

Ripon Area School District
Ripon School News

"MORE CHOICES. BETTER RESULTS."

APRIL 2014

WWW.RIPON.K12.WI.US

From the Superintendent's Desk



Spring is indeed in the air - finally! The school year is in its final term and we did not have another snow day!

This edition of the Ripon Area School District Newsletter is filled with celebration. The District, many teachers, and our students received awards and recognition for outstanding achievement. At the recent area superintendent's meeting, State Superintendent Tony Evers recognized Ripon as a Level III Pacesetter School for impressive student AP access and excellence in AP exam scores in the state. The Level III distinction denotes that over 10% of Ripon students take an AP exam and over 60% score a 3 or higher on the 5-point scale. Many colleges and universities grant credit and placement for scores of 3, 4 or 5.

Even our city received recognition. In March, Ripon was named one of only 387 communities across the country acknowledged by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) as a 2014 Best Community for Music Education. Truly there is much to be proud of in our city.

After many months studying the facilities needs in the district and engaging in conversations with neighbors, the Board of Education has finalized a survey to ensure every voting member of the community can provide feedback regarding four facilities plans. A special facilities pull-out section has been included with this edition of the district newsletter to provide all community residents with up-to-date information regarding the plans outlined in the survey.

In the last district newsletter I shared the District's good fortune to have been able to hire a new business manager. Over the past two months, we have been working to find strong candidates for the positions of Student Services Director, Spanish teacher, tech ed teacher, school psychologist, and library media specialist. This is the time of year that final budget preparation and planning occurs as the 2014-15 school year is just four short months away.

Respectfully yours,
 Dr. Mary Whitrock
 Go Tigers!



At our Family Outreach program, over 20 families spent time together on the first day of spring creating various crafts. From 'Red Fish, Blue Fish' and shamrocks to rainbows and bunnies, each family left with several craft items to help spruce up their home for spring!

Project Showcase Events for Charter Schools

~ See student learning in action ~

May 15	Quest	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
May 22	Catalyst	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
May 27	Journey	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars!

Incumbents Re-Elected

All three incumbents were re-elected to the Ripon Board of Education for three-year terms in the April 1 election. Tom Stellmacher (401 votes), Barb Schultz (370 votes), and Sherry Muskovitch (366 votes) received the highest number of votes and Gary Wetzel (224 votes) finished fourth.

In accordance with state statute, the Board will hold its annual reorganization meeting on April 28, at which time officers for the 2014-15 year will be elected. Current officers include David Scott as president, David Olson as vice president, Barb Schultz as clerk, and Gary Rodman as treasurer. Board policy contains a term limit provision that prohibits anyone from serving in the same office for more than two consecutive years. The officers are completing their first year in their current roles, with the exception of David Olson, who is in his second year as vice president.

Community Forum

Tuesday, April 24th
 6:30 p.m.
 Ripon Public Library
 in the Silver Creek Room

You're Invited to Coffee with the Superintendent

Friday, April 25th
 11:30am
 Mugs Coffee House

Participants are responsible for their own food and drink.
 No purchase necessary.

Summer School Begins June 16

The District's K-12 Summer School opens on June 16 for its 5-week session with enrichment classes, remedial classes, swimming lessons, and athletic programs. Classes are held at all four buildings. Registration materials are available at each school. Student enrollments are counted for state aid which reduces local property taxes.



Facilities Planning Survey

Offering the best educational environment for our children and staff

Your Feedback Counts!

Facilities Survey Set for April 21-May 5

The community-wide facilities survey will open on April 21 and be open until May 5. The Ripon School Board finalized the community survey at a work session on April 7 and shared the survey with the City Council on April 8. A sample copy of the complete survey is included as an insert in this newsletter. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please feel free call the district office and ask for Dr. Whitrock. There is also a Public Forum scheduled for April 24 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Ripon Public Library in the Silver Creek room. Please note, each survey contains a unique code. To receive additional surveys/codes for other adults in your household, please call the District Office at (920) 748-4600.

Community feedback is critical as the Board plans for the future. Please let the Board know your thoughts regarding the direction of facilities in the district by completing the survey. The final results from the survey will be shared at the May 19 School Board meeting. More information regarding the facilities planning process is posted on the district website under the "Community" tab.

The survey will consist of basic demographic information, background information on the facility plans, advantages and disadvantages for each plan option and preferred site locations for any future middle school or high school construction. All survey responses are kept confidential and returned directly to School Perceptions, an independent Wisconsin-based firm with expertise in conducting community education surveys.

Scores Continue to Exceed State Average

RASD surpassed the state in 22 of 23 testing areas on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE). The District continues to make gains and continues to exceed state averages.

