



**CREATE  
EXPLORE  
FLOURISH**

COMBINED REPORT RVS 2020/21



**RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL**  
WONDER LIVES HERE

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

River Valley School is an innovative and inclusive independent school that harnesses the innate curiosity in children to ensure that every student, regardless of age or ability, will flourish academically and socially.

Everything we do is grounded in our mission to embrace the unique talents of our students, while curating opportunities for learning and discovery. Our teachers and staff support different learning styles to ensure that every student is capable of achieving their personal best. With more than fifteen years of history, River Valley School has created an environment where children feel loved and safe enough to explore to the full breadth of their individual ability. At the same time, RVS students feel encouraged to take on the rigours required to develop the foundational skills, resilience, and confidence to thrive in the 21st Century.

As a community, we learn and grow together respecting the values, opinions and beliefs of all students, teachers, and administrators work together to create a school where learners feel confident and free to appreciate.

each other, make good ethical decisions, and take age- and stage-appropriate risks, leading to enhanced understanding and broadened inquiry.

RVS students know they are safe to try new things, make mistakes, discover new approaches, and explore innovative ways of seeing, contributing to and changing the world. I am honoured to be the Head of School at River Valley School, and invite you to visit our campus to learn about our outstanding programs and meet our talented students, teachers and staff.

Kind regards,



**Carolyn Breland,**

River Valley School, Head of School





## VISION

To curate opportunities for learning and discovery that are as dynamic as the world around us.

## MISSION

To be an exceptional educator that embraces the unique talents of every child. Our adaptive model of educational delivery supports different learning styles to ensure that every student is capable of achieving their personal best.

## VALUES

### **Independence, Creativity & Citizenship**

At River Valley School, we value social and character development as much as academic development.





**WITHIN OUR THREE CORE VALUES ARE BEHAVIOURS THAT WE EMBED INTO OUR CURRICULUM & DAILY LIFE AT RVS. THEY ARE THE CORNERSTONES OF OUR SCHOOL.**

- **Respect** of ourselves, others and the world in which we live and play
- **Confidence** in our abilities, opportunities and accomplishments
- **Leadership** in ourselves, our classrooms, school and community
- **Trust** in our relationships and the future
- **Global Citizenship** in our thoughts, words, actions and deeds
- **Independence** in our thinking and behaviour
- **Creativity** in our work, play and plans for the future
- **Peace** in our intent and interactions



# 3-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN & ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT (AERR)

The Annual Education Results Report for the 2019/20 school year and the Education Plan for the three years commencing September 1, 2020 for River Valley School Society were prepared under the direction of the Board in accordance with its responsibilities under the Private Schools Regulation and the Education Grants Regulation.

This document was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used the results reported in the document, to the best of its abilities, to develop the Education Plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the Education Plan to improve student learning and results.

The Board approved this combined Annual Education Results Report for the 2019/20 school year and the three-year Education Plan for 2020 – 2023.

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**  
**Carolyn Breland**

**BOARD CHAIR**  
**Brett Undershute**

*Pursuant to section 32 of the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act, no disclosures were received during the 2019/20 school year).*



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**River Valley School is a not-for-profit charitable society, operated by a strong community of educators, students and parents and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.**

Brett Undershute – Chair

Melanie Gallant – Treasurer

Javier Guerra-Librero Camacho

Soren Tolstrup Holm

Dan Collins

Jane Kerr

Chester Krala

Patrick Stanley

Jana Taylor



## OUR LEARNERS

In our programs, students develop strong academic skills, social confidence, broad interests, and a sense of responsibility and respect for themselves and the world around them. We ensure each child can flourish. Our students discover a life long love of learning in a respectful and caring environment.

While we regularly rank among Alberta's top schools, we are as different from other schools as our students are from one another. We are not an exclusive, one-size-fits-all school. We are focused on the individual needs of our students.

We are here - of course - to give our students what they need to succeed and become a contributing member of society, but how we teach them is determined by who they are, how they learn and what engages them.





## OUR PROGRAMS

We are a growing school of approximately 250 students with a beautiful campus in Bowness, Calgary, Alberta. We operate with low pupil-teacher ratio, maximizing instructional time and the personalization of learning for students age 3 to grade 6.

With our before & after school programs, River Valley School offers a safe, caring environment for children ages 3 to grade 6 from 7 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday year-round. We also offer bussing services to our students that service specific communities in the SW, central and NW quadrants of the city.

### EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

**PRE-JK (3-YEAR-OLDS)  
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN (4-YEAR-OLDS)**

Our early Learning students participate in hands-on, inquiry and play-based learning guided by the Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework for Alberta.

