

A group of diverse students, including teenagers and young children, are standing outdoors in winter clothing. The students are looking in various directions, some towards the camera and others away. They are wearing puffer jackets, hoodies, and hats. The background shows a school building and some trees.

# RIVERDALE

## The Riverdale School District 2024 Strategic Plan

OUTLINING OUR STRATEGIC VISION | 2019-2024



# Introduction

They say the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. When it comes to strategic planning, that first step is often a step up for an aerial view of the current reality. In order to retain the many aspects that make the Riverdale School District so special, we had to build those key factors into our roadmap to the future.

Right off the bat, Riverdale assembled an extensive 35-person planning team — comprising students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, and members of the school board, Parent Teacher Club and Riverdale School Foundation — to gain insights, gauge community preferences and get everyone on the same page in determining future priorities. The team met several times and the fruits of its labor were presented to eight community groups for input. In total, 113 people weighed in on the process.

Four overarching themes emerged to shape what Riverdale's future will look like — innovative educational model, district stability, climate and culture, and curriculum and instruction.

This strategic plan stretches our district to set challenging goals that propel our community's vision for what learning can be for our students. The plan is now a working document that includes specific actions and timelines necessary to achieve the objectives between now and the year 2024. This working plan is a base from which we can measure progress toward achieving the desired results. As we progress, it's imperative to align workforce and financial resources to the strategic goals.

In order to reach those goals, we need our entire school community — administrators, staff, students, parents and neighbors — to be excited for where we're headed, united in our focus and willing to own this vision for our district's future. Our strategic planning work has defined what we're striving for as a district and what we aspire to do. We hope you are as inspired as we are to take the next steps.





## Our Vision

Students learn to use their minds well, engage creatively and act compassionately.

## Our Mission

Riverdale develops inquisitive, imaginative and eager learners. Our students demonstrate academic mastery through exhibition to become effective communicators and responsible leaders.



## Preamble to the Strategic Plan

Riverdale is more than a school district. It is a community. One united by its dedication to its children and its desire to put education first. Our community shares in our triumphs, sees us through our challenges and shapes what our schools and our students become. Therefore our strategic plan is the result of shared community goals and, while it rightly puts our students first, it includes the entire community in its focus on creating an engaged, collaborative and inclusive environment.



THEME 1

# Educational Model

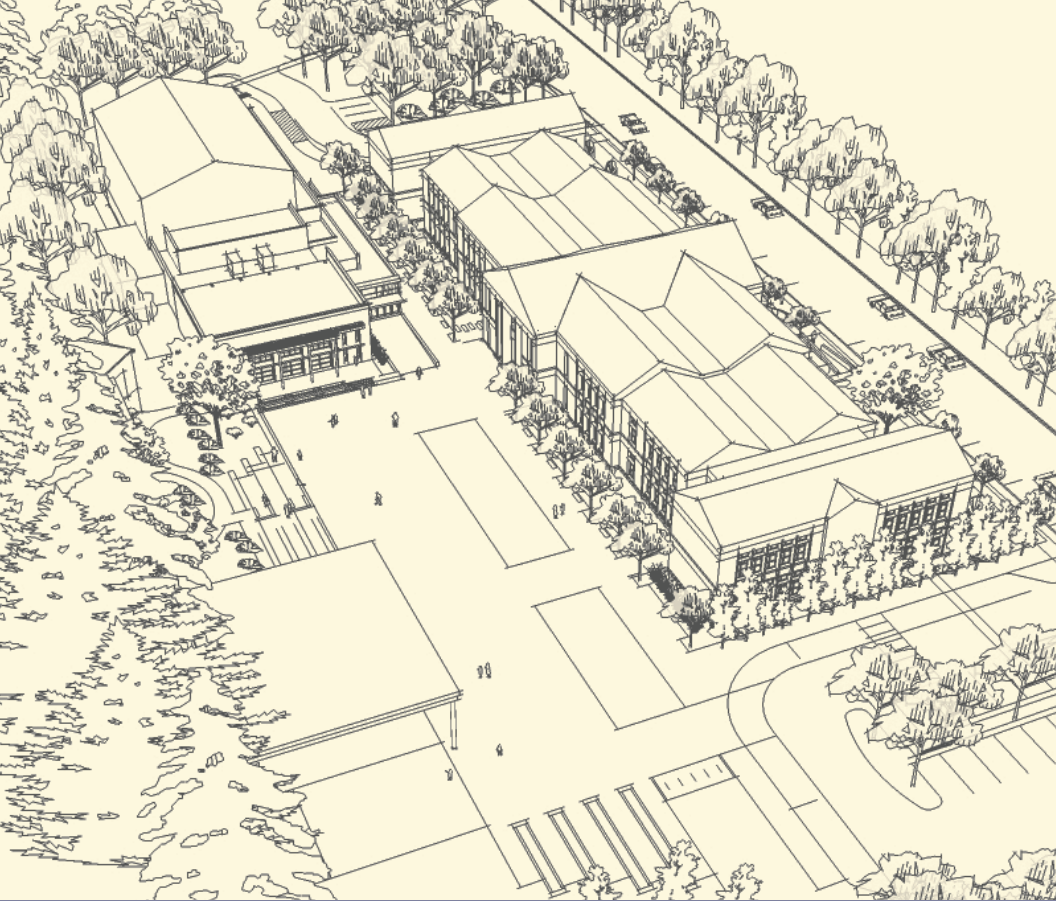
We support, challenge and prepare every student to succeed in college, career and life.

