

Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy
MS/HS 141



Family and Student Handbook
September 2023

WELCOME BACK, TIGERS!

WELCOME BACK TO ALL OF OUR RKA TIGERS!

I AM SO EXCITED TO GET STARTED WITH THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR! I HOPE THAT YOU USE THIS YEAR AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND YOURSELVES AND YOUR EXPERIENCES. HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED TRYING A NEW SPORT OR ACTIVITY? MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AT OUR AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, BUT NEVER GAVE THEM A TRY? RKA HAS A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES IN STORE FOR YOU FROM ATHLETICS, TO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AND MORE. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND USE THIS PLANNER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER.

THIS PLANNER IS ALSO A GREAT TOOL TO KEEP YOU ORGANIZED AS WE MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.

**WITH TIGER PRIDE,
LORI O'MARA
PRINCIPAL**

Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy MS/HS 141

Important Staff Contacts

First	Last	Email (@schools.nyc.gov)	Room	Department
Jennifer	Aponte-Acosta	JAponte-Acosta@schools.nyc.gov	230	Guidance - Grade 7 (A-L) Grade 8 (all)
Catherine	Benitez	CBenitez5@schools.nyc.gov	110	Guidance - Related Services
Joslie	Byrd	JByrd2@schools.nyc.gov	303	Guidance - High School A-K
Johanna	Cuello-Gutierrez	JCuelloGutierrez@schools.nyc.gov	112	Guidance - Grade 7 (M-Z) Grade 6 (all)
Lesly	Edmond	LEdmond@schools.nyc.gov	B24	Senior Advisor/ Athletic Director
Soremi	Lockhart	Slockhart@schools.nyc.gov	303	Guidance - High School L-M
Deana	Ferreira	DFerreira@schools.nyc.gov	208	Dean - Grade 7 (A-L) Grade 8 (all)
Gloria	Johnson	GJohnson32@schools.nyc.gov	156	Youth Development Counselor
Kim	Lewis	KLewis3@schools.nyc.gov	411	Dean - grades 11 and 12
TBD	TBD	TBD	306	College Advisor/ Programming
Julia	Loving	JLoving2@schools.nyc.gov	Library	Library
Sheilagh	Lustig	SLustig2@schools.nyc.gov	308	Assistant Principal -HS, Testing Coordinator
Stacy	Miller	SMiller43@schools.nyc.gov	214	Assistant Principal - MS, Special Education Supervisor
Lori	O'Mara	LOmara@schools.nyc.gov	101	Principal
Ruth	Orozco	ROrozco@schools.nyc.gov	316	Dean - Grades 9 and 10
Miledys	Prado	MPrado-romero2@schools.nyc.gov	B24	HS Activities
Julia	Prince	JPrince4@schools.nyc.gov	102	Parent Coordinator
Jonathan	Reingold	JReingo@schools.nyc.gov	109	Dean - Grade 6 (all) Grade 7 (M-Z)
Miledys	Prado	MPrado@schools.nyc.gov	B24	MS Activities
Eric	Scholz	EScholz@schools.nyc.gov	239	Assistant Principal - Math, Science, Technology, PE
Mark	Siracusa	MSiracu@schools.nyc.gov	223	Related Services
Thomas	Sullivan	TSulliv@schools.nyc.gov	339	Assistant Principal - ELA, Foreign Language, Arts

BELL SCHEDULE 2023-34

Full Day

		Notes
8:20-9:05	Period 1	
9:07-9:52	Period 2	
9:55-10:40	Period 3	6th Grade Lunch
10:43-11:28	Period 4	8th Grade Lunch
11:31-12:16	Period 5	9th/12th Grade Lunch
12:19-1:04	Period 6	10th/11th Grade Lunch
1:07-1:52	Period 7	7th Grade Lunch
1:55-2:40	Period 8	

Half Day Schedule

	Students	Notes
8:20-9:05	Period 1	
9:07-9:52	Period 2	
9:55-10:40	Period 3	6th Grade Lunch
10:43-11:28	Period 4	8th Grade Lunch

Academic Items

Classes

All students are programmed for courses as needed to meet graduation and promotional benchmarks. When there is an opportunity for choice, counselors will work with students in the process. It is very important that all students actively participate in the program planning phase when announced.

