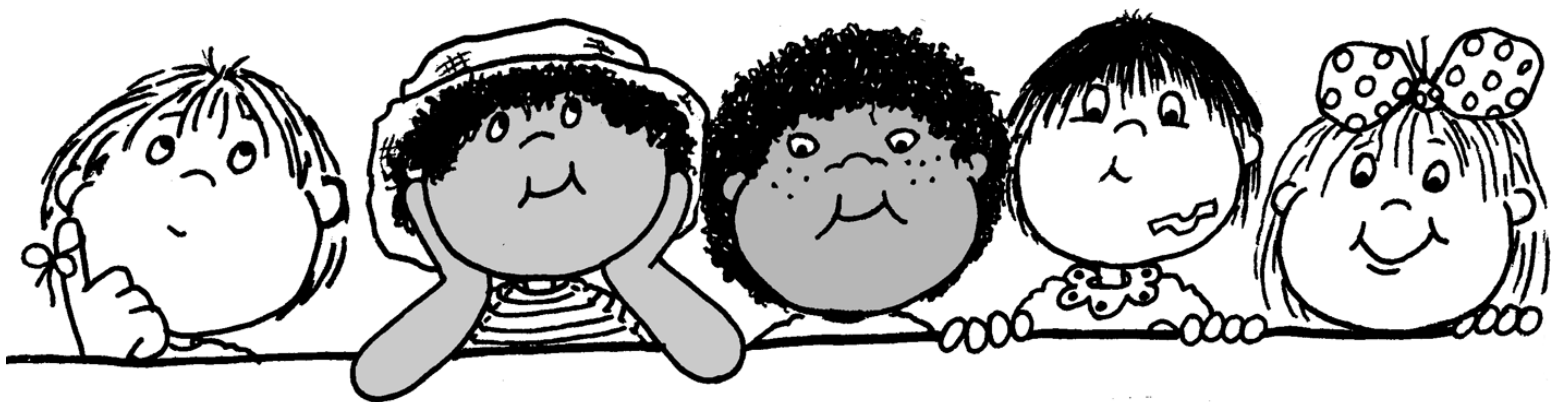


River Valley School District Early Childhood Learning Academy

Pre-Kindergarten 2025-26 Parent Information



Dear Parent,

We welcome you and your child to the prekindergarten (Pre-K) program at the Saltsburg Early Childhood Learning Academy (ECLA)! The experience of this memorable year will be exciting and rewarding. We look forward to working with you as a team to support your child's social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development. Best wishes for a successful school year!

Sincerely,

Kathy Monko

Kathy Monko, Principal
SES & ECLA

Pre-K Coordinator

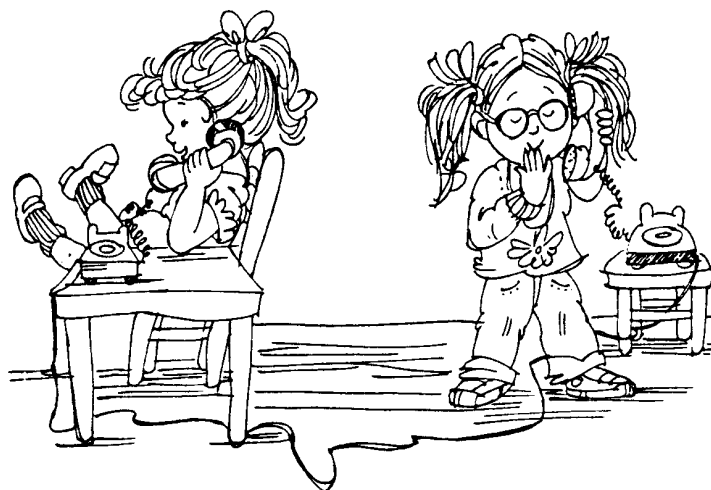


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PREKINDERGARTEN PHILOSOPHY

The prekindergarten program in the River Valley School District is uniquely adapted to meet the needs and interests of the prekindergarten child.

