RIVER VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL

montessori made public

Accountability Plan 2024-2029

River Valley Charter School			
Type of Charter	Commonwealth	**Location**	Newburyport
Regional or Non-Regional	Regional	**Districts in Region**	Amesbury, Newburyport, Pentucket, Triton
Year Opened	1999	**Year(s) Renewed**	2004, 2009, 2014, 2019, 2024
Maximum Enrollment	288	**Chartered Grade Span**	K-8

Mission Statement:

The mission of River Valley Charter School is to provide a rigorous academic program based on the Montessori philosophy and rooted in the history, culture, and ecology of the Merrimack River Valley. Students will reach their full potential as scholars and become self-reliant and productive members of society. They will be adept at critical thinking and creative problem solving and will be fully prepared to succeed in future schools, careers, and civic life.

Key Design Elements:

1. An educational program based on the Montessori philosophy (page 3, charter application)
2. Elements of the curriculum rooted in the history, culture and ecology of the Merrimack River Valley (page 2, charter application)
3. Critical thinking and problem solving (page 1, charter application)

The charter school commits to meeting Criteria 1 through 10 as outlined in the Charter School Performance Criteria.

Date of Preliminary Department Approval:	8/15/2024
Date of Board Approval:	9/18/2024
Date of Department Approval:	10/23/24

Objective (for KDE 1): **River Valley Charter School will provide a high quality Montessori learning environment for all students.**	
Measure 1A: River Valley will alternate between internal and external audits of its Montessori program using the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector's (NCMPS) Essential Elements Rubric during the course of the charter term. Internal audits will be completed in years 1, 2, 4, and 5, and an external audit by NCMPS will be completed in year 3 (Fall of 2026-27). By the end of the charter term, River Valley will move from a rating of Strong to Exemplary in 3 out of 5 domains. The rating scale is as follows: 1 - Limited, 2 - Partial, 3 - Strong, 4 - Exemplary.	**Data to be reported:** ● Scores from the Essential Elements Rubric in all five domains (Adults, Montessori Learning Environment, Family Engagement, Leadership & Organizational Development, Assessment) **Data collection plan:** ● The Director and Assistant Director will compile and analyze rubric data by April of every school year. ● EER Audit Reports will be stored in the Board on Track Portal Accountability Plan Folder, as well as in the Administrative Staff Shared Google Drive.

Measure 1B: All Kinderhaus, Elementary 1, and Elementary 2 classrooms will be observed effectively at least 2 times per year using the DERS* (Developmental and Environmental Rating Scale) tool developed by the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector. By the end of the charter term, 70% of K-6 classrooms will show growth of at least 5 percentage points in two or more domains of human development recorded in the observations (Initiation & Concentration, Inhibitory Control, Working Memory, Linguistic and Cultural Fluency, Social Fluency & Emotional Flexibility). *Example DERS Inventory Observation Tool for Elementary	**Data to be reported:** ● Number of times all Kinderhaus, Elementary 1, and Elementary 2 classrooms were observed ● Number and percentage of classrooms that showed at least 5 percentage points in two or more domains of human development, according to the observation tool **Data collection plan:** ● Observations completed by the Director and Assistant Director will be collated in reports stored in the DERS app, and will also be stored in the Administrative Staff Shared Google Drive.
Objective (for KDE 2): **River Valley Charter School will provide educational experiences that connect student learning to the history, culture, and ecology of the Merrimack River Valley.**	
Measure 2A: Annually, every classroom will participate in educational experiences related to the history, culture or ecology of the Merrimack River Valley. Kinderhaus classes will participate in at least 3 experiences, Elementary 1 classes will participate in at least 5 experiences, Elementary 2 and Middle School classes will participate in at least 7 experiences.	**Data to be reported:** ● Number of classroom experiences per level, learning experience summary, and any reflections or artifacts. **Data collection plan:** ● The Assistant Director will collect data from staff throughout the year and complete a summary for the Annual Report. The document will also be stored in the Administrative Shared Google Drive.

Measure 2B: All Elementary 2 students will participate in a written reflection once a year in the spring, demonstrating their understanding of the history, culture, and ecology of the Merrimack River Valley. 80% of students will score 3.0 or better on a rubric that assesses their knowledge and connection between classroom learning and their history, culture, and ecology lesson experiences.	**Data to be reported:** ● Student scores on rubric will be documented using a table and/or graph. **Data collection plan:** ● The Assistant Director and classroom teachers will score reflections and complete a summary for the Annual Report. The survey results and summary will also be stored in the Administrative Shared Google Drive.
Objective (for KDE 3): **Learning experiences at River Valley Charter School will support students in the development of critical thinking and creative problem solving.**	
Measure 3A: All 6th grade students will participate in a 6th Grade Project Presentation and 90%, including River Valley's primary subgroups (students with high needs and students with disabilities), will earn an average final score of 3.0 or better on a **rubric** that assesses content and presentation (scale of 1-4). These presentations are an Elementary 2 culminating research project based on a specific area of interest and demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving.	**Data to be reported:** ● Number of students who participated in 6th Grade Projects ● Student scores on rubric will be documented using a table and/or graph **Data collection plan:** ● Classroom teachers will collect rubrics from panelists and submit them to the administrative team. ● The administrative team will collate the data to be shared in a spreadsheet in the Administrative Staff Shared Google Drive.

Measure 3B: All graduating students will participate in a Celebration of Learning (COL)* event, and 90%, including River Valley's primary subgroups (students with high needs and students with disabilities), will earn an average final score of 3.5 or better on a **rubric** that assesses content and presentation (scale of 1-4). The presentation is a culminating experience that integrates the River Valley Charter School academic curriculum as well as our Habits of Learning curriculum, thereby representing application of critical thinking and creative problem solving.	**Data to be reported:** ● Student scores on rubric will be documented using a table and/or graph. **Data collection plan:** ● Rubrics from panelists will be collected by the Middle School Coordinator. ● The administrative team will collate the data to be shared in a spreadsheet in the Administrative Staff Shared Google Drive.

Objective 4: **River Valley will share its Montessori curriculum with other public schools in Massachusetts over the course of the charter term.**	
Measure 4A: River Valley will share school newsletters with leadership from sending districts.	**Data to be reported:** ● A record of communications and sample newsletters. **Data collection plan:** ● The administrative team will collate the data to be shared in a spreadsheet in the Administrative Staff Shared Google Drive.
Measure 4B: By the end of the charter term, River Valley will host or deliver five mission-related presentations to Massachusetts public school audiences.	**Data to be reported:** ● A record of presentations summaries or related documents. **Data collection plan:** ● Administrative Staff will keep a record of contacts and newsletters sent in the Administrative Staff Shared Google Drive.