

RIVERSIDE

Phoenix, Arizona - Month 2022

GAZETTE

VOICE & OPINION

Achieve at or Above Mastery Level in The Areas of STEM²

Dear R2 Students, Faculty and Parents,

It is hard to believe this year is coming to a close. I know that this year has been a difficult year for our students, parents and staff. The Pandemic has impacted every facet of our lives.

Here is an overview of highlights for the remaining 2021-2022 school year and preparations for the 2022-2023 school year. First, we want to emphasize the important of the AzMERIT assessment which will be given to the students this Spring. Second, our major focus is to continue increasing student achievement in the areas of Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Currently, Riverside Traditional School and Kings Ridge Preparatory Academy and Maricopa Institute of Technology are highly performing and effective schools. We are striving for excelling performance ratings for all our schools. Our goal is to have all our students achieve at or above mastery level in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEM2). Throughout this year and next, we will continue to evaluate programs and identify more meaningful ways to expand our curriculum offerings to meet the needs of all students.

Also to share with you are some important pieces of positive growth and progress. Through the leadership of school and district administration, we have been successful in exceeding our goals and areas of focus. Here are some high points:

- · We have been awarded millions in external grant funding which allowed us to provide students with before and after school tutoring programs, and summer school.
- We continue offering free, healthy breakfasts in the classroom to all our students regardless of their economic status.
- For the last ten years, R2 has earned the highest marks for financial stability, accountability, and transparency from our state and internal auditors.
- · We have and will continue to provide each and every student with advanced technology;
- We run a program with quality personnel and well-prepared students.
- Our medical program has been recognized as one of the most advanced pre-med programs in the state. This combined with our partnerships with Banner Health and Abrazo Community Health Network have made MIT a coveted school for students who seek to become doctors in the medical field.
- We in the second phase of designing our community clinic and internship program. The clinic will provide health services to our community while creating an advanced internship program for our MIT students.

We are currently asking parents for email addresses and phone numbers so we can send you information electronically via email and texts. This will keep you informed about the wonderful events that are taking place at our three schools. Also, check your school's website for the latest information and announcements about upcoming events.

There is so much to celebrate about the progress of R2 with more of our students achieving their goals in the classroom. Our commitment to excellence has never been stronger or more focused. But our work is far from over, and we will achieve greater success by working hand in hand with our parents and community. As always, we will continue to be guided by our strategic plan:

R2 – Private Education in a Public School Setting. We will continue to create a learning environment that is better than any other school district in the state. Each student needs to feel that school is a magical place of learning. Where the school itself is an adventure. To this end, we are completing many of our construction



projects and technology ungrades that will provide a state of the

projects and technology upgrades that will provide a state of the art computer and medical labs at KRPA and MIT.

R2 – Investing In Our Future. We will be focusing on getting every child to graduation by ensuring they are proficient and college and career ready. This formula of increased proficiency, graduation, and college and career readiness rates will be what drives R2 to the highest

level of excellence and gives every child the best start as he or she begins the next phase of his or her life. Preparing for college begins at Preschool!

We will only be successful at reaching these goals if we work together - educators, parents, and community members. R2 has always held a special place in my heart. As a former principal for both Riverside Traditional School and Kings Ridge Preparatory Academy, building MIT and now Superintendent, I have always striven to build stronger connections and partnerships throughout the community so that we can make our district the best it can possibly be. During the last several years, I have met with hundreds of parents and community members to listen to their successes, comments, and opinions on how to take our schools to the next level of performance. I have enjoyed and valued every meeting and conversation because it has allowed me to gain a greater knowledge about where we stand as a school district in relation to our goals for our children. These conversations will continue in the future as I merge everyone's comments together to determine what our next steps need to be taken to advance our students' to the higher level.

This process of greater improvement must be done together. This upcoming year, I want to ensure that you feel connected to and are supported by the school district. We want to work with you to make sure our children excel in the classroom. Together, we can ensure every child receives a high-quality education and is on the path toward a bright future.

