

TWO RIVERS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

BACK TO SCHOOL WELCOME PACKET

MIDDLE SCHOOL

2023 - 2024



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BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

Families should complete all required and appropriate items by August 15

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Supply List | <input type="checkbox"/> Schoolwide Allergen Alert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Purchase | <input type="checkbox"/> *Permission to Administer Medication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immunization and Medical Records | <input type="checkbox"/> *Apollo Before and Aftercare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tech Agreement (New Families Only) | <input type="checkbox"/> *Parental Medicaid Consent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NorthBay Info Session (6G Only) | <input type="checkbox"/> *School Lunch Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Bridge (6G Only) | <input type="checkbox"/> *FSA Sign-up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elective Sign-up (7G and 8G Only) - DUE AUG. 4 | |

*denotes optional items

LETTER FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR TWO RIVERS FAMILIES,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you Back to School as your new Executive Director! It is an honor and a privilege to take on this role of steering and guiding our Two Rivers Boat! Each and every member of our CREW is working extremely hard as we prepare for another excellent year of learning and growing together. As an EL Education school, you have joined a group of educators who will do all in their power to ensure your child's success in our three dimensions of student achievement: Master of Knowledge and Skills, Character, and High Quality work. Focusing on these dimensions

Next year we will celebrate *twenty years* of keeping our mission and goal at the forefront of all that we do. In the lead up to this remarkable anniversary, you will notice us doing two things:

1. Reflecting on what it means to provide culturally responsive instruction that is rigorous and prioritizes student voice and produces excellent and equitable outcomes for all students.
2. Building Crew as a full network by strengthening relationships within schools, across schools, and throughout Two Rivers with staff, families, and students to collaboratively, efficiently, and effectively make progress toward achieving our goal.

I am thrilled to be working with a group of individuals who I know are deeply engaged in our success. I know our instructional team is hungry for continued growth and support in meeting the high expectations we have set for our student outcomes. We have taken this feedback to heart and are committed to ensuring staff have what they need for them to be successful so that our students will be successful.

As a seasoned school leader, I have already witnessed the deep love and care that our faculty and staff have for Two Rivers students. As I prepare to drop off my two young adults at college this fall, I am reminded how much trust we as parents put in the institutions our children attend as we watch them mature and grow up. Working together as CREW, not passengers, I am confident our Two Rivers community will reach new heights as we evolve. Let the adventure begin!

Yours in partnership,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Belicia B. Reaves".

Mrs. Belicia Reaves
Executive Director
Two Rivers Public Charter School

LETTER FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

DEAR TWO RIVERS MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES,

Welcome back to an exciting school year at Two Rivers Middle School (TRMS), where we proudly embrace our identity as the home of the Sharks! As we dive into the new academic year, I am thrilled to share with you our 2023-2024 priorities and the implementation of key programs aimed at fostering a strong crew culture and providing rigorous learning experiences for all our students.

At TRMS we're dedicated to creating an exceptional school experience for our students. Our mission is *to nurture a diverse group of students to become life-long, active participants in their own education, develop a sense of self and community, and become responsible and compassionate members of society.* With [EL Education's Core Practices](#) and a passionate team of educators, we are prioritizing crew and cultivating a thriving learning environment for all this school year.

Building a Crew Culture

We take special care in organizing our student crews for students and this serves as your child's "home base" each morning. Each crew is led by two wonderful co-leaders, who start each morning at 8:40 with a warm and welcoming spirit. We believe that in creating this sense of community and consistency our students will be set-up for success. You will receive your child's crew list the week of August 7th via ParentSquare.

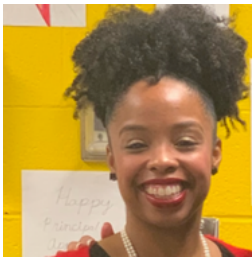
We believe in the magic of community and the heartwarming connections that families bring. This year, we're excited to introduce the concept of "crew parents" to make these bonds even stronger. Think of them as your friendly neighborhood connectors! Just like room parents, our amazing crew parents will be there to bridge the gap between the school and families, making sure everyone feels involved and supported. These crew parents will team up with our dedicated crew leaders to create wonderful activities and events that will make you feel like you're part of a big, loving family. We can't wait to see the smiles and joy our crew parents will bring to the TRMS community!

Furthermore, we are implementing a behavior-response system that will be transparent to both families and students. This system will provide clear expectations, celebrations and consequences to help us commit to our core values and scholarly habits. By establishing a consistent and fair approach, we are confident that we will strengthen our crew culture, where students feel supported, valued, and inspired to reach their full potential. Together, we will build a community of learners who embody our school's values and contribute positively to the world around them.

LETTER FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Meet Your Leadership Team

I am pleased to introduce our exceptional leadership team who will be working closely with our dedicated staff to ensure a successful school year!



Ms. Ashley Stone
Principal

Ms. Ashley describes middle school as a musical composition that involves blending the melodies of student experiences and challenges to shape a masterpiece.



Mr. Derrick Miles
Interim Assistant Principal
Mr. Derrick describes middle school as the LIVELY junction between elementary and high school.



Ms. Maggie Fatovic
Director of Special Education
Ms. Maggie describes Middle School as a journey of self discovery through a maze of endless possibilities.

Over the summer, Ms. McKenzie joined our 4th St. ES Leadership Team where we are excited for her to strengthen our students' readiness for Middle School earlier in their TR journey. Fortunately, Mr. Derrick will be continuing in the interim role he jumped into last school year while we make a permanent hire before the start of the school year. We are excited to have Mr. Derrick join our school of Sharks!