For the second year, math and reading results were based on new, more rigorous proficiency level cut scores, which were implemented by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The new levels mirror proficiency levels used by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The new proficiency level cut scores do not apply to social studies, science, or language arts.

While some year-to-year fluctuation is normal, the District has consistently surpassed state averages. This year, overall RASD scores surpassed the state average by 10 percentage points in 3rd grade reading and 9 percentage points in 8th grade math. These scores are significant as research shows that 3rd grade reading and 8th grade math scores are predictors of future academic success for students.

The results reflect the high quality instruction RASD provides for all students in every school. Reading in 10th grade was just below the state average. This is an area of focus for the district. Math scores overall did increase from last year. The specifically designed interventions and enrichment opportunities being provided to support and challenge students in all buildings continue to make a difference.



The Junior Achievement's Business Challenge was held on Wednesday, March 26 at UWO-Reeve Union, Oshkosh.

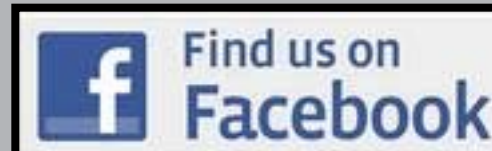
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Best Communities for Music

The Ripon Area School District has been named as a NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation 2014's Best Communities for Music Education (BCME).

This year, the NAMM Foundation designated 376 districts as Best Communities for Music Education and 96 individual schools as Support Music Merit Award winners. These districts and schools set the bar in offering students access to comprehensive music education. Of the 365 districts identified this year, 87 were from the Midwest, with Ripon being one of only 13 from WI.

The BCME program applauds the efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders working to assure that music education is part of the core curriculum. More than 2000 schools and school districts participated in this year's survey resulting in a 21% increase in designations.

"These schools and districts make a strong commitment to music education in the core curriculum supporting its essential value to a well-rounded education for every child," said Mary Luehrsen, NAMM Foundation executive director. "Strong, engaging programs that offer students access to music cannot thrive in a vacuum. The Best Communities designation and the Support Music Merit Award bring hard-won visibility to music classes, programs and departments that are keeping music education alive in our schools."

The NAMM Foundation with the assistance of researchers at The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service of Lawrence, Kansas (an affiliate of the University of Kansas) evaluate schools and districts based on funding, staffing of highly qualified teachers, commitment to standards, and access to music instruction. Now in its 15th year, the BCME designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and greater access to music education.

Culinary Kids

A group of kindergarten students had an opportunity to learn with RASD Food Service Director Briony Storz during the recent Journey Gallery Walk. The kindergartners explored the question, "How can we as kindergartners influence others to choose healthy lifestyle choices?" Prior to the event, the students met with Mrs. Storz to do some food taste testing, food trivia and "My Plate" activities. The students picked & created healthy snack recipes from each of the five food groups. The students presented the recipes to their classmates & families at the Journey Gallery Walk. Mrs. Storz and the kindergartners put the recipes into a cookbook for the students to take home.



Two students give their presentation to parents and visitors at Journey's Gallery Walk.

MISSION STATEMENT

**"WE INVEST IN LEARNING TODAY
FOR OUR TOMORROW."**



B.R.A.V.E.

BRAVE (Building Resiliency, Assets and Values in Everyone) offers support to students and families through a variety of programming throughout the school year. The program mixes academic tutoring, enrichment activities and family outreach programs to offer reliable high-quality opportunities.

The BRAVE program began in 2001 when the Ripon Area School District applied for and received a \$1.4 million, three-year grant to establish a K-12 after-school program using the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) model. Twelve years later the program continues to thrive with an impressive number of students attending. How many? Close to 700 students participated in BRAVE last school year. Family Outreach numbers were just shy of 160 attendees.

Since BRAVE takes place right in our school buildings, it is convenient for students to join BRAVE staff following the dismissal bell. Elementary students begin their time at BRAVE with a light snack and a supervised recess to burn off some energy, followed by Homework Help time. Students are assisted with assigned homework and/or a subject that is difficult for them. Many district personnel choose to extend their work day and provide homework help. Their expertise makes a huge difference for our students. District staff, trained

tutors from Ripon College and Ripon High School and some retired educators, work with students.

After homework it is time for enrichment classes! A variety of activities are offered to provide something new and interesting to most students. Some examples of classes offered at Barlow Park/Journey are Pop Bottle Science, Ocean Wonders, and Jungle Safari. Some favorites at Murray Park/Quest are Scrumptious Snacks, Hooked on Crochet, and Chess Masters.

Homework Help is the major role that BRAVE plays at RMS/Catalyst. Students are supported again by district teachers and staff as well as tutors from Ripon College and Ripon High School. Following homework time, middle-school students can come to the popular Tiger's Den, an in-school youth center. Students are supervised while they enjoy a variety of planned and free-choice activities each afternoon.

