

FAQs for New Families

***Advisory...is that different than homeroom?**

The terms advisory and homeroom are used interchangeably. During advisory, students view the Morning Show, do Olweus activities (see below), and have enrichment/intervention time.

***AVID...what does that stand for?**

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. This program is a college readiness system that is designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. The AVID College Readiness System accelerates student learning, uses research based methods of effective instruction, provides meaningful and motivational professional learning, and acts as a catalyst for systemic reform and change.

***Bus Information...who do I contact with questions?**

Vision Transportation provides transportation services for the Elk River School District. Questions regarding bus routes and behavior issues should be directed to Vision Transportation personnel at 763-441-4420. If questions persist, then contact RMS administration.

***Cell Phones...are they allowed in school?**

Cell phone usage during school hours is not allowed. As soon as students enter the building, cell phones are to be put away and out of sight until after school. However, teachers may allow cell phones in class at their discretion for academic purposes only.

***Dress Code...what's the policy?**

Skirts and shorts must reach a length that is as long as the fingertips when standing with hands by the side. Hats, midriff tops, halter tops, open-sided, open-back tops and spaghetti straps are not allowed. Full details can be found in the student handbook.

***Early Release from School...what is the proper procedure?**

Parents need to notify the school if students need to leave school early. Students should bring a note to the reception office in the morning and obtain a pass to present to his/her teacher. A parent/guardian will need to meet the student in the reception office and sign them out.

***Guidance Department...what do they do?**

Guidance services include social and emotional, academic, and career counseling. In addition, the counselors can assist in referrals to other agencies. Students wishing to see their counselor are encouraged to stop by and sign up for an appointment in Schoology.

***Homework Requests...how does a student request homework when ill or on vacation?**

Students who are ill are encouraged to check Schoology for missing notes and assignments. Students who know they will be absent in advance should check in with his/her teachers before leaving for vacations, etc.

***Lunch...where do I find menus? How do I deposit lunch money?**

Menus and other food service information can be found online at <http://www.isd728.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=229>. Families may pay online or students may bring cash to deposit in their lunch accounts and may be turned into the lunch cashier.

***Olweus Curriculum...what is Olweus?**

Olweus is an anti-bullying curriculum that is incorporated into Advisory. The program is designed to improve peer relations and make schools safer, more positive places for students to learn and develop. Goals of the program include reducing existing bullying problems among students, preventing the development of new bullying problems, and achieving better peer relations at school.

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*Phy Ed Basics...how often? Appropriate class attire?

All students have phy ed 2-3 times a week. They follow an Odd/Even class schedule that alternates with their choice of music class or study hall. Students are expected to wear clothes that they can reasonably move in each day along with tennis shoes.

*Redemption Fundraising Programs...does RMS participate?

RMS takes part in the General Mill's Box Tops for Education program. Box Tops redemption is now done through the Box Tops App. Clipped Box Tops can still be dropped off at the school office at any time until the program phases them out.

*Report Cards...when will report cards be available?

All report cards, progress reports and final grades are posted online through Parent Portal. Quarter grades are finalized within one week of the last day of the quarter. Parents can request a paper copy of grade reports by contacting the office.

*School Communications...what should I expect?

Most communications are done electronically. Please keep RMS updated with any new email addresses. The monthly online parent newsletter, *The Messenger*, is delivered to your inbox on the first of the month. Special email 'blasts' are also sent out periodically with time sensitive information.

*Student Announcements...how are school announcements communicated?

The student produced Morning Show is played each morning in Advisory. The Morning Show informs students about building events, student group meetings, advisory activities and the daily lunch menu.

*Volunteering...how can I get involved at RMS?

The Royal Way is the RMS Volunteer Program. Please fill out the Royal Way volunteer form to get started. Volunteer opportunities are also posted in the monthly parent newsletter, *The Messenger*. Contact Parent Liaison, Kristine Niznik, with any questions.