



THE PIRATE POST

July 2024

RIVERSIDE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY'S OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

We are so excited to present to you our very first issue of the "Pirate Post," Riverside Leadership Academy's community newsletter! Our school leadership will use this newsletter as a way to keep our families and stakeholders updated about important things happening with our school in the weeks and months to come. This is a very exciting time, but also a very busy time; there is a lot happening "behind the scenes" to finalize everything, from staffing to facilities, from busing to lunches, from bell schedules to learning new student information systems- there is **a lot** that goes into opening a brand new school! Please be assured that even when things seem quiet on the surface, there are wheels turning beneath.

Our **"Sneak-A-Peek"** for students in all grades, K-7, will be held on **Monday, August 12th** from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. (floating). Upon arrival, you may visit your child's classroom, explore our campus, and meet with some local businesses that support our school family. You will receive information that will answer questions about opening and dismissal times, absences, bus routes, etc. Parents, please plan to bring your child's school supplies on this day to give your teacher time to organize them before the first day.

On **Tuesday, August 13th**, our Kindergarten families will have a special opportunity to come out for a **Kindergarten Orientation**. We have divided the children up by last names to create a more personal orientation. If your child's last name begins with the letters A - G, plan to arrive at school at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday morning. This orientation will end at approximately 10:15 a.m. If your child's last name begins with H - Z, plan to arrive at school at 10:45 a.m. This orientation will end at approximately 11:45 a.m. This will help prepare your child for their first days of school, of which, the first 3 will be half days.

We hope this newsletter answers some questions families may have. We are also sending out a survey for families to gather some additional necessary information. This should be coming out today through SchoolMint accounts; thank you in advance for completing these surveys! Please enjoy this first issue, and know we are counting down the days to meet each and every one of you! Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Your Leadership Team, Siobhan Brewer and Kelli Miller

Important Events

July 12th-13th- Target Circle Week (Uniform items and school supplies are on sale!)

August 16th-17th, Amazon Prime Week

August 1st- Campus officially opens for staff and Beginning Teacher Orientation

August 12th- "Sneak-a-Peek" 3:30pm-6:30pm: Families are invited to come onsite to meet their teachers and tour our campus.

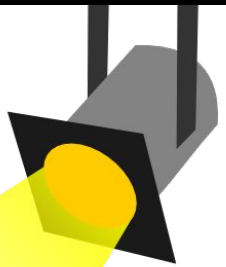
August 13th- Kindergarten Orientation Last Names beginning with letters A-G, 9:15am-10:15am

Last Names beginning with letters H-Z, 10:45am-11:45am

August 14th- First Day of School, Half day for Kindergarten students

August 14th-16th- Half days for Kindergarten students

This month's spotlight is on: Project-Based Learning



For more information about PBL, check out this [link for PBL Works](#) with The Buck Institute of Education, one of the top contributors to the world of PBL.

Traditional Learning	Project-Based Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Focuses on content and providing knowledge about facts -Follows the curriculum strictly -Scope and sequence is centered, based on discipline -Teacher-centered instruction, with lecturing, presentations, and texts serving as main learning materials. -Assessment focuses on the product and reproduction of information -Learning primarily occurs within the classroom setting with students learning individually, in whole group, or small group settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Focuses on comprehension and developing understanding of concepts and principles -Follows the curriculum, while leaving room to follow learner's interests as well -Scope and sequence is diverged, interdisciplinary -Student-centered instruction, with students using authentic sources, textbooks, interviews, documents, experiences, etc. as learning materials -Assessment focuses on process, product, and demonstration of understanding -Learning occurs in a variety of settings beyond the classroom and is collaborative, with students typically working in groups to construct, contribute to, and synthesize information

COUNTDOWN TO AUGUST! FAQs

Here are the answers to some of the most commonly asked questions to help you prepare for the school year.

When will we know the name of our child's teacher?

Families should be contacted by their child's teacher, also known at RLA as their Personal Adult Adult (PAA), prior to the start of school. Class assignments will be posted on August 12th during our "Sneak a Peek" event.

How will we know what school supplies to purchase?

Supply lists will be published online and will be sent to stores to ensure easy access for families. To view these lists, click [here](#).

My child has an IEP/504 plan from their previous school.

