



Rivendell
Academy

2025-2026



Home of the Raptors



Student/Parent-Caregiver Handbook

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RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mission Statement and Design Principles

The Mission of the Rivendell Interstate School District is to foster the intellectual, social and personal development of its students. Our goal is that they will become life-long learners, positive contributors to their communities, and positive healthy adults.

The Design Principles guiding development of Rivendell program are:

- An engaging, team designed curriculum
- Significant and ongoing connections between school and community
- Structures and practices that support teaching and learning
- Clear standards and accountability

Rivendell: An Overview

The Rivendell Interstate School District (RISD or Rivendell) was formed in 1998 by the towns of Fairlee, West Fairlee, and Vershire, Vermont, and Orford, New Hampshire, as a self-contained PreK-12 public school district. It assumed responsibility for the education of children in these towns in July 2000. Rivendell operates one PreK-4 elementary school in West Fairlee, Vermont, one PreK-5 elementary school in Fairlee, Vermont and Rivendell Academy in Orford, New Hampshire, which educates grades 6-12. RISD is a Vermont Supervisory Union using Vermont standards and assessments. The RISD office in Orford, New Hampshire provides superintendent and special education services.

Rivendell Commitment to Non-Discrimination

The Rivendell Interstate School District shall not discriminate in its education programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or handicap under the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1967, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing these laws may contact the Superintendent of Schools.

School District Policy

As required by State Statutes in Vermont and New Hampshire, the Rivendell Interstate School District Board has adopted many policies. Where appropriate, reference has been made to the specific policy. School district policy books are maintained in the Superintendent's office, the Academy office, each school library and on the District website at www.rivendellschool.org.

School District Handbooks

The Rivendell Interstate School District publishes handbooks each year. They cover a variety of rules and procedures which are of interest to students, staff, parents/guardians and community members. A list of those handbooks includes: Student/Parent Handbook for Rivendell Academy (Grades 6-12); Co-Curricular Handbook for Advisors/Coaches; Student/Parent Handbook and Program of Studies for Rivendell Elementary School (Grades K-5); Employee Handbook and Substitute Handbook.

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Academic Program

The Rivendell Academy academic program is described in detail on the [Program of Studies](#) webpage.

Grading Information Procedures

Report Cards – Report cards will be issued three (3) times per academic year.

Interim Reports – Interim reports will be given to Academy students at the mid-point of each trimester. Interim reports for students at risk of failure will be mailed home.

Online Grade Portal – Student grades can also be accessed online by parent/guardian/student via a password protected online grade portal. (Please be aware that the times at which these concurrent grades are posted by individual teachers may vary).

Academic Concern Reports – Academic Concern Notices will be sent home bi-monthly via email or regular mail when deemed necessary by a teacher.

Three-Way Conferences – The school provides parent/student/advisor conference opportunities two times per year. Individual course conferences may be scheduled at any time through the Main Office.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of “Incomplete” may* be given based on extenuating circumstances such as health or family emergencies or a Pre-arranged Absence. All Incomplete grades must be made up within fourteen (14) days after the end of the trimester. In cases where more time is deemed necessary by the teacher, students may be granted additional time. **An Incomplete Grade Form must be completed and submitted to the Counseling Office before the end of the trimester for which the extension is requested.*

Honor Roll

The Honor Roll is intended to reward industrious academic achievement. The Honor Roll shall be maintained in the following manner.

- **High Honors:** The grade point average of all classes shall be between 93 and 100. Grades in all subjects shall be 90 or above. This includes all courses in which a grade is given.
- **Honors:** The grade point average of all classes shall be between 85 and 100. Grades in all subjects shall be 80 or above. This includes all courses in which a grade is given.

Class Advancement/Retention

At the 7/8 level, a student who fails two core courses for the year must attend and successfully complete the Summer Academy to be promoted. Students in grades 9-12 are considered on track as indicated below. If a student is not on track to graduate, permission to move forward with his/her advisory may or may not be granted. A student who is in good standing academically may opt to take a free block in the 2nd and/or 3rd trimester of their senior year. Students will be able to earn up to 7.75 credits per year. The number of credits necessary to graduate is 27.00.

Credit required for class status:

Sophomore	6 Credits earned
Junior	13 Credits earned
Senior	19 Credits earned
To Graduate	26.75 Credits earned

Graduation Ceremony Participation

Seniors who have not met all graduation requirements may participate in graduation exercises and receive a blank diploma if, prior to graduation, they have an approved plan by the administration to complete all requirements by June 30th of the graduation year. International Exchange Students will not receive a diploma but rather a “Certificate of Completion.”

Missed Academic Work

It is the student’s responsibility to contact his/her teachers, via email or in person, to arrange to make up any missed work. Assignments can typically be accessed online through Google Classroom, but instruction comes in partnership with a teacher. An extension of two (2) days for each *excused* absence from class will be granted. Make-up work may include after school sessions, and students/parents/guardians/coaches/advisors should understand that club/sport practice is not an acceptable excuse for failing to attend or complete missed work.

Academic Honesty

All work (tests, papers, projects, and homework) presented by a student for evaluation and credit must be that of the student being evaluated. When the work or ideas of others is included, the sources of such material must be clearly identified. This includes the use of online translators unless explicitly authorized by the teacher. Presenting another person’s work as the student’s own is plagiarism and is not allowed. Those found plagiarizing or cheating will not be given credit for that work. A conference will be held with the student, teacher, and Dean of Students, and parent/guardian will be notified. Further disciplinary actions, up to and including suspension, may be necessary and appropriate as determined by the administration.

Acceptable Use of District Technology

In order to promote safety and the appropriate use of electronic resources, the school must have the signed [“Acceptable Use Agreement”](#) on file.

For more information, please refer to [RISD Policy D3: Responsible Computer, Network and Internet Use](#)

Assemblies

There will be regular school-wide assemblies and class meetings throughout the year, including events featuring special topics or speakers. All students are required to attend assemblies and show respect for performers, speakers, and participants.

Attendance

Compulsory attendance laws require students to attend school. We also feel strongly that attendance in school is preparation for being accountable in life. There is a direct correlation between a student's attendance and maximum achievement. Academic time with classmates and teachers is instrumental to learning. Conversely, sporadic attendance compromises the achievement of the individual. For these reasons, all students are expected to arrive at school on time and attend all classes and activities.

For more information please refer to [RISD Policy C07: Student Attendance](#)

Absences

To Report Absences

- 1) The parent/guardian must call the school no later than 8:15 a.m. and state the reason for the absence. Voice mail is available outside of school hours.
 - Rivendell Academy: 603-353-4321
 - Toll Free Number for Vershire parents: 802-333-9511
- 2) If a parent/guardian has not called to report their student absent by the appointed time, a phone call or email will be placed to the parent/guardian indicating that the student has been recorded absent. This recorded absence will remain "unexcused" until the parent/guardian contacts the school or provides documentation, and the nature of the absence is determined to be excused. (See "Excused Absences" below).
- 3) A phone call or a written note signed by a parent/guardian or physician stating the reason for the absence may clear an unreported/unexcused absence.

EXCUSED absences, tardies or early dismissals:

For an absence, tardy or early dismissal to be excused, a parent or guardian must provide verbal or written communication of the valid cause of absence. Valid causes include:

- Illness or medical appointment,
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Family emergency
- A death in the family
- Other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to parent/guardian about the student's health or safety and are approved by the School Administration.

Please note: Out-of-school suspensions are regarded as excused absences. Students will be afforded two days for each day of an excused absence to complete work/tests. No extra days will be given for unexcused absences.

