

HIVE HAPPENINGS



Richland School District Newsletter

/ December 2024



Rendering of future 5K classroom

RSD is Renewing

Thanks to the support from our community during the April 2024 referendums, we are thrilled to share some exciting updates on our facility projects. These projects are focused on addressing educational and deferred maintenance priorities across the District, and we are making great progress.

The design work for the Primary School kicked off in June of 2024 and has now reached the 100% milestone. Bidding is currently in progress, and we are looking forward to starting construction on the RCPS projects including the remediation of the sinking kindergarten classrooms in June 2025.

At the Intermediate School, design work for upcoming projects began in early August and has now reached the 50% milestone. At RCHS, design efforts are set to officially kick off this December. However, one major task is already done—roof replacement was successfully completed in August.

While the referendum work will continue through the summer of 2026, you can find updates and new milestones on our dedicated website. Thank you for your support as we create better educational environments for our students, staff, and community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 16

RCHS Choir Concert

December 19

RCIS Winter Concert

December 23

First Day of Winter Break

January 1

Last Day of Winter Break

January 11

SnoBall Dance

January 13

Board of Education Meeting

January 17

No School - Teacher In-service



For the most up to date information and to follow along with project updates please visit:

richland.referendumfacts.org

RSD is Excelling

A quick update on our schools and the amazing work being done in them



RCPS Richland Center Primary School is proud to guide our youngest Hornets, (Early Childhood to 2nd grade) in their educational journey. Each year is filled with exciting "firsts" that continue to build Hornet pride and foster a love of learning. This year, K-2 students are thriving with new "Into Reading" and "Origo Stepping Stones" curriculum materials, making impressive progress every day.

Our dedicated staff ensure students feel safe, have fun, and are ready to learn, while practicing The Hornet Way: respect, responsibility, safety, and friendship. Families are key partners, and reading together daily is one of the best ways to support your child's success. As Tomie dePaola said, "Reading is important because if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about anything."

Take time to explore new adventures with your child, whether it's through a book or a walk in the community. Every moment counts!



RCIS Richland Center Intermediate School had a momentous first quarter of school, no moment quite as spectacular as Governor Tony Evers visit to our building! The Governor's visit was a great opportunity to showcase the amazing things happening at RCIS, including our innovative programs and the incredible efforts of our students and staff. The Governor spent time touring classrooms, meeting with students, and learning about the unique ways we're fostering academic growth and building strong community connections.

This special visit highlighted the hard work and dedication of our entire RCIS team and underscored the importance of creating opportunities for our students to thrive. It was an honor to share our story and show how RCIS is preparing young learners to lead and succeed. Definitely a day to remember!



RCHS Richland Center High School is buzzing with positive news this year! We are thrilled to announce the induction of 20 new members into the National Honor Society (NHS). These students exemplify academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to service, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

In addition to academic success, Richland Center High School is also seeing a significant improvement in student behavior. Discipline reports are down across the board, with one of the most notable changes being a 77% drop in vaping offenses. This reflects the hard work of our staff, students, and families in fostering a safe and healthy learning environment.

These achievements highlight the incredible growth happening at RCHS, both in the classroom and beyond. Congratulations to our new NHS inductees and to all of our students and staff for their dedication to making RCHS a great place to learn and grow!

COMMUNITY 4K

The Community 4K program, developed in partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran Academy and housed at the former Rockbridge School, has become a vital part of the Richland School District community. This program offers parents the convenience of a five-day 4K option, providing early learners with consistent and enriching educational opportunities. As a designated Community 4K site, Bethlehem Lutheran Academy has made significant

investments to enhance learning experiences. Among these innovations is a newly completed STEM room, designed to inspire and engage young minds. Featuring interactive toys and activities, the space introduces foundational concepts in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), sparking curiosity and creativity in the District's youngest learners.



PARTNER

Richland PARTNER School has expanded this year with a new schedule for students and the addition of a full-time aide. Students have been hard at work on individual projects, financial literacy, communication classes, applied mathematics, and gaining real-world experience through work, job shadowing, and volunteering in the community.

Recently, PARTNER teamed up with Richland Area Rescue (RAR) for a morning of tasks at the animal shelter and farm. In the afternoon, students chose a community service

project with Headstones & Blooms, cleaning headstones at the local cemetery. They also contributed to setting up the Rotary Lights display.

