

River Rouge School District

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River Rouge, MI 48218

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<http://RiverRougeSchools.org>



THE PANTHER'S EXCHANGE

Vol.1 - Issue 1

Get the Advantage... The River Rouge Advantage!

September 2008

Greetings from the Superintendent - Carlos Lopez, Ed.D.

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers:

I am honored you have selected me to serve as the superintendent of the River Rouge School District. I started work on July 21st and since that time my days have been filled with meeting the many new faces that make up the River Rouge tapestry. I sincerely appreciate the outpouring of support and assistance that many of you have demonstrated during my first week on the job.



As I begin my tenure at RRSD, I have determined that one of the first areas of focus for our school community will be creating a school environment that reflects our values. From the moment people step into our schools they should feel they have arrived at a school that is like none they have ever seen before. In our journey to make this happen, we have entitled this year's theme, Moving from Good to Great. This title was chosen to reflect the beginning of a new school year, a new opportunity for learning in the classrooms, on the athletic fields, in the auditorium, on stage, or any one of the many places students may be during their school days. It also reflects the numerous challenges and opportunities that will emerge for our educators. Finally, it reflects the beginning of a new superintendency, the leader chosen to guide the district in providing the very best educational experience for all River Rouge students.

It is a new beginning for every parent, guardian, or caregiver, as your children enter our schools for a brand new learning experience. Your support, encouragement and enthusiasm allow us to maximize those experiences. Together we can truly impact your child's learning and help each and every child reach his/her potential. As we move into a new school year with new district leadership, we will be refocusing on the school district's vision and goals for the future. The new Strategic Plan will be finalized and shared with all members of the school community, including parents, guardians, and caregivers. This Plan will guide us over the next several years in our quest to become one of the premiere school systems in the state. Inherent to this goal is the success of every student in the River Rouge schools. It is to this end that we pledge our commitment.

Our very best wishes for a successful school year for you, your family, and your children; together we can influence their future.

Sincerely,
Carlos Lopez, Ed. D.

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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
Academic Excellence, District Initiatives, News, Information and Current Events for Students, Staff, River Rouge School District Residents, Stakeholders and Community Members





BOARD OF EDUCATION

William White, President

Board of Education

President.....William White
 Vice President.....Frank Krupinski
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William R. White,
 President, River Rouge
 School Board

September 22, 2008

Dear Community Members

Our school year has begun and we are off to a great start. I would like to first welcome our new Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez, Ed.D. Dr. Lopez was the Deputy Superintendent at the Oak Park School District prior to being hired here in River Rouge. Dr. Lopez brings to the district many years of experience in the educational field. Under his leadership, he will take us from a Good to Great district. Dr Lopez and his administrative team along with district employees, students, River Rouge Citizens and friends of River Rouge worked very hard to recruit students for the River Rouge Advantage.

In addition to Dr. Lopez, I'd like to welcome Mr. Brandon Cox, Principal of Sabbath Middle School and Mr. Nick Palmer, Administrative Assistant at River Rouge High School. We are looking forward to the new and creative ideas Dr. Lopez and his team will bring to the district.

Welcome aboard Dr. Lopez, Mr. Cox, and Mr. Palmer!

Sincerely,

William R. White,
 President, River Rouge School Board

RIVER ROUGE SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY

Chief of Security, Rayfield Rogers Jr.

Security is everybody's business – including you! The River Rouge School District (RRSD) strives to ensure that our schools are among the safest in the country. We pledge to do our part and with your help it will continue to be!

Of course between the staff at the RRSD schools and your adult family, you are safeguarded at home and school. But one tricky area that you need to be especially alert is during your walk back and forth to school.

Here are some ways that you can avoid trouble:

- Walk with a friend.
- Use sidewalks – do not walk in streets.
- Pay attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards. Never cross the street against a stoplight.
- Cross only at crosswalks, and never run into the street in front of cars or between parked cars.
- Avoid shortcuts that place you in isolated areas.

