

Ritenour NEWS

A Ritenour School District Publication | March 2026

Community Partnerships Strengthen Support for Ritenour Students During 2025-2026 School Year

Community partnerships have remained strong throughout the 2025-2026 school year, providing steady support for Ritenour students and families from summer through winter.

Support began before the first day of class with Ritenour's first District Back-to-School Resource Fair, which included 31 booths staffed by community partners representing mental health, medical care, social services, youth and community organizations and Ritenour-specific programs. Thanks to donations from staff at SSM Health-DePaul Hospital, hundreds of students received new backpacks. They also gave away more than 1,000 school supplies.

Generosity continued through the first weeks of school with 300 backpacks filled with school supplies and handwritten well-wishes, as well as 1,000 pencils donated by Avantor's St. Louis team. Maritz and Teach for America also provided supplies to Hoech Middle School and Ritenour Middle School.

Throughout the fall, momentum of community support continued when the Cornelia Greene Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution donated new books and stuffed animals to elementary school libraries. At Buder Elementary, every third grader received a new Huffy bike and helmet through the generosity of the Bikes for Kids Foundation and Milestone Equipment Leasing. Milestone volunteers assembled 80 bikes before the surprise reveal.

Additionally this past fall, the district's 2025 food drive collected 9,757 items of food, weighing nearly five tons, for the Ritenour Co-Care Food Pantry, which supports over 1,500 households each month. Supplementing those donations, students from Ladue Horton

Watkins High School organized a community walk that brought in more than 16,000 baby care supplies for Ritenour families with babies and toddlers.

During the winter months, community partners continued their outreach. The Assistance League of St. Louis hosted a book festival at Marion Elementary that provided every student with three new books to take home. Washington University's students donated 150 dental kits filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss, as well as 40 hygiene bags.

Ritenour staff kicked off 2026 with a Winter Convocation that celebrated the Ritenour Pride & Promise Foundation awarding 11 mini grants totaling nearly \$14,000 to 13 educators and staff members for programs that support their students.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride said the overwhelming generosity from our community helps students succeed.

"It truly is heartwarming that our community partners understand that when students' basic needs are met, they are better able to focus, grow and achieve at high levels," said Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride. "From backpacks and food to hygiene items, shoes and classroom resources, each act of support helps remove barriers and gives our students and staff what they need to succeed."

Top: Representatives from Avantor St. Louis deliver 300 backpacks filled with school supplies and boxes of an additional 1,000 pencils to the Husky Support Center.

Middle: SSM DePaul Hospital hands out backpacks and school supplies at Ritenour's inaugural Back-to-School Resource Fair in August 2025.

Bottom: Milestone Equipment Leasing and Bikes for Kids Foundation volunteers put together 80 new Huffy bikes for Buder Elementary third graders in October.



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Staying Focused on Student Success Amid Changing Accreditation Systems

Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride



Earlier this semester, I shared an update with our community regarding important changes to school district accreditation in the state of Missouri. I want to ensure our families, staff and community members understand where we stand.

In January, Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe signed an executive order directing the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop a new “A–F” accreditation system for all public school districts. This new grading system is expected to be implemented as early as next school year. As a result, districts across the state, including Ritenour, are now navigating three accountability systems at once: the traditional MSIP 6 system, our Success-Ready Students Network (SRSN) system under an innovation waiver, and the forthcoming “A–F” grading model.

This creates a complex and, at times, confusing landscape. Next fall, our community may see multiple ratings based on student performance this spring.

These ratings do not tell the full story of the progress our students and staff are making every day. Through our work in competency-based education (CBE), we have seen real growth in graduation rates, college and career readiness, industry-recognized credentials and career and technical education participation. These gains reflect meaningful learning and preparation for

life after graduation for our students. While the systems may differ, one thing remains consistent. We must improve student performance on state assessments, and we need the partnership of families and the community to do so.

