



Quarterly Confluence

Fall Edition 2025

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Alum Spotlight - Hanna Floyd
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Staff Spotlight - Laura Goemann



Alum Spotlight - Hanna Floyd

In which grade did you start at Two Rivers? How did you develop as a student and as a human being at Two Rivers? Who helped you along the way? Are there any stories you'd like to share?

I came to Two Rivers in the 3rd grade. Due to my experiences at other schools, when I showed up at Two Rivers, I was more reserved and quiet. However, even after my first year, I could feel myself come out of my shell and participate in class discussions, a situation I would have never done in the past. The people are what make Two Rivers a great space to grow and learn. Some of my best memories include the short plays or musicals we would prepare for our showcases. They were a great bonding moment for me and my classmates, but also a fun way to learn how to be outgoing and not afraid to speak in front of large audiences.

I loved all the overnight trips we took to Nature Bridge and NorthBay. Those are still memories that my friends and I laugh about to this day. Especially the moment we all swore we saw lightning almost strike our feet, even though we were all in various parts of the street, away from any lightning at NorthBay. Those are the type of memories I look back on fondly.

What does community mean to you? How would you describe the Two Rivers community?

To me, community represents the people who care for you and offer advice in your time of need. They are your support group and will be there for you when you falter. I have always felt that Two Rivers has a strong, tight-knit community, as many of the kids have been there for years. However, they are always excited to meet new kids and immediately welcome them into the community. To me, that is what makes the school, how open-minded and accepting everyone is.

When you attend a school for that long, you see each other grow up and help one another become better people. The closest friends I had at Two Rivers are still my best friends to this day, and without Two Rivers, I would never have gotten that chance to meet them. We love to reminisce and even talk about the teachers who have really encouraged and pushed us to be our best selves. Especially during middle school, a time when many students are having a difficult time, my teachers were always there to lend an ear, no matter how minuscule the problem. I have always felt supported by my Two Rivers community.

You graduated from Two Rivers in 2021. How would you say Two Rivers prepared you for high school?

Two Rivers did a fantastic job in preparing me to be a leader. I completed numerous group projects while at Two Rivers, and that trend continued into high school. I realized that not every student had experience in leading group discussions or delegating tasks to others while still being mindful of everyone's ideas for projects. I am also able to speak confidently in front of large audiences, a skill that has helped me succeed in interviews and my classes. The showcases we did were an excellent opportunity for me to develop critical thinking skills and learn how to conduct in-depth research on topics. In high school, they do not want surface-level analysis, but at Two Rivers, we always dug deeper. No matter the topic, we always learned how things affected us, our community, and then the world. All these skills provided a strong foundation that helped me succeed in college.

What clubs or activities were involved in high school? Can you describe your learning experience in high school?

In high school, I was a member of the art club, coding club, and student ambassador program. I also had multiple internships. In high school, learning was more rigorous, and by attending a

STEM school, I had to take my STEM classes in addition to regular high school classes. This was a slightly difficult adjustment, but once I created a schedule, everything became much easier. I also enjoyed the material I was learning and the support I received from my teachers.

You are a freshman at LSU now! How does that feel? What are you learning about yourself during the 1st semester?

Being a freshman now at LSU feels like all the hard work I have done over the years has truly paid off. It's nice being able to explore a different city and meet people you would never have had the opportunity to talk to if I were still in D.C.

So far, I've realized that I enjoy waking up in the morning to plan my week. I am an organized person, and I am way more outgoing than I initially thought!



Board Member Spotlight - Malik Husser

Please share your journey to joining the board of Two Rivers. How did you hear about us? What attracted you?

I first joined the board in the summer of 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a board member at the time who was my colleague at Friendship Public Charter School. At Friendship, I was part of creating their development department. After establishing a department that enabled us to secure larger grants and attract high-dollar donors, we also developed our first marketing program. The board member observed and appreciated the work I did at Friendship, and when an opening became available on the board, they reached out to me and recommended that I apply, as I could bring valuable expertise to advise the board.

After seeing the impact of Two Rivers' initiatives on the community, it was a no-brainer that this was something I wanted to be a part of. My mother is a lifelong educator, and I always knew that education was a passion project, but I never thought I would be the person who could impact students from the classroom. I wanted to impact the lives of young people in urban cities who needed uplifting, encouragement, and access to resources and tools that could provide them with opportunities.

Can you please share your role on the board? What have you enjoyed so far in your tenure?

In the past, I've held the role of Vice-Chair, but as a member at large, I currently sit on the Governance Committee. I've enjoyed serving on the Governance Committee because it encompasses everything from ensuring the implementation of necessary policies that the school needs to enforce to onboarding new board members.

Earlier this year, I thoroughly enjoyed the leadership conference held for teachers and principals. There were heartfelt and compelling conversations surrounding how their leadership affects the classroom and the Two Rivers community. The board members were asked to participate, and it was helpful for me because I was able to engage, hear firsthand how teachers are leading the future, and share insights based on my leadership experience and professional career.

You shared that Nurture Relationships is your favorite TR Core Value. Can you please tell us why?

Nurturing relationships is significant to me because, in my opinion, the biggest value we as board members can bring to the board is our relationships. Those relationships then become resources for our Crew and how we can support each other, galvanize resources, and use strategic thinking when making decisions.

You've been on the board for five years and have already attended several TR events. What would you like people outside of our community to know about our community?

