



Dear Riverview Parents,

Happy Friday! We hope you enjoyed a much-needed spring break and have gathered your energy for a busy home stretch. Below are a few important items for your consideration this week:

1. **State Testing** – As many of you know, the spring testing season is upon us. The PSSAs begin next week. We know that state assessments can be frustrating, but we ask that you encourage your children to take them seriously. Here's why:
 - First and foremost, we use the data to analyze strengths and weaknesses, tailor and adjust instruction, and set goals for classes and individual students. The data helps us to improve and make the learning experience better for your children. This year is particularly important, as we are reestablishing a new post-pandemic baseline.
 - Student growth is our top priority. In other words, did we do a good job of steepening the curve for each student and exceed growth expectations? Standardized scores help us to assess this. For those that are unaware, Riverview usually ranks in the top 5-10 Districts **in the State** in terms of exceeding growth expectations as they relate to socioeconomic factors. This is proof that we are doing more for children than almost every other school in the State. Our small school individualized approach to working with children is a real asset, and a story that we hope you will share with others.
 - As much as the State advises against it, the scores are shared publicly and used to compare school districts. This can sometimes be a factor in terms of real estate, and/or families moving into or out of a particular community.
 - Since Riverview is so small, one student's score significantly affects the aggregate. For instance, if there are 60 students in a grade, then each student represents more than a full percentage point, and this affects the averages/scores more than in larger schools.

We ask that you make sure your children are well rested, well fed, and encouraged to give their very best effort on the assessments. We thank you in advance.

2. **2022 State of Education Report** – Each year, the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) publishes a document outlining the current state of education in Pennsylvania. This document outlines the current landscape, challenges, student instruction, school finances, and parent perception of public education. If you have time to read through it, it only takes a few minutes and provides a great overall picture of some of the unique challenges that we face. In the school finance section, the report highlights the State’s annual under funding of public schools (ranking 45th out of 50th in the country). The three most significant shortfalls occur in special education funding, state pension funding, and significant rises in cyber charter and charter school costs. The funding gaps caused by these unfunded mandates result in local taxpayers bearing the brunt. Public schools across the Commonwealth are experiencing significant budgetary challenges as a result (Riverview included). Below is a link to the document and a nice accompanying video. If you feel inclined, tell the story to our state decision makers to ensure they understand how these issues affect us and how important a great public education like Riverview can be!

[PSBA 2022 State of Education Report](#)

[PSBA 2022 State of Education Report Video](#)

3. **Teacher Appreciation Week** – The week of May 2nd- May 5th marks teacher appreciation week! I think you will agree that we have a knowledgeable, dedicated, hard-working staff that truly care about kids. I think you will also agree that it has been a challenging year for a number of reasons. As such, if you can set time aside to let your teachers know they are appreciated, I know it would certainly go a long way! We appreciate all of our Staff's efforts in supporting children in our District. They are crucial in making Riverview the special place that it is.
4. **Upcoming Events** – The list below includes, *but is not limited to*, a few important upcoming dates. Your building administrators will follow up with more information.
 - **5/2 - 5/6** – Teacher Appreciation Week

- **5/3** – Side by Side Orchestra Concert – 10th Street Auditorium – 7pm
- **5/6** – High School Prom – Oakmont Country Club – 7pm
- **5/9** – RHS Band/Orchestra Concert - HS Gymnasium - 7pm
- **5/10** – Senior Scholarship Award Ceremony – The Oaks – 7pm
- **5/12** – Elementary Band / Orchestra – 10th St. Auditorium - 7pm
- **5/17** – Elementary Field Day – Riverside Park (rain date 5/20)
- **5/24** – K-3 Verner Pleasant Farm Field Trip (Farm to Table)
- **5/24** – RHS Chorus Concert – 7pm
- **5/26** – Elementary Chorus Concert – 7pm
- **5/26** – 4-6 Verner Pleasant Farm Field Trip (Farm to Table)
- **5/30** – Memorial Day – No School
- **6/2** – HS Jazz Concert – 7pm
- **6/8** – Last Day for Students – ½ Day
- **6/8** – Graduation – Riverside Park – 7pm

That is all for now! It seems that spring has finally arrived and the weather this weekend is supposed to be beautiful, so we hope you will get outside and enjoy it. As always, we thank you for your continued support of the Riverview School District and hope you continue to stay happy, peaceful, and safe.

Go Raiders!

Sincerely,

The Riverview Administration