

# Ripon School News

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK



This spring, the district will host two strategic planning sessions for students, parents, staff and community members. Guests will review the Board core strategies of student engagement and learning; human resources; service and partnerships; and finance and operations that organize our continuous improvement work in the district and make our mission and vision come to life. By keying in on district performance data, the group will help us set district goals for the coming school year. If you are interested in participating in this process, contact Jolene Meyer at 748-4600.

The April edition of the Ripon Area School District Newsletter provides updates on the school board elections, open enrollment, summer school, and transition resources for families. Included in this newsletter are many examples of how Ripon Area School District students are making a difference through their accomplishments.

This past month, the middle school students presented a lively rendition of the musical Wizard of Oz and hundreds of RASD students in grades 5-12 performed as part of the Music in Our Schools Concert and the RHS Art Department Show. On page 3 of this newsletter, you will find information about the district's recent national recognition as a PLTW District of Distinction for excellence in engineering and science.

In the Achievement section, we celebrate the many ways Ripon students excelled in the areas of math, reading, solo and ensemble, and science. As we move forward to build an even stronger, higher achieving district, I want to thank you for your continued support and involvement in the District. Together we are changing students lives by investing in their future.

Respectfully yours,  
 Dr. Mary Whitrock  
 Superintendent of Schools  
 Go Tigers!

## INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND LEADERSHIP CAMP

The Ripon Area School District, in collaboration with Ripon College will host a two-week engineering and science camp for interested students entering grades 9-12 from July 16-July 27. Camp participants, will explore many types of engineering fields and see how they can lead to great careers while interacting with students from another country. Students will have the opportunity to work with Ripon High School and Ripon College Staff to explore chemical engineering and science in the natural world during the day. They may also choose to participate in optional leadership activities with their high school peers and our international guests during the evening at no cost. This entire camp, offered as an extension to summer school, is free of charge to RASD students. Additionally, RHS students will have the opportunity to earn a 0.5 science credit toward their graduation requirements.

## INTERESTED IN HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

We are looking for families to host international high school students for a weekend in the summer, July 20th - 22nd, or for one or two semesters or during the 2018-19 school year. Please contact Britnie Meyer at 748-4600 or meyerb@ripon.k12.wi.us for more information.

## 2018-2019 OPEN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

The Ripon Area School District will accept applications for Open Enrollment until April 30, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. Any Wisconsin parents/guardians who are not Ripon Area School District residents but want their child(ren) to attend public schools in Ripon in 2018-19 may apply for enrollment acceptance.

In accordance with state law, applications must be on site at Ripon Administrative Services Center, 1120 Metomen Street in Ripon by the deadline date and time. Postmark dates will not satisfy the deadline for application submission requirements. Please go to <http://oe.dpi.wi.gov> for more information or to fill out an online application. Online applications are encouraged and recommended.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

May 2: 5:30-8:00 pm  
 May 9: 6:30-8:00 pm  
 RHS Community Room



## RASD COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The 2018-19 edition of the community calendar is being designed by Ripon High School students Emilee Hughes and Brock Sagmeister. The full-color calendar covers July 2018 through June 2019. The calendar will be mailed to all district households in mid-June. Additional copies will be available at the district office and at each school. Sponsors for the calendar are Websters Marketplace/Comfort Suites, Condon Companies, Silver Creek Dentistry, Hillside Dental, Horicon Bank, and Cliff's Tire.

## MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS CONCERT

The annual Music in Our Schools concert featured performances from the 5th Grade Choir, Middle School Choir and High School Choirs in addition to the 6th Grade Band, Combination 7th and 8th Grade Band, and the RHS Concert Band and Jazz Band. Outside of the gymnasium visitors enjoyed select pieces of artwork from the RHS Art Department.



## INCUMBENTS RE-ELECTED TO RIPON SCHOOL BOARD

Incumbents Andy Lyke, Nicole Kutz-Menard, and John Sperger were re-elected to the Ripon Board of Education for three-year terms in the April 3 election. Andy Lyke received 1,404 votes, John Sperger received 1,108 votes, and Nicole Kutz-Menard received 1,107 votes. In accordance with state statute, the Board will hold its annual reorganization meeting on April 23, at which time officers for the 2018-19 year will be elected. Current officers include David Scott as president, Gary Rodman as vice president, John Sperger as clerk, and Amy Pollesch as treasurer. Board policy contains a term limit provision that prohibits anyone from serving in the same office for more than two consecutive years. Mr. Scott is completing his second year as Board President. The remaining officers are completing their first year in their current roles.

## UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

May 21	Regular Meeting	6:00 pm	RHS Community Room
June 18	Regular Meeting	6:00 pm	RHS Community Room

## RMS/C PRESENTS THE WIZARD OF OZ

Ripon Middle School and Catalyst students brought to life one of the most popular stories, The Wizard of Oz, on April 12, 13, and 14. There were approximately 90 students involved in the production from the Cast, Stage Crew, Makeup, and Sound/Lights.



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[www.ripon.k12.wi.us](http://www.ripon.k12.wi.us)

## FAMILY OUTREACH PROGRAM

During our March Family Outreach program Kid Concoctions: Nature Creations, families had the opportunity to investigate a little bit of nature by rock painting, making tissue paper flowers, creating foam creatures, designing pinecone ornaments, dabbing and decorating seasonal trees, stenciling, and enjoying a dirt treat.



## WELCOME TO THE NEW BUSINESS MANAGER



Mr. Jonah Adams will assume the role of Business Manager on July 1, 2018. Mr. Adams has served as a secondary teacher, athletic director, and coach for the past 11 years. Since June 2017, Mr. Adams has also interned as a school business manager for Nekoosa School District under Lynn Knight. He received his Bachelor of

Science degree in English Education from the UW - Stevens Point and currently will complete a Master of Science in Education at the UW- Whitewater in School Business Management in December 2018.

"I am honored to join the Ripon Area School District and work in the business services office. The staff and community members that my family and I have met are kind, talented, and energized; and we are excited to move to the city," stated Mr. Adams. "We are very impressed by the kid-friendly parks, beautiful community, and the values of the school district."

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock shared, "Mr. Adams comes highly recommended from his current district and the professors through the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Business Administration Masters Program. We are excited to have him join our team to help us on our continuous improvement journey: maintaining the district's strong financial health while improving student achievement."

## THE WEBSTER FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$11,500 TO RIPON STUDENTS

During its fifteenth year of distributing grant awards to the community, the Webster Foundation gave the Ripon Area School District over \$11,500 that covers a wide range of activities for 4K-12 students. Grants were received for the following projects:

- Journey Charter School (\$900)
- French Adventure Program (\$500)
- Early Childhood Special Education (\$2000);
- Murray Park/Quest music department (\$1,250);
- Catalyst Charter School (\$500)
- Ripon Middle School (\$3,000)
- RHS FBLA (\$1,000);
- RHS Outdoors Club (\$1,000);
- BRAVE Community Learning Center (\$1,500).

Thank you to the Webster Foundation for its support of these projects which will provide enhanced opportunities for Ripon students.



Mrs. Christine Damm  
Curriculum Director

*Just as the spring season is slowly making its way to Wisconsin, a new season known as 'state testing season' is also upon us. With the shift from winter to spring, we begin to notice remarkable changes taking place outdoors. Significant changes are also taking place within our schools as we witness the remarkable growth that our students have made throughout the school year. Assessment season provides an opportunity to document this progress and celebrate the academic achievements of our students.*

*Ripon Area School District students, along with students across the state of Wisconsin, will participate in the following*

## CURRICULUM CORNER

assessments this testing season: they can apply what they know.

- *Phonological Awareness Literacy Screener (PALS): Grades 4PS-2*
- *WI Forward: Grades 3, 5, 6, 7 (English Language Arts, Math)*
- *WI Forward: Grades 4, 8 (English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies)*
- *WI Forward: Grade 10 (Social Studies only)*
- *ACT Aspire: Grades 9, 10*
- *ACT + Writing: Grade 11*
- *ACT WorkKeys: Grade 11*
- *Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): students in Grades 3-11 with the most significant cognitive disabilities*

*These tests together create the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS). WSAS is a comprehensive statewide program designed to provide information about what students know in core academic areas and whether*

*Much like the four seasons in Wisconsin predict the changing weather patterns, the testing season is a prediction of student mastery of academic standards. Just as each season in Wisconsin provides opportunity for change, testing season provides an opportunity to reflect on the academic growth and achievement of our students. Test results will help prepare educators and students for a new academic year. We are sensitive to the fact that much like the weather during each changing season, the results acquired during testing season are not the only measure of student success. For this reason, we are committed to creating a balanced education system that uses multiple measures to gauge student success. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming testing season, please feel free to contact me at dammc@ripon.k12.wi.us.*

## THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISTRICT:

- Condon Oil Co., Inc
- Grace English Lutheran Church
- Webster Foundation
- Ripon Girls Hoops Club
- Fond du Lac Retired Educators
- Silver Creek Dentistry
- Nordic Mountain
- Diedrich Agency
- Green Bay Gamblers
- Edward Jones
- Animal House
- Timber Rattlers
- Hillside Dental
- WI Herd Basketball
- Boarder's Hotel
- Headliners
- Cousins Subs
- The 10 Iron
- Baird GM
- Milwaukee Wave
- Blue Design Co.
- Milwaukee Brewers
- WEA

## FRENCH ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Twenty two French students accompanied by their teachers will be visiting from May 14-May 28. The bilingual group will be coming from Ecole Jeannine Manueal in Paris, France. The French students have been placed with families of students from Murray Park/Quest. The students and families are anxious for their arrival and have been skyping or emailing their French families. One of the unique opportunities for the French to experience this year will be visiting the Alpaca farm in Ripon.



## SRO HENNING LEADS THE ACE PROGRAM

Murray Park and Quest fifth grade students began meeting with Ripon School Resource Officer Bret Henning. A.C.E. is a program presented by the Ripon Police Department, as a tool for teaching students about substance abuse related issues, essential life skills, and character education. A.C.E. also incorporates other important topics like responsibility, choices, consequences, and internet safety. The program is six weeks long and concludes with a Graduation Ceremony on May 25.



## SUMMER SCHOOL

June 18 - July 20  
8:00 am - 12:10 pm  
No sessions on July 4th

## CHARTER SCHOOL PROJECT SHOWCASE NIGHTS

May 10	Catalyst	5:00-7:00pm
May 17	Quest	6:00-7:30pm
May 24	Journey	6:00-7:00pm

## RMS/CATALYST SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

RMS/Catalyst seventh and eighth grade choir students participated in the Solo and Ensemble Festival recently. They had the opportunity to demonstrate their musical skills in front of a judge, peers and parents as they were judged in five categories. This was an excellent event for students to gain confidence and grow in their musical abilities.



## ACADEMIC BOWL

Congratulations to the Academic Bowl for an amazing representation of Ripon High School and Lumen Charter School at the conference meet. The team placed 5th overall and had numerous individuals place in a variety of categories such as Algebra II, Short Stories and Poetry, Chemistry, British or American Literature, Geography, and Physics. Eight students placed in the top three in their categories.

## MATH MEET

Ripon Middle School hosted a record number of students for its middle school math meet. 114 students from four area schools competed in three rounds of mathematical problem solving. Ripon fifth grade students walked away with an impressive five out of six individual awards for the night. Two sixth grade teams earned recognition with third place and sixth place. A seventh grade student scored first place among all seventh grade students at the competition, and an eighth grade student took third place among his peers.



## WINTER READING CHALLENGES



BPES/Journey held a reading celebration. The theme was READ SUMO(re) BOOKS! and READ S'MORE BOOKS. The celebration featured cheering for our sumo teachers and enjoying yummy S'mores.



MPES/Quest held a Winter Reading Challenge with the goal to break 180,000 reading minutes. Together, they read 200,123 minutes.

## RIPON RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR COMMITMENT TO EMPOWERING STUDENTS

The Ripon Area School District has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished District for having had 20 percent or more of its students in each grade, K-12, participate in a PLTW program during the 2016-17 school year. It is one of just over 30 districts across the U.S. to receive this honor and one of only five districts in Wisconsin.

The PLTW Distinguished District recognition honors districts committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in engineering, computer science and biomedical programs. Ripon is unique in that PLTW is offered to all students in grade K-8 through the Launch and Gateway programs. At the high school level, all sophomores are required to take the Principles of Engineering course and have the option to take a PLTW Engineering Pathway and/or Computer Science Pathway which offer additional PLTW courses to them over their high school career.

The program is possible through the support of the School Board, Curriculum Director Chrissy Damm, our principals, Technology Department and our staff. Ripon has been fortunate to have significant community partners such as Alliance Laundry and Ripon Printers helping to build the program through donations and programming support. "The partnership is paying off. We are very excited about our collaboration with area businesses and know their help has been a great asset in getting us to this point in our journey to build the workforce in our area," said Superintendent Dr. Mary Whitrock.



The Ripon Area School District showcased their Project Lead the Way Program at the 2018 Project Lead the Way Day at the Capitol on March 21. Mrs. Ernst and five students represented Murray Park/Quest at the event. This year's program featured nine schools from around the state.

