



Robert Urbanovich
Principal

RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

230 Woodland Avenue
River Edge, NJ 07661
(201) 599-7200



John Jasinski
Assistant Principal

September 29, 2023

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Greetings, Hawk Families! As September comes to a close, I am happy to report that our 7th and 8th grade students appear to be adjusting well and hopefully have settled into a routine. At RDMS, we often talk about building resilience, maintaining a positive attitude, and displaying great effort daily. If your student is experiencing difficulties early on, I want to reassure you that it is all part of the learning process. Of course, we will do our best to help provide strategies to improve so do not hesitate to contact a teacher, a counselor, or an administrator for support. We aim for our students to develop academically, socially, and mentally in the short amount of time they will spend in middle school.

The River Dell Public School District is requesting funding from a district-wide facilities renovation program to include potential infrastructure and classroom renovation projects via a referendum vote on December 12, 2023. Please take some time to learn about the proposed referendum and the impacts it will have on our facilities by viewing the virtual presentation: <https://www.riverdell.org/rdreferendum>. There will also be a public presentation in the River Dell High School Cafeteria at 8:00 PM on Monday, October 2, 2023.

Our 7th grade students are all enrolled in RD101. I will be sending a separate email to all 7th grade families with information about a new curriculum we are excited to share from *The Social Institute*. Over the course of the school year, students will engage in an interactive set of lessons that help them utilize social media in a positive way rather than emphasize the negatives. Through these monthly lessons, we hope our students will make intelligent decisions and *win at social!* Regardless of your student's grade, *The Social Institute* is providing a 30-minute parent presentation on October 11th that will center on how we can help our students balance social media and technology during the school year. More information about this free presentation is attached in this email. We hope all community members make time to log on and learn about effective strategies and positive approaches at 6:30 PM on October 11th.

As a reminder to all families, the River Dell Health and Wellness Fair will take place tomorrow in the high school stadium between 4:00 and 6:00. Please consider attending this, the third annual event for entertainment, resources, food, arts & crafts, and much more! There will be great prizes raffled off, free shirts, and reusable totes! If weather is a factor, the event will be moved to Sunday afternoon, same time, same place.

Next week, River Dell Middle School will kick off our *Month of Respect* with the state-recognized *Week of Respect*. Faculty and staff will make a concerted effort to infuse lessons of respect, kindness, and acceptance into their regular daily lessons. There will be encouragement to wear specific colors each day to emphasize the different ways someone can show respect and daily quotes to try and motivate our students to treat others the way they would like to be treated. You will find the schedule of colors attached in this email. Students should wear blue on Monday to show support and draw attention to this wonderful cause.

Progress reports will be shared in the Parent Portal on October 9th. Do not hesitate to contact teachers should you have any questions now or after reports are shared. Please keep in mind that not all students will receive comments. I encourage you to speak to your students about how they feel about each class.

We are excited to share with families that River Dell Regional Schools now has an application for iPhones and Androids. Use this links below to gain access to app stores or search River Dell Schools in your app store: Apple Store: [Click Here](#) ; Google App Store: [Click Here](#).

Finally, we will hold our first of four Hawk Days on October 13th. Students in the 8th grade will attend an assembly in the morning and students in the 7th grade will attend the Co-Curricular Fair, among other activities. The drop-off and pick-up times will not be affected. In the afternoon, 8th grade students will attend all classes on a shortened schedule and 7th grade students will participate in Field Day. They will be receiving shirts that should be worn on October 13th for the afternoon activities. Field Day is a wonderful opportunity to meet other students, make new friends, and compete as a team. Hopefully, the weather holds up so that our busy day is not disrupted!

Please reach out if there are any questions. You will find that generally, I will send communications home once every 2-3 weeks. I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend and I hope to see you tomorrow at the Health & Wellness Fair! Please see below for a short-term calendar of events:

Sept 30: River Dell Health & Wellness Fair 4:00 PM
Oct 1: River Edge Day 1:00 PM
Oct 2: River Dell Referendum Public Presentation 8PM RDHS Cafeteria
Oct 6: River Dell Football Jr. Program Recognition Night vs. Ramapo 6:00 PM
Oct 7: Oradell 5K 8:30 AM
Oct 9: No School for Students/Progress Reports in Parent Portal
Oct 11: *The Social Institute* Webinar 6:30 PM
Oct 13: Hawk Day/7th Grade Field Day

Best Regards,



Robert Urbanovich
Principal, River Dell Middle School

