



A successful school district places a high degree of importance on ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. This profile helps characterize the overall educational value of Riverside Local Schools in areas that matter most in our community.



# 2015-16 Quality profile



*Through a culture of excellence,  
immerse students in educational  
opportunities and empower them  
to excel in an interconnected world.*



*Educating  
Excellence!*

**Riverside  
Local Schools**



# message from the Superintendent

This is a very exciting time for our District! The Board of Education, administrators, staff and community volunteers have been creating a Facilities Plan that will ultimately reshape - and rebuild - the entire District. As many of you know, our current buildings are old. Very old. In fact, many of them were built in the 1920s and are becoming increasingly expensive to repair.

Throughout the past six years, Riverside Local Schools – along with most school districts in the state of Ohio – have also experienced declining enrollment. The District developed a Facilities Committee made up of parents, community members, board members, administrators and staff, to create a plan that would solve the issues of declining enrollment and worsening conditions of all the current facilities within the district.

In addition, the District's facilities were assessed by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (free of charge) and their recommendation in both 2008 and 2013 was to replace all of the school buildings except LaMuth Middle School due to poor conditions and infrastructure.

The Facilities Committee created a three-phase plan, which was approved by the Board of Education. **Phase 1** is to raise approximately \$38 million, which would require the passage of a 1.92-mill bond levy **this November** to construct two new elementary schools – each serving between 600 and 650 students. The District would then close Hadden, Hale Road, Leroy and Madison Avenue elementary schools, which are a combined 346 years-old. Believe it or not, it is *actually cheaper* to build new than to renovate. Should the Bond levy in November pass, this would cost tax payers **just \$5.60 per month** per \$100,000 property valuation annually.

Phase 1 is the focus right now, but down the line, Phase 2 would eventually be placed on the ballot to construct a new 6-12 campus to replace Riverside Campus and Phase 3 would repurpose LaMuth Middle School into a third elementary school while closing Melridge Elementary and possibly Buckeye Elementary. Phase 3 would be at no additional cost to taxpayers.

More details of the plan, as well as research, statistics and the OFCC Facility Analysis can be found at [www.riversidelocalschools.com](http://www.riversidelocalschools.com)

Despite less than ideal conditions of our school buildings, it has not compromised the education that our children are receiving. The District prides itself on preparing students for life after high school whether it be attending college or going straight into the workforce.

Riverside High School juniors and seniors are able to attend one of the leading career and technical schools – Auburn Career Center. Students are also able to earn college credits at Lakeland Community College while still in high school. The high school offers six dual credit courses and nine advanced placement courses. In just its fifth year, 102 seniors (33 percent of class) participated in Senior Project, which was the highest amount of participating students since its inception.

Throughout this Quality Profile, you'll see many other achievements and highlights in academics, arts, student leadership & activities, fiscal stewardship, parent and community involvement, student services and staff leadership.

The District has made a commitment to communicate better with its stakeholders by designing a new website and creating many social media accounts including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. This allows for the community to better follow what the District is up to on a day-to-day basis. If you're on social media, please give Riverside Local Schools a follow.

Many variables determine how well a school district performs, but nothing has more of a positive impact than community support. We thank you for your support and look forward to another outstanding year in the Riverside Local School District!

James Kalis  
Superintendent

# Academics

*Our district's academic programs provide opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.*

## The Riverside Literacy Linemen,

which consists of players from the Varsity football team, promoted **reading with students** at all the elementary schools within the district.



- Hadden and Buckeye elementary students and their families participated in the “Be a Reader Program.”
- Fourth and fifth graders from every elementary building participated in the District Spelling Bee.
- Senior Joshua Levy earned a perfect score on his ACT.
- Students at Hadden, Hale Road and Leroy elementary schools hosted Wax Museums, where students dressed up as famous historians and gave presentations in front of their families.
- Senior Brianna Julius was chosen to participate in a very prestigious Science Internship Program at Cleveland Clinic where she worked with world-renowned physicians to conduct research on intensive care units.
- The Riverside Academic Decathlon team was awarded the 2016 Regional Championship trophy in the Division II Large Schools category.
- Eighth grader Logan Bell participated in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. after he won the Lake County and the Tri-County spelling bees. He was one of only 285 students across the country to participate in the National Spelling Bee.
- Hadden Elementary participated in the Auburn Career Keys Program.



