



***South River
Middle School***

2026 - 2027

Dear South River Middle School Families,

It is with great pride and excitement that I write this letter of introduction to the South River Middle School community. I am truly humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve as your Principal at South River Middle School. As I enter my 26th year of education, I'm excited to start the 26-27 school year with the students and families of South River Middle School. I look forward to working with the school community and stakeholders to provide leadership that will facilitate a school environment that is safe and respectable. Working together, I am confident that we will continue to provide students with a truly rigorous and enriching school experience. I will work hard to continue the legacy that has already been established at South River Middle School and build upon it to prepare our students for the many challenges they may face.

As principal, my role is to provide the students of South River Middle School with opportunities to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. It is my belief that all students can be successful both in and out of the classroom. In addition, I will help cultivate a learning environment that provides students opportunities to acquire skills to become productive citizens and lifelong learners.

Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share with me. My door is always open to you.

Thank you,

*Thomas Rizk
Principal
South River Middle School
Home of the Rams*

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Middle School Daily Bell Schedules 2026-2027

Grade 6

	Regular	Early Dismissal w/Lunch	Delayed Opening
Per 1	8:10–8:53	8:10–8:37	10:10–10:39
Per 2	8:56–9:38	8:40–9:06	10:42–11:10
Per 3	9:41–10:23	9:09–9:35	11:13–11:41
Per 4 Lunch	10:26–10:51	9:38–9:58	11:44–12:04
Per 5	10:54–11:36	10:01–10:27	12:07–12:35
Per 6	11:39–12:21	10:30–10:56	12:38–1:06
Per 7	12:24–1:06	10:59–11:25	1:09–1:37
Per 8	1:09–1:51	11:28–11:54	1:40–2:08
Per 9	1:54–2:36	11:57–12:23	2:11–2:39
Closing	2:39–2:45	12:26–12:31	2:42–2:45

Grade 7

	Regular	Early Dismissal w/Lunch	Delayed Opening
Per 1	8:10–8:53	8:10–8:37	10:10–10:39
Per 2	8:56–9:38	8:40–9:06	10:42–11:10
Per 3	9:41–10:23	9:09–9:35	11:13–11:41
Per 4	10:26–11:08	9:38–10:04	11:44–12:12
Per 5 Lunch	11:11–11:36	10:07–10:27	12:15–12:35
Per 6	11:39–12:21	10:30–10:56	12:38–1:06
Per 7	12:24–1:06	10:59–11:25	1:09–1:37
Per 8	1:09–1:51	11:28–11:54	1:40–2:08
Per 9	1:54–2:36	11:57–12:23	2:11–2:39
Closing	2:39–2:45	12:26–12:31	2:42–2:45

Grade 8

	Regular	Early Dismissal w/Lunch	Delayed Opening
Per 1	8:10–8:53	8:10–8:37	10:10–10:39
Per 2	8:56–9:38	8:40–9:06	10:42–11:10
Per 3	9:41–10:23	9:09–9:35	11:13–11:41
Per 4	10:26–11:08	9:38–10:04	11:44–12:12
Per 5a	11:11–11:53	10:07–10:33	12:15–12:43
Per 6 Lunch	11:56–12:21	10:36–11:56	12:46–1:06
Per 7	12:24–1:06	10:59–11:25	1:09–1:37
Per 8	1:09–1:51	11:28–11:54	1:40–2:08
Per 9	1:54–2:36	11:57–12:23	2:11–2:39
Closing	2:39–2:45	12:26–12:31	2:42–2:45

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival: School doors open at 7:55 AM. Students should proceed directly to their designated entry doors:

- 6th Grade – Enter through the 6th Grade Doors (Bottom Level by the Café)
- 7th Grade – Enter through the 7th Grade Doors (Bottom Level by the Science Rooms)
- 8th Grade – Enter through the 8th Grade Doors (Top Level, Main Entrance)

Dismissal: Student dismissal is at 2:45 PM. Students must exit through the same designated doors used for arrival.

Important: Students are only permitted to use their assigned grade-level doors for both arrival and dismissal.

SOUTH RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF

ART

Mrs. Nardone-Scafiddi

ESL

Mrs. Dunphy

Ms. Macaraeg

Mrs. McGrath

HEALTH & PE

Mr. Bryla

Mr. Clays

Mrs. Davidson

Ms. Farparan

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ms. Akyurek

Mr. Gallotto

Mrs. Miller

Mr. Pearce

Mr. Knapp

SPANISH

Mr. Valenzuela

MATH

Mrs. Bryke-Fahy

Mrs. Burns

Mrs. Hoeni

Mrs. Maltese

Mrs. O. Matthews

Mrs. McCarthy

Mr. Wanat

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Apito

Mr. Babic

Ms. Bara

Ms. Bell

Mrs. DiGioia-Laird

Ms. Jackson

Mrs. Jobe

Mrs. Mahoney

Mrs. McNamara

Ms. Nielsen

CST

Mrs. Evanego

Mrs. Weber

LANGUAGE ARTS

Ms. Braine

Ms. Da Fonseca

Mrs. D'Emic

Mrs. Jordan

Mrs. Lanzafama

Mrs. Loux

Mr. Matkowski

Mrs. Rondesko

Ms. Russell

Mrs. Sardo

MUSIC

Ms. Rhatigan

Ms. Scuman

SCIENCE

Mrs. E. Matthews

Ms. Navarro

Mrs. Steffaro

Ms. Zultowski

GUIDANCE

Ms. Sondek

Mrs. Sutphin

OFFICE STAFF

Mrs. Gil

Mrs. Stewart

Mrs. Vitucci

NURSE

Ms. Markowski

TEAM LEADERS

Mrs. McNamara – Math

Mr. Pearce - Social Studies

Mrs. Jobe - Science

Mrs. Jordan - Language Arts

SOUTH RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Contact administration to pose questions/requests/concerns regarding the operation of school/educational programs.

Sylvia Zircher <i>Superintendent of Schools</i>	732-613-4000, extension 1223
Dr. Joseph Trivisonno <i>Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, Curriculum and Instruction</i>	732- 613-4000, extension 1226
Johnny Rosa <i>School Business Administrator</i>	732-613-4000, extension 1227
Kamila Miazio <i>Assistant School Business Administrator</i>	732-613-4000, extension 1222
TBD <i>Director of Special Education</i>	732-613-4073, extension 7104, 7102
Donald Minto <i>Director of Athletics</i>	732-613-4014, extension 6222
Matt Crouch <i>Director of Guidance & Nursing</i>	732-613-4014, extension 6229
Brian Dougherty <i>Director of Technology</i>	732-613-4000, extension 7217
Thomas Rizk <i>Principal</i>	732-613-7304, extension 7343
Brandon Walsh <i>Assistant Principal</i>	732-613-7304, extension 7342
<u>Additional Phone Numbers</u> Middle School Attendance (732) 613-4073 x 7342 Guidance (732) 613-4073 x 7355 Nurse (732) 613-4073 x 7306	

Parents/guardians wishing to pose questions and/or discuss concerns regarding individual students and/or teacher/advisor/coaching practices are strongly encouraged to reach out to the appropriate teacher, coach, and/or advisor as the first step. All staff members can be accessed via phone (732-613-4014) or email (staff member's first initial and last name with no spaces at sriversnj.org). If resolve is not obtained, building administration may be contacted.

SOUTH RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of the South River School District is to coordinate the available resources of home, school, and community in a mutual effort to guide every pupil's growth towards becoming a self-respecting individual who can effectively function politically, economically, and socially in a democratic society. We will strive to help students learn to use their minds well, so that they will be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our modern economy.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The South River Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, or social or economic status. Should questions, comments, or concerns relating to this exist, the Affirmative Action Officer (AAO) should be contacted. The AAO is:

Dr. Joseph Trivisonno
District Affirmative Action Officer
Phone: (732) 613 - 4000
Email: jtrivisonno@sriversnj.org

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
Mr. Matthew Crouch
District Anti Bullying Coordinator
Phone: (732) 613 - 4014 - Ext 6229

ACADEMIC-RELATED INFORMATION

PROMOTION AND RETENTION PROCEDURE

In order to be promoted to the next grade level, students must pass a minimum of 3 out of 4 Core Courses, and must also pass at least 1 Non-Core Course from the list below:

(Must pass 3 of 4)

Core: Language Arts
Core: Mathematics
Core: Science
Core: Social Studies

(Must pass either)

Non-Core: Physical Education/Health, or
Non-Core: Cycles/Remediation (Art, Music, Spanish, and Technology)
Grades averaged together to create a final average of one course.

Students who fail Language Arts and/or Mathematics may be permitted to take them in summer school (**only if a summer school program is available**) in order to establish the credit needed to pass – **it is not guaranteed that the district will hold summer school or that a program will be available in another district.**

Eighth grade students who have not met the academic requirements to be promoted to High School will not be permitted to attend the 8th Grade Class trip, the 8th grade Dinner Dance, or the 8th Grade “Moving-Up” Ceremony (at the discretion of building administration).

Similarly, any 6th or 7th Graders who are not being promoted to the next grade level will not be attending their class trips (at the discretion of building administration).

Anyone who has paid for a class trip, or who has deposited any money but who is not allowed to attend, may not be afforded a refund unless approved by building administration.

The educational program of a student provides for continuous growth and achievement. Students advance from one grade to another as a result of demonstrated academic, social, and emotional growth and development. To this end, children will be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs. However, some children may benefit from staying another year in the same grade. Additional criteria to be considered for promotion/retention include, but are not limited to:

1. Performance below grade level standards on statewide assessments, and/or other forms of tests/testing programs.
2. Excessive absenteeism (16 unexcused days) or tardiness.

Appeals can be referred to the principal.

Administrative Procedure for Retention of 6-8 Grade Students

1. Within two weeks after the second marking period ends, students in danger of being retained will be sent a letter advising them of this possibility. In the case of classified students, the Child Study Team will also be notified. The letter will invite the parent/guardian to discuss the implications of this matter.

2. At the conclusion of the third marking period, a follow-up letter/meeting will be sent/held to review the goals and the student's progress. Preliminary indications may be given at this time as to the student's progress and prospects for promotion or retention.
3. When it has been determined that the student will be retained, the parent/guardian will be notified of this fact. (Note: In the case of an 8th grade student, this notification will be made no less than three days before the last day of school).
4. A student may be promoted on the basis of successful completion of approved summer school courses. (In the event that South River Middle School offers Summer School, only Language Arts and Mathematics would be available. Science and Social Studies would need to be attended out of district with tuition fees).
5. A student who is promoted but scores Partially Proficient on the NJSLA assessment may be assigned to a remedial class in the following school year.
6. Once a student has been retained, an assistance plan will be devised for the next school year. This assistance plan is to be a living document that may include Academic Support Instruction and a referral to the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) team.