Will this be honored, and when will I find out specifics about accommodations in the classroom?


As a free, public school, it is our priority at RLA to ensure that previously identified students with disabilities receive the special education and related services to which they are entitled, and we are committed to providing a free and appropriate public education for all students. Our EC lead teacher will begin contacting families next week to set up initial IEP meetings to ensure that accommodations are in place for the start of the school year.

Will your teachers be licensed?

The law requires 50% of charter school teachers to be licensed. However, charter school teachers must follow No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements, which state that all teachers who are teaching in the core subject areas of Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts shall be college graduates. Exceptional Children (EC) teachers must be licensed in NC with a specialty in the EC service area of delivery. All RLA Core General Education and EC teachers will be licensed. We have worked diligently to hire a team of educators who are diverse, culturally and experientially, who are passionate about teaching, and who are committed to our school's mission and vision.

Will students be required to wear uniforms?


Students will not be required to wear uniforms but must adhere to a strict dress code. This dress code is basic and concise, ensuring that it is not a burden on families. The full dress code policy is accessible on our website and will be in the Parent/Student Handbook. Here is a visual guide to help families understand our dress code:



Permissible Tops:

Shirts, sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, blouses, jackets, vests, and sweaters that follow these guidelines:

- Must have a primary color of gray, white, black, or blue
- Any official RLA school apparel, regardless of color including tops related to athletic teams, clubs, and other programs endorsed by Riverside Leadership Academy.
- May have small brand logos such as those on the breast pocket of a polo or shirt.



Plain t-shirts in any shade of blue, gray, black, or white

Plain sweatshirts, jackets, hoodies, sweaters, or vests in any shade of blue, gray, black, or white

RLA Spiritwear

Any type of collars, button-down, etc. blouses that are solid blue, gray, black, or white

Plain shirts with any brand logos in the pocket area


Shirts with large logos are not permitted

Shirts with graphics are not permitted

Permissible Bottoms:

Pants, appropriate length shorts, skirts, and dresses (not above the fingertips), that follow these guidelines:

- Must have a primary color of blue, gray, black, or khaki
- Any official RLA school apparel, regardless of color including tops related to athletic teams, clubs, and other programs endorsed by Riverside Leadership Academy.
- Bottoms that have small brand logos such as those located on hips, hems, or pockets.



Students may wear shoes of any color. Flip-flops and slides are ONLY permitted in grades 6 and up.

There will be special spirit days throughout the school year where students will be able to dress outside of the dress code. These dates will be shared with families monthly on our site.

All jackets, coats, pullovers and hoodies, worn in the school building, must meet the same standards of "Permissible Tops" as described above. If a student wears a jacket or coat that does not meet these requirements they must remove it once they enter the school building

Important



DID YOU KNOW?

RLA has a plan in place that will allow all students in grades K-7 to engage in extracurricular activities during school hours! We will be doing clubs this year on select Fridays each month. More info is to come about specific opportunities and sign-ups. Clubs will kick-off on September 27th.

After School Programs

We will be partnering with the YMCA to provide an on-site, after school care opportunity for our students and families.

The cost is \$60/week for members and \$80/week for non-members. Families can sign-up at <https://ecumca.org/>

For families looking for an off-site option, we will be partnering with these community partners as well:

Johnson's TKD Martial Arts.
To sign-up, go to www.johnsonstkd.com

C-Stone Church, To sign-up, go to <https://cstonenc.com/>

We are also open to working with other organizations to ensure that families have a variety of options available. Please let us know if your child will be participating in an afterschool program with an off-site provider not listed.



Transportation Update

We are currently working with community partners to determine appropriate and equitable community bus stops for families across the county. At this time, the following bus stops have been confirmed:

AMC Movie Theater, Havelock, NC
C-Stone Church, James City, NC
Kites Supermarket, Vanceboro, NC

We are planning to have 8-10 community stops throughout Craven County. Once these are finalized, we will share out this information.

Facilities Update

Our modulars are being perfected inside and out, our sidewalks are poured, and our parking lots, grass, and trees are on the way! Our custom-made furniture is being delivered this month, and we will be set to have our families tour our facility for our "Sneak-a-Peak" on August 12th.

WE "ARGH" LOOKING FORWARD
to seeing you soon!!!