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## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 12**  
Board Meeting

**March 13**  
End of 3rd Quarter

**March 14**  
No School  
Staff In-Service

**April 9**  
Board Meeting

**April 18 & 21**  
No School  
Spring Break

**April 30**  
Early Release  
Staff In-Service

## Happy 100th Day of School

by Tricia Kuenster

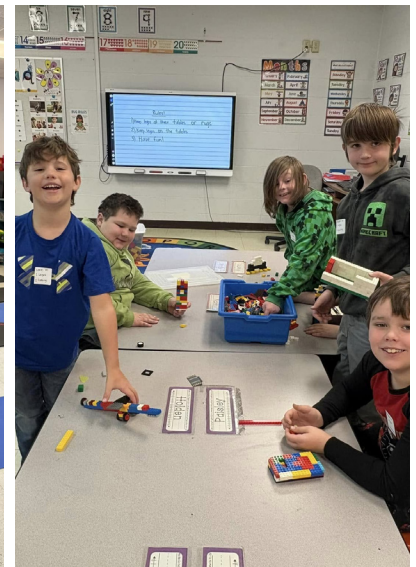


To celebrate the 100th Day of School, our Early Childhood–4th grade students enjoyed an exciting day filled with hands-on activity centers and some incredible animal encounters! A big thank you to Tiny Acres Farms for bringing a fascinating lineup of exotic animals, including a kangaroo, a wallaby, a screaming hairy armadillo, and a couple of adorable hedgehogs—just to name a few!

Another huge thank you to our amazing guest instructors who made the day even more special:

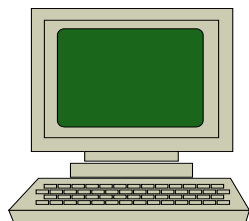
- 👩‍🏫 Megan Kussmaul for leading a relaxing and fun yoga session
- 👩‍🏫 Martha Nies for teaching the art of soap making
- 👨‍🏫 Troy Dilley for inspiring young artists with drawing and painting
- 👩‍🏫 Cindy Williams for hosting a delicious cooking class
- 👨‍🏫 Bill Hannah for introducing students to the fundamentals of wrestling

What an unforgettable way to mark 100 days of learning, laughter, and adventure. Thank you to everyone who made this day so special!



## Mission Statement

The River Ridge School District will strive to provide a safe, challenging environment for each individual student by promoting excellent staff development, encouraging meaningful parent involvement, and earning strong community support through honesty, integrity, and open communication.



Visit our website at  
[www.rrsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.rrsd.k12.wi.us)

### *District Administrator*

Clay Koenig  
608-994-2715 or  
[koenigcl@rrsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:koenigcl@rrsd.k12.wi.us)

### *Editor*

Tamara Hoffman  
[hoffmanta@rrsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:hoffmanta@rrsd.k12.wi.us)

Questions or suggestions for future articles, please call the District Administrator's Office at 608-994-2715

## Valentine Fundraiser Was A Great Success

by Sue Kuenster and Heidi Serres



The River Ridge 7th grader's would "Love" to thank everyone who supported their Valentine's Day Treat Fundraiser! A special thank you goes out to an "Anonymous Donor," who purchased a treat for every student from Early Childhood to 12th grade in the River Ridge School District. What a great display of community support!!! A huge shout out also goes to Mrs. Tamie Hoffman, Middle School secretary, for organizing all the Valentine Treat orders for the fundraiser!

## Valentine Deliveries



High School Student Council Members assisted in passing out a Valentine's Day treat to all the high schoolers. The treats were purchased from an anonymous person's generous donation to the Washington, D.C. Trip Fundraiser to make sure every student in the district received a special treat!



## NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities. The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers."

Amy Jones - Student Service Coordinator  
608-994-2715 ext. 302  
P.O. Box 78, 11165 County Highway P  
Patch Grove, WI 53817

Bill Hannah - Elementary Principal  
608-994-2715 ext. 102  
P.O. Box 78, 11165 County Highway P  
Patch Grove, WI 53817

## High School Speech and Dramatic Arts



The High School Forensics team competed at the Sub District Forensics Competition on February 10. Colton Moris - Radio Broadcasting; Jovie Kruger, Lane Marshall, Jayden Ryman, and Asher Achenbach - Poetry; Keele Redman, Harper Kramer, Caliegh Krantz, and Maycee Brinkman - Group Interp; Emmalie Fecht-Lane and Logan Callahan - Informative; and Alix Goeke - Farrago. The members stepped out of their comfort zones and did great. All entries will advance to the District contest on March 15. Congratulations to all participants!

