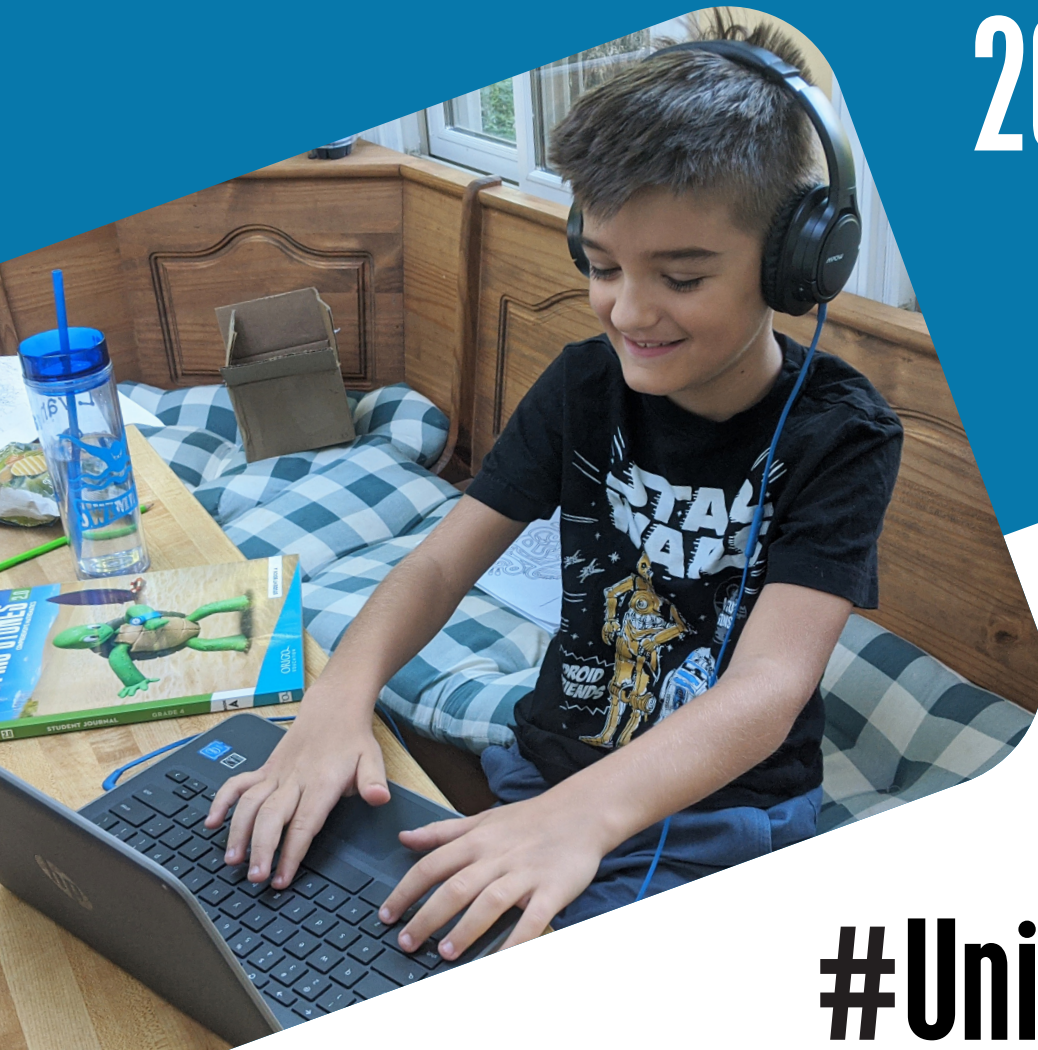




**RACINE
UNIFIED**
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Report to our Community 2020-2021



#UnifiedTogether

Points of Pride



Dear RUSD family,

What a year it has been! When we look back on 2020, what will stick with us? It is my hope that what many of us will remember is the kindness, unity and generosity of spirit displayed by students, families, colleagues, friends and neighbors. I know that I will remember with pride the work of our RUSD educators and staff.

