PURPOSE
Every student at RVCS will keep a portfolio of their learning during their entire tenure at the school. The purpose of the student portfolios is threefold:
- Celebration of student growth
- Evidence of student progress, both academic and personal
- A timeline of their learning experience

Portfolios serve to help students with our guiding question of “Who am I as a learner?” They foster student reflection about their learning style and process, and help students set personal learning goals. Portfolios provide teachers, parents and students with opportunities to confer and reflect on a student’s progress, and serve as an essential record of the evidence of student learning.

The River Valley student portfolio also serves as a vital record of the personal growth of each student. By structuring student portfolios on the RVCS Peace Education Curriculum Map, student growth is viewed through the lens of the Eight C’s: Creativity, Curiosity, Compassion, Commitment, Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Citizenship. This approach assures that student growth will be focused on the whole child, and that academic and personal growth will be equally valued.

Evidence of the entire learning journey is a priority at RVCS. In order to provide a manageable portrait of a student’s overall growth, every student will keep a “Traveler” portfolio that will contain limited selections representing growth from each year the student attends RVCS. The purpose of the Traveler is to provide every student with summary evidence of their overall growth while attending RVCS.

RVCS has made the conscious decision to have tangible binder portfolios instead of digital portfolios, as the faculty believe that the physical presence of student artifacts adds meaning and value to the learning, reflection and review processes. Digital artifacts may be added to the portfolio through web links.

PROCESS
The Annual Portfolio
Students will compile artifacts into a portfolio binder to demonstrate evidence of their learning throughout each school year. The student will have the primary voice in deciding which items are placed in the portfolio, but decisions will also be made through consultation with teachers. Certain items may be required to be added to the student portfolio by teachers. Each portfolio will be divided into eight sections, aligned with the RVCS Peace Education Curriculum Map. There will be one section for each of the Eight C’s: Creativity, Curiosity, Compassion, Commitment, Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Citizenship. As a student considers a piece of their work, they will assess which of the Eight C’s the artifact best demonstrates, and place the item in the appropriate section. Students at all levels will be expected to periodically reflect on selected portfolio artifacts.
The number of artifacts and reflections required for each grade level will be determined by faculty, as will the schedule for maintenance of the portfolio. At all grade levels, student portfolios will be available for review at the end of each marking period. The decision to include the student portfolio as part of the fall and winter parent/teacher conferences will be determined by faculty at each grade level, but the portfolio will be reviewed at the spring parent/teacher conferences.

The Traveler

Every student, with guidance from teachers, will compile a traveling portfolio that will be kept at school until the student graduates or leaves RVCS. This binder will travel with the student to each successive level at RVCS. The Traveler will also be structured according to the Eight C’s. Each spring, prior to the June parent/teacher conferences, the student will select exactly one artifact from each of the sections of their annual portfolio, write a reflection for the selected artifact (if one has not already been written) and place the item into the Traveler.

- At the end of the Kinderhaus year, a student will have eight artifacts and eight reflections in their Traveler, and the binder will travel with the student to their E1 classroom.
- At the end of grade three, each student will have 32 artifacts and 32 reflections in their Traveler (eight for each of their first four years at the school), and the binder will travel with them to their E2 classroom.
- At the end of grade six, each student will have 56 artifacts and 56 reflections in their Traveler (eight for each of their first seven years at the school), and the binder will travel with them to the middle school.
- At the end of 8th grade, a student who has been at RVCS for nine years will have 72 artifacts and 72 reflections in their Traveler. The Traveler will be sent home with the student at the conclusion of the student’s Celebration of Learning presentation.

At the end of each school year, the annual portfolio will be sent home with students, while the Traveler will remain at school. Parents will be asked to send in a new binder for the annual portfolio each year.