For more information please refer to [RISD Policy C07: Student Attendance](#)

UNEXCUSED absence, tardies or early dismissals:

An absence, tardy, or early dismissal is considered unexcused if the conditions above remain unmet. Students may be denied the opportunity to receive full credit for work/tests missed due to an unexcused absence, tardy, or early dismissal. Athletic and extracurricular participation will also be restricted (see

Athletics & Extracurricular Activities below). Additionally, an absence from school without parent/guardian knowledge is considered a “skip,” and the student will be referred to administration for disciplinary action. (See “Level II Behaviors”)

Prearranged Absences:

There are times when a student must be absent for two or more days for reasons other than those defined under “Excused Absence.” We do not encourage these absences, but if the absence is planned, school personnel are willing to work with the student and their family so that the student’s achievement is not compromised. Students are allowed a maximum of five (5) days of pre-arranged absences per year and must follow the following procedures.

Procedures for Prearranged Absence

- A Prearranged Absence Form must be completed at least one week before the absence period.
- The student must get assignments from all teachers prior to the absence.
- All missing assignments must be completed and submitted within two school days upon the student’s return or students may lose credit or points for the assignments. Students will not be granted additional time to make up assignments.
- Make-up work may include after school sessions.

Students who have a combined GPA of 2.8 or lower for the year, or are failing any classes, are discouraged from using the prearranged leave of absence. A letter will be sent home and placed in the student’s file, outlining the concerns and potential jeopardy for the student’s academic standing in such an absence.

Attendance Accountability

It is the practice of Rivendell Academy to run an attendance report every five (5) school days. After five (5) days of unexcused absences a letter of attendance warning will be sent to the student/parent/guardian. Additional letters of attendance warning will also be sent for concerns over excessive tardies or excessive excused absences (See “Tardiness” below). This communication may request a meeting with the student/parent/guardian to solve problems and/or introduce disciplinary action such as a detention or schoolwork related in-school suspension. Excessive absences will be reported to the appropriate state authorities.

For more information please refer to [RISD Policy C07: Student Attendance](#) and [Policy C07-P: Student Attendance Procedure](#)

Procedures for Leaving Early or Arriving Late

Leaving Early:

Students needing to be excused should provide a note from their parent/guardian indicating the reason and time for leaving. If appointments are scheduled and the student has no note, the office will call the parent/guardian and confirm the appointment. Students should remain in scheduled classes until contacted by the office that their parent/guardian has arrived to pick them up. **Students who wish to leave because of illness, injury, or a medical emergency must be evaluated by the School Nurse. A call will be made to the parent/guardian and a response plan developed.**

Arriving Late:

Students needing to arrive after the start of the school day must be signed into school by their parent/guardian, unless the parent/guardian has called in advance to report the need for a late arrival, or a note is provided at the time of admission. A “late pass” will be provided to class.

Tardiness

A student who arrives at school after the beginning of the scheduled day (8:00 a.m.) is considered tardy to school, and a student who arrives in a classroom after the beginning of a scheduled period is considered tardy to class. Students who are not riding the school bus are expected to arrive no later than 7:50 a.m., to allow time to get to their classroom location by 8:00 a.m.

Unexcused Tardy to School: We understand that unforeseen circumstances may cause a student to be late to school from time to time, and therefore we will not begin issuing consequences for habitual tardiness until the student has reached four (4) tardies to school in a trimester. After that, each tardy—regardless of the reason--will result in a successive consequence including, but not limited to:

- Parent contact
- Lunch detention
- Restriction or loss of cell phone or driving/parking on campus privileges
- After school detention
- In-school suspension

Unexcused Tardy to Class: Students who are repeatedly late for class will be referred to the Administration for consequences. Any student who has two tardies within a 5-day period will be assigned a lunch detention for each time they are late on and after the third tardy.

Attendance and Athletics/Extracurricular Activities

Attendance and Participation: Students who do not attend school or who are dismissed early from school will not be allowed to participate in athletic practices, games, and other extracurricular events on the day of the absence, and students who arrive at school at or after 10:00 a.m. will be considered absent for this determination---unless an exception is granted by the School administration.* Any gaps in attendance for the day must be excused with a note from a physician or other service provider, and students who were called out sick may not participate in events on the day they were ill. If an absence or early dismissal happens on a Friday, the student is not eligible to participate in such activities during the weekend or until they have attended school for a day.

**Late arrivals or early dismissals due to medical/dental or counseling or required court appointments must be documented in advance or else approved by Administration as stated above.*

Discipline: Athletes and extracurricular club or trip participants are representatives of Rivendell Academy to the greater community and are held to a high standard of conduct. Athletes, club members, or school sponsored trip participants may face additional consequences for behavioral infractions at the discretion of the athletic director, coach, trip leader, teacher, or club leader. Such consequences can include suspension from a game, trip, performance, or even removal from the team, trip, or club. Consequences may be separate, or concurrent, with any consequences imposed by school administration.

Cell Phone Use

See “Personal Electronic Devices” on Pages 21-23.

Community Service

Sixty (60) hours of documented community service work (defined as unpaid work for the benefit and betterment of others) is required to graduate from Rivendell Academy. While middle-level years (grades 7 and 8) do not accrue toward the graduation requirement, students are expected to perform documented community service on the following schedule:

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
10 hours	10 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours

Code of Conduct & Discipline System

Our discipline system is designed to ensure the safety of all, provide a quality learning environment, and encourage students to adhere to their responsibilities as citizens of the school community. Disciplinary action will consider the seriousness of the offense, the frequency of the misbehavior, the student’s attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements.

Essential Behavior Expectations or Code of Conduct for Rivendell Academy

Our basic expectations for all students stem from Rivendell’s commitment to fully developing character, community, and scholarship. Therefore, each person must adhere to Rivendell’s Community Agreements, which are: **Tolerance, Responsibility (to self and others), Trustworthiness, Community, Respect/Common Courtesy**

At all times Students are expected to:

- Respect themselves and others.
- Be an active and contributing member to their community
- Respect and encourage the right to learn and teach
- Be actively engaged in working collaboratively to seek solutions.

We believe mistakes are a natural part of growth and learning, and we expect students to make the appropriate behavior modifications after being given clear expectations and a chance to change their conduct, as a way for them to take personal responsibility for their actions. For these reasons, parents will not be routinely notified of behaviors that fall under level I category, unless the violation of school rules becomes chronic.

Intervention: When a student’s behavior falls outside of the Essential Behavior Expectations, classroom interventions will be used to assist the student in changing his/her behavior to meet expectations. If the student’s behavior is not corrected, the student will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Behavior Plan

To remediate a recurring behavior issue, to provide student safety and well-being, or to provide for an amendment to a school practice or protocol, the Rivendell Academy administration--in partnership with a student support team—may create a behavior plan and/or contract for an individual student. The student and parent/guardian will always be invited to participate in the drafting of a behavior plan and/or contract; however, the contract may still be drafted and enforced without the student/parent/guardian's participation. *

**This behavior plan may be independent of other plans that address students with disabilities.*

Discipline Guidelines

Level I: The student will review expectations and develop a plan for improvement of problem behaviors in partnership with the teacher, counselor, or administrator.

