

# RIVER BEND MIDDLE SCHOOL

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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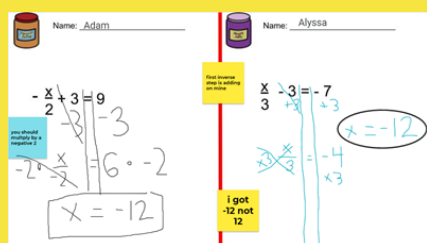
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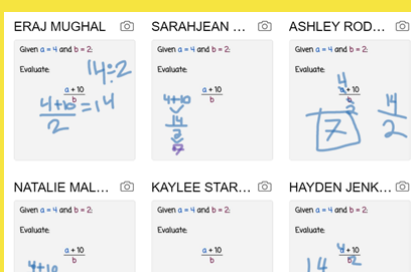
# Mathematics & Science

## Mathematics

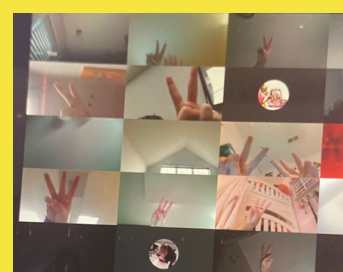
Creativity, collaboration, and 'showing your problem solving' were central to learning math online. Interactive sites like Desmos and JamBoard played a central role. On JamBoard, students collaborated on whiteboards, added images, and shared math thinking with one another on sticky notes. A fun way to review solving equations in sixth grade was a "Peanut Butter & Jelly" activity in which paired students had different questions to start with, but found the same answer in the end. In Ms. Proctor's class, cameras were turned up to the ceiling and students responded to warm up questions using sign language on their Google Meet. Eighth grade students designed crazy creatures one problem at a time, as each solution revealed directions for what to draw next. There were some pretty impressive (and hilarious) results!!



Jamboard



Desmos



Sign Language

## Science

In April, our annual STEAM fair was initiated by keynote speaker and National Medal of Technology and Innovation winner, Dr. Paul Kaminski. Dr. Kaminski shared his experience as a government technologist who helped create stealth technology. We learned that some people declared this technology impossible, but with persistence and a willingness to learn from our mistakes, we could build anything. He said, "The challenge was to build the worst antenna in the world and to make it fly safely." When finished, they called it the F-117 Nighthawk and it helped bring the Cold War to an end.

This year's STEAM Expo was virtual, and many students and classes contributed their projects to our STEAM website. Topics included weather maps, cell cycles, cancer, astrophotography, and rubber powered helicopters. We are very proud of all our students who went above and beyond to extend their scientific knowledge during a "different" year and shared it with the RBMS community!





# English, 6th and 7th Grade History and Civics

## 6th Grade English

Researching real-world issues that students are passionate about had them describing their chosen social issue, highlighting how it impacts our world, and then empowering readers to become activists for change. Throughout the unit, students learned and utilized research strategies, nonfiction organizational patterns, and text features. This project allowed students to showcase their learning in an authentic way.

## 7th Grade English

A desire to learn more about a notable or inspiring Black leader fueled this year's Nonfiction Skills Unit. After choosing a leader, each student created a Black Leaders Research Document which included an article, a video, and three images of their leader. Students applied the following skills to their project: Main Idea & Summarizing, Author's Purpose, and Viewpoint.

## 8th Grade English

Poetry Unit skills were showcased in written student works at RBM's Expo.

## 6th Grade History

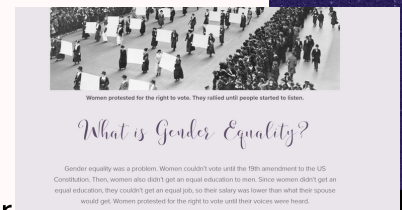
The 6th grade History team continued their tradition of hosting a Colonial Fair. After creating authentic projects relating to the Colonial period, students shared their projects during a virtual fair.

## 7th Grade History

Two 7th grade History activities helped students to understand and relate historical events. In the 1920's Progressive Era PSA Project using Adobe Spark, students researched and advocated for a major issue of the Progressive Era. Students gained a better understanding of events leading up to WWII and of how complicated decisions related to those events could be, the World War II Causes Simulation challenged students to analyze historical data.

