

Mustang News



River Valley School District
www.rivervalleyschools.org



May 2019
Issue



The Fitness Center is open for community use during the following dates/times:

On School Days
Monday through Thursday
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Summer Hours
(June 17–August 29)**
Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



From the Superintendent . . .

With Memorial Day fast approaching, the 2018/19 school year will soon come to an end, and our students will be on summer break. The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2019 will be held on Friday June 7th starting at 7:00 p.m. in the MHS Gymnasium. The valedictorian for this year's graduating class is Josh Clark, and the salutatorian is Jessie Rieth. All community members are invited to attend this event to celebrate the achievements of our graduating seniors.

Congratulations to our newest inductees in the National Honor Society—Taylor Volstorff, Evan Strefling, Josh Kidder, Aiden Bettig, Ashton McNabb and Brianna Martin. Thank you to all of our community members who attended one of our Community Lunch Programs this year. We will continue this program again next school year during the months of September, October, November, March, April and May. Our community calendar will be published again next school year, and will be mailed out to all postal patrons in August. Thank you to all of the community members who have supported this project by advertising in the calendar.

This summer, we will be providing the State of Michigan's summer food service program at five locations throughout the District: Sawyer Trinity Lutheran Church, New Troy Community Center, Galien Township Library, Chikaming Elementary and Three Oaks Elementary. Please see page 2 for details.

Our improvement projects will continue this summer with the following work taking place: renovate four MHS student bathrooms, replace the classroom doors at Three Oaks, renovate the offices and create secured secondary entrances at all three buildings.

The fitness center will continue to be open for community use during the summer. Summer hours (June 17 to August 29) will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. During the school year, the fitness center will be open Mondays through Thursdays when school is in session.

Please contact me at 269-756-7675 if you have any ideas, thoughts, questions or concerns.

William J. Kearney

Community Calendar Coming in August

The River Valley School District Community Calendar will be published again this year, and will be mailed out in August. Thank you to the community members who support this project by advertising in the calendar.



CLASS OF 2019

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2019 will take place on Friday June 7th starting at 7:00 p.m. in the MHS Gymnasium. This year, the River Valley community will celebrate the graduation of 30 students.

The valedictorian for this year's graduating class is Josh Clark (pictured right), and the salutatorian is Jessie Rieth (pictured left).

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and their parents for their achievements.



2019/20 Athletic Physicals

The Southwest Medical Clinic will be offering athletic physicals for the 2019/20 school year on Tuesday, June 4, 2019. They will be held at River Valley Middle/High School beginning at 8:00 a.m. The physicals will be done during the school day. The physical would include all sports for next school year. **In order to participate in a sport or to begin practice your child MUST have a physical and your insurance information on file.**

Advance registration with required pre-payment is going on now in the RVMHS office. The cost is only \$30. Cash or checks are accepted. Checks should be made payable to: Lakeland Medical Practices (LMP), and the student's name is to be written in the memo line.

Take advantage of this opportunity since it assures you that your child will be all set to begin their sport for next school year.

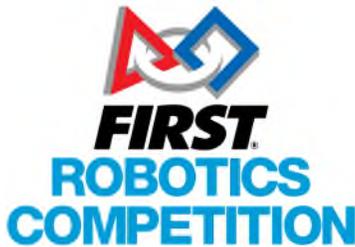
If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Amy Vollman at 269-756-9541, extension 1139.



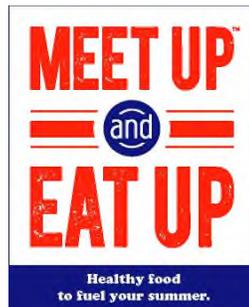
7th Grade Choice Reading

Seventh graders have been enjoying new "comfy" chairs for choice reading time. Anne Hawkinson received a classroom grant from Fifth Third Bank, which allowed the class to purchase 6 new plush, oversized saucer chairs. Thank you to Fifth Third Bank.

Submitted by Anne Hawkinson



River Valley returned to the First Robotics competition this year with the "Mustang Gearheads" Team #7814. River Valley staff member Carole Ross served as the team's mentor.



FREE LUNCH!

