

River Valley School District
2023-2024 STEAM Academy Handbook



Welcome to the River Valley STEAM Academy!

At the River Valley STEAM Academy, we take pride in providing you with real world, hands-on education and skills that are fundamental and foundational to build your career. We are committed to preparing all students for successful careers and higher education through integrated academic and technical education experience, as well as guidance and support from our outstanding educational professionals.

This handbook will provide you with information about the programs and policies of the River Valley STEAM Academy. The information in this document should be used in conjunction with the River Valley Middle-High School Student Handbook.

Your child's success is our highest priority. Please feel free to contact the school whenever you have a question or concern.

The information contained in the handbook was accurate at the time of printing. Please be advised that any updated policy supersedes any information that may be contained in this handbook. Please refer to the website at www.rivervalleyisd.org to view the policies online.

If you do not have Internet access and would like a copy of any district policy, please contact the River Valley Academies at Saltsburg (RVAS) office at 724-459-5500 ext. 1106.

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STEAM ACADEMY FACULTY & STAFF

84 Trojan Lane
Saltsburg, PA 15681
724-459-5500 (p)
724-639-9322 (f)

Dr. Randy Zangara	Director
Mrs. Kathy Monko	Coordinator of School to Community Programming & Services
Dr. Shawna Little	Career Pathways Counselor
Mrs. Amanda Spallone	Secretary
Mrs. Janelle Williams	School Nurse
TBD	Attendance Officer

Mr. Kip Bollinger	Electrical
Mrs. Carrie Detwiler	Pathways to Health Careers
Mr. Christian Kampus	eSports
Mrs. Karen Magalich	Special Education
Ms. Melissa Milanak	Cyber Security
Mr. Adam Peterson	Welding Technology
Ms. Cassidy Richards	Biomedical Technology
Mr. Matt Wilson	Sports Management and Rehabilitation Therapy
Ms. LeAnne Testa	Paraprofessional
Ms. Kristin Stine	Custodian

SCHOOL HOURS

Office (School Year)	7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Office (Summer Hours)	7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Faculty Hours	7:15 AM - 2:45 PM
Student Arrival	7:20 AM - 7:30 AM
Instructional Hours at RVAS	7:20 AM - 10:00 AM
Tardy Time	7:33 AM
Dismissal	10:00 AM

MISSION STATEMENT

The River Valley School District has an obligation to ensure that all River Valley students will have equitable access to a high-quality education that will allow them to reach their full potential in all career paths that prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century and global economy.

2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR



2023 - 2024 River Valley School District - Academic Calendar

July 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July	
4	Independence day

August	
17	Elementary Professional Development
17-18	New Teacher Induction
21-23	In-Service Days / Clerical Day 21st
24	First Day of School

Student - 6 Days

September	
4	Labor Day - No School
13	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development
27	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development

Student - 20 Days

October	
11	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development
16	Act 80 Day / No Student Classes
25	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development

Student - 22 Days

November	
10	Veteran's Day - No School
11	Veteran's Day
13	In-service Day (Staff Flex) - No Students
14	Parent/Teacher Conf - Act 80 Day No Students
22-27	Thanksgiving Break - No School
28	Act 80 Day / No Student Classes

Student - 16 Days

December	
6	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development
13	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development
22-29	Christmas Break - No School

Student - 15 Days

January 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

January	
1	New Year's Day - No School
2	No School
10	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development
15	Act 80 Day / No Student Classes
24	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development

Student - 21 Days

February	
2	Parent/Teacher Conf - Act 80 Day No Students
14	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development
19	President's Day - No School
28	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development

Student - 20 Days

March	
13	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development
27	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development

28-29 Easter (Spring) Break - No School

Student - 19 Days

April	
1	Easter (Spring) Break - No School
10	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development

Student - 21 Days

May	
8	Early Dismissal (PreK-12) - Prof. Development
27	Memorial Day - No School
29	Last day of School (180 days)
30	In-Service Day / Clerical Day

Student - 20 Days

June	
14	Flag Day

Approved 04/25/2023

RVSD School Calendar is also available on the website at <https://www.rivervalleyisd.org/url/calendar> .

