

River Gate *High School*

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025-2026

This School is a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Revised Code. The school is a public school and students enrolled in and attending the school are required to take proficiency tests and other examinations prescribed by law. In addition, there may be other requirements for students at the school that are prescribed by law. Students who have been excused from the compulsory attendance law for the purpose of home education as defined by the Administrative Code shall no longer be excused for that purpose upon their enrollment in a community school. For more information about this matter contact the school administration or the Ohio Department of Education.

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Introduction

We welcome you to River Gate High School! We are pleased that you have made the choice to send your child to River Gate High School. River Gate High School will work to ensure that our students are prepared to be successful in life after graduation and beyond. In the pursuit to prepare our students for life after graduation, we must create a productive learning environment with high expectations. All children need to feel safe and secure in an environment that is caring, nurturing and stimulating that develops the whole child emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially. Teachers will work to build a positive relationship with all students in order to gain trust and respect, ultimately to enhance student learning. Teaching provides an opportunity to get all students actively engaged, participating, and contributing to their own educational process. Teachers will guide students into solving problems as they grow, discover, and experience the world around them. Cooperation, respect for others, and structure are essential to learning. For this reason, the following regulations and guidelines have been set forth in this manual to assist in maintaining a positive learning environment.

Founded in 2000, River Gate High School is committed to preparing students for the 21st Century in a safe and caring environment. We proudly serve students in grades 9 through 12.

General Information

Parents: Any reference to parent or parents in this handbook refers to parent, guardian, caretaker, or foster caregiver.

Parents and students must also abide by all policies in the Board of Directors Board Policy Manual. All policies are subject to change upon approval of the Board of Directors. If there are any inconsistencies between this handbook and the Board Policy Manual, the Board Policy Manual shall supersede.

Crisis line

Students who are experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis, and their family members, can call, text, or chat the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline to reach a trained specialist who can offer help and support. The easy-to-remember, three-digit number provides 24/7, free and confidential support to individuals in a behavioral health crisis. 988 is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress. That could be:

- thoughts of suicide,
- mental health or substance use crisis, or
- any other kind of emotional distress.

Ohio's 988 plan is part of the state's larger commitment to providing quality, person-centered crisis supports in communities across the state.

- Call - Dial 988 on your mobile or home phone for immediate support
- Text - To text with a crisis specialist, send a text to 988 on you mobile phone. (English and Spanish)

Title IX Non-Discrimination

The School shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, disability or age in its programs and activities and will provide equal access to all individuals.

Pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendment Acts of 1972, no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program, activity, or employment on the basis of sex.

Complaints of sexual harassment will be addressed in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the U.S. Department of Education's regulations related thereto.

Sexual harassment is conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the School conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the School on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct. (quid pro quo)
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, and pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the School's education program or activity.
3. Sexual assault as defined in the Clery Act 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), dating violence 34 U.S.C. 12291 (a)(10), domestic violence 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or stalking as defined in the Violence Against Women Act 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

Title IX Coordinator

The School's Title IX Coordinator shall coordinate the School's efforts to comply with Title IX responsibilities. For any reports or inquiries regarding Title IX concerns, contact the designated Title IX Coordinator as follows:

Jillian Thornton, Vice President of Operations/Compliance, Educational Empowerment Group
1115 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44301

330-956-7203

Jillian@edempowerment.com

Section 504 Notice

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in public accommodations and employment. Additional information can be found in the Board Policy Manual Section 504 ADA policy or by contacting the Section 504 Coordinator.

Section 504 Coordinator

Executive Director Cami Lewis

Empowerment Group

1115 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44301

330-354-3458

Cami@edempowerment.com

Registration, Enrollment and Lottery

The school will provide learning opportunities to a minimum of twenty-five students for a minimum of 920 hours per school year.

Admission to the School is open to any student grades 9through 12 who reside in any district in the State of Ohio and who is entitled to attend school per ORC Section 3313.64 or 3313.65. The School will follow the Ohio Department of Education’s Model Student Acceleration Policy for Advanced Learners.

Enrollment

To enroll, parents/guardians must submit the following to the school:

1. Completed registration form
2. Student’s birth certificate
3. Photo identification of parent/guardian enrolling the student
4. Student’s current immunization record
5. Custody paperwork, if applicable
6. **Proof of Residency/Address Verification** - one (1) of the following in the parent/guardian/student name, showing the complete address, and date:
 - A deed, mortgage, lease, current home owner's or renter's insurance declaration page, or current real property tax bill;
 - A utility bill or receipt of utility installation issued within ninety days of enrollment;

- A paycheck or paystub issued to the parent or student within ninety days of the date of enrollment that includes the address of the parent's or student's primary residence;
 - The most current available bank statement issued to the parent or student that includes the address of the parent's or student's primary residence;
 - Notifications from Social Security and/or Job and Family Services dated within thirty days.
 - Notarized affirmation from parent(s) of current resident address.
- When a student loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 11434a, or when a child who is such a homeless child or youth changes temporary living arrangements, the district in which the student is entitled to attend school shall be determined in accordance with division (F)(13) of section 3313.64 of the Revised Code and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act," 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

Annual Verification/Update Information

Upon the enrollment of each student and on an annual basis, the School shall verify to the Ohio Department of Education the school district in which the student is entitled to attend school under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Parents/guardians/students 18 years of age and older are required to provide the School with one of the above-specified documents as Proof of Residency/Address Verification annually, at any time a change of address. Residency or custody changes, or upon request of the School.

Capacity and Lottery

The Academy will not exceed the capacity of the Academy's programs, classes, grade levels or facilities. When the number of applicants for admission exceeds the School's capacity, admissions will be determined by a lottery of applicants. Preference will be given to students who attended the School the previous school year; to siblings of returning students; and to students who reside in the district in which the school is located.

The Academy's Open Enrollment period and lottery procedures will take place in the spring of the year of enrollment. All prospective students, will be given the opportunity to enroll in the free public charter school, regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, social or economic status, or special needs. The lottery will be based on students who submitted complete applications with required documentation

The lottery will be held on the first Wednesday following April 15th at 5 pm in the Academy foyer. The results will be witnessed and parents will be notified of the results. *The Academy commits to making the lottery and enrollment procedures and practices clear and transparent to parents, staff and community.*

Any applications received after April 15th will be dated and time stamped. Children listed on these applications will be added to the list for their grade in the order they are received. If openings are available, the children will be given a spot in the school. If there are no openings, they will be added to the waiting list.

As openings occur, families on the waiting list will be contacted regarding the vacancy. They have 48 hours to accept the available opening. If they decline the offer, their name will be removed from the waiting list and they must resubmit an intent form the following spring and participate in the stated admission procedures, including a possible lottery.

Homeless Students

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and Ohio law, the School believes all homeless children have a right to equal educational opportunities. The School shall provide services to each homeless child or youth that is comparable to services offered to other students in the School.

Homeless students should be enrolled immediately. Enrollment shall occur even if the student does not have the enrollment records required by the School. The School shall contact the school last attended by the student to obtain health records and shall immediately refer the homeless child's parent or guardian to the School's homeless liaison so additional documents may be obtained. The School must obtain all records in a timely fashion.

Enrolled homeless students shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school. Services include, but are not limited to: transportation, programs in vocational and technical education, programs for gifted and talented students, school nutrition programs, and before/after school programs. Additional information can be found in the Board Policy Manual Homeless Student Policy.

Health Certification and Immunization Requirements

The Ohio Department of Education has revised school immunization requirements. Effective with the 2012-2013 school year and progressively thereafter, students must have the immunizations as listed at:

https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/9683ace0-573f-4ed3-b9d4-08d714d1fb85/BID_Ohio+Immunization+Summary+for+School+Attendance+12.18.

[2023.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00Q09DDDDM3000-9683ace0-573f-4ed3-b9d4-08d714d1fb85-oNZBEnO](https://www.ohio.gov/ohioaction/2023.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00Q09DDDDM3000-9683ace0-573f-4ed3-b9d4-08d714d1fb85-oNZBEnO)

completed before starting school in August. These immunizations are required under Ohio Law Sections 3313.671 and 3701.13 of the Ohio Revised Code. (Exceptions are provided for under the law. This can be discussed with the school's nurse or health aide.)

A tuberculin skin test to determine if your child has been exposed tuberculosis is highly recommended but not required.

According to Section 3313.671, on the 15th day after school entrance it will be necessary to exclude all students from school who do not meet the above requirements.

Medical authorities and school educators urge that every child have a complete medical examination before entering school in order that defects, if present, may be corrected and the child be physically ready to accept all the advantages which education has to offer.

School Records

Confidential student records contain educational information that has restricted access due to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The school takes student records and their confidentiality very seriously. The school will not disclose student records to anyone outside of the school, except in cases that we must comply with state and federal laws that authorize the release of such information without consent. The only people that will have access to student records are the school, management and the School's sponsor.

