

# Back to School NEWSLETTER

## RIVER VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

660 W DALEY ST | SPRING GREEN, WI 53588  
608.588.2556 | 608.588.2026 | [www.rvschools.org](http://www.rvschools.org)



Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you are enjoying the summer weather and time away from school! Summertime in Wisconsin is a time to be relished, as it seems to disappear quickly - perhaps more so this year with our earlier start!

This newsletter informs you of back-to-school related events and information. We hope it helps to answer some of your questions and ease the transition into a new school year!

There is not a lot of change taking place at the middle school this year. We will continue to utilize a modified block schedule, which allows 84 minutes for English/Language Arts and Math, and 42 minutes for all other classes. Please welcome a few new staff members - Ms. Boese (6th grade Science/Math), Ms. Pawelski (8th grade Special Education), and Ms. Schroeder (teaching assistant) to the middle school staff!

Everyone at River Valley Middle School is excited about and dedicated to teaching your child. Our mission is to help all students learn, and to help them acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions most essential to their success! In addition, we emphasize the words Ready, Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. These are our "words to live by", and I see your children display these behaviors every day at River Valley Middle School.

We look forward to seeing you at the Open House on Thursday, August 17th from 3:00-7:00 pm! Students and parents from all grade levels are welcome to come anytime between these times to get schedules and locker assignments, drop off supplies, and tour the school. School pictures will also be taken during Open House. School starts on August 22nd for all middle school students.

I am honored to be a principal for the wonderful students, staff, and families of the River Valley community. If you ever have questions or concerns, please contact me at 608.588.2556 ext. 1001 or at [jradtke@rvschools.org](mailto:jradtke@rvschools.org). Take some time to look at the enclosed information and enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Sincerely,

James Radtke

### Important Dates

#### **August 17**

Open House  
Picture Day

#### **August 22**

First Day of School

#### **September 11**

Picture Retakes

#### **October 6**

School Fair & Homecoming  
**NO SCHOOL**

# Open House

On **Thursday, August 17**, River Valley Middle School will host its annual Open House. Students will meet their teachers, visit with classmates, get acquainted with the school and new classrooms, receive schedules, and fill lockers!

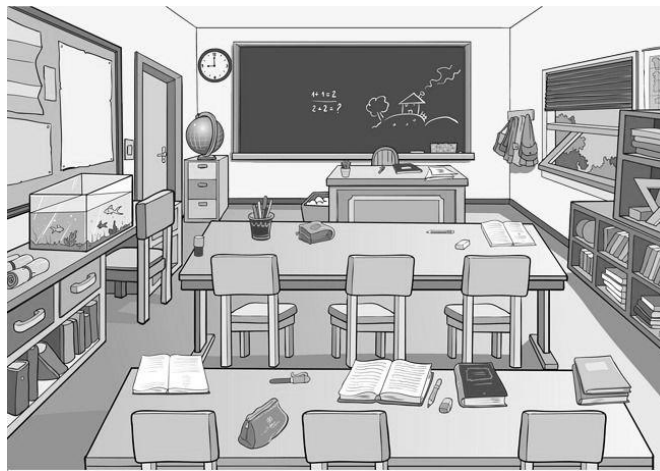
The school will be open for students to come any time from 3-7pm. No formal meetings are planned for this date.

## **If you are unable to attend Open House**

The middle school will be open from 8am – 3pm on Monday, August 21 for any students who are unable to attend open house. Additionally, all students will receive a finalized copy of the class schedule on the first day of school.

Please contact the middle school if you have any questions or concerns.

Jostens will be here from 3-7pm to take student photos during Open House. Students who do not have their picture taken at Open House will need to plan for retake day on September 11.



# Student Enrichment

For the past several years, River Valley Middle School has not held an all-school fundraiser, as we believe it no longer serves our students & families in a positive way. Past records show that we have spent approximately \$30-35 per student, per school year, on field trips (including transportation), supplies for special projects & after school clubs, food-related items, and other enrichment opportunities. If at any time you wish to donate to our student enrichment fund, we welcome those donations. Donations may be made through Skyward Family Access, or by bringing a check or cash to the middle school office. Your generosity is appreciated.

