

River Ridge Middle School



Class of 2026

8th Grade Mid-Year Newsletter

Angie Murphy, Principal 727-774-7000 - rrms.pasco.k12.fl.us - @RRMSRoyalKnight

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS TO HIGH SCHOOL

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 (as a part of World History class) to be promoted to high school. Middle School students must also sit for the State Civics Assessment.

8TH GRADE REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS

All 8th Graders will take the following assessments:

- Florida Standards Assessment ELA
- Florida Standards Assessment 8th Grade Math or Algebra I EOC or Geometry I EOC
- FSAA 8th Grade Science
- District End-of-Course Final Exams

PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The 22-23 course selection process will begin when we return from winter break. Mrs. Doerrfeld, School Counselor, will assist students in learning more about high school coursework and program options. Please see the tentative timeline below.

- January 6-20: Pasco County Schools School Choice Window – families must apply through myStudent for the 22-23 school year
- January 7-March 1: RRHS Academy Application Window to apply for RRHS Academies
- February 10-15: RRHS Presentation on Course Selection through English Language Arts classes
- February 17: Incoming 9th Grade Parent Night 6PM-7PM RR Theater
- February 18: High School Course Cards due to English Language Arts teachers

MEET YOUR NEW 8TH GRADE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: MRS. DOERRFELD

We would like to welcome Mrs. Denise Doerrfeld to RRMS as our new 8th Grade School Counselor. Mrs. Doerrfeld is coming from Crews Lake Middle School with over 21 years of experience in education. She is here to support and assist students and be there as a voice of guidance and support when they need it. She looks forward to working with all of our 8th graders as they successful transition to high school this semester.

Contact Information:

Email: ddoerrfe@pasco.k12.f.us

Phone: 774-7253

GRADVENTURE

The cost of the trip will be \$160 which includes bus transportation, admission to both theme parks, dinner, and the official 8th grade t-shirt for Gradventure. There are limited number of tickets (300) available and they will be reserved on a "first come, first serve" basis. Administration reserves the right to give preference to students who are "on track" for grades and behavior regardless of whether a student is one of the first 300 students. The final deadline to turn in all money and permission slips will be Friday, March 25. Students may turn in permission forms and payment to Mrs. Shaw 23-204 during 8th grade lunch. Please see the attached letter and permission form for more information.

YEARBOOK

Yearbooks are on sale \$30 (through May) and \$35 (after arrival). Order online at <https://yearbookforever.com>. There will be a yearbook signing party for any student who purchases a yearbook in May. Contact Mrs. Baumaister for more information.



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8TH GRADE CONTACTS:

Mrs. Angie Murphy, Principal
amurphy@pasco.k12.fl.us 774-7208

Mr. Kevin Kolean, Assistant Principal
kkolean@pasco.k12.fl.us 774-7234

Mrs. Denise Doerrfeld, School Counselor
ddoerrfe@pasco.k12.fl.us 774-7253

Mrs. Melissa Fiore Sluka, School Social Worker
mfioresl@pasco.k12.fl.us 774-7259

Mrs. Theresa Mundy, School Nurse
tmundy@pasco.k12.fl.us 774-7258

Mrs. Flo Cione, Bookkeeper
fcione@pasco.k12.fl.us 774-7216

IMPORTANT 8TH GRADE DATES

****Dates & events are subject to change**

First Day of Quarter 3/Semester 2– January 4
 Quarter 2 Report Cards – January 11
 Early Release – January 12
 MLK Jr. Day – No School – January 17
 Early Release – February 2
 Quarter 3 Progress Reports – February 4
 Talent Show – February 4
 Valentine's/Kindness Dance – February 11
 President's Day – No School – February 21
 Early Release – March 9
 Quarter 3 Ends – March 11
 Spring Break – March 14-March 18
 Quarter 3 Report Cards – March 29
 FSA ELA Writing Window – April 4-8
 Early Release – April 13
 No School – April 15
 Spring Dance – April 22
 Quarter 4 Progress Reports – April 22
 FSA ELA/Math Windows – May 2-17
 Algebra 1, Geometry, Civics EOCs Windows – May 2-17
 FSAA Science Grade 8 Window – May 2-17
 Gradventure @ Universal – May 6
 RRMS Athletics Dinner & Banquet – May 11 6PM
 Yearbook Signing Party – May TBD
 8th Grade Dance – May 13 6PM-9PM
 District Finals Window – May 11-25
 8th Grade Night of Excellence Awards Ceremony – May 16 6PM
 8th Grade Video Viewing and Picnic – May 20 10PM-1:30PM
 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony – May 23 8AM RRMS/HS Gym
 Last Day of School – May 25

SAVE THE DATES: END OF YEAR 8TH GRADE ACTIVITIES

8th graders wishing to participate in the end of year activities must meet eligibility requirements and pay the \$25 activity fee. 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. **All final decisions on academic eligibility for end of year activities will be determined by administration and will be based on students meeting promotion guidelines.**

- May 6: Gradventure (separate fee)
- May 13: 8th Grade Dance (included in the activity fee)
- May 16: 8th Grade Celebration of Excellence Awards
- May 20: 8th Grade Video Viewing and Picnic (included in the activity fee)

PROMOTION CEREMONY – MAY 23

River Ridge Middle School will host a Promotion Ceremony for the Class of 2026 at 8AM on Monday, May 22 in the RRMS/HS Gymnasium. This is a formal occasion to celebrate the accomplishments of our 8th graders being promoted to high school. We invite family and friends to join us to recognize our outstanding 8th grade class. There will be Promotion Ceremony practice on Friday, May 20th in the morning prior to the 8th grade activities. More information will be provided in March/April.