

2022-2023

STUDENT HANDBOOK

← THE WOLF WAY →

<p>Learning Environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Be a team playerBe prompt, prepared, and positiveCollaborate and compromisePersevere through challengesDo your best work	<p>Cafeteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Use an inside voiceRespect all staffBe inclusiveUse kind wordsKeep your area cleanRaise hand for permission to get up	 <p>RESPECT</p>
 <p>KINDNESS</p>	 <p>PROBLEM SOLVING</p>	<p>Common Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Use an inside voiceKeep hands to selfBe attentiveRespect property of othersBe courteous and helpfulWalk purposefully and quietly on the right sideCarry a pass

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River Trail Middle School

2022 - 2023

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It is the policy of the Fulton County School System not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service. If you wish to make a complaint or request accommodation or modification due to discrimination in any program, activity or service, contact the Compliance Coordinator, Ron Wade, at 6201 Powers Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30339, or telephone 470-254-3600. TTY 1-800-255-0135.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to River Trail Middle School, **“Home of the Wolves!”** You will enjoy a safe and challenging educational environment that will empower you with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for success both now and in the future. You are encouraged to actively participate in the many clubs, activities, and opportunities we offer here at RTMS. The interest and enthusiasm you demonstrate will benefit you as well as our school. Another way you contribute to making RTMS a great school is by treating others well each and every day. Treat others as you would like to be treated and try your best to make others feel included and welcome. Remember, this is your school. Pride in the school, pride in others, and pride in yourself will help to create a memorable middle school experience.

The front section of the agenda has the school handbook, which contains information regarding school rules, expectations, and procedures. Please take time to read through this handbook. If you have questions that the handbook does not answer, do not hesitate to seek help from your teachers, counselors, or principals.

The second part of the agenda is to serve as a planner to help you keep track of daily assignments, major class projects, homework, events that require your attendance, and a great tool for communication between school and parent/guardians at home. It will help you with organization and save you time every day.

You are in for a tremendous year of **“Blazing trails to new horizons!”**

Sincerely,

Neil Pinnock, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

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 collaborations.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to guide all students toward their full potential as productive members of society.

MOTTO

“Blazing trails to new horizons!”



THE WOLF WAY

The Wolf Way reflects our belief and value in a student being a Problem Solver, being Kind, and being Respectful. The chart below shows how students demonstrate the wolf way throughout the building.

Expectations	Learning Environments	Cafeteria	Transitions	Restrooms	Technology
Kind	Encourage others and yourself.	Be courteous and inclusive.	Use courteous language and an inside voice.	Use a calm tone and an inside voice.	Think before you speak or type.
Respectful	Be prompt and prepared to learn. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self.	Use an inside voice. Clean up after yourself.	Walk with a purpose. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self.	Honor the privacy of others. Keep it clean.	Keep phone off and put away. Use device when instructed. Use teacher directed websites.
Problem Solver	Read directions first. Do your best work.	Follow arrows and guides. Raise your hand for permission to get up.	Retrieve the necessary materials.	Be efficient and return to class quickly.	Read directions first. Charge and bring your device to school.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Fulton County Board of expects students to practice academic honesty. The Student Academic Integrity policy states: **“The Board of Education regards academic honesty as a cornerstone of its educational mission. Cheating will not be tolerated in this school system.”** Examples of cheating, can include, but are not limited to:

- copying or “borrowing” from another source and submitting it as one’s own work
- seeking or accepting unauthorized assistance on tests or assignments
- altering or forging grades, grade books, progress reports, report cards, adult signatures, or other academic records
- fabricating data, signatures, or resources
- providing or receiving test questions in advance without permission
- working collaboratively with other students when individual work is expected
- any other examples that the school wishes to include.

If a student is caught cheating at RTMS, he/she will be subject to a tiered system of consequences.

For the **first** offense:

- Student will receive a zero for the assignment but will be given the opportunity to make up the assignment with a maximum of 50%.
- Student must have a conference with a parent and the teacher.

For the **second** offense:

- Student will receive a zero for the assignment. (For students who need recovery at the end of the semester, the assignment may be completed for the student to be eligible for recovery work.)
- Student will have a consequence, such as detention).
- Student must have a conference with a parent, teacher, and administrator.

