

January 2024

River Ridge Middle School

Class of 2028

8th Grade Mid-Year Newsletter



Angie Murphy, Principal 727-774-7000 - rms.pasco.k12.fl.us - [@RRMSRoyalKnight](https://www.instagram.com/RRMSRoyalKnight)

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8TH GRADE REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS

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 through Naviance to be promoted to high school. Middle School students must also sit for the State Civics Assessment.

All 8th Graders will take the following assessments:

- FAST ELA Progress Monitoring (3x per year)
- FAST 8th Grade Math (3x per year) or BEST Algebra I EOC or BEST Geometry I EOC
- NGSSS FCAT 8th Grade Science (unless already took in 7th grade Accl. Science)
- Civics EOC (if an 8th grader enrolled in Civics for 23-24)
- District End-of-Course Final Exams
- Career Component

PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The 24-25 course selection process will begin when we return from winter break. Mrs. Alston, School Counselor, will assist students in learning more about high school coursework and program options. Please see the tentative timeline below.

- January 8-19: Pasco County Schools School Choice Window – families must apply through myStudent for the 24-25 school year
- January 29-February 2: 8th Graders watch RRHS course selection podcast & sign up for academy tours
- January 8-February 1: RRHS Academy Application Window to apply for RRHS Academies
- February 5-9: Academy Tours for current 7th & 8th Graders
- February 7: Incoming 9th Grade Parent Night & Rush Day 6PM-7PM RR Theater
- February 12-15: RRHS Presentation on Course Selection through English Language Arts classes
 - 2/12: Francis, 2/13: Love, 2/15: Morton
- February 18: High School Course Cards due to English Language Arts teachers

GRADVENTURE-MAY 3RD

The cost of the trip will be \$175 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 (200) 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 200 students. For safety reasons, we may choose to deny attendance to students that have exhibited poor or questionable who receives a Level 2 or Level 3 referral from January 9-May 3/24, and any student who is in danger of not meeting promotion requirements. **There will be no refunds granted for any reason once we submit our payments to Universal Studios on March 22nd.**

The final deadline to turn in all money and permission slips will be Friday, March 22nd. Students may turn in permission forms and payment Mr. Collier 23-238 during 8th grade lunch. Please see the attached letter and permission form for more information.

Yearbooks are on sale \$35 (through May) and \$40 (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

Ms. Daniell Grubbs, Assistant Principal
dgrubbs@pasco.k12.fl.us 774-7256

Ms. Meredith Alston, School Counselor
malston@pasco.k12.fl.us 774-7220

Mrs. Maria Costlow, School Social Worker
mcostlow@pasco.k12.fl.us 774-7259

Ms. Hayleigh Theisen, School Nurse
htheisen@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 9
 Early Release – January 10
 MLK Jr. Day – No School – January 15
 Quarter 2 Report Cards – January 16
 Dodgathon – January 26
 Early Release – February 14
 Quarter 3 Progress Reports – February 9
 President's Day – No School – February 19
 FAME Showcase – February 23
 Quarter 3 Ends – March 7
 No School – Planning Day – March 8
 Early Release – March 13
 Quarter 3 Report Cards – March 15
 Color Run- March 19
 Pep Rally – March 20
 Spring Break – March 25-29
 FAST ELA Writing Window – April 1-5
 Early Release – April 10
 Spring Dance – April 11
 No School – April 12
 Quarter 4 Progress Reports – April 19
 FSA ELA/Math Windows – April 29-May 17
 Algebra 1, Geometry, Civics EOCs Windows – April 29-May 17
 NGSSS Science Grade 8 Window – April 29-May 17
 Gradventure @ Universal – May 3
 8th Grade Dance – May 10 6PM-9PM St. George Greek Orthodox Church (New Port Richey)
 District Finals Window – May 13-24
 RRMS Athletics Banquet – May 13 6PM (Theater)
 8th Grade Night of Excellence Awards Ceremony – May 14 6PM (Theater)
 Yearbook Signing Party – May TBD
 8th Grade Promotion Practice, Video Viewing, and Picnic – May 20 9AM-1:30PM
 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony – May 21 8:30AM RRMS/HS Stadium
 Last Day of School – May 24

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 \$30 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 3: Gradventure (separate fee)
- May 10: 8th Grade Dance (included in the \$30 activity fee)
- May 14: 8th Grade Celebration of Excellence Awards
- May 20: 8th Grade Promotion Practice, Video Viewing, and Picnic (included in the activity fee)

8TH GRADE DANCE – MAY 10

River Ridge Middle School will host the 8th Grade Semi-Formal Dance at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Port Richey on Friday, May 10th from 6PM-9PM. The dance will be off site this year due to the closure and remodeling of the gymnasium. The dance is a semi-formal event and will be catered. The dance ticket is included in the \$30 Activity Fee that can be paid through GoFan.co. Students should be picked up by a parent/guardian at the venue no later than 9PM.

If you would like to volunteer to chaperone, please contact Ashley Pruneau at apruneau@pasco.k12.fl.us. You must be an approved volunteer through the district website.

PROMOTION CEREMONY – MAY 21

River Ridge Middle School will host a Promotion Ceremony for the Class of 2028 at 8:30AM on Tuesday, May 21st at the River Ridge Middle/High School Stadium. 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 Monday, May 20th in the morning prior to the 8th grade activities. More information will be provided in March/April.