RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Golden Hawks

6th GRADE PARENT ORIENTATION

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year at RDMS!

FROM THE REGISTRAR

7th Grade Registration begins in April:

- Registration information will be mailed to you in mid-April.
- An email link will also be emailed to the email address you have on file with your elementary school.
- If you would like to provide an alternate email address, please notify the Registrar by emailing: registrar@riverdell.org

Registration is due at the end of April.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

- As per River Dell Board of Education Policy 5141.3 and the New Jersey Statutes and Administrative Code, all incoming 7th graders are ***required*** to submit:
  - A completed student physical form
  - Immunization records
- All health forms are included in the Registrar's registration packet and are due back at the end of April.

COMMUNITY PASS

Login information will be emailed to you over the summer. Details are outlined in the Registration Packet.

Verify contact information and fill out forms

- RD Technology Policy (AUP)
- Military Release Consent
- Web and Media Release Consent
- Health Insurance
- Permission to Share Medical Information with Staff
- Activity/Athletic Participation

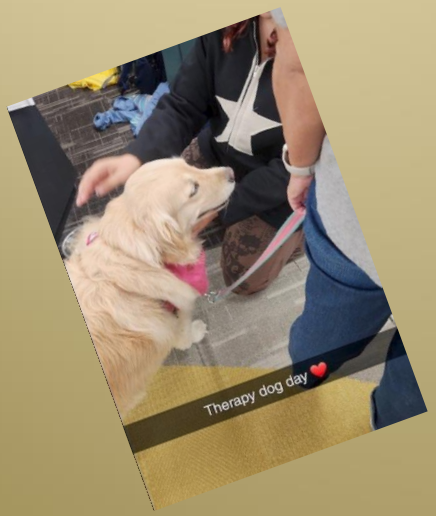
1. **Laptop Insurance Fee - $75** (Mandatory: Must pay before September or before the Summer Technology Academy in order for your student to receive laptop)

2. **Activity Participation Fee - $50** (Optional: May pay any time during school year if your student plays a sport or joins an extracurricular activity)

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling Services Department

- Ms. Ross: Counselor for Class of 2029
- Mrs. Binder: Counselor for Class of 2030
- Mr. Giorgio: Student Assistance Counselor
- Mrs. Kirkby: Director of Student Personnel Services
- Mrs. Boettger: Counseling Dept. Administrative Assistant & District Registrar

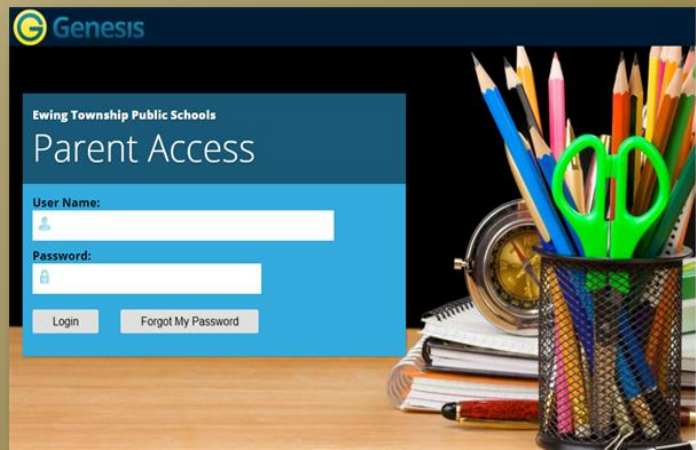


Genesis Parent Portal

- **The Genesis Parent Portal is a safe and secure way to view your student's school record for the current school year and it is recommended that parents/guardians regularly review grades and assignments with students.**

- **Login information will be emailed to you over the summer. If you already have an account, your new student will be added.**

- **As a parent, you will have access to the following information:**
  - Student Schedule
  - Report Cards/Progress Reports
  - Daily and Class Attendance Records
  - Teachers' Gradebook
  - Discipline Record
  - Principal's List/Honor Roll Certificates



Teacher Webpages

- Each teacher maintains a Teacher Webpage.
- Individual webpages include course overview, contact info, extra help schedule, grading policy, course materials, expectations, and lesson plans.
- This teacher webpage link can be found on the River Dell Middle school website, under *Staff Directory*
- Students and parents should regularly check teachers' ***Week-at-a-Glance*** to view plans for past/present classroom activities. We also recommend keeping an agenda book.

