

From the Superintendent's Desk



Staying current with the construction progress at the 6-12 facility is a bit like the toggle between winter and spring this year in Wisconsin; while one part of the state may be warm and sunny another is digging out from a snowfall. With the Ripon Area School District's construction, the same is true. As the new additions for the high school opened to students and staff this past month, demolition and earthwork

in the north corridor began for the new middle school space. Visit the District website or Facebook page to stay current with the work timeline and progress on each phase of the project.

The April edition of the Ripon Area School District Newsletter provides updates on the school board elections and legislative changes affecting education. In addition, you will find information on open enrollment, summer school, transition resources for families, and the date for the first Charter Task Force meeting.

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 Footloose 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. In the Achievement section on page 3, we celebrate the many ways Ripon students excelled in the areas of science, mathematics, foreign language, athletics, agri-science, health and positive interactions with each other.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will find information about three of the international programs available for students to participate in during their time in RASD: the International Engineering and Leadership Summer Camp (see the Curriculum Corner), French Adventure, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

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!*

RMS Musical Performance Footloose



RMS students entertained audiences with a energetic rendition of the musical Footloose.

Community Calendar

The 2016-17 edition of the community calendar is being designed by Ripon High School student Nicole Rainey. The full-color calendar covers July 2016 through June 2017. 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 Diedrich Insurance Agency, Pick n Save/Comfort Suites, CondonOil/Ultimart, Silver Creek Dentistry, Market Fresh Foods, Hillside Dental, and Horicon Bank.

PARA ESPAÑOL VEA LA ULTIMA PAGINA

Open Enrollment Deadline

The Ripon Area School District will accept applications for Open Enrollment until April 29, 2016 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 2016 -17 may apply for enrollment acceptance.

In accordance with state law, applications must be on site at the 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.

Charter Task Force
 Tuesday, May 17 2016
 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 RHS Community Room

Incumbents Re-elected to Ripon School Board

All three incumbents were re-elected to the Ripon Board of Education for three-year terms in the April 5 election. David Scott (1,892 votes), Gary Rodman (1,782 votes), and Dave Olson (1,780 votes) received the highest number of votes over the three write-ins Amy Pollesch, Nicole Mashock, and Josh Rieder (combined total for write-ins 1,805).

In accordance with state statute, the Board will hold its annual reorganization meeting on April 25, at which time officers for the 2016-17 year will be elected. Current officers include Andy Lyke as president, Dan Zimmerman as vice president, Dave Olson as clerk, and Sherry Muskavitch 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.

French Adventure Students Arriving

From April 15th through May 4th, the Ripon community will be home to eighteen elementary school students from the city of Lyon, France. These students, accompanied by three French teachers, will be living with host families of fourth and fifth grade students at Murray Park and Quest schools. During their stay in Ripon, the French students will attend school each day with their class and visit classes at Murray Park and Quest schools. They will also go on a walking tour of Ripon and field trips to Lambeau Field, the Boerson Farm, Xtreme Air, and to read with Barlow Park students. Host students have the opportunity to visit Lyon, France in June.

MPES Art Class



Murray Park students working on a weaving project in Art class.

Legislative Changes Impacting Schools

The 2015-16 Legislative session ended this March with the enactment of three new Acts: Act 161 amended the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); Act 212 altered assessment provisions; and Act 259 created a new experienced-based educator licensing procedure.

Wisconsin Act 161 amended FERPA and aligns state law and federal law by authorizing local school boards and county child welfare departments to disclose pupil records to caseworkers or other representatives of child welfare agencies who have access to the pupil's case plan.

Wisconsin Act 212 repealed the pupil test score exclusion and weighting provisions that were a part of the school report cards. This means the score of a student who recently moved to the RASD could negatively or positively impact a district's report card score even though the student had not received a substantial amount of education in the district.

Additionally, Act 212 addressed a significant flaw in the new civics test graduation requirement mandating all pupils, including special education pupils, take the exam. Act 212 now authorizes IEP teams to determine the appropriateness of taking the exam, with or without accommodations, and whether a passing score on the examination would be required for the pupil's graduation.

Wisconsin Act 259 expands the experienced-based licensing procedure for teaching technical education subjects to include agriculture, food services, family and consumer education services, trade specialists, business education, marketing education, and others. Act 259 restricts experience-based licenses to the school district endorsing the license and requires DPI to indicate on the license whether it was obtained under the experience-based licensure program.