The grade scale will be the following:

A+ = 97-100	C+ = 77-79
A = 93-96	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D = 60-69
B = 83-86	F = 0-59
B- = 80-82	

MARKING PERIODS

1st Marking Period – September 3, 2026 to November 16, 2026

2nd Marking Period – November 17, 2026 to February 3, 2027

3rd Marking Period – February 4, 2027 to April 20, 2027

4th Marking Period – April 21, 2027 to June 23, 2027

PROGRESS REPORT POSTED ON:

1st Marking Period – October 6, 2026

2nd Marking Period – December 22, 2026

3rd Marking Period – March 5, 2027

4th Marking Period – May 18, 2027

REPORT CARDS POSTED ON:

1st Marking Period – November 24, 2026

2nd Marking Period – February 9, 2027

3rd Marking Period – April 22, 2027

4th Marking Period – June 24, 2027

- For the first and second marking periods, a minimum failing grade shall be 45.
- Final average will be calculated by averaging the four marking period grades.
- Both the marking period grades and final averages will be reported as letters on the report card.
- **Additionally, in order to pass for the year and be promoted to the next grade level, the student must pass a minimum of two marking periods, one of which must be in the second half of the school year.**

For each of the first three marking periods, South River Middle School conducts an Awards Assembly. At these events we will recognize academic achievements. The following criteria exist for each of the designated levels of academic honors and citation:

- Principal's List: All A+'s & A's (accelerated math students/ELA students with an A- or better in math)
- High Honor Roll: Three (3) A's (A to A-) and nothing lower than B+ (accelerated math/ELA students with a B or better in math)

- Honor Roll: Three A's (A+ to A-) and nothing lower than B- (accelerated math/ELA students with a C+ or better in math)

STANDARDIZED GRADING PROCEDURE – MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students in grades four through twelve will use a total points grading system with specific point ranges assigned to different categories. The revised points system is outlined below. Specific definitions for each category are outlined on the district website:

- Major Assessments: Range from 60 to 80 points each
- Minor Assessments: Range from 30 to 40 points each
- Performance Indicators: Maximum of 5 points each

Marking period grades will be calculated using the following formula:
 $(\text{Points Achieved} / \text{Points Available}) \times 100$

Major Assessments Defined:

- Tests
- Long Term Projects
- Anything assessing multiple standards over a longer duration of time

Minor Assessments Defined:

- Quizzes
- Short Term Projects (Less than 1 week)
- Science Labs
- Assessments designed to target very specific or a small number of standards that customarily do not take an entire class period

Progress Indicators Defined:

- Classwork that is assessed (Collected do now's, completed classwork that is collected, etc.)
- Homework that is assessed (This includes homework that is individually assessed to determine accuracy and not compliance)

Summative Grading Formula: $(\text{Points Achieved} / \text{Points Assigned}) \times 100 = \text{Marking Period Grade}$

EX: During a marking period a student had the "opportunity" to earn 400 points from all assignments combined. If they achieved 320 points, their grade would be $320/400 = 80\%$ or B- for the Marking Period.

Students will be given ten school days from the end of the first, second, or third marking period of the receipt of an incomplete report card grade to rectify the situation. If the incomplete work is not handed in, the grade for the incomplete test(s) and/or assignment(s) will become a zero on the eleventh day (barring medical excuses) and then would be averaged into the final grade for the marking period. Two weeks prior to the end of the fourth marking period, students will be informed of incomplete/outstanding assignments, and students will be afforded the opportunity to complete the work before the conclusion of the school year. If the work is not turned in, a zero will be averaged into the grade for all incomplete assignments.

Re-Assessment Guide

Reassessment plans should be established by the teacher/department and should be focused on opportunities for student improvement. Students wishing to take advantage of the reassessment process will complete and submit an application to their teacher.

1. What major summative assessments will be eligible for reassessment?

	English	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	World Languages
Middle School	Tests or summative assessments may be re-assessed, in full or in part, at teacher discretion, in addition to major writing assignments	Tests or summative assessments may be redone, in full or in part at teacher discretion, with the exception of cumulative tests.	Tests or summative assessments that demonstrate a student's lack of understanding or comprehension may be open for reassessment, in full or in part at teacher discretion.	Tests, essays, or other summative assessments, including thesis-based writing assignments.	Part A: Compositions and essays Part B: Major tests, such as unit tests, final submission of projects, or thematic assessments are eligible.

2. What are the criteria for reassessment?

High School and Middle School	Teacher or student needs to initiate a request within a reasonable period of time (a week or so after the original assessment) to set up a plan based on that particular student's needs. This plan must be satisfactorily completed before a reassessment will be scheduled. Plans may include the following: • Student turned the original assignment/assessment by the specified due date. • Student followed the original parameters of the assignment/assessment. • Student completed all assignments relevant to the original assessment by the original due dates. • Student corrected the original assignment as per teacher's feedback and guidance. • Student provided evidence of receiving extra help (worked with NHS, outside tutor, etc.). • Student met with his or her teacher for extra help. • Student agreed to the timeline established by the teacher. • Student demonstrated improved understanding of the subject matter (content) by completing corrections or other means. • The student must have put forth his/her best effort (aka "a good faith effort") on the original assessment.
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3. What are the parameters in place for reassessment?

High School and Middle School	Students in all levels of classes may take part in reassessments within the following parameters: • The student must have earned below a 75 or the equivalent letter grade (not a score of 75, but a 74 or lower) to be eligible for a reassessment. • A student will be permitted to take one reassessment for each eligible assessment. • The student's final grade for the assessment will be the highest grade attained and will be capped at 80. <i>(For example, if the original assessment was scored at 75 and the reassessment was scored at 90, the highest grade the student may receive on the reassessment will be 80.)</i> • Assessment eligible for reassessment include and are not limited to tests, writing assignments, thesis-based writing assessments, compositions, and essays.
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4. How will the student's grade be determined and recorded?

High School and Middle School	Highest grade attained with a cap of 80% as the final posted score.
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Placement Criteria for Middle School Accelerated ELA Class

For a student to be placed in Accelerated Level courses, students must meet a minimum 2 of the 3 criteria.

Current Course	Course Next Year	Requirements
Grade 7 Accelerated	Grade 8 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>B- or higher</u> in Grade 7 Accelerated - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 7 LinkIt ELA Benchmark
	Grade 8 CP	Successful completion of Grade 7 Accelerated ELA
Grade 7 CP	Grade 8 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>A- or higher</u> in Grade 7 Accelerated - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 7 LinkIt ELA Benchmark
	Grade 8 CP	Successful completion of Grade 7 ELA
Current Course	Course Next Year	Requirements
Grade 6 Accelerated	Grade 7 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>B- or higher</u> in Grade 6 Accelerated - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 6 LinkIt ELA Benchmark
	Grade 7 CP	Successful completion of Grade 6 Accelerated ELA
Grade 6 CP	Grade 7 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>A- or higher</u> in Grade 6 ELA - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 6 LinkIt ELA Benchmark
	Grade 7 CP	Successful completion of Grade 6 ELA
Current Course	Course Next Year	Requirements
Grade 5 Math	Grade 6 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>A- or higher</u> in Grade 5 ELA - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 5 LinkIt ELA Benchmark
	Grade 6 CP	Does not meet the criteria for Grade 6 Accelerated

Placement Criteria for Middle School Accelerated Mathematics Class

For a student to be placed in Accelerated Level courses, students must meet a minimum 2 of the 3 criteria.

Current Course	Course Next Year	Requirements
Grade 7 Accelerated	Grade 8 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>B- or higher</u> in Grade 7 Accelerated - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 7 LinkIt Math Benchmark
	Grade 8 CP	Successful completion of Grade 7 Accelerated Mathematics
Grade 7 CP	Grade 8 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>A- or higher</u> in Grade 7 Accelerated - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 7 LinkIt Math Benchmark
	Grade 8 CP	Successful completion of Grade 7 Mathematics
Current Course	Course Next Year	Requirements
Grade 6 Accelerated	Grade 7 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>B- or higher</u> in Grade 6 Accelerated - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 6 LinkIt Math Benchmark
	Grade 7 CP	Successful completion of Grade 6 Accelerated Mathematics
Grade 6 CP	Grade 7 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>A- or higher</u> in Grade 6 Math - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 6 LinkIt Math Benchmark
	Grade 7 CP	Successful completion of Grade 6 Mathematics
Current Course	Course Next Year	Requirements
Grade 5 Math	Grade 6 Accelerated	- Grade of <u>A- or higher</u> in Grade 5 Math - Teacher Recommendation 75th percentile or higher on Spring iReady Diagnostic and/or level 4 or 5 on Grade 5 LinkIt Math Benchmark
	Grade 6 CP	Does not meet the criteria for Grade 6 Accelerated

*Please be advised that offering accelerated math and language arts classes will mean that the Gifted and Talented program will not be offered at the Middle School.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Honesty and integrity are valued qualities for all individuals. Cheating is a form of dishonesty and reveals a lack of integrity in the character of an individual. All students are responsible for their own work. Cheating in the academic setting is defined as receiving or giving information to or from another student or using an unauthorized source during an academic assignment (i.e quiz, test, term paper or homework). Plagiarism and cyber-plagiarism are forms of cheating. The following consequences for those students who are involved in cheating have been established.

- Students will receive a zero for the particular assignment.
- Parent/Guardian notification by the teacher will occur.
- Disciplinary consequences may be assigned.

ATTENDANCE

Please read Board Policy #5113 – Attendance, Absences and Excuses – which is located in the Policy Manual on the District’s website. Click on Our District, Policies and Procedures, Online Policy Guide, then click on “click here to access the online policy portal”. Click on Policies in the upper right corner, then click active.

A pupil must be in attendance for 164 or more school days in order to successfully complete the instructional program requirements of the grade to which he/she is assigned. In order for the Board of Education to fulfill its responsibility and provide a thorough and efficient education for each pupil, the complete cooperation of parents/guardians and pupils is required to maintain a high level of school attendance. Frequent absences from classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process and limit the ability of pupils to complete the prescribed curricular requirements successfully.

Please note that it is highly recommended that students do not miss school days for the purpose of vacation. If an absence occurs due to a vacation, teachers and staff will not provide independent school work as this is not comparable to regular school instruction.

Absence Notes

Written and official verification must be submitted to support excused absences. For the purpose of clarification, at South River Middle School an excused absence is only an absence supported by documentation as specified in the South River Board of Education Policies. Notes from parents/guardians may serve as the basis for the determination to be made that the absence was excused. Such determination shall be made by the review committee (at South River Middle School, that committee is the already established Intervention and Referral Services Committee). That committee shall review all notes submitted by parents/guardians and then make a recommendation to the Principal as to whether those absences should be considered excused or unexcused. ***(Official documentation is required from a medical appointment, court appointment, etc., in order for the absence to be excused for those reasons).***

Excused Absences

The Board of Education considers the following as cause for excused absence:

- Disabling illness
- Medical appointment
- Recovery from accident
- Required court attendance
- Death in the family. (For students who have had a death in the family in another country, 7 school days shall be excused with proof).

- Family Illness (when just cause is provided to the principal, usually requiring support documentation to be provided based upon the conference conducted between the principal and the family. For cases such as this, it is strongly recommended that the conference be conducted prior to the days being missed, so as to define what documentation will be needed, as it is frequently difficult for the family to procure this documentation after the fact.).
- Religious observance. (In accordance with statute, no pupil absent for religious observance of a day recognized by the Commissioner of Education shall be charged with an unexcused absence, deprived of an award or eligibility/opportunity to compete for an award, or of the right to take an alternate to a test or examination missed through such an absence. To be entitled to those privileges, the pupil must present a written excuse signed by a parent and/or guardian).
- Such good cause that may be acceptable to the Principal. (Individual student trips for religious observance or formal learning experiences must be approved by the Principal prior to the trip being taken).
- Educational opportunities; (requires approval from principal prior to trip being taken).
- Child to Work Day (Note on Letterhead from Employer required).
- When dictated by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- When dictated by an approved Accommodation and/or 504 Plan.
- When prompted by a chronic illness (documentation of the same must be on file in the nurse's office) or other approved health care plan.

For each unexcused absence:

1. Reasonable attempts shall be made to notify the student's parents and/or guardians prior to the start of the next school day by the office of the South River Middle School Assistant Principal.
2. The office of the South River Middle School Assistant Principal shall conduct an investigation to determine the cause of that absence, including reasonable attempts to contact the student's parents and/or guardians.
3. The office of the South River Middle School Assistant Principal shall develop an action plan in consultation with the student's parents and/or guardians designed to address patterns of unexcused absences, if any, and to have the child return to school and maintain regular attendance. That plan shall include, at a minimum:
 - a. A review of various levels of repercussions and impacts on the student's social and academic quality of life at South River Middle School.
 - b. A review of the applicable South River School District Board of Education Policies.
 - c. A review of the applicable portions of the N.J.S.A. and the N.J.A.C.
 - d. The potential for referral to the Department of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)
 - e. Referral to the School Level Intervention and Referral Service shall be examined for applicability.
4. South River Middle School shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 9.6-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11, if a potential missing or abused child situation is detected.