We are eager to complete this school year and look forward to an exciting upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jaime A. Rivera

Superintendent of Schools/CEO Riverside Elementary School District No. 2



Board Members









8 Teaching and Learning



Associate Superintendent

Providing a Private Education in a Public School Setting

Dear Riverside Students, Families and Community Members,

Ruben B. Gutierrez, M.Ed.; M.A. Your Servant Leader

As the Associate Superintendent for Federal Programs, Construction, and Teaching and Learning for Riverside Elementary School District No. 2 since 2009, I have been honored to be a part of the incredibly highly performing team responsible for the transformation of our school district. The past thirteen years have brought significant developments to the whole landscape of RESD, and has offered a multitude of success that is far reaching. We have developed quite a unique perspective and understanding of the trials and tribulations all educational agencies face, having had many experiences during the Pre-COVID-19 and Post COVID-19, but together we have ensured safe educational environments for our students, staff, and community members. Despite the challenges we continue to work with all stakeholders at the national, state, and local level to ensure our schools are safe, orderly, prepared for what lies ahead, but most importantly maintaining our Vision, Mission, and Goals in the forefront to create the best educational experience our students deserve to reach their highest potential!

Literally the heart of Phoenix, Arizona, Riverside Elementary School District No.2 can also be considered, "The Heart of Arizona School Districts". Despite being in existence since 1872 during a time when the state of Arizona was not yet a state and when land was still being claimed, R2 remained a 2-school district for many years. R2 has flourished in the past 5 years, and has tripled its student population from 350 students to almost 1,000, with a 3rd school MIT (Maricopa Institute of Technology) STEM² Magnet Junior HS and 4th Online School (totaling to 4 schools district-wide). This was accomplished through the combined team effort of new, solid leadership, dedicated instructional and support staff, and through the support of new parents/guardians in the community that believe in the vision and mission that every student deserves the gift of a high-quality education. Here at R2 we have a motto, "Providing a Private Education in a Public School Setting". We strive for the top echelon daily while continuing to develop the infrastructure, resources and facilities to support our mission in providing the best education possible for all students. We provide the tools, resources and expertise necessary to make this mission possible: 100% of R2 professional staff is Highly Qualified and Appropriately Certified! R2 will continue to invest in our greatest resources, our professional staff, with daily and consistent support and with personal development for teachers to work collaboratively with all grade levels, district departments, and community representatives.

