

River Bluff Middle School

Campus E-News - September 6, 2019

Calendar of Events

September

9 STAR Testing in Reading

10 STAR Testing in Math

13 "B" Day

16-20 Homecoming Week

17 Homework Club, 3:20-4:15pm

17 Volleyball @ Oregon, 4:15pm

17 Music Booster Meeting, 6:30-7:30pm

17 5th Grade Orchestra Rental Meeting, 7:00pm

19 Homework Club, 3:20-4:15pm

19 Cross Country @ Waunakee, 4:15pm

19 Volleyball @ Sun Prairie, 4:15pm

20 "A" Day



Greetings from Mrs. Gates

With this first Campus Newsletter we welcome all of our families back to school, and are excited to meet our newest students and catch up with our seventh and eighth graders. River Bluff staff have been working throughout the summer months preparing the building for another amazing school year. Last year we implemented many new policies and practices in our continuous improvement journey. A few of these areas included;

- New Cell Phone Policy, "Away for the Day."
- Remodeled School Library: 21st Century Learning Space
- Enhancements to our PBIS Schoolwide Discipline System
- New Second Step Social and Emotional Curriculum



We are pleased to share with you that this improvement work resulted in many positive outcomes at River Bluff for the 2018-19 school year including:

- 23 % reduction in office discipline referrals, and
- A 5% spring to spring increase in STAR Literacy scores for every grade.

River Bluff takes great pride in creating a school where students can learn in a caring and creative environment. Together our staff encourages students to engage in many ways of learning, and in the most personalized ways possible. We look forward this year to continue to build on last year's efforts and continuously improve our student climate and student achievement in math and literacy. Our goal is to provide a variety of academic and educational experiences that promote student growth and learning throughout the year. Our teachers will regularly collaborate, analyze data, plan instruction, and develop common assessments to ensure student achievement is attained throughout each grade level.

During the upcoming school year I encourage you to take an active role in your child's learning. Parent involvement plays a critical role in our school's success, and we welcome your emails and phone calls. Wishing you a great school year!

Mrs. Gates

[Video of First Day](#)

Sixth Graders Meet "Sir Lutey" at Orientation



PBIS Kick-Off

River Bluff uses a well-researched system to improve overall school climate and individual behavior. This system is called PBIS or Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Our focus is to explicitly teach behavioral expectations and then recognize the positive behaviors shown by students. Students can earn CREW tickets by doing the right thing, which can be turned in to their teachers for special rewards. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a much more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding.

Our building also puts on fun events for students to attend, to increase their engagement with school and the positive climate here. For instance, River Bluff students ended their first week of school by having a PBIS Kick-off Day. This day involved interactive lessons, so all students could learn how to act at River Bluff following the CREW Way. "Choose to be, Respectful of All, engaged in Safety, and Willingly accept responsibility."



Welcome River Bluff's Newest Staff Members



Ms. Beyer

Hi. I am Ms. Beyer and I will be teaching Science for the 8th grade Blue Team. I am very excited to be at River Bluff and look forward to working with this year's eighth graders and the River Bluff staff.



Ms. Atchison

I am Ms. Atchison and I am learning strategist for 6th grade yellow block this year! I graduated from the University of Wisconsin La Crosse in Spring of 2018. I ran track and field as well as played women's Basketball. I love traveling and spending time with friends and family. I am so excited for this upcoming school year!





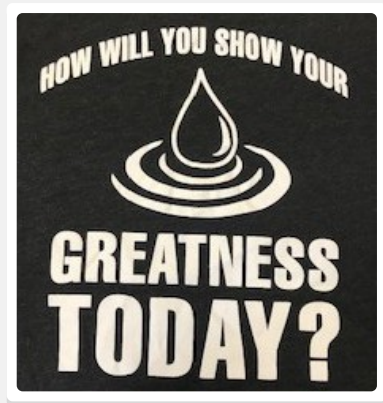
Ms. Koterman

I am Ms. Koterman and I will be teaching Social Studies in Gold Block this year. I am very excited to be working at River Bluff. This is my first year teaching. I graduated from UW-Whitewater December 2018. I am excited to be here and getting to grow with you all.



Ms. Weber

Hello - I am Ms. Weber and I am so glad to be joining the River Bluff Crew as your new Vocal Music Teacher. This is my fourth year as a middle school choir teacher, I spent the last three years teaching in Madison. I am looking forward to learning about you all and making great music this year. Please stop by to say hi even if singing is so not your thing!



STAR Testing Begins Next Week

Please be aware that STAR testing will take place next week. We will be completing the reading test on Monday in Integrated Studies classes and the math test on Tuesday in math classes. Students should bring ear buds on math testing days)TUESDAY unless they are absent that day) so they have the option to hear the portions of the test read aloud.

This is the first of 3 screening windows, designed to monitor student progress. Please help your child do the best they can by ensuring they get adequate sleep and a good breakfast on testing days! We will notify you when results will be available in Infinite Campus, and teachers will share additional information at Parent Teacher conferences.

Student Chromebook Distribution

We distributed student Chromebooks at River Bluff last Thursday, September 5th. When students bring their Chromebook home, it will be important to establish a routine to charge their Chromebook each night so it is fully charged the next day. More information regarding general care and safety of Chromebooks can be found in the handbook located on our website at www.stoughton.k12.wi.us/chromebooks.

