

Ni River Middle School

The *BEST* Middle School in the World!

11632 Catharpin Rd., Spotsylvania, VA 22553

<https://www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us/niriver>

T: 540-785-3990 Twitter: @NiRiverMS

NRMS Community,

We are quickly approaching Spring Break, a much needed time to rest and relax before the final push to the end of the school year. As a reminder, there will be no school from Friday, April 19th – Friday, April 26th. Once we return to school, we will only have 20 days left!

As the calendar turns from March to April we are entering an extremely busy time of the school year. Teachers are beginning their final preparations for SOL testing in April/May, spring sports games will be starting, and students can see the light at the end of the tunnel. This is also the time of the year when students can start to feel stressed and overwhelmed. Please continue to monitor your child's academic progress and contact any teacher if a concern arises. Also, please take the opportunity to discuss and reaffirm behavioral expectations as historical data suggests 'Spring Fever' sets in and student conduct suffers.

As we wrap up the month of March, there have been great accomplishments to celebrate. A big congratulations to the Ni River Music Department for representing Ni River well at the District Assessment this year! All NRMS Chorus groups received an overall Superior rating in their performances, the highest recognition possible! The 7th and 8th grade bands performed very well with the 8th Grade Band receiving all I's and II's on stage and a I in sight reading (I = Superior, II = Excellent) and the 7th Grade Band receiving II's on stage and a I in sight reading. The 8th grade orchestra represented Ni River well and scored an overall solid Excellent rating. Way to go music department!

It's A Great Day To Be A Falcon!

Brian Bartoszek
Principal

Together – we prepare our students for their future.



Important Dates & Upcoming Events:

Please see the [Events Calendar](#) on our School Website

- **Mon, 4/1 – Fri, 4/12** – Scholastic BOGO Book Fair, NRMS Library
- **Thu, 4/4** – 6th Grade Band Concert, 6pm
- **Thu, 4/4** – 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert, 7pm
- **Wed, 4/10** – Military Child Appreciation Day, wear purple
- **Thu, 4/11** – Chorus Spring Concert, 7pm
- **Sat, 4/13** – PTA Yard Sale, NRMS from 9am – 2pm
- **Thu, 4/18** – Parent Conference Night, 4pm – 6pm
- **Thu, 4/18** – NRMS Showcase of Excellence, 4pm – 6pm
- **Fri, 4/19 – Fri 4/26** – Spring Break!!!

Please see our list of [Club Meetings](#)

School Attendance

~Every Day Counts~

Please remember that anytime your student is absent to notify the school. You may do this by calling the NRMS Attendance Line (540-785-3990, option 1) and leaving a voicemail at any hour, day or night. Parents may also inform the school of an absence by emailing [Ms. Patricia Marx](#). A note is no longer required – simply a notification.

Our goal is to stay above 97%!

6th Grade = 96.0%

7th Grade = 95.8%

8th Grade = 94.9%

Student Drop-off begins at 7:30; the school day begins at 8:00!

Safety Corner: Social Media Safety...

Without meaning to, kids can share more online than they should. Most teens report they have posted photos of themselves online or used their real names on their profiles, have revealed their birthdates and interests, and posted their school name and the town where they live. This can make them easy targets for online predators and others who might mean them harm. In fact, many teens say they have been contacted online by someone they didn't know in a way that made them feel scared or uncomfortable, received online advertising that was inappropriate for their age, and lied about their age to get access to websites.

Besides problems like cyber-bullying and online predators, kids also can face the possibility of a physical encounter with the wrong person. Many newer apps automatically reveal the poster's location when they're used. This can tell anyone exactly where to find the person using the app. And photos, videos, and comments made online usually can't be taken back once they're posted. Even when a teen thinks something has been deleted, it can be impossible to completely erase it from the Internet. Posting an inappropriate photo can damage a reputation and cause problems years later — such as when a potential employer or college admissions officer does a background check. Sending a mean-spirited text, even as a joke, can be very hurtful to someone else and even taken as a threat. Spending too much time on social media can be a downer too. Seeing how many "friends" others have and the pictures of them having fun can make kids feel bad about themselves or like they don't measure up to their peers.

Source: KidsHealth.org

"Safety doesn't happen by accident"

Test Taking Tips

Do you get overly nervous when you take a test? Are your test grades lower than you'd like them to be? If you answered yes, now is the time to work on improving your test-taking skills.

