



ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025-2026

RIVER VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Updated:
July 30, 2025

Please be advised that the contents of this handbook may change as district policies are reviewed, revised, and updated.

www.rivervalleyisd.org

WELCOME TO THE RIVER VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

This handbook will provide you with information about the programs and policies of the River Valley Elementary Schools. Please read, review, and discuss the information in this booklet with your child.

Your children come to the elementary school as special children, unique in their own physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development. Therefore, in addition to providing a strong curriculum, which stresses math and reading, we offer programs that will enhance self-esteem, foster success, and nurture curiosity and creativity.

Your child's success is our highest priority. The home and the school form a strong partnership. We hope the information provided in this handbook assists you in this partnership. Please feel free to contact the school whenever you have a question or concern.

With your help and support, we are confident that your children will find River Valley Elementary Schools a great place to learn and grow.



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:

Blairsville Elementary School at 724-343-8430
Saltzburg Elementary School at 724-343-8440

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ELEMENTARY FACULTY AND STAFF

BLAIRSVILLE ELEMENTARY

Mr. Brian Higginbotham, Principal

Mrs. Peggy Cribbs, Secretary
Mr. Rick Schillow, School Counselor
Mrs. Jennifer Sleppy, Nurse

Kindergarten

Ms. Lexus Dadson
Mrs. Jessica Eckenrode
Mrs. McKenzie Lewis

First Grade

Ms. Rebecca Hilderhoff
Mrs. Michele Sisitki
Mrs. Jackie Underwood

Second Grade

Mrs. Hope Grant
Mrs. Emily Pozik
Mr. Steven Shannon

Third Grade

Mrs. Eileen Jeffries
Mrs. Caitlin Martin
Mr. Matthew Nicely

Fourth Grade

Mr. Bryan Gould
Mrs. Jessica Scardina
Mr. Scott Stuchal

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Alissa McNulty
Mrs. Linzi Strong
Mrs. Barb Stile

Gifted

Mr. Jim Buckles*

Library

Mrs. Sarah Ross

Physical Education

Mr. Brock Harsh

Music

Ms. Emma Firment
Mr. Adam Bukosky*

Art

Mrs. Angela Scalamogna*

Reading Specialists

Mrs. Brittany Johnson
Mrs. Emily Miller
Mrs. Jenley Schillow

Math Specialist/ELL

Mrs. Jessica George

Learning Support

Mrs. Robyn Shaw
Mrs. Alexis Smith

Life Skills/Autism Support

Mr. Jared Bailey
Ms. Rachel Boyer

Speech/Language Support

Ms. Kayla Fatula
Mrs. Molly Wallace

Paraprofessionals

Mrs. Felicia Vanyo
Mrs. Julie Holby
Mrs. Myrissa Beskid-Perez
Mrs. Megan Price
Mrs. Sarah Stiles
Mrs. Marilyn McFarlin
Mrs. Kristina Pratt

School Psychologist

Mrs. Beth Blystone*
Ms. Julie Allen

Custodians

Ms. Candy Galley
Ms. Kandice Palmer

Cafeteria

Mrs. Dana Scaramouche
Mrs. Chrissy Doak
Mrs. Tara Duckworth

SALTSBURG ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Kathy Monko, Principal

Mrs. Stacy Mazzaferro, Secretary
Mrs. Lori Baker, School Counselor*
Mrs. Patricia Prenni, Nurse*

Kindergarten

Mrs. Brandy DelleDonne
Mrs. Megan Roman

First Grade

Mrs. Heather Bole
Mrs. Angela Jorgenson

Second Grade

Ms. Sara Anderson
Mrs. Bethany Sinclair

Third Grade

Mr. Jeff Smathers
Mrs. Stephanie Stroup

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Kristy Harrington
Mrs. Jennifer Surratt

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Diane Antonacci
Mr. Darrin Baker

Gifted

Mr. Jim Buckles*

Library

Mrs. Carly Hruska

Physical Education

Ms. Kelsey Ferguson

Music

Mrs. Amanda Staymates

Art

Mrs. Angela Scalamogna*

Reading Specialists

Mrs. Cayla Dohey
Mrs. Julie Obney

Math Specialist

Mrs. Heather Reo

Learning Support

Mrs. Megan Pattyn

Emotional Support

Mrs. Calie Porter

ELL Specialist

Ms. Sara Anderson

Vision Support

Mrs. Megan Roman*

Speech/Language Support

Mrs. Danielle Dinizio*

Paraprofessionals

Mrs. Bonnie Barnhart
Mrs. Lacey Czerniec
Mrs. Margaret Rumbaugh

School Psychologist

Mrs. Beth Blystone*
Ms. Julie Allen

Custodians

Ms. Sue Garzone
Mr. Joe Nepsha
Ms. Kristin Stine
Ms. Mindy Street
Mr. Chris Watson

Cafeteria

Mrs. Dolores Carr*
Mrs. Debbie Chicka
Mrs. Shirley Dixon*

* Denotes Multiple Building Assignments

ABOUT THE RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

102 School Lane ■ Blairsville, PA 15717 ■ T: 724-459-5500 ■ F: 724-459-9209

MISSION & VISION

River Valley is committed to creating a future-driven school district focusing on innovation, career exploration across all grades, and workforce development. Using the RIASEC language and prioritizing student identity are integral parts of our school culture, focusing on all students' strengths, interests, and workplace values so that they know there is a place for them in this world. River Valley takes a student-centered approach and understands the importance of the human process of personal development.

