



@RV\_Rocket

# Riverview Elementary School

33 St. Mary's Place, Denville, NJ 07834  
Phone: 973-983-6545 Fax: 973-627-3681

Principal: Mrs. Christina Theodoropoulos  
Vice Principal: Mrs. Skye Sardanopoli



August 2020

Dear Riverview Parents and Guardians,

**Welcome to the 2020-21 school year!** On behalf of the entire Riverview Staff we would like to welcome you back! To our new students and incoming Kindergarten students and their families, we would like to welcome you to our Riverview Family. We have missed everyone! Together we will navigate these uncertain times and work collaboratively to ensure our students continue to learn and thrive. We are all excited to begin another positive school year together! We can't wait to welcome our students back and whether attending virtually or in person; we have a great year planned ahead.

We are excited to continue the great work we have done such as continuing to offer rigorous and authentic learning experiences for our students. We are dedicated to ensuring our students' safety and helping them continue to learn and feel connected to the school, teachers, peers and one another. Their physical, social and mental well-being is our top priority. We want students to recognize from day one how much we care for them; so that they can thrive and become the best versions of themselves.

We are excited to continue our work with social emotional learning and character development as a National School of Character. We are eagerly waiting to hear the announcement of the National Blue Ribbon Schools by the United States Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, in September to see if we received this amazing national recognition. Riverview School has also currently been ranked #7 in the state! [NJ School Ranking](#)

As a parent, you play an essential part in your child's education and we truly value your support and input. We look forward to working in partnership with you to enable our students to meet their highest potential. At Riverview School, we take a whole child approach; we aim at ensuring students' progress not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well. We appreciate the trust you place in our hands and we take this responsibility very seriously. We look forward to working together to provide our students with safe, engaging and meaningful learning experiences. We ask for your flexibility, collaboration and patience as we implement new procedures and navigate through these unprecedented times.

We are excited with the addition of the Annex and can't wait for students to see their new classrooms! The building was refurbished and went through a complete "makeover" to meet our Riverview standards and with our fourth and fifth grade students in mind. Though we have two buildings and students are learning in person and virtually, we are still one united school! We are Riverview Strong! We are dedicated to making Riverview's mission a reality:

*Riverview School educates the whole child by engaging all learners in a rigorous academic curricula and social-emotional character development. Our learning community fosters respectful, responsible, and empathetic citizens that are able to meet challenges with grit and grace.*



Our highly dedicated teaching staff take pride in planning meaningful lessons that aim to inspire and motivate our students to learn and grow. Our school has worked closely with our sister school Lakeview to plan for effective and engaging virtual instruction for all of our students. We have continued to offer training and support our educators so they can provide your child with meaningful learning experiences through live and virtual instruction. We are excited to begin another year together and work collaboratively with our learning community to ensure all of our students succeed. Please know we are always available to address any questions or concerns. The year ahead may look differently, but we know together we will make 2020-21 a successful and positive year for your child.

Your child's class placement can be viewed on August 28 through the Genesis parent portal at <http://parents.genesisedu.com/denville>. In order to be able to view the class placement all the necessary online forms must be completed. In determining class placement, we consider a number of important factors. As you can imagine, it is a careful and delicate process, but please rest assured that your child has been placed in an environment that we feel will help him/her excel.

The information below is intended to help you have a better understanding of the procedures and routines that have been established at Riverview School to keep our children safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call the school. Please read carefully as there are many changes. Please know we worked hard to follow safety procedures as outlined by the state's Restart and Recovery Plan for education- you can reference it here:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/>

Additional information is always available on our district website, [www.denville.org](http://www.denville.org). Please also share the attached student letter with your child.

