

RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

Riverside Christian School exists to provide a Bible-based education, centered on Christ, equipping students for a lifetime of learning, leadership, service, and worship.



THEME VERSE OF THE YEAR:

1 Peter 4:8-11

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

The School

- The only non-denominational private preschool-twelfth grade Christian school in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks.
- Biblical worldview.
- Member of Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).
- RCS is a Candidate for Accreditation with (Cognia) NCA CASI, NWAC and SACS CASI.
- Kicked off our Capital Campaign—The Time Is Now— dedicated to building a new school. Ten acres located on the south side of Grand Forks was donated to RCS in the summer of 2023.
- Added a modular building to our campus which houses our growing middle school program.
- Juniors and seniors went on a missions trip to the Dominican Republic with CUPS mission.

Academics

- Engaging, challenging Biblical curriculum.
- A curriculum committee meets throughout the year to review current subjects and make recommendations for the following year.
- AP, Honors, and Dual-Credit courses offered.
- Our preschool is excited to announce that we've earned a Parent Aware FOUR-STAR Rating (highest rating) for the 7TH YEAR IN A ROW!!
- We launched a new cohesive K-12 math program.

Faculty

- Experience staff continually participate in professional development training in their areas.
- Teachers maintain professional certifications in their fields.
- Student-to-faculty ratio is 13:1.
- Faculty attend weekly devotions on Friday morning
- Faculty meet in small prayer groups each Thursday

Athletics

- Member of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL). Approved in the fall of 2022.
- Cross Country, middle school volleyball, and elementary sports (basketball & soccer) are in-house.
- 60% of students in grades 7-12 participate in athletics.
- Co-op with Sacred Heart School for boys & girls basketball, baseball, and softball.

Activities

- Robotics expanded to include the high school. Now there are teams at all levels.
- All robotics teams qualified for the state tournament in St. Cloud, MN. Two teams received invites to World Championship in Texas.
- Added Drama Club for elementary students and Theater Club for middle/high school students. This all culminated in a three-evening performance of "Wizard of Oz".
- Music education classes took a new direction this year. Students in grades ... learned how to read music & play the recorder.
- 7th & 8th graders fundraised over the past two years for their trip to Washington D.C. They travelled in the beginning of May.

What Do Parents Say about RCS?

"My children know almost every one of their peers and the teachers. They know that they truly matter. But above all they are showed what it means to love Jesus."

"I love that I know I am sending my children to a school that provides for their spirit, soul, and body. I know that they are being filled up and encouraged by staff that love the Lord and care about them."

"Our children have grown so much in their love for God this year and knowledge of scripture. They feel safe at school and always share positive experience. We see them being challenged academically and making gains in many areas. We loved the opportunities for extracurricular this year too!"

"I love how our kids are well known, cared for by the teachers, and are constantly encouraged. I feel like they are doing really well and that the classes are small enough that the teachers can understand each student individually."



Riverside Christian School is non-denominational and is made up of families from various church backgrounds.

As many as 18 local churches are represented in our student body.
RCS teaches from the Word of God, the Bible.



Introducing the Class of 2024—Riverside Christian School's very first graduating high school seniors!

Josiah Sundby
Kaitlyn Stephan
Jessica Fulcher

Olivia Van Straaten
Kenadi Schryver
Jesse Westbrook

These six seniors weathered times of uncertainty as they started as freshman after covid in a new style of high school—a hybrid of online and in-person learning.

After four years at Riverside Christian High School, each student achieved their goals. We are proud of each and every one of them.

Jessica Fulcher is the Valedictorian with Kaitlyn Stephans as the Salutatorian. These exceptional students have not only excelled academically but have also embodied the values of our Christian community with grace and integrity.

Congratulations to all of our graduates for using their God-given talents to glorify Him. Their journey is just beginning, and we cannot wait to see the incredible impact you will continue to make on the world.