RIVER VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Rick Harper, President
Mrs. Connie Constantino, Vice President
Mr. Anthony Canzano, Treasurer
Mr. Nathan Baird
Mrs. Beverly Kusma Caranese
Mrs. Jessica Clawson
Dr. Luke Faust
Mrs. Melanie Pantalone
Mrs. Mary Whitfield

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Mr. Philip Martell | Superintendent of Schools |
| Mrs. Regina Geesey | Assistant Superintendent |
| Mr. Jonathan Santoro | Director of Finance and Operations |
| Mr. Joe Hughes | Maintenance Director |
| Mr. George Coutsoumbis | Food Service Director |
| Mr. Geoff Dixon | President, River Valley Education Foundation |
| Mrs. Larissa Csanyi | Director of Employee Services & Information Systems |

The River Valley School District is an equal opportunity agency in its education programs, activities, and employment practices. River Valley School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender (including gender identity or expression), sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or disability in its programs, activities or employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, or the Section 504/ADA Title II Coordinator at 102 School Lane, Blairsville, PA 15717, 724-459-5500.



DISTRICT SCHOOLS

BLAIRSVILLE ELEMENTARY

MR. BRIAN HIGGINBOTHAM, PRINCIPAL



724-343-8430



724-459-7985



106 School Lane
Blairsville, PA 15717

SALTSBURG ELEMENTARY

MRS. KATHY MONKO, PRINCIPAL



724-343-8440



724-639-9322



199 Trojan Lane
Saltsburg, PA 15681

RIVER VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

MR. ERIC WESTENDORF, PRINCIPAL



724-343-8420



724-459-0213



104 School Lane
Blairsville, PA 15717

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

DR. JUSTIN KULIK, PRINCIPAL



724-343-8410



724-459-3392



100 School Lane
Blairsville, PA 15717

RIVER VALLEY STEAM ACADEMY

DR. SHAWNA LITTLE, DIRECTOR



Phone

724-343-3230



Fax

724-639-0071



Address

84 Trojan Lane
Saltsburg, PA 15681

BUILDING INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Office (School Year) | 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM |
| Faculty Hours | 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM |
| Car Rider Student Drop-Off | 8:30 AM - 8:40 AM |
| Instructional Hours | 8:40 AM - 3:10 PM |

Early Release Friday Instructional Hours 8:40 AM - 12:50 PM

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Tardy Time | 8:40 AM |
| Bus Dismissal | 3:10 PM - 3:30 PM |
| Car Rider Pick Up for Typical Dismissal | 3:10 PM (SES) 3:30 PM (BES) |
| Car Rider Pick Up for Early Release Friday Dismissal | 12:50 PM (SES) 1:10 PM (BES) |
| Before School Care | 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM |
| After School Care | 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM |

INCLEMENT WEATHER

When weather conditions make traveling dangerous or when emergencies arise, our schools may be delayed in starting or be closed. You will 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 guidelines will be followed. Parents will be notified via the RVSD Emergency Notification System, the radio, and television stations.

Flexible Instruction Day (FID) – Students will be offered virtual instruction on a modified schedule. Assignments and virtual meetings will be posted in Canvas.

Remote Instruction Day (FID) – Students will be offered virtual instruction on a **regular schedule**. Assignments and virtual meetings will be posted in Canvas.

Snow Day – All school buildings will be closed, and no classes will be held.

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.

In the event that the school bus is unable to safely travel 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 the postponed starting times. For instance, a two-hour delay would result in children reporting between 10:30 AM and 10:40 AM. Please do not drop off your child early, as there is no staff available to supervise students.

BUILDING INFORMATION

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 Board of School Directors.



2025-2026 CALENDAR

River Valley School District
2025-2026 School Year

APPROVED 05/20/2025

| 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 | | | | | | |

ACADEMICS

BASIC CURRICULUM

The full-day Kindergarten program is designed to prepare children academically, emotionally, and socially for the years ahead. This includes attitudes, habits, skills, and interests that are necessary for success in school. The educational program places specific emphasis on readiness for reading and math.

A comprehensive program of instruction is offered in grades K-5. The emphasis in the primary grades (Kindergarten through Second grade) is placed upon reading, spelling, and math and constitutes a large part of the school day. In the intermediate grades (Third Grade through Fifth Grade), additional time is spent on language, social studies, science and technology.

Special subjects such as Music, Physical Education, and Library are offered in grades K-5 on a rotational basis. Band and chorus opportunities are available in grades 4-5. Art is taught by a certificated teacher, and is integrated on a 8-day rotation by semester for students in grades K-5.

Support services may be provided to children who require special help. This specialized educational assistance may be given in the areas of gifted education, vision, speech, auditory, communication, learning support, and emotional support. Parental permission is necessary before children receive any of these support services.

Each student in grades K-5 will be issued an electronic device by the district. Please see the Technology and Network Usage section of this handbook for additional information. The RVSD student information system will be used for district communication. Please be sure the district has updated phone numbers and email addresses for your family.

HOMEWORK

Homework within the River Valley School District is not given as busy work. Homework is to be regarded as practice for work that has been started in school. The student should record the assignment in an assignment book or in a designated place and understand how to do it before leaving the school. Homework will be reviewed or collected by the teacher at a designated time. Refer to District Policy #130.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES


Report cards will be issued at the end of each marking period of school. Refer to District Policies #212 and #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




RVSD 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.

