

2025-2026 RVMS School Calendar

August 22-23 - RVMS Preview Night Dinner and Auction

September 3 – School Begins

September 4 – Parent Meeting

September 24 - 26 – Creation Investigation

October 13 – School closed, Columbus Day

October 31 – End of the first quarter

November 11 – School closed, Veterans Day; Parent Teacher Conferences

November 26 – 28 – School closed, Thanksgiving Break

December 11 – Christmas Program at Naumburg Mennonite Church – 7:30 p.m.

December 22 – January 2 – Christmas Vacation

January 5 – School resumes

January 16 – End of the second quarter

January 19 – School closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 16 -20 – Winter Vacation

March 23 – March 27 – IOWA testing

March 27 – End of the third quarter

April 2- School closed, Parent teacher conferences

April 3 – School closed, Good Friday

April 6-10 – Spring Break

April 13-17 – Regional ACE Student Convention – Mt. Bethel, P.A.

April 15 – School closed; Convention

May 15 – Grandparents Day

May 22- School closed

May 25 – School closed; Memorial Day

June 5 – End of the fourth quarter

June 11 – Kindergarten Graduation and Awards Night

June 13 – Graduation at Naumburg Mennonite Church 7 p.m.

Organization Chart:

Pastor - As the school is a ministry of the Naumburg Mennonite Church, the lead pastor from Naumburg Mennonite Church will serve as Pastor and advisor.

Principal - The principal is responsible for the administration of the school that includes oversight over the education and discipline of the students. One of his duties is also Guidance Counselor for the high school students. Any visits by prospective families should be arranged with the principal.

School Board - The school board shall consist of three couples, of which both husband and wife actively attend the Naumburg Mennonite congregation, who at the time of elections have children attending RVMS. The term is for four years.

Delegates on the School Board - The delegates shall consist of two couples, of which both husband and wife actively attend an area Mennonite Church, who at the time of elections have children attending RVMS. This term is for three years.

- Board members and delegates are able to succeed themselves once.
- Nominations for these positions will be done by secret ballot. The ballot will include the names of all eligible couples. Each family will receive one vote.
- After the nomination ballots are returned, candidates will be asked for their willingness to serve in this capacity. Once a couple gives consent, a second secret ballot will be used to determine the board member or delegate to serve.

School Board and Delegates

1. Shall be responsible for the overall operation of the school
2. Shall hire and dismiss personnel in accordance with procedure established by the board
3. Shall be responsible to carry out policy and re-enrollment for admission to our school
4. Shall take care of legal procedures with the public-school systems when and where it is needed
5. Shall be responsible for the election of board members

Student Attendance

Attendance is a critical factor in school success for students. Our school day begins at 8:50 a.m., and ends between 2:20 and 2:50 each day, depending on transportation. Parents are expected to make sure that their children attend school on a regular basis and arrive between 8.25 and 8.45 each morning. Students who are not in their learning center by 8:50 will be considered tardy.

Attendance is especially important for any courses which meet as a class, including but not limited to, Math, Old Testament, New Testament, Spanish, and Personal Finance.

Attendance Procedure

After a student reaches 6 absences in one quarter, the student's supervisor/instructor will contact the parents to discuss missed work and to create a plan to make up missed work if necessary.

It will be up to the supervisor/instructor to determine what action is appropriate.

For students who are on grade level and have completed a sufficient amount of work, no action may be necessary. For students who are behind in their Pace work, and/or their in-class assignments, appropriate action may include assignments to be completed at home, during breaks, in-school or after school detention, or summer school.

If the parents and supervisor cannot agree upon a plan, or if the parent/student is unwilling or unable to follow through with the plan, the administrator and/or school board may be called on to mediate. If an agreement cannot be reached, and the school board deems it best, the family may be asked to withdraw their student.

River Valley Mennonite School is required to keep accurate attendance records. If your student is tardy or absent from school, please send an excuse note including date(s) missed and reason for absence to school in a timely manner. (see example below)

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Absence Report

Student's Name _____

Date (s) of Absence _____ Absent Tardy

Reason _____

Schools are responsible to keep accurate attendance records. Please return promptly.