Tip 1: Get off to a good start. Have everything you need for the test when you go to class. As soon as you get your test, write anything you want to remember at the top or on scratch paper (names, formulas, dates, etc.). Also, be sure to fully read the directions.

Tip 2: Don't get stuck on difficult questions. Put a dot by the question or flag it on the computer. After you have gone through all the questions go back to the challenging ones. Often a future question will provide you a clue to the one you are stuck on.

Tip 3: Check your answers. Check your answers, even the ones you know are correct. You may have made a careless mistake.

Tip 4: The power of positive thinking. Replace irrational thoughts (I have to ace this test) and negative thoughts (I'll never pass) with thoughts that are realistic and positive (I've studied hard - I'll do fine).

Source: Classroom Success InfoGuide (woodburnpress.com)

Together - we prepare our students for their future.



Falcon Athletics Game Schedule:

*Note: All softball & soccer games start at 4:00pm. Track meets begin at 3:30pm

Softball:

Mon. April 8 @ POMS
Wed. April 10 vs. SMS
Mon. April 15 @ CMS
Wed. April 17 vs. BMS

Boys Soccer

Mon. April 8 @ POMS
Wed. April 10 vs. SMS
Mon. April 15 @ CMS
Wed. April 17 vs. BMS

Boys & Girls Track:

Tues. April 9 vs. POMS
Thurs. April 11 @ SMS
Tues. April 16, 2019 vs. CMS



GO FALCONS!

Counselor's Corner

Looking for something productive for your child to do this summer? Enrollment is now open for Middle School Summer Enrichment Camps. Course options include: Dissection, Baking, Design Challenges, Painting, Music and Computers, Strategy and Adventure Games and Robotics. Applications are Due May 9, 2019. See attached flyer for more information. Learn more about SPOTSY Online, accelerated (high school credit) coursework for current 8th - 11th graders, by attending an information meeting on May 8, 2019, at 6:00 pm at 8020 River Stone Drive. See attached flyer.

Library News

March has been busy in the library. All of the grade levels are in high gear with our coding classes. About 75% to 80% of the students in 7th grade were able to complete the Sphero maze challenge. They came, they saw and they conquered!! Eighth graders found out that playing Bocce ball using the Spheros is a lot harder than it looks. We actually had 4 or 5 bull's-eyes during the competition, and the winners from each class took home Chick-Fil-A gift cards for \$5.00 and a coupon for a free sandwich. The eighth graders had a lot of fun with it. Hopefully, it will get some of them to look into the computer classes at high school in the coming years. The 6th grade students have been bowling with the Ozobots, and they have done a great job. We will have our last meeting of the 6th and 7th grade book clubs next month, and that is when we will give out the prizes!!! So far our Spring Clean-up Book Donation Drive has 701 books!!! A little short of last year's almost 2000, but we have another month to catch up. Finally, we will have our last book fair of the year from April 1st thru the 12th. It is the Buy One – Get One fair. It's a great opportunity for students to stock up on some great titles for summer reading! Don't forget to sign up for an E-Wallet account by going to: <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/nirivermiddleschool2>

Athletics

Please come support our Boys Soccer, Softball, and Boys & Girls Track teams as they compete this year. We love our home crowd so please come out for the following home games:

Boys Soccer & Softball

Wed. April 10 - Home vs. SMS
Wed. April 17 - Home vs. BMS
Mon. May 6 - Home vs. TMS
Mon. May 13 - Home vs. POMS

Games start at 4pm

Girls & Boys Track

Tues. April 9 - Home vs. POMS
Tues. April 16 - Home vs. CMS
Thurs. May 2 - Home vs. FMS

Meets start at 3:30pm



NI River PTA News:

Spring Cleaning? We are preparing for our first ever **Ni River PTA yard sale**. We would love to have your gently used items from clothing to furniture and everything in between. The only things we cannot accept are stuffed animals, pillows, and bedding. Please make sure all clothing is prewashed and all electronics are in working order. If you have large furniture, it will need to be donated the morning of the sale on April 13th between 6-8am. We appreciate anything you could donate. Just drop off your items at the office anytime until April 12th. With your help, we will make this another successful event! Our Yard Sale will be held on April 13th from 9am-2pm in the NRMS parking lot, so mark your calendars for a great treasure hunt.

