River Valley School District Cyber Academy (RVCA)

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Dear River Valley Families and Students:

This handbook outlines how the River Valley Cyber Academy staff, families, and students will share the responsibility for academic and emotional success. It is essential that the school and families develop and commit to a partnership in order to meet this goal. Please take the time to carefully review all of the information contained in this handbook. After you have finished reading it, please acknowledge your understanding and acceptance of the River Valley Cyber Academy policies by signing the last page.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Leasure, River Valley Cyber Coordinator, at leasure.m@rvsdpa.org.

Mission:

The mission of the River Valley Cyber Academy is to provide students in the River Valley School District with an alternative to the traditional brick and mortar educational experience. With a focus on personalized-virtual learning, the River Valley Cyber Academy experience focuses on student-teacher relationships and individualized academic achievement that is designed to prepare learners for success in school, college, career and life.

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. 6603, or the Regional Homeless Coordinator, Sarah Schroth, at (724) 463-5300.

River Valley Cyber Academy

2026-2027 Academic Year

Table of Contents

- PROGRAM OVERVIEW p. 4
- CONTACT INFORMATION p. 5
- ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES p. 6
- ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES p. 7
- ABSENTEEISM and TRUANCY p. 7
- ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY p. 8
- GRADES and GRADING SCALE p. 9
    - Grading/Marking Periods
    - Elementary Grades K-5
    - Secondary Grades 6-12
- ACADEMIC INTEGRITY p. 10
- CYBER LAB, DRESS CODE, ARRIVAL TIMES p. 11
- COMPUTER AND INTERNET GUIDELINES p. 13
- STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY p. 14
- SPECIAL EDUCATION and STUDENT SERVICES p. 16
- STATE ASSESSMENTS p. 16
- TRANSPORTATION p. 17
- PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERNS p. 17
- FREE LUNCH PROGRAM p. 18

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **River Valley Cyber Academy (RVCA)** provides a comprehensive, standards-aligned online learning program for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Designed to meet the diverse learning needs of students and families, RVCA offers both full-time and part-time enrollment options at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

RVCA offers a blended educational experience that combines online coursework with in-person learning opportunities held each Friday. RVCA provides a full complement of required core academic courses and elective offerings aligned with the River Valley School District curriculum. Students who successfully complete graduation requirements through RVCA earn a **River Valley School District diploma** and are eligible to participate in commencement exercises and other senior activities.

The online learning environment is designed to foster student engagement through interactive, technology-rich instruction while maintaining the academic expectations and high standards of the River Valley School District. The program is developed, administered, and supported by River Valley School District administrators, certified teachers, and support staff who are committed to providing high-quality virtual instruction and individualized student support.

To ensure students have the resources necessary for success, each enrolled student is provided with a district-issued Chromebook and access to certified teachers experienced in virtual instruction. Students also receive ongoing academic support, progress monitoring, counseling services, and technical assistance throughout the school year.

In addition to virtual instruction, students will have access to the **RVCA Learning Lab** located on the River Valley School District campus (Fridays only). Staffed by certified educators, the Lab offers students the opportunity to receive individualized academic assistance, participate in supervised learning sessions, complete assessments, and collaborate with fellow RVCA students in a supportive learning environment. Students are encouraged to utilize the Lab on Fridays during regular school hours whenever additional support is needed.

River Valley Cyber Academy students remain valued members of the River Valley School District community. Students in grades K–12 are encouraged to participate in district-sponsored extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities, including athletics, performing and visual arts, academic organizations, student leadership activities, clubs, and community service programs, in accordance with district eligibility requirements.

High school students enrolled in RVCA may also be eligible to participate in specialized educational opportunities offered by the district, including enrollment in the STEAM Academy for students in grades 10–12 provided all program admission requirements are met.