## WHAT YOU WILL SEE:

*Students and educators collaborate in relevant, challenging and personalized learning that is shaped by student voice, extends beyond the classroom and draws the world into the school.*

- **Student-centered:** Responsive to student voice and providing all students with ongoing, future-oriented guidance and support.
- **Challenging:** A challenging, multi-dimensional program designed to equip all students for success in college and beyond.
- **Flexible:** Delivering personalized learning in all settings, with flexible schedules that promote innovative instruction.
- **Relevant:** Education that is oriented toward learning beyond the classroom and school, with age-appropriate opportunities to engage with the broader community.
- **Enhanced:** Providing a variety of co-curricular experiences that allow students to explore personal, physical and academic interests through participation in activities, competitions and team or individual sports.





THEME 2

# District Stability

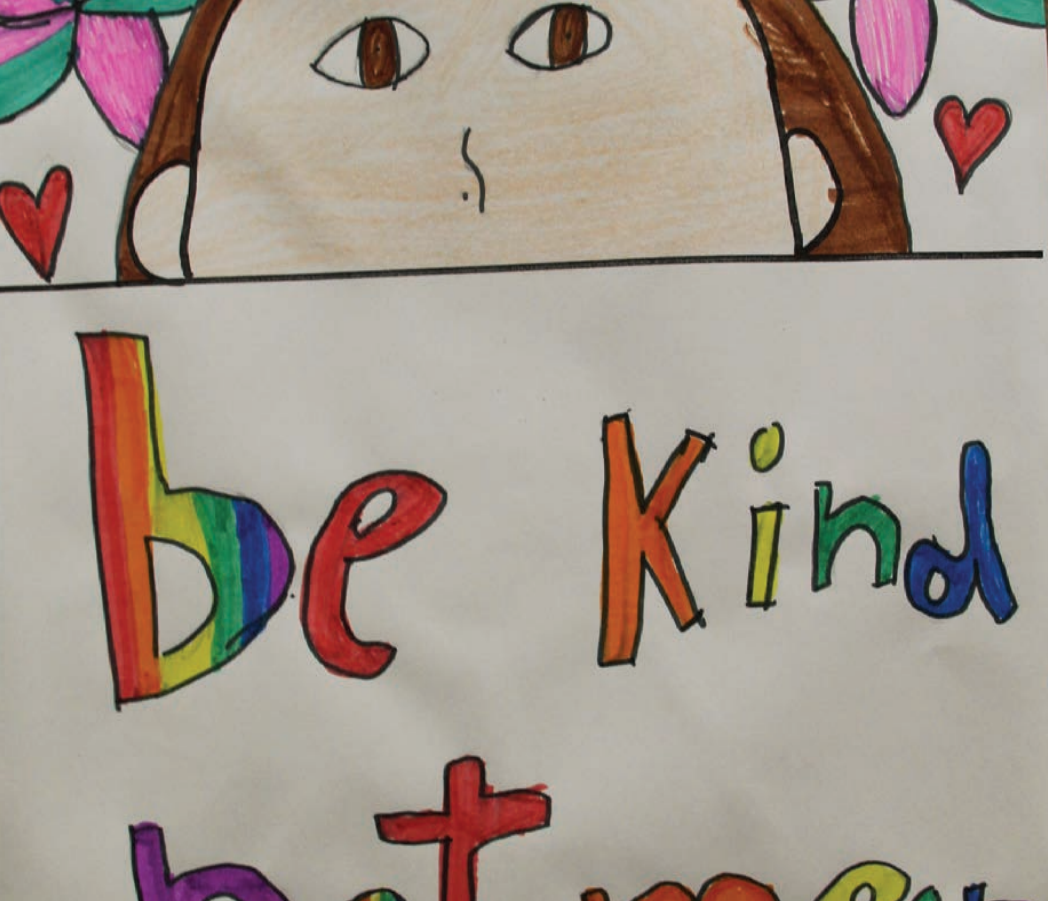
We are operationally sound,  
poised for the future and aligned  
to the needs of our community.



