



# **RISE KOHYANG MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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A BRIGHT STAR SCHOOL

**2026-2027  
Student and Family Handbook**

# Welcome

Dear RKMS Families,

Welcome to the start of the school year, and welcome to Rise Kohyang Middle School.

At RKMS, our work is grounded in a clear vision: to create an intentional student experience where every student feels safe, engaged, and known. We believe that when students experience both a strong sense of belonging and high academic expectations, they are able to thrive—not only as learners, but as members of a broader community. This is at the heart of *Kohyang*: community and identity.



We are intentional in how we support students across all areas of development- academic, social, emotional, and behavioral. Our instructional program includes targeted supports such as i-Ready in Reading and Math, regular diagnostics, and differentiated instruction through enrichment, intervention, and acceleration. These systems are designed to ensure that every student receives the support and challenge they need to grow.

At the same time, we are committed to strengthening our practice as educators so that students build the skills to understand and navigate the world around them. This includes ongoing work in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), where we aim to equip both students and staff with the tools to think critically, act with empathy, and address issues such as bias, racism, and inequity. This work is continuous, and we approach it with both urgency and care.

As we continue to strengthen alignment across our TK–8 campus, we remain committed to providing a cohesive and supportive experience for all students and families. While we are still two schools, we recognize the power of working together to better serve our community.

Partnership with families is essential to this work. We ask that you stay connected with us- primarily through ParentSquare- and reach out whenever you have questions or need support. We also encourage you to engage with your child’s learning by reinforcing school expectations, monitoring assignments, and maintaining open communication with teachers. We cannot do this work without you.

This handbook outlines the policies and expectations that guide our school community. We hold high standards because we believe in our students’ potential, and we are committed to ensuring they have the tools and support needed to succeed.

Please take time to review this handbook with your child. Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and commitment to our community. Together, we will ensure that every

student at RKMS is supported, challenged, and known.

Sincerely,


Ruth Kim  
Principal  
Rise Kohyang Middle School  
[rkim@brightstarschools.org](mailto:rkim@brightstarschools.org)







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# School Leadership Team

				
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Lindsay Dumas (SP) <i>Community School Manager</i>	Karen Medina (SP) <i>Community School Manager</i>	Rudy Romero (SP) <i>Assoc Dean of Rest Pract</i>	Beth Pollak (SP) <i>Dean of Instruction</i>	Khalia Lindsay <i>Literacy Coach</i>	Haily Hernandez (SP) <i>Office Manager</i>

## Bright Star Schools Support Team

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## General Information

Rise Kohyang Middle School  
Grades 6-8  
Phone Number: 424-789-8338  
600 S. Lafayette Park Pl  
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Fax Number: 310-256-3974

## Contact Information

Meetings are by appointment only. Call the main office or email the individual to set up a time to meet.

Phone hours refer to the hours our office staff is available. If you call during non-office hours, please follow the recorded directions and leave a message. We will return your call in a timely manner. Please respect our staff by honoring these hours. Generally the office phone is very busy in the mornings from 7:15 AM–8:30 AM, so if possible, please call after this time. In the event of an after-hours emergency, please use Parent Square or email to contact our staff. Our phone hours are 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

Additionally, please check our website, [www.brightstarschools.org](http://www.brightstarschools.org) for general information, email our office, or communicate with us on Parent Square.

Communication between families and staff, each of whom has their own phone extension and email address. Families should contact staff by telephone, email, or Parent Square and understand that we will try to return communication within 48 hours in the event that a message is left. Families will also have an opportunity to meet with staff during the two scheduled parent-teacher conference days. In addition, meetings can be arranged at any time by appointment. If a parent needs to see a staff person immediately, the person should report directly to the Main Office, which will facilitate the earliest possible contact.

While we certainly welcome, encourage, and appreciate contact between families and teachers, we also ask that families be respectful of the enormous and constant demands made on all of our staff. Please know that sometimes our staff cannot immediately respond to your concerns; we will respond as soon as we can.

