

River Ridge Elementary School

Student Handbook



TABLE OF CONTENTS

RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT	3
RIVER RIDGE DISTRICT POLICIES	3
NON-DISCRIMINATION/EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY	3-4
DIRECTORY DATA	4-5
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	5
STUDENT CONDUCT	5
SCHOOL DAY	5
ATTENDANCE POLICY	6-7
STUDENT’S EARLY DISMASSAL	7
PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM MODIFICATIONS	7-8
WEATHER EMERGENCIES	8
NOTES/ MESSAGES	8
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS	8-9
VISITORS	9
CUSTODIAL INFORMATION	9
GENERAL INFORMATION	9-10
FOOD	11
ACADEMICS	11-17
STUDENT HEALTH	17-19
TRANSPORTATION	19-20
DRILLS	20
RIVER RIDGE DISCIPLINE POLICY	20-22

RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

River Ridge School District will strive to provide a safe, challenging environment for each individual student by Promoting excellent staff development, encouraging meaningful parent involvement, and earning strong community support through honesty, integrity and open communication.

RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

A copy of all school district policies for previewing available on the school district's website:

<https://www.rrsd.k12.wi.us/district/policies.cfm>

NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities. This policy is intended to support and promote nondiscriminatory practices in all District and school activities, particularly in the following areas:

- A. use of objective bases for admission to any school, class, program, or activity;
- B. prohibition of harassment towards students and procedures for the investigation of claims (see Policy 5517);
- C. use of disciplinary authority, including suspension and expulsion authority;
- D. administration of gifts, bequests, scholarships and other aids, benefits, or services to students from private agencies, organizations, or persons;
- E. selection of instructional and library media materials in a nondiscriminatory manner and that reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society;
- F. design and implementation of student evaluation practices, materials, and tools, but not at the exclusion of implementing techniques to meet students' individual needs;
- G. design and configuration of facilities;
- H. opportunity for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, provided that separate programs for male and female students may be available provided comparable activities are made available to all in terms of type, scope, and District support;
- I. Career and Technical Education (see policy 2421); and
- J. the school lunch program and other school-sponsored food service programs. See school district policy #2260 & 8500 for more information.

Title IX

The Board prohibits sexual harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities. When the District has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, it shall promptly respond in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. See school district policy #2264 & #2266 for more information.

Section 504/ADA

Any person who believes that the River Ridge School District or any staff person has discriminated against them in violation of the District's Section 504/ADA Policy #2260.01 may file a complaint.

Reporting Procedures

Students, parents and all other members of the School District community are encouraged to promptly report suspected violations of this policy to a teacher or administrator. Any teacher or administrator who receives such a complaint shall file it with the District's Compliance Officer at his/her first opportunity.

Students who believe they have been denied equal access to District educational opportunities, in a manner inconsistent with these policies, may initiate a complaint and the investigation process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint will not adversely affect the complaining individual's participation in educational or extra-curricular programs unless the complaining individual makes the complaint maliciously or with knowledge that it is false.

District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Amy Jones- Student Services Coordinator 608-994-2715 ext. #302 11165 County Highway P Patch Grove, WI 53817 jonesam@rrsd.k12.wi.us

Bill Hannah – Elementary Principal 608-994-2715 ext. #102 11165 County Highway P Patch Grove, WI 53817 hannahbi@rrsd.k12.wi.us

A CO will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to student discrimination in educational opportunities under this policy.

DIRECTORY DATA

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that River Ridge School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, River Ridge School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the River Ridge School District to the contrary in accordance with River Ridge School District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the River Ridge School District to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include: A playbill, annual yearbook, honor roll or other recognition lists, graduation programs, and sports activity sheets.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information: names, addresses, emails, and telephone listings unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want River Ridge School District to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without prior written consent, you must notify the River Ridge School District in writing within 14 days of the start of the school (or within two weeks of receipt of this notice if enrolling after the school year has begun). Forms are available in each district office. Student's Name; Address; Telephone listing; Photograph; Date and place of birth; Major field of study; Dates of attendance; Dates of graduation; Participation in officially recognized activities and sports; Weight and height of members of athletic teams; and Degrees, honors and awards received. Members are encouraged to report suspected violation of policy. A complaint shall be filed to the District Administrator, Clay Koenig.

CODE OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This code of Student Rights and Responsibilities was drawn up and adopted with the idea that every individual has certain rights and responsibilities in respect to the River Ridge School District and to other individuals. A student's exercise of rights and privileges in the school setting should be protected at all times. No right, however, is absolute. The freedom to exercise one's rights ceases when that exercise unduly infringes upon the rights of others. The purpose of this Code is to not only protect the right of the individual, but to protect the entire student body.

The successful working of the Code requires an exercise of good faith by students, parents, and school district personnel, as well as a basic respect for the worth of each individual and their ability to contribute to society.

Adopted by the River Ridge Board of Education March 1995

STUDENT CONDUCT

We believe that all students have the ability to demonstrate good conduct in school. All children are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will contribute to their education, safety, and well-being.

The River Ridge Elementary student rules are as follows:

- Students should do their best.
- Students should treat everyone and everything with respect.
- Students should be prepared for class.
- Students should use appropriate language. No swearing.
- Students should stand in line quietly.
- Students should walk in the building.
- Students should dress for the weather.
- Students should remember that school rules are the same for field trips and after- school events.
- Teachers may have additional rules for their individual classrooms. The classroom teachers have the authority to enforce their classroom rules as they see fit.