We want to thank you in advance for your continued support. Our entire Riverview Staff looks forward to working collaboratively with you to ensure your child is happy and successful. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Theodoropoulos  
Principal

Mrs. Sardanopoli  
Vice Principal

**Please read the following information carefully as there are several changes this year.**

### New Procedures for 20-21

#### Overview of new procedures:

- New times: ½ day: **8:40am-12:40am** for in-person instruction (Virtual instruction will continue in the afternoon from approximately 1:30pm-3:15pm - please see schedule below)
- Parent drop off in morning is 8:30am pick up is 12:40pm
- Students will not be allowed in the building before **8:30am**. Once they arrive, students proceed directly to their classrooms. Parent drop-off and pick-up is through Gardner Field for arrival and dismissal-parent remains in car (please refer to map/traffic letter here)
- Riverview Annex: Arrival and dismissal for student pick-up and drop-off is through Myers Avenue to front of the Church. Do not use St. Mary's Place as entrance or exit-please see traffic letter

- Students will wear masks on the bus and throughout school day with some mask breaks outdoors
- Snack should be quick and one that students can eat independently; without assistance
- Average class size for in-person instruction is 12-14 students
- Dedicated teachers have been assigned per grade level to teach students learning virtually (There will be a parent/student drive-up on September 3 for students attending virtually - for students to see the teacher and pick up materials - more information will be provided.)
- Parents must complete health screening form on Genesis before school each morning as related to Covid symptoms by 8:15 am for students to be allowed admittance to school
- No visitors are allowed in school - all parent meetings held virtually
- For students attending in-person: Please review proper handwashing techniques (20 seconds w/soap and water), wearing a mask and practicing social distancing <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/videos.html>
- For students learning virtually: Please help create a quiet learning environment, have school supplies/materials handy-students must be available for learning within the following schedule
- We will hold a virtual Back-to-School Night, where you will receive an in depth overview of information regarding this school year

### Schedules:

#### Students attending in-person:

8:35-9:00 Social Emotional Health Period/Morning Meeting

9:00-12:30 Live Literacy and Math instruction

1:27-3:15 Rotating schedule of Science, Social Studies, small group work (virtual with all classmates)

#### Students attending virtually:

8:35-9:00 Social Emotional Health Period/Morning Meeting

9:00-12:30 Literacy and Math instruction(virtual synchronous and asynchronous)

1:27 -3:15 Rotating schedule of Science, Social Studies, small group work (virtual with all classmates)

### School Day:

- School begins on **September 8**
- School hours for all students attending in person instruction is from **8:40am –12:40 pm**. **All children should be in school by 8:40am.**
- Parents can drop off students at school, through Gardner Field beginning at **8:30am**. Parents please remain in your car during drop off.
- Please do not drop students off in front of the building as this is a safety concern and interferes with buses.
- **No students should arrive before 8:30am.** (note this is a change in time)

### Snack:

- Students are strongly encouraged to have breakfast daily before attending school.
- Please provide your child with a healthy nut-free snack each day. Students should be able to eat quickly and independently and without assistance. Please avoid sugary snacks-aim for snacks that provide energy for students.
- Please bring a refillable water bottle for your child-only refill water stations will be available-other water fountains closed



### Signing Students Out Early:

Signing students out early should be limited to emergencies only. Please try your best not to make doctor appointments during the school day or schedule activities too close to the dismissal time. It is very disruptive for the students to leave during valuable class time. **If it is unavoidable, please send a note with your child.** When you pick up your child, you will need to remain in the vestibule. **Please be sure you have your driver's license with you, there will be a vestibule in which you will be asked the purpose of your visit and be signed in.**

If you have any special custodial arrangements, which might limit access to, or release of your child to a non-custodial parent, please notify the office ASAP. We will require written documentation and a copy of their driver's license.

Please note that if your child is not taking the bus home or you are picking him/her up early from school, please be sure to send a note to his/her teacher in the morning. We cannot accept phone calls or e-mails. Phone calls and/or e-mails do not ensure that the right person has received the information and can create confusion.