For the **third** offense:

- Student will receive a zero for the assignment.
- Student will lose all extracurricular privileges including field trips, clubs, and intramural/extramural activities.
- Student can receive one day of In-School Suspension.

ACCIDENTS

Any student who is injured on the school grounds or in the school building at any time must report the injury to the supervising staff member. If the student is not in class at the time of the injury, he/she should go directly to the clinic or office. Appropriate safety precautions will be taken. The student will receive any necessary first aid. Parents will be notified if the injury is considered anything other than minor. An accident report will be completed and signed by the supervising faculty member.

AGENDAS

Students are to use their agenda for schoolwork. It also serves as their pass to be out of class. If a student loses his/her agenda, they will need to be replaced.

ARRIVAL

The building is open for student arrival beginning at 8:15 AM each morning. Students should **not arrive before 8:15 AM**; students who arrive between 8:15 and 8:40 AM are to report to the cafeteria (6th graders) or gym (7th & 8th graders). Staff members are on duty to supervise during this time. Students will be dismissed from the cafeteria/gym at 8:40 AM to go to their classrooms. Students must have a teacher-written pass prior to reporting to a teacher before 8:40 AM. Students are to remain in their classrooms until they are dismissed in the afternoon.

ATTENDANCE

For students to learn and achieve to their fullest potential, it is critical that they are in school and engaged in the learning process. Students who are absent from school are deprived of a variety of educational experiences shared with their peers.

Whenever a student is absent for any reason, a parent or guardian must report to the front office indicating the specific reason for the absence. If communication is not received in the front office by the fifth day, the absence will be considered unexcused. Parents of students who accumulate 5 or more **unexcused absences** will be sent a letter notifying them of their legal status about the Georgia law on attendance. ([FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY JBD](#)) [link has info](#)

STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN ABSENT

1. Parent/Guardian reports to the front office via note/email indicating the specific reason for absence. Communication must include the child's name, date(s) of absence(s), reason for absence, and parent/guardian signature. The note/email should be provided to the front office within five days of returning to school.
2. **It is the student's sole responsibility to contact the teacher(s) to initiate all make-up work within one school day of returning.** The teacher will establish a reasonable schedule in which make-up work will occur.
3. Students will receive the actual grade earned on make-up work if the make-up work is completed satisfactorily within the specified time by the teacher.

STEPS TO FOLLOW FOR EARLY DISMISSAL/CHECK OUT

1. The morning of the requested early dismissal, Parent/Guardian communicates to the front office via note/email indicating the specific reason to leave school early.
2. Student needs to take note a to front office on the morning of the early dismissal to be verified and listed on the check-out sheet.
3. The student will let the teacher know about the early dismissal and report to the front office at the designated time.
4. Parent/Guardians must come into the office to sign out their children.

Please refrain from checking out students between 3:45- 4:05 pm as this allows us to protect instructional time at the end of the day for all students.

ATTENDANCE DESCRIPTIONS

Late Arrival – Any time a student arrives after the beginning of the instructional day.

Early Checkout – Any time a student leaves school before the end of the instructional day.

- Late arrivals/ Early check out, follow the same rules for excused and unexcused Absences.

Tardy – Any time a student arrives after the beginning of a specific class period.

Excused Absences – A hold harmless absence that has been documented, and relates to one of the following circumstances in accordance with State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1.10 and Georgia State Code, O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1:

- Personal illness or when attendance in school would be detrimental to the health of the student or others
- A serious illness in the student's immediate family necessitating absence from school
- A death in the student's family necessitating absence from school
- Observance of religious holidays necessitating absence from school
- Compliance with a court order or an order issued by a governmental agency mandating an absence from school
- Visitation with an immediate family member who is on leave from or is being deployed to military service
- Important family events/celebrations for an immediate family member (graduation, wedding, religious ceremony, etc.)
- Compliance with an order for a pre-induction physical examination for service in the armed forces
- An absence for registering to vote or participating as an active voter in a local, state, or federal election
- A verified interview for college admission or a documented college visit
- A specialized, supplemental, or extracurricular program/event
- Other absences pre-approved by the principal (see below)

Pre-Approved Absence – Any absence not listed above must receive an administrative pre-approval through email prior to the absence. Request should be made at least five days in advance, by emailing the grade level assistant principal. Students are expected to be present on exam days; exams will not be given in advance.

