

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 3 / M A R C H 2 0 2 3

# *Riverside Public Schools*

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<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

# Riverside Public School



## Home of the Chargers



### From the Desk of the Superintendent

By Ms. Stephanie Kaczor

#### Hello winter

Winter is certainly making its presence known this year! School cancellations or postponements will always be communicated by our notification system—if your phone number ever changes, please call the office so we can make changes in our system. Information will also be posted on our Facebook page, website, and all major TV stations. Our decisions regarding weather will always be based on the best interest and safety of our staff, students, and families.

#### Legislature

The 2023 legislative session of the Unicameral has officially begun. This session is a 90-day session. With a new Governor and several new State Senators, there will be both opportunities and challenges. I will attempt to keep you updated on bills that directly affect rural education.

Committee leadership selection takes place at the start of each new session. The following have been elected by their peers to leadership positions:

Speaker of the Legislature: Senator John Arch

Committee on Committees Chair: Senator Joni Albrecht

Executive Board Chair: Senator Tom Bries

#### Standing Committee Chairs:

Agriculture: Senator Steve Halloran

Appropriations: Senator Rob Clements

Banking: Senator Julie Slama

Business and Labor: Senator Merv Riepe

Education: Senator Dave Murman

General Affairs: Senator John Lowe

Government: Senator Tom Brewer

Health and Human Serv.: Senator Ben Hansen

Judiciary: Senator Justin Wayne

Natural Resources: Senator Bruce Bostelman

Retirement: Senator Mike McDonnell

Revenue: Senator Lou Ann Linehan

Transportation: Senator Suzanne Geist

Urban Affairs: Senator Terrel McKinney

Rules Committee: Sen. Steve Erdman

Throughout the course of this 90-day session, you can stay informed on pertinent information regarding key bills and topics important to your schools, public education, advocacy, and local school governance by visiting the Nebraska Association of School Boards Twitter and Facebook pages, as well as under the Government Relations tab of [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org).

### **Important upcoming calendar reminders**

**February 20th:** NO SCHOOL for all PK-12 students due to Parent-Teacher Conferences held at both sites from 12:00-7:00 pm

**March 1st:** NO SCHOOL for all PK-12 students due to Riverside hosting a speech meet

**March 3rd & 10th:** NO SCHOOL for all PK-12 staff and students due to Spring Break

### **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.

### **Thank you**

A special thank you to Mr. Tom McPhillips, serving 13 years, and Mrs. Dee Schalk, serving 8 years who retired from the Riverside Board of Education in January. Tom and Dee have participated on numerous committees during their tenure. We greatly appreciate the time, guidance, and leadership they provided to the staff, students, and the entire Riverside Community. In January we welcomed the two newly elected members to our Riverside School Board- Christy Yosten and Ryan Robinson.

The week of January 22-29 is Nebraska School Board Appreciation Week! Thank you to the 1,700 locally elected volunteers who make up the Board of Education for Nebraska's Public Schools and ESUs. Through their leadership, innovation, vision, and engagement, they make Nebraska a better place to live. 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

Vice President: Karen Penne

Secretary: Jim Molt

Treasurer: Kallen Ryan

Members: Dan Ray, Chris Slevin, Terry Glesinger, Christy Yosten, Ryan Robinson



### Spalding Preschool ~

We have been having a busy and fun time in preschool! We have loved playing outside in the snow on all the days where the temperature hasn't been too cold. This is a great way to work on our self-help skills and following directions to get our snow pants, boots, coat, hat, and gloves on and off each day. We spent some of the month of January learning about animals (including people) in the winter and how they stay warm. To help build our literacy skills we have incorporating pictures from our stories to help us re-tell the story we read. During our Second Step time (social-emotional curriculum) we have been learning what it looks and sounds like to be a good friend. We will have a family night on February 2 where we will complete some Valentine's Day activities with our families and are looking forward to our Valentine's Day party during school.

Registration is now available for the 2023 - 2024 school year! There will be 2 sessions offered at each site this year. The morning session will run from 8:00 - 11:30am and is for children who are 3 years old by August 1, 2023. The afternoon session will be from 12:00 - 3:30pm and will be for children who are 4 years old by August 1, 2023. Children in the morning session will have the option to eat breakfast before school starts and will be given a snack during preschool. Children in the afternoon session will eat lunch at school. Registration forms can be found on the website or are available in the preschool classroom. Please return completed forms as soon as possible to either the office or the preschool classroom. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Thayer by calling the school or emailing her at [Lisa.Thayer@riversideps.org](mailto:Lisa.Thayer@riversideps.org).

