



2023 - 2024 Program Guide

Jennifer Feeny
jennifer.feeny@vbsd.us

60 Northridge Drive
Van Buren, AR 72956
Telephone: (479) 471-3165

Welcome

Welcome to the River Valley Virtual Academy (RVVA). We are excited that you have chosen to join us on this journey! We believe the opportunities we offer at RVVA will prepare you for success in your future educational career as well as provide you with valuable skills for learning throughout your life.

Mission

The River Valley Virtual Academy will offer personalized learning for students, blending a virtual curriculum with service opportunities and real world experiences. Partnering with families and communities, the River Valley Virtual Academy will provide K-12 students flexible learning choices which offer support and acceleration to promote college, career, and citizenship readiness.

Contact RVVA

- River Valley Virtual Academy 479-471-3165

Follow Us on Social Media

- Facebook- River Valley Virtual Academy
- Twitter- @RVVirtualAcad

Emergency Closures

- Go to www.vbsd.us
- Click on Mobile Text Alerts

Car Drop Off and Pick-Up

Students are dropped off and picked up at the entrance to RVVA.

Academic Support Session

To schedule an Academic Support Session at the RVVA, please call 479-471-3165. Academic Support Sessions are a great way for students enrolled in the RVVA to get extra assistance throughout the week.

Enrollment

- Students currently enrolled or referred to the IZARD Center for Learning must be dismissed prior to enrollment at RVVA.
- Enrollment Process:
 - Students complete a two-week orientation prior to enrollment.
 - After completing the two-week orientation, families contact the RVVA Coordinator for enrollment.
- RVVA students must take a minimum of 7 courses unless approved by RVVA Coordinator.
- Enrollment Deadlines for 2023-2024 School Year.
 - Fall Semester, September 6, 2023
 - Spring Semester, January 29, 2024

State Testing and Other Services

- Students enrolled at the River Valley Virtual Academy will participate in the statewide assessments. Testing requirements are mandated by Arkansas law.
- Attendance is required on-site in the Van Buren School District for all state assessments.

- Students enrolled in K-2 are required to attend a minimum of 5 days on-site. During this time, students will be assessed. Time spent on campus will be determined by the RVVA support teacher.
- Students who qualify for Gifted and Talented will receive services on-site in the Van Buren School District. The GT Coordinator will arrange for GT services on-site.
- Students who qualify for Special Education services will receive services on-site or virtually in the Van Buren School District. The Special Education Director will arrange for services on-site or virtually.

Tips for a Successful Virtual Learning Experience

- Check email or platform messages at least daily.
- Maintain regular communication with assigned teachers as well as staff at the River Valley Virtual Academy.
- Attend weekly academic support sessions at the River Valley Virtual Academy.
- Stay on track with daily lessons on the To Do List and/or Calendar.
- After you watch a video or read a section, take notes about the key points. Be involved in the lesson.
- Write down questions, pretest questions, quick checks. Work out the problem on paper and then answer on the computer.
- Write down all vocabulary. The vocabulary is used throughout the lessons and assessments.
- Take notes as you work through the lessons.

Process for Attendance Monitoring

RVVA Procedures for Disengaged Virtual Learners

The River Valley Virtual Academy believes that all students can be successful in the virtual learning environment. The following procedures will be utilized by the student, guardian, and RVVA staff. Student and parent/guardian will be reminded and handed a RVVA Policy concerning absences and engagement.

Procedures:

1. If the student fails to login and has no engagement (student work submissions) after 5 unexcused absences:
 - a. The River Valley Virtual Academy staff will contact the parent/guardian.
 - b. The student will be marked absent for each day the student did not login and submit coursework.
 - c. The River Valley Virtual Academy staff will offer assistance through the following methods:
 - i. Technical assistance and support sessions.
 - ii. The student and guardian will be encouraged to stay engaged in virtual learning with the understanding that the student may return to onsite instruction at the previous school if engagement is not corrected.
2. If disengagement continues and there is no improvement in attendance and/or engagement:
 - a. The River Valley Virtual Academy staff will contact the parent/guardian.
 - b. The student will be marked absent for each day the student did not login and submit coursework.
 - c. The River Valley Virtual Academy staff will again offer assistance through the following methods:
 - i. Technical assistance and support sessions.
 - ii. Student is placed on a support plan developed by the RVVA RTI team, parent/guardian, and student.
 - d. Once the student accrues 10 unexcused absences, the Juvenile Services Office will be notified of truancy.
3. If disengagement persists and support plan is not being followed:
 - i. RVVA staff along with the onsite school team will meet with the student and parent/guardian to discuss transition back to onsite learning at the student's previous school (this may be accomplished via face to face, Zoom, or phone conference).