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.

MUSIC LESSONS

Instrumental lessons are available to all students beginning in fourth grade. In the fall, a letter will be sent home with each fourth and fifth grade student and all new students in the district explaining the instrumental music program. Should you decide to have your child learn to play a musical instrument, fill out the form and return it to school. You will be invited to a meeting to determine if your child would like to participate.



RETENTION

Whether or not a child should be retained is a major issue in the child's educational program and, therefore, must be given considerable thought. The physical, mental, social, and emotional maturity, as well as academic achievement, must be carefully weighed. With this in mind, the River Valley School District has adopted the following:

Students shall be identified as possible candidates for retention who:

1. Fail to meet minimum competency levels on standardized tests and other assessments.
2. Fail to meet grade level expectations in reading and math.
3. Accumulate an excessive number of absences from school – impacting student learning and progress.

Students must go through the Child Study Team process before being considered for retention. Also, please note that excessive absences will have a negative impact on your student's academic achievement.

GIFTED SERVICES

Screening and Eligibility Determination

The River Valley School District is committed to working in partnership with school staff, family and the community to serve the needs of our high achieving learners. We advocate for students with outstanding gifts or talents and align our services with the established Pennsylvania State Guidelines provided in Chapter 16. Highly trained gifted instructional coaches support classroom teachers in the development of differentiated instructional activities and assignments. This adds intensity, rigor, relevant, and authentic assessments to meet the continuous growth model for every student.

Parent Request for a Gifted Evaluation

Parents/guardian(s) may request a district evaluation to determine if their child is gifted and in need of specially designed instruction to meet his/her unique learning needs. The performance data will be reviewed at a multidisciplinary team meeting.

The gifted screening and eligibility determination procedures can be found on the district website, under the Gifted Services tab or contact your building guidance counselor.

ELL SERVICES

PROCESS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ELLs:

Upon registration in the River Valley School District, a Home Language Survey (HLS) is completed for all Pre-K through grade 12 students as the first step in identifying a potential ELL (English Language Learner) student.

(*Pre-K students are not addressed until entry into Kindergarten, but noted for possible services.)

FOR AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSES TO THE HLS:

Parents of grade K-12 students who answer “yes” to any of the three HLS questions and/or meet the definition of ELL, are advised that the student will need an assessment of English proficiency to determine eligibility and placement in the district’s ELL Program UNLESS they meet the criteria outlined in the next section. If those criteria are not met, the guidance counselor informs the parents of the need for a language assessment. The student is then referred to the designated ELL assessor at the school. A standard letter is sent to parents with the results of the WIDA exam as well as the recommendation for placement within the ELL program at the district. This information is sent by the ELL coordinator.

SPECIAL EDUCATION/GUIDANCE

It is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure that all children with disabilities residing in the Commonwealth (including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities), and who are in need of special education or related services, are identified, located, and evaluated. This responsibility is required by a federal law called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Amendments of 2004 (IDEA '04). Please refer to page 22 for more information or visit the Special Education tab on the district website.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Reading Specialist: This teacher provides supplemental reading instruction to children who need support to succeed. This support is provided primarily within the regular classroom setting or other designated area.

Math Specialist: This teacher provides supplemental math instruction to children who need support to succeed. This support is provided primarily within the regular classroom setting or other designated area.

Elementary Support Team/Child Study Team: This team provides interventions for students who are in need of support in an academic, social, or behavioral area. This team consists of teachers, guidance counselor, psychologist, school principal, student, parent, or others as deemed necessary. Support may be provided within the classroom setting or other designated areas.

School Psychologist: The certified school psychologist provides building support services. These services may include individual student assessment, Child Study Team assistance, and parent-teacher consultation.

School Counselor: The certified guidance counselor provides academic, social, behavioral, and emotional support services for students. These services may include individual and small-group counseling. The counselor also delivers developmental guidance activities to individual classrooms or small groups.

Paraprofessional: The paraprofessional provides support services under the direction of teachers and the building principal.

Speech/Language Support: Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) provide evaluation and intervention to enhance a student's level of communicative functioning, enabling them to participate effectively in the school environment.

Occupational/Physical Therapist: Supports students' ability to participate in school activities by addressing physical, cognitive, sensory, or motor skills that may impact learning and daily functioning in the educational environment.

REQUESTS FOR STUDENT CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

RVSD Policy #206 defines the guidelines for student classroom assignments. Parent requests for specific teachers shall not be honored. If there are extenuating circumstances that warrant a request, such circumstances should be submitted in writing to the building principal prior to April 1 of the preceding school year. Written requests may not be honored. The final decision regarding a child's placement resides with the principal.

RECESS

Recess provides for a short break in a busy day. Proper behavior is expected from all students while going to the playground, on the playground, and returning from the playground. Improper behavior may result in the loss of recess privileges or other disciplinary measures.

Loss of recess privileges may result due to unfinished assignments or improper behavior within the classroom, if so determined by a teacher, principal, or staff. During winter months, recess may be conducted indoors. Students should find some activity that can be done safely in the classroom. When outdoor recess is conducted, only those students properly dressed for the weather conditions will be permitted to go outside.

The following rules shall apply during recess:

- Pupils are asked to respect the school's property and lawns while at play. Proper areas have been provided, and there is no excuse for the misuse of any of the school property.
- Activities or games considered dangerous by the teacher will not be permitted.
- With the arrival of winter, students are reminded that snowball making/throwing is **not permitted**. Sliding on cement walks, banks, or driveways is also prohibited.
- School personnel assume no responsibility for any personal items students bring to school, including recess.