While enrolled in the River Valley Cyber Academy, students are expected to comply with all applicable River Valley School District Board Policies, administrative regulations, and the student code of conduct. Unless otherwise specified in this handbook, all policies and expectations outlined in the applicable River Valley

School District Elementary, Middle School, and High School Student Handbooks remain in effect. Current district policies and student handbooks are available on the River Valley School District website.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs. Amanda Spallone
STEAM Building Secretary/RVCA Attendance
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Mrs. Regina Geesey, *Acting Superintendent*
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Mr. Michael Leasure, *Director of Pupil Services*
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Mrs. Kathy Monko, *Principal*
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Mr. Brian Higginbotham, *Principal*
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ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the River Valley Cyber Program, please contact your child's school counselor. This is the first step in the enrollment process. Cyber is not a good fit for every student and the school counselor will complete a comprehensive review of your child's academic and social needs to ensure that cyber is the right placement.

If it is determined that cyber is a good fit for your child, a cyber schedule will be generated. We appreciate your patience during this process. Enrollment into the cyber program will take at least 3-5 days depending on circumstances. If your child receives special education services, the IEP team will need to determine if cyber is appropriate. This requires an IEP team meeting.

Enrollment Commitment:

If you are not enrolled in RVCA at the beginning of the school year, you must reach out to your guidance counselor to make arrangements to transfer to RVCA. A meeting will be held to determine if the change to a cyber program is in the student's best interest.

We encourage families to commit to the River Valley Cyber Academy (RVCA) for the full academic year to provide students with consistency and continuity in their learning experience. However, we understand that circumstances may change, and we are committed to supporting families in making the educational decision that best meets their student's needs.

The River Valley Cyber Academy is designed to provide flexibility while ensuring a smooth transition between learning environments. Students may return to in-person instruction when appropriate. To promote a successful transition, we recommend that changes in enrollment occur during a natural break in the school calendar, such as at the end of a grading period or following a scheduled school break, whenever possible.

Changes to enrollment status will only occur at the end of the first, second and third quarters. Due to mandatory Pennsylvania State testing that occurs during April and May, **there will be no enrollment changes during the 4th Quarter.**

If your student is considering enrolling in the River Valley Cyber Academy (RVCA), please contact your school counselor at least three weeks before the start of the next grading period to discuss the enrollment process.

ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY, AND ATHLETIC GUIDELINES

General Attendance Information

Regular attendance is necessary to ensure a student's best performance in school and is also required by state law. As such, each student's school attendance record is important.

- Elementary Students (K-5) enrolled in the River Valley School District's cyber program (RVCA) must accumulate ***a minimum of 10 hours per week*** of instructional completion of courses using the software EdOptions Academy and/or other district provided online platform. *A school week runs from Monday to Sunday*.

- Middle and High School Students (6-12) enrolled in the River Valley School District's cyber program (RVCA) must accumulate ***a minimum of 15 hours per week*** of instructional completion of courses using the software platform Edmentum and/or other district provided online platform. *A school week runs from Monday through Sunday*.

- Students enrolled in the River Valley School District's Cyber Academy (RVCA) will follow the brick and mortar River Valley School District school calendar.

Students need to be aware that in order to successfully complete their online coursework, they may need to log *more than* the minimum number of hours required or suggested.

Students should spend at least 3 hours per day completing coursework to stay on target with courses.

Absenteeism and Truancy

On the first day of each school week, a student's attendance for the previous school week is evaluated and entered into PowerSchool. At that time, the Attendance Officer will be notified of any illegal absences.

Please note:
Chronic non-completion of coursework, and subsequent truancy, will lead to...

- A meeting with the student, parent/guardian, course instructor(s), school counselor, River Valley Cyber Academy program administrator;
- Initiation of a truancy referral (filed with Children and Youth Services);
- Filing of a citation with the local district magistrate's office, in accordance with Pennsylvania law; and/or
- Recommendation that the student return to full-time, in-person instruction at their assigned building.

Excused Absence
If an RVCA student is unable to complete any portion of the required instructional course completion hours during a scheduled school day as result of a reason among those approved by the River Valley School District

Board of School Directors (*e.g.*, illness, doctor's appointment, university visit), the student's parent/guardian should submit an excuse for the absence. **All excuses should be submitted via email to spallone.a@rvsdpa.org and must be submitted by 8:00 a.m. on the following Monday.**

Illegal Absence

Failure to meet the required minimum instructional course completion hours for the week will result in one (1) unexcused absence and a letter of truancy will be issued to the parent and/or guardian by mail with a "Notice of First Illegal Absence" letter. This letter is considered to be a warning and will outline all possible consequences if further unlawful absences are incurred.

