RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Golden Hawks

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at RDMS!





FROM THE REGISTRAR

WELCOME!

January 23 – Registration instructions mailed home

February 1 – Registration portal was opened

FEBRUARY 28 – REGISTRATION PORTAL CLOSES

Questions – Email: Registrar@riverdell.org

This presentation will be posted on the RDMS website.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

- **As per River Dell Board of Education Policy 5141.3 and the New Jersey Statutes and Administrative Code, all incoming 7th graders are *required* to submit:**
  - **A completed student physical form**
  - **Immunization records**

- Physicals must be dated between 9/1/2025 and 9/1/2026. The Mandatory Medical Forms included with registration are required for sports participation; we recommend using these forms.
- Forms can be found under Wellness Center on the school website.
- Contact the School Nurse for any questions/concerns: kristen.comer@riverdell.org

COMMUNITY PASS

Login information will be emailed to you over the summer. Details will be emailed to you in mid-June.

Verify contact information and fill out forms

- RD Technology Policy (AUP)
- Military Release Consent
- Web and Media Release Consent
- Health Insurance
- Permission to Share Medical Information with Staff
- Activity/Athletic Participation

1. **Laptop Insurance Fee - $75** (Mandatory: Must pay before September or before the Summer Technology Academy in order for your student to receive laptop).

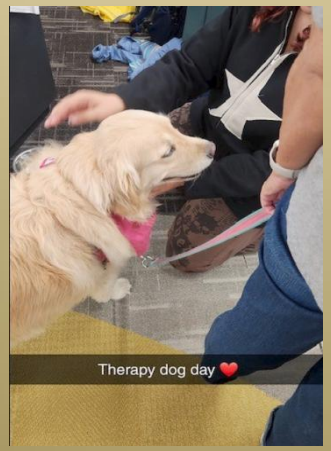
2. **Activity Participation Fee - $50** (Optional: May pay any time during school year if your student plays a sport or joins an extracurricular activity).



COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling Services Department

- **Ms. Ross:** Counselor for Class of 2031
- **Mrs. Binder:** Counselor for Class of 2032
- **Mr. Giorgio:** Student Assistance Counselor
- **Ms. Bartels:** Therapeutic School Counselor
- **Mrs. Kirkby:** Director of Student Personnel Services
- **Mrs. Boettger:** Counseling Dept. Administrative Assistant & District Registrar



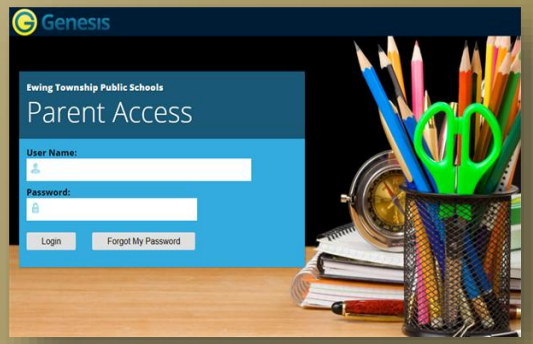


Genesis Portal

- **The Genesis Parent Portal is a safe and secure way to view your student's school record for the current school year, and it is recommended that parents/guardians regularly review grades and assignments with students.**

- **Login information will be emailed to you over the summer. If you already have an account, your new student will be added.**

