Welcome to River Trail Middle School
River Trail Middle School
10795 Rogers Circle, Johns Creek, GA 30097

School Climate Star Rating

• River Trail Middle School's overall performance is higher than 99% of schools in the state and is higher than its district.

• Its students' academic growth is higher than 90% of schools in the state and higher than its district.

• 93.9% of its 8th grade students are reading at or above the grade level target.
The mission of River Trail Middle School is to advance student creativity, critical thinking and citizenship by engaging students in educational and social opportunities through school and community collaboration.

The vision of River Trail Middle School is to guide all students toward their full potential as productive members of society.

The Wolf Way describes the ideal River Trail student; respectful, kind, and a problem solver.
THE WOLF WAY

KINDNESS
RESPECT
PROBLEM SOLVING
Mascot: Wolves

School Colors: Black Gold/Yellow
OUR COMMUNITY

- Many River Trail students attended one of our local feeder elementary schools:
  - Shakerag ES
  - Findley Oaks ES
  - Wilson Creek ES
  - Medlock Bridge ES

- Students also come to RTMS from private schools, other FCS schools, other counties, other states, and other countries!

- All of our students will move on to Northview High School upon finishing middle school. Unless they move away from our attendance zone.
WE HAVE AMAZING TEACHERS & STAFF...
...AND THEY CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!
YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVENTURE BEGINS...

Let’s learn more about 6th Grade at River Trail.
MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL

All 6th grade students are assigned to a team.

A team consists of students that share mostly the same group of teachers and wolf pack teachers.

We typically have 3-4 teams in 6th grade.

Here are some current Team C teachers, for example.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8:55-9:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9:48-10:38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10:41-11:08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11:11-12:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>(Lunch during 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; period)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>12:34-1:24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1:27-2:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2:21-3:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3:14-4:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissal</td>
<td>4:05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*3 minutes between classes*
DAILY PROCEDURES

When 6th grade students arrive to school, they report to the cafeteria until released to go down to their 1st period class at 8:40am.

6th graders have very little interaction with 7th and 8th graders.

Students are given the opportunity to go to their lockers between classes. Students must carry a pass when going to the restroom, media center, front office, etc.

Lunch takes place during 4th period and lasts 25 minutes. Money can be placed on a student’s lunch account by going online. Visit: www.mypaymentsplus.com/.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>organization / character ed</td>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>study hall/ teacher support</td>
<td>DEAR/ iReady Reading</td>
<td>Academic Support</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CURRENT WOLFPACK SCHEDULE**
6TH GRADE CURRICULUM

Core Course Offerings in 6th Grade:

- English Language Arts
- Math
- Social Studies
- Science
- Reading / World Language

Class Placement

If you have questions about your child’s placement for next year, contact your child’s 5th grade teacher.

Specific curriculum information can be found at http://www.fultonschools.org/
WORLD LANGUAGE & READING

• Students who qualify to take a World Language course can do so; however, it is not required.

• At RTMS, we have Reading, Spanish, Chinese, and French.

• All students are able to take Reading in 6th grade. Please let your ES teacher know if you are interested in having your child take Reading.

• 6th grade Reading students will have the opportunity to take WL in 7th and 8th grade for High School credit assuming they meet the requirements.

• On the other hand, a child taking Reading in 6th grade who fails to meet the WL requirements when they enter 7th grade will not have the opportunity to take WL for High School credit in Middle School and they will be placed in Reading for 7th and 8th grade.
River Trails 6th grade math teachers lead the district with their test scores, and often recommended their students for 7th grade Advanced Math.

Students who do not qualify for the math enhanced course will be taking a STEM class which will replace a connections class.

Students want to be successful and correct placement is key. As a parent it is your responsibility to make the best decision for your child. Middle School is a difficult time and you have the power to set them up for success.

River Trails Math teachers are TAG certified and expose their students to higher level math topics whenever they feel they are ready at all math levels.

If you are opting into the enhanced math class and your child is not currently a strong math student, talk to their current math teacher, it is not too late to let them know now that you would like to move them to a class that they can be successful in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Standards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th grade</td>
<td>~30 Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th grade</td>
<td>~50 Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Enhanced</td>
<td>~70 Standards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONNECTIONS CLASSES

• During 7th and 8th period, 6th graders have Connections.
• Connections classes are like Specials in elementary school.
  • Such as CTAE, Adventure Quest, Art, Business Education, Engineering, Family & Consumer Science, Health, and PE.
• Music Programs – Band, Chorus, and Orchestra.

