

Ritenour NEWS

A Ritenour School District Publication | March 2023

Ritenour High School Plants the Seeds to Grow Teachers & Leaders

Ritenour High School has started a Teach & Lead club that is nurturing the passion of teaching in high students who plan to become educators.

During this school year, more than a dozen students in the Teach & Lead club have connected with representatives from education programs at Maryville University, Washington University, Fontbonne University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis to learn more about what it takes to become a successful teacher and hear about the rewards of teaching.

Like many other school districts across the country, Ritenour has faced a teacher shortage since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The competition for the best teaching talent is extremely tough right now,” said Ritenour Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride. “We must develop our own talent if we are to navigate the challenges of the future. We are excited that so many students are taking part in our Teach & Lead program.”

In February, students in the club recognized teachers as part of the national #LoveTeaching campaign.

“Our students were looking to recognize teachers for all the hard work they do and also to find out their ‘why’ for teaching,” said Beth Seibold, sponsor of the Teach & Lead Club.

Next year, in addition to the Teach & Lead club, RHS students who consider themselves future teachers will have the opportunity to enroll in two pre-teaching courses through the Family and Consumer Science Department. Both courses not only earn students high school credits, but also mentoring and tutoring hours for the A+ Program:

- The coursework in the yearlong Working in Education class, open to students in grades 10-12, will introduce students to the area of education and teaching and also give them the opportunity to observe and work with students under the supervision of Ritenour teachers.
- The Mentoring in Education course is a Capstone class offered to seniors who want to work alongside Ritenour teachers in early childhood classrooms.

Ritenour not only is supporting its students to become teachers while in high school, but also is partnering with the Ritenour



Pride & Promise Foundation and Saint Louis University (SLU) to provide mentoring and Grow Your Own scholarships to RHS students to become educators and return “home” to teach in Ritenour.

RHS senior Kyle Williams, a member of the Teach & Lead club who is heading to Saint Louis University’s (SLU) School of Education with a scholarship, already knows he wants to come back to Ritenour as a high school math teacher.

“I want to become a teacher because I have a huge passion for my school and community,” said Williams. “Ritenour is home for me. Ritenour has grown me, built me, and provided me with the resources I need to be successful. I want to come back and do the same for the generations that come after me.”

Williams says his aspirations don’t end in the classroom. His long-term goal is to become superintendent of the Ritenour School District.

Ritenour and SLU have partnered together for the state’s Grow Your Own program, which focuses on developing and recruiting teachers from home districts so they later return to their districts as teachers. Since the Pride & Promise and SLU’s Grow Your Own Scholarships started in 2021, five RHS graduates currently are in the pipeline to return to Ritenour as teachers: RHS 2021 graduates Camille “Cammy” Fuller, Darleen “Esme” Garcia and Kayla “Kayl” Baker; 2022 RHS graduates Kaylyn Riggs and Brittany Gutierrez. The 2023 Grow Your Own scholarship recipients from SLU and Pride & Promise will be announced this spring.

Members of the Ritenour High School Teach & Lead club show off their spirit wear from Washington University’s Education Department. The club of future educators has welcomed several guest speakers who talk about the rewards of becoming an educator and what they can expect along their journey.

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Ritenour Students Experience Success with the Support of Our Community

Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride



Are we curious about one another? I often ask myself this question.

In recent editions of *Ritenour News*, we have shared messages about the challenges of returning to in-person learning following the COVID-19 pandemic. In my letters to our community, I have shared that social media, behavioral issues and substance abuse have sometimes played a negative role in students' return to learning inside of our classrooms.

I have also shared that students' social skills have atrophied due to underuse over the course of the past two school years when virtual learning was a significant part of our program.

As I reflect on the challenges we face as an organization, I have come to the realization that we could benefit a great deal from simply being more curious about learning from one another.

This point was reinforced recently when I observed an interaction while traveling.

I was on the parking shuttle at an airport when a man came running onto the bus with a car seat in hand. There were five passengers, including me on the parking shuttle that was headed to the airport.