Parents Signature _____

RVMS DRESS CODE & CONDUCT

ALL:

1. Are expected to have a spirit of cooperation.
2. Are expected to show respect to the supervisors and the school property. Damaged property is to be replaced at the offending student's expense.
3. Jewelry is not allowed in school and will be confiscated if found. This includes, but is not limited to earrings, necklaces, chains, bracelets (including rubber ones), anklets, etc. Watches are permitted.
4. All are expected to look neat and clean and dress modestly.
5. Hair color is to be of a NATURAL color
6. No decals, pictures, or words on clothing with the exception that RVMS school-spirit shirts are permitted.
7. Shorts worn for any school event or sport activity should be at least within 2 inches of the top of your knee.
8. Non-marking sneakers are required when playing in the gym.
9. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
10. RVMS dress code is recommended at BOCES.

MALE:

1. No single-color T-shirts. Pullover shirts are acceptable.
2. Hair must be neat, trim, and conservatively styled such as tapered or blocked and is to be off the collar and above the ears.
3. No blue, ripped, faded, or multi-tone jeans.
4. No wind pants or sweatpants.

FEMALE:

1. Hair length at least to shoulder.
2. Dresses to top of the knee or longer. No slits in the skirts above the knee.
3. No sleeveless or tight-fitting garments.
4. Wind pants or sweatpants are acceptable for physical education.
5. No blue denim attire allowed.
6. No colored nail polish.

The dress code for both staff and students is an important component. The clothes we wear make a definite statement about attitude toward self, others and life in general. It creates an atmosphere of respect and an environment conducive to discipline and learning.

SCHOOL CLEANING:

Includes Music and Math Rooms

(Rooms that are locked do not need cleaning)

1. Wash with **disinfectant**, desk tops, dividers, chairs, tables, & scoring tables. Please also wash off desk bottoms where feet rest.
2. Wipe down window sills, ledges, bookshelves, file cabinets, computers, computer desks, and top and bottom of coat racks.
3. Vacuum all carpet upstairs, downstairs, and in the entryway.
4. Vacuum and mop stairs and entryway between school and gym.
5. Make sure that kitchen counters and tables are clean. Vacuum and mop the floor.
6. Clean stove top and microwave as necessary.
7. Check the refrigerator for spoiled food. Please dispose of it if necessary.
8. If you choose to bring your own cleaning supplies, please **remember** to take them back home with you. We are required to have a health and safety data sheet on file on any cleaning supply at school. If you wish to donate cleaning supplies, please include that.

BATHROOM CLEANING:

(Includes bathrooms in the gym)

1. Clean mirrors.
2. Wash sinks and counters.
3. Wipe walls above sinks and around the switches. Also walls in the toilet area.
4. Clean toilets thoroughly – inside and out. Wipe the floor around the base of toilets.
5. Vacuum and mop floors.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep our school neat and clean. Please no **SUNDAY** cleaning. If you can't do it on a Friday evening or Saturday, please do it sometime during the week.

Cell/Phone Device Policy

The decision to bring an electronic communication device (including but not limited to cell phones, iPods, iPhones, smart watches, etc..) is a decision between the students and their parents/guardians. However, students and parents should be aware that students may only operate these devices in the school building after receiving permission from his/her learning center supervisor. Any student operating an electronic device without permission will have that item confiscated by our Administrator or teaching staff and will have it returned at the end of the day. Should a student be found repeatedly in violation of this policy, the device will be confiscated and must be picked up by the parent/guardian.

* River Valley assumes no liability for the damage, destruction, theft or loss of such devices on school property.

* Also please note that parents needing to communicate with their students during the school day should call River Valleys landline (315-493-0187). Do not relay information through your student to our staff by text messaging your student. For example, *“My mom texted me and I am not going to ride the bus now. She is picking me up or I am riding home with someone else.”* Please contact the school directly to pass on pertinent information.

Weapons Policy

River Valley Mennonite School prohibits the possession of weapons on school property, including in the parking lot or on any school bus. Any student found in possession of a weapon will be expelled immediately. Length of expulsion will be determined by the River Valley School Board with input from our staff on a case-by-case basis. Please see the definition below for clarification on what is considered a weapon.

Weapon - (including look-alike and ammunition): A firearm, including BB gun, pellet gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, disguised gun, knife, dagger, switchblade knife, pepper spray, or any other device, instrument, material or substance that is used for, or capable of, causing death or bodily injury. This also pertains to an item or instrument that the school staff or a school board member considers dangerous or inappropriate to have in school.

Mission Outreach Graduation Requirement

OPTION 1: Complete the *Christian Growth* course.

