

School District of River Falls
Educational Program Committee Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2024 - 6:00 PM
River Falls Public Montessori Elementary School
421 W Maple Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Educational Program Committee members: Alan Tuchtenhagen (Chair), Lindsey Curtis, & Cindy Holbrook
Agendas can be viewed at <https://www.rfsd.k12.wi.us/district/school-board.cfm> or at
<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/1447>

1. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 PM

2. MANNER OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF MEETING

3. HEARING OF VISITORS OR DELEGATIONS

4. Approve Preliminary 10-12th Grade Science Trip Application to Panama

2

Description: Rachel Gjerde, River Falls High School Science Teacher, will present the preliminary field trip application for students to Panama, June 2025.

Recommended Action: Approve the preliminary field trip application to Panama, June 2025.

5. Review K-5 English Language Arts Adoption Process

20

Description: Nate Schurman, Director of Academic Services, will give an update on the status of the K-5 ELA Adoption to include updates on Act 20.

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

6. Human Growth and Development Advisory Committee Update

Description: Nate Schurman, Director of Academic Services, will give an update on the Human Growth and Development Advisory Committee development process and requirements, as well as the Spring meeting date.

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

7. Montessori Presentation and Tour

26

Description: Kai Rodgers, Montessori Principal, will give a presentation on the River Falls Public Montessori and then provide a tour of the school.

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

8. PROPOSED/SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR AND FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM MEETING AGENDA(S)

Description: As always, committee members will be given the opportunity to suggest items for future committee and/or Board meeting agendas.

Recommended Action: As needed.

9. SCHEDULE NEXT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Description: Upcoming committee meeting dates, times, and locations will be reviewed.

Recommended Action: Set the meeting schedule as follows:

Educational Program Committee meeting: Monday, March 4, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the District Office conference room, 852 E. Division Street.

10. ADJOURN



Our agenda

What we are going to cover



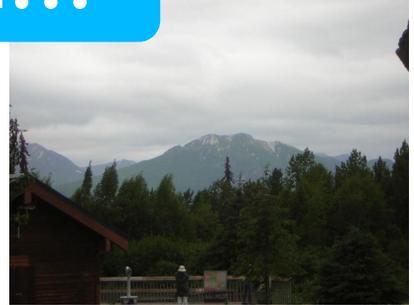
1. Introduction
2. Our itinerary
3. What's included
4. Our travel partner
5. Safety and support
6. Price
7. Available scholarships
8. Fundraising ideas



My name is
Rachael Gjerde



Why I travel...



Why educational travel

Families want these opportunities for their students!



It introduces **new ways of learning**



It provides **innovative, hands-on skills**



It gets students off screens & **interacting with the world**



It complements the **academic curriculum**



It provides opportunity to **discover one's life passion**

2022 Harris Poll data

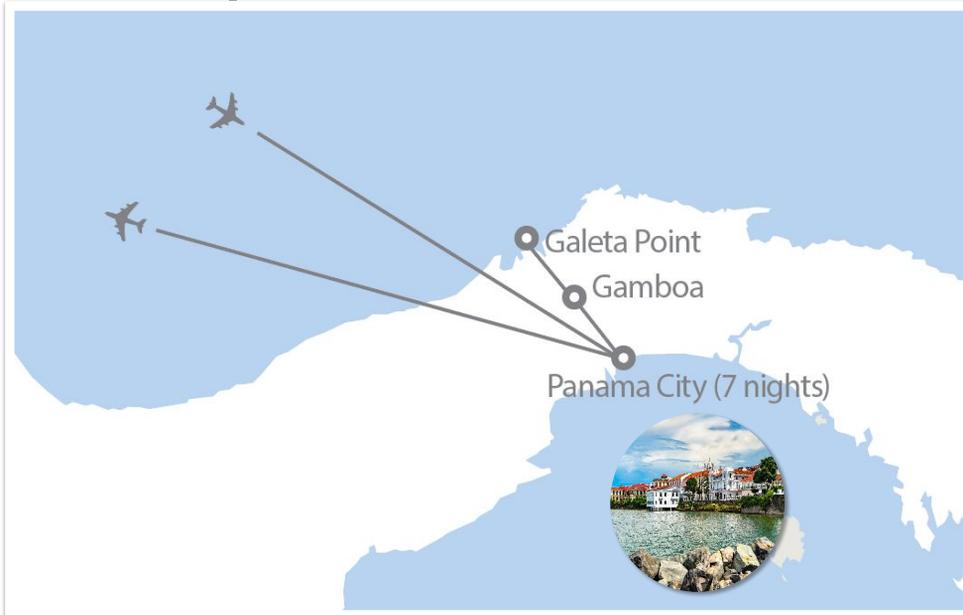
EF Educational Tours

Our educational travel and safety partner



- Over 55 years of experience
- Staff on the ground 365 days a year in over 50 countries including an office in Panama City, Panama
- World leader in international education
- Accredited, just like our school

