



VOICE OF THE VALLEY

THE RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER - END OF SCHOOL/SUMMER 2024 ISSUE

River Valley Community,

Below are updates for the bond projects:

Tennis Courts Replacement: This project started in early April and is well underway with our contractor, Vasco. Drainage and grading issues will be addressed, and these courts will be constructed using a process called post-tension concrete. Unlike asphalt, which separates and significantly cracks over time, post-tension concrete is engineered to be poured in one complete slab and tensioned with cables, reducing the likelihood of large cracks. The Board also chose a 20-year warranty on this project, which will protect this investment over the life of the 20-year bond.

This project is slated to be finished this summer because our physical education classes, as well as other students and classes, will be able to use this space; in addition to the bond fund, we were able to use ESSER (Covid-relief) dollars for part of this project. Finally, pickleball lines will also be included on these courts to provide more opportunities for our community to use this space.

Parking Lot Resurfacing and Sealcoating: The parking lot project will see some areas having full-depth patches, some areas will be milled down and overlaid (repaving), and others will be seal-coated. While not every parking lot could be milled and repaved with the budget in place from the bond funds, our goal is to address as many of the most critical and needed areas as possible. As a result, every piece of parking lot will have some type of work completed, either mill-and-overlay, patching, or seal coating.

Kleingers completed the analysis of our parking lots and provided their recommendations. The parking lot project went out to bid in March, and Iberia Earthworm was selected for this project. This work will be completed during June and July. Please be aware some areas may be closed or have restricted access when work is being completed this summer.

Roof Replacements: This will be the largest project, with over 60-70% of the bond funds anticipated to be used on the roof replacement at all four buildings. Mays Consulting was selected to do the evaluation, assessment, and provide the recommendations for going out to bid. At the Middle School and High School, the shingled roofs will be replaced with standing seam metal, and all flat roofs will be overlaid with a material called thermoplastic olefin (TPO) as opposed to the original EPDM material.

The roofs will also have a 20-year full system warranty, which will cover leaks related to defects in materials and workmanship, will have a no-dollar limit, and will not be pro-rated. The standing seam metal roof system will have a 20-year warranty on the paint finish, and the lifespan is expected to last 30 years and potentially even longer. This project went out to bid on May 2nd. Once the project has been awarded in early June, work is expected to begin in August. We have worked to expedite this project so work could begin this year instead of waiting until Spring of 2025. Mays Consulting has completed a great deal of evaluation and assessment on our roofs. You can view documents containing assessments,



Adam Wickham
RV Superintendent

Continued on Next Page ->

drawings, and other specifications at rvk12.org/projects. The assessments included using infrared scanning to examine moisture damage, air infiltration, and air exfiltration (to show problem areas needing insulation).

HVAC Upgrades: This project will go out to bid in early June. The Middle School chiller and one rooftop unit at each Elementary School will be targeted for replacement with the bond funds. The High School chiller was replaced about a year ago using the Federal ESSER Covid-relief grant funds.

There will also be alternate bids put out for the other two large rooftop units at both Heritage and Liberty Elementary, as the rooftop units were identified for potential replacement by Stan Associates. Stan Associates was selected to complete the HVAC assessment and produce the bid documents. The other HVAC-related projects in the buildings will be addressed over the next 5-10 years using the Permanent Improvement fund to repair or replace equipment, as funds allow.

Go Vikings!

Adam Wickham, Superintendent

Liberty Elementary News

It was an incredible year with many experiences at Liberty Elementary School. As a first year principal, it was an honor to work with the wonderful staff, students and families of the River Valley Community. We were happy to have a number of events, some old and some new, where we invited visitors to come to Liberty or where our students ventured out of the building to learn.

A few family-oriented activities that Liberty had this year were: Title 1 Literacy Night, Donuts with Grownups, and the Veterans Day Program. We also had a Fifth Grade Recognition program for our outgoing students where families were invited to join and celebrate our 5th graders as they moved on to middle school.

Liberty staff and students were also able to work with our awesome Liberty PTO to have special events. Students and families were able to come to a family movie night, a Santa Dance, a Valentine's Dance, as well as Fun Night and Field Day.

Students also had in-school learning opportunities this year with Read Across America Day, 5th Grade Science Day, and Career Day. We also celebrated student success with our Viking PRIDE PBIS reward system and our Viking PRIDE Students of the Month.

Though we are pleased with the year that was, we are equally excited for the future at Liberty! Thank you to all those who helped make this a great year at Liberty Elementary.