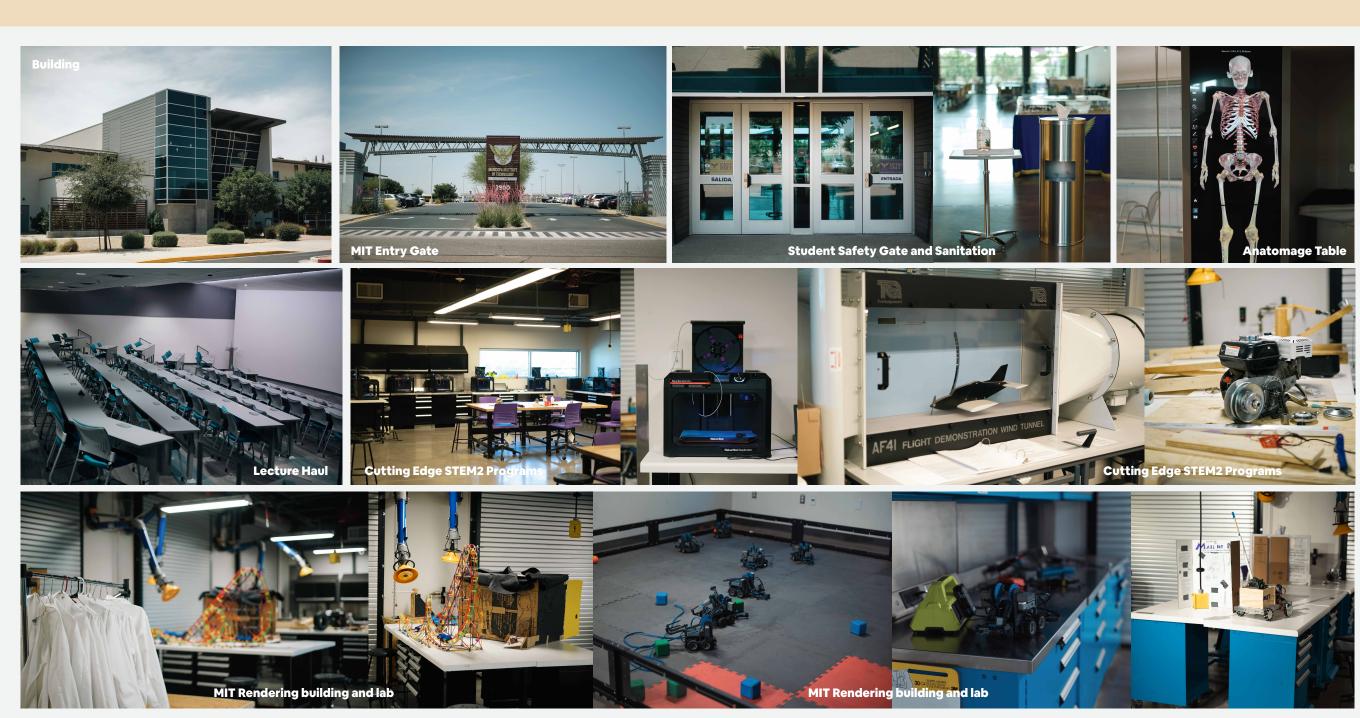
Due to the generous support of community members through the passing of the School BOND, R2 has grown by leaps and bounds. When you walk onto our campus you will be astounded by the beautiful architecture and grounds, state of the art classrooms and gymnasium, and will be welcomed by our amazing, talented and dedicated staff. Your BOND dollars at work have yielded the following significant improvements to both Riverside Traditional (RT); Kings Ridge Preparatory Academy (KRPA); and MIT STEM² (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) Magnet Junior High School Programs: Solar Power, State of the Art STEM² Classrooms, Library and Media Center, Complete Indoor Gymnasium, Laboratories, and Educational Platforms to best prepare our students for our 21st Century Learning Challenges for a better and healthier tomorrow!



Ruben B. Gutierrez, M.Ed.; M.A. Associate Superintendent

R2 continuously seeks ways to cultivate the relationship between school and home. To create a stronger parent-school partnership and to help parents monitor their child's education in all schools, R2 will be providing timely student information through a tool called Parent VUE. As a parent or guardian of a R2 student, you will have the ability to view grades, attendance information, and other data that the district has maintained in regards to your student. Your child's academic information will be web-based and you can access it from your personal computer. Although, the coming years will undoubtedly continue to bring significant challenges and changes to the Riverside Community, I am confident that the district/community-wide culture of hard-work, character building and excellence will remain steadfast. I look forward to supporting all of our students and staff as they journey on their pathway to success.

With Gratitude, Your Servant Leader!





Board Members Page

Our governing board and district administration are dedicated to the education of our children. They value your input into the decision-making process. We encourage your attendance at our regularly scheduled board meetings whenever possible. New this year, Riverside Elementary School District No. 2 adopts paperless meeting technology for the new school year.



Belief of setting up a partnership of learning

Between Student And Teacher

Dr. Joyce Luckie currently holds the position of Executive Director of Federal Programs in the Gila Bend Unified School District. Throughout her career, Dr. Luckie has been an elementary school principal for eight years in the Roosevelt School District and in her teaching career she has taught English Language Arts (ELA), Business Law, Physical Education and Technology (computers) in several states for over twenty years. Dr. Luckie has served on the Riverside School District Governing Board since 2009, serving as Board President. She is originally from Chicago, Illinois, and has resided in Arizonia since 2000.

Dr. Luckie's educational philosophy revolves around the strong belief that creating a solid partnership of learning between student and teacher is essential in becoming the foundation for learning that will enable every student to maximize and reach beyond their perceived potential in a safe and accepting environment. Spending quality time teaching communication, cooperation and friendship skills are curial to classroom management. The interpersonal relationship between teacher and student are key components in leading to high student achievement. Teachers need to be real and genuine with students, creating a trusting environment that allows the students to feel their opinions matter. Once trust is built, it is easier to facilitate students to engage in experiential learning, allowing them the freedom to make mistakes, learn from them and feel safe to move on.