All staff email addresses can all be found on the RKMS website (<https://www.brightstarschools.org/RKMS>)

## Closed Campus

All Bright Star Schools are closed campuses, and students may never leave campus without an adult. Additionally, students who are in the after-school program are not permitted to leave campus between the day ending and after-school programming without an adult.

## Arrival & Dismissal

Authorized adults (18 years or older) must be listed on the student's emergency card. Name, relationship to student, and addresses are required for all adults listed on these forms. Any adult who is picking up a student must carry photo identification with them and have it ready to show to the school if requested. Oral requests to add a person to a pick-up authorization will not be permitted. All requests must be in writing.

The school reserves the right to make updates to these procedures at any time to ensure the safety of your student and the efficiency of the program.

## Parking Lot Safety

For the safety of our students and visitors, please adhere to the following expectations/procedures for our parking garage:

- Do not use the street to drop off and pick up students.
- Use the parking lot to ensure students arrive safely on campus.
- Do not use cell phones while driving in the lot
- The speed limit is 5 mph at all times
- Do not double park or pass a car unless instructed by a staff member
- Do not leave your car unattended unless you are parked in a designated parking space
- Please use the designated crosswalks at all times
- Do not ask your student to walk across the parking lot alone. Please escort your student to and from your parking spot
- All staff and volunteers must be treated with respect and given the authority to direct traffic

## Parking for Office Inquiries

Unfortunately, we do not offer visitor parking at this time. If you need to enter the building, please use street parking and follow municipal laws.

## Parent Guardian Tardiness/Late Pick Up

Please note that late pick up is an inconvenience for our staff to provide your students with a great education every day. We will stay with your child 10-15 minutes past the closure of the pick up lane. After this time students will be taken to the main office to wait for pick up. Parents are responsible for picking up within 20 minutes of the dismissal time. If our supervision policy is abused by a parent more than once in a semester or there is an excessive delay, parents/guardians will be given a written warning. Multiple offenses will lead to a meeting with the Principal and potentially SVP of School Leadership. If you are going to have issues picking up your child because of an emergency, please notify the main office immediately. Our Woodcraft Rangers program is an easy option for families who have a challenge meeting the dismissal time.

## **Release of Student**

We will never release a student to anybody aside from the designated parent, guardian, or otherwise authorized adults. Authorized adults (18 years or older) must be listed on the student's emergency card. Name, relationship to student, and addresses are required for all adults listed on these forms. Any adult who is picking up a student must carry photo identification with them and have it ready to go to show to the school if requested. Oral requests to add a person to a pick-up authorization will not be permitted. All requests must be in writing.

The school reserves the right to make updates to these procedures at any time to ensure the safety of your student and the efficiency of the program.

If there is any court-ordered restriction regarding custodial rights (e.g., updated custody agreements or restraining orders), please provide a copy to the main office.

## **After School Enrichment Activities: ASES**

ASES stands for After School Enrichment and Safety Program; students participating in the ASES program will remain on campus after the academic day ends to participate in various enrichment activities. Participation is strongly encouraged for all students but not required.

Participating in the ASES program is extremely valuable for character growth as well as for college applications. Colleges seek out well rounded students and electing to be part of this program will strengthen your application. Those who commit to the ASES program must remain enrolled for the entire semester.

The ASES program at Rise Kohyang Middle School will be managed by Woodcraft Rangers (WR). Contact information will be available through our website. WR will offer enrichment classes based on student interest. They will also provide homework assistance at this time.

## **Food Program**

Information on the school food program can be located in the Org-Wide Policies at the end of this handbook. Students who participate in the school food program should line up during the first 15 minutes of the lunch period in order to ensure ample time to consume their food. After 15 minutes the lunch line will end and no other students will be permitted to join the line.

If a student does not want to participate in the school food program, they may bring a healthy breakfast/lunch from home. We do NOT encourage our students to bring chips, candy, soda or anything with high fructose corn syrup or any beverage other than water.