The prekindergarten program is designed to promote children's knowledge and skills in all developmental areas—cognitive, social/emotional, physical — and to establish a foundation for lifelong learning.

The prekindergarten program reflects the belief that children are active learners. They build meaning and understanding through full participation in their learning environments. This child-centered program combines high expectations for each child with respect for individual development.

The Early Childhood Learning Academy Prekindergarten program is designed to embed important educational objectives into the daily routine, to ensure the learning focus is relevant to the students, and to provide intentional instruction in a playful, joyful atmosphere.



Saltsburg Elementary Contact Information			
Mrs. Kathy Monko	Principal	monko.k@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8440 Ext. 6600
Mrs. Stacy Mazzaferro	Secretary – SES	mazzaferro.s@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8440 Ext. 6600
Mrs. Amanda Spallone	Secretary – RVAS	spallone.a@rvsdpa.org	724-343-3230 Ext. 1106
Mrs. Lori Baker	Guidance Counselor	baker.l@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8438 Ext. 6607
Mrs. Patty Prenni	Nurse	prenni.p@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8440 Ext. 6606
River Valley School District Contact Information			
Mr. Philip Martell	Superintendent	martell.p@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8401 Ext. 1103
Mrs. Regina Geesey	Assistant Superintendent & Director of Curriculum & Instruction	geesey.r@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8404 Ext. 1109
Mr. Mike Leasure	Director of Special Education	leasure.m@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8434 Ext. 1108
Mr. George Coutsoumbis	Cafeteria Supervisor	coutsoumbis.g@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8417 Ext. 2114
Mr. Joseph Hughes	Buildings & Grounds	hughes.j@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8411 Ext. 1113
Larissa Csanyi	Human Resources Director	csanyi.l@rvsdpa.org	724-343-8421 Ext. 2118
Sherry Frassenei	Transportation Director for River Valley SD	frassenei.s@rvsdpa.org	724-459-5500 Ext. 2007
Brett Hebenthal	Transportation for Smith Bus Company	N/A	724-639-9163 724-459-6930

If you would like to speak to your child's teacher on the phone, please call the school office and leave a message. We cannot interrupt classes during instructional time for phone calls. The person you are trying to reach will call you when s/he is not supervising students. In the event of an emergency, we will take the message to the classroom.

BUILDING INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

Office (School Year)	7:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Office (Summer Hours)	7:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Faculty Hours	8:15 AM – 3:45 PM
Car Rider Student Drop Off	8:55 AM – 9:00 AM
Instructional Hours	9:00 AM – 3:25 PM
Bus Dismissal	3:25 PM – 3:35 PM
Friday Car/Bus Dismissal	1:10 PM – 1:15 PM
Car Rider Pick Up for Dismissal	3:30 PM

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

When inclement weather does not permit school buses to run on a regular schedule due to poor road conditions, the following options could be instituted on a day with inclement weather. Parents will be notified via the RVSD Emergency Notification System, the radio and television stations.

Flexible Instruction Day (FID) – Students will not attend school on these days. Students will have the option to participate in either a 30-minute virtual instruction session or complete a paper packet.

Two-Hour Delay – All buses will run two hours later than the normally scheduled time

Early Dismissal – In the event that students are dismissed early from school, parents will be notified via our automated alert system, radio and television stations. Parents should make prior arrangements for a place for their children to stay if an emergency arises and early dismissal becomes necessary.

If the school bus is unable to safely travel on your road and you are unable to transport your child to school, the day will be considered an excused absence. Each school office will be given a list of the areas that the school buses were not able to travel for verification of excuses.

Parents who transport their children to school on days when there are delays should adhere to postponed starting times. For instance, a two-hour delay would have children reporting at 11:00 AM. Please do not drop off your child early, as there is no staff available to supervise students.

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 Assistant Superintendent.

Step #4: Communicate with the Superintendent.