Grading

The school year is divided into 6 marking periods, each with its own report card. Marking periods end in October, December, January, March, May and June, and are listed in the RKA Family Calendar.

RKA issues report card grades in single increments between 60 and 100. Grades between 65 and 100 are passing grades. Anything graded 64 and under is a failing grade.

Course specific grading policies will be distributed on course syllabi.

All students should expect major exams at the end of the term although this will look different for our HS and MS Students.

- At the MS level they will be handled during class time.
- HS students in grades 9-12 and 8th grade students taking Living Environment and Algebra should expect to have uniform finals administered according to a central schedule during the last week in January and the last school week in June. Those finals will account for a significant percentage of the term grade for HS students- 10%.

Credit Accumulation

High school students earn credits at the end of each term (January and June). Students who do not earn credits required for graduation at the term will need to attend summer school or PM school if available.

Late Assignments

Turning in assignments on time is an important piece of the student's responsibility to their own learning. New material continues to be presented and students who do not turn in assignments on time have a tendency to fall behind on the new learning. Late work will be accepted for one week (5 school days) only. After the 5 days have passed, no late work will be accepted. Students handing in work late can expect a deduction in grade: 20% off the earned score if handed in within the first week.

Teachers will indicate a "10" in the Jupiter Grades platform until the work is handed in.

Jupiter Grades Platform

The Jupiter Grades platform is an online grading system used by most RKA teachers. Participating teachers provide students and their parents with periodic updates on homework completion, test grades, and more. Once the initial invites have been shared with parents and students in the first week of school, Julie Prince can help parents gain access to the Jupiter Grades platform and counselors can assist students.

NYCSA

NYCSA stands for the New York City Student Account. This is an important account used by parents to view attendance, report cards, state test scores, and updates posted by the NYCDOE. Parents will also receive emails from the school once their NYCSA account is verified. Ms. prince can assist parents in getting their NYCSA accounts verified.

Learning Platform

We will be using Google Classroom (GC) through the NYC DOE G Suite. All students must activate their DOE student email account (@NYCStudents.net). Some assignments will be submitted through GC and some will be done by hand with pen and paper. Julie Prince can help students who need to reset their passwords. Guardians can be added to Google Classrooms to receive weekly updates.

Virtual Learning

Although virtual learning will not be the norm for most students in 2023-24, teachers will be posting a Zoom link in their Google Classrooms to be used in case there is a situation where the class or school will need to move collectively to the virtual environment. Students should not expect that their teachers will be "Zooming" with them if as individuals they are absent. Students may not "Zoom" in from extended trips or vacations. Students must use their @NYCstudents.net accounts.

Communicating with Staff

Every New York City public school teacher has a DOE email address. This is an excellent way to keep in touch, especially for “quick” questions. The teachers will add their email addresses on their syllabi; they can also be found on the school website, www.RKA141.org. You should expect a response within 24 hours during the school week.



Communication from the school

School staff will call or email you if there are issues he/she feels need to be discussed. Teachers may also contact you through Jupiter Grades and Remind announcing general activities or information will be communicated by the Parent Coordinator and Principal. Parents should join the RKA Email list and Remind group through our website.

Twitter and Instagram will be used for celebratory communications.

NYCSA Accounts

Parents should register for the DOE NYCSA account to receive official DOE updates, report cards, test grades, and transcripts. Families can contact JPrince4@schools.nyc.gov for assistance with their account.

Parent Meetings

All teachers have preparation periods during the day. Parents may arrange to meet with a teacher during this time. Teachers are also accessible by email. Teacher email lists are available on our school website and will be sent home with students. Teachers cannot accept phone calls or meet with parents during teaching periods. Teachers also have flexible parent engagement time which is intended to be used for updating Jupiter Grades and communicating with parents at flexible times. Please begin by emailing our teaching staff to arrange a meeting.

Supply List

Supply lists can be found on our school website www.rka.org . Students are expected to bring their laptop, notebook, and calculator, as well as other materials required throughout the year each day.

Daily Announcements

Students will receive daily announcements through their Grade-level Google Classroom (ie Class of 2027). Students should check in daily to stay up-to-date and learn about activities.