Preschool*–12th Grade Enrollment

2023–2024 TOTAL:

- ♦ Preschool: 26
- ♦ Elementary (K-5): 128
- ♦ Middle School (6-8): 47
- ♦ High School (9-12): 20

PreK-12 TOTAL: 221

2022–2023 TOTAL:

- ♦ Preschool: 25
- ♦ Elementary (K-5): 134
- ♦ Middle School (6-8): 48
- ♦ High School (9-11): 17

PreK-12 TOTAL: 224

2021–2022 TOTAL:

- ♦ Preschool: 40
- ♦ Elementary (K-5): 114
- ♦ Middle School (6-8): 37
- ♦ High School (9-10): 10

K-12 TOTAL: 201

2020–2021 TOTAL:

- ♦ Preschool: 36
- ♦ Elementary (K-5): 93
- ♦ Middle School (6-8): 32
- ♦ High School* (9): 6
- ♦ **added high school in fall of 2020*

PreK-12 TOTAL: 167

2019–2020 TOTAL:

- ♦ Preschool: 45
- ♦ Elementary (K-5): 91
- ♦ Middle School (6-8): 23

PreK-12 TOTAL: 159

**Preschool (PreK3 & PreK4) is licensed through the State of Minnesota—Child Care Center Preschool.*



Retention Rate:
83% of K-11th grade students from
2022–2023 returned for 1st-12th grades.

Service Projects:

Kindergarten—Circle of Friends Animal Shelter
1st Grade—Neighborhood Cleanup
2nd Grade—Book Drive for Kids in Need
3rd Grade—Nursing Home
4th Grade—Food drive for Hope Food Pantry
5th Grade—Listen Center
6th Grade—1st Responders
7th Grade—Dinner Placemats for Thanksgiving at
Valley Senior Living
8th Grade—Circle of Friends Animal Shelter
High School—Hope & Tebow's Shining Night



Activities/Athletics

Riverside Christian offers a number of activities in sports, music and drama. RCS is an associate member of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

Fall:

- Boys' Cross Country
- Girls' Cross Country
- Girls Volleyball (High School/Middle School)
- Elementary Soccer
- Worship Team (All-Year)
- Junior High Football (Co-Op with Polk County West)
- Junior High Boys' Soccer (Valley Middle School)

Winter:

- Boys Basketball (Sacred Heart Co-Op)
- Girls Basketball (Sacred Heart Co-Op)
- Archery Club (Sacred Heart)
- Robotics
- Elementary Basketball
- Drama Club

Spring:

- Baseball (Sacred Heart Co-Op)
- Softball (Sacred Heart Co-Op)
- Boys' Golf (Sacred Heart Co-Op)
- Girls' Golf (Sacred Heart Co-Op)
- Elementary Soccer
- Junior High Girls' Soccer (Valley Middle School)

Participation Numbers

Grades 1-12 = 78% of our students are involved in athletics (131/167 students)

Grades 1-12 = 84% of our students are involved in an activity (sports, worship team, drama) (141/167 students)

Grades 5-12 = 89% of our students are involved in an activity (81/91 students)

Robotics

In the 2023-24 school year, we had 36 students who participated in Robotics. This included 4 elementary teams, 4 middle school teams and 1 high school team. This was our first year of having a high school team.

All nine of our teams earned an invite to the MN State Tournament.

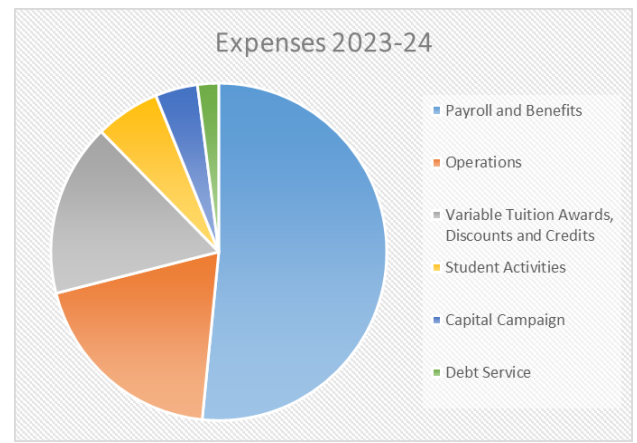
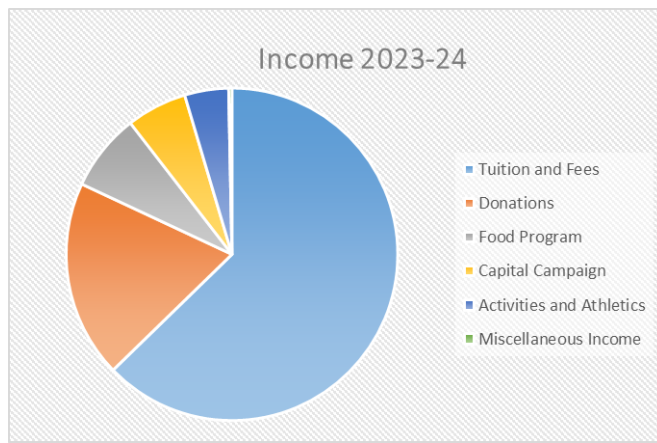


