



RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY

STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027



WE ARE FAMILY • WE ARE CHIEFS



WELCOME TO THE CHIEF FAMILY!

Welcome to Riverside Elementary! We are committed to fostering a community where everyone feels loved, respected, and encouraged to reach their full potential. We value our partnership with families and appreciate your support throughout the school year.



VISION



To be a premier elementary school where every student receives an excellent education through high-quality teaching and learning.



MISSION



To foster a community where everyone feels loved, respected, and encouraged to reach their full potential.



MANTRA

*Dream.
Believe.
Achieve.* ★



★ PARTNERING WITH RIVERSIDE

We believe students are most successful when school and families work together. Thank you for supporting our expectations, communicating with us, keeping your child's information current, and helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and welcoming school community.



Dream. ♥ Believe. ♥ Achieve.



★ DAILY SCHEDULE, ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

- 📅 School begins promptly at 7:30 AM and dismisses at 2:30 PM.
- 🕒 Students should not arrive before 7:00 AM.
- ⚠️ Students arriving after 7:30 AM are tardy and must be signed in by an adult with photo ID.
- 💡 Please avoid early sign-outs whenever possible. Every minute of instruction matters.
- 👤 Only a parent/guardian or an approved emergency contact listed in PowerSchool may sign out a student.
- 📋 Keep phone numbers, addresses, health information, custody documents, emergency contacts, and transportation information current in PowerSchool.
- 📄 Provide the school with copies of any applicable court custody documents.



★ ATTENDANCE

- ✓ Students are expected to attend school every day unless they are ill or have an approved absence.
- ✓ Parents should send a written excuse explaining the reason for an absence when the student returns. Only ten parent excuses are allowed.
- ✓ After 10 absences, additional absences generally require appropriate medical documentation in accordance with district and state attendance requirements.
- ✓ Students arriving after 11:00 AM or leaving before 11:00 AM may be considered absent for the day.
- ✓ An Attendance Intervention Plan may be initiated after 3 consecutive or 5 cumulative unexcused absences.
- ✓ Outside therapy appointments should be scheduled outside the school day whenever possible. If appointments must occur during school, families should work to minimize repeated loss of the same instructional time.
- ✓ Siblings may not be excused for another child's therapy appointment.



★ VISITING & VOLUNTEERING

- ✓ Bring a valid photo ID every time you visit.
- ✓ All visitors must enter through the front office and complete required safety screening.
- ✓ Visitor passes must be worn while in the building.
- ✓ Extended visits and conferences should be scheduled in advance.
- ✓ Parents may not walk students to class in the morning. Staff members are available to help students safely reach their classrooms.
- ✓ Parents may join their child for lunch after the first few weeks of school, beginning after Labor Day, as space and procedures allow.
- ✓ When eating lunch with your child, only your child may sit with you.
- ✓ Volunteer with our PTO, School Improvement Council, or Title I Planning Committee. Contact the front office to learn more.
- ✓ All school volunteers and field-trip chaperones must complete the required Horry County Schools volunteer registration and background-check process each year.
- ✓ Chaperones must follow teacher directions, closely supervise assigned students, and may not transport students in private vehicles or ride Horry County Schools buses.



★ BACKPACKS & LOST ITEMS

- ✓ All backpacks must follow current Horry County Schools clear-backpack requirements.
- ✓ Students with noncompliant backpacks may receive a warning, and the backpack may be held until a parent/guardian retrieves it.
- ✓ Check the Lost and Found for missing items.
- ✓ Unclaimed Lost and Found items may be donated at the end of each quarter.



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★ THE CHIEF FAMILY VALUES ★



GROWTH MINDSET

believing that effort and practice help us improve.



FRIENDSHIP

Caring about others, including them, and being someone they can count on.



KINDNESS

being generous, considerate, and friendly.



KINDNESS

Treating others with care and doing things that help people feel valued.



CITIZENSHIP

Doing your part to make your school, community, and world a better place.



RESPECTFULNESS

Treating yourself, other people, and the things around you with care.



INTEGRITY

doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.



GRIT

Making a long-term goal, and keeping on going, even if it is hard.



PERSEVERANCE

continuing when something is difficult.



RESPONSIBILITY

doing what is expected of you.



ACCOUNTABILITY

accepting responsibility for your actions.



WORK ETHIC

understanding that hard work helps us grow.



EFFORT

Doing your best and putting in the work, even when something takes time or feels difficult.



INITIATIVE

doing what needs to be done without being asked.



SELF-ADVOCACY

appropriately voicing your needs, thoughts, and feelings.



TRUSTWORTHINESS

Being honest, keeping your promises, and doing what you say you will do.



AWARENESS

noticing what is happening around you and responding appropriately.



Students who demonstrate our family values may be recognized through Refrigerator Moments and monthly school celebrations.

★ OUR COMMITMENT:

KEEP EVERYONE SAFE & PROTECT LEARNING



- ✓ Everyone has a responsibility to help keep Riverside safe and protect the learning of others.
- ✓ No one has the right to prevent a teacher from teaching or another student from learning.
- ✓ Actions that interfere with safety or learning may result in consequences based on the nature and severity of the behavior.
- ✓ Classes may earn recognition badges for following expectations throughout the school.
- ✓ Students may participate in monthly clubs and quarterly celebrations based on behavior and school expectations. Students needing additional support may participate in reteaching or behavior intervention activities.



