



River Valley School District

Welcome Back 2023-2024

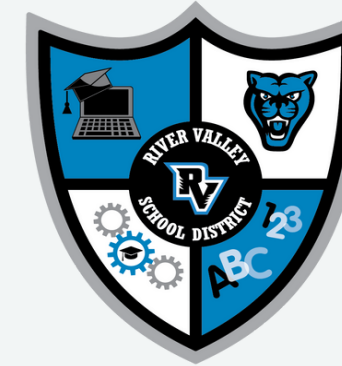


**WHERE FUTURE-DRIVEN EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS**





2023-2024 Goals





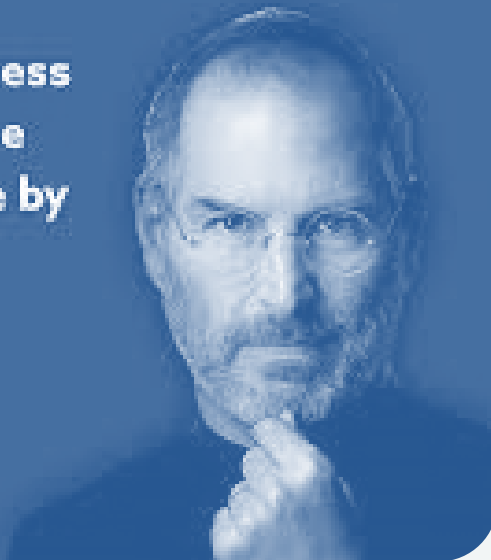
Great Things Happening in River Valley



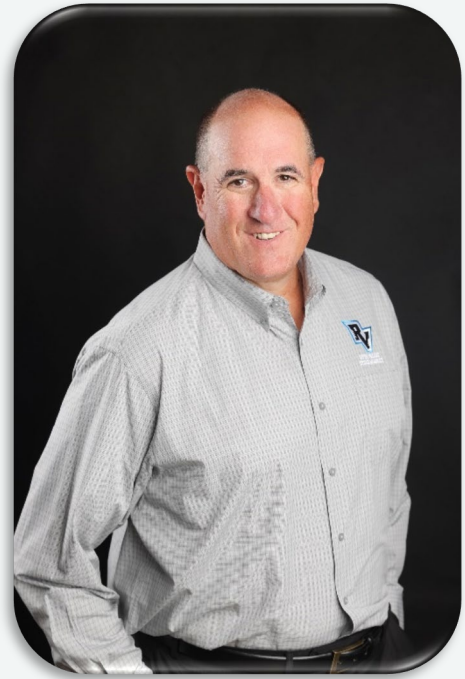
- **River Valley School District Named AASA National "Lighthouse" School System**
- **AASA Case Study**
- **Mr. Martell Receives Excellence in STEAM Educator Award from Saint Francis University**
- **Our Region's Business, Bill Flanagan**
- **US-Czech Business Forum at the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C.**
- **PA Labor Industry Panel with Secretary of Labor Jennifer Berrier**
- **White House Recognition and US Department of Education Rural Schools Initiative**
- **Superintendent participation in the White House Summit with First Lady on Cybersecurity**
- **CompTIA Partnership**
- **Post Secondary and Industry Partnerships**
- **State of the Art Athletic and Community Facility**

“Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people.”

STEVE JOBS



AASA
THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION
**LIGHTHOUSE
SYSTEM**



Vision

"River Valley is committed to creating a future-driven school district focusing on innovation, early career exploration, and workforce development. RIASEC and prioritizing student identity are integral parts of our school culture, focusing on students' strengths, interests, and values so that they know there is a place for them in this world. River Valley students will have the common language to navigate career-related learning as a regular and routine experience K-12."

