

2024-25



ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK

Greenwood
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Montessori
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Rocky Branch
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Westside
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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WELCOME

2024-25 School Year

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, we extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the students and families attending elementary school in the School District of River Falls. We pride ourselves in providing a physically and emotionally safe environment where students feel cared for, supported, and motivated to learn.

Please take time to read this handbook as it is designed to give you a better understanding of our values, procedures and expectations. An incredible amount of personal and academic growth occurs throughout the elementary years and we are honored to guide and learn alongside our students daily. We sincerely hope our students will make positive memories in our schools to cherish for a lifetime.

We look forward to working with you for many years to come and hope that your child will find elementary school to be an enjoyable, meaningful, and rich experience. For specific information pertaining to individual elementary schools, please visit our district website at: <http://www.rfsd.k12.wi.us>.

Sincerely,

Kate Skappel – Greenwood Elementary Principal
Kai Rodgers - River Falls Public Montessori Principal
Ashley Bingenheimer – Rocky Branch Elementary Principal
Rachel Mader–Westside Elementary Principal

Handbook Overview

This Student Handbook is a general reference guide and is in harmony with school board policy. Please be aware that it is not a complete statement or comprehensive listing of all policies, procedures, or rules that may be applicable in a given circumstance.

The River Falls School Board has policies that are not included in this handbook but are available on the district website for all students/parents upon request. In case of conflict between board policy and any provisions of the Student Handbook, board policy takes precedence and is to be followed. Also, please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. The District reserves the right to modify provisions in the Student Handbook at any time, whenever it is deemed necessary.

Although the Student Handbook may refer to rights established through law or district policy, the Student Handbook does not create any additional rights for students and parents beyond those garnered in state/federal laws. It does not, nor is it intended to, create contractual or legal rights between any student or parent and the district. If you or your student(s) have questions about any of the material in the handbook, please contact the building principal.

Important Dates 2024-2025

August 28	Back to School Open House & Pictures
September 2	Labor Day, No School
September 3	First Day of School
October 7	No School: Teacher In-Service
November 5	No School: Teacher In-Service
November 7	Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00-7:30 pm)
November 14	Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00-7:30 pm)
November 26	End of First Trimester
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Break

December 23-January 1	Winter Break
January 20	No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 27	No School: Teacher In-Service
February 17	No School: Teacher In-Service
February 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00-7:30 pm)
February 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00-7:30 pm)
March 7	End of Second Trimester

March 17-21	No School: Spring Break
April 7	No School: Teacher In-Service
May 16	No School: Teacher In-Service
May 26	No School: Memorial Day
June 6	Last Student Day: End of Third Trimester

School District Mission, Vision, and Values

OUR MISSION:

Inspire all students through challenging, meaningful, and engaging learning experiences, in a safe and collaborative environment.

OUR VISION:

In partnership with families and the community, the School District of River Falls is an innovative Grade PK-12 educational leader committed to the academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being of every student.

OUR VALUES:

Students First - We center our policies, practices, and actions on doing what is best for all students.

People Matter - We value and respect our staff, and will find success by supporting their participation in collaborative learning communities.

Equity - We ensure the individual personal needs of every child is supported by high quality education/resources to pursue their unique potential.

Respect - We affirm the worth and dignity of all students, employees and community members. We foster a climate of civility, acceptance, and reasoned debate, embracing our diversity as a strength.

Integrity - We ground our actions in character, honesty, responsibility, service, and compassion toward others.

Excellence - We embrace the continuous pursuit of improvement in school operations, services, and programs.

Innovation - We inspire and empower innovative thought and practice.

Communications - We are accountable and transparent in order to maintain public trust.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance Philosophy

We believe that engaging families as partners is essential for the child's success in school and promotes an equitable experience. Student attendance is important for a child's social, emotional, and academic success. Our policies and procedures:

- Focus on early communication and intervention with student absences and tardies.
- Focus on communication from teachers, school counselors, and principals.
- Work collaboratively to not blame, shame, or judge families (we are all doing our best).
- Focus on family strengths and support networks to help students attend school.

In accordance with state law and Pierce/St. Croix County and River Falls Municipal ordinances, all students must attend school full-time until the end of the term, quarter, or semester they become eighteen (18) years of age, unless they have a legal excuse, fall under one of the exceptions outlined in Wisconsin Statutes §118.15, or have sufficient credits to graduate from high school.

Enforcement of student attendance policies and truancy procedures shall be a shared responsibility among the students, parents, schools, social service agencies, law enforcement officials, and the community at large.

School Attendance Officer

The principal or his/her designee serves as the school attendance officer.

Student Absences and Excuses

The responsibility for a student's school attendance rests upon the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

Any absence not verified by a note or phone call within 24 hours following the absence may be considered unexcused.

All excused absences require a parent/guardian or legal custodian to provide written/verbal verification, which is to be submitted to the school attendance officer in advance or prior to the re-admittance to school. The school attendance officer has final authority to determine if an absence is excusable.

The school attendance officer may approve a legal excuse for any student for the following reasons:

1. Evidence that the student is not in proper physical or mental condition to attend school or an educational program. If the student exceeds four (4) illness days in any semester, the district may request the parent or guardian to obtain a written statement from a physician or licensed practitioner as proof of the physical or mental condition of the student. Such excuses shall be made in writing, state the period of time for which it is valid, and cannot exceed 30 days in total.
2. An illness in the immediate family that requires the absence of the student because of family responsibilities.
3. Medical, dental, chiropractic, optometric, or other valid professional appointments.
4. A death in the immediate family.

5. Religious holidays.
6. A court appearance or other legal procedure upon submission of proof.
7. Quarantine as imposed by a public health official.
8. Attendance at special events of educational value as approved in advance by the school attendance officer.
9. Approved school activities during class time.
10. Special circumstances that show good cause, which are approved 48 hours in advance by the school attendance officer.

Illness at School

If a student becomes ill while at school, a call will be made to a parent, guardian or emergency contact from the Health Office or attendance desk. The parent must speak with someone from the attendance or Health Office prior to the student leaving the building grounds. An illness day, excused by a parent during the school day, will count towards the four (4) allowable parent-excused illness days for the semester.

Pre-Arranged Absences

Under Wisconsin State Statute §118.15(3)(c), students are allowed to be absent up to ten (10) times per school year for any reason. However, each of these absences must be excused prior to the student's absence. If the absence is not pre-arranged, or there are extenuating circumstances not approved by the attendance officer, the absence may be classified as unexcused. The role of parents is paramount in this process to ensure that your child is not needlessly penalized due to the fact the procedure was not followed. These days should be used judiciously; in that after the ten (10) days, all absences will require attendance officer approval.

Unexcused Absences

Students who are absent from school with the consent of their parents(s) or guardian(s), but whose absence does not fall under the reasons listed above, as determined by the attendance officer, shall be considered unexcused.

According to state statute §118.16(4)(b), all students with an *unexcused* absence will be permitted to make up an examination missed during an absence. However during such occasions, credit will not be given for daily class work missed.

The administration is also authorized by the board to establish a school procedure to enforce the full attendance requirement and to determine appropriate action to serve as a deterrent to habitual truancy, including detention or supervised directed study program.

Suspended Students

Students suspended from school by a building administrator for disciplinary reasons are regarded as neither excused or unexcused and should be recorded as suspended from school versus absent from school. Such students will be allowed to make-up all class assignments, quizzes, examinations, and projects missed during the term of the suspension. During the suspension, the student is not allowed to participate in or attend any after school activities.

Attendance Definitions

“Unexcused Absence” is any absence of more than 15 minutes or all of the one (1) or more school days during which the school attendance officer has not been notified of the legal cause of such absence by the parent or guardian of the absent student. Unexcused absence also means intermittent attendance carried on for the purpose of defeating the intent of the compulsory attendance law.

“Habitual truant” is a student who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part of or all of five (5) days on which school is held during a semester. Students who are “habitually truant” will be referred to River Falls Municipal Court and/or Human Services in the county in which they claim residency.

Extracurricular Participation and Attendance

A student must be in school attending classes during the entire day in order to participate in a school activity. If the attendance officer is notified in advance as to extenuating circumstances, a final determination as to whether a student is allowed to participate will be at the discretion of the attendance officer.