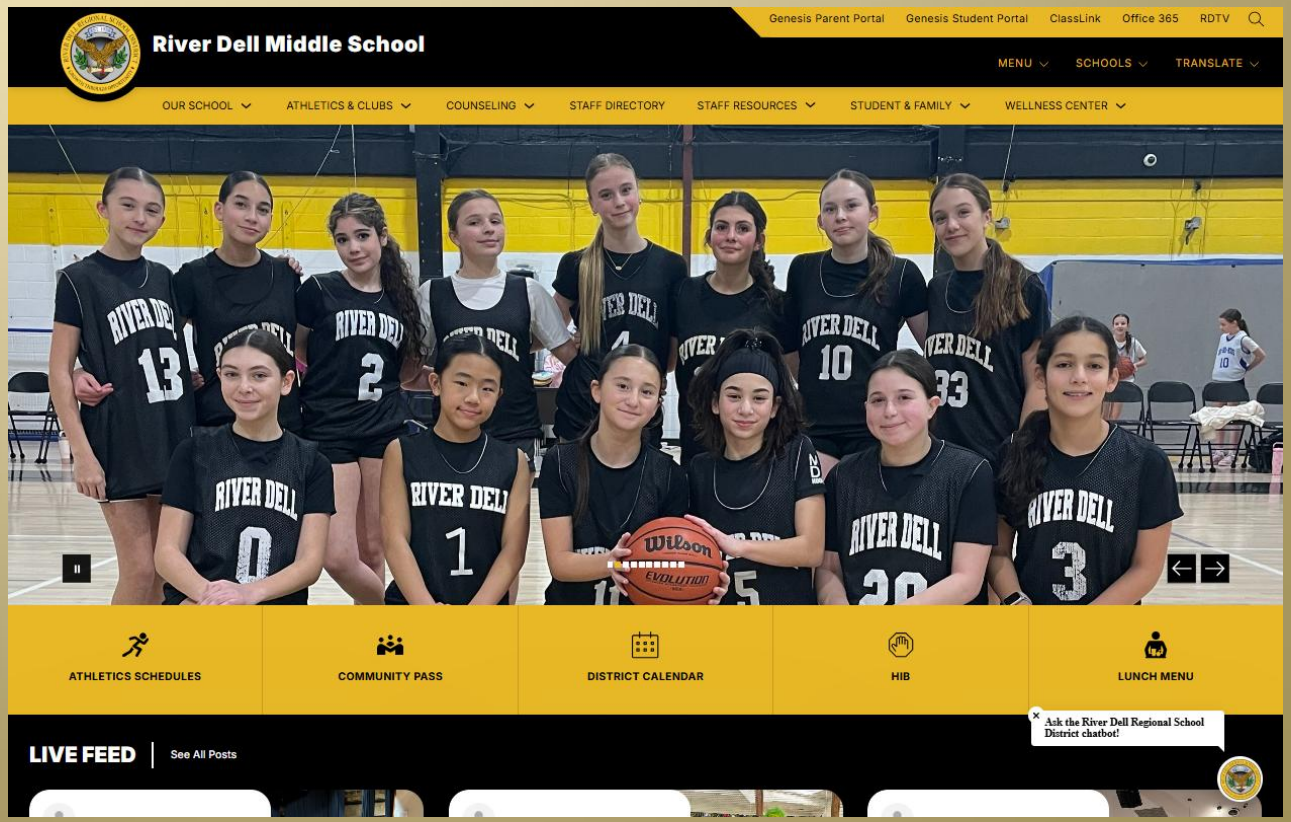
- **As a parent, you will have access to the following information:**
  - Student Schedule
  - Report Cards/Progress Reports
  - Daily and Class Attendance Records
  - Teachers' Gradebook
  - Discipline Record
  - Principal's List/Honor Roll Certificates



- **Students will be assigned a username and login for a personal student portal account. Parents are encouraged to keep their account secure from students.**

RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL WEBSITE

https://rdms.riverdell.org/o/rdms



Teacher Webpages

- Each teacher maintains a webpage accessible from the RDMS website under the ***Staff Directory*** tab.
- Individual webpages include course overview, contact info, extra help schedule, grading policy, course materials, expectations, and lesson plans.
- Students and parents should regularly check teachers' ***Week-at-a-Glance*** to view plans for past/present classroom activities. We also recommend keeping an agenda book.

One-to-One Laptop Initiative

- School-issued laptops will be distributed to all students prior to the start of school. More information to follow as the school year approaches.

- RDMS will hold an optional Summer Technology Academy in August where students will receive their laptop and become acclimated with the technologies used at RDMS. More information to be discussed later in this presentation.

- Laptops should be brought home to use; Students are responsible for charging them nightly.



Office 365 and OneNote

- River Dell utilizes the Microsoft Office suite of software programs including PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Teams, Forms, OneNote, and more!
- Parents will have limited access to OneNote where they may find additional teacher information.
- Teachers and students will use OneNote (an interactive and collaborative online notebook) in school. Parents will need their student's username/password information to access this site.

RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
Program of Studies

Click here for the
2026-2027 RDMS
Program of Studies

7th GRADE CLASSES

- Math
- English
- Science
- World History
- World Language (Spanish)
- Physical Education/ Health
- RD101 or Band
- Cycle Arts Trimester (Theater Arts/ Music Studio/ STEM Computers)

Chorus and Band

- Students who choose to participate in Chorus will meet during their PE/Health period on a rotating schedule once every four days.
- Students who choose to participate in Band will take it in place of RD101 twice every four days.
- Chorus and Band are **full-year commitments**. Band requires prior experience.
- Additional time during the school day and after school will be added as the Winter and Spring Concerts approach.