PARENT/GUARDIAN - CONCERN/COMPLAINT PROTOCOL

The River Valley School District is dedicated to meeting the educational needs of our students and is diligently striving to ensure your child receives the best possible educational experience. We view communication between the home and school to be a vital component to this end. Parents/guardians should take the following steps in the event of a question, concern, or complaint:

Step #1: Communicate with the respective teacher or counselor (email, phone call, and/or meeting). If the issue is not resolved;

Step #2: Communicate with the respective building-level administrator. If the issue is not resolved;

Step #3: Communicate with the Assistants to the Superintendent.

Step #4: Communicate with the Superintendent.

Step #5: If the issue is not resolved, the parent/guardian may choose to then address the Board of School Directors.

PHOTOGRAPHING/VIDEOTAPING OF STUDENTS

During the school year numerous activities take place in which students are photographed or videotaped for use in various school district initiatives. These may include placement on the school district/building website, displays in the halls or classrooms, and inclusion in newspaper articles or newsletters. Additionally, our student teachers are required to videotape and/or photograph lessons in the classroom that may involve your child.

If you do not wish to have your child(ren) photographed and/or videotaped, it will be necessary to complete a form which can be obtained from the principal's office. Requests for the current academic year must be made within ten (10) calendar days upon the receipt of the handbook. When the completed form is submitted to the principal's office, the information will be distributed to the necessary individuals within the district. This form must be completed each school year you wish to opt out of including your child's photo in district/school public displays. Keep in mind, if this form is completed, your child's photo will not be included in any District publication, including the yearbook. (Refer to District Policy #216.2.)

COVID-19 PANDEMIC INFORMATION

The River Valley School District will follow school board direction, as well as state guidelines in regards to implementing COVID-19 pandemic procedures and processes. Please note these guidelines are subject to change as federal and state guidance changes.

ACADEMICS

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Report cards will be issued at the end of each marking period of school. Refer to district policy #212 & #213.

TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORK USAGE

All students having access to River Valley School District's computers, computer software, and other technology must abide by the regulations listed in District Policy #815.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Board is committed to strict standards of academic integrity and to helping students develop intellectually, creatively, and ethically. Honesty in all assignments is essential to the maintenance of such standards. Academic cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable, and district students caught cheating or plagiarizing shall be disciplined. Refer to District Policy #238.

ATTENDANCE AND ENROLLMENT

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance for students is mandatory as required by Pennsylvania State Public School Code of 1949 Section 1327 and River Valley School District Policy #204. Penalties and legal action for violation of the compulsory attendance regulation will be enforced as cited in section 1333 of the same code. *Regular attendance is a necessity if a student is to attain any degree of success in school. Children should attend school and be on time every day.*

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

When a student is tardy or absent from school, regardless of the length of the absence, the parent or guardian shall furnish a written explanation (excuse) for the absence of the child **within three (3) days** of the child's return from the absence. A written excuse is the parent's only protection from arrest and should be presented to the classroom teacher **immediately** upon return from the absence; i.e., the day following the absence the student is to report to homeroom and submit his or her excuse. After three days, if no excuse is submitted, the absence will automatically be considered illegal. Failure to provide an excuse may result in legal action as described in the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949. Excuses should be provided to your homeroom teacher at the STEAM Academy.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Classroom instruction is provided until 10:00 AM. If a child is to be dismissed early, a note must be sent with the child on the day he or she is to be excused (or the day prior to the early excusal, if possible). The note should include the date and time the child is to be excused, the reason for the excusal, and the means of transportation. If an early dismissal occurs due to a doctor appointment, please provide a doctor's excuse upon returning to school. Parents are to report to the office when a child is to be dismissed other than the normal time, unless the note indicates the student has permission to drive.

