

2024 Quality Profile



#WeAreRiverside

One Community, Pursuing Greatness, and Getting Better Every Day

A Message From Dr. Rateno

Dear Riverside community,

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we begin this new academic journey together. "One Community, Pursuing Greatness, and Getting Better Every Day" perfectly captures the spirit and commitment that drives us forward.

Over the summer, our dedicated staff has been hard at work preparing for the new school year. We have made significant safety enhancements to our legacy facilities, integrated new technology throughout all of our schools, and developed innovative programs to enrich the learning experience for students. Our focus remains on providing a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment that encourages curiosity and a love for learning.



As we embark on this new school year, I encourage all students to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them. Get involved in extracurricular activities, challenge yourselves academically, and most importantly, support one another. Parents and guardians, your involvement is crucial, and we value your partnership in your child's education.

This year, we are introducing the Portrait of a Riverside Beaver. This visionary framework - which was born out of our Business Advisory Council - outlines the key competencies that we believe are essential for all of our students to thrive in an ever-evolving world. The Portrait of a Riverside Beaver emphasizes the development of the following competencies: Lifelong Learner; Communicator; Leader; Self-Awareness; High Character; Creative Thinker; Collaborator and Innovator.

These competencies will guide our educational strategies, ensuring that our students are well-prepared to meet the demands of the future. By focusing on these areas, we aim to develop well-rounded individuals who are not only academically proficient but also equipped with the character and skills necessary to lead fulfilling lives and contribute positively to society.

Let's make the 2024-2025 school year our best one yet, as One Community, Pursuing Greatness, and Getting Better Every Day! Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication.

I encourage everyone to read through this 2024 Quality Profile, which is a companion piece to the State Report Card. While the State Report Card focuses primarily on how well students perform on state mandated assessments, the Quality Profile showcases the entire educational experience a student may have while enrolled in our District.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 440.352.0668.

Thank you!

Dr. Christopher Rateno
Superintendent



Our District

Our District covers 65 square miles serving approximately 4,200 students residing in Painesville Township, Concord Township, Leroy Township, Grand River, and a small section of Painesville City and northern Chardon.



Our Schools

Riverside Campus

Riverside High School &
John R. Williams
585 Riverside Drive
Painesville Township
440.352.3341



Principal: Michael Hall
Assistant Principals: Jeff Eckles,
Rich Frimel, Teresa Gerboth &
Rebecca Rowell-Malinas

LaMuth Middle School

6700 Auburn Road
Concord Township
440.354.4394
Principal: Dr. Christopher Basich
Assistant Principal: Alison Hardy

Buckeye Elementary

175 Buckeye Road
Painesville Township
440.352.2191
Principal: Cassie Smolen
Assistant Principal: Jennifer Westbrook

Melridge Elementary

6689 Melridge Road
Concord Township
440.352.3854
Principal: Gretchen Wakim
Assistant Principal: Jennifer Westbrook

Parkside Elementary

12428 Concord-Hambden Road
Concord Township
440.358.8750
Principal: Timothy St. Clair
Assistant Principal: Julie Weber

Riverview Elementary

845 Madison Avenue
Painesville Township
440.357.6171
Principal: Traci Shantery
Assistant Principal: Debra Long

Riverside Preschool

Housed at Buckeye & Melridge
440.358.8889
Supervisor: Jennifer Westbrook

Our Board of Education



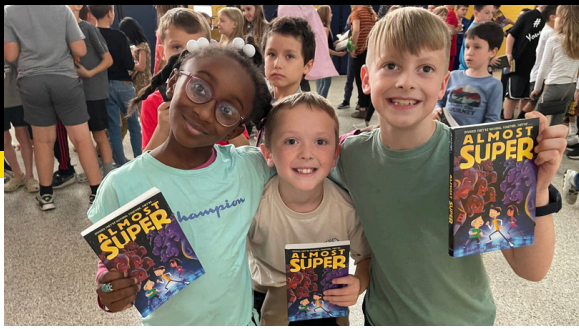
Scott Fishel, Belinda Grassi, Lori Krenisky, Denise Brewster, Dennis Keeney

Our Central Office Administrators

Superintendent: Dr. Christopher Rateno
Assistant Superintendent: Charles Schlick
Treasurer: Gary Platko, CPA
Assistant Treasurer: Michael Patrizi
Director of Curriculum & Instruction: Dr. Melissa Mlakar
Director of Student Services: Cheryl Lanning
Director of Marketing & Communications: Nick Carrabine
Director of Human Resources: Mallory Aliff

Our District Department Directors

Athletics: Dave Bors
Health Services: Heidi Perry
Latchkey Program: Julie Bealko
Maintenance: Rich Arlesic
Nutrition: Michelle Gifford
Registration: Cynthia Mahoney
Technology: John Renwick
Transportation: Kyle Andree



Academics

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

Teaching and Learning is one of the main pillars of our Strategic Plan. Our goal is to expand program options and delivery to meet the needs of each student and grow teacher capacity and efficacy.

