

Rocky River Elementary School



Parent Handbook 2025-2026

Principal: Mrs. Micah Thompson
Assistant Principal: Mr. Christopher Campbell
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Marla Guerity
Principal Intern: Mrs. Denise DuVall

Rocky River Elementary School
5454 Rocky River Road
Concord, NC 28025

Telephone Number:
(704)-260-6290
Fax Number:
(704) 260-6309

Dear Rocky River Families,

Welcome back! We are especially excited to welcome all of our new Roadrunners along with their families to our school!

We know that for students to be successful, parents and teachers must have common goals for the children, and we must all work together. Our goal is to create the kind of school environment and provide the type of instructional program that will enable each student in our school to maximize his or her potential as a life-long learner. For us to be successful, we need your cooperation and support. The teacher will be crucial in assuring success this school year. Take time to familiarize yourself with school policies and know what the expectations are in your child's classroom. If problems should arise, please contact the teacher and work cooperatively toward a beneficial resolution.

The following information regarding policies and procedures is very important to your child's success while here at Rocky River Elementary School. Please take the time to review all content with your student. If you have any questions regarding a policy or procedure, please contact your student's teacher or the front office. Open communication between you and the school is a critical component to your student's success this school year. Please check our school's website for up to date information throughout the school year.

I'm excited to partner with you in celebrating our students' growth and achievements throughout the school year! You can help us shine even brighter by encouraging your child to read at home daily, ensuring they arrive to school on time, and joining our amazing PTO.

Together, we'll make this school year one to remember—full of energy, enthusiasm, and educational success. On behalf of the entire Rocky River team, we wish you a year filled with joy, discovery, and connection.

Ready... Set... GLOW! Let's light up the 2025–2026 school year together!

Respectfully,

Tara Butch
Principal

AIG

According to North Carolina Article 9B, "Academically or intellectually gifted students perform or show the potential to perform at substantially high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. Academically or intellectually gifted students exhibit high performance capability in intellectual areas, specific academic fields, or in both intellectual areas and specific academic fields. Academically or intellectually gifted students require differentiated educational services beyond those ordinarily provided by the regular educational program. Outstanding abilities are present in students from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor."

All elementary students in 1st and 2nd grade will have the opportunity to experience enrichment classes that extend and enrich the curriculum that is being offered in the regular classroom. These LIFT (*Learning Interventions for Talented*) classes will provide students, the regular classroom teacher, and the teacher of gifted education a chance to partner together in the cultivation of potential in young high ability students.

Beginning in 3rd grade, students that exhibit gifted abilities in the classroom and on achievement test(s) have the opportunity to be nominated by his/her teacher for the AIG program. The nomination is submitted to the AIG program team for review and decisions are made on the next steps for each particular student. The decisions are based on the Cabarrus County Schools Academically and Intellectually Gifted criteria. Students in 3rd through 5th grades that are identified for gifted services in the SOAR Program (Strategies, Opportunities, Activities and Resources) will receive services from the gifted education teacher each week. The curriculum that they will participate in will be reflective of the new North Carolina Gifted Education Standards established by the NC Department of Public Instruction. As a part of the grades 3-5 SOAR model, lessons will be planned that extend and enrich the new common core state standards and align with the standards for gifted education.

ATTENDANCE

Students need to be in school every day. Regular attendance is essential to the learning process. In addition, students who are absent from school are deprived of a variety of educational experiences shared with their peers. Students can make up the work missed due to absence upon their return to school. However, there is no way to reproduce or recapture classroom activities.

ABSENCE PROCEDURES

- The Cabarrus County School Board has defined the following absences as lawful: illness or injury; quarantine; medical or dental appointments; death in the immediate family; court or administrative proceedings; religious observances; educational opportunities.

- When a student must miss school, an excuse from a parent or guardian must be presented to the teacher within **two school days** of the student's return after an absence. Parents are also encouraged to complete the [RRES Absence Form](#) for any student absence.
- Absences due to extended illnesses or after accumulating more than ten (10) absences require a statement from a physician. Notes/statements from a physician may require verification by school staff.
- For an absence to be considered excused, a parent must supply one of the following within 2 days of the absence:
 - written note/doctor's note
 - email
- A student must be in attendance more than one-half of the school day before he or she can be counted present for that day. This would mean that a child would need to stay in school until 11:55 AM to be counted as present for the day.
- For extended absences, please contact your child's teacher to make these arrangements.
- Please notify the school if your child has a contagious disease or an extended illness.