## 8th Grade Civics

The 8th grade Civics team engaged students in a variety of creative, meaningful distance learning lessons. Having chosen the fundamental principal of democracy they most appreciated, students advocated for it by creating advertisement worthy publications. During an Executive Branch lesson, students explored the vastness of the Federal Bureaucracy by engaging in a Departments and Agencies Scavenger Hunt.





# World Languages and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)



## **Spanish 1**

This year, students in Spanish 1 read their first novel in Spanish: “Brandon Brown Quiere un Perro.” Brandon wants a dog, but his mother is not supporting the idea. Our students enjoyed reading in another language, and figuring out how to interpret a text using cognates, context clues, and drawings. After watching a skit performed by high schoolers on YouTube about the last chapter, the students enjoyed finding out the happy ending to this story.



## **Spanish 2**

Students in Spanish 2 read an exciting biography about the famous baseball player Felipe Alou titled “Felipe Alou: Desde los valles a las montañas.” Students learned about the history, geography and culture of the Dominican Republic, and the many obstacles Felipe faced as a young Afro-Dominican baseball player in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. By reading aloud together during class, students had the opportunity to practice their fluency in the past tense, and learn new words and phrases together in the target language.



Students in Spanish 2 created skits to simulate a conversation that would happen in a clothing store abroad. Students wrote their own script in Spanish, assigned roles for a Sales Associate and a customer, and worked together in pairs to create a WeVideo or recorded Google Meet of them performing the skit. Students used props from their own homes, and did a fabulous job overcoming the obstacles of distance learning!

## **National Junior Honor Society**

This year RBM inducted 48 students into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). “NJHS is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. It serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.”







# Music



## **Orchestra**

Twelve orchestra students participated in the LCPS Solo & Ensemble Festival held in the fall and spring, receiving the highest possible ratings of Excellent and Superior for these two events.

### *6th Grade:*

Ian Farber (Bass)

Lena Kass (Cello)  
(Cello)

Talia Knutsen (Viola)

Sophie Matthes (Cello)

### *7th Grade:*

Malak Ahmed (Bass)

Keiht Cordoba Camarena (Violin)

Moses Guo (Violin)

Sydney Kish (Violin)

Yusuf Ozkan (Cello)

Ailee Siek (Violin)

### *8th Grade:*

Micaela Perezous (Violin)

Alexander Shcherbina



\*Twelve orchestra students participated in our first Winter Virtual Recital.

\*8th grade orchestra students took part in a Virtual String Ensemble Project featured at our Virtual STEAM Event.

\*Orchestra students participated in a Q&A with the Concertmaster (First Violin) of *Hamilton* - Touring Broadway Show and Ezinma (Hip-Hop Violinist).

## **Guitar**

Several RBMS guitar students participated in this year's Peabody Virtual Fret Fest, hosted by LCPS and Johns Hopkins University. These students attended technique workshops, improvisation sessions, and performances by world class guitarists from around the globe.



## **Band**

Eighth grader James Beck auditioned for and was chosen for All-District Band. Our 7th and 8th grade students did a fantastic job creating a virtual band video of The Avengers' theme song. After individually recording their part along with a pre-recorded track, the videos were assembled to make it sound like they were playing in the same room! At the end of the year, all band students will participate in an in-person/virtual concert. After this long period of not being able to make music together in person, it was rewarding to have a real life concert!





# Chorus, Musical and Family and Consumer Sciences

## ***Chorus***

Fifty-two 7th grade singers virtually performed Roger Emerson's arrangement of "Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World". Another Roger Emerson arrangement, "Seasons of Love", was sung by sixty-seven 8th graders in a virtual concert.

## ***Musical***

River Bend Theatre produced three shows this year: "The Internet is Distract-OH LOOK A KITTEN!" (carried over from last year), "6ft Scenes", and "Fame JR". The shows progressed from a fully virtual environment, to distanced and pre-recorded scenes on stage, and then our simultaneously in-person and livestreamed musical. With a smaller cast and crew than previous years to accommodate social distancing, River Bend Theatre was one of the only middle schools to continue putting on shows throughout the 2020-2021 school year.



