

Welcome International Students!

RVCS International/Exchange Students Guide Book



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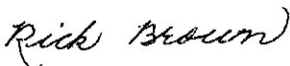
Greeting from Principal

Welcome International Student

I have had the privilege of being associated with RVCS for several years. As you consider enrollment at RVCS, I want you to know that it is not a perfect place; however, it is a great place to be taught by godly, Christian teachers and to make lasting friendships with other students. RVCS has high spiritual, academic, and behavioral standards that are based on the Bible, God's Word. Our mission states that we desire to serve as partners with Christian parents as they obey the command of God to train their children in truth. Therefore, RVCS requires that you live with a Christian host family who is actively involved in a church that is similar to our sponsoring church, Shenandoah Baptist Church. I'd like to invite you to be involved in the ministry of Shenandoah as much as you will be able to participate.

If I can help you in any way, please contact me at rbrown@shenandoahbaptist.org. Also, let me invite you to visit the schools' website at www.rvcs.info.

Yours in Christ,



Rick Brown
Associate Pastor for School Ministries

What Happens in RVCS during the school year?

There are many events in RVCS during the school year. Let's look at some of the most exciting events!

August

First Day of School: are you excited about starting a new school year? RVCS' classes start in the middle of August.

Senior Retreat: All seniors (12th graders) get to spend a weekend at Camp Eagle, located in Fincastle. Seniors are given chances to enjoy various activities in the nature with their classmates and bond together.



September

Spiritual Emphasis Week: Students focus on their spiritual growth this week by attending chapel everyday of the week.

October

School Pictures: all students in RVCS have a picture taken for the yearbook (a book that contains everybody's pictures and record of the school year).

Teachers Convention: all the teachers leave for their convention for the weekend; all the students get to have a super long weekend!



End of First Grading Period: students get their first report card (grades)!

November

SBC Missions Conference: Missionaries from all around the world visit SBC. RVCS students get an opportunity to meet them and hear their testimonies.

Fall Athletic Ceremony: The fall athletic ceremony is held to honor and celebrate athletes in fall (women's volleyball and men's soccer).

Band Concert: Band class performs what they have practiced in classes in first semester. Be there and listen to their beautiful music!

Thanksgiving Holidays: Thanksgiving is one of the biggest holidays in the United States. Many people spend time with their family.



December



Speech and Drama/ Ensemble Concerts: Speech and Drama class and Ensemble class perform their achievement of the first semester. Both of the performances are great, and international students are recommended to attend.

High School Christmas Luncheon: Parents prepare a delicious Christmas

lunch for high schoolers. Students get to enjoy the lunch with friends with beautiful decorations in the gym.

High School Exams: The mid-term exams for high schoolers! During the exams, school days are half days for a whole week to prepare for coming tough exams!

End of 2nd Grading Period: 2nd grading period for high schoolers ends as the exams end. Report cards are mailed early in January.



Christmas Break: Students get out of school for two weeks for Christmas break after the exams. Most people travel or stay in town to spend time with their family members. In America, Christmas is the biggest holiday, and there will be beautiful decorations and delicious Christmas meals. Definitely a thing to look forward!



January

School Resumes: Students go back to school after the Christmas break to start a brand new semester!



Spirit Week: Most exciting week for RVCS! During spirit week, students get to dress up according to themes everyday. (For example, on Cartoon Day, students

dress up like their favorite cartoon characters.) Students get to have different activities at the end of the day (like a dodge ball game tournament) and compete among different grades.

On the very last day of spirit week, a Superlatives ceremony is held. It's a ceremony for superlatives from each grade to honor them for their leadership and testimony.

February

Science Fair: High school and middle school students who are taking science classes work on the year's biggest science project. Excellent projects are awarded by science teachers.



March



Winter Sports Ceremony: Ceremony for winter sports athletes (women's and men's basketball)

End of 3rd Grading Period: One more grading period to go!

