



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.



2017-18 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**

The 2017-2018 school year was another step in the right direction for the Riverside Local School District as we continue to gain positive momentum within the community.

This past year, programs such as choir, gym, art and technology returned to the elementary level. The District also restored busing service for nearly all students. In addition, athletes, cheerleaders and band members had significantly lower pay to participate fees.

The campus officially opened a state of the art turf football field and renovated track to the community which is not only used for high school football games, but all athletic teams at the high school as well as youth teams throughout the community. Many Riverside Campus classes also utilize the turf field for various academic activities throughout the year.

In addition, the campus opened the Athletic Performance Center for student athletes and physical education students. The Athletic Performance Center is a 3,600 square foot weight training room and a 3,600 square foot all-purpose athletic floor.

In May, the District hosted two groundbreaking ceremonies for its new elementary schools in Painesville Township and Concord Township as we celebrated the occasion with board members, administrators, staff, parents, students, community members and local elected officials.

Although the future continues to be bright, the 2018-2019 school year will be bittersweet as we say goodbye to Hadden, Hale, Leroy and Madison Avenue elementary schools. Each of the four schools will be in its final year of operation before we open the two new elementary schools in August of 2019.

We encourage all former staff members and alumni of those buildings to visit throughout the school year and take one final stroll down memory lane before we officially close the doors in June of 2019. Stay tuned for updates about decommissioning events throughout the year.

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. Great things are happening at Riverside!

Many variables determine how well a school district performs, but nothing has more of a positive impact than community support.

Thank you for your support!

James Kalis
Superintendent

Academics

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



Members of the Varsity football team held story time with students at all elementary schools through the District's annual

Literacy Linemen program.



- All elementary schools participated in the One School, One Book Program, where the entire school reads the same book.
- Fourth through eighth graders from every elementary building, LaMuth Middle School, and John R. Williams participated in the District Spelling Bee.
- Third graders across the District participated in a math competition called 1, 2, 3, OY!
- The Riverside High School Academic Challenge Team had two tournament victories and won their televised match on Channel 5's Academic Challenge program.
- Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School students participate in the Naviance program. Naviance is a comprehensive college and career readiness solution that helps schools align student strengths and interests to post-secondary goals.
- Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School students participated in the Alliance for Working Together RoboBots and Junior Bots Battle at Lakeland Community College.



All elementary schools invited parents and family members into the buildings to

celebrate student achievements

for writing, reading and math.

Fifth graders across the District hosted

Wax Museums,

where students dressed up as famous historical figures and gave presentations in front of their families.



Academics *(continued)*



- In its seventh year, 156 seniors participated in Senior Project, which was the highest number of participating students since its inception. Seniors spend two weeks shadowing a career of their choice and end their week with a presentation of what they have learned at the Senior Project Fair.
- Riverside Campus conducted a county-wide drinking and driving awareness event called Stay in Your Lane, which featured several speakers who were personally affected by drinking and driving. Seniors from other area high schools were invited to attend.

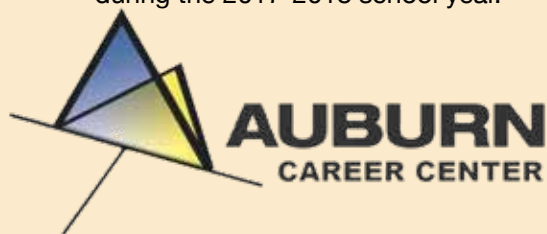
Riverside High School students are able to attend one of the leading career and technical schools –

Auburn Career Center.

This past year,

124 Riverside 10th, 11th and 12th grade students

attended Auburn Career Center during the 2017-2018 school year.



Through a partnership with **Lakeland Community College for Post-Secondary Education**, Riverside Campus students had the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school.

Lakeland
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Riverside High School Junior

Zachary Leopold

earned the **highest possible ACT composite score**

of 36. On average, only about one-tenth of 1 percent of all test takers earn the highest possible score.

