

FALCON NEST NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

🌟 WELCOME BACK, FALCONS! 🌟

🌟 FROM THE DESK OF MR. ROSSMAN

A SPECIAL WELCOME BACK MESSAGE, SCHOOL UPDATES,
AND AN INSPIRING LOOK AT THE EXCITING YEAR AHEAD.

👮 A MESSAGE FROM SERGEANT COREY HARTMAN
A LOOK AT UPDATES AND WHAT'S TO COME TO
RIVERDALE, READY FOR THE YEAR AHEAD! 💙 🦅

👏 STAFF SHOUTOUT

CELEBRATING THE AMAZING EDUCATORS AND STAFF WHO
MAKE OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY STRONGER EVERY DAY.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION! ⭐

📅 UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

STAY INFORMED ABOUT IMPORTANT DATES, FAMILY
EVENTS, SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GET
INVOLVED.

💙 TOGETHER WE SOAR! 🦅

HERE'S TO A YEAR FILLED WITH LEARNING, KINDNESS,
TEAMWORK, AND SCHOOL SPIRIT! LET'S MAKE IT OUR BEST
YEAR YET!

💙 BE RESPECTFUL

💜 BE RESPONSIBLE

🦅 BE READY TO SOAR!



RIVERDALE LOCAL SCHOOLS

FROM THE DESK OF MR. ROSSMAN

WELCOME BACK, FALCONS!

Falcons Are Soaring Into 2026-2027! 💙 🦅 What a great start to the 2026-2027 school year! It has been wonderful welcoming back our students, families, faculty, and staff and seeing the positive energy throughout Riverdale Local Schools.

Since implementing our Strategic Plan on March 1, 2026, WE have accomplished a great deal together!

📚 **Academics & Staff:** 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 added SOAR Time, academic support, additional electives, K-12 NWEA assessments, and increased professional development opportunities for staff.

🏠 **Facilities & Improvements:** Our campuses have seen many improvements, including new carpet in K-12 offices and the library, a new College Credit Plus study area, district entryway improvements, a renovated fitness center and weight room, a new soccer scoreboard, resealed gym floors and parking lot, a wheelchair-accessible district bus, and a new boiler being installed this fall.

💙 **Community Support:** Together, WE passed the 1% Income Tax Renewal! Thank you to our staff, families, community members, and supporters who helped make this possible. We are also grateful for our Academic, Music, and Athletic Boosters, PTO, and Riverdale Education Foundation for continuing to support our classrooms, programs, facilities, students, and staff.

