

RIVERSIDE PTA PARENT HANDBOOK

2019 - 20 School Year

Welcome

Welcome to Riverside! We hope your time at Riverside is as special as ours has been. Our goal in participating in the Riverside PTA is to enhance our children's educational experience and to be an advocate for our children. Please join us in our efforts!

Important Telephone Numbers

Main Office:	516.255.8902
Fax:	516.763.1812
Nurse's Hotline:	516.255.8900
Absence Hotline:	516.393.5203

Important Websites and Email

Riverside School Website:	www.rvcschools.org
PTA Email Address:	riversidepta.rvc@gmail.com

Calendar: Important Dates for 2019-20 School Year

September		
Wed	Sept 3	First Full Day of School
Mon/Tues	Sept 30/Oct 1	Rosh Hashanah
October		
Wed	Oct 9	Yom Kippur
Mon	Oct 14	Columbus Day
November		
Tues	Nov 5	Election Day
Mon	Nov 11	Veterans Day
Wed, Thurs, Fri	Nov 27/28/29	Thanksgiving Recess
December		
Mon	Dec 23	Winter Recess Begins
January		
Thurs	Jan 2	School Reopens
Mon	Jan 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February		
Mon	Feb 17	Mid Winter Recess Begins
Mon	Feb 24	School Reopens
April		
Thurs	Apr 9	Passover/Easter Recess Begins
Mon	Apr 20	Schools Reopens
May		
Mon/Tues	May 25/26	Memorial Day Recess
June		
Fri	Jun 26	Last Day of Instruction

AIM Program – “Arts In Motion”

The PTA sponsors various AIM programs throughout the school year that enhances our curriculum. In the past we have had plays, dance conservatories, authors and other various cultural programs. Parents and siblings are usually invited to these programs.

Amazon Smiles

Make your Amazon purchase count for more! When you shop on Amazon, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchase to Riverside PTA. Copy and save this link and use it each time you purchase from Amazon: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-2741431>

Attendance

If your child will be absent from school you must notify the school nurse. Please use the absentee hotline number: 516.393.5203

The hotline is in service 24 hours per day.

Birthdays

Birthday party invitations may be distributed through school only if every child in the class is invited. The PTA does publish a directory, but some families choose not to be listed. Please contact the head class parent for a full list of the students in the class. Birthdays may be celebrated in school with individual “peanut free” snacks. Please ensure the snacks are easy to handle and note that refrigeration is not available. If you wish to send in a drink please be sure they are individual sizes. Do not send in favors or goodie bags. Birthday snacks should be dropped off at the main office. Please check with your child’s teacher about scheduling the date. Also contact the class parent and/or nurse regarding allergies in the class.

Boutiques

The PTA sponsors a Holiday and Father’s Day Boutique. There are items for sale that range in the price of \$1-\$5. You will receive information on the timing of these events through email as well as a notice in your child’s folder. It is a fun “shopping” experience for the children.

Class Parents

At Back to School Night, there are sign up sheets to be a Head Class parent. Each class is assigned a head class parent. This parent will be responsible for communicating with the teacher regarding class events. They will also ask parents to volunteer or donate for these events. The Head Class parent will be responsible for the collection and purchase of the teacher’s gift during the holidays and at the end of the school year.

Calendar

The district calendar lists most of the events happening at Riverside. It also indicates half days, days off and vacations. The district calendar is available online: www.rvcschools.org

The calendar for the following school year is usually posted on the website in the spring of the preceding year. This is helpful for planning ahead for vacations.

Class Parties

There are classroom parties held for Halloween, Winter, and at the end of the year. Class parents are responsible for supplying what is needed. Parents and siblings are welcome for the Halloween party only. Notices will be distributed related to the dates and times of these events so that you can plan ahead.

Concerts

Please note that all students should wear a white top and dark bottoms (blue/black) for all concerts. The concerts are performed in the afternoon and evening.