Waterways and Wetlands in Panama



Panama City

Days 1-5

Day 1



Fly to Panama City

Day 2



Visit the Panamá Viejo Ruins and museum



Take a walking tour of Casco Viejo



Visit the Biomuseo

Participate in an interactive STEM workshop

Take part in wetlands field work

Continue your wetlands field work

Go on an expert-led tour of Metropolitan Natural Park

Day 3



Day 4



Day 5

Panama City, Galeta Point & Gamboa

Days 6-8

Day 6



Take a day trip to the Caribbean Coast



Learn about coastal ecosystems at a tropical research station



Go snorkeling

Day 7



Take a biologist-led boat ride on the Panama Canal

Visit the Miraflores Visitor Center at the Panama Canal



Enjoy a folklore dinner and show



Travel home



Day 8



Help scientists spot endangered birds during wetlands conservation fieldwork

Say hello to those crossing oceans
on your visit to the Panama Canal



And don't forget
about the food



Our Travel Dates

****Block off your calendars from the earliest departure to the latest return****



- ✈️ Our flexibility with these dates will help EF create the best on-the-ground experience for us
- ✈️ We will receive our confirmed dates 2-3 months before tour
- ✈️ Our group could be combined with another school, requesting similar dates and destinations, which will be a great opportunity to meet students from another part of the country

What's included in our itinerary



Round-trip airfare on major airline carriers



Hotel stays at quality, clean accommodations



Regional-style meals for breakfast, dinner & some lunches



Tour Director who will be with us 24/7



Transportation on tour, including a comfortable motorcoach bus



Expert local guides providing cultural insight



Guided sightseeing of all our destination has to offer



Entrances to landmarks & attractions

What students and families are responsible for

- Passports (and visas, if applicable)
- Baggage fees
- Tips for local guides, bus drivers and your Tour Director
- Snacks and some meals



Why I partnered with EF...

Our safety partner



Local support and insight worldwide



EF's Safety and Incident Response Team



Rigorous health standards



24/7 Tour Director and chaperone team support



Our education partner

The best way to help students gain new perspectives and build skills for the future is through experiential learning



EF's Personalized Learning Guide

Students can earn 0.5 high school credits (included) by using this guide. This guide puts a more personal lens on their tour by tapping into their own interests and passions.



College Credit

Students can earn 3 college credits by taking a 16-week, tuition-based, course related to their tour experience post-tour.



College essay help

EF's college essay guide helps students use their tour as inspiration for a personal essay that admissions officers can't resist.

Come home changed

EF's learning outcomes continue to impact students for the rest of their lives



Growth Mindset

Students will learn to embrace new challenges



Global Perspective

Students will expand their world view



Personal Development

Students will discover more about themselves



Action & Impact

Students will gain necessary skills to make an impact

Learn more at eftours.com/education

Our support partner



Travel Team

My Travel Team helps me, your Group Leader, every step of the way from planning our tour all the way until we depart for our tour



Traveler Support Team

This team works with all of you, parents and students, to answer any possible questions from payments to dietary needs and more, including all the what-if's and how-to's

SAVE THEIR NUMBER: 800-665-5364



Tour Director

Our Tour Director is our 24/7, bilingual guide who will be leading our tour, handling all of the logistics, and exposing us to local history and culture



Group Leader

That's me! I'll be here to support all of you as well, along with my chaperone team

Book with confidence

For our group:

Peace of Mind Program

This program provides our group with flexibility to change our trip during uncertain times and for unforeseen circumstances.

**We will provide more information about all these benefits after this info session.*

For each traveler:

Global Travel Protection (included)

This plan provides coverage for baggage and property, trip cancellation and interruption, and more.

Global Travel Protection Plus (+\$350)

Available to all travelers upon enrollment, this plan has all of the benefits above and **allows for cancellation for any reason up to 24 hours prior to departure.**

Risk-free enrollment period

Travelers who enroll by December 17th, 2023 can cancel for any reason up to 14 days after enrollment for a full refund of 100% of the money paid to EF.

Everything we get



Itinerary & logistics

- ✓ Everything we talked about getting on tour!