They explore core academic areas such as numeracy, literacy and humanities, and are introduced to specialist areas such as French, music, library, physical and outdoor education, art and drama. It is the perfect balance of academics, play, creativity and exploration!

### ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

**KINDERGARTEN (5-YEAR-OLDS)  
TO GRADE 6**

Our elementary students are immersed the Alberta Education Curriculum in core subject areas including math, English language arts, social studies, science and health. Student achievement and engagement is carried out through varied project-based learning opportunities, exploration, collaboration, and differentiation in our instruction.

In addition to core subjects, students enjoy programming in music, French, art, drama, physical and outdoor education, library, and S.T.E.A.M.

Our teachers and teacher's aides each bring to the classroom a fresh curiosity about each child and seeks the best ways of guiding him or her to their greatest success. Individuality is celebrated.

Students are offered programs to match their learning styles including enrichment programs. Personalization of the learning experience ensures each child is provided with what they need to achieve greatness. Our commitment is to inspire each child to find their way, be adaptive, help those around them, and enjoy the journey.

Our learning support team provides a pull-out program to work with individuals or small groups in specific areas such as reading and math intervention. We employ a speech and language pathologist and an occupational therapist to work with our coded students as well as others who benefit from SLP and OT services (including social skills). Teachers are given opportunities to learn new strategies to differentiate for their students as ongoing professional development opportunities occur throughout the year.

## ARROWSMITH PROGRAM

The **Arrowsmith Program** is an optional program within River Valley School that is geared specifically towards our grade 1 - 6 students with identified learning disabilities and/or learning challenges.



## ACCREDITED

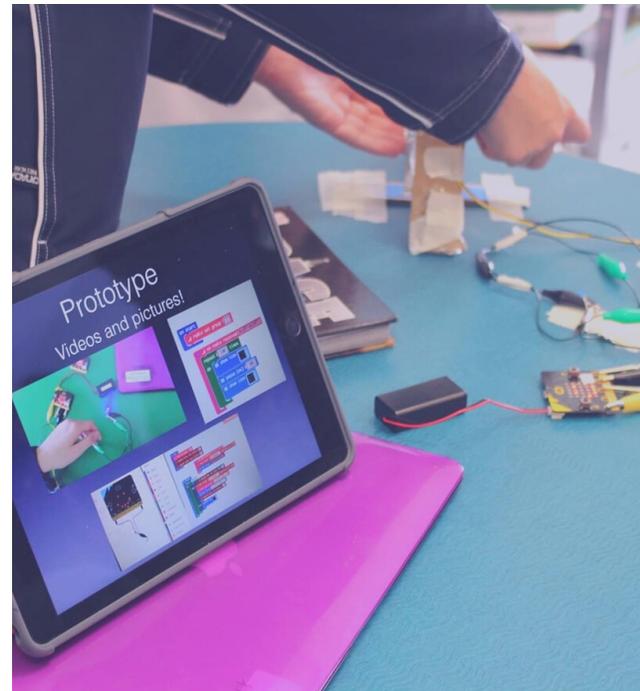
Member of AISCA (Alberta Independent Schools & Colleges of Alberta)

Alberta Child Care Accreditation for Early Learning and Before & After School care (OSC)



## TECHNOLOGY

- SMART and/or Apple tech in all classes
- 1:1 iPads for all students
- zSpace, augmented reality lab
- Design thinking, coding & robotics with partners in OSI
- Information and communication technologies (ICT) are integrated within the curriculum areas



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

A new capital campaign is underway to purchase land for growth for our pre-school and elementary learners.





# PAT DETAIL 5 YEAR TREND - RVS ("AUTHORITY") & PROVINCE

	Results (%) A - Acceptable E - Excellence	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
		A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E
		<b>English Language Arts 6</b>	River Valley School	40.7	23.5	94.7	47.4	92.0	36.0	100.0	48.4
	Province	91.5	22.6	82.5	18.9	83.5	17.9	91.9	19.6	0.00	0.00
<b>Mathematics 6</b>	River Valley School	88.2	29.4	94.7	21.1	92.0	24.0	96.9	46.9	0.00	0.00
	Province	79.0	15.2	68.4	12.3	72.9	14.0	79.8	16.6	0.00	0.00
<b>Science 6</b>	River Valley School	100.0	43.8	94.7	68.4	92.0	64.0	96.7	80.0	0.00	0.00
	Province	86.1	30.8	76.6	29.5	78.8	30.5	85.5	31.6	0.00	0.00
<b>Social Studies 6</b>	River Valley School	87.5	31.3	94.7	63.2	92.0	56.0	100.0	60.0	0.00	0.00
	Province	79.4	25.3	72.6	22.4	75.1	23.2	84.1	27.0	0.00	0.00

## Comment on the Results:

There are no results for 2020 as Alberta Education cancelled the PATS for the school year 2020 due to the closure of schools because of COVID-19.



# ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR SURVEY RESULTS FOR RVS

SPRING 2020

## 2020 ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR SURVEY OVERALL RESULTS

Measure Category	Measure	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
<b>Safe and Caring Schools</b>	Safe and Caring	93.4	94.2	95.1	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<b>Student Learning Opportunities</b>	Program of Studies	97.0	96.4	97.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	Education Quality	95.8	96.2	96.8	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<b>Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)</b>	PAT: Acceptable	86.4	92.0	90.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	PAT: Excellence	57.4	45.0	41.4	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<b>Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship</b>	Work Preparation	90.6	93.0	95.9	Very High	Declined	Good
	Citizenship	88.3	89.4	92.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<b>Parental Involvement</b>	Parental Involvement	91.5	91.9	92.4	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<b>Continuous Improvement</b>	School Improvement	86.2	81.8	89.1	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent

## OUTCOME #1: ALBERTA'S STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Evaluation		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Overall percentage of students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable standard on Provincial Achievement Tests (overall cohort results).	84.7	94.7	92.0	86.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Overall percentage of students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the standard of excellence on Provincial Achievement Tests (overall cohort results).	29.2	50.0	45.0	51.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

### Comment on the Results:

There are no new grade 6 PAT results to analyze for 2020 due to the cancellation of the tests by Alberta Education. Also, knowing that the PATs are optional this school year (2021), we have chosen not to have the grade 6 students participate in the PATs. In lieu of this the first strategy seen below will be used to assess outcomes from the program of studies.

### Strategies:

The teachers will be gathering evidence of learning over time from three different sources: observations, conversations and student products (triangulation of assessment data). Using multiple sources of evidence increases the reliability and validity of the evaluation of student learning.



## OUTCOME #1: ALBERTA'S STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL (CONTINUED)

Some sample strategies for triangulating assessment data as was discussed with current grade 6 teachers:

Observations (a planned process of focused anecdotal notes)	Conversations (posing questions to make student thinking explicit)	Student Products (product by a student as a way of demonstrating learning)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observations of prowesses and strategies</li> <li>• Self-reflections</li> <li>• Formal observation</li> <li>• Running records</li> <li>• Questioning</li> <li>• Observations of student discussions (listening and speaking skills)</li> <li>• Problem solving process</li> <li>• Group work skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conferences (about talking through reasoning and verbalizing processes)</li> <li>• Discussions</li> <li>• Focussed learning conversations</li> <li>• Feedback loops</li> <li>• Portfolio conferencing</li> <li>• Questions during processes</li> <li>• Follow up questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance tasks</li> <li>• Assignments</li> <li>• Tests/Quizzes/Exams</li> <li>• Reader responses</li> <li>• Portfolios</li> <li>• Projects</li> <li>• Exhibits/web pages</li> <li>• Research papers</li> </ul>

Maintain *Number Talks* in grade K-6 classrooms to aide in the development of mathematical thinking and problem solving.

Maintain *Animated Literacy* in pre-JK—kindergarten, *Literacy Place* in grades 1 - 3, *Moving Up* in grades 4 - 6 and *Empowering Writers* grades 3 - 6 to develop and improve our language arts instruction.

Support educators with appropriate professional development opportunities including providing release time from classrooms to collaborate with academic leaders on literacy programs, *Maximizing Math*, *Number Talks*, *Inquiry Mindset*, enrichment, mental health, education for reconciliation, occupational therapy & speech language pathology strategies.

Maintain cross curricular project-based learning with our specialists in the fine arts and outdoor education, and provide in class instructional leader time for learning support and enrichment.

Ensure timetables continue to provide uninterrupted work cycles for teachers and their students in all programs.

## OUTCOME #1: ALBERTA'S STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL (CONTINUED)

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Evaluation		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Percentage of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship.	92.6	93.5	94.1	89.4	88.3	Very High	Declined	Good

### Comment on the Results:

Our goal is to meet children at their level of readiness and provide them with the tools to ensure that the child is challenged, supported and inspired by the world around them.