REQUEST FOR PRIOR APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

- We ask that you plan your vacations and travel during times when school is not in session; however, if it is necessary for your child to miss school for these reasons, you may pick up a [Request for Prior Approval of Absences](#) form in the front office (for an educational opportunity). For your convenience you may click on the link above to access the form and print it off at home.
- We ask that you complete this form and return it to the data manager, Kim Hartsell, in the office two weeks **prior** to the absence(s). The principal will determine if the absence(s) will be excused according to the criteria outlined on the form, as well as prior attendance record.
- If approval is given for an educational opportunity, the student will be required to make up all the work and submit a product on what he/she learned and experiences. Examples of a product include: journal entries, PowerPoint/slide presentation, project board, scrapbook, written report, etc. The project should be given to your child's teacher upon return from the educational opportunity (within a week).

**See the complete Cabarrus County Schools attendance policy for further details.

PROGRAM CHOICE/OPT OUT

- This information is for students and families who are at Rocky River Elementary as a part of Program Choice in our Dual Language Program and who have been granted a transfer from Cabarrus County Schools to attend Rocky River Elementary. As a part of the contract included in Cabarrus County School policy the following conditions must be followed:

- The parent/guardian is responsible for providing on time transportation.
- The student is expected to exhibit traits of good citizenship and reasonable education progress.
- Based on the county policy, if a student does not meet the guidelines of the contract they will enroll in their homeschool.
- Families will be notified if they are approaching a violation of their contract.

TARDY PROCEDURES

- Students should arrive at school on time. When a Cabarrus County bus is late and students ride that bus, they are not counted as **tardy**.
- If a student arrives by car at the 8:15 bell, both the parent and the student must come to the office and sign in. A tardy slip will be issued at this time.
- All tardies and early checkouts from school will be recorded and tracked and listed on the student's report card under the heading of *Tardies*. Excessive tardies (and checkouts) may result in a referral to the school social worker for investigation.
- In order to be counted present for the day, your child must be here at school by 11:40am.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

- Parents who are planning on moving or changing schools should notify the office at least a week in advance if they intend to **withdraw** their child from Rocky River.
- All textbooks, technology and library books should be returned and all fees paid prior to withdrawal.

BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to protect the academic day, birthday parties will not be permitted during the school day. Individually wrapped or packaged items may be brought in for the class and given out during the last 5 minutes of the lunch period. It is also against school policy to distribute invitations by parents, students, or staff at school. No homemade baked goods may be served to children.

BIRTHDAY BALLOONS, GIFTS, FLOWERS ETC.

The delivery of balloons, gifts, flowers, etc. to school is prohibited. No items will be delivered to students during the school day as balloons, flowers, baskets, and other large gifts are prohibited on the bus. This includes but is not limited to any promotions or events.

BULLYING

Bullying and/or harassment are strictly prohibited by CCS policy (*see specific policies below.*) The repeated pattern of intimidation may be real or threatened.

PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND BULLYING

[POLICY CODE: 1710/4021/7230](#)

There are 4 types of bullying

- Physical
- Emotional
- Relational
- Cyber

Bullying may include, but is not limited to:

- verbal taunts
- name-calling
- implied or stated threats
- intentional and/or stated exclusion from peer groups

Students who feel bullied, harassed or intimidated at school by an adult or another student should report the concern to a teacher, administrator or other staff member.

Parents and students may use the [CCS Bullying Report Link](#) to report the report electronically or report the incident directly to the teacher, administrator, or guidance counselor. If these or other related situations arise during the year, please contact your child's teacher or administrator so we can help to resolve the situation.

BUS EXPECTATIONS/DISCIPLINE

Each school day our bus drivers are committed to providing safe and dependable transportation for our students. In order for this to happen, we rely on a partnership between the driver and the students. Please help support school bus safety by reviewing these bus safety rules with your children.

- Students should be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before their scheduled pick up time. They should stand quietly while the bus is approaching and not move toward the bus until it has come to a complete stop. There should be no pushing, shoving, picking or fighting at any bus stop.
- **Elementary students are not allowed to have electronic devices out and in use on the school bus (CCS policy).**
- Students must sit in their assigned seats with their bottom on the bottom of the seat, back against the back of the seat, and book bags and hands in their lap.
- No food or drinks (except bag lunches that remain closed) are allowed on the bus. Gum, toys, playing cards, radios, etc. are not allowed.
- **Students must comply with ALL directions from the driver.**

- Students may only ride a bus to which they are assigned. A note from a parent does not give a student permission to ride a bus on which the child is not on the bus roster per state guidelines.

Students who are referred to the office for misbehavior will meet with an administrator. Students demonstrating serious misbehavior or safety violations will be given consequences, which may include suspension from the bus. In cases of extreme or deliberate misbehavior on the bus, the school bus driver has been instructed to return to school. If this situation occurs, the children who are having difficulty will be removed from the bus. Parents of children removed from the bus will be called and will be expected to pick them up from school. The bus will return as quickly as possible to its scheduled drop-offs. **Cabarrus County School policy prohibits students from riding home with friends.** If you have questions about bus transportation and/or concerns, please contact Mr. Campbell, our Assistant Principal over buses at 704-260-6290.