At the high school level, students are offered homework help one afternoon each week in whatever subject they need assistance. While the original grant supported more high school activities, it quickly became apparent that due to the number of athletic and extra-curricular options available to high school students already, BRAVE programming needed to be tailored to better fit students' needs.

While most programming

takes place immediately after school, BRAVE also serves our students and families in other ways. At RMS the open media center is operated by BRAVE before school so students can have a place to study or work on their homework in a supervised setting. Special event classes such as Mountain Biking, Space Exploration and Physics Fun Force (through a partnership with Ripon College) have been offered on Saturday mornings for MPES/QES.

In recent years BRAVE has partnered with the district's 4PS program to offer Family Outreach Events. These fun-filled, educational events are hands-on and family friendly. Some recent events include Pastabilities (yummy family cooking) and Family Concotions (science experiments to enjoy at home).

BRAVE is mainly funded through the school district's community services budget to provide these supervised programs. In addition, students who register to participate in enrichment classes pay a registration fee that covers some of the cost of those activities. Homework Help is always free to families. Students who need assistance academically can find the help they need in the BRAVE program. What isn't covered by fees and the community services budget, is funded through grants and donations such as the Webster Foundation and the United Way.

Thank You for Contributions to the District:

A to Z Vending
Scott Briskie
Sally Albrecht
Mary Park
Webster Foundation Grants
Lee Cotton
Aaron Otto
Travis Kovalaske

Todd Bender
Dave Olson
Ron Ernst
Keith Cluppert - Schmidt Lumber
Doug Brewer - Brewer Heating
Jon Heatley - Heatley Electric
Ripon Youth Wrestling Club



SAMPLE

Future Planning The Ripon Area School District wants to be the “district of choice” when:

- Parents are choosing where to send their children to school
- A new family moves to the area
- A great teacher is looking for a job
- A business is looking to relocate or expand

Dear Ripon Parents and Community Members:

From excellent academics to rich arts and exciting athletics, the Ripon Area School District provides something for everyone. We are proud of our students and staff and their accomplishments, both in and out of the classroom.

Over the past few years, we’ve made great progress developing educational initiatives to better prepare our students for careers, college and life after high school. We’ve also been exploring ways to update our aging schools. **This is a particularly good time to consider our options because in 2016 the District will pay off a large loan.** This drop in debt payments will reduce the tax impact of any new spending.

Ultimately, the Board is committed to establishing a Facilities Master Plan based on the priorities of taxpayers. Therefore, we need your input through this community-wide survey. We are working with School Perceptions, a Wisconsin-based firm with expertise in conducting school surveys, to assist us with our data gathering efforts. All survey data is returned to School Perceptions and your identity will remain confidential.

To save on District expenses, we encourage you to take the survey online before May 5:

1. Go to the website:
2. Enter the Survey Access Number:
3. Take the survey!

Your individual access number will appear here on the actual survey

To receive additional surveys for other adults in your household, please call the District Office at (920) 748-4600. If you do not have Internet access or prefer to complete the paper survey, please drop it off at a school office or mail it to:

School Perceptions
319 East Washington Street
Slinger, WI 53086

Final survey results will be reported at the May 19th Board of Education meeting and will also be available on the District website at www.ripon.k12.wi.us. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your thoughts and those of your neighbors will shape the future of our District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Whitrock
District Administrator

David Scott
School Board President

Comments/suggestions:

SAMPLE

SPECIAL FACILITIES SECTION

Programs/Services					
How important are the following factors? <i>Please check your response in the appropriate box.</i>	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not sure/ No opinion	
Developing student employability skills					
Helping students develop a plan for life after high school					
Maintaining competitive high school athletics					
Maintaining small class sizes					
Offering a variety of school activities (forensics, theater, FFA, etc.)					
Offering parent and community education					
Programming for gifted and talented students					
Programming for non-English speaking students (ELL)					
Programming for struggling students at-risk of not graduating					
Programming for students with disabilities					
Providing access to the latest technology					
Scoring high on state and national tests					
Facilities					
How important are the following factors? <i>Please check your response in the appropriate box.</i>	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not sure/ No opinion	
Creating additional middle/high school athletic spaces					
Creating more hands-on learning spaces/experiences					
Having a high school in the city center/near Ingalls Field					
Having a middle school in the city center/near Ingalls Field					
Having the middle school close to the high school					
Improving classroom environments (temperature, daylight)					
Improving school safety/security					
Operating energy efficient buildings					
Providing spaces for community use					

SPECIAL FACILITIES SECTION

Facility Background The District operates four buildings serving over 1,700 students. The Facilities Master Planning Study identified over \$16 million in security/safety upgrades and building maintenance. While the buildings have been well maintained, many of these major expenses cannot be covered in the annual budget.

