



FALCON FLIER

Riverdale Local Schools

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419-694-2211 • FAX 419-694-5008 • www.riverdalefalcons.org

October 2026

Riverdale Falcons Soaring Through a Great Start to the 2026–27 School Year



As we wrap up the first quarter of the 2026–27 school year, there is a great deal to celebrate at Riverdale Local Schools. Our students, staff, families, and community have

helped create an exciting and positive start to the year. From new academic opportunities and facility improvements to continued investments in our students and staff, the Falcons are SOARING!

Growing Opportunities for Students

Riverdale continues to focus on providing students with meaningful academic opportunities and preparing them for success beyond graduation.

This year, we added a K–5 STEM teacher, increased STEM opportunities in grades 6–9, and continued expanding our Aviation, Engineering, and Robotics programs. We also implemented a new K–12 assessment system through NWEA to help our staff better monitor student growth and provide targeted academic support.

SOAR TIME has also become an important part of our school day, providing opportunities to focus on PBIS, positive mindsets, academic assistance, and building a strong school culture, as well as provide time for academic intervention.

Investing in Our Staff

Great schools depend on great people. Riverdale continues to invest in professional development and provide our faculty and staff with the training, resources, and support necessary to serve our students.

Professional development this year includes continued work in MTSS, NWEA, PBIS, cybersecurity, special education, STEM, and other areas that directly support teaching and learning.

Improving Our Facilities

Our community will notice several improvements throughout the district. New carpet has been

installed in the K–12 offices and library, along with new library furniture and a dedicated College Credit Plus study area. New ceilings and lighting have improved the district entrance and hallway.

Our fitness center and weight room received significant renovations and new equipment with tremendous support from our Athletic

Boosters. We also installed a new soccer scoreboard, resealed our gym floors and north parking lot, purchased a new wheelchair-accessible school bus, and replaced our district tractor.

A new boiler is also being installed this fall as we continue making long-term investments in our facilities.

Auditorium Renovation Underway

One of our most exciting projects is the renovation of the Riverdale auditorium.

Phase One includes improvements to lighting, electrical systems, and rigging, with completion planned for the



EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY, WHATEVER IT TAKES . . .

end of October. Phase Two is planned for late spring and will include new seating, carpet, and curtains.

These improvements will provide an enhanced space for our students, performing arts programs, school events, and community for many years to come.

Strong Schools + Strong Community

We remain incredibly thankful for the continued support of the Riverdale community. The passage of the 1% income tax renewal was an important investment in the future of our district and students.

Our Academic, Music, and Athletic Boosters, PTO, Riverdale Education Foundation, families, businesses, and community organizations continue to make a tremendous difference. Their support provides classroom materials, instructional resources, athletic equipment, facility improvements, and opportunities for students throughout the district.

Looking Ahead

We aren't finished!

Future priorities include completing the auditorium renovation, adding additional district signage, hiring a full-time grades 6–12 STEM instructor in 2027, replacing

the K–12 building chiller, addressing the track and field surface, improving the football and softball scoreboards and baseball field conditions, and continuing to increase technology and classroom resources.

Most importantly, we will continue looking for ways to increase student participation and opportunities while strengthening communication and connections among our schools, families, and community.

We Are Just Getting Started!

The first quarter has provided tremendous momentum for Riverdale Local Schools. We have dedicated employees, supportive families and community members, and outstanding students who are ready to learn, grow, compete, lead, and succeed.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support and invest in Riverdale Local Schools. We are proud of what WE have accomplished and even more excited about what WE will accomplish together.

Let's keep SOARING, Falcons!

Greg Rossman,
Superintendent

Behind the Scenes at Riverdale!

From Ryan Wright, Director of Operations

It has been a busy summer and the start to the school year here at Riverdale! From transportation and facility improvements to safety upgrades and future projects, there is always something happening behind the scenes to keep our Falcons moving forward!

KEEPING OUR FALCONS MOVING!

We've been working hard to grow our transportation team! Three individuals including myself, have taken the required bus driver classes. Becoming a school bus driver is quite the process: a four-day class, permit testing, **20–30 hours of training with a certified OBI Trainer**, and finally, the CDL driving test!

We currently have **2 individuals interested in becoming full-time drivers and 4 interested in becoming substitute drivers!** We are always looking for more substitute drivers, so if you've ever thought about getting behind the wheel of a big yellow bus, please reach out to me. We'd love to have you join the team!

IMPROVEMENTS AROUND CAMPUS

Our buildings and grounds have been getting some attention, too! The **weight room received a facelift**, and we are replacing seating in the **District Gym** as needed.