Unexcused Absence – Any absence not accompanied with a note or documentation or any absence that does not relate to the circumstances listed above is considered unexcused.

CAFETERIA

The school cafeteria offers several choices of nutritional, well-balanced meals each day. Breakfast and lunch programs are available to each student. **Breakfast is provided between 8:15-8:40 am.** Students may choose to purchase a la carte items. Students are encouraged to keep money on their cafeteria account. Cafeteria accounts are not to be shared among students;

purchasing food for others and sharing food is prohibited. **“Fast food” and soft drinks are prohibited.** Glass bottles are not permitted for safety reasons. All food and drinks are to remain in the cafeteria.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

Please inform the front office of any change in name, address, phone number, or emergency contact information during the school year. Each student must have a current Student Information Card on file in the front office.

CLASSROOM PARTIES

Birthday and holiday celebrations/parties/treats are not permitted in middle school.

CLINIC

The clinic is staffed by a clinic assistant during the day. Students must have a pass upon visiting the clinic. First aid will be administered in the clinic as needed.

CLUBS/ACTIVITIES

A wide range of clubs and activities is offered for students before and/or after school. A full listing of these clubs and activities will be available during the fall and opportunities will be provided for students to enroll in these activities. Students must be counted present for at least half the school day to participate in school clubs/activities on that day. [Click here for clubs/activities](#)

CONDUCT

It is our belief that to establish an effective educational and social climate, it is important that students understand that appropriate standards of behavior are always required. Students are expected to behave in a positive manner conducive to learning. In addition, students are to follow the rules of behavior expected by our faculty. Consequences will be administered when an individual’s actions interfere with the right of students to learn and teachers to teach. To ensure student support in this area, a close and cooperative relationship must exist between home and school. All students should be familiar with and follow the **Fulton County Code of Conduct** [FCS student discipline link](#).

STUDENT ROLE IN CONDUCT

Students have a responsibility to:

1. Attend school regularly, arrive on time, be prepared, bring appropriate materials to class, participate in class, and complete homework.
2. Strive for academic growth.
3. Respect the rights, feelings, and property of fellow students, parents, school personnel, visitors, guests, and school neighbors.
4. Conduct themselves properly on school grounds, en route to and from school, at bus stops, at any school related activity, and in the classroom so as not to interfere with the rights of another student to learn.
5. Accept the consequences of their own actions and to follow discipline guidelines adopted by the school and district.

Students have the right to:

1. Receive a copy of the guidelines for student behavior.
2. Discuss educational concerns with teachers and other school staff members.
3. Receive special help as needed from professional staff members.
4. Receive fair discipline without discrimination in every aspect of the educational system.
5. Study and learn in a positive atmosphere free from verbal and physical threats and abuse.
6. Review their own records within the appropriate guidelines.

RIVER TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL’S GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT (VIOLATION OF RULES MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.)

1. Students should adhere to Fulton County Code of [FCS student discipline link](#).
2. Students are to attend all classes as assigned. Students must have a hall pass to be out of a classroom.

3. Cell phones or any other personal technology devices must remain in the students' lockers, turned off during the school day unless requested in class by a teacher. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen devices. Cell phones may only be used before and after school outside of the building only.
4. Students should adhere to the dress code (see "Dress Code").
5. Students are expected to walk, not run, on the right side of the hall while in the school building.
6. Bottled or canned drinks are prohibited in the hallways, classrooms, restrooms, and gymnasium.
7. Non-instructional items are not to be used during school hours.
8. Objects shall not be thrown or propelled at any time.
9. Damage, alter, or theft of School or private property is prohibited.
10. Profanity and obscene gestures are prohibited.
11. Harassment/bigotry in any form is unacceptable behavior.
12. Any student who engages in an activity that threatens (regardless of intent), intimidates, or physically harms another person.
13. Fighting and general disruptive behaviors are prohibited on the campus, on the buses, en route to and from school, and at any school activity. "Horseplay" (improper physical contact not meant to harm) is prohibited.
14. Public displays of affection are prohibited.
15. Students may not sell or distribute products of any kind on the school campus or on school transportation unless duly authorized by the principal.
16. Special rules or standards of conduct will be established for field trips and events. Parents will be notified of these rules and regulations. Chronic misbehavior may result in disciplinary action and/or exclusion from participation in school activities.
17. Book bags, hats, and coats are to be kept in student lockers or other designated areas throughout the school day. **Lockers are to be always locked.**

BUS CONDUCT

All students are expected to follow the directions of the bus driver and procedures.

