



Russellville Innovation Academy Student Handbook 2024-25

1103 West 9th St.
RUSSELLVILLE, KY 42276
(270) 726-8426

Dear Russellville Innovation Academy Students and Parents/Guardians:

Russellville Innovation Academy students engage in independent, project-based instruction that integrates core curricular areas and electives. The scope of these projects matches the developmental level of the students. The curriculum allows for differentiation and choice, supports engagement and focus on all work tasks, and promotes mastery learning. Lessons and activities encourage active engagement, questioning, and dialogue. Students use self-evaluations and rubrics to reflect on and self-assess their learning.

The Russellville Innovation Academy 9th through 10th grade provides students with the opportunity to pursue their career goals by earning certifications at the Logan County Career and Technical Center, Russellville High School, and in dual credit courses. Our program focuses on self-paced and personalized learning by leveraging their competencies (Knowledge and Thinking, Oral Communication, Written Communication, Collaboration, Agency) and provides opportunities to respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, prompt, or challenge. Students acquire competencies by collaborating in small groups to complete projects guided by teachers, overseen by counselors, and driven by real-world challenges and problems they may encounter.

Personalized learning provides a student-centered approach that tailors educational experiences to meet the unique needs, interests, and strengths of each individual child. By recognizing and addressing the diverse learning styles, preferences, and paces of students, personalized learning aims to create a more responsive and engaging educational environment. This approach fosters a deeper understanding of concepts, enhances motivation, and cultivates a sense of ownership over one's learning journey, empowering each child to reach their full potential.

Thank you,

*Jennifer Pope
Kelly Jones*



I. GENERAL INFORMATION AND POLICIES

The mission of Russellville Innovation Academy is to provide a safe, civil, and productive environment to ensure high quality learning occurs.

- Public education is the primary means of perpetuating the fundamental principles and values of a democratic society. Such an education shall allow students to acquire understanding of governmental processes as they affect the community, state, and nation.
- Public education has a responsibility for initiating programs that will improve the quality of life for the citizens of Russellville.
- Public education is the responsibility of all citizens of Russellville so that all students may acquire the knowledge to make economic, social, and political choices.
- Public education should provide equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of race, national origin, sex, political affiliation, and physical or mental limitations.
- Public education should provide all students an opportunity for an equal education and a safe and comfortable learning environment.
- Communication between school, parents, and community generates support and contributes to school effectiveness.
- School and community leaders should model the highest standards of ethical behavior.
- Parents have the primary responsibility, with assistance from the school, for the education, welfare, and discipline of their children.
- Parents have the responsibility for helping their children develop positive attitudes about learning, school, and school personnel.
- Each student must develop sufficient self-knowledge of his/her mental and physical wellness.
- Each student is an individual with unique characteristics, abilities, and needs and is deserving of full consideration and respect from school personnel.
- Each student must become a self-sufficient individual.
- Each student needs and deserves concern, acceptance, and understanding.
- Each student is capable of learning and should have an opportunity to learn based on his/her needs, interest, and abilities.
- All students should be responsible for their own behavior, exhibit respect for peers, school personnel, and school property, and be punctual and regular in attendance to school.

School personnel in the Commonwealth shall:

- Strive toward excellence, recognize the importance of the pursuit of truth, nurture democratic citizenship, and safeguard the freedom to learn and to teach;
- Believe in the worth and dignity of each human being and in educational opportunities for all;
- Strive to uphold the responsibilities of the education profession, including the following obligations to students, to parents, and to the education profession:

To Students:

- Shall provide students with professional education services in a non-discriminatory manner and in consonance with accepted best practice known to the educator.



- Shall respect the constitutional rights of all students.
- Shall take reasonable measures to protect the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students.
- Shall not use professional relationships of authority with students for personal advantage.
- Shall keep in confidence information about students which has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
- Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about students or colleagues.
- Shall refrain from subjecting students to embarrassment or disparagement.
- Shall not engage in any sexually related behavior with a student with or without consent, but shall maintain a professional approach with students. Sexually related behavior shall include such behavior or sexual jokes, sexual remarks, sexual kidding or teasing, sexual innuendo, pressure for dates or sexual favors, inappropriate physical touching, kissing or grabbing, rape, threats, or physical harm, and sexual assault.

To Parents:

- Shall make responsible effort to communicate to parents information which should be revealed in the interest of the student.
- Shall endeavor to understand community cultures and diverse home environments of students.
- Shall not knowingly distort or misrepresent facts concerning educational issues.
- Shall distinguish between personal views and the views of the employing educational agency.
- Shall not use institutional privileges for private gain, for the promotion of political candidates, or for partisan political activities.
- Shall not accept gratuities, gifts, or favors that might impair or appear to impair professional judgment, and shall not offer any of these to obtain special advantages.

To Education Profession:

- Shall exemplify behaviors which maintain the dignity and integrity of the profession.
- Shall accord just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession in exercise of their professional rights and responsibilities.
- Shall keep in confidence information acquired about colleagues in the course of employment, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
- Shall not use coercive means or give special treatment in order to influence professional decisions.
- Shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or responsibility only on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications.
- Shall not knowingly falsify or misrepresent records of facts relating to the educator's own qualifications or those of other professionals.

RIA Steering Committee

The RIA Steering Committee will consist of two teacher members, two district administrators, and two at-large district personnel for the coming school year with the RIA Instructional Facilitator remaining as chairman.

Some of the areas of responsibility which the school councils must address include the following: instructional materials and student support services; curriculum; technology utilization; assignment of staff time; assignment of students; schedule of school day; use of school space; instructional practices; extracurricular programming; discipline and classroom management techniques; budget; assessment of student progress; school improvement



plans; professional development plans; parent, community participation; cooperation within district and with other districts; waiver of district policies; record keeping.

RIA will follow the general guidelines, expectations and work in coordination with the primary schools administration and handbook guidelines

RIA Steering Committee Members for the 2024-2025 School Year

District Administrators

Dr. Kelly Jones
Jennifer Pope

Teacher Members

Maegan Woodlee
Kaitlyn Maiden

At-Large Members

Non-Discrimination Statement

As required by law, the Board of Education (BOE) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, sex, genetic information, disability, or limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions in its programs and activities and provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Any persons having inquiries concerning Russellville Independent School District's (the District) compliance with Title II, Title IV, Title VI and/or Section 504/ADA may contact: Jennifer Pope, Russellville Independent Schools, 355 S. Summer Street, Russellville, KY 42276 at (270) 726-8405 or jennifer.pope@russellville.kyschools.us . Inquiries concerning Title IX compliance contact: Jennifer Pope, Russellville Independent Schools, 355 S. Summer Street, Russellville, KY 42276, at (270) 726-8405 or jennifer.pope@russellville.kyschools.us .