Tom Bower, Liberty Elementary Principal



Marion County Transition Night

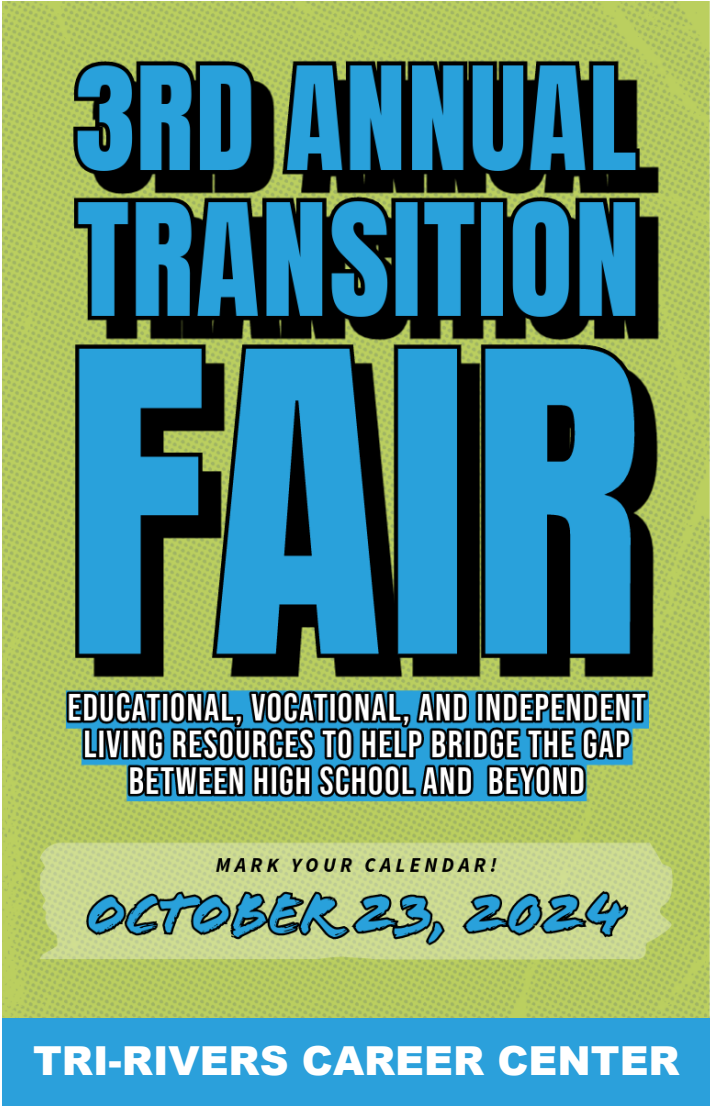
Marion County Transition Night is an event designed to provide students with disabilities, and their families, comprehensive information about the steps and agencies involved in planning for employment and life after high school. It's an opportunity for various partners, such as teachers, school administrators, students, parents, and adult service providers, to meet and develop relationships that can lead to better collaboration.

Career Based Intervention

The Career Based Intervention (CBI) program is a Career-Technical Education program designed for students in the 11th or 12th grade who are 17 or 18 years old. The CBI program provides students who qualify the opportunity to learn strategies to succeed academically as well as functional skills to be successful in a work environment. This program began in the second half of the 22-23 school year, and in its brief existence, 35 students have participated. Through partnerships with over thirty local businesses, these students have been able to complete academic requirements and learn valuable employment skills. These partnerships are invaluable to the success of the program and to the experiences for the students. We would like to thank those who have helped our CBI students with employment opportunities.

Food Service

River Valley's Summer Food Program was awarded the 2023 bronze level Turnip the Beet Award for their innovative programming that improved meal quality and nutrition to children while schools are not in session.

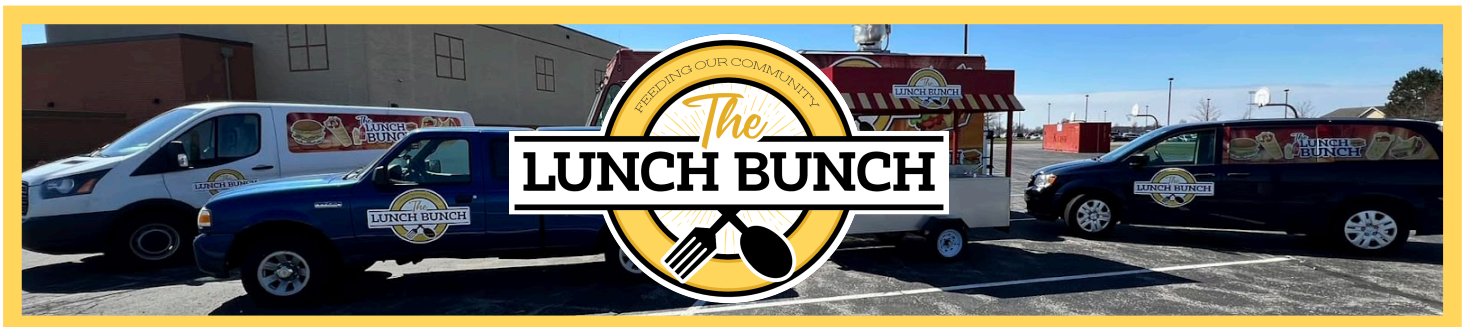


**3RD ANNUAL
TRANSITION
FAIR**

**EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL, AND INDEPENDENT
LIVING RESOURCES TO HELP BRIDGE THE GAP
BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
OCTOBER 23, 2024

TRI-RIVERS CAREER CENTER



Summer Food Service Program

In partnership with the USDA and The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), we will be providing a 7-day meal pick-up beginning June 3rd. It will be provided at Liberty Elementary School every Monday from 4:00pm - 6:30pm again this year. See flyer for more details.

