MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

We have a new strategic plan! Thank you to our volunteers that helped create this last spring. We had an amazing group of students, staff and community members that came together to help us focus the feedback from two years of community engagement. This document will guide us through the next 5 years. We will share details on one area at a time through our community newsletter. Visit our website at www.rtsd26.org for more information.

Sincerely,
Nancy Wagner, Ed.D.

See our new Strategic Plan on Page 3!

Social Media

Are you on Twitter and Facebook? District 26 is! Following us is a great way to hear about District and School events. You will see reminders about Board of Education meetings and easily learn about key decisions made at the meetings. You will also see photos of the wonderful things that go on daily in your neighborhood schools. Visit our website www.rtsd26.org and see all of our staff that tweets!

Please follow us on Facebook And on Twitter Our Hashtags

@RTSD26 @RiverTrailsD26 #RTSD26Learns
@RiverTrailsEarlyLearningCenter @EarlyTrails #ELCPenguins
@EuclidSchool @EuclidSchool #EuclidExplores
@IndianGroveSchool @IndianGroveEdu #IGInspires
@RiverTrailsMiddleSchool @RiverTrailsMS #RTMSparks

Tuition Based Preschool Program At The Early Learning Center 2019-20

Open Enrollment For This School Year Available Call Today For Afternoon Placement

Registration continues for River Trails School District 26 resident preschool aged children (must be 3 by Sept 1, 2019) for the 2019-20 school year. Our preschool is located at our newly remodeled Early Learning Center at the corner of Kensington and Burning Bush Lane. Our blended preschool program provides a developmentally appropriate environment which helps children develop physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually through both center-based play and teacher-directed activities. Additionally, integrated services such as Speech/Language and Social Work are provided within the class day to all children.

Classes for the preschool program will run Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with afternoon session available.

PM session 12:15 pm - 2:45 pm

Tuition is $2500 plus a $50 snack fee, flexible payment arrangements are available. If you would like more information, or would like to express interest, please call 224-612-7308
**River Trails Middle School**

**SCHOOL MISSION/MANTRA**

We believe all students have the ability to grow and learn. We engage, prepare, and challenge every student through thoughtful learning practices. We support the academic, social and emotional needs of our students. We demonstrate respect to all school community members.

**What is your school’s area of focus in alignment with our Strategic Direction—Head Ready**

We will implement effective instructional strategies to increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding proficiency standards by five percent in each demographic subgroup as measured by the Illinois assessment of Readiness in math and reading. Academic teams are collaborating to align instruction and assessment for ELA, math and science curriculum.

**What is one thing you wish everyone in the community knew about your school?**

Excellence is not being the best; it is doing your best. All members of the River Trails Middle School community work extremely hard to meet the needs of every student. RTMS is an excellent school community.

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**Indian Grove School**

**SCHOOL MISSION/MANTRA — Working Together for the Best Day Ever!**

**What is your school’s area of focus in alignment with our Strategic Direction—Head Ready**

We want teachers to truly know their students as readers and to help students find their love of reading using various resources. Teachers will be moving away from a traditional basal reading approach and launching into a reading workshop model. Teachers will continue to implement various student-driven differentiated literacy strategies, formative assessments, and instruction within the classroom so that students will have student agency, be able to state their literacy goals, reflect on their learning, and meet long- and short-term goals demonstrating growth in reading from fall to spring.

**What is your school’s area of focus in alignment with our Strategic Direction—Heart Ready**

Everyone will begin each school day with a morning meeting. These twenty minutes will be spent discussing current events, exploring what it means to be respectful and responsible and to problem-solve solutions to challenges that come up during their time at Indian Grove. There will be agendas and guidance for teachers to use as they facilitate these discussions with their students. This morning meeting time will also be a time to teaching our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Second Step curriculum to each grade level. Our goal is for teachers and students to build strong relationships with each other that affect the experiences at school in a positive way.

**What is one thing you wish everyone in the community knew about your school?**

Indian Grove is a uniquely diverse school with more than 25 different languages spoken by its families and numerous cultures represented by the students. The enrollment has grown extensively over the past five years and new families continue to move into its attendance boundaries so their children can experience a well-rounded education addressing both academic and social-emotional needs.

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**Euclid School**

**SCHOOL MISSION/MANTRA**

To provide a learning experience inspiring students to achieve their potential

**What is your school’s area of focus in alignment with our Strategic Direction—Head Ready**

Euclid staff will collaboratively commit to creating common assessments in math in order to effectively use data to inform instruction and improve learning. Euclid staff will participate in the partial rollout of reading workshop and participate in professional development to effectively implement reading workshop in our literacy classrooms.