CAFETERIA **Tawana "Tammy" Dutch – Cafeteria Manager 704-260- 6308**

Breakfast and lunch are served daily. Both breakfast and lunch are free to all RRES students. To help you plan, a weekly menu will be shared weekly through Parent Square. Students are allowed to bring a box or bag lunches to the cafeteria; however, glass bottles are not permitted. Parents are discouraged from sending soft drinks or fast food items for their children at lunch. Microwaves are for staff use only.

- Milk is served with all meals. Juices, extra milk, and bottled water are for sale also. Desserts and snacks do not come with the daily lunch; however, they may be purchased.
- If you want restrictions placed on how often your student may purchase desserts or snacks, notify the cafeteria at 704-260-6308.

Each student has an account in the cafeteria. You may send in cash/check or make a payment on [LINQ Connect](#) if you would like to add additional money for your child to be able to purchase additional snacks. When sending a check, be sure to write your child's name, lunch number and telephone number on the check. For more information, please contact the cafeteria manager.

Parents are allowed to visit their children for lunch. Please sign in at the front office before going to the cafeteria. Parents are asked to take their child to the designated area for lunch. Parents who bring food into the cafeteria from an outside restaurant for lunch are asked to place those items in a plastic/tote bag. Parents who visit their child for lunch are not allowed to follow their child back to the classroom. **Due to limited space - on the days where classes are eating in their classrooms and not the cafeteria, we will not have visitors for lunch.**

CAR POOL SAFETY RULES

We ask that parents who drop off and pick up children follow the following guidelines.

Drop Offs: All grades

- Students **may not** be dropped off until 7:45 a.m.
 - Please do not let your child out of the car until morning staff have arrived.
- Keep your position in the line of traffic.
- Follow the directions of the staff on duty.
- Wait for staff to unload cars at the main entrance.
- Do not leave cars unattended in the drive or in front of the school.
- If you arrive after the bell has rung (8:15 am), please park in the parking lot and walk your student into the main office to sign in.

Car Riders

- We will be using the iDismiss program for dismissal. Each parent will be given a set of tags with a number on it (student identification cards). **If your child attended RRES last year, you will use those same tags. Replacement tags are \$10.**
- Be prepared to pull to overflow and walk inside the building with your ID if you do not have your student identification card displayed in your car.
- Please make sure to have your number displayed for the checkout person to see. They will type in your number and cone letter. Cars will be assigned cones in the order that they arrive.
- Cars will pull into the main entrance driveway (old K-1 car rider) and fill up the right hand lane up to the cone with the stop sign. All K-5 cars will use this entrance.
- Once the right lane is filled and the cone if the left lane is moved cars can begin to fill the left side lane
- When dismissal begins, the right lane will proceed to their assigned cone labeled A, B, C, D, and E.
- At the cone students will be loaded into the vehicle and dismissed through our new application.
- If you need to buckle in your student, proceed to the overflow lot (parking lot across from the cones) to buckle up.
- Cars will then proceed out the driveway.
- Once the right lane finishes the left lane will begin to pull up to assigned cones.
- As the left lane is moving the right lane will be filled by the check-in person assigning cones.
- Do not signal students to come to the parking lots or driveways.

CHAPERONES

We welcome parents and volunteers as chaperones on field trips. **All parents who accompany students and classes on field trips are defined as chaperones and must have a cleared background check on file with the school. Parents who serve as chaperones may not bring**

older or younger siblings. To apply for a background check, you may visit the "Parents" tab on the Rocky River homepage and click on the ["Becoming a Volunteer" link](#). Parents are not allowed to ride school buses with students on field trips.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE

Please notify the teacher and the data manager, Kim Hartsell of any change of address or phone number as soon as possible. If you have a change in address, please contact Kim Hartsell to schedule a time to update your records and information. Accurate records are necessary to be able to notify parents in case of an emergency.

COMMUNICATION

Good communication between home and school is vital to a successful school experience for each child. All school communication will be done through Parent Square. RRES staff will respond to all parent communication within 24 hours, with the exception of Friday afternoon.

CONFERENCES

All faculty and staff are encouraged to keep the communication lines open. Please address any concerns with the **teacher first** in an effort to quickly and effectively solve any potential problems.