## WHAT YOU WILL SEE:

*A public school district with innovative leadership, operational consistency, financial predictability, transparency and efficiency.*

- **People:** Experienced leadership and staff that are committed to delivering on the district's vision and mission, and developing strong and united relationships built on trust.
- **Facilities:** Well-maintained and appropriate facilities that are equipped to support the district's goals for the future.
- **Best practices:** Use of best practices to maintain financial stability, provide operational efficiency and deliver accurate, reliable reporting.
- **Support:** Neighborhood schools embraced and supported by local voters, neighbors and the parent community.



THEME 3

## Climate & Culture

We cultivate highly engaged, self-determined students who thrive both academically and socially.

## WHAT YOU WILL SEE:

*A safe and supportive district-wide community rooted in the social-emotional well-being of all students, inciting passion for learning and fostering our students' capacity for mutual and self-respect.*

- **Well-being:** A positive, safe and healthy environment that prioritizes the personal well-being of students, and is supported through intentional practices and a focus on active, healthy lifestyles and responsible decision-making.
- **Collaboration:** A climate of collaboration that unites and engages students, staff and the extended community to contribute in meaningful ways to our shared success.
- **Respect and civic-mindedness:** A culture of kindness and respect fostered through deliberate efforts to recognize and explore diversity and equity, and to cultivate positive interactions with others in school and in the world.
- **High expectations:** High expectations for academic integrity, a passion for excellence and an emphasis on persistence and resilience.





THEME 4

# Curriculum & Instruction

We nurture curious and agile learners by balancing rigor, creativity, exploration and innovation.

## WHAT YOU WILL SEE:

*A passionate learning community where students lead the learning process, demonstrate their mastery through exhibition and where academic risk-taking is rewarded.*

- **Guiding principles:** Instruction is approached through the lens of the principles of essential schools and current educational research and initiatives, where students are encouraged to demonstrate mastery and embrace challenge.
- **Innovation and integration:** Innovative instruction and learning environments that allow for thoughtful integration of subject matter and a culturally responsive curriculum.
- **The arts:** Dedication to the arts as both a core subject area and a means to reinforce learning in all subjects, as well as foster well-rounded students.
- **Technology:** Technology is integral to instruction as both a learning tool and a subject for success in a digital world.



# District Leadership

## **Superintendent**

Jim Schlachter

## **Principals**

Joanna Tobin, Riverdale Grade School

Paula Robinson, Riverdale High School

## **School Board**

Michelle Janke, Chair

John Bogaty, Vice Chair

Carrie Banks

Joe Prats

Paul Spellman





# With Appreciation

Thank you to the many members of our community who participated in this strategic visioning process. We are grateful for your time, input and guidance.

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Colin Best, *student*  
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John Bogaty, *school board*  
Jack Bride, *student*  
Hilary Chandler, *staff*  
Jennie Chandra, *parent*  
Devin Chek, *student*  
Karen Chong, *foundation*  
Thais Corsi, *student*  
Jill Corvelli, *parent*  
Amy Coulter, *parent*  
Jeff Dominitz, *parent*  
Kira Donahoo, *parent*  
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Jeff Robinson, *teacher*  
Paula Robinson, *principal*  
Rocky Rockney, *student*  
Lakshmi Sawhney, *student*  
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Hayden Seawright, *student*  
Kristin Snook, *teacher*  
Tanya Steele, *parent*  
David Thompson, *teacher*  
Joanna Tobin, *principal*  
Celeste Torvalds, *student*  
Kottur Vasanth, *parent*  
Allison Williams, *parent*



# RIVERDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

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