Level I Behaviors: Primary Responsibility – Teacher or Supervising Adult

Student Behaviors <i>(not limited to the following)</i>	Supportive Teacher Behavior	Possible Consequences (Not in order)
Loitering	Provide clear expectations and reminders	In-class time-out
Disruption		Change student's seat
Disengagement		Work completion at an alternative time/place
Tardiness		Restorative Interventions
Name calling	Interact (privacy, eye contact, proximity) to support on-task behavior	Conference and verbal plan
Impulsive behavior		Loss of any privileges, including athletic or extra-curricular participation
Quarreling		Surrender of electronic device or other distracting item
Vulgar language		Parent/guardian notification and involvement
Distracting behavior	Visual cues	Lunch or after school detention
Inappropriate displays of affection	Active listening	Referral to Administration
Inappropriate use of electronic device(s)	Offer choice	
Cutting class	Change or modify task	
Horseplay		
Refusal to follow instructions		
Argumentative or uncooperative behavior		
Instigating and/or encouraging rule breaking		

Level II Behaviors: Primary Responsibility – School Administration

Student Behaviors (not limited to the following)	Teacher Behavior	Possible Consequences
Chronic violation of school or class rules (e.g. Sent daily/several times day to the office.)	Referral to Administrator	Restitution / Restorative Interventions
Serious verbal aggression, harassment, or threat*	Seek help of Crisis	
Inappropriate physical contact or serious physical altercations*	Response Team and other school-wide supports if necessary	Lunch or after school detention
Vandalism*		Home/School coordination and support
Negligent behavior		
Possession or use of illegal substances, drugs, or alcohol*	Provide work for in-school or out-of-school suspensions	Interagency referral and planning
Weapons: possession, threat to use, or actual use*		Loss of privileges, including athletic or extra-curricular participation
Inappropriate electronic device use	Participate in parent conference or re-entry meeting if necessary	
Hiding at school/Leaving school grounds*		Short-term in-school or out-of-school suspension
Cheating, plagiarism, or copying the work of another		
Violating computer use policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student and/or agreements signed by the student's parent/guardian		Consideration for placement in alternative program
Possessing, viewing, or distributing material that is pornographic*		Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan
Sexting*		
Stealing or assisting in a theft*		Mandatory intervention counseling
Making false threats, accusations, or hoaxes*		
Possessing or using matches, a lighter, or any pyrotechnic device*		Long-term suspension
Language or actions that target someone's identity or personal characteristics (racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, bigoted, homophobic, ableist, etc.)		Expulsion
Possessing, smoking or using tobacco products, vaping products, *		
Possessing, using, giving, or selling paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance*		
Pulling a fire alarm*		
Conduct that significantly disrupts school environment or impedes access to education for other students		

*May be reported to Law Enforcement. For more information: [RISD Policy C02: Student Alcohol and Drugs](#)

Physical Aggression

In the event of a serious physical altercation between two or more students, all students involved (including the victims) may be removed from campus, pending an investigation by the Dean of Students. Refusal to leave campus may result in suspension. Incidents that involve “battery” (touching or striking

of another person against his or her will or intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual) or assault will be reported to the authorities in accordance with statute.

Self Defense

Self-defense is defined as the act of a non-aggressor victim using reasonable force to avoid being hit or injured to enable oneself to get free from the attacker and notify school authorities. It is not self-defense to participate in the fight. Students who exceed reasonable force in protecting themselves and disengaging from the altercation will be held accountable for their actions even though another person may have instigated the fight. School leadership will have the discretion to recognize the need for self-defense on an incident-by-incident basis and to determine appropriate consequences, if any.

Suspension

For violations that require immediate referral to a school administrator one of two types of suspension may result. **In-school suspension** will include spending the entire day in a designated area. Any students receiving an in-school suspension will not be allowed to view or to participate in any co-curricular activities that afternoon or evening. **Out-of-school suspension** is used to reinforce to the student and to his/her parent/guardian that the student has caused harm to the community and broken trust, and to provide time and space for the student and community to process. Any student serving an out-of-school suspension is prohibited from participating in any co-curricular activities or being on campus any time during the day(s) or evening(s) of the suspension.

Protocol for the Investigation of a Major (Level II) Discipline Related Incident

Upon receipt of complaint, the dean of students, principal, or their designee will conduct an initial screening to determine the seriousness of the offense.

If further investigation is warranted, all parties, including any witnesses connected with the incident, will be interviewed. The school's surveillance tapes may also be reviewed by the administration.

If the situation remains physically or emotionally volatile, students involved in the incident under investigation may be suspended for a "cooling off" period or until the close of the investigation. Based on what is learned from this investigation, the appropriate consequences will be administered. The parents/guardians of all students involved will be kept informed of this process and its outcome.

The following list of consequences for major, first event student infractions is meant to inform, but is by no means all inclusive.

- 1) **Threat/intimidation in which victim is made to feel unsafe:** Immediate in-school suspension of not less than the remainder of the school day. Possible in-school or out-of-school suspension and/or a report made to the authorities depending on the nature of the threat.
- 2) **Unwanted physical contact which has caused no injury but makes the victim feel unsafe:** Immediate in-school suspension of not less than the remainder of the school day and/or possible subsequent in-school or out-of-school suspension and a report made to the authorities depending on the context of the unwanted physical contact.
- 3) **Unwanted physical contact that causes an injury and makes the victim feel unsafe:** Multi-day out-of-school suspension, report may be made to the authorities, safety screening conducted by a health professional arranged by parent/guardian, re-entry meeting with student, parent/guardian, and school officials for a drafting of a behavior plan.

- 4) **Bullying: Immediate** in-school suspension of not less than the remainder of the school day, and a subsequent in-school or out-of-school suspension and/or a report made to the authorities depending on the nature of the event. Restriction, suspension, or loss of electronic privileges will result if an electronic device was used. A re-entry meeting with student, parent/guardian, and school officials for a drafting of a behavior plan.
- 5) **Harassment:** Immediate in-school suspension of not less than the remainder of the school day, and a subsequent in-school or out-of-school suspension and/or a report made to the authorities depending on the nature of the event. Possible restriction, suspension, or loss of electronic privileges if an electronic device was used. A re-entry meeting with student, parent/guardian, and school officials for a drafting of a behavior plan.
- 6) **Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco:** Single or multi-day out-of-school suspension, report made to the authorities, possible referral to outside health professional, re-entry meeting with student, parent/guardian, and school officials for a drafting of a behavior plan.
- 7) **Weapon possession: Confiscation** of weapon. Immediate out-of-school suspension, the length of which is to be determined by the principal and/or superintendent, possible report made to the authorities, possible expulsion hearing. *(Unintentional weapons possessions, such as forgetting one has a Swiss army knife, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, assuming the weapon was not used and was turned into a teacher or administrator when discovered.)*

For more information, please refer to [RISD Policy C05: Weapons/Firearms Policy](#).

- 8) **Theft:** Possible report made to the authorities. Possible in-school or out-of-school suspension.
- 9) **Sexting:** Possible report made to the authorities. Possible in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Due to Federal privacy law, all school personnel are forbidden to discuss the nature of a school administered consequence with anyone other than the parent/guardian of the student receiving the consequence. A parent/guardian has the right to challenge a school-administered consequence by requesting a hearing (formal meeting) with the principal and/or superintendent.

Hazing, Harassment, and/or Bullying

The Rivendell Interstate School District is committed to providing all of its students with a safe and supportive school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with respect. It is the policy of the District to prohibit the unlawful harassment of students based on race, color, religion, creed, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. Harassment may also constitute a violation of Vermont's Public Accommodations Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and/or Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972.

It is also the policy of the district to prohibit the unlawful hazing and bullying of students. Conduct which constitutes hazing may be subject to civil penalties.

Annually, prior to commencement of curricular and co-curricular activities, the District/School shall provide notice of this policy and procedures to students, custodial parents or guardians of students, and staff members. Notice to students shall be in age-appropriate language and include examples of hazing. At a minimum, this notice shall appear in any publication of the District/School that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct for the school. (e.g., the student handbook)

The District/School shall use its discretion in developing and initiating age-appropriate programs to effectively inform students about the substance of the policy and procedures to help prevent hazing. Each coach or supervisor of a co- or extra-curricular activity shall orally explain to participants the prohibition against hazing, the reasons for the prohibition, and the potential consequences to participants and, in case of a club or an athletic team, to the club or team itself.

This policy applies to all students, District employees, regular school volunteers, coaches, and persons who have contact with pupils in connection with school classes, activities, and programs.

The District shall address all complaints of harassment, hazing and bullying according to the procedures accompanying this policy, and shall take appropriate action against any person - subject to the jurisdiction of the board - who violates this policy. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit punishment of a student for conduct which, although it does not rise to the level of harassment, bullying, or hazing as defined herein, otherwise violates one or more of the board's disciplinary policies or the school's code of conduct.

The model procedures are expressly incorporated by reference as though fully included within this model policy. The model procedures are separated from the policy for ease of use as may be required.