### Kindergarten (Spalding Site)

The kindergarteners and first graders are anxious to celebrate the 100th Day of School. This year it falls on Thursday February 2nd. One of their projects for the kindergarteners was to make a 100 day cape with the help of their families.

Some other activities that are planned are making a 100 day crown, stringing 100 fruit loops, and participating in a 100 day challenge with the first graders. The first graders decorated a 100 day t-shirt and also participated in some 100 day activities.

The favorite always seems to be the balloon popping activity.

We are all learning many new words and are using them to read stories in our reading books and other fun books in the classroom. We are also learning about addition and subtraction in Math and the first graders have also been identifying shapes and solid figures.

We are copying from the board and writing simple sentences to practice our non-negotiables for writing.

February 2 is Groundhog Day and we are hoping he does not see his shadow. We are ready for some nice spring weather.

Mrs. Peg Ray

### Kindergarten (Cedar Site)

In celebration of the 100th day of school, the kindergarten class is collecting 100 cans of food for the food bank. We have already started but we are in need of help. If you have a few extra cans that you are willing to donate to our cause, we would love it!!!

Mrs. Heikes

### Spalding Site Buddies

Friday Jan. 26 and 27th Spalding site buddies held their postponed Christmas dinner. Many smiles and laughs were shared between our big buddies and little buddies. Tables were decorated for Christmas with fun pencil paper activities to pass the time. The vote is still out there as for who enjoys this more...the middle school students or the elementary? ~Mrs. McManaman



[HTTPS://CALENCHOYESKI.WIXSITE.COM/RIVERSIDE](https://calenchoyeski.wixsite.com/riverside)

## HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING NEWS

### FIRST AND FOREMOST...

Welcome back to the second semester! I am happy to say, schedule changes have been finalized and high school courses are diving right into their perspective curriculum.

Dual and College Credit Students have all started their online college courses through Wayne State College and Central Community College. Riverside High School currently has 13 juniors/seniors enrolled in 22 various online college courses for the Spring Semester!

If you are a student taking college level courses make sure you visit with Ms. Choyeski to discuss eligibility for the ACE Scholarship and then get that submitted ASAP.

**Wayne State College** will have student billing posted on Feb. 3. Students will be emailed a bill to their WSC email account with a paper invoice mailed later. Students can pay online at their Wildcats Online account with a credit card, or they can mail a check to WSC, Student Financial Services, Hahn Administration, Room 104, 1111 Main St., Wayne, NE 68787.

**Central Community College** bills are due within 30 days of courses starting or a \$50 late charge will be added to all unpaid accounts. Students can pay by credit card by logging into WebCentral or they can mail a check to Student Accounts Office, P.O. Box 1027 Columbus | NE, 68602. Please put the student ID number and last name in the subject of the check.

### JUNIORS-

Every year, Riverside High School Juniors are permitted 2 college visits during the school year, that doesn't count against attendance. I encourage parents to discuss college planning with your Junior students to see what colleges they are interested in, and start planning a few visits to a college campus this spring. College visits allow the students to tour campus, talk to professors and/or students in their field of interests, and see what college life is like on that campus.

### SENIORS -

Every year Seniors are permitted 3 college visits during the school year. This fall and winter our seniors have been busy with college visits, college research, college applications, filling out the FAFSA, and starting on scholarships. Please continue these college visits throughout the spring. We are also just getting started with diving into local scholarship applications. Prepare your resumes, transcripts, and letters of recommendations now. Scholarship deadlines will start coming up quickly!

**FAFSA** — The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opened for seniors/parents on October 1. Getting this completed is critically important as it affects scholarships as well as grants. All families are welcome to contact EducationQuest in Lincoln, Kearney or Omaha to schedule an appt. (virtual appts are welcome) for FREE assistance with completing this application. They are extremely knowledgeable and helpful ... and it truly is free assistance!

### ACT TEST DATES AHEAD

February 11 — Register by January 6, 2023

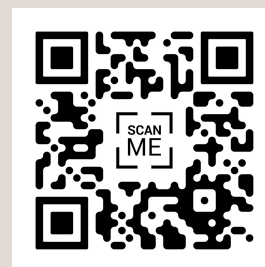
April 04 — RPS Junior Class Mandatory Testing at High School. *No registration required.*

April 15 — Register by March 10, 2023

**STUDENTS REGISTERING TO TAKE THE ACT on February 11 or April 15 ...** Please remember to enter the Riverside High School code of 280-430 when testing. This is the only way RPS gets a copy of your test results, and we NEED them. If questions, stop by the Counseling office.



