



2021-2022
Report to our
Community



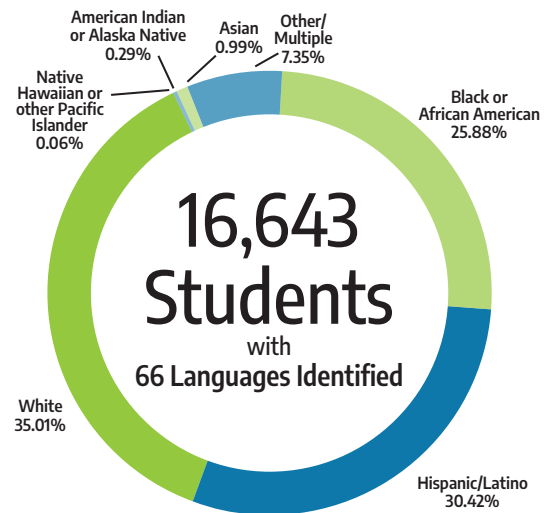
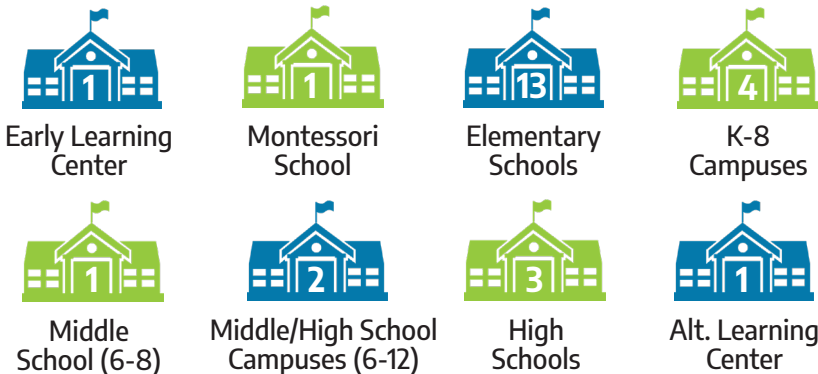
#ForwardTogether

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Our District



2,953 total staff members | 1,529 teachers/professional staff | 419 educational assistants
61% of teachers have advanced degrees 44% of educational support staff have advanced degrees



Dear RUSD Families and Community Members -

A year ago we thought we would have this pandemic behind us. Yet, here we are two years in continuing to push through, innovate and work tirelessly to prepare smart, successful students. I am so thankful and proud of the work our RUSD educators and staff do each and every day.

Over the past year we have seen continued growth in the Academies of Racine. Improved state report cards for all three comprehensive high schools demonstrate that the Academy model is working. Now, we are excited to announce that the model will be expanding into our middle schools.

I am also happy to share that in response to great interest from Goodland Montessori families, the

Board of Education recently approved an expansion. Adding a grade level each year, Goodland Montessori will grow to a K-8 school over the next four years. Montessori has been extremely successful and I am thrilled to be able to provide this opportunity for our families.

As the District's *Raising Racine 2022* strategic plan comes to an end, work is underway on a new five-year strategic plan. We are in the process of engaging community members to help finalize this plan and look forward to sharing our new goals with you later this year. While we are proud of all we accomplished under that plan, we look forward to seeing where our new plan will take us and hope you will join us on that journey! #ForwardTogether

Dr. Eric Gallien
Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Advisory Council

RUSD's Superintendent Advisory Council actively engages its members in discussions, information gathering and work around specific topics resulting in recommendations to the superintendent to improve the educational experience for RUSD students and families. Participants must live or work in Racine and be willing to meet monthly over the lunch hour.

To volunteer, contact the Superintendent's Office at elizabeth.tobias@rusd.org or 262.631.7064.