Assemblies

RKA Guidance staff frequently hold assemblies, meetings or classroom visits to emphasize the importance of student academic progress. These materials are often shared with families on our website or via email. The HS staff also engage students on monthly Triple C Days which are full days devoted to College, Career and Culture. Please heed the importance of these conversations and presentations to ensure students remain on track.

Special Recognition

Students who earn over 90% in a marking period will be named to the Principal's List of High Achievers. Their names will be posted in the school. At the end of year students who have earned a 90 in every marking period for every course will be invited to their grade level's awards ceremony and recognized by their families, peers and faculty.

Students who earn an 85% at each term will be invited to join the National and National Junior Honor Society. These invitations are extended in February of 7th grade and 10th grade. In order to be inducted students must complete other requirements such as attending meetings, participating in school activities, earning Community Points or completing Community Service. More information is available here:
<https://www.rka141.org/publications>

Plagiarism

Finally, a note about plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's ideas or words. This includes information that is copied directly from books or the internet and other students. Your teachers will show you the proper way to give another

person credit for his or her words and thoughts so that you can include them safely and honestly in your work.

Students must remember that copying another student's work (homework, class work, reports, essays, tests, projects– ANYTHING!) is a dishonest practice. Students who do so can expect not to receive any credit for the copied work, and students who allow others to copy can expect the same. Plagiarism is a violation of the NYCDOE Behavioral Expectations and students found to be plagiarizing will have an official OORS report filed, will not be allowed to join the National Honor Society and will not be able to participate in Student Council for at least one year. Your teachers would much rather read what you have to say in your own words than to read someone else's. And, truthfully you are only cheating yourself when you copy someone else's work.

Organizational Items

Absences

Students are expected to be present every day for school. This is the one sure-fire way to ensure that you are making the most academic progress possible. It is also an excellent habit to get into as most employers look for prospective employees with a strong work ethic and impeccable attendance record.

Regular punctual attendance is critical to student success. All students who attend less than 90% per year are considered chronically absent. Daily attendance is taken in period 1 classes and period attendance is taken in every class. Parents can check their child's daily attendance on their NYCSA Account. Attendance outreach will also be provided through email.

Occasionally students are absent from school due to a doctor's appointment, family business or illness. These absences are coded as "explained" and do contribute to the students overall attendance. These absences **must** be documented with an official note from the doctor or a parent. Notes must be shown to each individual teacher and turned in to the official class teacher at the start of the next day so it can be taken to the school's Attendance Office. All work missed by an excused absence should be made up, and it is the students' responsibility to arrange this with each teacher. Students can stay abreast of classroom activities by checking Google Classroom.

Absences not explained in this way will be treated as cutting (see below) and any missed work cannot be made up.

Cutting

Cutting is defined as being absent from one or more classes without an acceptable excuse. This includes instances when a student is in the building but not in class, being one or more periods late to school without an acceptable excuse, or leaving the school building early. Acceptable excuses include doctor's appointments, family business or illness. In order for the absence to be excused, a legitimate note from the doctor or parent is required and must be shown to each teacher whose class was missed.

Students who cut can expect to serve after school detention or be suspended according to the Citywide Behavioral Expectations. Repeat offenders can also expect to be excluded from school activities such as trips and dances. *School work missed while cutting cannot be made up.*

Lateness

Students are expected to be punctual to school and to every class throughout the day. Students are late to school in the morning if they are not present and seated in 1st period class at 8:20 AM. After 8:30 AM students must use the entrance by the auditorium. They must fill out a late pass to show to their classroom teacher. Students with three latenesses must serve an after school detention to make up for time missed. Repetitious behavior will result in suspensions or exclusion from dances, trips, or other privileges.



Students are late to class when they are not in their designated seats when the bell rings. This means that students should not be lingering in halls and stairways or hanging out in doorways at the start of the period. Students must sign the late log maintained by each teacher, and teachers will refer students who are frequently late for after school detention or other consequences.

Use of the Hall Pass

Occasionally students will need to leave the classroom and must have a hall pass to do so. This ensures that teachers and staff know where students are in case of an emergency. Students must ask teachers for the use of the pass. Only one student at a time may leave the classroom. Students may not leave the classroom during the first and last 5 minutes of any period so that attendance records are accurate.

- The plastic pass is for restroom use only. Students will sign in and out outside of the restroom so we will have a record for contact tracing.
- One-way passes must be filled in completely and are used when sending students to various offices on campus. No student will be sent out of the classroom without verification that there is an adult in the office to receive him or her. Students may not be given a pass to the library to complete homework assignments.