Attendance is a significant factor in accreditation ratings. While overall attendance is trending upward, arriving at school on time remains a challenge for some students. We know that many circumstances impact attendance, and some factors are outside of a family’s control. However, we are seeing concerning trends in late arrivals and early dismissals. Districtwide, we average approximately 2,500 late arrivals each week among our 6,500 students. Those lost instructional minutes add up quickly and impact student learning. Additionally, all students are provided breakfast at school, and arriving on time ensures they can take advantage of that important resource.

As partners, we must work together to ensure students are present and on time every day. Our commitment must be to every student in attendance every day, all day.

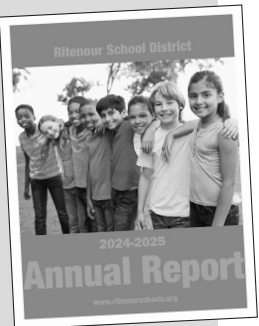
Let’s continue placing a strong focus on student learning while removing obstacles that stand in the way of success. Thank you for your partnership, your trust and your belief in our schools as we work together to reach and teach Every Student, Every Day.

2024-2025 Annual Report Available on Ritenour Website

The Ritenour School District’s 2024-2025 Annual Report is now available on Ritenour’s website under the “About Us” tab.

The report includes information about the district’s accreditation status, student achievement, demographics, staffing, the district budget and points of pride. Also included is information about enrollment, attendance, and graduation rate.

The latest district news, upcoming events, alumni information, links to school websites and calendars can also be found on Ritenour’s website: www.ritenourschools.org.



“Thank you for your partnership, your trust and your belief in our schools as we work together to reach and teach Every Student, Every Day.”

-Dr. Chris Kilbride

RITENOUR Board of Education



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Celebrating Black History Month in Ritenour Schools

Ritenour students and staff celebrated Black excellence with creative learning experiences throughout February as part of Black History Month. In addition to classroom activities, below are some highlights of events, projects and speakers from each Ritenour building.

Buder Elementary second and fifth grade students rocked a packed house in the school gym on Feb. 26 as they sang songs during their Tribute to Stevie Wonder for their peers and families as a culminating activity for Black History Month.

Iveland Elementary annual schoolwide Black History performances for families engaged each grade level that showcased music and culture from different periods of Black history during the last century. Students performed on Feb. 19 in front of a packed house in the Ritenour Auditorium for family and friends.

Kratz Elementary third graders presented a Harlem Renaissance concert for their peers and families on Feb. 24. The concert celebrated the famous change-makers of this time period by singing, dancing and playing instruments to inspirational songs.

Marion Elementary fifth graders brought Black history to life with their Living History Museum. They presented their projects with speeches about the famous trailblazers they researched. After every grade level visited their Living History Museum and learned about famous African Americans, the fifth graders showcased their projects during an evening event for their families.

Marvin Elementary's daily Black history engagement not only included daily facts about influential African Americans and hearing music by popular artists, but also a special schoolwide project called Biography Bottles. Each class focused on a different African American trailblazer that engaged students in writing biographies and turning 2-liter bottles into statue representations. The projects were on display during parent-teacher conferences.

Wyland Elementary's Black History Month assembly on Feb. 27 featured a powerful celebration of culture, legacy and excellence with the theme, "The Sky is the Limit!" Student speakers inspired their peers portraying Hidden Figures and Tuskegee Airmen.

Hoech Middle School students worked on a schoolwide Black History Month artifact project that depicted notable African Americans and historical events during the last 100 years. Students worked on these projects with classmates throughout February and then presented

projects and performed during Black History Artifacts Showcase.

Ritenour Middle School's National Junior Honor Society filled the hallways with inspirational quotes from prominent Black leaders to remind students they are future change-makers and trailblazers. Students started each school day in February listening to music by prominent Black artists and could call into the office naming the title and artist for small prizes.

Husky Academy students were inspired by three Ritenour High School alumni who spoke to students as part of the academy's Black Excellence series. Each alum candidly shared the ups and downs of becoming successful in their careers and life lessons that helped them grow as individuals to make a positive impact on others. Speakers included: Jalen Hinton, a 2012 graduate and a stand-up comedian and content creator; India Gibbs-Harris, a 2012 graduate and community leader in the St. Louis area; Emyzra "Mann" McGruder, a 2018 graduate and former Lindenwood football player who is building a music career.