- The course consists of six PACEs, each of which requires the reading of a book and writing a composition, as well as other activities.
- Some activities are scored with a score key, like any other PACE. Others are scored by a staff member.
- Completed anytime during a student's 10th, 11th, or 12th grade

OPTION 2: Service Project

- Complete a 1-week service project (around 40 hours) through Mennonite Disaster Service, Loving Lewis County, or any other approved community service project.
- Typed 250-word (minimum) essay detailing their service. This can include, but is not limited to where you went, the need that was met, specific tasks completed, and things that were learned or gained. This essay must include an outline and be submitted to the school board upon completion.
- Give a presentation upon completion at RVMS or to the school board.
- Service project can be completed as part of a group with friends, family, or church, but the essay and presentation would be completed individually.
- Parents will be required to sign-off on this choice, as well as help facilitate / coordinate the trip or events
- If choosing Loving Lewis County, this can be completed over the course of 2 years with part of the essay written after the first years' work
- Completed any time after the student turns 15 and before the start of their Senior year

Creation Investigation

This is a three-day, overnight field trip for 4th through 6th grade students to Beaver Camp. The schedule provides 9 hours of instruction, recreation time, a special night walk, and free time, and is supervised by teachers/chaperones from RVMS. This program also features a four-hour elective, which can include a guided afternoon on the Adventure Challenge Course, orienteering in the wilds, or canoeing on the Beaver River. The schedule also allots a half-hour morning devotion time where students can follow a prepared devotion, or the educator can lead them in group devotions. This usually takes place in September.

Grandparents Day

Each year the grandparents are invited for lunch and a program afterwards. Lunch includes ham, mashed potatoes, corn, jello, rolls, and pie and ice cream. The school board organizes the meal, with parents sharing in the cost of food, as well as helping serve and clean up. The program is in charge of the music instructor.

Student Convention

There are more than 135 events in academics, arts and crafts, platform arts, photography, and athletics. Winners of Regional Conventions are eligible for the International Student Convention held each spring. The week at Convention includes inspiring speakers, fellowship, and wholesome fun that lift young people to greater spiritual growth.

Teenagers may not know what they can do. Their talents, skills, and abilities are often hidden under a lack of confidence, in the shadow of a friend or relative, or simply due to a lack of guidance. A few coaching lessons on posture, gesture, and voice inflections can encourage teens to try out a clown act, expressive reading, poetry recitation, illustrated story, or preaching. Timid youth often excel in chess, checkers, Bible memory, spelling, or art entries. Many times, all they need is an adult to encourage them with routine guidance and praise. Participation in Student Convention draws out each teenagers' gifts.

The Mid-Atlantic Convention will be held this year in Mt. Bethel, P.A. from April 13th through the 17th. Students must be 13 by December 1 to participate. The cost is approximately \$210.00. A fundraiser helps to lower the cost.

RVMS Fundraising

Fundraising has always been a huge part of RVMS. The Auction began shortly after the school started and has continued to grow immensely over the last 40 plus years. Over those years we have added other fundraisers to help keep the cost of our tuition low. Here is a breakdown of how fundraising works at RVMS.

1. We, as a fundraising committee, plan for 4 fundraisers. They usually include the Candy Bar sale, Fish Fry, Chicken BBQ and one other fundraiser held normally in November or December. There are other fundraisers that happen through the year that are taken care of by other committees. For example the Meatball Dinner that is organized by the RVMS School Board.
2. When helping at a fundraising meal we ask that each family is represented by at least one person. In the past each family was asked to sign up to bring certain food items. We ran into a lot of issues with that so a handful of years ago we as a committee started purchasing the food ourselves and then each family was billed a certain amount to cover the food we purchased. So if you have seen a charge on your PACE bill it is to cover those food items. The charge for the meat is normally taken out of what we make at the fundraiser.
3. To keep parents informed we send home a Fundraising Letter periodically. This will have any information concerning an upcoming fundraiser or details on a fundraiser that was just recently held. At the end of the school year a financial report is typed up and put in the parent packets so parents are able to see the breakdown of each fundraiser.
4. Each year we hold our annual school auction at the end of August. The auction is a huge part of our fundraising and requires many hands. It is a requirement for parents and students in grades 8-12 to help at the auction. The auction preview is held Friday evening and the auction itself is on Saturday. Over the weekend there are many meals and activities going on.