Link and Inspire For Tomorrow (LIFT): Racine’s community school initiative

Our Story
LIFT is a place-based strategy that creates partnerships between neighborhoods and resources using schools as the hub.

In September 2016, Knapp Elementary became Racine County’s first Community School, based on a successful model found in thousands of communities throughout the country.

The LIFT initiative connects families from the school and the surrounding neighborhood with resources focused on academics, family relationships, health, and social services.

Community schools are a joint effort between United Way of Racine County and the Racine Unified School District, but it wouldn’t have been possible without the generous support of individuals and the business community.

Nothing is more important to Racine County’s long-term economic prosperity than the development of a workforce with the necessary skills and knowledge required to perform the job. That development begins in the classroom and in neighborhoods. Together, we can prepare children for success in education and life by providing the resources and support they need.

2018-19 Highlights
National research tells us that the community school model takes 5-7 years for a full turn around in a school. After the first three years, we are tracking the positive results that we need to accomplish full turn around in that time frame.

- Student performance on the MAP assessment has improved by over 20 points in both math and ELA since we started LIFT at Knapp.
- Knapp office referrals and suspensions are down nearly 40% from 2017-18.
- Parent and staff satisfaction are the highest they have been in the past three years – this past year, Knapp ranked among the highest satisfaction ratings of all schools in RUSD.
- Knapp launched the Walking School Bus program as an attendance strategy that will address the chronic absenteeism rate.
- Staff retention is over 95%.
- Average attendance at Knapp Community Nights increased by 35%
- 308 volunteers served 3770 hours of service, a value of $89,526
  o 15% of the volunteers were Knapp parents
  o 27% of the volunteers were school staff

We are grateful for the partnership with RUSD, the Racine Police Department and the City of Racine for their help in compiling and sharing the data included in this report.
Knapp – Student Academic Progress

The following is a three-year comparison of student performance on the Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) test. This test measures student performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. Scores have gone up every year since we have started this work, and the valuable note to make here is that students start stronger and achieve higher than past academic year. As we work to get every student performing at or above grade level, the trend is moving in the right direction.

While the Forward exam is one of the primary tools used by the state to assess a school’s effectiveness in education, it is not included here because it only shows us third through fifth grade, and the results from our spring assessment do not typically arrive until early fall so we cannot rely on it for planning purposes and guiding interventions for students and families.

![KNAPP MAP MATH (THREE YEAR COMPARISON)](chart1)

![KNAPP MAP ELA (THREE YEAR COMPARISON)](chart2)
**Closing the Gaps**

Closing the gaps is a measurement on the state report card that assesses how well schools are doing at closing the achievement gap for students of color and special education students. The higher the number, the smaller the achievement gap – Knapp is moving outcomes in the right direction!

![Closing the Gaps](image)

**Knapp Culture & Climate**

In 2018-19, Knapp saw a 37% decrease in both office discipline referrals and a 37% decrease in out of school suspensions. We attribute this to consistency in staff (there was a near 98% retention rate in staff from 2017-18 to 2018-19), consistency in expectations set through daily morning assemblies, a strong administrative leadership team and strengthening positive behavioral intervention systems in the classroom and throughout the school community.

![Knapp Discipline](image)
**Parent & Staff Satisfaction Surveys**
Every year, the district conducts a parent survey that gauges how satisfied they are with their school by asking questions about their confidence in teachers/staff, how safe they feel, how high their child’s education is valued, etc. The 2019 survey has surpassed last year’s score and is one of the highest scores in the district.

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**Knapp Parent Survey**

Parent Satisfaction Survey - conducted by RUSD. #/5

- 2016: 3.84
- 2017: 3.55
- 2018: 4.2
- 2019: 4.29

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**Studer Survey - Staff Satisfaction**

- 2015-16: 3.31
- 2016-17: 3.12
- 2017-18: 4.39
- 2018-19: 4.45

We do not have the May 2019 Studer Survey results yet.
**School Day Attendance**
Attendance will be a strategic focus for the 2019-20 school year, as this is a persistent issue that Knapp is facing. School administration did re-institute calls home for absent students as well as a series of incentives school-wide to encourage regular attendance. The attendance rate for 2018-19 is the highest it has been in the past three years; however, Knapp still has a 26% chronic absenteeism rate. The Walking School Bus trial was positive and will be implemented as one of the attendance initiatives implemented in 2019-20.

![Knapp Attendance Graph](image)

**Chronic Absenteeism Rate**
- 26% of Knapp students are chronically absent, relative to 20% of RUSD elementary students.

![Chronic Absenteeism Rate Graph](image)
Walking School Bus Trial
The Walking School Bus began with one route on one day of the week (Fridays) during the last 10 weeks of school in the 2018-19 school year. There were twenty-two students identified for this route – students were in K-2 and listed as chronically absent (meaning they missed 29 days or more of school).

