8:05 and is in your first period classroom. For example, if you have English first period, you will meet in your English classroom with your English teacher for homeroom. Homeroom is built into the schedule for you to get organized for the day, listen to the daily announcements, meet with teachers quickly for extra help, or talk with friends before starting the day. If you have elective classes that rotate on A/B days, then your homeroom will also rotate throughout the year.

How do A Days and B Days work?

Some of our elective classes run on what we call an A/B Day cycle. A cycle is three days long rotating between three A Days in a row followed by three B Days in a row throughout the school year (AAA BBB AAA BBB). If the school experiences an emergency closing, we skip that day's letter in the rotation. A/B Days are announced on morning announcements and are posted outside our main office.

Is Period 5/6 or 6/7 a double period?

No, although your schedule states a Period 5/6 (if you are an 8th grader) or 6/7 (if you are a 7th grader) this does not mean it is two periods long. These periods are listed this way because at some point in between the period a bell rings dismissing one of the grades to lunch (Period 5 lunch for 7th graders and Period 7 lunch for 8th graders).

Where can I find my locker number and combination?

When your final schedule is mailed home in August, you will see a three digit number on the top left of your schedule. The three digit number is your locker number. The set of numbers that follow in parenthesis is the combination. Be sure to take a look at our Locker Tutorial on the RDMS Website for instructions on how to open your locker!

GUIDANCE FAST FAQs – Cont’d.

How can I tell what team/house I am on?

When you receive your schedule, you will see a column with course numbers. Next to the course number for English, Science, and World Civilizations you will see a letter—A, B, or C. This indicates which team you are on. Students are randomly selected for teams since we look to mix everyone together each year.

How do I make a change to my schedule of classes?

Schedule change requests are due to the Guidance Department by July 15th. If you would like to request a change in your schedule, please contact your Guidance Counselor.

Who is my Guidance Counselor?

For the 2016-2017 school year, Ms. Brown will be the Guidance Counselor for 7th grade and Ms. Ross will be the Guidance Counselor for 8th grade. Your Guidance Counselor will stay as your counselor for the two years you are here at RDMS.

GETTING READY FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

How will I know what my homework is for each class?

During each class, your teacher will inform you of any homework to complete and will post it in the classroom. Our most organized students write it down in a calendar or planner. In addition, on each teacher’s Schoolwires website, they will post important information for class, which includes homework and upcoming projects as well as information about tests and quizzes. We recommend that you check each of your teacher’s Schoolwires websites every night!

When are teachers available for extra help?

Teachers are generally available before (by appointment) or after school for extra help each day of the week, except on Wednesday. If you have a question about an assignment, test, or quiz—simply ask your teacher for help! Be sure to check with your teacher when he or she is available; this information can also be found on their Schoolwires website.

How can my parents speak with one of my teachers?

Every teacher can be reached directly by telephone or e-mail; contact information is available on each teacher’s Schoolwires website. If you need assistance getting in touch with a teacher, contact your Guidance Counselor.

GUIDANCE FAST FAQs – Cont’d.

HOUSEKEEPING QUESTIONS

What is Schoolwires?

www.riverdell.org is our main website where you can access information for the district, middle school and high school. Each teacher keeps his/her own website, which we refer to as Schoolwires. Since teachers update their Schoolwires website daily, it is important to check it each night! Here you can find the course overview, a teacher’s contact information, grading policy, homework assignments and due dates, tests/quiz dates, and long-term projects. To access the teachers’ websites: visit www.riverdell.org, click MIDDLE SCHOOL tab at top of page, click FACULTY in the gold bar. This page displays the RDMS faculty directory. Simply click on the teacher’s name to access their Schoolwires site.

What is Genesis?

Genesis is our student information system. In Genesis, we keep record of your demographics, contact information, attendance, schedule, and grades, among other things. Through the Genesis Parent Portal, parents/guardians have access to their child’s attendance and grades so that they can stay informed. Report Cards are also available through Genesis. All new families will receive Genesis Parent Portal registration information over the summer prior to the start of the new school year.