Our **Auditorium Project** includes all-new lighting, wiring, and controls, while our **new boiler project** is nearing completion. This project includes removing one of the original boilers installed when the K–12 building was constructed.

We've also partnered with **S&S Landscape** for treatment and fertilization of all our playing fields across campus, helping keep our Falcon facilities looking their best!

THANK YOU, FALCON FAMILIES!

A BIG thank you to everyone for your patience and cooperation with our **parent pick-up and drop-off procedures!** Finding the safest and most efficient flow is always a work in progress, and sometimes adjustments are necessary. We truly appreciate everyone working with us as we continue finding what works best for our students, families, and staff.

SAFETY FIRST

You may notice some additional safety improvements around the district. We will be adding **room numbers to exterior doors** to make locations easier to identify during an emergency.

Inside the building, we have also updated our **teacher and room placards**, making room numbers larger and easier to see. These may seem like small changes, but they can make a BIG difference when every second counts.

LOOKING AHEAD

We're already planning for what comes next! One of our top projects for **next summer** is the replacement of one of the building's original chillers. We are still early in the process, but planning is underway!

There is a lot that goes into keeping Riverdale running each day, and we're excited about the progress being made throughout our district.

Here's to a safe, successful, and exciting rest of the school year!

GO FALCONS!

Riverdale Elementary Back-to-School Bash!

Riverdale Elementary kicked off the school year with a Back-to-School Bash on Friday, August 28! Our K-5 students headed outside for a day packed with fun, laughter, and plenty of Falcon spirit!

Students enjoyed bounce houses, toss-and-throw games, giant Jenga, Twister, kickball, trivia, team-building activities, popcorn, and popsicles. They also learned a special Falcon dance, made their own keychains, and even tie-dyed their very own Riverdale shirts!

It was a wonderful afternoon of making memories, building friendships, and celebrating being a Falcon. The kids had an absolute blast!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated items and helped make this day possible, and to all of our amazing volunteers who gave their time to make the Back to School Bash such a success. We couldn't have done it without you!



Kindergarten - 5th Grade wearing the shirts they made!



Monarch Butterflies

The Monarch butterflies in Mrs. Brooks' 1st grade classroom hatched last month. The students have been learning about the life cycle and migration of butterflies and what they need to survive. They were lucky enough to watch them turn into chrysalises and saw one butterfly hatch! They were so excited to see how much they had changed when they arrived each morning.





Questions:
Call or email Mrs. Bickford
✉ kbickford@riverdalefalcons.org
☎ 419-694-2211 ext. 1302

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
NOVEMBER 12, 2026

We hope you'll join us for an evening filled with music, patriotism, and plenty of Riverdale Falcon spirit!

Riverdale
2nd Grade Music Program
A SALUTE TO AMERICA!

Get ready to celebrate America with the Riverdale 2nd grade students! They are excited to present "A Salute to America!"

WHEN: Thursday, November 12, 2026
🎵 Public Performance - 7:00 pm 🎵 Matinee Performance - 2:00 pm
(Students meet in home rooms @ 6:40 pm - teachers will not be here/have doors open until then.)

WHERE: Main Gym

DRESS: Students dress in any combination of red, white, and/or blue! ★ ★

From Scott Maag, High School Principal

Building Success Beyond the Classroom at Riverdale High School

This year, Riverdale High School has introduced two initiatives designed to support our students both academically and personally: ****SOAR Time**** and ****7 Mindsets****.

****SOAR Time**** provides students with a dedicated time during the school day to receive additional academic support, work with teachers, complete assignments, receive interventions, or get help in areas where they may be struggling. It also gives us an opportunity to provide enrichment and help students build the skills they need to be successful in high school and beyond.

Our goal with SOAR Time is simple: ****meet students where they are and provide the support they need to continue moving forward.**** We appreciate the flexibility and commitment of our staff as we continue to develop SOAR Time and make it as beneficial as possible for our students.

We have also continued our work with ****7 Mindsets****, which focuses on helping students develop positive attitudes, strong relationships, resilience, responsibility, and a growth mindset. Through lessons, videos, discussions, and activities, students are encouraged to think about the choices they make and how those choices can impact their success in school and in life.

The 7 Mindsets program reinforces an important message we want our students to hear consistently: ****success is about more than grades.**** It is also about developing the mindset, character, relationships, and life skills that will help students become successful adults.

Together, SOAR Time and 7 Mindsets are helping us continue our commitment to supporting the ****whole student**** at Riverdale High School. We are excited to see these programs grow throughout the school year and appreciate the support of our students, staff, and families as we work to make a positive difference for every Falcon.