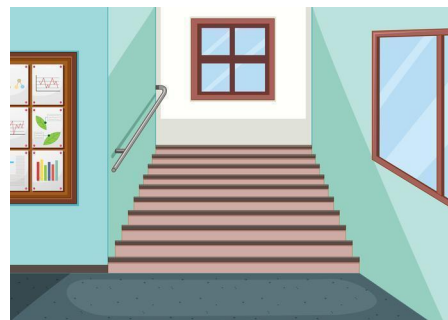
ID Cards

All students are issued school ID cards, and are expected to display them at all times- especially in the case of an emergency. All 6th grade students will have their picture taken in the first 2 weeks of school and receive an ID card. If your child loses his/her ID card, the replacement cost is \$2.00.

ID Cards will be used for library circulation, late sign in, lunch sign out (11th and 12th Grade only) and restroom usage.

Hallways and Staircases

Students are expected to use the hallways and staircases in a quick, quiet and courteous manner. Students should walk to their right in the hallway and move directly from one place to another without lingering, touching, running, horse play or blocking traffic. For travel in between most classes, middle school students should use the stairs in the main corridor. High school students may use the stairs in both the new and old wings. All students should follow their deans' instructions for staircase use upon entering and exiting the cafeteria. Students creating disruptions in the hallways and staircases will serve detention or another consequence as outlined in the Chancellor's Behavioral Expectations.



Safety Drills

We will be conducting all safety drills as outlined by the Department of Education. During drills students are expected to follow the directions of school officials. During drills students are expected to remain silent and stay with their teacher so that directions can be conveyed and heard.

Transportation

Many students in grades 6-12 are eligible for a Metro Card to use Public transportation. Cards are determined by the student's address and are distributed within the first week of school.

Sixth graders are eligible for yellow bus service if they live at least a mile from the school. The distance is determined by the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT), not the school. Parents may choose a Metrocard instead of the yellow bus. A student may not switch back-and-forth between the yellow bus and a Metrocard. During the first few days of school, you may find an extended waiting period for the yellow bus, as the drivers "settle in" to their new schedules and routes. We strongly suggest you bring your child yourself—or have a backup plan—the first few days, if possible. The OPT hotline is 718-392-8855.

Library

Students are welcomed to use the library with their ID card and program displayed. Hours of operation for the library will be posted, and library usage will be monitored to meet social distancing capacity guidelines. Students will be rotated through on a schedule which corresponds to lunch periods to ensure that all students have some Open Access time. All students must exit the library at the end of the period.

The library computers are available for printing reports during Open Access or after school. Students may not go to the library to finish or print assignments for other classes during instructional time because the librarian is usually busy with whole class visits. Please plan in advance to avoid last minute printing “emergencies.”

To maintain a clean environment for all, no food or drink is allowed in the library.

Common Areas

Common areas such as the cafeteria, gymnasium, locker room, and auditorium are off-limits to students except at such times as they are assigned there (for example: your lunch or gym period). Students should never be unsupervised in these areas. Students found in these areas shall be deemed to be cutting and those consequences shall follow.

Lunch

All students will have a designated lunch period and an assigned location. Students should arrive at their designated location quickly once the bell has rung. Students will need their ID card for lunch service as it facilitates the quickest service. Students may bring their own lunch, too.

Juniors and Seniors in good academic and behavioral standing may be permitted to leave campus for lunch, provided they are able to eat lunch and return to the building within their designated lunch period. Students must have parental consent and students are reviewed frequently to ensure they continue to meet the criteria for off campus lunch. Students are not permitted to bring back food and eat it in class following their lunch period. Infractions of any school codes or loss of academic good standing will result in the loss of off-campus lunch privileges. Students are not permitted to order food for delivery to the school.

Arrival/Dismissal

Student arrival and dismissal are two very important times for student and staff safety. Between health and safety concerns, traffic and the large numbers of students moving around the building, it is important to follow the procedure and directions of staff members very carefully.

- 6th graders will enter and exit on the first floor at the Auditorium entrance.
- 7th and 8th graders will enter in the Arcade area. 7th and 8th graders will use the closest stairwell to their last class to exit the building, likely C,D, or E.
- High School students will use Exit E to enter and the closest stairwell to their last class to exit, likely A, D, C, D or E.