In an effort to help protect the student, in those cases where either the parent/guardian or the emergency representative is picking the child up from school, the principal or his/her designee may be required **to secure a photo identification from that person**, attesting to who they are, prior to releasing the student from the school building. Once positive identification has been made, the student is free to be released to the requesting individual. In the event that the individual requesting to pick up the student is neither the parent/guardian or listed on the emergency card, the district staff member shall not release the student.

In case of an emergency, the parent should phone the school office and give the necessary information.

STUDENT PRESENCE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER SCHOOL

For both the safety and security of all students, no high school student is permitted to enter the Early Childhood Learning Academy or the Saltsburg Elementary School except by special permission of the building principal or office staff.

Students attending class in the Cyber Academy, eSports lab or room A147 will use the restrooms in that hall. Students in rooms D120 and B115 will use the lobby restrooms.

Students are not permitted to enter the building before 7:15 a.m. No early drop-off of students will be permitted.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

Conduct of students on the school bus is an important factor in the safe transportation of school students. Students who misbehave can jeopardize the safety and welfare of other students.

Because discipline can be a problem on the school bus, please be aware the School District will exercise the right to file disorderly conduct charges for certain student actions. Examples are as follows: standing on the bus, moving about the bus while it is in motion, excessively loud and boisterous talk, harassment of other students or the bus driver, leaning out or throwing things out the window, or any activity that distracts the driver from watching the road and practicing good driving techniques. The above are examples of student actions and conduct violations are not limited to those listed.

What does filing disorderly conduct charges mean to you? This means that after the charges are filed and the student is served with the citation from the police, a hearing will be held before the District Justice. If the student is found guilty, the charge may result in a \$300 to \$400 fine and the possibility of other consequences.

The School District will provide all possible evidence to the District Justice - including digital recordings from the school bus.

The River Valley School District reserves the right to use video and audio recording devices on the school buses and utilize video/audio taping as a method of determining student discipline. Please refer to Policy #810 - Transportation.

TRANSPORTATION DISCIPLINE

Students riding the school buses are under the direct supervision of the bus driver. The bus driver has the authority to maintain a safe, orderly environment on the bus at all times and may administer the following disciplinary actions:

1. Talk with the student/parents about the student's misconduct.
2. Change the student's seat, ask the student to lower their voice, loss of window privileges, etc.
3. Report student to building principal after the third warning.

If a student continually misbehaves, the driver will report the student to the building principal to handle discipline. The driver shall record, in writing, each verbal warning and restriction of bus privileges.

When it is necessary for the driver to issue a Bus Conduct Report to the principal, any of the following discipline measures may occur:

- Loss of privilege/activity
- Lunch detention
- In-school suspension
- Suspension of bus privileges
- Out-of-school suspension

A copy of the Bus Conduct Report will also be sent home.

Immediate suspension of school bus privileges and/or filing of a disorderly conduct charge, at the discretion of the building principal or in accordance with school board policy, will be issued upon any of the following infractions:

- Personal Assault (pushing, hitting, tripping, kicking, slapping, grabbing, spitting at, pulling hair, pinching, or continued verbal abuse)
- Fighting (violent behavior, intent to injure, punches to face, etc.)
- Threatening another person with an object
- Setting off firecrackers or “poppers”
- Use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or drugs on the bus
- Possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs on the bus
- Incident was recorded on video/audio
- Repeated misbehavior on the school bus after receiving official warning
- Please refer to Policy #237 on the District website regarding the use of electronic devices.

PARENTS WHO TRANSPORT CHILDREN

Drop-Off Procedure: In the morning, parents should plan to drop off children between 7:20 AM and 7:30 AM at the main entrance to the The River Valley Academies at Saltsburg (RVAS). Students will not be permitted in the building prior to 7:20 AM, so please do not arrive early.

Pick-Up Procedure: Please report to the office to pick up your student between 7:20-10:00 AM. If they are leaving early, please provide a note that they need to be dismissed.