RDMB
THE RIVER DELL MARCHING BAND



- Marching band is a graded elective for **students in grades 8-12** that occurs during **after school hours**. It includes instrumentalists, color guard, and managers.
- 7th grade students will have opportunities to gain exposure to marching band through open rehearsals and home football game stand performances.
- Events include playing at HS football games, band festivals and field trips/parades.
- RDMB Advisor is Justin Vitetta and can be reached at justin.vitetta@riverdell.org.
- Check them out on Instagram @rdmb_official



****Marching band is a **full-year commitment******

7th Grade Sample Schedule

PERIOD	SAMPLE A DAY	SAMPLE B DAY	SAMPLE C DAY	SAMPLE D DAY
1	PE	PE	Chorus	PE
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	RD101 or Band	RD101 or Band	Math	ELA
4	ELA	ELA	ELA	ELA
5	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
6/7	World History	World History	World History	World History
8	Science	Science	Science	Science
9	STEM 7	STEM 7	STEM 7	STEM 7
10	Spanish 1A	Spanish 1A	Spanish 1A	Spanish 1A

School Times, Daily Dropoff, Bus Information

- Doors open at 7:40, homeroom begins at 7:50
- Period 1 starts immediately at 7:58 in same room as homeroom
- Dismissal is at 2:40
- Drop off at front circle and back parking lot until 7:50
- After 7:50, drop off limited to front circle
- Board office will contact anyone who qualifies for busing (must live a specific distance away)

6th Grade → 7th Grade Scheduling

- Week of February 23rd: RDMS Counselors will visit Roosevelt, Cherry Hill, and OPS to review a similar presentation and answer questions.

- Week of March 16th: Virtual welcome packet, with Program of Studies and a Course Selection Survey in Microsoft Forms, will be emailed to all 6th grade parents by RDMS and must be completed by March 31st.

- All scheduling information will be posted on the middle school website as the summer approaches.

Course Selection

- The only information needed to create your student's schedule for next year:

  1) Band - Prior experience is required
  2) Chorus - Prior experience not required
  3) Both Band & Chorus
  4) Neither

- The survey sent to 6th grade parents the week of March 16th in addition to recommendations from the elementary schools will be used to generate student schedules.

6th Grade → 7th Grade Upcoming Events

- RDMS will hold small group tours in the summer (more information to follow and pending summer construction).
- Parents/Guardians will receive Genesis login information in July; at which point an up-to-date schedule may be viewed as well as locker information.
- Summer Technology Academy – August 11, 12, 13
- RDMS will hold an incoming 7th grade orientation/barbecue on August 25th.
- RDMS students will receive a hard copy of their final schedule on the 1st day of school in homeroom/period 1.

CLUBS, ACTIVITIES, INTRAMURALS, & INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS



GOALS OF CLUBS & INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

- Academic & Personal Development
- Social & Emotional growth
- Skill building & Leadership
- Exploration & Future preparation
- Community engagement



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

- Accompanist Club
- Art Club
- Asian American & Pacific Islander Club
- Best Buddies Club
- Board Gaming Club
- Business Club
- Caterers/Chef Club
- Crochet Club
- Drama Club
- Environmental Club
- Homework Club (2)
- Interact Club
- Introduction to Italian Club
- Intramurals
- Library Club
- Literary Magazine
- Math Club
- Math Masters Club
- National Jr. Art Honor Society
- Newspaper Club
- Robotics Club
- Science Club
- Select Choir
- Ski & Snowboard Club
- Stage Crew
- Strength & Conditioning Club
- Spanish Honor Society
- Stage Band
- Stigma Free Club
- Student Government Organization
- TV/Media Club
- Yearbook Club

Please note: This list includes 2025-2026 clubs. Details for 2026–2027 clubs will be posted in September on the RDMS website:

Click here for more club information

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS



FALL SPORTS
Boys and Girls Cross Country
Girls Volleyball





WINTER SPORTS
Boys and Girls Basketball

SPRING SPORTS
Boys and Girls Track & Field



Important: to participate, we must receive your student's Physical and Immunization records, as indicated in the Registration Information

Please note: This list includes 2025-2026 Sports.
Details for 2026–2027 Sports will be posted in September on the RDMS website

PARTICIPATION FEES

- **Fees:** Pay $50 activity fee to join any sport or club. This fee covers as many activities as your student would like to participate in.
- **Payment options:**
  - Credit card through *Community Pass*
  - Check submitted to Board Office
- **Sign-up:** Use the *Genesis* Parent Portal

