



# Riverview School District

*The Riverview School District serves the communities of Oakmont and Verona through its mission to promote the achievement of all students.*

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT NEWS

Student Achievement /Customized Services Newsletter

Fall 2014

### PA Core Standards in 2014-2015

As children across Pennsylvania begin a new school year, they will be learning to new, stronger academic standards in English and Math called the Pennsylvania Core Standards. These standards are not curriculum, but rather an outline of what students should know by the end of each grade level. To measure the progress that students are making toward achieving the standards, schools assess student performance on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in grades 3 through 8 and the Keystone Exams in high school.

This school year (2014-15), there will be changes to the reading, writing and math PSSAs that students in grades 3-8 take in the spring to reflect that the tests are now aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards. As a result of this alignment, the separate writing PSSAs in grades 5 and 8 will be eliminated and instead all students in grades 3-8 will take an English Language Arts PSSA that includes both reading and writing. Implementing the stronger academic standards and measuring how well students are doing on tougher PSSA tests may result in an initial decline in test scores when they are released in the fall of 2015. This drop in scores is not unexpected and should not be interpreted as a decline in student learning or teacher performance. It means we are recalibrating our expectations and raising the bar for student achievement to ensure our kids are on a pathway to graduate from high school postsecondary and workforce ready.



*“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”*

*— Margaret Mead*



Thanks to a Transitions Grant from the United Way, every Riverview Kindergarten student received a Kindergarten Readiness Backpack to start the 2014-2015 School Year.

Academics. Arts. Athletics. Opportunities

# SERIOUS SUCCESS

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volume 2, Issue 1

#### In This Issue:

- New Junior High
- PA Core Standards
- K-12 Writing Framework Progress
- Strategic Plan Wrap-Up
- Professional Development Update

## Riverview's Junior High Team:

**Guidance Counselor**-Ms. Pomatto-Morascyzk

### English

Ms. Gardy – Reading 8, Reading 8H

Ms. Arnett – Reading 7, Reading 7H, English 8H, Enrichment

Mr. O'Malley – English 7, English 7H, English 8, Enrichment

Ms. Yanalitis – Language!

### Social Studies

Mr. DellaSala – Ancient World History 7

Mr. Murphy – Ancient World History 8, PA Historical Research

### Math

Ms. Evanchec – Math 7+, PTA 8, Algebra I 7

Ms. DeLuca – Geometry 8, Algebra I 8, Math 7

### Science

Ms. Pegher – Science 7

Ms. Everett – Science 8

### Rotations

Ms. Kvortek – Computer Lit 7

Mr. Mizener – Intro to Robotics Rotation 7

Ms. Morda – Health 7 Rotation

Mr. Hedderman – Language Exploratory 7 & 8

Mr. Rometo - PE 7 Rotation, PE 8 Rotation

Ms. Davidson – Art 8 Rotation

Ms. Stuart – Foods 8 Rotation

Mr. Hart – Chorus

**21st Century :Grade 7**-Ms. Rocchini, Ms. Evanchec, Ms. DeLuca, Ms. Kvortek

**21st Century – Grade 8:** Mr. Murphy, Ms. Cec-

## Riverview's New Junior High Focus

Over the past year, the administration and staff have been working very hard to create a separate junior high within the high school. With the assistance of many helping hands, we accomplished our mission: Riverview Junior High School, Where Everything is Awesome! The teachers collaborated together to form a junior high team approach that focuses on the individual needs of the “tweener” student. A special Thank You to our custodians for making sure that all of the classroom move changes were made and they were cleaned and polished. Also, thank you to Riverside Church for volunteering their time and efforts to paint our walls with colorful educational themes. This is a true testament to “Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!”

### Key Shifts of the ELA PA Core

Ms. Megan Cicconi, Curriculum Specialist from the AIU3 Reading Achievement Center, visited Riverview all day on August 22, 2014 to provide professional development for our teachers. Ms. Cicconi shared detailed presentations with our Elementary, Junior High, and High School English/Language Arts Teachers, Social Studies Teachers, and several Special Area Teachers highlighting important instructional implications of standards-aligned teaching and learning for the new PA Core Standards. This training and support will be invaluable to our teachers in preparing students to demonstrate Proficiency on the new ELA PSSA and the Literature Keystone at the secondary level.

## **Riverview: Our Commitment to the Serious Success of Our Students**

Over the past year, we met with parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, school directors, local police and mayors, representatives from the local library and various local business owners to reflect on the quality of services we provide to our students. We have considered ways to better support the needs of our students and grow our community. As a result of these sessions, a Strategic Plan for the District is being created that will assist us with meeting the demands of a global economy and preparing our students for the future.