Along with our meal pick-ups, we will also be providing some fun, family-friendly events beginning in July. We will have activities set up for you to participate in such as disc golf, corn hole, an obstacle course, with many community partners providing safety and health demonstrations. There will be more details provided on our Facebook page as our summer meal program gets started.

Surf's Up at the RVHS cafeteria

For 'Spirit Week' just before Spring Break, The Lunch Bunch provided our high schoolers a fun-filled treat at lunch, complete with grass skirts, surfboards, beach toys, sharks, and, of course, sunglasses for all the kids. Pork Tacos, Ham and Pineapple Pizza, and slushies completed the event!

The LUNCH BUNCH

FREE 7-DAY MEAL PICK-UP

for Children ages 1-18
no registration required

DATES & LOCATIONS:

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1932 WHETSTONE RIVER RD N,
CALEDONIA, OH 43314
EVERY MONDAY JUNE 10TH-JULY 29TH
4:00-6:30

CARDINGTON-LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL
349 CHESTERVILLE AVE,
CARDINGTON, OH 43315
EVERY THURSDAY JUNE 13TH-AUGUST 1ST
4:00-6:30

GET THE LATEST UPDATES BY FOLLOWING OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE, THE LUNCH BUNCH

**7 DAYS WORTH
OF
BREAKFAST & LUNCH**

RIVER VALLEY'S SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM IS IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH USDA & THE ODEW
THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.



Camp Week

The Lunch Bunch had the pleasure of participating in Camp week with the 1st graders at Heritage Elementary where we enjoyed making a campfire out of some yummy ingredients such as Nutella, graham crackers, apple slices and carrots. What a fun time we had as the kids got to experience a fun way to create a healthy snack!

As our USDA Farm to School grant is coming to a close, we are putting the finishing touches on our RV FARM at the middle/ high school campus project. Our Farm Team consisted of our part-time staff, Steve Isler, Pam Holman, and Emily Ollervides, as well as our Student Interns Eva Moran and Andrew Deem, who were all paid out of the 2023-24 USDA grant. Their hard work completed the project just in time as we were able to finish our growing space in the high tunnel to begin growing in February and complete our orchard project outdoors that includes four types of berries and four varieties of apple trees, as well as cherry, pear, plum, and nectarine trees. We have our storage area and wash/ demonstration area in place, as well as our 2nd high tunnel on site to be organized for another outdoor learning space for students.



In just 1 year the following classes have been involved in our Farm to School program;

High School:

Construction Trades, Biology, Food Science, and FFA

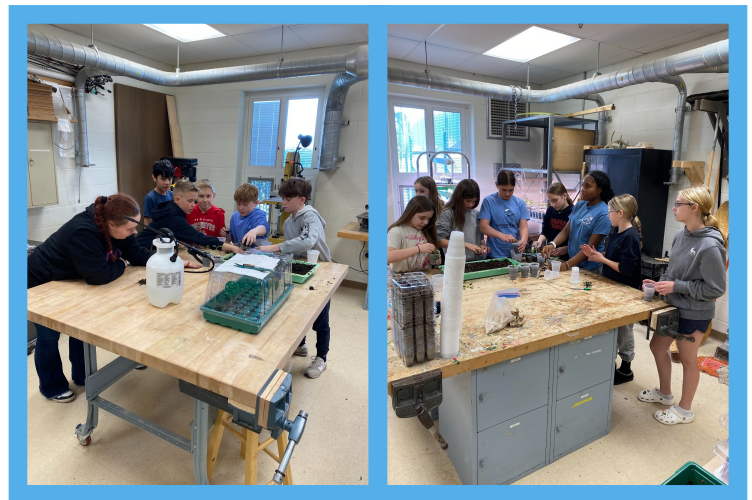
Middle School:

Agricultural Science

Elementary:

Sally Deems 5th Grade Classes

A BIG Thank You to our teachers for structuring your class time to take advantage of a unique learning environment while helping support our Food Service Department.