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. Our automated system will send a message to parents on the day(s) your child is absent.

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Educational trips are a legitimate excuse for being absent from school. Arrangements, reservations, and appointments for such trips are usually made well in advance of the day of the trip. Permission to be excused from school must be granted by the principal prior to the intended absence for the trip to be considered excused.

- A written request must be submitted for approval for an educational trip. The Educational Trip Request form must be submitted **one week** in advance of the intended absence. Educational Trip Request forms are available in the office and on the district website.
- **Educational trips will not be permitted during the administration of the PSSA tests or Final Assessments.**
- Requests in excess of five (5) days, not school-sponsored, will be determined based upon the student's attendance and academic record.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Classroom instruction is provided until 3:10 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's 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. **Parents must sign students out in the log book.**

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



TARDY AND EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES

Students are tardy upon entering the building after 8:40 AM. **Parents must sign in tardy students and present a written excuse for the tardiness.**

| Code | Typical Elementary Time | Early Release Friday |
|------------------|---|---|
| Tardy* | Arrival time between 8:40 AM - 12:00 PM | Arrival time between 8:40 AM - 10:50 AM |
| 1/2 Day - AM | Arrival time after 12:00 PM | Arrival time after 10:50 AM |
| 1/2 Day - PM | Departure time before 12:00 PM | Departure time before 10:50 AM |
| Early Dismissal* | Departure time between 12:00 PM and 3:10 PM | Departure time after 10:50 AM |

EXCUSED ABSENCE

A student's absence will be recorded as excused if the absence occurred due to legitimate reasons as determined by the principal, based upon review of a written excuse, provided within three (3) days of the student's return from absence.

The district will require a doctor's excuse for every absence after ten (10) days. The district reserves the right to require a doctor's excuse for any questionable period of absence. Failure or refusal to supply a valid doctor's excuse will result in an **unlawful absence**. Any altered physician's certificates will be considered illegal and may be referred to the authorities.

ILLEGAL ABSENCE

An illegal absence is recorded as a result of:

- The student's failure to submit a written excuse from his or her parent or guardian indicating the reason for the absence within three (3) days of his or her return to school.
- An unacceptable reason for the absence.

Excessive absences, whether excused or illegal, will have a negative impact on your student's academic achievement.

STUDENT PRESENCE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

At the close of the school day, for both the safety and security of the elementary building, no middle or high school student is permitted to enter the elementary school after the middle or high school dismissal except by special permission of the building principal or office staff.

Students are not permitted to enter the building before 8:30 a.m. No early drop-off of students will be permitted.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS

The board shall enroll school-age students eligible to attend district schools, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, board policy, and administrative regulations. Refer to Policy #200.

ADMISSION OF BEGINNERS

To enter your child in either kindergarten or the first grade, the following requirements must be met:

- The child must be five years old on or before September 1 of the school year in which he or she enters kindergarten.
- The child must be six years old on or before September 1 of the school year in which he or she enters grade one.

DOCUMENTATION OF AGE

The law requires that a parent or guardian show duly-certified evidence of the age of all children entering school for the first time. Documentation of age may be satisfied by: birth certificate, baptismal certificate indicating date of birth, notarized statement from the parent indicating date of birth, or certified transcript of birth which appears satisfactory to the local school, if the above proofs are not available. *This information must be presented to and recorded by school personnel on the enrollment form.*

VERIFICATION OF IMMUNIZATION

The law requires that a parent or guardian show duly-certified evidence of specific immunization shots for all children entering school. This is in accordance to District Policy #203.

All students, kindergarten through twelfth grade, must provide proof of immunization prior to being admitted to school:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (One dose shall be administered on or after the 4th birthday.)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after the 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 2 doses of Measles vaccine
- 2 doses of Rubella vaccine
- 2 doses of Mumps vaccine
- 2 doses of Varicella (Chicken Pox) or evidence of immunity

VERIFICATION OF IMMUNIZATION

All students entering seventh grade must provide proof of immunization prior to being admitted to school:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis on the first day of 7th grade
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine on the first day of 7th grade

All students entering twelfth grade must provide proof of immunization prior to being admitted to school:

- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine on the first day of 12th grade. If one dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the twelfth-grade dose.

If your child has not received the proper shots, please make arrangements with your family physician to have this done as soon as possible. If there is any medical reason why your child should not be fully immunized, please bring a certificate from your physician stating the reason. If you object to immunizations for religious reasons, the State requires that you sign a form to this effect at school.

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.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

The parent of a student transferring from the River Valley School District must follow these guidelines:

1. Before transferring, provide the elementary office with the following information: last day of attendance at school, name and address of the new school.
2. Upon request from the new school, all student academic and health records will be mailed or faxed.
3. Before leaving school, return all books and classroom supplies to the teacher. Please verify that all outstanding school debts (cafeteria, library, PTA/PTO, etc.) have been paid prior to your child's last day in attendance.