## National Random Acts of Kindness Day



National Random Acts of Kindness Day was celebrated on Monday, February 17. The elementary 1st and 3rd graders teamed up to spread some kindness and joy to the staff at River Ridge. The students were so excited to deliver their positive cards around the school!





## Fun Times with World Read Aloud Day



On Wednesday, February 5, the River Ridge Gifted and Talented Program celebrated the 15th annual World Read Aloud Day. The World Read Aloud Day is held every February to celebrate the power of reading aloud to children and adults. It is a day to promote literacy and advocate for it as a basic human right. River Ridge students in Early Childhood through 8th grades were paired up all over the Middle and Elementary School wings to read out loud together! Thank you to Mrs. Erin Kluesner and the Library for providing a snack to all the participants! A huge shout out also goes to Mrs. Heidi Serres, River Ridge Gifted and Talent Program coordinator, for organizing the event!

## Second Quarter Incentive Activity



The River Ridge Middle School 2nd quarter incentive activity was held on Friday afternoon, February 7. Students enjoyed four stations through the afternoon: gym fun, trivia games, just dance, edible crafts, a game room and snacks! Thank you to the Middle School Student Council members and their advisors (Katie Dressler and Kerry Thornton) for sponsoring and organizing the event!

## Wolf Pack Campaign

by Karen Jeardeau

The following businesses have contributed to the 2025 River Ridge Reading Wolf Pack Campaign, which is part of our Reading is Fundamental Program (RIF). Thanks to these donations, we can continue to support the love of reading with our students by giving them books to read and keep.

- Royal Neighbors of America # 1685
- Brenda's Beauty Bar
- Warco Transportation
- Doc Adams Veterinary Services, LLC
- Langmeier Lumber
- Price Equipment
- D'Lish
- Huckleberry's
- Top Notch Construction & Design and Drone Electric
- 1835 Crossroads
- Design Homes
- Sire T Auto Body
- Primitive Health Chiropractic Wellness Center
- First Response Excavation & Grading, LLC
- Scenic Rivers Coop
- Papa Murphy's & PDC Subway
- Hermesen's Hardware & Home Center
- An anonymous donor

The 2025 River Ridge Reading Campaign is ongoing. If you are an individual or business who would like to contribute, please contact Karen Jeardeau at the school.



**March 13**  
**End of**  
**3rd Quarter**

**March 14**  
**No School**  
**Staff In-Service**



School Counselor News

by Caron Townsend

Outstanding Attendance



River Ridge NHS students Luke Patterson, Hailey Kramer, Andrew Nies and Carter Copsey recognized middle and high school students who had outstanding attendance for the first semester of the year.

High School Students: Jaxson Mezera, Nathan Crubel, Mason Pecinovsky, and Harper Walsh

Middle School Students: Lauren Beyer, Emory Achenbach, Nicholas Crubel, Maggie Thornton, Ezra Kramer, Avery Needham, Levi Mason, William Erdenberger, Mason Kussmaul, and Keegan Kruger

Patterson Chosen as WILS



Leah Patterson, daughter of Dale and Janet Patterson of Glen Haven was chosen as the 2025 Wisconsin Leadership Seminar (WILS) representative for River Ridge High School.

WILS is a leadership seminar for outstanding high school sophomores in the state of Wisconsin. Leah will participate in a high-energy weekend at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater this summer consisting of team building activities, motivational speakers, community service, a college fair and panel discussions with leaders from various industries.