Though schools were shut down, learning never stopped. Our dedicated, compassionate and hardworking staff rose to the challenge. They stood outside in the freezing March mornings packaging meals and distributing them to students and families. They drove homework packets and technology to doorsteps. They made personal phone calls and helped troubleshoot internet access issues. They provided support and guidance when hope was hard to find. They learned how to teach online and engage students virtually. They cleaned and disinfected and found ways to connect while six feet apart.

This annual report highlights a year of challenge, a year of change and a year of discovering ways to come together to keep moving forward despite the circumstances. I'm proud of all we've accomplished. Thank you RUSD staff, students, families and community. We are #UnifiedTogether.

Dr. Eric Gallien
Superintendent of Schools



Case High School Junior Azaan McCray placed third in Diving at the WIAA Division I Swimming & Diving State Championships

\$4,000,000+
awarded in
scholarships

Case High School esports won the WIHSEA Division I Smash Bros. State Tournament and Walden III esports took second place for Division III Overwatch



Red Apple Elementary received the National Blue Ribbon School award in 2020

51 AP Scholars
including National AP Scholar
Nora Schultz

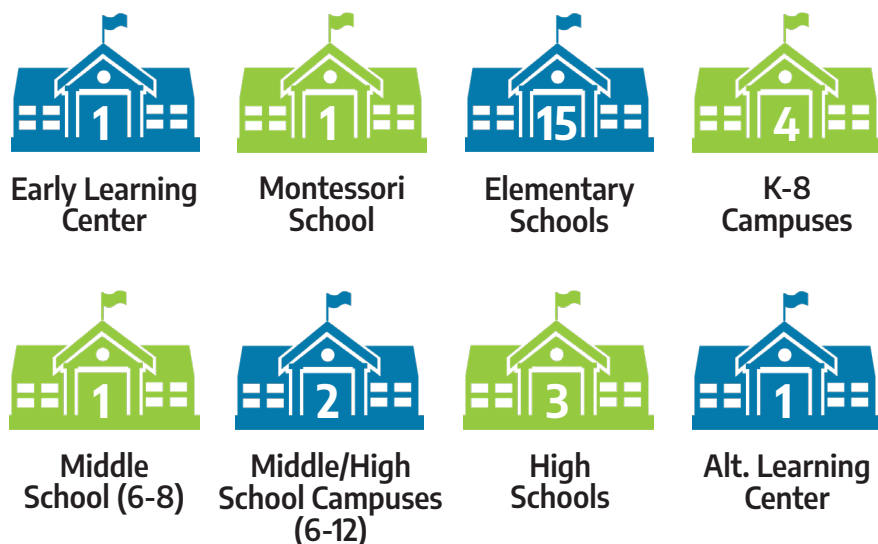


Ava Pinnow of West Ridge Elementary was one of only 102 recipients nationwide of the Prudential "Spirit of the Community Award"

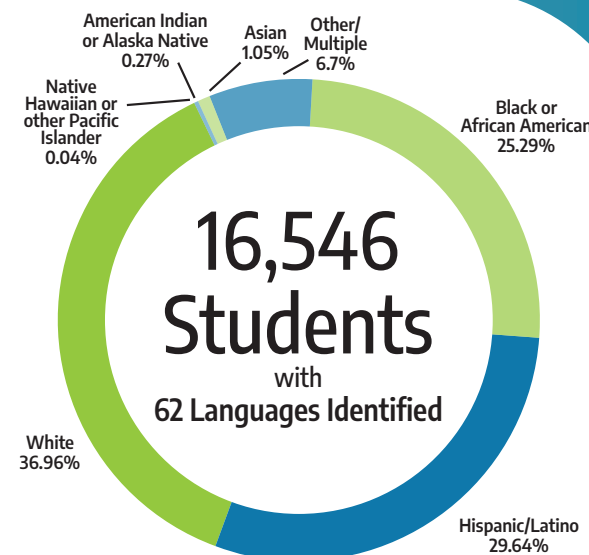


16 International Baccalaureate (IB) Scholars earned the IB Full Diploma (the most ever in RUSD's history!) and 3 earned the IB Career-related Certificate

