



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.



2019-20 Quality profile



*One Community
Pursuing Greatness
Getting Better Every Day*





message from the **Superintendent**

It is no secret that 2020 has been an unprecedented year for our community and our school district due to the COVID-19 health crisis. Despite the pandemic, we remain resolute in providing meaningful educational opportunities and emotional support for more than 4,200 students. Although we have faced many obstacles preparing for the 2020-2021 school year, I am pleased how the Riverside school community has rallied together as we continue to navigate our way through these challenging times.

The pandemic remains a fluid situation, and information, guidelines, restrictions and orders can change at a moment's notice. We ask that parents and community members continue to pay close attention to communications from the District for timely information and important reminders.

It has been easy to focus on the adverse environment in 2020; however, we remain committed to releasing our annual Quality Profile to communicate all of the positive events still happening in our school district.

Sponsored by the Alliance for High Quality Education, a statewide education consortium that works to improve educational opportunities for all students, the Quality Profile is a more comprehensive, community-oriented companion to the Ohio School Report Card. It helps evaluate the effectiveness of a school district beyond standardized testing and other statistical measures.

In essence, the Quality Profile is a snapshot of the Riverside Local School District.

Throughout this document, we have highlighted details regarding our academic, arts, and student leadership programs, along with fiscal stewardship and community involvement.

As Riverside strives to be an integral part of the community, we are extremely grateful for all the support from our community. Many variables determine how well a school district performs, but nothing has a more positive impact than community support.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. James Kalis
Superintendent

Our District

Our District serves more than 4,200 students residing in Painesville Township, Concord Township, Leroy Township, Grand River, and a small section of northern Chardon.



Our Schools

Riverside Campus

Riverside High School &
John R. Williams Jr. High
585 Riverside Drive
Painesville Township, Ohio 44077
440.352.3341

Principal: Peter Hliatzos

Assistant Principals:

Dr. Christopher Basich,
Rich Frimel, Michael Lewis,
Jennifer Westbrook

LaMuth Middle School

6700 Auburn Road
Concord Township, Ohio 44077
440.354.4394

Principal: Nick Orlando

Assistant Principal: Deb Long

Buckeye Elementary

175 Buckeye Road
Painesville Township, Ohio 44077
440.352.2191

Principal: Cassie Smolen

Melridge Elementary

6689 Melridge Road
Concord Township, Ohio 44077
440.352.3854

Principal: Gretchen Wakim

Parkside Elementary

12428 Concord-Hambden Road
Concord Township, Ohio 44077
440.358.8750

Principal: Timothy St. Clair

Riverview Elementary

845 Madison Avenue
Painesville Township, Ohio 44077
440.357.6171

Principal: Traci Shantery



Our Board of Education



(left to right) Thomas Hach, Lori Krenisky, Jennifer Harden, Belinda Grassi, Jack Miley

Our Central Office Administrators

Superintendent: Dr. James Kalis

Assistant Superintendent: Charles Schlick

Treasurer: Gary Platko

Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Dr. Melissa Mlakar

Director of Student Services: Cheryl Lanning

Director of Marketing and Communications: Nick Carrabine

Our District Department Directors

Health Services: Heidi Perry

Maintenance: Richard Arlesic

Nutrition: Michelle Gifford

Preschool Supervisor: Julie Weber

Registration: Crystal DiFranco

Technology: John Renwick

Transportation: Christine Illner



Academics

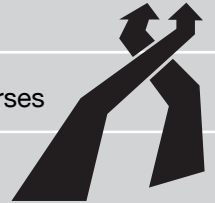
Our district's academic programs provide opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.

Riverside Campus offers more than 120 courses for students in grades 8-12 including but not limited to:

10	Art Classes
8	Business Education Classes
14	English Classes
5	Health and Physical Classes
10	Applied Technology Classes
9	World Language Classes
6	Family and Consumer Science Classes
10	Math Classes
5	Band Classes
5	Choir Classes
18	Science Classes
11	Social Studies Classes

Riverside High School currently offers

12	Honors Courses
11	Advanced Placement courses
4	Dual Credit courses
3	Pre-Advanced Placement courses



LaMuth Middle School offers courses in art, technology, physical education, band, choir, math, science, English language arts, social studies and advisory. In addition, honors courses are offered in math, English language arts and advanced math.

Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School each offer more than 30 school-sponsored athletic programs and extra-curricular activities.

Our four elementary schools offer core subjects of English, math, science and social studies, as well as four electives: art, physical education, music and technology.

