



# THE PIRATE POST

RIVERSIDE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY'S OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

Happy Sunday, and welcome back to another edition of our family and community newsletter! Last week was an exciting and eventful week with Sneak-a-Peek Monday and the first day of school on the 21st. We saw a lot of smiling faces and excitement in the air each day. A special thanks to families who ensured that their child/ren adhered to the school dress code policy which prohibits shirts with graphics or prints or that are outside of the school colors of blue, gray, black, or white. We will begin enforcing the dress code this week, and families with students with dress code violations will be called to bring in a change of clothing for their child.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to adjust processes and procedures, ensuring that we are as safe and efficient as possible. Our dismissal process improved significantly from Wednesday to Friday. Kudos to families for making this happen! We will see carpool times jump back up and take a bit longer on Monday and Tuesday of this week as our Kindergarten families join us for full days; but by Wednesday it should stabilize again. Our entire carpool process should take around 20-25 minutes to complete, so families please ensure that you have arrived at school to pick up your child by 3:30pm daily.

Finally, please ensure that you are connected to your child's teacher through Class Dojo by the end of the day Monday. Several important pieces of information about upcoming events will be shared through Dojo this week. Families will learn more about "Bring a Grandparent to Lunch Day" on September 9th and about Friday Clubs, which kick off on the 27th of September. We are looking forward to another amazing week with you! Happy sailing!

Your Leadership Team, *Siobhan Brewer, Kelli Miller, and Peyton Jenkins*

### Important Events

*August 26th- First full day for Kindergarteners*

*August 28th-September 18th- mClass DIBELS 8 beginning of the year testing window*

*September 2nd- Labor Day: No School for students or staff*

*September 3rd- BOG Reading Test for 3rd graders (Makeup day, September 4th)*

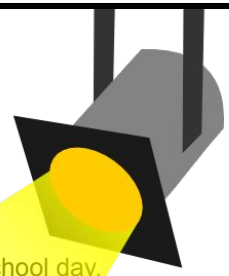
*September 9th- "Bring a Grandparent to Lunch" day, Information goes out to sign up for school clubs*

*September 20th- Teacher work day, no school for students*

*September 23rd- Progress Reports go home*

*September 27th- First day of clubs (during school hours) Students and staff wear yellow and blue to kick-off October's Down Syndrome Awareness Month!*

### **This month's spotlight is on: Clubs at RLA**



We are excited to announce that clubs will begin during the month of September! These clubs are extracurricular in nature, but will occur during the school day, approximately two Fridays a month. This is an opportunity to build a foundation for our future after school programs and athletics, by determining the interests of our students. Families will receive a clubs link through Class Dojo on September 9th, providing them with the opportunity to sign their child/ren up for a club for the fall semester. There is limited space in each of these clubs, so students are not guaranteed to get their top choice, but every effort will be made to ensure that they get one of their top three choices. Some clubs will require a small fee for participation; this information will be noted in the sign up form.

Once the schedule for clubs is established, this information will be shared out with families. If you are a parent volunteer, who has already completed your background check, and you are interested in helping with a club, please email our Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Culture at [kmiller@riversideleadershipacademy.org](mailto:kmiller@riversideleadershipacademy.org) to get your name on the club volunteers list. If you still need to complete your background check, you can find information to do this [here](#). Some clubs your child will be able to choose from are: Gardening Club, 4H, Meteorology/Science Olympiad, Theater/Glee Club, Pirate Fitness Boot Camp, STRIDE/Girls on the Run, Dance Club, Disc Golf, Soccer Club, Cheerleading Club, Art Club, and more!



## 2024-2025 TESTING HIGHLIGHTS



Here are the answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about testing in charter schools.

### Are students in charter schools required to take the same tests as students in traditional schools?

All charter schools are required to take state mandated tests. Information about all state tests is located [here](#). Data from these tests will be publicly available the following school year in the annual publication of the North Carolina's School Report Cards.