Promotion/Retention

Students that exceed the 16 day unexcused absence limit may be considered for retention based upon the chronic absenteeism rate on their academic performance. Additionally, all students are advised that all stipulations and requirements as delineated in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.8 will be strictly adhered to, unless otherwise noted.

Appeal Procedure

A waiver of attendance requirements may be granted for good cause by the school principal. In recommending the granting waiver of this attendance requirement, the principal shall consider the nature and causes of all absences rather than only that in excess of the 16 days. Documentation of the nature and causes of these absences shall be the responsibility of the pupil and parent/guardian. Parents who wish to appeal the child's attendance must make a direct appeal to the Principal.

Attendance Recording Procedures

A student will be recorded as present for a full day if he/she:

1. Enters school by 8:10 am and remains until 12:35 pm.
2. Enters school before 10:05 am and remains until 2:45 pm.

From time to time, circumstances will require that a pupil be late to school or dismissed before the end of the school day. The school must be notified in advance of such absences by written request of the pupil's parent/guardian, which shall state the reason for the tardiness or early dismissal. Justifiable reasons may include a medical or dental appointment which cannot be scheduled outside of school hours. In order for a student to leave the school during the course of any school day, the parent/guardian or emergency contact person must sign that student out. Exceptions to this practice must be approved by administration. ***As a reminder, appointments require the submission of formal documentation in order for the late arrival or early dismissal to count as 'excused.'*** ***Students who call a parent to pick them up early due to illness will not be recorded as an excused absence; only students sent home by the nurse will be considered as excused. Students may be denied participation in co-curricular activities if their attendance fails to meet the standards.***

Class Cuts

A class cut is an unexcused and/or unexplained absence from one or more classes, with each class missed counting as a separate incident of cutting class. Leaving class without permission will be considered a cut. Students arriving at their assigned period in excess of nine minutes late, without a pass, are considered to be in a "cut status." Students in a cut status shall be reported to the assistant principal via a standard disciplinary referral form. Each class cut will result in notification of parents by phone (Student will call parent from school office) as well as appropriate disciplinary consequences as per the student code of conduct.

Class Lates

If a student is late to class, she/he must have a pass from a staff member verifying a legitimate reason, which caused the student to be late. Any student discovered in the hallway or other common areas without a pass after the late bell has rung is subject to central detention and/or disciplinary repercussions.

Extracurricular/Co-Curricular School Sponsored Activities on Days of Absence

Students shall not participate in a performance, exhibition, practice or athletic event unless he/she has been present in school that day or has been absent for an excused reason other than for illness. ***In order to participate in an activity, a student must be present for at least four hours of teacher instructional contact time.*** A student must be present on the day before a holiday or a Saturday in order to participate on these days. No student is permitted to attend or participate in an after school activity, with the exception of academic programs, on the day they have an unexcused absence.

Tardiness to School

Tardiness to school is the responsibility of both the student and the parent. Tardiness will be excused for those reasons approved for an excused absence. **Students will be marked tardy if they report to homeroom after the bell rings at 8:10 AM.**

Leaving the Building and/or Grounds Without Permission

Leaving the building and grounds without permission is not allowed and will usually result in the involvement of the South River Police Department. Any periods missed in regards to this situation will also be treated in accordance with the Middle School's cut policy.

Planning Vacations and the School Calendar

Students and parents/guardians are cautioned that the school year is subject to being extended due to circumstances beyond the control of South River Middle School or the South River Public School District. Travel and vacation plans, which are disrupted due to these school year extensions, will not be accepted as excuses/reasons for students to have make-up examinations, excused absences, etc. Again, attention to attendance practices early on in the school year frequently positions the students and families to successfully navigate possible changes in the calendar. Please note that it is highly recommended that students do not miss school days for the purpose of vacation. If an absence occurs due to a vacation, teachers and staff will not provide independent school work as this is not comparable to regular school instruction.

Unexcused Absence

If a student is picked up from a parent/guardian because the student called or texted the parent to pick them up, the absence will be recorded as ***unexcused***. Only when a parent is contacted to pick up their child by the school nurse or administrator is the absence considered excused.

Unexcused Tardy

The response at South River Middle School is to assign a detention after every five (5) tardies beyond one minute of the bell to his/her period one class. In addition students who are consecutively late to class will accrue disciplinary action.

Ten or More Cumulative Unexcused Absences

For cumulative unexcused absences of 10 or more, the student between the ages of six and sixteen is truant, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-27. For each truant student South River Middle School is required to:

1. Make a reasonable attempt to notify the student's parents of each unexcused absence prior to the start of the following school day.
2. Mandatory referral to the court program designated by the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts.
3. Reasonable attempts to notify the student's parents of the mandatory referral.
4. Proceed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-28 through 31, Article 3B, compelling attendance at school, and other applicable State and Federal statutes as required.
5. Cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities and agencies, as appropriate.

South River Middle School shall continue to consult with the parent and the involved agencies to support the student's return to school and regular attendance. The Intervention and Referral Services Committee will meet on a regular basis to review student absences and/or notes submitted in reference to student absences.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM:

Please be advised that the South River Board of Education offers a Breakfast Program free to all students eligible for a Free or Reduced Lunch. South River Middle School offers breakfast every morning from 7:55-8:10 in the middle school cafeteria. Parents/guardians are advised that students not eligible for 'Free or Reduced' will pay a small fee for participation. Those costs are published by the company in charge of the program.

BUILDING SECURITY:

The security of our children is a high priority. The following procedures will be strictly enforced to provide a safe environment for your children. Class 3 Special Law Enforcement officers provide security in our district schools.

- All parents and visitors must use the front door entrance. All exterior doors will be locked during school hours.
- All parents and visitors will use the buzzer by the front door entrance for entry to the building.
- All parents and visitors must have photo identification when entering the building for any reason.
- All parents and visitors must sign-in at the front office and receive a visitor's badge. You will be required to leave photo identification with the main office until the conclusion of the school visit.
- Parents and visitors must be buzzed out by main office personnel when leaving the school building – failure to do so will result in the sounding of a security alarm.

Notice: All public areas of South River Middle School are subject to video surveillance.

VISITORS CODE OF CONDUCT:

Purpose: For the safety and security of all students and staff this code of conduct sets clear directions for visitors regarding what is expected of all visitors that enter our schools

1. Respect and Courtesy

- All visitors must treat students, staff, and other visitors with respect and courtesy at all times.
- Offensive language or behavior will not be tolerated.

2. Identification and Sign-In

- All visitors must report to the main entrance of the school and check in/sign in with the Class III Officer
- The default protocol is that all visitors must have a valid government issued form of identification with them when visiting school.
- On occasion there may be a Visitor(s) that do not have a valid form of Identification when visiting a school or BOE administration building. These visitors must be thoroughly vetted to verify identity by SLEO III, security officers or administrative staff. Visitors without a government issued form of identification will be manually entered into the VMS.
- Those visitors that have a need to enter the school will be provided with a visitors badge and lanyard which must be worn at all times while on school premises.

3. Confidentiality

- Visitors must respect the privacy and confidentiality of students, staff, and school records.
- Photographs or videos of students are not permitted without prior authorization.

4. Safety and Security

- Visitors must follow all safety and emergency procedures as directed by school staff.
- Firearms, weapons, or any dangerous items are strictly prohibited on school grounds.

5. Conduct in Classrooms and Common Areas

- All visitors should minimize disruptions and avoid interrupting instructional time.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should be silenced during classroom visits.

6. Interactions with Students

- Visitors should interact with students and staff in a positive and supportive manner.
- Physical contact with students or staff is strictly prohibited.
- Visitors should not discipline students; any concerns should be reported to school staff.

7. Use of School Facilities

- Visitors must enter a school in accordance with our security protocol through the main entrance and sign into the VMS system.
- No one shall enter any school or BOE administration offices surreptitiously. Consequences for such an act may result in a criminal charge of trespassing or defiant trespassing.
- Visitors must use school facilities respectfully and responsibly.
- Littering, vandalism, or misuse of school property is prohibited.
- Photographing or videotaping the interior of any school, students or staff is strictly prohibited.

8. Compliance with School Policies

- Visitors must comply with all school policies, including those related to health and safety.
- Smoking, alcohol, and drug use are prohibited on school grounds.

9. Reporting Concerns

- Any concerns or issues should be reported to the school administration promptly.

- Visitors should follow the school's procedures for addressing concerns.

10. Departure

- Visitors must sign out at the school office or designated area and return their visitor's badge and lanyard upon leaving.

Consequences of Violation

Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct may result in the visitor being asked to leave the premises, and future visitation privileges may be revoked.

Acknowledgment

By signing in, visitors acknowledge that they have read and agree to comply with this Code of Conduct.

Contact Information

For any questions or concerns, please contact the Director of Security, Mr. Joseph Shannon at jshannon@srivernj.org

CAFETORIUM - FOOD REGULATIONS

All food is to be eaten by students in the cafetorium. *Glass bottles are not permitted* in school as they can be a safety concern. Students are responsible for cleaning their eating area. No food is to be taken to or eaten by students in classrooms or any other area of the building. "To go" cups/hot beverages/frozen drinks are not permitted. Food from outside restaurants dropped off by parents will be given to the student (and can be eaten in the Main Office conference room). Failure to abide by these cleanliness standards will result in disciplinary procedures. A student who owes money should make arrangements immediately for the full payment to avoid any interruption of access to the food services account system.

Lunch/Outstanding Debts

In the event that the Principal determines that a student's school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears, the Principal will contact the student's parent or guardian to provide notice of the amount due and shall provide the parent or guardian with a period of 10 school days to remit payment. If the student's parent or guardian has not made full payment by the end of the 10 school days, then the Principal shall again contact the student's parent or guardian to provide notice that school breakfast or school lunch, as applicable, shall be given limited choice to the student beginning one week from the date of the second notice unless payment is made in full. Please be advised that lunch debt follows the student as they move from grade to grade and from school to school. Parents must complete an online application for free/reduced meals EVERY year – free or reduced

meal status does not carry over from one school year to the next school year. The link and directions for this process are located on the district's webpage.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONICS DEVICES

As required by state law, the use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices is not permitted during the school day. Upon arrival, students must place their cell phones/electronic devices in the secure lockbox located in their homeroom/first-period classroom. Devices will remain secured throughout the school day and will be retrieved at the end of the day. Students found in possession of or using a cell phone or other electronic device during the school day will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the school's Code of Conduct.

Utilized correctly, electronic devices can enhance the learning environment by allowing the district and its students to remain current with the various uses of technology for educational purposes. Conversely, the inappropriate use of such devices may constitute a disruption to the educational process and, in some cases, a violation of personal privacy. Instructors will exercise sound professional judgment when deciding how to incorporate and utilize student use of electronic devices in the classroom. When permitted by classroom instructors, the use of these devices for legitimate and educational purposes by students will be permitted, so long as students observe and abide by the conditions and guidelines of the instructor. Students may utilize electronic devices in the classroom and during the instructional day and only when such devices are utilized for legitimate educational and instructional purposes. The "instructional day" shall begin with the bell to report to first period and include passing times as well as any other structured or unstructured activity that occurs during the normal school day.

In addition, students may only utilize the forms of communication and programs on the electronic devices that are permitted by the instructor (i.e. internet access, text messaging, posting, programs, Apps, etc.). If the classroom instructor does not provide consent for use, such devices must be turned off and stored away so that they cannot be seen (i.e. in pocket, purse, book bags, etc.) or heard. In the event a student is found using an electronic device in a classroom where the instructor has not provided consent, the classroom instructor may confiscate the device for the remainder of the instructional period or contact building administration for an extended confiscation period to be determined by building administration. Repeated offenses may result in further disciplinary consequences. In addition, please note the following:

1. Notwithstanding the permission granted by the classroom instructor, building administration reserves the right to prohibit access and/or the use of an electronic device by confiscation (for an extended period of time) if a student is found to have utilized the device in a manner that is not permitted by the classroom instructor or for a purpose deemed inappropriate. In this regard, the use of an electronic device will be inappropriate if the student's use is relative to the list below:

- Causes a disruption to the educational environment
- Invades the rights of privacy of others (including staff) at school; i.e. videos, photos
- Involves illegal or prohibited conduct of any kind
- Violates any provision of the South River School District's Student Code of Conduct or the Board of Education's policies
- Use of Social Media

2. Electronic devices may include, but are not limited to, laptops, chromebooks, iPads/tablets, smart phones, smartwatches, etc. Electronic devices that are intended solely for gaming and

entertainment are not permitted in the school building during the school day. Students are to remove their earbuds/phones from their ears while in the hallway (or class).