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.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION EXPECTATIONS

In order to establish a safe and efficient school bus transportation program, the following rules and regulations have been established:

1. Students are required to be at their bus stop at least five (5) minutes prior to their established pickup time. If a student is not standing at the bus stop location, the bus is not required to stop.
2. Students may have a maximum of two (2) bus stops/routes during the AM bus route and a maximum of two (2) bus stops/routes during the PM bus route, provided the parent/guardian receives permission from the district.
3. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to communicate with the school office in advance when a student follows a rotating bus schedule between previously approved stops.
4. Bus stops/routes must remain consistent, week-to-week, throughout the entire school year. The exception will be if a student moves to a new residence. Please notify the school office ASAP in the event of a change of address.
5. Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than the assigned bus without written permission from the school office. Bus passes will only be issued for a student to ride a bus other than the assigned bus if it is determined by the building principal to be necessary for campus-based academic purposes or for the safety and well-being of the student.
6. As per District Policy #810:
 - a. Pre-K students may NOT ride elementary or secondary bus routes.
 - b. Elementary students may NOT ride Pre-K or secondary bus routes.
 - c. Secondary students may NOT ride Pre-K or elementary bus routes.
7. Kindergarten parents are required to have a designated individual at the bus stop to receive their kindergarten student or designate another student riding the bus to take the student off the bus. A limit of four (4) designees, including the parents/guardians, will be permitted for each student. One of the designated individuals receiving a student from the bus must be at the bus stop to receive the student. **In the event of an emergency, if you are unable to get to the bus stop or have someone at the bus stop, please call Smith Bus Company at 724-459-6930 to have your child remain on the bus and taken back to after school care at the elementary school. Please know your child's bus route number.*
8. Students should board the bus and remain seated throughout the bus ride. Students will receive assigned seating and must sit in that seat for the entire school year OR until the bus driver reassigns seats.
9. Students are not permitted to throw anything out the windows or within the bus. Hands, arms, and head are to be kept inside the bus at all times.
10. Students are expected to listen to the bus driver and follow his/her directions. Talk quietly so the driver is not distracted. Students are not permitted to use vulgarity on the bus.
11. Students must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop before making an attempt to get off the bus. DO NOT walk in the aisle while the bus is still moving.
12. Food or drink is only permitted on the school bus at the discretion of the bus driver.

Failure of students to comply with the above will cause disciplinary actions.

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 disciplinary measures may occur:

- Loss of privilege/activity/recess
- 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

Please refer to the BES/SES information distributed at the beginning of the year and on the school building website for drop-off and pick-up procedures. These procedures are subject to change.

Drop-Off Procedure: In the morning, parents should plan to drop off children between 8:30 AM and 8:40 AM. Please do not drive through or park in the bus lane when dropping off children. PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE WHEN DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILD.

Pick-Up Procedure: If your child will not be riding the bus home, he/she will be dismissed as a car rider after all buses have departed.

- Please provide a note that they need to be dismissed as a car rider.
- Phone calls requesting that a child be added to the car rider list are not guaranteed after 2:15 PM on a typical school day and after 10:45 AM on an early release day.
- PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE WHEN PICKING UP YOUR CHILD.



CHILD PICK-UP DURING SCHOOL HOURS

The 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.

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.

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 River Valley School District offers hot, wholesome, and well-planned meals. We encourage parents to allow their children to eat school meals. However, children may choose to eat breakfast at home and/or carry their own lunches. Milk, juice, and nutritious snacks can be purchased on a daily basis for those that choose to carry their lunch.

The free meals (breakfast and lunch) will be provided for all students for the 2025-2026 school year. Questions regarding meals and cafeteria procedures may be addressed to the Food Service Director at 724-459-5500, ext. 2114.

When a student owes money for ala carte items, the district shall make at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent/guardian. Reasonable efforts shall be made by the district to collect unpaid charges from parents/guardians. Outstanding bills may be referred to the district magistrate.

EXPECTED CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR

Breakfast and lunch are designated times for students to relax, enjoy a nourishing meal, and socialize with friends. In order to maintain an orderly atmosphere, it is expected that students follow these rules:

1. Be respectful to the cafeteria staff, supervising staff, and peers.
2. Remain in the cafeteria and stay seated. Students are excused with permission of the supervising staff member only.
3. Use proper table manners.
4. Eat only from their own lunches.
5. Talk quietly.
6. Clean their areas and put their trash in the trash can when finished.
7. Walk at all times. No running.
8. Line-cutting or other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Delivery of food or the bringing of food by parents or guardians from an outside vendor (restaurant or fast food) to the school for lunch is not permitted.

Eating in the cafeteria is a privilege, not a right. Student misuse of breakfast and lunchtime may result in the loss of cafeteria privileges. When a child chooses to continue misbehaving, he or she may be suspended from school or incur other appropriate disciplinary measures at the discretion of the principal.

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS/STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) are issued to each student for meals. Please help your child learn his/her PIN. Parents may deposit money into a student's account to purchase ala carte items. If you do not want your child to charge these, please inform the cafeteria in writing. You may contact the cafeteria personnel 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 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.

Detention:

Students assigned detention will be required to attend before and/or 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 at 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.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right not to be physically or verbally bothered by another. They also have the responsibility to attend school regularly, do their best in classroom work, and obey the school's rules.

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.

Students not adhering to the dress guidelines will be required to modify their dress, or parents will be called to make arrangements for an appropriate change of clothing.

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 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 extracurricular 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

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 to keep students safety-conscious.

Phone Check: In the interest of safety, when a child is absent from school, we may phone the home (or other designated location) to confirm that the child is home.

GUM CHEWING

Gum chewing is not permitted in school. This includes lunch periods and play periods. If a student requires Aspergum or some other chewable medication, a note from home is necessary.

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 724-459-5500 x4216 (Blairsville) or 724-639-3556 (Saltsburg).

