

Ritenour at a Glance

The Ritenour School District, located in northwest St. Louis County, is one of the oldest districts in the metropolitan area. Our proud history began with Buck School, a one-room log cabin built in 1846.

Today, Ritenour embraces the exciting challenges of the future. We have grown from that one room cabin into nine schools, a school for Early Childhood Education and a large adult education program. More than 600 professional, caring employees, active district parents and a highly supportive community work together to educate a culturally, socially and economically diverse student population.

K-12 Enrollment

6,280 (2018-2019 school year)

School Sites

- 6 Elementary Schools
- 2 Middle Schools
- 1 High School
- 1 Early Childhood School
- 1 Adult Education Center

Student Demographics

Asian – 1.7%
Black – 42.0%
Hispanic – 19.1%
Indian – 0.2%
White – 29.5%
Multi-race – 7.5%

Average Expenditures per Student:

\$10,693

Average Years of Experience of

Professional Staff: 13.1

Professional Staff with Advanced

Degrees: 72.6%

Revenue Funding Sources

State – 39.3%
Local – 52.5%
Federal – 8.2%

Hopes/Fears for the Upcoming Legislative Session

Hopes

- Focus on supporting current schools as opposed to creating new charter schools.
- Students will receive a quality education in their community.
- People will come together on standards and assessments – supporting rigorous, relevant instruction.

Fears

- Attacks on public education will result in further deterioration of quality of life in our state and country.
- Less funding equals less money for education.
- Increased legislative over reach in educational matters will result in removing the decision-making authority from educators in the state of Missouri.

For More Information

Superintendent's Office

Dr. Chris Killbride
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(314) 493-6050

Ritenour Legislative Advocacy Committee

www.ritenourschools.org



 Ritenour Legislative Advocacy Committee

Every Student, Every Day

2019 Legislative Positions



The Ritenour Legislative Advocacy Committee is a politically neutral group that meets regularly with the Superintendent. Its purpose is to research and study public policy issues that have an impact on the Ritenour School District. Guided by the Ritenour vision and mission, members give feedback to the Superintendent, take a position on the issues, communicate with elected officials, and educate other parents and citizens on issues that impact Ritenour students and staff.

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Priority Positions

Maintaining Neighborhood Schools and Resisting the Expansion of Charter Schools

- Limiting the expansion of charter schools, which have the potential to drain resources from schools that serve children from the community
- Recognizing that public schools have the capacity to innovate and provide choice without the expansion of schools that do not have a record of success in serving all children
- Ensuring all decision making occurs at the local level

Ensuring School Board Elections Remain Non-Partisan

- Locally elected school board members are accountable to their community and their constituents.
- School board members who identify with a political party may be subject to undue political influence, which can detract from the focus on service to the community's children.
- Moving school board elections to November from the current municipal elections in April has the potential to politicize the role of board members, which will negatively impact children.

Maintain Local Decision Making Relating to School Start Time

- Every year, legislation is filed that serves to delay the start of school, pushing the start date to near the end of August.
- A school start date late in the month of August may work for some districts in the state of Missouri, however the locally-elected officials in the Ritenour School District choose to maintain a start date of mid-August, which is within their sphere of influence.
- Mandating a school start date of no earlier than 10 days before Labor Day is an example of legislative over reach and serves no purpose for the children and families of the Ritenour School District.



Ritenour Legislative Advocacy Committee Members

- **Dr. George Albin**, Community Member
- **Doug Bray**, Ritenour School District
- **Barbara Fraser**, Education Liaison for St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger
- **Ken Crowder**, City of Overland
- **Les Dills**, City of Overland
- **Hazel Erby**, St. Louis County Council
- **Jamie Flaherty**, Teacher/RNEA member
- **Julie Hahn**, Ritenour School District
- **Mayor Tom Halaska**, City of St. John
- **Pastor Brian Jackson**, Elmwood Park Baptist Church
- **Dr. Mike LaChance**, Ritenour School District
- **Dwight Lindhorst**, Ritenour School District
- **Marty Little**, Councilman, City of Overland
- **Mayor James McGee**, City of Vinita Park
- **John Morris**, City of St. John Police Chief
- **Cathy Nickens**, Community Member
- **Amy Poelker**, St. Ann City Council
- **Patty Polster**, MSBA
- **Kenneth Roumpos**, Ritenour School District
- **Mayor Mike Schneider**, City of Overland
- **Senator Jill Schupp**, State of Missouri
- **Steve Stenger**, St. Louis County Executive