### Strategies:

Knowing that there has been a slight decline in 2020 we will continue to promote citizenship as the quality of a person's response to membership in a community. We will strive to be more purposeful in teaching citizenship to our elementary students by weaving throughout their learning the five pillars of citizenship as follows:

- Being respectful of other people and their property
- Being respectful of school property
- Following school rules
- Displaying good character (responsibility, honesty, good listening, kindness)
- Giving back to the school community

Maintain Student Government for grades 1 - 6 to provide further opportunity for enrichment, leadership & to provide a venue for student voice to exist in the continuous improvement model.

Continue to empower, through our Outreach Committee, our Student Government and individual students to initiate and lead initiatives to achieve local, national and international initiatives to make our world a better place.

Continue to align student goals with school values of leadership and citizenship and invite children into the process.



## OUTCOME #2: ALBERTA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM SUPPORTS FIRST NATIONS, METIS, AND INUIT STUDENTS' SUCCESS

### Strategies

Provide instructional leadership, through the continuation of a teacher committee focusing on education for reconciliation that was created in September 2019 to investigate and organize further learning opportunities for all staff. This year Orange Shirt Day was purposefully implemented and celebrated as a school community.

All staff continue to be strongly encouraged to participate in courses on education for reconciliation. Providing opportunities and resources for faculty to attend these professional development opportunities individually and as a group will continue to be advertised to staff as they are offered by the Calgary Regional Consortium (CRC), University of Alberta and University of Calgary.

Maintain knowledge of the program of study and cross curricular project-based learning to provide opportunities for all students to develop a knowledge, understanding and respect for the history, culture, language, contribution, perspective, experience and contemporary contexts of First Nations, Metis and Inuit.



## OUTCOME #3: ALBERTA HAS EXCELLENT TEACHERS, SCHOOL AND SCHOOL AUTHORITY LEADERS.

Performance Measure	Results (%)					Evaluation		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Percentage of teachers, parents and students satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies including fine arts, career, technology, and health and physical education.	94.9	95.7	99.1	96.4	97.0	Very High	Declined	Good

### Comment on the Results

River Valley School values the benefits of cross curricular opportunities to learn and we are pleased with a slight increase in our very strong results. With a robust offering of specialties, a strength in our school program, students are engaged in a variety of experiential, artistic, physical and cultural experiences.

### Strategies

Continue to encourage cross curricular opportunities for our specialist teachers to collaborate with our generalist teachers on curricular outcomes that can be taught and enriched in the fine arts, languages and physical education programs.

Provide instructional leadership, through the continuation of our IT Visionary Teacher Committee formed in 2019 to provide research about what is best for students' academic, social, and emotional learning in our school with regards to technology and also to provide authentic learning experiences for student use of technology.



## OUTCOME #4: ALBERTA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM IS WELL GOVERNED AND MANAGED

Performance Measure	Results (%)					Evaluation		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Percentage of teacher, parent and student agreement that: students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school.	96.3	95.8	95.4	94.2	93.4	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Percentage of teachers, parents and students satisfied with the overall quality of basic education.	95.6	97.0	97.3	96.2	95.8	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Percentage of teachers and parents who agree that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school.	92	98.4	96.3	93.0	90.6	Very High	Declined	Good
Percentage of teacher and parent satisfaction that students demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning.	61.0	61.5	74.6	67.6	64.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Percentage of teachers and parents satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education.	89.6	94.1	91.1	91.9	91.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Percentage of teachers, parents and students indicating that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same the last three years.	87.3	94.4	91.0	81.8	86.2	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent

### Comment on Results

RVS continues to employ a number of staff to ensure that each child's needs are met. IPP creation and oversight rests with our Inclusion Coordinator, gifted and supportive strategies are implemented through our learning support department, speech language and occupational therapy all collaborate with the child's teacher to ensure that the best programming is being received

There has been a slight decline in the area of students being taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school. This may be a result of the age of our students that range from 3-years old to grade 6 students and the relevancy of this outcome because of these ages.

## OUTCOME #4: ALBERTA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM IS WELL GOVERNED AND MANAGED (CONTINUED)

### Strategies

Continue to instill a growth mindset in all classes focusing on helping students understand the values of effort, persistence and trying new learning methods to cultivate their talents and abilities for future success.

