

# RUSD: NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE HELM



*Dr. Gallien is ready to take RUSD to the next level.*

*By: RUSD Communications Department*

Dr. Eric Gallien sits at his desk in his new office as the new Superintendent of Racine Unified School District. While he officially took the helm this summer, he is not new to RUSD. In 2013 he joined the leadership team, one of previous Superintendent Dr. Lolli Haws' first hires. Over the next five years, Haws and Gallien worked tirelessly together to lead large-scale transformational efforts across the District.

During this time, Gallien moved to Racine and got to know the community, RUSD employees, students and families. As he begins his sixth school year, Gallien will continue the District's momentum toward continuous improvement.

*Dr. Eric Gallien chats with students at Julian Thomas Elementary School this spring.*

## **A legacy of success**

Dr. Gallien is committed to continuous growth and lifelong learning. He credits passionate and caring teachers with guiding him toward success.

Upon graduating from high school, he entered the service – serving as a U.S. Marine. Gallien then spent several years as a successful entrepreneur with several family-operated businesses. During this time, he volunteered at a local school and found his calling. Gallien recognized that he could make a difference in the lives of young people just as his teachers had done for him.

So, he embarked upon a journey of professional learning and growth, first earning a teaching degree, then a master's degree and finally a Ph.D. and superintendent's license. He taught in several Milwaukee Public Schools becoming a sought-after principal who successfully led reform efforts at some of the most challenging schools in MPS. Eventually, Gallien became a District-level administrator and was recruited by Racine Unified to serve first as Chief of Schools and then Deputy Superintendent.

Since his arrival in RUSD, Gallien has led the







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*Dr. Eric Gallien talks with Horlick student in the library as she prepares for her midterm exams.*

transformation of RUSD high schools to the Academies of Racine. He has collaborated with local law enforcement to implement the Community Policing Model to ensure safe and positive learning environments in all RUSD schools. He has also helped to lead the transformation of RUSD middle schools this fall.

**Relationships key to moving District forward**

“I’m honored to have the opportunity to serve as RUSD’s superintendent,” said Dr. Gallien. “I’m proud of all we’ve accomplished under Dr. Haws’ leadership these past five years, and I’m eager to keep our momentum moving forward. We have already made so much progress, and we’re poised to continue raising the bar.”

Dr. Gallien believes the key to taking RUSD to the next level is strong relationships. To that end, he is committed to building collaborative partnerships within RUSD as well as in the community.

“Essential to our ability to keep RUSD moving forward are strong relationships with our employees, our families and our community partners,” says Gallien. “The Academies of Racine are thriving thanks to the more than 100 partner organizations that have stepped up to help us re-think how we educate and prepare our high school students for the future. We could not have done it alone.”

**What’s next for RUSD?**

This fall, RUSD will officially launch its middle school transformation effort, focused on providing families more choices for their children in grades 6-8. The changes include a new Gilmore Fine Arts school serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade, an expanded Walden III at the former McKinley School

building and a new Starbuck Middle International Baccalaureate School.

“We are focused on ensuring our middle school changes are implemented effectively,” explains Gallien. “The next step will be for us to review our elementary schools and consider what needs they have in the long term.”

With Foxconn coming to Racine, RUSD is reviewing data, studying potential impacts and developing a long-term plan for providing excellent public education opportunities into the future.

Change is on the horizon and never before has the success of Racine’s public schools been as important as it is now in Racine County.

“I’m ready for the challenge,” says Gallien. “We are already moving forward. We are working together, and I know that we are going to Raise Racine together and ensure our students graduate ready for college and the jobs right here in our community.”

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*Dr. Eric Gallien chats with Gifford Middle School students about an assignment for class.*



*Dr. Eric Gallien pauses to read a book with a kindergarten student at Julian Thomas Elementary School.*

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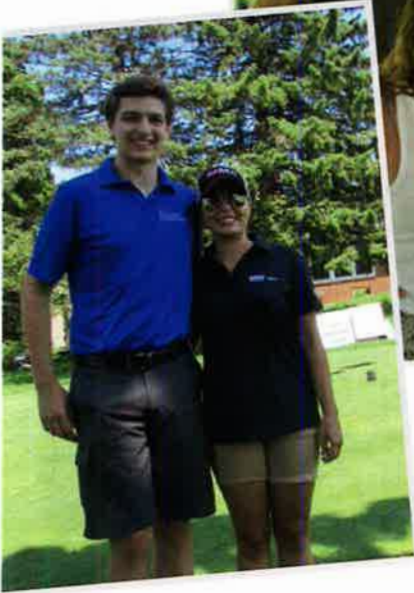


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