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 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 the number of pills or amount of liquid to be taken, is required. Only the amount of medication necessary should be sent to school.

SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATIONS

The following examination information is in accordance to District Policy #209.

Current school health regulations require that a school nurse conduct height and weight measurements of students annually. The revised procedures now require the nurse to calculate Body Mass Index (BMI). BMI is a "weight for stature" index that can be used to determine whether a student is within a normal growth pattern, overweight, or at risk of being either overweight or underweight. A letter will be mailed home for all students stating their BMI percentile.

Physical Examinations:

- Original Entry to School, 6th, and 11th grades
- Special (requested by school nurse)
- Those absent from previous year's exam

Hearing Screenings:

- K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 11th, and known problems.
- At the request of parent, faculty, etc.
- Threshold test for all who fail the screening test.

Dental Examinations:

- Original entry to school, 3rd & 7th grade
- Those absent for previous year's exam

Vision Screening:

- Every student every year, as specified in the School Code or at the request of parent, faculty, etc.

Height & Weight:

- Every student/every year – Body Mass Index (BMI)

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND EXCLUSION PERIODS

WHOOPING COUGH

Four (4) weeks from the onset of illness or seven days from antimicrobial therapy.

MEASLES

Four (4) days from onset of illness.

GERMAN MEASLES

Four (4) days after the appearance of the rash.

CHICKEN POX

Six (6) days from the last crop of vesicles.

MUMPS

Nine (9) days from onset, fever and swelling have subsided.

RESPIRATORY STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS, INCLUDING SCARLET FEVER

Not less than seven (7) days from the onset if no physician is in attendance or 24 hours for the institution of appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

Infectious Conditions

Persons who have been excused or absent from school due to suspicion or evidence of pink eye, impetigo, head lice, body lice, scabies, or ringworm will not be re-admitted until they consult with the school nurse. This is in accordance with District Policy #209.2.

With the changing guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, please refer to the district website for the most up-to-date information and recommendations.

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.**

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

A student may need to be “temporarily excused” from compulsory attendance due to illness; therefore, receive Homebound Instruction. A request for such instruction should be made to the principal and will require a doctor's statement specifying the nature of the illness and the probable duration must accompany this request. This temporary excusal is for a period not to exceed 90 days. Forms are available in the principal's office. Refer to District Policy #204.

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 | Yogurt |
| Cheese | Lite popcorn |
| Jello cups | Frozen juice bars |
| Dried fruit | Applesauce |
| Pretzels | Fruit cups |
| Vegetables | Raisins |
| Baked chips | Whole grain cookies, crackers, cereals |

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.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

PTA/PTO

The Parent-Teacher Association (Saltsburg) and Parent-Teacher Organization (Blairsville) are active and supportive of our elementary schools. All parents are encouraged to become members of these worthwhile organizations. Contact the school for further information. All PTA/PTO fundraising activities will benefit the children.

PTA/PTO SPONSORED PARTIES

PTA/PTO-sponsored parties for students are held three (3) times per year. They will include Harvest/Fall, Christmas/Holiday, and Valentine's Day. Homeroom parents will be involved in the planning/supervision of these parties. As long as pandemic guidelines permit, a few parents will be permitted to enter classrooms at the designated times. Older and younger siblings are not permitted to attend elementary school parties. Parents must obey all visitation and parking regulations.

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.

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 photograph lessons in the classroom that may involve your child.

If you do not wish to have your child(ren) photographed and 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 of 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. (Refer to District Policy #216.2.)

PRE-K COUNTS PROGRAM

The River Valley School District is proud to have a Pre-K Counts program which is housed in our Early Childhood Learning Academy. Students ages 3-5 (not eligible for Kindergarten enrollment) are permitted to attend. Enrollment eligibility is based on meeting income standards. Further details are included in application packets that are available in each of the district's elementary schools.



NOTICES

ASSURANCE OF CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

The School Food Authority hereby agrees that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.); all provisions required by the implementing regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Department of Justice Enforcement Guidelines and USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) directives and guidelines to the effect that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the School Food Authority received Federal Financial assistance from FNS; and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take measures necessary to effectuate this Agreement.

By providing this assurance, the School Food Authority agrees to compile data, maintain records and submit reports as required to permit effective enforcement of the nondiscrimination laws and permit Department and/or USDA personnel during normal working hours to review such records, books and accounts as needed to ascertain compliance with the nondiscrimination laws. If there are any violations of this assurance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance.

This assurance is binding on the School Food Authority, its successors, transferees and assignees as long as it receives assistance or retains possession of any assistance from USDA.

RVSD NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The River Valley School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices in accordance with federal and state statutes and regulations.

For information regarding civil rights, grievance procedures or services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the building principal.



GIFTED SERVICES

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND SERVICES FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES

The River Valley School District is committed to working in partnership with school staff, family and the community to serve the needs of our high achieving learners. We advocate for students with outstanding gifts or talents and align our services with the established Pennsylvania State Guidelines provided in Chapter 16. Highly trained gifted instructional coaches support classroom teachers in the development of differentiated instructional activities and assignments. This adds intensity, rigor, relevant, and dynamic, authentic assessments to meet the continuous growth model for every student.

Parent Request for a Gifted Evaluation

Parents/guardian(s) may request a district evaluation to determine if their child is gifted and in need of specially designed instruction to meet his/her unique learning needs. The performance data will be reviewed at a multidisciplinary team meeting.