**Connections classes are randomly assigned, except for music programs; those are selected before 6th grade begins.**
Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, all 6th graders must take a 9-week/quarter-long Career Technical Agricultural Education (CTAE) Connections Class to explore various career pathways.

Pathways include:
- Engineering
- Information Technology
- Business and Marketing
- Audio, Video, Technology, and Film
- Education
- Healthcare
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
- Skilled Trades
MUSIC PROGRAMS

BAND – ORCHESTRA – CHORUS
STUDENT DEVICES

Dell Laptop Computer

- All students receive a device.
- Only to be used for educational purposes
- Headphones/earbuds are needed
COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

• Each teacher will send home a course syllabus during the 1st week of school.

• **Email is the most efficient way to contact teachers.**

• Conferences are scheduled by teacher invitation or parent request.

• Conferences are conducted with multiple teachers present. By having multiple teachers in attendance, we can give a better overall picture of how your child is doing.

• For information about events at RTMS check out our weekly newsletter, the Wolf Den News and our website.
  
  • [http://www.rivertrailmiddleschool.org/](http://www.rivertrailmiddleschool.org/)
HOMEWORK

• Students are expected to record homework into their agenda for each class, which you can check each night for completion and accuracy.

• Homework is given to practice the skills learned in class.

• Homework may consist of studying for a quiz or test, completing assignments, working on long term projects, practicing skills and building vocabulary.

• Students should expect approximately 1-1½ hours of homework per night.

• Parents need to consistently monitor your child's homework completion.
HELPFUL HOMEWORK RESOURCES

- Teachers
- Teacher Web-Sites
  - Teams, OneNote
- Teachers’ Help Sessions
- Friends/classmates
- Parents
- 121 Reach Club
• Grades can be viewed in Infinite Campus by students and parents.

• Progress reports are sent out electronically each 9 weeks.
  • Paper report cards go home at the end of each semester.

• Grades are cumulative for an entire semester. (Unlike ES, grades do not start over every quarter)

• At the end of each semester, students are recognized for outstanding grades. Awards are given by team.

• Graded papers are returned to students in class. (They are not sent home directly to parents as in elementary school.)
ORGANIZATION

- Organization is a challenge for many 6th graders.
- With time and patience, students create a system that works for them.
- Some students use:
  - a different binder for every class
  - an accordion folder for all classes
  - one notebook for all their homework.
LOCKERS

• Students will be assigned a locker during Sneak Preview. Teachers will attempt to assign a locker relatively close to a student’s classes.

• Rolling backpacks will not fit in lockers and are not permitted.

• 12” Locker shelves work well in lockers- anything smaller is not adequate

• Students store their backpacks in their lockers during the day

• Please put your child’s name on everything- binders, book bags, pencil cases, jackets, PE uniforms, water bottles, lunch boxes, etc.
CELLPHONES SHOULD BE OFF AND SAFELY STORED IN STUDENTS’ LOCKERS
PAW PUNCH CARDS
AND
STUDENT CONDUCT

Students receive “Paw Punches” for positive behavior. When a student has filled up a Paw Punch Card, they will receive a reward of their choice and begin filling out a new card.

Behavior Slips, aka “Off the Trail Slips“ or Blue Slips are given for various behavior offenses.

If a student earns multiple blue slips, they may receive a consequence(s)– such as silent lunch, detention, etc.

How can I earn a Paw Punch?

- Exhibiting a WOLF Way characteristic (Problem Solver, Kind, Respectful)
- Exhibiting good manners
- Filling out your agenda completely each week
- Wearing RTMS spirit wear or your team t-shirt on Fridays
- Many other miscellaneous things during the year = listen to your teachers for chances to earn Paw Punches 😊
ATTENDANCE

• When students are absent, their parent/guardian should write a note stating the child’s name, date of the absence(s), reason for absence, and parent’s signature. The student should give the note to the front office within three days of returning to school.

• It is the student’s responsibility to contact his/her teachers to initiate all make-up work.
WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

At River Trail, we have a wonderful team of student support staff to help RTMS students and families.

- 3 School Counselors
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Graduation Coach
- Instructional Support Teacher (IST)
SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

• Focus on the positive; have an open mind.
• Stay organized.
• Manage time well.
• Get involved.
• Ask questions.
• Persevere through challenges.

• BE KIND.
JOIN A CLUB!

JUST TO NAME A FEW...