Barlow Park Elementary was built in 1998 and is located at 100 Ringstad Drive. The 70,700 square foot facility is located on a site of 12.9 acres. The facility is generally in good condition, but the roof will need to be replaced.

Murray Park Elementary was built in 1992 and is located at 64 Sunset Avenue. The 64,300 square foot facility is located on a site of 9.9 acres and is adjacent to Murray Park. The facility is generally in good condition, but the roof and some windows need replacement. Traffic, safety and building security could also be improved.

Ripon Middle School was originally built in 1939 and is located at 651 Metomen Street. The 87,500 square foot facility is located on a site of 4.43 acres. The building is in need of significant repairs and replacement of major systems that are failing or obsolete. The facility study recommends complete replacement of heating and ventilation systems, roofing and windows. Improvements are needed to meet the current building code for accessibility, emergency power and ventilation. Exterior work is needed to avoid further water infiltration. The classrooms are small and wireless access is limited due to concrete construction.

Ripon High School was originally built in 1962 and is located at 850 Tiger Drive. The 196,000 square foot facility is located on a site of 27.4 acres. The facility study recommends replacement of portions of the heating and ventilation system, portions of the roof, increased security measures, replacement of inefficient lighting systems and the emergency power system. The parking lots and drives need repaving. The study also recommends facility modifications to accommodate community and educational needs more readily.

Ripon Middle School The middle school needs a significant investment as noted above. Educationally, many classrooms and the site are significantly undersized compared to modern schools. The school also lacks flexible space for large group meetings and today's evolving technology. Some people have questioned if the District should make any future investment in this 75 year-old building.

The District's referendum debt will be reduced significantly in 2016, which will decrease property taxes by approximately \$127 for each \$100,000 of a home's value. This drop will reduce the tax impact of any new spending.

What advice would you give the Board?	<input type="checkbox"/> Do nothing at this time <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in/maintain the existing middle school <input type="checkbox"/> Consider closing the middle school and invest in a new location <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
When should the middle school be renovated or replaced?	<input type="checkbox"/> Within the next 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Within the next 3 - 10 years <input type="checkbox"/> Within the next 11 - 20 years <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure

Comments/suggestions:

SAMPLE

Revitalize Schools After reviewing the feedback gathered at community workshops and other public meetings, the School Board and Plunkett Raysich Architects developed the following four plans. All of the plans listed below include addressing elementary school maintenance needs. Again, no decisions have been made regarding the scope of any project.

Plan A: Build a new high school/remodel the existing high school to serve as a middle school. The total cost includes land purchase, middle school demolition and modest improvements to the high school. At this time, the plan does not include a pool or auditorium, but are designed so they could be added in the future. Plan A would cost \$39.5 million, representing an estimated annual tax impact of \$205 for \$100,000 of a home's value.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Provides capacity for future growth	Less convenient for middle school students to access high school programs at the high school
Creates flexible/modern learning environments	Potential to increase transportation costs
Reduces traffic congestion	Increases distance between the school and Ingalls Field
Reuses high school and reconfigures under-utilized spaces	

Plan B: Build a new middle school at a new site (yet to be determined), creating capacity for 450 students. The total cost includes land purchase, middle school demolition and significant remodeling at the high school. Plan B would cost \$33.9 million, representing an estimated annual tax impact of \$161 for \$100,000 of a home's value.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Provides capacity for future growth	Less convenient for middle school students to access high school programs at the high school
Creates flexible/modern learning environments	Potential to increase transportation costs
Reuses high school and reconfigures under-utilized spaces	Increases distance between the school and Ingalls Field
Improves traffic flow/reduces congestion	

Plan C: Combine the middle/high school by building an addition onto the high school. The plan maintains the pool, auditorium and adds a gym, cafeteria and classroom space to accommodate all students in grades 6 -12. The plan includes significant upgrades to all building systems and includes middle school demolition. Plan C would cost \$29.1 million, representing an estimated annual tax impact of \$123 for \$100,000 of a home's value.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Improves operational efficiencies by consolidating buildings	Increases traffic congestion
More convenient for sharing staff between middle and high school	Reduces flexibility for future growth
More convenient for middle school students to access high school programs at the high school	Reduces green space
Expands school and event parking	Reduces athletic practice fields

Plan D: Rebuild the middle school at the existing site and includes significant high school remodeling. Plan D would cost \$35.5 million, representing an estimated annual tax impact of \$174 for \$100,000 of a home's value.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Creates flexible/modern learning environments	Does not address/improve traffic congestion
More convenient for middle school students to access high school programs at the high school	Limits green space and athletic fields
More convenient for sharing staff between middle and high school	Disruptive to student learning for the 2-year construction period