Parental assistance and cooperation is needed to achieve an orderly climate where there is relative quiet and a pleasant learning atmosphere within the school. Children who fail to cooperate in following the rules of conduct will be subject to disciplinary action by their classroom teacher. Failure to achieve a positive change in behavior will result in referral of the child to the 4K-4 principal.

SCHOOL HOURS

School office hours are 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Teacher's hours are from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Student hours are from 8:00 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Wisconsin Statute 118.16(1)(a) has provided a legal definition of “habitual truant” as “pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of five (5) or more days on which school is held during a school semester.” Subsequent Grant County Ordinance 22 directs school boards and their agents to identify habitual truants and initiate legal procedures prescribed in the statute and the ordinance.

River Ridge Public School staff and the parent bare mutual responsibility for the accountability of minor children during the official school day.

The Board of Education adopts the Grant County Truancy Plan as the foundation for dealing with truancy in the River Ridge School District. The plan will be reviewed at least once every two years by the River Ridge School District Board of Education and revised, if appropriate, according to State Statute 118.162. The Grant County Truancy Task Force shall convene at least once every four years according to statute

118.162 (1). The plan includes the following procedures: notifying the parents/guardians of unexcused absences of habitual truants, plans and procedures for identifying truant students of all ages and returning them to school, methods to increase and maintain public awareness of and involvement in responding to truancy within the school district, types of truancy cases to be referred to the district attorney, the immediate responses to be made by school personnel when a truant student is returned to school, plans and procedures to coordinate the responses to the problems of habitual truants with public and private social service agencies, and methods to involve the truant student’s parent/guardian in dealing with and solving the student’s truancy problem.

According to State Statute 118.15(3)(c), “any child excused in writing by his or her parent or guardian before the absence” is excused from school attendance. “The school board shall require a child excused under this paragraph to complete any course work missed during the absence. A child may not be excused for more than ten (10) days in a school year under this paragraph.” The board shall entitle this type of excused absence as a “Parent/Guardian Pre-excused Absence,” and considers partial or full days to constitute a “day” under this paragraph. After the first 10 parental excused absences per year, a physician’s or other licensed person under 118.15 (3)(a), note will be required for further absences to be excused.

The interpretation of illness and crisis and the degree of verification is at the discretion of the administration, but must be within the guidelines or statute and board policy. Students who reach their eighteenth (18th) year are required to attend school through the semester that they turn eighteen and continue to have an ethical obligation to obey school rules on attendance procedures. Parents of children under compulsory attendance age/grade level have an ethical obligation to send their children to school if they are enrolled in early childhood, four-year-old kindergarten, or five-year-old kindergarten programs.

The River Ridge School District Attendance Policy includes the following elements:

1. Parents of minor students of compulsory attendance age/grade level (age 6-17, or grade 1 to grade 12) who have accumulated five or more unexcused absences in a semester in accordance with Statute 118.16 (1)(a) shall be notified by certified or registered mail that the parent(s) and child have a legal obligation to confer with the school administration and related staff (teachers, guidance counselor, psychologist, attendance clerk, etc.) within five (5) days after the habitually truant notice is sent, unless the parent requests an extension of the meeting time. The extension cannot exceed an additional five school days. The conference may include a juvenile court worker, but it is not mandated.
2. The conference will address the possible need for curriculum modification, ability assessment, social adjustment, counseling, attention of the court, and reasons for absences.
3. If the parent refuses to meet with the school personnel within ten (10) days after the habitually truant notice is mailed, the court system may take direct action.

4. The Board's definition of excusable absence is verified illness, verified personal, family crisis, or appointments and is subject to the following guidelines:
 - a. Illness must be verified by a written parental statement when the student returns to school and by a telephone call to the school office the morning of an absence, no later than 8:15 a.m. Failure to contact the school will result in a telephone call to the home or parent's place of work, and will go into the attendance as unexcused.
 - b. Illness in excess of three (3) days consecutively (partial or full days) each semester shall require written verification from a health care provider.
 - c. Each student shall have ten (10) absences (partial or full days constitute a "day") excused by a parent/guardian in accordance with 118.15 (3) (c) as listed above to be used for any reason--provided the parent/guardian provides both a written excuse and phone call prior to the beginning of the student's school day (8:15 a.m.). In any case it is recommended these "Parent/Guardian Preexcused Absence" days be pre-planned as to allow for make-up work to be completed prior to the absence. Regardless of the timeliness of the pre-excused absence, students will be required to make up the missed course work in a timely fashion determined by the individual teachers.
 - d. A death or serious illness in the family may result in an excusable absence since a student might be incapable of attending to his/her scholastic duties. Funeral leave or family illness leave shall not be counted against the "Parent/Guardian Preexcused Absence" days, provided the principal or his/her designee approves them.
 - e. One (1) day excused absence for seniors for campus visits or working with military recruiters outside of school will be exempt from this policy.
 - f. The Board shall consider all in-school suspensions to be excused absences.
 - g. The administration shall notify parents as soon as practicable if a law enforcement agency has requested a copy of a student's attendance record for purposes of a truancy investigation

STUDENT'S EARLY DISMISSAL OR LEAVING DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- Parents must notify their child's teacher with a note when they will be taking their child earlier than regular dismissal.
- The student must be picked up in the office, not at the front of the building. This is to ensure the safety of your child.
- Anytime a student is riding a different bus, a written note from the parent must be given to the office and at that time a bus pass will be issued which must be given to the bus driver.

PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM MODIFICATIONS

Wisconsin Statute Section 118.15 requires that all students under the age of 18 attend school regularly.