### First Day Packet:

On the parent portal under "forms" there is a checklist and additional forms which you need to complete online. You must complete the Riverview Elementary School Checklist 2020-21 and the additional forms located on the parent portal at <http://parents.genesisedu.com/denville>. These documents inform you about important school and district policies and procedures. The online forms must be completed in order to have access to Genesis and students' homeroom placements and report cards. Please complete the forms before the start of the school year. Along with the online checklist, there will be other important forms which will be sent home via your child on the first day of school. These forms also need to be completed and returned to school. For students attending virtually the forms will need to be returned to school or mailed.

### Health Screening Form:

**Parents must complete Covid 19 Health Screening Form on Genesis each morning before school to ensure health/safety of all students. The form must be completed by 8:15am in order for the student to be able to enter the building.**

### Arrival/ Dismissal:

Just a reminder – the arrival and dismissal area for students not taking the bus is in the back of the school by the basketball courts. Please enter by the playground at Gardner Field, park along the gate by the basketball court and wait for staff. Parents are to stay in their cars and students will be brought to their parent's car. The students drop off will be at 8:30am (this is a change in time and location. The North Lot will no longer be used for student drop off. Students will be dismissed at 12:40pm. **No students will be dismissed from the front door. Any change in student's dismissal must be provided in a written note to the school that day.**

**Our Virtual Back-to-School Night is on Thursday, September 17.  
Thank you for your continued support!**



## Student Welcome Letter

August, 2020

Dear Riverview Rocket,

*Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year!* I hope you are having a wonderful summer. I'm so excited to welcome you back, I've missed you so much! Your teachers, the staff and I have worked hard to prepare the school and to create many exciting and fun learning activities for you. Whether you are attending in person or virtually, we have created great learning experiences for you. We want you to know how much we care for you. We want to encourage you to work hard and show ROCKET behavior at home or at school. We know that together we can accomplish great things! We are looking forward to an amazing year! We can't wait to see all the things you will accomplish this year!

As your principal, I want you to remind you that the most important things you can do are to have a positive attitude, believe in yourself and always try your best. This year more than ever we need to continue to be optimistic and show grit. Remember you can show ROCKET behavior in so many different ways. For those learning at home, it means being respectful online, turning your camera on, listening to the teacher and working hard to complete your work. To those learning in school, it means working hard and listening to your teacher but also keeping everyone safe by wearing your mask, staying six feet apart and washing your hands regularly. I know you will be excited to see your friends but a wave and a smile go a long way. We need your help to stay safe and healthy.

I know I can depend on my Riverview Rockets to do the right thing! I want you to know everything we do at Riverview School is for you. We are so excited to help you grow and be the best version of yourself. We are one united school and one united team! Whether learning at home or in school or in the main building or the Riverview Annex - one thing remains the same... We are all Riverview Rockets!

### **Remember:**

***A RIVERVIEW ROCKET IS A:***

***R- Respectful***

***O- Optimistic***

***C- Compassionate***

***K- Kind***

***E- Empathetic***

***T- Team Player!***



We have become a National School of Character based on your wonderful behavior and we want that tradition to continue. At Riverview School we treat everyone with respect

and kindness. In some of our virtual classes you might even be joined by Lakeview students and staff. What an exciting time to show them what it means to be a Rocket and welcome this new adventure. What a wonderful opportunity to create friendships that extend beyond our school.

We are all so excited to welcome you back to school. Everyone here cares for you and if you ever need help you can go to any of your teachers, aides, counselor, nurse, Vice Principal or me. The same is true if you are learning virtually - We are all here for you! We want to welcome you to a new year filled with great learning, smiles, friendships and success. Come prepared by getting your mind and body ready. Get your mind ready by getting excited about all the great things ahead and get your body ready by resting and taking care of yourself so you will be ready to learn and excel.

I believe in you and know there are wonderful things ahead for you in this new year! I'm proud of you and proud to be your principal! 😊 I have missed you so much and have been very impressed with all the great learning that happened last year while school was opened and through remote learning when we closed. I can't wait to see what you can continue to do! I look forward to welcoming you back to school on September 8! I'll be checking in on all of you whether learning in person or virtually. I'm so excited to welcome you back! Enjoy the rest of your summer.

