



Dear Riverside Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

It is a privilege to welcome our students and families [back to Riverside](#) as we begin another year of learning, growth, and new possibilities. The start of a school year is filled with optimism, a chance to build new relationships, embrace new challenges, and create meaningful experiences that will shape our students both academically and personally.

At Riverside, we know that exceptional learning begins with exceptional relationships. Every child deserves to walk through our doors each day feeling known, valued, and inspired. When students feel a true sense of belonging, they are empowered to take risks, ask questions, persevere through challenges, and discover their potential.

This year, our work will be guided by a shared vision:

**At Riverside, we believe every Redhawk deserves to feel known, valued, and inspired. Together, we will strengthen connections, foster a culture of belonging, and provide engaging, student-centered learning experiences that challenge every child to think deeply, grow confidently, and soar to new heights.**

This vision reflects our commitment to the whole child. We will continue to cultivate classrooms where students are active participants in their learning, where curiosity is encouraged, collaboration is celebrated, and every learner is challenged to reach high levels of achievement. Our talented teachers are committed to designing learning experiences that engage students in meaningful thinking, promote creativity and problem-solving, and inspire a lifelong love of learning.

Just as important as academic excellence is the strength of our community. Riverside has always been a place where students, families, and staff work together to support one another. This partnership is one of our greatest strengths, and I look forward to continuing to build those connections throughout the year. Together, we create an environment where every child can thrive.

As we begin this school year, I invite each member of our Riverside community to embrace the opportunities ahead, with curiosity, kindness, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence. Every day is an opportunity to learn something new, make a meaningful connection, and help one another soar.

Thank you for your partnership and for entrusting us with your children each day. I look forward to welcoming our Redhawks back and celebrating all that we will accomplish together throughout the year.

Here's to an outstanding year ahead. Let's soar together!

Warmly *Mary Doran Colletto*

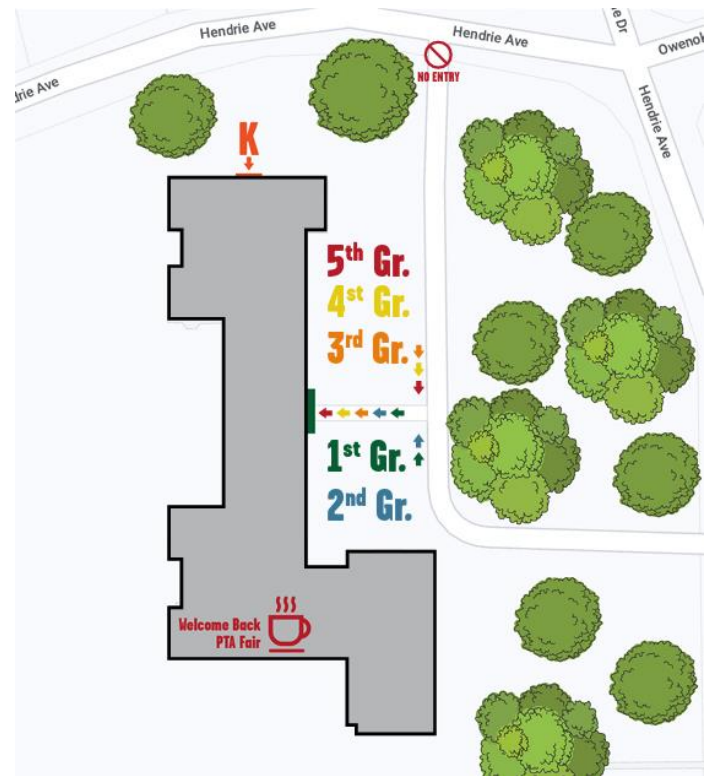
# Welcome Back!

**The first day of school is Friday, August 28th** - it is a full day of school. **Arrival begins at 8:30am** and instruction begins in the classroom each day at 8:45am. Please note for the first day of school there will be a **special schedule for kindergarten only**. See below for more information.

**Parade of Learners** - We are excited to welcome our students back with the ***Parade of Learners***. This tradition provides families and students the opportunity to greet their friends and teachers. Please follow the bulleted directions below:

- At approximately 8:30am we will have a welcome gathering in the front of the school (weather permitting) for grades 1-5.
- Grade level locations will be designated by numbered balloons that correspond to your child's grade.
- At approximately 8:40am we will begin to form the ***Parade of Learners*** line starting with grade 5 and ending with grade 1.
- ***We ask that parents refrain from standing in the entrance pathway so that students can quickly enter the building. We also ask that parents and family members remain outside and do not enter the building.***
- Please note that the PTA is holding a Volunteer

Fair in the school café from 9:00am - 10:00am on the first day of school only. **All visitors MUST enter and exit through the main entrance only.** We will begin allowing parents to enter once the Parade has fully concluded and all students are in their classrooms. We hope to see many of you there supporting the PTA.



