

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 third year. We continue to foster a culture of learning that supports "whole-child" development in all that we do. We've also grown our community connections and are honored to have partnered with 31 local businesses. RRA was also the recipient of several grants. River Ridge prides itself on community connections. Our students and families love their school and being Raiders. The interest in RRA in school of choice makes it abundantly clear that we are a desirable school. River Ridge Academy's population consists of 48% female and 52% 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 43%.



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
- ◇ 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 2017-18



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 2017-18

- ◆ 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

- ◇ Top MAP scores in the district
- ◇ AdvanED S.T.E.M. certified
- ◇ Partnered with Tiger Bass for the Fall Fun Run; RRA was awarded \$15,000 towards shade structures
- ◇ Collected over 1,000 pounds of candy in partnership with Sea Smiles Dentistry to send to the troops
- ◇ 21st century technology; 1-to-1 iPad's for grades K-2 and HP/Dell Tablets for 3-8
- ◇ PLTW/Montessori Choice Programs
- ◇ PBIS School-with embedded supports and incentives to promote positive behavior and accountability
- ◇ Recognized with PRIDE Award at the Special Olympics
- ◇ Science Fair—38 students competed in the Sea Island Science Fair; 3 top finalist in various categories, Honorable Mention, and Best in Show
- ◇ Storm the Citadel Robotics Competition— one group earned Honorable Mention, while another team came in 1st Place
- ◇ Green Steps School Projects: Raider Garden, Recycle Measures, Adopt-A-Highway clean up program
- ◇ Student Council organized food drive that allowed RRA to donate 1,000 food items to Bluffton Self Help
- ◇ Math Night / STEM Showcase was well attended
- ◇ Gifted and Talented Informational Parent Night was well attended
- ◇ 3rd grader, Jocelyn Hastilow, placed 2nd in the 2017-18 Sodexo Future Chef competition
- ◇ Nine students made the Beaufort County School District Honor's Choir
- ◇ Implemented student-led morning show
- ◇ Eleven RRA student poems and artwork pieces were published in the BCSD River of Words Publication



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 numerous grants to include ADA, Lowcountry Foundation and Foundation for Education Excellence
- ◇ One student placed in the Region 4 Honor's Band
- ◇ 13 RRA 8th graders received BCSD Jr. Scholar Honors
- ◇ 52 new members were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society; bringing our new membership to 90
- ◇ Elementary students have read over 255,000 books on RAZ Kids
- ◇ 210 K-2 graders attended the Raider Reading Carnival celebrating reaching their goal of reading 100 Raz Kids books from December-March
- ◇ 171 high school credits earned by RRA 7th and 8th grade students
- ◇ 3 students earned perfect scores for the National WordMasters Challenge
- ◇ 5 students achieved the max score on SCREADY and SCPASS
- ◇ Volleyball District Champions
- ◇ Chess Club was implemented for Kindergarten –8th grade students
- ◇ 75 girls participated in the Girl's on the Run Program
- ◇ Raider Reading Carnival / Magic Show was enjoyed by 420 PreK-4th graders that reached their S.U.R.F.S. Up Goals
- ◇ Establishment of River Ridge Academy Foundation to serve teachers and students
- ◇ 100 students attended Good News Club



School Sponsored Activities and Opportunities

- ◇ Back to School Night
- ◇ Thanksgiving Luncheon
- ◇ Student of the Month Luncheon at Outback
- ◇ Raider Award Celebration at Station 300
- ◇ Monthly Huddle— Character Development
- ◇ Quarterly Celebrations of Achievements
- ◇ Read Across America Week
- ◇ Fall/Spring Fundraiser
- ◇ School Spirit Weeks
- ◇ Montessori Showcase
- ◇ Winter/Spring Musical Programs
- ◇ Science Fair
- ◇ Open House
- ◇ Field Day
- ◇ PBIS Incentive Events for students
- ◇ ESOL Nights
- ◇ Raider Reading Carnival and Magic Show
- ◇ 8th Grade Formal
- ◇ Math Night / STEM Showcase
- ◇ Morning Math Tutoring
- ◇ Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast
- ◇ Career Fair
- ◇ GT Night
- ◇ BMX Character Assembly