Wellness Camp at the RV FARM

(MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS BEHIND THE TENNIS COURTS)

MON-FRI 9AM-11:30AM OR 12:30PM-3PM

Students in grades K-2 July 8-July 12

Students in grades 3-5 July 15-July 19

**Open to the first 20
students per session!**

Cost: \$10

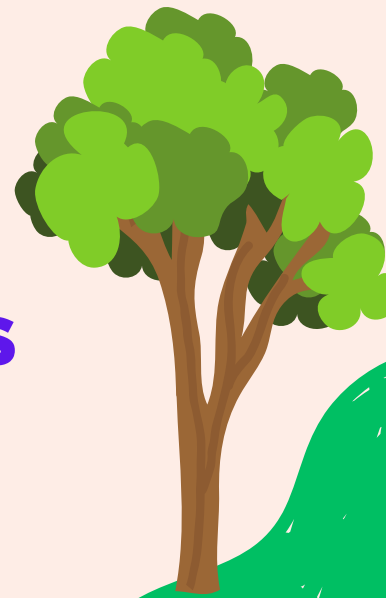
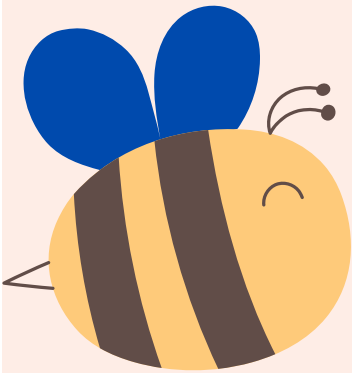
Registration due by

June 21, 2024

WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

FARM EDUCATION

AND TONS OF FUN



High School News

Greetings, River Valley Families and Community!

The end of the school year is here, and our students are busy with classes as well as end of the year activities including projects, concerts, banquets, and sporting events. This has been a great year, and I would like to thank our parents, students, staff, and community for making it possible.

The following are some activities that have or will be taking place in the last few weeks of the school year:

The Harry Alexander Music Festival was held at Elgin High School on May 7th. The music festival is a daylong event that our band, choir and orchestra students participate in. The students work with guest conductors throughout the day in preparation for the performance that evening.

The FFA hosted Food for America, May 8th and 9th. This event was postponed last year due to inclement weather and this year will include both the 3rd grade and 4th grade students. The 3rd and 4th grade students will be learning, from the FFA members about topics involved in Vocational Agriculture.

The 8th grade Orientation Day was held on Friday, May 10th. This is a great opportunity for our incoming Freshmen to meet the staff and become familiar with the facilities at the high school. The students also learned more about the courses that are offered, extracurricular opportunities, and school policies to help them better be prepared for the start of their high school careers.

The Junior/Senior Prom was held on Saturday, May 11th, at The Brickyard on Main in downtown Marion.

The FFA hosted their annual banquet on Tuesday, May 21st. This event celebrates the hard work, activities, and community engagement that the members have participated in throughout the school year. The Vocational Agriculture program continues to grow, and the banquet is a culminating activity to highlight the impact it has on the school and community.

The Senior Breakfast and Awards presentation was held on Thursday, May 23rd. The seniors were recognized for their achievements this year as well as their high school careers. Following the awards the seniors then transitioned over to the Marion Fairgrounds Coliseum for graduation practice.

As you can see from just these few highlighted activities, it has been a very busy and active spring. Again, I would like to thank our River Valley community for their support of these activities throughout the school year. Go Vikings!

Barry Dutt, High School Principal

Music News

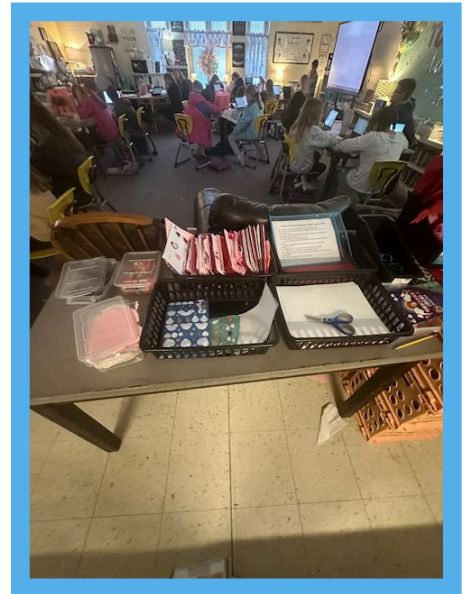
On Tuesday, May 7th, Students from the River Valley Music Department participated in the Harry Alexander Music Festival. This annual music festival combines select students from each of the four Marion County schools to form a concert band, orchestra, and choir. Students spend the day working with guest conductors, who help them prepare a full concert of music in a single day. This year, the festival was held at Elgin High School, and the guest conductors were Dr. Greg Ramsdell (Choir - Heidelberg University), Rodney Miller (Band - Heidelberg University), and Jordan Koogler (Orchestra - Pickerington City Schools). During the concert, each school's music department also presented a Dan Divish award to community members who have devoted time to the music department. This year, River Valley awarded Dan Divish awards to Natali Lavery and Brea Turner. We are grateful for their support of music education at River Valley.