Eleven students were successfully recruited (meaning their families completed the permission slips for participation). There was an average of four students every Friday morning.
- 5 kindergarten
- 4 first grade
- 2 second grade

The goal of this trial was to get the word out, introduce the concept to the neighborhood and build a demand that could provide momentum for volunteer recruitment and student recruitment for the 2019-20 school year. Comparative data was not analyzed given the small sample and limited time frame. In the 2019-20 school year, we will assess the impact on attendance, behavior and academic outcomes on students participating vs. students that do not participate.

Mobility Rates (3-year study)
As we look at the rate in which our students are staying or leaving Knapp Elementary, we see that we are losing the ability to make long-term investments and sustaining relationships due to high student mobility. In the summer of 2019, we will begin to look into the academic achievement of students who have been at Knapp for 3+ years vs. those students who have been at Knapp less than three years.

Knapp has a higher than average mobility rate (29% at Knapp vs. 19% for RUSD elementary overall). White students are less mobile than the other race/ethnicity groups, but they are still more mobile than white students at other elementary schools.

Mobility Rate by Race

- 29% of Knapp 1st-5th grade students were new to the school in the 2018-2019 SY; this is compared to a 19% mobility rate across all RUSD elementary students
Student Mobility – 5th grade students

Knapp - 2019 5th Graders

- 73% of 5th graders attended Knapp in 4th grade
- 57% of 5th graders attended Knapp in 3rd grade
- 52% of 5th graders attended Knapp in 2nd grade

Number of Students

2019: 60
2018: 44
2017: 34
2016: 31

Legend:
- Grade 5
- Grade 4
- Grade 3
- Grade 2
- Grade 1
- KG
- K4

Student Mobility – 4th grade students

Knapp - 2019 4th Graders

- 78% of 4th graders attended Knapp in 3rd grade
- 47% of 4th graders attended Knapp in 2nd grade
- 41% of 4th graders attended Knapp in 1st grade

Number of Students

2019: 58
2018: 45
2017: 27
2016: 24

Legend:
- Grade 5
- Grade 4
- Grade 3
- Grade 2
- Grade 1
- KG
- K4
Student Mobility – 3rd grade students

Knapp - 2019 3rd Graders

- 60% of 3rd graders attended Knapp in 2nd grade
- 43% of 3rd graders attended Knapp in 1st grade
- 35% of 3rd graders attended Knapp in KG

Number of Students

- 2019: 58
- 2018: 45
- 2017: 27
- 2016: 24

Racine Unified School District

Student Mobility – 2nd grade students

Knapp - 2019 2nd Graders

- 71% of 2nd graders attended Knapp in 1st grade
- 48% of 2nd graders attended Knapp in KG
- 21% of 2nd graders attended Knapp in K4

Number of Students

- 2019: 48
- 2018: 34
- 2017: 23
- 2016: 19

Racine Unified School District
Impact of Mobility on Academic Achievement
Mobility is detrimental for Black and Hispanic/Latino students' MAP performance, but the data does not show any detriment for white students that are mobile.

MAP Performance by Mobility

- Black and Hispanic/Latino students' MAP achievement is negatively impacted by mobility; for both of these groups, non-mobile student achieve projected 20% more often than their mobile peers.
Support Programs

Knapp Elementary offers a variety of student, family and adult programming that happens during the school day and after school and on weekends. Our goal is to look collectively at what is occurring outside of the school day and interventions that are happening during the school day to provide a broader lens to view what is happening and what is contributing to positive outcomes for our students and families.

Community Night Attendance
Community night attendance increased from an average of 150 people in 2017-18 to 198 people in 2018-19. Community Nights began as a result of the 2015 community conversations – we found that both teachers and families wanted the same thing for students and each other, but they each thought the other was the problem/barrier. Community Nights were established to build trusting, positive relationships among families and school staff.

Please see the 2018-19 monthly attendance breakdown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Open House</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>Nov. (APTT)</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March - PT Conf</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Avg Att</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K5</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>38</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Kids</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Nonpaid staff</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid staff</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Attendance</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**School Day Non-District Student Interventions**

**Reading Corps**
Reading Corps is an AmeriCorps program that pairs AmeriCorps members as full-time tutors in the school building to work with students in grades K-3.

2018-19 Student Enrollment in Reading Corps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Students Tutored</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Grade</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Grade</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Grade</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reading Corps tutors averages 3.4 student sessions per week and averaged 67.3 student minutes per week.

![2018-19 Reading Corps Student Progress Monitoring Growth by Grade & Assessment](image)

**Schools of Hope**
Schools of Hope is a reading tutor program facilitated by United Way of Racine County that pairs volunteer tutors with students in grades 1-3 for up to three hours a week.

2018-19 SOH Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Students Tutored</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Grade</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Grade</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Grade</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

43 tutor volunteers provided 681 hours of tutoring
After school programs

Clipper Club
This program is funded primarily through the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant and program grants provided to organizations through United Way of Racine County. The coordinator and staff are co-managed by United Way of Racine County’s Community School Manager and RUSD Extended Learning staff.

• Average daily attendance: 77
• 18% of Clipper Club participants have special needs
• The ethnicity of the students enrolled in Clipper Club is reflective of the student population profile at Knapp – this tells us that our afterschool program is inclusive and representative of the community it serves.

