



2022-2023 Annual Report

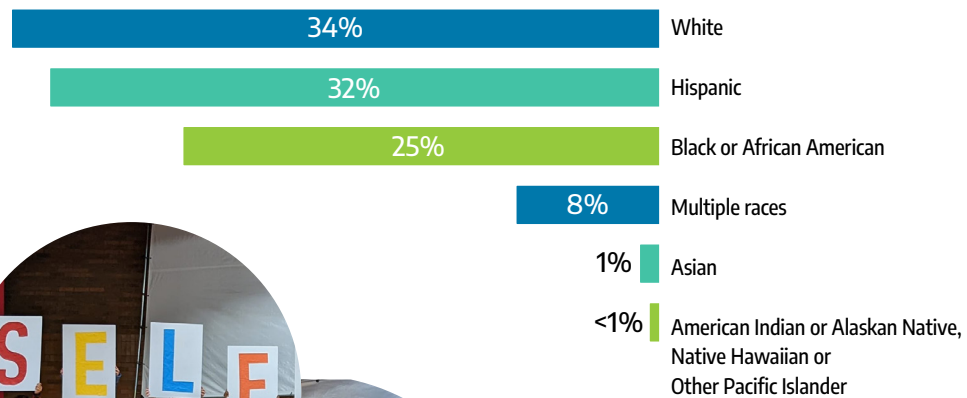


**YOU
BELONG
HERE**



OUR STUDENTS

16,485 students total
61 different languages spoken



OUR EMPLOYEES

3,556 employees total
1,509 teachers
409 educational assistants
202 administrators



OUR OPERATIONS

Buses running daily: 122
Bus routes: 527
Students transported daily: 9,027
Meals served annually (2021-22 school year):

- 921,678 breakfasts
- 1,381,987 lunches
- 9,410 dinners
- 82,478 snacks



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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jane Barbian, President | Julie McKenna, Vice President
Ally Docksey, Treasurer | Scott Coey, Clerk
Matthew Hanser | Auntavia Jackson
Brian O'Connell | Theresa Villar | Ronald Wheatley

It is an exciting time to be a part of the Racine Unified School District. Not only are we beginning to build new schools, planning exciting expansions and modernizing our existing facilities, we're also launching a new five-year strategic plan.

During the last year, nearly 60 community members partnered with RUSD leaders, teachers, staff, students and families to develop the strategic plan that will guide the District and improve outcomes for students over the next five years. Strategic Plan 2027 has four strategic priorities: Student Success, Climate and Culture, Systems, Accountability and Growth and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). It includes six major District-wide goals:

1. 86% graduation rate - ready for career, college, life
2. 75% of pre-3rd grade students reading on grade level
3. 86% of middle school students graduating ready for high school
4. Elimination of variances in results across all student groups, regardless of race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, etc.
5. 80% of families will choose RUSD for their children
6. 100% of District facilities will have modern infrastructure (technology, buildings and safety and security features)

You will get a glimpse of some of the work we are doing to achieve these goals within this report, but this is just beginning. We are excited to work together with you to build a bright future for our students!

Dr. Eric Gallien
Superintendent of Schools

YOU BELONG HERE

When people walk through the doors of our schools, their perception of the District changes for the better. A recent focus group and survey of families, staff and community members revealed that this may be because of the resounding sense of belonging among our staff and students.



"I feel valued simply for being able to share ideas with people and see different people's perspectives and values all come together to do what is best for our students."

Michael
Recruiter



"I like that teachers work to form meaningful connections with students. This makes it a lot easier to ask questions in class. They make learning fun and make classes more fun."

Madhura
Senior



"My teachers make me feel great. They genuinely care about my education."

Elijah
Senior



"I like Case High School because of all the different sports and club opportunities there are and how easy they are to access. I also like how there are so many different class options and an entire IB pathway."

Brayden
Sophomore



"My teachers are my friends. Mr. George and Coach Mack are so cool and my favorites. I like my classmates."

Greyson
First Grade



"I am thrilled to be working with such an upbeat, hard-working group of people. We can truly count on one another for support, guidance and friendship."

Suellen
K-5 Teacher



"I take pride in my work as a Youth Advocate and I feel like Olympia Brown is my home. The relationships I've built with both the staff and students over the years have made me feel as though I am a part of something bigger than myself."

Paige
Youth Advocate



"When you walk in to Park you feel the love from others around. Even if you're having a bad day there is always one person who can brighten it."

