

Russian School of Mathematics:

Parent Handbook



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About RSM	2
Online/Virtual Classes at RSM	3
Program Schedule and the First Day	3
Class Placement	4
Homework	4
Homework Help and Tutoring	5
Parent support	5
Communication from RSM	6
Weather Cancellations	6
Report Cards	6
Nutrition and Snacks	7
Student Health	7
Parking, drop-off and pick-up	8
Withdrawal and Cancellation Policy	9
Student Conduct	11
Frequently Asked Questions	15

ABOUT RSM

PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Russian School of Mathematics (“RSM”) is to give our students a solid foundation in mathematics. To successfully accomplish this, we build upon topics gradually and thoroughly - rather than providing a quick fix for problems and gaps. Every new idea and block of information needs time to become absorbed in a student’s mind. Every new skill needs to be practiced for a sufficient length of time to make it “stick”. We believe that once a student gains mastery of a skill, he or she will be able to use it and build on it in a potentially unlimited number of new applications.

For these reasons, from its inception RSM has been dedicated to providing a full-year academic program with weekly classes and homework. We believe that this is the most effective and the least stressful way for students to truly learn, understand, and enjoy mathematics.

METHODOLOGY

The cornerstone of our program is the famous Russian teaching methodology, first suggested by Russian developmental psychologist L. Vygotsky and later developed by V. Davydov. These Russian scientists and noted academics developed a methodology which allows a student to move seamlessly from discovery to practice to mastery. While this methodology is just beginning to gain recognition in the United States, RSM has spent over two decades developing an innovative and unique mathematics curriculum based on its tenets.

The results of this methodology and our goal at RSM is true understanding of each math concept by a student and his or her ability to independently apply logical reasoning to even unfamiliar types of complex multi-step problems.

ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

The rules, policies, and procedures set forth in this handbook are intended to apply under normal circumstances; however, from time to time, there may be situations that require immediate or nonstandard responses. This handbook does not limit the authority of RSM to deviate from the normal rules and procedures set forth in this handbook and to deal with circumstances as they arise in the manner deemed most appropriate by the program (including but not limited to with regard to student discipline), taking into consideration the best interests of the program, its faculty, employees, students, and community. The policies may also be revised or updated periodically, even during the current program semester. You will be advised of any substantive changes as they are made.

ONLINE CLASSES

For parents that are too far from an RSM location, RSM offers fully virtual classes for grades 2-11 in our RSM Online branch.

Our online classes simulate our regular physical class as closely as possible. We believe the classroom model is essential for learning mathematics in grades K-12 and we continue to teach in this setting in a virtual environment as well. In order for each student to fully benefit from online classes, the following technical requirements are necessary:

- A good internet connection
- A modern laptop or desktop computer
- A USB headset with a microphone attached
- A built-in or external web-camera

During the lesson, parents should:

- Provide a quiet place for your child to be able to fully participate in class
- Minimize noise and other distractions
- Have camera turned on
- Stay out of the camera view

Please note, that recording of RSM lessons is against our policy and is strictly prohibited. An unauthorized recording is also a violation of a number of federal and state student privacy laws. We reserve the right to disable the video or audio of any student that is unable to abide by RSM's code of conduct or to expel anyone found recording an RSM class.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND THE FIRST DAY

- RSM's academic program consists of 36 once-per-week classes over two semesters:
 - Fall semester (20 lessons from September to January)
 - Spring semester (16 lessons from February to June).
- RSM's summer program consists of twice-per-week sessions over 6 weeks (between June and August).
- Each class during the school year builds on the previous classes. As a result, RSM requires a student's commitment for the entire semester and provides homework, homework help, and if necessary, tutoring to help students who missed classes to catch up (with the exception of RSM Online School).
- RSM does not offer make-up classes for missed lessons.
- Before classes start for the year, you will receive a welcome email from the student's teacher.

