



R. J. Vial Elementary School

Christina Mullins, Principal
Shannon Madden, Assistant Principal

Jaguar Journal 

September 2025

 Welcome Back Jaguars 

Principal's Message

Aloha, Jaguar Families! 

Welcome to paradise! We're so excited to start the 2025-2026 school year with you here at R.J. Vial Elementary! It's going to be a year full of sunshine, growth, and good vibes. Your support is the gentle breeze that helps us sail smoothly, and we're so grateful to have you on this journey with us.

We believe that open communication is the key to creating a beautiful paradise. You can stay connected with us through our weekly Blackboard Connect calls, emails, text messages, and School Status updates. Be sure to check our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all the latest island news and important announcements.

At R.J. Vial Elementary, we're dedicated to creating a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere where every student feels like they belong. Our supportive, family-like environment is what makes our school a true paradise of learning!

Thank you for being part of our island paradise and helping us celebrate 50 years of serving our Jaguar students, families, and community! 

Dream it - Believe it - Achieve it!

Christina Mullins
Principal



Follow us:



Instagram @rjvialementaryschool
Facebook @rjvialementaryschool

St. Charles Parish Public Schools
School Issue 1

UPCOMING 

EVENTS

Monday, September 1st

Wednesday, September 3rd
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Friday, September 5th
7 Mindsets Kickoff
Jaguar Fest—ALL students attend

Monday, September 8th
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm
4H 3:50pm-5:00pm

Wednesday, September 10th
Student of the Year Applications due @9:00am
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm
Wetland Watchers Night @RJV 6:00pm

Monday, September 15th
Fall Fundraiser Kickoff
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Wednesday, September 17th
Professional Learning Day
No School for Students

Thursday, September 18th
RJV Parent Coffee
9:30am-10:30am

Friday, September 19th
Book Club During Enrichment

Monday, September 22nd
Parents / Guardians may begin eating lunch with their students during grade level lunch period.
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Wednesday, September 24th
Fall Yearbook Pictures (Students must wear school uniform)
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Thursday, September 25th
Art Club During Enrichment

Friday, September 26th
Snowball Sale \$3.00

Monday, September 29th
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Another Day IN Paradise



School Picture Day!

SCHOOL: R.J. Vial Elementary School

PHOTO DAY IS: September 24, 2025

Parents,

This is a prepaid portrait program. An order form with package pricing will be given out prior to school portrait day. Packages are only produced for students who pre-pay (online or with the order form). Please turn in the order form the morning of portraits. Thank you for preserving your child's memory for years to come!

ONLINE SPECIAL

Spend \$40 get 1-8x10 for only \$1.99

Order Online



Scan here to skip steps 1-3
when ordering online!

To Purchase Online:

1. Visit barberitophotographers.com
2. Click on "Order Now"
3. Click on "School Day Portraits"
4. Enter your school's code
5. Enter the school code again in the gallery password (make sure it's in all caps), your email & click login

SCHOOL CODE: RJVSD25



BARBERITO
PHOTOGRAPHERS

CONTACT@BARBERITOPHOTOGRAPHERS.COM

504.455.6818

BARBERITOPHOTOGRAPHERS.COM



Asbestos Hazard Response Act Management Plan

Notice: In 1986 all asbestos materials were identified in all school buildings. A management plan was developed for each school as per the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The management plan is located in a binder in the main office of each school. The binders are available for review upon request.

Since the plan was developed, most of the asbestos has been removed. In a few buildings, some tile still remains that contains asbestos. All of the schools meet the health requirements that pertain to the regulation. If you have questions concerning this topic, please contact Kevin Barney, Director of Physical Plant Maintenance at 985-331-3600 between the hours of 7:00a.m. and 4:00p.m.

 **R.J. Vial Elementary** 

Vision, Mission, Values and Beliefs

VISION

All stakeholders at R. J. Vial Elementary School work collaboratively to equip each student with the knowledge, motivation, and skills to become academically, emotionally, and socially ready for the future.

MISSION

The mission of R. J. Vial Elementary School is to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students.

VALUES / BELIEFS

1. Education is our top priority.
2. Communication and collaboration between school, home, and community increase student achievement and engagement.
3. Students and staff members engage in rigorous and relevant learning opportunities.
4. Effective collaboration among teachers provides high-quality instruction that allows students and teachers to achieve at greater levels.