Arniessie
Sophomore



"I've built close relationships with my teachers and classmates. I still talk to many of my former teachers because we have developed close relationships. Park has provided me with not only classmates but people that I am happy to call my friends, even my best friends, the people that I hope to see at my wedding someday."

Izzy
Junior



"My coworkers are some of my closest friends. When you bond over your profession, friendships come easy. I respect all of my coworkers for doing this important, sometimes stressful, job. It always makes it easier when you feel like you are a team and you are all in it together."

Ally
Teacher

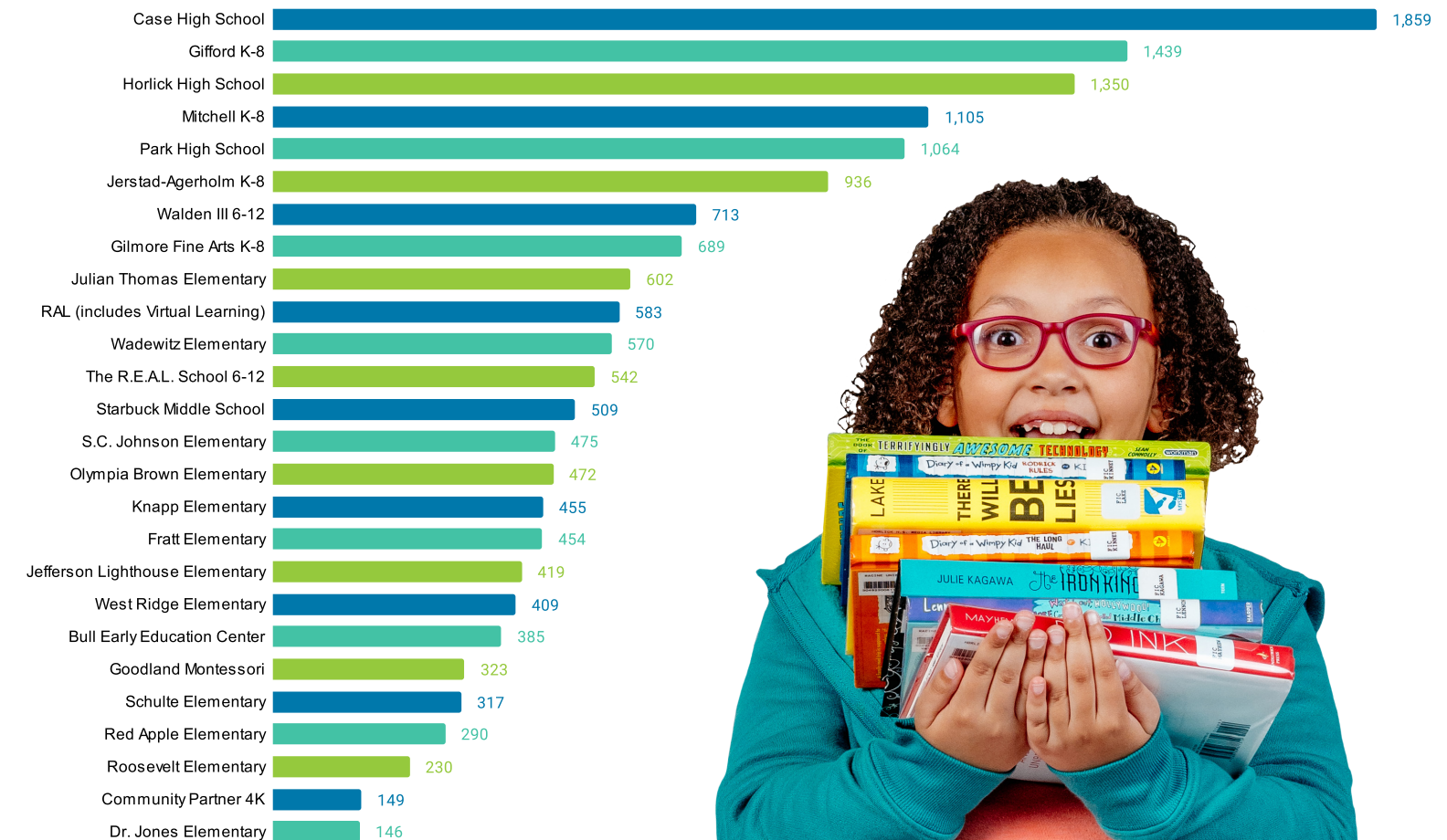


"The teachers make me feel comfortable and that's what makes me raise my hand to participate."

