



## RIVER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Angie Murphy, *Principal*

*Assistant Principals:*

Emily Bourdon

Daniell Grubbs

Kristen Martanovic

January 9, 2026

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Families:

River Ridge Middle School is excited to announce our 8th grade celebrations for the Class of 2030! Please know these plans are subject to change based on Pasco County School Board safety guidelines. As a part of our school's commitment to prepare our students for the adventures and rigor that high school brings, we find it necessary to implement eligibility requirements for participation in all 8th Grade End of Year Activities. Although these events are an important part of being an 8th grader at River Ridge Middle School, they are a privilege that is earned.

Below you will find the eligibility requirements for students to attend any 8th Grade End of Year Activities. We are notifying you of the requirements, so you can assist your child in meeting the expectations of these 8th Grade End of Year Activities. The 8th grade students have also been notified of these requirements and understand what they must do to earn the privilege of attending these events.

Beginning on January 7, 2026, students must meet ALL of the following criteria to be eligible to participate in the 8th Grade End of Year Activities (8th Grade Gradventure Field Trip, 8th Grade Formal Dance, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic/Field Day, 8th Grade Celebration of Excellence Awards, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony):

Academic Recognition event participation decisions will be based on academic eligibility and not subject to appeal.

1. Academic Eligibility Requirements

- a. Students must pass and/or be passing ALL core subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) for each of the 3 years in middle school.
- b. Students with failures in 6th and/or 7th and/or 8th grade core classes must first recover those failed classes before they would be eligible for promotion; therefore, these students are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for 8th Grade End of Year Activities until the courses are recovered (We encourage students to participate in course recovery and extended school day programs):
  - i. Once students have passed or recovered all core classes in grades 6-8, they must continue working to maintain a passing grade for the remainder of the school year in all their core classes and assignments to maintain eligibility to attend the 8th grade activities.
  - ii. Students must be eligible on the date of the event. Refunds will not be provided for any 8th grade events if a student is not eligible to attend.

2. Behavioral Eligibility Requirements: The **Pasco County Student Code of Conduct is in effect at all school-related events. Any student choosing to violate the Pasco County Student Code of Conduct, either by association or by committing the act personally, will receive any or all the interventions prescribed by the District School Board of Pasco County.**

- a. Any student who receives Out-of-School-Suspension (O.S.S.) beginning January 7, 2026, is NOT ELIGIBLE for the 8th Grade End of Year Activities and the *Loss of Privilege* will be documented on the discipline referral as such.
- b. Any student who receives a discipline referral that results in In-School-Suspension (I.S.S.) or Alternative to Suspension (ATS) beginning January 7, 2026, he/she will NOT be allowed to participate in 8th Grade End of Year Activities as follows:
  - i. 1st Referral with In-School Suspension (ISS)/Alternative to Suspension (ATS) = Loss of first 8th grade activity.
  - ii. 2nd Referral with In-School Suspension (ISS)/Alternative to Suspension (ATS) = Loss of an Additional 8th grade activity.
  - iii. 3rd Referral with In-School Suspension (ISS)/Alternative to Suspension (ATS) = Loss of all 8th grade activities.
- c. Any student who demonstrates safety concerns, as documented on a discipline referral, while on school-provided transportation may not be eligible to participate in the 8th grade trip, at the discretion of the school principal or his/her designee.

- i. *Loss of Privilege* will be documented on the Discipline Referral as *Intervention Code: 34 - Loss of Privilege*
- ii. Appeal Process as Outlined in the Student Code of Conduct
  1. In accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, the following outlines parent/guardian rights and procedures for a discipline appeal process.
  2. Parents/guardians and students over the age of eighteen (18) have the right to appeal for the Loss of Privilege. In this case, the parent/student is appealing the *Loss of Privilege* consequence specifically, not the referral or its coding.
  3. Appeal requests must be addressed to Ms. Martanovic, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal, in writing or email within three (3) days of the *Loss of Privilege*.
  4. If the appeal request is not initiated within three (3) days of the disciplinary action, the *Loss of Privilege* will be considered final and not subject to appeal.
  5. The person hearing the case cannot have been a witness to have assigned the original consequence or have been otherwise involved in the incident that resulted in the proposed discipline.
  6. The designated staff member will review all grievances and appeals related to the loss of 8th Grade End of Year Activities.
  7. The designated staff member will communicate the outcome of the grievance or appeal to the parent/guardian in writing within 48 hours.