A student that incurs three (3) unexcused absences will be issued a "Notice of Final Illegal Absence". The parent and/or guardian should consider this a final warning regarding unlawful absences. At four (4) unexcused absences, a School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) meeting will be held with the student, parent/guardian, school principal, social worker, school counselor, and if applicable, the special education caseload manager. The purpose of the SAIP is to identify the causation(s) of the truant behavior, and to identify methods to correct the behavior. A final copy of the plan will be provided to the parent and/or guardian and specify the date effective.

Six (6) unexcused absences will result in truancy charges being filed with the district magistrate on both the student and the parent/guardian. Any unexcused absence beyond the sixth unexcused absence will be reported to Children and Youth Services (CYS) by River Valley School District.

Please note that:

- **All absences are considered unexcused *and* illegal (if a student is seventeen years of age or younger) or unexcused (eighteen years of age or older) until a valid excuse is received by school personnel.**
- As per school district policy, only medical excuses may be accepted in cases of chronic, repeated absence (three or more consecutive absences).
- **Excuses for absence(s) that claim "computer problems," "internet problems," etc. will be deemed invalid and the absence(s) considered illegal and/or unexcused.**
- Students enrolled in the River Valley Cyber Academy program have the option of coming to school to work in the River Valley Cyber Academy Lab with certified teachers.
- **Failing grades and attendance concerns may result in required mandatory attendance in the River Valley Cyber Academy lab.**

Athletic Eligibility Guidelines

As per PIAA guidelines, any student-athlete must be passing four credits to be eligible to play his/her respective sport(s).

Students should reference *River Valley School District Attendance, Behavioral Guidelines, and Discipline Policy* for more information concerning athletic eligibility.

- Please note that all school district policies regarding athletic eligibility apply to students who are enrolled in online courses (regardless of the number of online courses in which students are enrolled).

Extracurricular Activities

Students in RVCA are encouraged to participate in district sponsored extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities are defined as the following:

> "Extracurricular activities shall be those programs that are sponsored by the Board and are conducted wholly or partly outside of the regular school day; are marked by student participation in the processes of initiation, planning and organizing, and execution; and are equally available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate."

Board Policy: http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bssd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9TLMHR5B5DF7)

If a student is interested in participating in a district sponsored extracurricular activity, please directly reach out to the principal of the building in which the activity is taking place.

GRADES, GRADING SCALE, AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Children, we know, learn at different rates. Afforded the same opportunity, some children develop more rapidly than others. Your child's progress is an individual matter and should not be compared with that of other children. Your child will obtain the greatest benefit from his/her school experience if this individuality is recognized at home as well as at school.

Your child's interests are best served when parents and educators work closely together to develop mutually helpful relationships. The progress report is one means of informing you of your child's growth and development according to individual abilities and needs. ***Each student enrolled in RVCA will receive a personal report card at the end of each marking period.*** Marking periods for the school year are listed below. To receive additional information on your child's progress, a parent-teacher conference may be scheduled by contacting your child's teacher or administrator.

Students will be given their assignments on a weekly basis. The students will not have access to all of the course material at the beginning of the quarter. All work for that week must be completed during the assigned time frame. At the end of each week, incomplete assignments will be recorded as a "0". Students who provide an excuse for absenteeism or who have an approved educational trip will be provided extended time.

2026-2027 Grading Periods

- Marking Period 1 Ends - October 28, 2026
- Marking Period 2 Ends - January 19, 2027
- Marking Period 3 Ends - March 31, 2027
- Marking Period 4 Ends - May 28, 2027

General Grade Guidelines for Elementary Grades K-5

Core subjects receive the following codes:

4 - Exceeding the Standard
3 - Meeting the Standard
2 - Progressing Toward the Standard
1 - Not Meeting the Standard

Classes that meet on a 6-day rotation, as well as work habits and attitudes, receive the following codes:

S - Strength
P - Satisfactory Progress (which may change to Progressing Satisfactorily)
N - Needs Improvement

