

TWO RIVERS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

BACK TO SCHOOL WELCOME PACKET

4TH ST. ELEMENTARY

2021-2022



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BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST

Families should complete all required and appropriate items prior to Fall 2021.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Purchase | <input type="checkbox"/> Updated Crew Approach to Health and Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Supply List | <input type="checkbox"/> Updated Two Rivers' Recovery Framework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activate ParentSquare: new communications platform | <input type="checkbox"/> *AlphaBEST Before and Aftercare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immunization and Medical Records | <input type="checkbox"/> *Parental Medicaid Consent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Permission to Administer Medication | <input type="checkbox"/> *Free and Reduced Lunch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Remote Learning Certification | |

*denotes optional items

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DEAR FAMILIES OF TWO RIVERS 4TH STREET,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year! I am so delighted to be the newest member of an already amazing team. Whether you are a new family or a family returning to Two Rivers, we welcome you and are excited about you being a member of the 4th Street Crew and our amazing learning community. We value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

In an earlier communication, I introduced myself as the new principal to Two Rivers at 4th Street. I also introduced you to two familiar faces of Two Rivers who have different roles this year. Our beloved fourth and fifth grade teacher [Ms. Antoinette](#) will be our new [Assistant Principal of Instruction](#) and our adored second and third grade teacher [Ms. Rachel](#) will fill our new [Assistant Principal of Culture](#) role. I would additionally like to introduce you to another member of our Leadership Team who will be a familiar face, but in a different role this year: [Ms. Shanon](#), formerly our Student Support Coordinator, will be partnering with the school leadership team, teachers, and families to strengthen equity and access for students with diverse learning needs in her new role as [4th Street's Campus Director of Special Education](#).

Our team has been working hard to ensure that when students enter our doors on day one, they will feel safe and, while we may be doing things differently to protect our community, reassured they are coming back to the Two Rivers that they know and love. We will continue to use our mission to guide our work here at Two Rivers: *To nurture a diverse group of students to become lifelong, active participants in their own education, develop a sense of self and community, and become responsible and compassionate members of society.*

Soon staff members will join us for August orientation, where we will dive deeply into connecting with one another and our mission, vision, and core values to prepare for the year ahead. As you may have read in Two Rivers' [Recovery Framework](#), we have added additional crew members to further support all of our students and help them to come back to a safe place where children are seen and known. Families and students will have a chance to connect with their Crew Leaders during Family Conferences on August 26-27.

Below you will find information about changes you can expect to see upon your return at the end of August. If you have any questions about the information below please feel free to contact us at any time.



Facilities Update

The neighborhood in which our school is located is changing quickly. As a result parking, arrival and dismissal may look different than years past. The arrival window will remain from 8:15am-8:30am. We will be using each building's main entrance, as well as a side entrance to allow for the safest and most efficient transition to classrooms as possible. There will be a staff member at each entrance to greet your child and help escort students to their crew. All families should continue to drop students at the front of both buildings in a designated drop off lane. From there, crew members will escort them to the specific entrance designated for their crew.

At the end of the year, students participated in the design of a new outdoor recess space, which will be located on the rooftop of our Upper School building at 1234 4th Street (the former Middle School building). We were anticipating that that space would be ready at the start of school; however, due to several setbacks, construction has been delayed. We hope to be finished in late fall. Prior to the beginning of construction, we will notify families that construction has started and provide any other information families may need regarding this process.

Student Placement in Crews and Classrooms

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2021-2022 school year. Careful consideration was taken from students, staff, and families, as well as social distancing guidelines.

With these considerations in mind, and the additional space we acquired in the Upper School, you will see a change in class sizes and numbers. Instead of our traditional two classes per grade, we are now able to support three cohorts in the following grades: preschool, kindergarten, and second through fifth grades. In fourth and fifth grade we will have three departmentalized cohorts.

Crew sizes may vary in each cohort based on physical classroom size to adhere to DC's guidance regarding social distancing in schools. From this guidance, students in different classes will unfortunately no longer be able to socialize across grade and school level classes during the school day to limit exposure. In our departmentalized fourth and fifth grade classes, teachers will move from room to room to further minimize any contact between students within classes. With the exception of PE, most of our specials classes will take place within each crew's assigned classroom. Even with all these changes, we can assure you that our classrooms will still be diverse and balanced socially and academically.

More information will be forthcoming around your child's specific crew list as well as how traditional Beginning of the Year Potlucks and Back to School Conferences look. Again, due to local health guidelines, we may need to do this differently than in the past. As soon as we have more information about the dates, times and procedures, we will get that to you! Please be on the lookout for more communication.

I am again very excited to be a member of this crew. I thank each of you for allowing me to captain this boat with you, our students, and all members of our crew. I appreciate each of you and all you have done to help in this transition of leadership. Please know we are always here to help you and your child, so please don't hesitate to call, email or stop by. We are here to support you and your family!