- Parents needing to contact any faculty or staff member should send a message via Parent Square, an email or a handwritten note with their specific request (phone call, e-mail, conference, etc.). In your correspondence, include in a suggestion of convenient times for you. This will assist the teacher in establishing a mutually convenient time for both of you.
- Please remember that teachers cannot make phone calls nor answer their phones until after school is dismissed for the day. Please leave a message on their voicemail and the teacher will respond to your request as soon as possible.
- During the first quarter, each parent will be asked to schedule an appointment to discuss his/her child's progress in an individual conference with the teacher. We believe that the educational success of your child is a joint venture between school and home, and we want to keep communication lines open.
- If parents desire to contact the teacher, please call the school office, send a message via Parent Square, an email or a handwritten note with their child. Parent conferences may be initiated by the parent, teacher, or administrator and held at mutually agreeable times.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Cabarrus County Schools follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Our curriculum units are developed to support student learning. Please visit the [CCS webpage for Curriculum and Instruction](#) to access the most up to date curriculum information. Students will also receive the Positivity Project curriculum to build character and relationships.

- [Cabarrus County Schools Parent & Family Resources](#) - Find more information here on the expectations of English Language Arts and Math Instruction for Cabarrus County Schools.

DISCIPLINE

Our school uses a proactive approach to discipline called Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS). Positive Behavior Intervention Support focuses on creating and sustaining school-wide, classroom, and individual systems of support that improve the educational environment for all children by explicitly teaching behavioral expectations and then recognizing the positive behaviors shown by students. Our four core values are being ***Respectful, Responsible, Engaged, and Safe***. Students are explicitly taught what it looks like to be ***Respectful, Responsible, Engaged, and Safe*** everywhere in our school. Please see "**Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)**" for more details.

- Students can receive disciplinary referrals for not following the Cabarrus County Schools - [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- Minor referrals are used by the classroom teacher to document behavior interventions used to engage students in learning.
- Major referrals are addressed by school administration and used when a student has not followed the CCS Student Code of Conduct and/or previous interventions have not been successful.
- Parents will receive communication from RRES staff for major and minor referrals.

DRESS CODE

All students are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate for school. Appropriate clothing is defined by the following guidelines: 1) decency, 2) neatness, 3) cleanliness, 4) safety, and 5) suitability for school. However, since our students span seven grade levels, guidelines need to be age appropriate.

- ✓ **Grades Pre K-3** Appropriate, comfortable, and safe should be the guidelines in choosing clothing. Examples of inappropriate or unsafe clothing include:
 - Hats, headbands, bandannas, or other head coverings.
 - Short shorts and short skirts, spaghetti straps, or shirts that bare the midriff, see-through shirts and clothing that does not cover undergarments.
 - Clothing with vulgar or suggestive stenciling and/or advertisement or promotion of illegal substances (cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, etc.)

- Clothing that is obviously too large
- Sunglasses, flip-flops, or jewelry that distracts from learning.
- Footwear that may present a hazard to health and safety. Examples include wheelies, flip-flops, slides, etc. Because we provide a daily P.E. period where we encourage students to be active, students need to wear shoes that allow them to run, climb, and stop safely.

✓ **Grades 4-5** must adhere to all of the above clothing rules.

- Additionally shorts, skirts or dresses must come to the end of a student's fingertips when arms are extended downward.
- All pants and shorts must be fitted at the waist.
- Clothing, jewelry, or other accessories that causes a disruption to the instructional day will not be allowed.
- Clothing with vulgar or suggestive stenciling and/or advertisement or promotion of illegal substances (cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, etc.)
- Footwear that may present a hazard to health and safety. Examples include wheelies, flip-flops, slides, etc. Because we provide a daily P.E. period where we encourage students to be active, students need to wear shoes that allow them to run, climb, and stop safely.

*All students who do not follow clothing guidelines will either call home for a change of clothes or borrow clothes from the Rocky River Clothing Closet.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Students will not be released to anyone other than their parent/legal guardian unless prior written notice has been given to the school. When coming to sign a student out **please have a photo ID**. This is to ensure the safety of your child. A note sent with the child stating the time the student will be checked out is requested. Children are to be picked up at the school office after they have been signed out. Should the student return to school again that same day before the school dismissal, the student shall report first to the office before going to the classroom.

- Students must attend at least three hours and fifteen minutes to be counted as present for the day.
- If it is necessary to take your child out of school early, please do so before 2:30 PM. As a rule, parents are not allowed to check out students **after 2:30**. By doing this we can avoid the congestion of traffic and classroom disruptions during the critical last half hour of the day when students and teachers are summarizing their day's work and planning for the next day.
- If you need to make changes to your child's transportation we ask that you contact our front office **prior to 2:00**.
- We will not hold buses for a student to be taken off unless it is a dire emergency.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Parents will be asked to determine who will be the emergency contact for their children. The emergency contact is called only when you cannot be reached and there is an emergency. If you need to change the name of the emergency contact, please notify the school as soon as possible. For the safety of your child, it is imperative that the school has the name, address, and phone number of your designated emergency contact.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If a decision is made to close school due to inclement weather, local television, Parent Square and radio stations will broadcast this information. You also may call (704) 260-5649 for school closing information.