Two Rivers embodies community. When we discuss Crew, it is not only about the teachers, students, or administrators in our building. Crew is about community, and without community, including parents, partnerships, and vendors who support everything we produce, we cannot be successful.

Two Rivers isn't about the borders of the classroom; it is about the edges of every community, and the people on the outside who do not understand the depth of their presence impacting our students every day. We are truly passionate about the work we do, and I hope that one day others will see that.

How does your background as a Senior Marketing and Communications Executive inform your approach to board governance or strategic planning?

In my day-to-day work as a Senior Marketing Analyst and Communications Executive, brand building is extremely relevant. Brands and companies often underestimate the importance of a brand to their consumers.

Protecting the Two Rivers brand is essential. We are committed to continually highlighting our initiatives so that students and families have access to diverse opportunities for the future and recognize our ongoing leadership in the community.



Staff Spotlight - Laura Goemann

Please share how you landed at Two Rivers and when?

I joined Two Rivers at the start of school year 23/24 as a 5th-grade Special Education teacher at the 4th Street campus. I was drawn to TR by our shared values, especially giving access and nurturing relationships. I temporarily left in March of 2025 to experiment with teaching drama full-time (previously, I had been teaching drama part-time evenings/weekends/summers at Imagination Stage). I returned this fall as the full-time drama teacher for 2nd-5th grade at both campuses, and I could not be happier that I did!

You started at Two Rivers as a SPED teacher. What inspired you to return, this time as our Drama Teacher?

I was thrilled to return to TR because I have always loved the students and staff I have worked with here. I also feel a sense of freedom at TR to teach in a way that aligns with my values and honors students' autonomy. There are very few places like TR where I would have the opportunity to integrate performing arts, academics, social-emotional growth, and special education, all while growing in my professional capacity as an artist and a teacher.

What inspired your love of theater and the arts?

My parents recognized my dramatic side early on and enrolled me in theater classes starting when I was just 5 years old. My mom and dad both love the arts. My dad and his father, in particular, love musical theater and Broadway. I was raised watching movies and recorded staged versions of musicals, such as "Pippin," "Fiddler on the Roof," and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Broadway soundtracks were always playing in our home and cars! I have trained in various performing arts, but acting and musical theater are my particular passions. I was very dedicated to theater in high school and college, thinking I wanted to be a professional actor until I started working summers at ATMTC's musical theater kids camp. Then I discovered how much I loved teaching, and the rest is history.

This is the first time we are doing an elementary school play. Can you give us a sneak peek of the fall play and what students (and families) can look forward to?

Young's fall play, "Prince of My Dreams," is a hilarious one-act about what happens when Snow White and Sleeping Beauty are asleep. They meet in their dreams and start a bakery/laundromat, but the mayor tries to shut them down because they serve both animals and people, which the mayor claims is against the law in Dreamland. A prince is kidnapped, rats are dancing, a unicorn saves the day - it's a wild and crazy ride you won't want to miss!

What skills do you hope students will carry with them from drama into other parts of their academic and personal lives?

Drama provides us with numerous valuable skills that we can apply to both academic and personal aspects of our lives. To name a few, speaking confidently in front of others, teamwork through collaboration, and creative thinking are relevant in every field and are essential components of every drama class. I also integrate the EL curriculum, so we expand on themes and learning from students' ELA classes in our drama classes. For example, 2nd graders are currently learning about schools around the world in ELA, so in drama, we are experientially exploring different kinds of diversity in school settings, such as neurodiversity, religious diversity, and racial diversity. In 5th grade, students are learning about Human Rights in the context of immigration in ELA, so in drama, we are grappling with immigration and Human Rights violations in US history.

Please share a fun fact about yourself.

I have two cats named Mint and Basil! They are my precious babies whom I love to play with and care for. Mint is a little gremlin who tries to eat my chips right out of the bag, but seconds later snuggles up against me, begging for pets. Basil is my sweet princess who likes alone time but also rubs her head against me for snuggles.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



During **Back-to-School Night**, each school leader provided a breakdown of the DC CAPE and end-of-year data. In this data, trends in students' proficiency and growth for the SY24-25 assessments were shared. They also shared priorities for instructional practices for the current school year, including standards aligned with learning targets, data-driven differentiation, and initiatives to foster a growing school culture.



During **Hispanic Heritage Month**, students were challenged to explore how Hispanic and Latinx cultures have significantly contributed to shaping society today. Throughout the month, our students learned about influential figures, traditional foods, and music.



Visit [Pulse of the Shark Newsroom](#) on the Two Rivers website to read “**Discovering Diverse Cultures Together: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.**” This article highlights how students explored the impactful contributions of Hispanic and Latinx cultures in shaping our world today.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Upcoming Open House Dates

We can't wait to welcome you! Join us at our upcoming Open House days:

Two Rivers 4th Street Elementary (PK3-5th Grade)

- Wednesday, November 19th, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 10th, 9:30 am - 10:30 a.m.

Two Rivers Young Elementary (PK3-5th Grade)

- Thursday, November 20th, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, December 11th, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Two Rivers Middle School (6th-8th Grade)

- Tuesday, November 18th, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Fall Festival

Come join the fun! A day filled with games, fun, and laughter:

- YES - Wednesday, October 29th
- 4ES - Thursday, October 30th

Stay Connected for all that is coming in SY '25-'26

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