It is the policy of the school not to release any Student Directory Information or any personal information such as names of students' parents or other family members; personal identifiers, such as social security numbers or student identification numbers; a list of personal characteristics or other information which would make the student's identity traceable to outside agencies or requesting parties without the direct written consent of the parent or guardian or as otherwise required by law.

The School complies with all requirements regarding release of records to military recruiters. Parents/Guardians and student who are 18 years of age or older may opt-out of releasing such information by notifying the School by September 30 of the current school year.

Transfer of Records

Student records are only released to another school upon receiving a signed and dated release of records from that school, signed by the parent/ guardian or as otherwise required by law.

Current Information

When changes in address, telephone, and/or legal custody occur during the school year, parents must notify the school office to ensure student records are up-to-date.

Request for Records

Administration will request student records from the student's previous school upon completion of enrollment. Ohio mandates that the requested records must be received transferred within five (5) days. However, a school may withhold records if \$2,500 or more in debt attributed to the student is owed to the school.

Non-Custodial Parent Record Request

Access to records will be in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as pertaining to release of records. Upon request, non-custodial parents shall be entitled to exercise all parental rights to the extent that such rights are not restricted by a legally binding instrument or court order. A "non-custodial parent" refers to the parent who does not have custody of the child, but does have the right to information about the child's education.

If there is a court order concerning legal custody of a child, an Information Regarding Legal Custody Form must be completed and on file in the child's cumulative record. This form is part of the Enrollment Packet or it can be obtained through the school office.

Emergency Medical Authorizations

Each parent is asked to complete and return to the school an Emergency Medical Authorization Form which will be included in the student's cumulative record folder. This authorization will include the necessary information the school must have should an emergency arise. It is extremely important that this authorization be fully completed and updated.

Re-Enrollment

For those students presently attending the school, re-enrollment starts at the end of February or during the first week of March. Preference for enrollment is given to current students and then to their siblings. Students are not automatically re-enrolled each school year. Community school students must be re-enrolled each school year.

Withdrawal

Parents withdrawing students from the school for any reason should notify the school office. A signed and dated records release must be sent to the school from the receiving school before any records can be sent. Records will be transferred to the new district within 5 days of receipt of the signed authorization. All outstanding fees, academic records or obligations must be met including return of school property

Attendance

Parents are asked to partner with River Gate High School by making sure that students are in attendance at school as much as possible. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory states, "When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more." River Gate High School understands that parental involvement makes an enormous impact on student achievement, student's attitudes toward school, and their daily attendance. We realize that the school's strength lies in the hands of its families and the extent to which they become involved in the daily activities of students. There is a very clear and direct correlation between student achievement and student attendance. Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for success in school and necessary for success later in life. Each student at the school has the responsibility to attend all classes regularly and to be on time.

The required attendance of students shall conform to the minimum standards prescribed by state law. Therefore, absences from school should be only for illness or an emergency. In case of absence from school:

- The parent/guardian must notify the school prior to the beginning of the school day from which his/her child will be absent. Calls are to be made to the school office. Parents who do not call the school will be notified within 120 minutes of the start of School.
- Any student who needs early dismissal must bring a note signed by the parent/guardian. The note must indicate who will pick up the child. Parents or a designated adult will be required to sign the child out in the school office when they leave and then sign in if the student returns for the remainder of the school day;
- All students reporting to school after the school day begins will be considered tardy. Parents or a designated adult will be required to sign the child in when they arrive at school;
- While permission will be given for a dental/doctor appointment during school hours, parents are encouraged to make these appointments for times other

than class hours, if at all possible. Every tardy or absence slows the progress of a child's development;

- Both "excused" and "unexcused" absences are counted toward the maximum allowable absences. The distinction is made between "excused" and "unexcused" absences for the purpose of determining whether or not a student may have the opportunity to make-up class work and whether or not disciplinary action is in order; and
- The State of Ohio sets 1/10 of the school year as the allowable absence before a student may be retained in his/her present grade level for absenteeism; this translates to about seventeen (17) days of absences.
- As per state law, a student failing to participate in 72 consecutive hours of learning opportunities without a legitimate excuse must be automatically withdrawn from school.

The term "excused" will refer to any absence from a class based on the following:

- Personal illness;
- Doctor/dental appointment;
- Death of a relative;
- Family emergency;
- Observance of a religious holiday; and/or
- Other emergencies or circumstances deemed by the building principal.

The term "unexcused" will refer to any absence not in the categories of excused absences or not deemed excused per the building principal's discretion

Student Participation in Testing

Federal and state laws require all districts and schools to test all students in specific grades and courses. There is no law that allows a parent or student to opt out of state testing, and there is no state test opt-out procedure form. There may be consequences for the student, the student's teacher, and the school and district if a parent withdraws a child from participation in certain state tests.

The Ohio Department of Education has provided guidance on the possible consequences for students when they do not take state tests. The informational sheet form ODE may be found at the link below:

<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Testing/Sections/Resources/Student-participation.pdf.aspx>

Truancy

Ohio School law defines truancy as an absence from school without permission and applies to student between ages six (6) and eighteen (18). The school will follow all notification requirements as included in the Attendance, Truancy, and Automatic Withdrawal policy included in the Board Policy Manual, including all intervention strategies. If subsequent unexcused absences occur, the Academy may, and in some circumstances is required to, send documentation to the appropriate reporting agency.

Illness

Students should not attend school if they have a fever, rash, flu, lice or have vomited during the night, in order to help decrease the spread of illness to others. If your child is ill, please keep him/her at home. Students should not return to school until a 24-hour period has elapsed with a normal temperature. Your cooperation in the communicable disease program will be greatly appreciated. In the event your child becomes ill at school, every attempt will be made to contact persons named on the Emergency Contact Form.

All families are required to follow current CDC protocols and school guidelines regarding COVID-19.

Health Clinic

When available, the school nurse or health aide handles all first aid through the Health Clinic, otherwise first aid issues will be handled by other school personnel. All students are required to have an Emergency Authorization Form on file at the school. These forms will be used in case there is a medical emergency or an illness.

Vision, Hearing, and Scoliosis Screening

Vision, hearing, and scoliosis screening for the students will be conducted in accordance with state guidelines. The school nurse will notify the parent/guardian of the results. Any conditions discovered that may impede the student's health or school progress will be brought to the parent's/guardian's attention by the school nurse.

Dispensing Medication

For students who have a physical condition that requires medication, the following applies:

- A Medication Authorization Form must be completed and signed by both the parent/guardian and the student's physician.

- The medication must be brought to the school by a parent/guardian. Students are not permitted to transport medication on the bus or bring medication to the school on their own.
- For over-the-counter medication, the parent/guardian and physician must sign the permission form;
- The school does not provide any type of medication.
- All medication must be brought to the school in the original container with the pharmacy label on it which includes the child's name, physician's name, current date, pharmacy name and phone number, name of medication, prescribed dosage, special handling and storage.
- All medication is kept in a locked cabinet in the health clinic.

Asthma Inhalers and Other Prescription Medication

Parents of students with allergies are required to notify the school in writing of any known allergies at the beginning of each school year or upon learning of such allergy if the school year has already begun.

Per Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.716 students are permitted to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder asthma inhaler to alleviate or prevent asthmatic symptoms at the School.

Per Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.718(B) and 3314.03(A)(11)(d) students are permitted to carry and use an epinephrine auto-injector to treat anaphylaxis (an intense allergic reaction). In order for a student to properly possess or use an epinephrine auto-injector at the school, written approval from the student's physician and parent must be signed and received by the school.

For medications other than asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors, written approval by the student's physician must include all information as detailed herein below or as indicated on the Food Allergy Action Plan, if applicable. If a student has a serious food allergy, the parent must complete a Food Allergy Action Plan.

“Written Approval” must include the following information:

1. The name and address of the student;
2. The name of the school;
3. The name of the medication and the dosage to be administered;

4. The times or intervals at which each dosage of the medication is to be administered;
5. The date the administration of the medication is to begin;
6. The date the administration of the medication is to cease (if applicable);
7. Acknowledgement that the physician has determined that the student is capable of possessing and using the inhaler or auto injector appropriately and has provided the student with training in the proper use;
8. Any severe adverse reactions that should be reported to the physician and one or more phone numbers at which the physician can be reached in an emergency;
9. Instructions outlining procedures to follow if the medication does not provide adequate relief;
10. A list of adverse reactions that may occur to an individual for whom the medication was not intended who uses the medication;
11. At least one emergency telephone number for contacting the physician and one number for contacting the parent/guardian
12. And any other special instructions.

