



Rio Norte Junior High School

Rio Information

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Rio Norte is so big, will I have a difficult time finding my classes?

Every binder reminder includes map of the campus. Students will be surprised how quickly they learn their way around. Campus supervisors and administrators are always around to help guide students.

2. Will it be difficult to make new friends at Rio Norte?

Junior high school is a significant time of physical, intellectual, and social growth. Rio Norte provides a safe place for making new friends, and we find that our team structure helps students get to know their classmates quickly. Clubs and electives also help students identify classmates with similar interests.

3. How do teams work? What team will I be on?

A "team" is a group of around 160 students that share core academic teachers. Students that are on the same team all have the same English, Social Studies, Science, and Math teachers. Each student is placed on one of four teams randomly by the computer. We are not able to take requests or place friends together. Students generally make friends quickly on their team, and visit with other friends easily during brunch and lunch.

4. What is a Block Schedule?

Students attend three classes on the typical school day. The block periods are 92 minutes each.

5. What is the dress code?

Please check our website for a complete list of our dress code policies. Shorts should be mid-thigh length, tank tops must have two-inch shoulder straps and mid-drifts must be covered.

6. How long does it take to learn the rotating block schedule?

Students usually pick up the routine within a few weeks, but teachers, administrators, and campus supervisors are always available to help students find their classrooms. We recommend that students keep their schedules handy so they can be quickly referenced.

7. Is there a bus I can take to or from school? How much is it?

Yes. Bus 622 takes students to and from school. The route can be found on our website under the tab About Us, then choose Directions & Bus Schedules. The price is \$1.00. You may also be interested in a Tap card, a monthly bus pass.

8. Where can my parents drop me off and pick me up?

Most parents use the front of the school for morning drop off and afternoon pick up. The earlier families arrive, the faster the drop off. By 2:10pm, there is almost no traffic at Rio Norte. Please do not double park on the street or by the homes next to Rio Norte.

9. Can I walk to Albertsons and be picked up there?

We strongly encourage parents not to drop off or pick up at Albertsons. At Rio Norte, students are supervised until 3:15 pm. It is a safer location to wait for a ride. We also would like to keep a positive relationship with our neighbors, and students loitering in front of Albertsons/ Coffee Bean etc. is problematic.

10. Can I ride my bike or skateboard to school?

Students may ride bikes or skateboards to school as long as they have a helmet at all times. There is a place near the gym to store and lock your bike during the school day.

11. Can I bring a cell phone to school?

Students can bring cell phones to school, but can't have them out during class unless the teacher gives permission. It can be used at brunch or lunch, but only one earplug is allowed so students can hear any emergency announcements.

12. What are early release Wednesdays?

Early release Wednesdays provide opportunities for our teachers to collaborate and learn after students are released at 1 pm. Classes are a few minutes shorter and there are no advisory periods on Wednesdays.

13. How many elective classes will I take?

Each Rio Norte student will have English, Social Studies, Science, and Math with their team teachers, along with PE. With a few exceptions, the final class will be an elective class.

14. When do I get my class schedule?

Students will be issued a Binder Reminder during summer check-in. There will be a sticker on the back of the Binder Reminder indicating which classroom students need to report to on the first day of school to pick up their class schedule.

15. What happens if I forget my lunch/PE clothes, etc. at home?

There is a convenient area for parents to drop off forgotten items in the front office if they feel it is necessary. Students go to the area at brunch or lunch to pick up the items.

16. What are the elective class options?

Rio Norte offers choral and instrumental music, theatre, visual arts, coding, video production, and peer tutoring. Culinary arts is primarily an 8th grade elective. Students may also take Junior High Seminar and Teen Leadership, which are classes that cover a variety of topics for personal growth, and future goals.

17. Will I be placed in the elective of my choice?

Students will be asked to give their preferred choices for electives, but no guarantees can be made about selections. Availability changes from year to year based on staffing, enrollment, and student interest. When an elective choice is full, the counselors review students' alternate choices and try to place students in those courses.

18. What elective classes require teacher approval/application or audition?

ASB, Yearbook, Drama Production, Rio TV, Advanced Band, Advanced Art and Advanced Chorus each have an application or audition process. Please contact our website for more information about each program. Student service positions are available to 8th grade students on an approval basis.

17. Will I have a lot of homework?

Rio Norte teachers value family time and are aware of the impact homework has on life at home. That said, homework is a necessary means to extend learning beyond the school day. As a rule of thumb, 7th grade students can expect about 70 minutes of homework nightly. Opportunities are available throughout the school day for students to complete homework.

19. Which math class will I be placed in? Math 7 or Accelerated Math 7?

Towards the end of 6th grade, students will be taking a math placement test in their classrooms at their elementary schools. Test results determine math placement for 7th grade. A makeup placement test is scheduled in August.

20. Can I bring my lunch? How can I purchase lunch?

Students can bring or buy their lunches. Some students carry cash to purchase lunch but many use the electronic account that is associated with their ID number. Parents can manage the account and make deposits from home.

21. Do some students not eat lunch?

Play starts right away for some students, but we certainly encourage all of our students to get nourishment throughout the day. Make a plan with your parents to make sure you are getting all the energy you need throughout the day.

22. Can I play basketball during brunch and lunch?

The blacktop area is open and supervised for play during lunch and brunch. There are a few balls available to check out, but most students bring their own ball, frisbee, etc.

23. Is the library open after school or during brunch/lunch?

The library is open during lunch and brunch and before and after school starting at 7:15am until 3:00 pm. On early release Wednesdays the library is closed after school for staff training and collaboration.

24. How do students and parents keep track of grades?

Students and parents use Infinite Campus to keep track of grades, and in some cases, upcoming assignments. Log-in information will be provided at Summer Check-In. Most teachers have classroom websites that list assignments, upcoming tests and projects, important dates, and classroom business.

25. Where can I sit during brunch and lunch?

The quad, lunch tables, and quad areas are all available for students to sit during lunch. While students naturally find areas that become routine for them, students may not claim any particular area or restrict who sits where. Administrators and campus supervisors closely monitor common areas to ensure students feel free to sit where they are comfortable.

26. Do you have after school programs?

School ends at 2pm and we do not have any consistent after school programs. The library is open after school until 3:15pm. Sometimes we have one-hour intervention/support classes for students who struggle academically. Occasionally we have classes for students who are interested in the Valencia High School sports med. academy.

27. What are Cell-phone free Wednesdays? *On Wednesdays we encourage students put their cell phones away during brunch and lunch and talk to their peers!*

28. What is "Capturing Kids' Hearts?" *At Rio our staff has adopted a program called Capturing Kids' Hearts. Most teachers create class social contracts for each period, greet students at the door and encourage a positive class culture through practices like good things, put ups and affirmation notes.*