General Grade Guidelines for Secondary Grades 6-12

The following guidelines apply to all secondary students enrolled in online coursework:

- Virtually, all River Valley Cyber Academy courses are divided into either two or four course modules (based on whether a course is worth .5 credit and is one semester in length or is worth one (1) credit and is one year in length).
- Students are expected to complete all course activities assigned during the online marking period and to do so in a timely manner.
- All course activities not completed by the end of the online marking period will be assigned a score of "0".
- The course instructor has the prerogative to set due dates and penalties for all assignments.
- ***Students should always review the course syllabus and assignment calendar for a course; if a student is in doubt regarding any point, the student should ask the instructor for clarification.*** Students are subject to all conditions as outlined in course syllabuses.
- ***It is the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian to check on the student's progress throughout the academic term.*** Progress can be checked by logging in to the student's Edgenuity account, signing into the Edgenuity Family Portal, or viewing progress report messages auto-generated by Edgenuity (and sent to the parent/guardian email)

Grading Scale

The grading scale for online courses is as follows:

A	92.5% - 100%
B	84.5% - 92.49%
C	76.5% - 84.49%
D	68.5% - 76.49%
F	68% and below

Students in grades 6-12 who enroll in RVCA courses will receive academic credit(s) from River Valley School District and will earn a "letter" grade for each course completed.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity refers to honesty and responsibility in representing your own work and acknowledging the contributions of others. A student who maintains high standards of academic integrity will produce work that is authentic and true to the knowledge and learning that (s)he has acquired.

Academic integrity means that students will not:

- submit work that is something other than "their own";
- practice plagiarism or cheating in any form;
- permit others to complete their work; or
- misuse content from the Internet.

Distance learning provides greater temptations and opportunities for students to violate the principles of academic integrity. As such, it is important to acknowledge this fact and to have both the student, who is enrolled in River Valley Cyber Academy coursework, and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), recognize that ***cheating*** ("a dishonest act by a student intended to gain an academic advantage without meeting the required academic expectations "),* ***plagiarism*** ("passing off or using the ideas or written work of another as one's own without crediting the source"),* and ***lying about who completed assigned coursework*** are in direct opposition to the principles of academic integrity. As a school district, we encourage and promote the development of student responsibility and academic integrity. Actions taken by students who violate the principles of academic integrity (by engaging in behavior such as cheating, plagiarism, and having others complete assigned coursework) are subject to RVSD disciplinary policy.
* From *River Valley School District Attendance, Behavioral Guidelines, and Discipline Policy.*

Academic Integrity Violations and the Range of Consequences

Consequences for students who violate the principles of academic integrity may include (but are not limited to):

- A score of "0" will be assigned for the assignment in question. The student will not be given an opportunity to make up the assignment or recover the lost points through extra credit, bonus work, or any other alternative means;
- Assignment of a course grade of "0" ("F") for the marking period during which the violation of academic integrity took place;
- The student's removal from the course in question; and/or
- The student's removal from River Valley Cyber Academy enrollment rosters (and return to building-based courses).

RVCA Cyber Lab Uses and Policies, Arrival Procedures

River Valley Cyber Academy Learning Lab is open on Fridays from 7:15 a.m. through 12:10 p.m. and is staffed with a Pennsylvania Certified Teacher. The cyber lab also stocks resources that students may need in order to complete online assignments and projects. Attendance at the cyber lab is optional.

While in the cyber lab, students must adhere to all district policies regarding behavior, dress code, cell phone use, technology use, safety, etc. (*See District handbook*). Students must be working while in the lab. **Failure to adhere to district policies may result in dismissal from the cyber lab and a discipline referral.**

Students are not permitted to use cell phones while in the cyber lab without permission from the Cyber Coordinator. Cell phones must be kept in a backpack, purse, pocket, etc.

As per district policy, students are not permitted to wear hats or hoodies while in the cyber lab. The dress code is outlined in Orientation Presentation.