Payments & protection

- ✓ Flexible payment options
- ✓ Personal Tour Fundraising Page
- ✓ Global Travel Protection Plan Included



Safety & support

- ✓ Personal traveler account online
- ✓ Traveler Support Team
- ✓ 24/7 Safety & Incident Response Team
- ✓ Peace of Mind Program



Personalized learning

- ✓ Project-based learning guide
- ✓ High school and college credit options available
- ✓ College essay help



Making it happen

Flexible payment options

**\$200 discount &
Risk-free enrollment**
If you enroll by December 17th, 2023

\$113	\$225	\$4,109	\$3,909
BI-WEEKLY	MONTHLY	IN FULL	WITH DISCOUNT
With Early Enrollment Discount	With Early Enrollment Discount		
<i>(includes \$95 enrollment fee)</i>	<i>(includes \$95 enrollment fee)</i>	\$4,699 for adults	\$4,499 for adults

**Manual payment options available: pay in larger, less frequent installments for a small fee
(Manual payment options are not valid for the risk-free enrollment period)*

Scholarships

EF Global Citizen Scholarship

Here at EF, our goal has been *Opening the World Through Education* for over 55 years. **The EF Global Classroom Foundation** is an umbrella for EF's charitable activities, which have included disaster relief in China, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, and the U.S., as well as providing funding to underserved communities for educational opportunities and educational tours.

With the support of the EF Global Classroom Foundation, our **Global Citizen Scholarship Fund** is designed to help open the world for more students than ever with **\$100,000 in annual travel scholarships**. Each year, we will award \$1,000 to as many as 100 students from around the country.



How to apply

1. Complete an online application
2. Create a two- to three-minute video to submit with your application

Your video should answer this question: How will this tour change the way you think or feel about the world, or act within it?

Have questions?

Check out our [project guidelines](#) for more details.

[Apply now](#)

¿Prefieres leer en español?

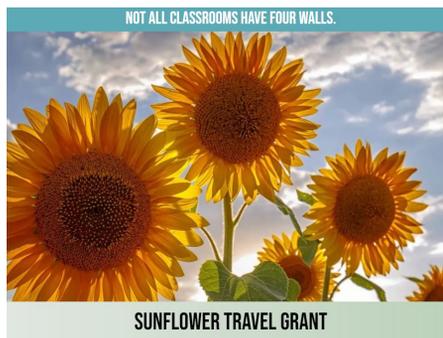
Visite nuestra [página de Fondo de Becas del Ciudadano Global](#).



WorldWise Sunflower Student Travel Grant

WorldWise exists for the purpose of advancing high school students' education by exposing them to international travel opportunities and broadening their understanding of the world through first-hand experiences.

Travel is an adventure that immerses you into a strange and wonderful world. It allows you to step outside of your comfort zone, experience the wonders of the world, appreciate differences (and similarities) in cultures, and at times teaches you to be patient. WorldWise is excited to be able to offer the Sunflower Travel Grant and provide high school students in Wisconsin with the opportunity to take a life changing trip.



Grant Amount: WorldWise will award up to **\$5,000** in assistance.

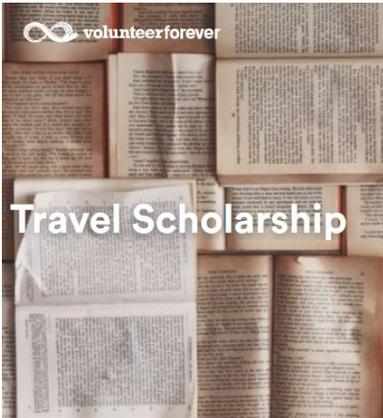
Eligibility: This grant is open to any student in **Wisconsin** attending high school at the time of the trip, or one year out of high school.

Requirements: Applicants need to complete and submit the application, agree to provide photos (with explanations) of your trip, and complete a survey about your experience upon returning for WorldWise to use in promotional materials.

[Apply Here](#)

**this scholarship program is not affiliated with EF Tours*

Volunteer Forever



Since 2014, Volunteer Forever has been offering travel scholarships to help participants defray the cost of volunteering, studying, interning, teaching, or working abroad. Twice a year, we award a **\$500 to \$1,000** scholarship to two travelers.

This scholarship is open to travelers embarking on all kinds of meaningful trips: no matter where you'd like to go worldwide, we're here to help.

The scholarship award **can be used for anything related to your travel**, including the program fee, airfare, travel insurance, or even spending money while abroad! During each scholarship round, essays are evaluated blindly by a scholarship committee.

[Apply Here](#)

**this scholarship program is not affiliated with EF Tours*

SYTA Youth Foundation's Road Scholarship



The SYTA Youth Foundation connects youth with the resources required for travel experiences that will inspire them to be confident, connected, and globally responsible citizens.

Established in 2002, the Road Scholarship program awards funds to students and youth who would otherwise not have the resources to participate in enriching and life-changing travel experience opportunities.

