



July 19, 2017

Dear New and Returning River Valley Families:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. We are excited to see all of our returning families, and we can't wait to welcome our new families to River Valley! River Valley is a tremendous school with a history of high achievement and student success. *While our success is important to us, so too is the atmosphere of respect that all of our staff, families, and students have built with each other over the years.* We strongly believe in our motto: "Where working together makes a difference." We look forward to forging positive relationships with your family as we all work to help your child achieve academic and personal success while at River Valley.

Campus Updates

Richard Benzing, our facilities manager, Seth Phelps, the 7th, 8th, and 10th grade English teacher, and David Lee, our afternoon custodian, have been hard at work this summer working on several campus improvement projects. The new and improved upgrades include:

- New expanded girls' restroom
- Split classroom in Room 2
- New decking on the Staff Lounge and a complete overhaul of the Staff Lounge that needed to be redone as a result of water damage
- New asphalt at the entry of the school

Enrollment

Our projected enrollment at RVCS for the 2017-2018 school year is just shy of 350, our largest number ever! **For the first time in River Valley's 20 year history, we have a waitlist at all grade levels at the high school.**

Academic Tutoring Reminder

Getting off to a strong start at RVCS is extremely important. As a reminder to all parents, tutoring is offered after school in all academic subject areas from 3:15-4:00, Tuesday through Friday. We strongly encourage students to attend tutoring as students typically need assistance beyond the 144 minutes of in-class instruction they receive per week. This is especially true for our higher levels of math such as Integrated Math II, Integrated Math III, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. The pace of these higher level math courses is very rigorous.

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RVCS Website Updates

Please be sure to check out the RVCS website at www.rivervalleyhigh.org. Among the resources found on the website, you will find the **RVCS Charter**, the revised **2017-2018 Parent-Student Handbook**, the **RVCS Board Policy Manual**, and the revised **Local Control and Accountability Plan**. All of these documents can be located in the “Admin/Governance” tab. In addition to RVCS Charter documents, our website is the location for our yearly calendared events and activities, just in case you are looking for CIF game times or other extra-curricular activities planned at River Valley. The bell schedule has been added under the *About* tab, and the *Important Dates* and *Monthly Block Calendar* have been added under the *Calendar* tab. All dates from the *Important Dates* have been added to the Google calendar on the school website.

RVCS Events and Activities

A 2017-2018 calendar has been attached to this newsletter, but a few additional items of school related information have been included to assist you with back to school planning.

New Student Orientation

Wednesday, August 16th, 9:15-11:30—Incoming high school students are encouraged to attend this orientation. **Returning 9th grade students who might benefit from additional time management and organizational skills assistance are encouraged to attend.**

Wednesday, August 16th, 12:15-2:30—Incoming middle school students are encouraged to attend this orientation.

Students may attend either orientation, but understand that the morning orientation will be geared to high school and the afternoon orientation will be geared to middle school.

All new students will be provided with organizational and time management skills that will assist them with our university model instructional program. Parents will be provided support strategies that can be utilized at home to ensure that their students develop effective study skills.

New students will receive login information to our grading program, Jupiter Grades, at the orientation.

Please RSVP to confirm attendance by emailing Stacy at stacy.clark@rivervalleyhigh.org.

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School Office Re-opens

August 8th at 9:00am

Saturday Work Day Party

Saturday, August 19th from 8am-1pm—Please help us beautify our campus and get the school ready for the 2016-2017 school year! There are a lot of projects we need to complete, so come prepared to work! This is a day to meet some of our new River Valley families and a way to help us show off our school pride! Please join us for the day!

First Independent Study Day

On Monday, August 21st, students will need to log on to Jupiter Grades to access their first Monday independent study (IS) assignment. Each teacher will provide the due date for this assignment.

First Day of School

Tuesday, August 22nd —9th and 10th grade

Wednesday, August 23rd—7th, 8th, 11th, and 12th grade

Both August 22nd and August 23rd will be minimum days for students (8:20-11:35). Lunch will not be available.

Curriculum Night

Thursday Evening, September 7th. Core subject teachers will present an overview of their courses along with academic expectations for students. More information to follow.

Back to School Barbecue

Friday, September 15th from 5:30-8:00. Our **Family Association**, in conjunction with the generous support of the Lakeside Optimists, is sponsoring our yearly **Back to School Pot Luck Barbecue**. This is a great time to see old friends and make new friends. More information will be sent home the first week of school.

Class Schedules

Class schedules can be picked up at the tables located near the front gate on either August 22nd or August 23rd, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. **Parents must have signed a Master Agreement for students to receive their class schedule.**

Shot Requirement

Reminder: California law mandates a whooping cough booster shot for students entering grades 7-12. Please be sure to have your student vaccinated prior to the start of school. If you have any questions, you can call (866) 358-2966, or you can email questions

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to www.shotsforschool.org. **Students without verification of the booster vaccination will be sent home due to State regulations.**

School Hours

Academic classes begin at 8:20 a.m. and end at 3:10 p.m. Campus supervision begins at 8:00 a.m. **Only those students staying for the 45 minutes of after school tutoring should remain on campus after 3:15p.m.** For safety reasons, it is extremely important that all students who are not attending tutoring be picked on time since RVCS does not have the staffing to effectively monitor unsupervised students after 3:15.

Lunches

Students may bring a sack lunch or purchase lunch at the school. The cost of the items available varies between 50 cents & \$4.00.

School Supplies

Students will need a 1 ½ -2 inch three-ring binder, dividers for each class, three-hole punch paper, pens and pencils and a plastic pen/pencil pouch for the three-ring notebook. Teachers will notify parents of any other additional items required for their individual subject areas.

Bikes

A bike rack is available for students wishing to ride their bikes to school.

Student Dress Code

Dress for Success at RVCS!! Students are expected to follow the school dress code policy, which is explained in detail in the **Parent/Student Handbook**. The handbook can be found at www.rivervalleyhigh.org. One important modification to the dress code a few years ago was the length of shorts and skirts. We are requesting that our young ladies wear **shorts or skirts with a length no shorter than three inches above the knee**. Layering of tops is encouraged, due to the fact that spaghetti straps and/or exposed bra straps are not permitted. Shirts with cap sleeves are strongly encouraged to be worn under any type of tank top. **Students attending tutoring on their non-class days are also expected to follow the school dress code policy.** Our young men are expected to wear pants or shorts that do not expose undergarments and shirts with sleeves; no muscle shirts.

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Parent/Student Handbook

Prior to the first day of school, parents and students will need to review the updated 2017-2018 **Parent/Student Handbook** which is posted on the RVCS web site: www.rivervalleyhigh.org. **If you have not done so already, please review, sign, and return the acknowledgement form (which can be found at the end of the handbook) to the office on or before the end of the first week of school.**

RV Green Focus

We are again asking students to bring their own personal water bottle to school this year to reduce the number of plastic cups which are used once and then thrown away. Students will be able to fill their water bottles from the water coolers in each classroom. (142 students per day, each using 4 plastic cups of water = 568 plastic cups thrown away each day on the RVCS campus. This is not a good use of resources (trees or school funds).