Sydney
Fifth Grade

ENROLLMENT

RUSD is the fifth largest school district in the state of Wisconsin, home to 16,485 students in 26 schools.



INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The District has begun implementing its long-range facilities master plan using referendum funds approved by voters in 2020 and every student and school will benefit. **Thank you Racine community!**

Here's a glimpse of what's to come:

2 Brand New Schools | 4 School Expansions to K-8s | 15 Schools Getting Major Renovations



AWESOME UPGRADES

Work is underway to modernize and improve the District's learning environments, especially for science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) education. Not only are we going to build a brand new Red Apple K-8 STEAM School (coming Fall 2025), several schools are also getting new STEAM labs and makerspaces.

The second brand new school in the District will also be a K-8 school. A new Schulte K-8 School will be built on the same site as the current school and will open in fall 2025. The other two new K-8 schools will be expansions of current schools. Olympia Brown is undergoing a major expansion to become a K-8 school as is Starbuck. When Starbuck has its grand reopening in fall 2024, it will serve as the District's campus for all K-8 International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme students.

Other enhancements throughout the District include new secure vestibules (entrances) and upgrades to libraries, fine arts and athletic facilities. Several schools will get new gyms, classrooms and other additions.

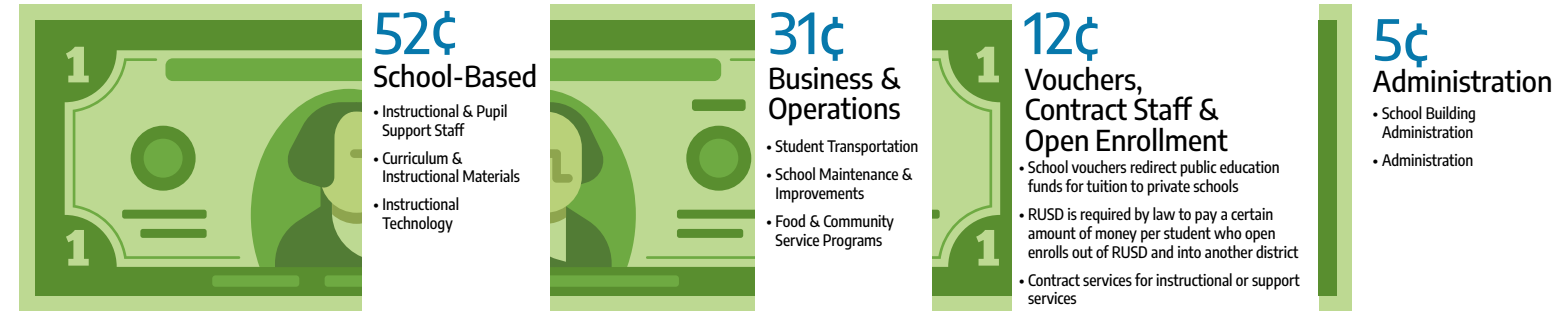
Scan the QR code for a detailed look at the amazing transformations that are already or about to happen in our schools. We can't wait for our students and families to see it for themselves!

To view plans for each school, visit rusd.org/SchoolPlans or scan this code.