Winter Concert: All students perform choral selections. The 5th grade orchestra and band members perform.

Spring Concert: Students in 4th and 5th grades perform choral selections. Orchestra and band members perform. 3rd graders perform with their recorders.

Dignity Act Coordinator / Bullying Prevention

Ms. Lisa Panebianco is the designated Dignity Act Coordinator for Riverside. Her phone number is 516.255.8902 and email is lpanebianco@rvcschools.org

To view our code of conduct, incident reporting protocol, please go to:

<http://www.rvcschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=494107&pageId=666332>

Dismissal

Walk: Students are dismissed from back of school. If the designated caregiver is not going to be at pick-up, a note must be submitted. If a note is not submitted, your child will not be released and will be sent to the main office and you will be contacted.

Bus: In the absence of a note from the parent indicating alternate dismissal plans ALL bus students will be sent home by bus.

Dismissal is at 3:26pm.

Half day dismissals are at 11:43am.

Don't Press Send

Don't Press Send was founded by a RVC local, Katie Schumacher, to empower children to use technology responsibly and with good intent. She often hosts learning sessions for parents on best practices for technology use for elementary, middle, and high school aged students. Be sure not to miss it!

For more information:

<http://www.dontpresssend.org>

Dress Code

Please be sure that your child is appropriately dressed for a school setting. Although sleeveless shirts are acceptable in warm weather, spaghetti straps, halter and tube tops are not appropriate school attire.

Early Pick-Up

Should you need to take your child out of school early, please send a note in to his/her teacher. Report to the main office, where your child will be called from his/her classroom to meet you. You must also sign in and out.

Emergency Contact Info

Please be sure to notify the main office with any phone number changes immediately

FaceBook

Find us on FaceBook! Our private group is called: **Riverside Parents Discussion Group**. Please request to join us!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/945617738886981/>

Field Day

Field day is in June. The date is on the school calendar. There are various sporting events in the morning followed by a PTA sponsored lunch. The event is usually held at Barasch Field. In the event of rain, a decision will be made that morning to postpone to the designated rain date. After lunch, there is an AIM program presentation. This is a fun-filled day for the children.

PTA organizes this event and volunteers are needed for the sporting events as well as the lunch. Notices will be sent with specific details as the date approaches.

Friday Ice cream

On Fridays, the PTA sponsors ice cream sales in the cafeteria at lunch time. Ice cream costs \$1 and while the PTA raises money from this sale, our first pledge is to find the healthiest options for our children. We also select items that will have the least amount of allergens.

Halloween

Halloween is a fun day at Riverside. At 2pm, there is a costume parade that begins outside the front door of the school. The staff and students march around the block and finish on the black top in the back of the school. Bring your camera! There is a classroom party after the parade. Parents and siblings are welcome. Children do not wear their costumes to school. Many students will go home for lunch and change at home. If your child is staying at school for lunch, please send in his/her costume and the staff will assist in getting him/her ready.

Kindergarten Moving-Up Ceremony

This is a special day for our newest Riverside students! Be prepared for a teary eyed morning where teachers present a slide show from the year. The ceremony is followed by a celebration held in the gym. Class parents will arrange the celebration with donated items from parents. The date will be on the district calendar.

Library

Classes have a designated time to visit the Riverside Library during each 6 day cycle in order to borrow books. Please be sure your child has his/her book with them on their designated library day so that it may be returned.

Lunch

Students are able to buy lunch in school at a cost of \$3.00. A copy of the upcoming month's menu is available on the website. Lunches may be pre-paid through "MySchoolBucks"

The lunch period is from 11:43-12:33

Main Office

School business should be conducted through the main office during the school day. The phone number is 516.255.8902. Notes to the teacher may be sent in with your child through backpacks.

Morning Arrival – Drop Off

Students should not arrive prior to 8:40am and no later than 8:55am. On sunny days, students will line-up outside on the blacktop. During inclement weather, the students will go directly to their classrooms.