Programming took place 2 - 5:30pm, Monday-Thursday, from the third week of September to the second week of May. There were 120 program days, which equates to 420 hours of programming or 56 additional days of school.
All staff were hired through RUSD. Six UW-Parkside 100/200 level education students worked with our students and staff during the spring of 2019. This allowed the waitlist to be eliminated.

**Young Leaders Academy (YLA)**
The Young Leaders Academy School Achievers Program is a United Way of Racine County funded program. This program occurs on the same days and time as Clipper Club at Knapp Elementary.

Out of the 50 students that participated, YLA reported the following success:
- 54% of participants improved their grades and standardized test scores
- 100% of participants improved school attendance
- 100% of participants saw decreased disciplinary actions
- 100% of participants spent more time on enrichment and learning activities
Families And Schools Together (FAST)
FAST is a program for students and families to strengthen family connection and provide supports to parents/caregivers to help them successfully lead their child’s social emotional and academic growth. At Knapp, we focus recruitment on the younger families (K-2) though we are open to all families.

- # of FAST 26 adults/ 55 children enrolled in 2018-19
- # of FAST 69 graduates in 2018-19
- # 1530 hours FAST families participated in FAST programming

Adult Programming & Services

Community Organizing Family Issues (COFI) Parent Leadership Series
30 parents participated in bi-annual leadership feedback sessions
6 parents participated in the six-week leadership training series
Total of 12 program hours in the leadership training series
Parents organized two parent-led community events

1. October: Orange Ribbon Project
   a. Parents volunteered to visit every classroom and talk about ways we can be kind to one another.
   b. These ribbons were then posted throughout the building.

2. March: Saturday Open Gym
   a. Parents organized free food and games for a Saturday open gym to provide families a place to go and play.

Gateway Technical College
Hospitality Certificate graduated nine students in the spring of 2018, with all graduates employed (if unemployed prior to certificate) or received a pay raise as a result of this course. This program was offered free to participants because of the Fast Forward grant.

Advancing Family Assets
17 Families Participated (85 total Household Members: 34 adults and 51 children)
3 Families Graduated
5 Families Still Active (as of May 2019)
156 Hours of Meetings and Workshops (130 hours of meetings + 26 hours of workshops)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
70 federal tax returns were filed at the Knapp site.
10 Homestead only returns were filed.
$106,333 in total refunds
$14,000 average in filing fees saved for the client by using VITA at Knapp
### 2018-19 Volunteer Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Volunteer</th>
<th># of Volunteers</th>
<th># of Hours</th>
<th>Value of Volunteer Time ($24.69/hr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Family Member</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>$395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher/School Staff</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>2436</td>
<td>$60,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Member*</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>1174</td>
<td>$28,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>308</strong></td>
<td><strong>3770</strong></td>
<td><strong>$89,526</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes VITA and Schools of Hope volunteer data
Neighborhood Level Data

Crime Reports: this data is shared from the Racine Police Department annual reports, using the service area for the Richard Polzin (16th Street) COP House. The service area for this COP house covers the majority of the RUSD Knapp neighborhood boundary, though not exact.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicides</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>154</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>212</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Violent Crime</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>367</td>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>577</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1528</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1510</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Property Crime</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>2403</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>2194</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple Assaults</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons Vio.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disturbances</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>469</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Request</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>260</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>782</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*City level data not provided for these points in the report
Housing Data
The following data is from the Opportunity 360 report for census tract 6. As with the crime data, the boundaries that define census tract 6 do not 100% align with the boundaries of Knapp school; however, this is the census tract that covers the majority of the Knapp neighborhood, as defined by RUSD district mapping.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Gross Rent (2013-2017)</td>
<td>$976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Home Value (2013-2017)</td>
<td>$98,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of 2-bedroom rental units that are affordable at 50% of Area Median Income (2013-2017)</td>
<td>11.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of owner units that are affordable at 80% of Area Median Income (2013-2017)</td>
<td>89.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeownership Rate (2013-2017)</td>
<td>42.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Area Fair Market Rent for a 2-bedroom apartment (2017)</td>
<td>$790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When we look at rental unit affordability, we see that our most vulnerable population (the extreme poor) face the greatest challenge in finding affordable housing. There is also high competition for the affordable units for our very low-income families. Knowing this, we can look at the students that are highly transient in the Knapp neighborhood to see what programs we can put in place for the 2019-20 school year to support our families and help them secure stable housing. This will allow the students to remain at Knapp and build stronger relationships that can support their short- and long-term success.
Household Income Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Knapp Neighborhood</th>
<th>Racine County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$43,411</td>
<td>$58,334</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adult Education Attainment in Knapp Neighborhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Knapp Neighborhood</th>
<th>Racine County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults with GED/High School Diploma</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults with Bachelor degree or higher</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults with no diploma</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

15% of city of Racine residents have no high school diploma (United Way of Racine County, 2018 Community Indicators Report). With over a quarter of the adults in the Knapp neighborhood without a high school diploma, Knapp community school leadership will focus on establishing the partnerships necessary to offer HSED programs for the 2019-20 school year.