School Hours

Greenwood/Rocky Branch/Westside:

8:30	Playground supervision begins
8:40	Entrance /School Begins (9:00 on Thursdays)
3:30/3:40	Dismissal for Transfer Bus students
3:50	Dismissal for Walkers, students being picked up, and Bussers

Montessori:

8:30	Playground supervision begins
8:45	Entrance /School Begins (9:00 on Thursdays)
3:30/3:40	Dismissal for Transfer Bus students
3:40	Dismissal for Walkers, students being picked up, and Bussers

Playground supervision will begin at 8:30 a.m. The playground is not supervised before 8:30 a.m. or after school. Students are not allowed to arrive before 8:30 a.m. On Thursday mornings, there will be an extended recess time until 9:00 a.m. Attendance is taken at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings. After school, students are supervised during bus pick-up and parent pick-up. Walkers are instructed to walk directly home after school and not play on the playground. School playgrounds are not supervised after pick-up time at the end of the school day.

Student Drop Off

Parents arriving at school after 8:40 a.m. must report with their child to the office.

If your child must be dropped off or sent to school before 8:30 a.m., we ask that you enroll your child in our before/after school child care program, Kids Club. Information about this program is available by calling the coordinator at 715-425-0799.

All visitors during the school day will need to press a buzzer at the main office and will then be let into the office by a staff member. All visitors must check and sign-in with the office before going to other locations in the building. Visitors are asked to wear a nametag that can be picked up in the office. We take pride in knowing all of our parents but please don't be offended if we ask you who you are or request identification.

Student Pick Up

Parents picking up their child(ren) during/after the school day should wait outside or in the office/lobby area. Parents may not go to the classroom to pick up their children.

Changes of end of day routines made during the day should go directly to the office prior to 2:45 p.m. Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds during school without permission.

When picking up your child from school, parents will park in the parking lot and use the crosswalk to meet their child in the designated area or pull up to the curb. When pulling up to the curb parents must stay in their car and drive all the way down the curb and not pass other waiting cars.

Emergency School Closing Procedures

If weather conditions or other circumstances develop that alter the normal school schedule, the administration of the School District of River Falls follows these procedures: 1. Campus Messenger parent phone call notification system will be activated; and 2. the following stations will be notified and requested to announce the delayed start or school closing:

Radio stations:	WCCO (830 AM) WDMO (95.7 FM) WEVR (1550 AM & 106.3 FM) WIXK (1590 AM & 107.1 FM) KWNG (105.9 FM)
iHeart Media:	880AM; 1400AM; 92.1FM; 95.1FM; 98.1FM; 98.7FM; 100.7FM; 106.7FM
Television stations:	WCCO (Channel 4) KSTP (Channels 5, 45, and KSAX-TV-channel 42) FOX (Channels 9, 25, 29 and 48) KARE (Channel 11) WEAU (Channel 13)
Websites:	wcco.com kstp.com myFOX9.com kare11.com moose106.com b95radio.com rock921.com z100radio.com 987thebrew.com wmeq.com

Please do not contact these stations, or the schools directly, as this may limit the school district's ability to inform the media of its decisions relative to closing, delayed starts, early releases, and changes in athletic/extracurricular event schedules.

If severe weather conditions develop during school hours, and it becomes necessary to dismiss students for home before regular dismissal times, the Campus Messenger notification system will be activated and the radio and television stations will be notified and asked to announce the time of the early dismissal.

In the event of a school closing or early dismissal, all extra-curricular activities will also be canceled or postponed unless otherwise announced. RF4C sessions and the Kids Club Program will be canceled when schools are closed due to inclement weather. The announcement to delay or close school includes River Falls Public Schools, St. Bridget's Parish School, and Heartland Montessori School.

Reunification In Case of Emergency

Student - Parent Reunification

Circumstances may occur at the school that require parents to pick up their students in a formalized, controlled release. The process of controlled release is called a "reunification" and may be necessary due to weather, a power outage, hazard or if a crisis occurs at the school. The Reunification Method is a protocol that makes this process more predictable and less chaotic for all involved. Because a controlled release is not a typical end of school day event, a reunification may occur at a different location than the school a student attends. If this location is another school, then those students may be subject to a controlled release as well.

Notification

Parents may be notified that a Reunification Plan is in effect in a number of ways to include the district's phone or text message system. In some cases, students may be asked to send a text message to their parents. A reunification text message from a student will look something like this: "The school has closed, please pick me up at 3:25 p.m. at the main entrance. Bring your ID."

Parent/Guardian Expectations

If a parent or guardian is notified that a controlled release and Reunification is needed, there are expectations that parents or guardians should keep in mind:

- Bring identification. That will streamline the Reunification process.
- Please refrain from calling the schools or district office. Keeping the cellular network usage at a minimum may be important during a reunification.
- If a parent is driving to the reunification site, greater awareness of traffic and emergency vehicles is advised. Parents should park where indicated and not abandon vehicles in unauthorized locations.
- Please be patient. Reunification is a process that protects both the safety of the student and provides for an accountable change of custody from the school to a recognized custodial parent or guardian.
- Parents are asked to then go to the Reunification "Check In" area and form lines based on the first letter of their students last name. During check in, identification and custody rights are confirmed.
- While in line, parents are asked to fill out a reunification card. This card is perforated and will be separated during the process. Some of the same information is repeated on both the top and separated bottom of the card. Parents are asked to complete all parts of the card. In the case of multiple students being reunified, a separate card for each student needs to be completed.
- From the "Check In" area parents are directed to the "Reunification" area. There, a runner will take the bottom half of the card and take it to the Student Assembly Area to recover the student or students. Parents should be aware that in some cases, they may be invited into the building for further information.

How the Reunification Process Works for Students

For students, the school asks that students be orderly and quiet while waiting. Students may be asked to text a message to their parents or guardians. Students are also asked not to send other text messages either in or out of the school or reunification area. Keeping the cellular network usage at a minimum may be important during a reunification.

What if a Parent Can't Pick-up Their Student?

When a parent can't immediately go to the reunification site, students will be released to individuals previously identified as a student's emergency contact. Otherwise, the school will hold students until parents can pick-up their student(s).

Interviews and Counseling

In some cases, parents may be advised that a law enforcement investigation is underway and may be advised that interviews are necessary. In extreme cases, parents may be pulled aside for emergency or medical information.

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

Immunizations

The Student Immunization Law requires that all students through grade 12 meet the minimum number of required immunizations prior to school entrance. These requirements can be waived for medical/health, religion or personal conviction reasons. Waivers are available in the district's office, Health Service offices, and on the district website. Students with an immunization waiver may be subject to exclusion from school in the event of an outbreak of diseases against which they are not completely immunized.

Students who do not have the required immunizations and/or properly completed waiver on file in the Health Service may face possible exclusion from school. Please contact your practitioner or Health Service for required immunizations.

Illness/Injury

- Students who become ill or injured during the school day should report to the Health Service Office.
- If a student is sent home due to illness or injury the Health Service Office must speak with either the student's parent/guardian or an emergency contact prior to the student leaving school. Please keep your child's school informed when changes to phone numbers occur.
- A parent/guardian should inform the Health Service Office if their child needs accommodations during the school day due to crutches, casts, etc. For example, if a student needs to be excused from recess and/or PE class, the order from a doctor will be necessary if missing multiple days.
- A severe allergic reaction can be life threatening. Parents/Guardians are required to inform the Health Service Office and provide/supply appropriate medical documentation and prescription or emergency medication(s).

Medication

If your child will be taking daily and/or as-needed medication at school, a Medication Request Form needs to be on file with your school. Forms are available in the Health Service Office and on the district website.

- Parents are advised that, if possible, medication should be given at home and on a schedule other than school hours.
- Student medication, either daily or as-needed, must be administered in the Health Service Office.