STUDENT DRIVERS

Students wishing to drive to the STEAM Academy will need to complete an application and will be assigned a parking spot. A copy of your driver’s licenses and a driving form are required. Students will park in the lot facing Route 286 and will enter the building via the entrance C, nearest Smith Bus garage, if they arrive between 7:20-7:30. After 7:30 AM all students should use the main entrance to the building.

River Valley School Board acknowledges that student safety is a priority. As part of that responsibility, it is important for staff members to release students only to those individuals to whom a student is authorized to be released. To that end, emergency cards are completed by the parent or guardian each year designating those individuals who may pick up a student or act on the parent’s behalf in the event the parents/guardians are not available.

AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING

The River Valley School District School Board has authorized the use of video/audio cameras on school buses. These cameras can record both what is said and done. The video/audio cameras will be used to monitor student behavior to maintain order as well as a safe environment. Students and parents are hereby notified that the content of the recordings may be used in a student disciplinary proceeding. The contents of the recordings are confidential student records and will be safeguarded. Recordings will be retained only if necessary for use in a student disciplinary proceeding or other matter as determined necessary by the administration.

FOOD SERVICES/CAFETERIA

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

The STEAM Academy will offer a free grab and go breakfast. However, children may choose to eat breakfast at home. Breakfast must be finished by the end of the homeroom period. No food or drink will be permitted in the classrooms.

Lunch will be provided at the River Valley High School.

Questions regarding meals and cafeteria procedures may be addressed to the Food Service Director at 724-459-5500, ext. 2114.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Discipline within the River Valley School District is regarded as a process that strengthens each student through a program of teaching, supervision, and when necessary, just and constructive consequences. Severe misconduct may result in the revocation or suspension of extra-curricular activities or other appropriate measures at the discretion of the principal for students in grades K-5. Refer to the River Valley Middle-High School Handbook and District Policy #218.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DEFINITIONS

Lunch Detention: Students assigned Lunch Detention will be required to eat in an isolated area of the cafeteria or assigned area. The student must purchase his/her lunch items in one visit to the serving line, and return to the designated seat assignment. Students will not be permitted to converse with other students or move from their seats until the supervisor gives permission. Failure to serve or comply with required procedures will result in reassignment and/or alternate detentions.

Continuation of inappropriate cafeteria behavior may result in reassignment and/or alternate discipline.

After-School Detention: Students assigned After-School Detention will be required to stay after school on the assigned day and comply with the procedures set forth by the supervisor. The students are to be prepared for academic work and parents are responsible for the students' transportation.

In-School Suspension: Students assigned to In-School Suspension report to the office upon arrival to the school on the day(s) assigned. Students are to be prepared for academic work. Current class work is provided for the student, however, if the student has a reading or class project, the time remaining after the class work is completed can be used to complete the assignments. Sleeping is not permitted. The student must sit upright, remain quiet and comply with the supervisor's direction. Violation of this may result in additional time assigned or other disciplinary action. Lunch will be eaten according to the supervisor's schedule. Students may bring lunch from home.

Out-of-School Suspension: Students assigned Out-of-School Suspension are not permitted to attend school or any school functions while on suspension.

Behavior Probation: Students who have a discipline record with multiple offenses, refuse to attend multiple after-school detentions, and/or have accumulated more than six (6) combined in-school- or out-of-school suspensions, may be placed on Behavior Probation. These students are not permitted to attend, as a participant or spectator, any school functions or extracurricular activities, such as sporting events, concerts, assemblies, dances, etc. The principal will place students on Behavior Probation following a review of the student's behavior profile. Only the principal can remove a student from Behavior Probation.

Fines: Students may have a citation filed against them with the local magisterial district justice and a fine may be assessed.

Restitution: Thefts, vandalism or misuse of property could result in financial restitution being made to the school or injured party.

Expulsion: Students may be expelled for discipline violations by the River Valley School District following due process and School Board Disciplinary Hearing.