What is Community Pass?

Community Pass is our system of collecting important forms and fees. Forms should be completed prior to the start of school. Every family must pay a \$75 fee annually per student for laptop insurance coverage. If a student is interested in participating in any of our clubs or sports, an annual \$50 fee is required. This one fee allows a student to participate in as many clubs or sports as they would like. All new students will receive Community Pass registration information over the summer prior to the start of the new school year.

What if my contact information changes during the year?

If you have a change in address, telephone number, or e-mail, it is important that you let us know! Please notify the Guidance office so that we may ensure your records are up to date in both Genesis and Community Pass.

GUIDANCE FAST FAQs – Cont’d.

What do I do if I am absent or know that I am going to be absent?

If you know you are going to be absent, a parent/guardian must call the Attendance office, (preferably before 7:30 a.m.) at 201-599-7250, ext. 2312, each day you are absent. If you are absent due to a communicable illness, you must bring a doctor's note and report to the Nurse's office upon entering the building. Please visit the Health Services tab under Quick Links on the Middle School website for information concerning administering medication in school, health issues, etc. When you are absent, we encourage you to check the teachers' Schoolwires website for anything you might have missed in class. If you are absent for an extended period of time, you may request a packet of work from your teachers. This request may be made when calling the Attendance line to report your absence, or to the Guidance office at 201-599-7250, ext. 2304. The school work may then be picked up prior to 3:00 that day. When you return to school, it is important to speak with each of your teachers to discuss due dates for homework/assessments you might have missed while you were absent.

What do I do if I am going to be late to school?

If you are going to be late to school, a parent/guardian must call the Attendance office to notify the school at 201-599-7250, ext. 2312. Upon arrival to school, you must sign in at the Main office and obtain a late pass for class.

What do I do if I have to leave early?

If you are leaving early, you must bring a note to the Main office (preferably during homeroom) indicating the time of your pick up. You will receive an Early Dismissal pass. You will then report to the Main office to await for your parent/guardian to sign you out.

MATH PLACEMENT

My child is entering 7th grade in the fall. How is his/her Math placement determined for 7th grade?

If a student satisfies both of the criteria below, the student is placed into Advanced Pre-Algebra 7; otherwise, the student is placed into Pre-Algebra 7.

- 6th Grade Math Class Test Average $\geq 90\%$
- Placement Test Score $\geq 90\%$

GUIDANCE FAST FAQs – Cont’d.

My child currently is a 7th grader at RDMS. How is his/her Math placement determined for 8th grade?

- If a student is currently in Pre-Algebra 7 and has a test average of $< 80\%$, the student is placed in Algebra 8.
- If a student is currently in Pre-Algebra 7 and has a test average of $\geq 80\%$, the student is placed in Advanced Algebra 8.
- If a student is currently in Advanced Pre-Algebra 7 and has a test average of $< 85\%$, the student is placed in Advanced Algebra 8.
- If a student is currently in Advanced Pre-Algebra 7 and has a test average $\geq 85\%$, the student is placed in Honors Algebra 1.

My child is in Honors Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Does he/she take the 8th grade PARCC test or the Algebra 1 PARCC test?

Students enrolled in Honors Algebra 1 are taught both 8th grade Math content and high school Algebra 1 content. However, the student only takes one PARCC Test—the Algebra 1 PARCC test.

How does a teacher recommendation impact my child’s Math placement?

- If a student has achieved the average for placement in a level, a recommendation is not needed. For example, if the test average for placement into the Honors Algebra 1 class is 85 and the student has that test average, he/she is placed in the Honors section. No teacher recommendation is required.
- If a student falls short of an Honors cutoff, but the teacher feels that the student is capable of doing the work, the teacher may recommend up.

GUIDANCE FAST FAQs SUMMARY

We have an Open Door Policy at RDMS, which means you are welcomed and encouraged to visit with your counselor to discuss any issues which may arise. Since you will have the same counselor for both 7th and 8th grades, they will be your main contact at RDMS.