- Students may NOT carry medication on their person or in their locker. In a few cases prescription medications may be carried by the student and self-administered ONLY with written parent AND written practitioner permission on file in the Health Service Office.
- All prescription and non-prescription medications should be brought into the Health Service Office by the parent/guardian. If it is not possible for the parent/guardian to bring the medication to school, the medication bottle should be put in a sealed envelope, and the child's name and number of pills in the bottle on the front of the envelope. The child should be instructed to bring the medication to the Health Service Office when he/she arrives at school. The parent/guardian shall then call the Health Service Office and inform them of the medication coming to school with the child.
- Please check the expiration date before bringing medication to school. The Health Service staff cannot administer expired medication and medication that is not in its original manufacturer's package.
- The Health Service Office is unable to take verbal requests from parents to administer prescription and/or non-prescription medications. A properly completed Medication Request Form(s) needs to be on file in the Health Service Office before medication(s) will be administered.
- It is recommended that students with asthma have an Asthma Action Plan completed by their provider and keep an inhaler at school.
- A history of severe allergic reaction can be life threatening. Please inform the Health Service Office of a student's allergy(ies). An Allergy Emergency Plan needs to be completed by the student's provider and signed by the parent or guardian.

Is my child well enough to go to school?

Many students and parents are frequently concerned about when students should stay home or attend school. Remember that a child ill with an infectious disease can spread the disease when in contact with others in the family and community.

The following information is intended to help with this decision

- If a student has had a fever of 100.4 degrees or more, the student must stay home for a minimum of 24 hours after temperature returns to normal without fever reducing medication.
- If a student has vomited or had diarrhea, the student must stay home until a minimum of 24 hours after the last episode.
- If a student has had a rash that may be disease-related or the cause is unknown, check with a family practitioner before sending the student to school. The Health Service Office may request a doctor's note from parents.

Communicable Disease

The Health Service works closely with local and state health departments regarding communicable disease detection and control. A list of communicable diseases, and control measures can be found on the district website.

Student Insurance

Parents may wish to purchase student accident insurance for their child. Information about low-cost insurance will be sent home with students at the beginning of the school year. The school does not carry student accident and health insurance.

Safety To and From School

Children who ride bicycles/scooters to school are encouraged to observe safety rules at all times. At school, bicycles/scooters are to be placed in the racks provided and left there until dismissal time. Lock these items to the racks. Helmets are strongly recommended. Skateboards need to remain at home. Students may not

ride through the parking lot where buses load and unload and must walk their bikes on the sidewalk while on school property.

Walking To School

Students who walk to school need to be reminded periodically of safety measures. This is particularly true during the winter months when streets are slippery. The students should be warned of the dangers to them and the motorists if they walk in or play in the streets.

Safety Patrol

All students must obey safety instructions given by 5th grade safety patrol students and supervisor.

Video Surveillance

The River Falls School Board authorizes the use of video surveillance in public areas of school buildings, grounds, and other property including, but not limited to, entryways, other instructional areas such as labs, storage areas, school buses, and areas outside the building on district property for the primary purpose of documenting disciplinary problems and vandalism on school grounds. Video surveillance cameras will not be placed in restrooms, locker rooms, changing rooms, or any other location prohibited by law. The video surveillance intends to reduce disciplinary problems and protect school property.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

We believe our schools should have high expectations for student behavior that are aligned with the district's character traits and community expectations.

Code of Conduct

We believe that students are entitled to learn in a safe and secure environment free from violence, drugs and other inappropriate behavior. The playground, lunchroom, and buses are extensions of the classroom. Our general educational objectives relating to behavior include:

1. Establishing an atmosphere in our school that is most conducive to learning.
2. Ensuring respect for the rights and safety of each student.
3. Keeping parents informed and involved in their student's behavior at school.

Classroom teachers will teach students classroom rules and expectations. All classroom rules are to be followed by students, even though they may not be listed in this handbook. Feel free to contact the teacher any time with questions regarding behavior rules and expectations.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to be respectful and cooperative with all staff members and students. The school administrator or designee reserves the right to involve the police at their discretion. A student's age, maturity, and social development will be considered when involving the police or social services, but will not limit the school's administration from seeking proper legal or social agency support. It is our sincere hope that student disciplinary issues can and will be handled at school with minimal corrective actions.

- Desks, lockers, and backpacks may be searched at any time consistent with board policy and law.
- Students are expected to walk through the hallways quietly since other students may still be in class.
- Trading cards, rollerblades, skateboards, snowboards and similar sport items may not be used on school property. Please leave such items at home.

Academic Integrity

Honesty is a highly valued character trait in the River Falls School District. Students are responsible for maintaining an environment in which they are held and in which they hold each other accountable for becoming ethical users of information and ideas. When a student cheats, they are being dishonest with themselves and their teacher(s). Our goal is for students to learn and practice ethical behavior in regard to information and information technology. Academic integrity is an obligation for all students.

Definitions:

Academic integrity involves adhering to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in all facets of the learning process. Academic misconduct is considered a violation of academic integrity, either while acting alone or assisting others. Below, are six (6) general areas that constitute academic misconduct including examples of each. Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to the following:

1. Submitting falsified or invented work/information instead of actually doing the work, research, or task themselves (changing or creating data in a lab experiment; writing up a fake interview). This includes using ChatGPT or other A.I.-created work.
2. Using unauthorized tools or materials in any academic work (using notes, programmable calculators, or other electronic devices) on an assessment when such use is not allowed (stealing, selling, or providing others with tests or course materials; using an online translator for more than words or phrases).
3. Misusing or falsifying academic documents (altering a transcript or report card; signing another person's name to an attendance roster or grade check; forging a hallway pass)
4. Purposefully damaging or hindering the work of others (hiding books or reference materials needed to complete an assignment; tampering with lab experiments, art projects, or electronic files of another student).
5. Assisting other students in any of these acts (allowing a person to use your notes on a test).
6. Plagiarism is taking credit, whether deliberate or not, for another person's or source's (print or non-print) ideas or words, works or processes without proper citation or credit. Sources do not need to be cited for material that is considered to be "common knowledge" i.e., factual information that is considered in the "public domain" because it is published in multiple standard reference works. Likewise, when common knowledge is related to a field or specialty, sources may not need to be cited if the information is widely known to people within that field. Because it may be hard to determine what is considered common knowledge, it is a good idea to cite sources or ask your teacher for guidance. Using ChatGPT or any A.I.-created work is prohibited as well.

Student Discipline

The goal of student discipline is to stop inappropriate behavior, explain what is appropriate, and help the student take responsibility for their behavior. Student discipline is approached through a continuum (punishment, consequence, solutions, and restoration). Although it is our goal to take a restorative approach as much as possible, our student discipline model uses all approaches when necessary. The following are examples, but not limited to, actions related to the different approaches:

Restoration: Recognizes the purpose behind the misbehavior, addresses the needs of all people affected by the misbehavior, and works collaboratively to put right the harm and improve the future. (i.e. The student understands how the mess in the bathroom affected many people and works with them to correct the harm. For example, the custodian might feel that their work isn't valued, other students might feel unsafe or unappreciated because of the mess, and the teacher might feel a loss of trust. The other students, custodian, teacher, and the student work together to better support each other in the future.)

Solutions: Looks at the misbehavior as a problem to be solved (i.e. Why did the student make the mess? If the student made the mess because they were frustrated with someone, the student is given different tools to use when they feel frustrated).

Consequence: Takes action that is connected to the misbehavior (i.e. cleaning up the mess the student made in the bathroom).

Punishment: Takes action that is not connected to the misbehavior (i.e. missing recess for making a mess in the bathroom).

Student Removal From Class

Student behavior that is dangerous or disruptive and that interferes with the teacher's ability to teach effectively will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in such behavior may be subject to removal from class and placement in an alternative setting. In addition, the student may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with established Board policies and school rules. A student with a disability may be removed from class and placed in an alternative educational setting only to the extent authorized by state and federal laws and regulations.

Suspension

Suspension is a temporary denial by school administration of the right to attend class or school.

Suspensions can be either in or out of school. If the suspension is out of school, the student will not appear in school or on school grounds during the time he/she is suspended; the parents/guardians are responsible for the activities of the student during this time. Students are required to make up all missed assignments and tests for the period of the suspension.

Suspensions may be used for incidents such as fighting, threats, insubordination, or other dangerous or antisocial actions. Suspensions will be for 1-5 days at the discretion of the principal. In some cases it may be necessary to inform law enforcement and/or social services.

Expulsion

In severe cases the district may have to consider expulsion from school. Expulsion is the denial of the right to attend school for a period of time.

Theft/Vandalism

Students involved in theft will be responsible for repaying or returning that which was taken. Further consequences may occur. This is also true for vandalism.