Trained school staff may administer epinephrine in an emergency situation, in accordance with the Written Approval and/or the student's Food Allergy Action Plan when emergency medical service providers are not immediately available and the exigency of the circumstance require immediate action. School staff will immediately request assistance from an emergency medical service provider whenever a student is administered epinephrine at the school or at an activity, event, or program sponsored by the school. This request for medical assistance applies whether the student self-administers the medication or a school staff member administers it to the student.

Parent's with students needing diabetes care should refer to the Board Policy Manual for additional information.

Homework

Please refer to your child's teacher(s) for their specific homework policy.

Absences/Homework

When an excused absence occurs, students are responsible for making up the assignments that are missed. The teacher will assign make-up work and set the date for completion, which shall be the same number of days as the corresponding absence. In the event of a planned excused absence, the school must be provided advanced notice in order for teachers to provide class assignments. Students must return completed assignments upon returning to school.

It is strongly suggested that absences not occur during the state assessment week(s). Please refer to the school calendar for testing dates.

Progress Reports

Communication between the school and parents establishes an environment of learning beyond the school walls. To keep parents/guardians informed on an on-going basis, the teacher will send home Progress Reports. Parents should anticipate receiving this communication. Please note, the teacher may indicate a desire to have the parent sign and return this form.

Report Cards

Report Cards will be distributed on a quarterly basis. Please refer to the school's calendar which outlines the end of each grading period. Report cards will be distributed to parents/guardians at the end of each grading period. Copies of all report cards are retained in the student's cumulative file in a locked storage cabinet.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We welcome the opportunity to meet and speak with parents/guardians regarding their students' academic progress. Parent-teacher conferences will be conducted at least once a year. Consult the school year calendar for these dates. Once a date and time have been arranged, please contact your child's teacher if a change is necessary. Upon request, a conference can be held outside the school's scheduled conferences at any given time.

Early School Dismissal

Occasionally, weather conditions or other building emergencies may arise that necessitate sending students home earlier than the regular dismissal time. The school will make every effort to contact the parents under these conditions.

Cars/Parking/Buses

At the beginning of the school year the school personnel will provide arrival and dismissal procedures, proper traffic flow, parking, and busing information.

Behavior Guidelines

Student behavior and discipline have been identified as problems that must be addressed across the country within schools. Student behavior and discipline within a school can add to a poor culture/ environment ultimately leading to poor student academic achievement. Therefore, Dr. William Glasser's Choice Theory and our Scientific Art of Developing the Whole Child provide the basis for a positive school culture and climate at River Gate High School.

The Choice Theory outlines that almost all human behavior is chosen and that we are driven by our needs for survival, love and belonging, power, freedom and fun. Staff and students will utilize Choice Theory in making daily decisions. River Gate High School believes that students must feel a sense of love and belonging to be successful and excel. All stakeholders will learn the Seven Caring Habits of supporting, encouraging, listening, accepting, trusting, respecting and negotiating differences, as opposed to the Seven Deadly Habits of criticizing, blaming, complaining, nagging, threatening, punishing and bribing/rewarding to control. We believe that students' internal well-being will be inspired once they discover that the only behavior they can control is their own which enhances a love for learning and ultimately good behavior.

Code of Conduct

River Gate High School seeks to maintain a positive learning environment where students can flourish and excel. Therefore, when inappropriate student behavior disrupts our school, students may be denied participation in the educational environment for a period of time. Our expectations will be communicated so students know what is expected at all times. Students may be suspended or expelled for any violation of the code of conduct.

Corporal punishment is not permitted. No employee shall threaten, inflict, or cause to inflict unreasonable, irrational, or inappropriate force upon a student.

The rules of the Student Code of Conduct apply to any conduct:

- On school grounds at any time whether school is in session or not.
- On or off school grounds at any school activity, function, or event; and
- Traveling to and from school, including actions on any school bus, van, or public conveyance.

If a Violation of the Code of Conduct occurs, appropriate interventions and/or discipline measures may be imposed up to and included suspensions and/or expulsions from the Academy for offenses that include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Fighting/Violence
- 2) Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Tobacco Products
- 3) Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages or Intoxicants
- 4) Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of a Firearm
- 5) Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Drugs Other Than Tobacco or Alcohol
- 6) False Alarms/Bomb Threat
- 7) Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of a Dangerous Weapon Other Than a Firearm or Explosive, Incendiary or Poison Gas
- 8) Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of a knife capable of inflicting bodily harm, including but not limited to pocket knives or folding knives.
- 9) Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Any Explosive, Incendiary or Poison Gas
- 10) Disobedient/Disruptive Behavior
- 11) Vandalism/Damage to School or Personal Property
- 12) Class Cutting
- 13) Theft/Stealing Personal or School Property
- 14) Harassment/Bullying/Intimidation
- 15) Firearm Look-a-Likes
- 16) Unwelcome Sexual Conduct
- 17) Serious Bodily Injury
- 18) Actions deemed to be unsafe or containing the potential to disrupt the educational setting
- 19) Any action in violation of classroom or school rules and procedures
- 20) Any act in violation of the rules and procedures in the Parent Student Handbook or Board of Directors Board Policy Manual

*Students may not be suspended or expelled for truancy.

Suspension, Expulsion, Emergency Removal, Permanent Removal, Due Process Rights

The school recognizes that exclusion from the educational program is a serious sanction and that suspension and expulsion must follow due process mandates. Additionally, the school will comply with all state and federal law pertaining to students with disabilities.

A student may be disciplined for any violation of the student code of conduct, even if the violation occurs on property not owned or controlled by the school if the violation

took place during activities connected with the school or if the behavior is directed at a school official.

Any student suspended or expelled under this policy will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities.

Suspension:

The principal or designee may suspend a student from the school for not more than ten school days. If at the time a suspension is imposed there are fewer than ten school days remaining in the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the suspension takes place, the principal may require the student to participate in a community service program or another alternative program for a number of hours equal to the remaining suspension period. The student shall be required to begin the program during the first full week day of the summer break. A principal may not apply the remaining suspension period to the following year.

Except in the case of a student given an in-school suspension, no student shall be suspended unless prior to the suspension the principal does both of the following:

- (1) The principal shall give the student written notice of the intention to suspend the student and the reasons for the intended suspension and notice of the student's right to appear at an informal hearing before the principal to challenge the reason for the intended suspension or otherwise to explain the student's actions.
- (2) Provide the student an opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal and challenge the reason for the intended suspension or otherwise to explain the student's actions.

The School shall provide students an opportunity to complete any classroom assignments missed because of an in-school or out-of-school suspension. Students shall be entitled to receive at least partial credit for a completed assignment; however, reasonable grade reduction may be made on account of a student's suspension. The School shall not assess a failing grade for a completed assignment solely on account of the student's suspension.

Expulsion:

The superintendent may expel a student from the School for a period not to exceed the greater of eighty school days or the number of school days remaining in the semester or term in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place. If at the time an expulsion is imposed, there are fewer than eighty school days remaining in the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place, the superintendent may apply any remaining part or all of the period of the expulsion to the following school year. No student shall be expelled under this policy unless, prior to the student's expulsion, the superintendent does both of the following:

- (1) Gives the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian written notice of the intention to expel the student;
- (2) Provides the student and the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or representative an opportunity to appear in person before the superintendent or superintendent's designee to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion or otherwise to explain the student's actions. The notice required under this section shall include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity of the student and the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or representative to appear before the superintendent or superintendent's designee to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion or otherwise to explain the student's action, and notification of the time and place to appear. The time to appear shall not be earlier than three nor later than five school days after the notice is given, unless the superintendent grants an extension of time at the request of the student or the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or representative. If an extension is granted after giving the original notice, the superintendent shall notify the student and the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or representative of the new time and place to appear.

Unless a student is permanently excluded, the Superintendent shall expel a pupil for a period of one year for bringing a firearm to the School, to an extracurricular event, or onto any other property controlled by the Governing Authority Board of Directors of the School or an extracurricular event. "Firearm" has the same meaning provided in the "Gun-Free Schools Act," a "firearm means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projective by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device, which includes a bomb grenade, a rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, or similar device. This definition would also include any weapon that will, or that may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and that has a barrel with a bore of more than one half inch diameter. The term does not include an antique firearm. The Superintendent may reduce the expulsion time on a case by case basis based upon the student's overall record at the School.

Additional expulsion periods may apply in accordance with the Board approved Suspension and Expulsion Policy.