# Middle School Schedule

	1 <sup>st</sup> hour 8:00-8:42	2 <sup>nd</sup> hour 8:45-9:27	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour 9:30-10:12	4 <sup>th</sup> hour 10:15-10:57	5 <sup>th</sup> hour 11:00-12:22		6 <sup>th</sup> hour 12:25-1:07	7 <sup>th</sup> hour 1:10-1:52	8 <sup>th</sup> hour 1:55-2:37	9 <sup>th</sup> hour 2:40-3:22
<b>Gr 5</b>	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	EXPLORE PE/SH	EXPLORE PE/SH	LUNCH RECESS	BLACK HAWK	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES
<b>Gr 6</b>	EXPLORE PE/SH	EXPLORE PE/SH	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	RECESS LUNCH	BLACK HAWK	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES
<b>Gr 7</b>	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	BLACK HAWK	LUNCH RECESS	EXPLORE PE/SH	EXPLORE PE/SH	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES
<b>Gr 8</b>	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	BLACK HAWK	RECESS LUNCH	CORE CLASSES	CORE CLASSES	EXPLORE PE/SH	EXPLORE PE/SH

## Contacting the Middle School

Our general phone number is 608.588.2556, which will be answered by our front office staff. You will then be directed to the appropriate staff member. Please understand that staff members will not be called out of class to answer phone calls unless there is an emergency situation. You may also email one of the school secretaries at [tlarson@rvschools.org](mailto:tlarson@rvschools.org) or [ntabrizi@rvschools.org](mailto:ntabrizi@rvschools.org)

## Attendance

Please report your student's absence to the office by 9:00AM.

An answering system is available 24 hours/day (ext. 300). If leaving a message, please clearly state your name, as well as the student's name and reason for absence. When possible, it is important that you contact us in advance of your student's absence or appointment.

## Skyward Family Access

Family Access is designed to provide parents and guardians with the answer to **"What did you do at school today?"**

Interested? Here's how it works:



- At [www.rvschools.org](http://www.rvschools.org), select Family & Community > Skyward Family Access
- Log in using school provided Username and Password

Information available through this secure website includes: assignment and gradebook information, student schedules, attendance, conduct, lunch account payments/purchases/balance, and contact information.

# Food Service Program

Information pertaining to the food service program is outlined below. You can also access the information on our website at [www.rvschools.org](http://www.rvschools.org) under "Food Services". Breakfast and lunch menus are printed in the Home News every week, and a monthly menu is also available on our website.

The River Valley School District uses an automated food service system where families prepay into an account and students "spend" the money as they use the food service program each day.

Parents should send one check for all members of the family using the food service program. For security precautions, use of checks instead of cash is strongly encouraged.

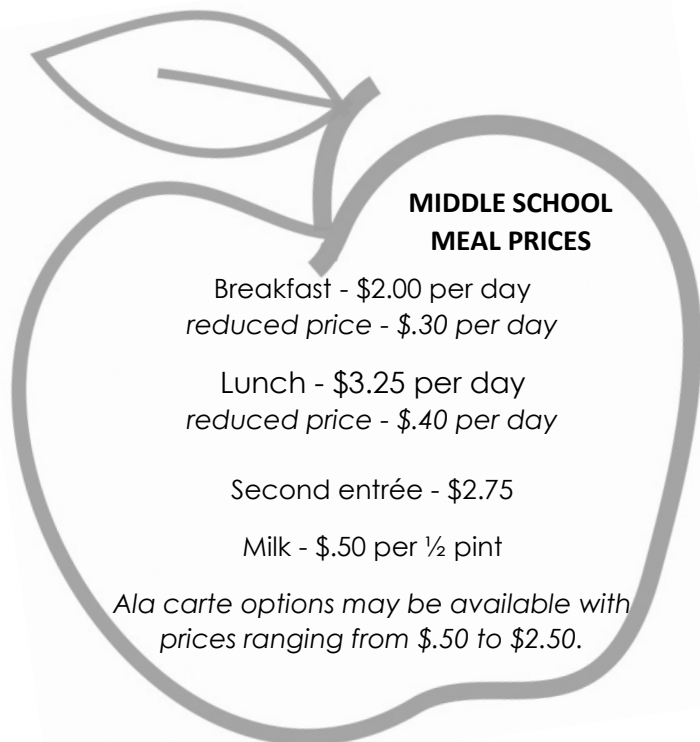
Account payments should be mailed or brought to Gwen Gorman at the River Valley District Office.