- COSI on Wheels visited Leroy and Melridge elementary schools.
- Hadden Elementary kindergartners received awards from Morley Library for combining to read 104 books.
- Hadden Elementary second graders hosted a family-oriented Fiesta Café.
- Buckeye Elementary invited parents and family members into the school to celebrate student achievements for writing and reading. Families were also invited to a science fair, a music celebration and a fifth grade graduation ceremony.



## First graders at Hale Road and Leroy elementary schools hosted a

## Young Authors Tea,

where students wrote their own book and read it in front of their family members.



- Leroy Elementary first and second grade had Mystery readers visit the school and read a book to the class. Clues were given throughout the week as to who the Mystery reader might be.
- Leroy and Melridge elementary schools had an origami expert visit and show fifth graders how to make various shapes, like a cube, by folding paper.
- Second graders at Hadden Elementary finished in second place in a national math competition.

# Academics *(continued)*

LaMuth Middle School seventh graders held an

## Energy Toy Challenge

where they built motorized items and then had third graders from Buckeye Elementary visit the school to give the seventh graders feedback on their creations.



- LaMuth Middle School hosted Hour of Code where trained professionals who work in coding visited the school to teach students about coding.
- Science on the Road from Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh visited LaMuth Middle School in October to conduct chemistry activities with students.
- In just its fifth year, 102 seniors (33 percent of class) participated in Senior Project, which was the highest amount of participating students since its inception.
- Riverside Campus welcomed five foreign exchange students in the 2015-2016 school year. Ryota Otada (Japan), Sonja Rannisto (Finland), Gabriele Ferrara (Italy), Danae Nicosia (Italy) and Ina Deckert (Germany).
- Riverside Campus hosted five-time world weight lifting champion Rick Metzger to speak to students. Metzger is a motivational speaker who travels across the country.
- Riverside Campus conducted its first Mock Crash since the 1980s to educate juniors and seniors on the dangers – and consequences – of drinking and driving.
- The Riverside Local Excellence for Education Foundation distributed \$19,321 worth of grants to eight different initiatives across the district.

- Riverside students are able to attend one of the leading career and technical schools – Auburn Career Center. This past year, 110 Riverside 11th and 12th grade students attended Auburn Career Center during the 2015-2016 school year.

## RHS Class of 2016

- Graduates with a 4.0 GPA or higher: 19
- AP Scholars: 8
- AP Scholars with Honor: 6
- AP Scholars with Distinction: 10
- National AP Scholar: 1
- 60% of the Class of 2016 will attend a four-year college.
- 24% of the Class of 2016 will attend a two-year college.
- 19% of graduating seniors earned an Award of Merit or Career/Technical Awards of Merit.



- Six dual credit courses were offered in 2015-2016.
- Nine Advanced Placement courses were offered at the high school.
- 77 junior high students took high school courses in Algebra 8 Honors.
- Through a partnership with Lakeland Community College for Post-Secondary Education, 208 students had the opportunity of earning college credits while still in high school.
- 61.9% of the students who took at least one Advanced Placement exam last year scored a three or higher, earning a college credit.
- ACT Composite scores were a 21.9, up from a 21.3 the previous year.

**25**

Riverside students took the 2015-2016 SAT tests.