## ***Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS)***

Real-life skills are learned and applied in 7th grade FACS. Critical thinking and problem solving, listening and speaking skills, professionalism, leadership, teamwork, and taking initiative are woven into lessons about nutrition and wellness, kitchen safety and food borne illness, kitchen tools use and measuring, recipe reading, laundry and clothing care, etiquette, and budgeting. Organization, SMART goals, hand sewing, careers, families, advertising, and teen issues broadened their life skills learning.

8th grade Teen Living students enhanced their FACS7 skills. Students also learned about consumer resources and advertising, textiles, interior design, fashion history and fashion designers and budgeting for a career wardrobe as well as child development and childcare, family relationships, interpersonal relationships, and nutrition and wellness for healthy living.



# Career and Technical Education

## ***Introduction to Computer Science – Coding***

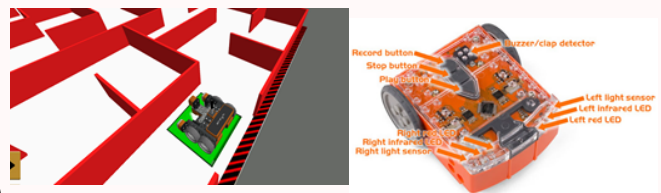
Mr. Tompkins' Introduction to Computer Science class focused on learning the basics of Computer Science. Beginning with Scratch, a foundational yet powerful block-based language, students were able to create a wide range of products, from simple animations to full blown video games using their knowledge and creativity!

Students then learned their first text-based coding language, Python, an incredibly user-friendly language. Using more plain English than other computer languages, it is a great first text-based programming language for beginners. However, don't let that fool you! Python is very powerful and has been used to create some applications you may have heard of.....Instagram, Netflix, Pinterest, Spotify, Uber, Google....just to name a few!!



## ***Technology of Robotic Design***

Mr. Tompkins' 8th Grade Technology of Robotic Design class programmed virtual robots using the VEX Virtual Robot platform. Students learned foundational Python programming skills, computer-aided design, and rapid prototyping all while participating in virtual robotics challenges and competitions. Throughout the year, River Bend worked with Harmony Middle School, community members, and the Loudoun Education Foundation to secure funding for over 100 educational robots that were distributed to all distance learning students. These robots provided 100% of River Bend's robotics students with essential "hands-on" activities that put their previously learned skills into action!



## ***Career and Technical Education (CTE)***

The 2020-2021 year was especially challenging for CTE classes in general and Tech Ed classes specifically. Despite the challenge, 8th grade Tech Ed students employed the central Project Based Learning (PBL) concept of voice and choice to experience deeper learning in areas that piqued their curiosity. Some examples included, hydraulic machines, radio controlled vehicles, video game design and development, interior and landscape design and art in wood. Each project included researching foundational knowledge, detailed design, and whenever possible, producing a final product.







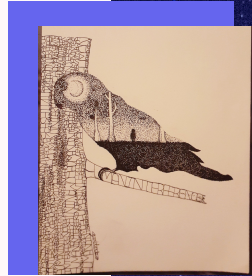
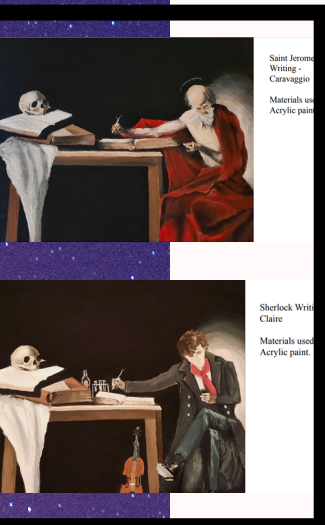
# English Learners, Art, and Physical Education

## **English Learners**

This year in October our Newcomer English learners took the lead in coming back into the building with 100% participation from all of the students in the program. More than 100 English learners have taken the federal WIDA ACCESS test and participated in the Literacy Leveled Intervention (LLI) and English 3D programs. Our Parents as Educational Partners program (PEP) allowed families to be involved in their children's education process, meeting virtually to discuss topics like Schoology, how parents could best support their children in the virtual environment, and returning to school in person.