Test Date	Assessment
March 4, 2025	<b>Free ACT Prep Workshop</b> 8:00 AM - 3:25 PM (Voluntary for Juniors)
March 5, 2025	<b>Cap &amp; Gown Pictures</b> (Seniors)
March 11, 2025	<b>ACT Test</b> (Juniors) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
March 18 - 19, 2025	<b>Forward Exam – 10th Grade</b> 2nd & 5th Hour During Social Studies
April 1, 2025	<b>Local Scholarships Due</b> (Seniors)
April 2, 2025	<b>Pre-ACT – 9th Grade</b> 8:00 AM-11:12 AM ELA, Math, Reading, and Science
April 3, 2025	<b>Pre-ACT– 10th Grade</b> 8:00 AM -11:12 AM ELA, Math, Reading, and Science
April 16, 2025	<b>National Honor Society Banquet</b>
May 14, 2025	<b>Senior Awards Banquet</b>
May 16, 2025	<b>High School Graduation</b>

## Dance Team Hosted Dancing with the Stars Event

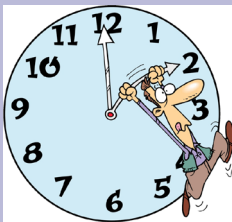


Community members took the stage with pre-choreographed routines, competing for the top spot by collecting votes through donation jars.

Congratulations to the 2025 champions, senior Maya Drone and Grant County Sheriff Craig Reutkauf!

## Spring Forward!

Don't forget to set all  
of your clocks one  
hour ahead!



**March 9, 2025**

## FBLA Regional Leadership Conference

by Tina Dilley



With over 60 competitors in both individual and team events, the day was packed with competitions, engaging workshops, and an inspiring talk from Brad "The Book Guy." We're incredibly proud of our members for stepping outside their comfort zones, gaining new skills, and giving it their all!

River Ridge FBLA have twenty three members qualify for state, with seven more as state alternates!

**1st Place:** Colton Kirschbaum - Accounting II; Libby Vogt - Agribusiness; Max Dilley - Computer Applications; Maya Drone - HR Management; Leif Kluesner - Introduction to Business Concepts; and Eva Doll - Supply Chain Management.

**2nd Place:** Madeline Scharmer - Business Law; Collin Raisbeck and Blake Reynolds - Business Management; Colton Moris - Client Service; Noah Copsey - Entrepreneurship; Stella Breuer and Zoey Neeley - Graphic Design; Asher Achenbach, Tyler Martin, and Aayden Kreul - Introduction to Programming; Jayden Ryman - Networking Infrastructure; and Luke Breuer - Spreadsheet Applications.

**3rd Place:** Wyatt Baker - Networking Infrastructure; Ellaina Gage - Social Media Strategy; and Josey Drone, Laila Drone, and Ava Edge - Visual Design

**4th Place:** (State Alternates): Melissa Sletten, Erin Adrian, Alaina Clark, Mallory Crubel, Ava Nies, Sydney Meyers, and Reghan Zinkle.

**5th Place:** Ashlyn Edge, Colton Crubel, Maycee Brinkman, Abby Doyle, McKenzie Taylor, and Alix Goeke.



## RRAP Host Bounce House Event

by Melanie Lindstrum



We had a great morning full of jumping and laughter at the RRAP bounce house day on Saturday, February 22. We were glad to see so many families at the event! A huge and heartfelt thank you to all our incredible volunteers; without you, we wouldn't be able to have such fun events.

To stay updated on the latest RRAP events, make sure to like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/riverridgeactiveparents>

**3RD GRADERS**

**WIN time in the library!**

WE USED BRATZ TO MAKE CRANES THAT MOVE UP AND DOWN!

## Attention

### 3rd – 8th Grade Parents!!!

#### Forward Exam Testing Dates and Information

by Kam Fohey

Our state testing is approaching this spring. It is important for your student to attend during testing dates. Please try your best to avoid scheduling appointments

Testing Dates for Grade Level

**3rd Grade** - March 24-28 ELA  
April 7-11 Math

**4th Grade** - March 18-21 ELA  
March 25-27 Science  
April 8-10  
Social Studies  
April 15-17 Math

**5th Grade** - April 1-3 ELA  
April 14-15 Math

**6th Grade** - April 1-3 ELA  
April 8-10 Math

**7th Grade** - April 1-3 ELA  
April 8-10 Math

**8th Grade** - March 18-19  
Social Studies  
March 25-27 Science  
April 1-3 ELA  
April 8-10 Math

Please make sure that your child gets a nutritious breakfast and a good night's sleep before testing days. Breakfast is available here at school every morning. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Fohey at 994-2715 ext # 209 or [foheyka@rrsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:foheyka@rrsd.k12.wi.us).

