

Message from School Counseling & Guidance Office

Welcome to Riverside Middle School. You are now a proud RMS Viking who is:



Victorious, Inquisitive, Knowledgeable, Intellectual, Nurturing, Gifted, Successful

Over the next three years you will grow educationally and mature into a healthy young adult. Riverside Middle School offers a multitude of activities where students come to be respectful, responsible and resourceful in their educational pursuits.

Counseling and Guidance Department

All students are assigned a school counselor, who will provide individual and group counseling and guidance for each student.

Department Services

The School Counseling Program provides the following services in the areas of academic, career, and personal/social development:

- Individual and group counseling
- Coordination of services
- Consultation with parents, teachers, and outside agencies
- Leadership to improve school and student achievement
- Student advocacy
- Teaming and collaboration within the learning community

Scheduling

Each student at Riverside receives a schedule that reflects courses required to be promoted to the next grade. Great care and consideration is given to each student and their educational needs.

Changes to Student Schedule

In the event of a schedule conflict, a parent/guardian must document their request in writing to the Guidance Office. Although we cannot guarantee that a student's schedule can be changed, every attempt will be made to accommodate requests. In addition, teacher changes are not allowed unless it is due to a specific circumstance where it would not be beneficial for the student to remain in the class. **ALL**

schedule changes must be requested within two weeks of the start of the school year. After such time, if a change is requested, it must be granted by the School's Administration.

Course Selection

Students will participate in courses that offer the greatest challenge and fulfill all requirements for promotion.

- **Honors:** These courses are aligned to the Common Core Standards to ensure that students are college and career ready. Courses are offered at an accelerated pace and require rigorous, independent work. Courses in this level are designated as Honors.
- **Grade Level Classrooms:** These courses are aligned to the Common Core Standards to ensure that students are college and career ready. Homework and outside projects are assigned.
- **Collaborative Classrooms:** These courses are aligned to the Common Core Standards to ensure that students are college and career ready. Additional supports, scaffolding, and interventions are offered to students who may need additional instruction in mastery of foundational skills. Homework and outside projects are assigned.

Parent Conferences

All parent conferences are made through the Guidance Office at (401) 433-6230.

Ms. Pacheco (ext. 105)

Ms. Murphy (ext. 106)

Advisory

Every student at RMS is assigned to an advisory that meets weekly with approximately fourteen other students and a teacher. Our advisory program provides the following opportunities:

- To provide instruction that supports academic and social growth.
- To help students develop a greater sense of belonging within the school community.
- To develop a relationship with an adult in the building to help encourage self-advocacy in all students.

Individual Learning Plans (ILP's)

The Individual Learning Plan is a personalized template through the Way to Go RI website specifically designed for Riverside Middle School students. Along with grade-level school counselors, students create long- and short- term goals in the academic, career and personal/social domains. The objective of the ILP is student ownership where students chart progress toward their goals, each school year, to ensure they are on the path to high school graduation. Students are given a user name and password to log into their personal account which should be shared with parents/guardians to help guide, facilitate and support students' use of Way to Go RI and development of their Individual Learning Plan.

Skyward

Skyward is the current database for grading, communicating and sharing student information with parents. Please be sure to obtain your son/daughter's Skyward user name and password to log on to view grades, attendance and missing assignments.

Riverside Middle School Website (www.epschoolsri.com/Riverside)

RMS has an active webpage where all pertinent information is updated and made available to parents.

- Homework Site per Grade Level and Subject Teacher
- Skyward Log In
- Upcoming Events
- News & Announcements
- Calendar of Events
- RMS Student Handbook
- RMS PTA
- RMS Library
- Lunch Menu

Grading Rubrics/Scales

To the extent possible, the district will provide teachers with district wide/school wide rubrics for assessment in the content areas. In order to develop consistent rubrics for assessing the content areas where rubrics do not exist to date, Teachers shall collaborate with grade level colleagues, other teachers instructing the same course, building administration, or department coordinators in choosing the appropriate grading scale. Scales must contain as equal intervals as possible.

GRADING:

Numeric grades are distributed quarterly:

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- Below D/Failing (no credit earned)

Grading Policy

Grades are a very important measurement of a student's success in school; and represent a student's progress toward achieving state standards. The purpose of this policy is to communicate a consistent and fair grading policy that will assist the schools in reporting to students and parents as well as outlining expectations for learners.