Warmest regards,
Dr. Danielle Hutcherson-Blount
Principal

BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST

FORMS

Uniform Purchases

All Two Rivers students are required to wear a uniform shirt during in-person learning. Uniforms are available for online purchase and on-site pick-up by visiting [this link](#).

National School Lunch Program

Breakfast at Two Rivers is free for all students and Two Rivers participates in the National School Lunch Program, which includes free and low cost options for lunch. We ask that ALL families interested in having their child receive meals through school complete the [Free and Reduced Price Meal Application Form](#) to sign up AND additionally complete this [Meal Preference Form](#) regarding allergies and meal program selection. For families who previously have paid for meals and have a credit in their account, please stay tuned for more information on how that will impact payment for the current school year.

Immunizations and Medical Records

Don't Delay, Schedule Today! In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, it is vital that all students are fully immunized before returning to in-person learning. [No Shots, No School](#) is being enforced by the Department of Health (DOH), which means that students who do not have required immunization records submitted to the school will NOT be admitted to the building to attend school. All students must have an up-to-date immunization certification on file to attend in-person learning. Please note, proof of appointment will no longer be accepted.

Additional information concerning immunization requirements for the 2021–2022 school year is below.

- [School Immunization Guide](#)
- [District of Columbia Immunization Policy](#)
- [DC Pediatric Immunization Locations](#)

Students additionally need to have their required health certificate and dental records up to date - students who have a missing record have been notified. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Jacobs at medical@tworiverspcs.org.

OPTIONAL FORMS

Remote Learning Certification

Medically exempted students only.

The District of Columbia is currently requiring all students to learn in-person this school year unless they are medically unable to do so. The District has provided for a "medical exemption" to allow for remote learning that can be submitted for each semester of school. Accordingly, at this time Two Rivers will only offer remote learning for students who have a medical need to learn remotely due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE) has defined medical need to mean: "A student's physical or mental health condition requires the student to participate in distance learning due to coronavirus (COVID-19). This medical certification is required for any student registering for distance learning for the 2021 22 school year due to COVID-19."

Families of a students who is medically exempted from the in-person learning requirement must complete two steps:

- Complete [this brief form](#) by WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11TH.
- Submit to Two Rivers a [COVID-19 MEDICAL CONSENT & CERTIFICATION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING form](#) by TUESDAY, AUGUST 24TH.

Both of the above steps are critical to Two Rivers' ability to qualify and serve your child in a remote learning posture for the first semester of this year. If you plan to seek an exemption for multiple children, please complete the form for each child separately. You can send any questions to medical@tworiverspcs.org

Permission to Administer Medication

If your child needs to take medication during the school day, please use [this form](#) to detail your student's medication and/or medical procedure plan to be administered at school and return it to the the school nurse or medical@tworiverspcs.org. The School Nurse will contact you to arrange medication/medical supply drop-off. For multiple needs, complete multiple sheets.

Parental Medicaid Consent Form

Special education students only.

If your child receives special education services please review and complete a [Parental Medicaid Consent Form](#) to ensure that Two Rivers can receive appropriate federal reimbursements for certain health related services provided pursuant to your child's IEP. Examples of health related services for which Two Rivers may be reimbursed include the following:

- Audiology Services/Assessment
- Behavioral Support Services
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy/Assessment
- Speech-Language Pathology Services/Assessment
- Orientation and Mobility Assessment
- Physical Therapy Services Assessment
- Psychological Evaluation
- Skilled Nursing Services
- Special Education Transportation Services

IMPORTANT READING

Two Rivers' Recovery Framework

In June 2021, we released a framework for recovery that centers on “4 R’s”: Re-Entry, Re-Engage, Re-Empower, and Re-Challenge. Please read the updated framework [here](#).

A Crew Approach to Health and Safety

Based on changes in COVID-19 guidance from the District, we have modified some of our policies from June. Please read the updated policies [here](#).



SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

REMINDERS:

School supplies at Two Rivers will **NOT BE SHARED** among all students this school year with the exception of sanitizing wipes, paper towels, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, disposal mask and facial tissue.

We recognize that some families in the Two Rivers community will not be able to purchase supplies and others may be able to purchase extras. Please contribute what your family is able to towards classroom supplies.