Ritenour High School's Game Changers commemorated Black History Month by hosting a successful vendor fair for local Black-owned businesses on Feb. 26. Businesses run by Ritenour students, alumni, staff and community members participated in the fair. The evening event also included outstanding performances by the RHS Jazz Band and Vocal Flex.



Top: Marion Elementary fifth graders share their projects during a Living History Museum event as part of Black History Month in February.

Middle: Iveland Elementary students perform in Ritenour Auditorium in February as part of the school's annual Black History Celebration.

Bottom: Every class at Marvin Elementary created Bottle Biographies of Black trailblazers that were displayed in late February and during parent-teacher conferences.

Ritenour High School 2026 Graduation Set for May 30

The graduation ceremony for the Ritenour High School class of 2026 is set for 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 30 at Chaifetz Arena on the campus of Saint Louis University. This event is free and open to the public. No tickets are required.

Ritenour High School Graduation 2026
May 30 • 4 p.m.
Chaifetz Arena



RITENOUR | SPOTLIGHT

- **Logan Felder, Iveland Elementary** music teacher, was recognized as the Ritenour School District's 2025 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award recipient.



- **Ritenour High School's (RHS)** student newspaper earned the Quill & Scroll 2025 International Second Place honor for issues produced in 2024–2025, placing it among the top student publications world-wide. Award winning news editors include Visual Editor-in-Chief **Elijah Powers**, Content Editor-in-Chief **Aryana Wilson** and Production Editor-in-Chief **Laqirra Colvin**.
- Seven young artists from **Marvin** and **Iveland** elementary schools were named among the top 100 in the St. Louis Symphony's Picture the Music contest and will be recognized at Powell Hall on March 25.
 - **Iveland Elementary: Aloni Dalton-Cooper**, first grade; **Alyssa Stepney**, second grade
 - **Marvin Elementary: Ximena Bucio Medina**, fourth grade; **Alexandra Abundio-Palmer**, **Autumn Garrett**, **Ja'Sarah Love** and **Ethan Mentria**, fifth grade
- **Ethan Runge**, a sixth grader at **Hoech Middle School**, earned a second-place medal in both the history and geography categories in the regional International Academic Competition in November. This feat qualified Runge to compete in the 2026 National Championship in Florida in May.



- Ritenour staff and students collected 9,757 items for the Ritenour Co-Care Food Pantry through the annual districtwide food drive, surpassing the previous year's total. The Overland Public Works Department collected and delivered nearly five tons of food from Ritenour schools to the Co-Care Food Pantry.
- Two **RHS** seniors received early decision acceptance to top-tier universities: **Christine Vo** will attend Washington University, where she plans to major in biology. **Jaycee Durnin** is headed to the University of Chicago to major in political science and minor in economics as she prepares for a future career in law.
- **Ritenour High School Marching Huskies** marched in the St. Louis Thanks-For-Giving Parade on Nov. 22, marking 41 years of Marching Huskies pride at this St. Louis tradition. Band director **Emma Kanerva** wore the honorary sash during the parade. In addition to the Hibbard award, the Marching Huskies brought home a fourth place award in the parade competition.



- **RHS senior Alex Halon** represented Ritenour in the St. Louis All-Suburban Honor Band. Alex was selected as one of just four euphonium players to perform with the ensemble.



- Ritenour schools raised \$2,000 for the Ritenour Co-Care Food Pantry through the 2025 Imagine Math #DoMathPayItForward Contest.
 - Top School: **Marion Elementary**
 - Top Classroom: Mr. Oglesby's fifth grade class at **Marion Elementary**
 - Top Student: **Kentavious Clay**, fourth grade at **Iveland Elementary**
- **RHS senior Ryland Weeks** was selected as a tenor for the St. Louis Suburban All-District Soprano/Alto/Tenor/Bass (SABT) Honors Choir.
- **RHS senior Lailani Copo** received a \$2,000 Drum Major Scholarship from The Christian Hospital Foundation. The scholarship is for deserving high school seniors majoring in health care careers.
- **RHS senior Madison Miller** earned the Distinguished Student Leader Award from the Missouri Association of Student Councils for demonstrating superior student council leadership skills and knowledge.