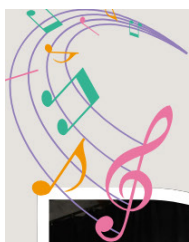
**Spring Break**

**Friday,**  
*April 18*

*and*

**Monday,**  
*April 21*





LET'S CELEBRATE  
**MUSIC**  
IN THE SCHOOL



Middle School Choir ↗



Concert Band ↗



High School Honors Band ↗





# THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOL



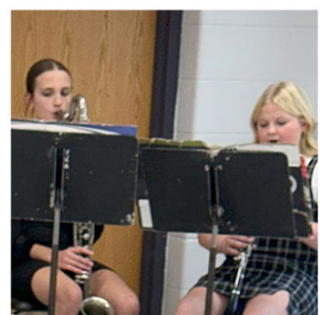
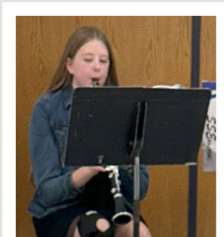
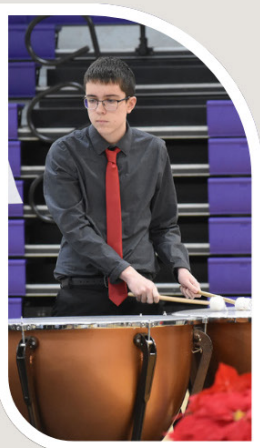
**Mr. Kylar Kinyon**  
2nd - 5th Grade  
General Music  
5th - 12th Grade Band



**Mrs. Diane Malcom**  
4K - 1st Grade  
General Music



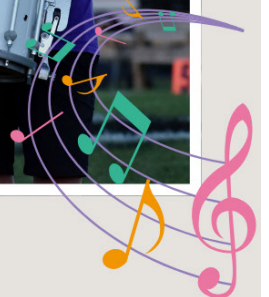
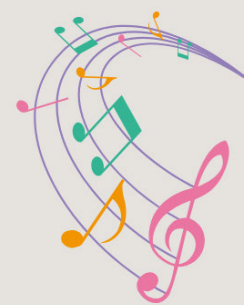
**Mr. Phil Stiemke**  
6th Grade General Music  
7th- 12th Grade Choir



Marching Band



High School Choir





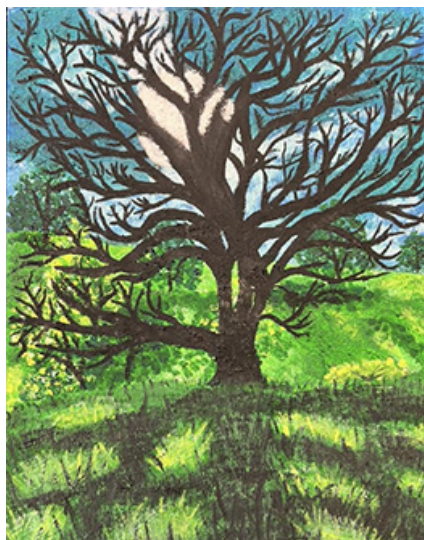
## March Is Youth Art Month



**Mr. Troy Dilley**  
5K- 12 Grade Art Teacher



### Virtual Arts Classic



On February 21, the Art Club students from River Ridge journeyed to Platteville High School to participate in the Visual Arts Competition. This event proved to be a showcase of talent and dedication, with our art club members exhibiting remarkable creativity. We are proud of our talented artists and their outstanding performance. The Art Club members with 1st place score and moving to state competition are: Alexis Beier, Khloe Borcharding-Forbes, Alaina Clark, and Stella Breuer. 2nd place: Jasmine Garcia, Ava Edge, Mallory Crubel, Jovie Kruger, Harper Kramer, Ava Nies, and Yoselin Xocua-Bautista, and 3rd place: Josey Drone.