- Ensure the student is prepared for the class with a three-ring binder, a few sharpened pencils, a notebook or paper, and any other supplies that may have been requested by the teacher in the welcome email.
- Please come to RSM a few minutes before class and accompany the student(s) to the reception or outside drop off area where you will be greeted by the teacher. For more detailed drop off/pick up procedures, reach out to your local RSM Office. If you are new to the school, visit the office and our staff will direct your child to their classroom.
- If your child is in an eligible class (in grades 4 through 10) they should also receive an email with details about setting up a profile for our **Online Homework** within the first couple of weeks of the school year or, if joining in the middle of the academic year, within a week of your registration confirmation.

CLASS PLACEMENT

RSM's curriculum is separated into 3 levels for each grade (starting in 2nd grade). The levels are based on a student's comfort with abstraction. New students generally start with our accelerated level and progress to advanced and honors over time.

RSM is committed to making sure the student has an enriching educational experience and working together with parents to find the right class options for their child. While parent input is important, RSM reserves the right to assign the student to a class and teacher appropriately based on our assessment of the student. Such grade level assignment or teacher may be changed at the sole discretion of RSM. Teachers and courses are subject to change, and adjustments may be made without prior notice by RSM. There are no refunds if a teacher is changed.

HOMEWORK

- Students will be given a homework assignment every class with a possible exception of the days of major tests and vacations. The homework should take between half and full class time depending on the student (1-2 hours for a 2-hour class).
- Students in grades 4 through 10 can check their homework answers using our **Online Homework** program. Online Homework gives students real time feedback and parents transparency into the student's math development.
- Online homework should not replace working through problems on paper. Students should still bring their paper-based work to lessons. Developing a deep and clear understanding of the process used to arrive at the answer is often just as important as the answer itself.
- If a student misses a class, he/she will have homework assignments available in the student Portal (for grades 4-10), or in the homework workbooks (for grades pre-K - 4).

- For specific questions on any homework assignment, please contact the student's teacher by email.

HOMEWORK HELP AND TUTORING

- We offer free Homework Help at RSM. These sessions are great if a student misses a class. Homework Help is not offered during the RSM Summer Program.
- In addition some branches may offer additional (local) homework help programs. Please, check with your local RSM branch for more details.
- Homework help is provided on a first come first served basis. To get the most out of these sessions, the child should have attempted as much of the assignment as possible before attending and come prepared with the materials to be reviewed.
- To ensure all students have fair access to this free service, we limit per-child access to 3 sessions per semester (6 total for the year). We may provide more sessions based on the teacher's recommendation. Please contact your branch office for more details.
- Homework Help are usually group sessions, NOT one-on-one; two or sometimes more children will share a room with qualified instructors taking turns working with them.
- Many RSM branches also have excellent tutors on staff, for an additional charge. If your teacher recommends extra tutoring, please contact the office to schedule the sessions. Note that tutoring can be arranged with a teacher or a student teacher assistant (student tutor). Specific time is subject to tutor and room availability. Please consult your RSM branch office for tutoring rates.

PARENT SUPPORT

While we provide thorough instruction through our trained and skilled teachers and our challenging and engaging curriculum, our program flourishes through the commitment of our parents. To help to ensure that students get the most out of our program:

- Bring your child to classes on time. They should have their completed homework, course materials, and other necessary supplies.
- For the best results, make RSM part of your family life. Check in with your child and show interest in stories about RSM classes, teachers and friends. Communicate any concerns or questions that arise to the teacher.
- Ensure your child has enough time in their schedule to complete homework and check that they are putting in their best effort to complete it. It is best scheduled over the week in a few chunks. Learning is more effective in multiple sessions as it forces the student to recall the concepts repeatedly. This is especially important since we only meet once per week.

- You can certainly help your child if they are struggling. If you do, help with the concepts and work through similar problems. Try to avoid giving them solutions to the actual problems in the homework.
- Additional support for time management and organizational skills can make a huge difference for younger students or others who need it.
- Help them keep their materials neat and organized before and after each lesson.
- If they get stuck on homework, encourage them to try again, take a break, or move on to the next problem. If they continue to struggle with additional problems, encourage the student to ask the teacher at the beginning of the next session.