The man went to the driver and appeared to be pleading with him. The driver then told all of us to buckle our

seat belts and hold on tight. The driver got the passenger to the airport much more quickly than usual (while breaking some speed limits). He then helped him carry his items out of the vehicle and to the gate agent.

After the driver returned to the shuttle, one of the other passengers began to complain loudly to all who could hear that the traveler should have been more organized and that he put us in danger because we had to speed to get to the airport. I watched the heads of the 3 other passengers begin to nod in agreement.

Then, the shuttle driver (who was a Ritenour graduate) explained to us that the man's wife and two kids were already at the airport waiting for him to board a flight to the west coast. However, they forgot the car seat for the baby and could not travel without it. The father ran back to their home to pick up the car seat and only had 20 minutes until boarding began for his flight.

I started thinking, what if we had known this information ahead of time? What if we simply asked about the challenges this man was facing? Would the passengers on the shuttle bus be more willing to support him?

In our daily lives, we often don't know the stories behind the actions of those with whom we interact. If we did, would we respond differently?

As we continue to move beyond the pandemic, know that we are doing everything that we can to reach and teach

2021-2022 Annual Report Available on Ritenour Website

The Ritenour School District's 2021-2022 Annual Report is now available on Ritenour's website under the "About Us" tab. The report



includes information about the district's accreditation status, student achievement, demographics, staffing, the district budget and points of pride. Also included is information about enrollment, attendance and graduation rate.

The latest district news, upcoming events, alumni information, links to school websites and calendars can also be found on Ritenour's website: www.ritenourschools.org.

"The future is bright in our district, and we will continue to focus on ensuring that the "Victory is in the Classroom" for every one of our more than 6,000 students."

-Dr. Chris Kilbride

Every Student, Every Day. We want to ensure that every student experiences success both in the classroom and in life.

The future is bright in our district, and we will continue to focus on ensuring that the "Victory is in the Classroom" for every one of our more than 6,000 students. Thank you for your continued support!

RITENOUR Board of Education



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President



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Read-Ins & Cultural Activities Highlight Black History Month in Ritenour Schools

Read-Ins at Ritenour elementary schools were one of the more popular ways students enjoyed Black History Month in February.

Guest readers from a broad range of careers visited classrooms and read children's books that included characters of color, were by African American authors or reflected cultural traditions. In addition to enjoying the read-alouds, students had the opportunity to learn about different careers and reflect on Black excellence.

"We want to elevate the normalcy of Black excellence so that our students recognize that the people they see every day in the community are doing great things and making a positive impact," said Marion Elementary Principal Bilal Ewing.

In addition to classroom activities and presentations in each of Ritenour's schools, students led Black history-themed spirit

weeks that reflected African American culture, Historically Black Colleges and famous African Americans.

Ritenour's youngest scholars at the Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education got a glimpse of Black excellence with creative door decorations. Marvin Elementary took door decorating to another level by ensuring that Black excellence was represented with every letter of the alphabet, from A about Aaron Douglas and Maya Angelou to Z about Zora Neale Hurston.

Students at Hoech and Ritenour middle schools led morning announcements throughout February that highlighted music by famous Black musicians and other trivia. In addition, Hoech students created a "Building History Together" mural with individual brick artwork that reflected Black culture and pride.

Iveland and Buder elementary schools closed the month with student performances. Each grade level performed poems, songs and dances that celebrated African American culture and excellence.

The Game Changers at Ritenour High School organized a Black History Month spirit week and a student-led program in Ritenour Auditorium featuring 45 talented students from different Husky organizations. The program spotlighted Black history, music, poetry and interpretive dance.

"Students highlighted the many talents within our school community while recognizing prominent historical figures," said Blake Hernton, co-sponsor of the Game Changers and orchestra teacher.



First-graders at Buder Elementary enjoy hearing guest reader Arsenia Tate share a book during Black History Month. Tate is an education outreach specialist from the Anti-Defamation League/Heartland office. She also answered questions about her career and talked about how students can stand up against bullying.

Ritenour's Talented Fine Arts Students Shine at the 2023 E. Desmond Lee Festivals and All-Suburban Concerts

More than four dozen talented Ritenour fine arts students from Ritenour High School and Hoech and Ritenour middle schools were selected for the prestigious 2023 E. Desmond Lee Festivals at the Touhill Performing Arts Center in early February.