**"American Gothic Parody"**  
by 7th Grade Art



**"Object Portrait"**  
by High School 2D Art



**"Ceramic Bell"**  
by 7th Grade Art

## National School Breakfast Week

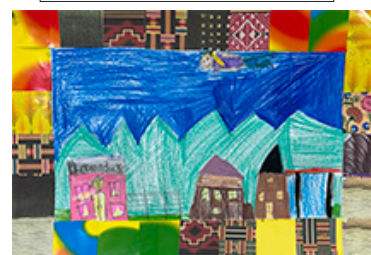


The River Ridge School District is looking to encourage more families to take advantage of the healthy choices available for school breakfast. River Ridge families and students will see lots of school breakfast promotions in early March. The school will celebrate National School Breakfast Week during **March 3-7, 2025**.

Mornings can be hectic, making it a challenge for many families to find time for a healthy breakfast. However, studies show that students who eat school breakfast are more likely to:

- Reach higher levels of achievement in reading and math
- Score higher on standardized tests
- Have better concentration and memory
- Be more alert
- Maintain a healthy weight

**"Tar Beach Dreams"**  
by 4th Grade Art





*KEEP THE MEMORIES!*

★ **2024-2025** ★  
**YEARBOOK**

*THE YEARBOOK IS ON SALE NOW!*

**RIVER RIDGE 3K-8TH GRADE**

**WHERE TO ORDER:**

**SHOP.YEARBOOKMARKET.COM/  
LINDSEYLUDVIKPHOTOGRAPHY**

**PAYMENT ACCEPTED: CREDIT CARD**

**LAST DAY TO ORDER:**

**MARCH 31ST, 2025**



**LINDSEY LUDVIK**  
*photography*

## Read Across America Week Dress Up Days

**March 3rd** - Mismatch Monday

**March 4th** - Topper Tuesday - Hat Day

**March 5th** - Wacky Wednesday Crazy Hair  
Day/ Sock Day

**March 6th** - Color Day

4K - Purple

5K - Blue

1st - Green

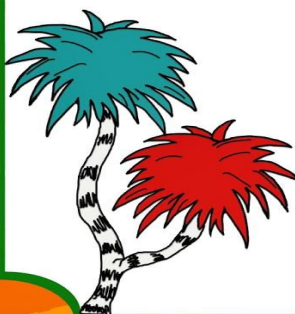
2nd - Yellow

3rd - Orange

4th - Red

**March 7th** - Pajama Day \*\*\*You may bring one  
of the following: pillow, stuffed animal, or blanket

***Don't forget about our Scholastic Book  
Fair March 10 - 13th!***



Help your local  
school district!



## Substitute Teacher Trainings 24-25

March 4, 2025

9 AM to 2 PM  
@ CESA 3 Fennimore

REGISTER @  
CESA3.ORG  
\$100

**Participants with an Associate Degree or higher will qualify  
for a WI short term substitute license after the training**

**Questions? Contact Brad Van Epps: [bvanepps@cesa3.org](mailto:bvanepps@cesa3.org) or  
call CESA 3 608-822-3276**



March 3rd-7th

# MIDDLE SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK

D R E S S U P D A Y S

Monday 3/3

Dress like  
your  
parent

Dress like your parent or  
their occupation

Tuesday 3/4

Dress like  
you did in  
4-K

Bring out your little kid style

Wednesday 3/5

Dress like a  
celebrity or  
famous person

Find someone famous and  
dress up like them

Thursday 3/6

Rhyme  
without  
reason

For example: 4th of July and Army Guy.  
Weight Lift and Taylor Swift. Golf Pro and Let  
It Go.

Friday 3/7

River Ridge  
Day!

You know the drill. Show some River  
Ridge pride!

## 2025-2026 Full-Time Open Enrollment Regular Application Period for Wisconsin Public Schools

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

#### YOU MAY APPLY FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT FROM FEBRUARY 3 – APRIL 30, 2025.

##### What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend a school district other than the one in which they live. Applications may be submitted to up to three nonresident school districts if the pupil wishes to attend a brick and mortar school. There are no limitations to the number of open enrollment applications that can be submitted to a virtual charter school.

##### How and when may parents apply?

The open enrollment regular application period for the 2025-26 school year is from February 3-April 30, 2025. The application period closes at 4:00pm on April 30, 2025. Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.

Parents may apply online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/oe>.