Office 365 and OneNote

- River Dell utilizes the Microsoft Office suite of software programs including PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Teams, Forms, OneNote and more!

- Parents will have limited access to OneNote where they may find additional teacher information.

- Teachers and students will use OneNote (an interactive and collaborative online notebook) in school. Parents will need their student's username/password information to access this site.

One-to-One Laptop Initiative

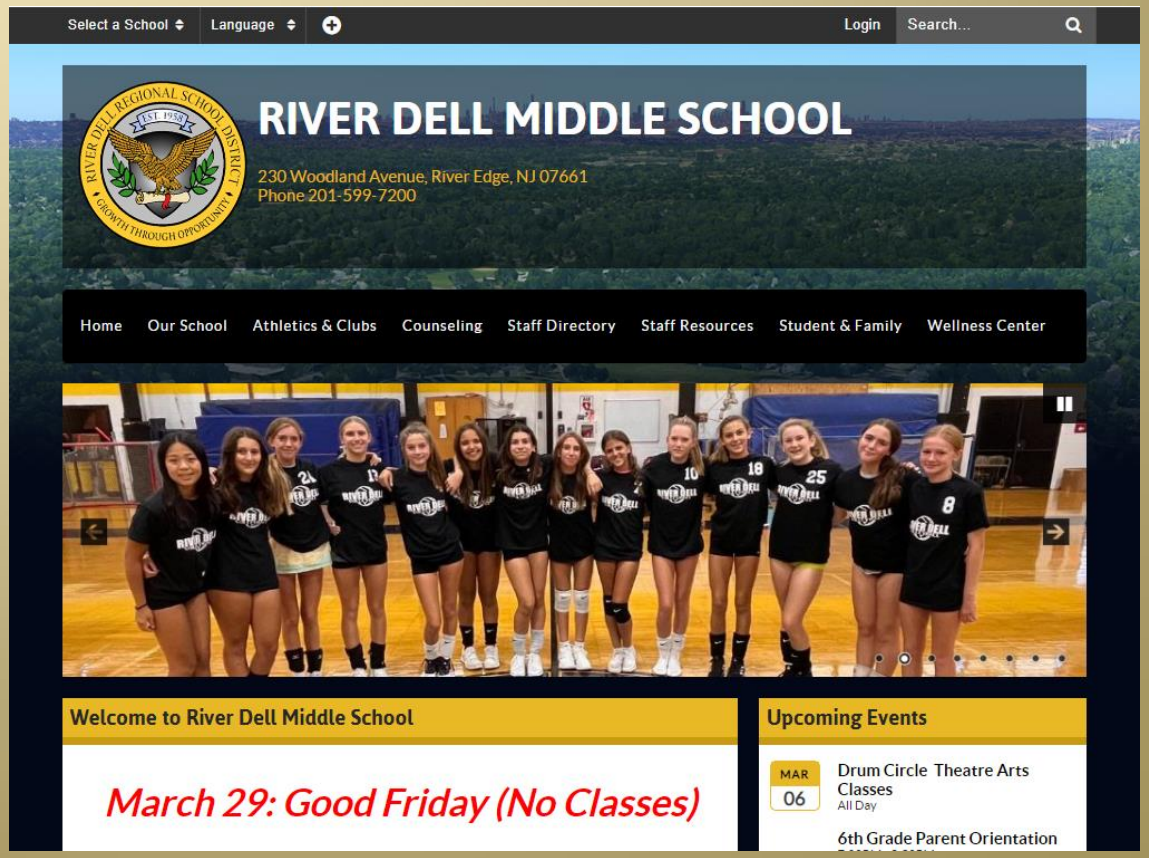
- School-issued laptops will be distributed to all students prior to the start of school. More information to follow as the school year approaches.

