

River Ridge Academy's Core Beliefs

We believe:

- ◆ Every student can learn using his or her valuable and unique talents and skills.
- ◆ Learning takes place when the physical, emotional, social and intellectual well-being of all students is assured at every level and during every transition.
- ◆ High expectations of the school community positively impact student success.
- ◆ Early childhood learning experiences form the foundation of future school success.
- ◆ Students learn best when they are engaged and provided with opportunities for problem solving and active participation.
- ◆ All students are entitled to learning experiences so that they can become competent and confident in the skills and knowledge needed to become successful and productive citizens.
- ◆ Investment, involvement and connection of all members of the school community are essential to a student's success.
- ◆ Frequent informal and formal assessment aligned to clearly defined learning objectives will provide improved student achievement.
- ◆ The collection analysis and use of data from a variety of sources are critical to making decisions.
- ◆ Students should be prepared to compete and contribute in a changing global and multilingual society.

School Profile

River Ridge Academy is a one story school that lies in a wooded area of Bluffton, SC. RRA's success has expanded into our second year. We continue to foster a culture of learning that supports "whole-child" development in all that we do. This year our school was proud to earn its AdvancED S.T.E.M. Certification, a great accomplishment for such a young school.

We've continued to develop and take pride in our community connections, and are honored to have partnered with 28 local businesses. RRA was also the recipient of several grants, including the ADA Sun Shade grant. Our students and families love their school and being Raiders. The interest in RRA in school choice makes it abundantly clear that we are a desirable school.

River Ridge Academy's population consists of 49% female and 51% male students. The ethnic composition of River Ridge Academy's population is as follows: 58% White, 11% African-American, 26% Hispanic, 4% Multi-Racial, and 2% Asian. The percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch is 39%.

River Ridge Academy Tenants

- ◆ Building a culture of learning through *Morning Meeting* and *Responsive Classroom*
 - ◆ PLTW Kindergarten through 8th grade rigorous Math and Science curriculum
 - ◆ Balanced Literacy in all grade levels
 - ◆ Literacy/Math Intervention Teachers/Coaches
 - ◆ Master schedule to reflect inclusive education
 - ◆ Wrap-around interventions for a diagnostic approach to servicing all students
 - ◆ Job embedded literacy and math professional development
- Positive Actions for School Improvement**
- ◆ Researched and implemented best practices for closing the achievement gap
 - ◆ Strategically hired and placed effective teachers to meet the needs of all students
 - ◆ Implemented research-based instructional strategies to meet the needs of all students

How parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that lead to identification in school improvement status:

- ◆ Attend Parent Teacher Conferences
- ◆ Read with your child 30 minutes each night
- ◆ Use teacher provided apps to increase learning
- ◆ Understand your child's MAP, SC Ready, and PASS scores
- ◆ Attend special school sponsored events
- ◆ Attend and participate in SIC and One Raider
- ◆ Volunteer and collaborate with teachers



River Ridge Academy

3050 River Ridge Drive
Bluffton, SC 29910
843-836-4600 (phone)
843-836-4850 (fax)

PLTW CHOICE PROGRAM
MONTESSORI CHOICE PROGRAM

Annual Report to the Parents 2016-2017



Beaufort County School District

Gary McCulloch, Principal

Mission Statement:

The mission of River Ridge Academy, in partnership with Beaufort County Schools, parents, and community, is to prepare children for a successful future by providing an environment that supports whole-child development through social, emotional and academic support.

RIVER RIDGE ACADEMY
3050 River Ridge Drive

School Improvement Council Mission:

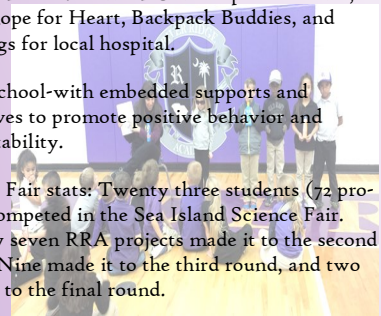
The SIC is an advisory body to the principal that improves student achievement by providing information to stakeholders, and promoting the school's progress in an effort to meet state and district goals.