If it is announced that school will be closed early due to weather, we will dismiss your child following the directions that you have provided to your child's teacher at the beginning of school on the early dismissal form. In the event that school is dismissed during the school day, please help us by talking to your child in advance about emergency procedures and discussing with your child which neighbor's homes he/she should go to if your home is locked.

FAMILY AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT PLAN

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The engagement of parents/guardians, families, and community members is an essential component to the educational success of our students. Every effort to invite and consider parent/guardian and community input will be made to ensure the safety and success of our students. The school improvement team developed the following parent engagement plan:

I. Family and Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy

A copy of this policy will be provided for parents/guardians each year in the student handbook.

II. Annual Information Meeting

The annual public meeting will be held in conjunction with Curriculum Night in September. There will be a general meeting for all and interactive sessions with classroom teachers. There will be a breakout session for all Spanish speaking families with the parent advocate present.

III. Flexible Meeting Times

Rocky River will host a variety of meetings at flexible times. Examples of meetings are: open house, curriculum night, PTO meetings, book fair, family nights, 5th Grade promotion, as well as IEP meetings, 504 meetings, Tier 3 Intervention Supports, and ML meetings.

IV. Parent/Guardian Participation in Planning

Parents/guardians are encouraged to serve on the School Improvement Team (a minimum of 4 will be selected per year) and are also encouraged to serve on the PTO. Effort will be made to include parents/guardians who represent the diverse population of our school. Parent School Improvement Team members will attend meetings and provide input for the development of the school improvement plan.

V. Parent/Guardian Information

Parents/guardians will be provided with information about programs and the curriculum through curriculum night, SIT meetings, family engagement nights, RRES teacher canvas page, parent teacher conferences, Parent Square messages, monthly newsletters. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to attend and participate in curriculum nights and all other parent meetings and opportunities. In addition, parents/guardians will be asked to attend the first quarter conferences and to schedule other conferences as needed. We encourage parents/guardians to first communicate concerns with classroom teachers to continue to build relationships and gather the most updated information regarding your student. PTO meetings will also be held in designated months to allow parents/guardians to provide input and suggestions.

Parent/guardian representatives will serve on the School Improvement Team, and meeting dates will be publicized for parents/guardians who wish to attend. Rocky River will also send a parent representative to serve on the Superintendent's Parent Council.

VI. School-Parent/Guardian Compact

The Title I Parent Compact is available for families through Scribbles.

VII. Building Parent/Guardian Involvement Capacity

- A. RRES will provide parents/guardians information on state standards and assessments at curriculum night. In addition, information will be shared through the school website, state websites, digital communication and newsletters. We will also provide individual assistance through teacher conferences with parents/guardians. We follow a Multi Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for total school improvement to meet the needs of all students. Students who need extra support are provided interventions (additional child centered support for academics and/or social emotional needs) through a variety of resources.
- B. RRES will provide parents/guardians with additional suggestions and ideas during curriculum night on how they can help their children at home. Information will also be provided through individual conferences, teacher and school newsletters, PTO meetings, digital communication, student service team and the school website.
- C. RRES employs a parent advocate to facilitate communication with our Spanish speaking population. In addition, we will provide an interpreter for our Spanish speaking parents.
- D. RRES works cooperatively with all CCS Pre-Kindergarten programs as families prepare to transition students into our Kindergarten and EC classes.
- E. RRES will accommodate parents/guardians with disabilities by utilizing available system resources.
- F. RRES embraces the philosophy of providing a safe, nurturing, and inviting school environment.

- G. RRES will utilize the School Improvement Team and the PTO Board to encourage businesses to partner with our school. We will also work with parents/guardians whose businesses allow and encourage participation in the school. Input from parents/guardians will be solicited through the use of parent/guardian surveys, family information sessions and the School Improvement Team.
- H. RRES will use Title I funds to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities.

FIELD TRIPS

All field trips are supplemental learning activities that support the curriculum. Parental permission via ParentSquare will be required for any field trip. Parents are sometimes asked to chaperone (see CHAPERONES for guidelines on becoming a chaperone); however, younger/older siblings **may not** accompany the parent on the trip.

Children are required to ride the bus with the class to the field study trip destination, but may ride home with their parents. Students who have prior permission in writing may ride home with a chaperone. The teacher must have permission via ParentSquare one day prior to the field trip. The chaperone must sign a roster indicating that children are riding home in the chaperone's car.

GRADING

We use a Standards Based Grading system for Kindergarten – 5th Grades. Each grade level has very specific curriculum standards aligned to the North Carolina Standards that students are expected to demonstrate by the end of the school year. Each standard identifies what students should know and be able to do. When we share your child's academic progress using standards, we are providing important and specific information about learning successes and areas of needed improvement. The score reported will be determined strictly on the child's level of mastery of the standard. Academic achievement is evaluated using the following standards-based score:

- 4 – Exceeds Grade-Level Standard
- 3 – Meets Grade-Level Standard
- 2 – Progressing toward Grade-Level Standard
- 1 – Limited Progress toward Grade-Level Standard

The expectation is that all students will master the standards at grade level (level 3) by the **end of the school year**. Therefore, there may be standards for which your child receives a 2 (Progressing toward Grade-Level Standard) during the first couple of quarters. Our goal is that every child receives a mark of 3 (Meets Grade-Level Standard) by the end of the year for each of the standards.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact his/her teacher to request additional information and/or schedule a conference.

