



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.



# 2018-19 Quality profile



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







# *message* from the **Superintendent**

The 2018-2019 school year marked the final year for Hadden, Hale Road, Leroy and Madison Avenue Elementary Schools. Those four buildings, which were built in the 1920s and 1930s, will remain a rich part of our community's history. The schools will always be remembered as the memories are passed through generations of Riverside families.

We hope you had the opportunity to visit the buildings during one of the many Community Farewell Open Houses that each of the school's hosted last Spring.

Although we say goodbye to those four schools, we couldn't be more excited to introduce Parkside and Riverview Elementary Schools to the community for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond.

As we consolidate from six elementary schools to four, the District continues to work with ThenDesign Architecture on Phase II of the Facilities Plan, which would eventually allow the District to build a new 6-12 Complex on the current Riverside Campus property. We will be sure to keep residents informed of any updates to the Facilities Plan.

We are also excited to bring back the preschool program as well as all-day kindergarten for this upcoming school year. In addition, The District is pleased to announce that families can now register their children online and also complete required forms through the Parent Portal of Infinite Campus. This will take place of the paper forms that have previously been sent home for parents to fill out during the first week of school. The District has also launched FinalForms for student-athletes.

As Riverside strives to be the hub of the community, we are extremely grateful for all the support from our community. We have had a lot of positive momentum over the past several years and we are hopeful that it will continue as we focus on our main goal of educating our children by preparing them for a successful future.

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

Many variables determine how well a school district performs, but nothing has more of a positive impact than community support. Great things are happening at Riverside!

Thank you for your support!

Dr. James Kalis  
Superintendent

# Academics

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



- Students in grades 6 through 12 are given a Chromebook to use at school and at home as part of the District's 1:1 initiative to provide tools and resources for the 21st Century Learner. Elementary students also have access to Chromebooks in the classroom.
- Elementary schools District-wide invited parents and family members into the buildings to celebrate student achievements for writing, reading, math, science, technology, history and more.
- The Riverside High School Academic Challenge Team had several tournament victories and advanced to both the State Competition and the Online National Competition.
- The District hosted an Elementary Family Fun Night called 'Build it Night,' where students and families were invited to participate in more than 20 educational activities that focused on science, technology, engineering and math.
- Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School students participated in the Alliance for Working Together RoboBots and Junior Bots Battle at Lakeland Community College.

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

## Literacy Linemen program.



Fourth through eighth graders participated in the

## District Spelling Bee.

Seventh grader **Raj Vagula** won the District Spelling Bee and the Lake County Spelling Bee. He then competed in the Tri-County Spelling Bee where he finished in second place.

## All elementary students participated in the Two Books, One District program

where students in grades K-2 read *The Year of Billy Miller* and students in grades 3-5 read *Fish in a Tree*. The idea of Two Books, One District was to create a shared reading experience across the District between students and families while promoting literacy.



# Academics *(continued)*



The Riverside Local School District is committed to preparing students for life after graduation by implementing several programs that help students determine careers they're interested in exploring. Students at LaMuth Middle School and Riverside Campus participate in the Naviance program, which is a comprehensive college and career readiness solution that helps schools align student strengths and interests to post-secondary goals.

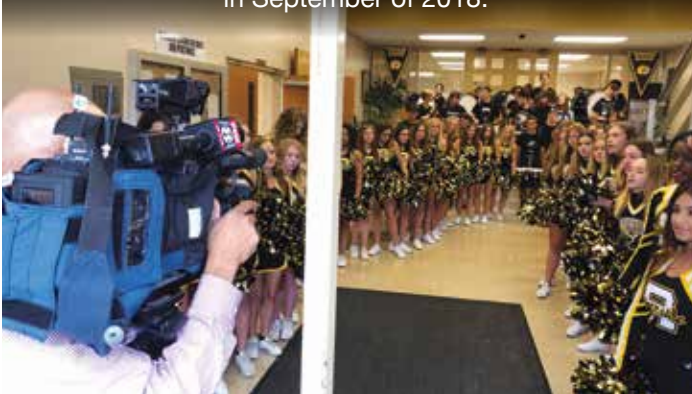
The District's College and Career Readiness Coordinator developed a Riverside Road Map, which is a guide for students in grades 4-12 that prepares students for their future. The Riverside Road Map focuses on students bettering themselves, pursuing greatness and developing leadership qualities.