RDMS ACADEMICS



Science

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

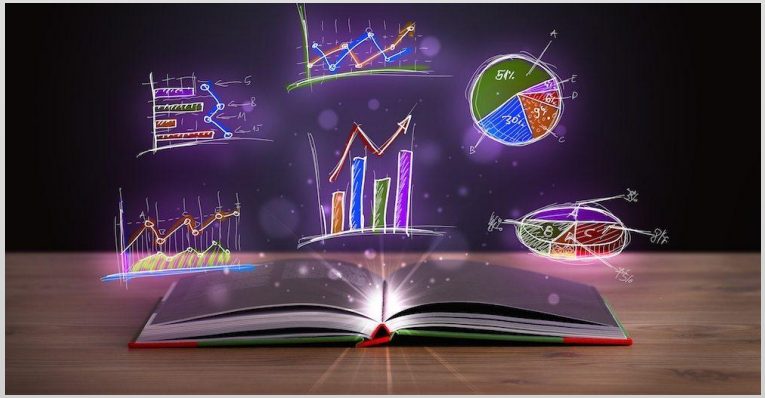
- Non-tracked
- Biology and Natural Science
- Aligned to NJSLS and NGSS
- Scope and Sequence:
  - Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
  - Structure, Function, and Information Processing
  - Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms
  - Natural Selection and Adaptation

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

- Non-tracked
- Physical and Earth Science
- Aligned to NJSLS and NGSS
- Scope and Sequence:
  - Geologic and Atmospheric Processes
  - Weather
  - Topology
  - Human Activity Impact
  - Energy Transfer/Wave Application

RDMS

MATHEMATICS OVERVIEW



Mrs. Jennifer Ali

District Supervisor of Mathematics

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

7th Grade: *Two Levels*

- **Math 7**: Grade level course that leads to PreAlgebra 8 in 8th grade.

- **PreAlgebra 7:** Accelerated math course in which both 7th & 8th grade math content will be taught leading to Algebra 1 in 8th grade.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

8th Grade: *Four Levels*

- **PreAlgebra 8**: Grade level course that leads to Algebra 1 in 9th grade.
- **Advanced PreAlgebra 8**: More advanced grade level course that leads to Advanced Algebra 1 in 9th grade.
- **Accelerated Algebra 1**: High school Algebra 1 content that can lead to Advanced Geometry in 9th grade. *PreAlgebra 7 is a prerequisite*.
- **Honors Algebra 1**: Honors level of the Accelerated Algebra 1 curriculum that can lead to Honors Geometry in 9th grade. *PreAlgebra 7 is a prerequisite.*

Placement in PreAlgebra 7

- If students scored Level 5 on the NJSLA Math 5, the student is placed in PreAlgebra 7.

- If not Level 5, students who satisfy both criteria below are placed in PreAlgebra 7.
  - 6^{th} Grade Math Class Test Avg $\geq$ 93%
  - LinkIt Form B Test Score $\geq$ 85%

- Otherwise, students are placed in Math 7.

NJ State Assessments

7th Grade: 7th grade students take two state tests: NJSLA ELA 7 & NJSLA Math 7.

8th Grade: 8th grade students take three state tests: NJSLA ELA 8, NJSLA Science 8, & an NJSLA math test.

- **NJSLA Math 8 Test**
  - PreAlgebra 8 & Advanced PreAlgebra 8
- **NJSLA Algebra 1 Test**
  - Accelerated Algebra 1 & Honors Algebra 1

Mathematics Pathways

	HONORS PATH	ACCELERATED PATH	ADVANCED PATH	COLLEGE PREP PATH	ADVANCED PATH W/ DOUBLE IN 9TH	ADVANCED PATH W/ DOUBLE IN 10TH
7th Grade	PreAlgebra 7	PreAlgebra 7	Math 7	Math 7	Math 7	Math 7
8th Grade	Honors Algebra 1	Accelerated Algebra 1	Advanced PreAlgebra 8	PreAlgebra 8	Advanced PreAlgebra 8	Advanced PreAlgebra 8
9th Grade	Honors Geometry	Advanced Geometry	Advanced Algebra 1	Algebra 1	Advanced Algebra 1 & Advanced Geometry	Advanced Algebra 1
10th Grade	Honors Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry	Advanced Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry	Advanced Geometry	Geometry	Advanced Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry	Advanced Geometry & Advanced Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry
11th Grade	AP PreCalculus AB or AP PreCalculus BC	PreCalculus	Advanced Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry	Algebra 2	PreCalculus	PreCalculus
12th Grade	AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC	Honors Calculus	PreCalculus or Statistics	Algebra 3 or Finite Math	Honors Calculus	Honors Calculus