- Do not talk to strangers.
- Do not encourage fights by crowding around those arguing.

You play a part and have the power to help keep you, your friends, and your school safe. So do not skip school where you place yourself in dangerous territory for predators and if you see or learn about anything suspicious, let an adult family member know right away.

Tips of the Month: Jaywalking is breaking the law and is costly. The fine for jaywalking in the city River Rouge is \$125.00 minimum. Think before you walk. Also, the school district maintains a zero tolerance on fighting, and the River Rouge Police will prosecute all persons reported for fighting as civil disturbance.

Remember - Your safety is everyone's responsibility, especially yours!





ANN VISGER ELEMENTARY

Dolores Reid, Principal

PRE-PRIMARY PROGRAMS ***Ann Visger Elementary School***

Latchkey:

6:30 – 8:25 a.m. \$4/day Monday – Friday
3:30 – 6:15 p.m. \$6/day Monday - Friday

Pre-School:

8:25 – 11:25 a.m. FREE Monday – Thursday
11:25 – 3:25 p.m. \$6/day Monday – Thursday

Sunshine Club:

8:25 – 3:25 p.m. \$12/day Friday

Nursery:

8:25 – 3:25 p.m. \$12/day Monday – Friday

There is a \$10 registration fee for the above-listed programs. Payment can be made in the form of a U.S. Postal money order. No checks. Make money order payable to River Rouge School District. You can register for these programs at Ann Visger Elementary School. If you have questions please call Ms. Rosalind Smith at (313) 297-9648.

FLY THE FLAG CAMPAIGN

Ann Visger Elementary School participated in the Fly The Flag Campaign on September 11, 2008 – Students and staff members marched around the school, waved the flags and listened to the song “America” by Ray Charles.

The American flag was displayed on the seventh anniversary of one of our country’s worst tragedies. We do this in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms. Our patriotism has pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn’t take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds.

Along Jefferson Avenue cars and trucks honked their horns and a few residents stopped their cars to take pictures. Everyone seemed to be overcome by the event and very proud to wave the American flag.

MEAP TESTING

MEAP testing will begin soon for Ann Visger students in grades 3-5. The testing window is October 14 – October 30. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has established which assessments will be given on certain days. Parents can help by ensuring that their child(ren) is/are in school daily and on time.

STUDENT ELECTION

The 2nd grade teachers at Ann Visger Elementary School have planned a 2nd Grade Voter Election in the school’s library. Teachers have been teaching their students the election process, the facts about the candidates, and students will have an opportunity to vote in a mock election on Thursday, October 2, 2008.

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE **@ ANN VISGER ELEMENTARY**

A Parent Advisory Committee was established at Ann Visger Elementary School. The next meeting for the Parent Advisory Committee will be held on October 6, 2008. The Downriver Federal Credit Union will sponsor a seminar for parents entitled, Budgeting for Christmas. The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the school’s library. Please come out and join us parents and the community are invited to attend. If you are interested in becoming an officer of the group come out and join us on October 6th. See you there!

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

The Extended Day Program will focus on mathematics, reading, and writing tutoring is being planned for Ann Visger students. It has tentatively been planned for students to also participate in a chess club, reading club, sewing club, arts and craft, and physical fitness class. The Extended Day Program has been tentatively planned for Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. as follows:

Math Tutoring, Chess Club or Physical Fitness - Mondays

Reading Tutoring, Reading Club, Arts & Craft

and Physical Fitness - Wednesdays

Writing Tutoring, Sewing Club and Physical Fitness - Thursdays

An enrollment form will be sent home once the start date is finalized. Stay tuned for further details!!





C.B. SABBATH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brandon Cox, Principal

Sabbath Middle School is off to a wonderful start! The staff is excited.

Students are getting accustomed to the changes that are taking place.

We have great things planned for the rest of the school year.

We have an open-door policy, so come in and see education-taking place first hand.