Permanent Exclusion

A student may be permanently excluded from attending any school in the state if the student is convicted of, or adjudicated a delinquent child for, committing an act that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult, when the student was sixteen years of age or older if the act is one of the following:

- Illegal conveyance or possession of deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance or of object indistinguishable from firearm in school safety zone in violation of R.C. 2923.11.
- Carrying a concealed weapon, trafficking in drugs or possession of controlled substances, if the violation was committed on property owned or controlled by the school or at a school activity in violation of R.C. 2923.12, R.C. 2925.03, and/or R.C. 2925.11.
- Aggravated murder, murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, felonious assault, aggravated assault, rape, gross sexual imposition, or felonious sexual penetration in violation of R.C. 2903.01, R.C. 2923.02, R.C. 2903.03, R.C. 2903.04, R.C. 2903.11, R.C. 2903.12, R.C. 2907.02, R.C. 2907.05, and/or the former section R.C. 2907.12 if the violation was committed on property owned or controlled by the school or a school activity if the victim at the time of the commission of the act was an employed at the school.
- Complicity in any of the above violations regardless of whether the act of complicity was committed on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the school.

If the superintendent of the school obtains or receives proof that a student has been convicted of committing or adjudicated a delinquent child for the commission when the student was sixteen years of age or older of one or more of the above, the superintendent may issue to the school's governing authority a request that the student be permanently excluded from public school attendance in Ohio, if both of the following apply:

(1) After obtaining or receiving proof of the conviction or adjudication, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee determines that the student's continued attendance in school may endanger the health and safety of other students or school employees and gives the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian written notice that the superintendent intends to recommend that the governing authority adopt a resolution requesting the superintendent of public instruction to permanently exclude the student from public school attendance.

(2) The superintendent or the superintendent's designee forwards to the governing authority the superintendent's written recommendation that includes the determinations the superintendent or designee made pursuant to this policy and a copy of the proof the superintendent received showing that the student has been convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for a violation listed in this section that was committed when the student was sixteen years of age or older.

The School shall follow all requirements for permanent exclusion as described by ORC 3313.66, including providing notice of the possibility of permanent exclusion with each suspension and expulsion notice.

Emergency Removal:

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either within a classroom or elsewhere on the School premises, the superintendent or principal may remove a student from curricular activities or from the School premises without the notice and hearing requirements of this policy. A teacher may remove a student from curricular activities under the teacher's supervision, without the notice and hearing requirements. As soon as practicable after making such a removal, the teacher shall submit in writing to the principal the reasons for such removal

If a student is removed under this Emergency Removal section from a curricular activity or from the school premises, written notice of the hearing and of the reason for the removal shall be given to the pupil as soon as practicable prior to the hearing, which shall be held on the next school day after the initial removal is ordered. The hearing shall be held in accordance with suspension provisions of this policy unless it is probable that the student may be subject to expulsion, in which case a hearing in accordance with the expulsion provisions of this policy shall be held, except that the hearing shall be held on the next school day after the date of the initial removal. The individual who ordered, caused, or requested the removal to be made shall be present at the hearing.

Right to Appeal to Board:

Within one school day after the time of a student's expulsion or suspension, the superintendent or principal shall notify in writing the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student of the expulsion or suspension. In the case of an expulsion, the superintendent or principal, within one school day after the time of a pupil's expulsion, also shall notify in writing the school's Board of Directors.

Each notice shall include the following:

- (1) reasons for the expulsion or suspension and notification;
- (2) the right of the student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal the expulsion or suspension to the Board of Directors of the School or to its designee;
- (3) the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings;
- (4) the right to be granted a hearing before the Board of Directors of the School or its designee in order to be heard against the suspension or expulsion;

- (5) the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session;
- (6) Permanent exclusion notice, if applicable;
- (7) the manner and date by which the student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian shall notify the board of the intent to appeal the expulsion or suspension to the board or its designee.

If the superintendent expels a student under this section for more than twenty school days or, for any period of time, if the expulsion will extend into the following semester or school year, the notice shall provide the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian with information about services or programs offered by public and private agencies that work toward improving those aspects of the student's attitudes and behavior that contributed to the incident that gave rise to the student's expulsion. The information shall include the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the appropriate public and private agencies.

If the student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the expulsion or suspension to the Board of Directors of the School or its designee, the student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian shall notify the Board of Directors of the School in the manner and by the date specified in the notice. The student or the student's parent, guardian, or custodian may be represented in all appeal proceedings and shall be granted a hearing before the Board of Directors of the School or its designee in order to be heard against the suspension or expulsion. At the request of the student or of the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or attorney, the Board of Directors of the School or its designee may hold the hearing in executive session but shall act upon the suspension or expulsion only at a public meeting. The Board of Directors of the School, by a majority vote of its full membership or by the action of its designee, may affirm the order of suspension or expulsion, reinstate the student, or otherwise reverse, vacate, or modify the order of suspension or expulsion.

The Board of Directors of the School or its designee shall make a verbatim record of hearings held under this division. The decisions of the Board of Directors of the School or its designee may be appealed under Chapter 2506 of the Ohio Revised Code.

This policy shall not be construed to require notice and hearing in the case of normal disciplinary procedures in which a student is removed from a curricular activity for a period of less than one school day and is not subject to suspension or expulsion.

For purposes of this policy, the Board of Directors of the School appoints the Operator as its designee.

Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Consistent with this policy, to the extent the principal may order removal of a student without disabilities, the principal may remove a student with a disability, but not for more than ten (10) school days.

After a child with a disability has been removed from the child's current placement for ten school days in the same school year, during any subsequent days of removal, the school district must provide services.

If a child is removed for a period of time exceeding ten school days and the behavior was not determined to be a manifestation of the disability, the student must continue to receive educational services and receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services.

Change in Placement

The School will notify the parent of the removal decision that constitutes a change in placement for a student with a disability and provide the parent with a copy of the notice of procedural safeguards on the same day as the date of the removal decision.

A change in placement will occur when

- a removal is for more than ten (10) consecutive school days; or
- a series of removals constitute a pattern because;
 - the removals cumulate to more than ten (10) school days in a school year,
 - the behavior of the student is substantially similar to prior incidents, and
 - other factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student is removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another.

Manifestation Determination

Within ten school days of any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability due to a violation of the code of student conduct, the School, parent, and relevant members of the IEP team must review all relevant information in the student's file to determine:

1. If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability or
2. If the conduct was a direct result of the School's failure to implement the IEP.

If either of these two conditions are found to exist, the conduct must be determined to be a manifestation of the disability.

If the IEP team and other qualified personnel determine that the student's behavior was not related to the disability, the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to students without disabilities may be applied to the student in the same manner in which they would be applied to students without disabilities.

If the IEP team determines that the student's behavior was a manifestation of the disability, the school must either:

1. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop a behavioral intervention plan or,
2. If the behavioral plan has already been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan and the implementation plan and modify them if necessary.

The child must return to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent and the School agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

School personnel may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five school days without regard to whether the behavior is a manifestation of the disability if the student:

1. Carries a weapon to or possesses a weapon at School, on school premises, or to a school function;
2. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at School, on school premises, or at a school function; or
3. Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another while at School, on school premises, or at a school function.

Students removed under this section must continue to receive services and receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services.

Appeals

If a parent disagrees with any decision regarding placement or the manifestation determination decision made by the IEP team, the parent may request a hearing. Whenever a hearing is requested, the School will comply with the procedures for an expedited due process hearing.

Dress Code

Our students must be prepared to enter a competitive society therefore; Student dress code is an important part of the school's program and philosophy. In making the choice to attend River Gate High School, the student (with parent support) agrees to follow all dress code requirements. The dress code is not an option for the student.

The principal, at his/her discretion, may have "dress-down" day when students and staff may dress down (in reasonable fashion).

The student attire should be safe and not detract from the educational environment. Students' attire should reflect respect for self, others, and the educational environment.

The following are some examples of inappropriate attire:

- Clothing that does not cover undergarments. Undergarments should never be exposed.
- No sagging pants. All pants should be worn with the waistband fitted around the waist. Pulling pants down far below the waist is prohibited.
- No short shorts, skirts, and dresses are not permitted. Garments must be closer to the knee than the bottom of the hip. Skirts that ride up are prohibited.
- No Hats or du rags are permitted in the building. This includes bandannas, kerchiefs, etc.
- No Flip flops or slides.
- Clothing that exposes the midriff, or any area in excess is not acceptable. Prohibited clothing would include tank tops, halters, shirts with an inappropriate neckline, formfitting / skin tight tops, sheer tops that expose under-garments or cleavage, pants that expose undergarments.
- No clothing and insignias relating to gang membership are not acceptable.
- No Patches, symbols, writings which "literally" or by implications are obscene or are such as to shock or affront the standards of common decency or propriety have no place in school and are not permitted. This guideline refers to "T-shirt" imprints that include "double meanings" relating to drugs, alcohol, and sexual behavior; hate groups / symbols or anything that could be considered improper by public standards.

The school administration reserves the right to determine dress code standards.

Students are expected to comply with teacher requests to modify their attire so that they are in compliance with these guidelines. Parents/guardians will be called if necessary.