Dr. Luckie has a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership, from Argosy University, a Master's degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Chicago State University and an Associate degree in Real Estate from San Diego City College.

Dr. Joyce Luckie understands that the most successful people and organizations of the future will be those that are capable of rapidly and effectively bringing about lasting, system-wide changes. Students deserve new and innovative ways of creating a new future for their families and generations to come!

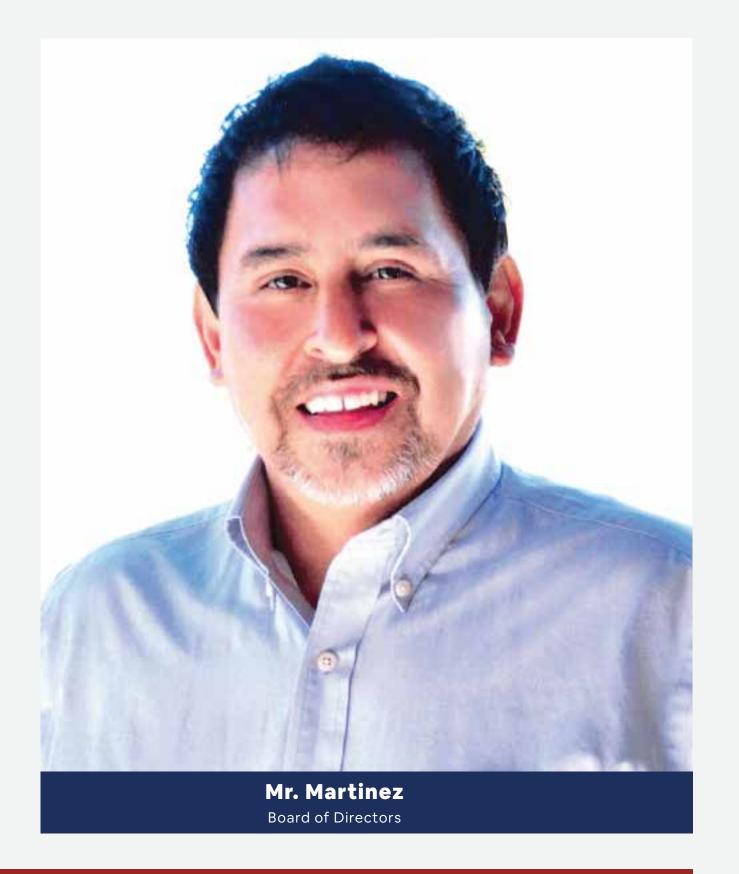
Making the Impossible, Possible MTIP!

Inspiring lifelong learning to advance knowledge and strengthen our communities

Mr. Martinez was born in Laredo, Texas, and moved with his family to Phoenix at a young age. He has lived in Phoenix, Arizona, for the past 20 years. Mr. Martinez has successfully served the R2 community in numerous and beneficial ways. His passion for helping children succeed educationally has made him a wonderful and effective part of the Board of Directors. He is always willing to lend a helping hand whenever he is needed.

Mr. Martinez is self-employed and owns several successful businesses. He enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his daughter. His daughter currently attends Maricopa Institute of Technology. He is an advocate for students in need.

Mr. Martinez is happy to be a part of the governing board and looks forward to working side by side along with other board members to achieve the best results for our students. He believes students will successfully achieve their goals if they are properly equipped during their school years with a Riverside School District education. He strongly believes in inspiring lifelong learning to advance knowledge and strengthen our communities.



RIVERSIDE TRADITIONAL SCHOOL

Passionate about collaborating with our school community

Community,

you in our first district newspaper for this school year. After over 25 years of working in schools, I continue to be passionate about collaborating with our school community to provide our students with the best educational experiences, especially during these unprecedented times. Although, these past couple of years have been challenging in dealing with a global pandemic, I cannot be more proud and honored to serve our strong, resilient and united community.