Some important dates to remember and information to remember

After School Tutoring

Sabbath Middle School will be offering after-school tutoring in reading and math beginning in October.

Community Care

Sabbath School is collaborating with Wayne County Systems of Care and Wayne Metro Community Action Agency to provide services to families such as:

- ◇ Youth and Family Services
- ◇ Summer and After-School Academic Enrichment
- ◇ Personal Enrichment
- ◇ Character Education
- ◇ Counseling

Friday 9/19

Detroit Science Center

Sabbath is hosting a free trip for 8th Grade MEAP students to Detroit Science Center to participate in the "MEAP ME" program. This field trip is designed to review science concepts that will participate in a MEAP rally, scavenger hunt, visit demonstration stations and Sparks Theater Show.

Saturday Academy

Saturday 9/20 9a.m.-12p.m.

We will continue to with our Math, Reading and Writing for students.

Saturday 9/27 9a.m.-12p.m.

The last day for students. Please show up on time.

Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Monday, October 13, 2008.

MEAP Information

MEAP testing will begin on Tuesday, October 14, 2008. It is suggested that the students be well rested and have a good breakfast before testing

New Parent Room

We will have a computer room set up with a Zangle connect where parents will be able to come in and check on the grades and attendance of their student, or to do Résumés and

fill out job applications on-line.

Sabbath School Schedule

Period 1	8:00 – 8:55 a.m.
Period 2	9:00 – 9:55 a.m.
Period 3	10:00 –10:55 a.m.
Period 4	11:00 –11:55 a.m.
Lunch A	11:00 – 11:36
Lunch B	11:41 – 12:17
Lunch C	12:22 – 12:58
Period 5	1:03 - 1:58 p.m.
Period 6	2:03 - 2:58 p.m.

PUPIL ACCOUNTING

Margaret Hunter, Coordinator

The Office of Pupil Accounting welcomes parents and students to the River Rouge School District. We invite you to call anytime to discuss the overall application process as it pertains to enrollment and free or reduced lunch. Approval for enrollment is based on valid documentation; i.e., parent/guardian representation and valid identification, proof of residency, original birth certificate, up-to-date immunization record, physical from physician, last report card/transcript, IEP (when applicable). For non-residents information regarding Schools of Choice, please call our office for more information.

Approval for free and reduced lunch is based on eligibility as it pertains to the number of household members and the applicant's income status. Please note, if you have been

denied free or reduced lunch for any reason, feel free to reapply at anytime; especially if your income status changes. Moreover, parents are encouraged to complete the free and reduced lunch applications even if they do not qualify in order to attain funding for after school programs where criteria for eligibility is based on the number of completed applications.

The River Rouge School District has a mandatory Uniform Dress Code for students in grades K-10. The basic colors are Navy Blue or Black on the bottom with Navy Blue, Light Blue or White on the top. Shoe are to be dark (Black, Brown or Navy) closed toe & heel. Belts are to be dark (Black, Brown or Navy).





RIVER ROUGE HIGH SCHOOL

Tammy Hubbard, Principal

The MCJROTC would like to remind everyone that the Krispy Kreme Donut fund-raiser is October 10-24, 2008.

The World's Finest Chocolate fund-raiser is going on now. The Military Ball is Friday, November 7, 2008. River Rouge High School is hosting the 20 school RRHS MCJROTC Drill Meet on Saturday, November 15, 2008. The U.S. Marines begin "Toys for Tots" November 28, 2008 and this goes until December 21, 2008. The High School ROTC office has an official drop off point for the U.S. Marines. "Toys for Tots" provides toys for underprivileged children. Parent support is always welcome at our drill meet, military ball or any other event. Please come out and support your cadets. MCJROTC welcomes Staff Sergeant McCants to join Gunny Sergeant Robinson

The theme for these year's homecoming was "fun and games". Students enjoyed dressing up for spirit week and participating in games between classes for spirit points. Our homecoming game was against Ecorse, a tradition at RRHS.