Our Instructional Team

We are starting this year with a fully staffed team, consisting of experienced educators who are dedicated to your child's success. Our teachers and support staff will be equipped with tools and strategies to understand and address the unique needs of the middle school brain. We are confident that our collective efforts will create a safe and stimulating learning environment where every student can thrive.

Learning Environment

To enhance the academic growth and preparation of our students, we are adding the following instructional initiatives this year.

PSAT (8G)

First, we are excited to announce that all 8th grade students will have the opportunity to take the Preliminary SAT (aka "PSAT"), providing valuable insights into their college and career readiness. This experience will help our students familiarize themselves with the test format and content, setting them on a path toward success in high school and beyond.

LETTER FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Accelerated Math (7G)

Furthermore, we are introducing accelerated math instruction starting in seventh grade. This program will challenge and stretch our students' mathematical abilities, ensuring they have a solid foundation for advanced coursework in 8th grade and high school.

Expeditions - Science and Social Studies

We are committed to providing a well-rounded education for our students. To achieve this, we will offer both science and social studies year-round for ALL grade levels. This continuous exposure to these subjects will deepen students' understanding and foster a love for lifelong learning.

We are thrilled to incorporate Amplify, an innovative learning platform, into our science curriculum this year. Amplify will strengthen our science expeditionary learning experiences, engaging students in hands-on, activities that encourage critical thinking and problem-solving. Through Amplify, our students will explore the wonders of the natural world and develop a deep appreciation for scientific inquiry.

Arts Electives

Students in 6th grade will get exposure to all the Arts over the course of their academic year; however, for students in grades 7th and 8th, we want to honor student choice by allowing students to choose their arts electives. Please have your child rank their arts class preferences using [this form](#) by Friday, August 4, 2023.

Uniforms

Wearing uniforms fosters a sense of unity and equality among our students and promotes a focus on academics and character development. With the intention of strengthening unity at every grade level and for promoting student safety, we have carefully refined our uniform policy to ensure that students are in their designated grade-level areas. We kindly request your support in fostering our core value of “learn better together” by helping your child understand and adhere to the new uniform expectations. Here is how we have adjusted our uniform policy to help promote unity and safety at each grade level:

SY 23-24 Update – Uniform Colors

6th Grade – Green

7th Grade – Blue

8th Grade – Orange



With our new uniform expectations, we also understand and respect the need for student voice and ownership, so students will have planned “dress down days” the last Friday of each month that will be earned by each crew. In addition to modeling what “readiness” to learn looks like at middle school, we are looking forward to the ways we will celebrate success with students this school year.

LETTER FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Student Arrival & Dismissal

We need your partnership with timely arrival! As you prepare for the new school year, we encourage your family to determine a consistent arrival plan for your child and help them adhere to the following expectations:

School Hours and Arrival

School starts for students at 8:30am and students are considered late at 8:40am. Students are not permitted inside the main building prior to 8:30 am unless supervised by an adult and/or enrolled in our before care program - Apollo.

Early Arrival - Homework Help Hours

If students arrive early (between the hours of 8:00am–8:30am), they should report to the gym (through the side gate). During this time, students will have the opportunity to eat breakfast and engage in study hall.

Dismissal

School is dismissed for all students at 3:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and 1:30 pm on Wednesdays. Wednesdays are an early release day for all 'Two Rivers' campuses to allow for staff development. Students are not allowed to walk off campus and return after dismissal hours. After 3:30pm, it is important that all students report to their designated after school spaces. *All independent walkers, must have written permission from their parents or guardian and the permission of a school administrator before being allowed to walk independently home or to use public transportation.*

Before and aftercare is available for middle school students this year through Apollo Afterschool. We look forward to providing a wealth of afterschool opportunities such as clubs & extracurriculars through Apollo, as well as, a variety of sports and athletics. For fees and enrollment, see the Apollo flier contained in this Back-to-School Packet.



LETTER FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Staying Connected

Our goal is to meet and/or reconnect with all of our families before the first day of school.

- Our first opportunities to connect as a school family will be at **SummerBridge** (6G & New to Two Rivers Families Only) and three opportunities for **Family Lunch & Learns** during Family Conference days - August 23rd-25th. You can find more information about Summer Bridge in this welcome packet.
- The **Beginning of the Year Potluck** will take place on **Thursday, August 24th**. More information about this exciting event will be coming soon!
- **Family Conferences** will take place during the afternoons starting on Wednesday, August 23rd through Friday, August 25th.
- During the school year, we will offer various opportunities for families to connect with other families and school leaders through our implementation of *monthly* parent cafe sessions (evening), *monthly* coffee chats with the principals (morning), and family conference days.
- We encourage all families to stay connected and involved in their child's education. We will utilize ParentSquare to keep you informed about important announcements, events, and school updates. On ParentSquare, you can expect weekly updates on Tuesdays from our leadership team in the "Principal's Corner" of the weekly Trib. Additionally, each grade-level team will send monthly newsletters for grade-level updates.

Just like sharks, we are constantly moving forward and always seeking opportunities to learn and grow. From the first day of school, we'll be circling our goals, aiming to make a splash in every subject and leaving a lasting mark. We are excited that you are a part of our Crew!

Here's to a shark-tastic school year!

In partnership,

The TRMS Leadership Team



Ms. Ashley Stone
Principal
astone@tworiverspcs.org



Mr. Derrick Miles
Interim Assistant Principal
dmiles@tworiverspcs.org



Ms. Maggie Fatovic
Director of Special Education
mfatovic@tworiverspcs.org

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

REMINDERS:

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 can towards classroom supplies.