HEALTH (NURSE/MEDICATION) Lynne Golie - School Nurse - 704-260-6306

To provide the best environment for your child's learning experience and to protect the health of others, send your child to school feeling well. Should symptoms of any oncoming illness be displayed, keep your child home for observation. Call the school to indicate that your child will not be in school.

Your child should stay home from school if he or she:

- Has a fever of 100.4 or higher
- Has been vomiting or has diarrhea
- Has a rash with fever
- Has symptoms that keep your child from participating in school such as:
 - Very tired, unable to focus in class or lack of appetite
 - Cough that he or she cannot control or sneezing often
 - Headache, body aches and/or earache
 - Bad sore throat with or without fever and swollen glands, unable to control pain or swallow liquids
 - Eye drainage – thick mucus or pus from the eye, uncontrollable itching

If your child contracts a contagious disease, please notify the school office, so that other children in that classroom can be observed more closely. Return your child to school only after all infectious and contagious symptoms have disappeared.

24 Hour Rule:

- Your child should be fever free without medication and no vomiting or diarrhea for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- If your child was given an antibiotic, please keep them home for at least 24 hours after the first dose.

Returning to school:

- When your child returns to school, send a written note, signed by the parent/legal guardian indicating the days of the child's absence and the reason for the absence.
- When a child becomes ill at school, he/she is referred to the school nurse. The nurse will make the preliminary determination on whether the child needs to go home. When called, the parent should make arrangements immediately for the student to be taken home.
- No medication can be given to a student without the written permission of the physician. This rule includes over the counter medication such as Advil, Benadryl, Pepto-Bismol, etc.

A specific form must be completed by the physician, signed by the parent, and brought or faxed to the school.

Lice:

- Students who have live lice will be sent home at the time of discovery. The parents will be called and the school nurse will send home a 14-day treatment calendar and fact sheet. If nits are found but no live lice, students can remain at school until the end of the day. The school nurse will contact the parent to discuss treatment and send home a 14-day treatment calendar and fact sheet.
- **Children who have lice or nits may return to school after proof of treatment and be rechecked by the school nurse or designee upon arrival to school.** This is a Cabarrus County Schools Policy. Students must be accompanied by his/her parent/guardian for recheck and should not use school transportation until cleared of live lice by the school nurse.
- If siblings of students with live lice or nits are in the school district, they will be checked by the school nurse or designee. If 3 or more cases of live lice are found within a classroom, the class will be checked by the teacher/assistant or school nurse and a letter will be sent home informing parents of children in that classroom about the situation.

HOMEWORK

Homework should reinforce skills taught in the classroom, increase the development of good work habits, offer opportunities for students to learn to budget their time wisely, and provide an opportunity for parent involvement.

Rocky River Homework Policy is as follows:

Kindergarten-2nd Grade - 20 minutes of reading each night

3rd Grade-5th Grade - 30 minutes of reading each night in addition to one other assignment

IDENTIFICATION BADGES

Each child will be provided with an identification badge at the beginning of the year. The student should wear the badge when directed to do so by the teacher. It will be used for identification, library check out, and to go through the lunch line. **If the badge is lost or broken it will be replaced for a \$5.00 fee.**

KIDS PLUS Sara Vaught - KidsPlus Director 704-260- 6307

Kids Plus is a before/after school daycare program that is licensed through the North Carolina Division of Child Development. The program is open from 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM. In addition to before and after school care, the program provides care for students on Teacher Work Days.

After school, the Kids Plus program provides purposeful activities in a caring environment. For more information about the Rocky River Kids Plus Program, call (704) 260-6307.

LOST AND FOUND

Clothing and personal items that are brought to school should be labeled with the child's name. Found articles are turned into the school lost and found bins or hung on the rack. Unlabeled or unclaimed property is donated to a local charity at least twice a year (December/June).

Multi Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

We use a Multi Tiered System of Support as a framework for total school improvement in order to meet the academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs of all students.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of Cabarrus County Schools and Rocky River Elementary School not to discriminate against any qualified disabled person solely by reason of his/her disability, in admission, or access to, or treatment in, any program, or activity sponsored by the school. Inquiries regarding compliance to the policy should be directed to the principal, Tara Butch. Please adhere to the following procedures when you visit the school:

- Parents and visitors are asked to park in the designated visitor parking lot.
- Parking in any area which blocks others from entering or leaving campus could result in having your car towed. If in question about where to park, please report to the office and a staff member will assist you.
- Parking in the bus lot is prohibited by staff or visitors during the school day, unless previously directed by administration.