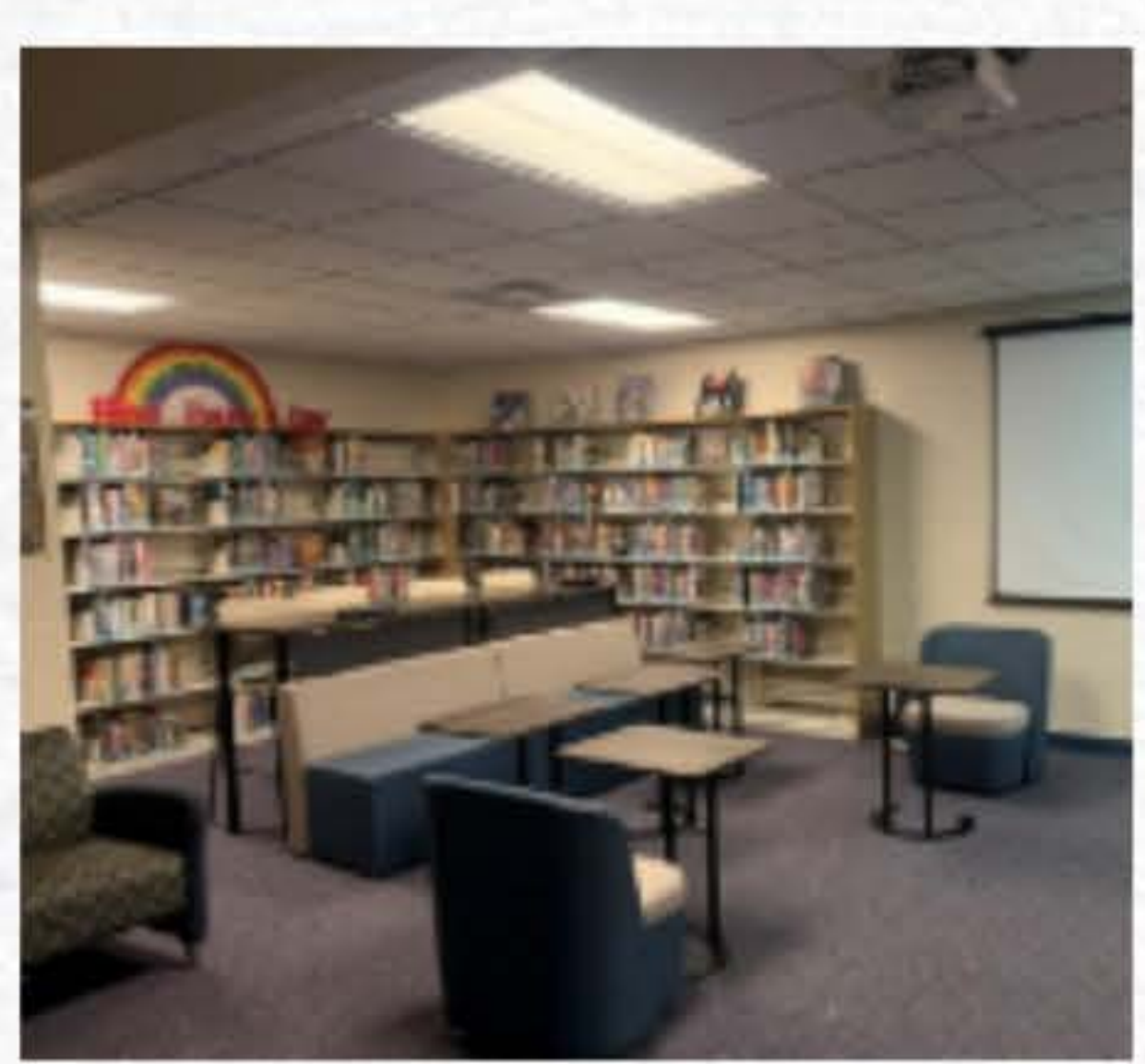