##### Can I apply to a virtual charter school under open enrollment?

A pupil may only open enroll to an online/virtual school if: (1) the school has been created as a virtual charter school that meets the requirements of the charter school law [Wis. Stats. 118.40 (8)] or (2) the pupil is required to physically attend school on a regular basis in a school located in the nonresident school district on the days that school is in session. Other important things to know about applying to virtual charter schools:

- A virtual charter school is not homeschooling. Pupils attending virtual charter schools are public school pupils.
- You must know the nonresident school district in which the virtual charter school is located.
- You must know your resident school district to apply.
- A list of virtual charter schools may be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/charter-schools/virtual-charter-schools>.

Parents whose applications are denied may appeal to the DPI within 30 days of the denial. State law requires the DPI to uphold the school district's decision unless DPI finds that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable. The DPI's decision may be appealed to circuit court.

##### Who may participate in open enrollment?

Pupils in kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment.

Open enrollment for prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten and early childhood education is limited. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

##### Can an application be rejected?

Nonresident school districts may deny an application if regular or special education space is not available for the pupil; special education or related services are not available; or if the pupil has been referred for a special education evaluation but has not yet been evaluated. Nonresident school districts may also deny an application if the pupil has been expelled during the current or preceding two years for certain violent conduct or if the pupil was habitually truant from the nonresident school district during any semester in the current or previous school year.

If there are more applications than spaces, pupils must be selected randomly, after giving preference to pupils already attending school in the nonresident school district and siblings of currently-attending pupils.

Some school districts establish waiting lists to fill unused spaces, but others do not.

##### Can a resident district prevent a pupil from leaving?

A resident district can deny a pupil's application for an invalid application (early or late application or missing information), ineligibility due to age (too young or too old), or if the resident district does not offer the same type of prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten, or early childhood program as the nonresident district or the pupil is not eligible for the program in the resident district. These are also reasons that a nonresident district can deny an application.

##### Can parents appeal if an application is denied?

##### Must pupils reapply every year?

Once a pupil is accepted into a nonresident school district, the pupil may continue to attend that district without reapplication except that:

- The nonresident district may require a pupil to reapply one time—at the beginning of middle school, junior high or high school.
- A pupil may be returned to the resident school district if the special education required in a new or revised IEP is not available in the nonresident district or there is no space.
- A pupil who has become habitually truant in the nonresident district may be returned to the resident district.

(continued on next page)



### Is there a cost for parents to participate in the open enrollment program?

There is no tuition cost to parents for participation in open enrollment. Parents of open enrolled pupils may be charged the same fees as resident pupils.

### Who is responsible for transportation?

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school.

If transportation is required in the IEP for a child with a disability, it must be provided by the nonresident district.

School districts may provide transportation to open enrollment pupils if they wish. Usually, if transportation is provided, parents must transport the pupil to a location in the nonresident district.

Low-income parents may apply to the DPI at the end of the school year for partial reimbursement of their transportation costs.



### Can a parent select a specific school in the pupil's nonresident school district?

Yes. A parent may request a specific school or program in the nonresident district. However, assignment to the requested school or program is not guaranteed and your pupil may be assigned to a different school other than the one requested. It is up to each nonresident district to determine a pupil's school assignment.

### Can an open enrolled pupil participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities in the nonresident school district?

Open enrolled pupils have the same rights and responsibilities as resident pupils.

Inter-scholastic athletics are governed by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), which has rules concerning transfer pupils. Parents should check with the school district's athletic director about eligibility.

## IMPORTANT OPEN ENROLLMENT DATES

### February 3 – April 30, 2025

Parents must submit applications online or directly to the nonresident school district.

### June 6, 2025

Nonresident school districts must send notices of approval or denial via US mail or email. If the application is approved, the school district must notify the parents of the specific school or program to which the pupil is assigned. If the application is denied, parents have 30 days to file an appeal.

### June 13, 2025

Resident districts must notify applicants if the application is denied. If the application is denied, parents have 30 days to file an appeal.

### June 27, 2025

Parents of accepted applicants must notify the nonresident district if the pupil will attend the nonresident district in the 2025-26 school year. If the parent fails to make this notification, the nonresident district may refuse to allow the pupil to attend the district.