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

2025-2026 School Calendar

August 2025						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
					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	T	11		S	8	

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
	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				
	T	21		S	21	

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
			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	
	T	23		S	22	

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
						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	T	16		S	15	

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
	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			
	T	14		S	14	

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
				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
	T	20		S	20	

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
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
	T	19		S	19	

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
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				
	T	22		S	22	

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
			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		
	T	19		S	19	

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
					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	T	20		S	20	

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
	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				

Early Dismissal						
August 22, 29						
September 5, 12, 19, 26						
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31						
November 7, 14, 21						
December 5, 12, 19						
January 9, 16, 23, 30						
February 6, 12, 20, 27						
March 6, 13, 20, 27						
April 10, 17, 24						
May 1, 8, 15, 22						

Important Dates						
August 15: First Day for Teachers/Staff						
August 20: First Day for Students						
September 1: Labor Day - no school						
October 13: Columbus Day No Students						
November 10: Veterans Day Observed						
November 11: Parent/Teacher Conf. K-12						
No Students						
Nov. 26-Dec. 1: Thanksgiving Break						
Dec. 22-Jan.2: Winter Break - no school						
February 12: Parent Conf.- Early Dismissal						
February 13: Parent Conf.- No Students						
February 16: Presidents Day - no school						
April 2-6: Spring Break - no school						
May 25: Memorial Day - no school						
May 29: Last Day for Students/Graduation						
May 29: Last Day for Teachers						

						
Student Days: 180						
Teacher Days: 185						
Last Day of Grading Period:						
October 22, 2025						
January 15, 2026						
March 23, 2026						
May 29, 2026						
Snow Make-up Days						
February 16, 2026						
April 2, 2026						
April 6, 2026						
Act 80 Day - No Students						
February 13, 2026						
Parent/Teacher Conferences						
November 11, 2025 - No Students						
February 13, 2026 - No Students						

In-Service Days (No Students)						
August 15, 18, 19						
October 13						
Student Testing						
Keystone Exams						
Winter - January 5-16, 2026						
Spring - May 11-22, 2026						
PSSA						
April 20 - May 8, 2026						

***Please note that every Friday during the school year, students will be dismissed at 1:10 PM**

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Pre-K program provides a learning environment that affords each child opportunities to develop:

- self-confidence through successful learning experiences;
- responsibility for one's own behavior;
- positive attitudes toward learning;
- a sense of responsibility for completing assigned tasks;
- the ability to share and cooperate with others;
- language / literacy skills and strategies;
- mathematical thinking about patterns and relationships, order and predictability, and logic and meaning;
- the ability to observe, explore, discover, predict, and solve problems through concrete learning experiences;
- an understanding of the many aspects of their cultural and environmental world;
- health-promoting habits and routines;
- physically through use of large and small muscle activities;
- aesthetic expression and appreciation through art, music and dramatic play;
- the natural curiosity young children use to make sense of their world;
- the early concepts and skills that build the foundation for the Kindergarten Curriculum.



A TYPICAL DAY

Welcome/Arrival: Children are welcomed and then independently select activities as they arrive in the classroom.

Circle Time: Your child joins with classmates to talk about the day. Students are engaged in writing, language and mathematics instruction.

Center Time: Children choose from activities in the centers which include dramatic play, table toys, blocks, art, sensory table, library and computers. Learning is child-centered through play facilitated by the staff.

Clean Up: Your child learns the importance of concluding activities, putting away materials and cooperating with others.

Small Group Instruction: Children receive intentional instruction on targeted objectives in a small group setting. Students are taught language, literacy, and mathematic concepts and skills through a variety of instructional strategies.

Outdoor Learning: Energetic outdoor play provides opportunities for children to develop large muscles, to engage in social interactions, and to experience nature. Children also learn self-management by following rules and safety guidelines. (Weather permitting)

Music and Movement: Your child will experience music and physical activities in the classroom, the activity room and on the playground. Learning to follow rules and safety guidelines, as well as building large motor skills, will accompany the fun students enjoy.