3. Any use or attempted use of an electronic device to capture, record, or transfer the image of an individual is strictly prohibited and will result in appropriate disciplinary action. Additionally, recording of any kind during a test, quiz, or other classroom assessment may be considered cheating and is strictly prohibited and consequences will be implemented.

4. Building administration reserves the right to examine any student's electronic mobile device that is brought onto the school grounds and search its content if there is a reasonable suspicion that policies, rules, or regulations have been violated or if there is a reasonable suspicion that the electronic device contains information that may pertain to a school investigation. Students who use their electronic device to violate policies, rules, or regulations will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action and any suspected violation of New Jersey law will be referred to law enforcement authorities.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is very important, for emergency and administrative reasons, that every student maintains an up-to-date address record at the school office. Immediately notify the school if you have a change of address and telephone number during the school year. You will be asked to provide an updated proof of residency for a new address

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

All students have the right to receive an education in a school environment that fosters the health, safety, social, and emotional well being of students as well as supporting and maintaining a civil, safe, supportive, and disciplined school environment. When students, parents, and teachers work together, a strong sense of pride is developed in which everyone can grow and demonstrate academic achievement. With cooperation and support, we will work to minimize the occurrence of problem behaviors and strive to improve the students' self-control and self-esteem. Respect, responsibility, and self-discipline are our main goals, as is our intent to build a safe and caring community.

SRHS/SRMS Student Code of Conduct 2026-2027			
Behavior/Infraction	Consequence		
Assault on student	Immediate OSS, disciplinary hearing and police report		
Assault on staff	Immediate OSS, disciplinary hearing and police report		
Cell Phones/Electronic Devices	1st Offense- confiscated, picked up by parent, 5 days hand in to office	2nd Offense- same as 1st + 1 day ISS, 10 days turned in to office	3rd Offense- same as 1st, + 2 days ISS, 15 days turned in to office, possible legal action
Cheating/plagiarism	1st Offense- zero on assignment, probation from awards/honor society	2nd Offense- zero on assignment, removal from awards/honor society	3rd Offense- Zero on assignment, ineligible list for 1 month.
Class Disruption/General Misbehavior	1st Offense- parent contact/conference	2nd Offense- 1 day detention	3rd Offense- 2 days detention or 1 day ISS
Criminal Threat	Immediate OSS pending hearing and police report		
Cutting central/teacher detention	1st Offense- 1 day central det.	2nd Offense- 2 days detention	3rd Offense- 1day ISS
Class Cut	1st Offense- 1 day central detention	2nd Offense- 2 days central detention	3rd Offense- 3 days detention or ISS/community service

Cyber/social media offense	1st Offense- 1 day detention, turn in chromebook	2nd Offense- 2 days detention, turn in chromebook	3rd Offense- 1 day ISS, turn in chromebook
Disregard of School Rules	1st Offense- 1 day central detention	2nd Offense- 2 days central detention	3rd Offense- 3 days detention or ISS/community service
Defiance/Disrespect of Authority	1st Offense- Block of ISS and reflection or OSS	2nd Offense- 1 day ISS/OSS	3rd Offense- 2 days ISS/OSS
Drugs or Illegal Substances Under the influence/possession	1st Offense- Vaping/substance Educational Program/ Community service 10 hours, police notification	2nd Offense 1 day of ISS/OSS, police notification	3rd Offense 2 days ISS/OSS and mandatory parent meeting, police notification
Drugs or Illegal Substances (sale/distribution)	9 days OSS, SRPD, SAC referral, disciplinary hearing.		
Endangering the Safety of Others	1st Offense Block of ISS	2nd Offense 1 day ISS	3rd Offense 2 days ISS
Failure to Comply with Administration	1st Offense 1 day of ISS/OSS	2nd Offense 2 days of ISS/OSS	3rd Offense 3 days ISS/OSS and mandatory parent meeting
Fighting	1st Offense- 1 day OSS	2nd Offense- 2 days OSS	3rd Offense- 3 days OSS
Forgery of school materials	1st Offense- 1 day central detention	2nd Offense- 2 days central detention	3rd Offense- 3 days detention or ISS/community service
Gambling	1st Offense- Conference/parent contact	2nd Offense- 1 day detention	3rd Offense- 2 days detention
Gang related incidents	Immediate OSS pending hearing and police report		
Hate or Bias Crime	Immediate OSS pending hearing and police report		
Inappropriate language/actions at staff member	1st Offense 1 day of ISS/OSS	2nd Offense 2 days of ISS/OSS	10
Inappropriate language/actions	1st Offense 1 lunch det./ISS/OSS	1st Offense 2 lunch det./ISS/OSS	1st Offense 3 lunch det./ISS/OSS
Inciting a riot/food fight	Immediate OSS and discipline hearing		
Late to Class	1 to 3 teacher warning	4 to 5 teacher detention	6+ disciplinary referral
Late to School	at 5 tardies - notification to parents	at 10, 15, 20, detention	at 25 and above- detention, referral to I&RS
Leaving school/grounds without permission	1st Offense: Removal from early release and/or 5 days on ineligible list.	2nd Offense: Removal from early release and/or 10 days on ineligible list.	3rd Offense 1 day of ISS
Lockdown/Police Incident	1st Offense Block of ISS	2nd Offense 1-3 Blocks of ISS	3rd Offense 1 day of ISS
Physical contact	1st Offense- Block of ISS and reflection or OSS	2nd Offense- 2 blocks ISS or OSS	3rd Offense- 1 day ISS/OSS
Possession of firearm/weapon	Immediate OSS pending hearing and police report		

Smoking/Vaping/Possession of Tobacco Products	Vaping/substance Educational Program/ Restorative community service 5 hours, 2nd 1 day ISS, 3rd 2 days ISS, subject to search by wandering.		
Threat to another student or school personnel	Suspension; Potential OSS; report to police		
Theft	1st Offense 1 day of ISS/CSS, police report, restitution	2nd Offense 2 days of ISS/OSS, police report, restitution	3rd Offense days of ISS/OSS, police report, restitution
Truancy	1st Offense conference/parent call	2nd Offense 1 day lunch detention	3rd Offense 1 day detention
Unauthorized areas	1st Offense- 1 day central detention	2nd Offense- 2 days central detention	3rd Offense- 3 days detention or ISS/community service
Unauthorized recording of staff/students	1st Offense- 1 day ISS/ hold phone 5 days	2nd Offense- 2 days ISS/ hold phone 10 days/parent conference	Board Action
Vandalism	1st Offense 1 day detention and restitution	2nd Offense 1 day ISS and restitution	3rd Offense 2 days ISS and restitution
Intentional damage to school issued device	Restitution, device to remain at school		

Students have the right:

- To be informed about expectations for their behavior;
- To be treated with respect and dignity in an environment free from teasing, bullying, and harassment;
- To learn in a positive, safe learning environment;
- To express their opinion and feelings appropriately;
- To be taught constructive means to settle disagreements or problems;
- To due process.

Student Responsibilities

Students have a responsibility to:

- Exhibit self-control on school premises, on the school bus, and at all school events/activities;
- Remain within the area assigned for a specific activity;
- Exhibit respect for the authority of school personnel;
- Maintain and respect school and private property;
- Speak to and treat adults/other students with respect and in a positive manner without teasing, name-calling or profanity;
- Avoid placing themselves or others in danger or physical harm;
- Help keep the school clean and attractive;
- Exhibit tolerance towards others and use constructive means to settle disagreements or problems;
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in their conduct, arrive to class on time, and follow posted school/class rules;
- Exhibit safe and orderly conduct and behavior in the school.

Students who choose not to accept these responsibilities are subject to disciplinary action. School personnel will use a variety of measures, including, but not limited to: responsive classroom techniques, restorative practices, teacher/student conferences, teacher/parent conferences, interventions through guidance counselors and/or the Intervention and Referral Services team, warnings, detentions (assigned by teacher and/or administrator), suspensions, or other strategies determined by the building administrator. Consequences will vary according to the severity of the offense, developmental age of the student, and student history of inappropriate behaviors. At any time throughout the process, intervention by other school personnel may be recommended. All discipline matters will be handled on an individual basis and administrative discretion may be used in the final adjudication of the discipline.

Alcohol, tobacco, vapes and other drugs/Substance Abuse

In accordance with Board policy, the following procedures are established for instruction of pupils in drug, alcohol, tobacco and steroid abuse; the evaluation and treatment of pupils who possess drugs, alcohol, tobacco and steroids and for pupils who are suspended or found to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, tobacco (including e-cigarettes) and/or steroids.

- Teachers shall be guided by the drug, alcohol, tobacco and steroid program approved by the Board of Education as part of the Health Education Curriculum in accordance with State Board rules and Department of Education guidelines.
- Teachers and administrators will be requested to evaluate annually the effectiveness of the drug, alcohol, tobacco and steroid education programs.

Reporting, Notification, and Examination Procedures for Pupils Suspected of Being under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol or Steroids or Using or Possessing Tobacco/E-Cigarette Products:

Teaching staff members will be alert to the signs of pupil's involvement with drugs, tobacco, e-cigarette, alcohol, or steroids so that impaired health or fatigue, excessive truancy or tardiness, suddenly lower grades, depressed appetite or loss of weight, extreme behavior, eyes that are bloodshot, watery, extremely wide, or have extremely small pupils; an unusual body or breath odor; needle tracks; a change in attitude personality, temperament, appearance, or peer groups; and mental confusion.

Concerns that student use of chemicals outside of school and away from school related activities may be passed on, via use of the referral and/or behavior checklist, to core team member, guidance counselor, student behavior support specialist, the school nurse or any administrator who can follow through on the process of investigating non-emergency cases of suspected drug, alcohol, or steroid involvement.

A. In instances involving intoxication either in school or at school sponsored activity by alcoholic beverage, controlled dangerous substances or any chemical or chemical compound as identified in N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.3(a), the following shall apply:

1. Any staff member to whom it appears that a pupil may be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or other drugs on school property or at a school function must report the matter as soon as possible to the school nurse or medical inspector and the principal.
2. The principal or his/her designee shall immediately notify the parent/guardian and the Superintendent and arrange for an immediate examination of the pupil. A physician selected by the parent/guardian or by the medical inspector may perform the examination. If the chosen physician is not immediately available, the parent shall take the pupil to the emergency facility designated by the Principal for the examination. If the parent is not

available, the pupil shall be accompanied by a member of the school staff, designated by the principal, to the emergency medical facility near the school for examination. If available, a parent/guardian should accompany the pupil.