AP Courses include:

U.S. History	English Literature & Composition	Biology
U.S. Government	Calculus AB	Chemistry
Psychology	Calculus BC	Physics
English Language & Composition	Statistics	

Academics *(continued)*

College & Career Readiness

Students in 11th and 12th grade at Riverside High School have the opportunity 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 at no cost through the College Credit Plus program.

To gain real-life experience, 10th and 11th graders are encouraged to participate in **College and Career Shadow Day**, when students visit local businesses and organizations to learn about various professions. Seniors are encouraged to participate in **Senior Project**, which allows students to shadow a career of their choice for two weeks.

We are committed to preparing students for **life after graduation** by implementing several programs that help students determine careers they are interested in exploring.

Students at LaMuth Middle School and Riverside Campus use **Naviance**, which is a comprehensive college and career readiness solution that helps schools align student strengths and interests to post-secondary goals.

Staff members also developed a **Riverside Road Map**, which is a guide for students in grades 4-12 that helps prepare students for their future. The Riverside Road Map focuses on students bettering themselves, pursuing greatness and developing leadership qualities.



21st Century Learner

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.

AP SCHOLARS

We are pleased to announce that in the 2019-2020 school year, Riverside High School saw the highest number of students enrolled in AP courses and the highest number of AP tests taken by students in the history of the school. In addition, 36 students were named AP Scholars, which is also the most in school history.

1	National AP Scholar
9	AP Scholar with Distinction
9	AP Scholar with Honor
18	AP Scholars

RHS Class of 2020

318	Graduated
32	Graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher
20%	Earned an Honors Diploma
19%	Earned a Community Service Honor Cord
64	Graduated with Honors Diploma





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

At Riverside Campus, students have the opportunity to participate in band, choir, art and theater.

Each year, the Riverside Theatre students perform a Fall Play and a Spring Musical.

Band & Choir students

at both **Riverside Campus** and **LaMuth Middle School**, perform throughout the year at various events including local and professional sports games, the Chamber Music Festival, our elementary schools, community concerts, Severance Hall and more.



Riverside Campus offers a robust art program that showcases student artwork not only in the classroom, but also throughout the entire community. Highlights every year include:

- Painting Painesville Township snow plows that are displayed at local festivals, community parades and used to plow snow during the winter time.
- Participating in the Lake & Geauga Educational Assistance Foundations' The Umbrella Project, where students design and paint umbrellas to be 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 medical research.
- Hosting art shows at First Federal of Lakewood Bank and Stella's Art Gallery.
- Decorating the sidewalks surrounding Riverside Campus during the annual Chalk Festival.
- Creating ceramic bowls to donate to the Northeast Ohio Empty Bowls Project, which is a program that focuses on fighting hunger in the community.
- Displaying student artwork at community festivals throughout the year.

At the elementary level, students host various plays, musicals and programs for family members throughout the year. Elementary choir concerts are also held at Riverside High School.



Student Leadership and Activities

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

Our students throughout the District are committed to leadership and giving back to the community in the following ways:

- Riverside Campus students raise thousands of dollars annually for Day of Caring to help families in need.
- Students routinely volunteer for community service projects through Riverside High School's Community Service Honor Cord program.
- Students at LaMuth Middle School and all of our elementary schools raise money and organize food drives for many local nonprofits.
- Riverside High School hosts two blood drives for American Red Cross every year.
- Riverside High School launched the Best Buds Club, which is a student-led club to create friendships between regular-ed and special-ed students.
- Many students at Riverside High School participate in the SIDE Leadership program, which stands for Student Initiative for Developing Excellence. The group focuses on mentoring, being ambassadors and leaders. The group was recognized at the Ohio Schools Board Association Conference in November of 2019.



- More than 40 students were inducted into the Riverside High School National Honor Society during the 2019-2020 school year.
- Four 2020 graduating seniors enlisted in the military.



Students at Riverside Campus manage a Care Closet

which is an area in the high school that is an open resource for students who may need personal items, school supplies, snacks, clothing or other basic needs items.



During the pandemic, students throughout the District wrote

Thank You letters

to nurses and doctors and delivered care packages to hospitals.



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.