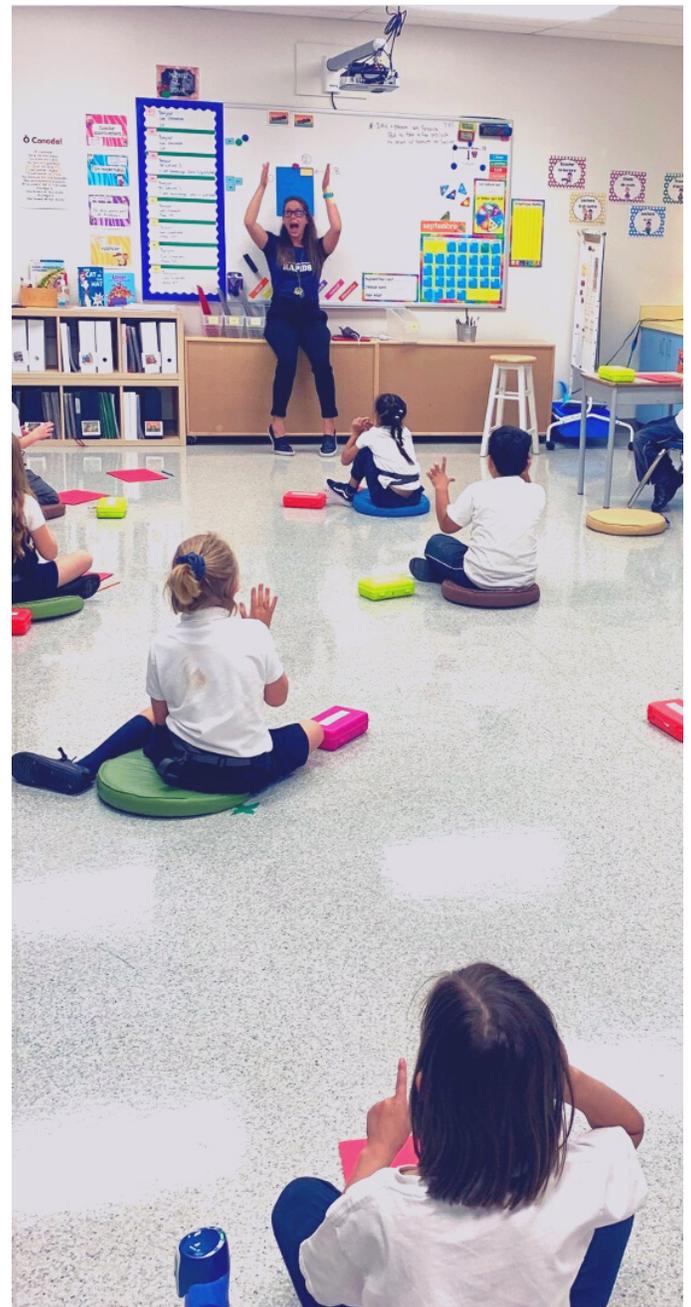
In August of 2020, an Admissions, Marketing & Communications Coordinator was hired to oversee the success and regulation of communication with our parent community through the use of social media and monthly newsletters.

Continue to have teachers provide weekly updates each week to provide important dates coming up through the use of Seesaw and email.

Continue collaborative work with Parent Network and River Valley School Board of Directors.

Maintain leadership roles to support all teachers by continuing the work of the Director of Teaching and Learning and the Inclusive Coordinator.

Continue to implement CAIS+ findings and prepare for a future evaluation by following through with school improvement recommendations.



# Summary of Financial Results

Pursuant to section 32 of the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act, no disclosures were received during the 2019-20 school year. This information is also disclosed annually in our audited financial statements.

River Valley School 2019-20		
Revenue Summary	Amount (\$)	Contextual Information
Alberta Education	1,292,334	
Tuition	3,940,685	
Other Revenue	646,019	represents fundraising, and ancillary programs
Transportation	73,662	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>5,952,700</b>	
Expense Summary	Amount (\$)	
Instruction	3,954,287	
Administration	823,688	
O&M	945,630	
Transportation	84,268	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>5,807,873</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>144,827</b>	

# Budget Summary 2020-21

River Valley School 2020-21		
Revenue Summary	Amount (\$)	Contextual Information
Alberta Education	1,279,883	
Tuition	3,502,730	
Other Revenue	885,784	Represents fundraising, ancillary programs
Transportation	79,550	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>5,747,947</b>	
Expense Summary	Amount (\$)	
Instruction	4,253,749	
Administration	464,436	
O&M	1,287,353	
Transportation	148,253	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>6,153,791</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>(405,844)</b>	This does not solely represent a cash deficit. This also includes amortized capital expenditures



# RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL

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[WWW.RIVERVALLEYSCHOOL.CA](http://WWW.RIVERVALLEYSCHOOL.CA)



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