The **GIFTED SCREENING & ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCEDURES** can be found on the district website, under the Gifted Services tab or contact your building guidance counselor.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, SERVICES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS, AND SERVICES FOR PROTECTED STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Notice to Parents

According to state and federal special education regulations, annual public notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding child find responsibilities. School districts and intermediate units are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled Implementation of Chapter 15. Also, school districts are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence. All of this information can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education website: www.pde.state.pa.us.

This notice shall inform parents throughout the school district and intermediate unit of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities or eligible young children. In addition to this public notice, each school district and intermediate unit shall publish written information in the handbook and on the website. Children ages three through twenty-one can be eligible for special education programs and services. If parents believe that their child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact their district of residence.



Children age three through the age of admission to first grade are also eligible if they have developmental delays and, as a result, need Special Education and related services. Developmental delay is defined as a child who is less than the age of beginners and at least three years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) The child's score, on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas, or (ii) The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional and self-help. For additional information contact the intermediate unit.

Evaluation Process

Each school district and/or intermediate unit has a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. For information about procedures applicable to your child, contact the school which your child attends. Parents of preschool age children, age three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the Early Intervention Program Supervisor, ARIN Intermediate Unit 28, 2895 W Pike, Indiana, PA 15701.

Consent

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or with the initial provision of special education and related services without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice which can be found at the PaTTAN website at www.pattan.net. Once written parental consent is obtained, the school district or intermediate unit will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent educational evaluation at public expense.

Program Development

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and the parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district staff or intermediate unit staff will issue a notice of recommended educational placement/prior written notice. Your written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

Confidentiality of Information

The school districts and to some extent the intermediate unit maintain records concerning children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Your consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction states. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information.

In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), and Keystone Exam related materials:

- PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets.
- PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA media recordings will be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment.

For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the FERPA at the following URL: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.

This notice is only a summary of the special education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. For more information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact the responsible entity listed below. For preschool age children, information, screenings and evaluations requested, may be obtained by contacting the intermediate unit.

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.

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.

USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited basis will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.

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. If you suspect bullying, please contact your building administrator immediately.

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.

***All River Valley School District policies can be
found on the district website at
www.rivervalleyisd.org.***



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

102 School Lane
Blairsville, PA 15717
T: 724-459-5500
F: 724-459-9209

STUDENT RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY

The following signoff represents acknowledgement and an agreement to abide by the responsibilities and guidelines laid out in this document.

- Using your device is a privilege, and with any privilege comes with responsibility. Here are the expectations when you are using school issued devices.

How should I use technology?

- I will use my device when a teacher asks me during class, during my own study time or during breaks.
- I will put my devices away when a teacher says it is time for a device break.
- I will take care of any school issued device as if they were my own.

What should I do with technology?

- I will use my device to learn new things.
- I will check information to verify that it is true.
- I will give credit to the creators of content that is not mine.

How should I interact with other people?

- I will be a good cyber-friend, including being honest and kind online.
- I will let a teacher or parent know before contacting someone online I don't already know.
- I will **NOT** share personal information (home address, birthday, user credentials) about myself or others online.
- I will give feedback and comments in ways that make others feel supported.
- I will use appropriate language and won't make others feel uncomfortable because of the things I say.

What happens when something goes wrong?

- When I do something that is not in line with this agreement, I will talk to a teacher or a trusted adult who will help me figure out how to make it right.
- I will immediately stop and tell a trusted adult if anything happens on the computer or online that does not seem right or makes me feel uncomfortable.

(keep this portion)



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

102 School Lane
Blairsville, PA 15717
T: 724-459-5500
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STUDENT DEVICE GUIDELINES/RESPONSIBILITIES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

The following signoff represents acknowledgement and an agreement to abide by guidelines in this documentation and Policy 815 that includes but is not limited to Device Guidelines, Responsibilities, Security, and Pricing for damaged/missing parts on a device.

General Guidelines

- Student devices are issued as a loaned educational device that is owned by the River Valley School District
- Students and Families are to assume all financial responsibility for damaged/lost hardware
- Signatures apply for the duration of attendance at the River Valley School District

Security

- Student password confidentiality must be maintained at all times
- Students are not permitted to change their login credentials or password at any time
- Any attempt to remove tracking information from the device will be flagged as an attempt to steal the districts device
 - If tracking information is deliberately torn off of the device, you will be invoiced for the entire device as it is now unusable and must be replaced

Responsibilities

- If the device is missing or has been stolen, it should be reported to the office immediately
- Students are responsible for bringing their charged device to school on a daily basis
- Defacing the device in any way will result in an invoice for the affected parts, entire device, or any other hardware that cannot be restored.
 - Defacing includes but is not limited to placing stickers on the device, drawing on the device with a writing utensil, peeling off identification tags including the Serial Number and Asset Management Tag, and the removal of trim/rubber bezels on the device
- It is the students responsibility to use the device for educational purposes only
- Any attempt to bypass content filtering mechanisms will result in disciplinary action

Device damage assessment is determined at the discretion of the technology staff at the River Valley School District

(keep this portion)



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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STUDENT DEVICE GUIDELINES/RESPONSIBILITIES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

The following signoff represents acknowledgement of an agreement to accept the terms of the RVSD Responsible Use Policy and Student Device Guidelines listed on the Student Device Guidelines and Responsibilities form.

