



RIVER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

11646 Town Center Road • New Port Richey, Florida 34654

Phone: 727.774.7000 • Fax: 727.774.7290 • Website: <https://rrms.pasco.k12.fl.us>

Assistant Principals: **Angie Murphy, Principal**
Emily Bourdon Daniell Grubbs Kristen Martanovic

April 13, 2026

8th Grade Students and Families:

It's hard to believe that the 2025-26 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.

Any 8th grade student who does not pass their current courses with a D or higher 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.

May 1st: 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 May 1st.

May 1st-May 22nd: End of Year Testing for 8th Graders

The state and district end of year testing is extremely important to measure the progress of your student's learning and future course placement. It is critical that ALL students attend school, especially during the testing periods as make up windows are extremely limited. All assessments begin at 7:15AM and are computer-based unless noted.

May 1: Geometry

May 4: 8th Grade Computer-based District Finals (Guitar, Band 1-3, Chorus) (in class)

May 5: ELA 8 FAST (Ely, Addington 1, 2 & selected students)

May 6: ELA 8 FAST (Morton, Addington 3 & 5)

May 11: 8th Grade Electives District Finals (in classrooms)

May 12: Science 8 (Ziamba, Vaughan); Physical Science Honors District Final (AM classrooms)

May 14: Civics EOC (any 8th grader who is currently in the course); Science 8 (selected students), Pre-AP WH (PM), WH, USH District Finals (in class)

May 18: Spanish 1 & 2 District Finals (PM)

May 20: Math 8 FAST (King, Porter)

May 21: Algebra 1 EOC (Porter, Sharkey, Vanteslaar)

May 22: 8th Grade District Finals Make Up

Gradventure (May 8, 2026)

The deadline for Gradventure tickets has passed. There will be an expectations session for all students attending Gradventure after lunch in the gym on May 6th. 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. The buses will depart from River Ridge Middle School at approximately 1:45 P.M. and will return at approximately 2:30 A.M. Upon arrival back to school, students must be released to a parent or guardian only at that time. 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 for the end of the evening.

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 \$15 by May 1st in the front office or online through GoFan.co.

Get your YEARBOOK NOW & Yearbook Signing Celebration

Yearbook pre-sales online only for \$35 through April 30th at www.yearbookforever.com. Yearbook Sales will continue in May but will be \$40. Students who purchase a yearbook may attend the Yearbook Signing Celebration in the courtyard. Date to be determined. Ice cream treats will be provided.

Additional 8th 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

8th Grade EOY Activity Fee

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



<https://gofan.co/event/5780266?schoolId=FL78402>

May 15th: 8th Grade Semi-Formal Dance: A Royal Knight Beneath the Stars

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 always worn.

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. Parents must be approved volunteers.

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

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.

May 22nd: Kings & Queens of the Castle 8th Grade Picnic & Video Viewing

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. 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 26th 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. On this day, students will complete their "Last Walk" through RRMS campus and file into the Gym for a ceremony to celebrate our 8th graders.

Early Release After the Promotion Ceremony

If parents or guardians wish to have their student released early to go home after the promotion ceremony, the following procedures apply:

- **Pre-Approved Early Release:**

Included in this packet are **parent permission forms** that allow students to be released early **without requiring parents/guardians to sign out through the front office**. These forms must be completed and returned in advance.

- **Day-of Sign-Out Required if Form Is Not Completed:**

Parents or guardians who wish to release their student early **and have not completed the permission form** will be required to **report to the front office** after the ceremony to complete the official early release process before their child may leave campus.

Submitting the permission form in advance helps ensure a smooth and timely dismissal for all students.

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 or online through GoFan.co. Students will need a signed parental permission form to participate in the dance and picnic. Please see the attached forms.

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 8th grade activities, please sign, provide payment and return permission forms (dance, picnic, early dismissal from promotion ceremony) to the front office no later than Tuesday, May 19th.**

Thank you,

Angie Murphy, Principal

Kristen Martanovic, 8th Grade Assistant Principal
kmartano@pasco.k12.fl.us

Denise Doerrfeld, 8th Grade School Counselor
ddoerrfe@pasco.k12.fl.us

Joseph Corley, 8th Grade Student Support Assistant
jcorley@pasco.k12.fl.us

Ed Coller, 2026 Gradventure Advisor
ecoller@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.**



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY
District and/or School Sponsored
Events/Activities
Parent Permission Form

Pursuant to 1001.02(1), (2)(n), F.S., Pasco County Schools strives to protect the safety and welfare of all students and the fundamental rights of parents regarding school and/or district sponsored events and activities.

District/School-sponsored refers to any event or activity created for students to study or participate in while in the custody of the school district, including field trips, extracurricular activities or other supplemental programs and activities as defined in Rule 6A-10.085, F.A.C.

Name of the event or activity: RRMS 8th Grade Dance

Activity Description:

8th Grade End-of-Year Semi-formal Dance

Date of event or activity: Friday, May 16th, 2026

Time of event or activity: 6PM - 9PM

Location: St. George Greek Orthodox Church - Kondos Center
9426 Little Rd. NPR, FL 34654

Types of sponsors and or guests: 250

Anticipated Number of Chaperones: 25

By signing and returning this form to my child's school, I formally state that I grant permission to the District School Board of Pasco County to allow participation in the above-described event or activity.