Chapel

Speakers are invited from area churches and post-secondary schools as well as within the school. This year featured the following speakers:

- ◇ Pastor Jeff Stephan, *Bethel Lutheran*
- ◇ Jode Gibbs & Gwen Dahlen, *The Chapel Ladies*
- ◇ Pastor Sam Wellumson, *Christ the King Lutheran*
- ◇ Pastor Jared Clausen, *Freedom Church*
- ◇ Emmarayn Redding, *Author & RCS Art Teacher/Librarian*
- ◇ Pastor Preston Hoiseth, *Bible Baptist Church*
- ◇ Marietjie Van Straaten, *Faith Evangelical Free*
- ◇ Pastor Anton Van Straaten, *Faith Evangelical Free*
- ◇ Pastor Josh Steely, *Grace Baptist Church*
- ◇ Pastor Paul Redding, *Northwood Community Bible*
- ◇ Kenny Hainline, *Bible Baptist Church*
- ◇ Pastor Josh Fryman, *Harvest Baptist Church*
- ◇ Eric Morrow, *Head of School/Act. Director*
- ◇ Kari Stouder, *RCS 4th Grade Teacher*
- ◇ Rhonda Matson, *RCS Principal*

Riverside Christian School always desires to reflect careful, conscientious stewardship of the resources necessary to manage the operations of a robust school. RCS is blessed to present a solid statement for the 2023-2024 school year.



INCOME

Tuition and Fees	\$	1,404,000
Donations	\$	430,000
Food Program	\$	169,000
Capital Campaign	\$	132,000
Activities and Athletics	\$	96,000
Miscellaneous Income	\$	7,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$	2,238,000

EXPENSES

Payroll and Benefits	\$	1,290,000
Operations	\$	487,000
Variable Tuition Awards, Discounts and Credits	\$	415,000
Student Activities	\$	156,000
Capital Campaign	\$	102,000
Debt Service	\$	51,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	2,501,000

Assessment Testing Results

Elementary through high school students completed reading and math testing through Renaissance Star. This was the first year using the program and initial results were better than anticipated.

Students are performing well and have a strong academic base for their education. Staff has been reading the results and are now tailoring education to the individual needs of our students - giving some students additional help in specified areas while challenging other students with enrichment programs.

	Reading	Math
At/Above Benchmark	80%	88%
On Watch	12.5%	7%
Intervention	5%	4%
Urgent Intervention	2.5%	1%

The *RCS Annual Fall Banquet & Auction* was held on Thursday, November 2nd with featured guest Jay Seegert. We are beyond grateful & thankful for everyone's support as we raised over \$120,000! We could not have done it without our volunteers, our parents, our students, our staff, and the community.

Sponsors

PLATINUM

Folson Farms
Mitch & Jode Gibbs
Overmoe & Nelson
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Paul & Susie Sproule
Charles & Leeza Vein
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GOLD

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QFM – Shine the Light
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SILVER

CHS Ag Services—GF
Grace Baptist Church
Hope Evangelical Covenant Church
Living Word Family Church
Patrick & Kristi Purcell
Dan Schott & Alyssa Hoverson Schott
Grant & Rebekah Seeger

BRONZE

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Dahlstrom Motors
David & Valerie Fulcher
Dostal Dent Tech
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Lunseth Plumbing & Heating Co.
Munro Massage Center
River Bend Party Animals
Sun Bee Landscaping



Our second fundraiser of the year was **GIVING HEARTS DAY** on Feb. 8th. We were able to raise over \$49,810 (including a matching goal of \$20,000) for this one-day event!