### What are the special reading proficiency and promotion requirements in 3rd grade?

According to G.S. 115C-238.29F(d1), "Students in the third grade shall be retained if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency by reading at or above the third grade level as demonstrated by the results of the State-approved standardized test of reading comprehension administered to third grade students. The charter school shall provide reading interventions to retained students to remediate reading deficiency, which may include 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted, evidence-based reading instruction, accelerated reading classes, transition classes containing third and fourth grade students, and summer reading camps. "

### What will testing and accountability look like at RLA?

As a public school, testing and accountability at RLA will look much like testing and accountability in a traditional public school as charter schools are required to provide the same test training, follow the same state guidelines for testing, and administer all state mandated tests. Here is a list of tests and dates for the 2024-2025 school year:

- K-3, mClass DIBELS 8 reading test windows (Aug. 28th- Sept. 18th/ Beginning of the Year), (Jan. 8th-Jan. 30th/ Middle of Year), (April 24th-May 14th/ End of Year)
- 3rd grade Beginning of Grade reading test (Sept. 3rd-4th)
- WIDA Screener for Kindergarten (Sept. 25th), WIDA Screener for Grades 1-7 (Sept. 25th)
- Read to Achieve Test for select 4th graders (Oct. 21st)
- ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Alternate ACCESS window (Jan. 13th-March 14th)
- EOG Testing for 3rd-7th grades (May 16th-May 30th)

Differences in testing will really be seen in the types of formative assessments that occur at RLA. While most traditional public schools require specific, ongoing testing weekly on standards taught, teachers at RLA will lean more heavily on projects with rubrics than assessments.

# Important



## Bus Updates

This week, our bus drivers will work together with admin to solidify all bus stop times. This will be communicated to families as soon as possible. We are also including visuals for families in this newsletter to show where buses will be picking up at each stop, and where families should park to ensure students' safety, with the least amount of interference to the businesses at each location. Times shown for each stop reflect the time that the bus will depart from the stop, so please plan to be in place and ready PRIOR to the times listed. Remember to stay in your cars until the bus is ready to load. Two changes that have already been determined are as follows:

**Down East Ace, pickup in the mornings at 7:10AM  
C-Stone Church, drop off in the afternoons at 3:10pm**



## Free/Reduced Lunch Updates!

Free/Reduced lunch credits are currently being processed by My Hot Lunch Box for families who applied during the initial Schoolmint registration. These lunch credits may not show up on students' My Hot Lunch Box accounts until Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. Please check your child's account BEFORE 12PM these days, as ordering for the next day closes by noon daily.

Students should continue to bring their lunches from home until they see their credits applied to their My Hot Lunch Box account.

If a student does not have a lunch, we will have a lunch available, but the in-house options are limited. Credits applied to My Hot Lunch Box this week for Free/Reduced Lunch are for the period of August 26th-September 30th. Should families order over the credited amount, they will be responsible for the difference. Proof of income is due by August 30th for ALL families who have applied for Free/Reduced Lunch. This proof should include household size and income for previous tax year.

Tax documents are preferred. For questions regarding acceptable documentation, contact our front office. Thank you!



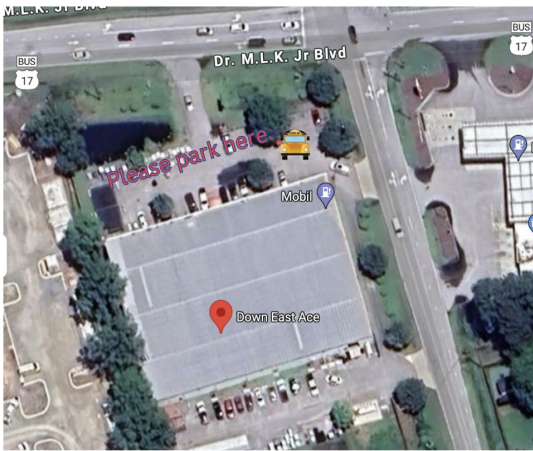
**WE "ARGH" LOOKING FORWARD  
to seeing you soon!!!**

Please pay close attention to the map to show where you should park and get on the bus. We must be mindful of parking only in front of the businesses who have given permission, as that is what our insurance covers.