**Kindergarten Arrival 9:00 am (First day of school ONLY)** - To ensure a smooth transition for Riverside's youngest learners we are staggering the start time for kindergarten students. All kindergarteners will gather with their classroom teacher by 9:00 am near the kindergarten entrance **Door #14** (closest to the playground off Hendrie Avenue). This is also where your child will dismiss daily.

- At 9:00 am kindergarteners will enter the building through the kindergarten entrance.
- Staff members will be available to celebrate them as they cross the threshold as Riverside students.

**\*\*If this delayed time is a hardship in any way for your family, please contact our office and we will make appropriate arrangements to receive your child at our usual time of 8:30 am.**

**Dismissal 3:10 PM KINDERGARTEN ONLY** - Kindergarten students are dismissed **daily** at **3:10 pm** from the kindergarten doors located on the side of the building (Mrs. Theile will dismiss through the front main door). This will allow parents and/or caregivers the opportunity to collect their youngest child and if necessary move on to the front of the building to meet their older children.

**Dismissal 3:15 pm Grades 1-5** - Classroom teachers will escort their students outside to designated grade level spots where they will dismiss them directly to their parent/guardian or caregiver at 3:15.

- Daily dismissal locations for grades 1-5 will be as follows:
  - near the gym doors for grade 1
  - by the door to the left of the front door for grade 3
  - at the front door for grade 2
  - and at the door to the right of the front door for grades 4 and 5
- Grade 3-5 students who have updated their permission in School Dismissal Manager may walk or ride their bicycles home.

### **Staffing Update**

We're excited to share staffing updates for the year ahead. We have several new teachers and a few role changes to celebrate and we're excited about the energy and expertise these educators bring to Riverside. Be on the lookout for the upcoming newsletter, where we'll share full bios for each of our new team members. Below are the teams for each grade level. Teachers new to a team or new to the building are in bold.

| <b>Team/Department</b> | <b>Name</b>              | <b>Position</b>                        |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1st Grade              | <b>Hand, Madelyn</b>     | <b>Change from 2nd</b>                 |
|                        | Mozer, Stacy             | No Change                              |
|                        | Muscat, Lisa             | No Change                              |
|                        | <b>Santoro, Kenneth</b>  | <b>Change from 3rd</b>                 |
| 2nd Grade              | <b>Arbulu, Gianna</b>    | <b>Change from 1st</b>                 |
|                        | Groeger, Jennifer        | No Change                              |
|                        | Prieto, Jennifer         | No Change                              |
| 3rd Grade              | <b>Anstey, Mary</b>      | <b>Change from Kindergarten</b>        |
|                        | Brown-Mann, Nicola       | No Change                              |
|                        | Fioravanti, Cristina     | No Change                              |
|                        | Goodbody, Freer          | No Change                              |
| 4th Grade              | Crawford, Michelle       | No Change                              |
|                        | Legio, Kristin           | No Change                              |
|                        | <b>Popp, Alex</b>        | <b>Change from 5th</b>                 |
|                        | Ronk, Bill               | No Change                              |
| 5th Grade              | Hancock, Carolyn         | No Change                              |
|                        | Lederman, Zachary        | No Change                              |
|                        | Prieto, Sophia           | No Change                              |
| Kindergarten           | Chester, Jennifer        | No Change                              |
|                        | Kelly, Pam               | No Change                              |
|                        | <b>Sturman, Kimberly</b> | <b>Change from 2nd</b>                 |
|                        | Theile, Meaghan          | No Change                              |
| Media                  | <b>Gonillo, Karen</b>    | <b>New to Riverside</b>                |
| PE                     | Bogardus, William        | No Change                              |
|                        | D'Andrea, Jay            | No Change                              |
| SESS                   | <b>Bailey, Jodi</b>      | Speech & Language                      |
|                        | Fazio, Christina         | SpEd Teacher                           |
|                        | <b>Hobson, Kristen</b>   | <b>SpEd Teacher - New to Riverside</b> |
|                        | <b>TBD</b>               | <b>SpEd Teacher - New to Riverside</b> |
| SEL                    | Garofoli, Alexandra      | Psychologist                           |
|                        | Saltz, Valerie           | Social Worker                          |

|              |                             |                                        |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| ELL          | Giamundo-Damaso, Maria      | No Change                              |
| ALP          | Ciafone, Dana               | ELA                                    |
|              | Hansen (Gallagher), Allison | Math                                   |
| Spanish      | Morganti, Angelica          | No Change                              |
| Music        | <b>Collin, Anne</b>         | <b>Music/Chorus - New to Riverside</b> |
|              | Hoffman, Barry              | Strings                                |
|              | Wahlers, Jessica            | Band                                   |
| Art          | <b>TBD</b>                  | <b>New to Riverside</b>                |
| Intervention | Gunthrope, Catherine        | Math Interventionist                   |
|              | Sterner, Lynn               | Reading Interventionist                |