At our school, we continue to emphasize our efforts in supporting students grow academically and social emotionally. We are aware of some of our students unfinished learning and we are working to make every effort to support them. Teachers are working in providing students with reading and math interventions. We are currently piloting a math program that is supporting our efforts in meeting students where they are academically. Our strong emphasis continues to be in the area of social and emotional events, do not hesitate to contact our learning. Teachers and staff are working in building a classroom community and make connections with students to help them feel valued, accepted and safe. Our overarching goal is for students to feel actively engaged in all aspects of the school to foster their lifetime love for learning.

For the upcoming months, there are several important events for our students where they will need additional support and Sincerely, encouragement. State testing (AASA) Arizona Academic Standards and Assess- Cindy Sanchez, Principal ment for grades 3rd and 4th grade and

Dear Riverside Elementary School District (AZELLA) Arizona English Language Learner Assessment for our second language learn-It is with great excitement that I write to ers in grades Kinder to 4th grade. The AASA state test will take place between April 4th to April 15th. AZELLA testing has begun and will continue from February 22nd to March 4th. Your child's classroom teacher will provide you with specific times and days for his/her appropriate assessment. We look forward to students to be in attendance and ready to show their academic growth.

> Additionally, our staff and I are anticipating to meet with you in person or via ZOOM for parent teacher conferences on March 3rd and 4th.

> On March 3rd, we will be holding our first Kinder registration event for the 2022-2023 school year. During the event, we will be accepting applications from those families who live outside our district boundaries and pre-registrations for any 4-year-old students. You are welcome to join our wonderful and experienced Kinder teachers who will be showcasing our school by leading school tours from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information on upcoming school office. I encourage our families to stay connected and informed through our Class Dojo platform, school website, Facebook and Instagram page.

Our staff and I value your partnership and unwavering commitment.



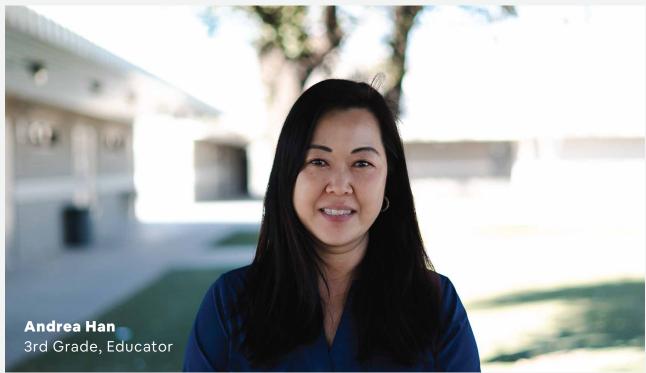
We foster a love of learning

My name is Andrea Han and I've been teaching Kindergarten for the past 15 years. I joined Riverside Traditional School in 2009 and feel extremely blessed to be part of the RTS Family!

On behalf of the Kindergarten Team, I would like to say that we offer a full-day kindergarten with a rigorous STEM and Project-Based Learning curriculum. We love to teach our young children how to think critically, instill creativity, and help them develop problem-solving skills through real-life challenges. Most importantly, we foster a love of learning and ensure all students feel welcome, safe, secure, and happy, in a safe and nurturing environment.

Andrea Han

3rd Grade, Educator





Visit our website www.resdonline.org

Call us 602.477.8900

Take a tour!

1414 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85043





Students put a smile on

the worst days

My name is Lulu Walker and this is my second year working in Arizona. The main reason I like working at RTS is the students. My students can put a smile on my face even during the worst of days. They come to school eager to learn and to try new things. I am amazed by how much they have grown academically and socially this year; despite the hardships we have faced these past few years. Their resilience gives me the motivation to be the best teacher I can be for them.

Thank you, Lulu Walker 3rd Grade, Educator







KINGS RIDGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

KRPA Huskies Howl During 21-22 Sports Season!

Kings Ridge was very excited to welcome back team sports for the 2021-2022 season after the COVID-19 gap year. We had a successful fall season for Girls Volleyball and our Boys Soccer team even made it to playoffs! In the winter season, we were very excited to welcome back many participants from the 19-20 sports season, in addition to adding new athletes to our rosters. Our winter athletes were a dedicated bunch and worked tirelessly on improving their skills.