"MEET UP AND EAT UP" PROGRAM

River Valley will run the Michigan Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program in the following locations this summer:

- **Sawyer Trinity Lutheran Church**—5791 Sawyer Road in Sawyer
Monday through Friday, June 17 to August 29
Lunch: 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
- **New Troy Community Center**—13372 California Road in New Troy
Monday through Friday, June 17 to August 29
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Galien Township Library**—302 N. Cleveland in Galien
Monday through Friday, June 17 to August 29
Lunch: 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- **Chikaming Elementary**—13742 Three Oaks Road in Sawyer
Monday through Thursday, July 8 through August 8
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Three Oaks Elementary**—100 Oak Street in Three Oaks
Monday through Thursday, June 17 to August 29
Lunch: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

There is no charge for the meals to children 18 and under. The cost for adults is \$1.00 for breakfast and \$2.00 for lunch. For more information, contact Jenny Jones at 756-7606.

NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

River Valley's Phoebus Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted six students into the organization on April 28th. Selections were based upon academic record, leadership ability, character and service to the school and community. Initial consideration for candidacy is a 3.60 cumulative GPA. Other pillars of NHS membership are evaluated by the candidate's teachers and someone from the community that knows the student outside of the classroom. River Valley's newest NHS members are: Taylor Volstorf, Evan Strefling, Josh Kidder, Aiden Bettig, Ashton McNabb and Brianna Martin.

Submitted by Pam Kaniuga



SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM "RELEASE DAY"
 On Wednesday May 8th, River Valley kindergarten, third grade and AP Environmental Science students participated in the first ever Salmon in the Classroom release event. Three Oaks Principal Patrick Zuccala, Kindergarten Teacher Mark Gallagher, and MHS Science Teacher Pam Kaniuga facilitated the Salmon in the Classroom program at River Valley since its inception back in October. Students at all three buildings participated in various activities and lessons related to the raising of Chinook (King) Salmon from "eyed" eggs to smolt. The salmon eggs hatched over Thanksgiving break and the students have been caring for them ever since. On May 8th, it was time to say goodbye to the salmon as our students released them into the Galien River to begin the next phase of their lives. The release event was held at the Galien River County Park in New Buffalo, where we hope to participate in an annual fish release for years to come. We would like to thank the following people who assisted RV in starting their Salmon in the Classroom program—Tracy Page from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Chief Naturalist Derek Pelk from the Berrien County Parks, and the Southwest Michigan Steelheaders who sponsored the elementary school fish tanks. We look forward to continuing this program for the foreseeable future; and developing our students' knowledge of the natural beauty that our area of Michigan affords to everyone.

Submitted by Patrick Zuccala



From the Desk of Three Oaks Township Library Director Cheryl Kersey -

Summertime is a fun and exciting time for everyone filled with outdoor activities and sports – but don't forget reading! Research has shown that summer reading can help students avoid the "summer slide," a decline in reading ability. We have you covered at the Three Oaks Township Public Library! This year's summer reading theme is "A Universe of Stories." Join us for activities, programs, and prizes for readers and keep your family reading all summer. Brochures will be available soon. Also, a summer reading program for adults will be offered again.

Did you know you can now check out the internet? We have mobile hot spots available for check out with your library card and a \$25 deposit. These hot spots allow you to connect up to five devices to Wi-Fi wherever there is a cell phone signal.

If you are traveling this summer, don't forget to check out the Michigan Activity Pass (MAP) at <http://www.plymouthrockets.com/michiganactivitypass/> You can use your library card to "check out" free or discounted admission passes, and other exclusive offers, to hundreds of Michigan state parks, campgrounds, museums, and more.

Stop in and see your local library!

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed




THE POKAGON FUND

Thank you to The Pokagon Fund for funding the following bus trips this school year:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Kindergarten | Potawatomi Zoo |
| 1st Grade | Lincoln Park Zoo |
| 2nd Grade | Curious Kids Museum/Discovery Zone |
| 4th Grade | Lansing Capitol |
| 5th Grade | Art Institute |
| 7th Grade | Michigan Adventure |
| 8th Grade | Field Museum |
| 9th Grade | Grand Valley State University |
| 10th Grade | Western Michigan University |
| 11th Grade | Purdue Northwestern University |
| Special Ed. | Michigan Career Technical Institute |



DISTRICT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Listed below are updates from the February, March and April District School Improvement Team meetings:

Chikaming and Three Oaks School Buildings

- Many students have been dismissed from Title I services as they have reached their grade level goals in math and reading.
- Grade level teams continue to meet to discuss strengths and weaknesses within their classrooms.
- Accountability data was reviewed by the leadership team, and action steps were developed to improve student learning.
- Some staff have attended the Orton-Gillingham training, which is a phonics-based intervention program.

Middle/High School Building

- A report on the High School’s AdvancEd Accreditation review was shared.
- The restorative practices training that the staff received is having a positive impact on behavior data.
- There was discussion about a student trend of mediocrity and apathy that is extending across grade levels.
- The “Think Interactive” assembly, which focuses on safe driving, was presented to the students.