- RDMS will hold an optional Summer Technology Academy in August where students will receive their laptop and become acclimated with the technologies used at RDMS. More information to be discussed later in this presentation.

- Laptops should be brought home to use; Students are responsible for charging them nightly.

RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL WEBSITE

https://rdms.riverdell.org



RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
Program of Studies

Click here for the 2024-2025 RDMS Program of Studies

7th GRADE CLASSES

- Math
- English
- Science
- World History
- World Language (Spanish)
- Physical Education/ Health
- RD101/Math Workshop
- Cycle Arts Classes (Theater Arts/ Music Studio)

Chorus and Band

- Students who participate in Chorus <u>or</u> Band will meet during their PE/Health period on a rotating schedule.
- Students who choose to take both Chorus <u>and</u> Band will take Band as a "pull-out" class during PE/Health and will take Chorus after school every Thursday.
- Chorus and Band are <u>full-year commitments</u>. Band requires prior experience.
- Additional time during the day will be added as the Winter and Spring Concerts approach.

RDMB
THE RIVER DELL MARCHING BAND

- Marching band is a graded elective for <u>students in grades 8-12</u> that occurs during **after school hours**. It includes instrumentalists, color guard, and managers.

- Select 7th grade instrumentalists will be accepted by <u>audition only, based on instrument openings</u>. Audition dates to be determined.

- Events include playing at HS football games, band festivals and field trips/parades.

- RDMB Advisor is Justin Vitetta and can be reached at justin.vitetta@riverdell.org.

- Check them out on Instagram @rdmb_official

****Marching band is a **<u>full-year commitment</u>******

7th Grade Sample Schedule

PERIOD	SAMPLE A DAY	SAMPLE B DAY	SAMPLE C DAY	SAMPLE D DAY
1	PE	PE	Band	PE
2	Science	Science	Science	Science
3	Math	Math	Math	Math
4	Spanish 1A	Spanish 1A	Spanish 1A	Spanish 1A
5	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
6/7	World History	World History	World History	World History
8	Math Workshop	Math Workshop	RD101	RD101
9	Music Studio	Music Studio	Music Studio	Music Studio
10	English	English	English	English

*If a student decides to take Chorus in addition to Band,
it will be scheduled for Thursday, after school, from 2:44 – 3:37

6th Grade → 7th Grade Scheduling

- Week of March 11th: RDMS Counselors will visit Roosevelt, Cherry Hill, and OPS to review a similar presentation and answer questions.

- Week of March 18th: Virtual welcome packet, with Program of Studies and a Course Selection Survey in Microsoft Forms, will be emailed to all 6th grade parents by the elementary schools and must be completed by March 27th.

- All scheduling information will be posted on the middle school website as the summer approaches.

Course Selection

- The only information needed to create your student's schedule for next year:

  1) Band - Prior experience is needed
  2) Chorus - No prior experience is needed
  3) Both Band & Chorus
  4) Neither

- A brief survey will be sent to 6th grade parents to collect this information which will then be used to generate student schedules

6th Grade → 7th Grade Upcoming Events

- RDMS will hold small group tours in August (more information to follow).
- Parents/Guardians will receive Genesis login information towards the end of July; at which point an up-to-date schedule may be viewed as well as locker information.
- Summer Technology Academy – August 13, 14, 15
- RDMS will hold an incoming 7th grade orientation/barbecue August 22nd.
- RDMS students will receive a hard copy of their schedule on the first day of school in homeroom.