The year's first community panel showcased student projects, impressing attendees with their knowledge and creativity. PARTNER students are also selling handmade items, including wood shelves, trays, cutting boards, coasters, and candles, available now at the Richland Locker.

We're excited to grow these partnerships and continue making meaningful community connections!

**Learn More About
our Alternative
Education Programs**



What is R-SSEE?

Piloting this year, the Richland Small School Educational Environment (R-SSEE) program is a groundbreaking initiative designed to support students requiring additional assistance in areas such as social-emotional learning, mental health, and executive functioning. This innovative program integrates essential grade-level academic content with targeted

skill-building in areas like collaboration, critical thinking, and life readiness. By providing a tailored approach to instruction that meets each student's individual needs, this small school setting not only fosters academic growth but also enhances social development, equipping students with the tools necessary to navigate both school and life challenges. In

addition to its benefits for students, the program offers families a unique and personalized educational option, reflecting the District's commitment to addressing diverse learning needs. By creating a supportive and customized learning environment, R-SSEE strengthens the District's ability to attract and retain students, ensuring the Richland School District remains a leader in innovative and inclusive education.



RSD is Improving

The DPI report card is in. RSD is a 4 Star School and #1 in our Local Area.

The 2023-2024 Wisconsin DPI report card results are in, and the Richland School District (RSD) has plenty to celebrate! With a district-wide score of 72.0, RSD continues its impressive upward trajectory, rising from 59.4 in 2021-2022 to its current standing.

This progress places RSD 9th out of 32 schools in the CESA 3 region, a remarkable improvement from our last place ranking just two years ago. The District's focus on growth—a priority area that measures students' academic progress over time—has been instrumental in this success. By prioritizing targeted interventions for the lowest-performing quartile and maintaining a high emphasis on attendance and graduation rates, RSD has created a solid foundation for long-term achievement.

At the school level, Richland Center Intermediate School (RCIS) led the charge with a score of 77.0, reflecting its strong academic programs and commitment to student success. Richland Center High School (RCHS)

also made significant strides, achieving a score of 70.1 and ranking as one of the top-performing schools in the area. The District's growth-focused approach has helped ensure consistent improvement across all grade levels.

One factor contributing to this success is the District's commitment to attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism. RSD has been able to increase participation in class as well as state testing, which provides a

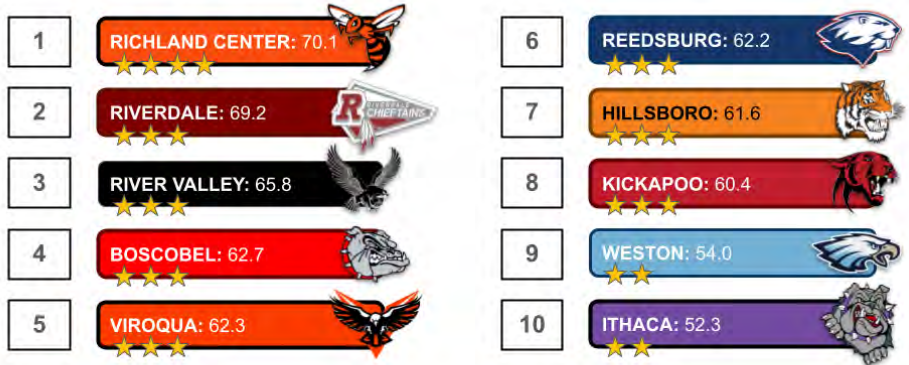
more accurate picture of student learning. With improved participation, RSD can better identify areas of strength and opportunities for growth.

Superintendent Steve Board praised the efforts of students, teachers, and administrators, as well as the ongoing support from parents and community members. "This achievement reflects our shared commitment to student success," Board stated. "We are proud of the progress we've made and excited to build on this momentum in the years to come."

RSD's dedication to student growth and achievement underscores its mission to provide a high-quality education that prepares all learners for a bright future. To explore the district's full report card in more detail visit the Wisconsin DPI website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

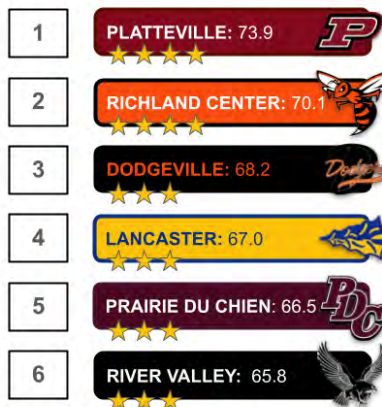
This year's success is not just about numbers—it's about the collective effort of an entire community working together to support its students.

