

RCMS 2026-27 Student Handbook Changes

Page 9 *Level II - 1-10 discipline points assigned*

Repeated violation of Level I

3 or more tardies

Abuse of Computer/Internet

Foul/obscene language/gestures

Minor vandalism

Skipped detention

Disrespect/insubordination

Inappropriate Physical Contact

Page 11 **TOBACCO AND SMOKING**

The *Board of Education* and the Administration would like to discourage students from the use or possession of tobacco products because of the apparent hazardous effect upon the health of the individual. To eliminate the element of danger, student use or possession of tobacco products is prohibited on the Middle School campus and private property adjacent to school premises. This includes possession or use of electronic cigarettes/e-cigarettes, vapor pens, and **healthy/vitamin-infused vapor pens.**

Page 14 **ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PLACEMENT**

The RiseUp Alternative Education Center is an alternative education program for the Richland County Community Unit School District #1 (RCCU 1). According to program policies and district presentations:

1. **Referral Criteria:** Students may be referred to RiseUp if they are not making adequate progress with behaviors or grades and fail to show growth after standard interventions have been implemented.
2. **Placement Duration:** A placement at RiseUp typically lasts from 9 weeks to 1 school year.
3. **Campus Restrictions:** Students attending the RiseUp program are strictly prohibited from being on other RCCU 1 grounds at any time. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in extracurricular activities, attending extracurricular activities, concerts, and dances.
4. **Program Mission:** RiseUp focuses on providing a specialized, individual learning environment that fosters social-emotional skills, introduces career and technical education, includes students in civil engagements, and helps students complete class hours for promotion or graduation.

Page 16 II Grades

- A. All ~~athletes and cheerleaders~~ **student-athletes** are expected to maintain good grades.
- B. ~~Any athlete or cheerleader that does not have a 2.0 out of a 4.0 grade point average of all classes is not eligible until the grade point average of all classes are brought up to a 2.0 out of a 4.0 grade point average. Failing (F) two or more subjects will make the athlete or cheerleader ineligible. Eligibility will be checked every Sunday and will run from Monday through the following Sunday. Each~~

student-athlete must have a 2.0 grade point average out of 4.0 and not have more than one "F" in all their classes. Grades will be checked at the end of each week by the athletic director. Coaches and student-athletes will be notified by the athletic director of any student who is ineligible for the week. The week for ineligibility runs from Monday-Sunday.

Page 19 Students will be allowed **eight (8) excused absences via parent call-in, including up to five (5) absences for mental or behavioral health illness** each year. All absences after **eight (8)** will be considered unexcused absences **unless a note from a medical professional is provided or the student is checked by the school nurse. Nothing other than a documented illness will be considered excused once a student has reached eight (8) parent call-in absences.** Pre-arranged absences and special circumstances approved by the administration will be excused.

PREARRANGED ABSENCES — Parents should call the office when the dates for such absences are known in advance. The student should then obtain advance assignments from his/her teachers and complete as much work as possible in advance. Any tests missed must be made up after the student returns to class. Credit will be given for work completed. Prearranged absences should be limited.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES — An absence with no parental contact **or after eight (8) excused absences** will be considered unexcused. Truancy and unauthorized absence from school will be classified as an unexcused absence. For each day of unexcused absence, the student will be expected to do the work and learn the material. Credit will be given per Administrative decision, except in the case of suspensions. In this case, the student will be allowed to make up work for full credit.

Page 23 BREAKFAST

Breakfast will be served every school day starting at ~~7:30~~ **7:45** A.M.

Page 25 Students may have a water bottle that closes, containing only water, in their locker. Open drinks or food are prohibited in student lockers. Students are not permitted to have energy drinks during the school day.

Page 27 TITLE I HOME/SCHOOL COMPACT (District-wide)

The Richland County Title I Program envisions the highest level of success for every individual. We make the commitment to motivate, to challenge, and to encourage each student to become the best he/she can possibly be. To accomplish this task, we all need to work together.

Parents -- This school year I will do my best to:

- Read with or to my child on a regular basis.
- Review the papers and notes in my child's backpack nightly.
- Help my child attend school and be on time.
- Keep lines of communication open with the classroom teacher.
- Attend Title I parent/family activities.
- Volunteer as a classroom or library helper.

Teacher/Title I Teacher -- This school year I will do my best to:

- Teach reading and math skills necessary for school success.
- Provide a caring environment where your child will be encouraged to be responsible for his/her own learning and behavior.
- Take into account individual strengths in your child.
- Keep you informed about your child's progress.

- Assist you in helping your child at home.

TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The parent is the child's first and most important teacher. The parents' involvement in the child's education is essential for the success of that child. The Title I program is committed to building a strong home-school partnership with Title I parents.

This partnership will begin and be continually strengthened in the following manner:

1. Notification of Selection and Program Orientation

- a. RCMS has school wide programs designed to assist students by primarily improving their math, reading and writing skills as well as motivating students to be lifelong learners. Students are tested annually. Based on test results and teacher recommendation students are targeted for more direct and explicit instruction. Some students require minimal help while others may have greater needs.
- b. The annual parent orientation meeting will be held to explain the Title I program. This offers the opportunity for parents to ask questions, to provide input into the program, and to meet the Title I staff.
- c. The school handbook states all staff are highly qualified and properly certified.

2. Consultation with Parents

- a. Parent conferences are held at a minimum of once a year and at other appropriate times.
- b. Progress of students is sent home each grading period.
- c. Additional communication will be done when necessary by phone, email or the district communication app (Rooms).
- d. Parents will be encouraged to visit Title I classrooms (RCES only) to see the program in action. Parents are asked to notify the principal to arrange a classroom visit.

3. Educational Opportunities for Parents

- a. Workshops will be provided for RCCU #1 families throughout the school year.
- b. Newsletters will be shared with families throughout the school year containing a variety of helpful hints and information for parents.
- c. A parent resource library is available for parents to borrow educational materials.

4. Evaluation and Assessment of Parent Involvement Program

- a. Parents will be surveyed to assess needs and/or interests for the parent involvement program.
- b. Workshops will be evaluated by those in attendance.
- c. The Parent Advisory Committee will meet at least yearly to provide input, feedback, and evaluation regarding the Title I program and the parent involvement programs and activities.
- d. Parents will be given the opportunity to complete a yearly evaluation/survey.

5. Organization of Parent Involvement

- a. The Title I coordinator, Title I teachers, and the Title I parent coordinator will coordinate, organize, and supervise the parent involvement program.
- b. Parent volunteers may be asked to assist at parent involvement programs or in the school.

6. Parent Involvement Training for Title I Staff

- a. An emphasis will be placed on Title I teachers increasing their knowledge and effectiveness in working with parents.
- b. Title I staff will continually attend workshops and share professional literature on parent involvement.

7. Parent Compacts

- a. A copy of the parent compact is in the school handbook.
- b. Both parents and teachers are responsible and accountable for each child's learning.