For more information contact:

Public School Open Enrollment Program

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841

Toll-free: 888-245-2732, option 2

[openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov)

<https://dpi.wi.gov/oe>

2025-26


The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation, or disability and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.

# MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
						GBB Regional Wrestling State
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Dorian Band	Middle School Spirit Week					BBB Regional GBB Sectional
	Elementary - Read Across America					
	Dorian Band	Cheese Tasting Free ACT Prep BBB Regionals	8:00 AM Cap/Gown	GBB Sectional 7:00 PM POPS Concert	BBB Regional	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Book Fair Begins Track Practice Begins 2:40 AM Pie in the Face	8:00 AM ACT	Reg. Board Mtg.	GBB State		BBB Sectional
				End of 3rd Qtr BBB Sectional 2:00 PM Pii Day	No School Staff In-Service	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	4th Qtr Begins 9:00 AM Fuel Up Event 10:30 AM Testing Pep Rally Softball Practice Begins	10th Grade Exam	10th Grade Exam	FFA Contest	BBB State	Solo/Ensemble
				5:30 PM Track UW-Platteville		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Baseball Practicie Begins			5:00 PM SB at Darlington	5:00 PM SB vs DeSoto	
30	31					
	FBLA State					



# APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> FBLA State 8:00 AM Spring Picture Day 4:15 PM Track 4:30 PM SB at Fennimore	<b>2</b> Pre ACT 9	<b>3</b> Pre ACT 10 5:00 PM BB vs Lancaster 5:00 PM SB vs Lancaster	<b>4</b> 5:00 PM BB @ Seneca 5:00 PM SB at Wauzeka-Steuben	<b>5</b> FFA CDE Contest at UW-River Fall
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00 PM BB at Argyle 5:00 PM SB vs Barneveld 6:00 PM RRAP Meeting	<b>8</b> 4:00 PM Track at North Crawford 5:00 PM BB at Wauzeka-Steuben 5:00 PM SB vs Pecatonica	<b>9</b> Board Meeting	<b>10</b> 4:00 PM Track at Lancaster 4:30 PM BB at Fennimore 5:00 PM SB at Juda	<b>11</b> State Forensics FFA State CDE at Madison 5:00 PM BB at Pecatonica 5:00 PM SB at Argyle	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 4:15 PM Track 5:00 PM BB at Barneveld	<b>15</b> 5:00 PM BB vs Potosi/Cassville 5:00 PM SB vs Potosi/Cassville	<b>16</b> Reality Check at SWTC 7:00 PM NHS Banquet	<b>17</b> 4:15 PM Track at Cassville 5:00 PM BB vs Argyle/Black Hawk 5:00 PM SB at Barneveld	<b>18</b> No School Spring Break	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> No School Spring Break	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00 PM BB vs Monticello/Albany 5:00 PM SB vs Boscobel	<b>26</b> State Solo/Ensemble
	5:00 PM BB at Monticello 5:00 PM SB at Monticello	4:15 PM Track 5:00 PM BB at Highland 5:00 PM SB at Highland	8:00 AM Progress Report Due	4:00 PM Track at Boscobel 5:00 PM SB vs Argyle/Black Hawk 5:00 PM BB vs Platteville		
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00 PM BB vs Shullsburg/Benton 5:00 PM SB vs Benton/Shullsburg	<b>29</b> 4:15 PM MS Track 5:00 PM BB at Belmont 5:00 PM SB at Belmont	<b>30</b> 12:30 PM Early Release 1:00 PM Staff In-Service 7:00 PM 5th-8th Spring Concert			

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE RIVER RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN:

January 8, 2025, AT 5:30 PM.

I. Call to Order- Board president Ken Nies called meeting to order at 5:31 PM

II. Roll Call- Present; Ken Nies, Jason Cathman, Josh Copey, Adam Guthrie, Jeff Thornton, Kirk Hamann, Megan Kussmaul

III. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Statement of Notice- Board President, Kenny Nies approved the posting and called the meeting official.

V. Appearances – None

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. December 11, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

- i. Adam Guthrie made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jeff Thornton. Motion passed on a voice vote.