RUSD By The Numbers



2,440 total staff members
1,773 teachers/professional staff
383 educational assistants
62% of teachers have advanced degrees
46% of educational support staff have advanced degrees



School Board Members

2020-2021 School Board	2021-2022 School Board
Brian O'Connell, President	Dulce Cervantes Contreras
Jane Brewer Barbian, Vice President	Amy Cimbalnik
John Heckenlively, Clerk	Scott Coey
Kimberly Hoover, Treasurer	Ally Docksey
Amy Cimbalnik	Matthew Hanser
Scott Coey	Kimberly Hoover
Michael Frontier	Auntavia Jackson
Matthew Hanser	Julie McKenna
Julie McKenna	Brian O'Connell

Stepping Up in a Crisis

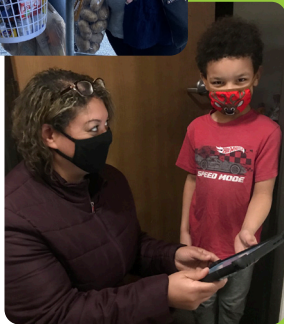
Curbside Meal Pickups

Hundreds of RUSD employees volunteered alongside our Aramark Food Service partners to distribute meals to Racine families at sites across the District. Between March 2020 and March 2021, RUSD provided more than 1.1 million meals.



Home Visits

The COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to close, but it did not stop educators from connecting with students and families! School staff made hundreds of home visits (with safety protocols in place) to provide technology, educational materials and just to connect and make sure students stayed on track!



School Nurses

With the health and safety of our students and staff members being the top priority during the pandemic, our school nurses and health professionals led the essential development and implementation of COVID-19 safety guidelines and protocol. They stepped up to provide training to RUSD employees, students and families, worked closely with the health departments to do contact tracing and also gave 600 flu vaccines during RUSD drive-up flu clinics.



Facilities & Maintenance

Schools were closed, but facilities and maintenance staff worked harder than ever to implement safety measures including installing hand sanitizer dispensers in every classroom and building entrance, rearranging classrooms for physical distancing, disinfecting nightly and increasing air exchanges in all buildings. While schools were closed, this team also completed 11,639 work orders to improve our schools for student and staff return!



Encore! Awards in Education

In July, RUSD honored 78 amazing educators and support staff with Encore! Awards. Since the annual awards banquet was canceled District staff coordinated a drive-thru awards ceremony complete with a photo op and a to-go brunch for each winner.



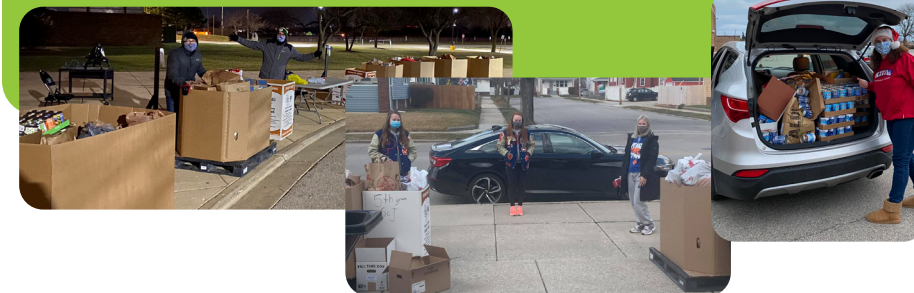
Graduation



2020 graduation looked very different, but was no less momentous! Each RUSD high school coordinated a safe and physically distanced graduation ceremony.

Canned Food Wars

RUSD high school students joined forces to compete against one another in a physically distanced and safe canned food wars event. Together, they collected 11,695 pounds of food for the Hospitality Center of Racine.



First Day Back In Person

After nearly one year and a tremendous amount of planning and preparation, RUSD welcomed students back with great excitement for in-person learning on Monday, March 1.



Retirement

In spring 2020, RUSD honored 76 retirees who together dedicated 1,909 years of service to RUSD students. With no retirement banquet the District got creative, hand delivering yard signs to retiree homes.