SADD, Students Against Destructive Decisions is having Red Ribbon month in October, this coincides with national alcohol awareness month. SADD is sponsored by Lisa LaForest at the high school.

The TV Production / Broadcasting department is looking forward to a new school year. As you can see in this picture, River Rouge High school is privileged to be recognized an operating broadcast studio to go to the Detroit auto show (North American International) free of charge with press credentials. Only twelve high schools in Michigan have a full operating TV studio capable of broadcasting and we are one of the 12 !

This year we will add another digital editing suite to teach our students how the industry edits. Watch us on channel 22 in River Rouge and Channel 20 / 916 in all other cities! We have new shows on at 8pm and 10 each day.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Phil Phillips, Administrative Assistant to Special Services

AN OVERVIEW FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The transition from high school to young adulthood is a critical stage for all teenagers and for students with special needs; this stage requires extra planning and goal setting. Factors to consider include post-secondary education, the development of career and vocational skills, as well as the ability to live independently. The first step in planning for a successful transition is developing the student's transition plan. A transition plan is required for students enrolled in special education who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). In this overview, we will define and describe transition planning and how it can be utilized to maximize your future success.

What is a Transition Plan?

A transition plan is the section of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) that outlines transition goals and services for the student. The transition plan is based on a high school student's individual needs, strengths, skills and interests. Transition planning is used to identify and develop goals, which need to be accomplished during the current school year to assist the student in meeting his post-high school goals.

When Should Transition Planning Begin?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 04) requires that, effective July 1, 2005, in the first IEP that will be in effect when the student turns 16 years of age, his annual IEP must include a discussion about transition service needs. A statement of those needs, based upon his transition assessment and future goals, must then be written into his IEP. IDEA 04 mandates that the annual IEP meeting focus on more specific planning and goal setting the necessary transition services. Factor to be included are: academic preparation, community experience, development

of vocational and independent living objectives and if applicable, A functional vocational evaluation. The agreed upon plans must then be documented in the student's IEP. IDEA 04 also requires that a statement of the student's transition goals and services be included in the transition plan. The school must report to parents on the student's progress toward meeting his transition goals.

What Transition Services Are Available for a High School Student

Transition-related services that are available include guidance counseling, career services, work experience education, and career education vocational courses. Check with your child's special education teacher to see which specific programs are offered.

Who should participate in IEP Meetings where Transition Planning is discussed?

All transition planning meetings should include the student, family members, teachers, and other school staff. According to IDEA, anyone else involved in the student's transition plan must also be invited. This might include representatives from school to work transition programs, local social service agencies, counseling programs, medical providers and advocates.

Parents are key players in the transition planning process. You know your child better than anyone else and can share plans and ideas you and your child have discussed concerning his/her future. You can help by contributing information about your child's life and experiences outside of school. It is important to include your teenager in these discussions and encourage him/her to advocate for their own needs and wishes.



BRAIN-BASED EDUCATION - *Brain based teaching is truly understanding how the brain works through current research and then employing proven teaching strategies and lesson plans in the classroom to cater to the specific needs of the student's brain with the research in mind.*

- **The River Rouge School District Title**

I Brain Camp Completed a 3rd successful year of implementation this August. Brain based activities designed to ensure that both sides our students' brains are actively engaged to maximize learning were used.

- **Extended Time** Title I funded learning activities that mirror "brain camp" are being offered this year, after school, during school, and on Saturdays.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - *Teachers are one of the most important components in the education of our students. As a result, the district remains committed to ensure that our staff receives quality professional development opportunities to ensure effective instruction for students.*

- **PD360 – Professional Development On**

Demand – The district has subscribed to an online professional development program called "PD360." The program provides and opportunity for individual teachers, small groups, or entire staffs to receive training on proven research based education practices at any time. Teachers may use the service at school or at home. This opportunity is funded by Title IIA

- **Math Project** – Math teachers from C. B. Sabbath Middle School will participate in grant program – "Project Making Mathematics Matter (PM3)2 sponsored by Wayne RESA. The project is designed to help teachers transfer increased content knowledge to enhanced classroom instruction and provides on-site support to facilitate the provision of classroom instruction that supports increased student achievement. Mathematics Coaches will provide at-the-elbow support to teachers and guide teachers in the integration of best instructional practices into their classrooms.