Heritage Elementary News

Mrs. Russell's Class - Mobile Meals on Wheels

Mrs. Russell's 5th-grade reading students created and crafted Valentine's Day cards for Mobile Meals on Wheels servicing Marion, Ohio, homebound residents. These cards were delivered during Valentine's week. The director of Mobile Meals on Wheels came out to speak with students about the program and, as a thank you, gave them a ceramic Mobile Meals on Wheels van to have for Mrs. Russell's classroom.



Marion Community Foundation - TEACH Grant Awards

The Marion Community Foundation provides grant opportunities each year to Marion County teachers who have innovative ideas and need funding to make these ideas possible in the classroom. This year, Heritage Elementary School was awarded grants to the following teachers:

- **Mrs. Deem - Grade 5, Pollinator Garden**
 - My TEACH program will teach students the importance of caring for our native plants and the vital role they play in our food chain.
- **Mrs. Isler - Innovation Lab, Glowforge**
 - My TEACH program will offer students an opportunity to design, create, and build items of their own creations through inquiry-based learning.
- **Mrs. Russell - Grade 5, Audiobook Listening Devices for Struggling Readers**
 - My TEACH program will make grade level books accessible for struggling readers.
- **Mr. Wickersham - Grade 5, Math in Construction**
 - My TEACH program will allow our 5th graders to be an active, designing part in a community improvement project.

Congratulations to these teachers and thank you to the Marion Community Foundation for helping these projects happen!

Mel Comstock, Heritage Elementary Principal



Viking Volunteers - Planting

Mrs. Herdman and the Heritage 5th Grade Viking Volunteers worked to plant daffodils in front of Heritage Elementary to brighten up our spring days!

Field Trip Season

The month of May at Heritage Elementary always brings new experiences for our students while attending field trips. This year each grade level went on some pretty fun and exciting trips!

- **Kindergarten** - Franklin Park Conservatory
- **First Grade** - Eco Center
- **Second Grade** - Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
- **Third Grade** - Tour of Marion: Warren G. Harding Presidential Sites
- **Fourth Grade** - Ohio History Connection
- **Fifth Grade** - Behavior Incentive Trips: Movie Theater & Zoomers



Food for America Field Trips: Grades 3 & 4

Third and fourth-grade students were able to attend our RV FFA Program, Food for America, from May 8th to 9th. The current fourth grade students missed this trip/experience last year due to inclement weather, but were able to join in the fun and learning this year. Both grades engaged with our RV FFA students to learn more about crop development, equipment, livestock and how farms are the source of our food supply.



Middle School News

We have come so far this school year, and we have a lot to be proud of. Our students and staff have worked tirelessly throughout the year and I couldn't be more proud of everyone. Here at RVMS we wouldn't be able to operate day to day without the support from home, we can't thank you enough for all of the hard work you have endured this school year. As we enter into the summer months I hope everyone has time to unwind and recharge for next school year.

I have highlighted a huge accomplishment for RVMS in our weekly newsletter, but I wanted to bring it to everyone's attention again.

Momentum Award

River Valley Middle School has been awarded the Momentum Award from our 2022-2023 State Report Card. This award was given out to 310 total school districts in the state of Ohio. This award recognizes the devoted teachers and staff who consistently go above and beyond, ensuring that all students receive exceptional learning and instruction. This is an amazing accomplishment that all stakeholders at River Valley Middle School (teachers, staff, and students) worked together to achieve.

The Momentum Award is for districts and buildings that have demonstrated outstanding improvement in achievement while also continuing to show growth. The award is given to districts and buildings that have improved their performance index by 3 or more points from the 2021-2022 report card to the 2022-2023 report card AND received a value-added progress rating of 4 or more stars. Districts and buildings are not eligible for this award if they received an overall rating of 5 stars.

2024-25

Things will look a little different when we return next school year as we will have some different teachers entering our building. We are losing Mrs. Owings to retirement. She has been a staple of the River Valley community for so long and we wish her nothing but the best. Taking over for Mrs. Owings in Career Exploration will be Mrs. Cheney who is transferring from 6th grade Science class and will do a fantastic job.

We enjoyed celebrating everyone's accomplishments during the exciting last days of school. Below are some important dates that occurred at the end of the school year.

- May 14th - 17th 8th Grade Gettysburg/Washington DC trip
- May 17th - RVMS Music trip to Cedar Point
- May 20th - RVMS Kickball at RV Baseball for Youth Fields
- May 21st - RVMS at Delaware State Park Trip
- May 22nd - RVMS Awards/Talent Show
- May 23rd - PTO Sponsored Activities

Open House will take place August 12, 2024, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Other important information regarding the 2024-2025 school year will be coming out throughout the summer.

Have a great summer and we look forward to the 2024-2025 school year.

Mike Davis, RVMS Principal
Viking PRIDE

Transportation

Reminder to all parents that open enrollment busing is NOT available for the first two weeks of school and that you need to re-enroll your student to be eligible for busing next year. Please be sure to update your FinalForms if your student will be driving or no longer riding the bus. Also, please update your FinalForms if your students will now be riding.