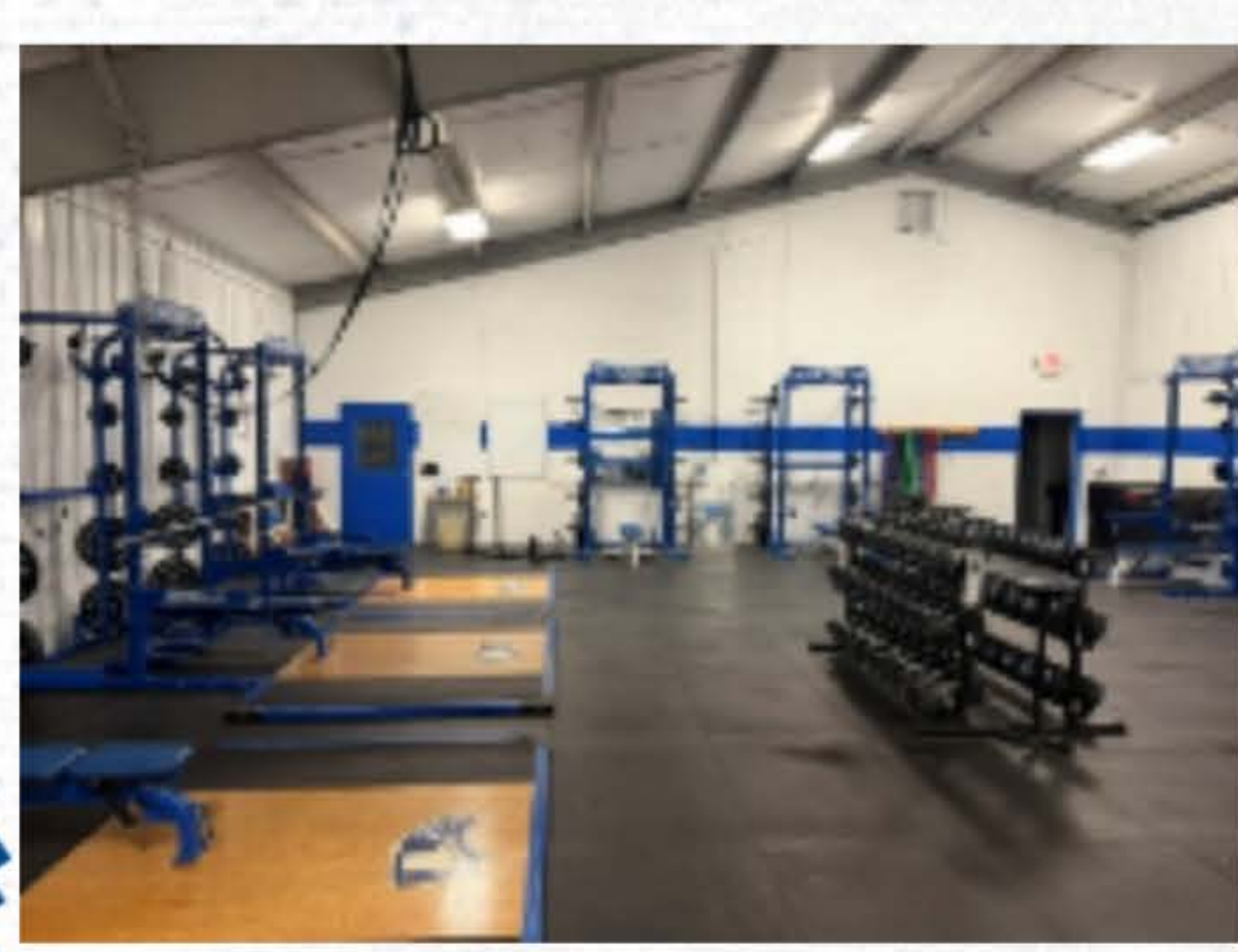