Yellow buses for 6th graders park by the Auditorium entrance

Yellow buses for eligible Special Education students park by the main entrance

Public (MTA) buses pull up by Arcade on Independence Ave.

Kindly avoid double parking in front of the school's main entrance if dropping off or picking up students.

Citywide Behavioral Expectations

There are many actions listed in the Citywide Behavioral Expectations (Discipline Code). Each is listed with a corresponding consequence. Some are quite serious such as Principal's or Superintendent's suspensions or, if necessary, police action. We would like to highlight some of the key rules which we feel contribute to a safe, healthy atmosphere. It is our expectation that students abide by these rules for the well-being of our students and school community.

Students should not engage in the following behaviors:

- Using, selling, or distributing drugs or alcohol including cigarettes or vaping .
- Fighting or physical contact with students, staff or community members.
- Vandalism or defacement of any school, public, or personal property.
- Theft of another's or school property.
- Use of foul language with students, staff or community members.
- Possession or use of weapons
- Harassment of other students or faculty

Students who use the internet should do so in a positive and respectful manner. Websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, AIM and Instagram have many social networking applications. Students should be kind and use discretion when posting information about themselves or others. Students are urged to be aware of their online profiles since colleges and jobs routinely research those of their applicants, and, once posted, items on the internet can always be retrieved. Remember, if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all.

Bullying is defined as repetitious harassment of others. This can be through the use of words, writing (internet, texts, notes), physical intimidation, name calling, or inciting others to participate in harassment of others. Incidents of bullying will be handled by the deans on a case by case basis. If you feel bullied you should speak with your dean or another trusted adult.

Although it seems there are many rules to be followed, together we can have an RKA and a community that we are all proud to call home. Students that wish to participate in extracurricular activities such as Student Government or Varsity Athletics are expected to surpass these minimum standards of behavior. Policies specific to these groups are posted on our website.

Dress Code

Every institution or business has an accepted standard of dress. RKA maintains a dress code that is conducive to safety, learning, and modesty. Students should arrive at school in proper dress every day. Students who do not abide by the dress code will be asked to adjust what they are wearing. If they are unable to do so, parents will be contacted to provide appropriate dress. Repetitive behavior will result in detention or other consequences.

The dress code is listed below:

- Clothing with offensive images or language are not permitted in NYC Schools. This includes but is not limited to bias, violence, gangs, drugs and/or alcohol.
- **Tops:** No tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, strapless tops, or tops that expose the midriff. All undergarments must be covered by the top or blouse worn. Basketball jerseys and sleeveless shirts are allowed, provided a shirt with sleeves is worn underneath.
- **Shorts:** Shorts that fall within 4 inches of the knee are okay. Short-shorts are not acceptable.
- **Skirts:** Skirts that fall within 4 inches of the knee are okay. Mini-skirts are not acceptable.
- **Jeans and pants:** Jeans and pants must be free of tears and holes especially in the thigh or hip area. Pants must be worn at waist level and cover the midriff and undergarments.
- **Shoes:** Sandals that stay on the entire foot are okay, but flip flops are not. They present a safety hazard when walking around the school.
- **Headgear:** Non-religious headgear (hats, beads, do-rags, or other headgear) is not permitted. Students will be asked to take them off and put them away.

Student Lockers

Having a locker is a privilege and students should treat it as such. Students will fill out a Locker Card to register for a locker after selecting one and placing a lock on the locker during the sign up window. Students will be issued on a first come/first served basis and students who do not get a locker will be able to place items such as coats in their first period classroom. Students in grades 7-12, only, are able to sign up for lockers.

