# PROGRAM OF STUDIES

*Information to assist parents and students in understanding the Middle School Curriculum*

## RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

131 Hall Street  
Watertown, WI  53094-4191  
Phone:  (920) 262-1480  
Fax:  (920) 262-1468  
Student Services (Guidance) direct: (920) 262-1494  
Attendance direct:  (920) 262-1488

## ADMINISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Mr. Jason Widiker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Principal</td>
<td>Mr. Nick Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean of Students</td>
<td>Mr. Mike Cunningham</td>
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## STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Counselor</td>
<td>Mr. Jesse Leonhardt</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Social Worker</td>
<td>Ms. Danielle McDonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Counselor</td>
<td>Mrs. Lora Konz</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Psychologist</td>
<td>Mrs. Rebecca Roost</td>
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## SUPPORT STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Services Office</td>
<td>Mrs. Kim Putz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Office</td>
<td>Mrs. Donna Neeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Office</td>
<td>Mrs. Sherrie Loeffler-Tietz</td>
</tr>
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<td>Mrs. Wendy Engelbrecht</td>
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STUDENT SERVICES

There are two professional school counselors providing services to Riverside Middle School students, families, and staff. All students are encouraged to become familiar with the resources available through the Student Services (Guidance) Department.

What does a school counselor do? What are guidance services?

An important part of school counselor's work is to help students, adjust to the middle school. Early in the year you may have questions to bring to your school counselor regarding your experiences with teachers and friends. Later, you may wish to explore topics such as future careers, making and keeping friends, understanding adults, or getting along with brothers and sisters.

The Student Services Department also offers opportunities for small groups of students to meet together for the purpose of gaining an increased understanding of themselves and others, as well as leadership experiences.

The Student Services Department can provide you and your parents/guardians with the information needed to make informed choices and decisions regarding your school program and educational-career plans. Orientation experiences, learning styles education, career interest inventories, and parent-student conferences are offered.

The class schedule you will receive in the fall comes from the Student Services Department. The school counselors are interested in assisting you to select classes and activities within the school to best meet your needs and help you to have an enjoyable, productive learning experience. Classes are selected in the spring, months before the school year begins. You will need to carefully select the classes you are interested in.

There are many opportunities for you to have contact with your school counselor and we urge every student and parent or guardian to contact the school counselor as needed.

We look forward to meeting you!
RMS MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center serves as a center of information for students and staff at Riverside Middle School. The Media Center collection includes books, e-books, magazines, videos, audio-books, and audio-visual equipment. Materials are selected to support the curriculum and personal interests of students and staff. New technologies provide access to information in a variety of ways, including an on-line public access catalog, an automated circulation system, a digital library collection, and Internet access.

Students may visit the Media Center with classroom teachers who reserve the facility to do research or check out books, or they may get passes to the Media Center to do independent course-related work or book selection.

Library Media Specialist oversees the activities of the Media Center, including the library and computer lab. She plans, directs, implements, and evaluates the library program. In addition, she acquires, organizes, and catalogs the collection of book and non-book materials, assists students in learning research techniques, develops and presents book talks, offers help in personal reading selection, and coordinates the Scholastic Book Fair.

Media Clerk provides desk and computer assistance, including book check-out, location of materials, processing materials and equipment, shelving books and maintaining an orderly collection.

It is important that students learn what is available and how to efficiently and effectively use the many information resources in the Media Center. The basic library knowledge acquired in middle school will lead to successful use of more complex libraries, including high school, public, college, and technical school libraries.
7th Grade Program of Study

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 7**
The seventh grade English Language Arts class develops reading, writing, speaking, and language skills within a “Readers/Writers Workshop” format, which includes direct instruction, conferencing, collaboration, and independent practice. Students are taught writing skills with the emphasis on “Step Up to Writing” program. Reading focuses on a variety of genres where students self-select appropriate text and apply reading skills and strategies. Skills and activities are taught in accordance to Common Core State Standards. Students will effectively communicate their ideas through the use of technology to integrate digital skills to prepare them for the 21st century.