Designed for students in grades K-12 and 18 or younger at the time of travel, a Road Scholarship is **financial aid** granted to individuals or groups of five or more who have **been nominated by a teacher** or youth group leader and meet criteria within five categories:

ACHIEVEMENT | NEED | INITIATIVE / INVOLVEMENT | SERVICE / CITIZENSHIP | CONNECTION

The maximum award is **\$1,000** for individuals and \$5,000 for groups. All applications are vetted and awarded by the SYTA Youth Foundation's Board of Trustees.

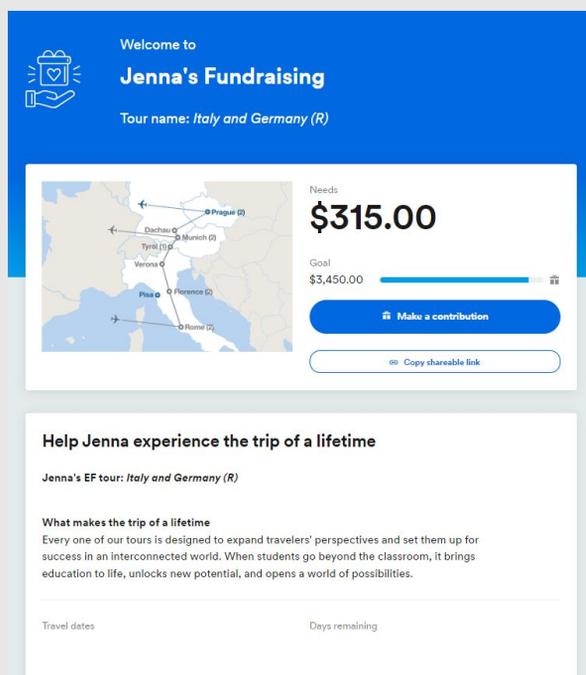
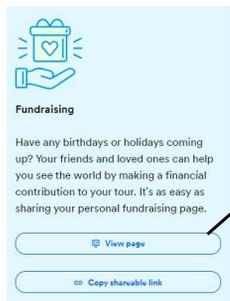
[Apply Here](#)

**this scholarship program is not affiliated with EF Tours*

Fundraising

Individual Fundraising: Personal Fundraising Page

EF makes it easy for travelers to raise money for their trip by providing an online personal fundraising page that they can share with others. Secure online contributions from friends, family, and community members are applied directly to a traveler's tour balance. Travelers can find this page by logging in to their account, navigating to the payments page, and selecting the fundraising card shown here:



The image shows a screenshot of a fundraising page for Jenna. The header is blue and says "Welcome to Jenna's Fundraising" with a small icon of a hand holding a gift box. Below the header, it says "Tour name: Italy and Germany (R)". The main content area has a white background. On the left is a map of Europe with arrows pointing to various cities: Dachau (0), Tyrol (1), Verona (0), Pisa (0), Florence (2), Rome (2), St. Moritz (2), and Prague (2). On the right, it says "Needs: \$315.00" and "Goal: \$3,450.00" with a progress bar. Below the goal is a blue button that says "Make a contribution" and a link that says "Copy shareable link". The bottom section has a white background and says "Help Jenna experience the trip of a lifetime" and "Jenna's EF tour: Italy and Germany (R)". Below that is a section titled "What makes the trip of a lifetime" with a paragraph of text. At the bottom, there are two fields: "Travel dates" and "Days remaining".

Individual Fundraising: Student Sponsorship Letter

For students who want to go above and beyond "please donate through this link," we encourage a written letter. In fact, your Wisconsin Tour Consultants have already created a template for students to use as a jumping off point.

Group Leaders will receive an editable "Student Sponsorship Proposal" template for students to personalize and share as a companion to their personal fundraising link. They can edit the whole document as they wish to add their personal touch. The purpose is to provide a more engaging invitation to donate and includes:

- an itinerary
- photos
- what the student is most excited about
- cost breakdowns
- information about EF
- and more!

International Travel Student Sponsorship
Costa Rican Explorer
Carly Smith

Introduction

My name is Carly Smith, and I am currently a 12th grader at West High School. In Summer of 2025, my teacher Ms. Strickland is leading a trip to Costa Rica. It is important to me to join this trip because:

1. I can earn high school and college credit.
2. I'm excited to experience another culture.
3. I know I'll build empathy for others while growing wiser myself.

On this trip to Costa Rica, my peers and I will experience zip lining, snorkeling, white water rafting, and hiking through the jungle! We'll also learn about history, traditional social culture, and biodiversity.

Donation Page Sponsorship

To make this trip a reality, the following are areas in which a donation would be greatly appreciated.