Grades 6-8

- 1 - agenda book (provided by school)
- 1 - 3-ring, 2" binder w/ zipper
- 1 - 7-subject binder tabs/dividers
- 1 - 3-hole punched, solid-colored folder (for home-to-school communication)
- 2 - marble composition notebook (for science lab)
- 1 - 3-subject spiral notebook
- 1 - 3-hole punched pencil pouch for binder
- 1 - additional 3-hole punched pouch for binder (for personal hygiene products) - optional
- 1 - pack each of blue/black ink pens
- 1 - large pink eraser
- 1 - pack of glue sticks
- 2 - packs of 24 count-#2 pencils (pre-sharpened at home or mechanical)*
- 2 - package of post-it notes*
- 1 - pack dry erase markers*
- 2 - box(es) of tissue*
- 1 - pack of graph paper (for 8G Algebra I only)*
- 1 - pack of 4 count multi-colored highlighters*
- 3 - packages of loose leaf filler paper*
- 1 - pack of 12-count colored pencils

***Note:** The items indicated (*) will be collected by the teacher on the first day of school for the crew community.



UNIFORMS

Uniform Sales

Two Rivers' uniform policy is intended to generate a feeling of unity, while allowing students some personal choice. Students are required to wear a Two Rivers uniform top at all times while in the school building. However, students may wear any bottoms they choose as long as they are appropriate in length and design. Please closely review the Student Dress section of the forthcoming Family Handbook for additional dress guidance, including details about dressing for weather, footwear, and loaner uniforms.

Uniform pricing starts at \$7 for short-sleeve Two Rivers T-shirts, which come in a variety of colors. Two Rivers will be selling uniforms at the Young Campus (820 26th Street NE, on the Green), at the following times before the start of school:

- Thursday, August 10, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
- Saturday, August 12, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Tuesday, August 15, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 23, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- Thursday, August 24, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- Saturday, August 26, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

For families purchasing uniforms during one of the above onsite dates and times, payment can be made in the form of cash, credit card, or debit card. If you need financial support to purchase your child's uniforms, please email your assistant principal.

Uniforms will not be sold during the first week of school; however, the Two Rivers online store will reopen on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Look for information via The Trib on ParentSquare for updates.

SY 23-24 Update – Uniform Colors

6th Grade – Green

7th Grade – Blue

8th Grade – Orange



If you are in need of financial support with purchasing uniforms, please reach out to your school leadership team via email or ParentSquare before school starts.

SCHOOLWIDE ALLERGEN ALERT

Greetings Two Rivers Middle School Families,

As we prepare for the excitement of a new school year, we wanted to make you aware of important information regarding food items which will not be allowed, due to student and staff's severe allergies. If the child or adult accidentally ingests these foods, they will swiftly enter life-threatening anaphylaxis. Per our family handbook, "we will do what is medically required for students with food allergies, up to and including banning specific foods from classrooms."

The following food items will not be permitted at the Middle School:

- **Peanuts (including any foods containing peanuts, like granola bars or candy)**
- **Sesame (including any foods containing sesame, such as hummus and seaweed snacks)**
- **Cashews**
- **Pistachios**

In addition to ensuring your child does not bring the above food items to school, we ask that you also help reinforce that we do not share food at school. This helps us prevent any possible allergic reactions that may arise in the event a child accidentally ingests an allergen. Two exceptions to the no-sharing policy include potlucks and birthday celebrations. Please ensure any food items brought in for a potluck do not contain the above allergens. If you wish to bring a treat for your child's birthday, please ensure there is enough for everyone in the class.

Children suffering from food allergies are too often bullied by peers, who sometimes do not take their condition seriously. To learn more, and find resources about how to talk to your child about food allergy bullying, visit <https://www.foodallergy.org/resources/bullying-prevention>.

If your child has any allergies to food, please contact our Director of Special Education, Maggie Fatovic at mfatovic@tworiverspcs.org. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe and inclusive. "We are crew, not passengers!"

Sincerely,

Ashley Stone
Middle School Principal

BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST

REQUIRED FORMS

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 up-to-date with required immunizations. All students must have an up-to-date immunization certification on file with Two Rivers. Please note, proof of appointment will no longer be accepted. Schedule your child's doctor visits now or send forms from recent appointments ASAP - your child's pediatrician will be able to provide the forms we need. You can find the required immunizations [here](#). Submit all forms and questions to medical@tworiverspcs.org.

Arts Electives Selection (7G and 8G Only)

Students in 6th grade will get exposure to all the Arts over the course of their academic year; however, for students in grades 7th and 8th, we want to honor student choice by allowing students to choose their arts electives. Please have your child rank their arts class preferences using this [form](#) by Friday, August 4, 2023.

Tech Agreement for TR Learning Devices [New Families Only]

It's critically important that if your child needs to access their learning remotely, that we are able to lend them a device. New families, please fill out one form per child: [Use and Responsibility Agreement for TR Learning Devices](#)



BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST

OPTIONAL FORMS

Meals at Two Rivers

We are excited to have a new meal vendor - [Whitson's Culinary Group](#) - whom we selected with the help of a team of student tasters!



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. (If you need a paper form, please email Chris Headecker at cheadecker@tworiverspcs.org.) 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.

Families can purchase meals at our [uniforms and meals online store](#).

