



RIVER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

11646 Town Center Road • Voice: (727) 774-7000, (813) 794-7000, (352) 524-7000
New Port Richey, Florida 34654 • Fax: (727) 774-7290 • <http://rrms.pasco.k12.fl.us>

Alex Astone, Assistant Principal

Angie Murphy, Principal
Kevin Kolean Assistant Principal

Danielle White, Assistant Principal

March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians:

It's hard to believe that the 2019-20 school year is coming to a close and in a short time your 8th grader will soon be transitioning to high school. The final months of 8th grade will be filled with many exciting milestones and memorable events. We wanted to take a moment to share important information and an outline of the 8th Grade End of Year Activities.

8th Grade Student Data Chats & Goal Setting

A member of the Student Services or Administrative Teams met with each 8th grader as a part of our RRMS Student Data Chats in March. We discussed progress based on semester and possible quarter grades as well as set a 4th quarter academic goal. So that you can help support your child's final quarter in middle school, we highly encourage you to visit myStudent to monitor grades and attendance. We will be checking in at least one more time during 4th quarter to ensure that your child is eligible to be promoted to high school and meet eligibility requirements to participate in end-of year activities.

Any 8th grade student who does not pass their current courses and/or fails to complete any course recovery from 6th or 7th grade will be ineligible to participate in any 8th grade end of year activities (4th quarter), because he/she would not have met the mandatory requirements for promotion to high school. Student behavior and disciplinary action will also be taken into consideration. Students taking online classes must be complete with a satisfactory final grade by Monday, May 18, 2020 in order to participate in end of year activities. **All final decisions on academic and behavioral eligibility for end of year activities will be determined by administration and will be based on students meeting promotion guidelines.**

April 24th: 8th Grade Video Submissions

It's time to find those incredibly cute baby pictures for our 8th grade video! Please email ONE baby picture and ONE current individual picture. All pictures need to be sent electronically to Mrs. Baumaister at cbaumais@pasco.k12.fl.us with the subject line: 8th Grade Baby Picture – Student Name. Deadline for photo submission is April 24th.

May 4th: Yearbook Signing Celebration

Yearbook Pre-Sale online only for \$30 through Friday, March 13th at www.yearbookforever.com. Yearbook Sales will continue in May but will be limited for \$35. Last year, yearbooks sold out so don't miss out on the memories. Students who purchase a yearbook may attend the Yearbook Signing Celebration at 1:15PM in the cafeteria on May 4th. Ice cream treats will be provided.

May 8th: Gradventure

The deadline for Gradventure tickets is Friday, March 27th. Students must be on track for promotion in order to participate. There will be an expectations session for all students attending Gradventure during Knight Time on May 5th in the cafeteria. Students should be in Pasco County and Universal Studio's Gradventure dress code by wearing your 8th grade t-shirt and appropriate length shorts or pants with no holes or shredding. The dress code is included in this letter. Students may bring an 8x10 string bag but no backpacks. On Friday, May 8th, buses will be leaving from the bus loop at 1:30PM and will return to River Ridge at 2:00AM. Upon arrival back to school, students must be released to a parent or guardian only at that time.

8th Grade T-shirt Orders

T-shirts are included with the purchase of a Gradventure ticket. If your student is not attending Gradventure but wants to purchase an 8th Grade t-shirt to wear at the picnic, you may order one for \$10 by April 6th in the front office or online through Acorn.

May 15th: 8th Grade Dance

Students who purchase tickets as a part of the \$15 end of year activities fee are invited to attend the 8th Grade Dance from 6PM-9PM in the River Ridge gymnasium. There will be pizza, a variety of finger foods and an ice cream bar provided as part of the ticket fee. Dress code for the dance is semi-formal attire and students are expected to follow the Pasco County Schools dress code and Student Code of Conduct. This would include dress pants (no jeans), dress shirt with tie or collared shirt, for boys. For girls, a dress or

skirt of the appropriate length, or blouse and dress pants is acceptable. Jeans, shorts, shirts without a collar or flip flops will not be permitted.

