



**Riverside School celebrates fifty years
of transformational education for students
with dyslexia.**





THE EARLY YEARS

In 1974, Patricia DeOrio, a dedicated teacher and mentor, was tutoring a small group of students from across the Richmond area that were struggling to learn to read. Pat, or "Mrs. D" as she is affectionately called by students, is also dyslexic and understood personally what it took to unlock the potential of students like her.

Mrs. DeOrio and the original Board of Directors helped to buy a property, which included the original two-room Bon Air School (a historic building). Soon after its founding, Ruth Harris joined the Riverside School faculty. She brought with her the Orton-Gillingham Approach and established the school's Language Fundamentals Skill Instruction program. This one-on-one instruction has become a hallmark of the Riverside experience.



RIVERSIDE'S CAMPUS GROWS

1989: Riverside's first capital campaign led to the growth of the school to accommodate more students and added five classrooms, 14 tutoring rooms, a kitchen, commons area, central office, and other staff offices.

2005: The school expanded again with a second capital campaign that supported the construction of a new building that included a multi-purpose gymnasium, two classrooms, additional LF spaces, a kitchen, and an art studio.

2021: Riverside had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to obtain the former St. Michael's School property. With this purchase, Riverside grew from a one-acre campus with limited outdoor space to a ten-acre campus with two additional academic buildings, a gymnasium, two athletic fields, expanded parking, storage, and playgrounds.



AN ENDURING MISSION AND THE RIGHT APPROACH

Since our founding, Riverside has grown both in facilities and enrollment, but we have always emphasized a multisensory, systematic reading program, personalized instruction, small classes, and a nurturing environment.

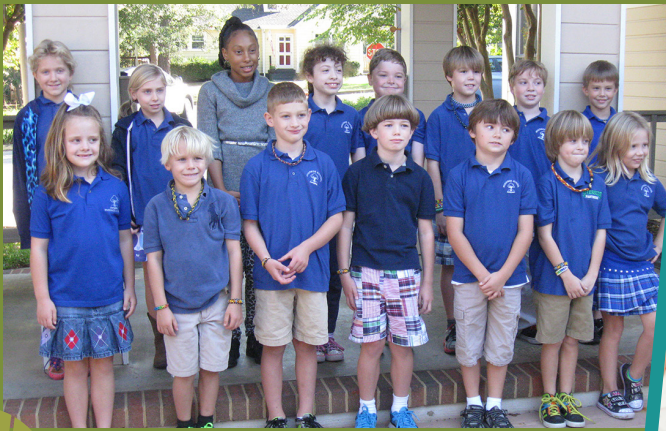
The Language Fundamentals Program has been the keystone of our transformative approach. In 2003, Riverside received accreditation from the newly formed Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators (now the Orton-Gillingham Academy) as a school and for its teacher training program.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOMS

Early in Riverside's history, the school established extracurricular programs and opportunities for students, which have continued to expand throughout the years. Soccer teams, student council, art, music and more are important parts of the student experience at Riverside.





50 YEARS AND BEYOND

As Riverside celebrates all that has been accomplished, we begin the next 50 years in a strong position thanks to the countless teachers, volunteers, alumni, families, and community that continue to believe in the transformational mission of the school. We remain grateful to the vision that Mrs. D, Ruth Harris, and visionary leaders shaped decades ago.



Events throughout this year will celebrate our past and support our future. In addition to community events listed below, stay tuned for more information about ways to join with us as we celebrate.

50th Anniversary Celebrations & Annual Events

October 18, 2024: Harvest Moon Parent Social

November 26, 2024: Grandparents & Special Friends Day

March 21, 2025: 50th Anniversary Gala

May 16, 2025: Founder's Day