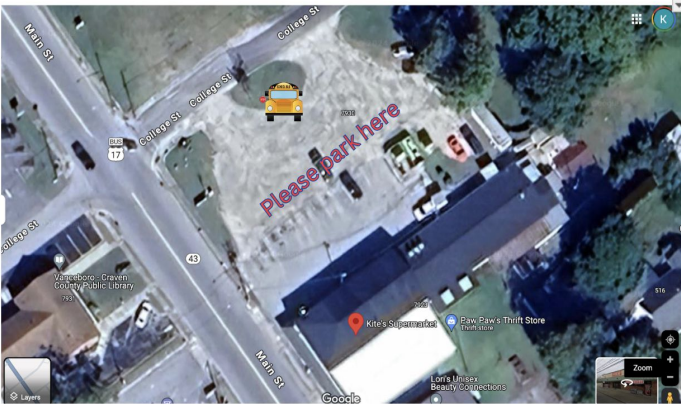
Location	Bus	AM Time	PM Time
Port City Community Church	#399	7:00am	3:20pm



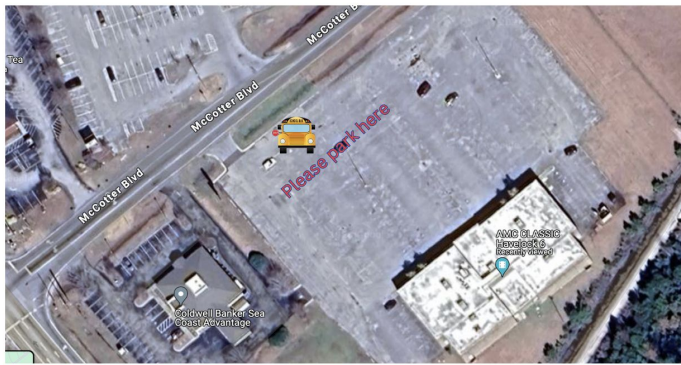
Down East Ace	#399	7:10am	3:40pm
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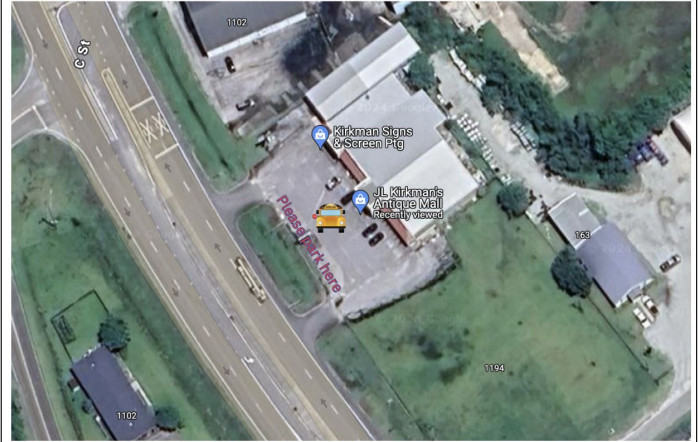
Kite's Grocery	#396	7:05am	3:20pm
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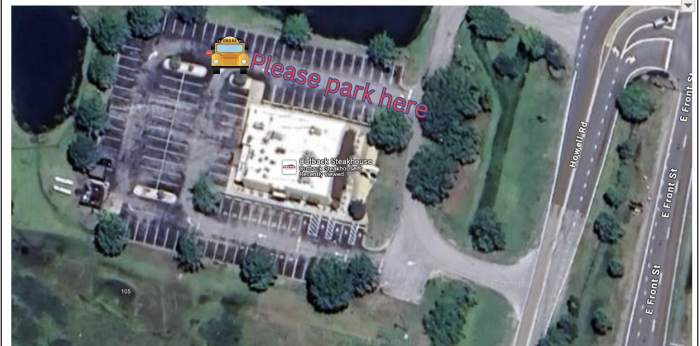
AMC Theater	#389	7:00am	3:25pm
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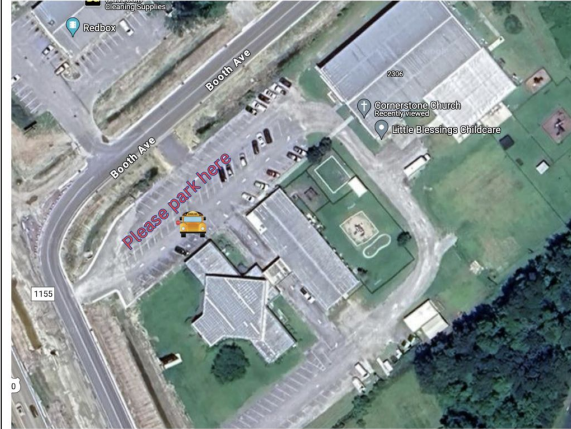
JL Kirkman's	#396	7:15am	3:35pm
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Outback Steakhouse	#396	7:25am	3:45pm
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CStone	#396	7:35am	3:10pm
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Wells Wayside	#389	7:15am	3:40pm
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