3. If, at the request of the parent or legal guardian, a physician other than the medical inspector conducts the medical examination, such examination shall not be at the expense of the district Board of Education.
4. Provisions shall be made for the appropriate care of the pupil while awaiting the results of the medical examination.
5. The examining physician shall furnish a written report of the examination to the parent/guardian of the pupil, the principal and the Superintendent within 24 hours.
6. If the written report of the medical examination is not submitted to the parent/guardian, principal and Superintendent within 24 hours, the pupil shall be allowed to return to school until such time as a positive diagnosis of alcohol or other drug use is received.
7. If there is a positive diagnosis from the medical examiner indicating that the pupil is under the influence of alcoholic beverages or other drugs, the pupil shall be returned to the care of a parent/guardian as soon as possible. Attendance at school shall not resume until a written report has been submitted to the parent/guardian of the pupil, the principal and Superintendent from a physician who has examined the pupil to diagnose alcohol or other drug use. The report shall certify that substance abuse no longer interferes with the pupil's physical and mental ability to perform in school. In addition, the staff member shall complete the violence, vandalism and substance abuse incident report. A student will be disciplined in accordance with guidelines outlined in the discipline procedure manual when involved in drug related activities while in school or involved in a school-sponsored activity.
8. The student and parent/guardian will be advised of available counseling and support services in the community which are approved by the County LACADA or the State Department of Health. Individual referrals will be made as appropriate.
9. The Board of Education shall provide for in-house assessment of student drug and alcohol concerns as well as instruction. Counseling interventions will be offered by the student assistance counselor and/or core team members who are trained in drug and alcohol prevention, intervention, and after-care procedure.
10. While the student is at home because of disciplinary and/or medical reasons, the child study team will intervene to determine the student's eligibility for home instruction, develop an IEP, and provide additional assessment if needed. The child study team will determine if assessment for special education eligibility or related services is needed.
11. The core team, student assistance counselor, crisis counselor, or other staff members assigned to monitor the student's stability, progress, and possible re-entry into the daily school routine shall be responsible to keep appropriate work in close cooperation with the pupil's parents/guardians in an effort to fully support the student.

Administrative Procedures for Urine Testing

- Pupils suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs in school or at a school related activity shall be immediately referred to the principal or his/her designee.
- If a pupil denies alcohol or other drug involvement, the principal or designee contacts the child's parent/guardian to secure permission for urine testing at this time and a urine test upon returning to school or two weeks after the initial incident. REFER TO URINE TESTING PERMISSION FORM
- A urine specimen is taken at an emergency medical facility near school.
- The principal meets with the student, parents/guardians, and student assistance counselor the next school day.

- UPON VERIFICATION OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUG ABUSE, SUSPENSION IS SET BY THE PRINCIPAL.
- Whether or not the parent consents to the urine test, the principal or his/her designee shall arrange for an immediate examination of the pupil. The examination may be performed by a physician selected by the parent/guardian or by the medical inspector (school physician). If the chosen physician is not immediately available, the examination shall be conducted by the medical inspector (school physician), or if the medical inspector (school physician) is not available, the pupil shall be accompanied by a member of the school staff, designated by the principal, to an emergency medical facility near the school for examination. If available, a parent/guardian should also accompany the pupil. The pupil shall be examined as soon as possible for the purpose of diagnosing whether or not the pupil is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- At the request of the parent/guardian, the medical examination is conducted by a physician other than the medical inspector; such examination shall be at the expense of the Board of Education.
- In accordance with (N.J.A.C.18A:38-25 and 18A:38-31) and/or child neglect (N.J.S.A.9:6-1 et seq.) laws.
- Provisions shall be made for the appropriate care of the pupil while awaiting the results of the medical examination.
- The examining physician shall furnish a written report of the medical examination to the parent/guardian of the pupil, the principal, and the Superintendent of Schools within Twenty-four (24) hours.
- If the written report of the medical examination is not submitted to the parent or guardian, principal and the Superintendent of Schools within twenty-four (24) hours, the pupil shall be allowed to return to school until such time as a positive diagnosis of alcohol or other drug use is received.
- If there is a positive diagnosis from the medical examination indicating that the pupil is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, the pupil shall be returned to the care of the parent/guardian as soon as possible. Attendance at school shall not resume until a written report has been submitted to the parent/guardian of the pupil, the principal and the Superintendent of Schools, from a physician who examined the pupil to diagnose alcohol or other drug use. The report shall certify that substance abuse no longer interferes with the pupil's physical and mental ability to perform in school.
- Upon return to school or two (2) weeks after the initial incident, whichever occurs last, the student will have a urine test at an emergency medical facility near school in accordance with the procedures outlined (3rd bullet) and only in the event of permission by the parent reflected on the "Urine Testing Permission Form".

Any pupil who refuses to follow Board policy will be suspended for 10 days. If the student continues not to comply, a board hearing will be conducted for possible expulsion. The Superintendent of Schools will make recommendations to the Board of Education for possible action.

- If the test, two (2) weeks after the initial incident is positive, then recommendation for expulsion may be made. Parents will be advised that an expulsion hearing will be held as per Board Policy No. 5210.
- All students who are found to be a violation of the Substance Abuse Policy will receive proper treatment including instruction and counseling services

DISCIPLINARY INFRACTION EXPLANATIONS

General Detention: Students may be assigned after school detention by an administrator.

General Detention is held from 2:50 pm until 3:25 pm. Students will be reminded of their detention date the day prior to their assigned detention.

Teacher Detention – Teachers may assign individual detention after school.

Recovery Room/In School Suspension: Certain infractions of the Discipline Rules and Regulations result in students being sent to the Recovery Room. Upon arriving, the student will sit quietly for at least ten minutes and reflect upon his or her behavior. (Teachers may substitute class work instead). An administrator may send a student to the Recovery Room for any given time. The purpose of the Recovery Room is to provide a controlled and supervised environment for the student to take time and reflect upon his/her behavior. There will be no talking, no sleeping, no resting heads on desks.

OSS: Serious violations of the Discipline Rules and Regulations can result in Out of School Suspension. Depending on the infraction, this action may be from one to nine days. A phone call will be made, and a letter will be sent to parents informing them of this action. **Students may not be on school grounds if they are suspended out of school. Violation of this expectation will result in notification to the South River Police Department for trespassing.** In some cases, students will not be admitted back to school without a parent/student conference with an administrator. While assigned OSS, students are excluded from participating in all co-curricular and extra-curricular school activities. However, they are responsible for all lessons, homework assignments, and tests.

Court Action: Court action will be instituted for other violations such as trespassing, truancy, tardiness, assault, use of tobacco/e-cigarette/vape products, inducing a person(s) to use narcotic drugs, malicious destruction or damage to property, carrying concealed weapons, and any other violation of New Jersey Statutes.

Expulsion: The temporary denial of a student's right to attend school pending review by school authorities (NJSA 18A:46-16).

Exclusions from Activities/Probation

At the discretion of SRMS Administration, any student can be excluded from activities due to serious disciplinary infractions.

Restorative Practice

Our schools strive to maintain conditions conducive to mutual respect for students and teachers alike, and to further the development of student self-discipline. Our teachers and staff are expected to communicate and reinforce our school rules. Students are expected to follow these rules and take responsibility for their behavior. This expectation applies to classroom activities, as well as school functions, field trips, athletic events, and extracurricular activities. School rules also apply to students while walking to and from school. Following these guidelines will help make a student's time at South River Schools rewarding and educationally significant.

We believe that students can learn and grow from their mistakes. We also understand that there are often underlying issues that lead to misbehavior, and that these need to be addressed and considered in order to eliminate ongoing discipline issues. The district is engaging in a restorative approach to its disciplinary response. This seeks to help students not only understand the consequences of negative actions, but to supplant those with actions that will enhance the educational environment for themselves and the school as a whole. The administration will apply a Restorative Community Service Program (RCS) to address some infractions through the use of service time and action. This

approach, assigned at the discretion of school administration, may be assigned in lieu or in conjunction with the discipline listed in the code of conduct chart.

Photography and Video-Taping of Staff and Students

Students are not permitted to videotape or photograph staff members or other students without their consent. Any student found in violation of this requires a disciplinary referral.

School Bus Safety

Parent Responsibility

The transportation regulations and the Policy adopted by the Board of Education should be stressed to the students not only for their safety but to protect the lives of all students riding the school bus.

- Do not ask the bus driver to stop at places other than the designated stop.
- Assume responsibility in training your child to cooperate with the driver.
- Insist on correct behavior in waiting for and riding the school bus.
- Help your student(s) be on time at the bus stop.
- Do not get on the bus. Only the student(s) and driver are allowed on the bus.

Student Responsibility

Be aware of the following rules and regulations set down for your safe and efficient transportation. Cooperate by obeying these rules and regulations for your own safety as well as others.

Prior to Loading Bus:

- Be on time at your bus stop- 10-15 minutes before the bus is due.
- Wait until the bus stops before moving toward the door.
- Do not destroy or damage property at the bus stop.
- Remain on the curb at least 3 feet back-NEVER stand in or move into the roadway as the bus approaches.

While Riding Bus:

- Move quickly to your seat. Do not stand or move from your seat while the bus is in motion.
- Do not open or close windows without the driver's permission.
- Keep hands, arms and other parts of the body inside the bus at all times.
- Keep feet, legs and other objects out of the aisles.
- Do not eat or drink on the bus.
- No smoking.
- Never throw anything out of the bus window.
- Be courteous, talk softly and "watch your language".
- In case of an emergency, remain in your seat until instructions are given by the driver.
- Report any damage to the bus to the driver.
- All students are responsible for any damage they cause to the bus.

After Leaving the Bus:

- Move quickly away from the side of the bus, up onto the curb or off the roadway.

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

The Board of Education prohibits the possession and/or use of weapons, or other instruments that can be used as weapons (including scissors) from school property, at any school function, or while en route to or from school or any school function. Law strictly prohibits the possession of "fake/play" guns in school. This includes water guns, plastic guns, and other play guns.

The principal and/or assistant principal shall make the final determination that a particular object is a dangerous instrument in any case where there is a question of its possession or use posing a threat to students, staff or property. Dangerous instruments include any type of laser pointers, lighter, smoke bombs, fireworks, or “poppers”.

A student found or observed on school property or at a school event in possession of a weapon or dangerous instrument shall be reported to the principal/designee immediately. The principal and/or assistant principal shall immediately inform the chief school administrator/designee who shall, immediately inform appropriate law enforcement officials. The chief school administrator/designee shall provide the law enforcement officials with all known information concerning the matter, including the identity of the pupil involved. Disciplinary action shall be taken against students who possess, handle, transmit or use weapons or dangerous instruments. As in all disciplinary cases, due process will be provided.

1. Threaten to do bodily harm to another student or staff member, with or without a weapon up to 1-9 days
2. Bring a weapon to school (including fake guns), or the use of any object deemed to be a weapon when used – 3-9 days and police action.
3. Threaten to bring a weapon to school – Police action and/or probable suspension.
4. Bomb threats (written and/or verbal) – Police action and/or suspension, 3-9 days.

COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS

Parents and guardians wishing to discuss or register complaints about the operation of the school or the District’s administration of the educational programs required by State and Federal law should contact the Building Principal. Complaints beyond the building level may be brought to the Central Administration, Board of Education, County Superintendent of Schools, and the New Jersey Department of Education as set forth in Board Policy #1312, Community Complaints and Inquiries.

CONFERENCES

Fall:

October 20th 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
October 21st 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
October 22nd 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
October 23rd 1:00pm to 3:00 pm

Spring:

March 9th 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
March 10th 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
March 11th 1:00pm to 3:00 pm

CORE ETHICAL VALUES

A *value* is a belief about what is good that transcends specific situations and that guides judgment and decision making. *Core ethical values* are at the heart of effective character education. They guide the process of creating a character education initiative and help schools make decisions about what happens in the classroom. **The goal is to “strive for five”**

Respect

- Treat others as you would want to be treated and accept differences.
- Use appropriate language and manners.
- Honor the rights of others.
- Obey laws, school policies, rules, and authority.
- Cooperatively work with others to solve problems and maintain a positive attitude.

Responsibility

- Make informed and well thought out decisions by beginning with the end in mind and considering the consequences.
- Persevere and keep on trying when things become difficult by always doing your best.
- Be accountable for your actions.
- Serve as an active bystander by taking positive action against wrongdoing.
- Be punctual; arrive at school and class on time regularly.

Kindness

- Be compassionate, show you care, forgive others, and help those in need.
- Be patient.
- Be open-minded and listen to what others are trying to tell you.
- Deal peacefully with insults and disagreements; control your anger and frustrations by developing healthy coping strategies; use self-control and be self-disciplined.
- Consider others' feelings and communicate empathetically.