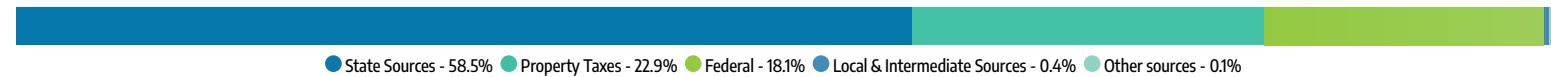


DISTRICT DOLLARS

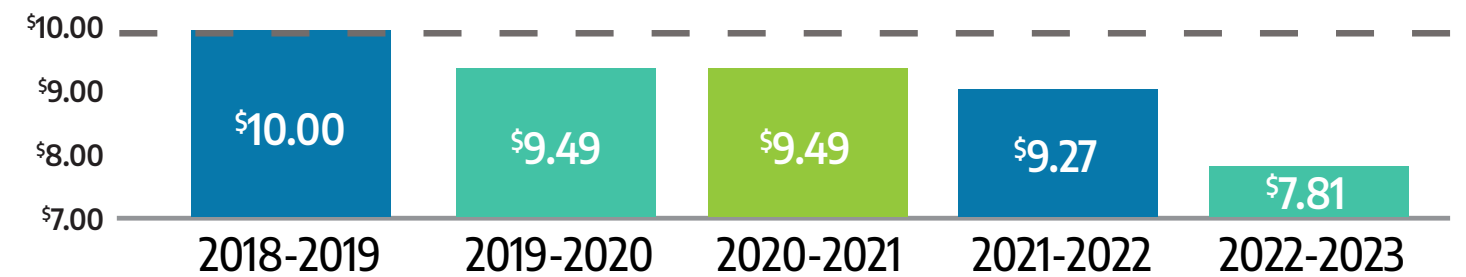
How Each Dollar is Spent



Sources of Revenue



Tax Levy Reduced Again



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

ESSER Funds

RUSD has received \$81,423,630 from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to address the impact COVID-19 has had and continues to have on our schools. Here is how we have allocated those funds through January 2023:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Addressing after-school and summer learning | \$1,229,499 |
| Addressing long-term school closure | \$10,518,950 |
| Educational technology | \$9,824,430 |
| Mental health services and supports | \$868,063 |
| Outreach/service delivery to special populations | \$286,733 |
| Preparedness and response to COVID-19 | \$2,057,787 |

The District has until September 2024 to spend the ESSER Funds it received. For more information on how the District determined what to spend the money on and additional details on specific spending, visit rusd.org.

GFOA Budget Award

For the 2021-22 fiscal year, RUSD received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. The Award recognizes governments for transparency in budgeting. This is the second year in a row RUSD's finance department has received the award.





Raising Readers

Reading. It's the foundation of education. It helps children learn to make sense of the world around them, develop logic and problem-solving skills, enhance social skills and – it's entertaining! For all of these reasons, we are dedicating a great deal of resources in and outside the classroom to raising readers. Here are just a few ways we are investing in this crucial skill.

INSTRUCTION

Reading Coaches

Each RUSD school now has a reading coach dedicated to early literacy. These coaches work side-by-side with K-2 teachers to co-plan and integrate literacy into all aspects of the curriculum.

Early Literacy Summer Institute

During the summer of 2022, K-2 teachers participated in an Early Literacy Summer Institute to learn the science of reading and best teaching practices for reading. The District is expanding these teachings to third through fifth grade teachers in the summer of 2023 so they have the skills necessary to help any students in their classes who may be not be reading at grade level.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

For the 2022-23 school year, the RUSD Family and Community Engagement Team also turned its focus to early literacy, offering a Raising Readers to Succeed reading challenge with prizes, and also holding a book writing contest. The top scoring books will be printed together and available in all RUSD elementary school libraries. These two programs were excellent opportunities for families to engage in at-home learning with their children. Find more ways to engage at rusd.org/FACECalendar.



OUTSIDE SUPPORT

Schools of Hope

Schools of Hope returned to RUSD schools this year for the first time since the pandemic began. This partnership with the United Way of Racine County provides young children with tutors on a regular basis to increase reading achievement in the early grades. This year there are more than 53 volunteers working with students in first through third grades at Julian Thomas Elementary, Knapp Elementary, Mitchell K-8 and Wadewitz Elementary. Want to become a tutor? Learn more at unitedwayracine.org/SOH.

Reading Corps

RUSD'S partnership with Reading Corps expanded significantly in the 2022-23 school year and there are plans for it to expand even further during the 2023-24 school year so each elementary school in the District has Reading Corps tutors.

This year there are 25 Reading Corps tutors working with kindergarten through third grade students in 13 RUSD schools, including Fratt, Julian Thomas, Knapp, Olympia Brown, Red Apple, Roosevelt, S.C. Johnson, Schulte, Wadewitz and West Ridge elementaries and Gifford, Gilmore Fine Arts and Mitchell K-8 schools. These tutors work one-on-one with students for 20 minutes a day, five days a week with a targeted focus on the reading skills they need to improve to be on pace with their peers.



“Our goal is to get them up to grade level so they are more actively participating in class,” said Tiana Moore, a Reading Corps tutor at Julian Thomas. “Once a student has reached the grade level expectations, they graduate from the program.”

Students may be in the program for a few weeks, a semester or longer depending on their needs. During the 2021-22 school year, 388 Racine students participated in the program and more than 250 exceeded their growth targets.

