

Quarterly Confluence

Summer Edition 2026

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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Alum Spotlight - Ambre'

As a recent graduate of the Class of 2026, how would you describe your experience at Two Rivers and how it helped you grow both as a student and a person?

I would describe myself as someone who has grown to be open to new opportunities and someone who is now fully able to step out of their comfort zone. The Two Rivers experience has shown me how to do more than its curriculum, but it has also exposed me to many different things in this world that I had no idea about, and parts of myself that I didn't know existed.

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

I would describe a community as a place where one can feel safe, welcome, and heard. Two Rivers exemplifies what a community is in more ways than what is shown on the surface. This school has helped me with my inner struggles and academic growth, and has helped me navigate the fears I have had to overcome since the first grade.

Scholarly Habits – Why does “I am independent and resilient” resonate with you?

The scholarly habit “I am independent and resilient” resonates with me because I am someone who has learned how to navigate through challenges and advocate for myself in and outside of the classroom. One time where I put this habit into use was on May 21, 2026, hours before the evening musical show. I woke up feeling severely under the weather, and almost stayed home. Even when I didn't have an appetite, my body wasn't responding to the environment around me, and I was feeling so tired. I still pushed myself through to perform the show.

You were Alice in the middle school musical. How did stepping into that role help you grow as a person or performer? What did that experience teach you about yourself?

Stepping into this role helped me grow as a person and performer by expanding my ability to manage time and work under pressure. I wasn't originally cast as Alice in the show; I was the understudy along with three other roles. The opportunity for me to be the lead came two weeks before the show. I was stressed, confused, and very unsure how I would be able to manage it all. I made this possible by practicing consistently, and I was able to memorize all of my lines within the first ten days. By the time the evening show came around, I felt prepared. Nervous, but prepared. One of my favorite quotes is “do it scared.” This taught me how to embody another character and showcase my role, despite the circumstances.

What plans do you have for your future in high school and beyond?

In the future, I plan to pursue the arts! Next year I will be attending Duke Ellington School of the Arts for cinematography, media production, and writing. Along with these passions, I also enjoy singing, and I plan to utilize my talent in vocal music as well.



Board Member Spotlight - Dr. Mike Jacobs

Can you share your journey to joining the Two Rivers Board of Trustees? What first drew you to Two Rivers, and what inspired you to serve?

My journey to the Two Rivers Board started with my passion for educational excellence and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality learning experience. What drew me to Two Rivers was its commitment to expeditionary learning, equity, and whole-child development. Serving on the Board allows me to use my experience as an educator and school leader to help strengthen the school's impact for students, families, and the community.

You recently completed your first year as Board Secretary and are beginning your term as Vice Chair. What has this leadership journey taught you, and what are you most looking forward to in your new role?

Serving as Board Secretary taught me the importance of listening, collaboration, and strong governance. I gained a deeper appreciation for the work that happens behind the scenes to support our students and community. As Vice Chair, I'm excited to help strengthen our Board's effectiveness, support our leadership team, and continue advancing Two Rivers' mission and long-term vision.

Your career centers on leadership, organizational strategy, and building strong systems. How has that experience shaped the way you support Two Rivers as a board member?

My experience has taught me to think strategically while keeping people at the center of every decision. As a board member, I focus on strengthening governance, asking thoughtful questions, and helping build systems that support long-term success for students, staff, and families.

You've been a familiar face at school events throughout the year. Why is it important to you to spend time in our schools and connect directly with students, families, and staff?

I genuinely love being in schools. There's no substitute for seeing learning in action, talking with students, listening to families, and supporting educators. Being present helps me stay connected to the real experiences of our community so I can make better, more informed decisions as a board member.

Two Rivers is committed to preparing students for a lifetime of learning. From your perspective, what makes the Two Rivers community unique, and what do you hope others understand about our schools?

What makes Two Rivers unique is its strong sense of community and its commitment to developing the whole child. Students are encouraged to think critically, collaborate, and lead with curiosity. I hope others see that Two Rivers is more than a school—it's a place where students, families, and staff truly learn and grow together.

As you look ahead in your role as Vice Chair, what excites you most about the future of Two Rivers, and how do you hope to help advance the school's mission and long-term impact?

What excites me most is the opportunity to help Two Rivers continue growing while staying true to its mission. As Vice Chair, I hope to strengthen our governance, support school leadership, and ensure every decision we make creates lasting opportunities and positive outcomes for our students, families, and staff.



Staff Spotlight - Tameka Faison

You've been a part of the Two Rivers community for more than a decade. What has kept you committed to Two Rivers throughout the years?

What has kept me committed to Two Rivers throughout the years is the strong sense of community. Over the past decade, I've had the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with students, families, and colleagues who genuinely care about one another and our shared mission. My connection to Two Rivers extends beyond my role as an employee. My son and niece were both students here, my nephew is currently a student, and my daughter is a teacher at Two Rivers. Watching my family experience the school from different perspectives has deepened my appreciation for the impact our work has on students and families every day.

Two Rivers is truly a family affair for you—your son, niece, and cousin are alumni, your daughter works here, and your nephew is joining PK4 this fall. What has it meant to have your family grow alongside the Two Rivers community?

