

FEBRUARY 2022 / MARCH 2022

Riverside Public Schools

408 W. Dayton Street, Cedar Rapids, NE 68627 308.358.0640

124 S. Ash Street, Spalding, NE 68665 308.497.2431

<http://www.riversideps.org>

Supt. Stephanie Kaczor • Cedar Site Principal Deb Brownfield

• Spalding Site Principal Sarah Nordhues • HS AD Dan Wolken • MS AD Marcus Donner



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Cedar Rapids, NE | Spalding, NE

Please refer to the Riverside website at www.riversideps.org for updated calendars, live feeds, news, and much more! The website has been given an updated look (see below) or take some time to check out the new features!

 **Riverside Public Schools**
Home of the Chargers

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[MENU](#) [ENGLISH](#)

[DISTRICT](#) [PARENTS](#) [STAFF](#) [STUDENTS](#)



Our Mission

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES
THAT INSPIRE STUDENTS TO
PREPARE, PROGRESS, AND
POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO
OUR GLOBAL WORLD

CALENDAR [See All Events](#)

Feb 13 - Feb 19
FBIA Week
ALL DAY

Feb 17
Girls Basketball Sub District Finals (TBA)
ALL DAY

Feb 17 - Feb 19
State Wrestling
ALL DAY

Feb 17
Chorus to Community Center
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Riverside Public School



Home of the Chargers



From the Desk of the Superintendent

By Ms. Stephanie Kaczor

Hello Winter

In the past few weeks, we have welcomed several cold and windy days followed by spurts of warm spring-like weather. Even with signs that spring is near, having to determine late starts and early dismissals is still in our future. On the occasion that inclement weather could cancel or postpone a school day, families will continue to be notified by our notification system where you receive a phone call or text message. Information will also be posted on our Facebook page and all major television stations. Our decisions will always be based on the best interest and safety of our staff, students, and families.

Board of Education

The Riverside Board of Education is composed of two wards: Ward 1 is made up of representation from the original Cedar Rapids school district with 5 members. Ward 2 representation includes 4 members from the original Spalding Public school district.

Members	Term Exp.	Ward
Pres. Brian Swerczek	2024	1
V. Pres. Karen Penne	2024	1
Sec. Kallen Ryan	2022	1
Treas. James Molt	2024	2
Terry Glesinger	2024	2
Dan Ray	2024	2
Dee Schalk	2022	1
Tom McPhillips	2022	1
Chris Slevin	2022	2

This past fall, the Nebraska Legislature redistricted legislative boundaries. Following this process, counties had to work diligently to redraw precinct boundaries. As our district elects its school board members by ward/district, we were required to redraw our ward lines following the county's work based on our current census numbers.

Continued on the next page

In order to make sure that each board member has equal population representation in their respective district, the process of changing potential boundary and ward lines is required every 10 years. Where our school district encompasses more than one county, election officials in all four counties were involved in this redistricting process.

When going through the redistricting process, the Riverside Board of Education voted and approved at their December board meeting to remove the wards within the Riverside district and to become all one district. This means, in November, it will become a vote of the people but ultimately if passes, would not take effect until the 2024 election. This November, it will be on the ballot for patrons to vote in two ways. 1) To continue as we have with Ward 1 and Ward 2 and registered voters only vote for members that reside in their ward and patrons can only run for a seat in the ward in which they reside. 2) The other option will be to approve the Riverside district as all one district where all registered voters of our district can vote for all elected board members, not just those from their ward. This would also mean anyone from the entire district can run for the board of education. You would no longer have to run for a board seat only in the ward where you reside.

We will have more information out prior to the election in November. If you have any questions, please contact me at stephanie.kaczor@riversideps.org.

Important upcoming calendar reminders/changes

New changes to draw to your attention:

- Feb. 23 is a NO SCHOOL DAY for PK-8 students. It will be a normal school day for 9-12 students. We will be hosting Conference Speech at the Spalding site.
- February 25th will be a NO SCHOOL DAY for ALL students as we will have parent-teacher conferences from 12-7 PM. This is the only date we are offering parent-teacher conferences this spring.
- March 2nd is a NO SCHOOL DAY for ALL students as Riverside will be hosting the RPS Speech Meet at the Cedar campus.
- March 11th and March 18th will be Spring Break and are NO SCHOOL DAYS for ALL students.