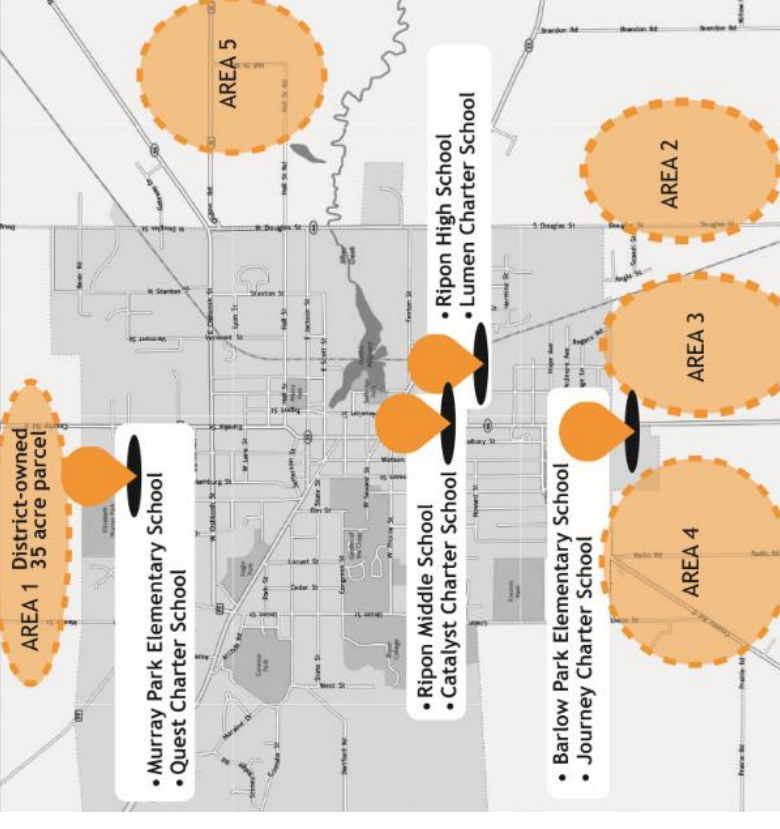
SPECIAL FACILITIES SECTION

School Location

Two of the four plans involve building a school at a new site, possibly requiring the District to purchase land.

The District currently owns 35 acres in Area 1 which is large enough to build a new middle or high school.

The District has not and will not commit to purchasing any property until the long-range facilities plan has been finalized. Therefore, if a new middle or high school were to be built, the Board is looking for your input in terms of the best area to search for land based on the map to the right.



If a majority of the Ripon community members support building a new school on the edge of town, please select ALL areas, based on the map above, that you would like:

Area 1
 Area 2
 Area 3
 Area 4
 Area 5
 No preference

Funding for Operations We are grateful for our community's past support and understand the importance of making fiscally responsible choices. In 2009, the Community approved a six-year referendum to exceed the state revenue limit to fund technology, maintenance and purchase textbooks. In 2015 this funding will end. If the community does not support a replacement referendum, the District is projecting a budget shortfall averaging \$500,000 each year and would need to reduce programs and services to balance the budget.

Would you likely support the continuation of the current \$500,000 operational referendum which would maintain the current tax rate?

Definitely yes
 Probably yes
 Undecided
 Probably no
 Definitely no

Comments/suggestions:

SAMPLE

Plan Overview	Plan A	Plan B	Plan C	Plan D
Builds a new middle school		Yes		Yes
Builds a new high school	Yes			
Closes the existing middle school	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Improves access to parking	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Improves traffic congestion	Yes	Yes	*	
Provides space for future growth	Yes	Yes		
Addresses District-wide maintenance needs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Improves District-wide safety and security	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Addresses ADA (Americans with Disabilities) issues	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total cost (millions)	\$39.5	\$33.9	\$29.1	\$35.5

* Would increase high school neighborhood traffic congestion if street configurations were not changed

Funding Support

Under state law, voters would need to approve a referendum to issue bonds to pay for facility upgrades. The District's referendum debt will be reduced significantly in 2016, which will decrease property taxes by approximately \$127 for each \$100,000 of a home's value. This drop will reduce the tax impact of any new spending and is reflected in the tax-impact calculations. Tax impact calculations also assume a 20-year borrowing period and a conservative 4.5% interest rate.

How likely would you support a referendum for each of the following plans?
Please check or circle your response.