**Composite • English  
Math • Reading • Science**

**230**

Riverside students took the 2015-16 ACT tests:

**Reading • Math • Writing**

**ACT SAT**

# Arts

*Participation in performing and visual arts inspires students' creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills.*



- The Riverside Theatre performed Shrek the Musical and Suite Surrender, which were open to the public.
- The Riverside Theatre won several awards at the Lake County Rotary Awards including overall Best Drama/Comedy for Suite Surrender as well as Best Female Support in a Drama/Comedy (Evei Lindrose and Molly Lindrose) and Best Male Sub Support in Drama/Comedy and Musical (Ben Chiappone).
- Riverside High School hosted its 2nd Annual Student Art Show at First Federal of Lakewood Bank in Concord Township, where student artwork was displayed at the bank for a few weeks in May.
- In an initiative with Painesville Township, Art students across the District participated in Paint A Plow, where students painted a snow plow for township trucks, which will then be used to plow snow this upcoming winter.
- Art students created ceramic bowls to donate to the Northeast Ohio Empty Bowls Project.
- Students at Hale Road Elementary performed several Fractured Fairy Tales in front of their family members.
- Third grade students at Hale Road Elementary performed a Poetry Breakfast for their families and friends in May.
- Second graders from Melridge Elementary performed holiday plays for their family members.
- Kindergartners from Melridge Elementary performed a Mother Goose play for their family members.
- Second graders at Madison Avenue performed Seussical, which was a medley of various Dr. Seuss plays.
- Each elementary building took a field trip to Cleveland Play House Square to see a play.
- Professional actors from Cleveland Play House visited Hale Road, Leroy and Melridge elementary schools to host an assembly to help students understand the consequences of their actions.
- LaMuth Middle School had an art display at the Lake County Fair.
- LaMuth Middle School choirs and bands performed at the Lake County Captains, Cleveland Gladiators, Cleveland Cavaliers and Lake Erie Monsters games this year.
- LaMuth Middle School band visited each elementary school in the District to perform in front of the students and to talk to them about band at the middle school.
- Riverside Theatre visited each elementary school to perform segments of Shrek the Musical for the students.
- Riverside Campus Choir students participated in the Violins of Hope program which involved The Cleveland Orchestra and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.
- Riverside Regiment and Choir participated in the Chamber Music Festival.
- Riverside Choir performed Carmina Burana, which also involved three student soloists, a guest soloist, two pianists and five percussionists from the Riverside High School band. There was also a children's choir comprised of students from LaMuth Middle School and John R. Williams.
- Fifth graders from every elementary school visited the Cleveland Orchestra.
- 396 students at Riverside Campus participated in band.

**98%** of LaMuth Middle School students participated in either Choir or Band.

**212 students** at Riverside Campus participated in Choir.

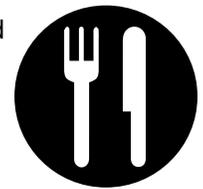
A photograph of a group of students performing on a stage. They are wearing various costumes and are in the middle of a performance. The background is dark, and the stage is lit.