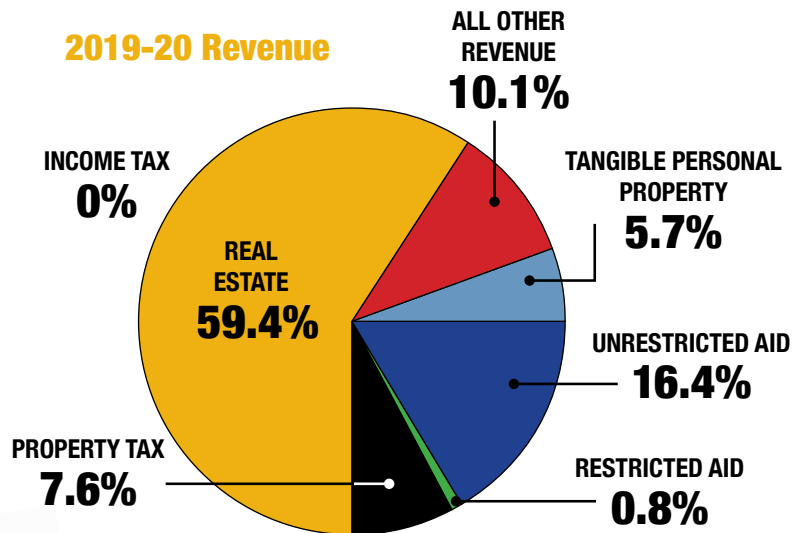
We participate in **The Ohio Checkbook**

which serves as a trusted resource for Ohioans to obtain both local and state financial information and enhances government transparency. Visit OhioCheckBook.gov for more information.

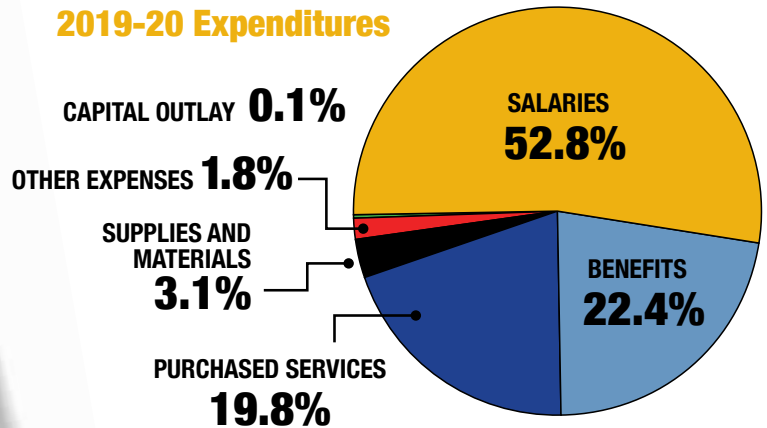
quick facts

- ✓ Based on projections in the May 2020 Five-Year Forecast, we should remain fiscally solvent through at least Fiscal Year 2024.
- ✓ Residential real estate taxes account for approximately 83% of the \$28.7 million tax revenue stream.
- ✓ The cost of personnel and benefits was \$75.2% of the 2019-2020 expenditures.

2019-20 Revenue



2019-20 Expenditures



Fiscal Stewardship



- Our District received \$184,667.73 in Student Wellness and Success funds from the Ohio Department of Education to support students' academic achievement through mental health counseling, wraparound services, mentoring, and after-school programs.
- We are 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
- Our District was awarded \$17,394.75 in safety grant funds from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. These funds were used to install camera systems in five school buses. The camera systems included four interior cameras and two exterior cameras to capture school bus stop arm violations.
- Our District received \$426,070 in net funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by the Federal government in March 2020. The District will utilize these funds in Fiscal Year 2021 to offset increased expenditures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District's state funding was cut 13.4% or \$1,119,054.57 late in the fiscal year resulting in the District paying funds back to the State of Ohio. However, in response to the significant state funding cuts unfairly weighted to districts such as Riverside, the Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 164, that returned \$181,480.49 in state funding back to the district.



60.42

Gross Tax Rate

34.19

Effective Tax Rate

Out of nine school districts in Lake County,
Riverside Local School District has the

**third lowest school tax rate
in the county**



\$11,265

**Expenditure
per Pupil**

which is the third lowest
in Lake County.

- In December 2019, we refinanced \$13.7 million of the bonds issued in 2017 for the construction of Riverview and Parkside elementary schools resulting in a net present value savings of \$768,776.33 in interest expense over the life of the bonds.
- We are currently assigned an A1 rating from Moody's Investors Service indicating the District's bonds are upper-medium grade and subject to low credit risk.
- Our 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, we are able to offer employees a competitive benefits package in a cost efficient manner.
- Through effective utilization of interest bearing accounts and allowable investments, we earned \$307,791 in interest income on its operating cash balances plus an additional \$249,179 on our construction fund.

Parent and Community Involvement



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

We are fortunate to have very involved Parent Teacher Organizations for each of our elementary schools and middle school as well as Booster Clubs for all of our high school athletic programs. These groups host a variety of events and fundraisers throughout the year to provide additional resources for our students, staff and athletes.