RHS Class of 2018

8.25% of the class graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher

58% will attend a four-year college

22% will attend a two-year college

82 graduating seniors earned an Award of Merit or Career/Technical Awards of Merit

6 Six dual credit courses were offered in 2017-2018

10 Advanced Placement courses were offered at the high school

78 7th and 8th grade students earned high school credits in Algebra

AP Scholars

16 AP Scholars

5 AP Scholars with Honor

11 AP Scholars with Distinction

2 National AP Scholars



** Most AP Scholars in school history*

Arts



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

- The Riverside Theatre performed Peter and the Star Catcher and High School Musical, which were open to the public.
- Riverside High School hosted its 4th 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 at Riverside Campus 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.
- Riverside Campus Art students created ceramic bowls to donate to the Northeast Ohio Empty Bowls Project, which is a program that fights hunger in the community.
- Second graders at Madison Avenue performed Seussical, which was a medley of various Dr. Seuss plays.

For the second year in a row,
Riverside High School student
Junior Devyn Diffenbacher won a

\$1,500 LEAF Scholarship

for her umbrella art submission.

Leroy Elementary students created the
Leroy Theater Group
and traveled to each of the District's
elementary schools to perform a play called "Positive."



- Riverside Campus art students participated in the second annual Chalk festival.
- Riverside Campus art students had an art display at Painesville's Art in the Park for the fourth consecutive year.
- Professional actors from Cleveland Play House visited Riverside Campus to teach students about Shakespeare.
- Riverside Campus art students participated in the Lake & Geauga County Juried Student Art Show at Lakeland Community College.
- Riverside Campus art students participated in the Cleveland Clinic Expressions Program.
- Art students across the District had art displays at the Lake County Fair.
- Each elementary school had choir concerts at the High School auditorium.
- LaMuth Middle School choirs and bands performed at the Lake County Captains, Cleveland Cavaliers and Cleveland Monsters games this year.

LaMuth Middle School's band
and choir visited each elementary school in
the District to perform in front of the students.



- Riverside Regiment and Choir participated in the Chamber Music Festival which consisted of more than 150 performances in one day involving 400 students grades 6-12.
- Riverside Choir visited each elementary school in the District to perform and interact with the students.



Students at Riverside Campus:

378

participated in

Band

221

participated in

Choir



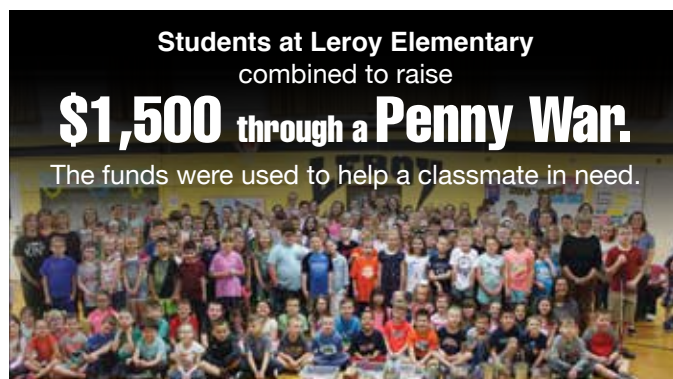
Student Leadership and Activities



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

- Riverside Student Council hosted its annual Hoops 4 Hope basketball game which consisted of a game between Riverside staff members and Lake County First Responders. The event raised more than \$1,600 for Doug Herbert's BRAKES Defensive Driving Program in memory of Josh Evans.
- Elementary students across the District participated in the Leader in Me program, which is adapted from the Seven Habits of Highly Successful People.
- Riverside High School continued its Community Service Honor Cord Program where seniors sign up to volunteer for community service.
- Riverside Campus students hosted a Turkey Volleyball game, a Halloween Food Drive and a Day of Caring for local charities.

- LaMuth Middle School supported The Crayon Initiative where they collected 190 pounds of crayons throughout the year to donate to children's hospitals.
- Buckeye Elementary students participated in End 68 Hours of Hunger where students brought in food items to donate to local food banks to bring attention to students that may go from Friday after school to Monday morning without having a single meal.



- Hale Road students raised money and items for the Lake Humane Society.
- Riverside High School hosted two blood drives for American Red Cross.



- Riverside Campus and Crossroads engaged in an on-going commitment to Youth Led Prevention addressing issues and discussing strategies to strengthen the school and community.
- LaMuth Middle School collected gifts and monetary donations in order to provide for needy families through Asa's Angels.