Additionally, choir students from Hoech Middle School and an RHS orchestra student were selected to perform in the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association (SLSMEA) All-Suburban concerts.

Ritenour High School had its largest group of talented fine arts students perform in the E. Desmond Lee workshops and concerts at the Touhill on the campus of University of Missouri-St. Louis on Feb. 7. This year's group not only included band, orchestra and choir students, but for the first time also included RHS art students.

Music students from both Hoech and Ritenour middle schools also engaged in the E. Desmond Lee workshops and performances at the Touhill on Feb. 8.

Ritenour High School

Art: Nelda Banta, Summer Lewis, Hope Rone, Margaret Susovica

Band: Braden Alanis, clarinet; Hope Both and Jonathan Foster, trombone; Kriss Davis and Angie Houghton, euphonium; Acacia Helton, trumpet; Ulises Hernandez, baritone saxophone

Choir: Saphira Carson, Brionna Gales, Danielle Haynes, An Nguyen, Taylen Riley, Ryland Weeks

Orchestra: Andy Vo, Cailan Wooten* and Chloe Sapp, violin; Hannah Barrow and Allison Madrid, cello; Katie Kurtz, viola; Jackson Leong, bass (section leader)

Hoech Middle School**

Choir: Naleia Hall, Ti'mia Howard, Sabrina McNabb and Kaylynn Shanks

Orchestra: Leslie Taxis Papalotzi, Zariyah Rice and Allie Woodcock,viola; Madelyn Jacobsmeyer and Kennedy Williams,violin

Ritenour Middle School

Band: A'yana Burnett, tenor saxophone; Felix Somoza Larin, flute; Kimario Huddlen and James Williams, clarinet; Dante Jessmon and Thomas Moyle, French horn

Choir: Evie Bubenik, Jaliyah Butler, Ciara Ottensmeyer, Brooklynn Sanderson, Autumn Starr

Orchestra: Saoirse Lonergan and Ash Morales, viola; Skyy Jones and Anneliz Tavarez Munoz, cello; Josiah Davis, and Giana Fouche', violin

**Wooten also was selected to play 2nd violin in the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association (SLSMEA) All-Suburban Orchestra in January.*

*** In addition to the Des Lee Festivals, several seventh and eighth grade choir students from Hoech performed in the SLSMEA All-Suburban 7/8 Treble & Mixed Honors Choirs in January. Participating were: Tristan Burnett, Alexis Gregory, Madelyn Jacobsmeyer, Katrina Kesselring, Sabrina McNabb, Caleb Newingham, Brooklyn Patrick, Khalid Royal and Jalin Starr.*

RITENOUR | SPOTLIGHT

- **Christina Andrade Melly**, RHS English language arts teacher at 2023 Missouri Teacher of the Year, was honored by Missouri Sen. Brian Williams with a proclamation from the Missouri Senate.
- RHS senior **Lindsay Garcia** earned a full scholarship to her first-choice, highly selective college, Washington University in St. Louis, as a QuestBridge Match Scholar.
- The **RHS Marching Huskies** took first place in the St. Louis "Thanks for Giving" Parade with the highest judges' scores they have ever received and were recognized for donating the most blankets to the "Band Blankets for the Homeless" Project.
- For the first time since before the pandemic, the **RHS National Honor Society** sponsored a blood drive on campus with the American Red Cross. Thirty-nine RHS students and staff donated 40 units of blood, earning the NHS a \$250 scholarship from the American Red Cross.
- RHS Principal **Dr. Jana Haywood** and **Husky Academy** Director **Tavonda Palmer Harvey** received the Coach with COACH 2022 Award. They were honored for being strong advocates for youth and their "tireless commitment to our scholars and future leaders."
- Three senior RHS Husky football players committed to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level:
 - Running back/linebacker **Elijah Fry** signed with Truman State University.
 - Punter and wide receiver **Eli Mitchell** signed with Iowa Wesleyan University.
 - Wide receiver **Leon Mitchell-Williams** signed with Iowa Wesleyan University.