Philip Martell
River Valley School District
Superintendent of Schools

2023-2024 District Leadership Team

Mr. Philip Martell, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Regina Geesey, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Lisa Anderson, School Psychologist

Mrs. Jeanine Buell, Public Relations Director

Mr. George Coutsoumbis, Food Service Director

Mrs. Larissa Csanyi, Transportation & Student Information Systems Director

Mr. Geoff Dixon, Assistant Athletic Director & RVSD Foundation Liaison

Mrs. Amanda Faust, Data Assessment & Career Readiness Coordinator

Mr. Jeff Geesey, Career Consultant

Ms. Connie Gizzi, Human Resource Director

Mrs. Samantha Glass, RVSD Cyber Academy Coordinator

Mr. Bryan Gould, Secondary and STEAM Academy Dean of Students

Mr. Brian Higginbotham, Blairsville Elementary Principal

Mr. Joe Hughes, Buildings & Grounds Director

Mrs. Sarah Kral, Computer Science, and Artificial Intelligence Facilitator

Ms. Sharon Kunkle, Career Hub Coordinator

Mr. Michael Leasure, River Valley High School Principal

Dr. Shawna Little, Careers Pathway Counselor

Mr. Jesse Madden, Information Technology Director

Mrs. Kathy Monko, School to Community Programming & Services Coordinator & Cyber Academy Director

Mr. Nathan Newcomer, Information Technology Director

Mrs. Julie Obney, ELA Open Court Literacy Coach

Mrs. Tracy Richards, Saltsburg Elementary Principal & Pre-K Coordinator

Mrs. Alice Santoro, Superintendent Secretary

Mr. Jonathan Santoro, Staff Accountant

Ms. Tiara Stossel, Athletic Director

Mrs. Linzi Strong, Educational Technology Director

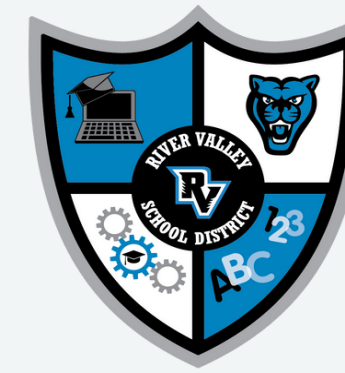
Mr. Eric Westondorf, Middle School Principal