1:1 Technology

RUSD is now a 1:1 technology district

- 12,000 Chromebooks for students grades 3-12
- 4,367 tablets for our youngest students
- 11,000 headphones provided to students
- 500 mobile hotspots purchased for families
- 526 families provided with Spectrum internet
- 8,073 tech support calls received/served
- 846 teachers earned Google Certification

Family & Community Engagement


RUSD's Office of Family & Community Engagement is committed to raising student success through intentional and robust partnerships with parents and families. Research studies have pointed out evidence demonstrating that family engagement is one of the strongest predictors of overall student success. Efforts that are collaborative, linked to learning, and build respectful and trusting relationships are proven to produce positive outcomes on children adapting well to school, attending regularly and earning better grades.



Title I Family Resource Center offers RUSD families with students attending Title I schools a full range of services and supports to enrich student learning for academic success.


During the shutdown the Family Resource Center has served students and families by providing:

- At-home learning materials
- Grade-leveled books
- Math and literacy-focused resource folders



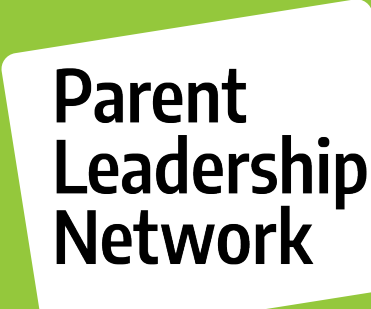
COVID-19 forced RUSD's annual Family Empowerment Day event to become the **Family Empowerment Series (FES)**. This series offers quarterly community family events with opportunities to elevate parenting skills, participate in student-centered enrichment activities and connect to local resources. 2020-2021 FES events included:

- Serving 160 families with holiday gift baskets
- RUSD Read to Achieve video library
- Family Bonding Drive-In Movie Night



Parent University has continued to support RUSD families during the pandemic through virtual sessions on a variety of topics. Any member of the Racine community can take advantage of the programming that Parent University provides each month. Some of the topics covered include:

- Talking to children about race
- Screen time for children
- Protecting your youth from harmful substances



Amidst the school shutdown, **Parent Leadership Network (PLN)** continues to actively work to form strong home and school partnerships to support school and student success!

This year PLN developed a new Facebook page (@RUSDPLN), newsletter and held monthly meetings to keep parent leaders engaged with District initiatives as well as garner input and feedback to inform District efforts and actions.

For more information about the programs above, visit our Family & Community Engagement pages at rusd.org/FACE

The Cost of COVID

RUSD experienced a number of fiscal impacts due to operational changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The disruption of operations impacted revenues, expenses and program operations.

Revenue Impacts

The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to more than \$1.9 million in revenue reductions for RUSD.

Revenue Reductions	
Suspension of student and activity-related fees	\$580,000
Lost building rental revenues	\$320,000
Reduction in federal Medicaid revenues related to services provided to special education students	\$1 million
Total Revenue Reductions	\$1.9 million

Savings Impacts

The District did experience some cost savings stemming from the remote learning structure for students.

Savings	
Substitute teacher costs	\$600,000
Voluntary furloughs of eligible staff	\$500,000
Department and school budget reductions	\$1 million
Total Savings	\$2.1 million

RUSD remote learning led to savings in pupil transportation costs. However, much of this savings will be offset by the increased costs of pupil transportation when schools reopened (due to safety protocol).

Expense Impacts





The COVID-19 pandemic required the District to expend funds to meet the instructional needs of students in both a remote and classroom learning environment. Additional costs were also incurred as the District implemented protocols to create safe and physically distanced school environments. District and federal CARES Act funds were utilized to cover new expenses in response to the pandemic. Expense impacts are outlined in the following table.