Students who register for a locker agree to the following:

- I will use only the locker assigned to me.
- I understand that all school rules must be followed in relation to my school locker. I know that I cannot store any items in my locker that are not regularly allowed in school according to the Citywide Behavioral Expectations. In addition, school personnel may search lockers. I understand that I have no right to privacy in my locker.
- I understand that school lockers are school property. I will not alter the appearance of my assigned locker in any way (stickers, mirrors, wallpaper, etc.). As the locker is school property, any damage to the locker to which I am assigned will be my responsibility.
- I will be charged for any repairs to and/or replacement of the locker for which I have been found responsible. I understand that I will not receive report cards or transcripts if I owe any money for locker damage.
- I understand that my locker is for the storage of my coat and personal belongings, and I agree to place my items in my locker when I arrive at school, and retrieve them only before lunch and after dismissal.
- I understand that I may not visit my locker at any other time during the school day.
- I understand that lockers should be used quickly and that I should not linger or “hang out” in locker areas.
- I must provide my own lock for use on my locker.
- I will not give my locker combination to anyone, and no other student may use my locker.
- The school is not responsible for loss or theft of items in the locker as I am providing my own lock and keeping that combination to myself.

Community School

RKA was founded as a community school. Local parents, community members and politicians sought to make this place a safe haven for students who live in the Riverdale Kingsbridge community. They felt that the young people of this area deserved a good local school to attend, and they fought very hard to make it a reality. It is important for the future of our school that we maintain a good relationship with all community members.

While RKA students are entering and exiting the school, when they are out in the community, and when they are at after-school functions such as sporting events or trips, they are representing our school, themselves and their families.. If we want to maintain RKA as a special school, it is vital that students maintain their high behavior standards when they are in these situations. Students should use courtesy in leaving the school area quickly and calmly at dismissal. Students using public transportation should behave in a mature and respectful fashion while waiting for and riding the bus. Students walking on the footbridge and in our local community should be respectful of local community members, shop owners, and their buildings.

To develop our school as a vibrant organization, help build a relationship with our community and instill a sense of responsibility in our student body, RKA requires all high school students to earn 40 community points or complete 40 hours of community service to meet graduation requirements. It is recommended that students complete this at a rate of 10 hours per year. Students can select to earn community points within RKA (maximum of 5 points per year for activities indicated with an asterisk* below) or to work with an organization that suits their own interests and passions or they can select from one of the partnerships established by the school. The Community Service Office is Room 306 can provide access to volunteer opportunities and will collect proof of your service and tally your hours. Remember, all of your community service hours must be documented by a school official or a representative of the organization which you served.

Honor Society members have additional requirements. Each inductee must earn 10 community points or complete 10 hours of community service per year (in addition to graduation requirements). There are several other requirements as well. Please go to Room 306 for more information. First time Honor Society Inductees are celebrated at the Spring Induction Ceremony. Returning members are recognized at their grade level awards ceremony in late Spring.



RKA Community Points Activities indicated with an asterisk (*) have a max of 5 total points		
Activity	Points	Documentation required
Join a club and regularly attend/ participate for 10 weeks*	5 pts	Student enters Survey/ Advisor sign off
Participate in an after school event (Game or Movie Night)*	1 pt	Advisor Sign Off
Outside service activity	1 point per hour	Letter from organization
Participate in Academic Contest (Reading, Poetry, Essay)*	2 points	O'Mara confirmation
Submission of art or writing piece to Lit Magazine*	2 points	Advisor Sign Off
Student government*	5 pts	Advisor Sign Off
Participate in Other Contest (pumpkin carving, gingerbread house, etc)*	2 pts	Advisor Sign Off
Teacher Nomination for You Make A Difference*	2 pts	O'Mara confirmation
Applied to a scholarship*	2 pts per scholarship	Upload to Survey
Design an RKA Spirit Poster which could be reproduced to decorate our hallways - original hand or computer design only*	2 pts per poster	Upload to Survey

Extra-Curricular Activities

RKA offers a wide variety of extra curricular activities for our students in Grades 6-12, although some are applicable for a particular grade band only.

Spirit Weeks

All students are encouraged to dress up for Spirit Weeks when they are announced for particular grades. Spirit Weeks are used to celebrate special events, coincide with cultural months, or commemorate other calendar items.

Clubs

RKA offers after school clubs to our students. Students who actively participate in clubs earn Community Points. Many of our clubs sponsor an event or produce a product to enhance our school.

Some examples of clubs offered in recent years are:

- Write to Roar- Literary and Arts
- Photography Club
- Black Student Union
- Video Game Club
- Minecraft Club
- Young Investors Club
- Model United Nations
- Poetry for Social Justice
- Creative Writing
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Debate Club
- Mural Making Club
- Chess
- Band
- Chorus
- Key Club
- Girls Incorporated
- Anime
- Gender Sexuality Alliance
- Anime
- Sewing
- Museum Club
- Journalism
- Model U.N.