2023-2024 Local High School Report Card Scores



All information was collected using the Wisconsin DPI state report card data for area high schools. A thorough break down of data by school district and school can be accessed at: <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>

2023-2024 SWC Conference Scores



All information was collected using the Wisconsin DPI state report card data for area high schools. A thorough break down of data by school district and school can be accessed at: <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>

RSD Growth:

The Richland School District is part of CESA 3 - a grouping of schools in our geographic area. Our growth scores in the 2021 - 2022 school year put us last in our region. By making strategic curriculum and student centered improvements we have seen our ranking improve significantly year over year. With the continued support of our staff, parents and community we are striving for even greater success.

21-22 School Year

1. Wauzeka - Steuben
2. Iowa - Grant
3. Benton
4. Lancaster
5. Shullsburg
6. Seneca
7. Barneveld
8. Mineral Point
9. River Ridge
10. Fennimore
11. Darlington
12. Potosi
13. Belmont
14. Southwestern
15. Highland
16. La Farge
17. Cuba City
18. Kickapoo
19. River Valley
20. Ithaca
21. Prairie Du Chien
22. Platteville
23. Pecatonica
24. Boscobel
25. Cassville
26. Black Hawk
27. Weston
28. Argyle
29. Dodgeville
30. Riverdale
31. North Crawford
- 32. RICHLAND**

22-23 School Year

1. Wauzeka - Steuben
2. Iowa - Grant
3. Benton
4. Barneveld
5. Lancaster
6. Mineral Point
7. Potosi
8. River Valley
9. Shullsburg
10. Argyle
11. Prairie Du Chien
12. Seneca
13. Fennimore
14. Darlington
15. La Farge
- 16. RICHLAND**
17. Belmont
18. Cassville
19. North Crawford
20. Pecatonica
21. Dodgeville
22. Boscobel
23. Platteville
24. Ithaca
25. Cuba City
26. River Ridge
27. Riverdale
28. Southwestern
29. Highland
30. Kickapoo
31. Black Hawk
32. Weston

23-24 School Year

1. Barneveld
2. Iowa - Grant
3. Wauzeka - Steuben
4. River Valley
5. Potosi
6. Benton
7. Fennimore
8. Platteville
- 9. RICHLAND**
10. Mineral Point
11. La Farge
12. Prairie Du Chien
13. Seneca
14. Argyle
15. Lancaster
16. Dodgeville
17. Belmont
18. Boscobel
19. Cuba City
20. Shullsburg
21. River Ridge
22. Cassville
23. North Crawford
24. Pecatonica
25. Darlington
26. Highland
27. Riverdale
28. Kickapoo
29. Ithaca
30. Black Hawk
31. Southwestern
32. Weston

Spotlight on Curriculum: ORIGO Math

The Richland School District is proud to announce the district-wide implementation of the ORIGO math curriculum following its extraordinary success in 3rd and 6th grades. Last year, students using ORIGO saw standardized test score increases of 103% in 3rd grade and 112% in 6th grade, underscoring the curriculum's effectiveness.

ORIGO emphasizes hands-on learning, critical thinking, and conceptual understanding, helping students build a strong foundation in mathematics. By engaging learners with interactive tools and real-world applications, the program makes math both accessible and enjoyable thereby fostering real world engagement for our kids.

Expanding ORIGO to all grade levels reflects our commitment to equipping every student with the skills they need to excel in standardized tests and more importantly, future careers. We are excited to see how this curriculum transforms learning outcomes across the district and continues to foster a love for math among our students.

RSD Is Supported!

Community support is Vital to the Continued Success of RSD - Understand how your Contribution is Calculated and Collected.

At the Richland School District, we are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our community. Your commitment helps us provide high-quality education, foster innovation, and create opportunities that shape the future for our students. Here's how your contributions play a vital role in our success.