School Renewal Plan Goals for 2016-2017

- ◆ School Climate (parent involvement, safe and healthy schools, etc.)
- ◆ Providing quality teachers and administrators with a common vision
- ◆ Teaching and assessing for student learning and student achievement

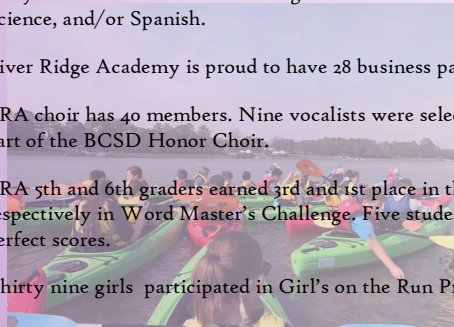
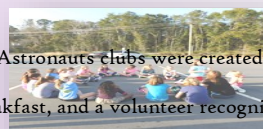
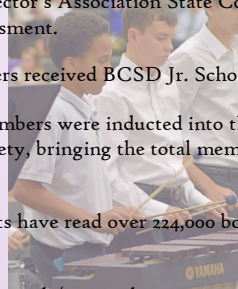
RRA Points of Pride

- ◇ RRA maintained top MAP scores in the district.
- ◇ AdvancED S.T.E.M. certification was earned.
- ◇ Partnered with May River Dermatology or American Dermatology Association sun shade grant application. RRA was awarded \$8,000 grant for sun shades. SunWise program continued in P.E.
- ◇ Our students participated in several service projects to include: Bluffton Self Help Food Drive, Jump Rope for Heart, Backpack Buddies, and stockings for local hospital.
- ◇ PBIS School-with embedded supports and incentives to promote positive behavior and accountability.
- ◇ Science Fair stats: Twenty three students (72 projects) competed in the Sea Island Science Fair. Twenty seven RRA projects made it to the second round, Nine made it to the third round, and two made it to the final round.
- ◇ eCyber mission: Forty five students participated in 14 projects. One 6th grade team won state, earning \$1,000 savings bonds, and advancing to the Southeast Region Competition.
- ◇ Six Green Steps School Projects: Recycle Measures, Let Us Breathe!, Bottle Cap Art, Raider Garden, Clean Team, and Composting Young.
- ◇ RRA officially adopted a portion of Bluffton Parkway. Clean ups were held under the direction of Beaufort County Public Works and PalmettoPride.org.
- ◇ Continuation of the Watch D.O.G.S. program where fathers of students have committed to spending time in our school each week.
- ◇ First Math/S.T.E.M. Showcase Night, which was well attended.
- ◇ First Talent Night was held, with 30 students in 26 acts.



RRA Points of Pride continued...

- ◇ RRA has received numerous grants to include: Reflex Math, ADA, Lowcountry Foundation, and Foundation for Education Excellence.
- ◇ Fifteen new books have been donated to the RRA library for the *Donate A Book Program*.
- ◇ Eleven RRA student poems and artwork pieces were published in the BCSD River of Words Publication.
- ◇ RRA Robotics team earned 2nd place at the *Storm the Citadel Mystery Robotics Competition*; students also participated in the Lego League Qualifier in Walterboro and the Lego Golf Competition.
- ◇ 7th and 8th grade band earned Superior ratings in both the BCSD Concert Performance Assessment and the South Carolina Band Director's Association State Concert Performance Assessment.
- ◇ Ten RRA 8th graders received BCSD Jr. Scholar Honors.
- ◇ Forty five new members were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, bringing the total membership to seventy seven.
- ◇ Elementary students have read over 224,000 books on RAZ Kids.
- ◇ Raider Reading Carnival/magic show was enjoyed by 360 PreK-4th graders that reached their S.U.R.F.S. Up goals.
- ◇ RRA School Store and a morning math tutoring program were established.
- ◇ Both Yearbook and Young Astronauts clubs were created.
- ◇ Bus driver appreciation breakfast, and a volunteer recognition banquet were created this year.
- ◇ Forty five RRA students earned high school credits in Math, Science, and/or Spanish.
- ◇ River Ridge Academy is proud to have 28 business partners.
- ◇ RRA choir has 40 members. Nine vocalists were selected to be part of the BCSD Honor Choir.
- ◇ RRA 5th and 6th graders earned 3rd and 1st place in the nation, respectively in Word Master's Challenge. Five students had perfect scores.
- ◇ Thirty nine girls participated in Girl's on the Run Program.
- ◇ Friendship Benches were installed on each playground.



School Sponsored Activities and Opportunities

- ◇ Back to School Night
- ◇ Grandparent's Day Luncheon
- ◇ Thanksgiving Luncheon
- ◇ Student of the Month Luncheons at Outback
- ◇ Monthly Huddles - Character Development
- ◇ Quarterly Celebrations of Achievements
- ◇ Read Across America Week
- ◇ Fall/Spring Fundraisers
- ◇ School Spirit Weeks
- ◇ PLTW and Montessori Showcase
- ◇ Winter/Spring Musical Programs w/ Art Show
- ◇ Science and Invention Fair
- ◇ Open House and Informational Parent Nights
- ◇ Field Day
- ◇ PBIS Incentive Events for students
- ◇ ESOL Nights
- ◇ Raider Reading Lounge
- ◇ Raider Reading Carnival and Magic Show
- ◇ Watch D.O.G.S.
- ◇ Math/ S.T.E.M. Showcase Night
- ◇ Raider Talent Night