CLUBS, ACTIVITIES, INTRAMURALS, & INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

GOALS OF CLUBS & INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

- Interactions with other students
- Develop student interest
- Stakeholder in school
- Promote school spirit/philanthropy

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

- Academic Competition
- Accompanist Club
- Art Club
- Best Buddies Club
- Business Club
- Caterers/Chef Club
- Crochet Club
- Drama Club
- Environmental Club
- Homework Club
- Introduction to Italian Club
- Intramurals
- Library Club
- Math Club
- National Jr. Art Honor Society
- Newspaper Club
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Robotics Club
- Science Club
- Select Choir
- Ski & Snowboard Club
- Stage Crew
- Spanish Honor Society
- Stage Band
- Stigma Free Club
- Student Government
- Yearbook Club
- Yoga

Please note: This list includes 2023-2024 clubs. Details for 2024–2025 clubs will be posted in September on the RDMS website:

Click here for more club information

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

FALL SPORTS

Boys and Girls Cross Country
Girls Volleyball

WINTER SPORTS

Boys and Girls Basketball

SPRING SPORTS

Boys and Girls Track & Field

Important: to participate, we must receive your student's Physical and Immunization records, as indicated in the Registration Information

Please note: This list includes 2023-2024 Sports.
Details for 2024–2025 Sports will be posted in September on the RDMS website:
https://rdms.riverdell.org/
Athletics & Clubs tab ⟶ ***ATHLETICS***

PARTICIPATION FEES

- **Fees:**
  - Pay $50 activity fee to join any sport or club. This fee covers as many activities as your student would like to participate in.
- **Payment options:**
  - Credit card on Community Pass
  - Check submitted to Board Office

Science

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

- Non-tracked
- Biology and Natural Science
- Aligned to NJSLS and NGSS
- Scope and Sequence:
  - Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
  - Structure, Function, and Information Processing
  - Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms
  - Natural Selection and Adaptation

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

- Non-tracked
- Physical and Earth Science
- Aligned to NJSLS and NGSS
- Scope and Sequence:
  - Geologic and Atmospheric Processes
  - Weather
  - Topology
  - Human Activity Impact
  - Energy Transfer/Wave Application

World Language

7TH GRADE

- Spanish 1A
- Spanish 7/8
- ESL

8TH GRADE

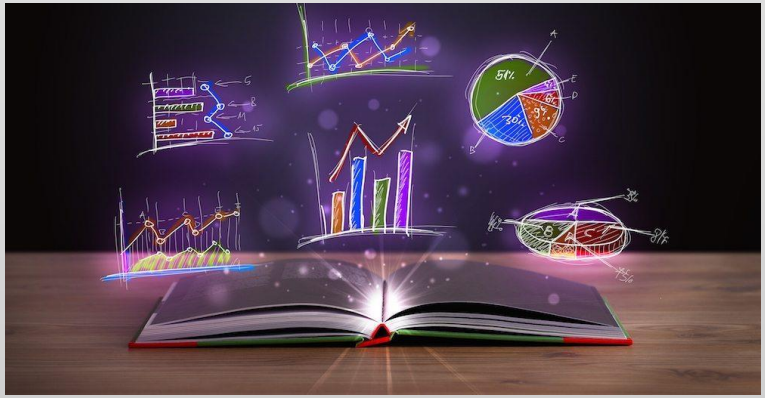
- Spanish 1B
- Spanish 7/8
- ESL

9TH GRADE PREVIEW

- HS Spanish 1: Students with an average of 79 or below upon completion of Spanish 1B
- HS Spanish 2: Students with an average of 80 or better upon completion of Spanish 1B
- HS Spanish 2 Honors: Students with an average of 92 or better upon completion of Spanish 1B
- Change in language is an option

RDMS

MATHEMATICS OVERVIEW



Mrs. Jennifer Ali

District Supervisor of Mathematics

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

7th Grade

All students will have a core math class that meets every day and a Math Workshop class which meets two out of every four days. The core class & workshop class are both leveled.

