



RIVER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Angie Murphy, Principal

Alex Astone, Assistant Principal

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Dear Parent/Guardians:

It's hard to believe that the 2020-21 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. Although we know that the end of year activities may look differently than in years past, we are excited to celebrate the 8th Grade Class and all of their accomplishments.

As a reminder all middle school students must meet the state mandate (F.S. 1003.4156) requires that middle school students complete a Language Arts, Math, Science, & Social Studies course each year with a minimum grade of "D" as well as a career component to be promoted to high school (as a part of World History class). Middle School students must also sit for the State Civics Assessment.

All 8th Graders will take the following assessments:

- NWEA Map Assessment (Diagnostic) - April
- Florida Standards Assessment ELA
 - 8th Grade Writes 4/5, 4/6
 - 8th Grade ELA 5/3, 5/4
- Florida Standards Assessment/ EOC Math
 - 8th Grade Math 5/5, 5/6, 5/7
 - Algebra 1 Honors EOC 5/17, 5/18
- NGSSS FCAT 8th Grade Science 5/14
- District End-of-Course Final Exams 5/10-5/21
- Civics EOC for 8th Graders who haven't taken it in 7th Grade 5/19

Please check the calendars and parent letters on the RRMS website under 20-21 Testing Information. All students must take their state assessments face to face this year.

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 are including the data chat sheet with this mailer. 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. 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.

Students have the following opportunities to recover courses:

- Course recovery course(s) in their current schedule
- Academic Tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 2:15PM-3:15PM in the media center
- Extended School Day on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 2:15PM-5:15PM
- Academic lunch in the Media Center
- Work on APEX program at home
- Extended School Year (summer school – based on space availability)

"Partners in Education"

Yearbook Sales

Yearbook Pre-Sale online only for \$30 through Wednesday, March 30th at www.yearbookforever.com. Yearbook Sales will continue in May but will be limited for \$35. Students will be able to select their cover color: butterscotch yellow, teal, or pink but should email Mrs. Baumaister with their selection at cbaumais@pasco.k12.fl.us. Students can pick up their yearbooks in lunches when they arrive in May. Don't miss out on your final year of middle school 8th grade memories!

April 23rd: 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 23rd.

8th Grade T-shirt Orders

We will be designing a special 8th grade class T-shirts for students to wear to the end of year activities, you may order one for \$10 by April 30th in the front office or online through Acorn. The design will be sent out through myLearning and social media.

May 20th: 8th Grade Celebration of Excellence Awards

The Celebration of Excellence Awards is by invitation and will be recorded in the theater on Thursday, May 20th as students only will participate. Students who earned all As and Bs for the first semester and third quarter will be recognized at this ceremony. There will also be content area and elective awards. Invitations will be provided to students and the awards ceremony will be video recorded to play on May 21st with the link available on Youtube and our Facebook and website to share with family and friends.

May 24th: 8th Grade Breakfast & Video Viewing

On Monday morning, students will be able to participate in the Kings and Queens of the Castle 8th Grade Breakfast at River Ridge Middle School in the Cafeteria during 1st period. The breakfast will be catered and is free to all 8th Grade students who are eligible for promotion. Students are encouraged to wear their 8th grade class t-shirts. We are looking for parent volunteers and businesses to donate food items and prizes for drawings throughout the breakfast. Please contact Mrs. Hammelman at shammelm@pasco.k12.fl.us, if you are interested in assisting. Parents must be an approved volunteer. After the breakfast and the 8th Grade "Last Walk", students will go to the theater to view the 8th grade video in a socially distanced setting following the district guidelines.

May 24th: 8th Grade Virtual Promotion Ceremony

To celebrate your student's promotion to high school, we invite family and friends to view our 8th Grade Virtual Promotion Ceremony on Monday, May 24th at 6PM via the Youtube link available on our Facebook page and website. The 8th grade video will also be included as part of the Promotion Ceremony.

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.

Sincerely,

Angie Murphy, Principal

Alex Astone, Assistant Principal

Jason Iannello, 8th Grade School Counselor