

(1/15/25 – District Administrator’s Corner Article)

At recent Board meetings, the River Valley School Board finalized action to close the school building in Plain and to reconfigure all grade levels in the remaining three buildings in the following manner:

- Current Elementary School building: Grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1, 2
- Current Middle School building: Grades 3, 4, 5, 6
- Current High School building: Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

We recognize that this change will affect many staff and students as we transition. We have spent countless hours looking at options and plans for reconfiguring to meet the needs of the students and staff.

The American Psychological Association (APA) shares that 50 percent of our American workers say they have been affected by changes in the past few years. According to APA’s Work and Well-Being Survey, when wide-reaching changes happen in an organization, there are things that people can do to help-it’s all about maintaining the right perspective.

- Try to understand the situation: The road to positivity and successful adaptation to change begins by taking the time to understand exactly what is happening and why.
- Think long-term: Businesses are successful because their activities and decisions trend toward the positive side in the long run.
- Focus on solutions, not problems: Big changes can present ways to be more efficient and simplified, and as a result, it could positively impact you.

This research also explains why so many coaches, sports teams, and businesses have goals focused on perspective. They focus on positivity, reducing negativity, and becoming more optimistic.

Our perspective shapes our mindset and resilience to overcome all the challenges that we perceive. There is a power of positivity. We are not ignoring the fact that these transitions will require change. The changes are necessary to be fiscally responsible, and we believe there will be minimal impact on current course offerings, programs offered to students, and current class sizes. Change can be challenging, but we are committed to supporting River Valley through the process.

In the coming months, there will be many moving parts and logistics for moving forward. We will keep our community informed as we move ahead.

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator  
River Valley School District