Failure to abide by these safety procedures will result in parent notification and disciplinary actions which will be determined by the local school.

CAFETERIA CONDUCT

Students should observe the following procedures:

1. Walk with class/teacher in orderly fashion to the cafeteria.
2. Enter the cafeteria in an orderly fashion and either proceed to a serving line or go directly to a designated area.
3. Students should sit with the class that they attend lunch with every day. (Exceptions may be given for special circumstances or activities.)
4. Use good manners and speak in an indoor voice.
5. To get out of your seat, raise your hand, and wait for direction from a supervising adult.
6. Do not leave the cafeteria without verbal permission from a supervising adult.
7. Students need to wait for their teacher to dismiss them from the cafeteria.
8. Check your table and area to see that it is clean before disposing of your trash in designated area.
9. The two students assigned for lunch clean-up for the week will wipe off tables/sweep floor area (TBD).

CAMPUS PARENT

[Campus Parent](#) is an internet and app-based program that allows parents to get more involved in their child's day to day education. It gives parents timely information about their child's progress in school. Using the internet, parents can access their child's grades, attendance, assignments, and discipline records. Contact the school front office for additional information.

CELL PHONE

Students are not to use personal cell phones to call or text during the school day. Students will not be called from class to talk on the telephone during school hours, nor are they allowed to make outgoing calls, except in the case of extreme emergency. As part of an effort to teach responsibility, students will not be permitted to call home during the school day for forgotten items or to make arrangements for after school. The front office has a phone for students to use to contact parents when necessary.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT EVALUATION

Students receive non-academic skills feedback as well as a numerical grade for the work done in every class. The feedback is determined by the teacher(s) of each class. Students who are selected for participation in special trips, for awards, or to represent the school in special events or competitions must have non-academic skills feedback which indicate they are responsible students.

DELIVERIES FOR STUDENTS AT SCHOOL

Parents and other individuals should not deliver flowers, balloons, or fast-food lunches to students at school. Such items create a disruption to teaching and learning and will remain in the school office until the end of the school day.

DISMISSAL-AFTERNOON

After and following the direction of the announcements when teacher dismisses students for the day, students will walk to their bus or carpool in an orderly manner. Students should not remain after school unless participating in an activity supervised by a Faculty/Staff Member. Carpool is in front of the school on the cafeteria side. Students are to watch for their ride as they wait in an orderly manner. They are to enter the car on the sidewalk side. Students are not allowed to go into the parking lot without an adult and must always use the crosswalk.

DRESS CODE

Fulton County Board of Education Dress Code Policy (Procedure JD, Rule 13): Students are expected to dress and groom themselves in such a way as to reflect neatness, cleanliness, and safety. All students shall dress and groom themselves appropriately so as not to disrupt or interfere with the educational program or the orderly operation of the school. Extremes in dress and grooming will not be permitted. Examples are lack of cleanliness in person or dress, shoeless-ness, “**short short**” clothing, bare midriffs, tank tops, see-through clothing, apparel which designates gangs or similar organizations, or any dress or grooming that is disruptive to the educational process. Designated dress involving school activities approved by the principal shall be acceptable. The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any mode of dress or grooming results in a violation of the spirit and/or intent of this rule.

RIVER TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS CODE:

1. Hats, bandannas, sweat bands, chains, sunglasses, oversized coats, shades, slippers, hoods, and face/body paint are not to be worn during school hours.
2. Clothing that is excessively revealing such as short mini-skirts, short-shorts, tight shorts, low-cut blouses, or halter tops, see through tops, strapless or “spaghetti strap” tops or shirts exposing cleavage and/or the midriff are not permitted.
3. All t-shirts must be middle school appropriate (no suggestive wording or illustrations or advertisements for items which are illegal for middle school students, i.e., alcohol and tobacco products, etc.)
4. Athletic tank tops with oversized arm holes should not be worn unless accompanied by an undershirt.
5. Jeans with holes or tears above the mid-thigh exposing skin is not permitted.
6. Pajamas and or sleep-like pants are not to be worn to school.
7. Undergarments must not be exposed.
8. Shoes must be always worn.