A big congratulations to our **R.J. Vial Student of the Year Nominees!** These students represent our school with pride and set a great example through their hard work and positive attitude.



Mila Cabibi, Brooklyn Capitano, Bella Comardelle, Peydon Comardelle, Ezekiel Cortez, Benton Dufrene, Kylie Dufrene, Mia Frickey, Alec Gonzalez, Alijah Gonzalez, Cameron Hebert, Liam LaPlante, Eva Madere, Mignon Matherne, Tristan Matherne, Kolton Meadors, Emalee Rawls, Beau Sassin, Adelynn Schexsnayder, Cora Sellers, Gabriel Stempel, Ava Strength, Marianna Stroup, Mariah Williams

August Students of the Month

The R. J. Vial students of the month are chosen based upon qualities including character, leadership, and citizenship. Students of the month must demonstrate an effort to learn subjects to the best of his or her ability, be prepared for class, and participate in class. R. J. Vial students of the month demonstrate excellent behavior in and out of the classroom, are well-mannered, and are respectful to both peers and teachers.



3rd Grade: Emma Naquin

4th Grade: Ava Elliott

5th Grade: Kimberlei Chester



R. J. Vial Employee of the Month

Faculty and staff at R. J. Vial Elementary nominated Mrs. Rhondell Robert for Employee of the Month!

Here are just some of the reasons she was nominated:

“Mrs. Robert has been instrumental in helping our faculty/staff start the new year strong, supporting staff with logistics, technology, and resources—all with a positive spirit. In her new role as Staff Development Coordinator, she has excelled as a presenter, bringing fresh ideas and resources for our faculty and staff members. We are proud to recognize her as R.J. Vial’s Employee of the Month!”



Congratulations!

3rd Grade

In science, third graders will be learning how to prevent a storm from becoming a disaster. In Module 1, students will form their understanding of weather conditions and severe weather. We will learn that weather conditions and severe weather happen in predictable patterns and remain stable over time. Students will use their prior knowledge of hurricanes and lessons about the 1900 Galveston Hurricane to enhance their learning. We will also learn how to prepare for severe weather. We will learn that people need to be prepared for severe weather in order to protect life and property.



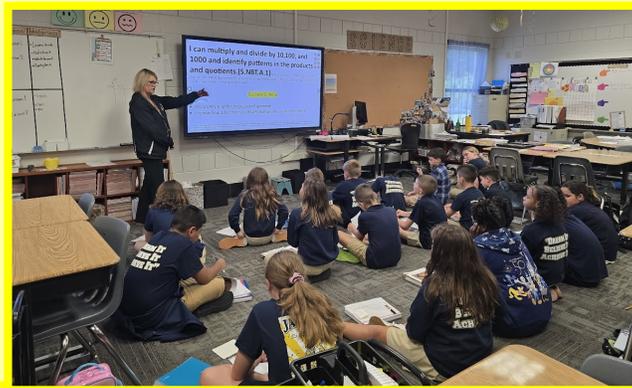
4TH GRADE

We are busy in fourth grade! Our students are learning about the 7 Mindsets, multiplicative comparisons, and features of the Grand Canyon. Fourth graders are setting goals and creating classroom rules that will help them have a successful school year.



5TH GRADE

Welcome to paradise! This month, our young explorers have officially begun their 5th-grade journey, and what a magnificent voyage it's been. They are continuing to fine-tune their navigation skills, practicing the expectations and procedures that will ensure a smooth and successful school year. In ELA, our students have set sail with the captivating tale, *The Birchbark House*, diving into its rich history and compelling characters. For Social Studies, we have traveled back in time to the fascinating world of Medieval Europe. Meanwhile, our budding scientists are exploring a captivating phenomenon by asking, "Why did the Statue of Liberty change color?" In Math, our 5th graders are fully immersed in the Eureka Squared curriculum. In Module 1, "Fractions Are Numbers," they are solidifying their knowledge of the place value system and performing multi digit multiplication and division of whole numbers.





