Dear Rivendell Families,

**Three-Way Conferences**
We are looking forward to Three-Way Conferences on October 31st. Our experience shows us that the conferences are not as well attended in grades 11 and 12 as they are in 7-10. The reluctance of older students to attend reflects their greater independence and responsibility, but there are important topics to discuss: career and college, upper house projects or internships, current performance in classes, and end-of-year planning for seniors. If you have suggestions for improving the Three-Way Conferences, please send an email to me at kgelenian@rivendellschool.org.

Please use the following list to confirm a time to meet with your child’s advisor:

**Grade 12:**
John Bristol     jbristol@rivendellschool.org
Silas St. James sstjames@rivendellschool.org
Robert Thatcher rthatcher@rivendellschool.org

**Grade 11:**
Kerry Browne     kbrowne@rivendellschool.org
Jennifer Silverstein jsilverstein@rivendellschool.org
Kirsten Surprenant ksurprenant@rivendellschool.org

**Grade 10:**
Anna Alden aalden@rivendellschool.org
Eric Reichert ereichert@rivendellschool.org
Rachel Sanders rsanders@rivendellschool.org

**Grade 9:**
Joe Beasley jbeasley@rivendellschool.org
Stephen Johnson sjohnson@rivendellschool.org
Daniel Newsted dnewsted@rivendellschool.org

**Grade 8:**
Meredith Hyder mhyder@rivendellschool.org
Christopher White cwhite@rivendellschool.org

**Grade 7:**
Christina Robison crobison@rivendellschool.org
Richard Steckler rsteckler@rivendellschool.org

**Academic Performance**
The table below provides an overview of students’ performance in their classes during the 2010-2011. The numbers show a drop in failed classes, which is good, but it was disappointing to also see a drop in honor roll numbers in the 4th quarter.
Grades of Academy Students: 2010-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>Quarter 2</th>
<th>Quarter 3</th>
<th>Quarter 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honor Roll</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Honors</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed classes</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>64</td>
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</tbody>
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The next table compares the number of failed classes this fall to last fall at progress report time. It is important to note that last year in 9th-12th students were enrolled in four classes compared to five classes this year. In other words, there are 20% more classed being taken this year compared to the same time last year. In terms of the number of classes failed, we are doing somewhat better than last year. A more exact picture requires us to look at total number of students both years.

If your academy student has one or more failing grades, please use the parent portal to monitor progress and time spent on homework. If a student has one or more failing grades, that means that they have work to complete. You should expect that they make the effort to pass every class.

Comparison of Failed Classes on Progress Reports:
Fall 2010 / Fall 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2010 (Students in 4 classes)</th>
<th>Fall 2011 (Students in 5 classes)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of classes failed</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students who failed 1 or more classes</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010 Science NECAPs
Our science scores on the NECAPs last year were very low. We expect that the changes to the schedule, curriculum, and graduation requirements in science that we put in place this year will result in improved grades. More important than low scores on standardized tests, we want our graduates to understand key concepts in biological and physical science, relate their understanding to the world around them, read science, and write clear procedures, observations and results.

Academic Support for Students
We have a number of ways to support student learning. Visions afterschool program provides excellent support for students in 7th and 8th graders. Monday through Wednesday students spend about 50-60 minutes
doing homework followed by a planned activity. During homework time there are several people available to provide help to students, and students have computers and supplies available to them.

Students in grades 9-12 have academic support four days a week. During academic support they can leave advisory to get help from teachers in classes where they are having difficulties. Given the number of Fs on this first progress report, we have far too many students not using the time to get help; thus, we are considering mandating that students spend academic support with teachers with whom they are receiving a failing grade.

Students who need more individualized attention are scheduled to meet with a tutor. We have also set up peer tutoring during academic support for a small number of students.

With all this support, it is still the student’s responsibility to use the time and help available to them. If your Rivendell student is not performing to your expectations please call to set up a conference with teachers, the counselor, and me.

Parent Portal
All Academy families should have received a letter describing how to access students’ grades and assignments in every class. Please share the password that you created with your Academy student so he or she can check grades and assignments.

Vermont Energy Conference
Eight students attended the Vermont Energy Conference in Burlington with Doc Browne. Rivendell Academy was the only school to attend. They met Vermont Congressman Peter Welch who recognized our students in his address at the conference. We hope to make this a yearly event for our students. Thanks to Doc Browne (teacher) for organizing the trip and Laina Warsavage (parent) for help with the driving.

Women Can Do Conference
Last year we took a handful of young women to the Women Can Do conference at Vermont Technical College in Randolph. The students’ reaction was so overwhelmingly positive; counselor Kris Widmann made it possible for a group of thirty-five Academy women to attend this year’s conference. Students were exposed to career opportunities in a wide range of different areas. For fun they worked heavy equipment, created web sites, ran chain saws, and explored social media sites. Thanks go out to Bridget Fariel (Dean of Studies), Denise Riordan (teacher), Karen Claflin (tech support), and Laina Warsavage (parent) for chaperoning.

Sports Teams
Rivendell soccer teams keep on rolling. Congratulations to all players and coaches for their hard work, team work, and dedication.

School Signage
Senior Melanie Emerson is working on renovating the old Orford High School sign at the community field and creating a companion Rivendell Academy sign. If anyone is interested in donating time, materials or money to the project, please call the school.

Family Meetings
We had our first Family meeting at the Vershire Community Center at the end of September. Our next family meeting will be on Thursday, October 27th at the West Fairlee Library at 6:00 p.m.

Onsite Greenhouse
Brynne MacMurtry (teacher) and Creigh Moffitt (nurse) worked hard last year to resurrect the Academy greenhouse. Bridget Fariel (Dean of Studies) is writing a $2,000.00 grant to take us a step further in using the greenhouse to grow food for the cafeteria, provide connections with the community, raise money, and make connections to curriculum in science and math. If anyone would like to make donations, provide technical assistance, or simply lend a hand, please call the school.
October Events
The students from France are arriving on October 15th. There is a Halloween dance for grades 9-12 on October 19th, a community square dance on October 25th and a Halloween dance/Activity Night for grades 7-8 on October 28th.

Fall Theatre Production
With scheduled performances on November 11th and 12th, this year’s fall production is *Alice in Wonderland*. Thanks to Carol Sobetzer (coach) for working after school with students on the play.

NEASC
Thanks go out to Kirsten Surprenant (teacher) for her work in submitting our latest required report to maintain our accreditation with NEASC.