Dr. Randy Zangara, STEAM Academy Director





Welcome New Staff Members



Beth Blystone, School Psychologist

Tammy Buffone, Secondary School Counselor

Bethany Faulk, Secondary School Counselor

Amanda Faust, Data Assessment & Career Readiness Coordinator

Andrew Frassenei, Resource Room Teacher

Sarah Kral, Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence Facilitator

Dr. Shawna Little, Career Pathways Counselor

Amie Olasz, Special Education Teacher

Adam Peterson, Welding Instructor

Angela Scalamogna, Elementary Art Teacher

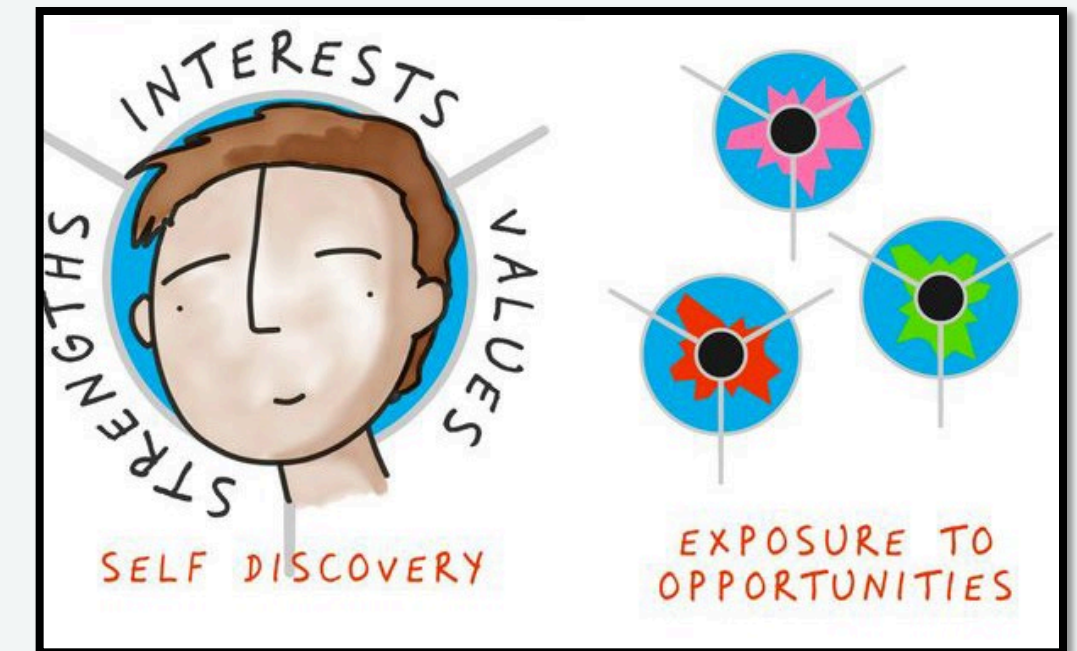
Jennifer Sleppy, BES Elementary Nurse

Eric Westendorf, River Valley Middle School Principal

River Valley Design Principles for Integrating Human Design Career-Related Learning



- First, you must begin by educating the adults on the what, why, and how of career-connected learning. In most cases, the adults have never been exposed to the research supporting this work's importance, nor have they participated in exploring the attributes critical to the career development process.
- Starting with the element of self-knowledge and self-awareness: a conscious examination of personal strengths, interests, and values and later including skills, goals, and other personal attributes that lead to a learner portrait.
- This must begin with the adults, and then and only then, can it begin for the students. It's not about tracking or locking them into a pathway.
- It's about a process of exploring themselves and understanding the world around them.
- World of Work exposure and hands-on learning: presentation and integration of information and experiences in the classroom, at home, or on the field.
- This doesn't happen through assessment; it happens through experience.
- Trained adults, coaches, counselors, and teachers, working with students or other adults, have the best opportunity to help individuals make the connection between self-awareness, personal attributes, and secondary and post-secondary education.
- The world of work to help students, and their parents, make better and more informed choices.
- But in this process of exploration, students get to build a better understanding of themselves and the world. They also identify those highlights where they see themselves fitting best.





Goals of the River Valley Career-Related Integration through RIASEC



#1-Develop a custom, system-wide approach to integration.

- We integrate the RIASEC framework into our existing mission, vision, or school brand.
- We will aim to seamlessly integrate the language without disrupting our existing scope and sequence.
- We aim to help you integrate the RIASEC and bring a new level of context to your content and stronger relationships between students and teachers.

#2-How to build a common career language with our RVSD community.

- The RIASEC has been researched for over 70 years but is new to many educators and parents.
- We provide our staff the communication tools and training to bring the common language, the why, what, and how of RIASEC, to life so every adult can articulate the why, what, and how of our model and why it's suitable for kids.
- This approach helps to make powerful connections between what students are learning in the classroom and the world of work.

#3-Provide tools for RVSD teachers and students to integrate the RIASEC language.

- We will focus on the toolset to improve integration and teacher engagement.
- Career-related learning is most effective when teachers use their talents to integrate career-related teaching within their core content areas. Therefore, we need to have tools designed with a dialogic approach to teaching and learning.
- We need to use research-based tools and be 100% aligned with the RIASEC framework with the goal of helping teachers help students speak the RIASEC within the first few months of integration.