Wisconsin Statute Section 118.15(1)(d) also permits any student's parent or guardian, or a student if the parent or guardian or guardian is notified, to request, in writing, that the School Board provide the student with program or curricular modifications, including but not limited to:

- Modifications within the student's current academic program.
- A school work training or work-study program.
- Enrollment in an alternative public school or program located within the student's school district of residency
- Enrollment in a nonsectarian private school located within the student's school district of residency which meets certain federal law requirements. Any such enrollment must be by contractual agreement which provides for tuition payment by the student's school district of residency.
- Homebound study, including nonsectarian correspondence courses of study approved by the School Board or nonsectarian tutoring provided by the school in which the student is enrolled.

- Enrollment in any public educational program located outside the student's school district of residency. Enrollment under this subsection may be pursuant to a contractual agreement between the school districts.

When a written request for a program or curriculum modification is made, the School Board will consider the request and render a written decision on the request within 90 days of the request except that if the request relates to a student who have been evaluated by an IEP team and has not been recommended for special education, the School Board will consider the request and render a written decision on the request within 30 days of the request. If the request is denied, the Board will give the reason or reasons for denial.

The student's parent or guardian may request the School Board to review or reconsider the decision it makes in response to a request for a program or curricular modification. The School Board will render its determination upon review in writing, if the student's parent or guardian so requests.

WEATHER EMERGENCIES

Information regarding the closing of school in inclement weather will be given over Prairie du Chien, Lancaster, Platteville, and Elkader radio stations. These radio stations usually repeat the announcements every 15 minutes, starting about 6:30 a.m. Information regarding the closing of school in inclement weather will also be called in to the Madison TV stations: WISC-3, NBC-15 (WMTV), and ABC-27 (WKOW).

If a particular roadway is unsafe for travel due to road conditions, the parent/guardian will be notified by the administration. If the parent is not able to make alternate transportation arrangements the student's absence will be excused.

If school is dismissed because of bad weather after the students are already at school, the superintendent will have the cancellation announced over the above radio stations. A minimum of one-hour notice will be broadcasted before early dismissal. Please listen to the radio for the cancellation rather than call the school, as we need the telephone to make transportation arrangements.

We also utilize an electronic alert system. If you would like to receive a text, email, or phone call during a crisis or weather-related school closing or delay, please make sure we have current information on file.

DELIVERING MESSAGES

We are asking for your cooperation in minimizing requests to deliver messages to students during the school day. Please plan ahead with your child(ren) as to where they are to go after school. If there is a change in plans, please notify the school in writing. **REQUESTS TO DELIVER MESSAGES TO STUDENTS DURING THE DAY MAY BE LIMITED TO EMERGENCIES ONLY.** We realize that sometimes this cannot be avoided. However, the school office is an extremely busy place, and we cannot guarantee that telephone messages will be delivered.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

Emergency Information: Each family will be asked to provide emergency information for each child. Emergency notification information is located on the student's registration form. **This information is extremely important as it is our only way of finding you in an emergency.** We refer to this information when there is an emergency or illness involving your child. On the emergency form, you will also be asked to provide the names and telephone numbers of two individuals who can be called in the event we are unable to contact you.

Please keep the office advised of any change in home, business, and emergency contact telephone numbers,

including unlisted numbers.

ENTERING AND EXITING THE BUILDING

- The doors of the school will be **locked at all times** during the school day. If you need to enter the school, ring the doorbell and you will be buzzed in. Please report to the office.
- During school hours **everyone** will enter the building through the main doors.
- Parents should drop off/pick up their child/children at the main entrance during the school day.
- Parents that drop off their child at school before school starts or pick up their child after school, should drop off/pick up their child/children up at the rear entrance.
- **ALL** visitors/parents **MUST** sign into the office to receive identification before entering further into the building, and the office personnel will assist with the signing in process. All staff members (including substitutes) are to be consistent about stopping anyone who does not have identification to ensure our students' safety. The visitor's pass is a way to show that you have signed in and that you are a safe person to be in our hallways.

VISITORS TO CLASSROOM

Parents are welcome to come to school to visit their child's classroom, but it is important to arrange the visit in advance. The classroom teacher has the right to schedule the visit with the parent in order to limit any disruption it may cause in the normal class routine. Parents who need to talk to a teacher should contact the teacher directly by phone to set up an appointment. Parents do not have the right to expect immediate attention if they have not called beforehand.

CUSTODIAL INFORMATION

Any parent/guardian who is divorced or separated is asked to provide the district with information on custody rights as directed by a court order. A CONFIDENTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SEPARATED/DIVORCED PARENTS can be obtained in the office.

GENERAL INFORMATION

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are considered part of the educational program and part of the school day. Attendance will be taken. The office must receive signed permission slips before any student may go on a field trip.

PLAYGROUND

Students are asked to use good judgment when on the playground, in the gym, and in the use of the equipment. Respect for fellow students is expected at all times. Supervision is provided at the recess and lunch periods. Students' misbehavior will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

LOST AND FOUND

Please label your child's clothes and school materials. We accumulate numerous items of unclaimed clothes during the school year. Unclaimed items will be stored in the office. If the item is not claimed by the end of each month, it will be disposed of.

PARTY INVITATIONS

Please do not send party invitations to school with your child. A note dropped in the mail or a phone call from home will help protect the feelings of those children not invited.

SCHOOL CLOTHING

Good grooming and appropriate dress help students to maintain a positive attitude toward school and themselves. Students are encouraged to use good judgment when dressing for school.

During hot weather, wearing shorts in the elementary is permitted. Shorts must have bermuda length legs. No bare midriff tops may be worn.

