



Rivendell School

Arlington, Virginia

Byron List, Headmaster

Project Summary

Rivendell School's Christ-centered, K-8th grade educational program is designed around the fundamental belief that healthy relationships are a primary doorway to learning, and that students in relationally connected classrooms are most likely to experience an optimal environment for education.

Primary Objective

Define and employ a Relational Model of Education at Rivendell School



Project Results

Results:

- The Board of Trustees at Rivendell School fully embraced this Relational Model of Education conceptually. Moreover, in conjunction with the Headmaster and the Curriculum Committee, the Board has encouraged the development of a curricular component for the model which will provide teachers with direction as they implement the Relational Model of Education.
- As new families attend Rivendell's Information Night and Observation days next year, the Relational Model of Education will be formally presented as a foundational philosophical tenet upon which Rivendell School is established.
- The impact of the Relational Model of Education beyond Rivendell School is yet to be determined. There is tremendous interest in the model, leading to the belief that it may be incorporated elsewhere.



What We Accomplished

Relational Model of Education Definition: God created us for relationships. Our educating at Rivendell School, seeks to reflect this truth as we work to nurture healthy, connected relationships – among and between students, teachers, and parents. The Relational Model of Education will foster care, compassion, and interest in each other's well-being. By providing an excellent academic curriculum and by modeling and investing in healthy, connected relationships, our teachers will seek to provide the most ideal academic environment in their classroom: one in which students are known, safe, loved, and understood while also being highly engaged in their academic studies.