- For example, students must have all coursework completed by the end of the week (Sunday night). Students with incomplete assignments for the week will be marked absent on the days the student did not log-in to the learning management system.

Grading Scale and Grade Reports

A 90% - 100%
 B 80% - 89%
 C 70% - 79%
 D 60% - 69%
 F 59% or below

Students receive 4 ½ week progress reports by logging into the online platform and checking grades. Grades are available in the online platform.

High School

- **Smart Core**
 - Refer to Board Policy located at www.vbsd.us
- **High School Diploma**
 - Refer to Board Policy located at www.vbsd.us
- **Graduation Requirements**
 - Refer to Board Policy located at www.vbsd.us
 - RVVA students will participate in graduation ceremonies with the Van Buren High School and IZARD Center for Learning.
- **GPA**
 - Refer to Board Policy located at www.vbsd.us
 - GPA is calculated with RVVA students only; therefore, students do not participate in the Top 40 or VBHS class ranking.
- **Course Catalog and Offered Courses**
 - RVVA students can enroll in onsite courses at VBHS if the course is not offered at RVVA. A course catalog can be located on the Van Buren High School website.

Individualized Learning Plans

- Students in grades K-12 will create Learning Plans. Students can create the plans on-site at RVVA or with the assistance of their learning coach.

Van Buren School District Student Policies

- Students enrolled in the River Valley Virtual Academy will follow Van Buren School District board policies.
- Policies can be found at www.vbsd.us.
- Students at RVVA are expected to obey all rules and policies established by the Van Buren School District, RVVA, and individual teachers.

Building Procedures for Appearance Code

Students please refer to Board Policy

Computer Check-Out

Students have access to check-out Chromebooks at RVVA.

Library Services

The Van Buren Public Library is available to all River Valley Virtual Academy students. Students are encouraged to check out books at the public library. If you are interested in accessing library books through the Van Buren School District, please contact the RVVA at (479)471-3165.

Health Screenings

Vision: (A.C.A. 6-18-1501)

Act 1438 of 2005 requires students in grades Pre-K, KF, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and transfer students to have an eye and vision screen. Only failure notifications are sent home. A child who does not pass the screening shall be required to have an exam conducted by an optometrist or ophthalmologist within 60 days of receipt of the screening report and show proof of the exam. Parents needing financial assistance should contact the school nurse.

Hearing:

Hearing screens are mandated for students in grades PreK, K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and transfer students. Only failure notices are sent home. Parents have 60 days to show proof that a doctor or audiologist examined their child.

- Insurance is billed for students covered under Medicaid/Arkansas Kids 1st will be billed, where applicable, for hearing and vision screenings conducted at school unless notified in writing, by parents to decline within 60 days of receipt of the handbook.

BMI: (ARK Code 20-7-133 and 3.04)

Act 1220 requires students in grades KF, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 to have their height and weight assessed. A parent who refuses to have their child assessed must provide a written request of the refusal to the school. Screening results will be sent home only upon request of the parent/legal guardian.

Scoliosis: Act 95 of 1989 and Act 41 of 1987

The acts require girls in 6th grade and all students in 8th grade be screened for scoliosis. Parents of a child who fails the screening will be sent an information letter stating the need to see a licensed physician. A parent, who refuses to have their child screened, must provide a written request of refusal to the school.

Release of Information: I hereby authorize emergency medical services for my child. I give VBSD staff permission to give my child first aid treatment with OTC ointments and pain relieving sprays, cough drops, band aids and bandages. I hereby authorize the Van Buren School District Health Services to share or discuss my child's health issues with any pertinent person.

To schedule a health screening please contact the RVVA Coordinator at 479-471-3165.

Counseling Opportunities

School counselors are available to all River Valley Virtual Academy students. Please contact the RVVA if you would like to schedule an appointment.

Video Surveillance and Other Student Monitoring

Video/recording devices may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds, and in school vehicles as determined by the VBSD. Refer to policy 4.48 for more information.

Bullying

RVVA will follow all VBSD policies regarding student conduct and bullying. Refer to policy 4.3.6- Student Conduct-Bullying.

Non-Nutritional Days

The Arkansas Department of Education has passed rules governing nutrition standards in Arkansas Public Schools. These rules have an effect on what food item parents are allowed to send to school.

Please note the following rules, sign, and return the bottom portion Indicating you have read and understand.