During the winter months, we encourage parents to be sure children are properly clothed before they leave home. Students should have winter coats, mittens or gloves, hats, and boots. If students want to play in the snow, they must wear snow pants and boots. During the winter months, children are expected to play outside at recess when the temperature or chill factor is above 10°F. If for health reasons your child is not to go outside, please send a signed note for each day the child is to be restricted to the classroom. If your child is to be restricted for more than two days, a doctor's excuse must accompany your note.

It is very uncomfortable for a child to sit in school if he or she is wet and cold from recess. If a child wishes to have an extra pair of shoes or pants for the winter, room in the classroom will be made for them.

Only soft-soled shoes will be permitted in the gym.

A student may bring an animal to school for show and tell. Please obtain prior permission from the classroom teacher. The animal must be brought by an adult and taken home by the adult. Please, do not send the animal on the school bus. The animal may be left in the classroom only if the student has prior permission from the classroom teacher.

GUIDELINE FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

TALK with your child. Help him to add words to his speaking vocabulary. The more words he uses in ordinary conversation, the more words will have meaning for him when he sees them on the printed page.

LISTEN to your child. Encourage your child to talk about things he has seen or done. The more a child talks, the better he is likely to read. Do pay attention when he is talking to you. Listen also to your child read.

READ to your child. Every time you read to him you are building an appreciation of books and reading. A child who has been read to is usually more anxious to read to himself.

HELP him with his reading. Tell him the words if he is in the first stages of reading. Help him to work out the word if he is in a later stage by looking at the picture, skipping over the unknown word and reading the rest of the sentence to see if this suggests a new word, and checking to see the word does make sense.

BUILD a reading atmosphere at home. Have books, magazines, newspapers, etc., around the house. Let your child see you reading frequently.

MONITOR TELEVISION More importantly, talk with your child about TV programs you watch together.

FAMILY GAMES can develop your child's vocabulary and comprehension.

Use **NATURAL EXPERIENCE** for learning situations. Do things with your child.

PRAISE your child. Tell him he did a good job. Honest praise increases self-worth.

Give your child **RESPONSIBILITY**. This allows him to earn recognition and to gain satisfaction from accomplishments.

GET INVOLVED with your child's education. Visit the school. Know your child's teacher.

FOOD

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Every family has an account for breakfast, lunch and extra milk. Students have a student ID card which is scanned that deducts from the family account. One family member will receive a notice on Fridays when your child/children have an amount left for less than two (2) meals. When the family account reaches a deficit of \$50.00, their child(ren) will no longer be permitted to participate in the school's breakfast or hot lunch program or receive extra milk until the account has been paid. If you are unable to provide a sack lunch for your child(ren), please contact the school and a peanut butter sandwich and a carton of milk can be made available.

At the end of the school year, a letter will be sent to families in arrears which states that any unpaid balance at the end of the previous school year must be paid prior to the start of the next school year. If not paid, the student will not be permitted to eat regular breakfast or lunch and participate in milk break (elementary). Lunch and breakfast price - including milk, extra milk - will be charged separately. Envelopes are sent home with students in grades K-8 for your convenience in paying lunch money. We ask that you fill them out and send them to school with your child. If a student is eating sack lunch and wishes to drink milk with their lunch, they must pay for the extra milk.

There is one classroom milk break for 4K-4 students. Students may purchase milk cards in the office.

There is a program to provide free or reduced-price breakfasts/lunches for children who are eligible. A free and reduced-price lunch form is available in the office, on the school website, and is provided in the August newsletter. The office will be glad to answer any questions you have regarding this form and will assist you in filling it out if you so desire. We strongly encourage families to fill out this application.

All children are expected to eat lunch--hot or cold.

Good manners and eating habits are expected from all students. Respect for the kitchen staff and cafeteria supervisors is expected. All students are encouraged but not required to try all food.

ACADEMICS

ASSIGNED HOMEWORK

Assigned homework is given as an enrichment or extension of concepts introduced in the classroom. It may also involve practice concepts. A part of learning is accomplished through a child's independent study.

Teachers may assign independent activities to be completed during class time or as homework. It is vital for a child's learning that he/she learns how to complete assignments on time. Classroom work not completed during the school day is also sent home as homework. Periodically projects may be assigned to be completed at home with parental supervision.

Parental supervision might include:

- Set aside a specific time for homework to be completed.

- Select an appropriate quiet place in the home for work to be done.
- Spot check 3 to 5 problems for accuracy.
- Develop a system for returning completed homework:
- Put in backpack immediately.
- Have a specific spot for homework to be placed. That place should be checked before leaving for school.
- Grades 2-4 will use assignment notebooks.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter showing grades earned during the nine-week period. Report cards are given to parents at scheduled parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first quarter. Report cards are sent home with the child at the end of the second, third, and fourth quarter.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

- A Parent-Teacher Conference is a time when parents and teachers can talk over problems or concerns that a student may have.
- Not all students have problems or concerns, but it's not always safe to assume that your child doesn't have problems or concerns just because he/she doesn't express any at home.
- The school counselors are also available that day if the parents would like to speak with them about any concerns and/or interests they may have.
- We, as teachers, feel that communication with parents is an important part of the educational process and hope that all parents take advantage of this opportunity at Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- We have parent conferences at River Ridge. Conferences occur at the end of the first quarter. Each conference is approximately 15 minutes per parent for discussion. If you cannot come at this time, feel free to write or call your child's teacher and discuss your concerns or arrange another time for your conference.
- Parents and teachers are encouraged to schedule additional conferences when necessary.