The Cheerleading team learned several new cheers, performed at halftime of the basketball games, and began to experiment with stunting. They did a tremendous job supporting our basketball teams and stirring up positive energy in the crowd. The Girls Basketball team won a few really exciting games. By the end of the season, they were receiving many compliments from opposing teams, coaches, and officials about their improvement from start to finish.

Our Boys Basketball team always kept it entertaining by holding their opponents close. Effort and dedication were never in question. They showed up each game ready to be aggressive and play their hearts out until the very last second.

As we move into our final sports season of this school year, we wish all of our 8th grade athletes the best of luck as they move on to high school athletics. We hope to see all of our 6th and 7th graders back next year and ready to work hard. Our Girls Softball team invites you all to come out to Kings Ridge to support them in their competitions this spring season.





Preparing Students

for State Testing

State Testing is right around the corner! Please mark the dates of April 4th-15th, 2022 on your calendar for State Testing at Kings Ridge.

We want to thank you for all you do to support your children in their academic development. We are working diligently to improve every student's academic achievements. We want every student to have the tools necessary to be successful in their future endeavors.

We will be requiring all students to power off their cell phones each day, and any time during the tests. This will ensure a testing environment free from disruption for all students on campus.

We would like to offer some suggestions on how you can help your student be prepared for these tests.

- · Talk about the upcoming tests with your son or daughter. Wish them luck and send them off with a smile each morning. When they take the test, ask them about it and show interest.
- \cdot It is extremely important that students are well rested and arrive at school on time. Studies show that students need between 9 and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of sleep nightly.
- · Students need to eat breakfast in order to have the energy to take the test. Research shows that students who have eaten breakfast will have more endurance to complete academic activities in a successful manner.

During testing time, we try to minimize any kind of interruption. We ask that you please not schedule appointments (dentist, doctor, etc.) on dates your child will be tested.

We thank all of you for entrusting us with your child's education and we appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact our front office at 602-477-8960.

Student Leaders Lighten the Load

If you have visited the hallways of Kings Ridge Preparatory Academy in recent weeks, you may have noticed something out of the ordinary; mismatched clothing, cowboys, tutus, and maybe the occasional toy baby stroller crammed with school supplies. The cause of this bedlam? Student Council.

Ask any student in any school today and they will tell you that this year has been particularly stressful. Aside from re-learning how to be successful in a classroom, students have returned to an environment where many health and safety measures have been put in place to protect students from COVID and other forms of illness. Kings Ridge has been no exception and students, teachers, and administrators have been working very hard to keep our classrooms safe and healthy with much success. But let's face it – sometimes doing what is best isn't very fun. This is where Student Council steps in.

Student Council at Kings Ridge is made up of student leaders from every grade level who come together to help make school a better place. In years past, this has meant dances and after school activities. In our current environment, those things haven't been possible, so Student Council has created other ways to bring joy to students – Spirit Week.

Every Trimester, Student Council puts aside one week dedicated to showing school spirit. Each day of the week has different themes ranging from Disney Day, Western Day, or Color Wars Day (where each grade level shows their spirit by wearing a specific color. The grade with the highest participation won ice cream!), to the very popular Anything But a Backpack Day where students can bring any type of carrier smaller than a suitcase to carry their supplies in.

Kings Ridge has seen overwhelming response from both students and faculty as they express themselves in fun and non-disruptive ways. So if, perchance, you happen to run into a life-sized watermelon the next time you are on campus, rest assured that Student Council is to blame in the best way possible. Maybe the next time, you can join in the fun and show your spirit by participating in the next Spirit Week!



Visit our website

www. kings ridge. resdonline. org

Call us 602.477.8960

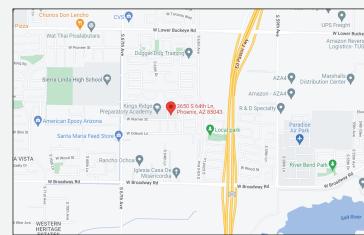
Take a tour!