Our third fundraiser was the **ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION** (Live & Silent) on Saturday, April 13th. It was a beautiful day and we were able to raise \$18,000.

Our final fundraiser was the **Golf Scramble**. In this event, 100% of the proceeds go towards the Athletic & Activities Dept. We raised \$20,000.

We are beyond grateful for all of our **RAMS** families & supporters. Without them, Riverside Christian School would not be where it is today.

Thank You!



Riverside Christian School expresses heartfelt appreciation to the many individuals, businesses and organizations who have financially supported the school this year.

Paul & Janet Aakre
Acre Pro Farm Agency
AE2S
American Crystal Sugar
American Federal Bank
Ilene Anderson
Jeffrey & Julie Anderson
Evan & Danielle Andrist
Daniel & Alicia Antal
Gabe & Barbara Arntson
CMSgt Leonard & Marcia Arsenault
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Elsie Egstad
Lillian Elsinga
David & Janice Erickson
Joel & Marilyn Erickson
Douglas & Carol Eriksmoen

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David & Gloria Fagerlund
Faith Evangelical Free Church
Delores Fast
Steven & Mollie Ficocello
First Int'l Bank & Trust
Al & Denise Flaten
Bryan & Joyce Folson
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David & Valerie Fulcher
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Jeffrey & Rena Gillman
Cole & Brooke Goodwin
Steven & Marie Goodwin
Vicki Gorder
Danny & Rachel Gothberg
Grace Baptist Church
Grand Cities Mall (Land of Hope LLC)
Grand Forks Subaru/KIA
Erwin & Andrea Green
Arthur Greenberg III
Monte & Betty Jo Gregoire
Gregory J. Norman Funeral Chapel
Jeremy & Karissa Grube
Brent & Heidi Haase
Ilene Haavisto
Wade & Evangeline Hamlin
Jim & Marydale Hansen
Daniel & Erica Hanson
Paul & Clare Hanson

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Todd & Brenda Hanson
Kara Hart
Hendegaard Transport, Inc.
Christian & Sarah Henderson
Dan & Lori Hennessy
John Hennessy
David & Linda Hensrud
Paul & Naomi Hensrud
Mark Hewitt
Jason & Erica Hicks
Higher Ground, Inc.
Dale & Diane Hilde
Bob Hjeldness
Joe & Amber Hjelman
Ronald & Cheryl Hoime
Jim & Shirley Hooge
Hope Evangelical Covenant Church
John & Denise Horpedahl
Deborah Lee Hoverson
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Rick & Jill Hurda
Jay & Sarah Hutton
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Kathleen Proctor
Patrick & Kristin Purcell
R. J. Zavoral & Sons
Douglas & Kathy Rambeck
Marsha Reddig

Riverside Christian School expresses heartfelt appreciation to the many individuals, businesses and organizations who have financially supported the school this year.

Marsha Reddig
Emmarayn Redding
Nancy Reigle
Curt & Doris Robinson
Cindy Roth
Jon & Brandy Rothfuss
Tom & EvLyn Rudd
Twila Rudd
Kenneth & Kimberly Ruit
Douglas & Myrna Runyan
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Brian & Richel Weiss
Leonard & Amy Will
Chad & Heidi Williamson
You Shine Guardianship LLC
Dana & Kimberly Young

David & Beth Young
Paul & Peggy Zavoral
Brenda Zunich



***“You will be enriched
in every way so that
you can be generous
on every occasion,
and through us
your generosity
will result in
thanksgiving to God.***

– 2 Corinthians 9:11



How to Give to RCS:

Good financial planning honors God. It may also help you avoid unnecessary taxes and make a larger gift.

- **Cash Gifts & Pledges** may be made as a single gift or a pledge. Online giving is available.
- **Gifts in Kind** possibilities are limitless.
- **Matching gifts** for current or retired employees are offered by many companies.
- **Planned gifts** allow you to maximize your giving and/or minimize the impact of your estate.
- **Appreciated assets** (appreciated stock or real estate you have owned for more than one year) will generate a tax deduction based upon fair market value.
- **Tangible personal property** giving will enjoy certain tax advantages.

For more information, contact Michael Martens, President at Riverside Christian School, at 218-773-1770 or michaelm@rcsrams.org.

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