

River Valley Middle School

# Student Handbook

## 2023-2024

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New Brunswick Anglophone School District South

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### Raider Code

**R**espect

**A**chievement

**I**nvolvement

**D**edication

**E**nthusiasm

**R**esponsibility

**S**uccess

### Le code des raiders

**R**espect

**A**ccomplissement

**I**mplication

**D**évouement

**E**nthousiasme

**R**esponsabilité

**S**uccès

### *Mission Statement*

Working Together, Learning Together, Growing Together

### *L'énoncé de mission*

Travailler Ensemble, Apprendre Ensemble, Grandir Ensemble

## **Vision Statement**

River Valley is a community of independent, well-balanced, and enlightened global citizens.

We will be:

- Innovative
- Critical thinkers
- Caring contributors to society
- A collaborative community

We want to ignite a passion for meaningful learning in all students.

## **L'énoncé de vision**

École River Valley est une communauté de citoyens indépendants, équilibrés, éclairés, et globaux.

Nous serons :

- innovateurs
- dotés d'un esprit critique
- des contributeurs à la société
- une communauté collaborative

Nous voudrions faire naître une passion d'apprentissage réfléchi à tous nos élèves.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK**

1. Write the title in the center of the top line of your page.
2. Write your first and last name in full on the left side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> line of your page.
3. Write the date on the right side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> line of the page.
4. Always write on the lines and start at the left-side margin.
5. Crumpled, torn, folded, or stained paper will not be accepted.
6. Too many crossing out or liquid paper corrections on your final copy may require you to redo your work.
7. Use a ruler when underlining and when creating charts or tables.
8. When using a pen for final copies, use only blue or black ink (teachers may make exceptions depending on the assignment).

***RVMS – Expectations for Written Work***

RV Raider September 4, 2018

## **DUTIES OF PUPIL**

The policies in the handout are based on River Valley Middle School and Anglophone South School District policies and the Education Act of the Province of New Brunswick. The following is a list of pupil duties as outlined in the Act. It is the **duty of a pupil** to:

- participate in learning opportunities to his or her potential
- accept increasing responsibility for learning
- attend to assigned homework
- attend school regularly and punctually
- contribute to a safe and positive learning environment
- be responsible for conduct at school and while on the way to and from school
- respect the rights of others
- comply with all school policies

## **ROLES OF PARENTS**

- encourage his or her child to attend to assigned homework
- communicate reasonably with school personnel employed at the school his or her child attends as required in the best interests of the child
- cause his or her child to attend school as required by the Education Act
- ensure the basic needs of his or her child are met
- have due care for the conduct of his or her child at school and while on the way to and from school

The parent of a pupil has a right to reasonable consultation with the pupil's teacher or the principal of the school the pupil attends with respect to the education of the pupil.

It is the responsibility of the parent and of school personnel to conduct themselves in a respectful manner and to follow established procedures when involved in communications concerning the pupil.

## **ATTENDANCE**

In keeping with the Provincial School Law, students must attend each day that school is in session. Everyone is required to be prepared and on time for each class.

- Excessive absence will result in a letter of concern being sent home (*phone call – 5 absences, 1<sup>st</sup> letter – 10 absences, 2<sup>nd</sup> letter – 15 absences*).
- We encourage parents to sign-up for Safe arrivals (this can be found on the school website) to report absences.
- Students who are late for school must report to the school office for a Late Pass.

## **BUS REGULATIONS**

**Issued by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**

- Be on time.
- Never stand on the street or highway while waiting for the school bus.

- Be absolutely quiet while the bus is approaching and crossing a railway.
- Pupils shall be picked up and discharged only at bus stops approved by the School District.
- Obey the driver promptly and avoid any unnecessary conversation with the driver while the bus is in motion.
- Do not cross the road behind the bus. Crossings are made in front of the bus, not nearer than ten feet, and only after looking in both directions.
- Occupy seats assigned by the driver or other official.
- Obtain approval of the driver to open emergency doors or windows.
- Do not throw anything out of the windows or extend hands, arms or legs through the opening.
- To help keep the bus clean, do not throw refuse on the floor of the bus.
- Smoking in any form, or use of tobacco in any form, is not permitted on the bus.
- No food or drink is permitted.
- Be courteous to the driver and fellow passengers. Rough or boisterous conduct will not be permitted on the bus.
- In case of any road emergency, remain seated in the bus until ordered to vacate.
- Damage to a bus must be paid for by the offender.