Families may also choose to make payments online. Not only will you have the ability to have payments electronically withdrawn from your checking account or charged to your credit card, you also have the flexibility to make a payment at any time through the school website.

To set up online payments:

1. Visit [www.rvschools.org](http://www.rvschools.org)
2. Select *Food Services*
3. Select *E-funds/Check Your Lunch Account Balance Online*

You can also request to get an email notification if your account balance drops below \$7.00. Once in *Family Access*, select the *Email Notifications* link and then *Change My Notifications*.



## ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE & REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Free and Reduced forms are available on our website under *Food Service Forms* and in every school office. **A new application must be submitted every year**, to Gwen Gorman at the River Valley District Office. Please contact Gwen Gorman at 588.2551 or [ggorman@rvschools.org](mailto:ggorman@rvschools.org) if you have questions about how to apply for free and reduced meals.

**PLEASE NOTE: If your family qualifies for Free & Reduced lunch, you will still need to fund your student(s) lunch account for any ala carte purchases (ie: extra serving of main entrée, additional milk, etc.) as these are not included in the free & reduced plan.**



## STUDENT USE OF FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Students use a four-digit code when going through the breakfast/lunch line. As an added security measure, the student's photo will appear on the screen after the code is entered, thereby preventing a student from using another student's code.

The computer will automatically deduct the amount for the breakfast or lunch from the family account. Parents may choose to block access to ala cart. When your family balance goes below \$7.00, parents will be notified by phone or email.

Ala carte items will not be sold to those with a \$0 balance. A complete record of each student's purchases is available upon request.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about the food service program, please contact Jaime Hisel, Food Service Director, at 588-2551 or [jhisel@rvschools.org](mailto:jhisel@rvschools.org)

# Middle School Sports, Phy Ed, & Physicals

The following middle school athletics will continue to be offered, however the opportunity to participate is dependent on grade level and sport:

**Volleyball**  
**Football**  
**Cross Country**  
**Basketball**  
**Wrestling**  
**Track**

All students who participate in middle school athletics are required to have a current WIAA Physical Card or Alternate Year Card.

A \$40 athletic fee is also required *for each sport*. Contact Jaime Hegland [jhegland@rvschools.org](mailto:jhegland@rvschools.org) if your family requires assistance with these fees.

Additional clubs and activities will be announced throughout the school year. It is important for students to listen to the **DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS** so they don't miss out on opportunities to participate.



We strongly encourage all students, regardless of participation in school sports, receive a physical prior to entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Outdoor Adventure Club**

**Mock Trial**

**Student Council**

**Safe & Healthy Club**

**History Club**

**Shakespeare Group**

**Trap Club**

**FFA**

*Recent research suggests that participation in extracurricular activities may increase students' sense of engagement or attachment to their school, and thereby decrease the likelihood of school failure. -National Center for Education Statistics*

# Counseling Services

Assistance is available to all middle school students during the school year in the areas of personal, academic and/or social/emotional support via individual and small group counseling. Referrals for assistance may be from a teacher, parent/guardian, or student. Your child may volunteer or be asked to participate in one of our groups.

The following topics are offered throughout the year and may change or be altered to best serve student needs:

Anger | Grief & Loss | Stress & Anxiety | Families  
Positive Relationships | Study Skills | Concerned Persons

Please feel free to call or email Mrs. Lochner, Middle School Counselor, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the school year. If you do not wish for your child to participate in individual or group counseling during the school year, please submit this request in writing.

## Assignment Notebooks

On the first day of school your child will receive their assignment notebook, which is to be used through the school year to keep track of assignments, important dates, and serves as a hallway pass.

Please read the academic and behavioral guidelines with your son or daughter. When finished, please sign and date the acknowledgement page and turn it in to your student's homeroom teacher. During the first week of school, students will meet with their homeroom teacher to discuss and clarify all of the book's contents.

All students are required to take their assignment notebooks to every class and write down homework information. There are also pass pages in the assignment notebook, intended to replace traditional hallway passes.

No pages should be torn from the assignment notebook, nor should the covers be removed or defaced.