Questions regarding the changes with Act 161 amended the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); Act 212 altered assessment provisions; and Act 259 can be directed to the district office.

Project Showcase Events for Charter Schools

~ See student learning in action ~

May 5	Catalyst	5:00-7:00 p.m.
May 19	Quest	6:00-7:30 p.m.
May 26	Journey	5:30-7:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars!

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

BPES/Journey Heart & Body Obstacle Course



BPES/Journey students enjoyed the Heart & Body Obstacle course built by Mr. Dale Nehls, Physical Education Teacher. Stations were set up in the gym so that they could travel through to learn about having a healthy body. This was a great, healthy, and fun way of learning about the importance of making life-long healthy choices!

Ripon Rotary Youth Exchange Program

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program has a goal to promote the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace at the person-to-person level and is for high school aged students, ages 16-18, interested in living and studying abroad for one year. Rotary Youth Exchange is one of the largest, oldest and most respected Youth Exchange Programs.

For over 30 years, Ripon Rotary has been sponsoring an inbound high school student at Ripon High School. A student comes from one of over 40 countries to stay 11 months in Ripon and typically stays with three host families during their stay, each providing a unique experience to the exchange student. Ripon Rotary encourages you to consider being a host for three to four months and experience a piece of the world while in your own home.

The outbound exchange provides a Ripon High School student the opportunity of a lifetime! The exchange is a cultural and academic exchange where the student attends high school in their exchange country. The student is supported by Rotary members in their assigned city and usually attends weekly Rotary meetings and other Rotary activities. It is an opportunity to learn a new culture and language, to be an ambassador for Ripon, Wisconsin and the United States, to make friends for a lifetime, a year of adventure and returning students call it "the best year of my life".

Students generally apply in September to go on the exchange the next year. Students indicate which countries interest them the most and Rotary attempts to place them in one of them but due to the nature of the program Rotary cannot guarantee they will be placed in a specific country. Outbound students and their parents are guided through months of orientation and information about the country of their exchange year. Outbound students typically stay with two or three Rotary-approved families and receive a monthly stipend for incidental expenses.

Rotary Youth Exchange outbound students need to be above average students (in the top half of their class) who are eager for the chance to try new things and meet new people. They will learn about other cultures, about other people and about themselves.

Additional information can be found at www.csrye.org. Contact Diane Shady at 920-748-3468 or shadydiane@gmail.com with questions. An informational meeting will be held in the future.

DARE Program



Murray Park students met with Ripon DARE officer Troy Dammsteegt. He led a discussion on how to make safe choices with the students.

Curriculum Corner



Mrs. Christine Damm
Curriculum Director

While many students are counting down the days until summer, the Ripon Area School District is committed to making this summer count. Our district Summer School Program is scheduled for June 13-July 15 and will feature a wide variety of enrichment classes for students enrolling in 4PS through Grade 12.

In making the decision whether or not to enroll your child in summer school, please consider the following:

Studies have shown that successful summer programs get children excited about learning and increase their motivation to pursue knowledge in the months and years ahead. Summer programs have the potential to extend learning time in an atmosphere of excitement, fun, and support, thereby building positive attitudes toward learning year-round.

Summer programs present an opportunity for children and youth to develop strong relationships with adults and peers, and they can also provide a sense of having a valued place in a larger community. Summer programs are also a place where parents often feel welcome, partly because of their more informal nature and partly because of a greater emphasis on connection and community.

Most of the summer school classes offered are experiential in

nature or contain an experiential component. Experiential education, which includes adventure education, project-based and community service learning, and outdoor adventure programs, can lead to outcomes such as improved self concept, stronger leadership skills, better grades, and higher school attendance.

The Ripon Area School District is proud to announce some exciting changes to the 2016 Summer School Program. This year, students will be attending summer school at the school in which they will be entering in the Fall of 2016. This change will provide students the opportunity to get acclimated to their new instructors and school. It will also provide staff the opportunity to get to know their students prior to beginning the new school year with them. This new structure will provide a smoother transition for students and generate excitement for the school year to come.

Along with many of the engaging enrichment courses that were offered in previous years, there are several new courses for students to choose from at all levels. Students may enroll in up to four enrichment courses, which are designed to engage students in a variety of topics while integrating core curriculum standards. Highly qualified teachers will be providing additional instruction to students who have been identified as needing more intensive reading and math support. These trained instructors will design interventions that reflect the student's specific academic needs while allowing the students the flexibility to participate in sessions of their choice.