We also encourage families to use reusable soft lunch bags instead of paper ones or lunch boxes. Each lunch container must be clearly marked with the student's name. Please do not send coolers to school. We do not have the room to store coolers. Glass containers are prohibited on school grounds.

## Life Experience Lessons (LELs)

Life Experience Lessons (LELs) have been a hallmark of Bright Star's program since our founding. We believe that students must be offered opportunities to enhance their education with real-life experiences if they are going to succeed in life outside the classroom. Our LEL program provides both area Day Trips and seasonal Overnight Trips around the country.

### Day Trips

Students, teachers and volunteers commit to significant out-of-class learning time around Los Angeles' diverse communities. Excursions include hiking, biking, and beach clean-ups. A variety of plays, music concerts and museum visits are made throughout the year across all grade levels.

### Overnight Trips

Students who achieve academic and citizenship goals have the opportunity to attend the following overnight trips: End-of-the-year trips to national locations. A sample of locations explored in the past: Northern California, Utah, Washington DC and Catalina Island. These trips bring lessons to life and include college campus tours that allow students to *envision the possibilities for their futures*. All parents must complete a general Field Trip Permission Slip for each trip that students attend.- Students without a trip slip will not be allowed to attend field trips.

### Student Contribution

For LEL trips taking place after the school year ends, students are expected to pay a small fee for their trip in order for RKMS to bring as many students as possible who qualify. The fee is dependent on the total cost of the trip, but is typically between 10%-20% of the total trip cost. Depending on our travel arrangements, this fee may not be refundable within 60 days of the LEL departure date. The end-of-year LELs are not a part of the school's core curriculum. For those students who are unable to pay the contribution, there is a scholarship form. The expected family contribution will be adjusted based on the family's income and household size. Payment plans are also available upon request. Any questions or concerns regarding a trip or expected family contribution can be addressed to the LEL Coordinator.

## Textbooks

Textbooks **for certain subjects** will be issued for use during the academic year and will remain the property of the school. *If a student loses a book, they will be charged for the full replacement cost of the book.*

## Novels

Students will read novels as a part of the ELA curriculum. The required books from the library are not for students to keep and must be replaced if students damage or lose them. The cost to replace a novel is \$10. If a novel is lost or damaged in the middle of reading, it is the student's responsibility to replace it.

# Study Supplies

In order to be successful in the classroom, you must be prepared with the proper tools. Backpacks or book bags are required for carrying books and supplies to and from school. In addition, a list of prohibited classroom items will be shared at the beginning of the year. It is recommended that all personal items (backpack, uniform, pencil boxes and supplies, etc) be labeled with the student's full name and grade level.

# Closed Campus

All Bright Star Schools are closed campuses and students may never leave campus without an adult. This is especially important during transition periods such as between classes. Leaving campus without permission is considered ditching and disciplinary action will ensue from such choices.

# School Calendar

## ✧ ✧ Bright Star Schools 2026-2027 Academic Calendar ✧ ✧

**August 2026**  
 8/3 & 8/4: New Teacher PD  
 8/5 - 8/11: BOTY PD  
**8/12: First Day of School**

**September 2026**  
 9/4: Pupil Free Day, BSS PD  
 9/7: Holiday - Labor Day

**October 2026**  
 10/12-10/16: Fall Break, No School  
 10/19: Pupil Free Day, BSS PD

**November 2026**  
 11/11: Holiday - Veteran's Day  
 11/23-11/27: Thanksgiving Break

**December 2026**  
 12/10-12/11: Principal Winter Retreat  
 12/21: Leadership Teams Retreat  
 12/21-1/1: Winter Break

**January 2027**  
 1/4: Pupil Free Day, BSS PD  
 1/18: Holiday - MLK Day

**February 2027**  
 2/15: Holiday - President's Day

**March 2027**  
 3/22-3/26: Spring Break  
 3/31: Holiday - Cesar Chavez Day

**April 2027**  
 4/12: Pupil Free Day, BSS PD

**May 2027**  
 5/31: Holiday - Memorial Day

**June 2027**  
**6/4: Last Day of School**  
 6/4: Last day for T&C  
 6/7-6/11: Window for LELS  
 6/14-6/17: Leadership Teams Retreat & Teacher Leadership Institute  
 6/18: Holiday - Juneteenth