- RHS senior **Nathan Watson** signed with Pittsburgh State University in Kansas to continue his career as a sprinter for the Gorilla's Track & Field team.
- **Hannah Vesper**, a school counselor at **Buder Elementary**, earned National Counselor Certification after passing a rigorous exam and completing several other requirements in clinical counseling. She joins a strong cohort of school counselors in Ritenour who also are nationally certified: **Jennifer Espenschied** (Buder), **Judith McGrath**, a bilingual therapist (elementary schools), **Bethany Buescher** (Hoech), **Lisa Brougham** and **Shauna Cunningham** (RHS); **Kristy Coffin** (Marvin)



- RHS senior **Kyle Williams** (above) was one of eight student leaders from across the St. Louis metro area who participated in a courageous conversation about racism on a student panel moderated by KSDK-TV anchor Kelly Jackson. The television special aired on Feb. 19 on KSDK-TV.
- Seven RHS students have paid internships in career pathways of their choice this spring through the Connect 4 Success program: **Damonie Whitaker**, who is working at ElectroSavings Credit Union; **Chri'Shawn Carter**, **Daniela Rico Cervantes** and **Johana Pineda**, who are all working at OHM Concessions at St. Louis Lambert International Airport, **Lavi Tibugemwa**, who is working at Spectrum Brands; **DeShaun Coleman**, who is at UnitedAccess; and **Christian Smith**, who is working at Frost Supply.



- RHS cheerleaders (above) placed in the top five in their division and were invited to the state competition.
- The RHS student newspaper, *The Pepper Box*, earned the International First Place Award from International Quill and Scroll, a high school journalism honors society.
- North Tech students **Kendis Reynolds** and **Lillian Evans** from RHS earned gold medals in the SkillsUSA Missouri district championships. Reynolds earned gold in the Baking and Pastry competition, and Evans earned gold in Customer Service.
- **Valerie Stanfill**, a teacher at the **Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education**, received a grant from STL Books for Kids. Each of the school's 228 students received at least two new books to take home. STL Books for Kids donated a total of 551 books.
- **Michelle Clover**, who recently retired as the assistant to the Superintendent and Ritenour Board of Education secretary, was honored at the February Board of Education meeting by Missouri Rep. Doug Clemens with a proclamation from the Missouri House of Representatives.
- **Lexi Hahn**, an early 2023 RHS graduate, signed with Southwestern Community College in Iowa to play volleyball.

Ritenour High School Graduation Set for June 3

Graduation for the Ritenour High School class of 2023 will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 3 at Chaifetz Arena on the campus of Saint Louis University. Tickets are not required, and the ceremony is open to the public.

Ritenour High School Graduation 2023
June 3 • 6 p.m.
Chaifetz Arena



Progress as Promised: Ritenour Continues to Complete Proposition S Bond Issue Projects

Thanks to the community's tremendous support through the Proposition S bond issue, improvements continue at Ritenour schools and facilities to provide the best learning environment for all students and staff members.

Proposition S is a \$19.5 million zero tax rate change bond issue that voters overwhelmingly approved in June 2020. Ritenour is making the needed repairs and renovations without raising the tax rate for district residents.

Since the summer of 2020, many projects have been completed, including new and resurfaced parking lots, energy-efficient lighting upgrades, much-needed brick tuckpointing, replacement of playground pads and HVAC replacement and updates.

Construction has begun on two large renovation projects at Ritenour High School (RHS): a new fitness center and cafeteria upgrades. In December 2022, the Ritenour Board of Education approved a bid of \$3.9 million from Wachter Construction to complete these renovations at RHS. Both the new fitness center and upgraded cafeteria are scheduled to be completed for the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

"We thank our community for its continued support of our students, staff

and school district," said Ritenour Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride. "Our community should be very proud of the facilities that we offer to our students. This work is so important to protect the investment in the buildings where our students learn both today and in the future."

For more information and to view photos of the Proposition S projects, visit www.ritenourschools.org/PropS.

Did you Know?