<https://youtu.be/51AUqld2rag>

What Is The RIASEC & What It Is Not

The RIASEC is a language that:

- Helps to identify our interests and what we like to do
- Builds better relationships
- Lives in the classroom, around the school, and at home
- Supports integrating personalized learning
- Brings context to classroom content
- Encourages vocabulary development
- Is accessible for any population of learners
- Makes sense of careers
- Supports the development of cooperative learning groups
- Thrives in all content areas
- Pairs with SEL (Social Emotional Learning)
- Encourages the strengths in all interests.
- Is ready to activate student agency
- Allows students to change their interests

What the RIASEC Isn't:

- Not a tracking tool
- Not a stand-alone lesson
- Not to be used in the early grades to pick your career





2023-2024 RVSD Initiatives

- World of Work & RIASEC
- Beable
- PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports)
- TSS (Trauma Skilled Schools)
- Open Court
- Online Assessments (PSSAs, Keystones, CDTs, NWEAs)
- Canvas (Continued in Year 3)





Upcoming Dates



Upcoming Dates

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| August 21 | Clerical Day | (7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) |
| August 22 | In-Service Day | (8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) |
| August 23 | In-Service Day | (7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) |
| August 24 | First Day of School for Students | |
| September 4 | Labor Day No School | |
| September 13 & 27 | Early Dismissal | |

Home Football Games

Fri. Aug. 25
Fri. Sept. 8
Fri. Sept. 22 is Homecoming
Fri. Oct. 6
Fri. Oct. 13 is Senior Night





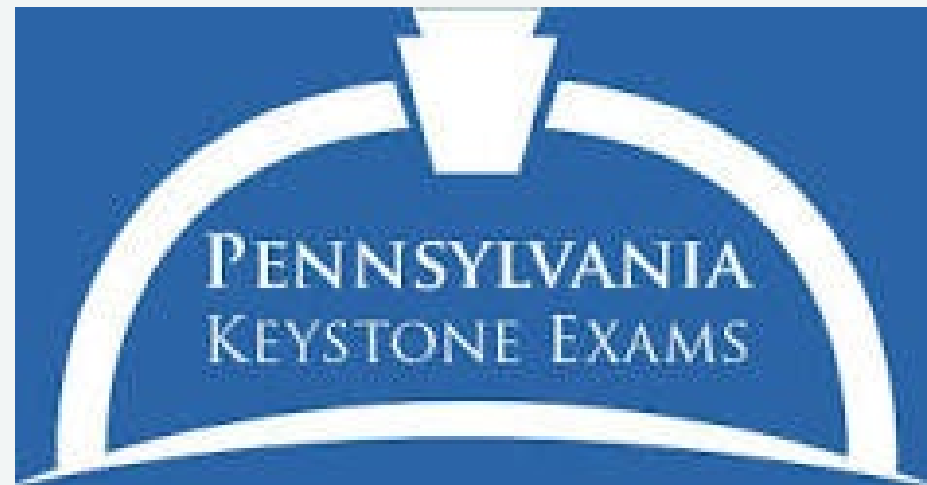
Professional Development/Act 80 Days



- October 16 (Elementary Open Court, Secondary PBIS & Canvas)
- November 13 (In-service Flex for Elem.)
- November 14 (Parent Teacher Conferences K-12)
- November 28 (TSS Step 2 Training K-12 for half day w/Mrs. Kathy Monko)
- January 15 (Virtual Coaching for TSS LEAD Team w/Mrs. Kathy Monko)
- February 2 (Parent Teacher Conferences for Elementary) (Secondary PBIS with Mrs. Lisa Anderson)
- May 29 (TSS Step 3 Training ALL Day K-12 w/Mrs. Kathy Monko)
- May 30 (Clerical Day)



RVSD Testing Dates



NWEA Testing Windows

BOY - September 11 - 22, 2023

MOY - January 16 - 26, 2024

EOY - April 22, 2024 - May 17, 2024

PSSA Testing Dates

ELA - Grades 3-8; April 22-26, 2024

Math - Grades 3-8; April 29-May 3, 2024

Science - Grades 4 & 8; April 29-May 3, 2024

Make-Ups - May 6-10, 2024

Keystone Testing Window

1st Wave - December 4-15, 2023

2nd Wave - January 3-17, 2024

3rd Wave - May 13-24, 2024





RVSD Early Dismissal/PD



- September 13 & 27
- October 11 & 25
- December 6 & 13
- January 10 & 24
- February 14 & 28
- March 13 & 27
- April 10
- May 8