SBC Passion Play: Shenandoah Baptist Church performs the Passion Play (a play about Jesus Christ and His life). It is an excellent, professional performance and international students are encouraged to go see it or even take a part in it! The Passion Play usually lasts for two week-ends during March/April.



April

Easter/ Spring break: School gets out of classes for about a week to celebrate Easter (celebration of resurrection of Jesus Christ).

May-June

Junior/Senior Banquet: Juniors and seniors (11th and 12th graders) get to dress up in fancy dress and have a dinner at a hotel or at other places. Most girls wear dresses and guys wear tuxedos or suits for the evening. After the dinner, there is usually an after party where students enjoy various activities (skating, bowling, etc.) with their friends.

High school band/ Ensemble concert: Band class and ensemble class perform their achievement for the year. Both of those classes perform very well each year.

High school awards assembly: Students who worked very hard, or who had a good testimony to others are honored in this assembly. There are many different awards given to a number of students.

Speech and Drama Presentation: Speech and drama class performs the achievement of the year.

Baccalaureate: A Sunday evening service for seniors (12th graders) before graduation.

Spring Sports Ceremony: Ceremony for spring sports athletes (women's soccer and men's baseball)

High School Exams: Final exams for high schoolers! Half day of school for a whole week. The 4th grading period ends as the exams end.

Graduation: Seniors celebrate for the big day!!



A Day at RVCS

Now, let's look at highlights of a day in RVCS. Assume this was a chapel day (students attend chapel once a week). This is how RVCS students spend a day at school...

8:30- 1st Period

All the classes in RVCS start out with devotion and prayers. It is important to hear God's words as the day starts. Teachers take attendance, and students sign up for lunch (write down what you want for lunch).



9:23- 2nd Period

10:03- Snack Break

During the snack break, high school students may buy snacks and enjoy it during the break. This is a great time for students to catch up with their friends and enjoy conversation.

10:15- 3rd Period

11:00- 4th Period

11:45- Chapel

After the 4th period, students go to chapel. During the chapel, students get to praise God, and hear our pastor preach about God. Chapel is very essential for RVCS students.



12:25- Lunch

Lunch time! Most students' favorite time of the day. Students go down to the cafeteria and enjoy the lunch with their friends.

1:00- 5th Period

1:45- 6th Period

2:30- 7th Period

Last class of the day!

3:10 End of the school day, after school activities

Many students in RVCS play sports, so they attend practice a few days a week. Even if you are not a part of a sport team, there are always games held for each sports team so you can go see them and cheer for the Eagles! (Name of sports team at RVCS)



On regular days (non-chapel day), the schedule looks like...

1st Period 8:30-9:28

2nd Period 9:33-10:19

3rd Period 10:31-11:17

4th Period 11:22-12:08

5th Period 12:13-12:59

Lunch 12:59-1:28

6th Period 1:33-2:19

7th Period 2:24-3:10

Academics

RVCS offers various classes that you can choose to take at the beginning of the year.

Let's look at some courses available for high school students!

BIBLE-all students are required to take a Bible class each year.

ENGLISH-all students are required to take an English class each year. RVCS does not offer an ESL English course, but international students may ask help during the Teacher on Call (see below).

MATHEMATICS-RVCS offers various math classes, and in some classes like Calculus, students can earn college credits by taking an AP Exam. Math courses in RVCS: Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Consumer Math, Pre-Calculus (Trigonometry and Statistics), and Calculus.

SCIENCE-Like math, RVCS offers many different science courses. All the students who are in science classes get to attend science fair in February. Science courses in RVCS: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

SOCIAL STUDIES-Social Studies will help you understand more about the United States, and international students are encouraged to take Social Studies courses. Social Studies courses at RVCS include: World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government.

PE/HEALTH- all the freshmen (9th graders) and sophomores (10th graders) are required to take PE/Health class (there are some exceptions). Students enjoy playing sports with classmates during the PE class.