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
30	31																										

DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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							31																				

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												



# Family Communication

## School Appointments

To meet with an administrator, parents should make arrangements by calling the school office during the above hours. Appointments with faculty members should be made directly with the teachers. Teachers need at least 24 hour notice in order to schedule quality time with you. Please send a note to the teacher or email him/her for an appointment. You can also leave a voice message for a written or phone reply. Messages will be returned during the teacher's planning time.

## Visiting Campus

We have an "open door" policy for all parents/guardians of currently enrolled students, who wish to visit the RKMS campus. Parents are strongly encouraged to observe their child's classes, as it is truly the best way to understand the education your student is receiving. In order to minimize the disruption to instruction, parents are asked to schedule the observation with the Main Office at least 24 hours in advance. At the time of scheduling, parents will be given a copy of the protocols to be followed during classroom observations. All visitors are asked to sign in at the Main Office with a valid photo ID and wear an identification badge while on campus. A visitor's pass may be picked up from the main office. The school reserves the right to refuse admission.

## Engagement & Support

We aim to partner with and support all families at Bright Star Schools through clear communication, access to resources, and opportunities for learning, leadership, and connection.

For communication, ParentSquare is our primary tool to provide real-time updates, announcements, event reminders, and direct messaging between staff and parents. Families can also find important information on our website including guidance for navigating academic and extracurricular activities and an interactive map of local resources. In addition, we send out monthly newsletters that provide a summary of key school and community events, important dates, classroom highlights, and resources. We curate a robust calendar of events throughout the year that range from social gatherings to academic-focused workshops to opportunities for family input and decision making.

Ultimately, your health and wellbeing promotes that of your child and we are invested in supporting the holistic needs of all our community members. If you are in need of support, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Community School Manager.

## Parent Portal on Aeries

Parents have access to their student's academic information online via Aeries Student and Parent Portal. Each family will receive their student's login information at the beginning of the year. If your student does not communicate with the parent-portal log-in, please feel free to come to the front office and request the information in person. Some of the information available to parents includes: current class grades, missing assignments, test scores, and

attendance. There are other useful tools and features that can help the parent monitor their student's progress and success.

## Requesting Student Records

Any request for student records must be submitted to the school's main office. Requests for copies of cumulative records and/or transcripts will be met within five business days. Copies of academic progress records will be sent home by advisory teachers throughout the year as well.

## Volunteer Opportunities

For information on the volunteer policy at all Bright Star Schools, please see the Org-Wide Policies at the end of this handbook.

## Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Rise Kohyang Middle School values parent and family involvement, and understands the important role families play in a student's academic success. Research shows that the number one predictor of a student's learning success is parent involvement. Therefore, we invite parents/guardians to help us at one of the following events. However, parents/guardians are welcome to volunteer at more events if desired. Dates will be announced through our official calendar.

There are many ways to volunteer at RKES, and you may have a skill, talent or resource to offer that would benefit our community. For more information about the specific needs of our school or to share your skills and resources with us please contact the school office or your Community School Manager.

Charter schools are prohibited from requiring a parent or guardian to perform volunteer service as a condition of their child's admission, continued enrollment, and/or participation in the school's educational activities, or otherwise discriminating against a student because their parent cannot, or will not provide voluntary service to the school. In other words, while your participation in the parent volunteer and engagement activities is encouraged, it is not required.