RETENTION POLICY

Guidelines for Retention

The guiding philosophy for determining retention will be what is in the best interest of the child by considering all aspects: emotional, social, academic, and intellectual development.

If retention must be done, the earlier the better--preferably before second grade (there could be some exceptions). Consideration for retention should involve some or all of the following:

- Teacher observation
- Maturity/emotional development
- Classroom work
- Achievement tests
- Chapter I progress
- Students with learning disabilities who are working up to their abilities may be considered for promotion rather than retention.

Procedure for Retention

A committee of teachers should meet to discuss the student being considered for retention. This committee should consist of:

- Classroom teacher
- Child's preceding teacher (if applicable)

- Chapter I teacher
- School psychologist (if available)
- Learning disabilities teacher (if applicable)
- Principal or superintendent

If retention is recommended, the parents will be asked to attend a meeting with the retention committee.

- If parents refuse retention, a signed form so stating will be placed in the student's permanent records.
- If parents refuse retention and the retention committee feels further consideration on this matter is warranted, the committee may refer the case to the school board.

PROMOTION POLICY – ACT 20

4th Grade Promotion Policy (Per ACT 20)

Section 1: Promotion Policy

The River Ridge School Districts adopted this 4th grade promotion policy as of January 8, 2025, to take effect September 1, 2026.

For any student who has not exited their personal reading plan by the end of the student's 3rd grade year, the school will engage in a process to determine whether to promote that student to the 4th grade. This process will carefully consider all relevant factors that contributed to the student not completing their personal reading plan and alternatives to retention that can help support the student to achieve reading proficiency. Additional details about the determination process are found in Section 2 of this policy. Good cause exceptions and post promotion mandates are found in Section 3 of this policy.

Section 2: Process for Making Promotion Determinations

For any student who has not exited their personal reading plan by the end of the student's 3rd grade year, the school will engage in a process to determine whether to promote that student to the 4th grade. This process will carefully consider all relevant factors that contributed to the student not completing their personal reading plan and alternatives to retention that can help support the student to achieve reading proficiency. This process will be described in the school handbook and include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- A team of individuals will engage in the determination process, which shall include but is not limited to the student's parent(s) as defined by Wis. Stat. §.115.76(12) and school representatives who have knowledge of the reading instruction and interventions provided to the student, as well as how the student responded to both instruction and interventions. School representatives may include but are not limited to: the teacher of record, the school reading specialist, a staff member who has provided additional reading support and conducted progress monitoring, and a student services professional with knowledge of the social and emotional implications of grade retention.
- Representatives from the school will consider all available data demonstrating the student's response to reading instruction and intervention, and data demonstrating the student's progress towards meeting personal reading plan goals. This data may include, but is not limited to, the most recent and previous universal reading screener data, diagnostic reading assessment data, progress monitoring data, classroom data, and observations and data related to the student's social, emotional, and behavioral functioning.

- Representatives from the school will determine whether the student is eligible for a good cause exception and communicate that to the parent or guardian.
- If the student has an individualized education program (IEP) in an area of reading or is an English learner with a language acquisition plan, the school representatives will review the student's progress towards those goals and communicate that to the parent or guardian.
- Representatives from the school will communicate long-term risks of retention to the student's parent or guardian. Such risks may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Students who are retained are more likely to have adverse outcomes, including dropping out of school and obtaining lower paying jobs in the future (Cockx, B., Picchio, M., & Baert, S. 2018; Hughes, J.N., West, S.G., Kim, H., & Bauer, S.S. 2018);
 - Students who are retained are more likely to experience emotional distress (Buckmaster et. al. 2024; Carlton & Winsler 1999; Demanet & Van Houtte 2016; Goos et al. 2013b; Carlton, M. P., & Winsler, A. 1999; Jimerson & Ferguson 2007; Lavrijsen & Nicaise 2017; Martin 2009; Martin 2011);
 - Students who are retained are more likely to have lower socioeconomic status and more likely to be eligible for government assistance (Goos, M., Pipa, J., & Peixoto, F. 2021);
 - Students who are retained are at higher risk for future criminal behavior (Eren, O., Lovenheim, M., & Mocan, H. 2022); and
 - Students who are retained do not achieve increased academic achievement and make less progress compared to other students (Silberglitt, B., Appleton, J., & Burns, M., & Jimerson, S. 2006);
- Representatives from the school will consider alternatives to retention available to the student in the school and communicate these alternatives to the student's parent or guardian.
- The school will not deny any student advancement to 4th grade based solely on the student's performance in reading on the 3rd grade state summative assessment or the universal reading screener.
- The school will not deny any English learner advancement to 4th grade solely based on level of language proficiency (Wis. Admin. Code §13.09(1)(b)).

- The team may conclude that promotion (with applicable services/supports) is in the best interest of a student even if the team also concludes, based on clear documentation, that the student was unable to complete their personal reading plan primarily due to the student's lack of reading proficiency.
- After reviewing all data and considerations named above, representatives from the school will make a recommendation of promotion or retention to the student's parent or guardian; and
- If the representatives from the school recommend retention, those representatives will identify and communicate the following to the student's parent or guardian:
 - Support that will be provided to the student that will mitigate the harm that is likely to occur as a result of retention, including social stigmatization, loss of friendships, damaged self-esteem, and other mental health impacts; and
 - The additional academic services and support that will be provided to the student as they repeat 3rd grade to ensure they reach grade level proficiency by the time they finish 3rd grade the second time.

Based on the holistic evaluation described above, the entire team will make one of the following choices.