Riverside Campus currently offers more than **130 courses** for students in grades 8-12. LaMuth Middle School offers courses in art, technology, physical education, band, choir, math, science, English language arts, career language, social studies and advisory for students in grades 5-7. In addition, honors courses are offered in math, English language arts & advanced math.

Riverside High School currently offers:

- 14 Advance Placement courses
- 13 Honors courses
- 12 Career Electives
- 6 Dual Credit courses
- 3 Pre-Advanced Placement Courses

Riverside Campus course offerings

- 21 Science Classes
- 18 English Classes
- 15 Math Classes
- 15 Social Studies Classes
- 10 Applied Technology Classes
- 10 Business Education Classes
- 9 Art Classes
- 9 Choir Classes
- 9 World Language Classes
- 7 Health & Physical Classes
- 5 Family/Consumer Science Classes
- 5 Band Classes

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AP Research | English Literature & Composition |
| AP Seminar | Environmental Science |
| Biology | Psychology |
| Calculus AB | Physics |
| Calculus BC | Statistics |
| Chemistry | U.S. History |
| English Language & Composition | U.S. Government |

Academics

College & Career Readiness

We are committed to preparing students for **life after graduation**. Whether students are entering the workforce, pledging military service, or planning for post-secondary education, our goal is that they are confident in their decision and have the necessary skills to be successful.

Riverside offers comprehensive college and career readiness programming starting in middle school, where students participate in career readiness electives and earn micro-credentials recognized in different industries. Through these experiences, students begin their exposure to the wide range of opportunities available to them after graduation through guest speakers, field trips, and hands-on learning activities. They also learn what courses and options are available to them at the high school.

At the high school level, students have a variety of options to explore career pathways. Students can choose from multiple **career electives** such as: Welding; Advanced Manufacturing; Healthcare; Public Service & Safety; Business; Construction; Education & Training; Information Technology; Transportation; Sports Industry; History & Geography, and Arts, Communication & Theatre. Students can also participate in work-based learning electives that allow them to earn high school credit for employment. In addition to course work, students are also encouraged to participate in Sophomore Shadow Day, Junior Project and Senior Project, all of which are designed to promote career exploration and experimental learning.

We are committed to providing all students foundational employability skills. Students gain these skills through earning the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal as juniors and six points toward an industry-recognized credential as seniors.

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**. Auburn Career Center was the first joint vocational school to open in Ohio, and has been offering classes since 1965. Students also have the opportunity to earn college credits at any college while still in high school at no cost through our **College Credits Plus Program**.



1:1 Initiative

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 ever-evolving learner. Elementary students also have access to their own Chromebook in the classroom.



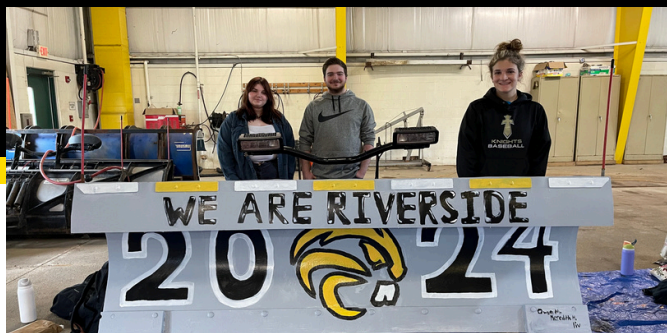
AP Scholars

We are pleased to announce that during the 2023-2024 school year, 78 Riverside High School students were named AP Scholars!

- 7 AP Scholar with Distinction
- 15 AP Scholar with Honor
- 56 AP Scholars

Riverside High School Class of 2024

- 333 Graduated
- 49 Graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher
- 78 Earned an Honors Diploma
- 44 Earned a Community Service Honor Cord
- 52 Earned Industry-Recognized Credentials



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 theatre.

Band and 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, Disney World and more.

Each year, the Riverside Theatre students perform a Fall Play and a Spring Musical. This past school year, the Fall Play was *Puffs* and the Spring Musical was *Big Fish*.