**MATHEMATICS 7**
Topics covered in Math 7 include problem-solving, number theory, decimals, fractions, ratio, proportion, percent, pre-algebra, statistics, graphing, probability, geometry and integers. Our mathematics curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Selected seventh graders are invited to take Pre-Algebra 7 based on test scores and 6th grade teacher recommendations. These students should have demonstrated exceptional ability and achievement in math in the past. The topics covered in Pre-Algebra 7 will combine those taught in Math 7 and Math 8 classes and will be taught in depth and at an accelerated pace. Pre-Algebra 7 will prepare students for Algebra as eighth graders, and Geometry or Honors Geometry as ninth graders.

**SOCIAL STUDIES 7**
The seventh grade Social Studies program introduces the students to world history beginning with early man to the Age of Exploration. This course is taught using the Five Themes of Geography: movement, region, human and environment interaction, location, and place. The course involves learning about world history and the cultural influence prior civilizations have had on later civilizations. A variety of activities including mapping skills, vocabulary proficiency, note-taking simulations, computer activities, and many other projects will be used throughout the year to enhance student understanding.

**SCIENCE 7**
The main objective of seventh grade Science is the application of the fundamental principles and concepts of natural science to current topics pertinent to the students’ lives.
Students explore themes in environmental, life, physical and earth sciences. Reading, writing, math skills, discussion, labs, demonstrations, note taking, critical thinking, problem solving, engineering and hands-on inquiry are employed.

**RMS STEM ACADEMY**
Riverside STEM Academy applies principles of Project-Based Learning and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) education for three core classes (ELA, Science, Social Studies) in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. A personalized learning plan helps students identify rigorous learning goals through a combination of targeted projects, direct instruction, online learning, and real-world experiences - all organized in a digital portfolio. Students will solve complex, real-world problems that connect the disciplines of science, math,

(RMS STEM ACADEMY information continued on next page...)
communication skills and other related areas. The future of learning is here!

To enroll or continue in the Riverside STEM Academy, **CHECK THE BOX ON THE COURSE SELECTION sheet.** First-time enrollment will be first come/first served until capacity is reached. Should capacity be reached, a lottery for all **new enrollees** will occur. (A parent/guardian signature at the bottom of the Course Selection form is required.)

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7**

Most physical education classes will be scheduled co-educationally, however, swimming classes will be separated by gender. Boys and girls participate together for most classroom activities. In 7th grade, physical education classes focus on skill development and introduction to lifetime activities. Activities are provided for development of an awareness of fitness levels and coordination skills. Activities are geared toward team play and individual skills. Units covered may include circuit training, cardiovascular conditioning, fitness testing, ultimate Frisbee, lacrosse, softball, badminton (boys), team handball (boys), cross-country skiing (girls), weight training (girls), aerobics (girls), swimming, and track and field. See our PE website for any changes in the current units of study.

A swimming unit is held during 2nd quarter for 7th grade girls and during the 3rd quarter for 7th grade boys. The major objective of the swimming unit is to help each student be safe, comfortable, and improve swimming skills. At this time, suits and towels are provided and laundered by the school.

Each student is expected to participate unless he/she has a doctor’s excuse. Students are required to wear shorts and a plain colored jersey or T-shirt without tobacco or alcohol advertisement (no black or navy blue). Sweatshirts and sweat pants are encouraged for cooler weather in the fall and spring. White socks are preferred for phy. ed. and athletic shoes are also required.

**SURVEY 7: Rotating units in the following:**

* (rotating every seven weeks)

**TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 7**

**Automation and Robotics/ Manufacturing** - This is a hands-on course. We will take an in-depth look at how and why robots are used in our lives. Students will be challenged with learning to design, create and program robots to complete relative tasks. The final project will be to design and build a robot that will travel a certain distance as fast as possible, stopping within five feet of the finish line.

