

## 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 has enjoyed a very successful opening school year. We have developed a culture of learning that supports "whole-child" development in all that we do. Our students and families love their school. We have reached capacity in one year and our choice applications make it abundantly clear that we are a desirable school of choice. River Ridge Academy prides itself on community connections. We have established a Watch D.O.G.S. program with over 160 dads making a difference with mentorship in our school. We have over 200 volunteers and all of our events are heavily attended by family and community members.

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: 61% White, 10% African-American, 24% Hispanic, 3% Multi-Racial, and 2% Asian. The percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch is 41%.

## River Ridge Academy Tenants

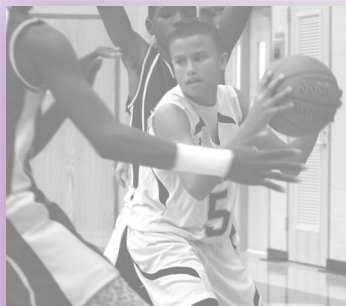
- ◆ PLTW Kindergarten thru 8th grade rigorous Math and Science curriculum
- ◆ Balanced Literacy in all grade levels
- ◆ Literacy/Math Intervention Teachers/Coaches
- ◆ Master schedule to reflect inclusive education
- ◆ Building a culture of learning through *Morning Meeting* and *Responsive Classroom*
- ◆ 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
- ◇ Have your child use Compass Learning at home (<http://odyssey.beaufort.k12.sc.us/childu/index.html>)
- ◇ Understand your child's MAP and PASS scores
- ◇ Attend special school sponsored events
- ◇ Attend and participate in SIC and PTO
- ◇ Volunteer and collaborate with teachers



# River Ridge Academy

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Bluffton, SC 29910  
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PLTW CHOICE PROGRAM  
MONTESSORI CHOICE PROGRAM

## *Annual Report to the Parents 2015-2016*



### 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 info to stakeholders, and promoting the school's progress in an effort to meet state and district goals.

### School Renewal Plan Goals for 2015-2016

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Documenting & using results for continuous school improvement.

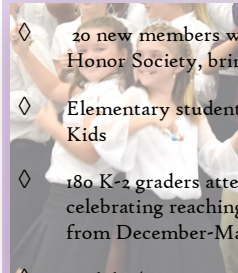
## RRA Points of Pride

- ◇ Top MAP scores in the district
- ◇ Interventionist who provide small group instruction
- ◇ Inclusive education approach to service all children
- ◇ Wrap-around interventions to meet the needs of all students
- ◇ Several community service projects: Bluffton Self Help Food Drive, Jump Rope for Heart
- ◇ 21st century technology; 1-to-1 iPad's for grades K-5 and Dell Tablets for 6-8
- ◇ PLTW/Montessori Choice Programs
- ◇ PBIS School-with embedded supports and incentives to promote positive behavior and accountability
- ◇ Science Fair-48 students (21 projects) competed in the Sea Island Science Fair. 12 RRA projects made it to the second round of judging
- ◇ eCybermission teams (21 students) competed in Online S.T.E.M. Competition Sponsored by U.S. Army
- ◇ eCybermission teams created a school wide recycle program. Plastics team placed 2nd at the Sea Island Regional Science Fair with their results from this project
- ◇ Student Council organized food drive that allowed RRA to donate 1,000 food items to Bluffton Self Help
- ◇ RRA students have participated in school and highway clean ups under the direction of Beaufort County Public Works and PalmettoPride.org with a goal of adopting a portion of Bluffton Parkway
- ◇ Implementation of the WATCH D.O.G.S. Program. 160 WATCH D.O.G.S. have committed to spending time in classrooms and hallways each day



## RRA Points of Pride continued...

- ◇ Over 2,000 volunteer hours have been logged at the school by RRA families and community members
- ◇ RRA has received \$8,735.12 in grants
- ◇ 30 new books have been donated to the RRA library for the *Donate A Book Program*
- ◇ 12 RRA poems and artwork pieces were published in the Beaufort County School District River of Words Publication
- ◇ RRA Robotics team earned Honorable Mention at the *Storm the Citadel Mystery Robotics Competition*; students also participated in the *Lego League Qualifier* in Walterboro
- ◇ 7th and 8th grade band students received Superior Ratings in Sight Reading and On Stage categories at the Concert Band Assessment
- ◇ 7 RRA 8th graders received BCSD Jr. Scholar Honors
- ◇ 20 new members were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, bringing the total membership to 44
- ◇ Elementary students have read over 190,000 books on RAZ Kids
- ◇ 180 K-2 graders attended the Raider Reading Carnival celebrating reaching their goal of reading 100 Raz Kids books from December-March
- ◇ 15 clubs/extracurricular programs created
- ◇ 9 RRA 8th graders will leave RRA having earned high school credits in Math, Science and/or Spanish
- ◇ SunWise program implemented in P.E./Health classes to teach students the importance of sun protection in our region
- ◇ 5th grader, Jay Bodie, was selected as a finalist to participate in the 2016 Sodexo Future Chef competition
- ◇ PTO has raised over \$35,000 to use towards teacher grants, schoolwide events and student incentives
- ◇ 8 4th grade students selected for the BCSD Elementary Honor Choir



## School Sponsored Activities and Opportunities

- ◇ Back to School Night
- ◇ Thanksgiving Luncheon
- ◇ Student of the Month Luncheon
- ◇ Monthly Huddle- Character Development
- ◇ Quarterly Celebrations of Achievements
- ◇ Read Across America Week
- ◇ Fall/Spring Fundraiser
- ◇ School Spirit Weeks
- ◇ PLTW and Montessori Showcase
- ◇ Winter/Spring Musical Programs
- ◇ Science and Invention Fair
- ◇ Fall Festival and Carnival
- ◇ Open House and Informational Parent Nights
- ◇ Field Day
- ◇ PBIS Incentive Events for students
- ◇ Coffee and Conversation
- ◇ ESOL Nights
- ◇ Kid's Club
- ◇ Raider Reading Carnival