“I love to be able to see their self-confidence grow,” Moore said. “When it finally clicks for them and they can see their own progress, I think that’s the most rewarding thing.”

Check out our Raising Readers hub for reading tips, resources for finding free books and more!

rusd.org/RaisingReaders

LEADING THE WAY

The Academies of Racine have come so far they are now serving as a model for other schools. The Academies of Lexington recently paid Case High School a visit to learn more about how RUSD's Academies are succeeding. This came on the heels of the National Career Academy Coalition recognizing six RUSD Academies as National Certified Model Academies. These were the first six academies to be put up for certification. The District is looking forward to putting additional academies up for certification this year.

EXPANDED OFFERINGS

The Academies of Racine expanded its offerings during the 2022-23 school year to include two new pocket pathways at each high school. Case, Horlick and Park now offer a Fire and EMS Pathway and a Criminal Justice Pathway. Thanks to RUSD's partnership with Gateway Technical College, these courses are taught by firefighters and law enforcement officers from the community. This partnership also allows students to earn not only high school credit in these courses, but also transcribed college credits at Gateway.

NEW IN 2022-23: MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIES

The Academies of Racine at Gifford, Jerstad-Agerholm and Mitchell offer students new courses, more opportunities and ensure every student leaves ready for high school. From small learning communities to researching and solving community-based problems, the Middle School Academies are designed to help students discover purpose and meaning in middle school learning.



RUSD has partnered with Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC) to offer youth apprenticeships to our students, better preparing them for life after high school and the careers that await. The Youth Apprenticeship program integrates school-based and work-based learning to hone a student's employability and occupational skills. This year, RUSD has 199 youth apprentices in 143 companies. Here are just a few of them describing their invaluable experiences.

Sophia - CNA in Intermediate Care at Ascension

"It is different to the job I most recently had because it requires a certification, and is more hands on with the patient. As a CNA I'm able to assist in much more than I normally would, which I prefer."

Ramon - IT Specialist at RUSD

"This job is hands-on experience for something I am passionate about unlike my friends who are all mostly working fast food. It is allowing me to gain hands-on experience and get a head start into my future. It has improved my social skills, collaboration skills with others, multi-tasking/managing many things at once, troubleshooting, customer service and problem solving skills."

Jovaniel - Teller at Educators Credit Union

"I've worked in other places but nothing compares to this one. This gives you an environment of seriousness and professionalism."



TaLanda - Service Desk Technician at RUSD

"This job is different than other jobs I've had because I'm seeing the impact I'm making. Not only do we get experience working at the main campus, they send us out to our schools to be the first line of defense for tech issues at the school. I'm enhancing my soft skills and critical thinking. I'm also exercising my creativity when it comes to solving the problems. Teamwork is something that I value and I've experienced an abundance of it while working as a youth apprentice."



Attend our Academy Showcases!
Save the date! The entire community is invited to see the great things our students and staff are accomplishing!

AoR-Case: Tuesday, May 2, 5-7 p.m.
AoR-Park: Wednesday, May 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
AoR-Horlick: Thursday, May 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

BRAG BOARD



Advanced Placement Program

4 AP Capstone Diploma Graduates
30 AP Scholars (3 with distinction, 7 with honor)

International Baccalaureate Programme

14 Full Diploma Graduates
4 Career-Related Certificates
27 IB Scholars (8 with distinction, 7 with honor)

Young Leader and Life-Saver

Fratt Elementary fourth grader Essence Collier is officially a hero. The nine-year-old successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver on a fellow classmate when she noticed the student choking. Essie said she knew how to do it from an instructional video she watched two years earlier.



Tech-Prize Winner

Alex Gonzalez, a freshman at The R.E.A.L. School, won the youth division of the 2022 Tech-Prize Idea Competition. He designed and developed a 3D printed prototype of an articulating arm that can be used for trash sorting and commercial trash management. This marks the second year in a row a R.E.A.L. School student has won.



Teacher Author

This Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary educational assistant is a published author! Her first children's book, "I'm Funny," was inspired by her daughter.