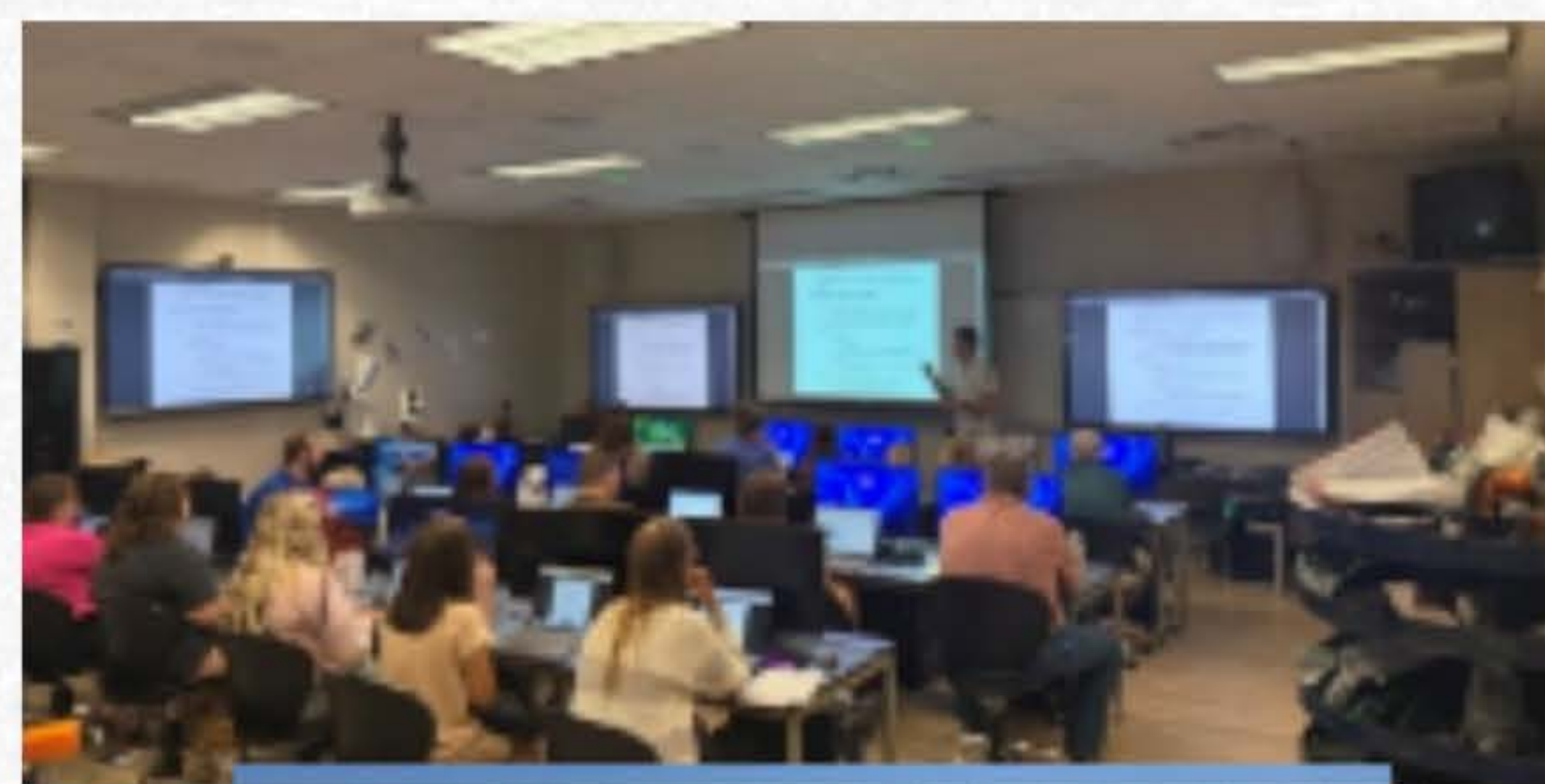