# Student Leadership and Activities



*A well-rounded education includes a wide variety of opportunities.*

- Buckeye Elementary completed a Year of Caring where each month students focused on initiatives to give back to the community such as: donating socks, donating to Men's Health programs, donating hats and gloves, art displays, love letters to service members, reading to others and donating to the Lake County Humane Society.
- Hadden Elementary student Aiden Kanaga raised more than \$1,000 at a Spaghetti Dinner and Chinese Auction in the Spring. In the winter, Aiden helped fill an ambulance with toys for Asa's Angels.
- Riley and Macey Baca of Hadden Elementary opened a lemonade stand and purchased \$60 worth of recess equipment for the school's playground.
- Riverside High School senior Sara Apanavicius received the President's Volunteer Service Award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country.
- This past year, Riverside High School initiated the Community Service Honor Cord Program for seniors where 45 seniors combined to volunteer 1,770 hours of community service within the community.
- Riverside High School hosted a Turkey Volleyball game, a Halloween Food Drive and a Day of Caring for local charities.
- Six Melridge Elementary students earned their Girl Scout Bronze Award for creating a Little Library for the Melridge community which allows residents to rent books from a stand.
- Students from Leroy Elementary supported the following charities: SubZero, The Hope Chest, The Lake County Humane Society, Clothe-A-Child, Life House Church and St. Jude's Church.
- Hale Road Student Council collected more than 400 mittens, hats, scarves and socks for Sub Zero Mission during their annual Mitten Tree.
- Hale Road Student Council donated food baskets to 13 local families during the Thanksgiving holiday season.
- Hale Road Elementary students were awarded Student of the Month awards. The awards are for students who demonstrated good citizenship and positive attitudes toward fellow students. The recipients were nominated by their peers.
- Melridge Elementary School supported the following charities through various monthly activities: Subzero Mission, Hope Chest, Rescue Village and St. Gabe's Food Pantry. They also collected food and received donations to provide 25 Thanksgiving dinners for Riverside families.
- Melridge students made more than 300 poetry scrolls containing their favorite or original poems. These scrolls were distributed to Morley Library patrons to celebrate Poem in Your Pocket day in April.
- Healthy Heart Family Fitness night was held at Melridge Elementary in February to promote a healthy lifestyle. Partnerships with the Central Y in Painesville, Lake Health, Heinen's of Mentor, Karate for Kids in Mentor and Second Sole Mentor made this evening possible.



# Student Leadership and Activities *(continued)*

## The Veterans Memorial Garden

was re-landscaped at Melridge Elementary to honor America.

Hale Road Elementary hosted **Veterans Day breakfast** to honor those who have served our country.



Riverside Student Council hosted the

## Hoops 4 Hope

basketball game which consisted of a game between Riverside staff members. The event raised more than \$1,500 for Crossroads.



- Students at Melridge Elementary were recognized for their leadership and positive character through the student of the month program.
- Fifth grade students at Melridge Elementary created a Random Acts of Kindness Club.

Hale Road Elementary student, **Nadia Cruz**, continued her

## Nadia's Soft Smiles Project,

which is an organization that collects socks for those in need. So far, she has collected a total of 2,550 pairs of socks that have been donated to various organizations including WomenSafe, MetroHealth and the Sub Zero Mission.



# Fiscal Stewardship

*Financial responsibility ensures that the majority of funding is spent on classroom instruction.*

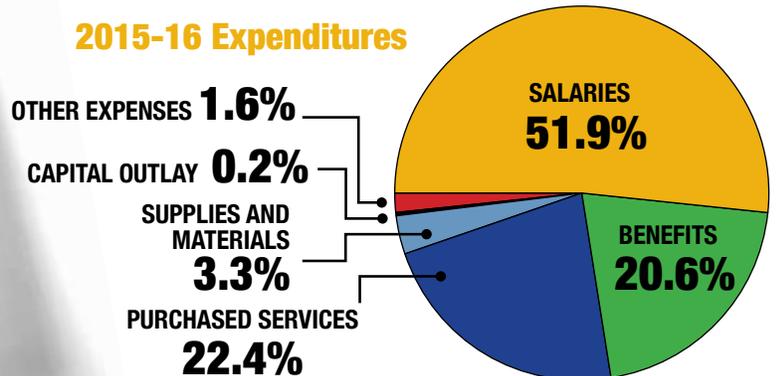
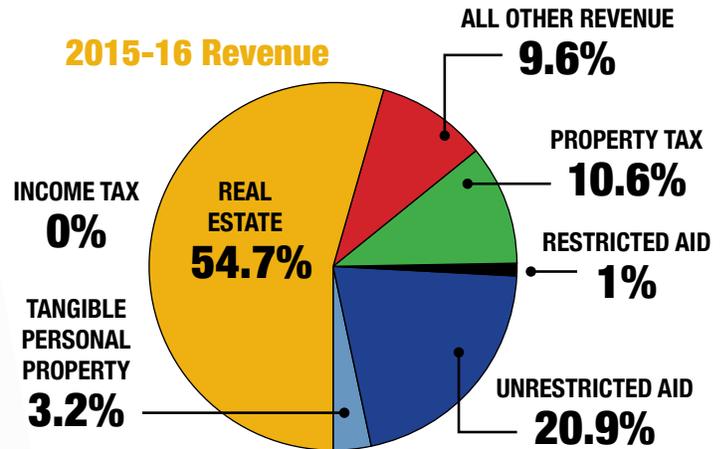
The District received the  
**Auditor of State award**

for filing timely financial reports in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as well as receiving a 'clean' audit report.