Expense Impact Area	District Funding	Federal ESSER & GEER Funding
Student Chromebooks for Remote Learning	\$3,800,000	
Increased Open Enrollment Tuition Costs	\$1,056,220	
Classroom Technology		\$2,290,010
Student Internet Access		\$476,721
Student Curriculum, Online Learning & Instructional Supplies		\$783,844
Personal Protection (Masks & Shields for Staff & Students)		\$276,964
Health and Safety		\$87,097
Staff Support for Face-to-Face learning	450,000	\$524,519
Staff Training	125,000	\$34,678
Operational Supplies & Costs (Building Sanitizing)		\$1,353,011
Pupil Transportation Reserve		\$1,000,000
	\$5,431,220	\$6,826,844

Federal ESSER Stimulus funding

RUSD received an allocation of \$5,883,184 in federal ESSER funds and \$2,540,433 from the Governor Emergency Relief Fund (GEER). Of this \$8.4 million in federal CARES Act funding, RUSD must allocate \$1.4 million for use by private schools in the area. In addition, RUSD will receive an additional \$23.6 million of federal ESSER II funding which can be used by the District for eligible expenses through September of 2023. The District is developing plans to utilize the ESSER II funding for learning recovery initiatives, including robust summer school offerings.

How Each Dollar is Spent

<p>School Based</p>  <p>• Instructional & Pupil Support Staff • Curriculum & Instructional Materials • Instructional Technology</p>	<p>Business & Operations</p>  <p>• Student Transportation • School Maintenance & Improvements • Food & Community Service Programs</p>	<p>Vouchers, Contract Staff & Open Enrollment</p>  <p>• School vouchers redirect public education funds for tuition to private schools • RUSD is required by law to pay a certain amount of money per student that open enrolls out of RUSD and into another district</p>	<p>Administration</p>  <p>• School Building Administration • ASC Administration</p>
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2020 Referendum Success; Thank You Racine Community

In April 2020, amid a state-wide pandemic shutdown, Racine voters made certain their voices were heard, passing the RUSD referendum by a narrow margin. We are grateful for the support of this funding measure that will allow RUSD to implement a long-range facilities master plan that moves our entire District into the future with new schools, enhanced technology and excellent learning environments for all students.

We continue to honor our commitment to keep the tax levy flat.



Note: Every 10 cents on the property tax levy equals \$10 on a \$100,000 home.

Research has shown there is a direct correlation between learning environments and student performance. Creating comfortable, functional and efficient facilities is critical to long-term success, and redirects resources to educating students.

In 2019, RUSD conducted a thorough review of our facilities—including school grounds, buildings, communication systems, mechanical systems and emergency power. This data and information was used to analyze the physical condition and operational costs of our existing facilities to determine what can be repaired or renovated affordably and what needed to be replaced. All of this information was utilized to develop a long-range facilities master plan which will allow RUSD to:

- Reduce and standardize the size of our middle schools,
- Expand schools (and programs) in areas of the community that are growing,
- Right-size schools in areas of the community that have seen reductions in school-aged children,
- Continue to address safety and security at our schools,
- Create 21st-century learning environments that accommodate the latest technology; and
- Expand STEM/STEAM programming and continue to grow and expand the Academies of Racine.



© Mark Hertzberg

What are the Next Steps?

The first phase projects that are part of the new referendum include:

- Demolition of the former Franklin school to make way for a new STEAM elementary school.
- Following the 2020-2021 school year, demolition of Giese Elementary to be the location of a new middle school.
- Renovation and expansion of Jerstad-Agerholm K-8 school.
- A new southwest K-8 school.
- Renovation and expansion of Starbuck IB Middle School to be a K-8 International Baccalaureate School.

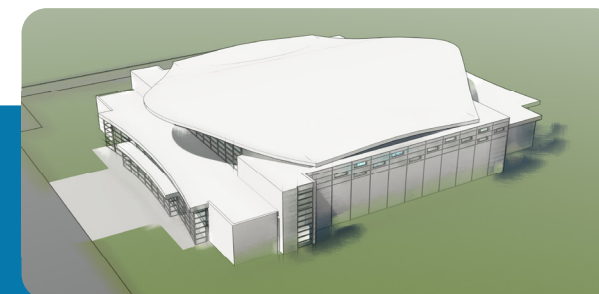


Bring Your Voice to the Table

You can get involved in the work by joining the Facilities Advisory Council.