Trista Thorpe, Transportation

River Valley Local School District
Annual Financial Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

**20
23**

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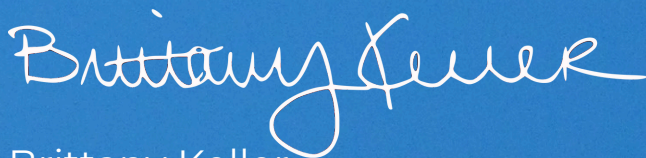
Letter to Readers

We are pleased to present the River Valley Local School District (the “District”) Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2023. This report makes our District’s finances easier to understand and is intended to communicate our financial situation in an open and accountable manner. We are proud of this report and the support offered by the Board of Education in its creation.

This financial report consists of the general funds of the District. The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District and is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The most significant items not reported in the General Fund include debt issuance and repayment, retirement, permanent improvements, and food service.

The River Valley Local School District would like to thank our citizens for their encouragement in creating a report designed to more adequately address their needs as taxpayers and for the opportunity to serve them. Questions, comments, and feedback regarding this report are encouraged, so please do not hesitate to contact the Treasurer’s Office at (740) 725-5440 or at bkeller@rvk12.org.

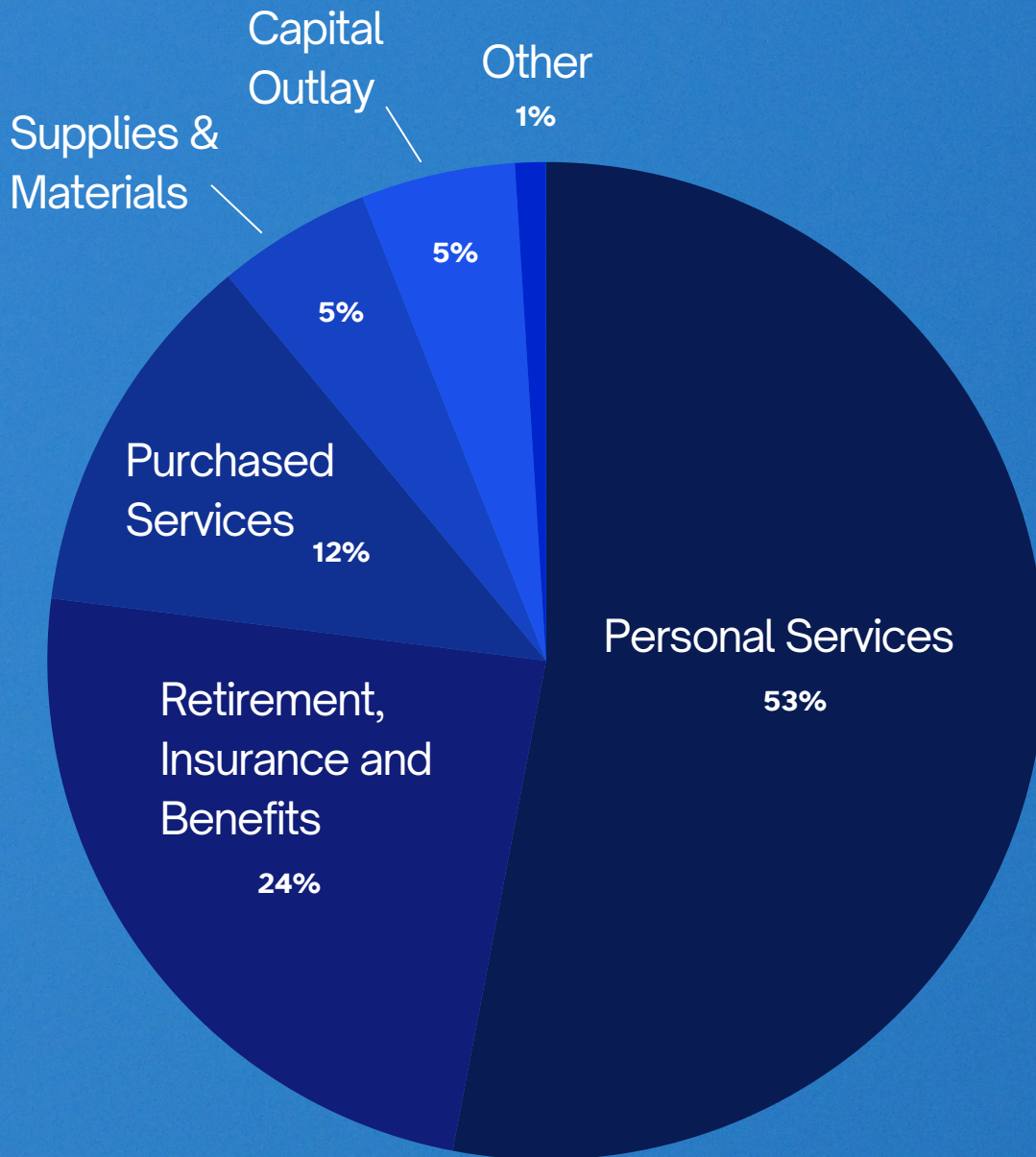
Respectfully submitted,



Brittany Keller
Treasurer

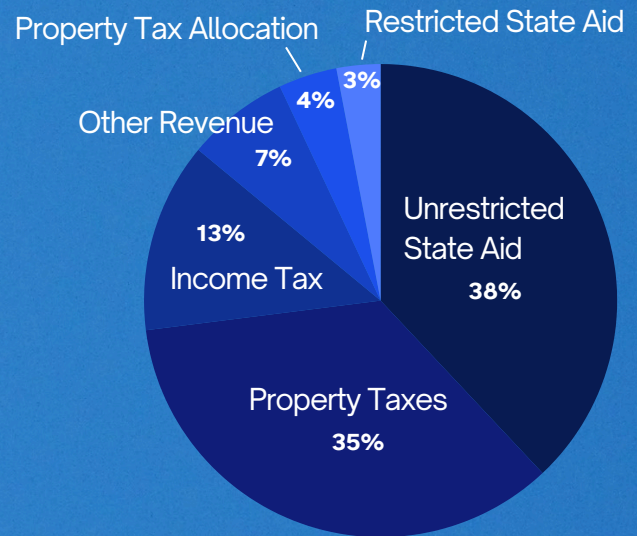
Expenditures & Services: Where Does the Money Go?

The graph below displays the expenditures for the General Fund for fiscal year 2023.

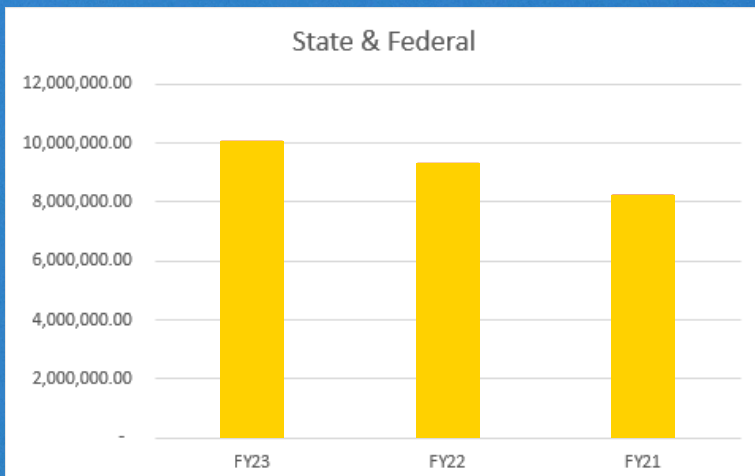


Revenues & Resources: Where Does the Money Come From?

The graph to the right displays the receipts and resources for the General Fund for fiscal year 2023.

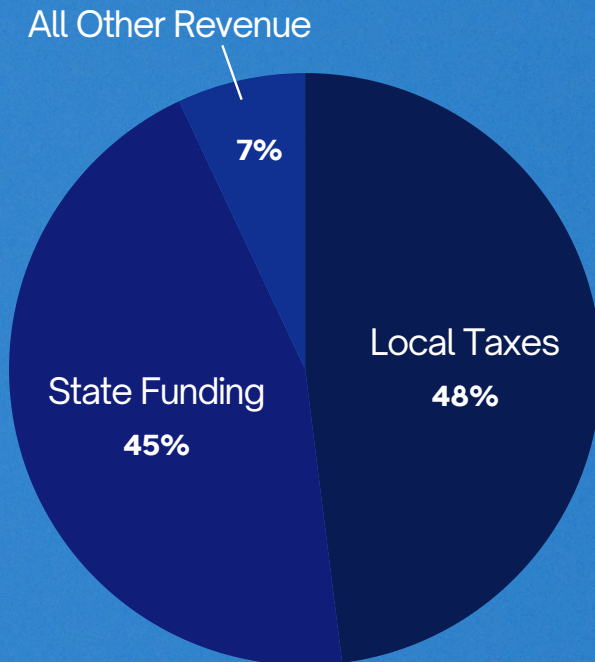


The graph to the right depicts the amount of cash collections received by the District from real and personal property taxes. Property taxes provide a majority of the local revenue to operate and maintain our schools.



The graph to the left depicts the cash receipts for the District's General Fund from the State of Ohio.

