

Summer 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome to River Woods School for the 2025-26 school year! I hope you are enjoying your summer learning adventures. The River Woods staff and I are looking forward to greeting our Red Birds in August and living the school vision of **Empowering All Learners to Positively Impact the World** through our inspirational endeavors this school year including our new literacy resource for enhanced learning in all grades!

The 2025-2026 Summer/Back to School Update Information will be found on our [website](#) by hovering your cursor over the “Our School” tab in the middle of the gray banner and then clicking on the “2025-2026 Back to School Update” tab in the dropdown menu. A link to the page is also available on the website’s Back to School Update banner. In the Summer/Back to School Update Information, you will find the School Event Schedule, District Calendar, Home and School Information, Instructions for Viewing Class Assignments, Lunch Information, and Naperville Education Foundation Letter. Please flag these valuable resources for your later reference.

If you are new or returning to River Woods School, several opportunities will be available to you during July, August, and September to meet other families and find out about our school. We will be hosting events for all families and special activities for our kindergarten and new families. Celebrate the new school year through participating in these exciting happenings!

Kindergarten Connections

- To welcome and begin building family connections for our youngest new community members, *Kindergarten Connections* will be held on July 31 from 3:00-5:00pm on the playground. Join the fun of meeting other kindergarteners and their families before the first day of school.

New Family Tours

- On August 6, school tours for new families and incoming kindergarteners will take place from 9:00-10:00am and 3:00-4:00pm. Tours will meet in the front lobby of the school by Door 1. During this time, families will view the school as well as meet other River Woods families and receive answers to questions about our school to assist you with a smooth transition to your new school.

Class Assignments

- Classroom and teacher assignments for kindergarten through fifth grade will be posted through Infinite Campus on August 6, at 3:00pm. Parents will access their child’s classroom assignment via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Visit the [District 203 website](#) and click on the Campus Portal link under Resources. Follow the prompts to create your parent account. If you have difficulty with your account, contact the help desk by email at campusportal@naperville203.org.

Teacher Meet & Greet

- All students and parents are invited to meet their teachers for the 2025-26 school year on August 11. To spread out the crowds at this popular event, families are scheduled to come at specific times based on children’s last names.

Children with Last Names A-L	1:45-2:20pm
Children with Last Names M-Z	2:25-3:00pm

Enjoy this open house style event to meet your child’s teachers, including our specialists, before the first day of school. This is an informal gathering with more detailed information about classroom activities and curriculum during Parent Night/Curriculum on August 21.

First Day of School

- The first day of school for all students in kindergarten-fifth grades will be Thursday, August 14! Instruction for all grades begins promptly at 8:15am with students entering the building after 8:00am. Please make sure that your child is not dropped off prior to 8:00am for supervision by staff begins at 8:00am. Students arriving after 8:15am must use the front door (Door 1) to enter the school. Dismissal for all students is at 2:30pm.

School Supplies

- School supplies ordered online will be waiting for your child in his/her classroom on the first day of school. If you missed ordering school supplies, grade level lists are available on our [website](#). Additional hard to find items such as chair pockets will be available through our Home and School in the office during the first week of school.

Arrival & Dismissal

- Arrival and dismissal at River Woods School are busy times of the day with almost 500 students coming and going at the same time. It is vital that we work together to maintain safe and orderly arrival and dismissal procedures. Students will be entering and exiting the building through assigned grade level doors for the first week of school.

Grade Level Doors for the First Week of School (August 14 & 15)		
Door 4: Kindergarten	Door 6: Grade 1	Door 5: Grade 2
Door 7: Grade 3	Door 3: Grade 4	Door 2: Grade 5
Door 13: All Bus Riders	Door 1: Students arriving after 8:15am or being picked up prior to 2:30pm.	