Fiscal Stewardship

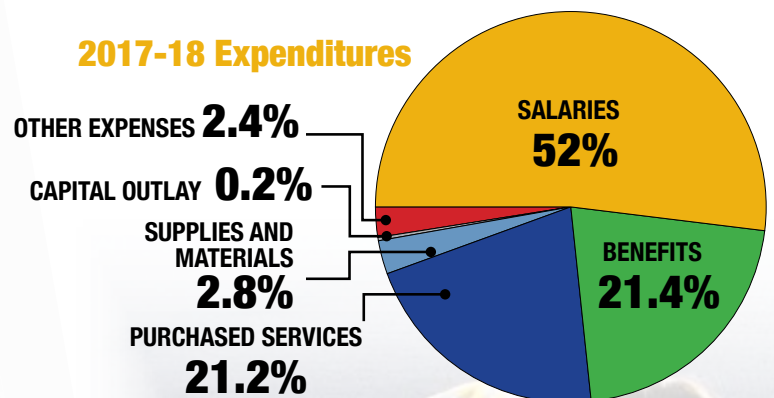
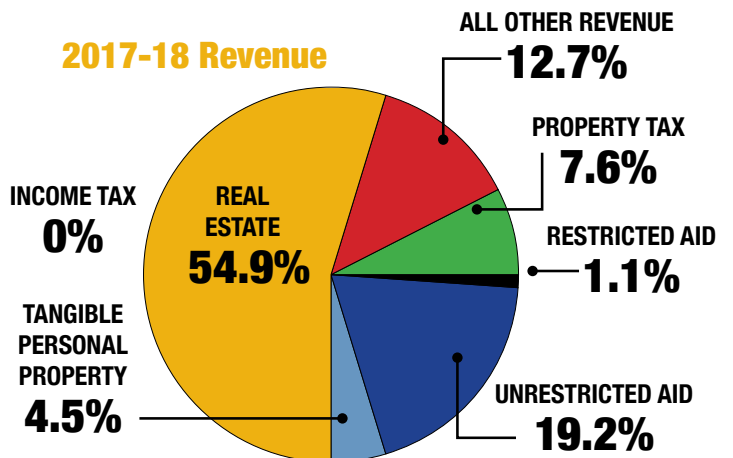
Financial responsibility ensures that the majority of funding is spent on classroom instruction.

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.



quick facts

- ✓ Based on projections in the May 2018 Five-Year Forecast, the District should remain fiscally solvent through at least Fiscal Year 2022.
- ✓ Residential real estate taxes account for approximately 84% of the \$25,700,00 tax revenue stream.
- ✓ The cost of personnel and benefits was 73.4% of the total 2017-2018 expenditures.

Fiscal Stewardship *(continued)*

60.88

Gross Tax Rate

36.60

Effective Tax Rate

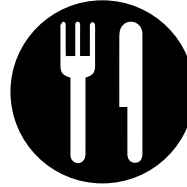
Riverside Local School District has the
**third lowest school tax rate
in Lake County**

even after the passage of the
recent bond and operating levies.



\$10,283
**Expenditure
per Pupil**

which is second lowest
in Lake County.



- The District has initiated various shared service contracts with surrounding districts for transportation, fuel purchase and food services that generated \$23,386 for FY 2018.
- The District is a member of the Ohio Schools Council and participates in several programs to obtain goods and services at highly competitive pricing including:
 - Competitive bidding for the purchase of school buses, diesel fuel, food products, and cafeteria items
 - OSC Natural Gas Program
 - Power4Schools Electric Program
 - OSC Waste and Recycling Program
- In the spring of 2017, the District received an A1 bond rating from Moody's Investors Service for the bonds it issued for the construction of two new elementary schools. This rating indicates the District's bonds are upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk. The District was able to enhance this rating two levels to an Aa2 by participating in the State Credit Enhancement Program through the Ohio Department of Education and the purchase of bond insurance resulting in a lower cost of borrowing for the District.
- The District partners with Lake Health as its exclusive Healthcare Sponsor of the District. Lake Health has agreed to pay the District \$230,000 over a 10-year-period. These funds helped pay for turfing the football field at Riverside Stadium.
- As a member of the Lake County Schools Council, a health consortium consisting of 12 school districts in Northeast Ohio, the District is able to offer employees a competitive benefits package in a cost-efficient manner.
- Through effective utilization of interest bearing accounts and allowable investments, the District earned \$146,493 in interest income on its operating cash balances plus an additional \$452,484 on its construction fund.