1. Promotion to 4th grade (with applicable services/supports) is more appropriate than retention in 3rd grade and the student is promoted.
2. The student's noncompletion of the student's personal reading plan was not primarily due to the student's lack of reading proficiency and the student is promoted.
3. The parents or guardians and school representatives agree that retention (with applicable services/supports) is more appropriate than promotion to 4th grade and the student's parent or guardian gives written consent to retention.
4. The school representatives recommend retention, but the student's parent or guardian does not consent to retention. Regardless of any other facts, circumstances, or analysis, the student is promoted to 4th grade.

Any student who enrolls as a 3rd grade student late in the school term without any accompanying record of a personal reading plan (i.e., after the final annual administration of the universal screening assessment and, potentially, also after the 3rd grade Forward Exam) shall be promoted to 4th grade under the criteria that the student did not have a personal reading plan in effect at the end of 3rd grade.

If a student transfers into a school enrolled as a 4th grade student and the provided records indicate the student may have met requirements to be retained in 3rd grade, the school district will provide adequate and necessary supports, including but not necessarily limited to the intensive instructional services, supports, progress monitoring, and parent notification referenced under Wis. Stat. §118.33(5m)(a).

Section 3: Post Promotion Mandates and Exceptions

Per Wis. Stat. §118.33(5m)(a), any student promoted to 4th grade after the determination process will be provided with all of the following.

1. Intensive instructional services, progress monitoring, and supports to remediate the identified areas of deficiency.
2. Notification to the student's parent or guardian, in writing, that the student pupil did not complete the personal reading plan that and includes a description of the intensive instructional services and supports that will be provided to the student pupil to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency; and
3. An intensive summer reading program each summer until the student scores at grade-level in reading on a summative assessment.

The following are good cause exceptions. Any student who meets one or more of the following good exceptions may be exempt from the promotion policy, the intensive summer reading program, and/or the intensive reading intervention requirements.

1. The student is identified as a "Limited-English proficient pupil" as that term is defined under Wis. Stat. §115.955(7).
2. The student has an individualized education plan (IEP) that indicates that neither taking the universal reading screener nor the state summative assessment in reading is appropriate for the pupil.
3. The student scores as proficient in reading on the alternative statewide standardized summative assessment (i.e. Dynamic Learning Maps).
4. The student has an IEP or a plan to provide accommodations or services under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that indicates that the student has received intensive intervention in reading for more than 2 years if the student continues to demonstrate a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in 5K, grades 1, 2, or 3; or
5. The student has received intensive intervention in reading for 2 or more school years, continues to demonstrate a deficiency in reading, and was previously retained in 5K, grades 1, 2, or 3 for a total of 2 years.

Regardless of these good cause exceptions, school districts and independent charter schools are responsible for providing instruction that meets all state and federal requirements, including, but not limited to Wis. Stat. §121.02(1)(L)4 for school districts and Wis. Stat. §§118.01(2)(c)7 and 8 for school districts and independent charter schools, often known together as Act 31.

If promoted to 4th grade and if a "good cause" exception applies to the student under Wis. Stat. §118.33(5m)(b), then the school district/school will provide adequate and necessary supports, including but not necessarily limited to the intensive instructional services, supports, progress monitoring, and parent notification referenced under Wis. Stat. §118.33(5m)(a).

TRANSFER OF STUDENTS

If it is apparent that your child will be leaving the district, you should contact the office to complete a withdrawal form and sign a release of records form. The release form is necessary to allow River Ridge to transfer permanent academic records, health forms, and any special education records to your child's new school. This process also ensures that the student has returned all school property for proper credit.

SCREENING

The River Ridge School District provides a screening service for children in the four and five-year old kindergarten programs. Screening is held in January. This allows the parents an opportunity to discuss their child with educational specialists.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten children must be four (4) on or before September 1 of the year they enter school for the four-year-old kindergarten program. They must be five (5) on or before September 1 of the year they enter school for the five-year old kindergarten program.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

An adult must accompany elementary students attending after-school activities.

Students staying after school for activities must have written permission from parents to attend or participate in the activity. Please do not call the school and ask the secretary to write a permission slip for your child.

SPECIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Title I

River Ridge has taken necessary actions to become school-wide for Title 1. School-wide programs can use all allocated funds to increase the amount and quality of learning time. All staff, resources, and classes are part of the overall school-wide program.

Psychological

For needs of special testing and counseling, a school psychologist is available. Please speak with our Director of Special Education

Guidance

Are you concerned with improving your grades and getting along better with teachers or classmates? Are there personal or family problems that are making it hard for you to keep your mind on schoolwork?

Arrange to talk with our counselor. A trained counselor who is interested and understands the needs of students is available. Our counselor is here to help parents, teachers, and students.

Speech and Language

Students who may need to improve communication skills can receive help in this program; however, they must first be tested by our speech therapists.

Reading Specialist

Reading support is also available to all students in either special needs or regular education from our reading specialist.

STUDENT HEALTH

STUDENT HEALTH

Overview

Under the direction of a registered nurse with the Grant County Health Department, River Ridge Schools staff a health aide. The health aide is CPR, AED and first aid certified, provides care for illnesses and injuries, administers and records medications, assists students with special needs, performs lice checks, administers first

aid, and is available for health consultation. However, school staff is not allowed to diagnose or treat illness. The school health aide will follow Department of Health Services, Bureau of Communicable Diseases and/or public health guidelines for management of contagious illnesses or communicable diseases (both suspected or confirmed). Generally, if your child has a fever (of 100 degrees F or greater), is vomiting, or has diarrhea, they should remain home until symptom-free for 24 hours without the use of medication. Please refer to the Grant County School health program and River Ridge District policies for any questions regarding regulations and policies.