COMMUNICATION FROM RSM TO YOU

- Our main means of communication for all essential messages is email. It is critical that we have up-to-date email addresses in our records. Please notify us immediately of any changes.
- Please make sure that we have at least one emergency phone number on file for your child.
- We have separate emailing lists for various aspects of non-essential communications (Newsletters, branch opening announcements, etc.). Your emails are automatically added to these lists when you sign up to RSM but you can unsubscribe at any time.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

- In the event of school cancellations due to inclement weather, a cancellation notice (or the notice that the class will meet in an online format) will be posted on our website by **2 PM** on weekdays and by **8 AM** on weekends, when possible. On days where the weather is questionable and we need to wait in order to make a decision, we will make every effort to notify families at least 2 hours before the start of their class. Please check with the school office before heading out for classes in case of poor weather.
- If a class is canceled due to inclement weather, we will schedule a make-up class.
- RSM cancellations may not coincide with those of your town's School district.

REPORT CARDS

- You will receive two report cards: one in the middle of January and one at the end of the academic year in June.
- Most lessons consist of at least one grade for Homework, classwork, quiz or test grade.

- You should feel free to contact your teacher (via email or before/after class) if you have any questions about the student’s performance throughout the school year. The earlier a concern is raised, the better chance we have to address it, so please do not wait until the grading period before notifying us of an academic concern.

NUTRITION AND SNACKS

- Please make sure that the student is not hungry when they come to RSM. Hungry students are tired students. Tired students have trouble focusing and learning. This is especially important for evening classes and for mid-day weekend classes.
- Each student can also bring a water bottle and snack to eat during the break. If the student brings a snack, **please make sure it DOES NOT contain NUTS**. RSM locations are “nut aware” but RSM does not guarantee a nut-free environment.
- Due to allergies, we ask students not to share food. Please talk to your children about the importance of this rule.

STUDENT HEALTH

DISCLOSURE

It is in the best interest of the student for RSM to be aware of the student’s medical, disciplinary, and emotional health history (the “Student History”) if such information would affect the student’s experience at RSM. If at any time the student engages in any behavior that would preclude admission under RSM’s policies or acceptance criteria, then RSM may dismiss our student or revoke acceptance, as the case may be. Those circumstances may include our student engaging in criminal or violent acts or becoming academically ineligible. RSM may also dismiss the student whenever, in the exercise of its professional judgment, RSM determines that our own conduct, or the conduct of anyone affiliated with the student, is not in keeping with RSM’s standards.

ALLERGIES AND MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

- If you have not already indicated on your enrollment application, please make sure the office is aware of any allergies or other health conditions that your child may have. It is highly recommended for a parent/guardian to be present on-site during the entire lesson time, if the student has a serious health condition (i.e. asthma, severe allergies, etc.). Student health information is maintained privately, with only those staff informed on a need-to-know basis.
- RSM does not employ a school nurse or any other licensed medical professionals and its employees and staff may not be trained on how to administer any medication, including emergency medication (Epi-Pens).
- If the student must take medication during the time the student is at an RSM location, the student must be able to self-administer the medication, or a parent/guardian must be present to assist.

- In case of an emergency allergic reaction, RSM staff will administer an Epi-Pen or similar medication only if the parent/guardian has previously filled out the EPI-PEN Authorization and Waiver of Liability. Please select a form below based on your RSM branch location:

Please return the signed waiver to the RSM branch office.

[RSM Epi Pen Authorization Form](#)

- In case of a medical emergency, if the parent/guardian is not present, RSM will alert Emergency Medical Services before calling the parent/guardian.