2021-2022 School Board Members

Matthew Hanser, President
Ally Docksey, Vice President
Kimberly Hoover, Treasurer
Scott Coey, Clerk
Dulce Cervantes Contreras
Tonya C. Evans
Auntavia Jackson
Julie McKenna
Brian O'Connell

Choices & Opportunities

RUSD offers a wide variety of school choices and unique programs. Each December, Racine Unified School District opens the School Choice window. During this time families can apply for enrollment at a school other than their boundary school. Take a look at some of our exciting options and discover the best fit for your child.

Dual Language Program

Prepares bilingual and biliterate students who achieve high levels of success academically, linguistically and socially.

Bull Early Education Center (BEEC)

Offers programs for 3- and 4-year-old students to prepare our youngest learners for kindergarten.

Parent Child Oriented Classroom (PCOC) | Age 3

This program for 3-year-olds allows parents to work with their children in the classroom once a week.

Goodland Montessori | Ages 3 and up

Goodland Montessori is expanding! The Montessori Program, which is based on self-directed activities that emphasize learning through all five senses, will be available for students kindergarten through eighth grade.

Red Apple Elementary | K-5

A STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) magnet school providing students with many projects and interactive learning opportunities. Red Apple was a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School!

Gilmore Fine Arts | K-8

Offers a world-class fine arts program with specialized instruction in art, instrumental music, choral music, drama and dance.

International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme | K-5

Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary and West Ridge Elementary Schools offer an IB Primary Years Programme, which is an inquiry-led, rigorous curriculum that encourages students to explore local and global issues and a second language. Jefferson Lighthouse received the National Blue Ribbon School award in 2021!

Starbuck Middle School, International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme | 6-8

The IB Programme at Starbuck is designed to develop active learners and internationally-minded students through rigorous curriculum and project-based learning. Starbuck students can continue the IB programme at Case High School.

Walden III | 6-12

Named one of the best high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, Walden III offers a small, close-knit learning environment.

The R.E.A.L. School | 6-12

The Racine Engineering, Arts and Leadership School offers a small, tight-knit learning environment and engineering classes through the SC Johnson iMET Center thanks to a partnership with Gateway Technical College.

The Academies of Racine | 9-12

Students attending Case, Horlick and Park High Schools all have an opportunity to be part of the Academies of Racine. Students select pathways to explore career choices and experience hands-on, real-world learning.

RUSD Virtual Learning | K-12

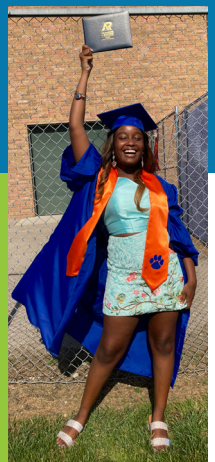


An alternative to the traditional classroom, this program offers students more than 350 online courses, an assigned mentor teacher and the opportunity to participate in sports and activities at their home school.

Could virtual learning be the right fit for your child?

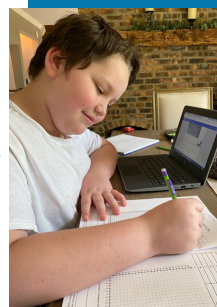
"I didn't miss out on anything. I was able to be successful and still take part in all those little, small, great memories."

- Willow, virtual learning graduate



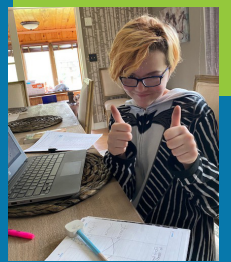
"Her self-esteem picked up. She got a lot more confident. She was able to work at her own pace and do things that made her happy and feel good."

- Annie, mother of a virtual learning graduate



"This was not an entirely pandemic-related decision for us. We saw how well it worked. We've decided to keep going with it."

- Christina, mother of two virtual learning students



Points of Pride



Coding Smart! The R.E.A.L. School 8th grader Malea Piña took home first place in Tech-Prize’s App Idea Competition for conceiving “Homework Help.”

Case High School Senior Macy Flanagan also took home a first place prize. She was part of a team in the Code-A-Thon competition.



Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary was among only nine Wisconsin schools recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School awardee!



Walden III Senior Grace Brussat is a finalist in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program for showing exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.



14 Case High School Students earned the International Baccalaureate Full Diploma. Three Case High School students earned the International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate.



RUSD honored 79 staff members at the 2021 Encore! Awards in Education for demonstrating success in the classroom, fostering excellent academic achievement and consistently contributing to making their schools a better place.



The RUSD Aquatic Center was completed on December 3, 2021. This state-of-the-art 51,000-square-foot facility has seating for 800 spectators, a 10-lane lap pool, a handicap-accessible multi-purpose pool and a 14-foot deep diving well with two 1-meter diving boards and two 3-meter diving boards.

Youth Apprenticeship Leads to Career

2021 Horlick High School graduate Joe Lynch spent his senior year working on the Aquatic Center as a Youth Apprentice for Findorff. He was part of the construction pathway at the Academies of Racine - Horlick and was hired as an apprentice carpenter by Findorff after he graduated.





Dive in!

Community members will be welcome to take fitness classes, swim lessons, schedule a lane for swimming, watch swim meets and even book a party. More information coming soon!

Come check it out or give us a call!
7567 Washington Ave. Enter via Oakes Rd.
(262) 619-4670 | rusd.org/AquaticCenter

Community Schools



United Way
of Racine County

Strengthening Schools & Communities: Mitchell K-8 Becomes Racine's Third Community School

In fall 2021, Mitchell K-8 became the third Community School in the Racine Unified School District and Racine County, signaling a strong commitment to increasing opportunities for children to succeed and improving the area's economic prosperity.



Community schools are part of the United Way's Link and Inspire For Tomorrow (LIFT) program, which is designed to lift up the community by creating partnerships between neighborhoods and resources focused on academics, family relationships, health and social services. Within each school, resources are specifically tailored to the students, families and community it serves.



"Anybody can really take part in the opportunities that we are creating," said Kira Muñoz, the United Way of Racine County's Community School Coordinator for Mitchell K-8. "It's not just for the school, it's for the community."

The idea is to make the school a central hub in the neighborhoods it serves by hosting events that increase parental involvement in children's education, offering access to physical, dental and mental health services, providing financial education and even assisting parents so they can earn their high school diplomas.

"Parents and students are going to be able to get the resources they need to be successful," said Priscilla Marquez, Mitchell K-8's directing principal. "All the things that are going to be coming our way are really going to help our families and I'm super excited to see how that's going to affect our school in a positive way."

"We all want to see a thriving, healthy community and with community schools, we're seeing the needle move," Muñoz said. "Ultimately we'd like to see kids continue to grow on this path of success."



Family Resource Centers



Each Community School has a Family Resource Center offering families a full range of services to enrich student learning for academic success. From at-home learning materials to special parent and child events to parenting classes and one-on-one support, we are here to help!

For more information call 262.631.7118 or email rebecca.estrada@rusd.org.

Welcome the Walking School Bus!

The walking school bus is as simple as it sounds. It's basically a bus on feet, but it's also a creative way to get kids to class safely and on time.

"The idea of it is to reduce truancy and tardiness," said Katie Tuttle, former walking school bus coordinator for the United Way of Racine County and new Knapp Community School Coordinator. "We really want to make it manageable for all our families to get to school on time because realistically not all families have the same schedule."



The walking school bus coordinator maps out routes for students participating in the walking school bus, then walks the route with other volunteers, picking up kids along the way.

"It's an amazing way to start your day," Tuttle said.

Volunteers engage the students in conversation, song



and other activities on the way to school leaving the students excited to see them the next time. An added bonus is the exercise the kids and volunteers get to start their day!

Right now the Walking School Bus is only offered select days at Knapp and Julian Thomas, two of the District's Community Schools. The hope is to offer it every day of the week at both schools, but making that happen requires getting more boots on the ground. Anyone interested in volunteering should apply through the United Way of Racine County. Families interested in having their student(s) join a walking school bus can contact school staff.