RVSD STEAM Academy Phase I

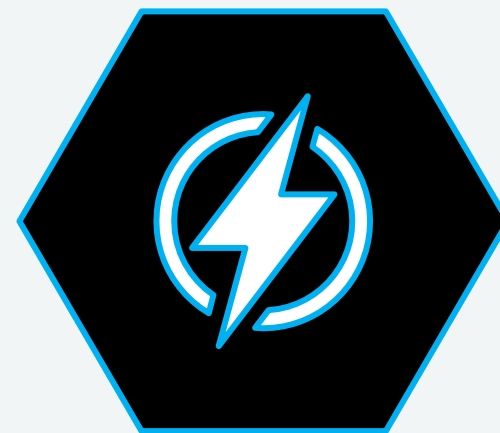
Three-Year Delivery Model



Cybersecurity

**Workforce
Development Course**

**CompTIA Apprenticeship
Pre-Apprenticeship
5 CompTIA Certifications
Course developed in
conjunction with the
University of Pittsburgh**



Electrical Occupations

Program of Study

**NCCER CORE, Level I, II, &
III Pre-Apprenticeship with
ABC of Western PA**



Sports Medicine & Rehabilitative Therapy

**Career and Tech
Course**

**First-Aid, AED, CRP, SSI
Concussions, Bloodborne
Pathogens, OSHA 10
Healthcare, Rehab Aide
Certification, AMCA PT
Aide, ACSM
Personal Trainer
Certification**



Esports

**Workforce
Development Course**

**North American
Scholastic Esports
Foundation (NASEF)
Curriculum with 120
various careers affiliated
with the Pittsburgh
Knights**



STEAM Academy Phase II

Workforce Development Programs for 2023-2024



| <u>CIP CODE</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Three Year Delivery Model</u> | <u>Student Capacity</u> |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 26.1201 | BioMedical Engineering | Program of Study | 50 |
| 51.9999 | Pathways To Health Professions | Program of Study | 50 |
| 46.0303 | Powerline Incorporated In Electrical Occupations | Career and Tech | 50 |
| 13.1206 | Teacher Education | Program of Study | 50 |
| 48.0503 | Welding Technology | Program of Study | 50 |





STEAM Academy Phase III

2024-2025



| <u>CIP CODE</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Three Year Delivery Model</u> |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 01.9999 | Agriculture Operations and Related Sciences | Program of Study |
| 14.3601 | Industrial Manufacturing, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and Engineering | Program of Study |
| 49.0101 & 49.0109 | Aeronautics/Aviation/Aerospace Science and Technology plus Recreational Drone Pilot License | Program of Study |
| 47.0703 & 15.0704 | Energy - Wind and Solar | Courses |
| 47.0302 | Heavy Equipment Operations | Program of Study |
| 43.9999 | Homeland Security - Fire, EMS, & Law Enforcement | Program of Study |



Career Opportunities & Articulation Agreements

Education and Post-Secondary Partners



Directly into the Workforce

- Two-year A.A.S. Degree
- Four-year BS Degree
- Master's Degree (OT)
- Doctoral Degree (PT)