For complete policy and procedure information: [RISD Policy C10 \(Hazing, Harassment, & Bullying POLICY\)](#) and [RISD Policy C10-P \(Hazing, Harassment, & PROCEDURE\)](#)

IMPORTANT: The term "bullying" is specific and serious

Not all unkind behavior or conflict is considered bullying. Bullying typically involves a power differential (such as with age, physical size, social standing, protected status, group size, etc.) and usually includes elements of intimidation through deliberate, pre-meditated actions, and targeting. Bullying and

harassment are serious offenses that may even result in law enforcement involvement. The following may help you tell the difference:

- Excluding someone isn't bullying, (but repeated and deliberate exclusion can rise to the level of bullying.)
- Disliking someone, and saying it, isn't bullying if the person does not become verbally abusive
- Gossip is not bullying
- Accidents are not bullying
- Non-deliberate harm isn't bullying
- Being "bossy" is not bullying
- An argument or disagreement about an issue is not bullying
- Interpersonal conflicts or disputes are not bullying
- Rude words or actions are not bullying (but repeated and deliberate rudeness *can* rise to the level of bullying.)

Here's are links to resource with more information: <https://compassionit.com>

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/classroom-conversations/every-conflict-isnt-bullying>

Weapons

The following are considered weapons:

- any device which will, or which may be readily converted to expel, a projectile by the action of chemical, kinetic, or mechanical energy;
- any firearm muffler or firearm silencer;
- any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas:
- bomb
- grenade
- rocket having a propellant charge
- missile having an explosive or incendiary charge
- mine, or similar device
- any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device described above and from which such a destructive device may be readily assembled.

In addition, a weapon shall also mean anything that, in the opinion of the RISD Administration or School Board, could be or is used to harm another person. These "weapons" include but are not limited to:

- razor blades, straight razors, or knives
- those devices commonly known as: "brass knuckles", "Billy clubs", and other devices used to strike someone
- crossbows, bow and arrow, and live ammunition
- according to the policy any antique firearm as well as other rifles and weapons used solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes are also considered weapons and are not allowed on school property (see exemptions below)
- chemicals, gases, and other substances

For more information, please refer to [RISD Policy C05: Weapons/Firearms Policy](#).

Threat of Violence or Destruction

In order to maintain a safe environment for its students, employees, and others who use school buildings, grounds and facilities, and in order to maintain all school buildings, grounds and other facilities in a safe and usable condition, the Rivendell Interstate School District will treat any verbal or written threat or threatening action by a student directed against school personnel and/or against another student(s), and/or against the school property, and/or people using school property, as a serious offense.

Examples:

In addition to verbal threats of violence spoken or written by a student against another student(s), school personnel, or school property, the following are examples of actions that also are prohibited by this policy:

- Bringing onto school property or possessing on school property a dangerous instrument, substance or other device capable of injuring people or damaging property (see above: weapons).
- Making a bomb threat, or other threat to destroy school property.
- Attempted or threatened physical assault directed by a student or staff member, at a student, staff member, or other people using buildings, facilities, or grounds.
- Pulling of a false fire alarm.

Work Refusal

If a student refuses to do schoolwork or to participate in school activities the student will be sent to the office, and we will follow our usual procedure of completing a Broken Agreement form and speaking with the student. If the student refuses more than once in a day or twice in a week (in any class) the student will be sent home immediately for the rest of the day or for the following day if the second refusal happens in the afternoon. If we see a pattern developing, we will hold a meeting with teachers, student, and caregivers to determine what the underlying issues might be and develop an intervention that can address those issues.

Dances

Scheduling: A Dance/Activities Night Application must also be completed and presented to the office at least two (2) weeks prior to the event date, and the dean of students must approve the time and date of a dance.

Chaperones: The advisor of each group sponsoring a dance is responsible for providing chaperones for that event. Three teachers must serve as chaperones with at least two additional adults. At least one teacher will be present while any students are in the building, during or after a dance.

Attendance & Expectations: All school rules apply during school dances. Anyone who, in the judgment of the chaperones, displays unacceptable behavior will be asked to leave. Their money will not be refunded, and parents/guardians will be notified. Additionally, there are no in and out privileges. Students who exit the dance without permission and try to re-enter will be sent home. If a student appears to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, parents and law enforcement will be notified, and disciplinary action may follow (See Level II Behaviors). Students are expected to leave within thirty minutes of the end time.

Guests: The Dean of Students must approve guests (see “Visitors to School”) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled dance.

Dress Code

Attire that protects the health and safety of each student is important at Rivendell Academy. Students should come to school dressed for interaction with peers, adults and the public at large. A good rule of thumb would be attire, though casual, that one would wear at a place of employment or other venues where formal interaction with the public takes place.

Rules:

- 1) Students will wear clothing, including both a top and a bottom, or the equivalent (for example, dresses, tunics, leggings, or shorts) and shoes. Fabric covering private areas must be opaque and must provide for sanitary contact with furniture.
- 2) Clothing with lettering or graphics (as determined by staff) that contains references to alcoholic beverages, drugs, tobacco, vaping, vulgarity, racism, hate speech, sexual innuendo or that has explicit sexual or violent content is prohibited.
- 3) Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, makerspace/wood shop, and other activities where unique hazards exist. Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.
- 4) Hats and other headwear must allow the face to be visible to staff, and not interfere with classroom instruction or the line of sight of any student or staff. Hoodies will allow the face to be visible to school staff.
 - a. *Face wear which protects the wearer medically, such as facemasks, is allowed.*

Responses to Dress Code violations:

Students whose attire is a cause of concern due to the above mentioned “rule of thumb,” or rules 1-4, will be referred to the school counselor or administration for discussion and/or problem solving.

Driving and Parking

All students who drive to school must be fully aware of their responsibilities in the operation of vehicles on the school grounds. Student drivers must abide by the guidelines established for the safety of themselves and others.

Rules of Behavior

- Once a student drives on campus, he/she must park in a designated parking lot, which is on the upper-level entrance of the East Wing of Rivendell Academy.
- Parking in handicapped spaces may result in a traffic ticket.
- No parking in “visitor” spaces.
- The speed limit on campus is 10 mph. Students must drive responsibly, observing all traffic regulations. “Peeling out” or driving on the grass is prohibited.
- Students are not to sit in or “hang out” by their cars while the cars are parked in the school parking lot, before or after school. Students are not to visit their cars during the school day without permission.

- Students who wish to drive to and from River Bend must complete the appropriate paperwork, sign in/out as appropriate and are expected to attend all Rivendell classes.
- Unsafe operation of a vehicle may be reported to the authorities.
- Students must check in and out at the main office before leaving the building.

Consequences:

First Offense: A written warning will be issued.

Second Offense: There will be a two-week suspension of driving privileges.

Third Offense: Driving privileges will be suspended for the remainder of the school year.

For any serious safety violation, immediate revocation of privileges may result. The Administration will determine the seriousness of the violation. If a student brings his/her vehicle on campus during the period of suspension, the Orford Police Department will be notified, and the vehicle will be towed at the cost of the student.

Eighteenth Birthday

Once a student turns 18, he/she may, with the written permission of his/her parents/guardians, sign absence, tardy and excused notes, sign permission slips or other documents. Parents/guardians will continue to receive any communication that is sent to parents/guardians unless the student shows that he or she is not a dependent student as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Eighteen-year-old students are subject to all school policies, rules and standards.

Elevator Use

An elevator is available for those people requiring assistance moving between floors in the east wing building. Students without mobility concerns are not permitted to use the elevator without permission from a staff member.

Emergency Closing/Snow Days

- If school will be closed or delayed, or in case of an emergency, announcements and updates will be made via the School Reach system.
- In the event of a school closing or delay, announcements will be made on local radio stations WHDQ (106.1 FM), WTSV (1230 AM), WNHV (910 AM), WTSL (1400 AM), WGXL (92.3 FM), WXXK (100.5 FM), WYKR (101.3 FM), WLTV (96.7 FM), and WDEV Radio Vermont, television stations WCAX, WMUR, WPTZ, local FOX and local ABC, and posted on the website as soon as possible.
- If school needs to close at an unscheduled time (such as early in the day), students will follow parental instructions concerning an emergency dismissal as indicated on the Emergency Dismissal sheet filled out at the beginning of the year.
- Since children must attend 180 days of school according to State law, we will be required to make up any missed days, typically at the end of the year.