May 18th: 8th Grade Celebration of Excellence Awards Night

The Celebration of Excellence Awards Night is by invitation and will begin at 6PM in the Knight Café with light refreshments to follow. Students who earned all As and Bs for the first semester and third quarter will be recognized at this ceremony. There will also be team and elective awards. Invitations will be mailed home and families should RSVP to Ms. Cione in the front office by Friday, May 15th.

May 21st: Kings & Queens of the Castle 8th Grade Picnic & Video Viewing

On Thursday morning, students will have the opportunity to view the 8th Grade video in the theater. From 12-1:55PM, students will be able to participate in games, the Big Kahuna waterslide, obstacle course and a picnic meal (hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks) as long as they have a permission form and pay the participation fee of \$15. We are looking for parent volunteers and businesses to donate food items and prizes for drawings throughout the picnic. Please contact Mrs. Tabone in the front office at 774-7208 or ktabone@pasco.k12.fl.us. Parents must be an approved volunteer.

May 22nd: 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony

To celebrate your student's promotion to high school, we invite family and friends to attend our 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony on Friday, May 22 at 8AM at the River Ridge MS/HS Gymnasium. Students will complete their "Last Walk" through RRMS campus and into the gym for a ceremony to celebrate our 8th graders. After the ceremony, parents/guardians may sign their children out to go home. Please indicate your preference on the attached permission form.

There will be a \$15 8th Grade End of Year Activities participation fee, which will include admission to the 8th Grade Picnic and Dance. Payment can be made to the Language Arts teachers, Ms. Cione, Bookkeeper, or online through the Acorn system on the RRMS website. Students will need a signed parent permission form to go on the waterslide and obstacle course at the picnic. Please see the attached form.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given River Ridge Middle School staff to work with and teach your children. We look forward to finishing the year strong. ***In order for your student to participate in the 8th grade activities, please sign, provide payment and return the second page to your Language Arts teacher no later than Monday, May 18th.***

Sincerely,

Angie Murphy, Principal

Danielle White, Assistant Principal

Monica Stanton, 8th Grade School Counselor



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RRMS 8th Grade Early Dismissal on Friday, May 22, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to celebrate your child's promotion to high school with you at our promotion ceremony on 5/22/2020. In order to expedite a safe and secure check out process for all students, we are implementing a pre-checkout authorization procedure. Students who have a completed form on file **prior to the end of the day Monday, May 18, 2020** will be issued a wristband for easy identification on the morning of the promotion. At the conclusion of the promotion, all students wearing a wristband will be permitted to leave as planned. All other students will return to class.

If you would like to check out your child early on Friday, May 22 at the end of the promotion, please complete this form and turn it into your child's Language Arts teacher by the end of the school day on Monday, May 18, 2020.

Circle your child's Language Arts teacher's name:

Sullivan St. Aubin Mekus

I, _____ (print parent's name), give _____ (print child's name)

permission to check out early on Friday, May 22, 2020 at the conclusion of the promotion ceremony.

- I give permission for my child to leave RRMS with _____.
- I will take my child with me at the conclusion of the promotion ceremony.
- My child has my permission to walk home or ride his/her bike at the conclusion of the parade.

Parent Signature _____

Student's Name _____ Student ID# _____

RIVER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENT CONSENT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

In consideration of _____ ID# _____
(Student's Name) (Student ID Number)

I hereby give consent for my child/ward to participate in the water slides, bouncy obstacle course, and other activities that will take place at **River Ridge Middle School on May 21, 2020 at the 8th Grade Picnic.**