Riverside Committees

To stay in compliance with Rule 10 all public schools must have a variety of committees that serve the school. These committees meet regularly and help to maintain a safe and orderly school that follows the rules and regulations set forth by the Nebraska Department of Education and the Federal Government. To be in compliance each school must have a Continuous School Improvement Team (CIP), Safety Team, Crisis Team, Wellness Committee, Threat Assessment Team, and an American Civics Committee. These different committees are designated to focus on different facets of our school system, but ultimately work together to provide a safe and educational environment for all our stakeholders.

The Continuous Improvement Team is the steering committee in the school improvement process. This committee guides the planning, implementation, evaluation, and renewal of continuous school improvement activities to meet local and state goals and priorities. The main goal of the process is to improve student learning. It is a continuous process that encompasses the idea that improvement does not have a starting and stopping point, but is ongoing. The process is looked at every five years by an external team that reviews the progress and provides written recommendations.

Safety and Security Team: The Riverside School Safety and Security Committee includes representatives of staff, parents, and the community. The committee meets at a minimum annually to prepare and/or review safety and security plans and procedures, including emergency plans and procedures. The four standards of the Safety and Security team are:

- 1) Prevention: Aimed at preventing incidents
- 2) Preparedness: Targeted at limiting incident casualties, destruction, and chaos
- 3) Response: Intended planning to respond to an incident
- 4) Recovery: Designed actions to return the climate

Threat Assessment Team: The Riverside Public Schools Threat Assessment team promotes a safe school environment that focuses on the prevention of concerning situations to maximize the safety of our school. The Threat Assessment Team evaluates whether situations or behaviors are a threat to the safety of individuals or the school. The team determines if those behaviors exhibited are concerning and of low, moderate, or high concern of targeted violence occurring toward others or oneself. Threat Assessment is a key preventive measure to assess the credibility of a threat and manage that threat.

Crisis Team: The Riverside Public School's Crisis Team is responsible for implementing the response plan at the time of a crisis. The Crisis Team communicates and manages a crisis situation, as well as, implements recovery plans post-crisis.

Wellness Committee: The Wellness Committee is comprised of staff, board, and community members. The committee meets annually to discuss compliance with the local wellness policy. The committee focuses on creating an educational environment that promotes the physical and mental health and wellness of all stakeholders.

The Committee on American Civics: The Riverside Committee of American Civics is comprised of staff and board members and works together to promote the teaching of American History and Government in school. They hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one when public testimony is accepted, and work at making sure our school system is meeting the statutory responsibilities of Nebraska School Law 79-724.

Data

In this newsletter, you will find the Riverside Annual Report. The school district's report, previously known as the State of the Schools Report, is now called the Nebraska Education Profile. As in the past, this can be located on the Nebraska Department of Education's website. This includes a much broader snapshot of the Riverside district. If you have questions or need clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Board of Education

The week of January 30-February 5 was Nebraska School Board Appreciation Week! To say the challenges the past two years have brought to our board would be an understatement. A special thank you to our Riverside Public School's Board of Education for your dedicated service and support to our students, staff, families, and patrons of the Riverside District!

President: Brian Swerczek
Secretary: Kallen Ryan
Dan Ray-Member
Terry Glesinger-Member

Vice President: Karen Penne
Treasurer: Jim Molt
Chris Slevin-Member
Tom McPhillips-Member

Dee Schalk-Member

Nebraska School Board Appreciation Month

Dan Ray, Brian Swerczek, Kallen
Ryan, Tom McPhillips, Jim Molt,
Chris Slevin, George Glesinger,
Karen Penne, Dee Schalk



Riverside Public Schools

Annual Report January 2022



RIVERSIDE CHARGERS

Additional Details available at
<http://nep.education.ne.gov/>

Spalding Site:

124 South Ash Street
Spalding, NE 68665
Phone: 308.497.2431
Fax: 308.497.2141

Cedar Rapids Site:

408 West Dayton Street
Cedar Rapids, NE 68627
Phone: 308.358.0640
Fax: 308.358.0211

OUR MISSION

Provide opportunities that inspire students to prepare, progress, and positively contribute to our global world.

