



S.T.E.P.S.



River Valley High School

Site Coordinator: Mr. Johnson

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Building Literacy Skills at Home

Literacy based activities should be encouraged at home during middle and high school years. Strong literacy skills are essential for development, provide a foundation for school and work, social skills, and solving problems. Below are a few strategies you can do at home with your middle and high schooler.

1. **Start a Family Book Club.** Read a book as a family and engage in discussions around the story.
2. **Listen to Audio Books.** Listening to a novel as a whole family is a great way to engage in family book discussions.
3. **Promote Choice.** Allowing your child to choose books they want to read can help foster a love of reading.
4. **Mix in Movies.** Suggest books from movies your child likes. They may enjoy getting the additional details that the book provides. Discuss how the book and movie are different. Compare how the movie and book were different. Which story line did they like best.
5. **Read to younger siblings.** Encourage your older child to read and discuss a book to a younger sibling or family member.
6. **Play Games.** Games like Scrabble, Boggle, and other board games require reading skills.

Just a few minutes spent each day on simple literacy activities can add up to a lifelong love of reading and learning. (<https://doe.louisiana.gov/>)

Supporting Your Child Through Middle & High School Math

It's no secret the Math is source of most homework stress for teens. Being a parent of a teen there's a fine line of help for the teen between doing too much for them or let them struggle for themselves. To help alleviate some of the stress and to help your teen to become self confident, below are a few things to help navigate Math homework.

1. Encourage your student to focus on the how of the problem and solution works. Ask them to explain the problem and focus on the "why" of the problem by asking questions "why does this work?"
2. Encourage your child to do their best to always be positive and encouraging. Math takes practice and patience.
3. Do admit if you don't fully understand a problem and it's ok if they don't understand it right now. Discuss how to figure out how to solve the problem, look at past problems, search on google or youtube.
4. Keep current on the math concepts being taught and research before hand to refresh your memory or learn a new the new concept before helping your child.
5. Look at your options—is there someone close like, uncle, neighbor, sibling that would be willing to help with math homework.
6. Be Cautious walking the fine line of helping, guiding, teaching and doing too much.

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Fun and Games

Students enjoy the games during the winter months. They had a Spoons tournament where the winner receive a handmade trophy to boast about. The students relax during this time, develop friendships and comradery with fellow classmates.



LIFE SKILLS

This activity involves more than just cooking, which is a very important life skill for all adults. These students like cooking and eating their creation. They, also, have been working on decision-making and consequences for each decision. They work on problem solving, responsibilities, and critical thinking. Another skill that is worked on is effective communication and the importance of using self control.



FISHING

RVHS is very fortunate to have a pond close to be able to offer a Fishing Activity to their students. Students enjoyed getting out of the building and being outdoors. This is a low stress activity that the children love. This could become a hobby in their future to destress and get away from the fast pace of life.



Career Readiness

The STEPS students have had the opportunity to do some career exploration up close with visitors that the career coach from Buckeye Hills Career Center, Samantha Shaffer, has arranged. Some of the career experiences explored were Lineman Instructor, Wildlife & Natural Resource officer from ODNR, Soil & Water with conservation, and University of Rio Grande, entrepreneur, Brea Elliott, Raina's Grooming and training. Some other exploration of careers were JB Nets (internet), Buckeye Hills instructors, and Holzer Health systems. Presenters brought hands-on activities to keep students engaged and show what their career tools and skills that are a part of their job.



Beautification Activity

The students at RVHS has introduced an activity to build pride for their school. With the help of their Art teacher whom works in the afterschool program, the students walk the building looking for the perfect places to display their art work and show **RAIDER PRIDE**. After locating the place, the students design the unique image for the area. They then sketch and paint the Beautiful Art Work.



RAIDERS

La Comedia "Into the Woods"

Students for SGMHS, RVMS, and RVHS traveled to Springboro, Ohio to La Comedia Dinner Theatre for a delicious dining and Broadway-style live entertainment on March 6, 2025. The experience started out with a buffet consisting of breakfast foods and lunch items. The students saw "Into the Woods" that contained familiar fairy tale characters from Grimm's Fairy Tales like Little Red Riding Hood, the Baker and his wife, Cinderella and more with a twist. The characters realize that they must work together to set everything straight in the kingdom. The students had a great experience



Family Game & Movie Literacy / Numeracy Night

Due to weather and flooding, STEPS held their literacy / numeracy night on April 15, 2025. The night's activities were packed full of fun activities involving literacy and math. Some of the activities were movie room (Hidden Figures), Micro Art Exhibit (displaying students works), Escape Rooms (Math solving & English solving skills), and a room filled of board games students could play and take home. Everyone received free popcorn and snow cones while they enjoyed all the activities.



At the end of the program, Kona Ice truck visits the program as a way to celebrate the end of the program for the summer. Students love to line up for their cup of ice and then they can choose the flavor they would like or mix flavors for a personalized one-of-a-kind treat. Then they sit out in the warm sunshine eating their treat. A great way to finish.



Steps offered Driver's Education the second semester. Students get to do the book part of Driver's Education by registering and attending the STEPS program. If a student attends 30 days of the afterschool program then they will get their driving portion paid for as well. This is a great financial opportunity for families if students participate.