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

Students with disabilities 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. The form can be turned in at your school's front desk. Examples of health related services for which Two Rivers may be reimbursed include the following:

- Audiology Services/Assessment
- Behavioral Support Services
- Occupational Therapy/Assessment
- Speech-Language Pathology Services/Assessment
- Mobility Assessment
- Physical Therapy Services Assessment
- Psychological Evaluation
- Special Education Transportation Services

Before and Aftercare Enrichment Need Based Scholarships

Currently Apollo is applying to participate in OSSE's Childcare Voucher program with Two Rivers. While they apply, Two Rivers is partnering with Apollo to offer need-based scholarships for families who are eligible for the OSSE childcare voucher program. We are additionally coordinating with Apollo and their enrichment partners on need-based scholarships for the added vendor enrichments. To indicate your interest in being considered for financial support with before/aftercare, please send a message to your school leadership team or asteinle@tworiverspcs.org.

IMPORTANT READING



Two Rivers Culture

At Two Rivers we are guided by the motto: “We are crew, not passengers.” Building a sense of crew means students are fully seen, understood, and valued, and learn to fully see, understand, and value others. This enables them to be active participants in making their community a place where everyone can learn and achieve excellence. For more details, please visit our [website](#).

Five Scholarly Habits

At Two Rivers, our vibrant student culture is undergirded by five habits of mind, called [Scholarly Habits](#), that all students thrive to master. We ask that families familiarize themselves with these same habits so that they can notice and celebrate them at home!

Three Dimensions of High-Quality Student Work

From its infancy, Two Rivers has remained a proud member of the EL Education network, which now serves over 400,000 students across the US with research-proven resources and equitable outcomes. [High-quality student work](#) is a fundamental aspect of student success (along with character-building referenced above) and is defined by work that is complex, well-crafted, and authentic.

Family Handbook

The Family Handbook serves a foundational document in introducing families to Two Rivers and in building a community that is centered on the mission. The 2023-24 edition will be available in early August. Last year's version can be accessed [here](#).

Commitment to Anti-Racism

Since our founding, Two Rivers has sought to nurture a diverse group of students. In recent years, we've explicitly committed to a journey to become an anti-racist organization — recognizing and celebrating both our differences and commonalities; integrating the experience and perspectives of people of color throughout our curriculum; and having courageous and empathetic conversations about race and racism with one another. Read more on our [website](#).

SUMMER BRIDGE

Greetings Middle School Families,

We are absolutely thrilled to extend a warm invitation to all sixth-grade students, as well as any students new to our Middle School, to join us for a special Summer Bridge Program on August 18, 2023. The event will take place in the Two Rivers Middle School Gym from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

This year's Summer Bridge promises to be an incredibly enriching experience for all newcomers to Two Rivers Middle School. While wearing the TR Uniform isn't mandatory, we kindly request all students to adhere to appropriate dress standards during this program.

Our dedicated team of Crew Leaders and staff is excited to meet each of you and provide valuable insights into our school's community expectations and academic standards. We believe in the significance of preparing together for the upcoming school year, fostering a supportive environment where students can thrive academically and socially.

Summer Bridge is an exceptional opportunity for students to connect with their peers and staff, forming strong bonds and creating a sense of belonging within our school community. We emphasize the importance of this program in setting the right tone for a successful school year ahead. It's not just about getting acquainted with our school; it's about laying the foundation for an incredible journey of learning and growth.

We encourage all new students to join us for this essential event and embrace the chance to embark on an exciting educational adventure. Together, we will build a solid foundation for your academic success and personal development.

If you have any questions about Two Rivers Middle School Summer Bridge Program, email Derrick Miles, Interim Assistant Principal, at dmiles@tworiverspcs.org. We look forward to welcoming you all to the Summer Bridge Program at Two Rivers Middle School. Let's make this a memorable experience filled with camaraderie, knowledge, and fun!

Sincerely,

Ashley Stone
Principal, Two Rivers Middle School

Derrick Miles
Interim Assistant Principal, Two Rivers Middle School

YONDR PROGRAM

Dear Middle School Families,

We will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called **Yondr**. Yondr has been implemented in over 2,000 schools across 16 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores your child's phone/smartwatch. Every student will secure their phone/smartwatch in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school, during first period crew . Students will maintain possession of their phones/smartwatch and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day, during closing crew circle.

Yondr recently surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behavior
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at 202-388-3177, or attend one of our upcoming parent meetings where we will share about the adoption of Yondr.

- Summerbridge (family mixer) - August 18th @ 12pm (*6G & new to TR families*)
- Family Lunch & Learn: Option 1 - August 23rd @12pm (*all families*)
- Family Lunch & Learn: Option 2 - August 24th @ 4pm (*all families*)
- Family Lunch & Learn: Option 3 - August 25th @ 12pm (*all families*)

If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please call the main office at 202-388-3177.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school.

Thank you,

Ashley Stone
Middle School Principal

How Yondr Works



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.



Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve their phone.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the main office at 202-388-3277.

What if there is a school emergency?

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is caught on their phone?

The Yondr pouch is the property of Two Rivers. If a student damages their Pouch or is caught on their phone, the school will collect the phone/Pouch and contact the family:

- The parent will come to the school and pick up their child's phone
- AND/OR there may be consequences based on our Progressive Discipline Model*

*Please refer to our Family Handbook for more details

Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.

6G NORTHBAY TRIP

Dear Sixth Grade Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your children in good spirits and eager for the upcoming academic adventures. I am thrilled to announce the much-awaited NorthBay 2023 trip, which promises to be an unforgettable experience for our students.

The dates for this year's NorthBay trip are scheduled from October 10th to October 13th, 2023. As always, NorthBay continues to be a favorite tradition among our middle school students, offering a unique blend of science and adventure on the stunning Chesapeake Bay.

The NorthBay trip serves as a significant milestone in the transition from elementary to middle school, fostering camaraderie and teamwork among our students. It provides an excellent opportunity for personal growth, learning, and building lasting memories.