Student

I, _____, have read and understand that using any school technology is a privilege I must earn. If I do not keep my part of this agreement, I understand that privileges may be removed for a time and that I may face additional consequences. My parent/guardian has also reviewed it with me. In addition, I have been given the opportunity to obtain information from the School District and my parent(s) about anything I do not understand, and I have received the information I requested. If I have further questions, I will ask a teacher or administrator. Additionally, I understand that if I violate the policy, I am subject to the School District's discipline and could be subject to District, local, state and Federal legal recourse.

Student Signature

Date

Parent

I, _____, as the parent/guardian of a student in the River Valley School District, have read and understand the Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources Policy #815. In addition, I reviewed this policy with my child and answered questions he or she asked. If either my child or I have further questions, I will contact the school. I agree to have my child abide by the requirements of the policy. Additionally, I understand that if my child is found in violation of the policy, my student and/or I may be subject to the School District's discipline and could be subject to District, local, state and Federal legal recourse.

Parent Signature

Date

If you do not have access to this Policy information online, please contact the school main office to request a hard copy of all information. Also, if you wish to change your acceptance marked above at any time, a new form must be requested and completed by the parent/guardian.

Building: _____
Date of Enrollment (if new): _____
Graduation Year: _____

For Office Use Only Grade: _____
Student ID Number: _____
Homeroom: _____

(return this portion)



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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OPTIONAL DEVICE INSURANCE PROGRAM

The River Valley School District utilizes Chromebook devices as part of our Technology Plan. This gives every person an opportunity to thrive in this ever-changing 21st-century learning environment. Our commitment to offering affordable and accessible technology to everyone will be demonstrated through our Optional Device Insurance Program.

This Insurance Program applies to all students and faculty in the district who have agreed to abide by the River Valley School District's 815 Acceptable Use Policy, the student device guidelines, and have been issued a Chromebook device.

Optional Device Insurance Program Guidelines

Device insurance is available for purchase through the River Valley School District.

If device insurance has been purchased through the River Valley School District, the person in which the insurance has been purchased for is entitled to a **ONE-TIME REPAIR UP TO SCREEN REPLACEMENT. INSURANCE CANNOT BE USED TO REPLACE A DESTROYED DEVICE.**

The policy applies to the student/faculty member and their issued device. Insurance can not be used on another individual's device. Insurance **MAY NOT** be purchased after the enrollment dates.

Once a device has been repaired under a device insurance policy, the policy is exhausted for the school year. You will not be able to purchase device insurance until the next school year. The prices on the Student Device Guidelines/Employee Policy 815 Consent Form documentation will apply after the policy has been exhausted.

Optional Insurance Form:

This table outlines the replacement costs for any hardware that's used throughout the district. By signing below, you agree to the costs of replacement hardware.

*** Prices differ on this form by model ***

| Model Type: | Device: | Keyboard: | Screen: | Top Case: | Charger: |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| S330, 100e Gen 1&2 | \$199.00 | \$40.00 | \$75.00 | \$40.00 | \$25.00 |
| 300e Gen 1&2 | \$265.00 | \$50.00 | \$100.00 | \$40.00 | \$25.00 |
| 300e Gen 3&4 | \$350.00 | \$60.00 | \$125.00 | \$50.00 | \$25.00 |



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OPTIONAL DEVICE INSURANCE PROGRAM

Chromebook Insurance

Open enrollment for device insurance will last from **July 28, 2025 - September 12, 2025.**

The optional device insurance program can be purchased with a check or cash at the main office or by scanning the QR code below for online payments.

Here are the current costs of the River Valley School District's device insurance:

One Person- \$60
Two People - \$80
Three or More People - \$120

Please make checks payable to:

River Valley School District
Attn: Joy Watt
102 School Lane
Blairsville, PA 15717

Scan for Online Payment



☐ **I am choosing the insurance and have enclosed a check made out to the River Valley School District or have paid using the online payment portal.**

☐ **I do not wish to purchase insurance and understand that I am financially obligated for any and all repairs to my student(s) device.**

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Parent Signature: _____

*** PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION ***



2025-2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Student Name _____

Homeroom # and Teacher _____

The River Valley School District promotes cooperation and communication between home and school. When students know what is expected of them, they can be more successful. When parents know these same expectations, they can better guide their children and help them to be successful in the school environment. The students have been informed of the importance of the contents of this Student Handbook, as well as the Discipline and Attendance policies and the Computer Policy & Security Agreement.

As a student in the River Valley School District, I have been given the opportunity to examine and review the content in this handbook. I also understand that I am assumed to be a user of district technology and am accountable to the district's computer policy and security agreement terms, unless permission to access network computer services is denied by my parent/guardian. I agree to abide by all terms and conditions stated within this handbook. I also understand that any changes to the content of this handbook may be made by the administration with reasonable notice.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

As a parent/guardian in the River Valley School District, I have been given the opportunity to examine and review the content in this handbook. I understand that my child is assumed to be a user of district technology and is subject to terms of the district's computer policy and security agreement unless I request, in writing, that he/she does not have access to network computer services.

I understand that my child may be filmed or photographed in the classroom environment unless I request, in writing, that s/he may not be filmed/photographed for any reason. This can be done by completing a form that is located on the school website and is titled River Valley Photography Opt-out form.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

If you are unable to access the handbook electronically from the district website, you may contact the school office for a paper copy. All students will still be responsible for all information contained in the Student Handbook.

***This signed Handbook Acknowledgment form is due back to your homeroom teacher by
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025***