Indiana University
of Pennsylvania



SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE



Monessen
School District



Connellsville Area School District



CHARLEROI
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



STEAM Academy's Industry Partnerships

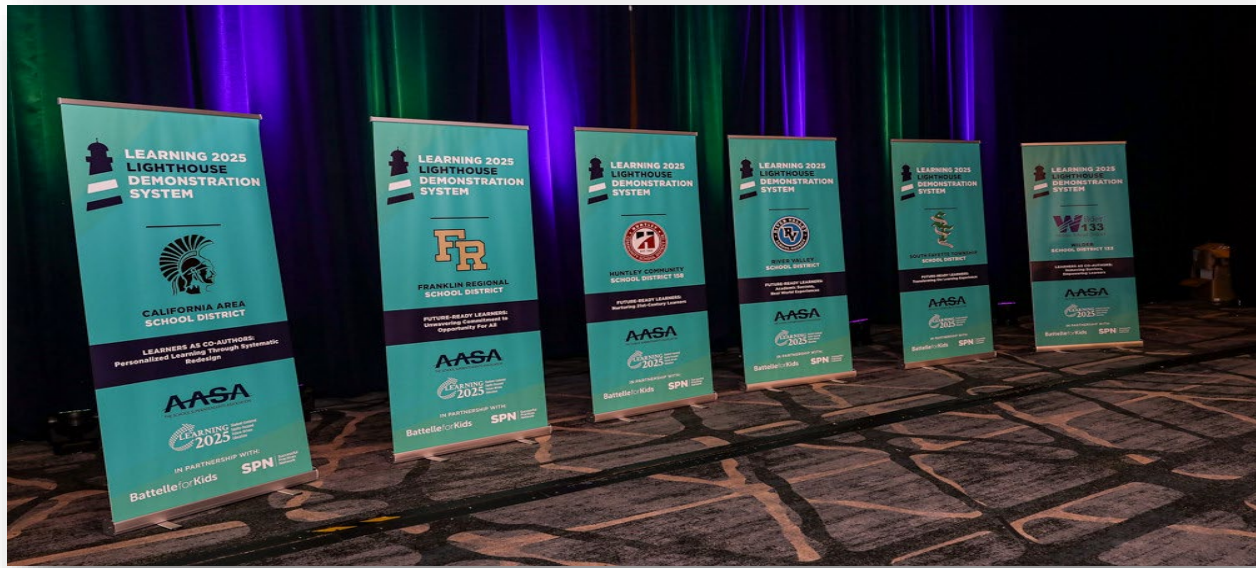


German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern





National Recognition as AASA Learning 2025 Lighthouse System

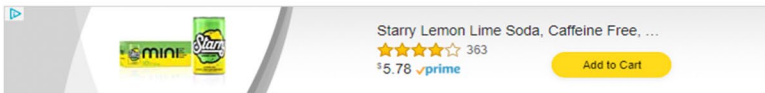


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FEATURED

River Valley among six school districts to receive national 'Lighthouse' recognition

By Nathan Zisk NZisk@indianagazette.net May 23, 2023



Professional Learning

Resources

Advocacy

Membership

AASA Names Spring 2023 'Lighthouse' School Systems to Serve as Models to Help Transform Education

