



River Valley School District Athletics and Student Activities

102 School Lane • Blairsville, PA 15717 • www.rivervalleyisd.org

Dr. Justin Kulik - High School Principal
Mr. Eric Westendorf - Middle School Principal
Ms. Tiara Stossel - Athletic Director
Mr. Geoff Dixon - Athletic Director
Mr. Jason Dieter - RVSD Director of Security

Dear River Valley Families,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well and enjoying a safe and engaging summer. As we prepare for the start of the new school year, I want to inform you of important new guidelines that will take effect immediately regarding student attendance at after-school events. **Effective at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, all students in grades K-8 who attend any after-school event (such as sporting events, concerts, or other after school functions) must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible adult.**

Why These Guidelines Are Being Implemented

This decision has been made with thoughtful consideration and is rooted in our continued commitment to student **safety**, **appropriate supervision**, and **respectful behavior** at school-sponsored events. While many students behave responsibly, we have experienced an increase in situations where young children were left unsupervised, leading to safety concerns and behavioral issues that distract from the purpose of these gatherings. **Key reasons for the new guidelines include:**

- **Safety:** After-school events often take place in larger, more public settings. Unaccompanied children may be at greater risk of getting lost or injured without direct adult oversight.
- **Supervision:** Our staff and event volunteers are focused on managing the event itself and cannot take on the role of supervising unattended children.
- **Behavioral Expectations:** Students are expected to maintain the same standards of conduct at events as they do during the school day. Adult presence helps reinforce appropriate behavior and provides immediate support if issues arise.

What This Means for Families

- **Attendance at events remains encouraged and welcome**—we love seeing our students and their families engaged in the life of our school community!
- **Students in grades K-8 must be accompanied** by an adult who remains on-site for the duration of the event.
- **High school students (grades 9-12)** may continue to attend events unaccompanied, but they will be expected to follow all behavioral guidelines.

We understand this may require adjustments for some families, and we appreciate your cooperation in ensuring our after-school events remain safe, positive, and family-friendly.

Important Reminders

- Children dropped off without an adult will not be admitted to the event and will be asked to wait with staff until a guardian is contacted.
- Please communicate clearly with your child's school if you have questions or concerns regarding event attendance.
- These guidelines apply to all after-school events, regardless of whether they are held indoors or outdoors, at the school or at another district-affiliated location.

We appreciate your support and partnership in making our school events safe and enjoyable for all. If you have questions about these guidelines, please don't hesitate to reach out to your building principal.