Our schools offer a robust art program that showcase student artwork not only in the classroom, but also throughout the community. Highlights every year include:

- Painting the Painesville Township snow plows, which are then displayed at local festivals, community parades and used to plow snow during the winter months.
- Participating in the Lake & Geauga Educational Assistance Foundation's 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 community 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.
- Participating in the Vans Custom Culture Contest, which is an initiative coordinated by the popular shoe brand.

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

Student Leadership & Activities

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



Our students throughout the District are committed to being leaders and giving back to the community. Throughout the year, our students give back in the following ways:

- Participating in a District-Wide Community Kindness Day where each school partners with a local nonprofit and students complete various meaningful and impactful volunteer projects to help those in need.
- Students at Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School manage Care Closets, which is a designated room at each building that is an open resource for students who may need personal items, school supplies, snacks, clothing or other basic items.
- Riverside Campus students combine to raise thousands of dollars every year for the annual 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 of all ages across the District raise money and organize food drives for many local nonprofits and food pantries throughout the school year.
- Riverside High School hosts two blood drives for American Red Cross every year.
- Many students at Riverside Campus participate in SIDE Leadership, Culture Creators, Best Buds Club and other programs that focus on developing leaders while mentoring younger students.
- 115 students were inducted into the Riverside High School National Honor Society during the 2023-2024 school year.
- Five 2024 graduating seniors enlisted in the military.

Student Activities

Students can participate in a wide array of Extra-Curricular activities including, but not limited to:

Academic Challenge
Academic Decathlon
Athletics
Dance
Drama
Flag Corps
Junior Council
Majorettes
Marching or Pep Band
Mock Trial
National Honor Society
SAFE
Ski Club
Student Council
Yearbook
& More!



Parent & Community Involvement

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

Advocacy, Partnerships and Engagement is another pillar of our Strategic Plan. We are fortunate to have a great relationship with - and support from - parents, community members and local businesses and organizations.

Community partnerships also allow for additional educational opportunities for all our students district-wide. Highlights include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinating student-activities with local organizations such as Lake County YMCA, Lake Metroparks, Morley Library, Cleveland Cavaliers, Great Lakes Theater, Just Run and more.
- Partnering with several area organizations and businesses to provide career exploration and work-based learning opportunities to our students. Partnerships with the City of Painesville, Lake County Sheriff's Department, Painesville Township and Concord Township Fire Departments, University Hospitals, United Way, Cleveland Construction, the Alliance for Working Together and more provide speakers, classroom materials, and on-site work experiences for our students.
- Local businesses participating in the District's Business Advisory Council. Members of the BAC work hard to assist, advise and advocate for the District.

Community events allow for families to visit our schools and participate in fun and engaging activities including:

- A community-wide Easter Egg Hunt, a Halloween Festival, Halls of Holly Winter Festival, Spring Carnival, Craft Shows, Community Tailgate Party, Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally and more.
- Senior Citizen Appreciation Nights, which includes a free dinner and free preview of the high school's fall play and spring musical.
- Celebrating our Military community by bringing local veterans into our schools and honoring them through various programs and events.
- All of our PTA and Booster groups host a variety of family and community events including dances, restaurant nights, field days, game and movie nights, auctions, book fairs, raffles, skating and bowling parties and more.



Fiscal Stewardship

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



Fiscal Sensibility is another pillar of our [Strategic Plan](#). Our goal is to maximize return on investment for all funding sources, seek new revenue streams for facilities plan implementation, improve physical safety, and financially support District priorities and strategies.

- The District was awarded **\$2.5 million** from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to expand career elective offerings. The grant will allow the District to build an addition on the existing Riverside High School to create space for career education and hands-on learning. In addition, the grant will fund materials and equipment to further student learning and exposure to specific industry needs.
- The District was awarded a **\$212,755** grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) through its School Violence Prevention Program. The District will use these grant funds for the purchase, installation, setup, and training of a district-wide communication system consisting of 400 individual hands-free badges that allow for instant communication. These hands-free badges will be assigned to teachers and various staff throughout the district. This system can be used for both emergencies and for day-to-day operations and communication. The new system will be rolled out during the 2024-2025 school year.
- The District was awarded **\$18,786.47** in safety grant funds from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. These funds were used to purchase additional hands-free communication badges that will be utilized as the District rolls out its new district-wide communication system.
- The District was awarded **\$40,000** in safety grant funds from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation through their School Safety and Security Grant program. The District received the maximum amount available. These funds were used to install additional external cameras at the Riverside Campus, Field House, and Stadium to improve coverage and increase security. This is the second time that the District was awarded this grant.