Bullying & Aggressive Behaviors

River Gate High School is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board of Directors and

the school encourage the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community. Aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes physical, verbal, and psychological abuse. The Board of Directors and school will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the school, including activities on school property and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. Aggressive behavior includes, but is not limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the principal or Board of Director's official. Complaints against the principal should be filed with the Board of Director's President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to the people identified above.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. If the investigation finds an instance of aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board of Directors members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and will be dealt

with appropriately. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior as outlined above.

This guideline includes all incidences of bullying, whether physical, verbal or psychological. Additionally, any form of harassment or bullying that includes the use of information and communication technologies such as email, cell phone, pagers, text or instant messaging, or defamatory web sites, also known as “cyberbullying,” falls under the auspices of this guideline.

For additional information regarding bullying or aggressive behavior, refer to the Board of Directors Anti-Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy in the Board Policy Manual and as included as Appendix I.

Weapons

River Gate High School prohibits students from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon. This policy applies to all activities in the school, including activities on school property and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

A weapon is defined as “any instrument capable or appearing to be capable of causing serious bodily injury to a person” and which is intended to be used, or is represented, as capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage as well as endangering the health and safety of others. Weapons include and are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), pellet guns, bb guns, inoperable replica firearms, and other “look alike” weapons, knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

No student or person working or volunteering at the school at any time, for any reason shall possess, handle, transmit, or use any object, which can be reasonably considered a weapon or considered a “look alike” weapon in or on property of the school, school bus, or any school-sponsored activity held away from the school property, except an authorized school security officer.

The principal will refer any student who violates this policy to the student's parents or guardians and to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

Drug-Free

In accordance with federal law, the school prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on the school grounds, in the school building, on school buses, or at any school related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, and dangerous controlled substance as defined by state or federal statute, or any substance that could be considered a “look alike” controlled substance. Compliance with this school policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the Student Code of Conduct, up to and including expulsion from the school. When required by state law, the school will also notify law enforcement officials.

Tobacco Policy

Definitions:

"Smoke" means to burn any substance containing tobacco, including a lighted cigarette, cigar, or pipe, or to burn a clove cigarette.

"Use tobacco" means to chew or maintain any substance containing tobacco, including smokeless tobacco, in the mouth to derive the effects of tobacco.

“Tobacco products” includes e-cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), and other electronic smoking or vaping devices (including JUUL’s, myBlu, Mojo, etc.).

This policy does not apply to any cessation product approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use as a medical treatment to reduce and eliminate nicotine or tobacco dependence.

Prohibition:

No student shall smoke or use tobacco or tobacco products or possess any substance containing tobacco in any area under the control of the School or at any activity supervised by the School.

No student shall use or possess any substance containing betel nut in any area under the control of the School or at any activity supervised by the School.

Enforcement/Disciplinary Measures:

1. The first violation of this policy shall result in confiscation of tobacco products, notification to parents and/or guardians if the student is under 18 years of age, and at least one the following:

- a. A student meeting and individual student assessment with a chemical health educator or designated staff to discuss commercial tobacco use and school policy.
- b. Student participation in tobacco education program.
- c. Offering student information about available cessation programs and resources.

Additional disciplinary measures may be implemented at the discretion of the school leader in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

2. The second violation of this policy shall result in confiscation of tobacco products, notification to parents and/or guardians if the student is under 18 years of age, and offering the student information about available cessation programs, as well as at least one of the following:
 - a. A student meeting and individual student assessment with a chemical health educator or designated staff with parents and/or guardians to discuss commercial tobacco use and school policy.
 - b. Student participation in a tobacco education program.
 - c. Additional disciplinary measures may be implemented at the discretion of the school leader in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.
3. The third and any subsequent violation of this policy shall result in confiscation of tobacco products, notification of parents and/or guardians if the student is under 18 years of age, offering student information about available cessation programs, and student participation in a tobacco education program as well as at least one of the following:
 - a. A student meeting and individual student assessment with a chemical health educator or designated staff with parents and/or guardians to discuss commercial tobacco use and school policy.
 - b. Other disciplinary measure.

Resources:

For educational materials and local tobacco cessation programs, visit <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/tobacco-use-prevention-and-cessation/welcome-to>

Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect

The school will follow Ohio Revised Code 2151.421 and 3319.073 and the Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting Policy in the Board Policy Manual in reporting child abuse and neglect.

Wellness Program

Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, build physical and mental growth and lifelong health and well-being. With the passing of the Child Nutrition and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 by Congress, the River Gate High School recognizes the role it can play in building nutrition knowledge and skills in children to promote healthy eating and physical activity choices. The school's objectives are to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health, and reduce childhood obesity. Additional information can be found in the Wellness Policy in the Board Policy Manual

Breakfast/Lunch

Families needing assistance may apply for free or reduced lunch fees through the school office. Information for the free and reduced breakfast/lunch program is sent home early in the school year or the forms are available in the school office. Menus for both breakfast and lunch are sent home monthly. Breakfast and lunch are available daily for students who wish to purchase them. Students may bring their lunch if they wish. No carbonated beverages and candy are permitted.

Money

All money turned into the school should be in an envelope marked with the student's name, grade, amount, and purpose. Students are not to bring unnecessary money to school. The School is not liable for lost or stolen money brought to school by the student.

Child Find

The school is participating in an effort to assist the State of Ohio in identifying, locating, and evaluating all children from birth through 21 years of age who may have disabilities. If you have or know of a child who may have a disability, contact the school for more information and help. The school will ask for information about the nature of the child's disability, specific steps taken to address the disability, and what background or testing information is available regarding the child's disability. If you

or someone you know has a child who needs assistance specifically related to a disability, you may contact the school's principal.

Telephones

Parents are requested not to call the school for the delivery of messages to children, except in cases of emergency.

Cell Phones

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Board of Education of [insert name of school district] has determined the use of cell phones by students during school hours should be limited. The objective of this policy is to strengthen [school district]'s focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

I. Research

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

II. Applicability

This policy applies to the use of cell phones by students while on school property during school hours.

III. Use of cell phones

Students are prohibited from using cell phones at all times.

IV. Exception

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794. A student may use a cell phone to monitor or address a health concern.

V. Cell phone storage

Students shall keep their cell phones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times when cell phone use is prohibited.

VI. Discipline

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall take the following progressively serious disciplinary measures:

First Violation:

Give the student a verbal warning and require the student to store the student's cell phone in accordance with this policy.

Second Violation:

Securely store the student's cell phone in a teacher- or administrator-controlled locker, bin, or drawer for the duration of the class or period.

Third Violation:

Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office for the remainder of the school day. A conference with the student's parent or guardian will be scheduled to discuss the student's cell phone use prior to the student's parent or guardian being permitted to be picked up the cell phone

Please Note: The school is not responsible for the cost or replacement of lost, damaged or stolen cell phones that are brought to the school whether under control of school personnel or in the student's possession.

Personal Items Brought to School

To avoid disruption of the educational process, students are not allowed to bring personal items to school. Such articles will be taken and returned only to the parent/guardian. Except for approved fundraisers, students are not permitted to sell or trade anything among themselves at school, on the school grounds or on the bus.

Please Note: The school is not responsible for replacement of lost, damaged or stolen items brought to school.

Stolen Items

The school will attempt to retrieve stolen items for students and be prudent in helping to prevent theft among the students. The school is not responsible for stolen personal items, including cell phones.

Textbooks

Students are expected to take care of and are responsible for the textbooks assigned during the school year. A replacement fee will be charged for lost or damaged books. The student's academic records will not be released until payment of the replacement fee is settled.

Curriculum

The knowledge and skills defined in the Common Core Standards are within reach of all of our students. The school's educational program and curriculum will directly correlate with Ohio's New Learning Standards. The standards, benchmarks, and learning level indicators will reflect what students know and are able to demonstrate as a result of the River Gate High School's academic program. Students, however, develop at different rates. All students learn and experience success given time, a nurturing environment, and high expectations, but the degree to which the standards are met and the time it takes to reach the standards will vary from student to student. River Gate High School will use Ohio's New Learning Standards as a rubric for daily instruction. Learning Standards will provide the base of a student-centered curriculum that is designed to meet the needs of each student every day. The student's academic and social skills development will be facilitated through a variety of programs.

Assessment

Student assessment and data-driven decision making are core values of River Gate High School. Assessment is the avenue by which staff can identify, measure, and ensure students are mastering the Standards and making academic progress. At the beginning of the school year and throughout, a battery of assessment instruments will be administered to students.

Intervention

Intervention is supplemental instruction based on student needs, designed to provide remediation, reinforcement, enrichment, or support for pupil learning relative to specified pupil performance objectives.

Technology and Internet Safety Policy

The use of technology is a privilege and an important part of the school's overall curriculum. The school will, from time to time, make determinations on whether specific uses of technology, including artificial intelligence (AI) are consistent with school policies for students and employees of the school but does not warrant that the technology resources will meet any specific requirements of the student or other users, or that it will be error free or uninterrupted. The school always reserves the right to monitor and log technology use, to monitor file server space utilization by users, and examine specific network usage (as may be deemed necessary) for maintenance, safety or security of the technology resources or the safety of the user.