Students and parents are expected to honor the dress code so valuable school time is not spent examining student attire to determine appropriateness.

Students who violate the dress code will be asked to change into appropriate clothing. If students do not have an appropriate change of clothing at school, they will change into school PE clothes, or clothing will be provided by the school.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency drills are held frequently throughout the school year. It is important that students remain silent and follow all instructions of school personnel during these drills.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Once a decision has been made from the central office to close school due to inclement weather, local TV and radio stations will broadcast this information. The School Blackboard system will also send a notification. **Please avoid calling the school.** Each Fulton County school has detailed disaster plans and evacuation plans which are reviewed and updated each year. In the event of these plans being used, parents will be notified by the district, school, and/or local media.

EVACUATION FROM RIVER TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL

In the event of an emergency, if it becomes necessary to move students from the premises of River Trail Middle School, they will be evacuated to Northview High School. In the event of such an emergency, it will be impossible for parents to contact River Trail. The school will contact parents, and students will be released to parents from the alternate site.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are a valuable part of the middle school educational process and may be taken at various times throughout the school year. Official Fulton County permission slips must be signed by parent/guardian and returned to the school. Standard conduct must be met to be eligible to attend school field trips.

GRADE REPORTING

Progress Reports and Report Cards are available in Campus Parent throughout the year. Grading are the responsibilities of the individual teacher and are subject to approval and review by a school administrator. Careful evaluation by the teacher and principal will ensure that all grades issued, and recommendations made will be in the best interest of the student. Numerical grades will be used to report academic performance in all courses.

RECOVERY

All students will have **one (1) opportunity each nine weeks** to redo/retake one (1) **major assignment/assessment**.

- Eligibility for a redo/retake is for students who receive a 75 or below on a specific major assignment/assessment.
- Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a redo/retake no higher than a 75.
- Student redo/retakes must be completed before the next major assignment/assessment is given or five school days before the end of a marking period if there is not another major assignment/assessment given.

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale is based on Fulton County policy. The state of Georgia has set 70 as the minimum passing grade.

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

F = Below 70

GRADING STUDENTS WHEN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

Following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher(s) to request make-up work, the day he/she returns. Make-up work must be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher to receive full credit. Assignments are not provided in advance for pre-approved absences.

GRADING STUDENTS WHEN TRANSFERING FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL

For students entering with grades from another school, the teacher will include the withdrawal grade from the previous school with grades earned at River Trail to determine the numerical grade for that grading period.

HALL PASSES

Students must have a pass anytime they are out of their class during the school day, or if they need to go to a class/club/help session before school.

HOMEBOUND SERVICES

Homebound services are available to students expected to be absent for more than 10 school days due to surgery or non-contagious illnesses. A doctor's statement is required. Referral forms are available through the counseling office.

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The weekly newsletter, the "[Wolf Den News](#)", is e-mailed to families each Friday and is posted on the [River Trail Middle School website](#) each week throughout the year. If you do not have email or internet access, please come by the school, and pick up a copy. PTO directories are produced each fall and contain names, addresses, and phone numbers of designated families. Parent-Teacher conferences are also a vital part of communication. Parents who would like to have a conference with any staff member should email that person. Teachers cannot be called from class to receive phone calls but will return calls within 48 hours. Guidance counselors are available for conferences concerning problems at home or at school. They are also available to review test scores and student placement. Student papers may be sent home by the teacher for parents to review. Student agendas will be used for hallway passes, writing homework assignments, and teacher/parent communication.

HOMEWORK/PRACTICE

Homework is an important part of academic growth in the middle school. Students will be given homework in most classes on a regular basis, and timely, successful completion of this work is a part of each student's evaluation. The teams of interdisciplinary teachers meet on a regular basis to ensure that the amount of homework assigned is reasonable. Assignments may be overnight or long term. It is important that students complete the work independently, so teachers can obtain an accurate assessment of their understanding. Parents with questions regarding homework should contact teachers. Students are expected to approach homework seriously, and parents should emphasize its importance.

HONOR ROLL AND PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL

Principal's Honor Roll and Honor Roll status will be recognized at the end of the school year.