## **Art**

This year our 7th and 8th grade Art students explored artists from all over the world. They created a WeVideo about themselves, their family, and an artist from their culture. In another project, they were influenced by the graphic design, pen and ink, and visual story telling style of Thiago Bainchini and the history of extinct animals. Then students dove deep into the world of copyright infringement laws dealing with the visual artworld and how artists are impacted by art thievery over a digital platform, like the internet. Students also created their own redesign of a card game of choice, to illustrate their understanding of the Principles of Art. They also went on a photo hunt to find the Elements of Design in nature.



## **Physical Education (PE)**

The RBMS PE department engaged students in a wide variety of activities with the goal to keep students healthy and well. Activities ranged from a workout of the day to maintain and improve physical health to fun, silly activities like in-home scavenger hunts and trivia-workouts from the 80's, 90's, and 2000's

Social Emotional Learning topics such as self-confidence, positive self-talk, self-awareness, and the power of gratitude aimed at keeping student mentally healthy. Students were frequently challenged to reflect on their lives by celebrating positives and accomplishments, as well as making an action plan for self-improvement.

Students learned a wide variety of health-related topics, including the muscular and skeletal systems, cardiorespiratory endurance, how to correctly measure heart rate and nutrition concepts.



# Student Awards

## **Ben Lacy Leadership Award**

Aaliyah Quinn - 6th Grade  
Prajeet Chitty - 7th Grade  
Edward Christopher - 8th Grade

## **Bill Turgeon Spirit Award**

Nicole Babb - 8th Grade

## **Malone Foundation Scholarship - Art**

Claire McMahan

## **Malone Foundation Scholarship - Math**

Nawwaf Hannan

## **Malone Foundation Scholarship - Music**

Edgar (Camilo) Ramirez - guitar

## **Malone Foundation Scholarship - Science**

Japneet Kaur

## **ELKS Essay** - Keiht (Owen) Camarena

Cordoba (1st Place Division I), Devika  
Thampi (2nd Place Division II)

## **RAVENS OF THE YEAR**

### **6th Grade**

Rappahannock - Emma Bogoslov, Dylan  
Ray

Shenandoah - Nyakallo "Nya" Mashego,  
Daniel "Danny" Lanahan

Potomac - Sofia Munoz, Mario Amaya

### **7th Grade**

Dogwood - Sunny Chen, Jayden Rivera  
Hemlock - Mila Tong, Thomas Kalka

Spruce - Victoria Weng, Robbie Manfredi

### **8th Grade**

Appalachian - Sophia (Danny) Bendek,  
Joshua Oliver

Blue Ridge - Caleigh O'Brien, Matthew  
Martin

Cumberland - Soraya Lahlou-Pinaud, Eric  
Advincula

## **5-Star Students of the Year**

### **Art**

Grace Armstrong - 6th Grade  
Jason White - 7th Grade  
Kameron Abdulwoheed - 8th Grade

CTE: Introduction to Computer

Application - Marley Antognoli

CTE Coding - Nathan Manu

CTE Robotics - Julie Najm

CTE: FACS 7 - William (Mason) Medford

CTE: Teen Living 8 - Sabrina Ankers

CTE: Technology Education 7 - Anisa  
Adhami

CTE: Manufacturing 8 - Sanjay Saravanan  
English Learners

Ana Clara Mendonca - 6th Grade

Raya Olfatbahar - 7th Grade

Brian Lara-Iraeta - 8th Grade

English Language Arts

Marley Antognoli - 6th Grade

Brianna Almendares - 7th Grade

Stella Zheng - 8th Grade

Reading Strategies Workshop

Samanta Huertas Robayo

## **5-Star Students of the Year**

(continued)

Exploratory Dramatics - Jeremy

La Francois

## **Health & Physical Education**

Josephina Kritsky - 6th Grade

Eddie Membreno Lovo - 7th Grade

Gwyn Jackson - 8th Grade

## **Math**

Elyse Colon Oliveras - 6th Grade

Amanda Gobeille - 7th Grade

Kristina Harrison - 8th Grade

Music: Band - David Vasquez

Music: Chorus - Rachel Kidwell

Music: Music Lab - Julio (Omar)

