

River Mill Academy
Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)
Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106

It is the goal of River Mill Academy to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the district's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Should you wish to obtain paper copies of this document and its contents, you can make a request by contacting the front office.

Requirements per State Board of Education Policy PRINT-02	Resources
1a) Requirements for the child to be promoted to the next grade, including the requirements of Part 1A of Article 8 of 115C of the NCGS.	The following are the relevant State and local requirements for a child to be promoted to the next grade level. The relevant part of this link is found in Part 1A (pp. 15-28) regarding retention, promotion, alternatives to show reading proficiency, etc. N.C. Grade Level Promotion Guide. For information about River Mill Academy's Promotion and Accountability procedures and Graduation Requirements, please click here. RMA Promotion Policy. RMA Parent/Student Handbook
1b) Course of study, textbooks, and other supplementary instructional materials for the child and the policies for inspection and review of those materials.	In North Carolina, all schools use the same Standard Course of Study, determined by the State Board of Education. These standards are the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade/course. The following standards can be found on the website below: Arts Education, Career Technical Education, Computer Science, English Language Arts, English Language Development, Student Success Standards, Healthful Living, Information and Technology, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Language.

	NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website Local districts, schools and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, etc. Teachers share curriculum information with families through mediums that include learning management systems, websites, syllabi, and newsletters.
1c) Progress of the child toward achieving State and unit expectations for academic proficiency, including policies for student assessments, and the child's assessment results, report cards, progress reports.	River Mill Academy shares the progress of students through a variety of ways, including quarterly report cards, benchmark data, assignment/test feedback, and Infinite Campus Access. State Assessments Individual student reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) are accessible in the parent portal of the NC-SIS (PowerSchool). In NC, all students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. In high school, students take end-of-course assessments in English II, Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3. Students in Grade 10 take the Pre-ACT. Students in grade 11 take the ACT. Students who are CTE Concentrators in Grade 12 take ACT WorkKeys. Those results are shared by ACT. An Individualized Reading Plan shall be developed for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading. Each plan will have specific strategies/ideas that can be done at home.

	North Carolina’s Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) selected mCLASS DIBELS[®] 8th Edition as the state’s K-3 Literacy Assessment. mCLASS is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading. mCLASS has been revised and upgraded from the assessment NC districts have used in the past, based on the latest research and the Science of Reading. It is a valid and reliable assessment, supporting universal literacy screening, screening for risk of dyslexia, and progress monitoring.
1d) Qualifications of child’s teachers, including licensure status.	Parents may look up your child’s teacher licensure status at this website. The licensure webpage does not include current employment information. Parents may need additional information (i.e., middle name or license number) to identify the teacher accurately. Substitute teachers (either short or long term) may not hold a NC teaching license. According to G.S. 115C-218.90 at least 50% of RMA’s teachers must hold a valid teaching license.
1e) School entry requirements, including required immunizations and the recommended immunization schedule.	The following are statutory school entry requirements, this includes required immunizations: Admission requirements: GS 115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov) GS 115C-218.45 (specific to charter schools) Immunization records: GS 130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov) Immunization requirements: GS 130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) (This law was amended, but is not reflected on the current General Assembly page; see SL2023-134.pdf (ncleg.gov), Section 5.8(e) on page 64.) Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). NCDHHS Immunizations Resources. Recommended Immunization Schedules

	Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirement Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements School admissions staff work with families to ensure entry requirements are met. The school nurse communicates all required immunizations and maintains records for each student. Information is also posted on the Student Support Services webpage. The school nurse reaches out to families to keep records in compliance.
2a) Parental actions that can strengthen the child’s academic progress, especially in the area of reading as provided in Part 1A of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the NCGS.	Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process. ● Ask questions daily about your child’s school day. ● Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning. ● Connect with teachers to understand your child’s progress. ● Ask the teachers how you can help your child learn. ● Attend different events at RMA to stay connected and learn how to support them. Local Resources Proactive parent involvement is a crucial element of student success. The school strongly encourages families to remain highly engaged in their students’ progress from kindergarten through graduation. Examples include: work with students at home, monitor Infinite Campus, review quarterly school report cards and stay in contact with teachers to discuss other assessments being used to inform the progress of each student. Parent Guides for Academic Standards The following grade level guides contain information to support

parents and caregivers with understanding the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The purpose of these guides is to inform parents about the standards, as well as provide useful strategies to incorporate at home.