We all play a role in keeping our communities and schools safe. It's easy to be distracted during our daily routines such as going to work, school, or the grocery store, but as you're going about your day, if you see something that doesn't seem quite right, say something.



Safe2HelpNE is a report system designed for students, staff, and parents to anonymously report concerning behavior which could impact the safety of students or schools across Nebraska.

Students, staff, and parents can report concerning behavior which may impact the safety of students or schools including, but not limited to:

- School threats
- Bullying
- Suicide concern
- Crime
- Domestic violence
- Abuse
- A friend's physical or mental health



# Counselor Corner

[HTTPS://CALENCHOYESKI.WIXSITE.COM/RIVERSIDE](https://calenchoyeski.wixsite.com/riverside)

## BULLYING PREVENTION

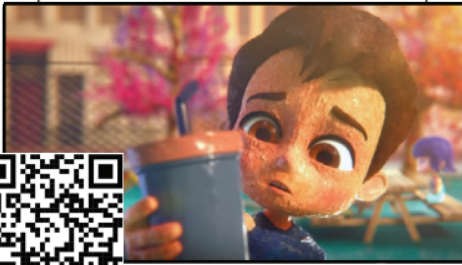
exercise  
empathy

- put yourself in someone else's shoes
- go out of your way to include someone new

stay out of tech drama

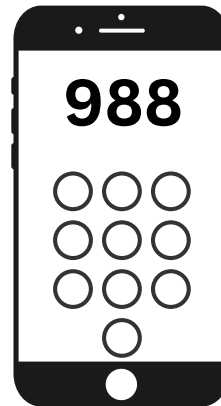
watch your words on social media  
everything can be screen shot  
use your social media outlets to build others up,  
not put others down

animated short "Ian"



practice  
responsibility

- involve an adult when necessary
- practice healthy conflict resolution



CALL /TEXT 988 FOR  
SUICIDE, MENTAL HEALTH,  
& SUBSTANCE USE CRISIS

## COLLEGE READINESS

✓ keep your grades up

every year matters!  
it's hard to bring a low GPA back up.  
put in the work for the first three years of high school,  
so you have more opportunities after senior year.

do your research ✓

does this college have your major?  
how do you plan to finance college education?  
are you aware of all of the upcoming deadlines for admission?

utilize your  
school counselor ✓

get to know him or her!  
they are a valuable wealth of information during this  
process, and they WANT to help you!

✓ practice taking initiative

write your own emails,  
make your own phone calls,  
& take responsibility for your own future!

## 5 TIPS FOR MAINTAINING

### Mental Health



1 TAKE CARE OF PHYSICAL HEALTH

2 REDUCE BAD HABITS

3 STAY POSITIVE

4 GIVING YOURSELF TIME

5 DO A FAVORITE HOBBY

**Riverside Public Schools  
Annual Report  
January 2023**



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.

**Board of Education**

This past November, on election day, voters at the polls approved the removal of wards within the Riverside district. This will take effect at the 2024 election. At that time, Riverside district will be one district where all registered voters can vote for all board member openings, not just those from their ward. This also means, starting in 2024, anyone from the entire district can run for the board of education. You no longer have to run for a board seat in the ward where you reside.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Term Exp.</b>
Pres. Brian Swerczek	2024
V.Pres. Karen Penne	2024
Sec. Kallen Ryan	2026
Treas. James Molt	2024
Terry Glesinger	2024
Dan Ray	2024
Ryan Robinson	2026
Christy Yosten	2026
Chris Slevin	2026

**2021-22 Financial Information**

<b>Receipts</b>	
Local/County	\$4,131,373.00
State	\$846,652.00
Federal	\$248,933.00
Other	\$0.00

**General Fund Expenditures**

Regular Instruction	\$2,591,449.00
Special Ed. Instruction	\$473,707.00
Office of the Principal	\$283,868.00
Support Services & Gen Admin	\$172,930.00
Maintenance & Operation	\$706,998.00
Federal Programs	\$310,647.00
Total Central Services	\$202,132.00
Support Service-Instruction	\$144,445.00
Support Serv-Pupil Trans	\$219,458.00
Grants & Transfers	\$86,661.00
School Nutrition	\$233,823.00

**Valuations**

<u>2014-15</u>	\$658,966,313.00	+27%
<u>2015-16</u>	\$769,527,513.00	+16.80%
<u>2016-17</u>	\$828,362,290.00	+7.70%
<u>2017-18</u>	\$824,071,095.00	-0.50%
<u>2018-19</u>	\$819,044,786.00	-0.61%
<u>2019-20</u>	\$822,619,740.00	+0.43%
<u>2020-21</u>	\$788,185,387.00	-4.19%
<u>2021-22</u>	\$786,239,387.00	-.25%
<u>2022-23</u>	\$820,221,034.00	+4.32%