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 7**

Computer Applications is designed to familiarize students with computers and their applications. It will also emphasize the use of computers and technology throughout their high school, college, and future careers. Students will learn fundamental concepts of computer hardware and software and become familiar with a variety of computer applications which may include: word processing, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, and multimedia presentations.
7th Grade Program of Study

HEALTH EDUCATION 7
In 7th grade health, students will increase their knowledge on current health issues and will apply skills in order to promote a healthy lifestyle. Students will learn skills to allow them the ability to make positive decisions, set goals, communicate effectively, analyze influences, access valid health information and advocate for personal, family and community health. Units of study will include personal care, first-aid, nutrition, human growth and development, prescription drugs, alcohol, and current health issues.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 7
Makerspace/Fashion - “Hands on” learning happens as you work at projects which may include a woven heart basket, back sack, pencil case, and book mark. Students will develop and/or improve their skills in reading a ruler, following directions, operation of a sewing machine and sewing notions, transferring a pattern, laundry basics including sewing on a button and ironing a shirt.

ART 7
The goal of this survey class is to continue to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills through two-dimensional and three-dimensional experiences. Studio-based projects will help develop skills in perceiving, creating, and responding to artwork. Units included: two-point perspective, ceramics sculpture and the pinch construction technique, ceramic surface decoration techniques, and a two-dimensional unit that focuses on using the elements of art, principles of design and compositional techniques to creatively communicate as an artist.

MUSIC ENSEMBLES
BAND 7
Band 7 is a music performance class designed as a continuation of Band 6 at RMS. Students entering Band 7 must have completed one or more of the following: participation in Band 6 at RMS; participation for one or more years in a similar Band program in a different school district; or one year or more of private instruction with a professional instructor that has a strong background on a band instrument.

During the school year, students will continue with instrument instruction and learn to play as a performing group (band). Students will be involved in several concerts and musical experiences throughout the year and attendance at these events is required.

Students are encouraged to take private lessons and participate in summer instruction throughout their performing years. Participation in the RMS Summer Band Essentials in August is recommended and highly encouraged.

ORCHESTRA 7
Orchestra 7 is a music performance class designed as a continuation of Orchestra 6 at RMS. Students entering Orchestra 7 must have completed one or more of the following: participation in Orchestra 6 at RMS; participation for one or more years in a similar Orchestra program in a different school district; or one
(Orchestra continued...) year or more of private instruction with a professional instructor that has a strong background on a string instrument.

During the school year, students will continue with instrument instruction and learn to play as a performing group (orchestra). Students will be involved in several concerts and musical experiences throughout the year and attendance at these events is required.

Students are encouraged to take private lessons and participate in summer instruction throughout their performing years. Participation in the RMS Summer Orchestra Essentials in August is recommended and highly encouraged.

CHOIR 7
Choir 7 is a music performance class designed for students in grade 7. Students enrolling in Choir 7 should have a strong desire to sing, improve vocal technique and learn a variety on unison, two-, three- and four-part vocal music. Students will be involved in several concerts and musical experiences throughout the year and attendance at these events is required.

ELECTIVE WHEEL CLASSES
Students not taking a Music Ensemble will have classes on an elective wheel, which will rotate every twelve weeks. Classes will include:

CULTURES - Explore different cultures and holidays in the world.

HEALTHY LIVING - Learn how proper nutrition and exercise helps keep you healthy and full of energy.

CURRENT EVENTS - Discuss the major current events and topics that shape our lives. What’s going on in the world TODAY?!
THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Taking part in the student activities program promotes a sense of responsibility and is a means of self-identification, creating new interests along with developing a given talent. The obligations of teamwork and cooperation with fellow students will become a part of the student's development.

These activities advertise through announcements before and/or after school, or posters in halls and on bulletin boards. In addition, daily announcements are posted on our school web page. [http://www.watertown.k12.wi.us/schools/riverside/rms_dailyannouncements.cfm](http://www.watertown.k12.wi.us/schools/riverside/rms_dailyannouncements.cfm)

YEARBOOK CLUB

The Yearbook Club meets approximately once a week from September to February. Its objective is to publish the Middle School Yearbook. The students work on publicity for the yearbook. Some of them will be responsible for taking candid and group pictures, using the school's camera. They will do layout work for the yearbook and have it ready for press in February.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council has an “OPEN” council structure, which allows students who meet the following requirements to be a member of student council:

1. Successfully complete the application, evaluation and interview process
2. Conduct yourself in such a manner that shows RESPECT for yourself, others and the property of others, at all times (in and out of school).
3. Follow all school rules.
4. Encourage others to conduct themselves in a manner that makes Riverside Middle School a wonderful place for all students, staff, and visitors.
5. Maintain a “C” or higher average in all classes.
6. Attend and actively participate in student council meetings and activities.
7. Attend a workshop in September.