[ELA](#) Parent Guides

[ELD](#) Parent Guide

Math Parent Guides: [K-5](#), [6-8](#)

Social Studies Parent Guides: [K-8](#), [9-12](#)

[Science](#) Parent Guides

Reading and Literacy Support

This following site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children who are being assessed with mCLASS reading assessments: [Amplify Parent Resources](#)

Home activities, printable resources, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at North Carolina's [Digital Children's Reading Initiative](#) (DCRI). These Pre-K-Grade 5 activities include the following topics:

- (1) Phonemic awareness
- (2) Phonics
- (3) Vocabulary
- (4) Fluency
- (5) Comprehension
- (6) Oral language

Printable activities will be made available for students who do not have digital access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources. For paper copies, please contact the teacher. [DCRI Printables](#) for Families

2b) Parental actions that can strengthen the child's citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others.	River Mill Academy embeds Portrait of a Graduate skills in the classroom and school setting. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and will support a child's understanding of citizenship, social skills and respect for others. Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repository NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills. Families can work collaboratively with school efforts to instill strong citizenship and interpersonal skills in students. Student Support Services webpage
2c) Parental actions that can strengthen the child's realization of high expectations and setting lifelong learning goals.	Families should attend school interest meetings, open house sessions, curriculum nights, parent-teacher conferences, and events highlighting opportunities to achieve; use resources related to building lifelong success that the school shares; and support their students at home in building strong durable skills. Parents are encouraged to schedule individual conferences with the school counselor and assistant principals to aid in setting individualized goals. Student Support Services webpage Administration Contact Information
2d) Parental actions that can place strong emphasis on the communication between the school and the home.	River Mill Academy has many measures and organizations in place to encourage parent/school communication. Families can foster strong communication by consistently accessing them. Examples include school phone and email announcements, newsletters, social media platforms, website, Infinite Campus Parent Portal, PTT, curriculum nights, open house and parent-teacher conferences. The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building

	strong relationships with your child’s teacher and supporting communication between home and school. Building Strong Relationships with Your Child’s Teacher (NC Rethink Education Program) How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child’s Learning (NC Rethink Education Program) Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the following website.
3) Services available for parents and their children, such as family literacy services; mentoring, tutoring, and other academic reinforcement programs; college planning, academic advisement, and student counseling services; and after-school programs.	School staff can direct families to resources regarding academic and community resources. Many are also linked on the Student Support Services and school counselor webpages. All RMA teachers offer weekly tutoring. Please contact your student’s teacher to inquire about tutoring schedules. College Foundation of NC CFNC & NCSEAA: What You Need to Know About the Better FAFSA NC Promise Program Alamance Community College Career and College Promise Program
4) Opportunities for parental participation, such as parenting classes, adult education, school advisory councils, and school volunteer programs.	Lifelong learning and parental involvement reinforce students being supported at every level of their K-12 school experience. RMA Parents-Teachers-Together (PTT) meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria. All parents/guardians are invited to attend. RMA Board of Directors meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in the media center. All parents/guardians are invited to attend.