ILLNESS

- Should a student fall ill, please let RSM staff know via text, email, or phone call. In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for students and staff, students should not attend the program with a communicable illness or any of the following: fever, vomiting, diarrhea, persistent cough, profuse discolored discharge from nose or eyes. Students who develop a fever of 100.0 degrees F or greater, vomiting, or diarrhea will be asked to go home. Students must be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to RSM. Students are expected to notify the program if they contract a contagious illness such as streptococcal pharyngitis (i.e., “strep throat”). The privacy of student health information will be maintained; however, RSM may communicate to other branch families about a communicable illness for the sake of their own student’s health and safety.
- If a student feels well enough to do so, they are encouraged to keep up with homework assignments while recuperating at home. In school and online homework help services can be utilized as needed to keep up with the new material introduced during a missed lesson.

MANDATED REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- All states require that educators (and sometimes others) report reasonable suspicion of child abuse and neglect. If RSM staff have a suspicion that a student is being mistreated or is suffering from neglect, this policy is in place to help ensure that students are protected from any inappropriate or hurtful actions by adults responsible for their care. In addition, under state law, all professionals responsible for the care of children (and in some states, anyone who has a reasonable suspicion that a child is being physically or emotionally harmed or neglected) are required to report suspected abuse or neglect of children under the age of eighteen (18).
- We ask that families understand that a teacher or staff member is required to make a report to your state’s child welfare agency at the first opportunity after there is reasonable cause to believe that a student has suffered abuse or neglect. Teachers are expected to consult with the Principal so that appropriate action can be taken to protect the student and timely reports can be made to the state child welfare agency; however, responsibility to report rests with the individual professional. The Principal (or designee) will review the situation and may consult with legal counsel and/or a consultant specializing in the care and protection of children. The confidentiality of the student and his or her family will be protected to the extent appropriate.

PARKING, DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

- RSM assumes no responsibility for students outside of its branches, but these policies are in place to help ensure safety during drop-off and pick-up times. Because RSM branches are located in a variety of settings, each branch will have its own policies covering student transportation. Please consult your branch principal for more tailored policies.
- Please drive slowly, but do not block traffic. Park in a designated spot rather than stopping in the aisles.
- Never allow your children to walk in the parking lot unattended.
- Do not leave your child unattended during drop off. Wait with them in the designated area until the teacher picks them up for the class. RSM provides supervision for students only during their scheduled class time. Parents/guardians who are more than 30 minutes early or late will be charged a fee of \$10.00 for each 10 minutes after 30 minutes has elapsed.

Students below 6th grade will not be allowed to leave the school unattended (either on foot, bicycle, or via a taxi or rideshare service), unless parents have completed a Student Transportation Authorization and Release and provided it to the school office. Parents of students in 6th grade or above are not required to sign the Student Transportation Authorization and Release unless required to do so by your branch principal.

[Student Transportation and Release Form](#)

- If your child is part of a carpool, please email our office and fill out a Student Transportation Authorization and Release form, indicating who is authorized to pick up the child.

WITHDRAWAL AND CANCELLATION POLICY

- **For Summer School Cancellation policy** - reach out to your local RSM Office.
- **School Year Cancellation and Withdrawal:** RSM is committed to making sure the student has an enriching educational experience. Sometimes RSM may need to work together with you to find the right class options for the student. Please contact RSM early if you have concerns about the student's progress or are in any way dissatisfied. While your input is important, RSM will assign the student to a class and teacher deemed appropriate by RSM, in RSM's sole discretion. Such grade level assignment or teacher may be changed at the sole discretion of RSM. Teachers and courses are subject to change, and adjustments may be made without prior notice by RSM. There are no refunds if a teacher is changed.
- **RSM does not prorate for any missed lessons.** Students who miss a class(es) will be provided a copy of the HW/CW assignment and should work to complete it independently. Parents can schedule a free online HW help session if needed.

❖ **For New students**

Cancellation requests are processed by RSM anytime before 20th lesson with a 1 month (4 lessons) written cancellation notice. To receive a refund for the second semester the written notice has to be submitted by lesson 16. After lesson 20 all new students are considered **continuing** and should follow the cancellation policy of a continuing student.

