



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Family Responsibility and Communication

~~The River Valley Board of Education recognizes that families play a guiding role in the education of their children. To support the goal of the school district to educate all students effectively while respecting the diverse backgrounds of individual students, the School Board encourages parents/guardians to come forward and work closely with their building principal with any issues of concern they may have.~~

~~To this end, the Board supports the development and implementation of regular communication with parents/guardians related to curriculum and program and in the same light encourages families to come forward as well. The Board also recognizes that historically particular areas of the curriculum (human growth and development, origins of the world, and life after death) have been a source of much interest/concern on the part of families. Efforts to make families aware when these areas will be a significant part of a curricular component may reduce some of the time consuming conflict that has occurred in the past.~~

~~River Valley School District encourages all stakeholders to foster a school environment where students are provided with “learning” experiences that enable them to:~~

- ~~a) Understand and appreciate the value systems, cultures and customs of others and recognize and appreciate the differences between them and their own value systems, cultures and customs.~~
- ~~b) Learn to recognize and respect their own rights as well as the rights of others.~~
- ~~c) Develop an ability to manage conflicts in values and value systems by respecting those of others without compromising their own.~~

~~To this end, the Board of Education recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to family participation and communication between home and school.~~

~~The Board of Education believes that the education of students is a joint responsibility, one it shares with the parents of the school community. To ensure that the best interests of the student are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained by the District Administrator and each building principal.~~

~~While families are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the schools' commitment to the educational success of their students. The school community, in collaboration with families, shall establish programs and practices that enhance family involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.~~

~~For the benefit of students, the Board believes that parents and guardians have a responsibility to encourage their student's career in school by:~~

- A. Supporting the schools in requiring that the students observe all school rules and regulations, and by accepting their own responsibility for student's willful in-school behavior;
- B. Sending students to school with proper attention to their health, personal cleanliness, and dress;
- C. Making it possible for the student to complete assigned homework by providing a quiet place and suitable conditions for study;
- D. Reading all communications from the school, signing, and returning them promptly when required; and
- E. Cooperating with the school in attending conferences set up for the exchange of information of the student's progress in school.

The Board believes that parents and guardians have the ultimate responsibility for their student's in-school behavior, including the behavior of students who have reached the legal age of majority but are still, for all practical purposes, under parental authority. During school hours, the Board, through its designated administrators, acts *in loco parentis* or in place of the parents.

Since a student who has reached the age of majority possesses the full rights of an adult, s/he may authorize those school matters previously handled by his/her parents, but s/he also assumes the responsibility for his/her performance in school, attendance, and compliance with the guidelines and District rules.

Approved: November 9, 2000