EF Tours provides an online platform that allows benefactors to directly donate to my trip. All the money donated on this platform goes to the following:

Sponsor a payment

The simplest way to support my trip is to help toward the overall cost of my trip. EF offers bi-monthly, monthly or for the total to be paid off at once. You can sponsor a monthly payment or donate ranging amounts that are applied to the cost of my tour.

Bi-Monthly payment	Monthly payment	Total Cost of Tour
\$150	\$300	\$3,888

Excursion Fees

During the trip to Costa Rica, the group is going snorkeling with a marine biologist. My teacher asked this excursion because it will be a chance to see the biodiversity of Costa Rica's waters while learning from an expert.

Group Fundraising: Ideas from Wisconsin Group Leaders



Raffle off a **wheelbarrow full of goodies** at a school sports game.

Host a good ole Wisconsin **Brat Fry** or a **Brat BBQ Drive-through!**

Sell **Discount Cards** through Eau Claire's own "My Local Deals."

Sell **popcorn** with Mike's Popcorn out of Menasha!

[Rally Around Us](#)

Wiley's Common Grounds
one-week sponsorship

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS

APPLICATION FOR SANCTION OF SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS

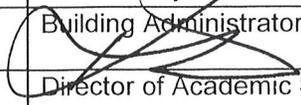
352-Exhibit

Have you: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed all necessary forms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval from Building Principal
Trip/Group Name: <u>Panama STEM Trip - Science</u>
Location of Trip: <u>Panama</u>
Date of Trip: <u>June 23-30, 2025</u> Total Number of Days (from departure to return) <u>8</u>
Name of Tour Company: <u>EF Educational Tours</u>
Name of Head Chaperone/Advisor: <u>Rachael A. Gjerde</u>
Names of Other Chaperones (ratio: 1:15 maximum, 1:7 minimum): <u>Amanda Eggert</u>
Approximate Number of Students Involved and Grade Levels: <u>12, grades 9-12</u>
Estimated Cost of Trip per Student; What is Included/Not Included in Price: <u>\$4119.00;</u> Includes: <u>airfare, transportation, hotels, most meals, entrances to attractions, full-time tour director, expert local guides, 24-hour emergency service, night security, and trip insurance. Not included: some lunches, baggage fees.</u>
What was the impact of fundraising on the cost for students: <u>Fundraising will be discussed in a spring meeting with all students attending - I have many ideas, but students will choose the fundraising idea that will be implemented.</u>
Will student cost include a pro-rated amount for chaperones cost? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, what is the additional amount per student? <u>N/A</u>
Deadline for forfeiture of deposit if a student decided not to participate: <u>14 days after enrollment</u>
Brief explanation of instruction purposes of the trip and how it compliments the district curriculum objective: <u>This is a STEM Tour. Some of the science-related highlights include: visit to the Biomuseo; interactive workshop focused on wetlands conservation; participation in a beach clean-up; boat ride to witness mangroves; harvesting and reforesting native plants; tour of Metropolitan Natural Park with a local biologist; learning about coastal ecosystems at a tropical research station; and taking a biologist-led trip to the Panama Canal with a visit to the Miraflores Visitor Center.</u>
Trip Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Instructional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supplementary <input type="checkbox"/> Extended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abroad <input type="checkbox"/> Day Trip Overnight

*School District of River Falls
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022*

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FOR SANCTION OF SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS
(Overnight trips, more than 150 miles or out of the country)
INITIAL APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR RAISING FUNDS

*Please complete this application and forward to Central Office for presentation to the Educational Program Committee of the Board of Education for approval, prior to fund-raising.
All activities must be in compliance with Board Policy 374-Student Fund-raising Activities.
This does not represent final approval for the trip, approval granted via BOE approval.*

Trip/Group Name: Panama STEM Trip-Science Dept.	
Location of Trip: Panama	
Date of Trip: mid-June, 2025	Total Number of Days (from departure to return): 8
Name of Tour Company (if applicable): EF Educational Tours	
Name of Head Chaperone/Advisor: Rachael Gjerde	
Anticipated Methods of Fundraising: TBD - students will choose from a number of ideas as to how we will fund raise for the trip. Student choice will help to drive interest in the chosen fund raiser.	
Amount Expected to be Fund Raised: Varies, as it will be student-lead.	
Approximate Number of Students Involved and Grade Levels: 6-40, depending on who signs up; current grades 8-12	
Estimated Cost of Trip per Student; What is Included/Not Included in Price? ~\$3900; all transportation and lodging, tour director, insurance and most meals	
Will student cost include a pro-rated amount for chaperone(s) cost? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> (circle one) If yes, what is the additional amount per student, if applicable? N/A	
Please identify any chaperone benefits provided by the tour company: (e.g. 1 paid chaperone per 10 students participating) free for head chaperone if at least 6 participating students/for every 10 students above that number a free chaperone	
Deadline for forfeiture of deposit if a student decided not to participate: 2 weeks from enrollment	
Please provide a brief explanation of instructional purposes of the trip and how it complements the advisor's district curriculum objective: Students will learn about wetlands preservation and participate in actual field work. They will also visit a tropical research station and use scientific methods to collect data in a mangrove forest. In addition, they will get to view and learn about the Panama Canal. It is the hope that this trip will promote student interest in the sciences and in traveling abroad in the future.	
Date 11/6/2023	Chaperone/Advisor Signature Rachael A. Gjerde 
Date 4/14/23	Building Administrator Signature 
Date	Director of Academic Services Signature
Date	Educational Program Chair Signature