Story Time: Teachers read to children in both large and small groups. Reading enhances listening comprehension, stimulates thought-provoking questions and conversation, and develops concepts of print and vocabulary.

Dismissal: Children are encouraged to review the day's events and independently collect their belongings.



GENERAL INFORMATION

The First Day of School

The teachers will place a “PK” tag on your child’s book bag on the first day of school. The children should keep these tags on their book bags for the entire school year, so it can be seen by our staff as well as the bus drivers. We will take excellent care of your child. When your child arrives at school, there will be numerous people assigned to greet your child and escort him/her to their classroom. If your child has a nickname that he/she prefers to be called, please let the teacher know. However, all school documentation must use your child’s formal name. Also, please have your child wear his/her picture name tag as well.

Classrooms

The Pre-K classroom is designed to have the following: iPad minis, spacious play areas, high-quality educational equipment, and developmentally appropriate materials. The restroom areas will feature child-sized facilities.

Transportation

The district provides transportation to the Pre-K program free of charge for resident students. It is a privilege to ride the school bus. If a student does not use appropriate behavior on the bus, we will work with you to create a plan to keep all students safe on the bus. Again, please do not remove the PK-Tag from your child’s bookbag. This is used to identify the bus your child will ride. We ask that you keep this tag on your child’s book bag all year. If you are picking your child up from school or dropping them off in the morning, please stay in your vehicle until the buses are gone.

Schedule

Pre-kindergarten classes will be full day sessions. The school day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. If you plan on picking your child up from school early, please send in a note. Also, the person picking up the student must be able to provide photo identification. If your child arrives late to school, parents will have to sign them in.

Photographing/Videotaping of Students

If you do not wish to have your child(ren) photographed and/or videotaped, it will be necessary to complete a form which is available in the office. Requests for this school year must be submitted within 10 calendar days upon receipt of the handbook and should be returned to the office.

Party Invitations

The faculty and administration at the elementary schools are unable to provide addresses to students to mail invitations to classmates. Therefore, students will be permitted to bring in an invitation for every student (or every girl or every boy must receive an invitation, if the party is limited to boys or girls) in their class. If a student does not have an invitation for each student in the class, the student will not be able to distribute the invitations. The classroom teacher will designate the appropriate time to distribute the invitations. Students will not be able to distribute invitations to other students in other classrooms or grade levels. Classrooms cannot be disrupted for distribution of invitations.

Enrollment

To define a clear process for enrollment into the River Valley School District, the Pre-K Counts program has developed the following protocol to ensure a prioritized and fair enrollment process.

- Enrollment paperwork including income verification information is collected. The following information needs verified via completion of the RVSD Pre-K Counts application:
 - Date of birth (age 3 or 4 – not kindergarten eligible)
 - Income (including number in household)
 - District residency
- Priority into the program is based on:
 - Risk Factor Criterion
 - School Entry Date – 4-year-olds are given preference
 - Date of receipt of the **complete** application packet
 - Current or existing involvement in Early Intervention program
- District Enrollment documents will also be required for admittance into the Pre-K Program.
- Once all classrooms are at capacity, any students still wanting to enroll will be placed on a waiting list.

Attendance

Your child must attend class regularly for optimum learning. Every child, once enrolled in public school, must adhere to the law established by the state legislature regarding school attendance. The same law governs preschool students as school-age students.

The following is an outline of the Attendance Plan for the Pre-K Counts program:

- If a child is absent, an excuse explaining the absence is due within three school days of his/her return.
- If your child is absent for three or more consecutive days, you will be contacted by the classroom teacher.
- A child with three or more days unexcused will receive a letter informing them of the importance of attendance and the need to document all absences properly. The letter will include a note reminding the parents of the ten-day unexcused policy.
- If a child accumulates more than 5 consecutive unexcused absences, you will be contacted by the school to discuss the reasons for the absence and determine ways to support the child's attendance in school.
- If a child reaches the eight-day unexcused mark, the parents will be asked to develop a plan for student attendance and return of excuses.
- Children who have 10 or more consecutive unexcused absences or more than 10 percent unexcused absences over the course of the school year (more than 18 days total) and have not responded to program supports must be dismissed from the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts classroom.
- If the child continues to be absent without documentation, the child must be removed from the program.