Preschool and Prekindergarten

- 1 package of washable markers
- 2 packages of crayons
- 2 glue sticks
- 2 packages of baby wipes
- 3 boxes of facial tissue
- 4 rolls of paper towels
- 4 canisters of sanitizing wipes
- 4 bottles of hand sanitizer
- 1 box of disposable masks
- 1 full change of weather appropriate clothes, labeled



Grades K-1

- 2 packages of pencils (at least 12)
- 1 package of rectangular pink erasers
- 2 packages of crayons
- 2 packages of washable markers
- 2 packages of colored pencils
- 1 package of dry erase markers and eraser
- 2 solid color (1 blue, 1 red) folders with pockets (no designs)
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 box of disposable masks
- 3 boxes of facial tissue
- 4 rolls of paper towels
- 4 canisters of sanitizing wipes
- 4 bottles of hand sanitizer

Grades 2-3

- 2 packages of pencils (at least 12)
- 1 package of rectangular pink erasers
- 2 packages of colored pencils (at least 12)
- 1 package of washable markers
- 1 box of dry erase markers and eraser
- 2 wide ruled, black composition books
- 4 solid color (1 blue, 1 red, 1 green, 1 yellow) folders with pockets (no designs)
- 1 box of disposable masks
- 1 glue stick
- 3 boxes of facial tissue
- 4 rolls of paper towels
- 4 canisters of sanitizing wipes
- 4 bottles of hand sanitizer

Grades 4-5

- 2 packages of pencils (at least 12)
- 1 package of rectangular pink erasers
- 2 packages of colored pencils (at least 12)
- 1 package of washable markers
- 1 package of dry erase markers and eraser
- 1 package of wide ruled filler paper
- 2 wide ruled, black composition books
- 4 solid color (1 blue, 1 red, 1 green, 1 yellow) folders with pockets (no designs)
- 1 glue stick
- 1 box of disposable masks
- 2 boxes of facial tissue
- 3 rolls of paper towels
- 4 canisters of sanitizing wipes
- 4 bottles of hand sanitizer



Grades 6-8

- 1 backpack (large enough for binder)
- 1 durable binder (3-ring, 2 inch or bigger)
- 7 binder tabs/dividers
- 1 homework folder, 3-hole punched
- 1 package of college ruled filler paper
- 1 college ruled, black composition book
- 1 package of post-it notes
- 1 box of disposable masks
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1 pencil pouch for binder, which includes:
 - 1 pencil sharpener that catches shavings
 - 1 eraser
 - 1 highlighter
 - 1 package of ink pens (blue or black), two pens for each month
 - 2 packages of 12 pencils
 - 1 package of colored pencils (at least 12)
- 1 box of dry erase markers and eraser

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Elementary School at 4th Street and Young arrival window begins at 8:15 AM. The school day begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 3:15 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. School begins at 8:30 AM and end at 1:15 PM every Wednesday.

The Middle School arrival window begins at 8:00 AM. The school day begins at 8:15 AM and ends at 4:15 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. School begins at 8:15 AM and ends at 1:15 PM every Wednesday.

6G and 7G: NorthBay dates have changed to October 12-15.

August

- 25-27 Summer Bridge
- 30 First Day of School

September

- 6 Labor Day-school closed
- 7 North Bay Parent Meeting

October

- 8 Professional Development Day-no school for students
- 11 No School
- 12-15 Northbay
- 14 EL Education Night

November

- 9 Professional Development Day-no school for students
- 9 School Culture Night
- 10-12 Family Conferences-early release for students
- 24-26 Thanksgiving Break
- 29-30 Book Fair

December

- 1-3 Book Fair
- 13-14 Community Showcase at Young
- 15-16 Community Showcase at 4th Street
- 22-31 Winter Break-school closed

January

- 3 Professional Development Day-no school for students
- 4 Students Return from Winter Break
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday-school closed

January continued

- 21 Middle School Artspedition
- 22 Middle School Science Fair
- 27 Math Festival

February

- 3-5 Family Conferences-early release for students
- 4 Specials Night
- 14-18 Share the Love Week
- 21-25 Mid-Winter Break
- 28 Professional Development Day-no school for students

March

- 7-11 Latin Dance Competition
- 10 Literacy Night
- 17 Evening of Learning Seminars
- 25 Professional Development Day-no school for students

April

- 11-15 Spring Break-school closed
- 22 Spanish Night

May

- 16-17 Community Showcase at 4th Street
- 18-19 Community Showcase at Young
- 27-31 Middle School Musical
- 30 Memorial Day-school closed

June

- 1-3 Middle School Musical
- 13-15 8th Grade Crew Identity Trip
- 15-17 Family Conferences-early release for students
- 17 Last Day of School
- 17 8th Grade Graduation

ALPHABEST BEFORE AND AFTERCARE



Welcome, Two River Public Charter Schools Families!

Before & After School for PreK - 6th Grade
2021/2022

LOCATIONS:
At Your Child's School



For hours, rates, and to register online:
www.alphabest.org/tworivers

Our program meets the needs of today's families. We give all students a place where they feel connected, can decompress from a long day of learning, and have a blast while experiencing quality daily enrichment activities not found in other after school settings.



Scan me



Snacks
Daily Fitness Activities

Art, Robotics, Coding, Drama,
Sign Language,
World Languages & Culture,
Homework Help and much more!