To make the most of their time in the lab, students are encouraged to arrive prepared with specific questions,

assignments, or concepts they would like assistance with. ***Students in the lab are welcome to stay as long as they need assistance; however, students who are not working or acting as a distraction to others will be asked to leave.***

Students are required to bring a district issued chromebook to the lab. Devices will not be provided. <u>If you do not have a device, you are not permitted to be in the RVCA lab.</u>

Friday Lab Hours: 7:15 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.

Student Arrival - 7:15 a.m.

<u>Arrival & Dismissal Procedures</u>

Enter the building through the River Valley Middle/High School main office. If a student is present in the building and will be leaving early, a note must be sent with the student on the day he or she is to be excused. The note should include the date and time the student 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 student is to be dismissed other than the normal time, unless the note indicates the student has permission to drive.

In an effort to help protect the student, in those cases where either the parent/guardian or the emergency representative is picking the student 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. ***In case of an emergency, the parent should phone the school office and give the necessary information.***

<u>Student Presence Before, During, and After School</u>

For both the safety and security of all students, RVCA students using the lab are not permitted to move throughout the building without permission from the RVCA teacher covering the cyber lab, the middle school or high school principal or RVCA Coordinator.

Students are not permitted to enter the building before 7:15 a.m. No early drop-off of students will be permitted.

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. Clothing or jewelry displaying an intended or implied message related to weapons, drugs, alcohol, sexual content, or other inappropriate topics is not permitted. Extremes in dress, clothing styles, or insufficient coverage that may create a safety concern or are deemed inappropriate for the school environment will not be permitted.

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 and the River Valley Middle High School handbook for specific guidelines.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET GUIDELINES

Computer and Network Use

The River Valley School District is pleased to provide students with the opportunity to participate in the *RVSD 1:1 Chromebook Initiative.* All learners are given the privilege of utilizing a Chromebook (that is the sole property of the RVSD). The district-issued device is to be utilized for the *RVSD 1:1 Chromebook Initiative.* The student and his/her parent and/or guardian must agree and ensure that the Chromebook will be used solely for educational purposes and not for any other unauthorized use. The student shall use his/her Chromebook in a lawful, prudent, and careful manner and shall not make any alterations to the Chromebook without the consent of RVSD personnel. No music or games should be downloaded or installed on a student's Chromebook, and no student should permit others to use his/her Chromebook.

All enrolled students will be provided with an account on the school district's network system for file storage and software access, as well as a Google account for educational purposes. Student accounts and materials are password protected; therefore, students must keep their passwords confidential at all times. Maintaining password security is an essential step in preventing unauthorized access to a student's Chromebook, accounts, and digital resources.

Unauthorized use of a Chromebook will constitute grounds for discipline as outlined in the "Discipline Response Structure" contained in *River Valley School District Attendance, Behavioral Guidelines, and Discipline Policy*.

Internet Guidelines

Students and parents/guardians must agree to the *River Valley School District User Agreement* in order for the student to use district hardware, software, and accounts. ***See District Handbook.***

Resolving Technology Issues

Problems loading or watching videos can occur for a variety of reasons. For assistance, please contact Ms. Buoy, Middle/High School Secretary, at buoy.d@rvsdpa.org.

For Chromebook issues encountered while working in the cyber lab, please ask the teacher supervising the lab to submit a Help Desk ticket. An IT technician will pick up the device for repair.

Any Chromebook that is physically damaged or broken must be brought to the school for service.

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

Weekly Teacher Check-Ins (Student Wellness Checks)

Pennsylvania law requires all cyber schools to conduct weekly student wellness checks. These check-ins help ensure students are actively engaged in learning, making academic progress, and receiving the support they need.

All River Valley Cyber Academy (RVCA) students are required to participate in a weekly check-in with their assigned teacher(s). Check-ins may take place during a scheduled virtual meeting, or an in-person Lab meeting. During virtual check-ins, students will be expected to turn on their webcam, so the teacher can visually confirm attendance and communicate directly with the student.

Weekly check-ins provide an opportunity to review academic progress, answer questions, address concerns, and ensure students remain on track to successfully complete their coursework.

Step 1 – Missed wellness check

Within one school day after a student fails to complete a required wellness check, the district must:

• Make documented ongoing efforts to complete the wellness check.

• Attempt to contact the parent/guardian using at least two different communication methods.