****Every Child, Every Day,
Whatever It Takes.****

Cafeteria News & Updates

Our kitchen staff is doing an **amazing job so far this year** providing our students with many of their favorite foods!

This year, we have also added something special for our amazing staff — **Friday Lunch Specials!** We truly enjoy seeing our staff come into the cafeteria, sharing a short conversation, a smile, or even a loud laugh with us. Those little moments make our days brighter!

We are also glad to have our **Resource Officer, Deputy Gresham**, stop in on Thursdays to lend a helping hand with serving our new yummy French fries! We appreciate all of her help and support.

The **Spicy Chicken Patty** has also been a big hit with our students!

Looking Ahead!

Our kitchen staff is **looking forward to National School Lunch Week, October 12th–16th!** We have lots of fun and delicious meals to look forward to throughout the school year, including our **Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas meals!**

We love creating special meals and fun experiences for our students and staff, and we can't wait to celebrate these special occasions with everyone!

Friendly Reminder

Please remember to check your student's lunch account balance regularly and make sure their account has enough funds for meals and any additional items they may purchase.

Thank you to our students, staff, and families for helping make our cafeteria a great place to be!

Go Falcons!



New Lighting System, Familiar Show for Riverdale Theater

A significant upgrade has been made within the walls of the Russell E. Willeke Auditorium. A new lighting system was installed in September 2026. The fall play, *The Curious Savage*, will be the first to grace the stage with the improvement; the Riverdale Theater Department will revisit this beloved classic on November 13th & 14th, 2026.

Building on the tradition started last year with Neil Simon's *Fools*, *The Curious Savage* has graced the Russell E. Willeke stage twice before. In the 1992 production, play director, Mrs. Kristie Thacker played the title role, Mrs. Ethel P. Savage. Twenty years later in the 2012 production, assistant director, Miss Jena Bushong reprised the same role. When selecting this year's production, nostalgia was a strong factor, and both directors are thrilled for the community to enjoy the newest cast of *The Curious Savage*.

The Curious Savage is a charming, bittersweet comedy by John Patrick set in the 1950s where recently widowed Ethel P. Savage (Khloe Bash) inherits \$10 million from her late husband. Instead of sharing it with her vain, ambitious stepchildren, Titus (Bryce Palmer), Lily Belle (Rossi Evans) and Samuel (Liam Hayes), she plans to use the money to set up a "Happiness Fund" to help ordinary people pursue their foolish dreams. Outraged and desperate to protect their family fortune, the stepchildren have Ethel committed to a private sanatorium called "The Cloisters". At The Cloisters, Ethel meets Dr. Emmett (Pyper Zehender), Caretaker Miss Wilhelmina (Cara King) and five gentle and eccentric residents — Hannibal (Griffin Teegardin), Florence (Lily Shuster), Fairy May (Brylenn Palmer), Jeff (Zane Voll), and Mrs. Paddy (Joplin Rowe) — who suffer from various harmless delusions but show profound kindness, honesty, and loyalty.

In celebration of this momentous occasion, the theater department would like to extend a special invite to the 1992 and 2012 *Curious Savage* cast/crew and all Riverdale community members. We encourage you to revisit a familiar show while also enjoying the significant lighting upgrades. Join us for the weekend's performances on November 13th & 14th at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you there!



Meet Our New Staff Members



My name is **Brian Bennett**, and I am a 1991 graduate of Leipsic High School. I grew up in Leipsic, Ohio, with my seven brothers and sisters. I began my career in education at Ottoville High School, where I taught business and computer courses. I later served as guidance counselor at Ottawa-Glandorf High School before becoming the middle school/high school principal at Leipsic Local Schools.

My wife, Stacey, and I have three daughters: Isabella, Genevieve, and Sophia.

I am truly excited to be part of the Riverdale community and have really enjoyed getting to know our students, staff, and families. There is already a lot of positive energy in the building, and I am looking forward to a great year ahead.



Greetings! My name is **Ms. Beth Griffin**, and I am the MS/HS Secretary. I bring over 5 years of classroom experience and two years of office/secretarial experience, providing me with a strong foundation for supporting students, staff and families. I am passionate about creating an organized welcoming

environment and enjoy fostering positive collaboration throughout the school community. I look forward to helping administration and students succeed by providing dependable support and building meaningful connections everyday.

Meet Our New Staff Members, Continued



My name is **Brandon Watkins** and I am excited to join Riverdale Local Schools as the Director of Student Activities. This is my 10th year in education, and throughout my career I have had the opportunity to teach students in grades 4–9. I have also coached football, cross country, track, and esports,

which has given me the opportunity to work with students in many different settings.