VII. Reports

A. Finance

- i. Financial statements, receipts, and expenditures – Clay Koenig presented the financial statements, receipts, and expenditures for December 2024. Jeff Thornton made a motion to approve the financial statements and expenditures for fiscal year 2024-2025. Revenues of \$1,616,531.37 and expenditures of \$1,252,287.25. Kirk Hamann seconded the motion. Motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote.

B. Buildings and Grounds Report

- i. Maintenance Director's Report: Jim talked about improving the hot water to the west end of the high school and fixing a water leak in the kitchen.

C. Superintendent Reports

- i. Monthly Report: Clay talked about events that happened in December, also about events that are happening at the board level

VIII. Old Business

A. 4K Teacher

- i. A teacher will be hired, and a classroom is being set up for this class.

IX. New Business

A. Hiring/Resignations

- i. Adam Guthrie made a motion to approve the hire of Dannielle Stewart as Elementary/High School Secretary, seconded by Megan Kussmaul. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- ii. Jason Cathman made a motion to approve the hire of Jaci Williams as the 4K teacher, seconded by Josh Copey. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- iii. Jeff Thornton made a motion to approve the hiring of Kerri Price and Shane Sperle as Co-Advisors as Speech and Dramatic Arts Advisor seconded by Jason Cathman. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- iv. Jeff Thornton made a motion to approve the hiring of Wade Winkers as High School Softball Head Coach, seconded by Adam Guthrie. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- v. Megan made a motion to accept the resignation of Brian Kazda as Assistant High School Softball Coach, seconded by Kirk Hamann. Motion carried on a voice vote.

B. ACT 20 – 4th Grade Promotion Policy: Jeff Thornton made a motion to adopt this policy into the Handbook, seconded by Adam Guthrie. Motion carried on as voice vote.

C. Notice of Educational Options within the River Ridge School District: Kirk Hamann made a motion to approve the options, seconded by Megan Kussmaul. Motion carried on a voice vote.



D. Board Declaration regarding open enrollment: Jeff Thornton made a motion for the River Ridge School District to approve unlimited regular education open enrollment seats and zero seats in special education programs, including those students with 504's for the 2025-2026 school year based on criteria outlined in open enrollment policy 5113. The motion was seconded by Jason Cathman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

E. Employee Handbook: Jeff Thornton made a motion to amend the handbook to add "Teacher who have worked in the district for at least (20) years and who will be 55 years of age or older on June 30th." To the retirement benefits package. Motion was seconded by Jason Cathman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

F. 2025-2026 School Calendar: Jason Cathman made a motion to approve option 2 and for graduation day to be May 22nd, seconded by Josh Copsey. Motion carried on a voice vote.

X. Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercise responsibility.

A. Jason Cathman made a motion to enter closed session, seconded by Jeff Thornton. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote. Entered closed session at 7:52 PM

B. Employee Discussion

C. Jeff Thornton made a motion to enter open session, seconded by Kirk Hamann. Motion passes on a voice vote. Back into open session at 9:00 PM

i. No action required from closed session.

XI. Appearances - There were no public appearances.

XII. Information

A. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

i. Regular Board Meeting –  
February 12, 2025, at 5:30 PM

B. School Board Member Suggestions and Recommendations for Future Items

i. Tricor Insurance

XIII. Adjourn – Adam Guthrie made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kirk Hamann. Motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM



River Ridge School District  
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## River Ridge School District - Educating Tomorrow's Future



### Administration

Clay Koenig - District Administrator .....994-2715 Ext. 100  
Bill Hannah - Elementary Principal.....994-2715 Ext. 102  
Wade Winkers - MS/HS Dean of Students .....994-2715 Ext. 114  
Amy Jones - Special Education Coordinator.....994-2715 Ext. 302

### Other Contacts

Wade Winkers - Athletic Director .....994-2715 Ext. 114  
Technology Coordinator .....994-2715 Ext. 130

### Board of Education

Kenneth Nies - President ..... 988-4536  
Jason Cathman- Vice President..... 994-3263  
Adam Guthrie - Clerk ..... 778-7080  
Kirk Hamann - Treasurer ..... 778-0700  
Josh Copsey - Member..... 732-5773  
Megan Kussmaul - Member..... 412-0924  
Jeff Thornton - Member ..... 306-3378

### Office Hours

Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.