INSURANCE

Student insurance may be purchased in the fall on the district's website. The three types of insurance which may be purchased are: 24-hour coverage, school time coverage, and dental coverage. The insurance is for accidental coverage. Further information may be obtained on the district website. **River Trail Middle School does not carry insurance to cover accidental injuries of students. Parents are urged to consider purchasing student insurance.**

INTRAMURAL/EXTRAMURAL PROGRAM

A program of intramural athletic activities is offered to students before and after school Monday through Thursday. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to see that the student is picked up **no later than 5:15 PM**. If students are not picked up on time, they could lose the privilege of participating in the program. To participate in the intramural program, each student must have an intramural registration form signed by a parent or legal guardian on file at the school. Intramural activities vary each semester. Read "Wolf Den News" to find out which activities are offered during specific time periods. As an extension of the intramural program, seventh and eighth grade boys and girls may be selected for a traveling team, consisting of a six-game schedule, in the following sports in the extramural program:

Fall – Soccer Winter – Volleyball Spring – Basketball & Track

A fee may be assessed for participation in the extramural program when team shirts are needed. Special regulations exist concerning participation by 7th and 8th grade students on the Fulton County extramural teams.

Regulations include:

- Participation 80% of the time for a particular sport in the school's intramural program.
- Acceptable school conduct, (i.e., no suspensions during the semester of participation). Students will sign a "Code of Conduct for Extracurricular Program" for River Trail Middle school at the first meeting for each club or activity.
- In the semester preceding participation, the student must pass 5 out of 6 classes which carry credit toward grade promotion.

- A physical examination packet documented on the appropriate physical form and proof of insurance coverage is required before a student may try out for an extramural team. [River Trail Athletic link](#)

LAPTOPS

Students will be issued laptops for instructional use. Students and parents must sign a usage agreement and complete digital citizenship lessons. Damage to, or loss of, the laptop and/or its accessories will result in fines. Students are to use their laptops according to Fulton County School's technology guidelines.

LOCKERS

Students rent lockers for the safekeeping of books and personal property. It is the responsibility of the student to guard his/her combination and to see that his/her locker is secure. Lockers remain the property of the school and are subject to periodic announced and unannounced inspections by school personnel at any time during the year. Students are not to share lockers. Locker rental fees for hall and PE lockers can be paid [here](#).

LOCKER DECORATION RULES

1. Lockers are to be decorated only for birthdays.
2. The decorations must be appropriate and within the school's guidelines.
3. Only the face of the locker can be decorated with birthday wrapping paper; any other area of the locker or the area above or surrounding it may not be decorated.
4. Balloons, candy, or stickers are not to be attached to the locker.
5. Inappropriate language is not permitted on the locker decorations.
6. All locker decorations must be removed after three days.
7. Up to three students may decorate a locker; a hall pass must be obtained in advance from any teacher.
8. The students who decorate the locker must keep the area around the locker clean and free of trash.

LOST OR DAMAGED INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Students are responsible for the care and protection of textbooks, laptops, library books, musical instruments, and other instructional materials assigned to them or checked out by them. The following sanctions may be taken against a student who fails to return or refuses to pay for lost or damaged textbooks, laptops, library books, media material, or school property, including but not limited to musical instruments, sheet music, uniforms of all kinds, sports equipment, etc.:

1. Refusal to issue any additional textbooks, laptops, library books, media materials or school property until restitution is made.
2. Withholding of all grade cards, transcripts, diplomas, or certificates of progress until restitution is made; and/or
3. Exclusion of ceremonies, dances, intramurals, and/or participation on teams or in clubs.

A record of any outstanding fees, fines or charges will accompany students' records whenever he/she moves from school to school within the school system, and sanctions may be taken against a student by his/her new school until the student settles matters with his/her former school. Appropriate restitution for a lost or damaged book is the cost of a new copy. If a student cannot afford the entire charge, the student will be put on a payment plan until the amount owed is paid in full.

MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center operates on an open access basis allowing students almost unlimited use of media materials. The collection contains over 10,000 books. The circulation period is two weeks with renewals allowed. Overdue fines will be charged. Hours are 8:15 AM until 4:05 PM, Monday through Friday. For students to use the Media Center before regular school hours, they must obtain a pass from a teacher and notify the media center the day before to confirm staff supervision. A staff member must be present when a student is in the media center.