RUSD Community Schools



Knapp Elementary
2701 17th St.



Julian Thomas Elementary
930 Dr. Martin Luther King Dr.



Mitchell K-8
2701 Drexel Ave.

Real Jobs, Real Futures: RUSD Youth Apprentices

These aren't just any after-school jobs. These are jobs that can lead to well-paying careers, benefits, profit-sharing and more.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, 117 Racine Unified High School students took part in youth apprenticeships during the 2020-21 school year and all of them received real-world experience that could help them land their next job while exposing them to careers available in their own community.

Positions ranged from pharmacy technicians and certified nursing assistants to business development reps and welders. There are youth apprenticeship positions to fit any student's interests and students who could help a range of local businesses.



"We found we had a pressing need to infuse a younger generation," said Dan Wasik, InSinkEerator's general supervisor of maintenance. "People should embrace the idea that there are kids out there that really want this, really want to learn."

InSinkEerator is one area business that has offered youth apprenticeships over the past several years. The company is currently employing its fifth youth apprentice.

"Working a trade job is something I've always envisioned, thanks to the [Academies] pathways," said Anthony McGruff, a senior at Case High School and InSinkEerator youth apprentice. "I went into machine fabrication and CNC operating and I love what I do in that class and I thought if I could get a job doing this same stuff and get paid for it, I would love that."

InSinkEerator has actually gone on to hire three of the youth apprentices they employed, including Jordan Bloemers, a 2017 graduate of Case High School. He had no idea what he wanted to do after graduation when he was offered a youth apprenticeship at the company. He started off welding and now does mechanic work.

"My favorite thing about what I do is how it's never the same," Bloemers said. "[I] come in to work on a machine one day, do mechanic work. Sometimes I do electrical work."

And, he is continuing to learn with InSinkEerator covering the tab on his tuition. On top of that, he makes a great wage.

"It's stable, good money," said Michael Minton, another InSinkEerator employee who started out as a youth apprentice. "I enjoy the work, especially since I'm doing something different every day. Profit-sharing is a really big plus for retirement, so benefits are great. People are great."



And the folks at InSinkEerator will tell you the youth apprentices are great too. When Wasik was asked if they contribute to the actual work InSinkEerator is doing daily, he replied "300 percent!"

"The entry-level work can be done by them under supervision," Wasik said. "The amount of investment and time leads to huge dividends in returns. You can actually create, cultivate somebody into how you want them to be instead of somebody coming in who's already learned things in another process."

Thanks to our partnership with RAMAC, RUSD has been able to provide a wide variety of youth apprenticeship opportunities for our Academies students.



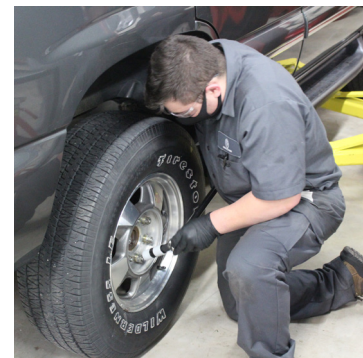
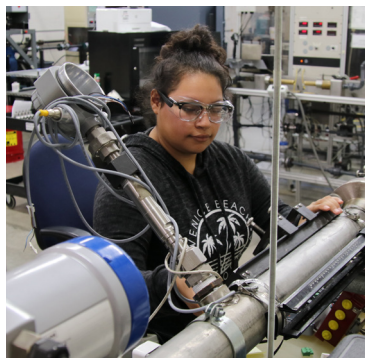
A few of the 117 Youth Apprenticeships held this year:



IT - RUSD, Racine Public Library, Racine Courthouse, Target
Finance - Educators Credit Union, Tri City Bank, Sheepish
Education - RUSD, Bright Minds, Mauer Home School
Hospitality - O&H Bakery, Ferraro's, Culver's
Certified Nursing Assistant - Home Harbor, Aurora



Production, Supply Chain & Logistics - CNH Industrial
Management/Leadership - Superior Industrial Coating
Marketing - RUSD, Educators Credit Union
Pharmacy Tech - Walgreens, Ascension
Dietary Aid - Ascension



Health Science - St. Monica's
Auto Technician - Boucher
Manufacturing - Racine Metal Fab
Accounting - CSYMX Inc.
Welding - InSinkErator
Transportation - DeltaHawk

What's Next: Middle School Academies

Work is underway to launch the Middle School Academies in the Fall of 2022.