Any violation of the above requirements will jeopardize the student’s eligibility to remain on student council.

ART CLUB

Art Club meets Wednesdays after school throughout the school year to work on special projects like wall decorations, posters, and scenery for theater productions. Students may also work on their own “special” art projects and enter art contests.

FORENSICS

Students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades are encouraged to join the forensics team. This extra-curricular activity offers students a chance to better their oral communication skills. Drama, storytelling, reading, and original speeches are among the choices offered to both boys and girls.
RMS DRAMA / THEATER
Any student interested in some aspect of drama should take advantage of the opportunity offered at RMS. During the spring of the year, interested students will be involved in producing a play, or musical. There will be opportunities for acting, set design, set production, costuming, and choral groups as well. Information will come to the students in early January with specific detail for the season’s production.

SkillsUSA / LEGO LEAGUE / SUPERMILEAGE/ ELECTRATHON
The Middle School’s premiere STEM organization offers many opportunities to apply your Science, Technology, Engineering and Math courses into fun real-world projects. These organizations open to 6th grade through 8th grade students at Riverside Middle School, and run year round in several formats.

• **FIRST Lego League** is a short season running from September 1st through late November. Teams of 6-10 students form to design, build, program, and test robotics made from Lego Mindstorm Kits. These robotic projects are software controlled to complete various tasks. This group meets at Riverside Middle School twice a week and culminates with a Regional Competition on a Saturday in Mid-November.

• **Supermileage and Electrathon** begins in December and ends with two competitions in April/May. Students are teamed up to design, build and test small cars powered by Briggs & Stratton Engine for Supermileage and electric motor for Electrathon. Students are doing the work from welding, machining, cutting, fabricating and driving. This group meets up at the Watertown High School metal shop weekly. No prior experience in a shop is required- all skills will be taught during work nights.

• **SkillsUSA** runs from September 1st through August. This organization gives students the opportunity to compete in various areas against their peers across the state. SkillsUSA offers leadership training, skill training, community service, and fundraisers. SkillsUSA is the parent organization to these other groups and runs 6th through 12th grade with an alumni association to follow graduation. Competition areas include: CO2 Dragsters, Problem Solving, Job Interview, Prepared Speech, Urban Search and Rescue Robotics, and much more! Skills USA students are able to compete at Districts, Regionals, and State in Wisconsin.
**INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

FALL - Volleyball may be offered for 6th grade girls. Practices are held in the early-evening hours during the week (students should return to school by 5:00 pm) and possibly some Saturdays.

FALL/WINTER - Intramural basketball is offered for 6th grade boys and girls. The boys’ season is during the first semester, with the girls’ season after the holiday break. Sixth grade basketball practice is held in the early-evening hours, after 7th /8th grade practice times. Students should return to school by 5:00 pm.

**INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS**

Riverside is a member of the Rock River Middle School Athletic Association. Seventh and eighth grade boys and girls compete in the following sports, with two exceptions including 6th graders:

FALL - Girls’ volleyball, Boys’ and Girls’ Cross-Country (this sport includes 6th graders)
WINTER - Boys’ basketball, before the winter break.
Girls’ basketball and Boys’ wrestling (this sport includes 6th graders), after the winter break.
SPRING - Boys’ and girls’ track and field (this sport includes 6th graders)

**For all athletic activities, the following must be met:**

No athlete may participate in any sport activity until the coach receives a participation form from the Athletic Secretary. A copy of the participation form will be issued to the coach for each athlete after the following items are turned in to the Athletic Secretary, Mrs. Engelbrecht, in the Main Office:

- a) Current physical exam on file
- b) Signed athletic participation form (by student and parent)
- c) Payment of $25 RMS athletic fee (for interscholastic sports)
- d) Signed Concussion Form

Note: If your student plays Youth Football, please get a copy of their sports physical for RMS; the Youth Football program does NOT pass them on to the school, since they are a separate entity.