



Support. Challenge. Learn. Achieve.

Independent School District 2897
Redwood Area School District
Redwood Valley Elementary School
201 McPhail Drive
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Dear Redwood Valley Elementary School Families:

Welcome to RVES! We are so excited you are here and we are here to help you. This letter is to give you some updates and review some important information as we get ready to start the school year. **Please take the time to read and discuss this information with your child. This information will help avoid issues as the school year progresses.**

Parent Permission Forms

Parent permission forms will be completed through Google Forms. You can complete your form here - [2025-2026 Redwood Area Schools Parent Permission Form](#). If you have any issues with the link, please contact Cindy at (507) 644-0810. Paper forms will be available upon request.

Class Assignments

Class assignment letters will be arriving in the mail later this week. For students entering Kindergarten, your scheduled Back to School conference information will be included in this letter.

Reminder, RVES does not accept specific classroom requests. However, if you have questions regarding your students' class placement, please contact me at relwell@redwoodareaschools.com.

Back to School Night

<i>Kindergarten</i> <i>Date = Monday, September 8th</i> <i>Time = See class assignment letter</i>	<i>1st-4th Grade</i> <i>Date = Monday, September 8th</i> <i>Time = 3:00 - 6:00 pm</i>
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The focus for this evening will be for your student(s) to meet their teachers, reconnect with friends, bring school materials, and complete important information/document packets.

For ALL Kindergarten students, students must have an up-to-date vaccination record on file. If we do not have this on file, you will be required to check in with the Health Office Staff to update records. Please check your child's immunization status now to ensure your student can get their schedule on Back to School Night.

*****SCHOOL PICTURES ARE ON BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT*****

Students may report at any time during Back to School Night to have your school picture taken. Picture forms were mailed earlier this month, if you need an additional copy please pick one up at the RVES Office. Completed forms may be submitted to Strawbridge at this time.

Cardinal Kids Club, Junior Cardinal Care, & Preschool Return Information

An open house for all families enrolled in Cardinal Kids Club (CKC) and Junior Cardinal Care (Jr. CC) will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4th from 4:00-5:30 PM. CKC and Jr. CC will be open on Monday, Sept. 8th from 6:45 AM - 4:00 PM for enrolled families. Preschool open house will continue as originally scheduled on Monday, Sept. 8th.

Weekly Principal's Newsletter

Each week you will receive a letter through Skyward (it will also be uploaded to the school website) informing you of things that have taken place through the week and updating you on important things that will be coming up (events, deadlines, etc.). Please ensure that the school has your correct email address on file.

Parent Drop-Off

Parent drop-off will be on the west side of RVES off of McPhail Dr. All drop-offs should happen either in the designated parking lot or in the drop-off lane in front of the building. We ask that parents **do not** drop off students directly on McPhail Dr. for safety reasons. There is **no** parent drop-off on Sunrise Blvd as this is dedicated for bus pick-ups and drop-offs.

Students arriving before 7:45 should be enrolled in Junior Cardinal Care. Students arriving between 7:45-8:00 should report to the cafeteria for breakfast. *If your student will not be eating breakfast in the morning, they should not be dropped off before 8:00.*

Character Strong

At Redwood Area Schools, we continue to focus on teaching to and developing the whole student. We will continue our daily Character Strong classes. The focus of this time will be social and emotional learning and professional life skills to positively impact lives. Students will be learning district wide with a research-based curriculum to continue learning throughout a student's career.

Daily Schedules

School starts at 8:10 a.m. and ends at 3:05 p.m. It is important that you arrive on time and are prepared to start the day on a positive note!

Parent/Teacher Communication

Skyward Family Computer Access is available for all families. If you need assistance setting up your account or gaining access, please contact the school. Communication is an important key to the success of your child's education. Please take time to contact (call or email) your child's teacher(s) if you have questions or concerns regarding classes.

To help with the communication efforts, RVES will host parent/teacher conferences on the following nights and times:

Thursday, November 6th = 3:45-7:00

Monday, November 10th = 3:45-7:00

Tuesday, February 17th = 3:45-6:45

Monday, February 23rd = 3:45-6:45

Bomb Threat-Student Removal Request Form

Parents may request a bomb threat removal form from the office if they wish to be notified when a bomb threat occurs so that they may transport their child home. This only applies when thorough discussions and investigations have taken place and the administration feels that school will not dismiss students. Parents who have completed the forms will then be notified by the district.

Food Allergies

RASD has adopted an “Allergy Aware” procedure, as we understand many students in our school have a range of allergy and health concerns. Rather than focusing on any one particular allergy (ex: nuts, dairy, fish, etc.), we want to provide the necessary supports for students on an individual basis. For example, if a student has a nut allergy, the site level principal and the school nurse will create a specific plan to minimize the risk of exposure to nuts during the school day.

In the past, we have discouraged students from bringing nut products into the building. Rather than banning any one product, we want to work with students on an individual health plan. Thus, it is important that if your child has any health concerns, including allergies, you contact Kristen Anderson, School Nurse, at 507-637-0677 (HS/MS) or 507-637-0259 (RVES) to discuss this as soon as possible.

Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act

Legislation has been passed on a law commonly referred to as the Bullying Law. It defines bullying as: intimidating, threatening, abusive or hurtful conduct; objectively offensive; conduct that involves an imbalance of power and is repeated; the conduct materially and substantially interferes with a student’s education or ability to participate in school activities. The law also prohibits retaliation, and requires an investigation to be completed within three days. We want all of our students to feel safe, so it is important that we are made aware of suspected bullying. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this law, or incidents happening with your child.

Student Surveys

Occasionally, RVES and RASD will conduct surveys, or allow outside agencies/businesses to conduct surveys related to school functions. All surveys are preapproved by the principal and deemed to have an educational purpose. Parents and students have the opportunity to opt out of surveys or to view the survey in advance. If you would like to opt out of any surveys, please contact the RVES Office.

School Assigned Fines

Schools may charge for lost or destroyed textbooks, workbooks, library books, and technology devices. To do so, the school must annually notify students and parents/guardians of the policy to charge a fee. Through the school handbook and the district, you have been informed of these rights to charge fees. If materials are lost or damaged, it is the responsibility of the students/parents/guardians to pay for any replacement or damages costs.

Pledge of Allegiance

The State of Minnesota has determined that schools will say the Pledge of Allegiance on at least a weekly basis. It is your child's choice to participate during this time. It is important that students are respectful of others' decisions to participate. It is expected that students remain respectful during the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance by not talking or messing around but sitting or standing quietly.

Free School Meals

Continuing this school year, all Type A student meals are free. Type A meals include any items that are provided with the regular daily meals. Additional milk or full servings are available for purchase at an additional cost. This includes lunch and ONE breakfast option (Regular Breakfast or 2nd Chance Breakfast).

Free and Reduced Forms

Please note the importance of continuing to complete the Free and Reduced lunch form.

If you have not already done so, please complete the free and reduced lunch application form. Completing this form, for those who qualify, generates significant compensatory revenue for the school district that we depend on (roughly \$1,000,000 last year). This revenue helps support programming throughout the district. You will be receiving a paper copy of this form in your back to school packet.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Cell phones, headphones (bluetooth or wired), smart watches, and other electronic devices are not allowed during the school day unless permission is given by the assigned staff member. This includes if students are out of the classroom to go to their locker, use the restroom, or any other reason during an assigned class time. Any violations will result in the loss of the cell phone or device for the remainder of the school day. Repeat offenses may result in the loss of these privileges at school.

Attendance

The current district attendance policy can be found on the school website or a printed copy may be available on request at the RVES office. To help us keep accurate attendance, it is critical that you call us or send a note regarding your child's absence, regardless of their age. All absences must be excused within two days or they become unexcused. This is the responsibility of the student and the parents. If you believe an absence or tardy is incorrect, it is important to notify the school immediately so that it may be checked and corrected if necessary. Students with over eight (8) days of absences will be required to submit medical documentation or consult with the school nurse. Failure to do so will result in each absence after eight (8) being marked "Unexcused." Further, Minnesota's compulsory attendance law states that excessive unexcused absences or trancies (seven or more unexcused days) will result in a truancy citation being filed with the County Attorney for students ages 17 and under. State law also indicated that it is required that students attend all classes that they are scheduled for by the school. If a student leaves a class or skips a class, this will be marked as unexcused and may affect their attendance towards truancy.

Student Dress Code

It is important that students are dressed appropriately for the school environment. The dress code is documented in the student/parent handbook and follows school protocol. A few items to note:

- Coats are not allowed in the classrooms
- Clothing with obscene/profane/suggestive language are not allowed
- Clothing should not contain images and words that promote alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- No racial/ethnic slurs or sexual innuendoes will be allowed
- Shorts for boys and girls must be appropriate and should be at mid-thigh or longer
- Skirts and dresses must also be appropriate and should be at mid-thigh or longer
- Clothing with holes above the fingertips with hands at the side (mid-thigh), or sleeveless shirts are not allowed
- Bare midriffs, halter tops, or backless tops are not permitted
- Caps, hats, head covering, and sunglasses are not to be worn in the building during the school day

Student Behavior and Language

It is an emphasis of the school district and RVES that we demonstrate respectful behavior in all aspects of our school. We will be working with students to teach, model, and use appropriate behaviors in our school and with all aspects of the school and day, including but not limited to: the classrooms, hallways, lunch room, recess, and through our athletic programs and activities.

Lockdown Drills

During the 2025-26 school year, students will participate in various drills to prepare for emergency situations, including fire, weather, and intruder situations. The dates for our Lockdown drills are listed below. This schedule is subject to change.

September 11th

October 8th

November 12th

January 8th

March 18th

Your child will have most of the policies reviewed in the first week of school. He/she will review the Student Handbook and Technology Policies and Procedures Handbook, which contains district and site level school policies and information for which he/she is responsible. Handbooks are available on the school website or hardcopy in the RVES Office.

Thank you for taking time to read through this information. In an effort to streamline information and improve family access, a great deal of information will be posted on our website, at www.redwoodareaschools.com. **If you do not have internet access, you may call or stop in the RVES Office to obtain copies, or to request a form to have these materials mailed home.** If you have questions or need assistance, contact the RVES Office at (507) 637-0250 or there will be assistance available on Back to School Night.



Robert Elwell
RVES Principal