Service

- Volunteer and participate in the school and community.
- Take on positive leadership roles.
- Think win/win and constantly seek a mutual benefit in all human interactions.
- Be generous and give without expecting anything in return.
- Be dependable and reliable.

Honesty

- Be truthful at all times.
- When mistakes are made, admit them.
- Be proud of your own work.
- Model good citizenship.
- Use good judgment in difficult situations.

COUNSELING

Our school Guidance Counselors are available to assist students who have concerns regarding academic, personal, social, and emotional concerns. Students are encouraged to make use of the counselor by arranging for an appointment through their teacher or the school secretary. As well, parents are encouraged to contact the counselor to discuss student concerns. A consent form must be signed by a parent/guardian to arrange for on-going counseling.

CRISIS

At times, we all experience events in our lives that hurt us, depress us, or cause us to do poorly in school. Often we feel that the problem is too personal to share without worrying that it will be told, i.e., pregnancy issues, physical and mental abuse, and drug/alcohol problems. ALL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. However, threats of suicide, physical and sexual abuses must be reported by law. This information cannot be kept confidential.

DELIVERIES FOR STUDENTS

Any planned delivery of flowers, gifts, balloons, bears, etc., for students are not allowed. If delivery is attempted, it will be refused.

DEODORANT/BODY SPRAY

Scented perfumes, lotions, sprays, etc. are not permitted. This is a major health issue with many students and staff. Non-spray deodorant is permitted in the physical education locker room. Any student using a spray will result in appropriate disciplinary action and the offending spray will be confiscated.

DISMISSAL

All parents and guardians are responsible to notify the School Principal or his/her designee of the specific arrangement for pupil supervision at dismissal. Such arrangements will be considered permanent for the School Year. Parents/guardians may only alter the regular procedures for their child at dismissal upon providing ten days' written notice to the Principal. In the event that a child who is supposed to be picked up at school is not picked up, the District will not release that pupil, but will make arrangements to supervise the pupil and to contact the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

After school programs are available. Parents and Guardians may plan for their pupils' enrollment and participation in such programs.

Parents and Guardians are responsible for reviewing and complying with the School Calendar, including days upon which the school will be closed or will be scheduled for early dismissal. Any adjustment to the School Calendar will be announced via the Building Administration and the District Website.

Children will leave our school for home at approximately 2:45 PM unless engaged in after-school activities. Students using the school bus will exit the building in front of the school. Parents picking up children prior to dismissal must sign the child out at the Main Entrance of South River Middle School.

DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Avoid overt public displays of affection. Use good judgment and you will avoid an embarrassing situation as well as disciplinary repercussions assigned by administration as deemed necessary and based upon the action.

DOGS/PETS

Dogs or pets are not permitted on school grounds without the explicit permission of the school principal.

DRESS CODE AND GROOMING - STUDENTS

General Rules

1. The dress code applies during school hours, at school activities, and on field trips.
2. Students are expected to avoid extremes in appearance that are disruptive to the educational process.
3. Dress or grooming that jeopardizes the health and safety of the other students or that is considered offensive will not be accepted.

The Following Will Not Be Allowed on Campus:

1. Strapless or see-through tops, bustier, tube tops, tank tops, or bare midriffs. Tops must fall reasonably close to the neckline and fall directly below the underarm to insure that the torso and undergarments are not exposed inappropriately. Proper attire should include undergarments.
2. Headgear and/or hats are to be left in the lockers until the end of the day (some examples are caps, bandannas, hairnets, do-rags, wave caps, headbands, picks or visors). "Hats" shall not include headwear of religious significance such as yarmulkes. Hoods must also not be worn throughout the day.
3. Shorts, skirts, and dresses must cover undergarments when sitting, standing, or bending. Acceptable skirt length is when the bottom hem of the skirt reaches the fingertips. Acceptable short length is when the bottom hem of the shorts reaches the fingertips.

- Length/inseam will vary depending upon height.
4. Lycra and Spandex shorts may be worn if covered; they may not be worn as an outer garment. [Dresses, skirts, and shorts shall extend to at least the fingertips of the pupil when the arms are placed at the pupil's side.]
 5. Any clothing, make-up, hairstyle, or wig that attracts undue disruption.
 6. Clothing that portrays suggestive, derogatory, insulting pictures or writing that is in any way suggestive or can be construed to have a "double meaning" or symbolic meaning, is obscene or vulgar or carries a logo, words, picture of representation of alcohol or other illegal drugs.
 7. Any footwear that is not appropriate or safe for normal activities. The following are not appropriate or safe: flip-flops, (meaning no back strap), slides, bedroom slippers, spiked heels, or bare feet.
 8. Pants below the hips are not acceptable. Undergarments should not be seen. Sleepwear is not acceptable.
 9. Nonprescription sunglasses, and/or tinted glasses, except prescribed by the pupil's doctor.
 10. Torn or dirty clothing.

DRIVING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Please exercise extreme caution when driving on our school grounds. Obey all traffic safety signs and posted speed limits.

EIGHTH GRADE DINNER DANCE

As always, only students currently enrolled at South River Middle School will be allowed to attend the Dinner Dance. Please note that 'PromPosals' are not to be done during school.

Any eighth grade students wishing to attend the South River Middle School Dinner Dance must be in attendance at school between the hours of 8:10 and 12:00 on the date of the dance (No exceptions, unless approved by the Principal or Assistant Principal).

Any student whose parents wish to allow him/her to leave early to attend said Dinner Dance, must have the parent/guardian personally come to our school and sign this student out, no earlier than 12:00 PM.

If due to job requirements, any parent intends to have his/her student leave SRMS at 12:00, or thereafter, (prior to the end of the school day), that parent must send, at least 24 hours in advance, a note stating the name of another parent/guardian who will be taking that 8th grader, and the reason for asking for this exception.

We must request that all students be picked up at the end time of the dance. Students will not be allowed to leave the dance prior to that time, without a parent or guardian picking them up, and upon leaving, they cannot return.

The allowance to attend the Eighth Grade Dinner Dance will be at the discretion of administration at times when disciplinary actions ensue. In addition, any unpaid fines must be paid or that student may not attend. Students with more than 16 unexcused absences may not attend. Extenuating circumstances will be decided upon by building administration.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOLS

If it is necessary to close school or have a delayed opening due to inclement weather or other emergency conditions, the information will be posted on the South River Public Schools District Website and an emergency notification will be delivered to phone numbers and emails on file via the ConnectEd emergency notification system beginning at 6:30 AM or as soon thereafter as is practical; refer to the bell schedule on the inside cover of this handbook for altered bell schedules. A school closure notification will also be posted on Social Media accounts.

Students/parents/guardians are to access their email frequently and pay close attention to incoming phone calls during inclement weather in order to be advised as to whether school will be closed for the entire day, or in the case that school is in session, whether or not school will be dismissed early. It is imperative that contact information, telephone numbers, and email addresses be correct and current for utilization with South River School District's "ConnectEd" emergency notification program.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire drills are held to prepare all students and teachers to leave the building as quickly as possible should an emergency arise. Detailed escape plans are posted inside the door of each classroom. For fire drills, each class has an escape route to an outside area at a safe distance from the building. To prevent confusion *absolute silence* is to be maintained at all times in leaving or entering the building. Drills are not considered complete until the students have returned to the classroom.

In addition, each month, the school will conduct security drills. Some of those drills may be conducted in conjunction with the South River Police Department. Instructions for this type of drill may vary. During drills, absolute silence is to be maintained so that the specific directions for that security drill can be followed. During a lockdown drill, a red light above the entrance doors will be flashing. For example, on a particular drill, some or all of the classes may be instructed to exit the building. The staff and students will be notified when the drill is complete.

At the conclusion of the security drill, an e-ram is sent out to all parents notifying that a monthly security drill was conducted and executed successfully.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of emergency, each student is required to have on file at the school office the following information:

1. Parent(s) or guardian(s) name(s)
2. Complete and up-to-date address
3. Home phone and parent/guardian(s) work phone
4. Emergency phone number of friend or relative available during school hours
5. Physician's name and phone number
6. Medical alert information

If this information needs to be changed/updated, please contact Elena Stewart in the Guidance Counselor Office at Estewart@srivernj.org or 732-613-40732 ext. 7355.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

South River Middle School offers the following extra-curricular activities:

Band	Yearbook	Girls' Basketball
Chorus	Baseball	Girls' Soccer
Drama	Boys' Basketball	Softball
Newspaper	Boys' Soccer	Track

A detailed list with descriptions for each can be found on our website: [SRMS Extra-Curricular Activities](#).

Extra Curricular Activities and Athletics are considered privileges and the students must be in good standing in order to participate. Listed below are guidelines for participation.

A. Academic

1. Effective at the end of the first marking period, each academic year, and based upon report card grades, any student who has more than one failing grade, in any major course of study, at the time of report card distribution, will be determined to be ineligible to participate in any athletic and/or other extra-curricular events and/or activities, until either the next progress report is disseminated, or at the distribution of the next report card. At that time, if the student is not failing more than 1 major course, he/she will be deemed eligible and able to resume participating in athletic and/or extra-curricular activities.
2. If a student has a failing grade, he/she must meet the following conditions to participate in clubs/activities and/or sports:
 - a. Meet with guidance counselor and teacher to develop an academic intervention plan;
 - b. Adhere to and successfully meet the goals outlined in the plan;
 - c. Provide evidence of a passing grade at the time of mid-marking period notice distribution.
3. If a student has a failing grade in the same course for a second marking period (at the issuance of report cards), the student will become ineligible for the remainder of the current season.
4. All students will be eligible to try out for a sport/extra-curricular activity, but participation will be determined by the above eligibility guidelines.
5. Eligibility for the fall season will be based upon final grades from the end of the previous year.

B. Conduct/Behavior

1. Any detentions assigned have precedence over any practices/games, club meetings or rehearsals, unless the student athlete has made alternate arrangements with the principal or assistant principal.
2. Any students suspended as a result of a school policy infraction will be temporarily suspended from participation on his/her team/club. Upon return from a suspension, a student remains ineligible for a minimum of one athletic event, but is permitted to participate in practice. In addition, full reinstatement to the team/activity is contingent upon completion of any missed schoolwork.
 - a. He/She must submit all completed assignments to each teacher to whom academic work is owed in order to be considered for reinstatement.
 - b. Multiple suspensions during the course of the season or marking period may result in the student's removal from a team/activity.
 - c. A decision will then be made as to whether the student will be allowed to participate in other activities during the remainder of the school year, pending a mandatory meeting between the principal, the student, coaches/advisors, and the parent(s)/guardian(s).

C. Attendance

1. If a student-athlete misses 2 practices without a valid reason (coaches discretion),

he/she will be excluded from participating in the next scheduled game. However, the student-athlete must still attend the game as part of the team. Failure to attend will result in the student-athlete being excluded for an additional game.

2. If a student-athlete misses a game without a valid reason (coaches discretion), he/she will be excluded from participating in the next scheduled game. However, the student-athlete must still attend the game as part of the team. Failure to attend will result in the student-athlete being excluded for an additional game.

3. If a student-athlete misses four practices/games without a valid reason (coaches discretion), he/she may be removed from the team.

4. If the student-athlete is absent from school, he/she may not participate in the game or practice that day and he/she may not attend the game. Excused absences from school, as determined by school policy, are considered a valid reason to miss practice or a game.

5. If a student-athlete accumulates more than 10 unexcused absences from school during a season, he/she will not be eligible to participate in the sport/activity.

D. Band/Chorus Attendance Policy

1. Students must be present within 5 minutes of the second bell – if not the student will be marked late for rehearsal.
2. Notification from a parent/guardian is required if a student is unable to participate in a concert.
3. If a student has a significant number of absences in a single concert season, they will meet with the director of the ensemble to assess whether or not they will be able to perform in the concert.
4. Students are responsible for completing any class assignments given during rehearsal time.
5. Students who elect to enroll in Band and/or Chorus will receive a document from the music director outlining more specific policies for each concert season. In order to participate in the program, students and parents/guardians must read and sign the document to acknowledge and agree to the aforementioned policies.