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STEM Camp for MIT-Magnet written by Mr. Gaudhi

On November 19th, 2021, the Maricopa Institute of Technology hosted a STEM Camp for the 7th and 8th Grade students. The STEM camp was part of the AZ MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science and Achievements) program and was sponsored by the SARSEF (Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation). Mr. Gandhi, Mathematics and Engineering teacher at MIT, attended two hours of training and workshop to prepare for this STEM camp. The materials for various projects and experiment was delivered to the school prior to the camp day. On the STEM Camp day, students from 7th and 8th grades gathered in the lecture hall and participated in some interesting projects like Fruit Fly Behaviour, Forces of Change, Making Predictions with the Dean of Sciences, and Helicopter Design. Students worked on these projects in groups of five to six under the guidance and supervision of Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Pusey 7th-8th grade teachers, and some high school student volunteers. The STEM camp started at 9:00 am and it lasted for three hours where students had a fun time working on these projects with the instructions received through zoom live video call.







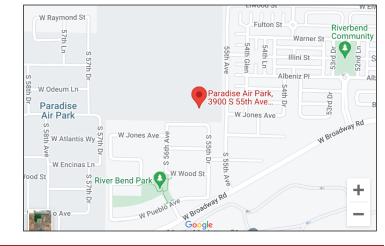
Visit our website http://www.mitglobalonline.org/

Call us 602.477.2780

Take a tour! 3900 S. 55th Ave Phoenix, AZ 85043









COMMUNITY EMPLOYEE REFERRAL PROGRAM

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Refer someone you know to work for the Riverside SchoolDistrict!
- The person you are referring must apply online and list your name in the referral section of the application.
- If your referral is hired and approved by the GoverningBoard, you will receive a \$150 visa gift card!
- Refer someone you know to work for the Riverside SchoolDistrict!



\$150 VISA GIFT CARD





POSITIONS ELIGIBLE

- Teachers All Grade Levels
- Special Education Paraprofessional
- Library Media Specialist Paraprofessional
- Bus Driver/Facility Worker

- Licensed Driver/Facility Worker
- Fixed Assets/Courier/Inventory
- Meals Benefit Clerk/Kitchen Assistant





Someone You Should Know

The Riverside Elementary School District implemented the "Employee of the Trimester" program in January of 2016. This program was designed for school and district employees to have the opportunity to recognize each other for their personal commitment and unwavering dedication to our schools, students and community. Since this program began, we have had the opportunity to recognize numerous certified and classified employees for their outstanding work ethics. Each employee selected for this award is recognized at a monthly public Governing Board Meeting. The employee receives their name placed on the "Employee of the Trimester" plaque located at their work place, a certificate of recognition and a dedicated parking spot at their campus.

This month we would like to celebrate an exemplary certified teacher, Ms. Logan Cahill, who was nominated by her colleagues for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Logan Cahill is currently the physical education teacher at Kings Ridge Preparatory Academy for all students in grades five through eight.

Ms. Logan Cahill joined the Kings Ridge campus in the 2019-2020 school year as the physical education teacher. Ms. Cahill is not only the PE teacher but she also holds the position of Athletic Coordinator for all of the sports programs at Kings Ridge. Her colleagues say that Logan has a way of making everyone feel like they are the most important person in the room. She consistently motivates and encourages each and every one of her students daily. Her colleagues know how dedicated she is to her students at the Kings Ridge campus and that Ms. Cahill is always willing to help, volunteer for special activities and think outside of the box to develop creative solutions to any problem. Please help us in recognizing and giving a shout-out to Ms. Logan Cahill, the Certified Employee of the Trimester!





STEAM2 Education for Students

with Special Needs

How STEAM2 Education can help students with Special Needs?

STEAM2 is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics and medicine in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise.

STEAM2 activities require students to use their prior knowledge while also using higher-order thinking to solve the problem. STEAM2 activities provide opportunities for students to engage in corporative team building activities.

A special needs child may be delayed in one subject like reading but may be exceptional (and even gifted) in another like math. Participating in a subject a student excels at will give them a sense of achievement that they may not feel otherwise.

Not only are students with special needs capable of doing STEAM2 activities, but they also enjoy them. And you know when a child enjoys something they will want to do it more and their retention of information is higher.

