

# *River Dell Middle School*

230 Woodland Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

---

Robert Urbanovich  
*Principal*

201-599-7200  
Fax: 201-599-2202

September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

I want to congratulate our students on a successful first day of school despite the adversity brought about by the weather! As I walked through the halls, I could sense their excitement to be back amongst their peers! Watching them navigate the building for the first time brought the faculty and staff pure joy. I am anticipating an excellent school year!

Tomorrow will be a *B Day*. Students are expected to dress in a manner that allows them to participate in physical education class. The same goes for any student who chooses not to use the locker rooms when full days start. This means appropriate attire and footwear every day that physical education is on the schedule.

Students in grade 7 will eat lunch during period 5 (11:06 – 11:32) while students in grade 8 will eat lunch during period 7 (11:53 – 12:19). The first two school days are designed to provide students an opportunity to acclimate themselves to the building in many ways. One of the most important operations will be how lunch is handled. This week, a thorough explanation will have been given, informing students of their lunch options. The faculty and staff will work together to make this process as smooth as possible for the students. We are excited to announce that the addition of two tents on the premises will allow for extra outdoor eating options. The following lunch options will be available September 9<sup>th</sup>.

- **Library: Capability of seating 40 students, each with an individual tri-fold shield. Students must be members of the Library Club. Two teachers will be on duty to supervise this location. Any student purchasing lunch from Chartwells will report to the cafeteria line first, then walk to the library directly and quietly.**
- **Gymnasium: 8 12-foot tables with a maximum of 8 students at each table. Capability of seating 64 students, each with a section of a foldable shield. Two teachers will be on duty to supervise this location. Any student purchasing lunch from Chartwells will report to the cafeteria line first, then walk to the gymnasium directly and quietly.**
- **Cafeteria A: 11 12-foot tables with a maximum of 8 students at each table. Capability of seating 88 students, each with a section of a foldable shield. Two teachers will be on duty to supervise this location.**
- **Cafeteria B: 14 12-foot tables with a maximum of 8 students at each table. Capability of seating 112 students, each with a section of a foldable shield. Two teachers will be on duty to supervise this location.**
- **Outside Options: Courtyard, tent outside Cafeteria A, tent outside the Gymnasium. All students will have the option of eating outside. Each is expected to report to their indoor location where they will be escorted to the outdoor location of their choice.**

The first five full days will allow students the opportunity to establish their indoor seating choice. All students must have an established place to sit indoors in the event weather disrupts their ability to eat outside. Each day, students who choose either cafeteria will report there at the start of lunch. Soon after, one of the teachers with lunch duty will lead a willing group outdoors. Students who choose either the library or gymnasium can purchase lunch in the cafeteria first, then walk directly and quietly to their chosen location. Both locations provide very easy access outside and will be controlled by the teacher stationed there.

Heading into a new school year, we anticipate this process to be very chaotic. We ask for patience as it is fine-tuned over time. To clarify, eating lunch outside will be an option from day one, but all students must determine their indoor location and seat first before heading outside. September 17<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for choosing indoor seats.

On days when the weather cooperates, all students who remain indoors to eat, regardless of location, will have the option of going outside for the last ten minutes of lunch to breath fresh air, take a mask break, walk around the field, and/or socialize with fellow students. One teacher from each location will guide students outside while the other stays behind for those students who need the time to finish or would prefer to stay inside.

The only time students are permitted to remove their mask indoors for an extended period is when they are eating. Prior to eating and once finished, the mask is to be worn properly over the mouth and nose. Students will have access to hand sanitizer and are encouraged to wash hands before and after eating. All areas will be properly washed, rinsed, and sanitized prior to the next lunch period. If practical, students will be expected to maintain social distancing and are asked not to share meals. In addition, Chartwells has provided accommodations that would limit exposed food and has also developed a system of payment that is cashless. A detailed explanation of this point-of-sales process is given in the second attached document. All students will receive ID cards tomorrow. These ID cards are temporary and will be replaced in the upcoming weeks so that every student has an updated photo. The bar code on each ID is what is important and can be used when purchasing lunch.

As the school year progresses, administration will assess this procedure and decide on any necessary changes and/or opportunities that could benefit its operation. Students wishing to change their indoor location over time is another topic for discussion moving forward, but the priority right now is on the execution. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work to make this experience one that is safe for all individuals involved.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Urbanovich', written in a cursive style.

Robert Urbanovich  
Principal, River Dell Middle School