**Property Tax Request & Levy**

<u>2014-15</u>	\$3,360,730.99	Levy .5100
<u>2015-16</u>	\$3,360,730.99	Levy .4367
<u>2016-17</u>	\$3,360,730.99	Levy .4057
<u>2017-18</u>	\$3,782,484.81	Levy .459
<u>2018-19</u>	\$4,406,900.97	Levy .5380
<u>2019-20</u>	\$4,523,190.00	Levy .5498
<u>2020-21</u>	\$4,491,490.00	Levy .5698
<u>2021-22</u>	\$4,491,490.00	Levy .5713
<u>2022-23</u>	\$4,596,140.00	Levy .5603

**State Aid**

<u>2014-15</u>	\$221,008.08
<u>2015-16</u>	\$10,775.64
<u>2016-17</u>	\$46,138.75
<u>2017-18</u>	\$95,242.00
<u>2018-19</u>	\$22,353.00
<u>2019-20</u>	\$30,796.00
<u>2020-21</u>	\$45,196.00
<u>2021-22</u>	\$89,978.00
<u>2022-23</u>	\$126,760.00



## NSCAS 2021-22 Assessments

Nebraska students in grades 3-8 and 11 were tested using the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) in English Language Arts and Math. Three levels of proficiency were determined for each student in grades 3-8 and 11 based on test performance: Developing, On Track, and Advanced. The percentage of overall proficiency in meeting state standards was calculated based on the scores of students achieving the "On Track" and "Advanced" levels. Riverside's results are as follows:

	Dist. Avg	State Avg
Math	65%	46%
English Lang. Arts	57%	47%
Science	83%	66%

### 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.

### AQuESTT Classification

The data from the accountability system, AQuESTT, ranked Riverside high in several categories.

District Entity Breakdown	Classification (4-Excellent, 3-Great, 2-Good, 1-Needs Support to Improve)
Riverside School District	3-Great
Cedar Rapids Elementary	3-Great
Spalding Elementary	4-Excellent
Riverside Middle School	3-Great
Riverside High School	2-Good

## 2022-23 Enrollment

As of 01/5/23

	SP	CR	Total
PK	10	15	25
Kdg	5	8	13
Grade 1	4	11	15
Grade 2	10	5	15
Grade 3	9	11	20
Grade 4	5	9	14
Grade 5	5	15	20
Grade 6	14		14
Grade 7	16		16
Grade 8	18		18
Grade 9		17	17
Grade 10		26	26
Grade 11		17	17
Grade 12		15	15

**2022-23 Total Enrollment 245**

### Historical Enrollment

<u>2014-15</u>	235	<u>2015-16</u>	234
<u>2016-17</u>	243	<u>2017-18</u>	238
<u>2018-19</u>	240	<u>2019-20</u>	243
<u>2020-21</u>	254	<u>2021-22</u>	242
<u>2022-23</u>	245		

## Student Characteristics

## 2021-2022

Percentage	District	State
Free /Reduced	46%	41%
High Ability Learners	12%	13%
Special Ed.-School Age	16%	16%
Attendance Rate	95%	92%
Mobility Rate	4.58%	3.67%

### 2021-22 Riverside Staff

Administrators	2.80
Teachers	32.5
Classified Staff	18.5
Bus Drivers	3
Outside Coaches	8

### Average Teacher Salaries

	Riverside	State
<u>2016-17</u>	\$43,010	\$52,534
<u>2017-18</u>	\$45,689	\$54,422
<u>2018-19</u>	\$48,269	\$54,601
<u>2019-20</u>	\$50,126	\$55,479
<u>2020-21</u>	\$51,027	\$56,582
<u>2021-22</u>	\$55,376	\$57,536

### Avg. Years of Teaching Experience

	Riverside	State
<u>2016-17</u>	10.71	14.09
<u>2017-18</u>	12.39	14.03
<u>2018-19</u>	14.26	14.01
<u>2019-20</u>	14.63	13.96
<u>2020-21</u>	14.68	13.95
<u>2021-22</u>	15.32	13.94

### Teachers with MA/Higher

	Riverside	State
<u>2016-17</u>	26.47%	54.14%
<u>2017-18</u>	25.81%	54.92%
<u>2018-19</u>	35.48%	55.99%
<u>2019-20</u>	42.70%	56.06%
<u>2020-21</u>	46.95%	56.85%
<u>2021-22</u>	46.12%	57.72%