• Art
• Cooking
• Debate
• Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
• Snake Club
• WolfCon Club
• Future Business Leader of America (FBLA)
• Latin Club
• Will to Live
• Harry Potter Club
• Academic Bowl
• Recycling Club
• Intramurals
• Junior Beta
• Math Counts
• Historical Movie Club
• Student Ambassadors
• Student Government
• Robotics
• Dungeons & Dragons
• Chinese YoYo
• Anime
• Tech Wolves
• Jewish Student Union
• 121 Reach

Students will be given an opportunity to learn about clubs at the Student Club Fair during the first month of school.
WWPK

WWPK is River Trail’s daily news program that includes important school announcements.
WHAT TO EXPECT AT SNEAK PREVIEW...

Sneak Preview will be the week before school starts. Watch for the specific date and times on our website.

At Sneak Preview you will be able to:

- Rent hall and PE lockers, purchase PE uniform, verify student information
- Get locker assignment and combination (students can even practice)
- Complete Proof of Residency requirements
  - (Please bring 2 proofs)
- Find out bus & transportation information
- Meet teachers and staff
- Join PTO
- Purchase spirit wear and school supplies
IMMUNIZATIONS

All children entering sixth grade will need:

• 2 doses of MMR or each of the following: 2 doses of measles vaccine, 2 doses of mumps vaccine and 1 dose of rubella vaccine.

AND

• 2 doses of varicella (chicken pox vaccine) or have a year for history of the disease, diagnosis, or serology.

AND

• 3 Hepatitis B

Vaccines must be on an updated 3231 Immunization Form

You must check for these vaccines, even if the 3231 immunization certificate is marked complete. If your child has not had all the required vaccines or serology for measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella or a history or diagnosis of chickenpox disease, he/she must return to primary care provider or public health center to receive the vaccines and a new 3231 certificate.

**If completed while school is out, fax or mail to River Trail Middle.
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL 6TH GRADERS

Proof of Residency

• Students entering 6th grade must show (2) proofs of residency in a Fulton County School attendance zone or have an approved hardship.

River Trail cannot accept proofs turned in at the elementary school. At Sneak Preview, residency verification documents need to be presented in order to receive a student’s schedule.

ACCEPTABLE PROOFS OF RESIDENCY- One from each category

• One Utility Proof
  • Current Water Bill
  • Current Electric Bill

• One Residence Proof
  • Copy of home mortgage payment
  • Apt/House Lease
  • Current Bank Statement
  • Copy of Section 8/HUD Housing Contract
  • Copy of home contract
  • Homeowner’s/Renter’s insurance card
  • Current paycheck stub
  • State driver’s license/ID with current address
  • Current HOA Bill/Statement
Join River Trail teachers, counselors, and administrators for a half-day “run through” of being a middle school student. Rising 6th Graders will learn about lockers, organization, how to navigate RTMS and so much more at Mini Camp.

WHERE: River Trail Middle School

WHEN: July 30, 2020 | 9:00am-1:15pm

CHECK IN: Begins at 8:15am in the cafeteria
(Please note that camp will start promptly at 9:00am)

COST: $25 per student

Registration will open on the RTMS website via OSP soon!

*Due to school-closure related to COVID19, we are unable to open registration & collect payments at this time.*
WHO TO CONTACT WHEN YOU HAVE A QUESTION...

- **Class Placements** - 5th Grade Teacher(s)
- **Scheduling** - 6th Grade Counselor
  - Ms. Claire Graff
- **Special Education** - Instructional Support Teacher
  - Ms. Yalonda Jones
- **TAG** - 6th Grade TAG Coordinator for RTMS
  - Ms. Kiana Gannaway
- **504** – Graduation Coach/504 Chairperson
  - Ms. Sarah Roberson

- For general school information, check our website!

*All staff email addresses and contact information can be found on the RTMS school website.*
WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

• Help your student manage the PACING of projects.
  • (They are never assigned the day before.)

• Provide school supplies and a place to study.

• Help students set academic goals & create social/emotional boundaries.

• Use positive rewards/incentives to encourage your student.

• Help your child study for tests and quizzes.

• Monitor and support (HW, attendance, internet sites, regulate social media usage).

• Review your student's agenda and the school policies that are included in the front.

• Talk to your child; stay connected with your child & get involved as much as you can. They are growing up, but they still need you.

• **JOIN RTMS PTO!** -- http://rivertrailpto.com/membership/
Questions?
Scan the QR code to access a form or submit them here.

IT'S JUST MIDDLE SCHOOL, WOODY!
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR

#RTMSwolves
fultonschools.org/riverrails