ASSESSMENT - *Assessment remains a critical Component In student learning and school improvement. Research has concluded that testing once a year does not provide sufficient evidence to inform many crucial, more frequently made instructional decisions, which has generated renewed interest in formative assessment. As a result, the district is implementing assessment practices to direct and enhance instruction thereby improving student achievement.*

- **CLASS A** - The River Rouge School District has joined other districts in the county and is implementing the "CLASS A" System. CLASS A (Curriculum, Learning and Assessment for Student and School Achievement) is a cutting-edge technology tool that features two powerful capabilities for Wayne County Educators. The system will assist educators to develop pupil assessments aligned with state and national curriculum standards. The system also provides sophisticated performance analysis tools for educators to examine student learning and improve instructional practice.

TRANSPORTATION

Lonnie Draper, Director of Finance and Business

The River Rouge School District will again be providing optional bus transportation for students in grades K-8. Busses will travel in a circuit from Ann Visger, Sabbath, Dunn, and Walter White from 7:20 am to 8:20 am and from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm for students requiring transportation between buildings.

There is no set time schedule for arrivals and departures per building. However, there are 2 busses that make several trips to each building. A bus is scheduled to arrive and depart from each building approximately every 15 minutes within the aforementioned schedule. There will also be a one bus available for afterschool program attendees running from approximately 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Students traveling to Wayne County Community College depart from the rear of River Rouge High School at 12:00 noon and return at 2:55 pm, Monday through Thursday.

Dunn School and Walter White will remain a pick-up and drop-off site. However, please note Dunn school will not be opened. Students will have to wait outside regardless of the weather conditions. Any questions or concerns can be directed to your building principal or Mr. Lonnie Draper, Director of Finance and Business.





River Rouge School District Sports Schedule



**VARSITY FOOTBALL 2008/09
GOLD DIVISION**

Thur.	28-Aug	River Rouge @ Harper Woods	7:00
Fri.	5-Sep	River Rouge @ Thurston	7:00
Fri.	12-Sep	River Rouge vs Robichaud	7:00
Fri.	19-Sep	River Rouge vs Annapolis	7:00
Fri.	26-Sep	River Rouge vs Highland Park	7:00
Fri.	3-Oct	River Rouge vs Ecorse	7:00
Fri.	10-Oct	River Rouge @ Willow Run	7:00
Fri.	17-Oct	River Rouge @ Crestwood	7:00
Fri.	24-Oct	River Rouge @ New Boston Huron	7:00

**7TH & 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL 2008/09
BLUE DIVISION**

Mon.	15-Sep	River Rouge @ O.W. Best	4:00
Wed.	17-Sep	River Rouge vs Riverside	4:00
Mon.	22-Sep	River Rouge @ Hoover	4:00
Wed.	24-Sep	River Rouge vs Hilbert	4:00
Mon.	29-Sep	River Rouge @ Taylor West	4:00
Mon.	6-Oct	River Rouge vs Pierce	4:00
Wed.	8-Oct	River Rouge vs O.W. Best	4:00
Mon.	13-Oct	River Rouge @ Riverside	4:00
Wed.	15-Oct	River Rouge vs Hoover	4:00
Mon.	20-Oct	River Rouge @ Hilbert	4:00