To ensure that both families and students are well-prepared and informed about this exciting journey, we have scheduled two important family meetings. **The first meeting will take place on September 20th, 2023, followed by the second meeting on September 27th, 2023.** During these gatherings, we will share comprehensive details about the trip's itinerary, safety measures, packing lists, and address any questions or concerns you may have.

I want to emphasize that the NorthBay 2023 trip is entirely FREE for our students, thanks to the generous support from the school and our community. We want every eligible student to have the opportunity to participate in this enriching experience.

Let's embark on this remarkable adventure together, nurturing the growth and development of our children. I sincerely hope to see all of you at the upcoming family meetings as we prepare for NorthBay 2023.

If you have any queries or require additional information before the meeting, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support and guide you throughout this journey. Please feel free to contact me at Derrick Miles at dmiles@tworiverspcs.org if you have any questions.

Warmest regards,

Derrick Miles
Interim Assistant Principal



SAMPLE SCHEDULE

6th Grade Sample Schedule

		Monday, Thursday A-Day				Tuesday, Friday B-Day			
		6A	6B	6C	6D	6A	6B	6C	6D
Block 1	8:40- 9:20	Crew				Crew			
	9:20-9:25	TRANSITION							
Block 2	9:25- 10:00	Math	Social Studies	ELA	Science	ELA	Science	Math	Social Studies
	10:00-10:50								
	10:55-11:00	TRANSITION							
Block 3	11:00-11:20	Drama Art Music	Health PE	PE	PE	Health PE	Drama Art Music		
	11:20- 11:50								
	11:50- 12:10								
	12:10-12:15	TRANSITION							
Block 4	12:15 - 12:30	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
	12:30-12:35	TRANSITION							
Block 5	12:35 - 12:50	Lunch				Lunch			
	12:50-12:55	TRANSITION							
Block 6	12:55 - 2:25	Social Studies	Math	Science	ELA	Science	ELA	Social Studies	Math
	2:25-2:30	TRANSITION							
Block 7	2:30 - 3:10	Lab				Lab			
	3:10-3:15	TRANSITION							
Block 8	3:15-3:25	Closing Circle	Closing Circle	Closing Circle	Closing Circle	Closing Circle	Closing Circle	Closing Circle	Closing Circle

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

6th Grade Sample Schedule - Wednesday *only*

Wednesday A Day				Wednesday B Day			
6A	6B	6C	6D	6A	6B	6C	6D
Crew	Crew	Crew	Crew	Crew	Crew	Crew	Crew
Transition 9:00am-9:05am				Transition 9:00am-9:05am			
Math	Social Studies	ELA	Science	ELA	Science	Math	Social Studies
Social Studies	Math	Science	ELA	Science	ELA	Social Studies	Math
Drama, Art, or Music				Health or Spanish		PE	
Lunch							
Community Meeting							
Clubs/ Extracurriculars							
Closing Circle							

SCHOOL CALENDAR

'23'24

calendar

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

The Middle School day begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 3:30 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. School begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 1:30 PM every Wednesday.

Total number of instructional days is 180.

August

- 18 Summer Bridge
- 24 Back to School Potlucks
- 23-25 Family Conferences
- 28 First Day of School

September

- 4 Labor Day - no school
- 12 NorthBay Parent Meeting (6th grade only)
- 21 Back to School Night

October

- 2-4 NatureBridge (5th graders only)
- 5 Math Festival
- 6 Professional Development Day - no school for students
- 9 Indigenous People's Day - no school
- 10-13 NorthBay (6th graders only)
- 25 Fall Festival

November

- 2 Picture Day at 4th Street
- 3 Picture Day at Middle School & Young ES
- 7-9 Family Conferences - early release for students
- 10 Veterans' Day - no school
- 21 Ms. Brenda's Day of Service
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Break
- 27-30 Fall Book Fair

December

- 1 Fall Book Fair
- 11-12 Community Showcase at Young (tentative)
- 13-14 Community Showcase at 4th St (tentative)
- 18 Early release for students
- 19-30 Winter Break - no school

January

- 1 Winter Break-No school
- 2 Professional Development Day - no school for students
- 3 Students & Staff return from Winter Break

January continued

- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - no school
- 19 Family Movie Night
- 20 Middle School Science Fair (tentative)
- 31 Family Conferences - early release for students

February

- 1-2 Family Conferences - early release for students
- 5-9 Black Lives Matter Week of Action
- 12-15 Share the Love Week
- 13 Family Dance
- 16 Professional Development Day - no school for students
- 19 No School for Students, Staff

March

- 7 Literacy Night
- 11-14 Latin Dance Competition
- 15 Professional Development Day - no school for students
- 18 No School for Students, Staff

April

- 1-5 Book Fair
- 15-19 Spring Break - no school
- 26 Spanish Night

May

- 3 Better World Day (tentative)
- 16 Welcome to Preschool Night (new families)
- 20-21 Community Showcase at 4th Street (tentative)
- 22-23 Community Showcase at Young (tentative)
- 24 Professional Development Day - no school for students
- 27 Memorial Day - no school

June

- 6-7 MS Musical
- 10-11 Field Days
- 12 5th Grade Promotion at 4th St
- 13 5th Grade Promotion at Young
- 12-14 Family Conferences - early release for students
- 14 8th Grade Promotion
- 14 Last Day of School



TWO RIVERS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

1227 4th Street NE · W DC 20002 · 202 546 4477 · www.tworiverspcs.org · info@tworiverspcs.org

FAMILY EVENTS

August 18th

SummerBridge (SB)

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Audience: Students only - 6G and new to TR

During SummerBridge, students will:

Meet their crew learn more about our school-wide expectations, learn more about navigating life at the middle school, and practice their daily schedule.