Here's what it means for students.

- The Middle School Academies will help students find purpose and meaning in their middle school learning through project-based, hands-on experiences offered to them through new courses like 6th Grade Seminar.
- A 7th Grade Academy Survey will provide students a chance to explore college and career opportunities for the first time, helping to prepare them for a successful transition to the high school Academies.
- Electives like art, music, theater and world languages will continue to be an integral part of the middle school experience to develop well-rounded, global learners and citizens.
- Post-secondary and community partners will provide real-world connections for students, opening their eyes to career opportunities right in our community.



Join the Academies of Racine Steering Committee

This committee is made up of area employers, post-secondary educational institutions, non-profits, families, students and others to help connect our classrooms to the community. The committee's goal is to guide the Academies of Racine so students are empowered, have a sense of belonging and are given personalized learning, while also creating community partnerships to give students access to state-of-the-art facilities and technologies, high demand industry credentials and opportunities to earn college credits.

For more information, contact Alexander DeBaker at alexander.debaker@rusd.org or 262.631.7089.

Budget & Finance

ESSER Funds

To date, congress has passed three stimulus bills that have provided nearly \$190.5 billion under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to local education agencies in Wisconsin. The funds provide emergency financial assistance to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools. Here's what RUSD has received:

ESSER I	ESSER II	ESSER III
\$4,896,135	\$23,576,970	\$52,950,525

How is RUSD Using ESSER Funds?

The District identified its preferred top priorities after getting input from thousands of families, community members and other stakeholders. This input continues to be used in all ESSER planning. Here are a few ways funding is being used:

- **ESSER I** funds were invested to support immediate student, family and staff needs during the transition from in-person to remote and later hybrid learning. Funds were also invested to increase school safety protocols and provide personal protective equipment.
- **ESSER II & ESSER III** Funds are being used to maintain healthy learning environments for students and staff, address learning loss through a variety of additional programs, training, staff and mental health supports, education technology and outreach and services to special populations.