FIELD TRIPS

South River Board of Education approved school sponsored activities/trips will be arranged for the student body throughout the school year. Students and school personnel are responsible for the maintenance of positive behavior while on a trip. All students are required to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous manner. Students guilty of misbehavior will be subject to disciplinary action. Any student on a school sponsored activity/trip that is found in possession of or who is suspected of using drugs and/or alcoholic beverages will be subject to the guidelines set forth by the Board of Education substance abuse policy.

Students may be denied the privilege of participating in activities/trips because of their discipline records/points as well as academic eligibility issues.

GAMBLING AND CARD PLAYING

Gambling and card playing are prohibited in any part of the school building or grounds or on the school buses.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All schools are required to notify the community of district high school graduation requirements, regardless of the age or grade of the students within the school.

South River High School's graduation requirements can be ascertained by reviewing the South River High School website.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING: The South River Board of Education recognizes that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve. In order to maintain a safe and orderly environment, the Board of Education has adopted a policy which prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying against any student. Should you wish to review this policy and/or file an incident/allegation report, please visit the district's website (www.srivernj.org). In addition, an anti-bullying coordinator and anti-bullying specialists are available to assist students as well as parents/guardians. Contact information for these individuals is noted below:

The South River Board of Education believes that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Board of Education Policies are available online. Please visit that site to review the contents of this requirement. (Board of Education Policy # 5131.8)

All chaperones and classroom parents must attend a Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) training session. Please refer to the district calendar to find the four trainings that are scheduled throughout the year.

Dr. Joseph Trivisonno Affirmative Action Officer jtrivisonno@srivernj.org 732-613-4000 ext. 1226	Ms. Aleandra Sondeki Anti-Bullying Specialist asondek@srivernj.org 732-613-4073 ext. 7353	Mrs. Dawn Sutphin Anti-Bullying Specialist dsutphin@srivernj.org 732-613-4073 ext. 7352	Mr. Matthew Crouch District Anti-Bullying Coordinator mcrouch@srivernj.org 732-613-4014 ext. 6229
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HEALTH SERVICES/ NURSE

Services for Students

Students who attend South River Public Schools are considered to be in good health and able to withstand the academics and physical rigors of a typical school day. As a result, students are to be referred to the School Nurse judiciously with a pass. A supply of Band Aids will be given to the teachers to minimize unnecessary visits to the office. In addition, there is a small group of students who have medical conditions that may require a medical emergency plan. This is a one page informational sheet that is developed with the student and his/her parents/guardians. It is reviewed annually and distributed to the student's teacher(s) on a need to know basis. The school nurse will personally review these emergency plans with each of the student's teachers and leave a copy with the teacher. These are also kept in the substitute folder as an informational sheet for substitute teachers.

The School Nurse performs height, weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings on students. Children who fail screenings are referred to the appropriate specialist via written referrals sent home to parents/guardians. Health information cards are also sent home with each student at the beginning of the school year; they are to be returned to the school within the first five days of school. They are filed in the Health Office for use by the School Nurse and staff for parental/guardian contact.

The Health Office is open to students throughout the day and all medications for students are kept in the office. No medications are given out without a doctor's order and parental consent. The School Nurse is the only one allowed to administer medication. The Health Office must be contacted if a child has any unusual health problems or is absent from school due to a communicable disease or other serious illness. All medications, whether prescribed or over the counter (including cough drops), must come with a doctor's written order and parental permission. These forms can be obtained in the School Nurse's Office.

In the event of illness or injury in school, the nurse will make every effort to ensure immediate care and comfort of the child in question. The school nurse will render first aid care only and parents/guardians will be notified if it is necessary for the child to go home. The child must be signed out by the parent/guardian; parents or individuals assigned by the parent are responsible for transporting ill children home or to a physician or medical facility. If emergency medical treatment is necessary, the parents/guardians will be contacted. If these individuals are not available, 911 will be called.

Sports medical forms can be obtained from the School Nurse's Office; these must be fully completed and submitted to the School Nurse in order for a student to participate in athletics during the school year.

Advisory - Medical Insurance Coverage

At times, students sustain injuries during the school day or while participating in district sanctioned after school activities. Occasionally, medical emergencies warrant transporting students to the hospital via the local rescue squad thus resulting in the costs associated with the transport and/or hospital visit. Please be advised that parents/guardians are responsible for their children's health care, including emergency costs. When a crisis situation necessitates the use of emergency medical services, the resulting costs must be borne by the parents/guardians.

Health – Nurse's Office – Administering Medicine

The Board shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of pupil illness. The administration of prescribed medication to a pupil during school hours will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of a pupil, or the pupil would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available to him/her during school hours. For purposes of this policy, "medication" shall include all medicines prescribed by a physician for the particular pupil including emergency medication in the event of bee stings, etc. Before any medication may be administered to or by any pupil during school hours, the Board shall require the written request of the parent/guardian that shall give permission for such administration and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for administration of medication. In addition, the State Law and Board policy requires the written order of the prescribing physician that shall include:

- The purpose of the medication
- The dosage
- The time at which or the special circumstances under which medication shall be administered
- The length of time for which the medication is prescribed
- The possible side effects of the medication

Both documents shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.

- All medications, whether prescribed or across the counter, shall be administered by the school nurse or the parent/guardian
- Medications shall be securely stored and kept in the original labeled container
- The school nurse shall maintain a record of the name of the pupil to whom the medication may be administered, the prescribing physician, the dosage and timing of medication and a notation of each instance of administration
- All medications shall be brought to school by the parent/guardian or adult pupil and shall be picked up at the end of the school year or the end of the period of medication, whichever is earlier

- The one exception for administration of medications is, "Self-administration of Medication in Potentially Life-threatening Situations (i.e. asthma inhalers, insect sting kits)". A form is required by Board policy to be completed by the student's physician and signed by the parent. This is to be returned to the nurse and kept on file in the nurse's office.

Pupil Self-Administration of Medication

The Board shall permit self-administration of medication for asthma or other potentially life-threatening illnesses by pupils both on school premises during regular school hours and off-site or after regular school hours when a pupil is participating in field trips or extracurricular activities. Life-threatening illness means an illness or condition that requires immediate response to specific symptoms or that may indicate the potential loss of life; e.g., adrenaline injection in response to anaphylaxis. Parents/guardians of the pupil must meet the following conditions:

- Provide the Board with written authorization for the pupil's self-administration of medication
- Provide written certification from the pupil's physician that the pupil has asthma or another potentially life-threatening illness and is capable of and has been instructed in the proper method of self-administration of medication
- Sign a statement acknowledging that the district shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the pupil and that the parents/guardians shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees or agents against any claims arising out of self-administration by the pupil.

The Board shall:

- Inform the pupil and his/her parents/guardians that permission is effective for the school year for which it is granted and must be renewed for each subsequent school year upon fulfillment of requirements listed above
- Inform parents/guardians in writing that the district and its employees or agents shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication.

If you are injured while participating in any school activity, you should tell a school staff member immediately. Assistance will be provided and your parents/guardians will be contacted in regard to further medical treatment. If you get sick at school, report to the nurse. If no nurse is available, report to the main office. Never leave school without permission or unaccompanied.

No medicine of any kind can be dispensed by the teaching staff. The dispensing of medication to a student will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student, or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available to him/her during school hours.

For the purpose of this policy, medication means all medicines prescribed by a private physician for a diagnosed illness, disease or condition.

ID CARDS

Students will be required to wear a school lanyard with a student ID card attached at all appropriate times in the school building/function. This will function as both identification and with a barcode to scan during bathroom, guidance, main office and cafeteria sign in/usage.

INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) Teams are available to provide interventions and program modification assistance to students experiencing difficulty in their classes. Chaired by a building administrator, any staff member may refer a student to the I&RS Team. Parent involvement

is encouraged and supported. Parents wishing to seek this assistance may discuss their concerns directly with the child's teacher or the building principal. Through the I&RS Team, students experiencing difficulty are discussed and strategies for maximizing student success are developed.

LOCKER USAGE/LOCKER SECURITY/THEFT

Lockers will be used at the start of each school day to place personal belongings such as clear backpacks, coats, and lunch bags until the appropriate time. Students should not be carrying clear backpacks through the hallways as they can visit their lockers to get the supplies they need for their respective classes at the following times:

- At the start of the school day
- Before lunch
- After lunch
- At the end of the school day.

****Student athletes are to bring their sports bags to the gymnasium locker room at the start of the day.**

- Any personal bag brought to class must be of a small size and worn by the student in class. This bag should be no larger than a half size sheet of paper.
- Students are required to adhere to the classroom rule/procedure, and those who do not will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

In addition, the school accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen articles. Keep your locker locked at all times. Keep your belongings in your locker and do not give your combination to other students. Sharing and or trading of lockers is not allowed. Lockers are the possession of the Board of Education. At the discretion of the administration, a search of locker contents can be undertaken. *The school accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen articles.*

Students must exercise great care to see that all lockers are properly secured to protect public and personal property from theft. Never leave belongings unprotected. Every theft report will be carefully investigated by the administration. Complaints may be filed with the police department by the administration against any student possessing stolen property.

MOVING UP CEREMONY

All students, parents, and/or guardians are advised that only those students who have met all of the requirements to participate in the Eighth Grade Moving Up Ceremony will be allowed to do so.

Additionally, should the ceremony be held indoors due to inclement weather, all students, parents, and guardians are advised that students will usually be limited to a maximum of two guests per student [depending upon the amount of available seating (ultimately, the amount of tickets made available will be arrived at using the following formula: Room Capacity minus the number of required seats, with the result being divided by the number of eighth graders participating in the ceremony) at the ceremony location]. These guests will only be allowed entrance when they are in possession of a valid ticket (said tickets being issued to the participating students prior to the day of the ceremony).

There will be no replacement tickets, in the event the tickets are lost by their students or families. Students are encouraged to "network" with their fellow graduates to ascertain if any of them are in possession of extra tickets they are willing to give for those other participants who may have more guests than the number of tickets issued. If the ceremony is moved indoors, baby carriages, strollers, etc. will not be permitted in the ceremony location. Additionally, balloon assortments, which preclude adequate viewing for those individuals and/or families who sit behind the individuals with the balloons are not permitted inside before or during the ceremony. Designated areas will be set

aside for those individuals with walkers or who are wheelchair bound. Sections of the location where the ceremony will be conducted will be cordoned off to preclude those areas being used by guests.

Compliance with these requirements will be ensured by the placement of South River School District personnel at all entrances.

NEW JERSEY'S YOUTH HELPLINE, 2NDFLOOR®

The New Jersey Youth Helpline, 2NDFLOOR, is a toll-free, anonymous and confidential helpline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to all New Jersey young people, ages 10 to 24. Youth can call 2NDFLOOR at 1-888-222-2228 to speak with professionals and trained volunteers who listen attentively, non-judgmentally and compassionately to issues and problems they are facing. Visit <https://www.2ndfloor.org/> for more information.

PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEOTAPING OF PUPILS

Taking pictures/videotaping of district pupils and buildings for commercial purposes are prohibited without written approval of the Superintendent of Schools. "Commercial purposes" in this context is defined to mean for sale or for use in connection with the advertisement or promotion of goods or services.

Photographs/videotaping for such purposes as newspaper coverage of school activities must be authorized in advance by the Superintendent of Schools. Parents/guardians shall be notified each year that such photographs/videotaping may be taken and of the possibility that their child (ren) may be included. Parents/guardians may request that their child (ren) not be included in any photographs/videotaping taken for publication.

School personnel may take photographs/videotaping of students for instructional purposes and/or documentation of school events with approval of the Building Principal or his/her designee, and/or the Superintendent of Schools.

"District Pupils" in this context means boys and girls enrolled in the school during that part of the day they are at school, on the school grounds, or engaged in any activity under the direction and supervision of the school. Pictures of handicapped children shall not be disseminated in any way unless permission is granted by parents/guardians. Photos/videotaping of children placed in the district by DCP&P shall not be published without permission of the division caseworker.