**JV & VARSITY VOLLEYBALL 2008/09
GOLD DIVISION**

Mon.	15-Sep	River Rouge vs Willow Run	5:30
Mon.	22-Sep	River Rouge @ Inkster	5:30
Wed.	24-Sep	River Rouge @ Ecorse	5:30
Mon.	29-Sep	River Rouge vs Robichaud	5:30
Wed.	1-Oct	River Rouge @ Melvindale	5:30
Mon.	6-Oct	River Rouge vs Highland Park	5:30
Wed.	8-Oct	River Rouge @ Willow Run	5:30
Wed.	15-Oct	River Rouge vs Inkster	5:30
Mon.	20-Oct	River Rouge vs Ecorse	5:30
Wed.	22-Oct	River Rouge @ Robichaud	5:30
Mon.	27-Oct	River Rouge vs Melvindale	5:30
Wed.	29-Oct	River Rouge @ Highland Park	5:30
Sat.	1-Nov.	News Herald Tourn. @ Lincoln Park (V)	8:00
		Volleyball Districts	TBA

**7TH & 8TH GRADE FOOTBALL 2008/09
WHITE DIVISION**

Wed.	17-Sep	River Rouge vs Pierce	4:00
Wed.	24-Sep	River Rouge @ Ecorse	4:00
Wed.	1-Oct	River Rouge vs Inkster	4:00
Thur.	9-Oct	River Rouge @ Allen Park	4:00
Wed.	15-Oct	River Rouge vs Melvindale	4:00
Wed.	22-Oct	River Rouge @ O.W. Best	4:00

**BOY'S TENNIS 2008/09
GOLD DIVISION**

Wed.	3-Sep	River Rouge @ Kennedy	4:00
Mon.	8-Sep	River Rouge vs Thurston	4:00
Mon.	15-Sep	River Rouge @ Willow Run	4:00
Wed.	17-Sep	River Rouge vs Robichaud	4:00
Mon.	22-Sep	River Rouge vs Kennedy	4:00
Wed.	24-Sep	River Rouge @ Thurston	4:00
Wed.	1-Oct	River Rouge vs Willow Run	4:00
Mon.	6-Oct	River Rouge @ Robichaud	4:00
Th/Fri.	10,11, Oct.	River Rouge @ Regionals	TBA
Tue.	14-Oct	River Rouge @ MMC Division Mt.	TBA



**The Winter Sports Schedule will be
highlighted in the
following up-coming newsletter.**

SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGES



**2008 - 2009 Meeting Schedule for
Board of Education**

**Calendar of Events
2008-2009**

July 2, 2008	January 7, 2009
August 6, 2008	February 4, 2009
September 3, 2008	March 4, 2009
October 1, 2008	April 1, 2009
November 5, 2008	May 6, 2009
December 3, 2008	June 3, 2009

Full Day Students.....	September 2
Prof. Develop/Teacher Conferences	October 13
(No Students)	
Prof. Develop/Thanksgiving Recess....	November 26
(No Students)	
Classes Resume.....	December 1
Winter Recess - End of Day.....	December 19
Classes Resume.....	January 5
Martin Luther King Jr. Day.....	January 19
Records Day/Prof. Develop	January 23
(No Students)	

Study sessions will be held at 5:30 p.m. preceding each regular board meeting, which will be held at 6:00 p.m. Closed Executive Sessions and Special Board Meetings will be called as needed.



DISTRICT DIRECTORY
Schools and central Offices

RIVER ROUGE SCHOOL DISTRICT.....297-9600

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT	1623
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT	1630
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES.....	1607
DIRECTOR OF STATE AND FEDERAL PROJECTS AND CURRICULUM	1611
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND BUSINESS	1610
PAYROLL AND BENEFITS	1631
CENTRAL OFFICE	1601
IT MANAGER.....	4643
BILINGUAL OUTREACH	1605
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C.B. SABBATH MIDDLE SCHOOL.....	5654
ANN VISGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	2648
SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR.....	4635

School District of the City of River Rouge

1460 W. Coolidge Highway
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(313) 297-9600

Board of Education

William White, President
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William Watson, Treasurer
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Cornelius Cooper, Trustee
Dr. Ingrid Wilson-Johnson, Trustee

Carlos Lopez, Ed.D., Superintendent