What's Next?: WE are just getting started! Our upcoming goals include completing the auditorium renovation, replacing the K-12 chiller, improving district signage, athletic scoreboards, the track and field surface, and the K-12 gym floor. We also plan to add a full-time Grades 6-12 STEM instructor in 2027, continue increasing technology and classroom resources, expand staff training, and create even more opportunities for student participation.

These accomplishments and future goals represent our continued commitment to providing our students and staff with the programs, facilities, resources, and opportunities they deserve. We have tremendous momentum, dedicated staff, supportive families and community members, and students ready to learn, grow, compete, lead, and succeed. What WE have accomplished is impressive. What WE will accomplish together is even more exciting. Thank you for supporting Riverdale Local Schools and our students' future.

Welcome back, Falcons! Let's keep SOARING! ❤️ 🦅

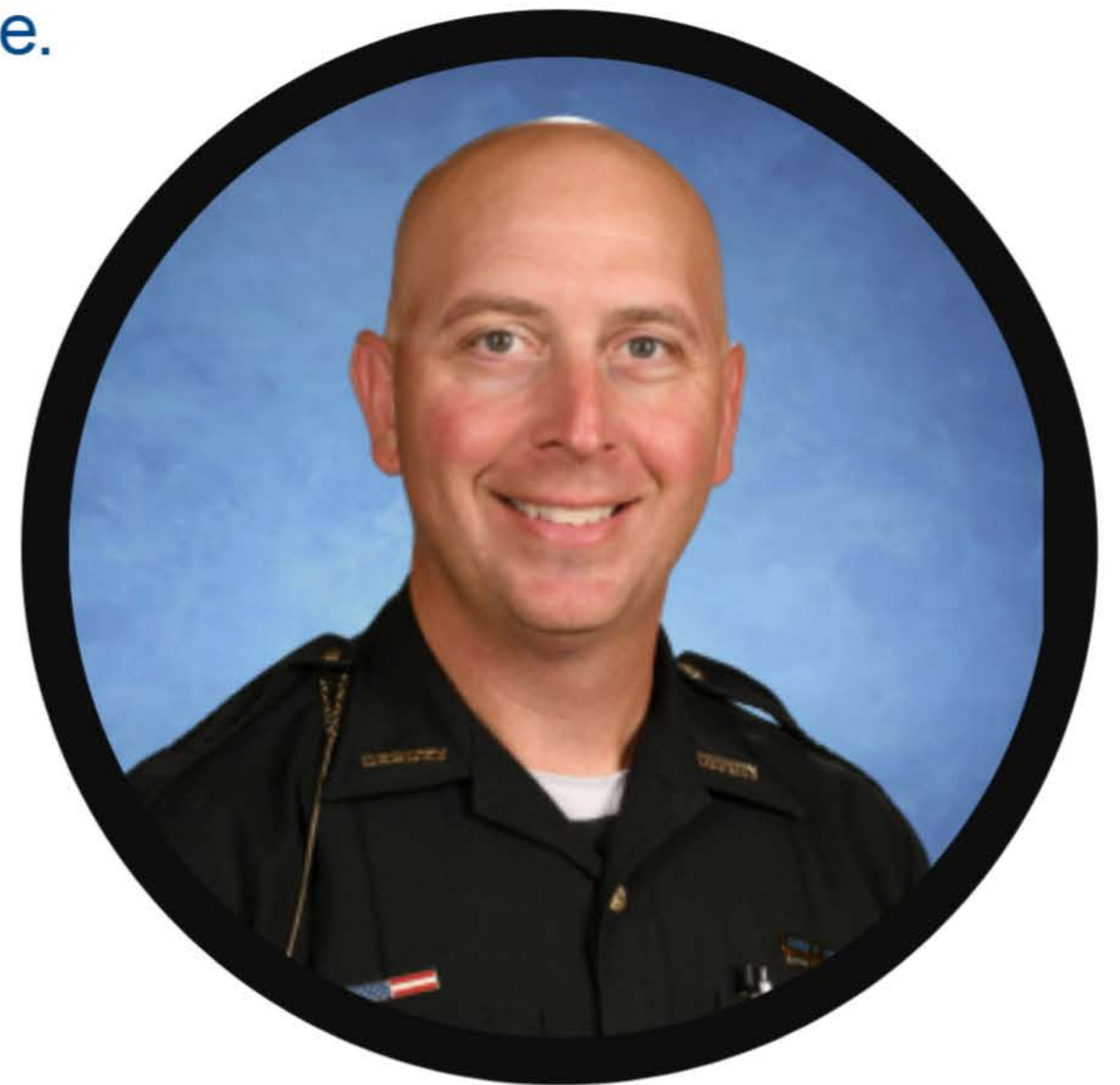


MESSAGE FROM SERGEANT COREY HARTMAN

Riverdale School Community,

As I prepare to leave my current position as your School Resource Officer, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has made my time at the school so special. I was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and I will be leaving the school only because of this promotion and the new responsibilities that come with it. I would like to thank the school board, administration, faculty, and parents for their continued support, trust, and encouragement. Most importantly, I want to thank all of the students—you have made my time here incredibly rewarding, and I am truly grateful for the relationships, memories, and experiences we have shared. Although I will no longer be here every day, I will still be stopping by often as part of my new duties, so this is certainly not goodbye! Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of such a wonderful school community. I am proud to have served you, and I look forward to continuing to support our school in my new role.

Thank you, and Go Falcons!
Sergeant Corey Hartman



THE RIVERDALE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A VERY SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SRO, SERGEANT COREY HARTMAN, ON HIS WELL-DESERVED PROMOTION!

SERGEANT HARTMAN HAS BEEN SO MUCH MORE THAN A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT RIVERDALE. HE HAS BEEN A FAMILIAR FACE IN OUR HALLWAYS, A TRUSTED RESOURCE FOR OUR STAFF, A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL FOR OUR STUDENTS, AND AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE FALCON FAMILY. ❤️ WE ARE INCREDIBLY THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING SERGEANT HARTMAN HAS DONE, AND CONTINUES TO DO FOR OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, FAMILIES, AND DISTRICT. HIS DEDICATION TO KEEPING OUR FALCONS SAFE, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR STUDENTS, AND SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY HAS MADE A LASTING IMPACT.