Outside of school, family is the most important part of my life. My wife and I have been together since my senior year of high school, and we currently have two children with another baby on the way. I am excited to become part of the Riverdale community and look forward to working with our students, staff, families, and community to make Riverdale a great place to be.



Hello!! I am **Carrie Neville**, the new K-5 Aide. I was previously with the Hancock County ESC. I live in Forest, with my husband, my 2 boys Gage and Asher, and our 3 dogs Jack, Stella, and Louie. I have a business, CARRIE'S CRAFTS. I sell handmade items, most are crocheted and sewn.

I love to sell at craft shows. I love spending time with my family, watching college football, and crocheting... sometimes all 3 at once.



Hello! I'm **Marisa Sanders**, and I am one of the new High School Intervention Specialists. I graduated from Bluffton University in 2017, and this is my 10th year teaching. I am originally from Arlington, but I now live in Findlay with my husband and two children. In my spare time I love to read and spend time in my garden with my kids. I am so excited to be joining the Falcon Family!



Hello! My name is **Vaiden Mallonn** and I am a new High School Intervention Specialist! I am originally from Gahanna, OH, but now live in Tiffin, OH. I graduated from Heidelberg University in 2024 with my bachelors in Middle Childhood and Special Education, and will graduate from Ohio

University with my Special Education Master's Degree this summer. In my free time, I like to spend time in theatre performances and read books! I am so excited for a great year! Go Falcons!



Hello, I'm **Mrs. Susan Clark** and I am the new Middle School/High School Library Media Specialist.

I recently moved to Findlay from the Cleveland, OH area where I taught Computer Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, and Health grades K-12. I also enjoyed living in Canada where I learned how to curl, play hockey and owned an International Coffee Shop.

I received a BS from Kent State University and a Masters in Instructional Technology from John Carroll University. Some of my interests include pickleball, tennis, golf, cooking, reading and travel.

I have five grandchildren ages 10 through 18. I really enjoy watching them play soccer, football, and basketball.

Being a lifelong learner, I am committed and excited to be at Riverdale Local Schools and hope to make a positive difference with all our students!



Hi my name is **Nick Winslow** and I am the new high school world history teacher for Riverdale! I am from Norwalk, Ohio, over toward Cedar Point. I played basketball at nearby Bluffton University for 3 years before transferring to THE Ohio State University where I graduated after two years with my Integrated Social Studies

degree. I am excited to be with Riverdale and hope I can make as much of an impact on my students' lives as they have on mine. Go Falcons!

Meet Our New Staff Members, Continued



Malia Lee joins us as a first-year teacher with the 5th grade team, teaching math and science. Malia is excited to create an engaging and supportive classroom where students are encouraged to think critically and develop a love for learning.



Hi! My name is **Hannah Frey**, and I am one of the new K-5 Title Instructors. I graduated from Franklin University in Fall of 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Primary Education. While obtaining my degree, I have spent the last three years working as a substitute teacher at Upper Sandusky Schools. Outside

of teaching, I also love spending time with family and friends, attending sporting events, and going on different adventures. I am very excited to be part of the Falcon Community and to work with students throughout the year!



Hi! I'm **Jacy Graber**, and I'm thrilled to be joining Riverdale full time as the Study Hall Supervisor after spending the last two years subbing in the district. My family and I moved to Ohio from Montana seven years ago and have been proud to be part of the Falcon community ever since. Outside of school, I'm a hairstylist and a busy wife and mom of two. I

love spending time with my family and cheering on my kids in all of their activities. I'm excited for a great year at Riverdale!



Hello! My name is Sarah Lewis and I am a new K-2 Intervention Specialist! I recently graduated from The University of Findlay back in May with my Bachelors in Primary Education and Special Education! This is my 1st year teaching! I love going for walks as well as reading! I am beyond excited for this school year! Go Falcons!



Hello! My name is **Emma Lutz**. This is my 1st year teaching at Riverdale. This is my 2nd year in education. I previously taught in Indiana. This year I am teaching Kindergarten. I graduated from Trine University with my degree in Elementary and Special Education in May of 2025. I am super

excited to be at Riverdale and am ready to build great relationships with students and staff.



Hello, my name is **Mr. Chandler Brewer**, and I am pleased to join the Riverdale community this year. I graduated from The Ohio State University in early childhood education, and I am excited to serve as one of Riverdale's Title Instructors. In this role, I will be working with small groups of students to provide targeted support

in mathematics and reading based on their individual learning needs. I give a mean high five, I tell bad jokes, and I love to have fun with the kids. I'm looking forward to getting closer to the Falcon community, staff, and students this year!