In addition, students at Riverside Campus have the ability to attend one of the leading career and technical schools in the area, Auburn Career Center. Students also have the opportunity to earn college credits at Lakeland Community College while still in high school.

To gain real-life experience, more than 200 10th and 11th graders participated in College and Career Shadow Day, where students visited local businesses and organizations to learn about various professions. More than 170 Seniors also took advantage of the Senior Project opportunity that Riverside has offered since 2011. Senior Project allows seniors to spend two weeks shadowing a career of their choice.



Riverside High School was voted  
**Fox 8's Cool School  
 of the Week**  
 in September of 2018.



## RHS Class of 2019

**16** seniors graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher

**51%** will attend a four-year college

**23%** will attend a two-year college

**6** Six dual credit courses were offered in 2018-2019

**10** Advanced Placement courses were offered at the high school

**77** 7th and 8th grade students earned high school credits in Algebra

**34** Riverside High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society

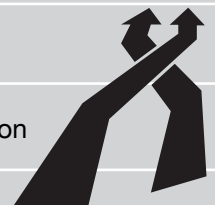
## AP Scholars

**12** AP Scholars

**4** AP Scholars with Honor

**11** AP Scholars with Distinction

**2** National AP Scholars



# Arts

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

## Art students across the District showcased their creativity in the community throughout the year by:

- Painting Painesville Township snow plows which were displayed at local festivals, community parades and then used to plow snow during the winter.



- Participating in Lake/Geauga Educational Assistance Foundations' The Umbrella Project, where students design and paint umbrellas. The umbrellas are then judged by community artists and displayed at The Great Lakes Mall.
- Participating in the Cleveland Clinic Expressions Program, where students create artwork based off science and medicine research.
- Hosting art shows at First Federal of Lakewood Bank in Concord Township and Stella's Art Gallery in Mentor.
- Decorating the sidewalks surrounding Riverside Campus during the third annual Chalk Festival.
- Creating ceramic bowls to donate to the Northeast Ohio Empty Bowls Project, which is a program that fights hunger in the community.
- Displaying their artwork at Art in the Park and the Lake County Fair.
- Participating in the Lake & Geauga County Juries Student Art Show at Lakeland Community College.



- Riverside Regiment participated in the United Way of Lake County's Campaign Kick-off and was crowned the "Community Impact Champion" for garnering the most individual donations throughout the event.
- Elementary students hosted various plays, musicals and programs for family members. Elementary choir concerts were also held at the Riverside High School Auditorium.
- LaMuth Middle School choirs and bands performed at various sporting events including the Lake County Captains, Cleveland Cavaliers and Cleveland Monsters. In addition, both the choirs and bands visited each elementary school in the District to perform for all the students and staff.
- 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.

 A group photo of students and staff from the Riverside Theatre. They are wearing blue t-shirts with "BOEING BOEING" printed on them. The photo is set against a yellow background.
 

**The Riverside Theatre**  
performed  
**Boeing Boeing**  
& **Newsies**  
which were open to the public.  
The Theatre students also performed Boeing Boeing at the Ohio Thespian State Conference in Akron.

 A photograph of the Riverside Choir performing on stage. The students are dressed in black and white, and are singing into microphones. A conductor is visible on the right side of the stage.
 