Vacations and trips should be taken during school holidays or during the summer. However, if you need to schedule an educational trip during the school year, you must complete an Educational Trip Form. Permission to be excused from school must be granted by the principal at least five (5) days prior to the intended absence for the trip to be considered excused.

The School Board considers the following conditions to constitute reasonable absence from School: illness,

quarantine, family emergency, school-sponsored activities, required court attendance, death in the immediate family, approved educational trips. More specific information on the attendance policy can be accessed on the district's website.

Tardiness

Teachers begin their school day promptly to maximize the instructional time. When your child arrives late it requires one member of the teaching team to break away from the classroom instruction to assist him/her, which disrupts his/her learning and the learning of others.

Early Dismissal

Classroom instruction is provided until 3:15 PM. 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 RVAS office when a child is to be dismissed other than the normal time. **Parents must sign students out in the logbook.**

In the event we have an unannounced early dismissal (weather, power outage, etc.), please make sure you have a plan for your child to get home. Parents should sign up for our emergency contact system which will alert them to such occurrences.

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

Photo Identification

If a student arrives to school late or if he/she is being picked up from school, the person signing-in/picking up the student must provide photo identification. This will also be in effect for end-of-the-day dismissal procedures as well.

Conferences and Report Cards

Parent-teacher conferences are tentatively scheduled for November 11th this year. The teacher will contact you to schedule a conference time. Report cards will be given four times a year. They are either sent home in the Friday folders or provided to you in person. The conference is an opportunity for the teacher and parents to discuss how they can work together to enable the child to have a successful school year.

Parent Involvement

We will send home a folder every Thursday. It will contain essential papers for your review. We ask that you return it on Friday. We often refer to these as the "Friday folders". Also, we welcome Parents in the Pre-K classroom. Prior to volunteering, please request a volunteer handbook from the Pre-K teacher to familiarize yourself with district policies & procedures.

- **PTA** - SES has a thriving parent-teacher association. All parents are welcome and encouraged to join the PTA at SES. PTA is a partnership between parents and educators who strive to enhance student learning and enrich the lives of the students within our school. It is also a forum for parents to obtain knowledge and assist with various activities at our school. Funds raised by the PTA help support many needed programs within the school. Your PTA membership benefits your child and every elementary and Pre-K student at the Saltsburg Campus. A few of the worthwhile projects that the PTA financially supports include: transportation costs for field trips, programs during and after school, Career Day, Book Fair, Holiday Shoppe, Dr. Seuss activities, the annual carnival, as well as many more.

- **Parents in the Classroom** - Parents can volunteer to participate in the classroom by reading to students, assisting with recess, playing with students during centers, or preparing and arranging classroom displays. If you are interested in being your child's homeroom mom, please fill out the Volunteer Form. In the PTA packet and return it to the school with your child.

Field Trips

Field trips may be planned each year. However, all trips must receive final approval from the school board. Each child is required to bring a permission slip signed by his/her parent/guardian prior to the day of the field trip. On occasion, special clothing may be desirable in the form of jeans, raincoat, etc. The school discipline code applies during field trips. All students must ride the bus to and from the field trip. Students are not permitted to ride to or from the field trip with a parent or guardian. In addition, all adults accompanying students on field trips must follow all provisions outlined in School Board Policy #916: Volunteers. Information regarding securing clearances can be obtained in the main office or on the district website.

Medication

Medication must be kept in the nurse's office and will be administered to a student in the nurse's office under the following conditions:

- Only medication that cannot be scheduled for other than school hours may be given.
- All prescription medication must be in the original container & have a prescription label.
- Nonprescription medicine must be in the original container/bottle labeled with the child's name, the name of the medication, and explicit instructions for giving.
- All medication must be brought to school by the parent/guardian and must be stored in the nurse's office. Students are not allowed to keep medication anywhere in the classroom area.