Each year, our funding comes from three main sources: state aid, property taxes, and grants. For the 2024-25 school year, our Revenue Limit—the maximum amount of money a district is allowed to collect—is set at \$18,265,666. Of that amount, the state provides \$11,461,812, leaving the remaining \$6,803,854 to be funded by local property taxes. Your contributions through property taxes are essential to keeping our schools running smoothly and effectively.

Property taxes do more than cover general expenses. This year, they also support several key areas, including

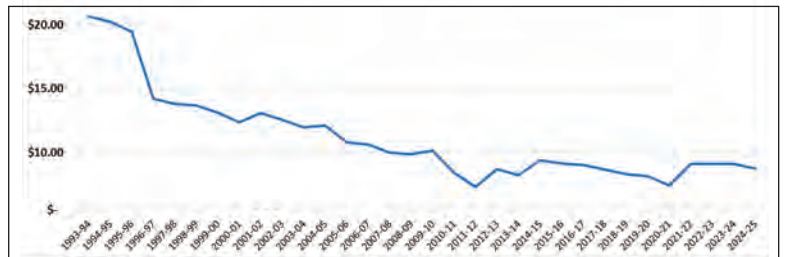
\$120,000 for community programs, \$2,202,174 to manage district debt, and \$909,286 for state-mandated private school choice / voucher programs. In total, property taxes provide \$10,035,314 toward our schools. These funds allow us to meet the diverse needs of our students while delivering on our promise of educational excellence.

In addition to these vital contributions, grants offer extra funding for specific projects. While these funds are designated for certain purposes, such as improving programs or purchasing materials, they allow us to enhance learning opportunities and go beyond our core responsibilities. Grants complement our primary funding sources, helping

us do even more for our students. This year's mill rate—the amount property owners pay per \$1,000 of property value—is \$8.76. This reflects the shared commitment of property owners across the District to investing in the success of our schools. Your tax dollars directly contribute to the resources, programs, and opportunities that make the Richland School District a great place for students to learn and grow.

We're proud to be part of a community that values education and supports its schools. Your ongoing dedication ensures we can continue to provide exceptional learning experiences for every student. Thank you for being a crucial part of our District's success — we couldn't do it without you!

Mill rates through the years. Our current rate of \$8.76 is far below the rates of the 1990s



State Equalized Aid:



Imagine your school needs a big bucket of water to keep everything running—like paying for teachers, school supplies, and keeping the lights on. The bucket has a line near the top showing how much water it needs to be full. That line is called the Revenue Limit, which is the maximum amount of money a school can collect to cover its expenses.

Now, there are two types of water we use to fill the bucket: state aid and property taxes.



How Can You Further Support RSD?

Be A School Board Member

Attend a board meeting - the next one is January 13th at 7pm at RCHS (or you can attend over zoom). Have you ever thought of serving on our board? Two spots will be open in the spring elections



Be a Substitute Teacher or Aide

We're always looking for great substitutes for teaching and non-teaching positions. If you are interested in joining the district please see our website: richland.k12.wi.us



Be a District Cheerleader!

Like and share posts on social media; Attend a sports game or music event; Recommend RSD to any parent or student looking for a great place for their education!



State aid is like water from a public well that the state provides. Every school district gets a different amount based on how much it needs compared to other schools. Richer districts with more expensive properties usually get less water from the state well, while districts with less wealth get more.

Property taxes are like water from a hose that comes from people in our community who own property, like

homes and businesses. Everyone in the community adds a little water through their property taxes to help fill the bucket.

When we pour the state aid into the bucket, it doesn't fill all the way to the line. That's when we use the property tax water to fill the rest of the bucket up to the top.

For example, if our school's bucket (Revenue Limit) needs 10 gallons of

water, and the state gives us 6 gallons of state aid, then we need to add 4 gallons from property taxes to fill it to the top.

The important thing is that no matter how much comes from state aid or property taxes, the bucket always gets filled up to the same line. This system helps make sure every school gets the money it needs to provide for its students, even if some of the water comes from different sources.



RICHLAND
SCHOOL DISTRICT
CENTERED ON STUDENTS



**Find Out Why
RSD is the Place to Be!**



**Referendum
Project
Updates**



**School
News &
Updates**



**State
Testing
Results**

Plus upcoming events and information about school finance.



**Scan to access this content online or
Leer este boletín en español**