

# Riverside School

BE INSPIRED.

14601 Montrose Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44111  
216.838.6700



## Upcoming Events

- Mon, Feb 7      Monday Morning Meeting
  
- Fri, Feb 12    PD Day for Staff  
No Students
- Mon, Feb 16    Schools Closed  
Enjoy the holiday!
  
- Thurs, Feb 18   Parent Teacher Conferences  
Early Dismissal – 12:50



### School Communication Links

School Instagram Page  
[@riverside\\_cmsd](#)

School Website  
<http://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/riverside>

School PTC Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/RiversideSchoolPTC>

## Message from Principal Paige Baublitz-Watkins

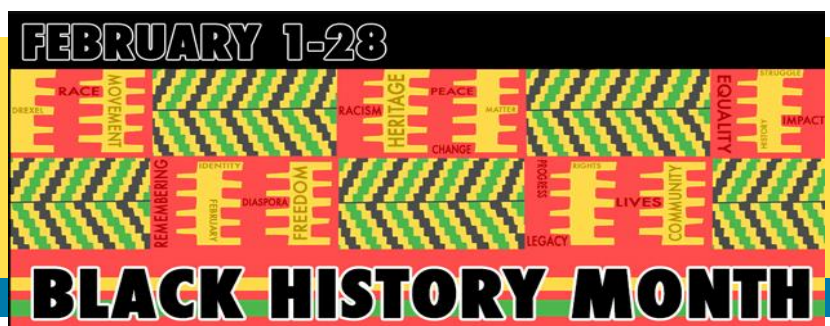
Dear Riverside Families,

Due to some unforeseen health concerns that need immediate attention, I will be out of the building for the month of February. If you need any assistance, please contact assistant principal, Ajayi Monell ([ajayi.monell@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:ajayi.monell@clevelandmetroschools.org)), as he will be stepping in for me to help with day to day activities. During this time, there will also be a guest principal, Mrs. Cook, to ensure proper support. Mrs. Cook has a background in special education and recently retired from East Cleveland Schools. Several of our school wide events are being postponed until my return. Please be sure to review the school calendar on our website for updates.

Thank you to everyone for the calls, text messages, emails, and prayers. I appreciate each and every one of you.

My best,

Paige BW





# School Update Sections

## Riverside T-Ball League

Be on the lookout for Riverside's very own T-Ball league. The anticipated start date will be April 2016 and open to our Pre-K, Kindergarten, and MD units. Go OWLS! Staff contact – Mrs. Lasley

## Donation of 3D Printer

We are pleased to announce that a donation of a 3D printer from Smart Force Development. This tool will allow art classes and allow our students to push their creativity to new heights.

During our MMM on the first Monday of April, Riverside will have a dedication ceremony for this wonderful donation.

## Riverside Night Owls Program

### Intervention Strategy

The computer lab will be opened for a period of 1 hour after (4:05 – 5:00 p.m.) school students based on principal, teacher, and/or staff recommendation, as well as test scores, and/or classroom performance. Students will use this time in the lab for programs such as, Accelerated Reader, First In Math, Study Island etc. Students will be monitored by full time certified teachers that are Riverside staff members.

Anticipated start date – Tuesday, February 16, 2015

## YEARBOOK UPDATE

**Thank you** to ALL who purchased a Riverside yearbook and helped us reach our goal. Our staff advisor, Mrs. Cortez, continues to work diligently with her student group to assure a fantastic 2015-2016 yearbook. A special thanks to those families who have donated and purchased a yearbook for students who may not be able to afford one. What you do matters!

If you have not ordered a yearbook yet, make sure you do. Your child will thank you. Yearbook prices will be raised by \$5 if not ordered by the original deadline.

Original price - \$15

## Monday Morning Meetings (MMM)

This year at Riverside School, we are proud to add the addition of Monday Morning Meetings to our monthly routine. Every first Monday of the month, all students will meet in the gymnasium with their teachers and building administrators. This time will be used to recognize students for achievements such as; birthday

celebrations, classroom achievements, student awards, and athletic accomplishments. Students will also be given information on different school expectations and updates.

Parents, Guardians and Friends, we would love to have you there! Feel free join us at our monthly Monday



Morning Meetings.

- Start time – 9:30AM
- End Time – 10:20 AM
- Location - Gymnasium





## School Choice season now open

It's time again for eighth-graders to choose CMSD high schools, and this year brings more new options as well as a new online portal for making the selections.

Under *The Cleveland Plan*, CMSD operates as a portfolio district, offering students and families a variety of school models so they can find the one that best fits their needs.

Students may attend any school in the District, provided that space is available and, in a few cases, they meet admissions criteria.

The school choice period, also open to students and families selecting K-8 or PreK-8 schools, runs through Wednesday, March 16.

Students can still choose schools after March 16 but responding before the deadline will improve chances of getting their first selection.

The District has set up a new school choice portal to allow new families to log in and make a choice.

New and current CMSD families can find the new portal by going online to:

[bit.ly/CMSD\\_ChoicePortal](http://bit.ly/CMSD_ChoicePortal)

# CMSD K-3 literacy, high school graduation rates up

CMSD has achieved gains in two important areas -- K-3 literacy and the four-year graduation rate -- according to state report card data released in January by the Ohio Department of Education.

The K-3 literacy rate grew by 4.2 percent, a figure that Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon calls significant for a large urban district. CMSD would have achieved a passing score in literacy if the state had not raised the threshold for last year's students.

The state also changed tests, preventing the kind of comparisons that can be made with the National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the Nation's Report Card. CMSD showed some of the strongest growth in the country when results from the NAEP's fourth- and eighth-grade reading and math tests were released in October.