Guns and Weapons

Squirt guns, water balloons, and all types of toy weapons are not allowed on school property. These will be confiscated and penalties applied. Possession of any weapon on school property, including B-B and pellet guns, is prohibited by law and may be referred to the police. Toy weapons of any kind are not permitted at River Falls elementary schools.

Drug-Free Environment

River Falls School District is a drug-free environment. Students and parents are hereby notified that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession of or use of a controlled substance or the use of alcohol on school district property, including all district-owned vehicles, is prohibited at all times. These same provisions shall be in effect at all school-sponsored events or extracurricular activities while off school premises. No student or parent/guardian may appear at any school-sponsored function under the influence or in possession of alcohol, non-prescribed substances, chemicals, illegal substances, or look-alikes. Failure to abide by this policy may result in referral to counseling and rehabilitation services and/or such disciplinary action up to, and including suspension or expulsion from school.

TRANSPORTATION

Students are responsible for their behavior on the bus. Misbehavior could result in the bus driver being distracted, which could possibly endanger the lives of the students being transported. Parents are requested to explain the importance of proper behavior on the bus. Inappropriate school bus behavior will not be tolerated and may result in the removal from bus privileges.

Student Responsibilities for Bussing

1. Occupy the seat assigned by the driver and to refrain at all times from moving around while the bus is in motion.
2. Practice appropriate classroom conduct while using a school bus.
3. Stay off the traveled roadway at all times while waiting for a bus.
4. Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before attempting to get on or off the bus.
5. Leave the bus only at the consent of the driver.
6. Enter or leave the bus only at the front door after the bus has come to a complete stop, except in case of an emergency.
7. Cross the traveled highway in the following manner, if necessary, after leaving the bus:
 - Make certain the bus has come to a complete stop.
 - Wait for the driver to signal for crossing.
 - Upon signal from the driver, look both to the right and left, and proceed across the highway in front of the bus.
 - Walk (not run) in front of the bus when crossing the highway.
8. Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.
9. Report bus damage to the driver immediately.
10. Help keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly.

Parent Responsibilities for Bussing

1. Ensure that their children arrive at the bus stop on time in the morning. The bus driver is responsible for the maintenance of the schedule and cannot wait for tardy pupils.
2. Accept responsibility for proper conduct of their children while at the bus stop and on the bus.
3. Explain and reinforce appropriate student behavior while riding the bus.

GRADING

Purpose of Grading

The purpose of grading at River Falls School District is to communicate the measured growth and achievement of students according to defined standards. Communication of goals, strengths and deficits is achieved by a collaborative effort between students, parents, and teachers to provide ongoing written and oral information. Measurement is achieved through formal and informal assessments by both teachers and students to reflect student intellectual and social growth, determine a child's performance level and program placements, and aid the teacher in modifying curriculum and instruction to make it more effective. The district curriculum sets educational expectations for all students within a scope and sequence across grade levels, using national and state standards as a guide.

Report Cards

Your child will receive a report card showing her/his progress in school. Report cards will be sent home at the end of each Trimester. Report cards can also be viewed on Infinite Campus. Parents are encouraged to maintain close contact with the school, attend Parent-Teacher Conferences, and to request an additional conference when they feel a need. Standards-based elementary report cards were fully implemented in 2014-15. There is an elementary parent information brochure about standards-based grading on each school's website. (<https://www.rfsd.k12.wi.us/>)

Grading Procedures

Students will be scored as 3, 2, 1 for Academic Standards and 3, 2, 1 for Characteristics of Successful Learners:

MEETS EXPECTATIONS (3) - Indicates that there are no major errors or omissions regarding any of the information or processes (simple or complex) that were explicitly taught. The student is on track to master the standard by the end of the year.

APPROACHING EXPECTATIONS (2) - Indicates that there are no major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details or processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas or processes. Based on what has been taught and assessed, the student is moving quickly toward becoming proficient, and should be expected to meet standard with additional time and/or support.

AREA OF CONCERN (1) - Indicates that the student demonstrates only partial knowledge of some of the simpler details or processes or no understanding or skill demonstrated. Students have not consistently shown required evidence of learning. Based on what has been taught and assessed, the student has not demonstrated that s/he is on track to master the standard by the end of the year.

Class work, whether it is completed during class or given as an assignment, is an important component in all curricular areas. Students will be expected to turn in all class work as assigned and on time. Teachers have individual policies regarding late assignments that are to be explained to students at the beginning of the year.

Homework

Students may be given assignments that will require work at home. Homework may increase in amount and difficulty as a student advances through the years of school. Parents are encouraged to take an interest in their children's homework, develop a consistent routine with their child, and contact the teacher when they have questions.

In the elementary grades, we encourage 20 minutes of reading each night and talking about number concepts at home when they apply.

Retention

Repeating a grade level is a significant event in the life of a child. While research does not support the widespread use of retention, there may be cases where retention is appropriate for an individual student. Every effort will be made to assist the student to achieve satisfactorily prior to considering retention. Retention will be considered only after other possible factors contributing to a child's poor academic performance have been eliminated.

STUDENT RECORDS

Child Custody and Records

The law creates definitions of "legal custody," "sole legal custody," "joint legal custody," and "physical placement." The definition of "legal custody" includes the right and responsibility of a person to make major decisions concerning the child. The definition of "physical placement" includes the right to have a child physically placed with a party and the right and responsibility to make routine daily decisions regarding the child's care during that placement. The school must have legal documents to enforce custodial rights.

The state pupil records law is amended to provide that a parent who has been denied periods of physical placement with a child does not have the rights of a parent or guardian with respect to that child's pupil records.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Animals in School

The District recognizes that animals may have educational value in the school setting in some circumstances. It is critical that the safety and wellbeing of students, staff, and animals are considered first and foremost. Live animals may be brought into the classroom with the approval of the building principal and providing the provisions of Policy 383.2 are met. Adherence to guidelines must be followed with respect to having animals present in the school building.

Character Education

The River Falls School District supports character education, which includes and complements a broad range of educational approaches such as whole child education, service learning, social-emotional learning, and civic education. All share a commitment to helping young people become responsible, caring, and contributing citizens. To maximize growth opportunities across the district, we use common language to teach about character. This common language comes in the form of nine character traits, which are taught monthly at all RFSD schools.

September:	Curiosity
October:	Responsibility
November:	Gratitude
December:	Compassion
January:	Cooperation
February:	Perseverance
March:	Respect
April:	Honesty
May:	Courage

To build upon our success in promoting character among our students, we need partnerships from parents. Feel free to use the nine character traits at home as you see fit.

Classroom Placement Request

To maintain equitable practices, specific teacher requests will not be accepted from parents. This allows the school to make the most equitable and appropriate class lists. Parents may make broad requests to support their child. An example could be to describe the optimal learning environment for your child. Classroom placements are subject to change at the discretion of the building principal, however changing classroom placement after lists are released is rare.

Religious Accommodations

Reasonable accommodation of a student's religious beliefs will be made at the written request of the student's parent/guardian with regard to examinations, academic requirements, and other school activities.

Lunch Accounts

Breakfast and lunch are offered at each elementary school every day school is in session. For the 2024-2025 school year the cost of breakfast is \$1.70, Reduced Breakfast will cost \$0.30. The price for lunch will be \$2.85, Reduced Lunch will cost \$0.40. An extra milk will cost \$0.55.

Each family has one lunch account, so one payment can be sent for all children in the family. Payments can be made in the school office or online through the [Wordware link](#). It is expected that a positive balance will be maintained in each food service account at all times. Each family receives a copy of the free and reduced lunch policy and families are encouraged to apply if the criteria are met.

Each day children have a choice of two main entrees. The school lunch menu is included in the school's newsletter and on the school website. There is an additional charge for classroom snack milk. Children may bring their own lunch and purchase milk by the carton. Do not include pop or other beverages containing caffeine in your child's lunch. If there are questions concerning the lunch program, please contact the Food Service Office at 715-425-1830, ext. 3724.

*Students eating lunch with their families will eat at a separate table from their class.

Field Trips

Field trips are planned by the teacher and approved by the building principal. These trips are an integral part of the educational program and are enrichment to the teaching units.