	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Undecided	Probably no	Definitely no
Plan A: Build a new high school Tax impact of \$205 for each \$100,000 of a home's value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan B: Build a new middle school Tax impact of \$161 for each \$100,000 of a home's value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan C: Combine the middle/high school Tax impact of \$123 for each \$100,000 of a home's value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan D: Rebuild the middle school Tax impact of \$174 for each \$100,000 of a home's value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments/suggestions:

SAMPLE

SPECIAL FACILITIES SECTION

Ripon Area School District
 1120 Metomen Street
 PO Box 991
 Ripon, WI 54971

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 Permit No. 197

What is your age?

- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-64
- 65 and older

In which city/township do you reside?

- City of Ripon
- Town of Ripon
- Town of Metomen
- Town of Rosendale
- Town of Springvale
- Village of Fairwater
- Town of Berlin
- Town of Brooklyn
- Town of Green Lake
- Town of Nepeuskun
- Town of Utica
- Other

Do you live in the Ripon Area School District?

- Yes
- No

Are you an employee of the Ripon Area School District?

- Yes
- No

Do you have children attending our schools?

- Yes
- No

If you have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend? (Select all that apply)

- Murray Park
- Barlow Park
- Quest (charter)
- Journey (charter)
- Preschool
- Ripon Middle School
- Catalyst (charter)
- Ripon High School
- Lumen (charter)
- Crossroads (program)
- Private School
- Open enroll in another district
- Home School
- Other

Please mark all other relationships you have with the District:

- Parent/guardian of child younger than elementary age
- Graduate of RASD
- Parent/guardian of RASD graduate(s)
- Volunteer at a RASD school
- Business partner with RASD
- Grandparent of RASD student

Communications Good communication is critical to our mission. We believe all District residents should understand our plans and where their tax dollars are being spent.

How interested are you in receiving information about RASD?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not interested

How would you like to receive information regarding RASD? (Mark all that apply)

- Email
- District website
- Attend public forums
- Ripon Commonwealth Press
- Facebook
- School Board meetings
- District Newsletter/mailings
- Twitter
- Other:

I am satisfied with the communications that come from RASD.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure/no opinion

Comments/suggestions to improve communications:

SAMPLE

Thank you for your participation. We sincerely value your time and feedback!

Current Resident

SAMPLE



Public Forum

Do you have questions or comments regarding the survey or the facility planning process?

We want to hear from you!

Where: Ripon Public Library - Silver Creek Room

When: Thursday, April 24

Time: 6:30pm-7:30pm

Please complete the survey by mail or online before May 5th.



Innovative Grant Awards Announced

The Ripon Education Foundation has announced two additional recipients of its 2013-2014 Innovative Teaching Grants totaling close to \$3,000. Since 2002, the Foundation has awarded 47 grants to support innovative teaching activities. The grants are funded by tax-deductible donations to the Education Foundation. Generous donations enabled the Foundation to award two additional grants this spring.

Receiving the two additional Innovative Teaching Grants were Jeanne Hall, 6th grade teacher at Ripon Middle School and Deb Norton, 5th grade teacher at Murray Park Elementary.

Jeanne Hall requested \$1,600 for a 6th grade project called "Connect Me - Globally and Culturally." The purpose of the grant was to obtain teaching materials and technology to help students develop cultural and global awareness, as well as to further deepen their geo-literacy skills. Jeanne Hall shared, "It is vital that our young people have the ability to use geographic understanding and geographic reasoning to make sound decisions. It is important for the students to become global thinkers and maintain a respect for the cultures, traditions, and celebrations that are unlike their own." The technology and materials purchased with this grant funding will be used by additional students over the next few years.

Deb Norton submitted a proposal to support a pilot project of Classroom Redesign of Student Learning Spaces. This project was funded for \$1,350. The goal according to Deb Norton was to "redesign the 5th grade classroom learning space to inspire and engage learning for all students of every ability." The number one change students wanted was new student desks that provide more surface area, aid in movement and flexibility, and allow for innovative seating arrangements to meet the needs of various learning experiences. This award provides the funds to purchase 27 desks chosen by students with teacher and consultant guidance. The desks will be able to be used by students in subsequent years.

The Education Foundation is an independent 50(c) (3) non-profit corporation founded in 1997 whose mission is to expand educational opportunities for Ripon K-12 students. Since its founding, the Foundation has awarded over \$148,000 in the form of college scholarships, innovative teaching grants, and support for programs such as the Art Presenter program, the High Mileage Vehicle competition, the RHS Reunion Coordinator, and the Jennie Long Tutoring program.

Two Ripon Teachers Recognized

The Ripon Area School District Board is pleased to announce that elementary gifted and talented program teacher Cindi Pokorny and Murray Park 5th grade teacher Jaqueline Charapata have been selected to receive the Wisconsin Association of Colleges of Teacher Education Early Career Educator Award.