Grade Level Doors After the First Week of School	
Arrival	Dismissal
Doors 4 & 6: Car Riders & Walkers from River Woods Dr and Apple River Dr	Doors 4 & 6: Car Riders
Door 13 Walkers from across Naper Blvd	Door 8: Walkers to River Woods Dr and Apple River Dr
Door 13 Bus Riders	Door 13 Walkers crossing Naper Blvd
	Door 13 Bus Riders

[Map of Door Locations](#)

If a student arrives after 8:15am, an adult should sign them into school via the office at Door 1. If a student needs to be picked up before dismissal, use the intercom at Door 1, present current identification to the office staff, and then the office team will connect with the classroom teacher. *Please review the River Woods [Parent Drive Procedures](#) and [Traffic Flow](#) on our website carefully in preparation for other safe school routines.

New Literacy Resource Implementation

Bus Transportation

- All bus riders will be met by staff members at the start of the school year to guide children to their grade level classrooms. While transportation information can be accessed in the [Campus Portal](#) starting on August 6 at 3:00pm, please check back frequently, including the day before school begins, as changes can occur in routes, pick-up times, and/or drop-off times. If you need assistance regarding transportation information, call the Transportation Department at 630-420-6464.

Absence Reporting

- If your child must be absent from school, please call the Attendance Line **prior** to the start of the school day at 630-420-6631 for English or 630-548-4517 for Spanish or report via the [online system](#) prior to 7:45am.

New Literacy Resource Implementation

- During the 2025-2026 school year, District 203 will be implementing a new elementary literacy curriculum supported by a Board adopted resource. The literacy resource is entitled *Into Reading*. Our revised curriculum addresses all of the essential elements of literacy, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, handwriting, and grammar. It supports the Illinois Learning Standards and provides a rigorous structure that aligns with the Science of Reading Research. Students will engage with authentic, complex texts that are infused into daily instruction and include both fiction and nonfiction that are connected to rich themes.
- The implementation of this new resource will reflect current best practices in literacy instruction, which emphasize the integration of reading, writing, word study, and comprehension as essential components of a comprehensive and effective literacy block from kindergarten through fifth grade.

- Due to the change of the elementary literacy curriculum being implemented this coming school year, the literacy instruction for our 4th and 5th grade students in the Project Idea (PI) Program will mirror the core literacy block and PI students will engage in a literacy block with the same teacher for both reading and writing.
- To implement this new structure and ensure that all students continue to receive the dedicated support they need, we're strategically utilizing the expertise of additional talented staff members, along with Mrs. Paladino to provide instruction to our students in Project Idea and Honors Math. Mrs. Mask will be teaching the 4th grade PI class this year. Students in Mrs. Mask's class, who are not in PI, will continue to receive high-quality instruction from one of the other dedicated teachers at their grade level. We will share specific details about these assignments as the school year begins. This approach allows us to maintain the high quality of instruction across all critical areas, providing the best possible learning environment for your children. We will be communicating specific information to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade families regarding the specific teachers who will be working with their children for literacy and math instruction as a result of the new structure.

<u>Important Dates for the Beginning of the 2025-26 School Year</u>	
First Day of School K-5	Thursday, August 14 from 8:15am-2:30pm
Parent Gathering	Monday, August 18 from 8:00-8:45am
Parent/Curriculum Night	Thursday, August 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Kindergarten & Grade 1 Parents: 6:00-6:40pm ❖ Grades 2 & 3 Parents: 6:45-7:25pm ❖ Grade 4 & 5 Parents: 7:30-8:10pm
Fall Picture Day	Friday, August 22
Back to School Family Picnic	Thursday, August 28 from 5:00-7:00pm
Fall Ice Cream Social	Thursday, September 18 from 3:00-4:00pm

Thank you for your support and dedication to the River Woods School community. If you have any questions or feedback about River Woods School, please contact me by phone at 630-420-6630, drop a note in the office, or email at gbaumgartner@naperville203.org.

Sincerely,

Gina Baumgartner
Gina Baumgartner
River Woods School Principal

Empowering All Learners to Positively Impact the World!