New Families Mixer (NFM)

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Audience: Parents of students in 6G or new to TR

August 24th

Family Potluck

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Audience: All TR Families (All 3 campuses)

Location: TBD - Details forthcoming from the PSA

During Potluck, students and families will:

Meet their crew leaders and connect as a community by eating and socializing together.

FAMILY EVENTS

August 23rd - 25th

Family Lunch & Learn

Families may choose 1 of the 3-day options to join:

(August 23 - option #1)

(August 24 - option #2)

(August 25 - option #3)

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Audience: TR Middle School Families

Located in the school gym

During this Lunch & Learn, families will:

- *Learn more about our school-wide expectations and look for each grade level.*
- *View their child's schedule and learn more about our middle school-specific initiatives.*
- *Understand our school calendar and the role of a parent at the middle school.*
- *Meet their child's team of teachers and school leaders.*

Family Conferences

(August 23 - option #1)

(August 24 - option #2)

(August 25 - option #3)

Time: Varies; 15 min. Time slot from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. Sign up information forthcoming.

Audience: All TR Middle School families (based on your child's crew)

During Family Conferences, students and families will:

- *Share their hopes, dreams, and goals for the year*
- *Discuss initial expectations with a member of the teaching team or crew leader*

FAMILY EVENTS

September 21

Back to School Night

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Audience: All TR Middle School families

During Back to School Night, students and families will:

- *Engage in an EL lesson together*
- *learn more about our intervention and enrichment model (LAB)*
- *learn more about our grading system*
- *Review each course syllabus*



Two Rivers celebrates turning twenty in 2024!



**Stay tuned for special events to commemorate our upcoming
milestone and showcase how we live our mission.**



Two Rivers Middle School
Presents:

Apollo After School

EXTENDED DAY
PROGRAM



Homework



Enrichment



Fitness



Snacks

Monday

Civics

Starts September 11th

Students will learn about local, state, and federal government, how to investigate and form their own opinions on issues that matter to them, and participate in their own debates and class elections.

Tuesday

Apollo Builders

Starts September 5th

Everybody likes to build! Creating new objects has always been at the core of human existence, and is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling activities for the old as well as the young. In our club, your child will learn many basic building techniques and will be encouraged to put their imaginations and hands to work in making their ideas turn into reality.

Wednesday

Entrepreneurship

Starts September 6th

In Apollo Enterprises, our students will learn how to think constructively about their own cool ideas for creating value, practice some of the steps for making them a reality, and learn about what it takes to keep their young businesses running.

Science Club

Through a hands-on and exciting curriculum, this club will help your child become more curious and have a deeper understanding about how the world works.

Board Games Club

Whether in games of chance or games of skill, board games are an incredible source of fun, social interaction, and mental activity. Students in this club will play many of their favorite board games, and even learn some new ones to teach their parents.

Thursday

Arts & Crafts

Starts September 7th

In Arts & Crafts Club, young Apollo students will learn many techniques to turn their ideas into reality under the guidance of our Apollo staff. Club members will use their creativity and imagination to make many objects for gifts and decorations.

Friday

Young Explorers

Starts September 8th

Students will learn about mysterious rainforests, towering mountains, sweltering volcanoes, exotic cultures, and many other wonders this amazing planet has to offer along with fun travel tips and the great explorers whose daring gave us the maps and charts we take for granted today.

Register Today!



855 - 543 - 7277

Apollo After School

Extended Time For Expanding Minds!

Apollo After School is a comprehensive extended day program. We are dedicated to inspiring children to become lifelong learners and build positive relationships that will help them succeed both in and out of school.

We create a safe, fun and friendly environment for our students through our unique curriculum of physical, intellectual and social activities.



Fun And Engaging
Environment



Healthy And
Nutritious Snacks



Daily Physical
Activities



Daily Homework
Help



Academic And
Enrichment
Activities



Unique Individualized
Approach



Dates:

August 28th - June 15th

Apollo After School does not operate on
school non-attendance days

Sign Up Today!

Registration is open! Enroll by August 18th for an
early registration discount!



855 - 543 - 7277



apolloafterschool.com



/Apolloafterschool

Check us out
on Facebook!

Program fees shall not be refunded or prorated if a child is absent from Apollo ASB regardless of cause.
Acceptable payment methods: Visa, Mastercard, Amex. Apollo reserves the right to cancel activities if registration
falls below required attendance minimum. Late fee of \$25 per week will be applied if monthly rate is not paid on
time. A \$15 late fee will be charged for every 15-minute increment after 6:00pm.

Schedule

7:00 - 8:15	AM: Before Care
1:15 - 3:15	Snack & Activities (on Wednesdays)
3:15 - 3:20	Welcome and Attendance
3:20 - 3:25	Snack Time
3:25 - 3:45	Physical Activities
3:45 - 4:15	Cooldown Activities and Homework
4:15 - 5:05	Enrichment Activities
5:05 - 6:00	Supervised Free Play Latest Pick Up Time

Monthly Rates

Registration fee \$50 or \$25 if registered prior to August 18th

	3 days	4 days	5 days
Before Care	\$87	\$100	\$125
After Care	\$220	\$254	\$318

Extras

Expected/Same-day and Unexpected Drop-in

\$35/\$45



[Click here to check out the video!](#)

Creative and fun

Enrichment classes

**Registration Will
Open on August 21st!**

Dear Families,

Apollo After School is excited to join the Two Rivers Family and looking forward to an invigorating school year!

