



# **2021 - 2022 Program Guide**

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## Welcome

Welcome to the 2021 - 2022 school year at 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.

## Contacting Connections for Support

- Connexus Technology Support 1- 844- 597-3224
- WebMail assigned teachers in Connexus
- 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](http://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. Students will sign-in and out when attending the virtual academy.

## 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 meet with the RVVA Coordinator for enrollment.
- RVVA students must take a minimum of 7 courses unless approved by RVVA Coordinator.



## 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 WebMail in Connexus 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 scheduled within the Planner.
- 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

- Absences for students enrolled in River Valley Virtual Academy courses shall be determined by daily student login. If a student fails to login, they will be counted absent. A student shall not be counted absent if all required assignments are completed on time as scheduled in the online platform.
- 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 (Pearson Connexus).

## 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 online through Connexus. Report cards are available online.

## High School

- **Smart Core**
  - Students please refer to Board Policy located at [www.vbsd.us](http://www.vbsd.us)

- **High School Diploma**
  - Students please refer to Board Policy
- **Graduation Requirements**
  - Students please refer to Board Policy
  - RVVA students will participate in graduation ceremonies with the Van Buren High School and IZARD Center for Learning.
- **GPA**
  - Students please refer to Board Policy
  - 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 courses at VBHS if the course is not offered at RVVA. A course catalog can be located on the Van Buren High School website.

### **Field and Volunteer Experiences**

- Field trips and volunteer experiences are scheduled four times a year. Students are required to participate in field trips and volunteer experiences. If a student chooses not to participate in field and volunteer experiences, families will need to make-up the experience and report volunteer or field experience to RVVA.

### **Personalized Learning Plans**

- Students in grades K-12 will create Personalized 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](http://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 who check-out an RVVA computer must return the computer twice per month.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade and all students in 8<sup>th</sup> 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 nutritional snacks (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.

### **Frequently Used Terminology**

- Caretaker- Users in Connexus are assigned the Caretaker role and may be responsible for such tasks as; marking student attendance, tracking progress on student assessments, making changes to the student's Planner and Scheduler, and making changes to the student's account, which affects enrollment and withdrawal.
- Connexus- The registered term that describes Connections Education's online education management system that connects us. It is the virtual system that contains all resources necessary for its various types of uses to complete their daily task and responsibilities.
- Course Tree- The outline that appears adjacent to the lesson viewer. It lists all unit and lesson titles in each course and links to the associated content and assessments.
- Drop Box- The tool students and Learning Coaches use to submit portfolios electronically.
- Learning Coach- The Connections Education term used to describe the role that a parent/guardian plays in the student's educational experience. The only difference between the Learning Coach and Caretaker role is the Caretaker's authority to make decisions regarding enrollment and withdrawal.
- Live Lesson Session- Connections Education's virtual meeting space that allows teachers to create and lead interactive, real-time classes.
- Planner- The Connexus tool that is similar to an electronic date book, showing and providing access directly to a student's scheduled lessons.
- Scheduler- The Connexus tool that Learning Coaches and teachers use to customize how lessons are distributed on a student's Planner. The scheduler is the heart of the Individual Learning Plan.
- WebMail- This secure, internal electronic mail system within Connexus is used by school-based staff to communicate with students and Learning Coaches.
- Academic Support Session- Weekly work session with Support Teacher at the River Valley Virtual Academy.

RVVA Program Guide Updated July 2021

**River Valley Virtual Academy  
Parent Involvement Plan Summary  
2021 - 2022**

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	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

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	31	

Grading Periods

Grading Period 1: Aug. 16 – Oct. 14 (43 days)  
 Grading Period 2: Oct. 18 – Dec. 17 (40 days)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Semester – 83 days

Grading Period 3: Jan 4 – Mar 11 (48 days)  
 Grading Period 4: Mar 14 – May 26 (47 days)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester – 95 days

TOTAL: 178 Student Interaction Days

Significant Dates

August 16	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School
September 06	Labor Day
October 12	Parent Conf. 3:30 – 6:30
October 14	Parent Conf. 3:30 – 6:30
October 15	No School
November 22-26	Fall Break
Dec 20–Jan. 3	Semester Break
January 04	Second Sem. Begins
January 17	No School
March 15	Parent Conf. 3:30 – 6:30
March 17	Parent Conf. 3:30 – 6:30
March 18	No School
March 21-25	Spring Break
April 15	Good Friday
May 26	Last Day of School
May 30	Memorial Day

**Incliment 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](http://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: April 15, May 27, May 31, June 1 & June 2.

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
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

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					

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	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



# 2021-2022

## 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 Connexus. 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 Connexus program. 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 students are required to participate and document field experiences 4 times per year. (At RVVA or other locations. For example, City Park Clean-Up)
- 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 2020-2021 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 13 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	3:30-6:30
March 1 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	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 Connexus 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, Connexus mail, text messages, newsletters, and 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
    - **September 24 at 9:00 a.m.**
  - ❖ 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
  - ❖ Connexus 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 Connexus
- 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 to help with selections below.

\_\_\_ Please contact me for other needs that may arise.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Ongoing Opportunities

\_\_\_ Field Experiences

\_\_\_ Volunteer Experiences

**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,  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

**River Valley Virtual Academy  
School-Parent Compact**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_