## **ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT – STUDENT PLACEMENT & PROMOTION GUIDELINES**

Anglophone South School District follows the protocols for grade placement and promotion in accordance with the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Inclusive Education Policy (Policy 322). Further information about the policy can be found on the Government of New Brunswick website under the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development policies (<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/policies.asp>).

### **SCENT REDUCED & NUT FREE SCHOOLS**

Anglophone South School District has both a **scent reduced** (limited the use of perfumes, colognes, body lotions and sprays) & **nut free policy** (food products must be nut free). The use of perfume and colognes should be avoided because of sensitivities and allergies, so we ask anyone who comes into our building to refrain from wearing scents that may cause discomfort to others. Students who wear or spray strong scents will be asked to wash it off or change their clothing. They may be sent home or removed from classes for the day. If a student persists in jeopardizing the health of others, disciplinary action will be taken. Food items that are not nut-free cannot be consumed at school. If students have such items, they will not be permitted to eat them and will be asked to take them home.

### **STUDENT FEES**

Our annual student fee is **\$35/student**. This includes the rental of a school locker and lock. The remainder of the fee is used to support extra-curricular activities and events throughout the school year. This should be paid on Cashless Schools which can be accessed on our website at [rvms.nbed.nb.ca](http://rvms.nbed.nb.ca).

## POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

River Valley Middle School has adopted a Raider Responsibility Code to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning. Students are to **behave in a responsible and respectful manner** in school and during school organized trips or activities.

- Students are to **be on time with required material** for all classes.
- **Assigned work is to be completed** at home or during class time as **directed by the teacher**.
- Students are to **respect the school environment** and assist in keeping it neat and tidy.
- Students are required to **respect the rights of others** by not interfering with the positive learning environment.

*The **Raider Code** should be used as a guide to a positive school environment.*

## SAFETY AT SCHOOL

- Walk, do not run.
- No sliding on the banisters.
- The upper corridors are cleared at lunchtime and students are not permitted upstairs except for a teacher-supervised activity.
- Quiet movement in hallways during class time is expected.
- Students are to remain in team areas.
- At the end of instructional time, students who are going home should leave school property quickly. Students staying for Activity Period should report to activities. **Students should not loiter in the area of the River Valley Community Centre (the rink).**

## LEAVING SCHOOL DUE TO ILLNESS/EMERGENCY

- Student informs teacher.
- **Student must then report to the school administrative assistant**, who will permit them to contact home to make further arrangements. **Students are permitted to use their cell phone to call home, but they must come to the office to do so.**
- Students **must** follow the above procedure before leaving the building.
- Students travelling to or from school on bikes or scooters, must wear a helmet at all times.

## LEAVING SCHOOL PROPERTY

After students arrive on school property, they must remain for the day unless the school is contacted by the parent/guardian by telephone or signed excuse. **Again, students are not permitted to loiter in the area of the River Valley Community Arena (the rink).**

**Students are not permitted to leave school property and then return to catch the bus or to participate or view sports and activities.**

## LOCKERS

Lockers are provided for each student and must be locked with a school assigned lock. Students are required to keep personal belongings in their lockers and the school will not be held responsible for lost or stolen personal items.

Please sign and return the signature form attached. **The fee to replace lost locks is \$15.**

## **CAFETERIA**

We are hopeful that we will have Cafeteria service later in the school year, provided by Chartwells.

We also have microwaves in the cafeteria for student use.

We do not provide spoons, forks etc. Please make sure to send these with your child.

## **DRESS FOR LEARNING AND THE WEATHER**

hats must be removed upon entering the building.

- 
- Outdoor clothing such as jackets and boots are to be stored in lockers.
- Inappropriate messages or labels on clothing are not permitted.
- Flip flops, pajama pants, muscle shirts, and beach wear are not appropriate for school.
- Students must change for Physical Education class and have proper clothing and footwear.

## **SCHOOL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

The school has an emergency plan containing detailed logistics for each of the following situations: intruder response (lock-downs), fire drills, school evacuations, tragic event response, bomb threat, and hold & secure. In the event on an emergency, instructions for parents can be found on the school website ([www.rvms.nbed.nb.ca](http://www.rvms.nbed.nb.ca)) and will be sent to families each fall.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

River Valley strives to accommodate all our students' abilities through participation in both sports and a variety of other activities. Students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities must maintain a positive academic attitude and demonstrate acceptable behaviour. **It is very important to note that students who are absent from school or leave prior to the end of the school day, are not permitted to return for after school activities (sports, dances, drama, etc).**

## **SCHOOL DANCES**

River Valley offers many social activities throughout the year, including dances. This is an extra-curricular activity which may be withdrawn from a student who is not in good standing (not behaving, disrespectful, missing school, etc.).