Levels

- **Math 7 & Math 7 Workshop**: Grade level course that leads to PreAlgebra 8 in 8th grade.
- **PreAlgebra 7 & PreAlgebra 7 Workshop:** Accelerated math course in which both 7th & 8th grade math content will be taught leading to Algebra 1 in 8th grade.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

8th Grade

Students will have only one period of math in their schedule.

Levels

- **PreAlgebra 8**: Grade level course that leads to Algebra 1 in 9th grade.
- **Accelerated Algebra 1**: High school Algebra 1 content. PreAlgebra 7 is a prerequisite.
- **Honors Algebra 1**: Honors level of the Accelerated Algebra 1 curriculum. PreAlgebra 7 is a prerequisite.

Placement in PreAlgebra

- If students scored Level 5 on the NJSLA Math 5, the student is placed in PreAlgebra 7.

- If not Level 5, students who satisfy both criteria below are placed in PreAlgebra 7.
  - 6th Grade Math Class Test Avg ≥ 90%
  - LinkIt Form B Test Score ≥ 80%

- Otherwise, students are placed in Math 7.

NJ State Assessments

7th Grade: 7th grade students take two state tests: NJSLA ELA 7 & NJSLA Math 7.

8th Grade: 8th grade students take three state tests: NJSLA ELA 8, NJSLA Science 8, & an NJSLA math test.

- **NJSLA Math 8 Test**
  - PreAlgebra 8
- **NJSLA Algebra 1 Test**
  - Honors Algebra 1
  - Accelerated Algebra 1

MATH PATHWAYS FOR CLASS OF 2029 & BEYOND

	HONORS PATH	ACCELERATED PATH	ADVANCED PATH	COLLEGE PREP PATH	ADVANCED PATH W/ DOUBLE IN 9TH	ADVANCED PATH W/ DOUBLE IN 10TH
7th Grade	PreAlgebra 7	PreAlgebra 7	PreAlgebra 7	Math 7	Math 7	Math 7
8th Grade	Honors Algebra 1	Accelerated Algebra 1	PreAlgebra 8	PreAlgebra 8	PreAlgebra 8	PreAlgebra 8
9th Grade	Honors Geometry	Advanced Geometry	Advanced Algebra 1	Algebra 1	Advanced Algebra 1 & Advanced Geometry	Advanced Algebra 1
10th Grade	Honors Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry	Advanced Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry	Advanced Geometry	Geometry	Advanced Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry	Advanced Geometry & Advanced Algebra 2 w/ Trignometry
11th Grade	Honors PreCalculus AB or Honors PreCalculus BC	PreCalculus	Advanced Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry	Algebra 2	PreCalculus	PreCalculus
12th Grade	AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC	Honors Calculus	PreCalculus or Statistics	Algebra 3	Honors Calculus	Honors Calculus

RDMS ENGLISH & WORLD HISTORY/CIVICS OVERVIEW

Dr. Lisa Torres – District Supervisor of English & Social Studies

7th GRADE ENGLISH

- Curricular Standards: New Jersey Student Learning Standards in ELA
  - Writing a Narrative - Part of Realistic Fiction
  - Descriptive Writing - Part of the Science Fiction Genre Study
  - Persuasive Reading and Writing - Part of Non-Fiction
  - Integrate poetry as companion pieces
- Literature and informational (nonfiction) text are important
- Background knowledge and motivation are critical when learning to read and when accessing complex text
- Research provides the opportunity to learn more about a subject and provides the opportunity to look beyond research to questions left unanswered
- Using evidence remains a critical skill, allowing students to ground their thinking in the work of authors and experts in literature and in the content areas

ELA COURSE MAP

7TH GRADE ELA

- Non-tracked
- Student-centered focus
- Literature focus

8TH GRADE ELA

- Non-tracked
- Student-centered focus
- Technology Integration
- Increased rigor to prepare for 9th grade