- All Ritenour K-12 buildings are getting upgrades thanks to the Proposition S bond issue.
- Ritenour has nearly 1 million square feet of school facilities with a replacement value of more than \$300 million.
- Ritenour is making the needed repairs and renovations without raising the tax rate for district residents because of solid financial management and an increase in property values.
- Safety and security is always a top priority in Ritenour. Some of the funds from Prop S are being used to increase safety and security at many schools - including reconfiguring entrances and adding or replacing security cameras.

Ritenour Prop S Projects

- **Fitness Center at Ritenour High School** (Completion scheduled for August 2023)
- **School Safety & Security Upgrades** (In progress)
- **Air Conditioning and Heating Replacements & Upgrades** (In progress)
- **Lighting/Energy Efficiency Replacements & Upgrades** (Completed in 2022)
- **Replacement of Playground Pads** (Completed in 2020)
- **Cafeteria Upgrades** (In the planning process; RHS cafeteria upgrades are scheduled to be completed in August 2023)
- **Entry Canopies** (In the planning process)
- **Asphalt/Parking** (Completed in 2021)
- **Building Tuck-Pointing** (Completed in 2022)
- **Interior Finishes** (Completed in 2020)



The new cafeteria upgrades at Ritenour High School are scheduled to be completed in August of 2023.

Celebrating the 100th Day of School...

Dressed as centenarians, some of Ritenour's youngest scholars celebrated the 100th Day of School on Feb. 3, 2023, with creative art projects and fun activities that challenged their math, fitness and early engineering skills. Even some of the teachers got into the spirit for the celebration.

Left: Students at Wyland Elementary count out cereal by 10s to make edible necklaces on the 100th day of school.

Right: Teachers at Kratz got into the spirit of the 100th day of school dressed as centenarians.



Fifth Annual Ritenour Pride & Promise Golf Tournament Takes Place June 12 at Old Hickory Golf Club

In its first four years, the Ritenour Pride & Promise Foundation Golf Tournament has raised nearly \$75,000 to benefit students and teachers in the Ritenour School District.



The Ritenour Pride & Promise Foundation will host its fifth annual benefit golf tournament on Monday,

June 12, 2023, at Old Hickory Golf Club in St. Peters. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. The cost is \$500 for a foursome or \$125 for an individual golfer. The entry fee includes cart, lunch and beverages. In its first four years, the tournament raised nearly \$75,000 to benefit the Ritenour School District.

There are also a variety of sponsorship opportunities available. For more information or to sign up, please email ritenourfoundation@gmail.com or visit the Foundation website at www.ritenourfoundation.org.

All proceeds will directly support the

quality of education of the 6,300 children in the Ritenour School District. The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization established to provide supplemental funding for programs to enhance the educational excellence of the Ritenour School District. Since an enthusiastic and committed group of community members formed the organization in 2011, it has provided more than \$120,000 in scholarships to students and grants to Ritenour educators, positively impacting thousands of Ritenour students.

Ritenour High School Students to Perform *Cinderella* April 13-15

Ritenour High School students return to the stage this spring with the production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* on April 13-15, 2023 in the Ritenour High School Auditorium, 9100 St. Charles Rock Road. All performances will begin at 7 p.m. and are free to all ages.

The musical will include a cast of approximately 30 students, with 20 additional students in the pit orchestra and 20 others serving on the technical crew.



Notices and Policies

Each year, the Ritenour School District provides parents, students and community members with important information about federal and state regulations. The notices are related to students' rights and privacy, district policies and other educational procedures.

These notices are published on the Ritenour School District website, www.ritenourschools.org, and are available in all school offices and in the district Parent-Student Handbook.

Notices and Policies:

- Anti-Discrimination Notices (American with Disabilities Act/ Section 504, Sexual Harassment/ Title IX and Age Discrimination Act of 1975/Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)
- Asbestos Notice
- Complaint Resolution Procedures
- Homeless Rights Notice
- Parent & Family Engagement Policy
- Parents Right to Know Notice

- Protection of Pupils Rights Amendment (PPRA)
- Safe Schools Act
- Services and Rights for Students with Disabilities
- Student Records/Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice

For copies of these notices or more information, please visit the Ritenour website at www.ritenourschools.org or call (314) 493-6055.