Please Note:

- Many of the 8th Grade End of Year Activities require the school to pre-pay. As a result, any student who receives a referral or doesn't meet other eligibility requirements that results in the forfeiture of participation in any 8th Grade End of Year Activity will not receive a refund (unless we are able to utilize their space in an event), in accordance with the refund cut-off timeline provided by the school.
- Where a disciplinary infraction is committed by a student with a disability, any action taken must be in accordance with the Title II of the ADA (including the requirement to provide reasonable modifications to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as applicable.
- "Student with a Disability" or "Students with Disabilities" refers to a student(s) who has or would qualify to receive accommodations, reasonable modifications of policy, or disability-related services or supports under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504").

### **Gradventure (May 8, 2026)**

On Friday, May 8, 2026, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class at River Ridge Middle School is invited to Universal Studios/Islands of Adventure's Gradventure. This is the end of the middle school celebration for students from across Florida. All eligible 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to participate in this exciting evening of fun and entertainment. The cost of the trip will be \$205.00 per student. This includes bus transportation to/from Orlando, admission to both theme parks, dinner, and the official 8<sup>th</sup> grade t-shirt. Students may pay either by cash, money order, or a check made payable to River Ridge Middle School (please include a student number and a contact phone number on the check), or online using GoFan.co. Students may pay the entire trip cost up front or use our easy pay plan included below. The buses will depart from River Ridge Middle School at approximately 1:30 P.M. and will return at approximately 2:30 A.M. Your punctuality in picking up your son/daughter is very much appreciated. Please note that students will not be allowed to walk or ride a bike home after returning to school and thus must have transportation arranged at the end of the evening.

There are a 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. One week prior to the trip payment deadline, any students who are not on track for grades or behavior for the previous and current quarter (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) may be replaced by a student on the waiting list who is "on track." Students on the waiting list who are offered a spot on the trip must meet the final payment deadline. ***The final deadline to turn in all money and permission slips will be Friday, March 27, 2026.***

### **Student Eligibility/Safety for Gradventure**

We believe in affording our students the opportunity to participate in rewarding experiences. To accomplish our goal, it is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment. Students must meet individual class and administrative guidelines to be eligible to attend an activity or event. For safety reasons, we may choose to deny attendance to students that have

exhibited poor or questionable behavior at any time prior to the trip. This includes any student who receives a discipline referral from 1/7/26-5/8/26, and any student who is in danger of not meeting promotion requirements (it is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion activity). Please see the 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities eligibility requirements section above. ***There will be no refunds granted for any reason once we submit our payment to Universal Studios on March 27th.***

While on the bus to and from and at Universal Studios, if a student violates the Universal Studios or Pasco County Schools Student Code of Conduct policies, parents/guardians will be contacted by administration or designee and required to pick up their student in Orlando. The student will also not be allowed to participate in any other 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities.

### **Dress Code**

All students will be required to dress in accordance with Universal Studios and Pasco County's school dress code. It will also be required that each student wear their official RRMS T-shirt for the duration of the event. T-shirts may not be altered in any way. Students not wearing their official t-shirts will not be allowed on the bus. The Universal Studios dress code is attached.

### **Payment Information/Forms**

It is our goal to give every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student an opportunity to attend Gradventure. As a result, we have set up a very flexible payment system. Students may pay using the easy pay plan\*, or pay in full at any time until Friday, March 27th. All students with additional needs (regarding payments) are asked to see Mr. Collier in Room 23-238 (Maroon Hallway). Payments for the field trip will only be accepted on Fridays during 8<sup>th</sup> Grade lunch. To reserve a ticket, students must return the attached permission slip/t-shirt order form, and an initial ***(\$50 to reserve a spot)*** or complete payment. Also, please remember tickets are on a "first come, first serve" basis. Please make all checks and money orders payable to River Ridge Middle School and include your phone number and District Student number on the check.