Fair School Funding Plan: State v. Local Funding in Ohio



| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Local Property Taxes | \$10,681,822.00 |
| Real Estate Property Taxes | \$7,035,348.00 |
| Public Utility Property Taxes | \$672,389.00 |
| Income Taxes | \$2,974,085.00 |
| State Funding | \$9,976,429.00 |
| Fair School Funding Plan | \$8,497,989.00 |
| Restricted State Funding | \$628,825.00 |
| State Share of Local Taxes | \$849,615.00 |
| All Other Revenue | \$1,620,073.00 |
| Other Operating Revenue | \$1,516,329.00 |
| Other Sources | \$103,744.00 |

The new funding formula for all school districts in the state of Ohio was implemented July 1, 2021. This funding formula is called the Fair School Funding Plan or "FSFP." This formula had the following impacts upon implementation:

- Students are funded where they are educated rather than through their district of residence (i.e., open enrollment students are funded at the school they attend, not the school district they live in)
- Established a base cost methodology based on four cost components necessary to educate a student (the base cost amount generated will vary for each school district, and the state is currently using actual costs incurred by each district from the 2021-2022 school year for the 2023-2024 base cost calculation):
 - Direct classroom instruction
 - Building leadership & operations
 - Instructional and student support
 - District leadership & accountability
- Implemented a state and local cost methodology using property valuations (60%) and two measures of income (40%) to determine the local vs. state share of the base cost to educate
 - As property valuations and disposable income increases in a local community, the state determines that the community has a higher local capacity to pay, therefore forcing school districts to rely more on their local community for funding.
 - The state uses current-year tax and income data collected through the state.
- Enrollment is a critical component of funding
- The state is using a phase-in approach with the Fair School Funding Plan
 - During the 2023-2024 school year, the formula is only phased in at 50%

Unbundling the Tax Rate & Assessed Values of Real Property

All tax rates for the District, except inside millage, are reduced as valuations increase. In accordance with House Bill 920, as property valuations increase during a triennial update period (which Marion County experienced in 2022 and Morrow County experienced in 2023), the voted millage is reduced in order to generate the same amount of tax revenue for the District as was received when each levy was initially approved by the voters. The chart below shows the difference in the District's "Gross" or voted tax rates, as compared to the "Effective" rates, which are those being collected.

The rates below are for the 2023 tax year collected in 2024.

TAX BURDEN ON HOMEOWNERS

| TYPE | GROSS RATE | EFFECTIVE RATE | LENGTH APPROVED | EXPIRES |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Inside- Operating | 4.2 | 4.2 | Permanent | N/A- DOES NOT EXPIRE |
| Voted- Operating | 23.6 | 13.79231 | Permanent | N/A- DOES NOT EXPIRE |
| Voted- Operating | 3.2 | 2.007699 | Permanent | N/A- DOES NOT EXPIRE |
| Voted- Permanent Improvement (PI) | 2.5 | 2.451275 | 5 Year | 2028 |
| Bond Retirement | 1.93 | 1.93 | 20 Year | 2043 |

ASSESSED VALUES OF REAL PROPERTY

| COLLECTION YEAR | AGRICULTURAL /RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL | OTHER REAL ESTATE | PUBLIC UTILITY PERSONAL | TOTAL |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 2024 | 300,994,950.00 | 73,315,060.00 | 486,280.00 | 21,296,860.00 | 396,093,150.00 |
| 2023 | 292,361,750.00 | 72,587,230.00 | 442,580.00 | 20,682,470.00 | 386,074,030.00 |
| 2022 | 236,836,460.00 | 72,430,200.00 | 396,530.00 | 19,609,330.00 | 329,272,520.00 |

Open Enrollment

| YEAR | STUDENT OPEN ENROLLMENT IN | STUDENT OPEN ENROLLMENT OUT |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2022-2023 | 514 | 240 |
| 2021-2022 | 457 | 272 |
| 2020-2021 | 494 | 224 |



TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,910
FY23

1,886
FY22

1,764
FY21

Our Taxes Compared to Neighboring Districts

| SCHOOL | GROSS RATE | EFFECTIVE RATE | TOTAL PROPERTY VALUATION |
|---------------|------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| ELGIN* | 42.64 | 30.23 | 238,846,460.00 |
| MARION CITY | 35.88 | 24.39 | 456,983,930.00 |
| PLEASANT* | 50.90 | 29.53 | 288,117,300.00 |
| RIDGEDALE* | 43.96 | 23.26 | 188,082,820.00 |
| RIVER VALLEY* | 35.43 | 24.38 | 396,093,150.00 |

*Has an income tax in effect that is earned income only

Our Mission

To provide a quality education in a safe learning environment for all students through a high performing organization committed to continuous improvement.

In order to be successful with our mission, we focus on the following goals:

- Safe Learning Environment
- High Student Achievement
- Effective and Efficient Operation
- High Performing Workforce





River Valley Local Schools Board of Education Members

PRESIDENT- DON RENGERT
VICE PRESIDENT- CHERYL BEINEKE
ROBERT STUMP
BEN ALBRIGHT
NATHAN SMITH

“It is only as we develop others that we permanently succeed.”

– Harvey S. Firestone