Gutierrez

Music: Guitar Alyssa Morales

Music: Strings/Orchestra - Micaela  
Perezous

Science 6 - Wesley Branyan

Science 7 - Amy Steinhardt

Science 8 - Olaa Elgamri

Social Science & Global Studies

Emma Bogoslav - 6th Grade

Julia Prelewicz - 7th Grade

Ahmari Jackson-DuBois - 8th Grade

French - Megan (Kaley) McQuinn

Latin - Sophia Gill

Spanish - Nawwaf Hannan

Spanish for Fluent Speakers -  
Elizabeth Guerrero Vera

## **National Junior Honor Society**

Eric Advincula

Shreyas Aggarwal

Thomas Anfinson

Antoinette Arintok

Aleesha Askari

Aidan Balsley

James Beck

Sophia Bendek

Sienna Bogar

Charles Brumskine

Maya Chezem

Edward Christopher

Sarah Chung

Owen Cook

Olaa Elgamri

Adiva Fahim

Naman Ghadiali

Sophia Gill

Katie Gross

Jahnavi Guduru

Nawwaf Hannan

Luke Hargreaves

Zahra Hashemi

Kenda Henry

Brynn Hunter

Krishna Joshi

Japneet Kaur

Salma Khadir

Lindsay Kim

## **National Junior Honor Society, (con't)**

Madhav Krishnaswamy

Soraya Lahlou-Pinaud

Caden Lesser

McKenna Lyons

Abigail Marquez

Angelina McMahan

Claire McMahan

Megan McQuinn

Razvan Nicolae

Hannah Peay

Jessica Pei

Alex Pilaro

Samuel Raye

Isabella Reuss

Anieesh Saravanan

Sanjay Saravanan

Mia Simpson

Mackenzie Spielman

Gabriella Viterbo

## **STEM Awards**

### **Science Olympiad**

Anisa Adhami

Anieesh Saravanan

Eliyas Kordi

Nelson Ren

Nawwaf Hannan

Shreyas Aggarwal

Sarah Chung

Ryan Chung

Japneet Kaur

Madhav Krishnaswamy

Edward Christopher

Jahnavi Guduru

Sanjay Saravanan

Grant Rippey

David A. Correa CAbreira

Dexter Balrup

Egan Tanner

Avishi Anurag

Lucas Melgar

Sayuri Mandavia

Riya Agarwal

Devika Thampi

Surya Gunturu

Akshay Setty

Omar Chavez

Krishna Joshi

## **RBMS Advanced Math Team**

Razvan Nicolae (8)

Jahnavi Guduru (8)

Sarah Chung (8)

Anieesh Saravanan (8)

Madhav Krishnaswamy (8)

Sanjay Saravanan (8)

Shreyas Aggarwal (8)

Eliyas Kordi (8)

Japneet Kaur (8)

Edward Christopher (8)

Linyue Tong (7)



# Student and Staff Awards

## **RBMS Advanced Math Team (con't)**

Moses Guo (7)  
Sofia Maria Lupas (7)  
Ryan Chung (7)  
Prajeet Chitty (7)  
Ryan Gallagher (7)  
David Correa (7)  
Avishi Anurag (6)  
Sebastian Ritikong (6)

Congratulations to the RBMS Advanced Math Team for their performance in the Virginia Math League Competition for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. This is a competitive statewide competition and our students did a tremendous job!

Congratulations to our students who placed nationally and in the state for Math Kangaroo! The following students were top 20 winners in the country for grade level: Avishi Anurag (6th), Ryan Chung (7th), Sarah Chung (8th), and Madhav Krishnaswamy (8th grade).

The RBMS Advanced Math Team scored in the top 10% in the country in the Noetic Fall Math Competition! Grade level winners were Avishi Anurag (6), Ryan Chung (7), and Madhav Krishnaswamy (8).

Congratulations to our nationally recognized American Mathematics Competition 8 winners!

Madhav Krishnaswamy - 1st place RBMS and Honor Roll of Distinction (top 1% nationally)  
Ryan Chung - 2nd place RBMS and Honor Roll Certificate (top 5% nationally)  
Razvan Nicolae - 3rd place RBMS  
Avishi Anurag - 4th place RBMS and Certificate of Distinction (6th graders who scored over 15)