We hope the GUIDANCE FAST FAQs have answered many of your questions. Please feel free to contact us with any other questions that may arise at 201-599-7250, ext. 2304.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

*River Dell Middle School has an extensive program of extracurricular activities.
We encourage you to become an involved RDMS student.
Students may participate in as many clubs and activities as they would like.*

ACADEMIC COMPETITION CLUB

This Club is designed to seek out opportunities for academic competition. This is an excellent place to stretch the mind and imagination in a fun, focused environment. Currently we are competing in State and National NAQT-sanctioned Quiz Bowl Tournaments. We have local competitions within River Dell as well.

AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are a select group of 8th grade students who are nominated by a 7th grade teacher based on the student's ability to act as a leader and be a strong role-model for their peers. The goal of the Ambassadors is to provide a positive experience for incoming students, to assist school counselors in mentoring students and to represent River Dell Middle School in the community.

ART CLUB

Are you an artist, or do you just like art? Join the RDMS Art Club where you will have the opportunity to create fun projects no matter what your artistic level! As a member of the Art Club, you will get to sponsor and support art activities in our school and in the community. Come and join us!

MS CATERERS/CHEF CLUB

Calling all middle school chefs! MS Caterers/Chef Club offers an after school hands-on cooking and nutrition education experience. This club will emphasize nutritional awareness, food safety, team building and basic culinary skills. We will use cooking and food as tools to teach nutrition, healthy living, and life skills. Students will be involved with cooking competitions, trips to local cooking schools and food justice awareness. We use no nuts or nut-based products in our recipes, and we are conscious of safety and accommodating food allergies.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – Cont'd.

DRAMA CLUB

In RDMS Drama Club, students have the opportunity to explore the many sides of the Performing Arts world. Students interested in acting partake in auditions, are responsible for memorizing lines, and improving their stage presence. Students interested in stage crew explore the time and effort that goes into the creation of sets and props, lighting, and sound. Our student directors help to organize and run practices, create the playbill, and help in all areas of the production. Lastly, all of the students involved learn about advertising and promotion, and they help to fundraise for the play. In the RDMS Drama Club, the students learn that collaboration, effort, and fun are the key ingredients to a stellar performance.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

The Environmental Club promotes environmental awareness; develops social and life skills; maintains the pond, trees, and garden in the RDMS courtyard; and promotes reuse, reduce, and recycling programs. Students are taught the importance of proper maintenance of the water garden, its fish and plant life. Students will learn how to establish and maintain plant and herb gardens. Guest speakers will be invited to address the Club with regard to soil and gardening basics. In addition, students will look for ways to reduce our carbon footprint by promoting a recycling program in the cafeteria, and will begin and maintain a compost program with the Nutritional Living and Wellness class.

GEOGRAPHY BEE

Although we do not meet on a regular basis, this club will meet to prepare for local and, if possible, statewide geography bee contests.

HOMEWORK CLUB

At the end of the school day, the Homework Club provides students with a relaxed, informal environment in which to do homework. Students do not have to come everyday, but may drop in as needed. Dates to be determined in the fall.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – Cont’d.

LIBRARY CLUB

Library Club members learn the workings of the school’s Library Media Center. Student aides assist with Library duties such as circulation, shelving, book repair and processing, and book displays. Club members assist the Librarian in major events such as author visits, the annual Book Fair and special events such as National Poetry Month. Interested student members may organize specialty clubs such as Book Club, Anime/Manga Club, Game Club, Code Club, and Maker Club. Other activities include Movie Fridays, field trips and fundraising for the Library collection.

LITERARY MAGAZINE

Students create the award-winning magazine, *Spontaneous Generation*, which is filled with literature, artwork, poetry, and photography that reflects the students’ world in which they live. The literary magazine is distributed to faculty and to students.