#### **Easy Pay Plan\***

**Every Friday in Mr. Collier's room (23-238) during 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch**

**OR**

**Online using GoFan.co**



**March 27th- All balances MUST be paid in full.**

### **Refunds**

Once tickets are ordered on March 27th, no refunds can be given. Tickets purchased for this event are valid only on May 8, 2026. Therefore, students purchasing a ticket must govern themselves in a way that will allow them to remain eligible to attend this trip. Beginning on January 7, 2026, any student that receives a referral that is a breach of the Student Code of Conduct will be ineligible for the trip. Please review the eligibility requirements in the above sections.

### **Additional 8<sup>th</sup> Grade End of Year Activities:**

***There will be a \$45 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 front office, Mrs. Cione, Bookkeeper, or online through GoFan.co. In March, there will be another 8<sup>th</sup> grade newsletter published with more specific information regarding end of year events including permission forms for the dance, picnic, and promotion ceremony.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade EOY Activity Fee**

**Front Office for cash/check or Online using GoFan.co**



### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Formal Dance (May 15, 2026)**

*Students who purchase tickets as a part of the \$45 end of year activities fee* are invited to attend the 8th Grade Dance from 6PM-9PM at St. George Greek Orthodox Church (9426 Little Road, New Port Richey). Complimentary food will also be served such as pizza, chips, chicken tenders, cupcakes, and an ice cream bar. Free photo booth pictures are also included in the price of the ticket. 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, a dress or skirt of the appropriate length not shorter than a mid-thigh, or blouse and dress pants are acceptable. Jeans, shorts, shirts without a collar or flip flops will not be permitted. Shoes must be worn at all times. Only RRMS 8th grade students who are on track for promotion may attend. We are looking for parent volunteers to chaperone the dance. Please contact Mrs. Pruneau at the front office at 774-7208 or at [apruneau@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:apruneau@pasco.k12.fl.us). Parents must be approved volunteers.

### **8th Grade Celebration of Excellence Awards Night (May 18, 2026)**

The Celebration of Excellence Awards Night is by invitation and will begin at 6PM at the River Ridge Center for the Arts 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 Student of the Year content area and elective awards. Invitations will be provided to invited students in the first week of May.

### **Kings & Queens of the Castle 8th Grade Picnic & Video Viewing (May 22, 2026)**

On Friday morning, May 22nd, students will meet in the cafeteria for promotion ceremony practice. Following the practice, students will have the opportunity to view the 8th Grade video in the theater at approximately 10AM. From 11:30AM-1:30PM, students will be able to participate in games, two Big Kahuna waterslides, obstacle course, wrecking ball, and a picnic meal (hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks) if they have a permission form and pay the participation fee of \$45. We are looking for parent volunteers and businesses to donate food items and prizes for drawings throughout the picnic. Please contact Mrs. Pruneau at the front office at 774-7208 or at [apruneau@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:apruneau@pasco.k12.fl.us). Parents must be approved volunteers.

### **8th Grade Promotion Ceremony (May 26, 2026)**

To celebrate your student's promotion to high school, we invite family and friends to attend our 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM at the River Ridge MS/HS Gymnasium. This is a formal ceremony to celebrate your student's accomplishments therefore dress should be business casual. Since this ceremony will be outside, weather permitting. Students will complete their "Last Walk" through RRMS campus and go out to the Stadium for a ceremony to celebrate our 8th graders. After the ceremony, parents/guardians may sign their children out to go home.

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.

Thank you,

Angie Murphy, Principal

Kristen Martanovic, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal  
[kmartano@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:kmartano@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Denise Doerrfeld, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade School Counselor  
[ddoerrfe@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:ddoerrfe@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Joseph Corley, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Support Assistant  
[jcorley@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jcorley@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Ed Collier, 2026 Gradventure Advisor  
[ecollier@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:ecollier@pasco.k12.fl.us)



## 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.**