If a student attended RSM Summer Program, then this student is considered to be continuing and should follow the policy of a continuing student.

- ❖ For **Continuing students**, a refund for Fall Semester (September - January) will be processed as follows, only after an RSM office receives a written cancellation notification:
 - 100% of tuition is refunded if the cancellation notice is received **before the student's first lesson**
 - If the cancellation notice is received **before the second lesson** the charges will be applied for 4 lessons and the rest of tuition will be refunded
 - If the cancellation notice is received **before the third lesson** the charges will be applied for 8 lessons and the rest of tuition will be refunded
 - If the cancellation notice is received **before the fourth lesson** the charges will be applied for 12 lessons and the rest of tuition will be refunded
 - If the cancellation notice is received **before the sixth lesson** the charges will be applied for 16 lessons and the rest of tuition will be refunded
 - There are NO REFUNDS for the Fall semester after the 6th lesson.

- ❖ For continuing students withdrawing during the Spring Semester (February - June), a full refund will be issued if a written withdrawal notice is received by a student's lesson 16. After lesson 16, NO refunds will be issued for the Spring Semester.

Advance Tuition Payment. Regardless of a payment plan, all tuition is charged one month ahead (for example October tuition will be charged no later than September 1st, and September tuition is due in August).

The registration fee, tuition for the partial month and the following month is due before the first lesson. All other tuition will be charged on the 1st of the month based on the payment plan selected. For example, a student that joins on November 15th will be charged for the two remaining lessons in November along with the 4 lessons in December. Their next payment will be due on December 1st and will cover January.

STUDENT CONDUCT

EXPECTATIONS

All individuals, students and staff alike, are expected to treat all other individuals at RSM with respect and kindness. It is important that the atmosphere remains understanding and welcoming. Should interpersonal conflict arise, staff is prepared to assist students towards resolution through mediation, if appropriate to the circumstances. RSM encourages students and parents to report any concerns about misconduct to the classroom teacher or branch principal. RSM will do its best to review and address the issue. Bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, violence, physical destruction, threats, theft, and intimidation, in any form, are not tolerated.

The guidelines in this section apply to all conduct by students when at an RSM branch, as long as they are enrolled at RSM. Students who choose to remain present when other students are engaging in misconduct may be subject to disciplinary action.

Students are expected to adhere to all policies included in this handbook, and RSM may impose a disciplinary response for any policy violation, as the program deems appropriate. In general, staff will address minor infractions and meet appropriate consequences. For example, a cell phone may be confiscated during class time if a student is distracted by it or is distracting others. For more serious misconduct, staff will review the matter and may recommend that students involved transfer to a different class or branch location (if feasible). RSM also has on-line instruction available to students for whom a classroom setting is not appropriate.

The following behaviors (though not an all-inclusive list) are prohibited by RSM and may result in suspension or dismissal from the program:

- Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs;
- Improper sexual conduct;
- Sexual or other harassment;
- Threat or use of physical violence (bullying and cyber-bullying);
- Possession or use of matches, lighters, fireworks, explosives, weapons or other dangerous materials;
- Reprehensible conduct tending to reflect serious discredit to RSM;
- Willful destruction of property;
- Stealing;
- Dishonesty;
- Malicious gossip;
- Repeated acts of unkindness or misconduct; and/or
- Repeated classroom behavior that impedes other students' learning.

Firearms are strictly prohibited at RSM. Possession of a firearm at RSM may be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program. Possession of any knife, regardless of length, is strictly prohibited. Possession of other dangerous objects brought to an RSM branch is strictly prohibited.

Students should be aware that they represent the RSM community at all times, both at and away from the facility. While it is not RSM's intention to monitor students in all of their "off-campus" activities, the program may take disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal, in response to inappropriate conduct occurring outside of RSM.