WHILE HIS PROMOTION MAY MEAN WE WON'T GET TO SEE HIM IN OUR HALLS QUITE AS OFTEN, ONE THING IS CERTAIN... 🦅 ONCE A FALCON, ALWAYS A FALCON! 🦅 SERGEANT HARTMAN, CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS EXCITING AND WELL-EARNED NEXT CHAPTER! WE ARE PROUD OF YOU, GRATEFUL FOR YOU, AND WISH YOU NOTHING BUT THE BEST IN YOUR NEW ROLE. AND DON'T THINK YOU'RE GETTING AWAY THAT EASILY WE'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO EVERY VISIT BACK TO RIVERDALE! 💙💜 CONGRATULATIONS, SERGEANT HARTMAN! YOUR FALCON FAMILY IS CHEERING YOU ON! 🎉🦅

MEET OUR NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER!

Hello! I'm Deputy Gresham, and I am so excited to be your new School Resource Officer. I have been with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office for nearly 5 years and have been on road patrol since I started in 2021. My goal in the building is not only to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff, but to be a mentor, educator and resource for our entire school community.

When I'm not at work, I enjoy spending time with my friends, family, my husband and our dogs and our horses! Some fun facts about me:

- I have three dogs named Kato, Witness and Sheeba. Kato is a retired K9!
- We have 7 horses in our family named Mo, Tonto, Crome, Joey, Solo, Oakley and Nile.
- I love reading books!
- I am a secret nerd! I love Star Wars, Disney, Harry Potter and even have a few cool Pokémon cards!
- I love all kinds of music! My favorite song right now is Ordinary by Alex Warren.
- My favorite candy is Nerds Gummy Clusters!
- My favorite snack is white cheddar popcorn!
- My favorite sport is Baseball and I am a huge Boston Red Sox fan!
- My favorite season is Fall
- My favorite holiday is Halloween
- My favorite quote is, "If you can dream it, you can do it." – Walt Disney



Come say Hi to me when you see me around the school! I can't wait to meet all of you!

WE ARE EXCITED TO OFFICIALLY WELCOME DEPUTY GRESHAM TO RIVERDALE AS OUR NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER! 🚓 💙 WE HAVE A FEELING SHE IS GOING TO FIT RIGHT IN! FROM HER LOVE OF ANIMALS AND BASEBALL TO BOOKS, DISNEY, HARRY POTTER, STAR WARS, POKÉMON, AND NERDS GUMMY CLUSTERS, THERE ARE PLENTY OF CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR OUR STUDENTS WHEN THEY SEE HER IN THE HALLS! 📚 ⚾ 🐎 🐕 ✨

DEPUTY GRESHAM, THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO JOIN OUR RIVERDALE FAMILY AND FOR MAKING THE COMMITMENT TO SERVE, PROTECT, MENTOR, AND SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF. WE ARE INCREDIBLY EXCITED TO HAVE YOU ON OUR TEAM AND CAN'T WAIT FOR OUR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY TO GET TO KNOW YOU.



YOU MAY BE NEW TO RIVERDALE, BUT YOU'RE OFFICIALLY ONE OF US NOW! 💙 💜 WELCOME TO RIVERDALE, DEPUTY GRESHAM — AND CONGRATULATIONS ON BECOMING A FALCON! 🦅



STAFF SHOUTOUT

🎉 RIVERDALE'S FIRST BACK TO SCHOOL BASH! 💙💜

ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH, RIVERDALE K-5 CELEBRATED SOMETHING BRAND NEW, OUR VERY FIRST BACK TO SCHOOL BASH! INSTEAD OF CELEBRATING THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, OUR K-5 STAFF DECIDED TO CELEBRATE SOMETHING EVEN BETTER: BEING BACK TOGETHER AND KICKING OFF ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AS FALCONS! 🦅

THROUGHOUT THE DAY, CLASSROOM TEACHERS GUIDED THEIR STUDENTS THROUGH 10 DIFFERENT STATIONS FILLED WITH FUN, TEAMWORK, CREATIVITY, AND PLENTY OF FALCON SPIRIT! STUDENTS ENJOYED BOUNCE HOUSES, INFLATABLE GAMES, CLASSROOM TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITIES, KICKBALL, SNACKS, TRIVIA, KEYCHAIN MAKING, A SCHOOLWIDE FALCON DANCE, AND EVEN A T-SHIRT TIE-DYE STATION! 🎨🎵