Entering and Exiting the Building

Bus Drop Off/Pick Up

- Buses will drop off and pick up students at the front door of the West Wing.
- In the morning, all students will enter the building and proceed to the Cafe using the “connector.”
- In the afternoon, all students who ride buses will exit the building through the same door that they use to enter the building.

Car Drop Off/Pick Up

- Parents of Academy students will drop off/pick up students at the front door of the East Wing (Main Office entrance).
- Before school begins, students will proceed to the Cafe.
- If a student arrives late for school, he/she must sign in at the Academy office and get a late pass. Students will not be admitted to class without a pass.

Facility Use

The Rivendell Interstate School District encourages use of the school facilities by the community for educational, recreational, civic and cultural activities, in ways that complement regular school activities. School activities take precedence over all other uses of the facilities. Use of the facilities must be requested through application to the Head of Schools at least five (5) days prior to the intended use. Contact the Executive Assistant or see the [website for an application](#).

Food and Drink

Food and drinks may be consumed in the classroom at the discretion of the classroom teacher. The classroom teacher may revoke these privileges at any time.

Hall Lockers & Locks

- Upon request, a school locker and lock may be issued for each student for use during the school year which remain the property of Rivendell.
- No one is to change his or her locker assignment without prior permission from the Administration.
- Students have the sole responsibility for keeping their locker locked and secure. Each student is responsible for keeping his or her locker neat and in working order. Damaging or defacing lockers in any way is considered vandalism, and the student will be held financially accountable for any damage.
- To keep a school locker private and secure, students are advised not to share combinations with anyone. The school assumes no liability for items lost or taken from a student’s locker.
- Students are responsible for any items found in their lockers even if they belong to someone else (e.g. vapes, alcohol, etc.)

- School personnel reserve the right to open lockers for cleaning, maintenance, or emergencies. Lockers will be searched if there is reasonable suspicion that a breach of school policy or law is being committed.
- Hallway locks are not to be used in the Locker Rooms.
- Any personal locks may be removed, by code or by force, by the administration.
- Lockers must be emptied by the last day of school each year.

Interscholastic Sports/Co-Curricular Activities Eligibility

Includes Athletics, Drama, Chorus, etc. See the separate Student Athlete Handbook and the Vermont Principals Association High School Policies for Athletics for additional guidelines regarding participation in the athletics program.

At Rivendell Academy, students in good academic and conduct standing are given the opportunity to participate in many activities beyond the academic program. Our expectation is that the skills, goals, and objectives of the academic program remain most important and those of the co-curricular activity are complementary.

The interscholastic sport/extra-curricular activity eligibility criteria are as follows:

Students need to pass four (4) course units[^] during the school's previous grading period to be eligible to join a co-curricular team or organization, and must not have more than one grade below 70 while participating. After the first two weeks of a term, grades will be checked weekly by Administration, coaches, and advisors to determine continued eligibility. ***See below for specifics re: Athletics and Co-Curricular participation.***

A student with two or more failing trimester grades in a school year will not be permitted to participate in an interscholastic sport/extracurricular activity the following school year until one of the two following conditions is met:

- The student who has had one or more failing trimester grades in a multiple trimester class passes the course for the year. In this case, the failing trimester grades do not count against his or her eligibility for the following year; or
- The student completes an outside summer school program* or an approved Rivendell program to clear all failed classes, or;

A student who is absent, suspended, or who cuts class on the day of an activity will be denied participation in that activity that day/evening. Students serving a suspension on the last day of a week will not be eligible for weekend participation.

[^]Technical programs are considered 3 units, RA courses are each 1 unit

*Please be advised that the parent/guardian/student may need to seek out and pay for summer courses if those summer courses cannot be offered by Rivendell Academy.

Eligibility Specific to Athletics

To remain eligible for full participation in athletics, no student-athlete may have more than one grade below 70 for more than two consecutive weeks without academic intervention and improvement.

At the weekly grade check, if a student-athlete has >1 failing grade, they will be placed on academic probation for two weeks and recommended to Homework Help or peer tutoring. Parent-caregivers will be notified.

If, after the initial two-week probation the student-athlete continues to have >1 failing grade, they will be allowed to practice but not play in games/matches until their grades meet the standard.

A student-athlete may be removed from the team roster after the first probationary period if they have not shown a commitment to improvement by seeking help and using available academic support (e.g., Period 4, Homework Help, peer tutoring).

The Rivendell Academy administration and athletic director may also deem a student ineligible due to poor attendance or behavioral issues. Raptor athletes represent their school community and are thereby expected to do so with honor and courtesy.

Eligibility Specific to Co-Curriculars

Students may continue to participate in theater even if ineligible to participate in other activities if theater activities are part of an academic course. Students may also continue to participate in intra school clubs, such as the environmental club, chess club, peer leadership, DREAM, Lion's Club etc., that meet during the school day (block 4, lunch), even if they would otherwise be ineligible to participate in other activities.

Laser Pointers (and other prohibited items)

Students may not possess laser pointers, on school grounds or at school events. The Administration reserves the right to add items to this section as needed to maintain the safety and orderly operation of the School.

Loitering

If a student does not have class or is not involved in co-curricular activities, he/she must be in an approved assigned space or off campus.

Medication

- All medication, including over-the-counter items, must be administered through the Health Office with an appropriate form filled out giving permission to administer the medication during the school day. This form can be secured from the school nurse.
- Medication must be brought to school in a container labeled by the pharmacy and given to the school nurse for secure storage.
- Students who feel ill should report to the nurse's office for an assessment. If the nurse is unavailable, students are to report to the Academy Office. Non-prescription medication may be given if prior written approval is given by the parent/guardian. The nurse will contact parent/guardian if deemed necessary.
- Students who need to carry inhalers must comply with the same rules regarding medications.

Personal Electronic Devices (including Cell Phones)

Definition: Personal electronic devices are devices that are owned by the students to include laptops, cell phones, Bluetooth ear buds, smart watches, tablets, iPods, gaming devices, etc.

RISD provides electronic devices needed for learning, and thus the possession and use of personal electronic devices at school—including cell phones—is a privilege, not a right.* Students may be banned from bringing such devices to school if they are found to be in violation of school policy, classroom rules, or community agreements, and permission to access the school computer network may be revoked at any time due to violation of school policy or rules.

**Medical devices constitute an exception to this policy, or as determined by the Administration for specific educational or emergency needs.*

Use of Personally Owned Electronic Devices:

Personally owned **laptop devices** may be used by students in accordance with the School’s Acceptable Use Policy regarding technology.

RE: All other personal electronic devices:

August through December 2025: The handling and use of cell phones and all other personal electronic devices is prohibited during all learning and community periods during the school day, to include bathroom breaks during those periods. This applies to:

- Classes
- Study halls or assisted study periods
- Advisory and community meetings
- Assemblies
- Performances

Any staff member may request a student to surrender a personal electronic device at any time to a classroom- or office-based storage location. Once this request is made, students are expected to comply. Failure to do so will result in office referral and confiscation for the remainder of the day at minimum. Repeated failures to comply will result in progressive restriction consequences.

Photographing, filming, audio recording, and/or electronically posting of any Academy student or staff member, without their express consent, is prohibited. Students wishing to film or record events or activities must have permission from a teacher or administrator, and of those participating in the activity

For more information: [RISD Policy D3: Responsible Computer, Network, and Internet Use](#)

Effective January 1, 2026: Beginning on January 5, 2026, cell phone use will be prohibited “bell-to-bell,” during the entirety of school hours. This policy applies to all students and visitors within school buildings, on school grounds, and at school-related events during the school day.