Save the Date: Taste of Ritenour on Thursday, May 19

Taste of Ritenour
Tuesday, May 19, 2026 • 5-7 p.m. • Ritenour Auditorium



Mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 19, for a new, exciting and tasty community tradition.

The Ritenour Pride & Promise Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports students and staff in the Ritenour School District, will host its inaugural Taste of Ritenour from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 19 in Ritenour High School's auditorium lobby.

Guests will enjoy samples from local restaurants while celebrating Husky pride together. Tickets, which will go on sale in April, are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Attendance is limited to 250 guests for this inaugural event.

All proceeds from Taste of Ritenour will benefit Ritenour High School student organizations.

More details will be shared on the Ritenour School District website and social media channels.

Ritenour Seeks Community Input on Facility Needs for Potential Ballot Issues

Nearly 100 parents, staff members, administrators and community members attended Ritenour School District’s Strategic Planning session on Feb. 10. The session focused on the district’s future, including two possible ballot measures the Ritenour Board of Education is considering for the Nov. 3, 2026 election.

Parents, staff, administrators and community members who attended this important Strategic Planning session learned more about the district's accreditation, financial health and the state of district facilities. Following the informational portion of the session, those in attendance provided input on the path forward.

The Ritenour Board of Education is reviewing two separate proposals that could appear on the ballot next fall. One is a zero-rate change bond issue to address renovations and improvements across the district. The other is a tax levy transfer. Neither proposal would raise the district’s current tax rate.

The bond issue proposal, if approved by voters, could fund planned infrastructure work including HVAC and boiler replacement, new windows at several elementary schools, flooring upgrades, parking lot improvements, and roofing and tuckpointing repairs. The proposal also includes possible renovations for the Buder Elementary cafeteria, updated middle school science labs and improvements at other buildings. Funding may also support safety and technology upgrades.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride said maintaining aging school buildings is important to the learning environment.

“Just like we take care of our homes, we must take care of our school buildings so they can operate at their best and support high-quality teaching and learning every day,” Dr. Kilbride said.

The second proposal is a 15-cent tax levy transfer from the debt service fund to the operating fund. This transfer would move funds into the operating fund without raising taxes. If this measure is approved by voters, these funds would support the district’s daily operations, including teacher salaries.

As district leaders continue to review plans for a bond proposal, they are seeking input from staff, families and community members.

“We truly value the input from our community as we prioritize facility projects that need attention,” Dr. Kilbride said.

The Board will continue reviewing input before making a final decision about placing the measures on the ballot. More information will be shared with the community as plans move forward.



More than 100 parents, students, staff and community members participate in a strategic planning session on Feb. 10 at Ritenour High School to address facility needs.

Ritenour Earns National Budget Award, Clean Financial Audit

The Ritenour School District has earned the prestigious national Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in the preparation of its 2025-2026 annual budget. The district has received this award for 23 of the last 24 years.

Ritenour earned the honor from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International, recognizing a clear, transparent and high-quality budget presentation. The award highlights the district’s commitment to responsible financial stewardship.

Dr. Phil Pusateri, Ritenour’s chief financial officer, said he is proud to collaborate with administrators and staff who consistently keep students at the center of every budget decision.

“We take seriously our responsibility to be careful stewards of taxpayer dollars and the grant funding we receive to ensure those resources support our students so that they graduate prepared for success in college, in the military or in the workforce,” Pusateri said.

Ritenour also received the results of its annual financial audit by an outside audit firm after a thorough review of its financial records, accounting practices and compliance with state and federal requirements. The Ritenour Board of Education approved the audit in December 2025.

Matthew Sell, an auditor with Mueller, Oberkfell & Jones who conducted the report, reported no findings or questioned costs. The auditor told the school board the district complied with the requirements of state and federal laws and regulations regarding financial procedures and student attendance and transportation records.

“The District remains in good financial standing, and we had no financial statement nor federal award findings to report,” Sell said.