Parents/guardians will be notified through the school, in writing, of pertinent information about any planned trip that the class is anticipating. A signed permission form will be required of the parent or guardian to enable the student to participate.

Desk/Locker/Cubby Search

Lockers, desks, cubbies, and coat rack areas are school property. In an effort to protect the rights of all students, a search of any and all areas will be made by the building principal or designee as permitted by policy or law or if there is reasonable suspicion to warrant the search.

Bathroom

1. Under no circumstances can a person use a camera, video recorder, cell phone or other recording device to capture, record or transfer a representation of a person, including nude or partially nude person in a bathroom.

Damaged Property

Students will be responsible for all school-issued textbooks and property. The degree of damage to school property will be determined by the teacher with the severity of damage determining the fine amount. Students will not be responsible for reasonable wear and tear that may occur throughout the school year. All fines are due by the completion of the year.

Telephone Use

The phones in the building are for business purposes. Students may not use school phones for personal use unless there is an emergency. Office personnel will take important messages during the day and relay the information to the students. The phone in the office area may be used for emergencies and after school times to communicate with parents about transportation needs.

Students may not use any two-way communication devices such as, cell phones, smart watches, or walkie-talkies while on school property during school hours without permission from a staff member. If a cell phone, smart watch, video game or other electronic device is used by a student during the day (including indoor recess), it will be turned into the office and need to be collected by the parents.

Electronic Devices Student Rules

- All cell phones must be in your school locker, cubby, or backpack during school hours from 8:30 am to 3:50 pm.
- No devices are allowed in the restrooms.
- Students are not allowed to take pictures or video of any kind, unless permitted by your teacher.
- Only school-issued electronic devices are allowed during school hours of 8:30 am to 3:50 pm.

Visitors/Volunteering

1. All visitors, including field trip chaperones, who have complied with the district background check process, are to register in the office before visiting other areas of the school. Please make an appointment via the school office to visit with a teacher during the school day.
2. Due to liability concerns, student visitors are not allowed.
3. To help us better communicate and align volunteer opportunities with our parents and community, we have implemented a **volunteer application**. Fill out the application to become a volunteer in the School District of River Falls.
4. Parents and other adults needing more information regarding volunteering should contact Lesley Schradle, District Volunteer Coordinator, at 715-425-1810 ext. 3506. The district will conduct background checks prior to volunteering.
5. Observing in a classroom and/or being out on the playground require: (1) an appointment in advance via the office of the Principal and (2) a completed background check.
6. Lunch visitors must notify the office of their intent to attend lunch by 10am the morning of the visit. Lunch visitors will sit at a designated table with their child(ren) only and may not share food with other students in the lunchroom.
7. Principals have the discretion to restrict school and school ground access to parents, volunteers, and other visitors.

Media Center (Library)

River Falls Elementary Schools have a central Media Center under the supervision of a media specialist. This service makes available to students and teachers up-to-date collections of books, tapes, videos, software, and other audio visual aids. Parents are encouraged to foster appropriate values in the care and use of library materials. Lost and damaged materials are the financial responsibility of the students. Privileges may be withheld to encourage the return of overdue materials.

School Entrance Age (see policy on page 32)

According to Wisconsin School Law, Chapter 118.14, school entrance age requirement for kindergarten must be 5 on or before September 1 of the current school year. It is our practice to comply with these age requirements. On rare occasions, early entrance to school may be considered for children turning 5 no later than October 1. For additional details, refer to page 32.

Use of District Technology Resources

All students and their parents must sign an Acceptable Use Policy regarding use of school computers and the Internet. Students must use computers and the network resources for school purposes. Inappropriate use will result in loss of computer privileges and other disciplinary measures depending upon the infraction. Please note the policy in the back of this handbook.

Student Device Damage Fee

Any student that damages their school district issued device or charging cord will be issued a fee of \$20.00 for each incident. In the event that a student loses or has their device stolen, the amount of the fee will be left to the discretion of Administration, not to exceed the replacement cost of the device.

Student Device Damage Fees apply to all students in grades K-12. A student's repeated damage and misuse of district issued devices may result in a loss of device use and/or other disciplinary action as determined by the building administration. (Cross Reference: [363.2 - Rule, Internet Safety and Acceptable Use](#))

Social Media & Networking Sites

While our school staff respects the right of students to use social media and networking sites, it is important that students' personal use of these sites does not damage the school's reputation, its employees, its students, families, and community. What is private in the digital world can become public, even without knowledge or consent; therefore, students are to maintain appropriate boundaries between personal and public life when conducting online activities at all times.

We do not actively monitor students' use of social media and networking sites outside of school hours. Students are not allowed to use school-issued technology to access social media or networking sites for non-academic purposes. However, inappropriate activities that become public and/or are brought to the attention of school staff will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The information posted online through the use of cellphone, computers, or other electronic devices that damages the school's reputation, its employees, its students, families, and community can be grounds for disciplinary action. The School District of River Falls takes electronic bullying (cyber-bullying) very seriously. Inappropriate information includes, but is not limited to, acts of bullying & harassment, threats, and/or criminal activities.

Students experiencing bullying & harassment via online social media & networking sites should report incidents to staff so that the issue can be addressed and/or handled as needed. Students are responsible for the ethical and educational use of the technology resources of the school district. Students will recognize that their reputation in cyberspace is nothing to take lightly as one's digital footprint can last a lifetime.

PTO (Parent and Teacher Organization)

The Parent-Teacher Organization is made up of parents and staff. The purpose of PTO is to maintain a positive working relationship between school, families, and community, and to support the needs of students. The PTO organizes various family activities during the year. We strongly encourage all parents to attend the meetings that are held every month and participate in discussions regarding school programs. If you have any questions or need help connecting with your school's PTO, please contact your school's office and we will be happy to help establish contact with the PTO.

Clothing

Staff shall enforce the dress code in a manner that does not reinforce negative stereotypes, marginalization, or the oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

Student dress choices should respect the District's intent to sustain a community that is inclusive of a diverse range of identities. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school district is responsible for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student, and that dress code enforcement does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size. Any restrictions to the way a student dresses must be necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school and must be explained within this dress code.

Student dress shall be considered inappropriate if it:

- (1) Presents a "clear and present" danger to health and safety;
- (2) Causes an interference with work or creates classroom or school disorder;
- (3) Is disruptive to the school climate; or
- (4) Is damaging to school property.

Children are required to wear tennis shoes in the gym. Playground access may be restricted if students do not wear appropriate winter clothing. Final determination of appropriate dress will be determined by the building principal.

Food & Classroom Celebrations

River Falls School District promotes celebrations and activities that are fun and culturally responsive and sustaining. A celebration is a special event that people organize in order to celebrate something. Celebrations include, but are not limited to holidays, birthdays, homecoming, prom, character education celebrations.

In order for celebrations and activities to be culturally responsive and sustaining, they should:

- (1) Connect to the curriculum or be student initiated.
- (2) Be accessible to all students and families.
- (3) Be multicultural, promoting an awareness of other groups' thoughts, ideas, and behaviors including those of the students in the classroom.
- (4) Reinforce district character traits.

Educators may reference the following documents to help with the planning of celebrations.

- [Multicultural Celebration](#) Resource
- [Yearly Holidays and Celebrations](#) Resource

Bicycles

Bicycles are to be kept locked in the bicycle racks. Do not ride bicycles in the parking lot or on the playground. Students should walk their bicycles on school sidewalks and through crosswalks.

Toys/personal items

No toys or other personal items, including trading cards, should be brought to school unless they are to be used for classroom “sharing time” purposes or if kept in their backpack for after school activities.

IMPORTANT POLICIES

(These may also be found on the District Website)

A. Harassment

Under the Wisconsin Pupil Nondiscrimination, pupil harassment is any behavior directed toward pupils because of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability which substantially interferes with a pupil's school performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment. (PI 9.02(9), Wis. Admin. Code). The district additionally recognizes any behavior directed towards pupils based on gender identity as a form of pupil harassment.

The following are examples of behavior that can constitute bullying/harassment: name-calling, making threats, spreading rumors, telling offensive jokes, initiation/hazing, making fun of someone, gestures, physical intimidation, hitting, touching, pranks, vandalism or destruction of property.