Upon arrival at school or the beginning of the first daily period, phones will be silenced or turned off, and stored securely in a designated location, TBD, until dismissal.

Employees may use cell phones only when not in the presence of students and during nonacademic and teaching time.

Consequences of Misuse:

Students who refuse to comply with any one of the protocols listed above will be referred to the office for confiscation and storage of the device for the remainder of the day (minimum). Failure to surrender a device will be considered insubordination, and the student will be sent home unless a parent retrieves and removes the device from school.

The use of Personal Electronic Devices to harass or bully another student on or off school campus will constitute a **Major Misuse** and will lead to a loss of the privilege to have the device on campus, along with additional consequences per policy.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the main office to communicate with their children, rather than relying on cell phones.

For more information: [RISD Policy D3: Responsible Computer, Network, and Internet Use](#)

School Issued Devices and Networks

The Rivendell Interstate School district may provide a laptop for students to use for educational purposes at school and at home. The laptops remain the property of the district. A student should consider the use of technology a privilege that must be earned and kept. We expect that students will care for their device, keep it secure, and keep it in working order. The district reserves the right to revoke access privileges and administer appropriate disciplinary action for misuse of its technology resources.

We expect that students will:

- 1) Use appropriate language in all communications refraining from use of profanity, obscenity and offensive or inflammatory speech.
- 2) Refrain from cyber-bullying and harassment including personal attacks, or threats.
- 3) Understand that users have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, receive, or display over the District's computers or network resources including personal files and electronic communications.
- 4) Bring the laptop computer to school fully charged every day.
- 5) Respect the Internet filtering and security measures on the device and the network.
- 6) Back up important data files regularly.
- 7) Use technology only for school-related purposes during the instructional day.
- 8) Follow copyright laws and fair use guidelines and download or import only music, video or other content that students are authorized and legally permitted to reproduce or use for school related work.
- 9) Make available for inspection by an administrator or teacher the computer, files stored on the computer, and any messages or files sent or received to or from any Internet location using district technology. Files stored and information accessed, downloaded or transferred on district-owned technology are not private insofar as they may be viewed, monitored, or archived by the district at any time.
- 10) Transport the computer turned off or in sleep mode with the screen closed and in their protective case.

- 11) Secure the device when it is unattended.
- 12) Report theft, loss, damage, or malfunctioning of the device to a school official immediately.
- 13) Return the laptop, charger, carrying case, and any other accessories at the end of each school year and upon transferring out of school.

Students will not:

- 1) Mark or deface the device.
- 2) Reveal or post identifying personal information, files or communications to unknown persons through social media, email, or other means through the internet.
- 3) Attempt to override, bypass or otherwise change the Internet filtering software, device settings or network configurations.
- 4) Attempt access to networks and other technologies beyond their authorized access.
- 5) Use another person's account and/or password.
- 6) Share passwords or attempt to discover passwords.
- 7) Download and/or install any programs, files or games from the internet or other sources onto any district-owned technology. This includes the intentional introduction of computer viruses and other malicious software.
- 8) Attempt to locate, view, share or store any materials that are unacceptable in a school setting. This includes but is not limited to obscene, pornographic, threatening, harassing, discriminatory, bullying, terroristic, graphically violent or vulgar images, sounds, music, language, video or other materials. The criterion for acceptability is demonstrated in the types of material made available to students by administrators, teachers and the school media center.

Students who violate these terms may lose the privilege of using a school-issued laptop, lose internet privileges, receive fines to cover the cost of damages, and/or other disciplinary consequences.

Public Displays of Affection

Students are expected to act in a respectful and appropriate manner. This means that excessive physical affection is not to be demonstrated while at school or at school-sponsored activities. Public displays of affection (kissing, extended hugging or sitting on each other's laps) may be embarrassing to observers, including other students, faculty and staff, chaperones, and school visitors. Students will be given a verbal reminder for a first offense. A subsequent violation will result in the students entering the disciplinary process.

Redress of Interpersonal Grievances

Rivendell Academy places great importance on student self-advocacy. We encourage students to communicate with people, peers or school staff, with whom they are experiencing small problems or concerns and seek advice from his or her advisor, the counselor or another trusted adult in the building. *

If this attempt fails, the student should report the issue to either a school counselor, the dean of students, or the principal. Likewise, a parent/guardian who encounters a problem with a member of the staff should make the problem known to the individual(s) involved, to resolve it interpersonally.

If this attempt fails, the parent/guardian should report the issue to either a school counselor, the dean of students, or the principal. If the parent/guardian is still dissatisfied after employing the process above, he/she should then make an appeal to the superintendent.

**In cases of bullying/harassment where the student does not feel safe, they should forego contact with the individual(s) troubling them and speak directly with a staff member.*

School Choice

- 1) Applications for transfer are due to the current school district by February 14.
- 2) Applications from current school to receiving school by March 1.
- 3) Notification of acceptance takes place by April 1.
- 4) Student must accept transfer by April 15.

Search and Seizure

- 1) Desks, lockers, textbooks, email, files on computers, and other materials or supplies loaned by the school to students remain the property of the school and may be opened by school employees for cleaning, maintenance or emergencies. When prohibited items are found during routine cleaning or maintenance, or in an emergency, they will be confiscated, and a report will be made to the school administrator who will determine if further investigation is warranted.
- 2) School property may also be searched by school employees upon reasonable suspicion on the part of the school administrator or superintendent that a law or school policy has been violated.
- 3) Searches of students' persons, possessions, or vehicles will be conducted if there is reasonable cause to believe that a breach of school policy or law is being committed. The superintendent and school administration will make every effort, when possible, to ensure the search is conducted in the presence of another school employee.
- 4) School employees are not law enforcement officials. Search and/or seizure by law enforcement officials on school property may occur when a warrant or other legal basis exists authorizing such search and/or seizure, and when the requirements of the Board's policy on interrogations by law enforcement officers have been complied with.

Senior Privileges

Seniors may be afforded the privilege of leaving campus during lunch or periods free of class after the first week of the school year provided that the following conditions are met and maintained:

- Are in good standing academically and behaviorally. (To be able to leave during lunch and a free period student must be earning a grade of 70% or higher in all classes. To be able to leave during academic support a grade of 74% or higher in all classes must be maintained).
- Attend advisory and school assembly
- Have 45 hours of documented community service hours on file in the office
- Completed all required paperwork including medical and internet use forms
- Written parental permission for privileges during lunch and/or during a free block.

Senior privileges will be reevaluated, given the above criteria, every academic marking period. Seniors who leave school grounds at any time during the day must sign out in the office. Upon returning to campus, they must sign in at the office.

Revocation of senior privileges for academic, attendance and/or disciplinary reasons may occur at any time at the dean of students' discretion.

For the third trimester only, a **final exam** is not required for any class, (whether a single or multiple trimester class) wherein a senior has a 90% or higher grade.

Participation in **the senior class trip** is considered a senior privilege. Students must be in good academic standing (meaning on track to graduate and passing all classes at the time of the trip). If there are behavioral or discipline concerns, the senior advisors will meet with the dean of students to determine eligibility.

Student Fees, Fines, and Charges

Each student, and ultimately their parents/guardians, is responsible for all books, computers, uniforms, and any other material or equipment loaned to them. Charges will be assessed for any item that is damaged or not returned.

Student Records

Parents/guardians & students 18 years of age have the following rights under FERPA:

- The right to inspect and review the student's educational record.
- The right to exercise limited control over other people's access to the student's educational record.
- The right to seek to correct the student's record, in a hearing, if necessary.
- The right to report violations of FERPA to the U.S. Dept. of Education.
- The right to be informed about FERPA rights and procedures.

Release of Student Information

Disclosure of student information will be made only with the written consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student subject to the following exceptions:

Directory Information

The following information is designated as "directory information." The school will release directory information without prior written consent unless the parent/guardian or eligible student informs the principal in writing that any or all of the information designated below should not be released without prior consent.