If RSM staff reasonably suspect that a student has violated any policy related to conduct, the student may be removed from class and a parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student. For more serious misconduct, a student may be asked to withdraw from the program. Any disciplinary decisions are made in the sole discretion of the program and are not subject to appeal. Should a student be dismissed for disciplinary reasons, any tuition refund will be provided according to the Withdrawal and Cancellation Policy below.

Non-Retaliation

Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports serious misconduct or provides information during an investigation of such behavior, or witnesses or has reliable information about such behavior. Retaliation against any individual for reporting violations of the policy, whether by the object of the complaint or someone else, will not be tolerated and will be subject to the same strict discipline as the underlying misconduct itself.

Reporting Complaints

The program will not tolerate and responds vigorously to any reported harassment, discrimination, or sexual harassment of students or staff. Even when students or adults are not certain about whether they have been subject to or witnessed potential misconduct of this nature, it is important that the behavior be reported. Individuals who have been subject to such behavior often suffer in silence, believing that they are the only one to whom this is happening and wrongly feeling that they are somehow responsible.

Students should report complaints as promptly as possible to a trusted staff member. Privacy will be maintained on a need-to-know basis. The principal (or his designee, either internal or external) will investigate the allegations.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND RESPONSIBLE USE

Students are expected to remember that the principal purpose of any exchange of information within this community is for educational purposes and that any communication made to or from an RSM branch, with or without program-controlled equipment, must be made in line with the program's general standards of conduct. When students are at an RSM branch, whether linked to the program's Wi-Fi network or using their own personal computer or communication device at an RSM branch, or whether communicating with anyone through an RSM portal (from home or elsewhere) students are expected to comply with this Responsible Use Policy as further described below.

RSM has explicit guidelines for using computers and other electronic devices, both at or away from the facility, using the program's network, and accessing the Internet. RSM may monitor the

activity and contents (including email) of computers at the facility and/or connected to the program's network, to ensure student safety and that the guidelines are being followed. RSM expects students to adhere to the following guidelines. The examples below are just examples and are not an all-inclusive list of requirements and possibilities.

Students may:

- use technology for class projects and assignments, at staff's discretion;
- access the Internet with staff permission to enrich learning related to class projects and assignments; and
- use technology in ways directed by a staff member.

Students may not:

- post personal contact information about themselves or other people;
- access or try to access network resources not intended for them;
- share their passwords with anyone;
- alter electronic communications to hide their identity or impersonate another person;
- use inappropriate language or images in email, web pages, videos, or social networking sites;
- be disrespectful by talking or posting derogatory material (images, video, etc.) via email, social networking sites, live chat, web page, or any other method;
- engage in harassment or sexual harassment, in violation of the related policies as stated in this handbook;
- access inappropriate information on the Internet such as (but not restricted to) sites that bypass filtering, promote hate or violence, gaming, or sites with sexually explicit or graphic, pornographic, or obscene material;
- plagiarize printed or electronic information; students must follow all copyright, trademark, patent and other laws governing intellectual property;
- install or download software on to program equipment from the Internet, home, or by any other means; they may not remove network cables, keyboards or any other components unless expressly permitted by the program;
- create or use a mobile hotspot at the program facility;
- remove any program-owned computer equipment from the facility;
- store personal files on the network, except in their own network user account; any information that a student leaves on a program-owned device may be deleted at any time, with or without notice;
- disclose confidential or proprietary information related to the program, make public remarks that defame or disparage the program, its employees, its students or its interests, or that recklessly disregard or distort the truth of the matters commented on;
- access, change, delete, read, or copy any file, program, or account that belongs to someone else without permission;
- use the network for illegal or commercial activities;
- intentionally vandalize, steal, or cause harm to any program-owned equipment; or
- deliberately disrupt or attempt to disrupt the software or hardware of the program network.