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**River Trails School District 26**
River Trails School District Strategic Plan

Heart Ready • Head Ready • Life Ready

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1
Provide engaging and purposeful pathways to personalize academic growth for students by equipping staff with the requisite skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to provide high-quality, differentiated instruction that will prepare students to be ‘Life (head) Ready’.

Build a Culture of Collaboration
Develop a trusting culture of inquiry and collaboration empowering eager learners who identify and solve authentic problems in a creative manner.

Integrate Curriculum with a Focus on Relevancy
Design and implement comprehensive curriculum and programs that are rigorous, relevant, and informed by meaningful demonstrations of knowledge and skills.

Communication
One of our Strategic Directions is: Cultivate resourceful, resilient citizens by supporting social emotional development and learning in a healthy environment.

To support this, there are three Strategic Objectives, one being:

Strengthen Community Partnerships: Collaborate and communicate with school families and community organizations to develop mutually beneficial partnerships to strengthen our students’ understandings of their place in the world.

WHY:
• Misinformation is very simple with social media
• D26 does not have a dedicated go to person for communication
• D26 does not have a communication plan, resulting in inconsistent communication
• Messages need to be repeated in a variety of formats

Sub goal Area 1
• Develop and implement a communication plan to improve one and two-way communication with all members of the D26 community

What is the goal meant to accomplish?
• Improve communication with all stakeholders

What metrics will measure these outcomes?
• 5Essentials
• Social Media followers
• District/School website hits
• Consistent messaging

What level of change constitutes success?
• At least 20% parent participation every other year in 5Essentials. Improvement in “Involved Families” score
• Increasing social media followers by 10% each year
• Increase use of school/district websites by 5%
• Evaluating quarterly how we are following our communication plan

Tasks
• Develop communication plan
• Hold 3 community input sessions before Board of Education meetings in 2019-20
• 5Essentials participation

There are a variety of ways we will work to improve communication both to and from the community. Please join us on this journey!

We want your input!
Come to our October 1 Board Meeting!

Last spring, our Board of Education set a goal to provide more opportunities for our community to share their thoughts and ideas with the Board in person. They scheduled three meetings, October 1st at Indian Grove, December 17th at RTMS and March 17 at Euclid. We encourage everyone to come and to bring children with you, as their input is also welcome. The October meeting starts at 6:30 and the regular Board of Education meeting will start at 7:00.

Indian Grove is located at 1340 Burning Bush Lane. We will be discussing decisions about the kindergarten center such as What school traditions would you like to continue? How should we pick a school name, mascot and colors? and others. If you are unable to attend, check our website and social media feeds for an online opportunity to share your ideas.

Bilingual Preschool for 3 & 4 year old Children

• Do you live within the boundaries of School District 26?
• Will your child be 3 or 4 years old by September 1st?
• Do you and your child speak Spanish at home?

If you can answer yes to all of the questions above and are interested in our Bilingual preschool program held at the Early Learning Center, please call 224-612-7457 Sra. Rodriguez for more information and to arrange a June screening.
PTC Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Euclid Elementary & Hersey High School graduate, David Reyes. David is the 2019 recipient of the annual $1000 PTC scholarship. David is going to Columbia University in New York City on a full scholarship so the Euclid PTC scholarship will help pay costs like books and lab fees. David received the money at the Euclid End of the Year Assembly. David spoke to the students about how he became college bound while working hard for 8 years (including preschool) at Euclid School. The PTC & staff at Euclid are proud of David and wish him the best as he moves on to Columbia University!

A collaborative effort with all SD26 schools, our Sponsor - Robert Bosch Tool Corporation and our Mentor - Bosch Green Team will be working together in collecting bottle caps/lids as part of a recycling program that would produce a bench for our new kindergarten center opening fall 2020.

The ABC PROGRAM is a cap and lid program specifically designed by schoolchildren for schoolchildren. The teachers will incorporate into their curriculum and teach children about caring for the earth and green living. Each school will be collecting Recycle # 2, 4, or 5 medicine bottle caps, drink bottle caps: soda, water, juice, sports drinks, milk jug caps flip-top caps (ketchup) detergent caps, spout caps (mustard), hair spray caps, spray paint caps, toothpaste caps, ointment tube caps, deodorant caps, baby food caps, apple sauce pouch caps, shampoo/conditioner caps, cottage cheese container lids, cool whip container lids, mayonnaise jar lids, coffee can lids, yogurt lids, cream cheese container lids, peanut butter jar lids, butter container lids, ice cream bucket lids, under 8” Pringles lids. For more information, please see www.rtsd26.org