Parent and Community Involvement

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

- 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.
- Kids Love Musicals, Lake County YMCA and Lake Metroparks coordinated activities for all elementary buildings.
- The District hosted dozens of community meetings and focus groups to get input on facilities and designs for new elementary schools.
- Riverside Campus hosted its first ever Halls of Holly, which was a holiday event for children and families within the community. More than 100 RHS students and staff members volunteered a Saturday evening to host the event.



The District hosted two **Groundbreaking Ceremonies**

for its **two new elementary school sites.**

The ceremonies were attended by board members, staff, students, parents, community members and elected officials.



Employees from **Progressive Insurance**

visited several schools in the District to educate students about insurance.



- Riverside Campus hosted several career days where employees from local businesses would visit classrooms and speak to students or conduct speaker panels.

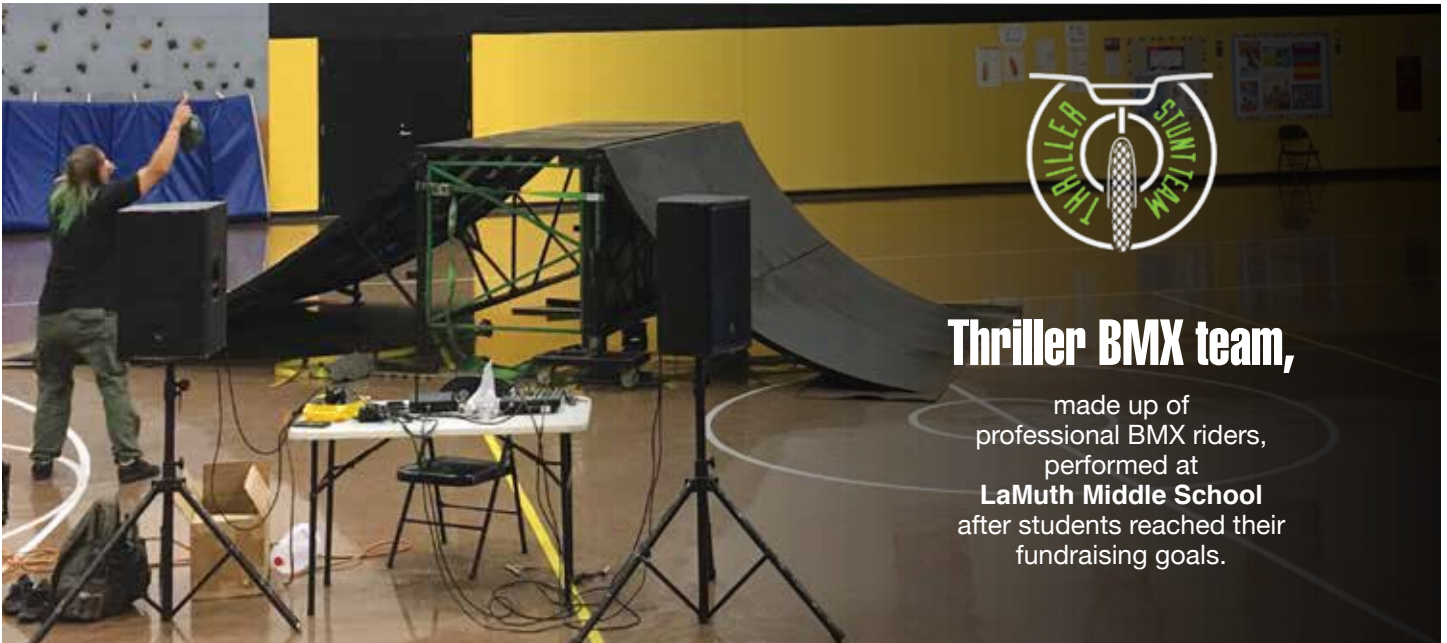


Students and their family members participated in

Walk to School day

in the Fall at **Buckeye, Hadden, Hale Road and Madison Avenue** elementary schools.