This summer, students will also have the opportunity to sign up for swimming lessons as

one of their enrichment courses during the regularly scheduled summer school sessions. Busing transportation will be offered to students taking other summer school sessions, with shuttles from the High School to Barlow and Murray Park and back to the High School between each of the four sessions.

A variety of summer school extension opportunities will also be offered to students this summer. A select number of high school students may elect to participate in the International Engineering and Leadership Camp as a two-week extension to the regular summer session. Students wishing to participate may receive a .5 credit towards science and an additional .5 elective credit towards their graduation requirements. In addition to the summer school extension being offered to high school students, we are considering offering a two-week "Jump Start to the School Year" to our youngest elementary students at Barlow Park/Journey. This super summer session would provide a boost to students prior to the start of the new school year and will decrease the academic summer slide that often occurs during the summer break.

As the summer season begins, learning does not need to end. Summer months provide a unique slice of time when children can learn and develop in ways that will help them in school and beyond. Summer learning is not just about retaining information; it is about problem-solving, analyzing and synthesizing information, generating new ideas, working in teams, learning to be with all kinds of people—all skills that help build learning in a broad way. Make the most of your child's summer by enrolling them today.

Thank You for Contributions to the District:

Education Foundation of Ripon
Radio Shack
Oshkosh Lowes
Green Lake Area Retired Educators Association
Mugs
Ripon Pick N Save
Exxon Mobile/Condon Oil
Wes & Bonnie Wassell
Webster Foundation
Alliance Laundry Systems
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Diedrich Jewelers
Angie Watts - Adeva Salon
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Annie Fenner
Shirley Pepler
Stuarts Landscaping
Hillside Dental
Diedrich Insurance
Golden Heritage Farms
Melissa Edinger
Dominoes Pizza
Ashley Del'Aquila
Heidel House

Annual 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.

MPES/Quest Annual Science Fair



Murray Park and Quest students participated in the annual Science Fair to share their conclusions using the scientific method of problem, hypothesis, experiment, observation, and conclusion. 159 students presented and used display boards, demonstrations, and explanations to highlight the results of their research and compared it to their hypothesis.

RHS/Lumen Math Contest



The RHS/Lumen Math Team competed in the State Mathematics Contest in March (sponsored by the Wisconsin Mathematics Council). The eight-member team took Second Place in the Class B Schools! In addition, three Ripon students earned the honor "2016 All-State 1st Team Class B" by being among the top scores individually from that category.



RMS students participate in a PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports) event.

Pi Day



The RHS Math Department held the 2016 Pi Day Competition on March 14 (Pi Day). This year's winner recited 411 digits of PI. She broke the previous record of 300 which was set in 2014. The second place student recited 301 digits and third place finished with 255 digits.

RHS Academic Bowl 1st Place Finish

The RHS/Lumen Academic Bowl Team took first place honors at this year's annual conference meet. The Academic Bowl consists of individual written tests and a team test in a quiz format on the subjects of math, social studies, science and English.

Math Honor



A RHS/Lumen Math Team student was honored with being named to 1st Team All-Conference during a recent Math Meet. 22 members of the Ripon Team participated in the meet and took 3rd place in the small school division.

RMS/Catalyst Solo & Ensemble Festival



RMS/Catalyst 7th and 8th 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.

FFA Group in Platteville



24 FFA students traveled to UW-Platteville to compete in seven areas including Meat Judging, Agronomy, Horse Judging, Wildlife, Livestock Judging, Agricultural Mechanics, and Dairy Cattle Judging. Several students placed in the top 15% of their areas, with the horse team scoring the highest with 5th place. The Meats, Agronomy, and Horse teams will be competing at State in Madison on April 29.

RHS German Contest



Congratulations to RHS/Lumen students who participated in both the regional and state German Pronunciation and Speaking contest. Six students qualified for the state contest and won two 3rd place, two 2nd place and one 1st place finish.

Students Recognized by Ripon Board of Education



The RHS Cheer and Stunt Team was honored by the Board of Education for their 4th place finish at the recent State Cheer Competition.



The Board of Education recognized students that won the district spelling bee and qualified for the regional spelling bee.