Students who feel that they are being bullied or harassed or that their rights, according to the legal statutes written above, have been denied should report the situation(s) to a staff member or the building principal. Those students who harass or who create a hostile or threatening environment for others may be subject to disciplinary measures that include, but are not limited to, detention, suspension, or expulsion.

B. Sale, Solicitation, Distribution of Materials, Products or Advertising

Any group, individual, or representative of the same is prohibited from soliciting, selling, distributing materials or products, and/or advertising a position or product on school grounds, buildings and/or at school events without prior approval of school administration. Any students, student groups, and/or community groups desiring to use the asset of the River Falls Area School District in any manner related to the topics herein are to insure they have received permission to proceed from school administration prior to engaging anyone in such a manner.

C. Bullying/Cyber-Bullying Policy

The School District of River Falls believes that a safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic standards and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to educate students in a safe environment. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, and other similar disruptive behavior ([District Policy 411.2](#))

- Bullying includes aggressive or hostile behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power between the bully and the bullied. It is typically repeated over time.

- Bullying takes many forms, including, but not limited to, physical or verbal assaults, nonverbal or emotional threats or intimidation, social exclusion and isolation, extortion, and the use of a computer or telecommunications to send embarrassing, slanderous, threatening, or intimidating messages.
- Bullying is a form of victimization and is not necessarily a result of or part of an ongoing conflict.
- Bullying can also be characterized by teasing, put-downs, name-calling, cruel rumors, false accusations, and hazing.

The School District of River Falls has a zero tolerance policy against cyberbullying and each reported instance will be handled in accordance with district, state, and federal rules, laws, policies and guidelines. SDRF prohibits acts of cyberbullying by students through the use of any district owned, or personally owned technologies.

The misuse of personal or home-based social media, depending on its potential effect on the health, safety and welfare of students/others and the maintenance of the educational setting in school, may result in referral to law enforcement and/or school discipline, including but not limited expulsion. See district policy [411.2](#) for more information.

The school district will act to investigate all complaints of bullying and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student or employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

While it is the intent of the school district to prevent bullying, take actions to stop bullying, and protect reporters of bullying, the school district cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel.

D. Police Interviews

School officials retain the right to maintain proper order and safety of the school. School officials do not have the authority to restrict police communication when necessary. Attempts will be made to avoid disrupting the school environment. Parents will be notified of a police interview if and when appropriate.

E. Other Policies

This handbook is not a comprehensive listing of all district policies. The River Falls School Board has other policies that are not included in this handbook but are available for all students/parents upon request.

REQUIRED NOTICES

(These are also on the District Website)

A. Student Record Notice

STUDENT RECORDS NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS

The School District of River Falls maintains student records for each student attending school in the District. These records include: (1) “progress records” which include a statement of the courses taken by the student, the student’s grades, the student’s co-curricular activities, the student’s immunization records and the student’s attendance records; and, (2) “behavioral records” which include tests relating specifically to achievement or measurement of ability, psychological tests, the student’s physical health records other than

his/her immunization records, personality evaluations, records of conversations, written statements relating specifically to an individual student’s behavior, law enforcement agency records obtained by the District and any other student records which are not progress records.

The following shall apply in the District:

1. An adult student, or the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a minor student, has the right to inspect, review and obtain copies of the student’s school records upon request in accordance with established procedures. The District shall respond to such requests without unnecessary delay. A copy of the Board’s student records policy and procedures can be obtained from the Director of Academic Services at the school district administrative offices located at 852 E. Division St., River Falls, WI 54022. Regular office hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the summer and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the school year.
2. An adult student, or the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a minor student, has the right to request the amendment of the student’s school records if he/she believes the records are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights. Complaints regarding the content of student records may be made in accordance with established procedures. Copies of the District’s procedures are available upon request as outlined above.
3. An adult student, or the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a minor student, has the right to consent to the disclosure of information contained in the student’s school records, except to the extent that state and federal laws authorize disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials determined to have legitimate educational interests, including safety interests, in the student records. A “school official” is a person employed by the District who is required by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to hold a license; a person who is employed by or working on behalf of the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and police-school liaison personnel); a person serving on the Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks. A school official has a “legitimate educational interest” if the official needs to review a student record in order to fulfill his/her professional or District responsibility.

The District shall transfer a student’s records to another school or school district without consent upon request in accordance with state law. District procedures outline the specific reasons for disclosure without consent and are available upon request as outlined above.

4. An adult student, or the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a minor student, has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education for alleged District noncompliance with federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

Further, the following categories of information are hereby designated as directory data

CATEGORIES OF DIRECTORY DATA	GRADE LEVELS AT WHICH DIRECTORY DATA CATEGORIES APPLY (MARKED WITH “X”)		
	K-5	6-8	9-12

Student name, grade level, and name of school presently attending	X	X	X
Student photographs	X	X	X
School activities in which student participates	X	X	X
Awards and honors received	X	X	X
Height and weight (athletic teams only)			X

Directory data may be disclosed to any person UNLESS the adult student, or parent, legal guardian or guardian ad litem of a minor student informs the school that all or any part of the directory data may not be released without the prior consent of the adult student, parent, legal guardian or guardian ad litem. To require consent before the District can release directory data, a written statement to that effect must be completed and signed by the adult student or parent, legal guardian or guardian ad litem of a minor student and given to the building principal within 14 days of receipt of this notice.

B. Nondiscrimination Notice

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES/STUDENT** **NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The School District of River Falls is committed and dedicated to the task of providing the best education possible for every child in the District for as long as the student can benefit from attendance and the student's conduct is compatible with the welfare of the entire student body.

The right of the student to be admitted to school and to participate fully in curricular, co-curricular, student services, recreational and other programs or activities shall not be abridged or impaired because of a student's sex (including gender identity, gender expression and nonconformity to gender role stereotypes), race, national origin, color, religion, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, handicap or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

All district career and technical education opportunities are offered to students on a nondiscriminatory basis. Additional information regarding such program offerings and the applicable admission/participation criteria can be obtained on the high school's website or by contacting any school's counseling office.

Children of homeless individuals and unaccompanied homeless youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian) residing in the District shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including comparable services, as provided to other children and youth who reside in the District. Homeless children and youth shall not be required to attend a separate school or program for homeless children and shall not be stigmatized by school personnel.

The District shall provide appropriate educational services and/or programs for students who have been identified as having a disability and shall make school facilities reasonably accessible to such students as required by law. The District shall ensure that students with disabilities are not excluded from academic, career and technical education programs, courses, services or activities due to equipment barriers or because necessary related aids and services or auxiliary aids are not available. Reasonable accommodations shall be made for students with disabilities in accordance with legal requirements.

The District shall also provide for the reasonable accommodation of a student’s sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to examinations and other academic requirements.

Requests for accommodations shall be made in writing and reviewed for approval by the building principal. Accommodations may include, but not necessarily be limited to, exclusion from participation in an activity, alternative assignments, and released time from school to participate in religious activities and opportunities to make up work missed due to religious observances. Any accommodations granted under this policy shall be provided to students without prejudicial effect. Students, parents/guardians, and teachers shall receive written notification of this policy and the procedures for requesting an accommodation. Complaints regarding the interpretation or application of this policy shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

The Superintendent or designee (located at 852 E. Division St., River Falls, WI, 54022, telephone 715-425-1800) is designated to receive grievances regarding discrimination according to the established procedures.

Notice of this policy and its accompanying complaint procedures shall be published at the beginning of each school year and posted in each building in the district. In addition, a student nondiscrimination statement shall be included in student and staff handbooks, course selection handbooks and other published materials distributed to the public describing school activities and opportunities.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes Sections 118.13; Wisconsin Administrative Code PI 9, 41; Title IX; Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS
TITLE IX NOTICE.

As mandated by the current provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and under the regulations set forth in Chapter 106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“the federal Title IX regulations”), the District does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that the District operates. Title IX’s requirement not to discriminate in any education program or activity extends to cover, but is not limited to, District students, certain admissions processes, and District employment. Inquiries regarding how Title IX and the federal Title IX regulations apply to the District may be referred to a District Title IX

Coordinator (as designated below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, or to both.

Any questions regarding Title IX compliance may be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinators.