If your student did not return their Chromebook and/or charging cord at the end of last year, they did not receive their equipment on Thursday. If you have this equipment at home, please have your student check-in with their Library Media Specialist. If the equipment is lost, please visit your Infinite Campus portal to make payment for the replacement costs.

As a reminder, charging cord replacements can be purchased [HERE](#).

Please speak with Mande Shecterle, Library Media Specialist, if you have any questions.

Paul Vande Hei

Director of Technology

paul.vandehei@stoughton.k12.wi.us

Football Game Expectations for Middle School Students

In preparation for future football games at Stoughton High School, we will continue to take steps to ensure safety at the games and present a more polished look of our community. Please take the time to share this information with the appropriate students of SASD Elementary and River Bluff Middle School to prepare them for the football season. Key items are that: RBMS students will continue to have their own seating section, elementary students are to be accompanied by an adult and information regarding behavior expectations. Thank you in advance of your cooperation and positive promotion of the Stoughton community.



Football Game Expectations for Middle/Elementary School Students

Middle School Section: (Location)

All students will be on the North (home) side of Collins Field

Located East of the Pressbox...on the hilltop behind main grandstand

Students without parent/guardian escort are expected to enter Collins Field through the East (Community) gate

Behavior expectations:

- Be a spectator, be respectful of the game, fans and staff
- Seated on bleachers and/or tables or stand on the grass area provided
- Promote positive cheer support for the Stoughton Vikings "We are Stoughton"
- No footballs, soccer balls, etc. or games in general are not acceptable
- Running, tag games, wrestling, etc. are also not acceptable
- RBMS students without parent/guardians must use MS student section for supervision
- Students with parent/guardians are permitted to sit with parents, but are not allowed wandering throughout Collins Field

Benefits:

Students will have a designated area on home sideline that will have designated MS seating

Students can see the scoreboard, have access to concessions and a better connection of the game as being part of the home crowd

Promotes a more polished public image of the Stoughton Community and provides safety of our students

Tech Reminders

Schoology Learning Management System

In support of our digital learning plan, we implemented a district learning management system called Schoology. Schoology empowers our educators to integrate a more paperless learning environment where all students have an opportunity to extend their learning beyond the regular school day. New

this year, all families will have access to their student's digital classroom through Schoology. Be on the lookout for an email from Schoology for more information on how to access your parent Schoology account.

Securly Filtering

The district uses Securly to filter student Chromebooks while students are at school and home. Securly provides families access to their students online activity at home. Families have an option to add additional internet filters while students use their district Chromebook at home. If you are new to River Bluff, you will receive an email from Securly as the start of school approaches providing information on how to access your parent Securly account. After your account is created, you will receive a weekly digest that will contain browsing history and websites that have been blocked by our filters.

Infinite Campus

The district utilizes Infinite Campus for many processes such as attendance, food service, field trips and other fees. Infinite Campus has alert features that can be set to help support your family's connection to the information and for academic notifications. These features can be set by using the computer version of the program. At the middle school, grades and report cards are also sent out to families via Infinite Campus.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Sometimes, first aid isn't
a **bandage**, or **CPR**,
or the **Heimlich**, or
calling **911**.

Sometimes, first aid is **YOU!**

Someone you know could be experiencing a mental illness or crisis. You can help them.

Mental Health First Aid teaches a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate professional, peer, social, or self-help care. Anyone can take the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid course — first responders, students, teachers, leaders of faith communities, human resources professionals, and caring citizens.

Take the course, save a life, strengthen your community.

Training Provided by:



Date: Sept. 24th and Oct. 1st
5-9 PM both nights
Location: Stoughton Area EMS
516 S 4th St, Stoughton, WI 53589
Cost is \$20.00
To Register: tpellett.swc@gmail.com



District Job Openings

District hiring lifeguards, instructor, cashier at pool

The Stoughton Swimming Pool at Stoughton High School currently has openings for a water safety instructor, lifeguards and cashier. [Click here for the complete list of openings at the pool and more detailed information about each job.](#) Questions? Contact Sally MacLaren-Meuer, Aquatics Program Director, at sally.maclaren-meuer@stoughton.k12.wi.us or 608.877.5627.



District hiring regular, substitute bus drivers

Our District is now hiring regular and substitute bus drivers for our transportation team. We offer competitive pay, flexible hours and the opportunity to work with great kids. No experience? No worries. We will help you get trained and licensed. Interested? Call 608.877.5061.

Ready to apply?

To apply to be a **substitute bus driver**, click [HERE](#).

To apply to be a **regular bus driver**, click [HERE](#).

Other Information/Quick Links

- [Yearbook](#) link Payments will now be made directly to the yearbook vendor. School = River Bluff Middle School, then click Shop The Store
- [District Calendar](#) link
- [Community Events](#) link
- To sign up for the District e-Newsletter, which includes student features, reminders about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, videos, photos and more, [Sign up with this link](#).



RB Staff Shout Outs

If you would like to recognize a River Bluff Staff Member, please fill out the following form. Your recognition will be noted in our staff bulletin. Thank you.

[RB Staff Shout Out](#)






River Bluff Contact Information

Main Office/Attendance: 877-5500

Mrs. Gates, Principal: 877-5501

Mr. Johnson, Assistant Principal: 877-5503

 235 North Forrest Street, Stoug...  608.877.5500
 stoughton.k12.wi.us