**Riverside Choir**  
visited each elementary school in the District to perform and interact with the students.

**Students at Riverside Campus:**

**347**  
participated in  
**Band**

**224**  
participated in  
**Choir**

# Student Leadership and Activities



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

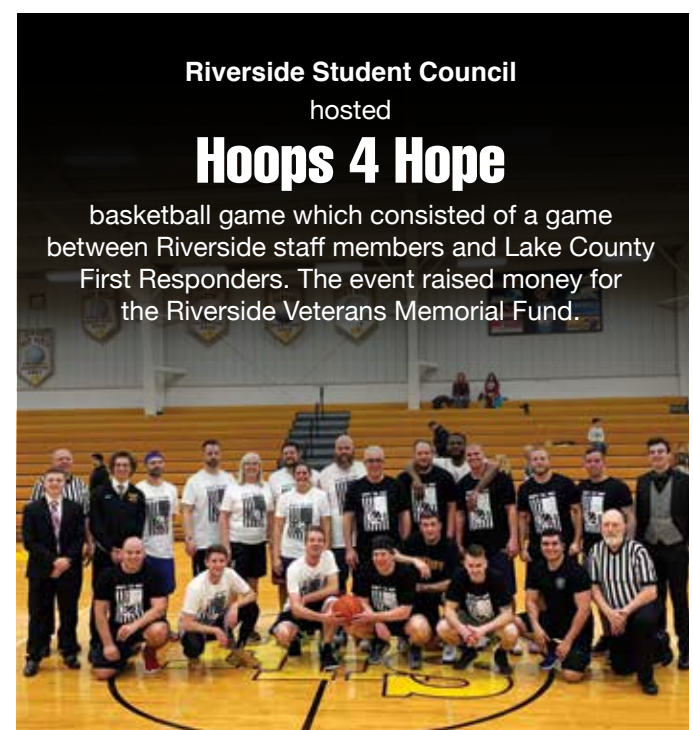
- Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School each offer more than 30 school sponsored Athletic Programs and Extra Curricular Activities.
- Students at Riverside Campus housed a student needs Care Closet, which is an open resource for high school students who may need personal items, school supplies, basic needs, snacks or quick meals.
- Riverside Campus students combined to raise more than \$4,000 for its 15th annual Day of Caring.
- Riverside High School continued its Community Service Honor Cord Program where seniors sign up to volunteer for community service within the community.
- LaMuth Middle School hosted donation and food drives for several local nonprofits.
- Riverside High School hosted two blood drives for American Red Cross.
- Riverside High School hosted four foreign exchange students this year including: Georgia Hunter (Scotland), Kendra Bitencourt-Fiel (Brazil), Jinnapuk Maneesorn (Thailand) and Farah Sabbah (Palestine).



Fifth graders at Hadden Elementary created

## **The Hadden News,**

which was a student-run school-wide newspaper.



Riverside Student Council hosted

## **Hoops 4 Hope**

basketball game which consisted of a game between Riverside staff members and Lake County First Responders. The event raised money for the Riverside Veterans Memorial Fund.

Students across all elementary schools raised money for:



**The Lake Humane Society,  
Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center,  
Cleveland Clinic's Child Life Service  
Program, the Riverside Veterans  
Memorial, Hope Chest, local food  
pantries, Asa's Angels**

and many more local nonprofit organizations.

# Fiscal Stewardship

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

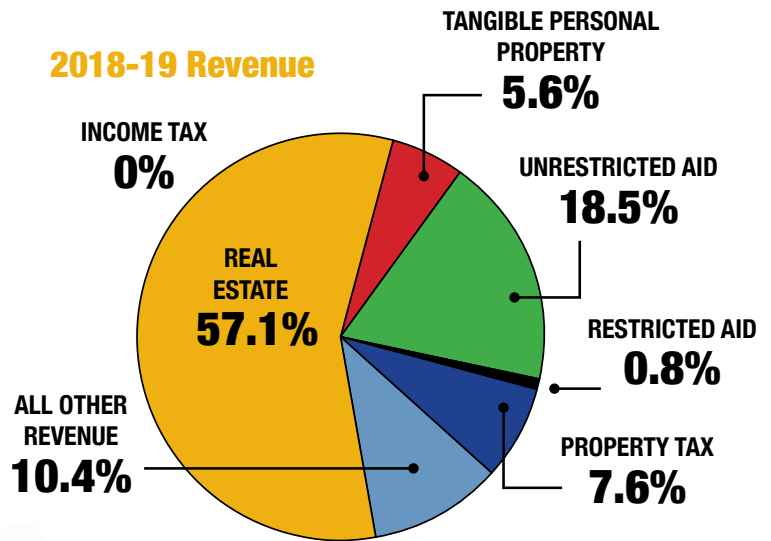
The District received the  
**Auditor of State award**