This event brings together public, private, and charter schools' students and educators, business leaders and policymakers from across the state who are passionate about learning, discovery, and innovation.

## STUDENTS AND STAFF RECOGNIZED BY THE RIPON BOARD OF EDUCATION



Congratulations to the students who earned the opportunity to compete at the Regional Spelling Bee competition. They were recognized by the Board of Education at their March 19th meeting.



Congratulations to Mrs. Tanya Monet-Bakken, RHS Science Teacher for recently earning her National Board Certification! The Board of Education recognized Mrs. Monet-Bakken for this outstanding achievement at their February 21 meeting



The RHS Cheer Team was recognized at the March 19th Board of Education meeting for having placed at Regionals and qualifying to compete at State.



The Board of Education recognized RHS art students for having been selected to have their artwork on display at the State Art Exhibit in Madison. Congratulations on your accomplishments!



The Board of Education recognized the Grade Level Winners of the Noetic Learning Math Test. The students were challenged to answer 20 math story problems in only 40 minutes! Congratulations!

**Administrative Services Center**  
748-4600  
1120 Metomen Street  
P.O. Box 991  
Superintendent: Dr. Mary Whitrock  
Business Manager: Mr. JJ Gutman

**Barlow Park Elementary School**  
**Journey Charter School**  
Grades PreK-2  
748-1550  
100 Ringstad Drive  
Principal: Mrs. Tanya Sanderfoot

**Murray Park Elementary School**  
**Quest Elementary Charter School**  
Grades 3-5  
748-4695  
64 Sunset Avenue  
Principal: Mrs. Renee Bunge

**Ripon Middle School**  
**Catalyst Charter Middle School**  
Grades 6-8  
748-4638  
750 Tiger Drive  
Principal: Mr. Rick Bunge

**Ripon High School**  
**Lumen Charter High School**  
Grades 9-12  
748-4616  
850 Tiger Drive  
Principal: Mr. Randy Hatlen  
Assistant Principal: Mr. Bill Kinziger

**Crossroads Academy**  
Grades 9-12  
Principal: Mrs. Julie Krackow

**Curriculum Department**  
Director: Mrs. Christine Damm

**Technology Department**  
Director: Mrs. Mandy Froehlich

**Ripon Board of Education**  
President: David Scott  
Vice President: Gary Rodman  
Clerk: John Sperger  
Treasurer: Amy Pollesch  
Members: David Olson  
Tom Stellmacher  
Andy Lyke  
Nicole Kutz-Menard  
Josh Rieder

**Board Meetings**  
Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in the Ripon High School Community Room at 6:00 p.m. Any additional meetings are duly posted at the Ripon Public Library, at the Ripon City Hall, and at all district buildings. For additional information contact the school district administrative office at 748-4600.

The Ripon Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap or any other characteristic protected by law.



**EL FAMILY NIGHT**

EL Family Night was held at the high school on February 21. Nearly 50 family members were in attendance to learn about maintaining healthful eating habits at home. Briony Storz presented to families about the importance of eating a balanced diet, how to involve children in the kitchen and sanitary cooking practices. Families participated in preparing snacks from the different food groups. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time together and try new foods.



**RESUMEN DE NOTICIAS ESCOLARES PARA NUESTROS RESIDENTES DE HABLA ESPAÑOLA**

**Candidatos en F Re-Elegidos para el Consejo Escolar de Ripon**  
En la elección del 3 de abril, los candidatos de turno Andy Lyke, Nicole Kutz-Menard, y John Sperger fueron re-elegidos para el Consejo Escolar de Educación de Ripon por un término de tres años. Andy Lyke recibió 1,404 votos, John Sperger recibió 1,108 votos, y Nicole Kutz-Menard recibió 107 votos. Según los estatutos del estado, el Consejo tendrá su reunión anual de reorganización el 23 de abril, en la cual los oficiales para el año 2018-19 serán elegidos. Los oficiales actuales incluyen David Scott como presidente, Gary Rodman como vice-presidente, John Sperger como secretario, y Amy Pollesch como Tesorera. Las cláusulas del Consejo contienen una provisión de límite de tiempo que prohíbe a quien sea en servir en la misma oficina por más de dos años consecutivos. El señor Scott está completando su segundo año como Presidente del Consejo. Los oficiales restantes están completando su primer año en sus posiciones actuales.