Riverside Public Schools was created

on August 1, 2014, as a result of a merger of the Cedar Rapids and Spalding Public School Districts. The Riverside District encompasses the communities of Spalding, Primrose, Cedar Rapids, and areas of Belgrade—approximately 273 square miles.

Both Spalding and Cedar Rapids facilities house PK-5 students. Spalding is also home to all 6-8 middle-grade students, while the district's 9-12 students all attend at the Cedar Rapids site. All 3-12 students are 1:1 with Chromebooks and the district promotes 21st Century learning through technology integration.

Many of our graduates leave school with college credit hours with dual credit class offerings. Students at Riverside enjoy a variety of extra-curricular activities where 90% of our high school students participate in at least one organization or activity.

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2020-21 Financial Information

Receipts

Local/County	\$4,092,389.00
State	\$799,857.00
Federal	\$163,369.00
Other	\$1,050.00

General Fund Expenditures

Regular Instruction	\$2,561,152.00
Special Ed. Instruction	\$441,784.00
Office of the Principal	\$296,300.00
Support Services & Gen Admin	\$166,069.00
Maintenance & Operation	\$627,267.00
Federal Programs	\$222,269.00
Total Central Services	\$184,215.00
Support Service-Instruction	\$173,586.00
Support Serv-Pupil Trans	\$113,363.00
Grants & Transfers	\$51,901.00
School Nutrition	\$242,309.00

Valuations

2014-15	\$658,966,313.00	+27%
2015-16	\$769,527,513.00	+16.8%
2016-17	\$828,362,290.00	+7.7%
2017-18	\$824,071,095.00	-0.5%
2018-19	\$819,044,786.00	-0.61%
2019-20	\$822,619,740.00	+0.43%
2020-21	\$786,185,387.00	-4.19%
2021-22	\$786,239,387.00	-.25%

Property Tax Request & Levy

2014-15	\$3,360,730.99	Levy .5100
2015-16	\$3,360,730.99	Levy .4367
2016-17	\$3,360,730.99	Levy .4057
2017-18	\$3,782,484.81	Levy .459
2018-19	\$4,406,900.97	Levy .5380
2019-20	\$4,523,190.00	Levy .5498
2020-21	\$4,491,490.00	Levy .5698
2021-22	\$4,491,490.00	Levy .5713

State Aid

2014-15	\$221,008.08
2015-16	\$10,775.64
2016-17	\$46,138.75
2017-18	\$95,242.00
2018-19	\$22,353.00
2019-20	\$30,796.00
2020-21	\$45,196.00
2021-22	\$89,978.00

NSCAS 2020-21 Assessments

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is no NSCAS assessment data to report.

The percentage of overall proficiency in meeting state standards is calculated based upon the scores of students achieving the "On Track" and "CCR Benchmark" levels.

	Dist. Avg	State Avg
Math	**%	**%
English Lang. Arts	**%	**%
Science	**%	**%

ACT DATA

In place of NSCAS, all 11th-grade students in Nebraska were assessed with the ACT assessment. Riverside data is masked due to 10 or fewer students assessed to protect confidential information about individual students as required by federal law.

% ACT Benchmark

	Riverside	State
Eng./LA	**%	**%
Math	**%	**%
Science	**%	**%

2021-22 Enrollment As of 01/05/22

	SP	CR	Total
PK	5	16	21
Kdg	4	12	16
Grade 1	9	7	16
Grade 2	6	11	17
Grade 3	5	9	14
Grade 4	5	14	19
Grade 5	7	6	13
Grade 6	19		19
Grade 7	18		18
Grade 8	15		15
Grade 9		26	26
Grade 10		15	15
Grade 11		15	15
Grade 12		18	18

2021-22 Total Enrollment 242

Historical Enrollment

2014-15	235	2015-16	234
2016-17	243	2017-18	238
2018-19	240	2019-20	243
2020-21	254	2021-22	242