- Elementary students will not have access to vended (sold or given away) food and beverage Items anytime, anywhere on school premises during the declared school day.
- This does not apply to students with special needs Indicated in the student IEP or to school nurses providing health care to individual students.
- Students may be given any food and/or beverage Items for up to nine (9) different school events each school year to be determined and approved by school officials.
- Nutritional foods may be used for instructional purposes. The school, as part of the planned Instructional program, may also distribute nutritionalsnacks (kindergarten snacks for example).
- This does not restrict what parents may provide for their own child's lunch or snack.
- To meet state regulations (law), we must ask parents not to provide food/beverage Items to other children at school for events such as birthday parties. Parents may provide food/beverage Items upon request to support one of up to nine (9) allowable events such as Valentine's Day.

In compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws, the Van Buren Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, gender identity or disability in its employment and educational practices.

RVVA Program Guide Updated June 2023

**River Valley Virtual Academy
Parent Involvement Plan Summary
2023 - 2024**

We believe that a partnership must exist between our parents and our school. We promote positive communication between the school and our students' homes. The school provides a variety of opportunities for parents to be involved in activities supporting our school. We believe teachers have a responsibility to provide the needed framework for parents to nurture their child's formal instruction at home. We will provide materials that can successfully be used at home to reinforce the academic success of children. The district will reserve a minimum of 1% of the Title I, Part A allocation for parental involvement. It is our goal to provide an atmosphere where parents are able to express their views and to assist in problem solving. We want parents to understand that we view them as joint policy and decision makers and plan to emphasize their roles as advocates.

Our goals for this school year are as follows:

School staff will use a variety of communication strategies to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction.

Annual report to the public, informational packets for each parent, survey for parent regarding his/her interests in volunteering, school program guide, parent workshops, newsletters, school's social media sites, report cards, and orientation for new students.

The school will hold parent meetings, conferences, and activities regularly throughout the year to increase parental involvement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts.

The school will hold regular meetings to keep parents informed about their child's learning. The school will provide instruction to parents to help with learning activities in the home that will help enhance their child's learning. The school will hold two conferences with parents.

The school will provide information to parents about volunteer opportunities.

The school will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and solicit ideas for other types of volunteer efforts for parents/guardians. The school will provide parents and community members with information to make the experience pleasant and successful.

The school will provide an opportunity for parents to engage in decision-making processes in regarding the school's program.

The school will involve parents/guardians on school improvement committees and curricular and instructional review committees.

The school will provide a parent resource center for parents.

The school will engage parents in an evaluation of parental involvement efforts.

July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	25	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Grading Periods

Grading Period 1: Aug. 16 – Oct. 13 (42 days)
 Grading Period 2: Oct. 16 – Dec 20 (42 days)
 1st Semester – 84 days

Grading Period 3: Jan 8 – Mar 14 (47 days)
 Grading Period 4: Mar 25 – May 30 (47 days)
 2nd Semester – 94 days

TOTAL: 178 Student Interaction Days

Significant Dates

August 16	1 st Day of School
September 4	Labor Day
October 17	Parent Conf. 3:30 – 6:30
October 19	Parent Conf. 3:30 – 6:30
October 20	No School
Nov 20-24	Fall Break
Dec 21–Jan. 5	Semester Break
January 8	Second Sem. Begins
January 15	No School
February 19	No School
March 12	Parent Conf. 3:30 – 6:30
March 14	Parent Conf. 3:30 – 6:30
March 15	No School
March 18-22	Spring Break
March 29	Good Friday
May 27	Memorial Day
May 30	Last Day of School

Inclement Weather
 In the event of bad weather or other emergency circumstances, the District can implement up to ten (10) Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Days. When school is canceled, information regarding student assignments can be found on the District's website at www.vbsd.us. Any days needed for bad weather or emergency circumstances over the ten (10) AMI Days will be made up in the following order: May 31, June 3-6.

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			


February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29



2023-2024

Student Calendar



River Valley Virtual Academy

Caregiver and Student Requirements

- I understand students are required to participate in all state-mandated testing which will take place in Van Buren, AR.
- I understand caregivers are required to monitor students in the online platform. Caregivers will check grades and lesson completion weekly.
- I understand caregivers must ensure lessons are completed on time each week.
- I understand caregivers must actively participate in the online platform. Participation for caregivers may require 6 or more hours per day.
- I understand attendance policies and procedures must be followed. All lessons scheduled during the week need to be finished by Sunday at midnight. On Monday morning, attendance will be determined.
- I understand caretakers must participate in two parent-teacher conferences per year. Conferences can be over the phone or in-person.
- I understand students who are failing a course or behind on lessons may be required to attend support sessions in Van Buren, AR and/or return to the traditional school setting.
- I understand caretakers must keep RVVA up-to-date with all phone numbers, addresses, and emails.
- I understand caretakers are required to supervise students at all times.
- I understand caretakers must provide internet and computer access to students.
- I understand that online coursework is difficult and may require additional time outside of a regular school day.
- I understand that the GPA for students in grades 9-12 is calculated with RVVA students only; therefore, students do not participate in the Top 40 or VBHS class ranking.