Five Residents File Candidacy to Serve on Ritenour Board of Education

Five candidates have filed for the Ritenour Board of Education election on April 7. Voters will elect three citizens to fill three-year terms. Candidates, in ballot order, are: Brad Thomas, Robert Eaton, Penny A. Degardin, Kelly Adams and Robert Jackson III. The three-year terms of Thomas, Eaton and Degardin expire in April.

To serve as a board member for a public school district, Missouri law requires a person to be a U.S. citizen, at least 24 years of age, a resident taxpayer of the district and to have resided in the state of Missouri for one year immediately preceding the election. Board members serve three-year terms and are not paid for their service.

All information contained in these statements was prepared by the candidates to better acquaint the voting public with their background and qualifications. Candidate information is also available on the district website at www.ritenourschools.org.

Election Day is Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Kelly R Adams

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Spouse | Ste'phen Adams
Length of Residence | 10 years
Education | I have completed my Bachelor's in Organizational Development
Place of Employment | I am currently employed by Westfall Hauling, I am serving as a 3rd generation leader – as the President/Managing Director of our family legacy business. Prior to this role I served as a Talent Acquisition Manager with World Wide Technology for 4.5 years.
Children | My husband and I have a blended family of 5 children. Our youngest three children attend Wyland Elementary.
Civic & Professional Organizations | I currently serve on the Board of Directors for Avenues Counseling. They have physical locations in Ferguson and Maplewood-Richmond Heights area. I have previously served as treasurer for the Wyland PTO. I am also the founder of two family and youth centered non-profit organizations – The WAY Center and Cousins in Community. Both of these non-profits have strong missions to serve the community and focus on solutions.
Reason for serving on the board | I am currently seeking election for the Ritenour Board of Education to allow me the opportunity to serve my community and be part of creative solutions. I do not have prior campaign or political experience, but I have a heart to serve and I have a strong desire to see the Ritenour community thrive in its educational goals. This is an opportunity for me to lean in and learn from a mom perspective as well as apply the strong organizational and business skills I have acquired throughout my human resources and nonprofit career. My career and service path has allowed me to gain skills that support building strong relationships, managing key stakeholders, effective communication, establishing expectations and building trust quickly. It is important that the Ritenour Board of Education remain connected to the current issues facing the community. As a Ritenour mom and potential future board member, I am committed to listening and identifying solutions. I welcome the opportunity to respectfully connect with like-minded individuals as well as those with differing perspectives and life style choices – all with the mutual purpose to better serve our Ritenour families.

Penny Degardin

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degardinp@ritenourschools.org



Length of Residence | Lifetime
Education | Graduate of RHS
Employment | Having worked over forty years as an office professional for many different businesses and companies, I have been retired for over ten years.
Children | Our two daughters are graduates of Ritenour High School, as well as three of our granddaughters.
Civic & Professional Organizations | My service to the community as a school board member started in 2014, and I also currently serve as a member of the St John City Council.
Committees served as a school board member: Support Staff Advisory, Member of the Inaugural Operation Graduation Committee, Calendar Committee, Special School District, Various activities/committees at Ritenour High School, Ritenour Middle School and Marvin Elementary.
City of St John Committees: Code Review, Planning and Zoning, Budget Committee, Park Board and Tax Increment Financing (TIF).
Other Committees: Youth in Need and S.A.R.T (Sexual Assault Response Team) as an on-call responder to area hospitals as a counselor to women who have been victims of rape.
Reason for serving on the board | I am a lifetime resident of the City of St John and the Ritenour School District, and the fact that my family consists of three generations of Ritenour School District graduates allows me a great source of pride.
These are very high-profile times for school districts, as we are faced with extensive needs to provide stringent security measures, and also to maintain our current accreditation as districts close to us are struggling. Being a proud Ritenour graduate, these issues are of utmost importance to me personally, as well as for our community. It is essential to continue our working relationship with all nine communities within Ritenour's borders, as well as our parents, teachers and tax-paying residents, to help augment these relationships. My years as a school board member, as well as the 12 years spent serving on the St. John City Council, has given me much experience in these areas. I will continue using these skills for the greater good of the school district. As a lifelong resident and graduate of Ritenour, I have a great desire to both continue and promote the rich tradition of the district by volunteering my services on the school board.