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

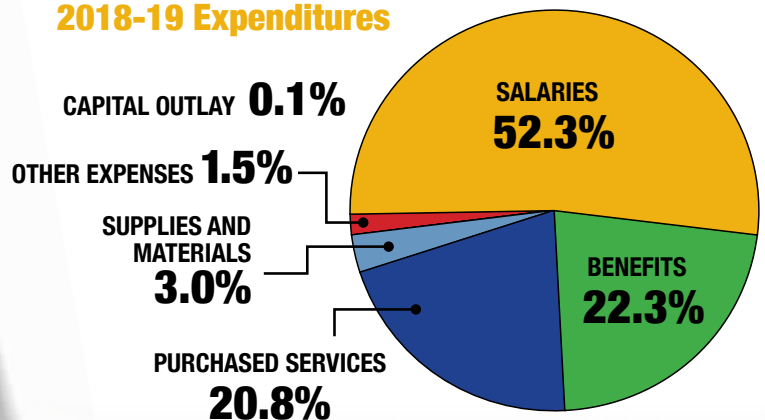
The district joined  
**OhioCheckBook.com**

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

## 2018-19 Revenue



## 2018-19 Expenditures



### quick facts

- ✓ Based on projections in the May 2019 Five-Year Forecast, the District should remain fiscally solvent through at least Fiscal Year 2023.
- ✓ Residential real estate taxes account for approximately 84% of the \$27,600,00 tax revenue stream.
- ✓ The cost of personnel and benefits was 74.6% of the total 2018-2019 expenditures.





# Fiscal Stewardship *(continued)*




- The District was awarded \$22,639.55 in safety grant funds from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. A portion of these funds were used for a school emergency radio system upgrade for each of the District’s school buildings. The remainder of these funds were used to add two exterior cameras to 15 buses.
- The District was awarded \$40,000.00 in safety grant funds from the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation through several applications submitted under their School Safety and Security Grant program. The District received the maximum amount available per District. These funds were used to install full interior and exterior camera systems to 10 buses and two external cameras to two additional buses. The funds also allow for the purchase of five spare hard drives for the bus camera systems as well as the purchase of four new two-way radios that directly interface with emergency first responders for the transportation department.
- 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.



<b>60.45</b>	<b>34.24</b>
Gross Tax Rate	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.



\$10,546

Expenditure per Pupil

which is second lowest in Lake County.

- 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 \$341,653 in interest income on its operating cash balances plus an additional \$632,446 on its construction fund.

# Parent and Community Involvement

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



- All the PTA 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.
- Business leaders from around the community often visit schools across the District to talk to students about careers.
- 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 invite local veterans into the buildings on Veterans Day for breakfast or lunch to thank them for their service.
- 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.
- Elementary schools encourage parent & family participation for various classroom events or holiday parties throughout the year.
- 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.
- Morley Library hosts various reading programs for all elementary students in the District.
- Jeffrey J. Fortunato, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Cleveland Division, visited LaMuth Middle School to present students with the Safe Online Surfing Internet Challenge Award.

Riverside Campus hosted its 2nd Annual

## Halls of Holly,

which was a holiday event for children and families within the community. More than 100 Riverside High School students and staff members volunteered to host the event.



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)*

The District hosted a  
**Community Farewell Open House**

for **Hadden, Hale Road, Leroy and Madison Avenue** elementary schools to celebrate their final year of existence.



- The Ohio State Highway Patrol brought in a Distracted Driver Simulator for Riverside High School students to test out, which educated teens on the dangers and consequences of distracted driving.

## Local Fire Departments

visited all schools in the District to conduct educational programs for students.



The District launched

## Lunch for Law Enforcement

last year, which offers a free lunch to any Law Enforcement member who visits any of the District's buildings during lunch time. The program was launched to increase visibility, enhance security and to give students and staff more opportunities to interact with law enforcement.



## Adventure Subaru

donated school supplies to Hadden Elementary.



## The RPTA hosted a Community Easter Egg Hunt

at Riverside High School for young families in the District.