Any unused medication shall be destroyed two weeks after the dosage if not otherwise instructed by the parent. Medication will not be sent home with a student. It may be picked up by the parent at the school.

Lunch & Snacks

The students will be given a morning snack, lunch and an afternoon snack. If you prefer to pack your child's lunch, feel free to do so. Please talk about the school lunch menu with your child. The teacher will need to know which option (main meal or the alternate) your child would like to have for lunch. School lunches & snacks are provided to the Pre-K students free of charge. Even in the event of a remote instruction day, FID/FIP Day, meals will be offered free of charge. Simply request the meal and pick it up at the school.

Wellness Information

The RVSD has adopted Policy #246 promoting healthy lifestyles and fitness. When sending snacks or birthday treats, we encourage you to send snacks/treats that adhere to the wellness guidelines. Below are some suggestions for snacks: fruit, cheese, Jello, pretzels, vegetables, yogurt, lite popcorn, baked chips, frozen juice bars, applesauce, fruit cups, raisins, whole grain crackers or cookies.

We discourage cupcakes, cookies, cake, candy and other high sugar and fat treats. Please keep in mind that some of our students have food allergies and/or diabetes. Please refrain from sending snacks or treats with ingredients that include nuts or peanut oils. Due to safety concerns, only store-bought items with the ingredients listed are permitted. When possible, they should be individually packaged. Any questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of the principal.

Driving Your Child to School

Students who do not ride the bus to school should arrive at the school at 8:55 a.m. Due to other assignments, the teacher is unable to supervise students before then. Please use the main entrance at the Early Childhood Learning Academy when dropping off your student for morning arrival and do not pass the school buses if students are unloading.

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.

Early Intervention

The River Valley School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist in the implementation of early intervention services for our students. Our school utilizes a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to support students, teachers, parents and others as a vehicle to ensure the success of each student. Parents and staff members with concerns about a student may request assistance from the school through the guidance office. We address the needs of students utilizing a variety of strategies including, but not limited to the following: developing interventions, proposing and designing services, requesting evaluations, and possibly proposing an Individualized Education Program.

Discipline

Our goal is to maintain a safe and orderly environment in which your child can learn. A great emphasis is placed on encouraging appropriate behavior of the children to help them develop self-control, self-confidence, and self-discipline. An effort is made to help the children understand why some behaviors are not acceptable, and suggestions for more desirable behaviors are offered. The rules are posted in the classroom and reviewed with the children. Classroom rules children are expected to learn to follow are:

- Raise your hand to talk
- Be a good listener
- Share and help others
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Follow directions

If students do not follow the rules, inappropriate behavior is discussed with the student, and they are redirected to another activity. The teacher will keep in close contact with parents to develop a plan that is consistent for the student at home and at school.

Parent Pick-Up at Dismissal

Please send in a note and/or call the school if you are going to pick up your child from school at dismissal. If a friend or relative is picking up your child, please let us know. If your child will be on permanent parent pick-up at dismissal, please write a note to this regard. The school must be informed by 3:00 if your child will be picked up.

If you are picking your child up at dismissal, please park in the main lot at RVAS and remain in your car. Once the buses have departed, your children will be walked outside, and you can meet him/her at the front entrance to the school. *Students will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m.*

Building Security

The safety of our students is paramount. To this end, the River Valley School District has employed and assigned armed School Police Officers (SPO) 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 Police Officers, please refer to Policy 705.1.

School entrances are locked throughout the school day. To gain entrance into the building, you will be asked to state your name and purpose for the school visit. Parents will be asked to identify persons who may pick their child up from school or receive them from the school bus upon dismissal. If a person tries to pick up the child and is not identified on the list, the child will not be released. If you need to change the list, please notify the school prior to the child needing to leave.

We will need a signed and completed permission slip form for all field trips. In the event you do not want your child's photograph published in the local paper, newsletters or website, please complete the required form.

