



RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

230 Woodland Avenue
River Edge, NJ 07661
(201) 599-7200



Robert Urbanovich
Principal

John Jasinski
Assistant Principal

August 9, 2023

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Greetings, new and returning Hawk Families! In just under a month, students will return to River Dell Middle School, recharged and ready to start their journey through the 2023-24 school year! Our dedicated custodial staff is working hard on final preparations as the first day of school quickly approaches! I look forward to welcoming the many eager students who will fill RDMS over the next ten months! In addition to all the information you will read about, it is worth noting that supply lists will not be provided before the start of the school year. Teachers will allow ample time for students to gather necessary supplies.

Daily Schedule

September 5th, the first day of school will be an A Day. The schedule runs on a four-day rotation which will take some getting used to for our new students, but I am confident that by week two, there will be limited confusion. Our teachers will be accommodating and helpful as students get acclimated to the change in routine. The full day schedules are as follows for each grade:

Grade 7

| Period | Start | End | Length |
|-----------|-------|-------|--------|
| Homeroom | 7:50 | 7:58 | 8 |
| 1 | 7:58 | 8:41 | 43 |
| 2 | 8:45 | 9:28 | 43 |
| 3 | 9:32 | 10:15 | 43 |
| 4 | 10:19 | 11:02 | 43 |
| 5 – Lunch | 11:06 | 11:32 | 26 |
| 6/7 | 11:36 | 12:19 | 43 |
| 8 | 12:23 | 1:06 | 43 |
| 9 | 1:10 | 1:53 | 43 |
| 10 | 1:57 | 2:40 | 43 |

Grade 8

| Period | Start | End | Length |
|-----------|-------|-------|--------|
| Homeroom | 7:50 | 7:58 | 8 |
| 1 | 7:58 | 8:41 | 43 |
| 2 | 8:45 | 9:28 | 43 |
| 3 | 9:32 | 10:15 | 43 |
| 4 | 10:19 | 11:02 | 43 |
| 5/6 | 11:06 | 11:49 | 43 |
| 7 – Lunch | 11:53 | 12:19 | 26 |
| 8 | 12:23 | 1:06 | 43 |
| 9 | 1:10 | 1:53 | 43 |
| 10 | 1:57 | 2:40 | 43 |

Morning Arrival

There will be two entry points each morning, one at the front circle off Woodland Avenue and the other in the parking lot off Fifth Avenue. The doors will open at 7:40 allowing students 10 minutes to say good morning to their peers, visit lockers, and settle into their period one class where an 8-minute homeroom session will kick off the start of the day. Once homeroom begins at 7:50, the only point of entry will be the front entrance adjacent to the circle. Students arriving late must report to the Main Office to sign-in. **Any student who qualifies for busing should have been contacted yesterday. A bus pass is required for bus access.**

Reporting Absences/Tardies/Early Dismissal

There are two ways to report an absence or notify the school if a student will be tardy or requires an early dismissal:

1. Log in to the Genesis Parent Portal and click "Notify Attendance". Please see the information in the link provided for detailed instructions: [Genesis - Notify Attendance](#)
2. Call 201-599-7200 and follow the prompts: Press 2 for RDMS → Press 1 for the Attendance Office.

Drop-Off Items During School Hours

Drop-off items, which include lunches, can be placed in the front vestibule. Please be sure to label the item with your student's name. Visitors will not be allowed inside the second set of doors during school hours unless there is a scheduled meeting.

Physical Education

Each day, students should dress comfortably in clothes and sneakers that would allow them to participate in physical education, unless a change of clothes is brought to school. Changing inside locker rooms will be optional as we start the school year. If a student is going to use a locker in the gymnasium locker room, they will be responsible for providing their own lock and are advised to lock up their belongings.

Lunch

On a regular school day, students in the 7th grade will eat lunch between 11:02 and 11:32, while 8th grade students will eat between 11:49 and 12:19. Locations available for students to eat will be reviewed on the first day. If a student is purchasing lunch, there will be an option of paying in cash or setting up an account using *MyPaymentPlus*. This account would be accessed by either typing in a student ID number or using a bar code on the physical student ID card (we are working on providing each student who is new to the building an ID card the first day). Information on creating an account can be found on the district website by [clicking here](#). Bringing lunch is a good option to avoid long lunch lines, especially early in the school year when adjusting to lunch can be a bit chaotic. Lunch will not be served on a one-session day.

Laptop Computers

Laptop computers will be issued to students new to the district at various times. Those involved in the technology academy starting August 15th will receive laptops upon check-in. Those who are not participating will have the option of picking up their laptops on August 29th or 30th (more information will be included in a separate attachment). Students who are unable to attend the academy and are unavailable August 29-30 will be issued laptop computers on the first day of school. **IMPORTANT:** Any student who does not have the necessary requirements fulfilled on *Community Pass* will not receive a laptop computer until all forms/fees have been taken care of. Any parent/guardian experiencing issues with *Community Pass* should contact registerhelp@riverdell.org and provide a parent/guardian name and the student's name.

Parent Portal

At this point, all families should have received an email with credentials to sign into the Genesis Parent Portal. The link can be found on the district or school website. If any family has not received login information, please contact genesishelp@riverdell.org as soon as possible. Students new to the district will receive district email addresses and instructions on how to use Microsoft Office 365 both at the technology academy as well as during the first week of classes.

New Student Orientation

Leading up to the first day of classes, all incoming 7th grade students, as well as 8th grade students new to the district are invited to attend a New Student Orientation/Barbecue on Thursday, August 24th. The schedule for the day is as follows:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Students arrive at the front entrance near the flagpole and report to the auditorium just inside the main doors. |
| 10:15 – 11:00 | Ms. Ross, our 7 th Grade Counselor, will review information to prepare students for their start to the school year. You will also hear from your Principal. |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Students will be given a chance to walk the building (it is encouraged that they bring a copy of their schedule as well as identify their locker number and combination in the Parent Portal). Ambassadors will be available to answer questions at this time. |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | 7 th Grade Barbecue on back patio (food and water provided). |

Important Dates

Below are some important dates to consider early in the year. The RDMS website at <https://rdms.riverdell.org/> will be updated regularly. You will also find a current version of the student handbook should you have any procedural questions. Details on all listed events to follow:

- September 1:** First day for teachers
September 5: First day for students
September 8: Individual Picture Day
September 14: Back to School Night (One-session day)
September 25: No Classes (Yom Kippur)
September 30: RD Health and Wellness Fair (RDHS Athletic Stadium)
October 9: No Classes for students
October 11: Webinar: *How to Balance Social Media & Technology During the School Year*
October 13: 7th Grade Field Day

Best Regards,



Robert Urbanovich
Principal, River Dell Middle School