Fiscal Year 2024 Revenue

58.4%	Real Estate Taxes
14.2%	Unrestricted Aid
13.1%	All Other Revenue
7.2%	Homestead & Rollback
5.8%	Tangible Personal Property
1.3%	Restricted Aid

Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures

56.2%	Salaries
24.4%	Benefits
14.0%	Purchased Services
3.0%	Supplies & Materials
2.3%	Other Expenses
0.1%	Capital Outlay

- The District received **\$200,196** 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.
- With the help of a **\$400,000** grant from the Ohio K-12 School Safety Grant Program, the District was able to complete construction of new secure vestibule entrances at Buckeye Elementary, Melridge Elementary, LaMuth Middle School and Riverside Campus.

Fiscal Stewardship



BY THE NUMBERS

59.83 Gross Tax Rate
30.08 Effective Tax Rate

Out of nine school districts in Lake County, Riverside has the **third lowest** tax rate in the county.

\$13,132 Expenditure Per Pupil, which is **second lowest** in Lake County.

- Based on projections in the May 2024 Five-Year Forecast, the District should remain **fiscally solvent** through at least Fiscal Year 2028.
- Residential real estate taxes account for approximately 87% of the \$31.1 million tax revenue stream.



- The District's bond rating is currently Aa3 by Moody's Investors Service, which is reflective of the District's strong financial position. The District's bonds are considered high quality and subject to very low credit risk.
- 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.



- 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 participates 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.
- As a member of the Lake County Schools Council, a health consortium consisting of 11 school districts in Northeast Ohio, the District is able to offer employees a competitive benefits package in a cost-efficient manner.



Student Services

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

Safety, Climate and Wellness is another pillar of our Strategic Plan. Our goal is to make Riverside a safe, healthy and happy place to work and learn through the development of healthy organizational habits.

Our District provides services to meet the individual needs of all our students, which include:

- School counselors at LaMuth Middle School and Riverside Campus.
- Mental health counseling provided by Signature Health counselors for students identified in need in grades K-12.
- Reading intervention for students identified 'at-risk.'
- Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) programs in all buildings to promote positive and school-appropriate behaviors.
- Intervention Specialists, school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists staffed in all buildings.
- Health aides or nurses staffed in all building clinics.
- Instructional coaches and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to meet academic and behavior needs at the Tier 1, 2 and 3 levels.
- Community-based vocational programming aligned with Ohio's Employment First Initiative for select high school special education students.
- Integrated preschool programming for children ages 3-5 that follows state-approved curriculum and is aligned with the Ohio Early Childhood Content Standards.



79.5%	White
10.8%	Hispanic
4.9%	Multiracial
3.8%	African American
1.0%	Asian/Pacific Islander
32.0%	Economic Disadvantage
12.3%	Students with Disabilities
3.9%	English Language Learner



Staff Leadership



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

- 100% of our teachers and substitute teachers are certified and 74.9% of our teachers have a Master's Degree or higher.
- Staff members are continuously learning and staying current through professional development opportunities.
- Each building in the District is staffed with a full-time School Safety Officer, in addition to our two district-wide full-time School Resource Officers.
- Our Transportation staff is committed to providing the highest level of transportation while pledging safety as a top priority. Our bus drivers cover 65 square miles on a daily basis.
- Our Technology staff works closely with all departments and buildings to ensure that students and staff have access to current technology and its applications.
- Our Latchkey staff provides a safe, fun and dependable child care for more than 370 elementary students before and after school. Latchkey also runs a Summer Program for more than 100 students.
- Our Maintenance staff maintains safe, clean and attractive facilities - both inside and outside. Our District has more than 240 classrooms and 82 acres of land that is tended to on a daily basis.
- Our Nutrition staff provides high quality meals to students for breakfast, lunch and special events and serves more than 3,000 meals every day.
- Our Building, Classroom, Lunch & Playground Aides, Assistants & Substitutes help our students and staff on a daily basis across the District.





Portrait of a **RIVERSIDE BEAVER**



KNOWLEDGE LEADERSHIP SKILLS HABITS

We are
RIVERSIDE!

One Community Pursuing Greatness and Getting Better Every Day



Riverside Local School District
585 Riverside Drive
Painesville TWP, OH 44077

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Dr. Melissa Mlakar

Student Services
Cheryl Lanning

Communications
Nick Carrabine

Human Resources
Mallory Aliff

Have feedback for us?

E-mail communications@
riversideschools.net to
submit any feedback
on our District.

www.riversidelocalschools.com

Follow Riverside Local Schools on Social Media



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