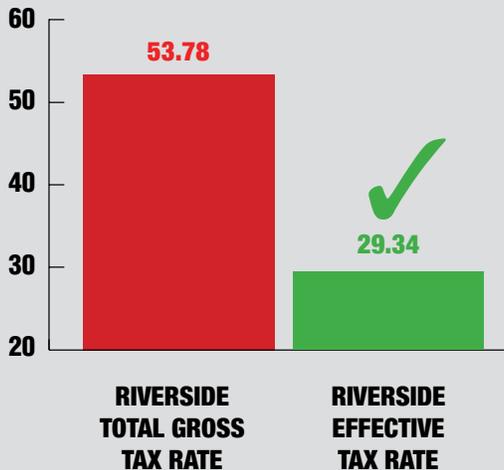
The district joined  
**OhioCheckBook.com**

which is a website launched by Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel that allows for public viewing of government and school districts' finances.

For the 5th straight year,  
**current expenditures were less than current revenue.**



# Fiscal Stewardship *(continued)*



Total Voted rate is the total original voted rates on all of the levies of the School District.

## House Bill 920

limits various school levies to the original dollar amount to be raised by the levies. As a result, the total voted millage is

**reduced to the effective tax rate.**

The effective tax rate is the rate that taxpayers actually pay (the tax rate reduced by House Bill 920).

Riverside Local School District has the **second lowest tax rate in Lake County.**



**\$9,571**

**Expenditure per Pupil**

third lowest in Lake County  
CUPP Report FY2015



The district participates in various consortiums in order to receive competitive pricing. This includes state minimum bids, Ohio Schools Council bids, the Lake County Healthcare consortium and other National/State consortiums or programs such as

## House Bill 264.

The Ohio Schools council consortium provides competitive bid costs for heating gas, electricity and other school supplies and services. State and national consortiums are utilized for specific projects such as HVAC and roofing, when applicable.

The Lake County Schools Council is a health insurance consortium that includes 12 school districts pooling together to ensure

**competitive costs for healthcare.**

The Consortium consistently out-performs the industry trends on the cost of healthcare both statewide and across the nation.

The District has utilized consortium pricing for the purchase of buses, the Governmental Fleet Program for school maintenance vehicles, the National Joint Powers Association for the purchase of lawn and maintenance equipment and the American Manufacturer discounts for band instruments.

In addition, the District has initiated various shared service contracts with surrounding districts for technology, transportation, fuel purchase and food services that generated

**\$173,022**

for the District in FY 2016.

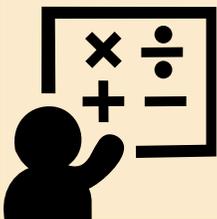


# Parent and Community Involvement



*Educational experiences are enhanced by partnerships between the school district and the community.*