## Toy Policy

While we understand that toys and play items are of special significance to children, toys from home are not permitted on the Rise Kohyang Elementary School campus, as toys from home can be a distraction from learning and can cause conflict between students. In addition, lost or stolen personal items can cause distress on children, which detracts from their learning experiences. If your child requires a toy due to a documented medical or behavioral need, please provide a doctor's note to the Main Office.

The following items are prohibited on campus, and this list is not exhaustive:

- Toys, including (but not limited to) action figures, dolls, play weapons, blocks, LEGO, fidgets, finger skateboards.

- Stuffed animals
- Trading cards, including Pokemon cards
- Electronics of any kind
- Outdoor play equipment, including soccer balls, footballs, baseballs, and jump ropes
- Dress-up clothing, including play crowns

## Electronics Policy

Students are not permitted to bring electronic items to school. These electronic items include but are not limited to: cell phones, smart watches, iPods, tablets, iPads, hand-held game consoles.

Recognizing some parents/guardians will want their student to carry a cell phone, students are permitted to bring a cell phone to school, given phones are completely out of sight and unheard. School phones will be used in the case of an emergency. Cell phones should not be visible during the school day or school sponsored after-school activities. If used during the school day or school-sponsored after-school activities, school staff may confiscate the student's phone at their discretion. In the case a cell phone is confiscated the cell phone must be picked up at the end of the day. If not picked up in this time frame, the school will not be responsible for, or investigate, any claims of lost or stolen phones.

## Parental Support Of Technology

Parents of Bright Star students are requested to supervise the use of any type of technology at home. We need the help and support of all parents to prevent any negative or harmful use of computers and/or any other means of communication.

## Photography/Video Taking

Taking pictures or videos on campus are prohibited at all times on the school grounds unless expressly pre-authorized by a school administrator in writing. Students who violate this are subject to appropriate disciplinary actions. Parents who violate this norm will be officially warned, and, if the behavior continues, may be banned from any school-supervised or sponsored events.

# Academic Policies

## Standards-Based Grading

Standards-based grading is a way to

1. Assess students' knowledge of skills
2. Provide accurate data in a fair way
3. Focus on critical thinking and analysis

Students receive a numerical grade between 1- 4 in which a score of 3 represents meeting grade level standards. Students are allowed to retake assignments in which they originally score below meeting standards. Teachers are assessing student knowledge of the skill required of the

content standard. All the standards-based grades will be averaged to determine a student's final grade in class. Below you will see the range and corresponding performance band.

RKMS Grading Scale (OTCU)			
SBG	OTCU	Performance Band	Description
3.41-4	On Target	Standard Exceeded (4)	Demonstrates understanding beyond grade level standards consistently and independently
2.7-3.41	On Target	Standard Met (3)	Demonstrates understanding of grade-level standards consistently and independently
2.0-2.7	On Target	Approaching Standard (2)	Demonstrates partial understanding of standards with or without support
Below 2	Catch Up	Standard Not Met (1)	Demonstrates minimal (or no) understanding and does not meet the grade level standards with support

## Google Classroom

Assignments are usually posted on teachers' Google Classrooms. Please check your child's Google Classroom for assignment and project information.

## Promotion Goals

In order to advance to the next grade level, students need to meet 5 out of 7 promotion goals.

<b>Math</b>	Pass class with > 2
<b>English Language Arts</b>	Pass class with > 2
<b>Science</b>	Pass class with > 2
<b>Social Studies</b>	Pass class with > 2
<b>Essentials</b>	Pass class with > 2
<b>Combined Class Average (CCA)</b>	Average CCA > 2
<b>Writing Exams/DBQ</b>	Pass 1 out of 2 exams

## Inclusive Education

Promotion for students with disabilities, who either have active Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 plans, is accommodated based on student needs.