Other Items

- The DSIT committee recommended to the Board four nominees to receive the “Alumni of Distinction” award.

Upcoming Meetings (All meetings start at 4:30 p.m. and are held in the MHS Library)

- Wednesday May 29

All parents and community members are welcome to attend these meetings.



LAKESIDE GARDEN WALK

Southwest Michigan’s premier **LAKESIDE GARDEN WALK** is back! The walk will again feature eight unique gardens that represents Harbor Country. Within short driving distances of each other (1 to 6 miles), participants will experience a range of delightful settings from lakefront to urban settings; from rustic to minimalistic contemporary styles; and from masterful homeowner to professional designs and installations.

June 22, 2019
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Early bird tickets \$35.00
After June 20th \$45.00

Visit www.thelakesideassociation.com for more information about ticket sales online, from local vendors or by mail. For other inquiries, call 773-343-1680.

Sponsored by The Lakeside Association of Harbor Country’s Lakeside, Michigan. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund benefiting high school seniors in the River Valley School District.

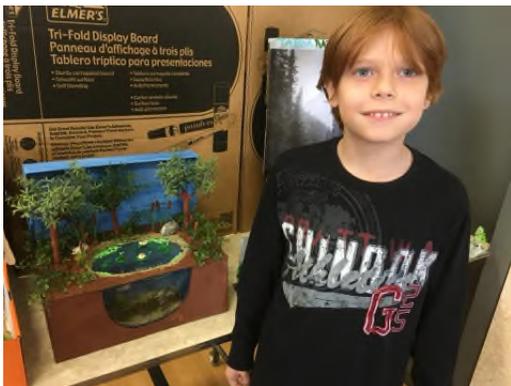
Submitted by Theresa Richter





ELEMENTARY “SUPER SATURDAY”
 “Super Saturday” in Three Oaks was a huge success. All of our elementary students showed off what they learned and the hard work that they put into their projects—displaying their poetry and other writings, dioramas and Science Fair projects. Our fifth graders shared short speeches about the historical figure they chose to represent for the Wax Museum. The Elementary Art Show at the Three Oaks Township Library displayed amazing works of all kinds from all ages.

Submitted by Terry Bronson



STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

In April 2018, River Valley partnered with the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) to revise the District’s strategic plan which expired in 2018. Input was sought from community, student and staff forums as well as through an electronic survey. The Strategic Planning Team of 28 community members, parents, students and staff met for an all-day planning retreat on October 27, 2018.

Throughout the planning process, the community expressed high expectations of the District. The following clear and consistent themes emerged from this process:

- While much more work needs to be done, River Valley is headed in the right direction with positive momentum behind academic growth and instructional reforms.
- The future growth and success of River Valley must be a top community priority that requires support from all stakeholders.
- As a District, we must do a better job of positively engaging and aligning internal and external stakeholders around common goals and strategies.

The 2018-2023 strategic plan identified five strategic goal areas: Academics/Programs, Learning Environment/Culture, Personnel/Leadership, Operations, and Communications/Community Engagement. A summary of the strategic plan is located on the opposite page. The strategic planning process was supported through a grant from The Pokagon Fund.

Questions regarding the new strategic plan can be directed to your student’s building principal or Superintendent Will Kearney at 756-7675.



SKILLED TRADES FIELD TRIP

In February, students toured the Michigan Career and Technical Institute in Plainwell, Michigan. MCTI has 13 training programs in high-demand skilled trade industries. Students were able to interact with current students and instructors. Instructors gave students a basic overview of their trade program and discussed the current hiring trends in that industry.

MCTI is supported by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services. For eligible students, tuition and room and board are free. All uniforms, books and basic equipment for the student’s trade area are also supplied to the students at no charge.

Submitted by Michelle Sykora



River Valley School District Strategic Plan Summary | 2018-2023

Mission

Provide a Quality Education for all students.

Vision

All River Valley Students will demonstrate Mustang PRIDE.