Aside from offer our the daily enrichment activities included in our program, we are partnering with a great list of organizations to offer additional enrichments that families can add to their Apollo enrollment or purchase separately if they are not an Apollo family otherwise. We are still finalizing details, but wanted to share what's on the horizon and save the date below for a virtual enrichment partner fair.



The Village Music School (Piano/Guitar Classes)

Grades: K-8
Session: Sep 27th - Dec 13th
Price: \$327
Class Day: Wednesday



Wellness Yoga

Grades: PK-8
Session: Sep 26th - Dec 12th
Price: \$264
Class Day: Tuesday

**Other vendors pending
are:**

- **DC Way**
- **Washington Ballet Company**
- **Magnus Chess**
- **iGen**

Join us at the virtual enrichment fair on August 15th at 6pm!*
Link for joining and details forthcoming via ParentSquare.

*The date and time are tentative and subject to change

FAMILY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION WELCOME

Greetings Two Rivers Middle School Families,

On behalf of the FSA (Family School Association), formerly known as the Parent Student Association, it is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to all new and returning families to our school for the 2023-2024 school year!

The FSA is all Two Rivers families; we need everyone's labor to help fulfill our two-pronged role: support school-wide community building and ensure families are key partners in the education of their children. Since the origin of the school, each family in our village is asked to contribute 20 hours throughout the year in any way that works for their schedules, whether chaperoning, assisting with events, and/or assisting the FSA with specified tasks.

According to a study conducted by John Hopkins University, "When families are stakeholders in students' education, there's a positive impact on student success. When families get involved and engaged in their child's education, students are more likely to graduate, earn higher grades, improve their attendance, and go on to college."

We aspire to host monthly events throughout the year for family and community engagement where parents/guardians have a safe space for perspectives to be shared and heard. Please [fill out this quick survey](#) to share how you can support the middle school community.

Middle school years are a very interesting stage of development. This is a time where children are beginning to experience themselves in a way they never have before. For a while, most of them are really unsure of how to accept all the changes that are taking place simultaneously.

As we all are aware, last year was bittersweet. We had challenges from a shift in leadership to challenges with behavior. However, in all, we persevered. We can never change the past, we can only make better decisions in the present that can alter the trajectory of our future. One of those decisions can be for families to be more participative in school activities. We believe that "little victories lead to big accomplishments."



FAMILY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION WELCOME

As we approach the 20th celebration of the Two Rivers network, it is an opportune time to reflect on the very principles that the foundation of the organization was built upon. This is an excellent opportunity to utilize the wisdom we've gained over the years and implement on the way forward.

While intellect is important, studies show that the biggest determiner of success in any area is not intellect, it is the ability to manage one's emotions (Emotional Intelligence). As a village it is important that we take this into consideration when interacting with our children. Patience is the key, both with our children and with ourselves. With your support, we plan to offer programs for families that can assist in the process of cultivating emotional intelligence to help ensure a very successful school year. Our strength is that we all come from very diverse backgrounds which bring in many unique perspectives that we can blend and create greatness!

We are truly excited to embark on this journey together as one CREW! We really look forward to an amazing and successful school year!

Very Best Always,



Hajah Barnes
Middle School
FSA President

Hit us up at MS.FSA@tworiverspcs.org!

PARENTSQUARE

New families can set up their account now or wait for a ParentSquare activation link via email in early August. Returning families should continue to use their same account log-in information from last year. Please note that in late July and early August, the platform will be undergoing data updates and may be temporarily inaccessible.

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

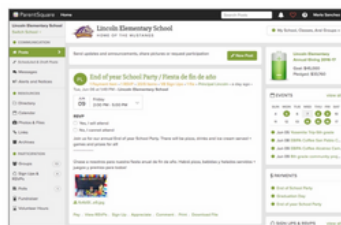
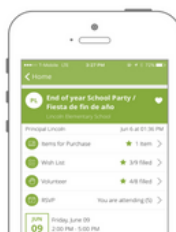
Send & receive real-time messages directly with teachers and administrators.

How ParentSquare Works



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

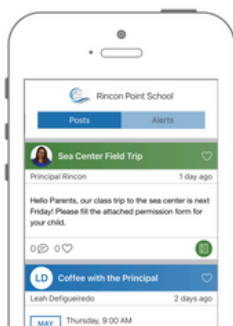
2. Parents receive, respond & sign up, and get automated reminders!



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.

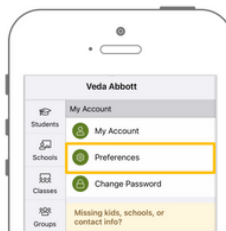


2. Log in with your email or phone number registered with the school.

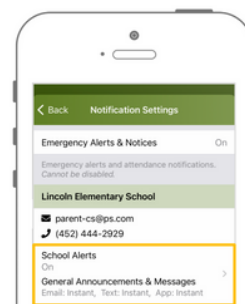
3. Start receiving posts relevant to your student.

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.