READ THIS FORM COMPLETELY AND CAREFULLY. YOU ARE AGREEING TO LET YOUR MINOR CHILD ENGAGE IN A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ACTIVITY. YOU ARE AGREEING THAT, EVEN IF MY CHILD'S SCHOOL, THE SCHOOL BOARD, TEACHERS OR OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE SCHOOL AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS USES REASONABLE CARE IN PROVIDING THIS ACTIVITY, THERE IS A CHANCE YOUR CHILD MAY BE SERIOUSLY INJURED BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS ACTIVITY BECAUSE THERE ARE CERTAIN DANGERS INHERENT IN THE ACTIVITY WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED OR ELIMINATED. BY SIGNING THIS FORM, YOU ARE GIVING UP YOUR CHILD'S RIGHT AND YOUR RIGHT TO RECOVER FROM MY CHILD'S SCHOOL, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, THE SUPERINTENDENT, THE PRINCIPAL, TEACHERS, OR OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE SCHOOL AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS, IN A LAWSUIT FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURY TO YOUR CHILD OR ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE THAT RESULTS FROM THE RISKS THAT ARE A NATURAL PART OF THE ACTIVITY. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO SIGN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEER LEADERS AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO LET YOUR CHILD PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY, IF THE FORM IS NOT SIGNED.

I know of and acknowledge that my child knows of the risks involved in the types of activities described herein and attest that my child has no known health issues or disabilities that would prevent him/her from participating in these types of activities. I understand that serious injury is possible in such participation and choose to accept any and all responsibility for his/her safety and welfare while participating in such activities. With full understanding of the risks involved, I release and hold harmless my child's school, the individual members of the school board, the superintendent, the principal, teachers or other employees of the school and volunteer leaders from any financial responsibility or any and all liability for any injury or claim resulting from such participation and agree to take no legal action against the school, the individual members of the school board, the superintendent, the principal, teachers or other employees of the school and volunteer leaders because of any accident or mishap involving participation of my child.

I authorize emergency medical treatment for my child should the need arise for such treatment while my child is under the supervision of the school. I further hereby authorize the use of disclosure of my child's individually identifiable health information should treatment for illness or injury become necessary. To ensure prompt attention in case of sickness or accident, I hereby authorize the person(s) in charge of said event to incur expense considered necessary for treatment and I agree to pay for same if this is in excess of the amount paid by any accident or health insurance policy that may be in effect at the time of the sickness or accident.

I HAVE READ THIS CAREFULLY AND KNOW IT CONTAINS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY.

Name of Parent/Guardian (Printed) Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Emergency contact number (where you may be reached on 5/21/2020 during the day) (_____) - _____

**TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE, COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE
SUBMITTED TO YOUR LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER.
NO LATER THAN Monday, May 18, 2020.**



Dress Code

All schools should conduct their own security and dress code screening prior to departing for Gradventure.

OK

GIRLS

- Dresses, skirts, capris or shorts
- Casual pants (including jeans)
- Casual blouses and tops with sleeves
- Comfortable shoes (including tennis shoes, dress sandals, boots and flip-flops)
- Hats
- Purses under the size of 8.5" x 11", fanny packs, and drawstring backpacks

GUYS

- Casual pants or shorts (including khakis and jeans)
- Shirts with sleeves (polos, dress and t-shirts)
- Comfortable shoes (including tennis shoes, boots and flip-flops)
- Hats
- Drawstring backpacks

CHAPERONES

- Large backpacks

NOT OK

UNACCEPTABLE ATTIRE

- Clothing with holes or shredding
- Clothing with obscene, offensive language or graphics
- Visible undergarments
- Tank tops or undershirts
- Clothing that exposes excessive portions of the skin that may be viewed as inappropriate at a school function (e.g., bikini tops and bottoms)
- Short shorts
- Area codes displayed on clothing
- Accessories such as chains, spiked collars or studded/spiked belts
- Bandanas
- Selfie sticks

STUDENTS

- Large backpacks

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT STUDENTS WEAR MATCHING, BRIGHTLY COLORED SHIRTS WITH THEIR SCHOOL CLEARLY IDENTIFIED ON THEM.

***Universal Orlando reserves the right to refuse entry into the event or require the purchase of appropriate clothing for non-compliance with the dress code.**

••••• UNIVERSALORLANDOYOUTH.COM/GRADVENTURE •••••