The School has filters in place on each computer provided to students for instructional use. The filters prevent potentially inappropriate websites from students which protects against internet access to materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles.

By signing the Parent/Student Contract Page at the end of the Parent/Student Handbook, the parent and student agree:

- To abide by all school policies relating to the use of technology; including the Board of Directors Technology and Internet Safety Policy;
- To release all school employees from any and all claims of any nature arising from the use or inability to use the technology;
- That the use of technology is a privilege; and
- That use of the technology will be monitored and there is no expectation of privacy whatsoever in any use of the technology.

The parent/student further agrees and understands that the user may have his/her privileges revoked or other disciplinary actions taken against them for actions and/or misuse such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Altering system technology, including but not limited to, software or hardware;
- Placing unauthorized information, computer viruses or harmful programs on or through the computer system in either public or private files or messages;
- Obtaining, viewing, downloading, transmitting, disseminating or otherwise gaining access to or disclosing materials the school believes may be unlawful, obscene, pornographic, abusive, or otherwise objectionable.
- Using technology resources for commercial, political, or other unauthorized purposes. The school technology resources are intended only for educational use;
- Intentionally seeking information on, obtaining copies of, or modifying files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users;
- Disrupting technology through abuse of the technology, including but not limited to, hardware or software;
- Malicious uses of technology through hate mail, harassment, profanity, vulgar statements, or discriminating remarks;
- Interfering with others' use of technology;
- Installation of software without consent of the school;
- Allowing anyone else to use an account other than the account holder; and
- Other unlawful or inappropriate behavior;

The user also acknowledges and agrees that he/she is solely responsible for the use of his/her accounts, passwords, and/or access privileges, and that misuse of such may result in appropriate disciplinary actions (including but

not limited to suspension or expulsion), loss of access privileges, and/or appropriate legal action.

The user must also know and further agrees that:

- Should the user transfer a file, shareware, or software that infects the technology resources with a virus and causes damage, the user will be liable for any and all repair costs;
- The user will be liable to pay the cost or fee of any file, shareware, or software transferred or downloaded, whether intentional or accidental;
- Should the user intentionally destroy information or equipment that causes damage to technology resources, the user(s) will be liable for any and all costs; and
- Violation of this Internet Safety Policy is also a violation of the School Code of Conduct and may result in other scholastic disciplinary action, other than those specifically set forth above, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion.

Definitions

Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) defines the above referenced terms as follows: A minor is anyone under the age of 17.

“Technology Protection Measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. Obscene, as that term is defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code;
2. Child Pornography, as that term is defined in section 1226 of title 18, United States Code; or
3. “Harmful to minors,” meaning any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:
 - a) Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
 - b) Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 - c) Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

“Sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in Section 2246 of Title 18, United States Code.

Emergency School Closings

Should it be necessary to close the school for weather or other emergency situations, information will be communicated over radio and television stations. Typically, if the city school district is closed in which the school is located, the school will also close,

however, this is not always the case. Consequently, parents are asked to monitor their television or radio to be certain.

Safety

The school will conduct safety, severe weather and evacuation drills that comply with all federal, state and local laws, statutes and ordinances concerning safety. Each student is responsible for conducting himself/herself with safety in mind whether it is within the school building, on the playground, and/or on a school bus. Discussion of safety standards will be reviewed within each classroom throughout the year.

Gangs

The school prohibits students from engaging in gang activities while at school, on school property, to or from school, or at school-related functions and events.

The term “gang” is defined as any non-school sponsored group of students with secret and/or exclusive membership, whose purposes or practices include unlawful or anti-social behavior as well as actions that threaten the welfare of others.

The term “gang activity” is defined as any conduct engaged in by a student:

- On behalf of a gang;
- To perpetrate the existence of a gang;
- To effect or promote the common purpose and design of any gang, including the wearing of apparel, jewelry, or symbols;
- To recruit for membership in a gang;
- To threaten or intimidate by use of gang affiliation; or
- To represent a gang affiliation, loyalty or membership in any way while on school grounds or while attending a school function.

Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school and may further be subject to criminal prosecution.

Security

The school has and does provide a safe and clean environment. However, due to increasing violence throughout the nation, the school is taking precautions to protect students, teachers, and staff. The building doors are locked during the school day. Entrance to the building is by office permission only. Closed circuit cameras cover all entrances and are placed at strategic locations throughout the building. A police/security guard may also enhance school security.

Visitors

Visitors are required to report to the school office prior to their visit to a classroom or to other parts of the building. All visitors must sign in upon arrival, sign out before leaving the building, and wear a visitor's identification badge while in the building. Visitors are not to approach students and should be escorted by a staff member at all times while in the building. Visitors are asked not to attempt a parent-teacher conference while students are in the classroom.

Parental Concerns

Parents who wish to express concerns should contact the principal. Classroom issues should be initially addressed with the classroom teacher through a scheduled appointment. If a meeting is scheduled to discuss the concern, persons in attendance must conduct themselves civilly. It is expected that concerns will be expressed in a professional manner. Disruptive or threatening behavior may result in an action to protect school personnel, such as reporting the incident to the police and/or prohibiting the parent or guardian from entering school property at any time.

For additional information refer to the Complaint Policy in the Board Policy Manual.

Parent Involvement and Volunteer Program

Parents/guardians with a student attending a school that receives Title I funds, have the right to know the qualifications of the student's classroom teacher. Parent who ask about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher are entitled to the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met the Ohio teacher licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides the student instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or temporary status that waives state licensing requirements.
- The undergraduate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate degree or certification (such as National Board Certification) held by the teacher and the field of discipline of certification or degree.
- Whether the student is provided services by instructional paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

All requests must be sent to the school in writing and should include the following information: student's full name, legal parent/guardian's full name, address, city, state, zip code and teacher's name.

In addition to the information parents may request as listed above, the school shall provide:

- Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the state assessments required; and
- Timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

Student Photographs – Picture Day

School pictures will be taken in the fall of each school year. Parent will be offered a package of individual and class photographs through the photography company. All students will be photographed whether or not a package is purchased. Information will be sent home prior to the actual picture day.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are offered through the school on a yearly basis. The school will attempt to keep the cost at a minimum. Advance payment is required. The yearbooks will be available for distribution near the end of the school year.

Lost and Found

In line with teaching students' responsibility, articles brought to school by the students are the student's responsibility. Many items of clothing find their way into the lost and found containers. If your child is missing any article of clothing, have your child check the lost and found area. At the end of the school year, all unclaimed articles will be taken to a local charitable organization.

Field Trips

Students will actively explore real world problems and challenges through Project Based Learning. River Gate High School believes that by entrenching instruction into real world, project-based experiences, students will be able to learn more efficiently than with a typical instructional approach which divides students' days by core content. Field trips may be conducted throughout the school year and correlated

with their project-based learning. Parental permission slips are required for a student to participate. Without a signed and dated permission slip, the student will not be able to participate in the field trip. In addition, an Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file at the school before a student may participate. Teachers may request parents/guardians to assist in organizing and chaperoning field trips.

Please note: To be considered as a volunteer, you may be required to obtain a BCI/FBI check with no disqualifying offenses and TB test prior to working with students or attending field trips. If there is no background check on file, then each volunteer will be supervised by a staff member at all times.

Classroom Parties

Parties may be scheduled for special holidays and/or special occasions. The classroom teacher will coordinate and communicate dates, times and procedures for such events. Each classroom teacher will establish a party policy for their individual classroom. Parental request for parties will be approved or denied by the classroom teacher. Any request for a child not to participate in any/all such parties or activities should be in writing and forwarded to the teacher ahead of time. All such requests will be honored.

Supplies

A tentative list of needed supplies is available at the time of registration or at the beginning of the school year. An updated list for each grade will be sent or given to the parent/guardian at the parent orientation meeting prior to the opening of the school.

Desks, Lockers, and Other Personal Storage Areas

All lockers, desks, and other storage areas provided to the student for use remain the property of the school. Students should not expect privacy regarding any items on school property. Periodic general inspections of school property may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time without notice, without student consent and without a search warrant. A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, etc.) may be searched whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials. If a search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings may be turned over to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition. For additional information regarding searches, refer to the Search Policy in the Board Policy Manual.

Parents' Right to Know Teacher Qualifications

Parents may request the following regarding their child's teacher(s):

Parents/guardians with a student attending a school that receives Title I funds, have the right to know the qualifications of the student's classroom teacher. Parent who ask about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher are entitled to the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met the Ohio teacher licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides the student instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or temporary status that waives state licensing requirements.
- The undergraduate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate degree or certification (such as National Board Certification) held by the teacher and the field of discipline of certification or degree.
- Whether the student is provided services by instructional paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

All requests must be sent to the school in writing and should include the following information: student's full name, legal parent/guardian's full name, address, city, state, zip code and teacher's name.