- Kids Love Musicals and the Lake County YMCA coordinated activities for all elementary buildings.
- Students and their family members participated in Walk to School day in the Fall and Bike to School Day in the Spring at Buckeye, Hadden, Hale Road and Madison Avenue elementary schools.
- Lake Metroparks designed Geocaching courses for students at all the elementary schools.
- Local business owners from area businesses hosted a Small Business Panel discussion at Riverside Campus for 11th grade students after they read How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie.
- Riverside Campus hosted the AWT Think Manufacturing Expo where more than 30 manufacturing companies set up displays in the gym and students from all over Lake County could learn more about each business.
- For the second year, Riverside Campus hosted the STEM Speaker Series sponsored by Lubrizol which featured speakers from Lubrizol and Parker Hannifin.
- Cleveland Clinic Audiologists visited Buckeye Elementary to teach students on how to protect their hearing and the dangers of hearing loss.
- Mentor ATA Karate and Mentor Heisley Racquet Ball Club visited Buckeye Elementary once a week to conduct exercise classes with the students.
- Digital Imaging Specialist sponsored a Flag Etiquette program where American Legion members visited first graders at each elementary school to teach students about the history of the flag and how to pay proper respect to the flag. Digital Imaging Specialist also donated 100 flags to Riverside Campus.
- All schools within the district recognized the impact and importance of our Veterans on Veterans Day.
- Adventure Subaru donated backpacks to Hadden Elementary at the start of the school year.
- Hadden Elementary's PTA received a grant from Lowe's to transform the school's library. Euclid Chemical Company also donated paint to the library.
- Buckeye Elementary's PTA received a paint donation from Sherwin Williams to repaint the school's library.
- All the PTA groups and Booster groups hosted a variety of family and student events including student dances, family nights at several local restaurants, mother/father nights, Field Day, school carnivals, game and movie nights, book fairs, dinners and auctions, bowling parties, ice cream socials and family skating parties.
- Riverside Campus hosted two Senior Citizen Appreciation Nights during the school year where seniors were invited to the school for a free dinner and Drama performance.
- Lake Health donated a Polar Life Pod to the Athletic Department to help protect athletes from potential heat dangers.
- Painesville Township Fire Department visited each elementary school to teach students about fire safety.
- Hadden Elementary hosted Lunch with a Loved One where family members were invited to eat lunch with the students before the school's Book Fair.
- University Hospitals Safety Squad hosted an assembly at Hadden Elementary to teach students about bike and pedestrian safety.
- The RPTA and Booster groups hosted a Community Easter Egg Hunt.
- Students across the district participated in Just Run, a program sponsored by the Lake County General Health District designed to promote fitness and healthy lifestyles.
- Painesville Township garnered a Safe Routes to School grant to build new sidewalks near Buckeye, Hadden, Hale Road and Madison Avenue elementary schools. The project was completed in the Spring.



Cintas and Hickory Asset Management Company each donated math champ shirts to Hadden Elementary students and Classic Lexus donated Indians box seats to the top performer for the **Math Madness Champs.**

# Student Services

*A variety of services provides options to ensure all students receive individualized instruction, enrichment and support.*



The Riverside Local School District provides services to meet the individual needs of ALL students. In addition to regular education services, Riverside Local Schools offers identification of and services to gifted students, special needs students and students for whom English is their second language.

- Anti-bullying prevention and awareness was emphasized for all students in grades K-12.
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) was used in all buildings K-12.
- Riverside Campus Special Needs Unit prepared and served a Thanksgiving lunch to teachers and administrators. They also hosted a Valentine's Day dance to all students with special needs within Lake County.

- All buildings are staffed with health aides or nurses based on needs identified in the building.
- Riverside Local Schools partners with the Geauga County Educational Service Center to offer vocational programming for high school students with disabilities. The RAVE Program (Reaching to Achieve Vocational Excellence) is aligned with Ohio's Employment First Initiative.
- Riverside Local School District partnered with the Lake County Educational Service Center to offer a variety of educational options:
  - Preschool programming was available for both typically developing and special needs children.
  - Alternative Schooling Options:
    1. K'nextions Learning Academy – KLA is an online alternative for of school for students who need credit recovery and/or prefer to learn through online programming. KLA offers students the opportunity to receive credit and graduate from their district of residence.
    2. Lake Academy provided another option for students who typically had not found success in a traditional classroom setting.