All my best,

Mrs. Theodoropoulos

PS - A little message from Mrs. Sardanopoli:

Welcome back Riverview Rockets! What a special message to all of you from Mrs. Theodoropoulos, which captures so beautifully the pride we feel in all that you have accomplished thus far and the excitement for all that's to come in the 2020-21 school year! We know that no matter what your educational journey might look like, it will be nothing short of a truly meaningful and fun-filled year for all. We look forward to finding creative ways to continue to do the things that unite us as a school! We can't wait to see all of the learning taking place - whether displayed in the hallways or within your Google classrooms. We look forward to hearing the sounds of instruction in the buildings or on a Zoom/Google Hangout session! We are thrilled to get started on what's sure to be a very special year for all of us. We have missed you!



## Traffic Letter



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Dear Riverview Parents,

We would like to thank you for working with us to ensure the safety of our students. We worked closely with the Denville Police Department to find the safest routes and procedures for arrival and dismissal. Please read this letter carefully as there are changes to our usual procedures. We thank you in advance for your understanding, support and patience. The procedures were created with safety as the top priority; to avoid dangerous situations and allow for social distancing. Everyone's collaboration is required. Please see attached map to assist you with identifying drop off and pick up areas.

### Quick Summary of Procedures:

- New times: Arrival is at **8:30** am and dismissal **12:40**
- Staff will be present to assist students to their locations.
- Students must wear face coverings and use social distancing.
- Drop off and Pick up at RV is through Gardner Field Entrance by basketball courts. Buses use North Lot.
- Drop off and Pick up at RVA is from Meyers Ave to front of building and loop back onto Meyers-Parents cannot enter or exit through St. Marys Place.
- Parents do not exit the car; no visitors are allowed in the buildings.

### Morning Drop off:

**Riverview Main Building (K-3) :** Parents will drop off the students at **Gardner Field** entrance at **8:30 am**. There will be staff to show students which doors to enter from. The K and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will enter from the stairwell entrance and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> through APR. Students will go directly to their classrooms. Please remind students to wear their face covering and to use social distancing. Please work with your child to learn how to exit and enter the car safely and efficiently. Please do not pull out in front of other cars, wait for the cars in front of you to exit, as this may create a dangerous situation. Do not exit the car.

**Riverview Annex: (RVA) (4 &5)** Parents will drop off their child at front of RVA from Meyers Ave. Once student is dropped off parents then exit behind church back onto Meyers. NO cars will be permitted to drop off or pick up from St. Marys Place. If you have a student that you dropped off at Riverview, then when exiting the municipal lot, you must make a LEFT only at St. Mary's Place and go to Meyers to drop off at RVA. Please do not pull out in front of other cars, wait for the cars in front of you to exit, as this may create a dangerous situation. Do not exit the car. A teacher or aide will be assigned to the door at **8:30am**. Students will enter through the front of the buildings and proceed directly to their classrooms. Please remind students to wear face covering and use social distancing.

**Buses: Only** school buses will enter the main parking lot during morning entry 8:25am – 8:45 am and afternoon dismissal 12:20-12:45 pm. Buses will drop off students at RV North Lot and in front of Riverview Annex. Please yield to buses. Students must wear face coverings on the bus and use social distancing.

### Dismissal:

Dismissal Procedures will follow the same as arrival parents drop off at RV by Gardner Field and at RVA by Meyers in front of the church. No parents can pick up at RVA through St. Marys Place.

**Thank you for your collaboration. We ask for your patience as it will take time for the new procedures to work efficiently. Please remember that arrival time is 8:30 and dismissal is at 12:40.**

*"Together we make a difference"*

## Riverview & Riverview Annex Parent Drop Off Map



**Safety is our top priority.**

**Please follow these guidelines formulated in conjunction with the Denville Police Department.**

**Thank you!**