PRIMARY/ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Middle school students waiting for siblings at the Primary, Elementary and/or High Schools are expected to maintain appropriate decorum and are subject to school consequences if violations occur.

SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS

South River Middle School School is a participant in the "Schoolwide" program offered by the State of New Jersey. As such, parent involvement and input into all aspects of the daily activities and academic programs for their children is actively solicited and positively welcomed.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are issued textbooks and other school materials to use in the educational program. Students are responsible for returning texts, instruments, library books, and/or school materials in satisfactory condition. If materials are damaged, you and your child are responsible for the cost of repair or

replacement. Students who do not return school property will be responsible for replacement costs. If items are found at a later date, the money will be returned.

Students using school instruments or renting them through the school vendor are financially responsible for their return in satisfactory condition.

Report cards and schedules may be withheld from students who do not fulfill their financial obligations by the end of the school year.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

A student and his/her possessions may also be searched by a school official if reasonable suspicion exists that there is evidence of a school rule or law violation. The extent or scope of the search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. Searches for controlled dangerous substances/tobacco/drug paraphernalia/alcohol/firearms/other deadly weapons will be conducted as needed. When law enforcement officials conduct the search, the more stringent restrictions required by law must be applied. Random locker searches may be conducted during the school year. When circumstances indicate that there may be a violation of the smoking/tobacco possession policy, a search may be conducted to determine whether that policy has been violated. All students and parents/guardians are cautioned that, while searches are conducted based upon specific reasons, all illegal items/materials discovered during the course of the search are subject to action/repercussions in accordance with the South River High School and/or South River Board of Education, and/or the laws of the State of New Jersey. In addition, school lockers remain the property of the District even when used by students; lockers are subject to administrative search in the interests of school safety, sanitation, discipline, enforcement of school regulations, and search by law enforcement officials.

Handheld Metal Detectors

The safety of our students and staff remains a top priority. South River Middle School is equipped with handheld metal detectors as part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment. School administrators and/or authorized staff may use handheld metal detectors from time to time when a safety concern or specific situation arises. These procedures will be conducted respectfully, appropriately, and in accordance with district policies and applicable laws.

SKATEBOARDS/SCOOTERS/HOVERBOARDS/E-BIKES/FIDGET SPINNERS

Skateboards, scooters, and hoverboards cannot be used on school property. Electronic Bicycles (E-Bikes) cannot be used on school property. If under 15, operating an E-Bike is prohibited by state law. If skateboards/scooters/hoverboards are brought to school, they must be placed in lockers, or a suitable location for the entire day. Failure to obey this procedure will result initially in the student not being able to bring the skateboard/scooter into our school, and if necessary in confiscation. The school accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen articles. Fidget spinners are not permitted, unless approved by the principal, as they can be a distraction for other students. Disciplinary consequences may be a result for a student who brings inappropriate items to school.

SMOKING/VAPING PROHIBITIONS AND REGULATIONS

Smoking and the use of tobacco/e-cigarette/vape products are prohibited in all school buildings and facilities, on school grounds, and on school vehicles. Any student seen with a cigarette/vape on his/her person, whether lit or not, or possessing or using a tobacco/e-cigarette product, shall be considered in violation of the no smoking policy of the school district and the State of New Jersey (Criminal Code 2C: 33-13). Further, any student who attempts to impede the enforcement of the

policy by serving as a “lookout” for violators or in any way hinders enforcement, will be guilty of the same offense as the violator and will serve the same penalty. All students in a stall or at its entrance where smoking is occurring will be charged with violating the no smoking ban and will be assigned the same punishment.

Students violating this policy are subject to disciplinary sanctions (detentions/suspensions) imposed by the administration, as well as he/she may be subject to a fine determined by the court under New Jersey Criminal Code 2C:33-13.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A full continuum of special education programs are provided by South River Public Schools to meet the needs of students that are classified as eligible for special education and related services. We are committed to ensuring that programming decisions are informed by data. Additionally, understanding the research related to placing students in more restrictive programs, we ensure that all students are placed in the least restrictive environment.

The programs below represent some of the districts programming options:

- In-class Resource (ICR): A general education program supported with a special education teacher. Classes, when appropriate may also be supported with a classroom aide.
- Pull-out Resource - Replacement: Students receive instruction in a small class setting; the class is taught by a special education teacher.
- Self-Contained Programs: Designed for students with significant needs, our self-contained programs offer specialized programming and at the secondary level there is a focus on life and vocational skills.

There is also a strong focus on Community Based Instruction.

STATE REPORT CARD

The Annual School Report Card is available to the public in February for the prior school year. The School Report Card can be accessed via the internet at the State Department of Education Website. If you are unable to access the internet, a copy can be obtained from the Main Office of the respective school.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education would like to make you aware of recent legislation allowing public school students to choose not to participate in certain experiments involving animals. Public school pupils from kindergarten through grade 12 may refuse to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of a course of instruction. The law requires schools to provide alternative education projects for those students who choose to “opt out” of these activities.

Schools are required to notify pupils and their parents or guardians of a pupil’s right to decline to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any part thereof as part of a course of instruction. Within two weeks of receipt of the notice, the law requires parents or guardians to notify the school of their desire to have their child exempt from participation and provided with an alternative education project.

STUDENT COUNCIL

As a student council member, you are a representative of the South River Middle School student body. Our objective is to promote school spirit and help create a positive school environment. We reach out into the community through service projects and acts of kindness.

Students are required to maintain a “B” average and not have more than 10 disciplinary points. If points are accrued, a student will be given one warning before being removed from Student Council. If a student is suspended, he/she will be immediately removed from Student Council.

Applications will be distributed the first week of school. All students in 6th through 8th grade are invited to apply.

STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day South River School District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to Mrs. Kim Urrutia, the Director of Student Services, a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The South River School District official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask South River School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the Director of Student Services, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the South River School District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the South River School District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the South River School District as an administrator, supervisor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the South River Board of Education; a person or company with whom the South River School District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); A parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent or student assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the South River School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4650

STUDENT SURVEYS/RESEARCH

The Board of Education recognizes that educational research can be a valuable tool in identifying and applying strategies to enhance student achievement and in identifying factors that could prevent students from becoming contributing members of society. Surveys among student populations can be an important part of this research.

Students and parents/guardians retain certain rights, however, in the administration of student surveys. The board shall ensure that prior written consent is obtained from parents/guardians or emancipated students before any survey is administered that is funded in whole or in part by any program administered by the United States Department of Education, if the survey (analysis or evaluation) is designed to reveal information on any of the following:

- A. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parents/guardians;
- B. Mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- C. Sex behaviors or attitudes;
- D. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- E. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, or ministers;
- G. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian; or
- H. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Written informed consent shall also be obtained from parents/guardians or emancipated students prior to the administration of any academic or nonacademic survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation that would reveal the student's social security number.

Parents/guardians shall be given the opportunity to inspect any survey, analysis or evaluation that solicits information in any of the above areas. If parents/guardians object to their child(ren)'s participation in the survey, the child(ren) shall be allowed to opt out.

Prior approval of the superintendent is required for all other surveys on topics not listed above. Anyone seeking approval of a proposed survey must provide the superintendent with details of the survey methodology, its specific educational purpose and a description of how results will be disseminated and applied. Reasonable timelines shall be provided by those conducting the survey for parents/guardians to access and review surveys of this nature. Student privacy shall be protected in the administration of a survey. The Board may conduct surveys that are in the best interest of the district.

For all surveys the identity of the respondent shall remain confidential.

This policy and regulations shall be made available to the public at least annually at the beginning of the school year, especially to parents/guardians and to district staff. The public shall be informed within a reasonable period of time if substantive change is made to policy and regulations. The public shall also be informed of specific or approximate dates, if known, when surveys may be administered.

TRANSLATION SERVICES:

South River Primary School will make every effort to arrange for translation services as needed. Please advise us if a translator is needed. Parents or guardians are always welcome to bring their own translators with them.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

No student may have access to the Internet without a signed technology agreement.

Introduction: The following policy outlines the acceptable uses of technological resources in the South River Public Schools. This policy applies, but is not limited to the following categories of technology: school based computer networks, district-wide computer networks, stand alone computers, peripheral devices (laser disk players, videocassette recorders, television, telephones, scanners and printers), on-line services, and the use of the Internet.

Local area networks (a particular school) and wide area networks (the entire district) connect computers in a way that facilitates the use of software programs and the storage of information. The Internet is a worldwide system of computers linked together electronically. Each of these systems provides users with the ability to send and receive mail (e-mail) and access enormous and diverse databases of information. The Internet and other on-line services also allow individuals to participate in discussion groups on a variety of topics. Because of these capabilities, these services can be a valuable educational resource for the students in the district. Our goal is providing these services to students and staff to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, collaboration and communication.

Use of the Internet: Because anyone in the world has access to the Internet, the system also contains material, which is inappropriate for elementary and secondary students or does not possess educational value in the context of our school curriculum. One of the goals of this policy is to outline acceptable use of the Internet by students and staff. This policy seeks to balance issues of intellectual inquiry, freedom of speech and privacy with the responsibility of the district to ensure those students and staff do not access or produce inappropriate or illegal material.

Acceptable Use of Technological Resources: Acceptable use in the framework of the South River Public Schools can be defined as employing technology as an educational tool, using guidelines that the computing community at large and/or legal opinion have generally agreed are permissible. Examples of actions that violate this accepted standard are listed below under the topic of inappropriate uses. Any material accessed by students and staff must be related to the curriculum approved by the South River Board of Education or to the approved extracurricular activities of the schools.

District Guarantees: The district does not issue a warranty for the Internet service it provides. The district is not responsible for the accuracy of the information obtained through the service. The use of the information is at the user's own risk. The district is not liable for loss of data, wrong deliveries or service disruptions caused by its own negligence or the user's errors.

Privilege to Use the Technology: While in school, student access to technological resources will be under the direct supervision of teaching staff and will be monitored by the staff member in the same manner as any other classroom activity. Using technology in the context of a school setting is not a right, but a privilege. Inappropriate use will minimally result in a suspension of that privilege. Any staff member or student who uses technological resources of the district expressly consents to having all activities regarding the use monitored by a systems operator.

Inappropriate Uses: The following have been deemed inappropriate uses of technology by either the broad community of computer users or by legal judgment. The list is not all inclusive, but includes the major categories of misuse of technology:

1. Using the network for illegal activity (e.g., copyright infringement);
2. Disrupting or damaging equipment or the operation of the system;
3. Vandalizing the account or data of another user;
4. Gaining unauthorized access to another account or to the system operation;
5. Using another student's or staff's account without permission;
6. Using abusive, obscene language;

7. Obtaining pornographic text, graphics or photographs;
8. Sending or receiving material that is racist, sexist or offensive to the religious beliefs of people;
9. Creating or installing a computer virus;
10. Using technology for personal, financial or business gain;
11. Installing personal software on any computer in the district;
12. Changing the configuration of an individual computer or network;
13. Downloading copyrighted software for use outside of school.

Network Etiquette and Child Safety: Students and staff are expected to adhere to generally accepted rules of network behavior. These include:

1. Be polite. Do not use abusive language;
2. Electronic mail is not private. System operators have access to all mail and illegal activities may be reported to law enforcement authorities;
3. Logging on the Internet is taking an electronic field trip into cyberspace. Students are going out into the world and need to protect themselves. Students must not give out names, home addresses or telephone numbers to people they "meet" on the internet.

VANDALISM

In the instances where South River Borough School District must devote resources and time in an effort to address the material repercussions experienced due to a student's inappropriate conduct/actions, the cost (including, but not limited to employee wages, materials, and replacement parts) shall be totaled and presented to the parent, guardian and student. This cost shall be considered to be an obligation, and payment is required. That obligation shall be assigned in addition to disciplinary repercussions.

WALL BALL

There will be no playing of wall ball (or any sport involving a ball being thrown against the school building) before or after school.