## 2023-2024 RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

All Staff	District Inservice	FRIDAY	AUGUST 18
Teachers Only	Workshop Day	MONDAY	AUGUST 21
<b>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL BASED ON GRADE LEVEL</b>			
GRADES: 1, 2, 3, 4	TUESDAY	AUGUST 22	RV ELEMENTARY
GRADES: 5, 6, 7, 8	TUESDAY	AUGUST 22	MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADES: 9 & ALL NEW HS STUDENTS	TUESDAY	AUGUST 22	HIGH SCHOOL
GRADES: 10, 11, 12 EXCEPT NEW STUDENTS	WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 23	HIGH SCHOOL
GRADES: 5 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN	WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 23	EARLY LEARNING CENTER
GRADES: 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN	THURSDAY	AUGUST 24	EARLY LEARNING CENTER
GRADES: EARLY CHILDHOOD	MONDAY	AUGUST 28	EARLY LEARNING CENTER
LABOR DAY – HOLIDAY	MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 4	NO SCHOOL
<b>SCHOOL FAIR &amp; HOMECOMING</b>			
<b>TEACHER INSERVICE</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>OCTOBER 6</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
END OF QUARTER 1	FRIDAY	OCTOBER 20	
<b>THANKSGIVING VACATION</b>	<b>WED-FRI</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 22-24</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
END OF QUARTER 2/SEMESTER 1	WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 20	
<b>TEACHER WORKSHOP</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 21</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>WINTER BREAK</b>	<b>FRI, MON-FRI, MON</b>	<b>DEC 22 – JAN 1</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>TEACHER INSERVICE</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>JAN 2</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>ALL STAFF INSERVICE</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 16</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
END OF QUARTER 3	FRIDAY	MARCH 8	
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>MON-FRI</b>	<b>MARCH 25-29</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>TEACHER INSERVICE</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 19</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b> END OF Q4/SEMESTER 2	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>MAY 23</b>	
TEACHERS ONLY – WORKSHOP DAY	FRIDAY	MAY 24	

# River Valley Middle School Supply List 2023-2024

## • Grade 5 •

- 25-50 pencils
- Eraser, *large pink*
- 12-24 colored pencils
- 4 black dry erase markers
- (2) 3-ring binder; *1 ½ inch with clear plastic front*
- (2) composition notebooks; *80-100 sheets, NO SPIRALS*

## ALL STUDENTS



- Inexpensive headphones or earbuds
- Water bottle to take to class (*not glass*)
- Flat, rubber soled shoes for PE
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 canister/package disinfecting wipes
- Supply bag or pouch

## • Grade 7 •

- 40-60 wooden pencils; #2, *non-mechanical*
- Small pencil sharpener
- Eraser, *large pink*
- 12 pens, *not black*
- Colored pencils
- Crayola markers, *8-pack, thin*
- 3 glue sticks
- 3 packs loose-leaf paper; *100 sheets*
- 4-6 highlighters, *assorted colors*
- (3) 3-ring binders; *1 ½ inch w/clear plastic front*
- 1 set of 8 binder index tabs
- 4 sturdy folders, *with prongs*
- 2 composition notebooks; *wide-rule, 100 sheets, no spiral or perforation*



## • Grade 6 •

- 40-60 wooden pencils; #2, *non-mechanical*
- Small pencil sharpener
- Eraser, *large pink*
- 12 pens, *not black*
- Colored pencils
- 2 spiral bound notebooks
- 3 glue sticks
- 3 packs loose-leaf paper; *100 sheets*
- 6 sturdy folders w/ pockets & prongs
- 4-6 highlighters, *assorted colors*
- (2) 3-ring binder; *1 ½ inch w/clear plastic front*
- 1 set of 8 binder index tabs
- (2) composition notebooks; *wide-rule, 100 sheets, no spiral or perforation*
- 3x5 index cards, *100 count*
- Scissors

## • Grade 8 •

- 40-60 wooden pencils; #2, *non-mechanical*
- Eraser, *large pink*
- 12 pens, *not black*
- 3 folders, *with pockets*
- 2 spiral bound notebooks
- 3 packs loose-leaf paper; *100 sheets*
- (2) 3-ring binder; *1 ½ inch w/clear plastic front*
- 1 set of 8 binder index tabs
- 2 composition notebooks
- Calculator for Math & Science (student name should be on it)

**NEED ASSISTANCE WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES? Contact Holly Lochner at [hlochner@rvschools.org](mailto:hlochner@rvschools.org)**