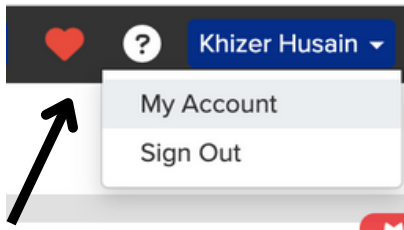


TOP 2 PARENTSQUARE TIPS & TRICKS

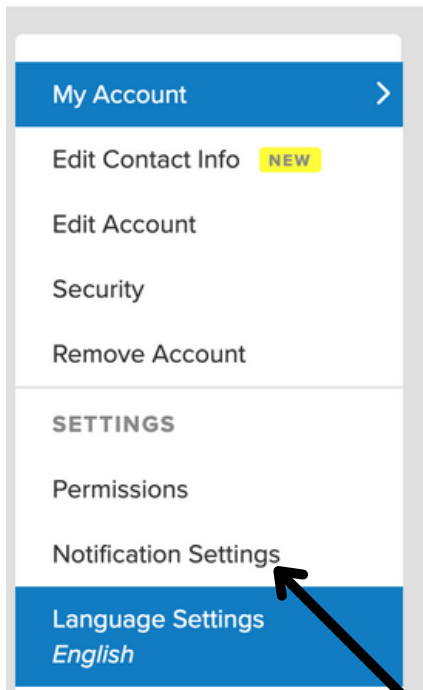
#1: Customize Your Notification Settings

ParentSquare is powerful and can be overwhelming if you do not customize your notification settings. Be sure to set the frequency of posts to "digest" if you want once-a-day posts after close of the business day. Select your preferred language and help others in the community, too. Make directory details (your students, email, phone) hidden or visible for other families at Two Rivers.

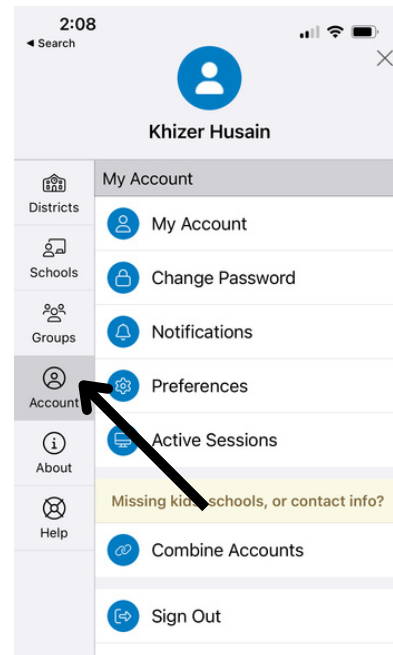
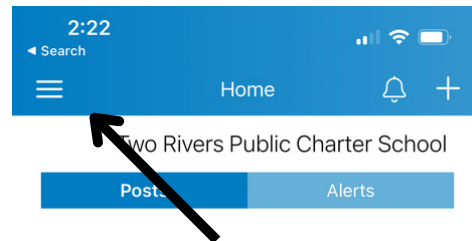
In web portal: Upper right corner



My Account



In app: Go to upper left corner to reveal Account menu

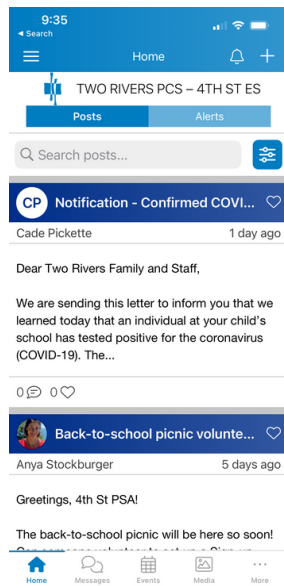


PARENTSQUARE

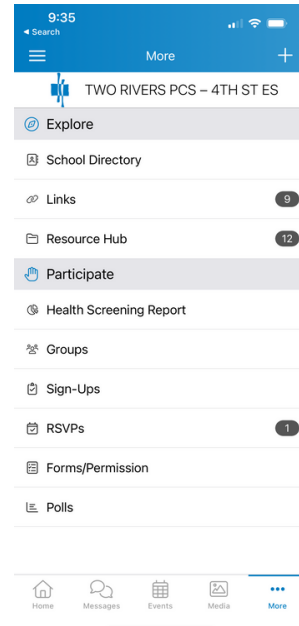
#2 Access "Links" for Key Two Rivers Resources

Need to order student uniforms or lunch? What about the Family Handbook? We have created a set of "hot links" in the app so that you can access information on the go.

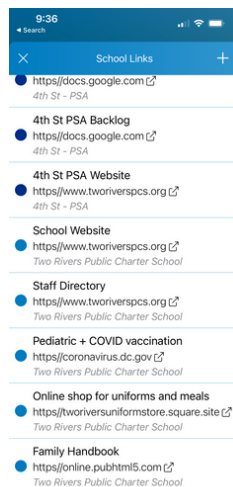
Go to lower right corner to
"More"



Find "Links"



Find a curated list of hyperlinks



COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

As we enter this new 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 stay connected:

ParentSquare

Our "all-in-one" family communication app and web portal. This will be our primary communication source for families to stay connected with teachers, staff, and other families.

Two Rivers Website

Our website presents "the story" of Two Rivers - the history and mission of Two Rivers, learning approach, staff directory, policies, Board minutes. There are also campus-specific pages, which feature student work and opportunities for families to get involved.

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.

PARENTSQUARE

- Primary communication source
- Trib, the TR newsletter, sent every Tuesday
- Links to uniform/meal store, calendar, etc.

www.parentsquare.com/signin

WEBSITE

- Story of Two Rivers, staff directory, calendar
- Policies, Board minutes
- Parent School Association info for getting involved

www.tworiverspcs.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Additional information and highlights
- Celebrating joy, student work, and community stories
- Instagram, Twitter, Facebook

@tworiverspcs

@go.trconnect

CONTACT INFORMATION

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ashley Stone

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Derrick Miles

Interim Assistant Principal

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Maggie Fatovic

Campus Director of Special Education

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MEDICAL RECORDS

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Front Desk Associate

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ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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Executive Director

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Aurora Steinle

Chief of Staff

asteinle@tworiverspcs.org



Asia Bell

Registrar

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