Primary Title IX Coordinator-Student (i.e. when the complainant is a student)

Mark Inouye, Director of Student Services

852 E. Division Street

River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-1800

mark.inouye@rfsd.k12.wi.us

Secondary Title IX Coordinator-Staff (i.e. when the complainant is an employee)

Nate Schurman, Director of Human Resources

852 E. Division Street

River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-1800

nate.schurman@rfsd.k12.wi.us

Title IX Coordinators are authorized by the Board to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with Title IX and this policy. The District's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures relate to sex discrimination are set forth under Policy 411.11. To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination, please refer to Policy 411.11

C. Notice of Child Find Activity

NOTICE OF CHILD FIND ACTIVITY

The school district must locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities, including children with disabilities attending private schools in the school district, regardless of the severity of their disabilities. The school district has a special education screening program to locate and screen all children with suspected disabilities who have not graduated from high school. Upon request, the school district will screen a child who has not graduated high school to determine whether a special education referral is appropriate. A request may be made by contacting Mark Inouye, Director of Student Services, School District of River Falls, at (715) 425-1800, or by writing her at the School District of River Falls, 852 E Division Street, River Falls, WI 54022.

Annually the district conducts developmental screening of preschool children. Each child's motor,

communication, and social skills are observed at various play areas. Each child's hearing and vision is checked. The information is used to provide the parent with a profile of their child's current development and to provide suggestions for follow-up activities. Parents learn about community services available to them and speak with representatives of agencies serving families. The information from screening is also used to determine whether a child should be evaluated for a suspected disability. When school staff reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability, they refer the child for evaluation by a school district Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Developmental screening will be part of the kindergarten screening this spring. Watch for the dates at your local school.

A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to report the child to the school district in which the child resides. If the child attends a private school in another school district, the child should be reported to the school district where the child attends school. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made. The referral must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. Others who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability may also refer the child. A referral for the School District of River Falls may be sent to Mark Inouye at the school district address above.

The school district maintains pupil records, including information from screening and special education referral. All records directly related to a student and maintained by the school district are pupil records. They include records maintained in any way including, but not limited to, computer storage media, video and audiotape, film, microfilm, and microfiche. Records maintained for personal use by a teacher and not available to others and records available only to persons involved in the psychological treatment of a child are not pupil records.

The school district maintains several classes of pupil records.

- "Progress records" include grades, courses the child has taken, the child's attendance record, immunization records, required lead screening records, and records of school extra-curricular activities. Progress records must be maintained for at least five years after the child ceases to be enrolled.
- "Behavioral records" include such records as psychological tests, personality evaluations, records of conversations, written statements relating specifically to the pupil's behavior, tests relating specifically to achievement or measurement of ability, physical health records other than immunization and lead screening records, law enforcement officers' records, and other pupil records that are not "progress records." Law enforcement officers' records are maintained separately from other pupil records. Behavioral records may be maintained for no longer than one year after the child graduates or otherwise ceases to be enrolled, unless the parent specifies in writing that the records may be maintained for a longer period of time. The school district informs parents when pupil records are no longer needed to provide special education. At the request of the child's parents, the school district destroys the information that is no longer needed.
- "Directory data" includes the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, photographs, degrees and awards received, and the name of the school most recently previously attended by the student.
- "Pupil physical health records" include basic health information about a pupil, including the pupil's immunization records, an emergency medical card, a log of first aid and medicine administered to the pupil, an athletic permit card, a record concerning the pupil's ability to participate in an education program, any required lead screening records, the results of any routine screening test, such as for hearing, vision or scoliosis, and any follow-up to the test, and any other basic health information, as determined by the state superintendent. Any pupil record relating to a pupil's physical health that is not a pupil physical health record is treated as a patient health care record under sections 146.81 to 146.84, Wisconsin Statutes. Any pupil record concerning HIV testing is

treated as provided under section 252.15, Wisconsin Statutes.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and section 118.125, Wisconsin Statutes, afford parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) the following rights with respect to education records:

- The rights to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of receipt of the request. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. The school district will comply with the request without unnecessary delay and before any meeting about an individualized education program, or any due process hearing, and in no case more than 45 days after the request has been made. If any record includes information on more than one child, the parents of those children have the right to inspect and review only the information about their child or to be informed of that specific information. Upon request, the school district will give a parent or eligible student a copy of the progress records and a copy of the behavioral records. Upon request, the school district will give the parent or eligible student a list of the types and locations of education records collected, maintained, or used by the district for special education. The school district will respond to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the records. A representative of the parent may inspect and review the records.
- The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School District of River Falls to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information in the student’s education records, except to the extent that federal and state law authorizes disclosure without consent. The exceptions are stated in 34 CFR 99.31, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regulations; Sec. 9528, PL107-110, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and section 118.125(2)(a) to (m) and sub. (2m), Wisconsin Statutes. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosures to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Also the district discloses “directory data” without consent, unless the parent notifies the district that it may not be released without prior parental consent.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202-4605

D. Asbestos Notification

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

As a result of federal legislation (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act - AHERA), each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to complete a stringent inspection for asbestos and to develop a plan of management for all asbestos-containing building materials. The School District of River Falls has a goal to be in full compliance with this law and is following the spirit, as well as, the letter of the law. As a matter of policy, the district shall continue to maintain a safe and healthful environment for our community's youth and employees.

In keeping with this legislation, all buildings (including portables and support buildings) owned or leased by the School District of River Falls were inspected by an EPA accredited inspector and samples were analyzed by an independent laboratory. Based on the inspection, the school prepared and the state approved a comprehensive management plan for handling the asbestos located within its buildings safely and responsibly.

Furthermore, the School District of River Falls has completed the 3-Year Re-inspections required by AHERA. Our district buildings, where asbestos-containing materials were found, are under repair, removal and Operations and Maintenance.

This past year School District of River Falls conducted the following with respect to its asbestos containing building materials:

**Continued our Operations and Maintenance Program*

Federal law requires a periodic walk-through (called "surveillance") every six months of each area containing asbestos. MacNeil Environmental, Inc will accomplish this under contract.

Short-term workers (outside contractors - i.e., telephone repair workers, electricians and exterminators) must be provided information regarding the location of asbestos in which they may come into contact. All short-term workers shall contact the lead maintenance person before commencing work to be given this information.

The School District of River Falls has a list of the location(s); type(s) of asbestos containing materials found in that school building and a description and time-table for their proper management. A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for review in the school office. Copies are available at 25 cents per page. Questions related to the plan should be directed to Erin KH Paulson, with MacNeil Environmental, Inc., by contacting the School District of River Falls at (715)425-1800.

E. Notice of Referral and Evaluation Procedures

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS ANNUAL NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRAL AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Upon request, the School District River Falls is required to evaluate a child for eligibility for special education services. A request for evaluation is known as a referral. When the district receives a referral, the district will appoint an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if the child has a disability, and if the child needs special education services. The district locates, identifies, and evaluates all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private (including religious) schools, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district.

A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to refer the child, including

a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made.

Others, including parents, who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability, may also refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides.

Referrals must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral may be made by contacting Mark Inouye, Director of Special Education, School District of River Falls, at (715) 425-1800, or by writing him at 852 E. Division Street, River Falls, WI 54022.

F. Notice of Student Privacy

At the beginning of each school year, School Districts that receive federal funding are required to provide their student privacy policy to parents. The School District of River Falls will provide reasonable notice to parents of any activities or surveys involving the collection of student data. When applicable, parents will have the opportunity to view survey questions in advance, and will be able to opt their child out of the activity or survey if they choose.

SDRF ENTRANCE AGE POLICY

No child may be admitted to 4-year-old kindergarten in the District unless the child is four years old on or before September 1 in the year he/she proposes to enter school. A child may be admitted to 4-year-old kindergarten under the legal age if he/she meets the conditions and standards of the district's early admission to 4-year-old kindergarten procedures (421-Rule).

No child may be admitted to 5-year-old kindergarten in the District unless the child is five years old on or before September 1 in the year he/she proposes to enter school. A child may be admitted to 5-year-old kindergarten under the legal age if he/she meets the conditions and standards of district early admission to kindergarten procedures (421-Rule).

