



BOBCAT BEAT

Winter 2018

Volume 3 Issue 1



Naming of a School

The Richardson School, LLC (TRS) first welcomed a student at its West Allis Campus on March 7, 2011. The concept was simple: explore the market, listen to its potential funding sources and then develop a service that made sense to them, and what they really needed and desired. From these conversations and interviews The Richardson School was designed and developed.

Our new school needed a name. When we were searching for a name, Aaliyah's was one that came to



The Richardson School

mind that also brought in all the elements we held dear to the creation of the school. As its Director of Operations, I had an opportunity to speak with Aaliyah's family about the idea of naming the school in her honor; they were very pleased with us remembering her in such a way.

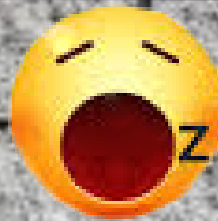
Aaliyah resided with the ORP family of companies at Genesee Lake School. She passed suddenly one night after spending a weekend away with her family celebrating her birthday.

Our hearts will always be with Aaliyah, and in her name we remember her daily.

TRS is designed to be a school, first and foremost. Activities such as fieldtrips, parent-teacher conferences and having a mascot are engrained in the school's DNA. While these are simplistic concepts, they were obviously missing, prior to the school's development, for a student and family when seeking an alternative educational environment.

From the name, to a carefully selected color palette, it is our desire to have a district and family love the process and concept that is TRS, regardless of which location they are

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Teaching Emotions

With Generation Z

Gen Z has arrived! Just as our technology has improved and changed, so has the next generation. Known as Gen Z, the children of this generation often know more about technology before they know their ABCs. A true product of the on-demand society, Gen Z works in 140 characters or less. For this reason, social and emotional learning has become not only a staple inside the classroom, but also in the community.

It is true that no man or woman is an island, and the same can be said for taking a village. Truth be told, schools cannot do it alone. It is important that parents and teachers work together to help Gen Z children work on interpersonal skills to live in a society without a computer screen or smart phone. The Richardson School focuses on five core areas of social/emotional learning. These five areas include: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision Making. It is the hope that together we can help the Gen Z students become aware of each of these areas to be more engaged citizens of the community.

As we continue through 2018, we wanted to take some time and explore each of the five components of social and emotional learning. As each component builds on one another, it is recommended to address them in a particular order; however, you can always address various elements of each component as necessary. It is the understanding of one's self where we start our adventure. Self-Awareness, is at the heart of social and emotional learning; the ability to accurately recognize emotions, your perceptions, understand your strengths and weaknesses, and how to develop self-confidence, self-esteem, and

work through plans to accomplish goals. This is a huge component of our personality that impacts every facet of our lives, one that is overlooked as it is expected to come naturally. The good news is, this is easy to reinforce and work on at home.

For example, the next time your child is upset try asking probing questions in combination with acknowledgement statements. Such as, "I understand that you are upset, can you tell me, when you are ready, what you are upset about?" Acknowledge, that you are not looking to solve the problem for them, but offering to help them work through their anger or sadness. The same for joy, while it is often easier to employ the probing questions during the sadder times, it is just as important to understand what brings moments of joy. What makes them laugh? Why? When they come home and are smiling from ear to ear, ask them what has made them so happy? Is there something you can celebrate or laugh about together?

Self-Awareness is about the exploration of understanding your emotions, so the more you can share and reflect with your child, the easier it will become to build that relationship where they can begin to recognize what triggers sadness or brings them great joy. Help to build their positive self-esteem and understanding that everyone has strengths as well as weaknesses, but that our weaknesses are opportunities to build strengths. All the elements in self-awareness build our personalities, and the more we can explore the elements the better we can build lasting relationships with others. Perhaps Ralph Ellison said it best, "When I discover who I am, I'll be free."

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TRS-West Allis Visits Fire Station During Fire-Prevention Week



FIRE PROTECTION

On October 16th, students from TRS West Allis visited their local fire station during Fire Prevention Week to learn more about how fire fighters keep our communities safe.

During the visit, students got to check out where the fire fighters exercised, where they ate, and where they got ready to respond to an emergency. Safety tips on what to do in case of a fire were shared with the students on the tour as well.

One fire fighter demonstrated how much equipment he had to put on before he

would be ready to go into a burning building.

At the end of the tour, students who wanted to were able to sit in and look around a fire truck with some

fire -fighters. Students seemed to really enjoy the “inside look” at how a fire station operates and gained a new appreciation for the work it takes to keep communities safe from fires.

Later that day, Richardson School students hand delivered thank you cards to the fire fighters, thanking them for the tour and their service.





Upcoming Events

March 23

TRS-West Allis & Brookfield Science Fair
1-2:30 p.m. at Brookfield

March 29

Opening Night Reception
TRS Art Show
Beloit College
Wright Museum of Art
6-7:30 p.m.

March 30 & April 2-6

*Spring Break
Bobcat Camp*

Children enjoy both on site and community activities during school breaks. Call any location for more details.

Check out the school calendar on our website!

Beloit

321 Olympian Blvd.
Beloit, WI 53511
608.473.3244

Brookfield

175 S. Barker Rd.
Brookfield, WI 53045
262.468.0700

Madison

2802 International Ln.
Madison WI 53704
608.421-5267

West Allis

6753 W. Rogers St.
West Allis, WI 53219



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“With love in her heart and a smile on her face, Aaliyah brought joy and smiles to all who knew her. She expressed her love for you through hugs and laughter. She danced her way into many hearts. She was here physically for a short time, but mentally and emotionally she is here forever. She is truly missed. I know she is giggling in God’s arms now.”

-Mrs. Njuguan, Aaliyah Richardson’s Mother

seeking. Integrity is critical to our student’s success. In that we have simplistic touches like our Bobcat Mascot (which was originally the mascot for St. Augustine’s School, the location of our first school campus),

classroom vs. hallway paint colors, and a consistent use of communication approaches and forms.

—Kevin Silkey