# 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.

**11.5%** of students gifted in one area or more.

**14.4%** of students identified with disabilities under IDEA.

**2.2%** of students identified as English Language Learners (ELL).

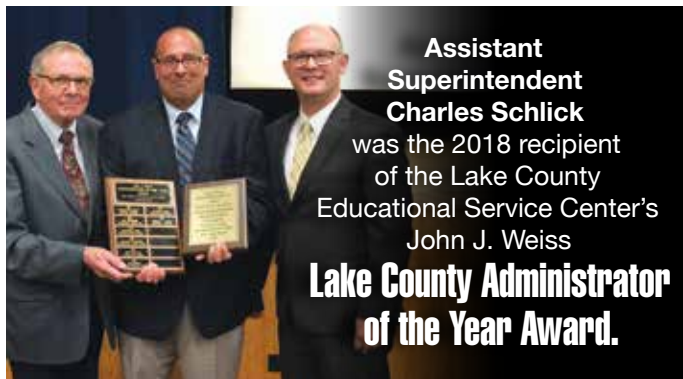
- The Student Services Department in partnership with the Nutrition Services Department operates the Beaver Bistro to sell coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and snacks at Riverside Campus. The Bistro serves as a training site for eligible students with disabilities to participate in prevocational work experiences with an emphasis on teaching pre-employment and employability skills, work habits and social skills imperative to gaining future employment.
  - Riverside High School continued its Sparkles Cheer Squad program led by parent and student volunteers. 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 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 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.
  - Riverside Campus Special Needs Classrooms hosted their annual Talent Show, where students showed off their singing, dancing and athletic skills.
  - All buildings were 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.*



- Superintendent James Kalis, Director of Curriculum Melissa Mlakar and College and Career Readiness Coordinator Christopher Basich all received their Doctorate Degree in Education from Youngstown State University.



**Assistant Superintendent Charles Schlick** was the 2018 recipient of the Lake County Educational Service Center's John J. Weiss **Lake County Administrator of the Year Award.**

- Riverside High School hosted the first ever AP Summit – where more than 60 teachers from area high schools were on site to share educational strategies and best practices that focus on aiding students gaining access to college.
- Laura Poje was nominated for Ohio Teacher of the Year. Poje is a teacher, an English Department Chair and the advisor of Riverside Theatre. The Ohio Teacher of the Year will be announced this fall.
- The 2018 Ohio Teacher of the Year, Jonathan Juravich, visited several schools in the District to engage in discussion with staff and student panels.
- LaMuth Middle School Band Director James Swislocki received an AMPLIFY Award from the National Association for Music Education in Washington D.C.
- The District Leadership Team developed the Culture Playbook, which is a district-wide initiative that focuses on values, behaviors and outcomes.
- Several staff members throughout the District received Martha Holden Jennings grants to provide books to their classrooms or libraries.
- The District's Transportation Department delivered cookie trays to local, county and state road departments as well as the Lake County Sheriff's Office as a thank you for all their service and dedication to keeping the roads safe.

- Administrators, staff, students, board and community members conducted an Educational Visioning Session coordinated by ThenDesign Architecture to start planning and preparing for Phase II of the District's Facilities Plan.
- Staff members are continuously learning and staying current through professional development opportunities throughout the school year.
- The District hosted its fifth annual Community Kindness Day 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 Jerold Infalvi visited all of the schools frequently to interact with students.

**100%** of teachers and substitute teachers are certified. **76%** of classroom teachers have **Master's Degrees or higher.**



*We are*  
**RIVERSIDE!**

**One Community  
Pursuing Greatness and  
Getting Better Every Day**

**VALUE**

**BEHAVIOR**

**OUTCOME**

**Better  
Every Day**

- Do the Right Thing
- Own Your Attitude and Choices
- Be Coachable

**Best Version  
of You**

**Pursuit of  
Greatness**

- Act with Determination
- Embrace Challenges
- Seek and Provide Inspiration

**Excellence**

**One  
Community**

- Communicate and Collaborate
- Be a Positive Influence
- Build and Invest in Relationships

**A Great Place  
to Live, Learn,  
and Work**

*The Journey To Elite!*



**PLAYBOOK**





Riverside Local School District  
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 Painesville, OH 44077

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Cheryl Lanning  
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 440.358.8216

## Riverside Local Schools Directory

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<b>Riverside Campus .....</b>	<b>440.352.3341</b>
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<b>Buckeye Elementary .....</b>	<b>440.352.2191</b>
<b>Melridge Elementary .....</b>	<b>440.352.3854</b>
<b>Parkside Elementary .....</b>	<b>440.358.8750</b>
<b>Riverview Elementary.....</b>	<b>440.357.6171</b>

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