Emergency Contact Information

In order to enable the staff to effectively react to any medical emergency (such as allergies, asthma, etc.) parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the school of any medical condition. Emergency contact information must be updated each year during school registration. This information is used to locate the parent/guardian or designated individual if a child is ill or injured at school and to identify any current health issues the school needs to be aware of. Please make sure all emergency numbers on file are current and up to date and provide at least TWO contacts that are available.

Students, teachers, and parents should report all injuries and illness that occur at school immediately to the health aide. No student will be sent home without a responsible person being notified of the situation. School staff may call 9-1-1 whenever they feel emergency care is needed for a student.

Prescription Medication

If your child requires any medication at school, a medication consent form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian each school year. If your child requires a prescription medication at school, the consent form must be signed by the doctor or practitioner with specific instructions. (Substances that are not FDA approved, and natural/herbal products or food supplements will not be allowed. Medication dosages outside of the recommended therapeutic dose or beyond the instructions on the package label must be authorized by a practitioner as well.) Medications need to be in the original packaging and properly labeled or they will not be given.

Over-the-Counter Medication

If you feel your child may need any over-the-counter medication, you must supply it and you must complete a consent form. The school does not provide any medications for students. Please note that almost all substances are considered medications and will be treated as such. This includes many lip balms, cough or throat lozenges, bug repellants, sunscreens, medicated lotions, etc. These items may not be used at school unless the proper procedure is followed. A new medication form is needed when a medication or dose changes, and a new form is needed for each school year. Medications need to be in the original packaging and properly labeled or they will not be given.

Immunizations

Wisconsin's Student Immunization Law requires students to be vaccinated according to the vaccination schedule. Please contact the Grant County Health Department for current immunization requirements. The district is required by law to send legal notices for non-compliant students and to enforce immunization laws. If a parent/guardian chooses not to vaccinate their child, they must submit a medical (with health care provider signature), religious, or personal conviction waiver in place of immunization(s).

Health Screenings

The health aide is involved in hearing and vision screenings under the supervision of the registered nurse. Screenings include vision for grades 4K-5 and hearing for grades 4K-3. Follow-up screenings are completed for students who fail, and referrals are sent as indicated. Scoliosis information is sent home with sixth grade female students and 8th grade students.

Head Lice

The district's procedure for management of head lice complies with public health recommendations and school policy. Students with live head lice, verified by inspection, will be sent home for the remainder of the school day and must remain home until proper treatment has been given. Repeat cases of live lice will not be readmitted to school until all live lice are gone. Typically, siblings living in the same household will be screened when possible.

Injuries

The school district participates in the First Agency Insurance Plan. Only accidents that occur in school sponsored and supervised activities are covered. Injuries must be reported promptly. Failure to report an injury will result in loss of benefit.

TRANSPORTATION

REGULATIONS FOR BUS RIDERS

The bus is considered to be an extension of the classroom; therefore, students are expected to act appropriately. The following behaviors are also expected from all students:

- All riders shall remain seated when the bus is in motion.
- Keep head, hands, and arms inside the bus. Do not throw anything out of the window.
- Scuffling, fighting, and obscene language are forbidden. Loud talking distracts the driver.
- Bus riders will not litter the bus with food or other debris. Keep aisles clean.
- Profane or indecent language will not be allowed.
- No smoking or vaping on the bus or at the bus stops.
- Animals and pets are not allowed on the bus
- The bus driver is asked to report any misconduct to the transportation supervisor.
- The bus driver is to be in complete charge while on the bus.
- The bus driver and administration have the right to assign seats if they feel it is in the best interest of bus safety.
- Parents will be notified if misconduct continues. A bus rider may be denied the privilege of riding.
- Damage to a bus by an individual, other than regular usage, will be paid for by the rider.
- Be at the loading place at the scheduled time, morning and afternoon. The bus driver does not have to wait for students who are late.
- Parents and students will be informed of all-time changes. However, if the student is on time or ahead of time, he must wait until the scheduled time.
- Each driver will have to use his own discretion in this area. However, it should be understood that even a small wait will throw off the entire schedule and other students on the route will be picked up late.
- Cross the road, when necessary, after getting off the bus (at least ten feet in front of the bus) but only after the driver blows his or her horn twice when safe. A sound of the horn (one long blow) means to stay on the side of the road and wait for the driver to give information when it is safe to cross.
- Inform the driver, if possible, when riders will be absent.
- Absolute quiet when approaching a railroad crossing sign.
- In case of road emergency, children are to remain in the bus.
- The emergency door shall not be used except in an emergency or safety evacuation drill.

- Help look after the safety and comfort of small children. Bus riders are expected to be courteous to fellow pupils and the driver.
- The driver will not discharge riders at places other than the regular bus stop, home, or school, unless there is proper authorization from the parent or school official. Bus passes are issued in the office.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to get on the school bus.
- Bus riders are not permitted to move toward the bus at the loading zone until the bus has come to a complete stop. Stay back five feet from loading point until the bus has come to a complete stop.
- Students who damage the bus or misbehave on the bus will be written up on a "School Bus Incident Report to Parents" form. The elementary principal will suspend student(s) from riding the bus after two (2) incidents.

AFTER-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

The District understands that unexpected situations may occasionally require a change to a student's after-school transportation or dismissal plans. However, these changes should be the exception rather than a regular occurrence. Frequent changes can disrupt the school day and increase the risk of miscommunication.