Audio/Video Recording

The River Valley School District School Board has authorized the use of video/audio cameras on school buses and district premises. 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. The contents of the recordings are confidential student records and will be safeguarded. Recordings will be retained only if necessary for use in a discipline issue or other matter as determined necessary by the administration.

Phones

If you find you need to contact the school or your child's teacher, please call the school and a message will be relayed to the person you are trying to reach. In the event of an emergency, we will take the message to the classroom. Cell phones are allowed to be brought to school. However, the phones must be kept in a book bag or coat and be turned off. If a student is in possession of a cell phone during the school day, it's a violation of the discipline policy.

Friday Folders

Your child will bring home a folder every Thursday. This folder will contain important information. Some papers will have to be returned to the school and others you may keep at home. Please return the folder to school on Friday with your child. This folder will contain monthly lunch schedules, information on school events and other important materials.

Planning for Transitions

Our district prepares students for a smooth transition in and out of the Pre-K Counts Program.

- January/February - Pre-registration begins. Postings are made in the district newsletter, local papers, website and school marquee asking for interested parents to contact the school for information pertaining to the registration of students for K and Pre-K. Parents complete a pre-registration informational sheet, and the school provides a registration packet and information about the registration process. Three-year-old students already enrolled in the RVSD Pre-K program will be sent home an enrollment letter to inquire if their child will be returning the following year, as their spot in the program is not guaranteed.
- April/May: Parents of prospective Pre-K students will register for the program by providing the completed application packet and the students complete the screening process.

- May: Pre-K Buddy Day where each Pre-K student joins a Kindergarten class for an hour of activities.
- May: Pre-K to Kindergarten screening – Done by the Kindergarten teachers.
- May/June: Pre-K graduation
- June/July: Parents and student will be notified if they were selected to attend the Pre-K program.
- August: Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Orientation. Provides the parent an opportunity to receive important information from the principal and the teachers regarding the rules and expectations for the classroom.
- August: Pre-K and Kindergarten Camps. Allows the students to meet the teacher in their classroom and become familiar with the school setting. We also have a school bus that the children can board and learn about bus etiquette and safety.

School Visitation

The visitation policy of the River Valley School District is to receive only those visitors who wish to tend to school business. All guests and visitors MUST report to the office and sign in. Visitors will receive a VISITOR'S BADGE, which must be worn at all times while in the building. Please return the visitor's badge when you sign out of the building. Students are not permitted to bring guests to school. Parents who come to school to bring forgotten items (lunches, coats, umbrellas, birthday or special treats, etc.) for their children will be asked to leave those items in the vestibule. Parents and visitors are not permitted to interrupt or disturb classrooms at any time.

Communication

Please immediately advise the teacher when there is a change of address, phone number, or emergency number. Also, please let us know if there is a change (hospital, illness, death, divorce, trip, new baby, etc.) in your home. It will be kept confidential. These events do affect your child's class performance.

School Dog

The River Valley School District is lucky to have school dogs, Gio, Aria, Bruno, & Benny. They will visit the pre-k classrooms often to assist students who may be struggling with emotions or need a positive experience to brighten their mood.

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, ARIN Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Officer Phil, etc.) to keep students safety conscious.

Phone Check

In the interest of safety, when a child is absent from school, the district may contact you (or other designated location) to confirm that the child is home.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a law protecting homeless children and youth. The Act defines homelessness as individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. The River Valley School District complies with all guidelines defined within the law. Individuals needing assistance can contact the RVSD Homeless Liaison, Mrs. Kathy Monko, at 724.459-5500 ext. 1117, or the Regional Homeless Coordinator Sarah Schroth, at (724) 463-5300, ext. 1203.

Who is considered homeless? Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the term "homeless children and youths" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes

children and youths: who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals; who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and who are migratory children who live in one of the above circumstances.

