

WHO WE ARE

Building upon the work of Middle School Renaissance, MSR2020 is a collaborative community initiative working to ensure that Richmond Public School's (RPS) middle school students engage in meaningful Out-of-School Time (OST) programs. We're comprised of business and community leaders, city and school officials, educators, and foundation and nonprofit directors who've partnered to build an integrated OST system that will support and sustain quality after-school programs across the city.

WHAT WE DO

By enhancing academic and developmental progress for RPS students, we'll help create a stronger learning culture both in and out of the classroom. From leadership to logistics, our absolute focus is on improving **student outcomes** both academically and socially.

OUR SUPPORT

Local individuals, foundations and businesses are beginning to realize the vision by committing resources to MSR2020. Up to \$1 million each year can be needed to build the kind of variety and quality that will fully meet the OST needs of all students at a single site. This need can be fulfilled through a combination of dedicated support raised by MSR2020 and ongoing involvement by organizations that already serve in RPS' middle schools.



WHY WE'RE NEEDED

Learning isn't just about academics—and it doesn't end after the school day. Effective OST programs benefit students, their families and the community. Research shows that those who participate in quality programs exhibit better behavior at school and at home, and feel more confident and engaged in the classroom. OST programs also offer a safe, fun and educational environment for students to participate in activities that support the development of academic, social and personal skills. These outcomes carry through to high school and beyond.

A coordinated OST system is essential to improving quality and expanding access to programs that foster academic and social benefits.

By working together, MSR2020 will provide:

- Teambuilding and structured collaboration among schools, communities and providers
- Consistent program standards and professional staff development
- Shared data to understand student needs, track program quality and measure participation
- Coordination of marketing, recruitment and student transportation
- Stabilized funding sources

WHY NOW?

We're at an important crossroads. In Virginia, **36% of middle schoolers care for themselves after school, and only 9% participate in after-school programs.** However, there's an enthusiasm at work in Richmond—a desire to make a real difference for middle school-aged kids. It's important to seize this opportunity. MSR2020 will join forces with like-minded, local programs such as Full Days RVA, Richmond Promise Neighborhoods, The Capital Region Collaborative and Bridging Richmond, to a name a few. The resources exist in our city and working together on a shared vision is the key to meaningful and long-term change.



OUR VISION

MSR2020 will ultimately offer a coordinated system of high-quality OST programs to all RPS middle school students who wish to participate.

WE'LL DO THIS BY:

- Consulting with the diverse minds and resources of leaders across various community sectors, including government agencies, schools, funders and service providers
- Seeking input from teachers, parents and students in order to design programs that meet their interests and needs in fun and engaging ways
- Leveraging data and best practices from other successful OST systems
- Working with OST providers and schools to align, coordinate and improve program delivery, quality, participation and measurement

OUR GOALS

- Increased student participation in high-quality programs
- Superior student outcomes, including:
 - Increased school attendance
 - Higher grades in key courses
 - Heightened academic rigor
 - Reduced behavioral incidents
 - Increased social and emotional well-being
- Better communication and collaboration among schools, service providers, city officials, students and families
- Creating programs that are relevant, engaging and effective
- More efficient use of school and community resources, and a more sustainable funding model



OUR PROCESS

To create a reference point, we'll pilot this approach in Henderson Middle School from January to June of 2014, while also supporting the existing MLK Middle School collaboration as a second learning site.

Through structured activities, MSR2020 will work as a partner with community organizations and Henderson's principal to learn about programs that best meet the students' needs. We will learn how to support organizations in reaching or maintaining high quality, and how the impact of after-school programs should be measured. A third-party research organization will evaluate the process, and we'll use their results to inform our approach for customizing and extending after-school programs to more Henderson students in the fall. We will expand into additional schools over time, incorporating what we learn from both the evaluation and community feedback. Ultimately, we expect the system to cover all RPS middle schools.

OUR MAKEUP

MSR2020 is a single-entity LLC housed within The Community Foundation serving Richmond and Central Virginia, and led by an executive director, board of managers and advisory committee. These leadership groups include local business, government, school-system, community and foundation leaders who provide expertise, oversight and a stable, sustainable funding source for our work.

OUR CORE To sum it up: MSR2020 provides opportunities for youth to continue their learning beyond the school day through a variety of **enrichment activities** that ensure they are productive, **engaged** and **having fun!**