Student Characteristics

Percentage	District	State
Free /Reduced	50%	46%
High Ability Learners	15%	13%
Special Ed.-School Age	14%	16%
Attendance Rate	96%	93%
Mobility Rate	4.58%	3.67%

2020-21 Riverside Staff

Administrators	2.80
Teachers	29.5
Classified Staff	20.25
Bus Drivers	3
Outside Coaches	5

Average Teacher Salaries

	Riverside	State
2016-17	\$43,010	\$52,534
2017-18	\$45,689	\$54,422
2018-19	\$48,269	\$54,601
2019-20	\$50,126	\$55,479
2020-21	\$51,027	\$56,582

Avg. Years of Teaching Experience

	Riverside	State
2016-17	10.71	14.09
2017-18	12.39	14.03
2018-19	14.26	14.01
2019-20	14.63	13.96
2020-21	13.95	14.68

Teachers with MA/Higher

	Riverside	State
2016-17	26.47%	54.14%
2017-18	25.81%	54.92%
2018-19	35.48%	55.99%
2019-20	42.70%	56.06%
2020-21	46.95%	56.85%

News From Around the School



High School Music Announcements

- *Please congratulate Taya Morrison and Maria Moseman for being accepted in the UNK Honor Choir.
- *Mark your Calendar for Conference Music on March 30th and District Music Contest on April 22nd.
- *The High School Choir will perform at the Community Center on February 17 @ 12:30pm



Riverside Public Schools: Preschool at Spalding Site

- ~ Preschool will be from 8:00am - 12:30pm
- ~ Transportation will be provided when school is done to licensed daycares in Spalding
- ~ Children need to be 3 years old by July 31, 2022
- ~ Contact Mrs. Thayer to come visit any time (day or evening; no specific open house)
- ~ Step Up to Quality program, providing quality health and safety practices that are developmentally appropriate

Registration Forms available on our website



Sing Around Nebraska

The following students participated in a choral workshop and performance on January 29th in Central City.
Please congratulate them on a job well done!

McKenna Blair, Brooklyn Dobbs, Braxton Keehn,
Elle Lewis, Marley Schilousky, Lilly Staub
Isabelle Swanson and Olyvia Williams

Julia Baldwin, Kennedy Dobson, Cheyenne Haynie
Kinsley Molt, Kathryn North,
Samantha Rutten and Zoey Walz

Students of Mrs. Baldwin and Mrs. Hyde





2022 Riverside FFA Pancake Feed



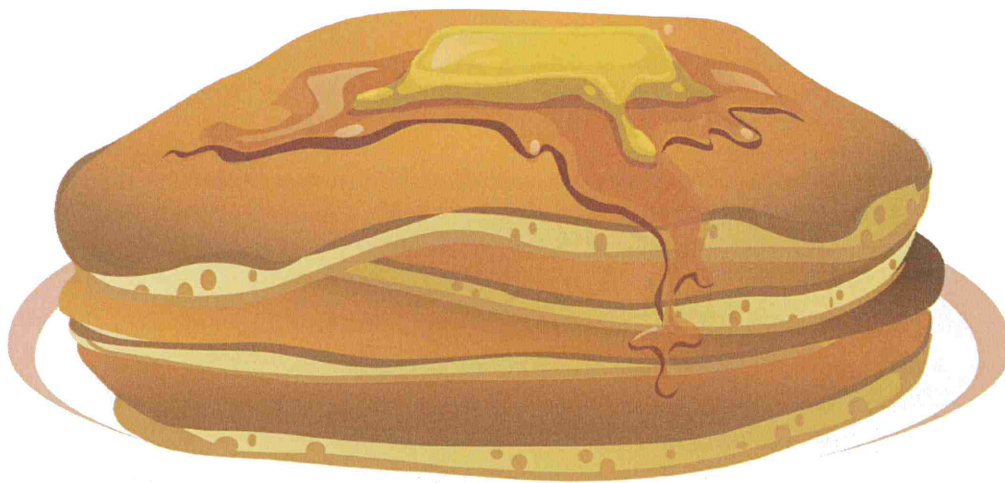
You are invited to the Riverside FFA Pancake feed to help the chapter kick off National FFA Week!