## **Student Success and Progress Team (SSPT)**

A Student Success and Progress Team (SSPT) is formed for students who are at risk of repeating a grade level. SSPTs are held throughout the year in order to continuously determine the appropriate educational supports the student may need. An SSPT consists of the student, family, and school staff. After the initial SSPT, team members reconvene to discuss progress, and continuous revisions of the SSPT are made in order to determine which supports work best. If a student continues to struggle despite various accommodations and supports, the school and/or family may request an evaluation for special education eligibility.

## **Promotion/Graduation Ceremonies**

Sixth and Seventh grade students take part in Promotion ceremonies, while Eighth grade students have Graduation. Students are awarded diplomas and an array of awards, including but not limited to CCA and content-specific awards.

## **Uniform Policy**

Bright Star Schools are schools of choice. In order to facilitate and maintain an effective, healthy, and safe learning environment, the principal, staff, and parents of Bright Star Schools have developed this uniform dress code policy. The purpose of this dress code policy is to prepare students for the business world by teaching them to dress in a professional manner, to prevent distractions in class and on campus, and to minimize the potential for competition between students. All students are expected to wear clothes that comply with this uniform dress code policy to school each day. There will be days during the school year when students will be allowed to come to school in free dress. These days will be shared with families through our school communication systems.

This uniform dress code policy has been adopted in compliance with the provisions of Article IX, section 5 of the California Constitution, and Assembly Bill 1575 (effective January 1, 2013), which prohibit the charging of any student fees for participation in an educational activity at a public school.

Student clothing should be in good condition and of appropriate size. Students should dress in a way that is appropriate to the learning environment and is safe. Clothing should fit properly. Clothing should not contain any pattern, design, or logo that is disruptive or inappropriate, vulgar, violent, or discriminatory. Students or parents requesting an exemption from any provision of this Uniform Dress Code policy for religious or other reasons should contact the Bright Star Schools office directly.

## **Purchasing Uniforms**

Students may purchase official school uniforms with logos at Cambridge Uniforms located at 220 S. Market St, Inglewood, CA 90301; phone is (310) 673-3131. However, students are not required to purchase clothing through Cambridge Uniforms.

Students may purchase uniform clothing without the school emblem as long as the clothing meets the criteria for color and fit.

## Dress Code Compliance

No student shall be sent home from school or denied attendance to school, or penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against, for noncompliance with the school uniform dress code policy. However, any student who arrives at school in nonconforming clothes will be provided with conforming clothing by Bright Star Schools for the day. We respectfully ask that parents help ensure our policy before the student arrives on campus each day.

Should your student or family have any special needs or circumstances with regard to the uniform, please contact your counselor or call Marni Parsons, Director of Student Services, at 323-954-9957 ext. 1004.

Item	Policy
Shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Navy blue polo-collar shirt with or without Bright Star Schools emblem.</li> <li>● Solid navy blue shirt with or without Bright Star Schools logo.</li> <li>● Bright Star Schools/RKMS T-shirts</li> <li>● Shirts must be short or long-sleeved</li> <li>● No sleeveless tops are permitted.</li> </ul>
Pants Shorts Skirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Khaki in color with or without Bright Star logo on front pocket.</li> <li>● Plain solid navy blue or RKMS PE sweatpants or shorts bottoms (sweat pants or shorts).</li> <li>● No jeans/denim, tight-fitting, loose pants, or non-PE sweatpants. Pants must be worn at the waist and remain at the waist.</li> <li>● Pants cannot be too tight or too baggy.</li> <li>● Shorts/skirts/skort must reach past the student's fingertip when standing</li> </ul>
Jackets Sweatshirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cardigans, sweatshirts, sweaters, vests, or jackets must be solid navy blue with or without the RKMS/Bright Star Schools logo.</li> <li>● Bright Star Schools outerwear as allowed by admin.</li> <li>● No large patterns, logos, or designs allowed- must be smaller than palm.</li> <li>● All college sweaters are allowed.</li> <li>● Hoodies are allowed on campus, but hoods should be removed before entering the building.</li> </ul>
Shoes	<p>Students may choose their shoes as long as they meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students can run in their shoes.</li> <li>● Shoes must completely cover the toes and heel.</li> <li>● No slippers, sandals, Crocs, Uggs, open toes, backless, or slip-ons.</li> </ul>

Any complaints related to the costs of conforming clothing should be addressed to the school's Principal through the school's Uniform Complaint Procedure, set forth in Uniform Complaint Procedure Policy approved by the Board of Directors and published in the Student and Family Handbook.