Having my family grow alongside the Two Rivers community has been one of the most rewarding parts of my journey here. It has allowed me to experience Two Rivers not only as an employee, but also as a parent, aunt, and overall proud family member. Watching my son and niece grow into successful young adults after their time at Two Rivers, seeing my daughter choose to serve this community as a teacher, and now preparing for my nephew to begin kindergarten this fall has been special.

It has reinforced my belief in our mission and the impact our school has on students and families. Two Rivers has been more than a place to work; it has been a community that has helped shape my family's lives. Knowing that the work I do behind the scenes contributes to creating positive experiences and rich opportunities for other families makes my role even more meaningful. I am grateful that my family's story has become intertwined with the story of Two Rivers, and I look forward to watching the next generation begin their own journey here.

Over the past decade, you've seen Two Rivers grow and evolve. Looking back, what accomplishment or milestone are you most proud to have been a part of?

Over the past decade, there have been many accomplishments I'm proud to have been a part of, but what stands out most is helping build and strengthen the operations department into a team that the school community can rely on. As Two Rivers has grown, so have the complexity and demands of supporting multiple campuses, and I've been proud to help develop systems, processes, and relationships that keep our schools running safely and efficiently.

I'm also proud of the role I've played in successfully managing major summer projects, supporting campus improvements, and ensuring our schools are prepared year after year for students, staff, and families. While much of that work happens behind the scenes, I know it has a direct impact on the daily experience of everyone in our community.

More than any single project, I'm most proud of contributing to the long-term growth of Two Rivers. Knowing that I've helped create safe, welcoming, and well-functioning learning environments for generations of students, including members of my own family, is an accomplishment that means a great deal to me.

While students and teachers enjoy summer break, your team is hard at work. What are the biggest priorities for the operations team during the summer months?

Summer is our busiest season because it's the only time we have to complete major work before welcoming everyone back for a new school year. Our biggest priorities are deep cleaning every campus, completing maintenance and capital improvement projects, coordinating contractors, moving furniture and classrooms, preparing spaces for new staff and programs, and making sure all building systems are fully operational.

It's a race against the clock, with dozens of projects happening simultaneously across multiple campuses. Every task, from fresh paint and floor refinishing to HVAC maintenance, technology upgrades, safety inspections, uniform sales, and classroom setup, has to come together before the first day of school.

Our goal is that when students, families, and staff walk through the doors in August, they see a school that is clean, safe, welcoming, and ready for learning. When everything is in place and the

first day runs smoothly, that's the result of months of planning, coordination, and hard work by the Operations team behind the scenes.

Operations often happens behind the scenes. What do you wish students, families, and staff knew about the work your team does to support the Two Rivers community?

While much of my work happens behind the scenes, I know that creating a safe, welcoming, and well-functioning learning environment allows our students and staff to do their best work. Seeing the dedication of my colleagues and the growth of our students year after year reminds me why this work matters.

After more than a decade of service, what continues to inspire you, and what are you most looking forward to as you prepare for another school year?

As I prepare for another school year, I look forward to welcoming new students and families, while continuing to support the success of our returning students and staff. I am also excited to build on the strong foundation we've established, strengthen our operations, and continue finding ways to improve the experience for everyone in our community. Every school year brings new opportunities to learn, grow, and make a difference, and I am grateful to be part of that journey.

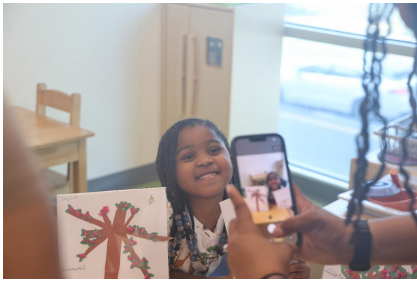
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



For over a decade, DOEE's Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) Grant covered the full cost of Two Rivers' signature outdoor education experiences — the 5th grade Nature Bridge Experience and the 6th grade three-day NorthBay trip on the Chesapeake Bay. That funding has ended. Without community support, these programs are at risk of becoming cost-prohibitive for families or being scaled back.

Up until now, every **Two Rivers student** has experienced **overnight outdoor learning** at **no cost** to their family. **Help us keep it that way.**

#SupportEveryStudentOutdoors



Celebration of Learning provided students with the opportunity to demonstrate another important dimension of achievement: high-quality work. Families had the opportunity to experience authentic student projects, presentations, and learning that reflect craftsmanship, authenticity, and complexity.



During the Eighth-Grade Passage Portfolio, students presented meaningful milestones in their academic journey at Two Rivers. Through a series of thoughtful presentations, they shared learning artifacts and reflected on how the rigor of EL Education has prepared them for the transition to high school.



Visit [*Pulse of the Shark Newsroom*](#) on the Two Rivers website to read the latest school and alum stories!

- [The Journey of a Two Rivers Lifer: Eleanor](#)
- [AANHPI Heritage Month at Two Rivers](#)

WHAT'S NEXT?



Back to School Social

Join us for our **Back-to-School Social!** Meet your teachers, catch up with old friends, and make new ones before the first bell rings. 📅

Date: Friday, August 21st
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



First Day of School

We are so excited to welcome our students back to school on **August 24**. We can't wait to see our students' smiling faces and begin a new year of learning, growth, and fun together.

Location: The Fields at RFK (Pavilion)

We can't wait to see all of our amazing families there!

Stay Connected for all that is coming in SY '26-'27

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