IN THE NEWS

Horlick Senior RUSD's First Certified Drone Pilot • Red Apple Students Make Snowshoe Prototypes • Starbuck 8th Graders Getting Charmed • **Academies Students Design and Build a Green Playground for Goodland Montessori** • Racine High School Students Wins Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin on a Roll • RUSD Gets \$20K Grant for Racine Student Art Show Debuts • Conference • RUSD Hosting History-Spring Break • RUSD Principal, Herb Kohl Awards • SCJ Bringing Schoolers • Jefferson Lighthouse for Fire Victims • Peter Barca Case • Congressman Steil Hosts Students • GFA Students Win Named U.S. News Best High School RUSD Leads to Summer Enrichment to Support School-Based Mental Health Help Future Teachers in RUSD • Academies Learning • Fratt Hosts STEAM Night • Meet the Horlick High School Junior Who Could Become the AI Michaels of Esports • Olympia Brown Students Use Robots to Rescue Their Principal from a T-Rex • RUSD Receives Budget Award • **Encore Awards in Education** • Fratt Elementary is Moving Full STEAM Ahead • Virtual Learning a Hit for Some Families • High Schoolers Helping Build Homes for Habitat for Humanity • Teachers Finalists for Teaching Grammy Award • An Engineer Base. A Cop. A Financial Advisor. Now They're All Teachers in SEARCH Graduates Celebrated • Racine Case High School Gap with SME Prime • Six RUSD Academies Receive National Teachers Offer Tips to Prepare for Back-to-School • Brewers' Attends Back-to-School Event • Park High School Teaches on First Day of School • Racine Teacher Goes Viral • Evers Fine Arts • RUSD Students Learn from Professional Musician and Healthy: Racine High School Students Growing Hydroponic Farming • **Grow Your Own Educator Internship** Walking School Bus Getting Students High School Students Continuing Work on Prosthetic for Puppy • Jerstad-Agerholm Working to Building Strong Attendance • Veterans Honored at Gifford • Wadewitz Elementary Provides Hundreds of Free Books to Children • High School Students Build Needed Manufacturing Skills • Racine High School Seniors Take On Firefighters in Chili Cookoff • **Stepping Group Helps Mitchell Students Connect with One Another** • Walden III's 'No Place for Hate' Group Working to Improve School Culture • Students Spread Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Message in Art and Essay Contest • The Milwaukee Buck's MarJon Beauchamp Bonds with Roosevelt Students



RUSD's Class of 2022 earned more than **\$7,200,000** in scholarships!

BEYOND ACADEMICS

RUSD Aquatic Center

RUSD Co-op Girls Swimming and Diving Team

Dive In and Compete!

This new team is made up of student-athletes from all RUSD high schools, including Walden III and The R.E.A.L. School.

RUSD Aquatic Center Swim Team (non-competitive)

This team is open to any student in grades 5-12. Students do not need to be enrolled in RUSD.

Swim Lessons

The RUSD Aquatic Center is proud to offer five different levels of swimming lessons throughout the year.

Birthday Parties

Host your next birthday party at the RUSD Aquatic Center! The \$150 rental fee includes up to 10 children and three adults, 90 minutes of pool time and more!

Open Swim

We offer several open swim opportunities each week and it's just \$5 to swim! Visit rusd.org/swim to check out this week's schedule.



RUSD Co-Curricular Athletics & Activities

Division 1 Athletics

Soccer, Football, Golf, Swim and Dive, Tennis, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling, Bowling, Track, Softball, Baseball and Esports.

Clubs

There are many clubs within RUSD schools. These are just a few: Academic Decathlon, DECA, FBLA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, Model United Nations, Dungeons & Dragons, Anime, National Honor Society, Cheerleading, Dance, Powerlifting, Computer, Criminal Justice, Pals for Kids, Badminton, Poms, Economics, FCCLA, Ping Pong, Robotics, Ski & Snowboard, TableTop Gamers, Video Editing and Recording Club.

Extended Learning Opportunities

Racine Video Production Workshop, Drumline, STEP, Intro to Esports, Beauty Club, Photo Club, Girls, Inc., Girls on the Run, Homework Help, Chess Club, Teen Outreach Program (TOP), Cup Stacking, Juggling and More Club, Newsletter Club, Ukulele Club, Cooking Club, Healthy & Happy Club, Academic Enrichment, Arts & Crafts Club.

Fine Arts

Band, Suzuki Strings, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Choir, Show Choir, Swing Choir, Madrigal Choir, Carolers, Music Theory, High Voices, Low Voices, 3D Art, 2D Art, Mixed Media, Drama, Plays, Musicals, Dance.



Stop in for a tour or contact us with any questions!

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🌐 rusd.org/ac

YOU BELONG HERE