English Language Arts Adoption Process Update



February 5, 2024

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ELA Curriculum Review Committee

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
Carrie Brittain - GW Amy Mitchell - Mont Lauren Thomforde - RB Helen LaRoue - WS	Brenda Lund - GW Caitlyn Severson - RB Kristy Wickboldt - WS	Anna Clark - GW Rachelle Schroeder - RB Lori Sather - WS
Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
Brooke McMillan - GW Tessa Amundson - RB Lori Rosenow - WS	Larissa Lueck - GW Anna Zalusky - RB Nancy Lindquist - WS	Jamie Follstad - GW Maddie Morgan - RB Jessica McQuade - WS
Specialists:		
Middle School - 6th Grade: Chelsea Cartier, Jennifer Wolf GT: SPED: (SLP) Ashleigh Olson, Cliff Johnson Title I: Megan Felling EL: McKenna Cook Psychologists: Sonja Kamrath		

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June 2023: Inservice

- Establish Beliefs, Mission, Vision

VISION STATEMENT

[Jamboards](#)

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE OUR DISTRICT TO BE IN THE NEXT 3-5 YEARS?
USE THESE 5 CORE PRACTICES/FOCUS AREAS TO DEVELOP THE "BIG PICTURE"

High Quality Core Instruction	Growth mindset/life long learning	Collaboration	Rigor	Student Engagement
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Elementary school educators in the School District of River Falls utilize high quality resources and instructional practices to deliver intentional and organized English Language Arts instruction that includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills so that students are successful in school and beyond. We will achieve this vision by committing to the following values:

Use explicit and systematic instruction to:

- Build strong foundational skills: oral language, phonological & phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency.
- Expand knowledge of linguistics
- Comprehend a variety of complex texts
- Develop writing skills and processes to communicate appropriately considering audience, purpose, and task.

As well as:

- Cultivate the ability to think critically and flexibly, communicate effectively, and collaborate respectfully.
- Utilize authentic texts that have the power to inform, transport, validate, and make connections.
- Engage all learners through equitable practices and high expectations in an inclusive classroom environment.
- Establish a culture among educators that is student-centered and data-driven, committed to continuous professional learning and collaboration.

Summer of 2023

- DAS/Coaches review 10 resources based on third party product review, neighboring district use, and word of mouth.

ELA Resources Under Review Summer of 2023

	Alignment (edreports)	Usability (edreports)	CESA Schools Using Resource/Year Adopted
Wonders - McGraw Hill	Meets Expectations	Meets Expectations	Colfax (2018)
Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) - Amplify	Meets Expectations	Meets Expectations	Grantsburg (2021), Rice Lake K-1 (2023), Shell Lake (2021) , Webster (2021), Elk Mound, Zumbrota-Mazeppa
Into Reading - Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Meets Expectations	Meets Expectations	Amery (2022) , Boyceville (2022) Elmwood (2021), Frederic (2021), Rice Lake Grades 2-4 (2023), Unity (2021)
My View Literacy - Savvas Learning Company	Meets Expectations	Meets Expectations	
American Reading Company - American Reading Company	Meets Expectations	Meets Expectations	Lake Holcomb, Owen-Withee, Salem, Ladysmith, Greenwood, Sothern Door
Fishtank Plus ELA - Fishtank Learning (online platform only)	Meets Expectations	Partially Meets	
Fountas and Pinnell Classroom	Does Not Meet	Unavailable	Hudson (2020) , New Richmond (2019)
Units of Study - Heinemen	Does Not Meet	Unavailable	Menomonie (2022, 3-5), Cameron (2018, Reading), Osceola (2018) , Pepin (2018)
Collaborative Literacy			Oconto Falls, Parise Farm, Baldwin Woodville, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, West St. Paul
Benchmark Advance	Meets Expectations	Partially Meets	River Falls (2018) , Menomonie K-2 (2022), 3-5 (2023), Superior (2023), Mineral Point (2023)
Savvas Essentials: Foundational Reading (K-2) -	Meets Expectations	Unavailable	
From Phonics to Reading (K-2) - William H. Sadlier	Meets Expectations	Unavailable	Elk Mound (2019)