* School Board Disciplinary Hearing is a meeting of the parent/guardian(s), school administrator, and committee of the School Board. Such a meeting is required before any student can return to school from a 10-day out-of-school suspension. The administration or Board may also request a Board Intervention meeting for other disciplinary issues.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

It is the responsibility of students to dress and groom themselves appropriately for school. They must meet fair standards of safety and health, as not to cause substantial disruption to the educational process. Certain attire is not appropriate for the educational environment. Any clothing or jewelry with an intended or implied message related to weapons, drugs, alcohol, sex, etc. are such examples and will not be permitted. Extremes in school dress and clothing or lack of clothing which is considered to be a hazard to safety or of questionable taste will not be permitted.

It is understood that if attention is directed toward a student's garment regarding its inappropriateness for school, the garment is not to be worn to school again. If there is a question about the appropriateness of dress, the principal will make the final determination.

Students who are defiant or disrespectful can be subject to disciplinary action imposed by the teacher or the principal. Students who are sent to the office because of non-compliance or defiance of school personnel's request to modify their clothing or appearance are subject to disciplinary action(s). Refer to District Policy #221 and the River Valley Middle-High School handbook for specific guidelines.

SCHOOL PROPERTY/STUDENT DEBT

All textbooks, calculators, technology equipment, and ordinary supplies are furnished by the River Valley School District. Each student is expected to take reasonable care of all books, technology equipment, and calculators and is held responsible for any loss or damage. Students who lose or damage textbooks, library books, etc. are responsible to pay the replacement cost of the item.

Students incurring debts for lost or damaged books and items, cafeteria charges for lunches, unpaid fundraising obligations, or other such obligations where monies are owed to the district may be limited in participation of extra-curricular events and non-basic curriculum events when these obligations have not been met in a timely manner. Refer to District Policy #623.

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

INCLEMENT WEATHER

When weather conditions make traveling dangerous or when emergencies arise, our schools may be delayed in starting or be closed. You may sign up to receive information via our automated alert system, check the district website (www.rivervalleyisd.org) or SchoolCast on the ARIN website (iu28.org), or tune in to local radio/TV stations for reports regarding our school district.

If there is a **two-hour delay**, all buses will run two hours later than the normally scheduled time and students will report directly to the River Valley High School.

SCHOOL SECURITY

At the River Valley School District, the safety of our students is paramount. To this end, the River Valley School District has employed and assigned armed School Security Officers at each school campus. Well-trained, professional, retired Pennsylvania State Police Troopers have been appointed to these positions and will leverage their expertise and experience toward securing and protecting our students, staff, and schools. For more information regarding School Security Officers, please refer to Policy 705.1.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire, severe weather, school bus safety, and other emergency drills are held to comply with State laws and are conducted throughout the year.

SAFETY PROGRAMS

The River Valley School District has taken positive action to secure students' safety. Throughout the year various programs are conducted by the local police, fire departments, bus company, and others (i.e.: Alice Paul House, AICDAC Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Officer Phil, etc.) to keep students safety-conscious.

HEALTH SERVICES/MEDICINES

Nurse's Office: The school nurse is available during the school day to care for the health needs of the students. She may be reached at 724-639-3556.

Students who feel they have a serious illness or injury should report the nature of the illness or injury to their teacher. The teacher will send the student to the nurse's office.

During the school hours, the nurse will lend assistance in the form of first aid. Beyond this temporary care, we will be guided by the information provided by the parent or guardian on the **Emergency Care Card**.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: It is extremely important that emergency contacts and telephone numbers are correctly listed on the card, and that this information is updated as the need arises.

MEDICATION TO BE ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL

The following medication information is in accordance with District Policy #209.3.

1. **Prescription Medications** - Parents should bring medications to the school nurse. Medications should not be stored at the nurse's office during extended breaks. Prescription medications should be in the pharmacy labeled container accompanied by a note from a parent authorizing permission to administer the prescription medication and the written order of the prescribing physician. At the end of the school year, parents must come to the school to pick up any remaining medications.
2. **Non-prescription Medications** - Non-prescription medications should be sent to the nurse's office in the original container so that proper identification of the medication can be made. Written parental permission, including the name of the medication and number of pills or amount of liquid to be taken, is required. Only the amount of medication necessary should be sent to school.