Save the Date! 2023 Homecoming Set for Sept. 15-16



The Ritenour School District will celebrate Homecoming on Sept. 15-16, 2023!

The weekend festivities will kick off on Friday, Sept. 15 with the Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony at 6 p.m. The Hall of Fame class of 2023 will be enshrined during the ceremony.

On Saturday, Sept. 16, the football Huskies will take on the Fox High School Warriors at 1 p.m. following the annual Homecoming parade at 9 a.m.

We hope you can join us for this fun and exciting weekend!

Ritenour Board of Education Candidates

Ritenour Board of Education directors Penny Degardin, Rob Eaton and Dr. Brad Thomas will start new three-year terms on the Board in April 2023. As allowed by Missouri law, the district will not hold an election for new terms on the school board because the number of candidates filing is equal to the number of open positions. All information contained in these statements was prepared by the candidates to better acquaint the public with their background and qualifications.

Penny Degardin

3414 Ginger Drive
(314) 210-0008
degardinp@ritenourschools.org



Length of Residence | Lifetime
Education | Ritenour High School
Employment | Retired

Children | Our two daughters and two of our granddaughters are graduates of RHS. At the present time we have a granddaughter who is a RHS senior.
Civic & Professional Organizations | I have been serving the community as a member of the School Board since April 2014, following my service as a member of the St. John City Council from April 2002 through April 2014. Committees I have served on for the city of St John: Code Review, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Planning & Zoning, Budget Committee. School District Committees include: Calendar Committee; Many activities/committees at Ritenour High School, Ritenour Middle, and Marvin Elementary, as well as a member of the inaugural Operation Graduation Committee. I also served as a member of S.A.R.T. (Sexual Assault Response Team), as an on-call responder to area hospitals to counsel women who have been victims of rape.

Reason for serving on the board | These are very high profile times for school districts, as we are faced with extensive needs to provide stringent security measures, and also to maintain our current accreditation as districts close to us are struggling. Being a proud Ritenour graduate, these issues are of utmost importance to me personally, as well as for our community. It is essential to continue our working relationship with all nine municipalities within Ritenour's borders, as well as our parents, teachers and tax-paying residents, to help augment these relationships. My years as a school board member, as well as the 12 years spent serving on the St. John City Council, have given me much experience in these areas. I will continue using these skills for the greater good of the school district. As a lifelong resident and graduate of Ritenour, I have a great desire to both continue and promote the rich tradition of the district by volunteering my services on the school board.

Robert M. Eaton

3470 Valleywood Dr
(314) 799-1370
robbieeaton0910@yahoo.com



Spouse | Tracey (23 Years)
Length of Residence | Lifelong

Education | Ritenour High School – Class of 1999; Bachelor of Science - St. Louis Christian College; M.A. in Theology - Covenant Theological Seminary
Place of Employment | Teacher at North County Christian School; Pastor at Garden Baptist Church
Children | Two Children in the District
Civic & Professional Organizations | Member of ASCI (Association of Christian Schools International)
Reason for serving on the board | As a lifelong resident, graduate, and parent of two (2) children in the Ritenour District, I am committed and invested in seeing it graduate positive, productive citizens in society. I believe strongly in the Ritenour School District and the administration entrusted with leading our schools. As a board member, I look forward to continuing to create a shared vision of academic achievement by improving the culture of learning, creating high academic standards, and meeting our student's social and emotional needs. As in any organization, I have seen great work being completed in these areas but there is always room for improvement. This is accomplished best when we work together as a team (students, parents, educators, and the community). Ritenour has a great group of educators who are committed and working hard with our students.