End of Summer 2023: 6 Resources

- Wonders - McGraw Hill
- CKLA - Amplify
- Into Reading - HMH
- My View Literacy - Savvas
- Fountas and Pinnell Classroom - Heinemann
- Collaborative Literacy - Collaborative Classroom

Fall of 2023: Resource Review

	Review Start Date	Review End Date	Resource Open House
Greenwood	September 5	September 29	September 26: 4:00-7:00
Westside	October 2	October 20	October 10: 4:00-7:00
Rocky Branch	October 23	November 13	October 23: 4:00-7:00

Fall of 2023: Resource Review

- **October 9th Inservice:** ELA Committee Resources review.
- **November 6th Inservice:** Guided review on 4 resources by the ELA Committee.
- **November 16-December 22:** Coaches reviewed feedback from staff and parents and narrowed our potential resources to a manageable number of four. To include: myView, Into Reading, Wonders, Collaborative Classroom.
- **November 21:** Notified top 4 vendors of in-person presentation on January 22, 2024 inservice.

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Winter of 2023 - 24: Resource Review

- **December 15 and 18:** DAS and Coaches engage in virtual vendor presentations on top 4 series.
- **Early January:** School visits and reference calls.
- **January 22:** Vendor presentations to representatives of the ELA Committee. 1 member per grade level.
- **January 26:** Initial notice of DPI approved resources.
 - CKLA
 - Wit and Wisdom only if partnered with Geodes and Really Great Reading
- Possible re-submission for certain vendors.
- Priority review of others yet to be reviewed for possible addition to list on February 6, 2024.

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Winter of 2023-24: Resource Review

- **December 15 and 18:** DAS and Coaches engage in virtual vendor presentations on top 4 series.
- **Early January:** School visits and reference calls.
- **January 22:** Vendor presentations to representatives of the ELA Committee. 1 member per grade level.
- **January 26:** Initial notice of DPI approved resources.
 - CKLA
 - Wit and Wisdom only if partnered with Geodes and Really Great Reading.
 - Possible re-submission for certain vendors.
 - Priority review of others for possible addition to list on February 6, 2024.
- **January 26 and Beyond:** Contract negotiations

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Spring 2024: Resource Review

- **March 6, 2024:** Final presentation of selected resource to Educational Program Committee.
- **March 25, 2024:** Final vote by full school board.
- **May 10, 2024:** Initial training on new resource.
- **Summer of 2024:** Optional asynchronous online training through vendor.
- **August 2024:** Second training session on new resource.
- **Winter 2024/25:** Third training on new resource.

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Montessori 1907-2024



River Falls Public Montessori Elementary School



“An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live.”

- Dr. Maria Montessori

HISTORY

- 1890s - Dr. Maria Montessori first woman physician in Italy
- 1904-1908 Professor of Anthropology at the University of Rome
- 1907 - Creation of the first Children's House - Casa de Bambini



HISTORY

- 1910-1920 - Europe
- 1920-1930 - North America
- WWII
- Dr. Montessori trained teachers in India during WWII
- 1950 - Association Montessori International (AMI) was formed in Amsterdam



History

- 1952 - Dr. Montessori died
- She wrote 34 books in her lifetime
- 1960s - worldwide movement resurges, American Montessori Society (AMS) formed
- 2007 - Centennial challenge to ensure Montessori is brought to all children, no matter socio economic status or country of origin

TODAY

- AMI and AMS beginning to work together - many 'blended' schools
- Longest standing method of education in the world that has gone unchanged
- On six continents
- Public and private Montessori growth
- Advocacy groups educating politicians of benefits of Montessori education
- Research strong and continuous

Human Needs and Tendencies

- Language
- Repetition
- Movement
- Control of Error
- Orientation
- Self-Control and Self-Perfection
- Order
- Mathematical Mind/Abstraction
- Exploration
- Creative Imagination
- Work
- Communication
- Exactness
- Independence

Sensitive Periods

Sensitive periods are developmental windows of opportunity during which the child can learn specific concepts more easily and naturally than at any other time in their lives.