"Even though state tests change from year to year and make it difficult to make the apples-to-apples comparisons we can see on the more consistent NAEP tests, we are encouraged by the gains we are seeing in grades K-3 and by our gains in the most stable measure of our growth -- a record-high graduation rate," Gordon said.

The graduation rate grew from 64.3 percent to 65.9 percent, setting a District record for the fourth year in a row, and has increased 13.9 percentage points in four years. The number is expected to reach 66 percent after removal of five students whose scores should not have counted. The data is for the class of 2013-14.

CEO Gordon said the gains in literacy and continued growth in the graduation rate are further evidence of the momentum seen when NAEP scores were released in October. CMSD's NAEP scores were "uniformly larger and better than any school district in the country," according to Michael Casserly, executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools. The council represents 68 large city districts.

ODE is releasing the 2015 report card data in stages. Additional data is to be released next month.

## East Tech leads the way

The graduation rate at East Tech took off like a rocket, soaring from a dismal 46 percent to 72.9 percent in just one year.

The school's spectacular ascent is the latest in a streak of good news and offers more proof that *The Cleveland Plan*, a state-approved blueprint for education reform in the city, is working.

East Tech is one of CMSD's Investment Schools, a group that has received intensive intervention to raise low performance, expand community engagement and improve culture.

Co-Principals Temujin Taylor and Paul Hoover also have made use of the broad authority individual schools have been given over spending, scheduling and programming.

"We know the building better than anyone," Hoover said. "Having the flexibility to align resources with need has been powerful for us."

## How you'll know when we call a 'snow day' (or not)

Winter is here, so you're going to want to know answers to the two most important questions for CMSD caregivers: Will my child's school be open today -- or not? And how will I know?

You can go online to [bit.ly/2016\\_SnowDays](http://bit.ly/2016_SnowDays) for greater detail, but here's the bottom line about notification: When schools are closed, you will be told by 6 a.m. in a variety of ways:

- We will immediately post on all social media channels.
- We will notify local television, radio and online media outlets
- And we will contact CMSD families by phone, email and text via our SchoolMessenger app.

But if you want to receive a CMSD text, you've got to do two things: make sure your family contact information, including cell phones, is updated at your child's school, and you must "opt in" by texting "YES" or "Y" to 68453.



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### Principal

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ClevelandMetroSchools.org

## Snow Days: Frequently Asked Questions

**When will I find out?** You will be notified by 6 a.m. When one school or group of schools will be closed, the decision to will be made at least 2 hours prior to the school opening if at all possible. The chief executive officer will decide by 5:45 am. Media will be notified by 6 a.m.

**Who decides to close school, delay school start, and dismiss school early?** The CEO makes the final decision, but the chief operating officer and deputy chief of operations also may recommend closure, delay or early dismissal to the CEO after discussions with Safety & Security and Transportation officials. In the case of relocation, The CEO, consults with the academic superintendent and notifies the school, chiefs of Safety, Transportation and Communications. The executive director of Food Service and central office support will be assigned to assist the school to be relocated.

**What are the acceptable reasons?** They include hazardous weather, interruption of water, electricity or services and other conditions making it impractical to open a school building or conditions that warrant closing.

**Weather variables** include wind chill temperature, precipitation, visibility, street or sidewalk conditions or city advisories.

**Do I have to be told that my child is being sent home?**

1. Parental notification is required for early dismissal of a student under 18 years old, but all parents, regardless of their students' age, will be contacted and advised of the early dismissal.
2. Parental consent is required for early dismissal of any student under 18 years old. Parental consent may be provided in advance with written sign-off or obtained via telephone at the time of the early dismissal. Written logs of the consent obtained should be maintained at all schools. Identification should be checked for individuals who pick up students for early dismissal. Parental consent is not required for students age 18 and older.

Go online to [bit.ly/2016\\_SnowDays](http://bit.ly/2016_SnowDays) for a complete version of these FAQs.



Our school has just kicked off **Jump Rope for Heart!** The kids are learning new jump roping skills and different ways to keep their hearts healthy. This is a fun and exciting event for our entire school as we work together to raise money for the American Heart Association and save lives together!

An easy way to participate is to join our schools online Jump Rope For Heart team and begin receiving donations today! [CLICK HERE](#) to join!!

Our students are very excited about the **NEW** lifesaver puppies, so we wanted to fill you in on how your student can earn them!

Once your student raises just \$5, they will earn **Super Pup INSTANTLY!**



Join the online team and receive an online donation, they will earn **Ninja Star INSTANTLY!**



Each pup has an important heart health message that your student will learn and they can earn all six of their very own lifesaver puppies by participating! The first three puppies are at school now, and the remaining puppies and thank you gifts will come 4-5 weeks after Jump Rope for Heart is complete.

Thank you for helping save lives with the American Heart Association.

*Thank You!*

A special thank you to the Riverside PTC members. Because of their hard work and generosity, through grant submitted by teachers, our 1<sup>st</sup> grade students now have new iPads to continue to push their learner and the school now has a new digital camera.

Your continued support of our students and staff members does not go unnoticed.

**What You Do Matters!**



8<sup>th</sup> Grade DC Trip

On behalf of Mrs. Weber and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, thank you to everyone that supported our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. We appreciate everyone helped with advertisements, set up and clean up, donations, purchases, etc. The group above is now one step closer to an experience they will not forget.

Congratulation to our Riverside Upper Grades – Geography Bee Winner...

**FRANCES MARSHALL**



**POSTPONED**

The February **RIVERSIDE DATA DIVE** will be rescheduled for a later date.

We appreciate your understanding.