7th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

- Curricular Standards: **New Jersey Student Learning Standards in SS**
- Is civic minded, globally aware, and socially responsible
- Exemplifies fundamental values of American citizenship through active participation in local and global communities
- Based on inquiry and analysis.
- Considers multiple perspectives, values diversity, and promotes cultural understanding
- Connected to historical events and developments that are shaped by social, political, cultural, technological, and economic factors
- Economic interdependence results from increased specialization and trade
- The principles of the United States government are based on political philosophies, ideas, and experiences of classical governments
- The diffusion of ideas and cultural practices across civilizations
- The importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of the people living Asia, Africa (Islam), Europe and the Americas over time

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE MAP

7TH GRADE SS

- Non-tracked
- Student-centered focus
- Technology integration
- World History 4000-1000 B.C.E.
- Development & Expansion of human civilization
- Civics & Citizenship focus

8TH GRADE SS

- Non-tracked
- Student-centered focus
- Technology Integration
- World History 1000 B.C.E.-1450 C.E.
- Global Connections
- Increased rigor to prepare for 9th grade

Physical Education/Health

7TH GRADE

- Non-tracked
- Physical Education for 3 marking periods
- Health 7 for 1 marking period (2nd or 3rd)

8TH GRADE

- Non-tracked
- Physical Education for 3 marking periods
- Health 8 for 1 marking period (2nd or 3rd)

RD 101

- Non-tracked
- Taken by all 7th grade students
- Paired with the Math Workshop class and scheduled to meet 2 of every 4 days in the cycle
- Topics: transition from elementary to middle school, respect/kindness, conflict resolution, *Naviance*, diversity, mental health, social-emotional learning, mindfulness, digital citizenship

Cycle Arts

GRADE 7

- Non-tracked, half-year courses
- Music Studio
- Theatre Arts

GRADE 8

- Non-tracked, half-year courses
- Art in the 21st Century
- Nutritional Living and Wellness

STEM

- **<u>STEM is taken in 8th grade only</u>:** Two courses, each a half year in length

- **<u>STEM Computers</u>:** Focus on computer science and programming skills which will cover the following topics: data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and computing systems.

- **<u>STEM Engineering</u>:** Focus on technology design thinking skills and concepts which include technological and engineering literacy. The new framework design, detailed previously, includes engineering design, ethics and culture, and the effects of technology on the natural world among the disciplinary concepts.

Summer Technology Academy

- Academy is a 3-day program
  - AM session: 8:00 – 11:00
  - PM session: 12:00 – 3:00
- Tentative dates: August 13, 14, 15 (Tues – Thurs)
- Students will be issued laptop computers and district account credentials (only if Community Pass obligations have been completed)
- Goal – acclimate students to the use of the River Dell district technology:

OneNote	ClassLink
Computer Hygiene	Teams
Website/OneDrive	Office 365

- No makeup dates – students not in attendance will receive laptops prior to the start of the school year. Information will be reviewed again at the start of the school year.

THANK YOU!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Mrs. Jennifer Ali, Supervisor of Mathematics – jennifer.ali@riverdell.org
Mrs. Demetra Binder, School Counselor – demetra.binder@riverdell.org
Mr. James Cooney, Director of Special Services – james.cooney@riverdell.org
Mr. John Jasinski, Assistant Principal – john.jasinski@riverdell.org
Mrs. Erin Kirkby, Director of Student Personnel – erin.kirkby@riverdell.org
Mr. Denis Nelson, Director of Athletics – denis.nelson@riverdell.org
Ms. Fran Puleo, Nurse – francesca.puleo@riverdell.org
Ms. Marnie Ross, Student Counselor – marnie.ross@riverdell.org
Dr. Lisa Torres, Supervisor of English & SS – lisa.torres@riverdell.org
Mr. Robert Urbanovich, Principal – robert.urbanovich@riverdell.org