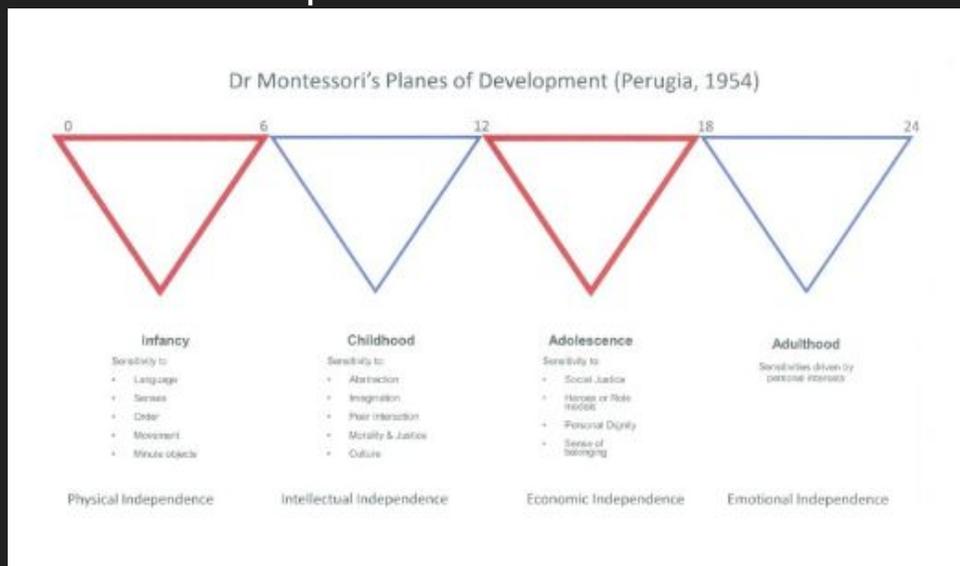


Absorbent Mind

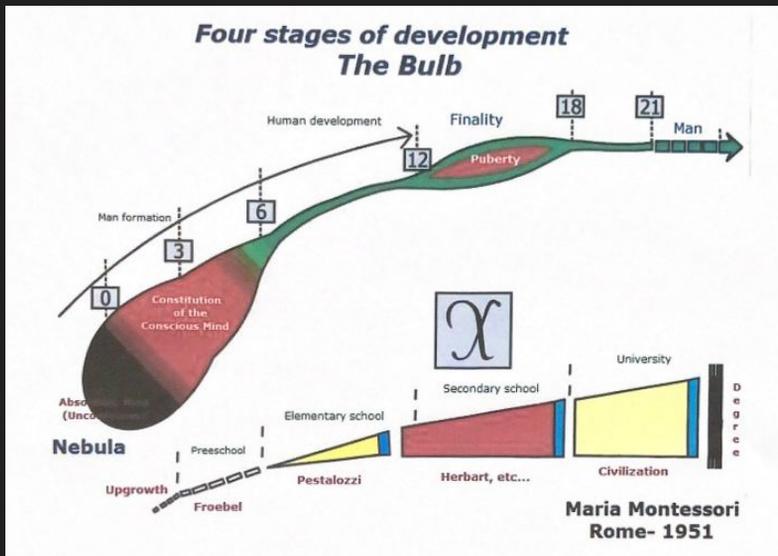
A child learns through living and takes in all that surrounds them effortlessly - living and learning simultaneously. - Molly O'Shaughnessy



Four Planes of Development



Four Planes of Development - Bulb Theory



Montessori Learning Environment



Multi-Aged

Montessori Learning Environment



Hands on Materials



Montessori Learning Environment



The Gift of Time



Montessori Learning Environment



Individualized Lessons



Montessori Learning Environment



Freedoms with Responsibility



Montessori Learning Environment



Grace and
Courtesy



Montessori Learning Environment

Diverse, Equitable,
Inclusive, & Culturally
Responsive



Five Great Lessons of Elementary

- First Great Lesson – Coming of the Universe and the Earth.
- Second Great Lesson – Coming of Life.
- Third Great Lesson – Coming of Human Beings.
- Fourth Great Lesson – Communication in Signs.
- Fifth Great Lesson – The Story of Numbers.

Peace Education



High Fidelity Montessori - What makes a successful Public Montessori School?

- Trained Montessori teachers
- Multi age classrooms
- Using Montessori materials
- Child-directed work
- Uninterrupted work cycles

Celebrations at RFPME

- International Day of Peace Assembly
- MLK Assembly
- No Place for Hate team
- Student Council
- Art Club
- Tech Deck Club
- Peer teaching
- Robust Title Program
- Shift to Montessori Education inservices
- Assistant/paraprofessional training
- Governance Board diving deep into High Fidelity Montessori
- Connections with Wisconsin Montessori Association
- Curriculum alignment to State Standards
- Beginning of Class Councils as a driver of Peace Education



Winter Solstice Celebration



Children's House



Lower Elementary

Challenges

- Teacher recruitment and retention
- Children's House demographics
- Curriculum support

Light a Candle