PARENT COMPACT

This compact is an agreement between students, their parents/guardians, and all staff members at Rocky River Elementary School. We believe that it takes the combined efforts of all those parties in order to allow our students to reach their full potential. This compact contains the roles and responsibilities of those parties and is a promise from each party to meet this commitment.

As a student at Rocky River Elementary School, I want to work to the best of my ability. I will:

- Attend school regularly and be prepared to learn.
- Be respectful, responsible, engaged, and safe at all times.
- Follow all classroom and school expectations during instruction.
- Ask for help when I don't understand.
- Read daily or have someone read with me.
- Always put forth my best effort.
- Talk to my parent/guardian about what I learn in school each day.

- Use school issued technology appropriately.

As a parent/guardian, I want my child to achieve high levels of success. I will support him/her by:

- Ensuring my child arrives at school on time, stays at school during the entire school day, and attends school regularly (late arrivals and early checkouts both are considered tardy).
- Ensuring my child uses their technology device properly and safely as outlined in the CCS Device Compact, and pay the fee for damaged devices caused from issues other than normal school use.
- Creating an appropriate place and time for him/her to complete nightly reading.
- Supporting the teachers and school by reinforcing the dress code, student code of conduct, school and classroom expectations.
- Maintaining regular communication with my child's teachers.
- Connect to Parent Square to communicate with my child's teacher and receive schoolwide communication and updates.
- Checking my child's teacher's canvas page, Parent Square, Rocky River webpage or social media accounts to stay aware of updates and important information.
- Attending school functions including curriculum night, family engagement nights, and other events.
- Listening to my child read or reading with him/her daily.
- Following the health guidelines for students (illness/injury).
- Reviewed the CCS Restart Academic Calendar.

As a staff member, I will help each student reach his/her potential. To achieve this I will:

- Maintain high expectations for all students.
- Provide encouragement and support for students as they work toward new challenges and goals.
- Conduct lessons that are rigorous, engaging, relevant, and aligned with North Carolina Standards.
- Maintain open, positive, and frequent communication with parents, provide regular updates on their child's progress through Parent Square and canvas page.
- Create a nurturing, supportive, safe, and healthy structured classroom environment.
- Maintain open, positive, and encouraging communication with all students.
- Build positive relationships with students to ensure a successful learning experience.
- Implement Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) to align with our school-wide expectations (Respectful, Responsible, Engaged and Safe).
- Work collaboratively with staff members.
- Model and/or reteach the standards students are expected to follow.
- Create a classroom environment that fosters a love of literacy.
- Use data to drive instructional decisions.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

Rocky River has an active Parent Teacher Organization. All parents are encouraged to join the PTO. The PTO holds monthly meetings both in person and virtual. For information about becoming involved in the PTO, please stop by their table at open house and/or curriculum night or email contactrespto@gmail.com.

PETS AT SCHOOL

Because of the number of students with allergies or asthma and the possibility of disease transmission, pets at school are not allowed. Some teachers keep animals in their rooms as classroom pets, with principal permission. They are responsible to discuss this ahead of time with parents to ensure that the animal does not present a health risk to any child.

In the event that a teacher would like a student to bring a pet to school for a curriculum-related event, the following must occur:

1. Pet visitation must be pre-approved by the Principal
2. Parent must provide the school with documentation of recent pet vaccinations (rabies), if applicable
3. Parents must provide transportation to and from school. No pets can be taken on a bus.

REPORT CARDS & PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards will be issued after the end of each 9-week grading period. The purpose of report cards is to keep parents up-to-date on their child's academic performance and work habits, and to enlist parents' support and help as they work together with the school staff to improve educational opportunities for students.

Progress Reports & Report Card Distribution Dates	
1st Quarter	Progress Reports: 9/9/25 Report Cards: 10/22/25
2nd Quarter	Progress Reports: 11/14/25 Report Cards: 1/13/26
3rd Quarter	Progress Reports: 2/3/26 Report Cards: 3/26/26
4th Quarter	Progress Reports: 4/17/26 Report Cards: 5/21/26

RETENTION/PROMOTION

Retention and promotion recommendations are made by teachers after reviewing the student's classroom work, assessment results throughout the year and the student's scores on the End-of-Grade tests for children in Grades 3-5 or the End of Year Assessments in Grades K-2. The Cabarrus County Shared Accountability Policy states very specific guidelines for teachers and parents to follow. This policy is distributed at the beginning of the school year. Additional copies may be requested from the school.

North Carolina law says that the principal makes the final decision in promotion and retention decisions. If you have questions/concerns about retention/promotion, please schedule a conference with your child's teacher to discuss further.