• Provide written notice (in the parent's preferred language) that the wellness check was not completed.

Step 2 – Wellness review conference

If the wellness check is still not completed within three school days after the written notice is sent, the district must:

• Immediately schedule a wellness review conference within one school day.

• Hold the conference even if the student or parent does not participate.

• The conference may be conducted in person or electronically.

Step 3 – In-person wellness check

A district must conduct an in-person wellness check within 24 hours of the scheduled wellness review conference only if:

• The student does not participate in the wellness review conference.

Inclement Weather

When weather conditions make traveling dangerous or when emergencies arise, our schools may be delayed in starting or be closed. You may sign up to receive information via our automated alert system, check the district website (www.rivervalleysd.org) or SchoolCast on the ARIN website (iu28.org), or tune in to local radio/TV stations for reports regarding our school district.

If there is a **two-hour delay on a lab Friday,** all buses will run two hours later than the normally scheduled time and the RVCA Learning Lab will not open until 9:15 a.m.

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 (i.e. Alice Paul House, AICDAC Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Officer Phil, etc.) to keep students safety-conscious.

Health Services/Medicine

The school nurse is available during the school day to care for the health needs of the students. The nurse is available daily at 724-459-5500 ext. 3126.

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 Card**.**

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: It is extremely important that emergency contacts and telephone numbers are correctly listed on the Emergency Card and that this information is updated as the need arises.

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

Emergencies at School

We use an Emergency 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 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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

The River Valley School District provides special education programming in accordance with federal and state regulations/guidelines to ensure the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all school-age children in need of such services. Students with disabilities will continue to work with the River Valley special education teachers who will provide services per the Individualized Education Program either on-site or virtually. IEP meetings will be conducted with the River Valley Special Education Department. For more information, please contact the Director of Pupil Services.

STATE ASSESSMENTS

All RVCA students must participate in state mandated assessments. Students in grades 3-8 are required to take the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) annually and high school students who complete state approved trigger courses for Algebra I, Literature and Biology must take the Keystone Exams.

For all state mandated tests, RVCA students must be brought to the appropriate school on days of testing. *Students will be notified in advance by River Valley School District when the tests are offered.*

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from the River Valley Cyber Academy will be provided on Fridays.

Student Transportation Guidelines

If your child elects to ride a bus to the RVCA lab and will be under the direct supervision of the bus driver. 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 examples above are provided for illustrative purposes only and do not represent a complete list of student actions or conduct violations. Other behaviors not specifically listed may also constitute violations of this policy.***

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.

All bus routes are arranged by Smith Bus Company and will follow routine bus times and routes.

Student Drivers

Students wishing to drive to the RVCA Lab will need to complete an application and will be assigned a parking spot. A copy of your driver's license and a driving form are required.

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.

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 via 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 Director of Pupil Services.

Step #4: Communicate with the Superintendent.

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

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/or photograph lessons in the classroom that may involve your child.

If you do not wish to have your child(ren) photographed and/or 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 upon the 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. Keep in mind, if this form is completed, your child's photo will not be included in any RVSD publication, including the yearbook. (Refer to District Policy #216.2.)

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

RVCA students who attend the River Valley Cyber Learning Lab are eligible for free breakfast and lunch during the 2026-2027 school year.

River Valley Cyber Academy Student Handbook (2026-2027)
Acknowledgement

The River Valley School District promotes cooperation between the school and parents/guardians in all phases of the student's school life. Please review the 2026-2027 *Student Handbook* and sign below indicating that you are aware of all policies, guidelines, and other information outlined in the *River Valley Cyber Academy Student Handbook* (including grading and attendance policies, academic integrity procedures, technology use guidelines, transportation options, etc.).

_____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

As a student of River Valley School District, I have been given a copy of the 2026-2027 *River Valley Cyber Academy Student Handbook* (which contains information regarding grading and attendance policies, academic integrity procedures, technology use guidelines, and behavioral guidelines). I have been given an opportunity to examine the 2026-2027 *River Valley Cyber Academy Student Handbook* and understand the content contained therein.

_____

Printed Name of Student

_____ _____

Student Signature Date

Revised 07/2026