MEDICATION

Internal medication (prescription or over the counter) may not be given without the necessary Fulton County forms on file in the clinic. Prescription medication requires that the form be signed by the prescribing physician; over-the-counter medication requires that the form be signed by a parent. Medication should be clearly labeled in the original container and sent to the clinic where it will be administered under the direct supervision of school employees. **Students may NOT carry medication while at school.** [clinic link](#)

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents with concerns about any procedure or policy used in connection with their child are encouraged to seek assistance from school personnel. It is requested that the following sequence be utilized in asking for assistance:

1. Classroom teacher
2. Counselor
3. Assistant Principal
4. Principal

PARENT AND GUEST VISITATION TO THE CLASSROOM

The Fulton County School system values the concept of parents as partners in education. Parent and community support and assistance are vital in all facets of the school program. Parent and community members are especially welcome to observe students in the academic setting through special activities and events taking place in the school. Parents may also participate directly in the instructional program through volunteer work, chaperoning field trips, membership on school advisory committees, and individual teacher/parent conferences. Safety and child abuse reporting protocols must be completed before a person may volunteer in the school. The school resource officer coordinates the specifics of this requirement. All visitors sign in using the Raptor System in the front office.

Classroom Observations by Parents of Students Currently Enrolled in the School:

The parent should:

1. Make the request to the principal in writing at least twenty-four hours prior to the proposed visit.
2. State the purpose of the visit, i.e., identify what is expected to be accomplished by the visit.
3. Sign in at the office and be escorted to the classroom.
4. Stay no longer than one class period.
5. Refrain from engaging the attention of teachers or students through conversation or other means.
6. Return to the office for a brief conference at the end of the visit.

For the safety of students, no unauthorized persons are allowed in the building without administrative approval. Students not enrolled at River Trail Middle School are not permitted to visit during the school day due to unnecessary classroom disruptions which are detrimental to the learning process.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The PTO serves as a valuable resource for River Trail Middle School. Many parents volunteer their time, financial resources, and expertise through this organization. In lieu of school wide fundraising, we encourage all families to join the [PTO](#).

PERSONAL PROPERTY/LOST AND FOUND

The school makes every effort to help students safeguard their valuables. However, the ultimate responsibility for this lies with the student. Name labels should be placed on personal articles and apparel, especially on P.E. uniforms. All lost articles will be placed in the lost and found area. Students are encouraged to check the lost and found area, located adjacent to the Clinic, for lost or missing items. Unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of each semester. Students should not bring large amounts of money to school. All valuables should be left in lockers, particularly during P.E. **The school will not be held accountable for lost, damaged, or stolen articles.**

PROMOTION POLICY

Promotion or retention in middle school grades (6-8) will be based on student performance for the entire school year. Middle school students are expected to have a passing grade in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, reading/foreign language, and PE/Connection classes. Any student who receives an average for both semesters of 69 or below shall fail the subject for the year. Students who are not promoted are either placed in the next grade or retained in the same grade. A failing grade in a subject can be made up by earning a passing grade in an appropriate subject during a summer school session. Promotion or retention of students receiving special education services shall be determined by a staffing committee which develops the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for each student.

Eighth grade students must also pass the End-of-Grade Milestones Assessment in Reading & Mathematics to be promoted to 9th grade.

RESTROOM

Students must get permission from their teacher to go to the restroom, and they must have a pass.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Class schedule changes are rarely made and are not done to accommodate requests for specific teachers or specific periods of the day. Students (or parents) who believe they are misplaced or who wish to waive into a different level of a course should request consideration within the first 5 days of the semester by contacting the grade-level counselor. Requests after that time frame will not be honored. [Counseling](#)

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL (SGC)

The purpose of the School Governance Council is to provide parents, school staff, and community members with a leadership role in the management of the school. The School Governance Council is a governing body that is representative of the community and the school but operates under the control and management of the Board of Education. The Council is responsible for making decisions regarding the strategic direction of the school. Elections for new parent and teacher representatives will be held in the spring. River Trail's SGC meets monthly. Meetings are open to the public; see school website for dates and times. [SGC](#)

SCHOOL SECURITY

Every effort is taken to ensure the safety of students and staff while at school. River Trail Middle School has a police officer on duty. The certified police officer has the authority to make arrests if necessary. Any visitor to River Trail Middle School must check in and out at the front office. All visitors to the school must wear a visitor's badge while on campus. Please be advised that the doors in the rotunda area are the only public entrances/exits to the building at any time.