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MAY 17, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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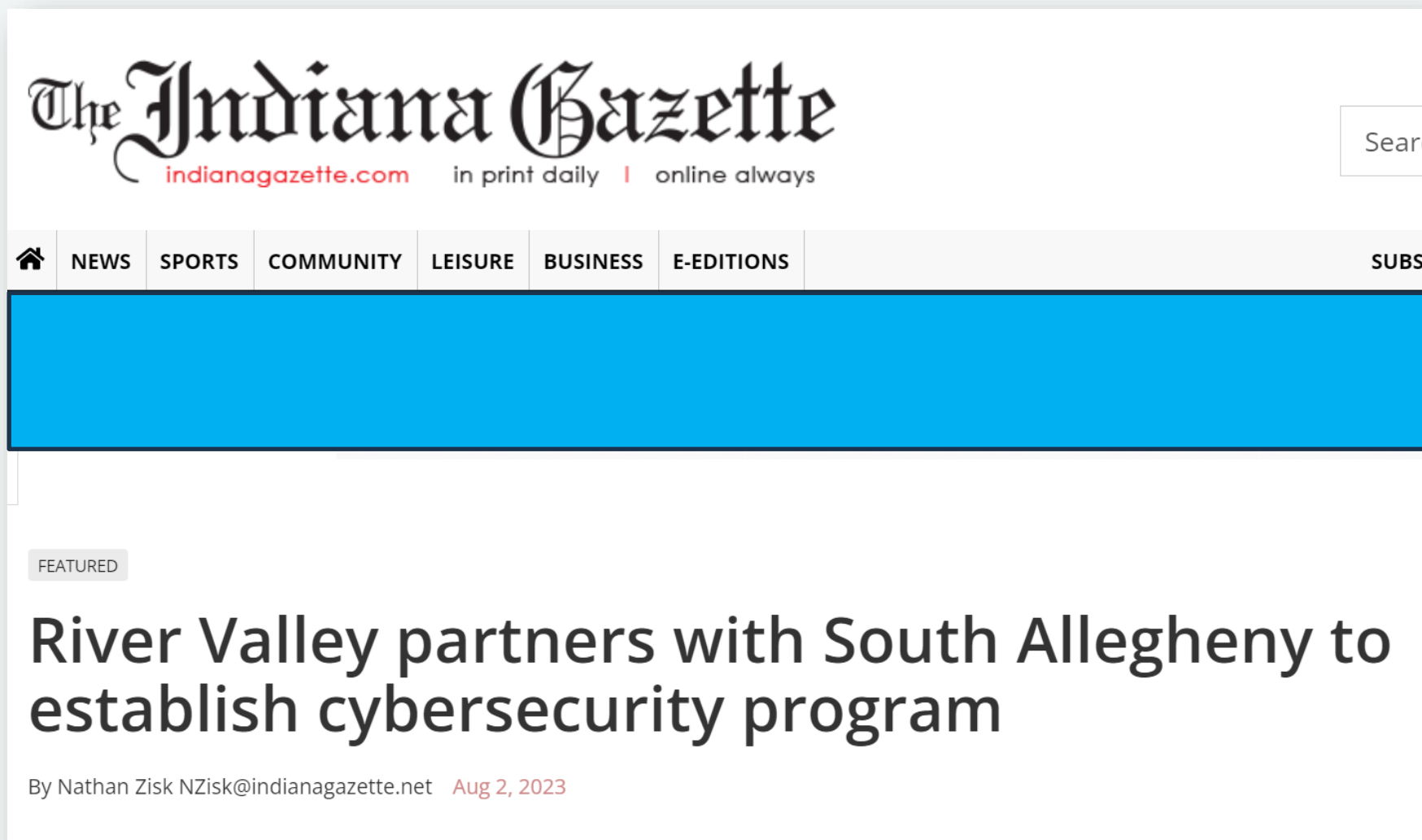
Selected districts exemplify AASA's Learning 2025 Commission Initiative

River Valley School District Developing Future-Ready Learners!



Creating Partnerships in Schools

A Case Study of Success to Help Secure our Nation' Defenses



**SOUTH ALLEGHENY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

2743 Washington Boulevard
Liberty Borough
McKeesport, Pennsylvania 15133
Phone (412) 675-3070
Fax (412) 672-2836

David McDonald
Superintendent

Charles Michael
Director of Secondary Education

Marisa Bragg
Secondary Assistant Principal

Michael Calvert
Director of Elementary Education

Sheila Lubert
Business Manager

South Allegheny School District Receives \$250,000 Grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to Create Cyber Security Academy

South Allegheny School District announced today that it was the recipient of a \$250,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation. This transformative grant will be used to create a new Cyber Security Academy at the high



The Biden Administration and the U.S. Department of Education launched. *Raise the Bar: Unlocking Career Success*, a new initiative supported by the Departments of Commerce and Labor to increase and expand access to high-quality training programs to help young Americans pursue jobs in today's in-demand fields and be prepared for future careers.



RVSD has been designated an exemplar district to help lead this initiative