President: Carrie Gupta
carriegupta93@gmail.com

Vice President: Becky Degenhardt

Secretary: Jeannine Coefield
jeanninecoefield@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Agnes Percy

Membership: Alicia Schwartzman

Please save the date! Ni River PTA is holding a yard sale on April 13. We are looking for donations. After the yard sale we will have your stuff hauled away. Proceeds will go to the PTA. Thank you for your support!!!



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Communication

Ni River Middle School maintains a website with current information which can help both parents and students. The web address is:

<https://www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us/niriver>

In addition to our website, other sources of information are: Channel 18, PSS, Autodialer, and monthly emails.

In order to receive information, please make sure we have your most updated email address and phone number. Please maintain updated contact information throughout the school year by contacting the School Counseling Office at 540-785-3990.

At school, daily announcements are made in the mornings and afternoons.

A monthly Falcon Flier will be sent home via email that highlights accomplishments at school and provides information on upcoming events. Also, teachers will be providing monthly email updates about topics being covered in class as well as upcoming assessments.

FOOD SERVICES

Breakfast/Lunch Prices:

Breakfast - \$1.55

Lunch - \$2.65

Add money to your student's account from our school website! Simply click on [My School Bucks](#) and set up an account.

NRMS Bell Schedule

A1 / B7	8:00 – 9:00
A2 / B8	9:03 – 10:03
A3 / B9	10:06 – 11:06
A4 / B10	11:09 – 12:39
6 th Grade Lunch 11:09 – 11:35	
7 th Grade Lunch 11:41 – 12:07	
8 th Grade Lunch 12:13 – 12:39	
A5 / B11	12:42 – 1:42
A6 / B12	1:45 – 2:45

IMPORTANT LINKS:

- [SCPS A/B Instructional Calendar](#)
- [SCPS Division Website](#)
- [NRMS Website](#)
- [NRMS Bell Schedule](#)
- [NRMS Supply List](#)
- [NRMS Athletic Information](#)
- [NRMS Clubs](#)

Ni River Falcons

- 🦅 Student-Centered
- 🦅 Teamwork
- 🦅 Community Involvement
- 🦅 Character Development

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PBIS

Positive Behavior

Interventions & Supports

Our Falcons are doing a great job living out the Falcon Formula by being Respectful, Responsible, and Productive. We are proud of our students and the positive behaviors they show us every day.

*During the month of March, our Falcon Focus was on Respectfulness. Our science department taught a lesson that discussed being respectful towards adults. Additionally, at the end of the month, homeroom teachers will recognize one student from their homeroom that has done a great job being **Respectful**.*

*For April, our Falcon Focus is “Being **Responsible** for my academic success.” Students will learn tips and tricks to make this a lifelong habit.*



THE FALCON FORMULA

Being **RESPECTFUL**

+ Being **RESPONSIBLE**

+ Being **PRODUCTIVE**

The Best Middle School in the World

Hi-Five Friday

*Be prepared to give
Everyone a Hi-Five.*



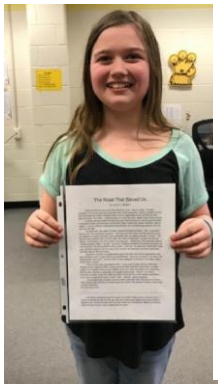
Every Friday is Falcon Friday! Wear your Ni River Middle School Spirit Wear or school colors – Black & Gold! School Spirit Wear can be purchased in the school store.

Ni River Middle School

boasts a highly trained, committed staff of teachers and support staff aimed at helping every child succeed. Teachers are innovative instructional leaders who are consistently incorporating 21st Century learning strategies. Programs of study provide rigorous, challenging curricula to meet the diverse needs of all learners.

What's happening in the classrooms at Ni River...

Black History Art Contest Winners



8th Grade FBLA Students stand atop "Daffodil Hill" which was planted by club members



Ms. Nolan "Spotted" for making a world of difference at NRMS



Science 6: Floating Wetlands Project



Congratulations to the students participating in the Regional Science Fair



PBIS Students of the Month – Showing Respect to Adults



Mr. Lucas and his Chorus groups score a 'Superior' at Assessments!



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