SCHOOL STORE

The student store is open Tuesdays from 8:15 AM until 8:50 AM and is staffed by PTO volunteers. A wide variety of school supplies and spirit wear are available at a nominal cost. Proceeds from this operation are used to re-supply the store and purchase instructional items for students.

SEX EDUCATION

The Fulton County School System offers human sexuality education and AIDS education in the required health courses taught in grades 6, 7, and 8. The school system believes that all students should have access to factually accurate and appropriate information about these topics. Students who are armed with the facts are better able to make good, healthy decisions. All instruction in the sex education unit of health is based on the belief that abstinence from sexual activity is best for school-aged children. All students are required to take a nine-week health education course in each grade level. At least two weeks prior to the sex education unit of the course, a letter will be sent home to parents informing them of their right to remove their children from this unit. Parents are requested to sign and return the form indicating whether or not their child is to participate in the sex education unit. Students not participating in the sex education portion of health will be given alternative health assignments. Parents may contact their child's health teacher and make an appointment to review the materials used in the health course.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Standardized testing is scheduled for all grade levels during the school year. It is very important for all students to be present for their grade level testing. More specific information regarding specific dates and times will be provided in advance.

TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Each student, parent, and staff member must read, sign, and agree to abide by the Technology Acceptable Use Policy guidelines before gaining access to the school's network, internet, and computer workstations. River Trail is a one-to-one school, with laptops issued to students each year. Students may bring and use other technology devices only when directed

by teachers for instructional activities. Students shall not alter or attempt to alter school or private property including technology hardware and software. Students are not permitted to bring software or hardware equipment to school without prior permission from the technology specialist and school administration. In addition, students should not access inappropriate internet sites. NOTE: Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in disciplinary action.

TEENAGE AND ADULT DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY ACT

In addition to the discipline specified in this Code of Conduct for attendance and selected conduct, students fifteen (15) through seventeen (17) years of age may find their eligibility for a Georgia instructional/learner's permit or driver's license impacted by their school enrollment and/or conduct. Students must obtain a Certification of Enrollment from their school stating that the student is enrolled in and not under expulsion to be eligible for a driver's license or learner's permit. [FCS student discipline link](#).

TEXTBOOKS

All basic texts are loaned to students for their use during the school year. These books are the property of the Fulton County Board of Education. Textbooks are expected to be kept clean and handled carefully. Students should write their names and their teachers name in ink in the space provided in each of their textbooks. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with and to protect all books with book covers. If a textbook is lost or damaged, the cost of a new book will be charged.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided for all students living more than a mile and a half from school and/or for students living in areas designated by the county transportation department as hazardous. Students should recognize that riding the bus is a privilege contingent upon proper and courteous conduct. Students are expected to follow the instructions of the driver and the local school. Any student failing to do so may be denied the privilege of riding the bus. The length of time of suspension from the bus is left to the discretion of the administrative staff. **Students may not ride buses other than the one to which they are assigned, and they must get on and off the bus at their regularly scheduled stop. If other arrangements are necessary, parents must receive permission from the Transportation Department at 470-254-2970.** Students who arrive by car should be dropped off in front of the school no earlier than **8:15 AM**. Bicycle riders may park their bikes in the designated bike rack. Bikes should be locked during the day. The school cannot accept responsibility for students' bikes. Skateboards, roller skates, roller blades, and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited on the campus at any time except for an approved club or activity.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the school. Some of the volunteer positions include media center assistants, bookroom volunteers, and school store volunteers. The PTO coordinates the parent volunteer program. [PTO](#).

WOLFPACK TIME

Wolfpack is a daily, schoolwide, stress-free time for students to build relationships with teachers and peers, and to cultivate a sense of school pride and community. In addition, grade levels may use this time to address organizational and academic needs specific to the group.

WORK PERMITS

Student work permits are available online at www.dol.state.ga.us under "child labor."

YEARBOOKS

A school yearbook, highlighting the events of each school year, is developed annually by the yearbook staff. Orders to purchase a yearbook will be taken during Sneak Preview and announced times during the fall semester. Yearbooks will be distributed on the last day of school. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged yearbooks.

All handbook information is subject to change. Should a change occur, notification will be made in writing.