Students should understand that:

- the use of inappropriate language, harassment, and disrespectful comments in email, texting or a chat room, or on a website or social networking site from either inside or outside the

facility, and whether during program hours, after hours, or during vacation time, as long as a student is enrolled in the program, may result in disciplinary action;

- there is no guarantee of privacy associated with their use of the program’s technology resources. Students should not expect that email, voice mail or other information created or maintained on the program’s network or program-issued devices (even those marked “personal” or “confidential”) will be private, confidential or secure. RSM has the right to access and monitor both student-owned and program-owned computers and communication devices connected to the program’s network. By accessing RSM’s system, each student has consented to RSM’s right to view and/or monitor the program’s network and all of its associated accounts;
- they will be held accountable for unattended accounts, and for use of their computer or communication device, if such equipment is left unattended and/or used by another individual.

SOCIAL MEDIA

RSM understands the desire of students to use social networking websites, Internet bulletin boards, blogs, chat rooms, and other online resources or websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn) (collectively referred to as “Social Media”). Participation in such Social Media should be done in accordance with RSM’s Responsible Use Policy. Moreover, issues concerning respect for the privacy of students, copyrights, trademarks, and confidentiality of sensitive information are all important to understand *before* participating in Social Media. With the foregoing in mind, RSM encourages students to create an atmosphere of trust and individual accountability when accessing Social Media and the program’s network. It is strictly prohibited to post information, photographs, and videos of any RSM students or staff on social media without his or her explicit consent.

In addition, current students of RSM are prohibited from becoming friends with or otherwise following any RSM staff, as long as students are enrolled in the program, unless doing so is for an educational or other purpose, directly related to RSM’s curriculum.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones should not be used during class time out of respect for the instructors and fellow students unless specifically authorized by the instructor. Staff reserves the right to collect and temporarily confiscate cell phones or other devices, if student use is deemed a disruption of the class.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUGS

RSM prohibits students from possessing, consuming or distributing alcohol, marijuana, prescription or over-the-counter medications or any illegal substances, or possessing any paraphernalia associated with the use of illegal drugs. RSM also prohibits the use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, including juuls, and vaping while students are at an RSM branch or participating in program-sponsored events.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How old must my child be to enroll?

A: A child needs to be 5 years old by September to attend Kindergarten class at RSM. If your local branch offers Pre-k classes, a child needs to be 4 years old to attend.

Q: Can a parent sit in the classroom to observe a class?

A: We do not allow parents into our classrooms. It is a distraction for your child and for the entire class as well.

Q: Is your curriculum the same as our child's regular school curriculum?

A: RSM has developed an innovative and unique mathematics curriculum based on leading Russian and European research on child development. Our curriculum covers all the topics offered in public and private schools and it meets or exceeds the SAT, AP and ISEE test requirements.

Q: Do all your classes of the same grade have the same program?

A: RSM's program is identical across all RSM locations. However, we have three different levels within each grade. Students are placed in each class based on a placement test and feedback from their teacher. We work continuously to ensure the student is placed in the class that will provide them with the best opportunity to develop.

Q: What if the class is too difficult for my child?

A: You should reach out to the teacher for advice and come for a free homework help session (see your branch's website for schedule). If this does not help, we will work with you to find a more suitable class.

Q: The current class is too easy for my child. Can he/she just transfer to the next grade?

A: Yes. The transfer can be done if the space in the other class is available, but only with the current teacher's recommendation and after an evaluation with the principal.

Q: Can we start attending RSM at any time during the year? What is the cut-off date?

A: We have rolling admission. You can start beginner level classes at any time; there is no cut-off date. In some cases, several weeks of additional one-on-one paid tutoring may be required to bring the student up to speed.

Q: None of the classes you offer currently work for our schedule, but we still want to start at RSM this year. Can we have tutoring instead of classes?

A: Since we believe in group education, we will try our best to find the class that will work for you in the future, even if your child cannot attend a class right now. We will offer paid tutoring as a temporary solution to help your child join a class in the future.

Q: We carpool with neighbors; could you place both children in the same class?

A: We try to accommodate all scheduling needs, but our first priority is on the proper placement of each student. In our experience, the right classroom is crucial to each student's development.