TECHNOLOGY-RVCS offers many technology (computer) classes. In those courses, students earn useful skills that will help throughout college and career. Technology classes in RVCS: Microsoft Office, Microsoft PageMaker, Microsoft FrontPage, Visual Basic, PASCAL, and C++.

Others- RVCS offers several classes that are not listed previously, including Band, Ensemble (singing), Speech and Drama, Yearbook and Spanish.

Study Hall- Students may include study hall in their schedule, which is a self-studying period.

Grades

Report Cards are mailed to each student after each grading period. Grades are determined by average points of your tests, quizzes, homework, and attitude.



A+	100
A	96-99
A-	95
B+	93-94
B	90-92
B-	88-89
C+	86-87
C	80-85
C-	78-79
D+	76-77
D	72-75
D-	70-71
F	69 and below

TEACHER ON CALL

Teacher on Call is a time when students can come early to school to seek help from teachers. When students have questions about the class or need help on a subject, he/she may show up on Teacher on Call days.



Athletics

Many students in RVCS play sports during the school year, and international students are also encouraged to join the team. Playing sports will help you make more friends and enjoy the after-school activities.

In RVCS, different sports are played by season. Students tryout for each sport at the beginning of the season.

GIRLS

Fall.....Volleyball
Winter.....Basketball
Spring.....Soccer, Softball



BOYS

Fall.....Soccer
Winter.....Basketball
Spring.....Baseball

Also, tennis, golf, and track are offered to students who wish to try out. Cheerleaders are selected the previous year to cheer for basketball and soccer games.

Lunch

High school students may either bring their lunch or buy a lunch at the cafeteria. Various menus are provided by the school cafeteria, and students enjoy lunchtime with their friends. It is a great chance for international students to make friends!

How to order lunch:

- 1) During the 1st period, write down the lunch you want on a lunch slip.
- 2) When the lunchtime comes, receive lunch and pay for it at the end of line.



Other than what is on the menu, milk, juice, ice cream and snacks are available everyday during lunch/snack break.

Field Trips

High school students have an opportunity to join field trips each year. Usually, it is a day trip for freshman (9th graders), an overnight trip for sophomores (10th graders) and juniors (11th graders), and a week trip for seniors (12th graders). Students enjoy those field trips. Especially for seniors, the senior trip is the biggest event in the last year of high school. Various field trips are planned in each class as well; for example, physics students take a trip to Smith Mountain Dam.

In previous years, RVCS high school students had an opportunity to visit these locations for their field trips:

- New York
- Washington, D.C.
- Florida and Bahamas
- Biltmore



Rules

There are several rules at RVCS for students, and one of the most important ones is the dress code. It is very important for students because it affects them everyday and how they dress could be a testimony to others outside the school.

International students should be aware of these and prepare for them before coming to the United States.

Boys

- All boys needs to wear shirts with collars and pants (no jeans or athletic pants).
- Shirts must be tucked in.
- Sweatshirts and sweaters can only be worn with collared shirts underneath.
- No t-shirts
- Must wear socks with shoes



Girls

- Girls may wear dresses, skirts, and slacks (pants that are not jeans).
- All the skirts' lengths must come down to the middle of the knee.
- Dresses and shirts must completely cover the top of the shoulder.
- No front slits in dresses or skirts
- No shirts with writing across the bust line
- No sundress or tank tops



For Both

- No athletic jerseys
- No pants or jeans with holes
- No shorts
- No hats and sunglasses inside the building
- No plastic shower shoes or athletic flip-flops

Dear International Students,

I hope you are very excited about coming to America and attending Roanoke Valley Christian Schools. It will be the best experience you will ever have in your life. Sure, there will be some hard times because of culture differences and language differences, but it will be worth it at the end. I myself was an international student at RVCS for three years. I made wonderful friends that I still consider my best friends, and gained numerous experiences and great memories that I would never have gained if I hadn't come here.

Be open minded, and try new things always! RVCS is a great place to get your education, make wonderful friends, and build a strong relationship with God.

Mai Takanami
Graduate of RVCS
Class of 2007
International student from Japan