



River Valley School
Bag 6, 310 Centre St. N.,
Sundre, AB TOM 1X0
A safe and happy place to learn



November 15, 2024

Dear Parents,

Re: O.R. - Opportunity Room

Last year we did a pilot project to provide extra academic support for Middle School students, called the O.R. - aka the Opportunity Room. Based on academic information we are currently seeing, a number of students are struggling to complete work, or to complete their best quality work, and hand it in in a timely way. The Opportunity Room can support students who may be struggling in these areas.

A school space and supervision have been arranged for lunch recesses for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week to manage the O.R. Students may be assigned to attend if they are missing assignments, failing a course, or have submitted work that is significantly below the quality they are capable of. As noted there will be an adult available to support their learning, and help them to either complete or redo work as needed. It may also be a space where students can write a test they may have missed due to an absence. We anticipate no more than about 15 students in the space at a time, to better enable everyone to get the support they need. While the initial student view may be that this is a consequence - and it is in the sense that it is holding them accountable for their learning - it is also an opportunity to get help, and to lay the foundation for making better academic choices in the future.

This is a process I implemented many years ago (back in my days as a High School teacher), in response to an increase in failing marks and a lack of motivation to either complete work, or to complete work of a high quality. Unfortunately, we are seeing a number of our students struggling with similar challenges of both motivation and skill. We are hopeful that the O.R. will again this year, both provide any extra support needed, and also increase the independence and motivation we know students will need to succeed both now as well as later in life. At the high school level students will encounter something similar with the 'flex block' system.

We anticipate having the program begin next week. We appreciate your support, as well as the conversations we know are happening at home around these topics, and look forward to continuing to work together for the success of RVS kids. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's homeroom teacher or myself at any time - thanks!

Cheers,
Leslie Cooper-Shand
Principal
River Valley School