Welcome back and happy 2020! I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our Riverside families a happy and healthy new year. I hope everyone had a wonderful break. With each new year comes a renewed sense of energy and dedication. Here at Riverside, the staff are excited about being back as we have lots of fun and engaging learning opportunities in the months to come.

I would like to thank all of our parents and community volunteers who helped with the activities before break. In December, students enjoyed a variety of activities related to their curriculum whether it was learning about balls and trees (preschool) or gingerbread making/holiday sing-a-long (TK). Without your help and dedication to our students and school, these events would not be possible.

As we enter the new year it is always a good time to focus once again on our goals and to fine tune the steps we must take to achieve them. I encourage parents to communicate with your child’s teacher to discuss progress, celebrate successes and develop next steps. As parents, guardians and family, you are your child’s first and greatest teacher.

Thank you to everyone in the FDCSD Riverside Family for helping make our children’s educational experiences positive.
Together We Rise!

Warmest Regards,
Tabitha Acree, Principal
2020-2021 Preschool Pre-Registration Begins December 2

FDCSD preschool pre-registration for the 20-21 school year begins December 2. To be eligible to attend preschool in the fall of 2020, children must be four years old by September 15, 2020. Preschool hours at Riverside Early Learning Center are 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., with the doors opening at 7:30 a.m.

Research shows children can gain a variety of skills by attending preschool and it helps prepare them for kindergarten. Students learn to follow directions and work cooperatively with each other. They are exposed to letters, numbers, shapes, colors and more. Preschool students learn how to socialize, share and get along with other children. In addition, they gain a sense of self, self-control and build their confidence in themselves and what they can do.

To complete the pre-registration for preschool, parents/guardians should bring proof of guardianship (birth certificate, DHS documents, court documents, tax documents), immunization records and address verification to the Central Administration Building. A $50 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of pre-registration to hold a student’s spot. Families will need to complete the full registration process online during the summer of 2020.
News from Ms. Kirby’s class...

Starting in January, Mrs. Kirby’s preschool classroom will be starting a new study on buildings for Creative Curriculum. The building study offers children an opportunity to learn more about the characteristics and features of buildings, the people who build them, and the role buildings play in our community. The students will focus on these "Investigation Questions": Who builds buildings? What tools do they use? What are buildings made out of? What is special about different buildings? What happens inside different buildings and what do the buildings in our community look like?

It is the policy of the Fort Dodge Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, ancestry, age, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, physical attributes, religion, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, veteran’s status, actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, services, and employment practices. If you have questions or grievances related to this policy, please contact Dr. Stephanie Anderson (Director of Student Services - Elementary), and Dr. Kirsten Doebel (Director of Student Services - Secondary), Central Administration Office, 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, (574-5678) or contact the Civil Rights Midwestern Division for U.S. Department of Education Office, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-4544. (Alternate for Section 504 is Lynnae Harvey, Director of Special Education/Special Needs, 515-574-5675).

The District’s Compliance Coordinator for Affirmative Action is Lisa Negus, and can be reached at 574-5657 or 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.

The District’s Designated Investigators of Physical/Sexual Abuse of Students by School Employees are Dr. Stephanie Anderson (Director of Student Services - Elementary), and Dr. Kirsten Doebel (Director of Student Services - Secondary). They can be reached at 576-1161 or 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. The alternate is Lynnae Harvey. She can be reached at 574-5675, or 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.

The District’s Officers for Harassment Complaints and Allegations are Dr. Stephanie Anderson (Director of Student Services - Elementary), and Dr. Kirsten Doebel (Director of Student Services - Secondary). They can be reached at 576-1161 or 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.
Fort Dodge Comm. Schools Foundation Announces Fall 2019 Grant Recipients

The Fort Dodge Community Schools (FDCS) Foundation Board voted recently to grant more than $157,000 to the Fort Dodge Community School District for physical education, sensory room equipment, technology and more.

The Board voted to fund:

- MS CTE (Career & Technical Ed) Upgrade – Surface Planer
- Spanish 2 Classroom Literacy Library
- Hybrid Flipped Classroom (MS)
- Reading in Spanish
- MS Wrist Heart Rate Monitors
- Virtual Reality for Social Emotional Learning & STEM
- Makerspace – Robot blocks for Duncombe
- Battle of the Books – All elementary schools
- Sensory Friendly EC Initiative – Sensory Room for Riverside
- Building our "Skills" – Cooper Elementary
- Family Resource Check Out Center
- Every Voice Matters - Feelhaver
- Sensory Room - Butler
- Clever and Getting Better – Butler – Interactive TV used for education
- Leader in Me – K-12

"The board was amazed by the creativity and passion of the teachers and staff that submitted grant applications," said FDCS Foundation Board President Jennifer Pederson. "Dr. Ulrich challenged the staff to think big and they delivered with an unprecedented ask of over $235,000. Their applications lead to some tough deliberation by the board, and we are so excited to see the impact that these ideas have in our schools."

"Our generous donors allowed the Foundation to fund these amazing things for classrooms and we couldn’t do it without them," said FDCS Foundation Director Jodi Martin.

The mission of the FDCS Foundation is to help students and educations go above and beyond what district funding allows with grants for professional development, technology and other educational items. The FDCS Foundation annual fundraiser, “Go Big, Go Dodgers” will be held Fri., April 3rd, 2020 at Fort Frenzy.

Dodger Academy Facebook Page

Dodger Academy now has a Facebook page to share the fun learning and activities that take place in our after school program. Please like and follow Dodger Academy on Facebook!
Know Someone Who Wants to Be a Dodger?

Our mission at the FDCSD is to provide quality learning experiences and build relationships that develop productive citizens ready for their futures. A child’s educational experiences including coursework, activities and relationships, will prepare him for his future; what his post-secondary experience will be and the career choice he will make. With our variety of classes and activities, we truly offer something for everyone!

If you know someone whose child currently does not attend our schools but who could benefit from what we have to offer, please share this information with them. The open enrollment deadline for the 2020-21 school year is March 1st, 2020. The application can be found at [http://www.fdschools.org/en/student_registration/](http://www.fdschools.org/en/student_registration/) or is available in the superintendent’s office at the Central Administration Building.