

MOVING UP TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Checklist to Help Students With Special Needs Prepare for Making the Transition to the River Dell School District

- ✓ **If your child has an IEP, attend your IEP Transition Meeting at OPS.**
During late winter/early spring of 2016, you will be invited to your child's annual IEP meeting at Oradell Public School. This meeting will include representatives from OPS, as well as a case manager from the middle school, to plan for the following year. Please note that the middle school case manager will work with your student during both years at RDMS.
- ✓ **Attend Parent Transition Meetings at RDMS.**
On March 2nd, River Dell Middle School held two Special Services transition presentations to help parents understand middle school programs, manage the transition for students with special needs, and meet Child Study Team members. On March 15th, the school hosted a general transition presentation. If you were unable to attend these meetings, contact the RDMS Department of Special Services at (201) 599-7220 to find out what you missed.
- ✓ **If your child has a 504 Plan, attend 504 Transition Meeting at RDMS.**
In early May, parents of students with 504 plans will be invited to attend a transition meeting at RDMS. Your child's 504 case manager and the middle school's 504 Committee will be present at this meeting. You will be asked to bring updated documentation of your child's diagnosis to this meeting. The RDMS 504 Committee will reconvene after the parent meeting to decide how the 504 plan will transition into the middle school setting. Following this, the student's new 504 plan will be sent home for parents to review.
- ✓ **Visit River Dell Middle School on a tour.**
In June 2016 (date TBD), all sixth graders will visit River Dell Middle School for a group tour. This tour will help them become familiar with the school facilities.
- ✓ **Watch your e-mailbox for important RDMS information.**
Over the summer, you will be e-mailed your student's class schedule and an invitation to participate in an orientation program designed to take the guesswork out of the first few days at River Dell Middle School. Students will learn about navigating their schedules, lockers, clubs, activities, sports, School Wires, Genesis, and more. After the presentation, students will take a tour of the building and practice opening lockers. If your child is unable to attend the orientation, the middle school will open its doors for incoming students on additional dates.
- ✓ **Don't miss the welcome barbecue to meet new friends.**
Before the first day of school, River Dell Middle School will host a "Welcome Barbecue" for all incoming seventh graders. This is a great opportunity for OPS students to meet their new classmates from River Edge before school begins.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding your student's transition to middle school, please contact your student's middle school case manager.

