

8th Grade Parent Message 08/10/20

Good morning Tigerrific 8th grade Parents,

If you are new to RBMS, welcome to The Tiger Family! We are so happy to have you join our school we lovingly call "The Bend" and can't wait to meet you in person! This is the first in a series about the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. It is extremely important we have your email address on file. If you did not receive this message in your email inbox, please email Silvia Marrero at smarrero@wcpss.net and give her your current email address. Most of our communication will be via email, website, Facebook, and Twitter as the district would like us to reserve phone calls for their important information. On rare occasions, I will send a phone message. All messages are posted on our school's website: www.wcpss.net/riverbendms, and I also post them on twitter: @RBMS_Principal and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RiverBendMS>.

This year will be unlike any other year. Whether you signed up for Virtual Academy or are hoping for face to face instruction as soon as possible via Plan B transition, the entire school will begin with remote learning. The first two weeks of school (which start Monday, August 17th) will be for orientation, virtual meetings with school staff, material distribution, relationship building and basically getting everyone comfortable with remote learning. We are going to take it step by step and make it as seamless as possible. Academic Instruction will begin August 31st for all students. Please be patient as we have had to reconfigure everything these last few weeks. This is an ever-changing situation and we are trying to respond as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

Important Contacts for 8th grade parents:

Main Office Phone Number: (919) 694-8690

RBMS website: www.wcpss.net/riverbendms

Principal: Stacey Weddle, sweddle@wcpss.net

Assistant Principal: Francisco Chavarria, fchavarria@wcpss.net

8th Grade Counselor: Caitlin Harvey, cjharvey@wcpss.net

Social Worker: Kyiarra Hartsfield, khartsfield@wcpss.net

PTA President: Leilani Maurer, lmaurer@wcpss.net

Technology Contact/Media Specialist: Nicole Grabiec, ngrabiec@wcpss.net

Schedule:

We are having to offer two separate schools within a school. We have basically divided school staff into two groups (Virtual Academy and Plan B Transition) with some cross-over. Your child may not receive the elective they desired. Some electives are not available under both plans. Your child will receive all core classes, Health and PE, one elective and a Tiger Den period called Homeroom on the schedule. Tiger Den is where teachers will take attendance, provide socio-emotional learning and support to all students.

Unlike remote learning in the Spring, students will engage in 'live' learning at set times and teachers will assign grades. Students are expected to complete 5-6 hours of school work per day, 3 hours in live learning and 2-3 hours in independent work/homework/practice. 'Live instruction' is when students and teachers are engaging online in direct instruction at the same time via a teacher's google classroom. All staff will be using Google Classroom as the Learning Management System. Students are expected to attend all live instruction sessions for 3 hours per day (30 minutes per class). We do not expect students to sit in front of a computer for 8 hours so we have built in breaks so students can stretch, get a snack, etc. Students are expected to be online at the start of the live instruction. Schedules will be posted in Powerschool at the end of this week.

8TH GRADE:

Schedule Period	Class	Live Instruction	Student Independent Work/Break
1	Homeroom (Tiger Den)	8:15 - 8:30	
21	Core 1	8:35 - 9:05	9:05 - 9:40
22	Elective 1	9:40 - 10:10	10:10 - 10:30
23	Elective 2	10:30-11:00	11:00 - 11:30
24	Core 2	11:30 - 12:00	
25	Lunch	12:00	12:00 - 1:00
26	Core 3	1:00 - 1:30	1:30 - 2:00
27	Core4	2:00 - 2:30	2:30 - 3:00

Material Pick Up:

All families will need to come to RBMS to pick up necessary materials: novels, workbooks, orientation materials, etc. We will offer 'Drive Through' services on August 17th, 18th, and 19th at set times for each grade level. We will offer appointment pick ups on Thursday August 20th and Friday August 12st. **More information will come later in the week.**

Technology:

WCPSS is coordinating technology distribution. If you completed the Take Home Tech survey in July, you will receive an email regarding when and where to pick up your chromebook/hotspot. If you received one last year, you are to use that one. These devices have been checked out to your student. If you didn't complete the Take Home Tech Survey and need a device or hotspot, please contact our Media Specialist, Nicole Grabiec: ngrabiec@wcpss.net. She needs your child's full name, parent full name, parent phone number and parent email in order to submit a request. Please note if you missed the first window, you may experience a delay in receiving your technology. Information including how to support your child's online learning and access assistance with technology can be found here: <https://www.wcpss.net/techguides>

I know this is a lot of information and I haven't begun to address all your questions. More information is coming this week and in the first two weeks of school. I am trying not to overwhelm you with too much too fast. I would encourage you to make an email folder entitled RBMS information to store all the emails you are receiving from our school and district so you can refer to them when needed.

Regards,

Stacey Weddle,
RBMS Principal