Robert M. Eaton

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robbieeaton0910@yahoo.com



Spouse | Tracey (RHS Alum)
Length of Residence | Lifelong
Education | Ritenour High School – Class of 1999; Bachelor of Science - St. Louis Christian College; M.A. in Theology - Covenant Theological Seminary
Place of Employment | Principal of North County Christian School and Pastor of Garden Baptist Church
Children | Two (2) Children - a RHS graduate and current sophomore at RHS
Civic & Professional Organizations | Member of ASCI (Association of Christian Schools International)
Reasons for seeking Re-election | As a lifelong resident, graduate, and parent of two (2) children in the Ritenour District, I am committed and invested in seeing it graduate positive, productive citizens in society. I believe strongly in the Ritenour School District and the administration entrusted with leading our schools. As a board member, I look forward to continuing to create a shared vision of academic achievement by improving the culture of learning, creating high academic standards, and meeting our student’s social and emotional needs. As in any organization I have seen great work being completed in these areas but there is always room for improvement. This is accomplished best when we work together as a team (students, parents, educators, and the community). Ritenour has a great group of educators who are committed and working hard with our students on a daily basis.

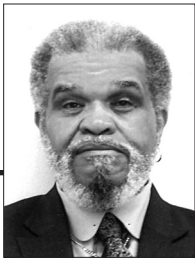
- As a parent and community member I have served in many different capacities for the district:
- PTO President for Ritenour Middle and Hoech Middle Schools
 - District PTO Chairperson
 - Oversaw the organization and implementation of the Black and Orange/Back to School Bash
 - Organized the first-ever Ritenour Color Run
 - Served on the District Calendar committee for several years
 - Worked on Prop S committee with the focus on:
 - Creating safer schools (updating security cameras and entrances)
 - Rerouting entrances to some buildings
 - Continuing to preserve the investment of the community by building repairs and maintenance
 - Began the Ritenour School District Parent Advisory Committee for parents of students who have an IEP or 504 plan

I am also active with St. Louis County Special School District ensuring our students who need additional services receive the needed service and that parents/guardians are educated on their rights:

- Special School District Parent Advisory Committee – Vice-President
- Served on Special School District Public Review Committee

Robert Jackson III

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Length of Residence | Three Years
Education | I have completed my Bachelor’s in Organizational Development
Place of Employment | A U.S. Navy veteran and retired professional, Mr. Jackson worked during his career with several Fortune 500 companies, including AT&T, Anheuser-Busch, and Frigidaire. He also is an ordained minister with 29 years of service across Baptist, Pentecostal, and non-denominational congregations.
Children | He is the father of eight children, including biological, adopted, and stepchildren, giving him a deep and personal understanding of the importance of strong educational systems and family engagement.
Civic & Professional Organizations | Mr. Jackson’s qualifications include service on numerous educational and nonprofit governing boards, including Project Success in Peoria Public School District 150, Riverbend Family Services, and the Illinois State Head Start Association. He has also been actively involved in parent-teacher organizations since the 1980s. His volunteer service includes early literacy programs, advocacy for children in foster care, and coaching youth athletes.
Reason for serving on the board | Robert Jackson III is a longtime resident of the St. Louis metropolitan area and a candidate for Director of the Ritenour School District Board of Education. Mr. Jackson brings more than four decades of experience in education advocacy, community service, and youth development.

His motivation for seeking office is grounded in a firm belief that education is the foundation of individual success and community well being. Mr. Jackson is committed to ensuring that every child in the Ritenour School District has the opportunity to succeed academically. He strongly supports attracting and retaining high-quality educators and believes that teachers who demonstrate exemplary performance should be compensated accordingly.

Robert Jackson III is dedicated to strengthening partnerships among schools, families, and the community, and to implementing effective, lawful strategies that promote student achievement and long-term success for all children.