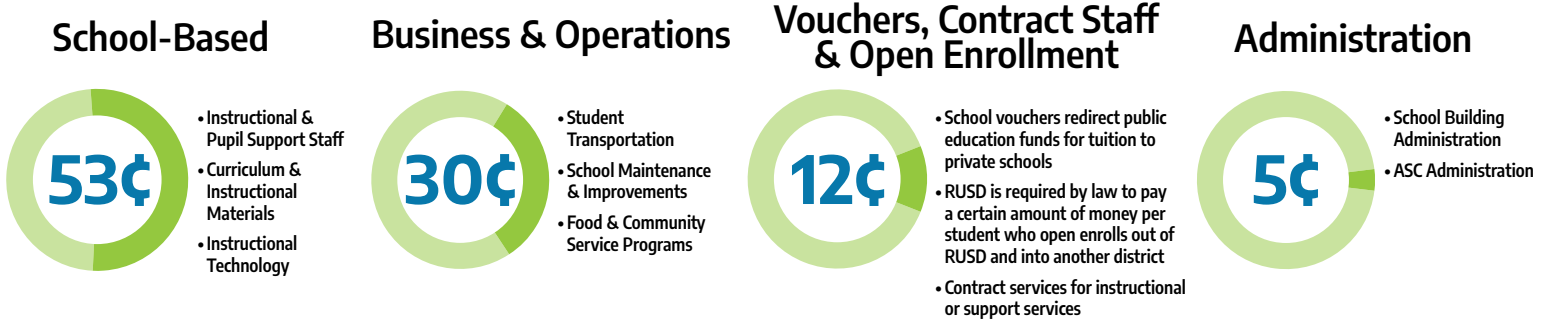
Community Service Fund

RUSD has a community service fund that must be used for initiatives and projects benefiting the entire community. We are proud to say the fund has been used to not only build the brand new RUSD Aquatic Center that's open to the public, but also Pritchard Park, a state-of-the-art, multi-purpose stadium at the SC Johnson Community Sports Complex that is available to use for football, soccer, lacrosse and other community events.

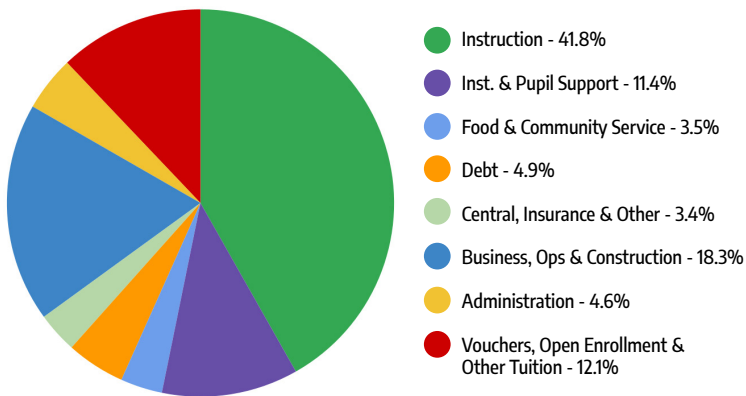


By the Numbers

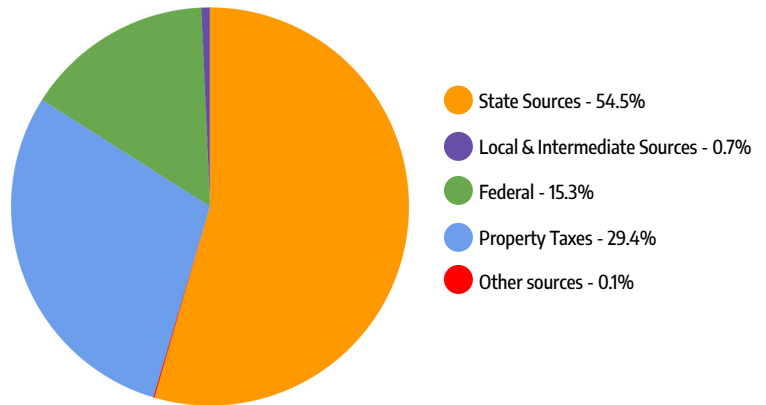
How Each Dollar is Spent



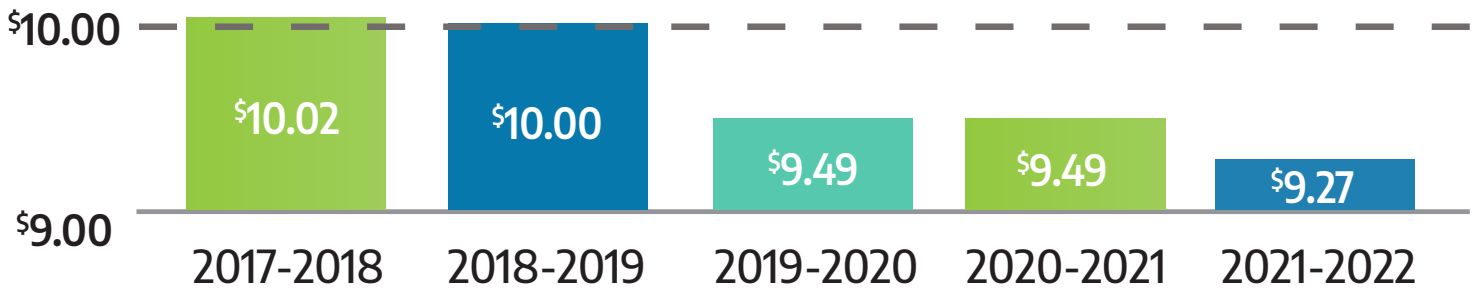
Expenditures by Function



Sources of Revenue



Tax Levy Reduced Again



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

Join 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 facilities 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.