**RBMS Spelling Bee Winner**, Japneet Kaur- 8th grade

**Stock Market Game - 2nd in the region and 2nd among 190 teams!**

Nawwaf Hannan  
Vedin Goradia  
Nathan Cho  
Mason Amdahl

## **8th Graders with All A's (6th -8th grade) \*Overall/end of year average**

Shreyas Aggarwal  
Thomas Anfinson  
Antoinette Cesrine Arintok  
Aleesha Askari  
Aidan Balsley  
Khulan Batjargal  
Sienna Bogar  
Maya Chezem  
Sarah Chung  
Adiva Fahim  
Laraib Fatima  
Sophia Gill  
Kwin Gladney  
Katharine Gross  
Luke Hargreaves  
Kristina Harrison  
Zahra Hashemi  
Enzo Hins  
Krisha Joshi  
Japneet Kaur  
Salma Khadir  
Lindsay Kim  
Eliyas Kordi  
Madhav Krishnaswamy  
Caden Lesser  
McKenna Lyons  
Angelina McMahan  
Claire McMahan  
Megan McQuinn  
Mia Mejia Cortez  
Halle Miles  
Razvan Nicole  
Hannah Peay  
Jessica Pei  
Micaela Perezous  
Samuel Raye  
Nelson Ren  
Wyatt Rippey  
Pranshi Sanwal  
Anieesh Saravanan  
Mia Simpson  
Katherine Thomson  
Zoe Viterbo

## **Student Ambassadors**

**8th Grade** - Ahmari Jackson-DuBois, Angela Dominguez-Mundo, Angelina McMahan, Averie Earle, Becca Bassett, Edward Christopher, Hannah Peay, Isabella Cheiaua, Jahnvi Guduru, Japneet Kaur, Jamari Anthony, Jeremy LaFrancois, Lizzie Dykes, Mackenzie Spielman, Maya Chezem, Nawwaf Hannan, Nicole Babb, Olaa Elgamri, Rachel Kidwell, Sarah Chung, Soleil Antognoli, Sophia Depascale, Sophia K. Gill, Zariah Ricks

**7th Grade** - Alex Lim, Ankush Sharma, Ariana Amir, Avery Settle, Cadyn Sohn, Cameron Freck, Catarina Hechter, Colleen MacGoy, Gabriella Simpson, Isabella Ackerman, Isabelle Ventura, Jennifer Mai, Jordyn Ranuado, Katie Choi, Kendall Hopkins, Lilly Myers, Malak Abu Ghannam, Nava Ghaffari, Olivia Swank, Prajeet Chitty, Pranjali Sanwal, Rachel Sigler, Ria Vasanthan, Riya King, Ryan Chung, Samantha Ankers, Sharanya Jeksaani, Sofia Lupas, Sunny Chen

**ELKS Essay** - Keiht (Owen) Cordoba (1st Place in Division I), Devika Thampi (2nd place in Division II)

## **DAR Awards**

Civics (8th Grade) - Isaac Anderson  
Social Studies (7th Grade) - Julia Sagen  
Social Studies (6th Grade) - Juliet Lindsay

## **Staff Awards**

VFW Teacher of the Year Award in the Middle School division  
Shamara Minto

New Teacher of the Year  
Loren Ambrose-Smith

Washington Post Teacher of the Year  
Paulette Reisman

Substitute Teacher of the Year  
Leslie Linn



# Business Partners

5 Tara Indian	Mission BBQ
Barakat Orthodontics	Orangetheory Fitness
Blue Ridge Grill	Papa Johns
Bungalow Lakehouse	Potomac River Running
Chick-Fil-A	REN Sports Training (Basketball & Gymnastics)
Dulles Golf Center & Sports Park	Reston Shirt and Graphic Company, Inc.
Dunkin' Donuts	Rocklands BBQ
K & H Landscaping	Scout & Molly's Boutique @ One Loudoun
Loudoun Center for Oral Surgery	South Block Smoothies
Maid Brigade	Studio Bleu Dance Center
Meadows Frozen Custard - One Loudoun	Tamarind Indian Cuisine
	The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyard
	Three Creeks Winery
	Worlds Away Escape Room

# Student Government

President - Averie Earle	Representative - Gwyn Jackson
Vice President - Salma Khadir	Representative - Maggie Crawford
Secretary - Maya Chezem	Representative - Marissa Miller
Treasurer - Anieesh Saravanan	

# PTA

A special Thank You to our 2020-2021 River Bend PTA board members and volunteers. We appreciate your commitment to our students and staff.