- Student name, address, date of birth, dates of enrollment;
- Parent or legal custodian name and address;
- Student grade level classification;
- Student participation in recognized school activities and sports;
- Weight and height of member of athletic teams;
- Student diplomas, certificates, awards and honors received.

For more information, please see RISD Policy C01-P: FERPA Student Records Procedures

Title I – Parents Right to Know

The Rivendell Interstate School District is required to inform parents of students attending Title I schools that they can request certain information, according to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107 -110).

Upon request, Rivendell Academy is required to provide parents/guardians, in a timely manner, the following information:

- Whether their child’s teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria has been waived.
- What baccalaureate/degree/major the teacher has, and any other graduate certification or degree major held by the teacher and the field of discipline of the certification.

In addition to the information that parents may request, Rivendell Academy must provide to each parent/guardian:

- Information on the achievement level of their child in the state academic assessments as required.
- Timely notice that their child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who is not highly qualified.
- Notification if their child’s school has been identified for school improvement, and options available for their child.
- A Complaint Resolution Procedure annually.
- Notification to parents of the option to transfer their student if student is enrolled in an identified persistently dangerous school, or student has been the victim of a criminal offense while on school property to a school not identified.

For more information about Title I parental notification requirements, please contact:

Rivendell Interstate School District
Federal Programs/TITLE I
10 School Drive
Orford, NH 03777
603-353-2170

Transportation

School Bus Rider Responsibilities

- 1) The use of profanity, vulgar, obscene, or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- 2) Fighting, shoving, or bullying others on the bus, or while waiting for the bus is prohibited. Please report any incidents immediately.
- 3) Throwing anything on the bus is prohibited.
- 4) Talking should be carried on in conversational tones.
- 5) Smoking, vaping, or other use of tobacco, or alcohol, or other substances, is prohibited on the bus at all times.

- 6) Students must obey immediately any request or suggestion from the bus driver pertaining to safe pupil transportation.
- 7) Defacement of or destruction to the bus is prohibited. Any vandalism of the bus or bus seats will be billed to the person responsible for the damage.
- 8) Aisles are to be left free of books, lunch boxes, coats, and other objects at all times. Students should sit in their seats, and not put their arms, legs, etc., into the aisles, except when inadequate space makes this impossible.
- 9) Students must remain seated until their stop; arms and heads, etc., must be inside the bus at all times.
- 10) Students must be ready to board the bus at least five minutes prior to its scheduled stop. Drivers do not to wait for pupils who are late. Pupils should not crowd onto the street or road when waiting for the bus; instead, they should line up and enter the bus in an orderly fashion when it arrives.
- 11) Students must board the bus in an orderly and courteous manner and go immediately to their assigned seat.
- 12) Students loading and departing from the bus will do so from the front door of the bus. If the road must be crossed, students will cross at least 10 feet in FRONT of the bus, and use caution, even though the flashing lights are on.
- 13) All school rules are in effect on the school bus for transportation to and from school or any school event. Riders and drivers will treat others with courtesy and respect. The bus is an extension of the classroom.
- 14) Any student wishing to get off at a spot other than their designated stop, must have a signed note from a parent/guardian, and "sign-off" from the office. The bus will only stop at designated stops.
- 15) Drivers have the authority to assign students to specific seats.
- 16) No eating or drinking on the bus without permission from the bus driver.

School Bus Discipline Procedures

Discipline will be handled according to the following procedures:

- For unacceptable behavior in the judgment of the driver, the driver will complete a Bus Conduct Report form, which notifies the site administrator of the problem.
- The site administrator will speak to the student(s) and, if appropriate, speak to or send a letter home to the parents. The site administrator will advise the bus contractor of action taken on each conduct report submitted by drivers.
- A serious offense, or behavior which creates a safety hazard, may result in a suspension of up to two weeks, at the discretion of the site administrator. The driver may insist on a suspension for a student whose behavior creates a safety hazard.
- Unusually serious offenses may result in permanent suspension from the bus. If this action becomes necessary, the site administrator will notify the parent/guardian and the Superintendent in writing. The actual suspension will be made by the Superintendent, with the right of appeal to the School Board.
- If a student is suspended from the bus as a consequence of a bus conduct report, or of reported poor behavior on the bus, the punishment will take effect the following morning. However, if at

the discretion of the school administration the safety of other children is in question, the student may be suspended from the bus immediately. In that case, an attempt will be made to contact parent/guardian to make other transportation arrangements for the suspended student. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to arrange for their student's transportation to and from school.

For more information, please refer to [RISD Policy C03: Transportation](#); and [Policy C03-P Transportation Procedures](#)

River Bend Career and Technical Center Bus

- Students going to River Bend for morning classes should leave the cafeteria at 7:55 a.m. and proceed to the bus area to meet the bus that leaves at 8:00 a.m.
- Students going to River Bend for afternoon classes should leave class at 10:15 a.m. and proceed to the bus area to meet the bus that leaves at 10:20 a.m.
- On the days that there are no River Bend classes, River Bend students will be assigned to the library.

Vandalism/Negligent Behavior

Vandalism is defined as the deliberate or malicious destruction of school property. A student's behavior will be considered negligent, not vandalism, if school property is destroyed as the result of horseplay and not a deliberate act of the student. In the case of vandalism, the police may be notified, the student may be required to pay for the damage, and a suspension from school may result. For negligent behavior, the student may be required to pay for the damage done to the school and may be suspended or be required to complete community service.

Visitors to School

All visitors should report to the Main Office immediately after arriving on campus during regular school hours. Visitors who remain on campus will be issued a guest pass. We expect students to be courteous toward people who come to campus and need help in finding the Main Office or other rooms.

Students who wish to bring a guest to School or to a school event (i.e. dance, activity night, etc.) must obtain a Student Guest Permission form from the office. All invited guests must be under 18 and enrolled in an academic environment. The Student Guest Permission form must be received in the office at least two days before the visit. The Administration will grant permission for visits at his/her discretion.

Remote Learning Expectations

In the event remote learning becomes necessary

- Attendance is mandatory for all Zoom classes and advisory. Teachers will record and submit attendance for all classes. An adult must report a student ill with a call to the office in the morning.
- All teachers will use Google Classroom to organize class materials, receive student work, and provide feedback.
- Students need to be prepared to participate daily in remote classes according to the school and class schedule.
- By Sunday night or first thing Monday morning each week teachers will provide students with a schedule of weekly assignments, due dates, zoom calls, office hours, information about how to get additional help, etc. Assignments, materials, zoom meeting links, and the weekly assignment schedule will be posted in Google Classroom.

- Regular teacher office hours will be scheduled twice each week so that students can get additional help in classes.
- Special safe, supervised spaces will be made available for students facing technological difficulties at home.
- Special education teachers and Learning Coaches will continue to follow IEP's. Counselors will be able to schedule individual zoom meetings with students.

Behavioral Expectations for All Students

- Students are responsible for any school equipment that has been loaned to them, and they are responsible for any damage or misuse of that equipment.
- Students will not share log-in information for their device, Google Classroom, email, Zoom meetings, etc. They are responsible for any misconduct occurring through Zoom accounts, even if they claim that another person did it as a result of password sharing.
- Students will not record meetings (Zoom, Google hangout, etc.) without the written permission of all those present and their guardians.
- Students will not access pornographic/adult material or graphically violent material through their school issued device.
- Students are not to use their school issued device for social media. Any social media activity that violates school rules (harassment, bullying, etc.) that occurs from using school devices is subject to school discipline. Any serious bullying or harassment issues during school hours should be reported to the school.

Student expectations in a remote or hybrid learning environment.