In addition to the information parents may request as listed above, the school shall provide:

- Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the state assessments required; and
- Timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

Graduation Requirements

Class of 2014 through 2020

Students that entered ninth grade with an anticipated graduation year between 2014 and 2020 should refer to

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements/Graduation-Requirements-2014-2020> for the graduation requirements.

Classes of 2021 and 2022

In addition to obtaining the required minimum credits, students who entered grade nine between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019 have two options for graduation:

OPTION 1

Satisfy **one** of the three **original pathways** to graduation that were in place when you entered high school. The pathways include:

1. **[Ohio's State Tests](#)** - Earn at least 18 points on seven end-of-course state tests. Each test score earns you up to five graduation points. You must have a minimum of four points in math, four points in English and six points across science and social studies.
2. **[Industry credential and workforce readiness](#)** - Earn a minimum of 12 points by receiving a State Board of Education-approved, industry-recognized credential or group of credentials in a single career field and earn the required score on WorkKeys, a work-readiness test. The state of Ohio will pay one time for you to take the WorkKeys test.
3. **[College and career readiness tests](#)** - Earn remediation-free scores in mathematics and English language arts on either the ACT or SAT.

OPTION 2

Satisfy both the **new graduation requirements** for the classes of 2023 and beyond by:

1. Demonstrating Competency:

Students must pass the states algebra I and English II tests. For students that have taken _____ the required tests more than once without passing and have received remedial supports may show competency in one of the following ways:

- Earn credit for one math and/or one English court through College Credit Plus
- Demonstrate career readiness and technical skill through foundational and supporting options;
- Enter into a contract to enlist in the military upon graduation

2. Demonstrating Readiness:

Students must earn two diploma seals. One of the seals must be state defined to demonstrate academic, technical, and professional readiness for

careers, college, the military or self-sustaining professions. The following are state system of diploma seals:

- OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal
- Honors Diploma Seal
- State Seal of Biliteracy
- Technology Seal
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal
- Citizenship Seal
- College-Ready Seal
- Fine and Performing Arts Seal (locally defined)
- Military Enlistment Seal
- Student Engagement Seal (locally defined)
- Science Seal
- Community Service Seal (locally defined)

Classes of 2023 and beyond

Students who entered grade nine on or after July 1, 2019 must meet three key components:

1. Course Completion

Students must earn a minimum total of 20 credits and take the required end-of-course assessments. These include English Language arts II, Algebra I(or integrated Math I), Geometry (or integrated Math II), Biology, American History, and American Government.

2. Demonstrate Competency

Option 1. Students can demonstrate competency by earning a passing score on Ohio's high school Algebra I (or integrated Math I) and English Language Arts II tests. Students who do not pass the test will be offered additional support and must retake the test at least once. For students who do not meet the competency score on these tests, the following four options are available:

Option 2. To demonstrate competency by Career Readiness, students must demonstrate two career-focused activities, at least one must be a foundational option. Demonstrate Readiness (Seals)

Foundational options:

1. Cumulative score of proficient on 3 or more WebXams.
2. Earn 12-points of industry credential.
3. Complete a registered pre-apprenticeship, an apprenticeship, or show evidence of acceptance into an approved apprenticeship.

4. State-issued license for a practice in a vocation

Supporting options:

1. Work-Based Learning.
2. Earn the workforce readiness score on the Workkeys.
3. Earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal

Option 3. To demonstrate competency through the College Credit Plus Program, students must earn credit in a non-remedial math or English course for the subject area not passed.

Option 4. To demonstrate competency through Military Enlistment, students must provide evidence of enlistment in a branch of the armed forces to demonstrate competency.

Option 5. To demonstrate competency using the ACT or SAT, students must obtain a remediation-free score in the math and/ or English subject area on the ACT or SAT. To demonstrate competency in English, a student must be remediation-free in the subjects of English and reading on the ACT or SAT.

3. Demonstrating Readiness:

Students meet the readiness requirement by earning two diploma seals. In alignment with their graduation plan, students should be choosing seals that align with their goals and interests. These seals give students the chance to demonstrate academic, technical and professional skills and knowledge that align to their passions, interests and their post-high school pathway.

Of the two seals students are required to earn, at least one of the two must be State-Defined. Ohio's 12 diploma seals are:

- OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal
- Honors Diploma Seal
- State Seal of Biliteracy
- Technology Seal
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal
- Citizenship Seal
- College-Ready Seal
- Fine and Performing Arts Seal (locally defined)
- Military Enlistment Seal
- Student Engagement Seal (locally defined)
- Science Seal

- Community Service Seal (locally defined)

*Refer to the Board Policy Manual Graduation Policy for more information regarding graduation requirements.

Consequences of Not Completing the Curriculum

PLEASE NOTE: As prescribed in division (C) of section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code: One consequence of not completing that curriculum is ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio without further coursework.

Curriculum Requirements

Students must earn a state minimum of 20 credits as follows:

English language arts - 4 credits

Health - ½ credit

Mathematics - 4 credits

Physical education - ½ credit

Science - 3 credits

Social studies - 3 credits

Electives - 5 credits

Other Requirements:

Economics

Financial Literacy

Two semesters of fine arts.

Mathematics – Students must earn 4 mathematics units, which must include one unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II. Exceptions: Algebra II or advanced computer science is not a requirement for students following [a career-technical pathway](#). However, students still must have four units in mathematics. A student may choose to apply one unit of advanced computer science to satisfy one unit of algebra II/math III or equivalent. Districts also may use credit in a computer science course approved by the Department to satisfy a student’s mathematics credit. Here is a link to the [Computer Science Guidance Document](#).

Notes: [Curriculum Choice](#) expired with the class of 2019 and is no longer an available option for students. Postsecondary institutions may require algebra II, or its equivalent, for college

admission. Parents/legal guardians must submit a signed statement to the school acknowledging that not taking algebra II may have an adverse effect on college admissions

Physical education – School districts may adopt policies that would exempt students who participate in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading for two full seasons or an approved Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program for two years from the physical education requirement. Starting with the 2019-2020 school year, districts may include show choir as a permissible activity as part of the PE Waiver policy. Students satisfying the physical education waiver must take another course of study of at least 60 hours of instruction (1/2 unit).

Science – Science units must include one unit of physical sciences, one unit of life sciences and one unit of advanced study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics or other physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology or other earth or space science. A student can choose to apply one credit in advanced computer science to satisfy one unit of advanced science (excluding biology or life sciences). Here is a link to the [Computer Science Guidance Document](#).

Social studies – Students must include ½ unit of American history, ½ unit of American government, and ½ unit in world history and civilizations (for students in the classes of 2021 and beyond) in the three required social studies units.

Elective credits – Elective units must include one or any combination of world language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education or English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies courses not otherwise required.

Note: While not a state requirement for graduation, many four-year colleges and universities require a minimum of two years of sequential world language study at the secondary level as a college admissions requirement. This is the case for many in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities.

Financial Literacy –

For those students in graduating classes 2023-2025 (which is determined by when the student first entered ninth grade) the School will provide instruction in financial literacy. The School will provide such instruction in a manner that best meets the needs of the students. The financial literacy content may be incorporated into another course, or the School may require students to take a standalone financial literacy course for a half credit that can meet either a graduation requirement for social studies or an elective.

For the graduating class of 2026 and beyond (students entering 9th grade on or after July 1, 2022), students must earn one half credit of financial literacy as a graduation requirement. For students entering high school for the first time on or

after July 1, 2022, students may substitute one-half credit of financial literacy for a one-half credit elective, or a one-half credit of math required for graduation. The one-half credit of math cannot be algebra or its equivalent or a course for which the state board requires an end-of-course examination. Students who use advanced computer science in place of algebra II or an equivalent course for graduation cannot use the financial literacy one-half credit as a mathematics graduation requirement.

Credits Needed for Class Standing

Sophomore Standing: Completion of five (5) credits

Junior Standing: Completion of ten (10) credits

Senior Standing: Completion of (15) credits

Student Promotion and Retention

Student shall be promoted to the next grade level when he or she completes the required course work/credit hours pursuant to the school's curriculum and any State-mandated requirements at the current grade.

A student is prohibited from being promoted to the next grade level if the student has been absent without excuse for more than 10% of the required attendance days for the current school year and has failed two or more required curriculum subject areas in the current grade. A student may only be promoted under these circumstances if the Principal and student's teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted.