Dr. Bradley M. Thomas

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Bradleyt3@att.net



Spouse | Monica Thomas (married for 44 years)
Length of Residence | 65 years
Education | Ritenour High School (1977); Ranken Technical College (1979); St. Louis Community College (2003); Bachelor of Science in Industrial/ Organizational Psychology, Washington University, St. Louis (2007); Master’s in Human Resources Management, Lindenwood University (2009); Doctorate in Management, Webster University (2015)
Place of Employment | Corrugated Systems of Mo. LLC
Children | Aaron, 40, Ritenour High School (RHS) graduate, serving in the Air Force currently, for 20 years as a Technical Sergeant; Amanda, 38, RHS graduate, is an interventionist teaching math and science in a neighboring school district; Alexander, 31, RHS graduate, serving in the Air Force currently for 11 years as a Technical Sergeant.
Civic & Professional Organizations | International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 688 forover 20 years (current status: inactive); Adult leader and Committee Chairman in Boy Scouts of America Troop 756; Lions Club International (Overland chapter); National Eagle Scout Association; Member of Missouri School Board Association, National School Board Association
Reasons for seeking Re-election | I believe the school board has to work together as a team to attain the goal of bringing to ALL our children the best education possible. Our community is made up of hard-working individuals that have high expectations of the Ritenour School District. I agree with those expectations and keep those in mind at each and every meeting, with every decision I vote on. At the same time, the school board is the steward of not only our schools but also our tax dollars. It is my belief that we need to get the most value from every tax dollar this board has been entrusted with.

I have learned the importance of communication within our school family and community. Each member of the community has a right to know what is happening in our schools and what the plans for the future will be, and how they will impact our children and their education. I have brought to the Ritenour School Board my knowledge and experience as a member of this community. My goal is, has been and always will be to better the education of all the children we serve. I truly believe in the potential of every student.

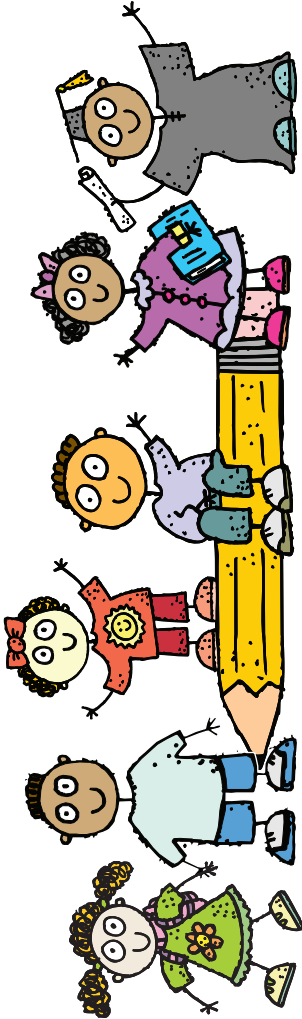
I have come to know our community well and feel it is more of a close-knit family than just a group of nine municipalities. As a member of this family, I want no less than the best that we can afford for each and every child we serve. Working together, this family we call Ritenour can achieve anything, and I will continue to work as hard as necessary to accomplish those goals, each and every day. For Every Student Every Day.

Kindergarten Kickoff March 31; Registration Begins April 1 in Ritenour School District

The Ritenour School District is excited to welcome the class of 2039 this fall! Join us for the Ritenour Kindergarten Kickoff event on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium lobby at Ritenour High School. Kindergarten registration opens on Wednesday, April 1, for families living in the Ritenour School District with children who will turn 5 by July 31, 2026.

Currently, the district is only registering students whose parent or legal guardian can provide proof of residency in their name. Enrollment for students with unusual situations, such as families or students in transition, foster care, or students with unique guardianship circumstances, will not take place until July 2026.

For details about enrolling your student, visit www.ritenourschools.org/enrollment.



Ritenour's youngest learners celebrated the 100th day of school on Jan. 30 with fun hands-on learning activities that highlighted how much they have grown this year. Many of our youngest students joined their teachers dressed as centenarians, complete with gray hair and bright smiles, as they marked the milestone of being 100 days smarter.

Ritenour Students are 100 Days Smarter!