	Co-curricular and event volunteer opportunities are scheduled by contacting school staff. Please follow the Jaguar Journal and school website for scheduled events. State and Local Special Education Parent Advisory Councils Alamance Community College Continuing Education RMA Event Calendar
5. Opportunities for parents to learn about rigorous academic programs that may be available for the child, such as honors programs, Career and College Promise and other dual enrollment opportunities, NC Virtual Public School (NCVPS) courses, and accelerated access to postsecondary education.	River Mill Academy is proactive in scheduling events during which families can learn more about the school's rigorous academic program and to maximize the important role of families in students achieving in RMA's rigorous, college preparatory academic environment. Annual Open House Curriculum Nights High school course scheduling meetings with the school counselor High school graduation requirements Alamance Community College and Career and College Promise (CCP) NC Virtual Public School NC School of Science and Math online Honors Level Courses: At River Mill Academy students take a variety of honors level courses in high school. Honors level courses typically have a faster pace than standard level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity and creativity than standard level courses. Advanced Placement (AP) Courses: Several AP courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in State Board policy. Students have the opportunity to take AP courses both in-person and online.

Honors and AP classes carry a higher grade point and can increase a student's weighted GPA. To check if your AP course will earn you college credit, please go to this [website](#).

Career and College Promise (CCP):

River Mill Academy partners with [Alamance Community College](#) to offer dual enrollment opportunities through the [CCP](#) program. Academically qualified high school students earn high school credit by completing community college coursework. CCP courses may be taken in the College Transfer or Career and Technical Education pathway. These courses count for both high school and college credit. Tuition is free for families. To learn more about this program, contact the College Liaison. Additional information is available on the [NCDPI CCP website](#).

NCVPS:

[North Carolina Virtual Public School \(NCVPS\)](#) is NC's state supplemental program and leader in online education, providing inclusive learning opportunities for students across the state. Founded in 2007, with a strong commitment to ensuring quality education for all students, regardless of location, NCVPS has over 16 years of experience serving diverse learners. High school students may enroll in a wide range of NCVPS courses.

ACCELERATED ACCESS

North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Online

NC School of Science and Mathematics Online is a supplemental, sequenced honors program for eleventh and twelfth grade NC students who remain enrolled at their local schools. <https://www.ncssm.edu/online>

Summer Ventures

	Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics is a no-cost, state-funded program for academically talented North Carolina students who aspire to careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. https://www.ncssm.edu/summer/summer-ventures Governor’s School Each summer, NC Governor’s School offers a unique opportunity for high-achieving rising juniors and seniors to learn with their peers from across the state in a four-week residential program at two college campus sites. For more information on eligibility and the application process, contact the high school office or visit the Governor's School website, www.ncgovschool.org.
6) Educational choices available to parents, including each type of public-school unit available to residents of the county in which the child lives and nonpublic school options, educational choice options offered within the public school unit and scholarship grant programs under Part 2A of Article 39 and Article 41 of Chapter 115C of the NCGS.	There are multiple options for families to choose for their students’ education: Charter Schools Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system. Visit NC charter school for information, resources, and contacts. Traditional Public Schools Local education units (LEA) serve students who live in residential districts of the LEA. The traditional school districts each have websites information related to admissions and program offerings. NCDPI also has resources about public schools in the state. Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration.

	For a list of private schools, visit this NC Private Schools. For information on how to start a homeschool visit: Homeschool Information Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority. Adult High School Diploma Alamance Community College offers an adult high school diploma (GED) option for qualified students. ACC Adult Basic Education
7) Rights of students who have been identified as students with disabilities, as provided in Article 9 of Chapter 115C of the NCGS.	For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education. Parent Rights Handbook Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) IDEA Dispute Resolution Special Education Surrogate Parents Project Child Find
8) Contact information for the school and unit offices.	River Mill Academy 235 Cheeks Lane Graham NC 27253 336-229-0909

9) Resources for information on the importance of student health and other available resources for parents, including the following information on available immunization and vaccinations: 1. A recommended immunization schedule in accordance with the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. 2. Information about meningococcal meningitis and influenza, as required by G.S. 115C-375.4.	River Mill Academy has a school nurse who is a registered nurse. Information and resources are communicated through direct notifications, announcements, handbooks, web links, and parent contacts. Student Support Services webpage Parent/Student Handbook Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Immunizations Health Assessment Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting
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