Parent and Community Involvement *(continued)*



Thriller BMX team,

made up of professional BMX riders, performed at **LaMuth Middle School** after students reached their fundraising goals.

- The District hosted a Meet the Teams and Community Celebration Night to open its newly turfed football field at the high school.
- 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.
- All schools within the district recognized the impact and importance of our Veterans on Veterans Day.
- Adventure Subaru donated school supplies to Hadden Elementary.
- Painesville Township Fire Department conducted CPR training with all 9th graders at Riverside Campus.
- Madison Avenue Elementary hosted a Grandparents Breakfast where students' grandparents were invited to the school for coffee and doughnuts.
- 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.



LaMuth Middle School received a
\$2,500 grant

from Lowe's to create a work and storage area for the Maker Space activities in 7th grade technology class.

- Riverside Campus hosted two Senior Citizen Appreciation Nights during the school year where senior residents were invited to the school for a preview of the Riverside Drama performances as well as a free dinner prepared and served by students in the Foods and Nutrition classes.



Emmy-winner

Rick Jackson of PBS

visited **Melridge Elementary** to talk to students about his career.

- 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.

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.

13.1% of students identified with disabilities under IDEA.

2.6% of students identified as English Language Learners (ELL).

- * The Student Services Department in partnership with the Nutrition Services Department opened up the Beaver Bistro to sell coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and snacks at Riverside Campus. The Bistro serves as a training site for eligible students with disabilities to participate in prevocational work experiences with an emphasis on teaching pre-employment and employability skills, work habits and social skills imperative to gaining future employment.
 - Riverside High School introduced the Sparkles Cheer Squad which was led by senior cheerleader Alyssa Mahler and parent volunteer Carla Keller. The high school received a grant from the Sparkles Effect Organization for uniforms and another grant from the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities to purchase t-shirts.
 - School Counselors were available for students in grades 6-12.
 - The District partnered with Crossroads and Signature Health to provide mental health services to students with social emotional needs throughout all schools.
- Reading tutors were provided to students identified as 'at-risk.'
 - Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) was used in all buildings K-12.
 - Riverside Campus Special Needs Classrooms hosted a Valentine's Day dance open to all students with special needs within Lake County. Over 300 students attended. Students also prepared their annual Thanksgiving luncheon for staff members and an end of the year picnic for staff members.
 - 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.
 - All buildings were staffed with health aides or nurses based on needs identified in the building.
 - The District 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.



Staff Leadership



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

- All District staff members participated in diversity training with Diversity Initiatives Inc.
- Staff members across the District raised money for various charities throughout the year by having several Staff Denim Days.
- The Nutrition Services Staff cooked and served more than 2,500 hot dogs to community members at the Meet the Teams and Community Celebration night.
- The District is part of a consortium – along with Perry, Fairport Harbor, Lake Erie College and the Lake County Educational Service Center – that received a \$500,000 Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant from the Ohio Department of Education.
- The District received a \$20,000 open grant from Martha Holden Jennings to host a four-day Reading Institute.
- Several staff members throughout the District received Martha Holden Jennings grants to provide books to their classrooms or libraries.
- Staff members are continuously learning and staying current through professional development opportunities throughout the school year.
- The District conducted Community Kindness Day for the fourth consecutive summer where more than 60 administrators and teachers volunteered for one day to give back to the community by visiting local businesses, parks and organizations to hand out gift certificates, candy, water bottles and t-shirts.



The District's
School Resource Officer
Corey Svagerko visits all of the schools frequently to interact with students.



The District created a
Wellness Committee
that meets throughout the year to discuss health and wellness for students and staff. The committee is led by **Hadden Elementary Principal Michelle Walker** and the district's **Nutrition Director, Michelle Gifford**. The committee is also made up of **parents, teachers and students**.



100%
of teachers and
substitute teachers
are certified.

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



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.



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Permit No.

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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

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