Nurse

Please notify the school nurse of any allergies your child may have or medications your child is taking. Please also notify the nurse of any new phone numbers. The nurse's number is: 516.255.8900.

Plant Sales

The PTA sponsor three plant sales during the school year. The Fall sale includes mums, pumpkins, hay and corn stalks. The Spring sale offers flats of flowers, herbs, hanging baskets and geraniums. We also sponsor a Mother's day plant sale. Volunteers are always needed to assist the children with their selection and purchase.

Play – Riverside Drama Club

The 4th and 5th graders perform a full length musical each year. There are two performances – the dress rehearsal in the afternoon and the evening show. The date is listed on the district calendar.

Physical Education

Beginning in 1st grade, each class will attend physical education 3 times during the 6-day cycle. The days will be listed on the schedule provided by your child's teacher. Sweatpants, stretch pants, or shorts are acceptable and sneakers are mandatory.

Project Great

The before school and after school program is great! You can access all forms to register from RVC Schools' website: http://www.rvcschools.org/celebrate_rvc/project_great

Margaret Kevlon is very helpful in registering your child: mkevlon@rvcschools.org

PTA Meetings

The PTA holds monthly meetings. They are listed on the school calendar. The co-presidents and Mr. Walter are normally in attendance. There are also usually 2 teacher representatives in attendance. All up coming activities and overall district wide information is discussed.

PTA Committees

There are many PTA committees that require volunteers. At the end and the beginning of the school year, a list is distributed describing the details of each committee and how you can help!

School Closings

The decision to close schools is made no later than 6:00am. If schools are closed or there is a delayed opening, the information would be announced via ConnectED message. A delayed opening would open all schools two hours after they would normally open. When there is a delayed opening there will be no Project Great in the morning. Please email: connected@rvcschools.org to ensure you are on their distribution list.

School Psychologist

Mr. Sean McCabe is the dedicated school psychologist. His phone number is 516.255.8902 and email is: smccabe@rvcschools.org

School Spirit Days

Throughout the year we will host school spirit days. The most important one is in March when we ask each grade to wear a specific color for the group yearbook photo. The colors are as follows:

- Kindergarten – Green
- 1st Grade – Orange
- 2nd Grade – Red
- 3rd Grade – Yellow
- 4th Grade – Blue
- 5th Grade - White

SEP – Special Education Program

The Rockville Centre Board of Education subscribes to the concept that all students must be provided with quality instruction and opportunities for academic achievement. The goal of the district is to integrate into the school curriculum a program to elicit understanding and acceptance of individual differences. This will foster the acceptance of people with different abilities.

Dr. Noreen Leahy is the Assistant Superintendent responsible for SEP: Nleahy@rvcschools.org

A listing for all Special Education Staff and Related Service Providers can be found here:

<http://www.rvcschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=494107&pageId=734286>

Sharing Feast

The PTA sponsors a sharing feast during Thanksgiving week. The date is on the district calendar. Volunteers are always needed for this special day. The feast starts around 2pm in the gym. Parents and siblings are welcome to attend. Children, however, still eat lunch at their regular time.

Six Day Cycle

All RVC schools operate on a 6-day cycle. The day numbers are listed on the district calendar.

Social Worker

Ms. Lisa Panebianco is the dedicated social worker for Riverside Elementary school. Her phone number is 516.255.8902 and email is lpnebianco@rvcschools.org

Traffic Safety

Drop-off: Please do not park your car along the fence on Hendrickson Avenue. Do not double park, block driveways, or make a U-turn.

Please do drop off at the small gate on Hendrickson Avenue. Another option is to drop off your child in the front of the school on Riverside Drive.

Website

The RVC public schools has its own website: <http://www.riverside.rvcschools.org>

You will be able to access the calendar, information, forms, and Board of Education meetings schedule and minutes.