

Beyond The Handbook Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the school day hours?

A. Children come in from the playground at 8:35 a.m. and are in their seats at 8:40 a.m. Dismissal is at 3:30 p.m. Please come into the building to pick up your child. All children are dismissed through the main doors. You may meet your child there.

Q. What time are children allowed on the school grounds in the morning?

A. Children should arrive no sooner than 8:15 a.m. There is no playground supervision prior to that time.

Q. Where do I drop off my child in the morning?

A. When dropping off your child, please enter the parking lot on Cedar Street and exit on Pine. This not only allows for an even flow of traffic, but your child will not have to cross traffic. Please do not stop or park in the bus stop zone.

Q. Does my child go into the school upon arrival in the morning?

A. All children enter the main doors and walk through the building to the playground. There is no need to go to the classrooms before school begins.

Q. How do I know which bus my child rides, and what time to expect it to arrive?

A. Bussing questions may be directed to the Bus Garage, 425-1808.

Q. If my child walks to and from school, does he/she need to cross the street alone?

A. No. There are fifth grade crossing guards at the intersections near the school at appropriate times for walkers.

Q. What if it is raining or too cold outside upon arrival?

A. If it is raining or the wind chill in the winter is at -10 F, the children will enter the building and go to the gym until class time.

Q. Is there a winter clothing policy?

A. Yes. Boots, hats, mittens and snow pants are necessary on cold and snowy days. Please label your child's outerwear.

Q. What happens at recess during inclement weather?

A. Children stay in the classroom and play games, etc., under adult supervision.

Q. What if school needs to be closed for emergencies?

A. If school needs to be closed for snow, ice or other emergencies, it will be announced on the Twin Cities TV stations (Channels 4, 5, 11), and radio stations WCCO (830 AM) and WEVR (106.3 FM).

Q. What if my child is ill?

A. Please call the school office (425-1815) between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. You may also leave a voice mail message. A call from you not only assures us that your child is safe, but helps us track illnesses that are going around the school. We also ask that you keep your emergency card up to date.

Q. What if my child has an appointment during the day?

A. Please write a note to your child's teacher. When you arrive at school, stop in the office and we will have your child come to meet you. Please do not go to the classroom for your child – he/she may be in another area of the building, and your valuable time is wasted.

Q. What do I do with medication my child needs to take during the day?

A. Stop in the Health Office. All prescription medications need to be delivered in the original container and left at school. Pharmacies are happy to make up two bottles – one for school and one for home. Medications ordered for three times daily can easily be taken just at home.

Q. How do I pay for my child's lunch?

A. Each family has an account into which they deposit money. This money can be sent to Westside in an envelope labeled: Child's name, parent's name, amount enclosed. You can also send a check to: Food Service, River Falls High School, 818 Cemetery Road, River Falls. Your child will be given a PIN number, which will be used throughout his/her school career in the River Falls District. Milk for snack will be automatically deducted from the account each day. Breakfast, which is served from 8:00-8:20 a.m., can also be purchased on this account. Breakfast and lunch menus are printed monthly in the Westsider, the River Falls Journal and can also be found on our website. The phone number at District Food Service is 425-1830, ex. 1119.

Q. How can I stay informed of my child's progress?

A. Report cards are issued every nine weeks. Parent/Teacher conferences are held twice a year – in fall and spring. You may also call to set up an appointment with the teacher should a situation arise.

Q. What about upcoming school/family activities?

A. The Westsider is sent home every week in the Thursday folder. Also, you are encouraged to check our website: www.rfsd.k12.wi.us/westside. The back of the Thursday folder also lists the calendar of important dates.

Q. What classroom supplies are needed?

A. Supply lists are available in the school office and on our website. Field trip fees are included here also. Please be sure your child has tennis shoes for physical education days.

Q. Can I visit during the school day?

A. Please contact your child's teacher and make arrangements.

Q. How can I volunteer at school?

A. Westside has a volunteer coordinator, who can be reached by calling 425-1815. Call her and let her know how you'd like to help. There is also a volunteer page weekly in the Westsider.

Q. What is Kids Club?

A. Kids Club is a before and after school child care program run by the School District for a fee. Call 425-0799 for more information.

Q. Are snacks allowed with milk break?

A. Often times, yes. Each teacher handles it their own way, and will let you know what this is. Some send home monthly calendars for families to take assigned turns bringing a snack. Other classes have each child bring their own snack.

Q. How are holidays celebrated?

A. Holidays are usually celebrated with room parties. We do not wear costumes for Halloween, but celebrate the Fall harvest. There is a Sing Along the last day of school before winter break. Valentine's Day is simply done in individual classrooms. Watch the Westsider for details.

Q. What is Winners' Day?

A. Winners' Day is held near the end of the school year. It is an opportunity for all students to participate in running, throwing, jumping and other fun physical games.

Q. What is the Westside Musical?

A. Students in grades 1-5, along with parents and staff present a musical production in late winter/early spring at the High School auditorium. We always have fantastic participation. Join in the fun!

Q. Does the school host an Open House?

A. All elementary schools have an Orientation Day on the first day of school. This considered is a regular day of school.

Q. What if I have additional questions?

A. Please call us at 425-1815 any time!