EMERGENCIES AT SCHOOL

We use an **Emergency Care Card** as an immediate referral system for reaching the parents or parent-designee in the event that the child is involved in an emergency situation in school.

If a child needs to be sent home due to illness or injury, a parent is contacted. If no one is home, the emergency telephone numbers listed on the **Emergency Care Card** will be contacted, and the child will be sent home with the emergency contact that is available to come and pick the child up at school.

If a child appears to be so seriously ill or seriously hurt that there is an apparent need for hospitalization, the parent will be notified immediately. If a parent or designated emergency contact is not available, the school will exercise reasonable discretion with regard to taking the child to the hospital emergency care facilities.

Special Health Problems - Parents should notify the school, **in writing**, when a child suffers special health problems; i.e.: epilepsy, diabetes, allergies, asthma, hyperactivity requiring medication, etc. Such notification may include special directions, precautions, etc. for school personnel.

Disclosure of Medical Information - If you wish to disclose your child's medical condition to the staff in the building who work with your child (cafeteria, bus, custodial, etc.) FOR PURPOSES OF SAFETY AND AWARENESS, **check the appropriate box on the emergency card.**

ADDITIONAL POLICY INFORMATION

Policies/regulations of the District are subject to change with reasonable notice. This section highlights several pertinent policies. All RVSD policies are available on the District website at www.rivervalleyisd.org. All students, regardless of district residence, are required to comply with River Valley School District policies.

BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

The River Valley School District is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. RVSD recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, bullying is prohibited by district students.

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following: substantial interference with a student's education, creation of a threatening environment, and/or substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. Bullying, as defined in district policy, also includes cyberbullying. Refer to District Policy #249.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND PARAPHERNALIA POLICY

River Valley School District has adopted a drug and alcohol policy, which prohibits students from using, possessing, distributing, and being under the influence of any controlled substances during school hours, at any time while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and during the time spent traveling to and from school and to and from school-sponsored activities. Refer to district policy #227.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of non-district electronic devices by students is prohibited during the school day in district buildings; on district property; on district buses and vehicles; during the time students are under the supervision of the district; and in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time.

Electronic devices shall include all devices that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet. Please refer to District Policy #237.

NALOXONE

The River Valley School District has adopted a policy regarding the procurement, maintenance, and administration of an opioid antagonist (Naloxone) for emergency use to assist a student, staff member, or other individuals believed or suspected to be experiencing an opioid overdose. Refer to district policy #833.

NON-DISCRIMINATION - QUALIFIED STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to ensure that all district programs and practices are free from discrimination against all qualified students with disabilities. The Board recognizes its responsibility to provide academic and nonacademic services and programs equally to students with and without disabilities. Refer to District Policy #103.1.

STUDENT EXPRESSION/DISTRIBUTION AND POSTING OF MATERIALS

The right of public school students to freedom of speech is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth. The Board respects the right of students to express themselves in word or symbol and to distribute and post materials in areas designated for posting as a part of that expression. The Board also recognizes that the exercise of that right must be limited by the district's responsibility to maintain a safe and orderly school environment and to protect the rights of all members of the school community. Refer to District Policy #220.

TOBACCO USE POLICY

River Valley School District is a tobacco-free school district. Use of tobacco, nicotine, and nicotine delivery products, including vaping devices, is strictly prohibited. This is in accordance with Act 128 of 2000 amending P.L. 465, No. 299. Refer to District Policy #222.

VIDEO CAMERAS/AUDIO RECORDING

Due to the issues of student safety and school violence, it has been necessary to install video cameras at various locations in the school, as well as on the school buses. All students or persons riding District school buses are subject to audio and video recording. In addition, video cameras have been placed throughout the school to monitor activity. Audio may also be recorded within District buildings, as well as on campus grounds.

WEAPONS POLICY

The school district may expel any student who is determined to have brought a weapon onto any school property or transportation or to any school-sponsored activity. Refer to District Policy #218.1.