Our Strategic Planning Team has determined that we must continue to refine our focus on the manner in which we compete academically, provide our students with a respectful and safe learning environment, personalize and customize student support, provide opportunities for our students that develop leadership skills, and market our community throughout the area. We seek to meet the needs of our students, and to invite the rest of the region to learn more about us and join us as neighbors in our community. We are proud about what Riverview has to offer, and we want others to know more about the **SERIOUS** commitment we have to our students and our community.

**SERIOUS SUCCESS** has become our new mantra! We are serious about the success of all of our students and we are serious about our commitment to providing Competitive Academic Programs, a Safe Learning Environment, Personalized and Customized Learning, and Student Opportunities. We are also serious about our commitment to marketing our neighborhood schools so that others may seek to be a part of our unique and caring learning environment. Please join us as we move the district forward for the sake of our kids and for the sake of our community.



### **Riverview School District K-12 Writing Framework Update**

Over the summer, a group of teachers who have been involved with the initiation of the Riverview School District K-12 Writing Framework came together to begin developing the structure and strategies we will eventually use across all content areas, K-12, in the Riverview School District. On August 21st, a team of teachers presented the preliminary strategies developed by the larger K-12 committee. Posters were disseminated for every classroom in the school district, intended to consistently and visually reinforce meta-cognitive strategies they can use to initiate their writing process in the classroom. We look forward to supporting the continued development of this framework throughout the 2014-2015 school year.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN 2014-2015:

### USING DATA TO INFORM THE DEVELOPMENT OF RCEPS



In the Riverview School District, we value our small class sizes and the personalized attention we are able to provide for our students. Personalized learning plans are an important part of our new Strategic Plan.

In August our teachers had the opportunity to learn more about OnHands Schools, as the district worked closely with Dr. Biancaniello, a specialized consultant from OnHands. Our teachers were provided with an overview of the new features available in OnHands, which is used to analyze a variety of student data. Our teachers examined ways to sort student data, and considered how the analysis features in OnHands can be used to develop targeted lessons and created Riverview Customized Education Plans (RCEPs) for our students. As we move into the 2014-2015 school year., our teachers will examine data and refine RCEPs to meet our students' needs. At the secondary level, our new Junior High Concept and High School Mentoring Program will provide support for our older students based on their interests, needs, and talents.



## School and District Safety

Our teachers and staff returned to school to commence the 2014-2015 school year, and had the opportunity to engage in School Safety Training conducted by Sam Rosenberg, President of the Inpax Academy. Our local Law Enforcement and School Safety Director, Mr. Dunkle, worked with Dr. Hasselman, the leader of the community group that arranged and provided the donation that provided the Inpax Training. Our staff engaged in sessions that shared strategies that are parts of Automatic Critical Incident Response Tactics (ACIRT). Riverview will now explore possible Train the Trainer modules and will seek volunteers to engage in additional Inpax training, which we will continue to offer to our staff.



# Strategic Planning Summary



The Comprehensive Planning Committee engaged in a long-range planning process following insights gleaned through various surveys, sub-committees and alumni and workforce panel discussions in 2013. We convened more formally to chart the course for the district on February 13, March 3, April 7, and June 10, 2014. The following information is being provided as an update and summary of the planning process to date as we make preparations to submit a draft of the plan for public review and Board approval this fall:

**Vision:** Recognizing the importance of providing our students with lifelong learning skills, the River-view School District's vision is to prepare each student for a successful collegiate education and/or employment within the global workforce.

We pledge to do this through a commitment to data informed decision-making, competitive academic programming, personalized attention, and by providing our students with a variety of learning opportunities that assist each of them with discovering their talents and potential.

By committing ourselves to this vision, we strive to be one of the most academically competitive school districts in the region.

**Mission Statement:** Serious Commitment to Student Success

## **Goals:**

### *Competitive Academics*

Goal: To use data analysis to monitor student learning and incorporate research-based strategies to meet students' needs at all levels.

### *Customized Learning:*

Goal: Continue to improve and refine RCEPs.

### *Opportunities for Expanded Learning:*

Goal: Continued expansion and refinement of various learning opportunities K-12

### *Marketing:*

Goal: Articulate and advance our mission of a "Serious Commitment to Student Success"

### *Safe Schools:*

Goal: Committing ourselves to monitoring and refining a Safe Learning Environment



## Contact Us

If you have any questions or comments, please visit our website for more information:

<http://www.rsd.k12.pa.us/>

or email Dr. Coudriet:  
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