- You need to appropriately cite your work if using online or other sources. Failure to do so is considered plagiarism and subject to school discipline policies.
- You may not access online resources, or outside resources, during tests or quizzes, unless this permission is granted by the teacher administering that particular test or quiz. Violations of this policy are subject to school discipline policies.
- Your work is expected to be your own work. You **MAY NOT COLLABORATE** with other students unless the assignment or test instructions explicitly state that you may do so. Without such instructions you should assume that you **CANNOT** collaborate with other students. You may ask for written permission from your teacher if you wish to collaborate on an assignment. Violations of this policy are subject to school discipline policies.
- During Zoom classes you are expected to follow the dress code policy found in the student handbook. Appropriate dress is important when participating in Zoom or other videoconferencing sessions with teachers and classmates.

Specific Expectations for Zoom/Videoconferencing

- Do not share access codes to Zoom meetings. You are responsible for any misconduct by others that occurs due to you sharing such codes.
- Please be mindful of the background images that can be seen by your classmates and teachers during Zoom or other videoconferencing sessions. Graphic material, such as 'pin up' posters, or similar, must not be visible to other students. A quiet place with a non-distracting background is best. Lounging in bed, for example, while participating in a Zoom meeting is not "professional" or acceptable.
- During Zoom or other videoconferencing sessions, turning on your camera is expected. Please be prepared to do that. It isn't always easy, given our individual circumstances. It really helps us build our community during a particularly challenging time of learning.
- If your internet does not support Zoom or other videoconferencing platforms, you are expected to call into the Zoom meeting using your telephone with the access codes provided in the posted Zoom invitation link. You must be identified in a Zoom meeting with your name (or a parent/sibling name if you need to use their device) If a random name or phone number appears in a Zoom waiting room, the teacher will not admit you to

the class. You can text/email a teacher ahead of time to let them know the phone number you will be zooming in on. Teachers will provide, in Google Classroom, any documents/images that will be screen shared in a Zoom class so that you can access them.

RIVENDELL ACADEMY ADMINISTRATION

Patricia Rella -----Principal
Joy Michelson Clancy ----- Dean of Students

RIVENDELL ACADEMY FACULTY & STAFF

Greg Allen-----Maintenance
Brandy Allen -----Paraeducator
Gloria Blais ----- World Language Teacher
Bonnie Blake ----- Instrumental Music Teacher
Christina Bolles ----- Special Education Teacher
Jennifer Bottum ----- Librarian
Kerry Browne ----- Digital Leader
Delilah Burns ----- Special Education Teacher
Michelle Carlson -----Language Arts Teacher
Rex Carr-----Special Education Teacher
Cole Cleek-----Paraeducator
Dwight Dansereau ----- Paraeducator
Allie Dennis----- School Counselor (Grades 6-8)
Joy Jean Dyke ----- Assistant Cook
Jeffrey Eckert-----School Counselor (Grades 9-12)
Dustin Fillian -----Custodian
Gregory Frye -----Math Teacher
Wendy Fogg-McIntire ----- Paraeducator
Jason Goodwin -----Custodian
Erin Hancock-----Math Teacher

David Hibler ----- Sixth Grade Teacher

Cheryl Howe----- Paraeducator

Samantha Lester ----- Paraeducator

Shoshanna Lieberman-----Theater and Music Teacher

Thomas Marshall----- Athletic Director

Rachel McConnell -----Mathematics Teacher

Creigh Moffatt ----- School Nurse

Michelle Oakes -----Executive Assistant

Caitlin Olson----- Paraeducator

Carol Perkins ----- Food Service Manager/Head Cook

Tammy Piper-----Special Education Teacher

Linda Reeves Potter----- Art Teacher

Eric Reichert ----- Language Arts Teacher

Paul Ronci ----- Language Arts Teacher

Rachel Sanders ----- Science Teacher

Deidre Scanlan----- Literacy Specialist

Dalton Smith-----Social Studies Teacher

Carol Sobetzer ----- Upper House Electives/Social Studies Teacher

Chad Steen-----PE / Health Teacher

Kirsten Surprenant ----- Social Studies Teacher

Bruce Taylor, Jr. ----- Maintenance

Laura Taylor ----- Special Education Teacher

Matthew Thacker ----- Science Teacher

Josiah Weeks -----Science Teacher

Kathy Wohlfort-----Secretary

RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

JULY				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

July Summer Recess

AUGUST				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

18 No School/New Teacher Inservice
18-22 No School/RISD Inservice
25 First Day of School
29 No School

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

1 No School/Labor Day Recess

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

10 No School/Teacher Inservice
13 Indigenous Peoples' Day

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

7 Half Day/Conferences
11 No School/Veteran's Day
26-28 No School/Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

22-31 No School/December Recess

JANUARY				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

1-2 No School/New Year's Holiday
16 No School/Teacher Inservice
19 No School/Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

23-27 No School/Winter Recess

MARCH				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

13 Half Day/Conferences

APRIL				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

20-24 No School/Spring Recess

MAY				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

25 No School/Memorial Day

JUNE				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

6 Graduation
15 Anticipated Last Student Day
16-17 No School/Teacher Inservice

Student Days/Months	
4	August
21	September
21	October
16	November
15	December
18	January
15	February
22	March
17	April
20	May
11	June
180	TOTAL

Teacher Days/Months	
9	August
21	September
22	October
16	November
15	December
19	January
15	February
22	March
17	April
20	May
13	June
189	TOTAL

- Schools Closed/Holidays/Recesses
- Inservice Days
- Conference Days

Approved by School Board 04.08.25

2025-2026 Bell Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday		
CLASS	TIME FRAME	MIN
Morning Meeting	8:00 - 8:10 AM	10
Period 1	8:10 - 9:08 AM	58
Period 2	9:10 - 10:08 AM	58
Period 3	10:10 - 11:08 AM	58
HS Lunch	11:08 - 11:33 AM	25
HS Period 4	11:33 - 12:28 AM	55
MS Period 4	11:10 - 11:55	45
MS Lunch/Recess	11:55 - 12:28 PM	33
Period 5	12:28 - 1:26 PM	58
Period 6	1:28 - 2:26 PM	58
Advisory/Raptor	2:26 - 2:50 PM	24

Thursday		
CLASS	TIME FRAME	MIN
Morning Assembly	8:00 - 8:15 AM	15
Period 1	8:15 - 8:59 AM	44
Period 2	9:01 - 9:45 AM	44
Advisory	9:45 - 10:15 AM	30
Period 3	10:15 - 10:59 AM	44
Lunch	10:59 - 11:29 AM	30
Period 4	11:29 - 12:13 PM	44
Period 5	12:15 - 12:59 PM	44
Period 6	1:01 - 1:45 PM	44

2 Hour Delayed Opening Schedule		
CLASS	TIME FRAME	MIN
Period 1	10:00 - 10:42 AM	42
Period 2	10:44 - 11:26 AM	42
Lunch	11:26 - 11:56 AM	30
Period 3	11:56 - 12:38 PM	42
Period 4	12:40 - 1:22 PM	42
Period 5	1:24 - 2:06 PM	42
Period 6	2:08 - 2:50 PM	42

Early Release / Half Day Schedule		
CLASS	TIME FRAME	MIN
Period 1	8:00 - 8:34 AM	34
Period 2	8:35 - 9:09 AM	34
Period 3	9:10 - 9:44 AM	34
Period 4	9:45 - 10:19 AM	34
Period 5	10:20 - 10:54 AM	34
Lunch	10:54 - 11:24 AM	30
Period 6	11:26 - 12:00 PM	34

Riverbend	Time	Return
Morning	7:55 - 10:25 A	10:35 AM
Afternoon	11:30 - 2:25 P	2:35 PM

Hartford	Time	Return
Morning	7:55 - 10:45 A	11:30 AM
Afternoon	10:35 - 1:30 P	2:20 PM

RISD Schools

Samuel Morey Elementary
 214 School Street
 Fairlee, VT 05045
 Tel: 802-333-9755
 Fax: 802-333-9601

Westshire Elementary
 744 VT Route 113
 West Fairlee, VT 05083
 Tel: 802-333-4668
 Fax: 802-333-4744

Rivendell Academy
 2972 Route 25A
 Orford, NH 03777
 Tel: 603-353-4321
 Fax: 603-353-4414