As a parent and community member I have served in many different capacities for the district:

- PTO President for Ritenour and Hoech Middle Schools
- District PTO Chairperson
- Oversaw the organization and implementation of the Black and Orange/Back to School Bash
- Organized the first-ever Ritenour Color Run
- Served on the District Calendar committee
- Worked on Prop S committee with the focus on:
 - Creating safer schools
 - Rerouting entrances to some buildings
 - Continuing to preserve the investment of the community by building repairs and maintenance
- Began the Ritenour School District PAC for parents of students who have an IEP or 504 plan

I am also active with St. Louis County Special School District ensuring our students who need additional services receive the needed service and that parents/guardians are educated on their rights:

- Special School District Parent Advisory Committee – Vice-President
- Served on Special School District Public Review Committee

Dr. Bradley M. Thomas

10404 Ashby Place Ln.
(314) 456-0832
Bradleyt3@att.net



Spouse | Monica Thomas (married for 42 years)

Length of Residence | 63 years
Education | Ritenour High School (1977); Ranken Technical College (1979); St. Louis Community College (2003); Bachelor of Science in Industrial/ Organizational Psychology, Washington University, St. Louis (2007); Master's in Human Resources Management, Lindenwood University (2009); Doctorate in Management, Webster University (2015)

Place of Employment | Ranken Technical College, Instructor in the Electrical Department, teaching Industrial motor controls, three phase motors, Variable Frequency Drives and Programable Logical Controllers
Children | Aaron, 37; Amanda, 35; Alexander, 28 – all Ritenour graduates

Civic & Professional Organizations | International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 688 for over 20 years (current status: inactive); Adult leader and Committee Chairman in Boy Scouts of America Troop 756; Lions Club International (Overland chapter); National Eagle Scout Association; Member of Missouri School Board Association, National School Board Association

Reason for serving on the board | I believe the school board has to work together as a team to attain the goal of bringing to ALL our children the best education possible. Our community is made up of hard working individuals that have high expectations of the Ritenour School District. I agree with those expectations and keep those in mind at each and every meeting, with every decision I vote on. At the same time, the school board is the steward of not only our schools but also our tax dollars. It is my belief that we need to get the most value from every tax dollar this board has been entrusted with.

I have learned the importance of communication within our school family and community. Each member of the community has a right to know what is happening in our schools and what the plans for the future will be, and how they will impact our children and their education. I have brought to the Ritenour School Board my knowledge and experience as a member of this community. My goal is, has been and always will be to better the education of all the children we serve. I have come to know our community well and feel it is more of a close-knit family than just a group of nine municipalities. As a member of this family, I want no less than the best that we can afford for each and every child we serve. Working together, this family we call Ritenour can achieve anything, and I will continue to work as hard as necessary to accomplish those goals, each and every day.

Kindergarten Registration Underway in the Ritenour School District

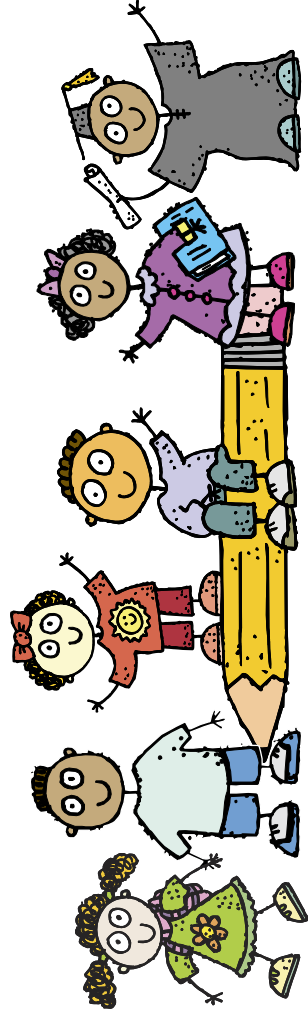
The Ritenour School District is excited to welcome the class of 2036! Kindergarten registration is open for families who live in the Ritenour School District with children who will turn 5 by July 31, 2023.

Registration may be done from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or 1-3 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Ritenour Administrative Center, 2420 Woodson Road.

Currently, the district is only registering students whose parent or legal guardian can provide proof of residency in their name.

Enrollment for students with unusual situations, such as families or students in transition, foster care, or students with unique guardianship circumstances, will not take place until July 2023.

For more information, go to the Ritenour website: www.ritenourschools.org or call (314) 493-6048.



More than 100 incoming kindergartners and their families attended Ritenour's Kindergarten Kickoff on Feb. 23 in the lobby of Ritenour Auditorium. Kindergarten registration is underway for the 2023-2024 school year. (See back cover)

Ritenour Welcomes the Class of 2036!