My name is **Jim Mason** I'm a retired professional driver of 40+ years and now I'm looking forward to working for Riverdale.

Not Pictured:

Jaci Bostelman, returning 4th Grade Teacher

Teresa McKee, Cook

Brandon Miller, 4th Grade Teacher

Annetta Wetherill, Lunch Monitor and Bus Aide





Meet Our New School Resource Officer!

Hello! My name is **Deputy Meghan Gresham** and I am so excited to officially join the Falcon Family as your new School Resource Officer!

My law enforcement career began nearly five years ago in November 2021 when I was hired full-time by the Hancock County Sheriff's Office as a Road Patrol Deputy. While working on the road, I discovered I had a strong passion for mental health advocacy and crisis support. I quickly realized that this was where I could make the most meaningful impact, especially when connecting with our local youth.

Last school year, I had the opportunity to step into the SRO role at Cory-Rawson Local Schools, and it didn't take long to realize that this was the career path I wanted to pursue. I went home every single day feeling fulfilled, knowing I was making a positive difference in the lives of young people.

My top priority at Riverdale is maintaining a safe, secure, and supportive environment for all of our students, staff, and families. Just as importantly, I am deeply committed to student and staff engagement and being a visible, approachable presence on campus every day. Whether that means offering guidance, doing security checks, chatting with students in the hallways and at lunch or even participating in some classes.

My door is always open to students, staff, and parents. Please feel free to stop by and say hello whenever you see me around!

Let's make this a safe, positive, and successful school year together!

Mrs. Tyson's Class Had a Visitor!

A local dental hygienist visited Mrs. Tyson's class to teach students about proper oral hygiene! Teachers joined in for a fun demonstration using pink disclosing dye to show how plaque sticks to teeth - even after a morning coffee. The hands-on lesson left the kids laughing and excited to practice brushing at home. Thank you to Miss Amanda for supporting our students' health!



Open House

Students and parents were welcomed to the 2026-27 school year during our annual Open House, held on August 18. It was an exciting kick-off to the year!



Riverdale FFA Fruit Sale

Order **OCTOBER 8 - NOVEMBER 10**

We sell:

- Oranges
- Apples
- Pears
- Grapefruit
- Sweet Potatoes
- DB Yummers BBQ Sauce
- Country Meats Sticks
- Walnut Creek Cheeses and Jams
- Keystone Canned Meats
- Walnut Creek Sweets
- Variety of Baskets

Support Riverdale FFA!

PTO RIVERDALE FALCONS GHOST TOWN CORN MAZE

Over 4 acres of fun!!

A FUN FREE ACTIVITY FOR RIVERDALE FAMILIES!

Admission and all activities are FREE for students and their families!

OCTOBER 31 11 AM - 3 PM

10630 CR 40, Findlay

SCAN TO SIGN UP!



Riverdale Local Schools

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POSTAL PATRON

Riverdale Local School Administration

Mr. Greg Rossman, Superintendent
Mr. Addison Clark, Treasurer
Mr. Scott Maag, High School Principal
Mr. Brian Bennett, Grades 5-8 Principal
Mrs. Rachel Arnett, Grades K-4 Principal
Mr. Brandon Watkins, Activities Director

Riverdale Board of Education

Ashley Walters, President
Jacob Fletcher, Vice President
Tony Butler
Michelle Courtad
Jennifer Lewis-Shuck

Riverdale Local Schools give notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion or disability in its education programs, activities employment policy, or admission policy and practice as required by law. Mr. Brandon Watkins is Title IX Coordinator. Miss Brittany Hayter is Section 504 Coordinator.



JOIN THE FALCON TEAM!



Drive. Inspire. Make a Difference!

RIVERDALE LOCAL SCHOOLS IS LOOKING FOR FUN, RELIABLE, AND CARING INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN OUR TRANSPORTATION TEAM! ♥

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- ✓ **BUS DRIVERS**
- ✓ **SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS**

Whether you're looking for something new, want to stay connected to the community, or just think driving a big yellow bus sounds pretty fun...

THIS COULD BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER! ♥

Interested?
Let's get you on the road!

CONTACT:
RYAN WRIGHT
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
419-694-2211 EXT. 1515

♥ ➤ **BEHIND EVERY GREAT SCHOOL DAY IS A GREAT TEAM GETTING OUR FALCONS THERE!** ➤

- Enjoy working with amazing students & staff!
- Make a positive impact in your community!
- Flexible schedules that work for YOU!
- Competitive pay & training provided!