Last Name of Student _____ First Name _____

Student # _____ Grade _____ School _____

I understand fully the conditions set forth in this document.

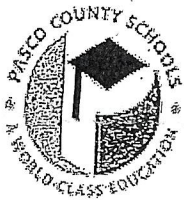
Name of Parent or Guardian (Please Print) _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Date _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

For District/School Use Only

DISTRIBUTION: Original - School or Department Data Entry: Copy - Individual Copy - Individual



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Name of the event or activity: 8th Grade End-of-Year Picnic

Activity Description:

End-of-year picnic + field days

Date of event or activity: Friday, May 22, 2026

Time of event or activity: 11:30AM - 1:30PM

Location: MS fields

Types of sponsors and or guests: 300

Anticipated Number of Chaperones: 25

By signing and returning this form to my child's school, I formally state that I grant permission to the District School Board of Pasco County to allow participation in the above-described event or activity.

Last Name of Student _____ First Name _____

Student # _____ Grade _____ School _____

I understand fully the conditions set forth in this document.

Name of Parent or Guardian (Please Print) _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Date _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

For District/School Use Only

DISTRIBUTION: Original - School or Department Data Entry: Copy - Individual Copy - Individual



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RRMS 8th Grade Early Dismissal on Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to celebrate your child's promotion to high school with you at our promotion ceremony on 5/26 at 8:30AM. 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 on Tuesday, May 19th** 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 Tuesday, May 26th at the end of the promotion ceremony, please complete this form and turn it into the front office by the end of the day on Tuesday, May 19th.

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

Addington Ely Morton Daba

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

permission to check out early on Tuesday, May 26th 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 promotion ceremony.

Parent Signature _____

Student's name _____ Student ID# _____

Don't miss out on the End of Year Royal 8th Grade 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, Ms. Cione, Bookkeeper, or online through GoFan.co. Students will need a signed parent permission form to attend the dance, picnic, and to be released early from school after the Promotion Ceremony. Tickets for the 8th Grade Dance and Picnic will not be available on the day of the event.

River Ridge Middle School
presents

A Royal Knight BENEATH the STARS



8th Grade Semi-Formal Dance
Friday, May 15th from 6PM – 9PM
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Kontos Event Center

\$45 8th Grade EOY Activity Fee on GoFan.co
& Signed Permission Form Required

Food is included in the price of the ticket.

*Students must be on track for promotion to high school and have no Level 2 or Level 3 referrals during Semester 2 to attend.

ROYAL KNIGHTS 8TH GRADE DANCE

Modest Dresses

- Dresses may **NOT** be revealing on the front, side or back of dress.
- Dresses may be strapless and / or spaghetti straps but **MUST** have full coverage.
- Dress length should **NOT** be shorter than mid-thigh.



NO jeans.
NO shorts.
NO t-shirts.

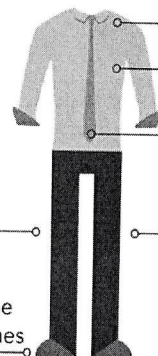
Shoes **MUST** be worn at **ALL** times

NO Hats

Collared Shirt

Ties

Dress Slacks

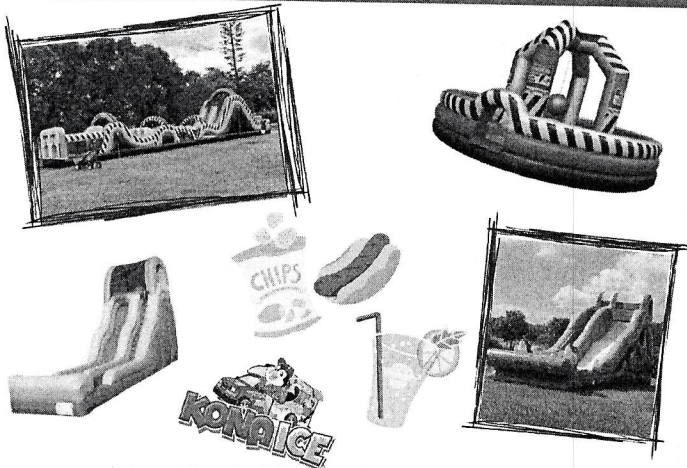


RRMS DRESS CODE

Questions about your outfit?
See an administrator during school for clarification.

RIVER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
8TH GRADE PICNIC
MAY 22, 2026 11:30AM-1:30PM

Tickets included in the \$45* EOY 8th Grade Activity Fee & can be purchased on GoFan.co. Tickets will not be sold the day of the event. Water, slushies, games, food, and Kona Ice will be provided.



**Students must be on track for promotion to high school and not have any Level 2 or 3 referrals during semester 2 to attend.

ROYAL KNIGHTS

THE AMAZING 8TH GRADE CLASS OF
RIVER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2030

Promotion Celebration

TUESDAY, MAY 26TH 8:30AM
RIVER RIDGE GYM

WE INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND OUR
8TH GRADE PROMOTION CEREMONY.
DOORS OPEN AT 7:45AM.
STUDENTS MEET BY 7:10AM IN CAFETERIA.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, PARENTS/GUARDIANS MAY
SIGN THEIR CHILDREN OUT TO GO HOME.