Community partnerships also allow for additional educational opportunities for all our students district-wide. Highlights include:

- Coordinating student-activities with local organizations such as Kids Love Musicals, Lake County YMCA, Lake County Metroparks, Morley Library, Great Lakes Theater, Just Run and more!
- Teaming up with local first responders, which allows fire fighters and law enforcement officials to visit the schools for Lunch with Law Enforcement, CPR Training, Fire Safety classes, Mock Crashes and more.
- Local business owners visiting schools to speak with students about career choices.
- Celebrating local veterans by inviting them into our schools to honor them through various programs and events.

Community Events allow for local families to visit our schools and participate in fun activities including:

- A Community Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Riverside Parent Teacher Association every Spring.
- Halls of Holly, a holiday event coordinated by Riverside High School students.
- Walk to School Days at our elementary schools.
- Senior Citizen Appreciation Nights, which include a free dinner and free preview of the high school's fall play and spring musical.
- In 2019, we hosted a Community-Wide Open house for our two new elementary schools, Parkside and Riverview.
- In 2019, we hosted a grand opening event for our Veterans Wall of Honor, located inside of Riverside Stadium.
- All of our PTA and Booster groups host a variety of other family and community events including dances, restaurant nights, field days, carnivals, game and movie nights, auctions, book fairs, skating and bowling parties, and more!



Student Services

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



83.1%	White
8.5%	Hispanic
4.9%	Multiracial
2.7%	African American
0.8%	Asian/Pacific Islander
11.6%	Gifted in one area or more
11.7%	Students with disabilities
2.7%	English Language Learner

- Our District provides services to meet the individual needs of ALL students. In addition to regular education services, Riverside offers identification of and services to gifted students, special needs students and students for whom English is their second language.
- We partner with the ESC of the Western Reserve 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.
- We offer a developmentally integrated preschool program serving typical preschool students and preschool students with special needs.

Student Services include, but are not limited to:

- School Counselors available for all students in grades 6-12.
- Mental health services provided by Crossroads for students, K-12, with social emotional needs.
- Reading tutors for students identified 'at-risk'.
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs used in all buildings K-12 to promote positive and kind behaviors.
- Intervention Specialists, school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists are staffed in all buildings to help and identify students with special needs in grades K-12.
- Health aides or nurses are assigned in all buildings.
- Opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in prevocational work experiences and special events throughout the year.

Alternative Schooling Options are also available such as:

- 1) K'nextions Learning Academy – KLA is an online alternative 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 provides an educational option for reluctant learners.



Staff Leadership

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



Each summer, we host our annual

Community Kindness Day

where more than 60 staff members volunteer for one day to give back to the community. Staff members break off into teams of four or five people and visit local businesses, parks and organizations to hand out gift certificates, candy, water bottles and t-shirts. Many of the teams complete many random acts of kindness outside of the giveaways, such as bringing lunch to a local fire department.

- Our School Resource Officer visits all of our schools frequently throughout the year to interact with staff and students.
- Staff members are continuously learning and staying current through professional development opportunities every year.
- Due to the pandemic, our Nutrition Services Department has been providing meals free to all students.
- 100% of our teachers and substitute teachers are certified.
- 76% of our teachers have Master's Degrees or higher.

We have a District Leadership Team

consisting of administrators and teachers who meet three to four times a year to discuss District progress, analyze data and to set goals.



We are **RIVERSIDE!**

One Community Pursuing Greatness and Getting Better Every Day

VALUE	BEHAVIOR	OUTCOME
Better Every Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do the Right Thing• Own Your Attitude and Choices• Be Coachable	Best Version of You
Pursuit of Greatness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act with Determination• Embrace Challenges• Seek and Provide Inspiration	Excellence
One Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
585 Riverside Drive
Painesville, OH 44077

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Painesville OH 438
Permit No.

Board of Education

Jennifer Harden, *President*
Belinda Grassi, *Vice-President*
Thomas Hach
Lori Krenisky
Jack Miley

Superintendent

Dr. James Kalis
440.358.8202

Treasurer

Gary A. Platko, CPA
440.352.0668

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Melissa Mlakar
440.358.8205

Assistant

Superintendent

Charles Schlick
440.358.8206

Student Services

Cheryl Lanning
440.358.8208

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440.358.8216

Riverside Local Schools Directory

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Riverside Campus 440.352.3341

Henry F. LaMuth Middle School 440.354.4394

Buckeye Elementary 440.352.2191

Melridge Elementary 440.352.3854

Parkside Elementary 440.358.8750

Riverview Elementary..... 440.357.6171

www.riversidelocalschools.com

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