Hygiene & Healthy Habits

Proper hygiene practices will be taught, with regular reminders for students to wash their hands throughout the day. Students will also learn proper etiquette for coughing and sneezing. Hydration stations are available for filling water bottles and will be sanitized regularly. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

Personal Belongings

Please put your child's name on boots, bags, sweaters, jackets, books, etc. to prevent loss and/or confusion. Stress to your child to keep all their belongings together. We recommend that each child have a book bag to bring home school communications and daily work. If you are sending in money with your child, please place it in an envelope that is sealed with the amount and your child's name on it.

Policies/regulations of the District are subject to change with reasonable notice. All RVSD policies are available on the District website at www.rivervalleyisd.org.

Appropriate Clothing for School

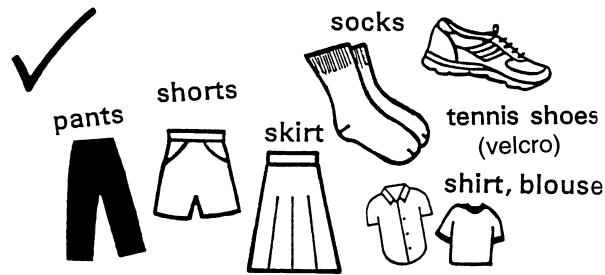
Prekindergarten children need to wear clothing and shoes which allow for easy movement. It is advisable that your child dress in clothing that is easily washed since much time is spent painting and sitting on the floor. Clothing should be easy for your child to remove for bathroom purposes.

Outdoor play is an important part of the pre-kindergarten program. Each playtime will be spent outside unless it is raining or extremely cold. Please see that your child's clothing is appropriate for the weather and that shoes are worn to protect feet.

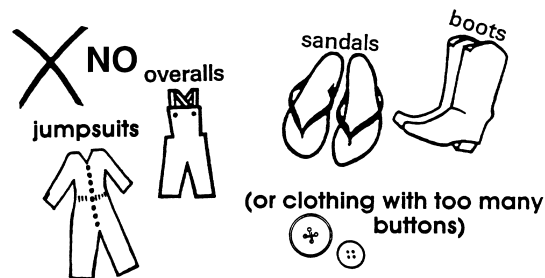
Also, we kindly request that you send in an extra set of clothes for your children. Occasionally, there may be an incident at school in which children have to change their apparel. We find that students are more comfortable putting on their own clothing as opposed to the extra items we have in the nurse's office. We will do our best to wash the clothes at school, but we may have to send home the soiled clothes with the children. If this is the case, the teacher will alert you that these items are in the child's bookbag.

Wear the right clothes and shoes for school

YES



NO



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

This is a special time for parents and children. It can be difficult for some parents and children to make the transition of allowing the school to care for your child. Your child's educational experience and their safety are very important to us. The following information focuses on providing a good start for you and your child. Here are some helpful hints to help you prepare for the first day of school:

- Talk about all the good things about school.
- Start a family routine in preparation for school.
- Please practice your child's personalized ID number.
- Encourage your child to talk about school with you.
- Encourage your child to get plenty of rest.
- Practice snapping, buttoning, and zipping clothing, as well as tying shoes with your child.
- A book bag is essential for your child to bring to school.
- Please check their book bag daily for information and to check their progress.
- Allow students to enter the school and walk to their rooms independently.



WAYS FOR PARENTS TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- Go to the library.
- Read stories daily.
- Go to the park or explore your backyard.
- Do simple cooking projects with your child.
- Give your child opportunities to help you at home.
- Play with your child.
- Limit TV and video games.
- Teach your child to take good care of toys and put them away.
- Encourage good health habits (washing hands with soap, proper use of tissues, covering mouth when sneezing/coughing, brushing teeth, etc.).
- Eat healthy foods.
- Schedule an appropriate bedtime.
- Invite a friend to play.
- Display your child's work.
- Listen to and talk with your child.
- Provide writing materials (crayons, markers, pencils, paper, cards).
- Show your child how you write to create lists and notes.
- Encourage exploration of different art media (paint, Play-Doh, tissue paper, construction paper, glue, scissors).
- Attend parent education opportunities provided at the school