A Ripon student was honored by the Board of Education for recently having her works displayed at the State Art Exhibit.



Two members of the RHS Wrestling Team were congratulated for both placing 6th in their weight class at the State Wrestling Tournament.

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
651 Metomen Street
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 8-12
Principal: Ms. Anne Lang

Curriculum Department
Director: Mrs. Christine Damm

Technology Department
Director: Mr. Troy Seyfert

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

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 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.



Families & Students in Transition

Do you know a student or family that may be in need of assistance? Many families in Wisconsin have found themselves to be families in transition without a place to call home. Ripon Area School District is committed to assisting all homeless students receive the best education possible. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth (twenty-one years of age and younger) as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those:
 - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as double-up);
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative/adequate accommodations;
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - Having been abandoned in hospitals; or
 - Awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you are aware of or are personally acquainted with any children who may qualify according to the above criteria, please contact Britnie Meyer, Homeless Liaison for the Ripon Area School District at meyerb@ripon.k12.wi.us or at (920) 748-1577. All information will be kept confidential.

BPES/Journey Reading Challenge



Students of Barlow Park and Journey were given reading goals as part of the "Stuck on Reading" challenge to earn strips of duct tape. The strips of duct tape were used to tape Principal Sanderfoot to the wall while she read them a story.

Resumen de noticias escolares para nuestros residentes de habla española

Actualización de la construcción de RHS/RMS
Conforme las nuevas adiciones de high school se abrieron para los estudiantes y personal este último mes, así también la demolición y las excavaciones en el corredor de la parte norte empezaron para el nuevo espacio de middle school. Visite el sitio red del Distrito en la página de Facebook para estar actualizado(a) con el horario de trabajo y proceso en cada fase de este proyecto.

Fecha de vencimiento para la Inscripción Abierta
Ripon Area School District aceptará aplicaciones para la Inscripción Abierta hasta el 29 de abril de 2016 a las 4:00 p.m. Cualquier padre de familia o tutores en Wisconsin que no son residentes de Ripon Area School District pero quieren que sus niños asistan a las escuelas públicas en Ripon durante el año escolar 2016-17 pueden aplicar para la aceptación de inscripción.

Programa Rotario de Ripon de Intercambio de Estudiantes
El Programa Rotario de Intercambio de Estudiantes tiene la meta de promover el avance del entendimiento internacional, buena voluntad, y paz al nivel de persona a persona y es para estudiantes de high school comprendidos entre las edades de 16 a 18 años, que esten interesados en vivir y estudiar en el extranjero por un año.

Arriban Estudiantes de la Aventura Francesa
Del 15 de abril al 4 de mayo, la comunidad de Ripon estará hospedando a 18 estudiantes de la escuela elemental de la ciudad de Lyon, Francia.

Concierto Anual de Música de Nuestras Escuelas
En el concierto anual de Música de Nuestras Escuelas, actuaron las selecciones del Coro de 5º grado, el Coro de Middle School y los coros de High School, además de la Banda de 6º grado, la Combinación de la Banda del 7º y 8º grados, y la Banda de Concierto de RHS y la Banda de Jazz. En las afueras del gimnasio, los visitantes disfrutaron de las obras de arte seleccionadas del Departamento de Arte de RHS.

Reuniones del Consejo (cambio de lugar)
Las reuniones regulares del consejo son sostenidas el tercer lunes de cada mes en el Salón Comunitario de Ripon 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: Shelly Kastenschmidt
Vice President: Steve Nankervis
Treasurer: Carrie Naparalla
Secretary: Sarah Rieder
Members: Heather Donovan
Brett Long
Nicole Mashock
Amy Pollesch
Tanya Sanderfoot
Joel Spaulding

Quest Governance Council

- President: Becki Baird
Treasurer: Nathan Luedtke
Secretary: Linda DeCramer
Members: Amy Pollesch
Nicole Bauman
Steve Nankervis
Haley Julian
Gretchen Geiger
Janet Ernst
Renee Bunge

Catalyst Governance Council

- President: Renee Schoff
Vice President: Margaret Soda
Secretary: Candie Baker
Members: Jack Christ
Julie Elliott
Jen Lee
Amy Pollesch
Sandy Wisneski
Rick Bunge

Lumen Governance Council

- Members: Pat Grahn
Paula Hageman
Randy Hatlen
Adam Jacobi
Jean Rigden
Jesse Schwingle
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.