Quality caring staff who
love our students!
Flexible schedules to meet the
needs of today's working parents.

Area Manager: Sean Rice **Contact: srice@alphabest.org**

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

GREETINGS TWO RIVERS FAMILIES,

My name is Fatima Graham and I am incredibly excited to return to Two Rivers this year in a new role as Student and Family Empowerment Coordinator! I have worked with the Two Rivers community for a total of five years, including three years as the Dean of Students and Families at Two Rivers Young. I truly enjoyed working closely with Two Rivers' students and families, who made my time as a dean deeply fulfilling.

This year Two Rivers is excited to introduce my new network role of Student and Family Empowerment Coordinator as a way to support and empower families at Two Rivers, partner with school-based leadership to support student success, and connect families with internal and external resources for extended support.

As the year begins, I will be supporting work that started over summer to re-envision the Two Rivers Parent and Staff Association (PSA) with PSA leaders and parents who are helping us to strengthen and focus the role of the PSA in building community and connecting families with our schools. In the meantime, our parent leaders are jumping in to help support a successful start to the year at each of our schools. You'll be hearing more about opportunities to be a room parent and participate in the PSA soon, and our parent leaders are currently connecting with school leaders on some back-to-school family traditions that are hallmarks at Two Rivers!

I am truly excited to take my knowledge and experience as a dean, commitment to the Two Rivers mission, and passion for empowering our community, to steer the work in this new role.

As we charge forward during these uncertain times, I am committed to coming alongside you in support and partnership this upcoming school year!

Yours in service,
Ms. Fatima

"Unity is strength...where there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."
- Mattie J.P Stepanek



PARENTSQUARE

Introducing our school's very own parent app!

Stay connected from anywhere with our

online portal and **parent app, ParentSquare!**

Get all school notifications in one place.

View only what's relevant to your student.

Never miss out again!



Smart Alerts!

Get school wide announcements at your fingertips.



One Tap Participation

For volunteering, conferences, event RSVPs, payments, permission slips and more



Two-Way Communication

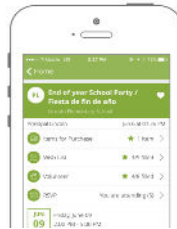
Send & receive real-time messages directly with teachers and administrators.

How ParentSquare Works



1. Teachers & staff share school-related news on ParentSquare.

2. Parents receive, respond & sign up, and get automated reminders!



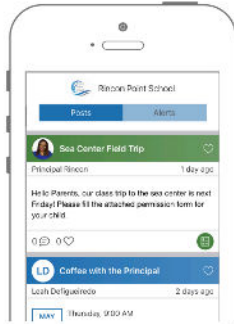
3. Everyone has easy access to all interactions in one place.

Get Started in 3 Easy Steps!

1. Download the free iOS or Android mobile app.

2. Log in with your email or phone registered with the school.

3. Start receiving posts relevant to your student.

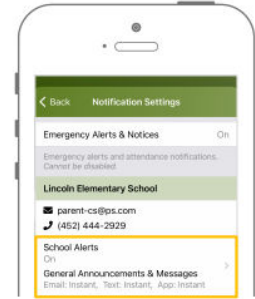


Choose Your Notification Preferences

1. Tap the '☰' icon at the top left corner. Tap 'Account' and then 'Preferences'



2. Tap 'Notification Settings'



3. Select how you'd like to be notified

How to Make Sure You Stay Connected



Activate your account & login.



Set your notification preferences in ParentSquare.



Make sure the school has your correct email AND mobile phone number.



COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

As we enter the 2021-2022 school year, we want to introduce and remind you about all the wonderful ways you can stay in touch and engage with the Two Rivers Community. We have three main communication channels for you to get involved:

ParentSquare

Our new "all-in-one" family communication app. This will become our primary communication source for families to stay connected, updated, and in touch with teachers and staff.

Two Rivers Website

We have a brand new, redesigned website! Our website remains a network-wide source of information and resources and includes campus-specific pages, the staff directory, the history and mission of Two Rivers, and the Two Rivers' blog. www.tworiverspcs.org

Social Media

Have you given us a follow yet? Our Instagram accounts are sources for bonus content! We celebrate joy throughout the schools, highlight student learning, and share information about community events. [@tworiversPCS](https://www.instagram.com/tworiversPCS)

PARENTSQUARE

- Primary communication source
- Alerts, Updates, Newsletters
- Classroom-specific information

Teachers Staff ↔ Parents Families

WEBSITE

- Network information source
- Staff directory, History and Mission, Two Rivers' Blog
- Network-wide resources and information

Two Rivers Information ↔ Staff Families

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Additional information and highlights
- Celebrating joy, student work, and community stories
- Network and campus profiles

Bonus Content ↔ Two Rivers Community

CONTACT INFORMATION

4TH STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Danielle Hutcherson-Blount
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