- **If a student is absent from school on the day of a dance, or leaves sick, they are not permitted to return for school dances.**
- School dances usually occur on a Thursday evening from 6 PM to 8 PM.
- The school dress code applies.

- Students are not permitted to leave the school building during the hours of the dance other than to go home.
- During a dance, if a student goes outside without permission, the parent/guardian will be called to come and pick their child up. The student will not be allowed to re-enter the dance.

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a required subject in the school curriculum in the Province of New Brunswick. Students with serious medical problems require a doctor's note for exemption and will be required to complete tasks assigned by the teacher. Students are responsible for having a **change of clothing** for each Physical Education class. Proper dress includes: a pair of sneakers with a non-marking sole, a t-shirt or sweatshirt (not the same one worn all day), and a pair of shorts or sweatpants.

## HOW CAN FAMILIES HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED?

### **Look for everyday opportunities for teaching and learning**

- Read to them. Read with them. Model reading for them.
- Ask critical questions "Why do you think that happened?" "What do you think will happen next?"
- Look for opportunities to use Math daily (price of gas/gallon, % off sale items, making change for purchases, estimating cost of take-out orders, etc.).
- Discuss age appropriate current events. Try to see things from different points of view.
- Discourage making excuses and instead look for ways to solve problems.
- Ask them to reflect on past choices. Ask them to consider what they would change or improve if they could go back and "do it over".
- Help them think about how they learn (verbal, auditory, hands-on etc.).
- Help them focus more on what skills they have learned and less on what grade they might receive.

## READING YOUR CHILD'S REPORT CARD

The **K-8 Provincial Report Card** mark reflects all of the teaching and learning activities that take place in the classroom. Teachers use tests and assignments, but also observations, conferencing and conversations to determine a grade.

### Traditional Grades

- rank ordered students from highest to lowest
- often marked by comparing students
- only considered traditional tests and assignments when calculating grades
- did not consider growth and improvement
- did not provide opportunities to relearn, retest and adjust grade

### Current Grades

- compare students to a provincial standard or outcome not to other students
- considers many forms and methods of assessment
- provides opportunities to relearn, reassess and adjust grade to show current level of achievement
- focus on skills learned not grade achieved

For each subject on the report card, there is a subject strand(s) achievement indicator (**4, 3+, 3, 2, 1, NA**).

**4** indicates that the student has shown **Exemplary Performance**. They have met all of the possible expectations and may have exceeded the expectations of the outcome. They showed significant growth during the learning process.

**3+/3** indicates that the student has shown **Strong/Appropriate Achievement**. They have met the standard or outcome and have shown growth during the learning process.

**2** indicates the student is approaching appropriate and has **just** met the outcome but may have struggled during the teaching and learning or it means the teacher is acknowledging that the student is trying or making progress but has not met or barely meets the standard.

**1** is considered to be **Experiencing Difficulty**. The student has not met the standard or outcome. They are struggling with the learning process.

**NA** means that the student has not produced enough work to make an appropriate assessment. This could be due to missed time or missing assignments or because a student has only had a few classes in that subject (Guidance, Art, etc.) so far this school year.

Learning habits (independence, initiative, interactions, organization, & responsibility) are also included and performance indicators (**C** – consistently, **U** – usually, **S** – sometimes, **R** – rarely) are used to demonstrate a student’s progress with these habits.

## **WHAT DOES MY MARK MEAN?**

Remember your mark doesn’t reflect how popular you are, how quickly you finish your work or how you did compared to the other students in your class. Your mark simply tells you one of two things:

- **You got it! You understood the outcomes and you demonstrated that to your teacher.**
- **You didn’t get it yet. You need to continue to work on this outcome or give your teacher better evidence that you understood the outcome.**

We ask that you talk with your parent or guardian about what went well each term and about what you think you can do better for the next term. Think honestly about the behaviour and expectations below. Where do you fit?

<b>Do I.....</b>	<b>Do I....</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Attend school regularly?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Make good use of class time?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Bring what I need to class?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Complete and hand in assignments?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Participate in class discussions?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Go for extra-help?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Pay attention and ask questions when I don’t understand?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Use teacher feedback to redo and improve my work?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Always do my best work?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Prepare for tests?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Put my name, date and title on all my</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Miss time?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Goof around and waste class time?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Lose or forget school supplies, notes and books?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Have missing assignments?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Rarely ask questions or participate?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Leave early and rarely or never go to Homework Help?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Fail to redo or improve my work when given the chance?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Hand in messy, incomplete, rushed work?</b></li><li>▪ <b>Study at the last minute?</b></li></ul>