Ms. Pokorny and Ms. Charapata's selection for this honor acknowledges the positive impact each has had on their school communities as well as their work in designing outstanding learning experiences for the students of the Ripon Area School District.

WACTE's Early Career Educator Award is presented to an outstanding educator within the first three years of his/her professional career. The Wisconsin Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (WACTE) is a professional organization composed of Wisconsin institutions that prepare students for initial teacher licensure. WACTE's mission is to prepare globally-minded teachers who provide leadership in developing a world-class education system in Wisconsin; close performance gaps and achieve new levels of excellence and equity in their classrooms; and articulate to prospective teachers the value of teaching as a career that directly impacts student learning and makes a difference in the world. Ms. Pokorny is a graduate of Ripon College. Ms. Charapata is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh.



Three students qualified for the regional spelling bee including: Maria Meincke, 6th grade; Dylan Schattschneider, 7th grade; and Sadie Cumberbatch, 5th grade. Sadie Cumberbatch will be competing at the state spelling bee in Madison on March 29th. David Lyke, 8th grade, will compete in the state geography bee in Madison on April 4th.

Herb Kohl Awards

Ripon High School is proud to announce that two students and one teacher have been selected for special recognition by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation, Inc.

Senior April Kendal has been selected for a Herb Kohl Initiative \$1,000 Scholarship. Senior John Lyke has been selected for a Herb Kohl Excellence \$1,000 Scholarship. Band teacher Mrs. Sandy Polcyn has been selected for a Herb Kohl Fellowship \$1,000 grant. The \$1,000 awards are being made to 100 teachers, their schools, and 187 graduating high school students.

Along with other recipients across CESA 5 and 6, these individuals will be recognized at a special reception, luncheon, and program on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at Waupaca High School.

The Kohl Foundation Scholarship and Fellowship program was established by Herb Kohl, U.S. Senator (Retired) in 1990. To date the Foundation has awarded \$8.6 million to Wisconsin educators, students and schools. "Education is the key to the future of Wisconsin and our nation. I am very proud of the accomplishments of these students and teachers, and look forward to the great contributions they will make in the future," Kohl said.

Congratulations to April, John, and Mrs. Polcyn on their accomplishments—and for representing the hard work and accomplishments of their classmates and colleagues.

Check the web for 100s of photos! www.ripon.k12.wi.us



The College Board has certified Mr. Goeldi as an Advanced Placement (AP) teacher for his AP Physics course and Mr. Markon for his AP Chemistry course. This certification allows RHS/LCH transcripts to designate Mr. Goeldi and Mr. Markon's courses as AP courses.



BPES students enjoy performing for parents, family, and friends at the recent Music Demonstration Night.

Upcoming Board Meetings

April 21 - Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m RHS room 167

April 28 - Board Retreat
4:00 p.m Ripon College Pickard Commons

April 28 - Reorganization Meeting
7:00 p.m RHS room 167

May 12 - Board Work Session
6:00 p.m RHS room 167

May 19 - Regular Board Meeting
7:00 p.m RHS room 167



RMS students present their projects at Night of Knowledge, a first for RMS.

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

Barlow Park Elementary School
Journey Charter School
Grades PreK-2
748-1550
100 Ringstad Drive
Principal: Dr. Myra Misles-Krhin

Murray Park Elementary School
Quest Elementary Charter School
Grades 3-5
748-4695
64 Sunset Avenue
Principal: Mr. Randy Hatlen

Ripon Middle School
Catalyst Charter Middle School
Grades 6-8
748-4638
651 Metomen Street
Principal: Mr. Tom Hoh

Ripon High School
Lumen Charter High School
Grades 9-12
748-4616
850 Tiger Drive
Principal: Mr. Dan Tjernagel
Assistant Principal: Mr. Rick Bunge

Crossroads Academy
Grades 8-12
Principal: Mr. Dan Tjernagel

Ripon Board of Education
President: David Scott
Vice President: David Olson
Clerk: Barb Schultz
Treasurer: Gary Rodman
Members: Heather Hartling
Andy Lyke
Sherry Muskavitch
Thomas Stellmacher
Dan Zimmerman

Board Meetings
Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in Ripon High School's multi-purpose room 167 at 7:00 p.m. Any additional meetings are duly posted at the Ripon Public Library and at the Ripon City Hall. 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.



2013-14 Scholarship Drive



The Ripon Education Foundation is holding its annual door-to-door scholarship drive on the weekend of April 26 and 27, 2014. High school students will visit each house in Ripon during the weekend to collect scholarship contributions. District residents living outside the city will receive mail-in contribution information.