RIGHT TO REVIEW TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS – NOTICE TO PARENTS

As a parent of a student at Rocky River Elementary School, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal Law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches
- Whether North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, what are their qualifications.

SCHOOL HOURS

<u>Arrival-Dismissal Hours:</u>	7:45 AM to 3:00 PM
<u>Office Hours:</u>	7:30 AM to 4:00 PM
<u>Kids Plus:</u>	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Group accident insurance is available for students in case an accident or injury occurs at school. Student insurance may be purchased at a low cost through a private company approved each year by the Board of Education. Information on this insurance, its costs, and other details of the plan are given to parents during registration or on the first day of school.

STAY CONNECTED

Communicating with you is important to us. Our school website is only one way that we communicate with parents, students and the community. We provide information about activities and events specific to our school community through Parent Square as well as our social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter). You can also download our district's mobile app (search CabCoSchools in the Apple or Google online app stores) and sign up to receive push notifications and alerts.



[@rockyrivertherock](https://www.facebook.com/rockyrivertherock)



[@rockyriverelem](https://twitter.com/rockyriverelem)



[Parent Square](#)

STUDENTS SELLING ITEMS AT SCHOOL

Students are not permitted to bring items to school to sell or take orders during the school day. (Examples include: Girl Scout cookies, magazines, candy, etc.)

TECHNOLOGY

Each classroom has open access to computers for instructional use. Teachers and students will also have access to a laptop device that will be left at school. Students will be required to adhere to all Cabarrus County Schools technology guidelines. Failure to adhere to those guidelines could result in a students' access to technology being revoked.

Students will receive one to one technology for their use to enhance learning. It is the responsibility of the student to care for and maintain the device including while here at the school. If students damage or lose a device, it will be the responsibility of the student/parent to pay for repairs or replacement and an invoice will be sent via ParentSquare. Fees and charges for Chromebooks and chargers can be found below:

Minor Chromebook Damage: \$25 (as determined by the technician)

Major Chromebook Damage: \$75 (as determined by the technician)

Lost or Damaged Chromebook Charger: \$40

Lost or Not Returned Chromebook: \$250

Fees and charges can be paid by [K12payment Center](#), cash or check (payable to Rocky River Elementary)

TELEPHONE

Children are permitted to use the school telephone only in an emergency situation. The classroom teacher must grant permission in order for a student to use the telephone. Forgotten school materials do not constitute an emergency. Students are discouraged from bringing personal cell phones to school. However, if a parent wishes for the child to have a cell phone it

must remain off and kept inside their book bag during the school day and on the bus ride home per CCS policy #4318. The school cannot be held liable if it is lost and/or damaged.

Teachers will not be interrupted during instructional time for telephone calls. If you call during the instructional day you will be given the opportunity to leave a message on his/her voicemail. The teacher will return your call within 24 hours (with the exception of Fridays). Please be aware that teachers may not have the opportunity to check their voicemail until the school day is over.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

Please communicate with your child's teacher via ParentSquare concerning any change from the normal procedure of transportation home in the afternoon. If it is during the school day, please contact the front office with this change, as teachers do not always check their messages during the instructional day. **Without written instructions students will go home each day in the manner indicated by parents.** Students will not be permitted to change their way of transportation without a written note from the parent or guardian. If you have an emergency situation, please contact the main office so that we may assist you. **No transportation changes can be made after 2:30pm.** Students who have not been assigned to a bus, may not ride a bus. Students may not ride a different bus from the one to which they have been assigned.

VISITORS

In an effort to continuously seek improvement to student safety, we ask that parents not walk children to class in the mornings. We appreciate your support with this policy as it will help to protect valuable instructional time and help us to achieve our top priority, which is to keep our students as safe as possible. If you need to deliver something to the classroom or you have a quick message for the teacher, we will be happy to assist you with this in the front office. If you need to speak directly with the teacher, please call or email to make an appointment. Phone calls will not be sent to classrooms during instruction. If you are requesting a classroom visit, it must be scheduled and approved with the following grade assigned administrator:

- Kindergarten and 1st Grade - Mr. Campbell
- 2nd and 3rd Grade - Mrs. Guerity
- 4th and 5th Grade - Mrs. Butch

All visitors who enter the building will need to report to the front office where they will be asked to show ID and check in using our computerized Lobby Guard check-in system. This system records tardies and check outs as well. Visitors should always use the main entrance to our school and have ID ready.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents are encouraged to volunteer at school. Your child's teacher will notify you of volunteer opportunities, and this must always be approved by the teacher in advance. A sign up sheet is sent home on the first day of school and available at open house for volunteer opportunities. Volunteers must complete an approved background check and a signed consent to volunteer form before volunteering in Cabarrus County Schools. You can stop by the front office or click on [this link](#) to access these forms.