Student Government/ Student Council

The RKA Student Government (HS) and Student Council (MS) operate in close conjunction with the RKA Administrative team. Our student leaders are selected among their peers and help plan and execute many school activities. They also provide feedback and suggestions to the RKA Administrative team. The students who serve on the Student Government and Student Council have exemplary academic, attendance, and behavioral records, but most of all a true love of the school and a desire to work collaboratively to improve RKA.

Academic and Artistic Contests

RKA encourages our students to strive for greatness through our academic and artistic contests. Some of these are school specific and some engage our students with other students in other schools. In school examples have included a Spelling Bee, Black History Essay Contest, Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest, March into Reading and Fall into Reading. Science Olympiad and Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Contest showcase our students against other schools. Students also have an opportunity to submit pieces to arts contests such as the Bronx Borough Arts Fair and RKA's Photography Contests.

PSAL Athletics

RKA offers our students in grade 9-12 a wide variety of varsity-level competitive sports. Students must try out and be selected for teams and meet or surpass other attendance and academic eligibility. General questions can be sent to our Athletic Director, Les Edmond at Ledmond@schools.nyc.gov.

Fall Sports (begin in August)

- Girls Soccer
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Volleyball
- Girls and Boys Cross Country

Winter Sports (begin in November)

- Co-ed Wrestling
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Co-ed Cheerleading

Spring Sports (begin in February)

- Softball
- Baseball
- Co-ed Golf
- Girls and Boys Track & Field

Middle School Athletics

CHAMPS sports are offered to our Middle School students. The selection varies from year to year. The last several years we have offered Wrestling, Fitness Club, and Tennis.

We also offer short term athletics (6-8 week season) in partnership with our varsity teams and the Riverdale Community Center such as basketball, volleyball, and softball.

Theatre and Talent Shows (through partnership with RNH @ RKA)

RKA and RNH @ RKA partner to bring theatrical and performance opportunities to our students. Auditions are held for all productions and announcements will be made so that all students who are interested have an opportunity to be involved in some way. We are typically able to have a Fall drama, Spring musical, and a Spring Talent Show.

*****RNH @ RKA Afterschool****

Our community partner, Riverdale Community Center of Riverdale Neighborhood House, provides a no-cost after school program which includes homework help, and choice-based social, physical, artistic, academic, and cultural activities for students. For information on enrollment families should contact RNH @ RKA through their website:

<https://www.riverdaleonline.org/>

Student Support

Help is Here

Sometimes we could all use someone to talk to. We are a pretty big school, and we want to make it easier for you to know who you can turn to. Wherever you see the “Help is Here” symbol below, please know that the staff member there is ready, willing, and able to talk with you about whatever is on your mind. We want to help; help is here.



Social Emotional Learning

Dealing with all the different emotions and social interactions which we must as humans in a busy and often rushed society can be challenging. A big part of maturity is recognizing how we connect to others socially and how we express, communicate, deal with and compensate for our emotions. Adolescents at the Middle and High School levels can all use a time and a space to talk and learn about their emotions and social interactions.

All Middle School students will have Restorative Circles as part of their program. A Circle is a safe space where students work in a smaller group with a counselor or other trained staff member. A Circle provides a time and a space to communicate feelings and learn from one another. Circles help students develop empathy and compassion and learn to appreciate and respect various viewpoints.

All HS students will have Social Emotional Learning embedded into classes and through special guidance visits.

Tiger Tokens

At RKA we hope that our students exemplify “Tiger Pride.” To that end we teach these values throughout the school. Students who demonstrate Tiger Pride will earn Tiger Tokens. These Tiger Tokens can be redeemed for tangible items and invitation to special events through the Tiger Token Trading Post which is open every Tuesday during student lunch periods. All staff members and students have access to an app called PBIS Rewards to award, track and redeem the tokens. To us Tiger Pride means:

- Punctuality
- Respect
- Independence
- Determination
- Enthusiasm

Peer Mediation

Peer mediation is an opportunity for students to help on another work through conflicts. Students are referred for Peer Mediation through a dean or guidance counselor or administrator. Peer Mediation is never recommended for bullying situations or situations containing a power imbalance.