ART NEWS



Welcome Jaguars in Paradis(e)! We are celebrating R. J. Vial's 50th year anniversary as a school. Our art has been inspired by paradise and beach themes. All students are beginning to draw and color their new art portfolios for the 2025-2026 school year. Our elements of art we are using to decorate our portfolios are mostly lines, shapes, and colors. Our first project will be to design a "Hawaiian or Paradise" shirt that someone would wear on vacation to a beach. I am looking forward to helping your child develop their creativity and imagination through art.

Art Club this year will be exclusively for fourth and fifth graders. Next week, your student will receive a slip of paper if he/she made it into Art Club. Remember, only 20 students from each grade level will be accepted. Please email me at dkrobert@wearescpps.org if you have any questions or concerns.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



As the new school year gets underway, all students will be completing the **Fitnessgram assessment** during their physical education classes. The Fitnessgram is designed to give students valuable insight into their individual fitness levels. Results will show whether a student falls within the *Healthy Fitness Zone* or highlight areas where improvement may be needed. This information helps each student set personal goals and track their progress toward lifelong health and wellness.



LIBRARY

The library is open! Students will visit the library with their class, during morning meeting, afternoon circle, or independent reading to check out books. Each student may check out up to three books per week unless they owe library materials to the RJV library or any other SCPPS library. Notices will be sent home for any outstanding balances. Please remind your child to use library etiquette and take good care of their books, as students are responsible for any items lost or damaged. In addition to physical books, students can access the library catalog, Follett Destiny Discover, through Clever. From there, they can explore resources such as Worldbook Online (sign in through Google or rjvial, jaguars), Pebble Go Next (rjvial, jaguars), Flipster magazines, MackinVia (rjvial, jaguars), Gale Resources (no sign-in required), and Lightbox (rjvstudent, jaguars). Have a great year, and don't forget to read good book in paradise!



The R.J. Vial Bands are getting back into the swing of things and are ready to work on becoming wonderful musicians!



Jaguar CHORIR

We're excited to kick off another joyful, music-filled year with the RJV Jaguar Choir! Whether your child is returning or joining us for the first time, we're thrilled to have them singing with us. In Choir, students will explore a variety of musical styles, learn vocal techniques, and grow as performers and teammates. Along the way, we'll build confidence as we prepare for exciting performances throughout the year.

Stay tuned for updates on performance dates and ways you can support our singers.



SCHOOL Counselors



Hello RJV families! My name is **Mrs. Jasmine Barbay**, and I am excited to begin another year as your School Counselor. I have been a school counselor for four years, and this is my second year at RJV.

This year, I will be supporting our students' social and emotional growth through a variety of activities, including whole group counseling lessons, targeted small groups, and individual sessions.

If you ever need to reach me please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at jbarbay@weraescpps.org.



Hello RJV families! My name is **Mrs. Alyssa DiSalvo**, and I am thrilled to be serving RJV as the Mental Health Professional! I am a nationally certified school psychologist and this is my 13th year working in education as a psychologist.

I am passionate about helping students explore their strengths, overcome challenges, and plan for a bright future. My goal is to help every student feel happy, safe, and successful, both academically and personally. Think of me as a friendly face they can talk to about anything—big or small! I am looking forward to working with your students in the classroom, in small groups, and individually.

If you ever need me, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at adisalvo@weraescpps.org.

You can request a counseling session for your student anytime by filling out the counselor request Google form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPOptidLJLkmbfNpjV2Fty8eIx6LAjVqNn8ILLY4c5shI3jw/viewform?usp=sf_link



Helpful Tip:

Getting back into “school mode” after summer can be challenging. Establishing consistent afternoon routines and procedures can benefit the entire family. Research shows that school-aged children thrive when they have structure and predictability. Starting these routines now will help set the tone for a successful and smooth school year!



**SEPTEMBER IS..
ATTENDANCE
AWARENESS
MONTH**



**COMMIT TO SHOWING UP
THIS SCHOOL YEAR!**

**STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE ANY
UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FOR THE MONTH OF
SEPTEMBER WILL RECEIVE AN**

**EXTRA
RECESS**



Here Today, Ready For Tomorrow!
2025 Attendance Awareness Campaign





SCPPS Truancy Information



* Louisiana Law (R.S. 17:233)

- **Elementary & Middle School** students shall be in attendance a minimum of 167 days of the school year. Students may be absent only 10 days.
- **Elementary & Middle School** students who accrue more than 10 absences will not be eligible for promotion.