MATH CLUB

Students in the River Dell Middle School Math Club are given opportunities to participate in many different competitions and challenges. Some of the competitions are: The American Math Online Challenge, American Math Competition (AMC8), Math Olympiads, Math League, and Mathcounts. The members who enjoy combining their artistic talents with their mathematical minds can take part in an MC Escher Tessellation Contest. At the bi-monthly meetings, stations are set up so that students can practice brainteasers for upcoming contests and/or challenge themselves.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ART HONOR SOCIETY

The National Junior Art Honor Society, (NJAHS), is a new organization that recognizes middle school students with outstanding ability and interest in the visual arts. Students create in-depth art projects that benefit student’s artistic growth and the greater River Dell Community.

NEWSPAPER CLUB

Are you a writer? Do you like to take pictures, draw or conduct interviews? Are you a computer whiz? If yes, then the Newspaper Club is for you! *The River Dell Reporter* is a student-created newspaper with exciting articles about River Dell events, current events, and athletics. All students are welcome to attend and can join at any time! Be “in the know” on the latest news and join the Newspaper Club!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – Cont’d.

ROBOTICS

Students will participate in the First Lego League where they design and build a robot to perform specific tasks. This year’s challenge focuses on robots that can help the elderly perform everyday tasks.

SCIENCE CLUB

The club is open to all 7th and 8th grade students with an interest in Science. The students will engage in scientific discussions, which will then be converted into hands—on activities and experiments. Students will discuss and work in multiple Science disciplines, including Life Science, Earth Science and Physical Science. Students will write about their experiments in a “how to” article that will be presented in a monthly Science Club newsletter.

SELECT CHORUS

The Select Chorus is made up of 7th and 8th grade students who audition in December after the Winter Concert. These interested singers learn and perform music at a greater difficulty level than what is offered in Chorus 7 & 8. The students will perform at the Middle School Spring Concert and will attend the High Note Festival in the spring.

SKI CLUB

Students are encouraged to cultivate a joy for winter sports, develop friendships with fellow skiers/snow boarders, and more importantly, to have fun learning and participating in a life-long sport. Several ski trips are scheduled during the months of January, February, and March (weather permitting). There are more than 100 students enrolled in the Ski Club.

SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

The Spanish Honor Society is an honors club that promotes awareness of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture in our school and in the local community. Membership is offered to Grade 8 Spanish II students who earn an A+ average or better during all four marking periods of their Spanish I year. The *Halcones Dorados*, or Golden Hawks, our chapter of the National Spanish Honor Society for Middle Schools, meets twice monthly starting in October of each year. The Society runs several fun and meaningful service projects decided on by the membership, and culminates with an Induction Ceremony in June.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – Cont'd.

SPELLING BEE

Although we do not meet on a regular basis, this club will meet periodically to prepare for local and, if possible, statewide spelling bee contests.

SPORTS

Interscholastic—River Dell Middle School offers the following Interscholastic athletic programs: Girls Volleyball, Boys & Girls Cross Country (fall season), Boys & Girls Basketball (winter season), and Boys & Girls Track (spring season).

Intramurals—Intramurals are held after school in the Gym. Activities may include: Basketball, Flag Football, Soccer, Hockey, and Volleyball. All students are welcome to participate in these popular, non-competitive activities. Dates to be determined in the fall. ***Students are required to have a physical on file with the nurse in order to participate.***

STAGE BAND

The band is comprised of student instrumentalists who must audition and meet certain performance standards. This select group rehearses one afternoon per week and performs at the Middle School spring concert and at the Senior Citizens concert in May. In addition, the group may participate in festival adjudication and competitions.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

The River Dell Middle School Student Government Organization is the voice of the students. The SGO helps create and implement Spirit Week, the RDMS Fall Fundraiser, the Holiday Door Decorating Contest, the Mid-Year Celebration, and the RDMS Semi-Formal. All students are welcome to attend meetings and give ideas on how to make RDMS great. Elections for officers are held in the spring of 7th grade for the upcoming 8th grade year.

YEARBOOK

The Yearbook Club will be responsible for producing the annual *Black and Gold* yearbook. Students will have the opportunity to study basic photography, layout and design, and distribution. We are looking for students who are self-motivated, cooperative, and responsible. Creativity is a plus! This club meets all year.