Supporting Students

Access. Opportunities. Outcomes.

RUSD is committed to breaking down student barriers, whether they are academic, socio-economic, linguistic or otherwise. We know there is no cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all approach to helping students succeed which is why we look at each child to determine what they need rather than what is required. When students feel seen and heard, it builds their self-esteem, produces positive outcomes and allows them to see that their dreams can come to fruition. Check out some of the ways we are meeting our students and families where they are.

TutorMe

RUSD applied for and received a \$100,000 grant to offer high school students access to free, live tutors online 24/7. Students can access TutorMe tutors by logging into ClassLink and then clicking on the TutorMe icon.



Raising Readers

The District ramped up its Competency-Based Diploma Program this year, allowing students to graduate based on demonstrated skills and abilities within a condensed time frame.

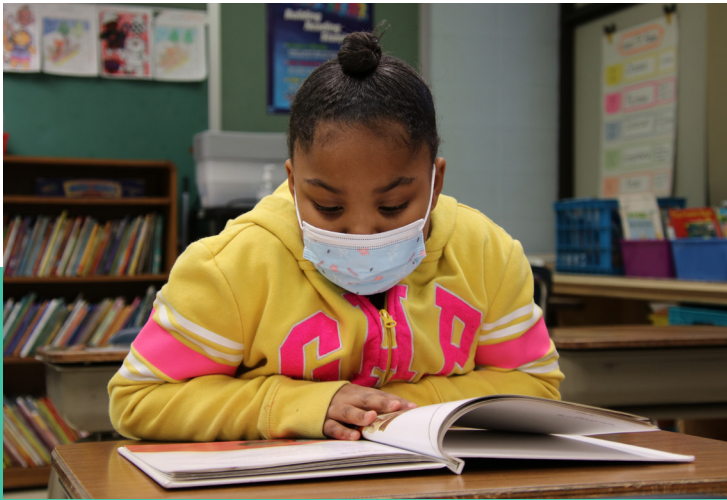


Extended Learning

From open gyms and beauty clubs to running clubs and budgeting basics, RUSD's Extended Learning Department provides emotional, social and recreational enrichment to students and their families.



RUSD goes beyond school walls to help our students and families through Parent University. This year we partnered with Children's Wisconsin to offer sessions on balancing work and life, raising resilient children, building self-esteem and more. These programs support the work being done in our school-based mental health clinics.



RUSD launched a new hub filled with reading resources to help families support the development of early reading skills at home. Find it at rusd.org/raisingreaders



Office of Family & Community Engagement

From coats and clothing to backpacks and holiday food baskets, the District and its partners are committed to ensuring our families have what they need to be successful.



Administrative Service Campus

3109 Mt. Pleasant St. • Racine, WI 53404
262-635-5600 • info@rusd.org
www.rusd.org

Join Our Journey & Get Involved

WINGS

WINGS is the District's Volunteer Program and is designed to let you be as involved as your interests and time allow. From helping teachers in classrooms to working directly with students as a tutor or mentor, there are many ways you can help create positive experiences for our students.

Simply fill out an application at rusd.org/wings or contact Joan Schaefer at joan.schaefer@rusd.org or 262.631.7020.



Parent Leadership Network

Family engagement is one of the strongest predictors of overall student success and all families have the capacity to support their child's learning. Help us make it known! The Parent Leadership Network is made up of several RUSD parent groups that have a common goal of sharing knowledge and raising awareness of resources that can improve student outcomes.

Want to get involved? Contact Felicia Howell at felicia.howell@rusd.org or 262.631.7053.