The Facilities Advisory Council (FAC) is comprised of community representatives, students, parents and staff who develop facility planning recommendations for the District. The FAC analyzes, discusses, evaluates and offers its advice to the Board of Education regarding the scoping, programming, scheduling, budgeting, prioritization and allocation of resources for the implementation of the long-range facility master plan.

Virtual meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month from 5-6:30 p.m. Contact info@rusd.org for more information.



Aquatic Center Update

Making waves this Fall!

Just a few months from now the RUSD Aquatic Center will be complete and ready to welcome student-athletes as well as community members of all ages.

The Aquatic Center broke ground on September 2, 2020 and is projected to be completed in the fall of 2021. Once open, the Aquatic Center will serve as a state-of-the-art competitive venue for RUSD student-athletes and will also be open to the entire community for swim lessons, water safety courses, fitness classes, water-training courses, open swim, swim club and other events.





First Class Success


Celebrating the Academies' first graduating class!

In 2016, RUSD transformed its high schools into the Academies of Racine. The Academies are designed to ensure students are better prepared for college and the regional workforce. In changing the curriculum, developing small learning communities and better connecting with local businesses and organizations, the Academies help students graduate with a plan. Within the Academies are specific Pathways, such as Culinary Arts, Engineering, Marketing, Automotive Technology, Construction and other specialty areas based on high-demand careers.

The Academies of Racine celebrated its very first graduating class in 2020 amidst a worldwide pandemic. Though their senior year didn't end the way they planned, these students benefited from the amazing hands-on, real-world learning experiences the Academies of Racine at Case, Horlick and Park High Schools offer.


The Academies Snapshot of Success


233 
Employer and Civic Partners

730 students earned a total of **2,186** College Credits for a savings based on enrollment of **\$367,372** 

116 New Employer and Civic Partners

472 Community Volunteers  who donated a total of **2,159** hours

Freshman Average GPA **2.34** 

Freshman with 7 or More Credits  **66.47%**



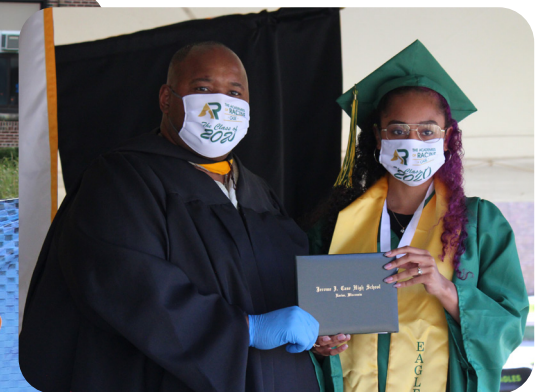
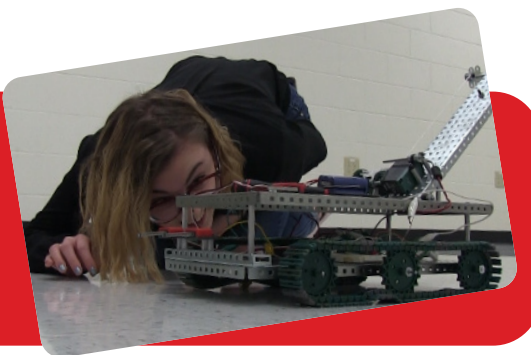
"Growing up I kind of had a lot of ideas of what I wanted to be, but when I heard about the Academies I started to focus on what I was good at and what skills I had and I knew I had to go with the Engineering pathway. The cool part about it was I got to learn a little bit about all aspects of engineering. I feel like I have a more well-rounded view of engineering as a whole and am more informed heading into college."

- Koffi Koudahenou, Case Class of 2020



"When I was a freshman I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up, but the Academies really gave me an opportunity to get hands-on interactive experience in a field I might not have thought of before."

-Sophia Governatori, Horlick Class of 2020



"We did get a lot of opportunities to figure out what interested us," Ludvigsen said. "Even if you walked in not having a clue, you were able to weed out what you liked and didn't like and that helped make your choice."

-Drake Ludvigsen, Park class of 2020





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