RDMS ENGLISH & WORLD HISTORY/CIVICS OVERVIEW

Dr. Lisa Torres – District Supervisor of English & Social Studies

7th GRADE ENGLISH

- Curricular Standards: New Jersey Student Learning Standards in ELA
  - Writing a Narrative - Part of Realistic Fiction
  - Descriptive Writing - Part of the Science Fiction Genre Study
  - Persuasive Reading and Writing - Part of Non-Fiction
  - Integrate poetry as companion pieces
- Literature and informational (nonfiction) text are important
- Background knowledge and motivation are critical when learning to read and when accessing complex text
- Research provides the opportunity to learn more about a subject and provides the opportunity to look beyond research to questions left unanswered
- Using evidence remains a critical skill, allowing students to ground their thinking in the work of authors and experts in literature and in the content areas

ELA COURSE MAP

7TH GRADE ELA

- Non-tracked
- Student-centered focus
- Literature focus

8TH GRADE ELA

- Non-tracked
- Student-centered focus
- Technology Integration
- Increased rigor to prepare for 9th grade

7th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

- Curricular Standards: **New Jersey Student Learning Standards in SS**
- Is civic minded, globally aware, and socially responsible
- Exemplifies fundamental values of American citizenship through active participation in local and global communities
- Based on inquiry and analysis.
- Considers multiple perspectives, values diversity, and promotes cultural understanding
- Connected to historical events and developments that are shaped by social, political, cultural, technological, and economic factors
- Economic interdependence results from increased specialization and trade
- The principles of the United States government are based on political philosophies, ideas, and experiences of classical governments
- The diffusion of ideas and cultural practices across civilizations
- The importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of the people living Asia, Africa (Islam), Europe and the Americas over time

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE MAP

7TH GRADE SS

- Non-tracked
- Student-centered focus
- Technology integration
- World History 4000-1000 B.C.E.
- Development & Expansion of human civilization
- Civics & Citizenship focus

8TH GRADE SS

- Non-tracked
- Student-centered focus
- Technology Integration
- World History 1000 B.C.E.-1450 C.E.
- Global Connections
- Increased rigor to prepare for 9th grade

World Language

7TH GRADE

- Spanish 1A
- Spanish 7/8
- English as a Second Language (ESL)

8TH GRADE

- Spanish 1B
- Spanish 7/8
- English as a Second Language (ESL)

9TH GRADE PREVIEW

- HS Spanish 1: Students with an average of 70 or below upon completion of Spanish 1B
- HS Spanish 2: Students with an average of 71 or above upon completion of Spanish 1B
- HS Spanish 2 Honors: Students with an average of 95 or above upon completion of Spanish 1B
- Change in language is an option in HS

Physical Education/Health

7TH GRADE

- Non-tracked
- Physical Education for 3 marking periods
- Health 7 for 1 marking period

8TH GRADE

- Non-tracked
- Physical Education for 3 marking periods
- Health 8 for 1 marking period

RD 101

- Non-tracked
- Taken by all 7th grade students except for band students
- Ties together Math and ELA and is scheduled to meet 2 of every 4 days in the cycle
- Topics: transition from elementary to middle school, respect/kindness, conflict resolution, diversity, mental health, social-emotional learning, mindfulness, digital citizenship

Cycle Arts Trimester

GRADE 7

- Non-tracked
- Music Studio
- Theatre Arts
- STEM 7 - Computers

GRADE 8

- Non-tracked
- Art in the 21st Century
- Nutritional Living and Wellness
- STEM 8 - Engineering

Summer Technology Academy

- Academy is a 3-day program
  - AM session: 8:00 – 11:00
  - PM session: 12:00 – 3:00
- Tentative dates: August 11, 12, 13 (Tues – Thurs)
- Students will be issued laptop computers and district account credentials (only if *Community Pass* obligations have been completed)
- Goal – acclimate students to the use of the River Dell district technology:

OneNote	ClassLink
Computer Hygiene	Teams
Website/OneDrive	Office 365

- No makeup dates – students not in attendance will receive laptops prior to the start of the school year. Information will be reviewed again at the start of the school year.

THANK YOU!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Mr. Robert Urbanovich, Principal – robert.urbanovich@riverdell.org
Mr. John Jasinski, Assistant Principal – john.jasinski@riverdell.org
Ms. Jennifer Ali, Supervisor of Mathematics – jennifer.ali@riverdell.org
Dr. Lisa Torres, Supervisor of English & SS – lisa.torres@riverdell.org
Mr. James Cooney, Director of Special Services – james.cooney@riverdell.org
Mr. Mike Tota, Director of Athletics – mike.tota@riverdell.org
Mrs. Erin Kirkby, Director of Student Personnel – erin.kirkby@riverdell.org
Ms. Kristen Comer, Nurse – kristen.comer@riverdell.org
Mrs. Demetra Binder, School Counselor – demetra.binder@riverdell.org
Ms. Marnie Ross, Student Counselor – marnie.ross@riverdell.org