The Foundation raises money each spring for Ripon students graduating from high school and enrolling in technical, 2-year, and four year col-

leges. Since 1999 the Foundation has awarded to 141 students totaling more than \$114,000 raised from the community.

All the money collected in the scholarship drive is awarded to students. Half of the scholarship money is awarded by lottery drawing to students who participated in the scholarship drive. Contributions may be mailed anytime to the Ripon Education Foundation, PO Box 395, Ripon, WI 54971.



Lumen High School students visit classrooms to share the gift of reading with fellow RASD students.



Resumen de noticias escolares para nuestros residentes de habla española

Titulares Reelegidos al Consejo de las Escuelas de Ripon

Los tres titulares oficiales fueron reelegidos al Consejo de Educación de Ripon por un término de tres años en la elección del 1° de abril. Tom Stellmacher (401 votos), Barb Schultz (370 votos), y Sherry Muskovitch (366 votos) recibieron el número de votos más altos y Gary Wetzel (224 votos) quien terminó en 4° lugar. De acuerdo con los estatutos del estado, El Consejo sostendrá su reunión de reorganización el 28 de abril, en la cual los oficiales para el año 2014-2015 serán elegidos.

Se Anunció la Premiación de Becas Innovadoras

La Fundación de Educación de Ripon ha anunciado dos recipientes adicionales para las Becas de Enseñanza Innovadora con un total de cerca de \$3,000. Quienes recibieron adicionalmente las dos Becas de Enseñanza Innovadora fueron Jeanne Hall, maestra de 6° grado de Ripon Middle School y Deb Norton, maestra de 5° grado de Murray Park Elementary.

Encuesta de Instalaciones y Forum Comunitario

El Consejo Escolar estará enviando por correo una encuesta a todos los residentes de RASD para saber qué es lo que piensa la comunidad en relación a futuros proyectos en las instalaciones. La encuesta estará abierta del 21 de abril hasta el 5 de mayo. Miembros de la comunidad están invitados al Forum Público el jueves 24 de abril a las 6:30 p.m. en la Biblioteca Pública de Ripon para compartir preguntas o comentarios en relación a la encuesta sobre las instalaciones y al proceso de planificación de las instalaciones.

Dos Maestras de Ripon Reconocidas como Educadoras Excepcionales

El Consejo del Distrito Escolar del Area de Ripon se complace en anunciar que las maestras del programa elemental de dotados y talentosos Cindi Pokorny y la maestra de 5° grado Jaqueline Charapata de Murray Park han sido seleccionadas para recibir el Premio de la Asociación de Universidades para la Educación de Maestros de Recientes Educadores.

Ripon Reconocido por NAMM 2014 como Las Mejores Comunidades para Música

El Distrito Escolar del Area de Ripon ha sido nombrado como NAMM (con siglas en inglés) (Asociación Nacional de Comerciantes de Música) Fundación 2014 de las Mejores Comunidades para la Educación de Música (BCME). Este año, la Fundación NAMM designó a 376 distritos como las Mejores Comunidades para la Educación de Música y 96 escuelas individuales como ganadores del Premio de Mérito de Apoyo a la Música. Estos distritos y escuelas fijaron la barra en ofrecer a los estudiantes acceso a la educación de música amplia. De los 365 distritos identificados este año, 87 fueron del Medio Oeste, siendo Ripon uno de los únicos 13 de Wisconsin.

La Escuela de Verano Empieza el 16 de junio

La Escuela de Verano del distrito de K-12 abre el 16 de junio para su sesión de 5 semanas con clases de enriquecimiento, clases remediales, lecciones de natación, y programas atléticos. Las clases serán sostenidas en los cuatro edificios. Los materiales de inscripción estas disponibles en cada escuela. La inscripción de estudiantes cuenta con ayuda del estado lo cual reduce los impuestos de la propiedad locales.

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: Shelly Kastenschmidt
Vice President: Melissa Worthington
Treasurer: Wayne Webster
Secretary: Carrie Naparalla
Members: Bethany Nodoff
Amy Pollesch
Bill Schultz
Carrie Tjernagel

Quest Governance Council

President: Becki Baird
Treasurer: Pam Neper
Secretary: Nicky Yeomans
Members: Drew Diedrich
Julia Messitte
Brenda Rapp
Keri Simacek
Bill Whitehead
Skip Wittler

Catalyst Governance Council

President: Adam Mielke
Vice President: Jack Christ
Treasurer: Jean Rigden
Secretary: Candie Baker
Members: Tim Scottberg
Sandy Wisneski

Lumen Governance Council

Co-President: Deano Pape
Co-President: Jeanne Williams
Treasurer: Pat Grahn
Members: Paula Hageman
Adam Jacobi
Stacy Pethke
Phil Schaffer
Paul Wiegel

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.

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