**Bienvenida al Nuevo Gerente Administrativo**  
El distrito se complace en anunciar que el señor Jonah Adams asumirá la posición de Gerente Administrativo el 1 de julio de 2018. El señor Adams viene a RASD de las Escuelas Públicas de Wisconsin Rapids donde sirvió como maestro de secundaria, director atlético, y como entrenador durante los últimos 11 años. El señor Adams recibió su título de Bachiller en las Ciencias de Educación en Inglés de UW en Stevens Point y actualmente está completando su Maestría en Ciencias de Educación en UW – Whitewater en la Escuela de Administración de Empresas en diciembre de 2018. Como maestro de Inglés en middle y high school para las Escuelas Públicas de Wisconsin Rapids. Desde 2008, fungió como maestro de Inglés en middle y high school en el Distrito de las Escuelas Públicas en Wisconsin Rapids. Antes de tomar cursos para la licencia de gerente de empresa, el contribuyo con el distrito sirviendo como entrenador de junior high football, entrenador asistente de track, y Director Atlético de Junior High en varias oportunidades durante su tiempo en East Junior High School. Además de su posición como maestro, el señor Adams ha servido como gerente administrativo interino para el Distrito Escolar de Nekoosa desde junio de 2017 bajo Lynn Knight.

**Reconocimiento Nacional para el Comité de Empoderamiento de los Estudiantes**  
El Distrito Escolar del Área de Ripon ha sido reconocido como un Distrito Distinguido en el Proyecto Dirigiendo el Camino “Project Lead The Way, (con siglas en inglés: PLTW) por tener el 20 por ciento de sus estudiantes de cada grado, desde Kindergarten hasta 12º grado participando en un programa de PLTW durante el año escolar 2016-17. Es uno de los 30 distritos a lo largo de los Estados Unidos en recibir este honor y uno de los cinco distritos de Wisconsin. El reconocimiento del Distrito Distinguido de PLTW reconoce a los distritos comprometidos en incrementar el acceso al estudiante, participación, y logro en ingeniería, ciencias de la computación y programas biomédicos. Ripon es el único en que PLTW es ofrecido a todos los estudiantes desde Kindergarten hasta 8º grado a través de los programas de Launch y Gateway. Al nivel de high school, es requerido que todos los estudiantes en sophomore tomen el curso de Principios de Ingeniería y que tengan la opción de tomar PLTW Engineering Pathway y/o Computer Science Pathway el cual ofrece cursos adicionales de PLTW para ellos durante su carrera en high school.

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP RIPON SCHOOLS**

**Boxtops Needed** — Clip the Boxtops for Education logo on many household products and drop-off at any school office. Some of the many products with the logo are: Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, General Mills, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex, and Huggies.

**STEP Volunteers** — Senior citizens can save on property taxes by volunteering in Ripon schools. Contact the District office at 748-4600 to get more information.

**READ Dogs** — Bring your dog to school and let students read to “Fido.” Contact Ms. Pat Grahn at 920-572-6585 to learn about training your dog in the READ program.

**Journey Governance Council**

President: Steve Nankervis  
Vice President: Shelly Kastenschmidt  
Treasurer: Carrie Naparalla  
Secretary: Nicole Mashock  
Members: Amber Dalziel  
Heather Donovan  
Brett Long  
Joel Spaulding  
Lisa Rollin

**Quest Governance Council**

President: Jamie Dragolovich  
Vice President: Becki Baird  
Treasurer: Lesley Ernst  
Secretary: Terrina Goeden  
Members: Jessica Stollfuss  
Erica Schultz  
Jessica Johnson  
Gretchen Geiger  
Lori Hron

**Catalyst Governance Council**

President: Candie Baker  
Vice President: Renee Schoff  
Secretary/Treasurer: Nicole Bauman  
Members: Inga Johnson-Hershoff  
Julie Elliott  
Shelly Kastenschmidt  
Sandy Wisneski

**Lumen Governance Council**

Members: Pat Grahn  
Paula White  
Adam Jacobi  
Jean Rigden  
Paul Wiegel  
Jesse Schwingle

**STAY INFORMED ABOUT RIPON SCHOOLS**

**District Website** — The website includes current news and a calendar of events for the entire district.

**Facebook** — Dozens of albums and hundreds of photos from school activities fill the District’s Facebook page. Anyone can access it from the District’s web page.

**Twitter** — Numerous tweets about school events and activities cover the District’s Twitter page. Anyone can access it from the District’s web page.

**Email News Network** — Sign up for free email updates of news about what’s happening in Ripon schools. To subscribe send an email to: Mary Whitrock at whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us.