To ensure that transportation changes are communicated accurately to both the classroom teacher and the student, parents/guardians must notify the school office **no later than 2:30 p.m.** on the day of the change. Requests received after 2:30 p.m. may not be accommodated, as there may not be sufficient time to ensure the information reaches the appropriate staff and student before dismissal.

Whenever possible, families are encouraged to establish consistent after-school routines to help ensure a safe and efficient dismissal process for all students.

DRILLS

EMERGENCY DRILLS

The safety of your child is one of our greatest concerns. The school holds regular drills to teach pupils to respond calmly in the event of an emergency.

Fire Drills are held monthly. The children and teachers are informed ahead of time of the correct procedure to follow. Students are to exit the building as rapidly as possible during a fire drill. Students will walk out of the school to a distance of one hundred (100) feet in a quiet and orderly fashion. We should be able to clear the building in less than one minute.

Tornado Drills are held once in a school year. The children and teachers are to be prepared to take cover in a designated area. Kneel facing the wall with your knees up under and cover the head with hands.

Lock-Downs are held only when needed. The children and teachers stay in the room, doors closed and locked. No one is allowed in the hallways. Everyone should stay away from doors and windows. Wait for administrative instructions.

A.L.I.C.E is a response to a threat. All teachers will undergo training and know how to respond in the event of a threat. The students will also have drills on how to react when a threat is present. A.L.I.C.E has many different options on how to react to any threat.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline Policy

Our district, while serving as a partner with the home and community, has as its mission to establish and deliver an ever-changing educational program providing all students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to become life-long learners able to face future challenges.

In order to establish the opportunity for learning, which is a responsibility and a privilege, it is necessary to take corrective action when disruptive or inappropriate (including tardiness and absenteeism) behavior occurs. All students will be treated in a consistent, objective, and non-discriminatory manner. We must have a safe and healthy physical and emotional learning environment where all participants in the educational process are respected and treated with dignity.

Responsibilities & Rights

School personnel have the responsibility to:

1. Provide classroom guidelines, regulations, and expectations for students.
2. Prepare and implement lesson plans and learning activities which provide an effective educational program for each student.
3. Respect students, staff, and parents.
4. Deal with discipline problems reasonably, fairly, patiently, and without provocation.
5. Serve as appropriate role models for the students, in accordance with the standards of the profession.
6. Notify a parent of the student's progress and any significant changes in achievement and/or behavior.
7. Participate in helping identify and resolve school related concerns.

Administrators and teachers have the responsibility to:

1. Ensure that the rights of students and teachers are protected.
2. Establish guidelines for student discipline
3. Establish and maintain a positive school climate which provides frequent, realistic opportunities for students, staff and parents to participate in the identification and resolution of school-related concerns.

Students have the responsibility to:

1. Obey all school rules.
2. Obey local, state and federal laws.
3. Respect the rights of fellow students and school personnel.
4. Be punctual and attend school regularly.
5. Not disrupt the educational process.
6. Attain the best possible level of academic achievement.
7. Respect authority both in school and at school-sponsored activities.
8. Be responsible for their own actions.
9. Conduct themselves in each class in ways that contribute to the learning environment and that are not disruptive to the environment.
10. To seek counseling for personal and educational problems.
11. Read and obtain an understanding of all the rules of behavior regulating their conduct in the school environment.

Staff and Students have the right to:

1. A well balanced, appropriate educational program.
2. Be free from physical and verbal threats.
3. Be free from physical and verbal harassment.
4. Utilize school facilities and programs according to established school regulations and procedures.
5. Hold property free from theft or damage.

6. Expect courteous behavior from students, parents, and school personnel.
7. Determine his/her own dress so long as it is not distracting, inappropriate, or indecent and abides by school guidelines.
8. Seek and obtain confidential help regarding drugs or alcohol.
9. Form, hold and express opinions and beliefs so long as the expressions do not disrupt the normal operation of the school.
10. Due process in the application of the rules and regulations of the school.
11. A classroom climate conducive to learning.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

All children are expected to treat school property with respect. The students or his/her parents must pay for any school property damaged.

COMMUNICATION AND RESOLUTION PROCESS

The School District encourages open, respectful, and collaborative communication to resolve questions, concerns, or complaints at the lowest appropriate level. Parents/guardians and students should follow the communication process outlined below:

1. **Teacher** – The first point of contact should be the student's classroom teacher or the staff member directly involved. Most concerns can be resolved through direct communication.
2. **Principal** – If the concern is not resolved after communicating with the teacher, the parent/guardian or student should contact the building principal.
3. **Superintendent** – If the concern remains unresolved after meeting with the principal, the next step is to contact the superintendent.
4. **School Board** – If the matter has not been resolved through the superintendent, the parent/guardian or student may bring the concern to the School Board in accordance with Board policies and procedures.

Communication at each step may be initiated by email, telephone, or by requesting an in-person meeting. Individuals are encouraged to provide sufficient information about the concern and allow a reasonable amount of time for a response before moving to the next level in the process.

The District is committed to maintaining a respectful and professional environment for all students, families, and employees. All communications are expected to be courteous and respectful. Communications that contain abusive, threatening, harassing, profane, or otherwise inappropriate language or conduct may not receive a response until communication can occur in a respectful manner. The District reserves the right to discontinue or decline communication that does not meet these expectations.

DISCIPLINE REFERRALS

Students are expected to be respectful of and obedient to school and bus rules. When a discipline problem occurs, the child is written up in the form of a disciplinary referral for bad behavior. Parents are also notified by telephone. Either bus drivers or school staff may submit a disciplinary referral.