★ SAFETY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



- ✓ Student and staff safety is our top priority.
- ✓ Throughout the year, students and staff practice emergency procedures, including fire, tornado, earthquake, secure, lockdown, and reunification drills.
- ✓ During a Secure event, students and staff are brought inside and exterior access is restricted.
- ✓ During a Lockdown, students and staff follow procedures designed to protect everyone from a potential threat inside the building.
- ✓ If normal dismissal is not possible, families will receive reunification information. Students may only be released to approved guardians or emergency contacts.
- ✓ Safety screening and weapons detection procedures may occur daily.
- ✓ Clear backpacks and other personal items may be screened or searched in accordance with district safety procedures.
- ✓ Toy weapons, look-alike weapons, and other prohibited items may be treated as weapons and may result in disciplinary consequences.

BE KIND. ♥ BE RESPECTFUL. ♥ BE RESPONSIBLE.



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★ STUDENT BEHAVIOR

- ✓ Follow school and classroom expectations.
- ✓ Minor classroom behaviors are generally addressed through classroom interventions and teacher support before an office referral is considered. After two parent phone calls from the teachers, then minor behaviors will automatically become office referrals.
- ✓ Anything that endangers the safety of students or causes the rest of the class to be unable to remain productive is considered major behavior and will result in immediate removal for investigation.
- ✓ When an office referral is issued, a parent/guardian will be notified and informed of the incident and consequence.
- ✓ Consequences are determined based on the individual circumstances and severity of the behavior and in accordance with Horry County Schools policies.

BE KIND.
BE RESPECTFUL.
BE RESPONSIBLE.



★ FIGHTING & BULLYING

- ✓ Fighting is not tolerated and will be referred to administration for investigation and appropriate consequences.
- ✓ Bullying concerns should be reported promptly to your child's teacher or an administrator.
- ✓ Bullying includes behavior that harms another person and involves an imbalance of power and/or repeated behavior.
- ✓ Riverside takes all reports seriously and will investigate concerns and respond according to district policy and the facts of the situation.
- ✓ Consequences for confirmed bullying may include suspension or other disciplinary action in accordance with district policy.
- ✓ For complete definitions and possible consequences, refer to the current Horry County Schools Student Policy Guide which can be found on the HCS website.



BE A CHIEF.
NOT A BULLY.



GRADES



- ★ **Gradebook:** PowerSchool is updated bi-weekly.
- ★ **Practice Grades (50%):** Classwork, stations accountability forms, etc.
- ★ **Mid-Level Grades (30%):** Quizzes and projects.
- ★ **Summative Grades (20%):** End-of-unit tests, performance tasks, final projects.

HONOR ROLL



- ★ Students must receive A's and B's and all S's in Personal & Social Development to receive an award.
- ★ Awards Day will occur:
 - Grades 3-5 at the end of each quarter. Teachers will stuff folders for their students.
 - Grades K-2 at the end of the year. These will be superlative style and will be announced by the homeroom teachers.



★ FOOD, DRINKS & PERSONAL ITEMS

- ✓ Students may bring snacks and eat them in approved areas or with teacher permission.
- ✓ Students may bring water bottles. Only water should be brought from home unless otherwise approved.
- ✓ Toys, games, trading cards, cameras, and other items that interfere with learning should not be brought to school.
- ✓ The school is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items.
- ✓ Unauthorized items may be confiscated and returned to a parent/guardian.



★ BREAKFAST & LUNCH



- ✓ Breakfast and lunch are provided at no cost to families, subject to current program eligibility and district procedures.
- ✓ Students eating breakfast should report to breakfast before going to class.
- ✓ Food-delivery services such as DoorDash or Uber Eats are not accepted at school.
- ✓ A la carte items may be available for purchase. Students may pay with cash or funds added to their cafeteria account; charging is not permitted for a la carte purchases.



★ STUDENT MEDICATIONS & HEALTH

- ✓ In an emergency, authorized personnel will provide appropriate first aid and families will be contacted as needed.
- ✓ Prescription medications must be in the original container with a current prescription label and required documentation.
- ✓ Over-the-counter medications must be in the original, unopened, age-appropriate container and include required parent permission.
- ✓ Required medication forms must be completed before medication can be administered at school.
- ✓ Medication should be delivered by a responsible adult. Students may not transport medication on the school bus.



TOGETHER, WE HELP EVERY CHIEF SUCCEED! ♥



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★ TRANSPORTATION



Students should be signed out before 2:00 PM for appointments or other necessary early dismissals.



Students may not be signed out between 2:00 and 2:30 PM except in an emergency or as directed by administration.



Transportation changes must be submitted in writing by a parent/guardian using the school's approved process before the daily deadline.



Car rider tags are required for pickup. Additional tags may be requested from the front office with photo ID.



Please arrive on time for dismissal and follow staff directions in the car rider line.



For bus stop and schedule questions, contact the appropriate Herry County Schools transportation office.



CD and Kindergarten students participating in the tag program must have an approved adult at the bus stop. Older siblings may not serve as the responsible adult.

★ BUS EXPECTATIONS



✓ Use quiet voices.



✓ Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.



✓ Respect the bus driver and other students.



✓ Remain seated in your assigned seat unless the driver gives permission to move.



✓ Bus referrals and consequences are handled according to the severity of the behavior and district procedures.



✓ Consequences may include loss of privileges, detention, bus suspension, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or other appropriate disciplinary action.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS: Call (843)399-8800 and ask for...



General Questions: Front Office/Nichole Deccio



Attendance: Lisa Crooks



Nurse: Kelli Kuzdrall



KidCare/Fees: Shawn Campman or Paula Roney



Technology: Jeanette Wood



Bus Issues: Troy Green



Behavior: Michael Russo



Bullying: Diana Brown



Academics: Melissa Wolfe



★ **THANK YOU**
FOR BEING PART OF
THE CHIEF FAMILY! ★

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