Two days per 9 weeks may be excused for personal illness or serious illness in the family by submitting a parent note if the total days missed do not exceed 10 days per school year. Valid written excuses must be provided to the school office specialist within 3 days of the student's return to school following an absence from school. (Reference SCPPS Student Code of Conduct Pg. 7)

* What to expect:

- At 3 absences/tardies students will receive a letter from their SCPPS home school of absences/tardies accrued.
- At 5 unexcused absences students will receive a truancy notification from SCPPS Child Welfare & Attendance Advocates on behalf of Family in Need of Services (FINS).
- At 8 unexcused absences, a student will be sent a notification from the Director of Juvenile Programs for a mandatory conference at the courthouse. Any further unexcused absences could result in court action.

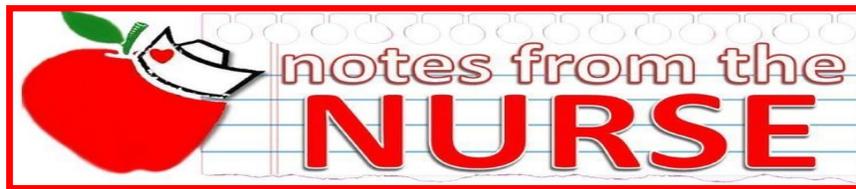


SCPPS Student Advocate Contact Information:

DHS & ACM	Gilbert George	ggeorge@wearesc pps.org	985-785-3147
HHS & JBM	Stevie Stillinger	sstillinger1@weare scpps.org	985-785-3148
Westbank Elementary & RKS	Katie Evans	kevans@wearescp ps.org	985-240-7321
Eastbank Elementary & HMS	Stacey Leone	sleone@wearesc pps.org	985-240-7320



Scan QR Code for
list of additional community resources



Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!

Please note some tips below on how to kick off a healthy start.

- Every student must have an updated immunization record on file at school. Please check with your healthcare provider to be sure your child is up to date on his/her immunizations.
- If your child needs medication at school, please obtain a medication packet from my office to be filled out by you and your child's doctor. You must sign any medication (over the counter or prescription), with the medication appropriately labeled by the pharmacist, with the School Nurse. Please remember that a new medication order must be completed every school year. I am at New Sarpy Monday through Friday. Please contact me to make prior arrangements to sign-in any medications to ensure that you have all of the appropriate paperwork completed and that I will be available.
- If your child has had any changes in his/her medical history over the summer, please remember to update the School Nurse as soon as possible. Medical issues that the school should be aware of include asthma requiring the use of an inhaler/nebulizer, diabetes, severe allergic reactions that require Benadryl/Epipen, seizure disorder, special diets and any other type of medical diagnosis or special needs. I highly recommend open communication for the safety and health of your child.
- If your child has any food allergies or requires a special diet, please contact me to obtain the proper paperwork for school. Please remember that a new diet order must be completed every school year. Also, if your child no longer has food allergies, please send me notification (preferably from the doctor's office but can be via email or School Status messenger) so that I may update our records.
- Influenza (also known as flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. Flu is different from a cold, and usually comes on suddenly. Each year flu viruses cause millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospital stays and thousands or tens of thousands of deaths in the United States. Flu can be very dangerous for children. CDC estimates that between 6,000 and 26,000 children younger than 5 years have been hospitalized each year in the United States because of influenza. The flu vaccine is safe and helps protect children from flu. Please note more information on the attached flyer.



School Nurse
R.J. Vial Elementary
M. Schexnaydre, R.N.



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY No School!	2	3 Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm	4	5 7 MINDSETS Kickoff Jaguar Fest	6
7	8 4H 3:50-5:00pm Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm	9	10 Student of the Year Applications are due @9:00am. Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm Wetland Watchers Night @RJV 6:00pm	11	12	13
14	15 Fall Fundraiser Kickoff Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm	16	17 NO SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY	18 RJV Parent Coffee 9:30am-10:30am	19 BOOK CLUB	20
21	22 Parents/Guardians may begin eating lunch with their students during grade level lunch period Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm	23	24 Picture Day Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm	25 ART CLUB	26 Snowball Sale \$3.00	27
28	29 Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm	30				



50 Years in Paradis(e)!