Grading Scale

A+ = 100-98

A = 97-93

A- = 92-90

B+ = 89-88

B = 87-83

B- = 82-80

C+ = 79-78

C = 77-73

C- = 72-70

D+ = 69-68

D = 67-63

D- = 62-60

F = 59 and below

Grade Point Average (GPA) Scale

Each grade that a student receives will hold a “weighted value” as shown below. The total weighted number (based upon grade earned) will be divided by the total number of credits attempted. This will yield a GPA.

Honor Roll status: GPA of 3.5 to 4.0

Merit Roll status: GPA of 3.0 to 3.49

A+ = 4.0

A = 3.8

A- = 3.5

B+ = 3.3

B = 3.0

B- = 2.7

C+ = 2.3

C = 2.0

C- = 1.7

D+ = 1.3

D = 1.0

D- = 0.7

F = 0

Graduation Test

Requirements for Students Who Need to Pass the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT), which includes students who entered ninth grade prior to July 1, 2014:

- OGT test administrations before graduation:
- Spring of 10th grade
- Summer between 10th and 11th grade (optional)
- Fall and spring of 11th grade
- Summer between 11th and 12th grade (optional)
- Fall and spring of 12th grade

Alternative Way to Meet the Testing Requirements, A student may meet the testing requirements for passing all five Ohio Graduation Tests if he or she meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Passes four of the five tests and has missed passing the fifth test by no more than 10 points;
- Has a 97 percent attendance rate, excluding any excused absences, through all four years of high school;

- Has not been expelled from school in any of the last four school years;
- Has at least a grade point average of 2.5 out of 4.0 in the courses of the subject area not yet passed;
- Has completed the high school curriculum requirement;
- Has participated in any intervention programs offered by the school and must have had a 97 percent attendance rate in any programs offered outside the normal school day; and
- Has letters recommending graduation from the high school principal and from each high school teacher in the subject area not yet passed.

NOTE: As specified in the Ohio Revised Code (Section 3313.615), this alternative way to meet the testing requirement applies only to students graduating after Sept. 15, 2006.

Graduation Plan

In accordance with [Ohio law](#), (Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.617) the school board and governing authority has adopted a policy regarding students who are at risk of not qualifying for a high school diploma. A graduation plan will be created for each student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in the district or school and will be updated at least once per school year. Once a student is identified as at risk they will be required to complete a Student Success Plan.

Student Success Plan

The Student Success Plan anticipates that students will matriculate from our program into one of the following post-secondary paths:

- Enter into a two-year degree program;
- Acquire a business or industry credential; or
- Enter an apprenticeship program

We understand that each student is unique, and our program will prepare students for one of the above pathways.

Ohio College Credit Plus

Ohio's new College Credit Plus can help a student earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from community colleges or universities. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wide variety of options to college-ready students. Taking a college course from a public college or university College Credit Plus is free. That means no cost for tuition, books or fees. If you choose to attend a private college or university, you may have limited costs. If you are interested in the College Credit Plus please see the principal and reference the College Credit Plus Policy in the Board Policy Manual.

Credit Flexibility Plan

In compliance with Senate Bill 311, River Gate High School offers students opportunities to earn high school credit through a credit flexibility program. All students are eligible for consideration for credit flexibility. Students that are interested will initiate and submit a request in writing to take and/or earn the credit via the credit flexibility plan (CFP). Students can earn credits by:

- Completing coursework; or
- Testing out or demonstrating mastery on course content; or
- Pursuing one or more "educational options" such as distance learning, educational travel, internships, independent study, projects, or other available options.

Eligibility

To be eligible to submit and participate in the credit flexibility option, students must meet the following criteria:

- Students who enroll with less than four (4) academic core credits may participate in the CFP only after completing one full core academic credit.
- Currently enrolled students may participate in the CFP at any time.
- Students must attend with their parent(s)/guardian an informational session with the Credit Flexibility Committee (CFC) or designee from the CFC to discuss procedures, plans outcomes, and impacts of participation in the credit flexibility option.
- Students must submit a pre-approval form to the CFC by the designated deadlines.

Approval Process

To earn credit through the credit flexibility option, students must submit the following documentation to the CFC by April 1 in preparation for the following school year.

- 1-2 page written statement from the student summarizing the plan for their credit flexibility option and the likelihood of success. The plan should include

the following:

- Method of earning credit
- Amount of credit sought (may request for only .25 credit, .50 credit, or 1 full credit towards a course)
- Academic or elective discipline of study
- Outside resources that will be involved in the completion of the credit
- Timeline for completion
- Teacher of record, who will monitor progress, attainment of knowledge, and awarding of grades
- Learning outcomes, content standards (must be aligned to the Ohio Department of Education Content Standards)
- Special accommodations to be provided for students with a disability in compliance with the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan

Credit Flexibility Committee

The Credit Flexibility Committee (CFC) will consist of the school principal and two teacher representatives in the relevant subject area.

Awarding of Credit

Credit and grades will be awarded based upon the completion of the credit flexibility plan approved by the CFC. It will be reported on the student transcripts and factored into a student's grade point average (GPA) and class ranking. All credit and grades earned are final.

All time lines regarding grade reporting must be adhered to pursuant to the school's calendar of grades input requirements. This is to ensure that the staff will be able to appropriately schedule students into necessary courses and appropriately monitor progress.

- Credit and grade will be awarded to students who successfully complete all requirements laid out in the Credit Flexibility Approval Form
- Student grade will be determined by the teacher of record and based upon the student's attainment of knowledge as related to the Ohio Content Standards and course objective
- Students who do not complete their requested credit flexibility option by the designated deadline or completely fail to meet the requirements for adequate completion and/or knowledge attainment of the course, will not receive credit and a grade of "F" will be reported in the student's transcript and factored into their GPA. If this occurs, students may not submit to earn the same credit through the credit flexibility option.

Responsibility of Student and Parent(s)/Guardian

School Attendance – Students participating in the credit flexibility option will be required to attend school for the remainder of their course load. Each student assumes the responsibility to attend all classes. Regular attendance and punctuality are necessary for success.

Fees – The school will require parent(s)/guardians of a student participating in the credit flexibility option not initiated by the school to be responsible for any additional fees associated with participation in that option.

Academic Integrity – Credit flexibility options are the sole responsibility of the student. The student must complete all work and final products on his/her own. A student may accept support, feedback, and knowledge from outside sources to assist in the completion of the credit flexibility option, but the credit must be given to outside sources for contribution to the work.

A student deemed to be in violation of academic integrity guidelines will be notified of the complaint and informed of the need to be removed from the credit flexibility option. A student found to be in violation of academic integrity guidelines will receive no credit and a failing grade for the course. It will be reported on the transcript and factored into the GPA. The student will be denied participation in any future requests to participate in the credit flexibility option.

Appeals Process

Should a student and/or parent(s)/guardian disagree with a decision or action by the Credit Flexibility Committee or teacher of record, the student may submit a written appeal and may request a hearing.

Appeals must be formally written and submitted to the Credit Flexibility Committee. The Credit Flexibility Committee and a teacher representative not involved in the original approval and assessment of the student will review the appeal.

The student filing the written appeal and his/her parent(s)/guardian will be given an opportunity to present concerns and recommendations to the committee. The committee will review the appeals within 10 days from the date the written appeal was submitted. The decision of the committee may be appealed to the School Superintendent or the School's Board of Directors.

Communication Plan

Opportunities and requirements related to credit flexibility will be publicized annually. Copies of the publication describing opportunities and requirements

related to credit flexibility will be made available to students, staff, parent(s)/guardian, and community members upon request to the school principal.

Students and parent(s)/guardians are informed that data regarding participation in credit flexibility options will be shared on an annual basis as required by the Ohio Department of Education.

Attachment I
Anti-Bullying, Anti-Harassment and Anti-Intimidation
Policy

**River Gate High School
Parent-Student Manual Agreement
2025-2026**

Your signature in the appropriate space below will indicate your commitment to helping fulfill the school's primary mission – rigorous academic learning.

As the **parent/guardian** of _____ I pledge:

- To maintain high expectation for my child and the school
- To demonstrate consistent interest in my child's progress
- To support my child's best efforts
- To model the expectations described in the Code of Conduct
- To support and with school staff to promote learning
- To support the anti-bully policy
- To abide by the Technology and Internet Safety Policy
- To abide by all policies listed in this handbook and the Board Policy Manual

I have read/listened to this handbook and acknowledge all notices herein. I have read/listened to the Code of Conduct and support the rules and expectations outlined herein.

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Signed

As a **student** at River Gate High School, I pledge:

- To come to school prepared to learn, in uniform, and on time every day
- To be attentive and engaged in the school's learning environment
- To work hard and give my best in all classes
- To be respectful towards everyone in my school
- To abide by the technology and internet safety policy
- To abide by all policies listed in this handbook and the Board Policy Manual

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signed

Please return signed form to school office. This agreement will be placed into the student's file.