Board of Education

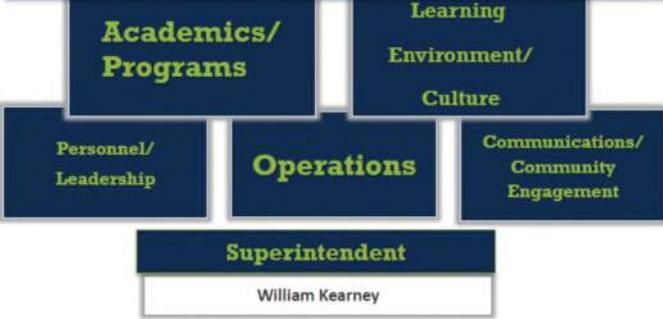
David Whitlow, President
 Vickie Wagner, Vice President
 Michael Ehlert, Secretary
 Phillip Bender, Treasurer
 Jennifer Alderink
 John Pawlik
 Gail Freehling

Belief Statements

We believe...

Do Our Best Care For Others Love Our School	Preparation Respect Integrity Dependability Effort
---	--

Strategic Goal Areas



Approved by River Valley School District Board of Education on 2/25/2019.



River Valley School District Strategic Plan Summary | 2018-2023

Academics/Programs

Goal Statement: We will engage all learners by expanding programs for every student.

First Year Objectives:
 Further develop Math Curriculum, while implementing STEM and advancing CTE

Learning Environment/Culture

Goal Statement: Foster a diverse learning environment that supports healthy living, family involvement and social/emotional needs.

First Year Objectives:
 Shift to a focus on whole child education, including Social/Emotional learning, Physical wellness and expand Counseling abilities.

Communications/Community Engagement

Goal Statement: Focus on communication to improve the visibility of extra-curricular programs as a means to increase community pride.

First Year Objectives:
 Expand Communication plan, Develop Social Media plan, implement a perception survey and create a Healthy Families task force.

Personnel/Leadership

Goal Statement: Develop a climate and culture that fosters staff retention, where the Administration listens to staff and supports continuous education.

First Year Objectives:
 Create a Teacher Cadet Program for those students interested in Teaching, create a New Staff Academy with mentors and expand PD exposure staff wide.

Operations

Goal Statement: Ensure that district facilities are properly maintained and upgraded as funding permits.

First Year Objectives:
 Create a Building Depreciation plan, District Emergency plan, School Safety Survey to be conducted and address bussing system.

“Home of the Mustangs”

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
15480 Three Oaks Road
Three Oaks, Michigan 49128
www.rivervalleyschools.org

Main Number: (269) 756-9541

Chikaming Elementary: (269) 426-4204

Three Oaks Elementary: (269) 756-9050

Middle/High School: (269) 756-7872

*****ECRWSS***
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
THREE OAKS,
MICH.
Permit No. 16

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, “Protected Classes”), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District’s “Compliance Officers”: Mrs. Heidi Clark, Chikaming Principal (extension 1701) or Mr. Patrick Breen, Middle/High School Principal (extension 1032), 15480 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks, MI 49128, 269-756-9541.

Upcoming Dates:

- May 20 School Board Meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m.
- May 23 Elementary E-Club Run—Three Oaks 3:00 p.m.
- May 27 No School for students and staff—Memorial Day
- May 29 District School Improvement Team Meeting - MHS Library 4:30 p.m.
- Senior Awards Night—MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
- May 31 Seniors Last Day of Classes
- June 2 Baccalaureate Ceremony—MHS Auditorium 4:00 p.m.
- June 7 Class of 2019 Graduation Ceremony 7:00 p.m.
- June 9 Flag Day Parade—Three Oaks 3:00 p.m.
- June 10 RV Challenge—Chikaming
- June 11 Half day of school for students—MHS Exams
RV Challenge—Three Oaks
- June 12 Half day of school for students—MHS Exams
- June 13 Half day of school for students—MHS Exams
Last Day of School
- June 24 School Board Meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m.
- July 8 Summer School starts—Chikaming
- July 22 School Board Meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m.
- August 8 Summer School ends—Chikaming
- August 26 School Board Meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m.
- August 27 Back to School Night—MHS 4:00 p.m.
Back to School Night—Chikaming 6:00 p.m.
Back to School Night—Three Oaks 6:00 p.m.
- August 28 Labor Day
- September 2 First Day of School—Half day for students
- September 3 School Board Meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m.
- September 27 Early Dismissal for Teacher Training



Follow us on social media to stay updated on the various events and happenings of our District.

Facebook: River Valley School District
Twitter: @RVSchoolDistMI
Instagram: rivervalleymustangs



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS ON THE RADIO

River Valley School District Board of Education meetings are recorded and broadcast over WRHC 106.7 LPFM. The scheduled broadcast times are Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Facility Use

Our District facilities are available for use by community groups for meetings and other events. In many instances, the use of District facilities is available for little or no cost. For more information, please contact the office of the school building that you would like to use.