No child may be admitted to first grade in the District unless the child is six years old on or before September 1 of the year he/she proposed to enter school and has completed 5-year-old kindergarten. A child may be admitted to first grade under the legal age if he/she has completed a 5-year-old kindergarten program or its equivalent. A child may also be admitted to first grade under the legal age and/or without having completed 5-year-old kindergarten if he/she has met the conditions and standards for early admission or exemption from kindergarten outlined in District procedures. (421-Rule)

If a child's request for admission to 4 and 5-year-old kindergarten or first grade is denied, the child's parent or guardian may appeal the decision in writing to the District Administrator whose decision may be appealed to the School Board. The School Board has final authority for deciding whether or not the child is to be admitted to school in accordance with the conditions and standards specified in this policy. The appeal must be made in writing to the District Administrator within 10 days of receipt of the principal's decision.

Special Educational Programs: Enrollment Age

Given the written request of a child's parent/guardian, a screening shall be provided to a child who has reached the age of three to determine if the child has a disability. If so, and if the parent/guardian consents in writing, a resident child with a disability shall be placed in an appropriate special education program.

SDRF STUDENT INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE

K-2 Acceptable Use Agreement

1. I promise to use the Internet and computer for my schoolwork only.
2. I promise to stay on the web pages that my teacher shows me.
3. I promise to ask for help if I don't know what to do.
4. I promise to never give my picture, my name, address, home phone number or the name of my school on the internet. I will never give this information out about other people either.
5. I promise to tell my teacher if I read or see something on the Internet that makes me feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
6. I promise to never enter another student's server account, file, folder, or work.
7. I understand network files are not private. Teachers may view the contents at any time.
8. I promise to respect all school computers and use them appropriately. I will not do anything to damage the computers.

We have read together and explained these rules to our child. We understand the responsibilities involved and any consequences that may occur if the rules are not followed.

3-5 Acceptable Use Agreement

1. I will promise to use the Internet and computers for educational purposes.
2. I will only use the computers and Internet after obtaining my teacher's permission.
3. I will only use the bookmarked sites unless my teacher or another authorized adult supervises my use of a search engine for approved research.
4. I will not use email without permission from my teacher and will only use it as defined by my teacher. I will always treat people online with respect and treat them as I would like to be treated.
5. I will not enter chat rooms or use instant messaging at school.
6. I will respect the rights of copyright owners and will not plagiarize work that I find on the Internet.
7. I will respect and follow the copyright laws of software and I will not download any software on the school's computers.
8. I will respect all school hardware and never load any unauthorized software. I will never do anything to damage any equipment or its contents.
9. I will tell my teacher right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable. I will not send, store, or access any material that is inappropriate, harassing, obscene, or offensive.
10. I will not leave an account open or unattended or trespass into anyone else's files, folders, or work.
11. I understand network files are not private. Network administrators may view the contents at any time in order to maintain system integrity.
12. I will not use school computers to trade, buy, or sell anything.
13. I will never send any personal information about me or anyone else. Personal information includes pictures, names, addresses, e-mail addresses, home phone numbers or location of my school.
14. I will not do anything to damage or interfere with the school districts access to any data, communications, systems, files, or passwords.
15. I understand that all school rules apply while I am using the Internet and computers. If I do not follow these rules, I may lose my privileges, be subject to disciplinary actions and may need to attend a meeting with my parents, teacher, principal, and other proper authorities.

I understand that using the computers at school is a privilege and with that privilege comes responsibility. I understand these rules and by signing my name, I agree to follow these rules. If I break my promise, I understand the consequences and that I may not be able to use the computers or other instructional technology equipment. Policy cross references includes the Non-Discrimination Policy and Sexual Harassment Policy.

Parent/Guardian Permissions/Acknowledgements for the following are handled via the registration process and when updating information for Infinite Campus at Orientation Day

- Media Release
- Local Field Trips
- Student Technology Device
- Student Handbook

Technology Device
STUDENT USER AGREEMENT
School District of River Falls
Grades K-12

Our Mission Statement

The School District of River Falls, innovative leader in personalized learning, ensures the development of every student's unique potential in order to excel as responsible, productive, global citizens, facilitated by forward-thinking staff in a safe, nurturing, and collaborative environment.

School District of River Falls – Student Technology Devices

The School District of River Falls has provided technology devices to students to enhance personalized learning and improve achievement. These devices may be used in instruction to promote 21st century learning skills. All students, and their parents or guardians, who are issued devices are required to review and sign this agreement with the School District of River Falls to protect the hardware and software inherent with the technology, as well as protect the safety of our students online.

Goals for Student Users

- To capitalize on the convergence of academic resources such as textbooks, scholarly sources, and content rich media.
- To facilitate mobile learning across the school campus and beyond.
- To promote leadership in one's own education by establishing access to educational resources and providing tools to amplify student voice in learning.

General Expectation for Student Use of District Provided Technology

Student use of the technology devices fall under the guidelines of the District's Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy (Board Policy 363.2). Access to the internet is monitored through our school's content filtering software and all rules and expectations are applied to the use of the devices. All applications, activity and files stored on the devices are the property of the School District of River Falls and are subject to regular review and monitoring. Students will be given a device and a cord for charging the battery on the device. Students may download personal content (apps, music, etc) to the device they are assigned, as long as the content meets the SDRF Policy 363.2. Students are not to alter (ex: jailbreak) the device in any way.

Acceptable Use Guidelines

- Students will have access to all available forms of electronic media and communication which is in support of education and research and in support of the educational goals and objectives of the School District of River Falls.
- Students are responsible for their ethical and educational use of the technology resources of the School District of River Falls.
- Students will recognize that their reputation in cyberspace is nothing to take lightly. One's digital footprint can last a lifetime.

- Access to the School District of River Falls technology resources is a privilege and not a right. Each employee, student and/or parent will be required to follow the District's Internet Safety and Acceptable Use (Board Policy 363.2).
- Transmission of any material that is in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following: confidential information, copyrighted material, and threatening or obscene material.
- Any attempt to alter data, the configuration of a device, or the files of another user, without the consent of the individual, building administrator, or technology administrator, will be considered an act of vandalism and subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the student handbook and other applicable school policies.

Privacy and Safety

- Do not go into unapproved social media sites or chat rooms without permission. If applicable, teachers may create discussion groups for communication among students for educational purposes.
- Do not open, use, or change files that do not belong to you.
- Do not reveal your full name, phone number, home address, social security number, credit card numbers, password or passwords of other people.
- If you inadvertently access a website that contains obscene, pornographic or otherwise offensive material, exit the site immediately.

Legal Property

- Comply with trademark and copyright laws and all license agreements. Ignorance of the law is not immunity. If you are unsure, ask a teacher or parent.
- Plagiarism is a violation of the student policy. Give credit to all sources used, whether quoted or summarized. This includes all forms of media on the Internet, such as graphics, movies, music, and text.
- Use or possession of hacking software is strictly prohibited and violators will be subject to discipline. Violation of applicable state or federal law, including the Wisconsin Penal Code (943.70 Computer Crimes) may result in criminal prosecution or disciplinary action by the District.

Care and Maintenance

- Students are responsible for the general care of the technology device they have been issued by the school. Devices that are broken, or fail to work properly, must be taken to the Media Center as soon as possible so that they can be taken care of properly. *Do not take district owned devices to an outside computer service for any type of repairs or maintenance.*
- Do not get your device wet or leave your device in extreme heat or cold temperatures.
- Store your device in a backpack compartment that is separate from other objects.
- Never transport your device with the power cord plugged in.
- Use caution when storing your device in your locker and avoid storing your device in a vehicle.
- Devices must remain free of any writing, drawing, or stickers with the exception of the identification label provided by the School District of River Falls.

Technical Support

- Technical support will be provided by the district IT team and is accessible via the school media center.

Consequences

The student in whose name a system account and/or a technology device is issued will be responsible at all times for its appropriate use. Non-compliance with the policies of this document or the district's Internet Safety and Acceptable Use (Board Policy 363.2), will result in disciplinary action. The district cooperates fully with local, state or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to violations of computer

crime laws. Contents of email and network communications are governed by the Wisconsin Open Records Act; proper authorities will be given access to their content.

Damage/Repair Fees

Damages and repairs will be dealt with on a case by case basis as per the student handbook school district property usage policies. Fines may be levied if need be with prices never to exceed the full cost of the device and/or case.