RESD Exceptional Student Services on the Move with STEAM2 Learning

STEAM2 can mean something different to each teacher and how they integrate it into their classroom. In the RESD special needs programs our teachers integrate a variety of STEAM2 activities throughout their student's learing.

PreK and Kindergarten students may be exposed to legos or building time during their day. Legos are a great way to help student's problem solve and use their higher-order thinking skills. Another integration of STEAM2 is through the use of playdough. PlayDoh allows students to use their imagination to create things.

Upper grades students may be involved in a variety of student lead experiments that involve designing, creating and building. Providing opportunities for students to derive solutions to real-world problems in their own unique way. These hands-on projects give students the opportunity to learn valuable life skills like cooperation, collaboration and perseverance in the face of challenges.

The best part about STEAM2 education is that it gives our students (regardless of their disability), access to real-world learning experiences. By providing STEAM2 education for special needs students, they'll also be more geared up for the challenges that await them outside the classroom environment, which is the point of education.





Role And Responsibilities Of The School District

Business Services Office

The Business Services Office is an integral element toward successful delivery of education to the students of the Riverside School District No. 2. (RSD2). Our primary purpose is to administer the financial resources entrusted to the school district in the most efficient manner possible while maximizing the funds available for instructional programs. The Business Services Office is essential in facilitating the educational process by providing clean, safe and well maintained facilities, technology support, financial services, student transportation and food services. Our code of conduct is driven by a culture of customer service to offer quality support services to the students, staff, and community. We instill within our department exemplary leadership, management, innovation, initiative, pride and personal work ethics. Additionally, we realize that, as we strive to efficiently carry out our primary mission of educating the children, we are indeed responsible to the local taxpayers who contribute (to include continue favorable support of Bond, Maintenance & Operations and District Additional Assistance Overrides) to meet the revenue needs of the school district as we endeavor to invest wisely in our future, which is based upon effectively educating the students of our school district.

The Business Services Office is made up of the following sections whose broad span of responsibilities promote academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, and public accountability:

- Accounting and Reporting
- Auditing
- Budget and Financial Planning
- Cash Management
- Debt Management
- Facility Planning and Construction Management
- General Management
- Payroll Management
- Purchasing and Accounts Payable Management
- Fixed Assets and Courier Services
- Risk and Insurance Management

Written by: Jose Moreno, Executive Director of Business Services



Jose Moreno
Executive Director of Business Services



Zorina Gray
Payroll Specialist



Teresa Solares
Finance Specialist



Flor Ovando
Secretary to the Executive Director of Business Services

Students Voice and Opinions

The Story of a New 8th Grader

Kings Ridge Helps Students Grow - The Story of a New 8th Grader The story of a new 8th grader is by Arhianna Echols

Staff, students, and teachers all want students to grow and achieve their dreams. Helping kids find out what they like and what their interests are helps them to determine what they would like to be in the future. Students are growing quickly and are willing and wanting to learn new things. At Kings Ridge, sports and after school activities such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, cheer, student council, and dance all help students, like me, figure out what they like and dislike.

Extra-curricular activities like sports have been a big help to me when I didn't know where I belonged or where I fit in. When I first was elected to the student council I found out that a lot of other kids had the same ideas as me. When I joined the dance club I found that the coach there helped me be more confident and I learned how to cooperate with everyone around me. The people I have surrounded myself with at Kings Ridge have positively impacted my school year so far.

The teachers and staff at Kings Ridge are very caring. They are always patient with me when I need help understanding the subject. No matter what the situation is, the teachers are there to help and guide me. Our behavioral specialist lets me talk through my feelings and it really helps me work to finish my year off strong. Since coming to Kings Ridge I have felt confident in my ability to make better choices.

I think the school has done a great job adjusting to the pandemic and still allowing students to do what they enjoy. I feel safe coming to school knowing the precautions they have in place for us like wearing masks, and teaching us proper hand washing methods. All of the friends I've made at this school are unbelievable. I respect them and consider all of them like my family. Overall I enjoy coming to this school, I enjoy the teachers, and the extra curricular activities available to me!