**5%** of students identified as gifted.

**15.4%** of students identified with disabilities under IDEA.

**3.6%** of students identified as English Language Learners (ELL).

- Guidance Counselors were available for students in Grades 6-12.
- Reading intervention was provided to students identified as 'at-risk.'
- BOOST, a kindergarten program designed for eligible students, was available.
- All buildings are staffed with intervention specialists and related service staff (school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists) that helped to identify and provide services to students with special needs in grades K-12.



# Staff Leadership

*Student growth and achievement are facilitated by high-quality staff members.*

## ALICE

All District staff members conducted an Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate

(ALICE) training in the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year in conjunction with the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

- Lamuth Middle School's Monica Vernon – 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher – published a book which was co-authored by her husband. The book is titled *How Imperfect Parents Lead Great Families*.
- The District received a \$22,715 grant to be used for the District's Units of Study writing program. The grant was secured by Abby Hartmann, who is the District's K-12 Literacy Coach.
- Two Teachers (Mrs. Juliann Tinney and Mrs. Kellie Galante) piloted a year-long "Lucy Calkins Unit of Writing" program and provided a January professional development to the district teachers as well as traveling to NYC Teacher's College with other district teachers.
- Ms. Adrienne Bickerstaff, intervention specialist, and Kaye Norton (student) at Buckeye Elementary were chosen as Walter/Horn Award winners for the district in the area of excellence for special education. They were honored with other Lake/Geauga winners at the Auburn Career Center dinner and award nights.

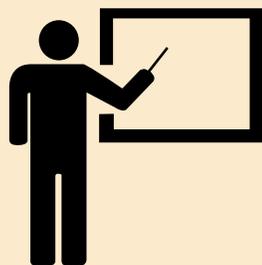
- Staff members are continuously learning and staying current through professional development opportunities throughout the school year. Nearly 900 professional development opportunities were approved during the 2015-2016 school year.

- Staff members combined to raise \$1,230 for the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research.



- Administrators participate in county and state level professional development throughout the school year to bring global perspectives to our district, our classrooms and our students.

- The District conducted Community Kindness Day for the third straight summer where more than 50 administrators and teachers volunteered four hours to give back to the community by visiting local businesses, parks and organizations to hand out gift certificates, candy, water bottles and t-shirts.



**100%**  
of teachers and  
substitute teachers  
are certified.

**74%**  
of classroom teachers have  
**Master's Degrees  
or higher.**

**63**  
teachers earned  
**graduate credits**  
during the 2015-2016  
school year.



# Beliefs

- Family is an integral influence in the development of a student.
- The higher the expectations, the greater the results.
- A culture of excellence creates a first-rate school district.
- Students learn at different rates and in different ways.
- Diversity and inclusion enriches us as individuals and as a society.
- Both the District and community benefit from a genuine partnership.
- The District, in partnership with families and with the community, is responsible for developing students who can compete in an interconnected world.





Riverside Local School District  
 585 Riverside Drive  
 Painesville, OH 44077

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
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 Painesville OH 438  
 Permit No.

## Board of Education

Jennifer Harden, President  
 Jack Miley, Vice-President  
 Belinda Grassi  
 Thomas Hach  
 Steven Jefferies

### Superintendent

James Kalis  
 440.358.8202

### Treasurer

Gary A. Platko, CPA  
 440.352.0668

| Riverside Local Schools Directory   |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Board of Education Office .....     | 440.358.0668 |
| Riverside Campus .....              | 440.352.3341 |
| Henry F. LaMuth Middle School ..... | 440.354.4394 |
| Buckeye Elementary .....            | 440.352.2191 |
| Clyde C. Hadden Elementary .....    | 440.354.4414 |
| Hale Road Elementary .....          | 440.352.2300 |
| Leroy Elementary.....               | 440.358.8750 |
| Madison Avenue Elementary.....      | 440.357.6171 |
| Melridge Elementary .....           | 440.352.3854 |

[www.riversidelocalschools.com](http://www.riversidelocalschools.com)

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