AN EVENT LIKE THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. MANY MEETINGS, IDEAS, AND HELPING HANDS WENT INTO TAKING THE BACK TO SCHOOL BASH FROM A DREAM TO REALITY AND IT TRULY TOOK A TEAM!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO APRIL HUFFMAN AND OUR AMAZING CAFETERIA STAFF FOR HELPING MAKE LUNCH WORK A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY FOR THE DAY. STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO CHOOSE A FIELD-TRIP STYLE LUNCH OR BRING A PACKED LUNCH FROM HOME, HELPING KEEP THE FUN MOVING! THANK YOU TO MR. WRIGHT AND MR. WELLS FOR HELPING WITH SETUP AND MAKING SURE EQUIPMENT WAS IN THE RIGHT PLACE AND READY FOR EACH STATION. A BIG THANK YOU ALSO GOES TO OUR BUS DRIVERS, WHO HELPED RUN THE KICKBALL STATION AND JUMPED IN WHEREVER AN EXTRA HAND WAS NEEDED!

OUR SPECIALS TEACHERS, ESC STAFF, TITLE I TEACHERS, AND MRS. SWAVEL NOT ONLY HELPED COVER STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY, BUT ALSO WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE PLANNING PERIODS AND LUNCH PERIODS WERE COVERED WHEN NEEDED.

AND, OF COURSE, A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR CLASSROOM TEACHERS AND ENTIRE K-5 STAFF WHO PLANNED, ORGANIZED, SUPERVISED, ENCOURAGED, DANCED, PLAYED, CREATED, AND DID WHATEVER WAS NEEDED TO GIVE OUR STUDENTS SUCH A SPECIAL DAY! IT TOOK A LOT OF PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE RIVERDALE'S FIRST BACK TO SCHOOL BASH A SUCCESS, AND WE COULD NOT BE MORE THANKFUL FOR OUR INCREDIBLE STAFF. THIS IS WHAT BEING A FALCON FAMILY IS ALL ABOUT! 💙💜🦅

COMMUNITY SHOUTOUT

It Takes a Village to Help Our Falcons SOAR! 💙💜🦅

Our very first Back to School Bash would not have been possible without the incredible support of our Riverdale community! We are so fortunate to have organizations, businesses, families, and community members who are always willing to step up and help create special experiences for our students. 💙

🎨 Riverdale PTO – A HUGE thank you to our PTO! Not only did they run our Tie-Dye Station, but they also donated all of the supplies needed for the station. Every K-5 student had the opportunity to create their very own Riverdale tie-dye shirt to take home, a fun keepsake from an awesome day! 🟢💙

🍿 Academic Boosters – Thank you for allowing us to use the popcorn machine AND providing the popcorn, oil, and salt for our Popcorn & Fun Trivia Station! Our Falcons enjoyed grade level trivia while snacking on some freshly popped popcorn. 🗣️🍿

💧 Hempy Water – A special thank you for donating bottled water for all of our K-5 students! Keeping our Falcons hydrated during a busy day of fun was greatly appreciated!

🏰 Bounce & Boogie Party Rentals – Thank you for bringing the FUN with bounce houses and inflatable games that made up two of our stations! There were plenty of smiles, laughs, and excited Falcons throughout the day! 🎉

🦅 Emily Halm – Thank you for making the fun Riverdale temporary tattoos that added an extra boost of Falcon spirit! They were the perfect way for our students to show their Riverdale pride and get ready to cheer on the Falcons at the home football game that evening! 🏈💙

Events like this are a wonderful reminder that Riverdale is more than a school, we are a community. When our school, families, organizations, businesses, and community members come together, we can create some pretty amazing memories for our students.

From all of us at Riverdale, THANK YOU for helping make our first Back to School Bash such a special day! 🎉💙💜

It takes a village and we are so thankful for ours! GO FALCONS!

Upcoming Events

**SEPT.
1** **PTO MEETING**
7-8 PM

**SEPT.
07** **LABOR DAY
-NO SCHOOL**

**SEPT.
07** **ACADEMIC BOOSTER
MEETING** 7-8 PM

**SEPT.
09** **KONA ICE**

**SEPT.
17** **TOM'S COFFEE**
7-8:30AM

**SEPT.
23** **FALL PICTURE DAY**