## Dress Code

Students must wear school uniform as outlined above except on free dress days. The following

rules apply during both school uniform and free dress days:

- Students must wear a shirt and bottom, or skirt/dress, and shoes.
- Shirts must cover the entire torso and straps must be at least 2 inches wide.
- Students must be able to run in their shoes, shoes must cover the toes and heel, and no shoes with rollers or any distracting function are permitted.
- Bottoms, skirts, and dresses must reach mid-thigh or longer
- All clothing must be made of opaque material.
- Undergarments and private parts must be completely covered.
- Students cannot wear any images and/or references to: any illegal item or activity, hate speech, drugs, nudity, discriminatory, violent language, inappropriate language, profanity.
- Hats are not permitted in class except in the case of a religious or cultural exemption.

## School Culture

### Restorative Practice

At RKMS, all staff utilize Restorative Justice (RJ) in the classroom as well as on the playground.

Restorative Practice is an effective alternative to punitive responses to wrongdoing. It brings together persons harmed with persons responsible for harm in a safe and respectful space, promoting dialogue, accountability, and a stronger sense of community. This is a philosophical framework that can be applied in a variety of contexts – the justice system, schools, families, communities, and others. Through community charters, expected behavior and expectations are set and agreed upon by students and staff.

For peer-to-peer conflicts, students will participate in conflict resolution through a Blueprint.

### RKMS Vision

**R** – Reciprocate. **Give back.**

**I** – Initiate and Innovate. **Change starts with you.**

**S** – Steward. **Be an advocate for change.**

**E** – Elevate through **Education.**

### Core Values

**Advocacy** is a core value we instill in our students based on RKMS' Mission and Vision. Students demonstrate this value per grade level Student Led Conferences where they show

6th - Advocacy of **Self**

7th - Advocacy of **School**

8th - Advocacy of **Community**

Our culture of **high expectations** emphasizes character development and strong values; this is called our PREP system at RKMS. Students must be Prepared, Respectful, Engaged and

Professional. We track this on our Dean's List Program.

Our high **standards of accountability** ask the entire school community to strive for our shared success. One way we do this is by avoiding "social promotion" of our students before they meet grade level standards. Our openness to **continuous improvement** creates an atmosphere comfortable with change. We constantly evaluate and improve our curriculum and experiences.

## School Wide Expectations

The goal of Bright Star Schools is to create a culture of professionalism and success for all students, teachers and staff. All individuals on campus are expected to hold themselves to high standards of conduct and professionalism. We strive for mutual respect and admiration between students and adults.

The following expectations are to be upheld on every Bright Star Campus in and out of the classroom:

1. Bright Star students will be **PREPARED** in arriving at school and class.
2. Bright Star students will be **RESPECTFUL** to peers and adults on campus.
3. Bright Star students will be actively **ENGAGED** learners.
4. Bright Star students will be **PROFESSIONAL** in wearing the uniform and being prepared for class.

Any student who exhibits an unwillingness to comply with these expectations will be referred to the Principal or Dean of Student Culture for appropriate interventions and disciplinary actions, which may include detention, parent conferences and Restorative Circles.

## **Policies Affecting All Bright Star Schools**



**BRIGHTSTAR**  
**S C H O O L S**

**Stella Elementary Charter Academy, Stella Middle Charter Academy, Stella High Charter Academy, Valor Academy Elementary, Valor Academy Middle, Valor Academy High, Rise Kohyang Elementary, Rise Kohyang Middle, Rise Kohyang High**