Sunday, Feb. 20th

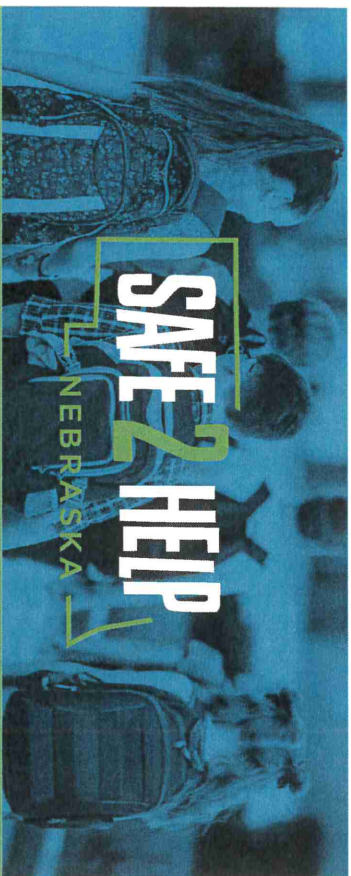
10:00-1:00

Cedar Rapids Multi-purpose gym

Free-will Donation



The Bed Head Cafe will also be selling coffee!



REPORTING CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY AND SECURITY AT SCHOOL

We all want school to be a safe place. You play an important role in this effort.

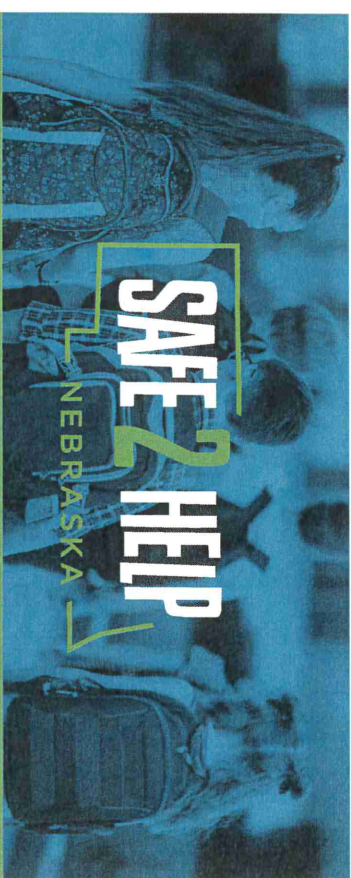
You can make a positive difference by reporting your concerns about dangerous or troubling behavior. For emergency situations, immediately call for help.

WHAT TO REPORT

- Bullying or cyber-bullying.
- Expressed thoughts about hurting themselves or others.
- Serious anger management problems.
- Depression, anxiety, other deep emotional or mental health crises.
- Dangerous online or social media activity.
- Dating-related violence or harassment.

WHY YOUR REPORT MATTERS

- Schools need timely information to help your friends.
- Seeking help early is important to prevent harm before it happens.



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WHAT HAPPENS WITH A REPORT

- The app and phone number are answered by a trained crisis counselor 24 hours a day.
- You can remain anonymous when you make a report.
- You will be asked on the app to assign a number to your account. This is how Safe2HelpNE crisis counselors can reach back to you for information if needed. They never need to know your name.
- Safe2HelpNE crisis counselors will listen to or view your concerns and pass them on to the school (and first responders if it is an emergency).
- Trained teams in your school will work together to wrap the right support around the person(s) you are concerned about.

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MAKE A REPORT ANONYMOUSLY

Remember, it is Safe2Help.



833-980-7233

Call Nebraska's Report Line



Safe2HelpNE
Download the App



MAKE A REPORT ANONYMOUSLY

Remember, it is Safe2Help.



833-980-7233

Call Nebraska's Report Line



Safe2HelpNE
Download the App





SAFE 2 HELP

NEBRASKA

MAKE A REPORT

833-980-7233

SEARCH YOUR APP STORE FOR

Safe2Help Nebraska

Download the app to send a report anonymously to a crisis counselor.