In East Providence Schools, a variety of assessment methods will be used to monitor and evaluate a student's depth of understanding of course content and progress toward demonstrating proficiency in meeting content standards. At the end of each quarter, each grade will reflect the student's individual growth toward or mastery of state standards (or other content standards for non-core areas), based on multiple and varied tasks and assessments.

Parents should check the Skyward link located on the Martin Middle School website. All parents and students have a password to access student grades. Grades are updated on a regular basis.

Homework/Preparedness

Homework will be assigned in order to preview, review, or reinforce, or extend concepts in the curriculum. It is critical for students to complete homework daily, as it directly impacts their level of understanding. Preparedness to participate in class also falls under this category.

Homework completion/preparedness may account for a maximum of 10% of the total grade. When turned in by the deadline, this homework is given credit for completion. Teachers will use professional judgment to determine the value assigned to partially completed work.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating & Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are intellectually dishonest. These are extremely serious offenses and can result in loss of credit for assignments and/or disciplinary action.

All of the following constitute cheating or plagiarism:

1. Any use of outside resources, materials, manipulatives or inappropriate use of technology that circumvents regular testing procedures.
2. Failure to document with quotation marks or by indentation any material copied directly from other sources.
3. Failure to acknowledge paraphrased material.
4. Failure to cite sources and/or provide a bibliography.
5. Use of others' work as one's own.
6. Use of others' ideas as one's own for themes, poems, musical compositions, or artwork.

The faculty will ensure that all students are given the necessary instruction on how to avoid plagiarism on a repeated basis. Students must ensure that they clearly understand how to properly cite others' works and thoughts or seek assistance to clarify these procedures.

Consequences: At the discretion of the school administration after consultation with the teacher, the parent/guardian will be notified and the student will re-do the original work to passing. A determination will be made by the administrator as to the location where the make-up will occur. If plagiarism re-occurs, more serious consequences will result as outlined in the district Code of Conduct.

Secondary Credit Recovery/Summer School Policy

The credit recovery program allows currently enrolled students who fail courses in any of the secondary schools to obtain the necessary credits to be promoted or graduate. Students have the opportunity to receive online instruction in some courses they have failed. This instruction may take place outside the school day. Teachers monitor these courses and are available to assist students as needed. In addition, students must successfully complete the appropriate course assessments to recover the failed credit. A student may participate in credit recovery for failing the first semester of a yearlong course, as they continue the course in the second semester. This must be documented in a written plan approved by the principal.

Students must successfully complete each class with a minimum grade of 70.

Class Participation

Class participation is defined as active student involvement. This includes: arriving to class on time, taking notes, possessing the correct materials, participating in group activities, or anything the teacher deems appropriate.

Report Cards

Report cards are handed out quarterly at the end of each marking period. Report card envelopes are to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the student's homeroom teacher. While it is a student's responsibility to bring the report cards home, parents are encouraged to access their child's Skyward account frequently, as grades are updated weekly.

Honor Roll

Standards for Honor Roll recognition are as follows:

First Honors (summa cum laude) – Quarterly All As
Second Honors (magna cum laude) – Quarterly As and Bs

School Support Personnel

Riverside Middle School has several support staff who help to make the middle school experience more meaningful and easier to adjust. Along with two School Counselors, Ms. Pacheco and Ms. Murphy, RMS has a School Psychologist, Mrs. Jensen and School Social Worker, Mrs. Roy.

Support Services for School Psychologist & Social Worker

- Offer referral services for community counseling and mental health agencies.
- Assist in Special Education evaluation team meetings to help determine student eligibility for Individualized Education Programs.
- Consult with 504 Team to assist with accommodations for students.
- Test and evaluate students through special education and regular education initiatives and complete social histories as needed through the special education process.
- Offer individual and/or group student counseling on a short-term basis.
- Collaborate with families and community service providers to facilitate student support.
- Trained in crisis intervention and evaluations to assess student's emotional/behavioral needs.

Contact Information:

School Psychologist, Mrs. Jensen ext. 111
Social Worker, Mrs. Roy ext. 111