River Valley Virtual Academy

School-Parent Compact

NOTE: Each school receiving funds under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must develop a written school-parent compact jointly with parents for all children participating in Title I, Part A activities, services and programs. That compact is part of the school's written parental involvement policy developed by the school and parents under section 1118(b) of the ESEA. The compact must outline how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve Arkansas's high standards.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The River Valley Virtual Academy and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education ACT (ESEA) agree this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve Arkansas's high standards. *This school-parent compact is in effect during the 2023-2024 school year.*

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

River Valley Virtual Academy will:

1. **Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet Arkansas's student academic achievement standards as follows:**
 - Providing high-quality, virtual curriculum that is responsive to the needs of each student.
 - Providing a flexible learning environment that meets the needs of each student.
 - Providing a blended learning environment that supports student online and one-on-one.

2. **Hold Parents-teacher conferences (at least annually) during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement. Specifically, those conference will be held:**

October 17 th & 19 th	3:30-6:30
March 12 th & 14 th	3:30-6:30

3. **Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:**

- *Due to the nature of the River Valley Virtual Academy, parents and students will have immediate reports for their student. Reports are available 24 hours a day in the learning platform.*
4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:
- River Valley Virtual Academy will provide access to staff by providing ongoing communication with parents and students. River Valley Virtual Academy will communicate with parents by using Remind 101, email, text messages, newsletters, and/or Zoom conferences.
5. **Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class and/or observe in the classroom.**
- ❖ Parent Information Sessions throughout the school year
 - ❖ Open House
 - Virtual
 - ❖ 2 parent/teacher conferences
 - ❖ Report to the Public
 - TBD
 - ❖ Band/Choir Nights at VBSD Schools
 - ❖ Meet the Coach—Athletic Nights
 - ❖ School Newsletter
 - ❖ Facebook page
 - ❖ Twitter
 - ❖ School Website
 - ❖ Parent Center
 - ❖ Band and Athletic Booster club
 - ❖ Online platform grading system
 - ❖ Remind 101
 - ❖ Teacher Appreciation Week

Parent Responsibilities (Created by Parent Involvement Committee)

We, as parents, will support our children’s learning in the following ways:

- *Support my child by serving as the Learning Coach*
- *Monitor daily lessons and grades*
- *Staying informed about my child’s education and communication with the school by promptly reading and responding to all notices*
- *Attend parent-teacher conferences*

- *Provide a quiet study area for online learning*

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES *(created by River Valley Virtual Academy students)*

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve Arkansas's high standards. Specifically, we will:

- Log in daily to complete work in the online platform
- Communicate with teachers and staff at RVVA about concerns
- Monitor grades each week and discuss with parents and teachers
- Participate in field experiences and volunteer opportunities (4 per year)

River Valley Virtual Academy Parent Volunteer Survey

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Volunteer's Name _____

Relationship to Child _____

Phone _____ Email _____

___ Please contact me for other needs that may arise.

___ I can also assist in other ways (please list below)

We value and need the volunteer time and energy you can give to support our school. As the year progresses and needs arise, you will be contacted. Volunteering makes a difference in your child's academic experiences and in long term success of our school.

After reading the River Valley Virtual Academy student handbook with your child, this page must be signed, dated and returned to school via email or dropped off at school.

Thank You,
Dr. Jennifer Feeny

I have read and discussed the material in this handbook with my child. I understand and agree that my child will abide with the rules and regulations set by the Van Buren School District and the River Valley Virtual Academy.

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____ Grade _____

Release of Information

*I hereby authorize emergency medical services for this student. I give VBSD staff permission to give my child first aid treatment with OTC ointments and pain relieving sprays, cough drops, Band-Aids and bandages. I hereby authorize the Van Buren School District Health Services to share or discuss my child's health issues with any **pertinent** person.*

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

School-Parent Compact

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ Principal Signature: _____

Van Buren School District Field Trip Permission Slip

This signature of permission will allow your child to attend any field trip sponsored by the school district. You will receive information regarding specific field trips. If you do not want your child to attend a specific field trip, you will need to notify the school.

I give my child _____ permission to attend field trips with their school

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Media Release

The Van Buren School District Requests signature permission to use your child's name, recognizable picture or video image in any district approved media releases. Throughout the year, student pictures may be used in different media formats (social media posts etc..) in an effort to make the public aware of positive things occurring in the schools.

I GIVE permission to use my child's name, recognizable picture or image in any VBSD media release.

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

I **DO NOT** give permission to use my child's name, recognizable picture or image in any VBSD media release.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____