

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK



The days are getting longer so spring must be right around the corner. This is also evident in the work within and around the district. Students registered for fall classes, state testing began, kindergarten and preschool registration started, the open enrollment window opened and we posted our first position for 2018-19, a business manager.

The March edition of the Ripon Area School District Newsletter provides updates on the school board elections, and facilities. You can also celebrate the work of our dedicated Crossing Guards, meet our newest School Board member and learn about the upcoming middle school musical *The Wizard of Oz*. In addition, you will find information on open enrollment, academic and career planning, transition resources for families, and ways to support student mental health.

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 high school students presented a lively rendition of the musical *The Addams Family* and hundreds of RASD students in grades 5-12 are preparing to perform 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, business, sports, and community service.

Throughout the months ahead, you can connect with your Ripon schools by: contributing calendar dates for the 2018-19 community calendar set to arrive in homes in June; following district news through our district website, Facebook and Twitter; or supporting one of many upcoming school and community events highlighted in the next few pages.

Thank you for your continued support and investment in the amazing children and talented staff in our district. Together we are shaping the future by inspiring learners, engaging the community and enriching the world.

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

CALL FOR HOST FAMILIES

Have you been interested in hosting an international high school student? The Ripon International program is currently looking for host families. The program has two ways to host.

Option One: Host an international student on the weekends during July 13- July 27. Families will create a global friendship through providing activities with the student on the weekend. Activities could include a trip to a waterpark, hiking, a baseball game, and much more.

Option Two: Host an international student during the 2018-19 school year. Families will create a global friendship and learn about a new culture by seeing your own home and city through the wonderous eyes of an international student. Families will receive a monthly stipend to help assist with the costs of hosting a student for the full year.

Please visit the Ripon International website at <https://meyerb70.wixsite.com/ripontinternational> for additional information on the programs and what it's like to host an international student. A host information night will be held on April 11 at 6:00 for families to learn even more about hosting international students. If you are interested or have additional questions please contact Britnie Meyer at meyerb@ripon.k12.wi.us or (920) 748-4600.

OPEN ENROLLMENT OPENS FOR 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

The Ripon Area School District began accepting Open Enrollment applications for the 2018-19 school year on February 5, 2018. Any Wisconsin parent/guardian 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 may only be submitted beginning February 5, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. through April 30, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. and must be on site at the Ripon Administrative Services Center, 1120 Metomen Street in Ripon by that deadline date and time. Postmark dates will not satisfy the deadline for application submission requirements as state regulations require that mailed applications not on site by April 30, 2018 cannot be accepted and will be returned to the sender. The Department of Public Instruction is accepting Open Enrollment applications online during the specified timeframe at <http://oe.dpi.wi.gov>. Online applications are encouraged and recommended.



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS ON APRIL 3

Voters in the Ripon Area School District will choose three school board members at the spring election on April 3. Each year three school board seats are on the ballot for new three-year terms. The nine-member Ripon Board of Education is elected at-large from the entire school district.

This year's ballot for the three seats that are open will include three incumbents, Nicole Kutz-Menard, Andy Lyke, and John Sperger.

GREAT CONVERSATIONS DINNER



The Ripon Education Foundation will be hosting its annual Great Conversations Dinner on Thursday, April 26 at Vines and Rushes Winery. Plans are being finalized for 14 unique table hosts to lead their guests in stimulating conversation about their topics, such as Boys and Girls Club coming to Ripon, Alliance Laundry expansion, Ernessi Organics producing mushrooms with local resources, Virtual School in Ripon District, Professional Basketball play in Europe, and Dance in Milwaukee. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and program at 6:30 p.m.

A full description of all conversations and printed tickets will be available starting March 15 in the District office, from Foundation Board members, and at Ripon Drug. Detailed descriptions and online ticket reservations may be found online at www.riponeducationfoundation.org. Your purchase of a \$50 ticket provides a delectable meal, stimulating conversation, fabulous fellowship and a contribution to the Foundation. All proceeds go to supporting the many projects of the Education Foundation such as innovative teaching grants, Jennie Long tutoring program, the Art Presenter program, and college scholarships.

THE ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL

Ripon High School students presented *The Addams Family* on February 8-10. The musical is currently the number one produced high school musical in the country.



MP/Q KINDNESS RETREAT

Murray Park Quest fourth grade students participated in the "Kindness Retreat" on January 10, lead by Minnesota-based organization, Youth Frontiers. During this day, students (and staff) engaged in a variety of meaningful activities, intended to create a more positive school community.

With original music and high-energy facilitators, YF staff encouraged kids to play, laugh, and connect with one another. Students participated in community-building activities, designed to break down social barriers and help foster stronger relationships among students. YF staff shared personal stories and they challenged kids to make a difference in their school. At the end of the retreat, students had a chance to stand up and commit to how they will live out the value of kindness in their school community.



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SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

The Ripon Education Foundation is holding its annual door-to-door scholarship drive on the weekend of April 7 and 8, 2018. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors will canvas the Ripon community during the weekend to collect scholarship contributions. Residents of the district living outside of these areas are welcome to mail a contribution to the address below. The Foundation raises money each spring for Ripon students graduating from high school and enrolling in technical, 2-year, and four year colleges. Since 1999 the Foundation has awarded 175 students more than \$170,000 raised from the community. All the money collected in the drive is awarded to students. Half of the money is awarded by lottery drawing to students who participated in the drive. The other half is awarded to students on the basis of academics and participation. \$10,000 is the annual goal of the scholarship drive. To make a tax deductible donation or for more information contact the Ripon Education Foundation, PO Box 395, Ripon, WI 54971 or visit the website at www.riponeducationfoundation.org. Thank you for your support of the scholarships.

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISTRICT:

- Ripon Education Club
- Flrst Congregational Church
- Chimene Halfmann
- Betsy Blazek
- Mary Park
- Don Sonntag
- Ripon Green Lake Benefit Tractor Cruise, Inc
- Ripon Lions Club
- Our Savior's Church
- Carol Merrill
- Greg & Jamie Dragolovich family
- Dr. John J. Nash, ENT
- Elizabeth A. Gorman AuD, CCC-A
- Sarah Ninnemann, RMA
- Agnesian, Fond du Lac Regional Clinic

CROSSING GUARD APPRECIATION

Our Ripon Crossing Guards were honored January 23 at an Appreciation Breakfast. The guards enjoyed a steaming cup of coffee to warm up after their morning duty with students, followed by a delicious hot breakfast. Gifts from students and the District were also shared with our honored guests.



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

The annual Music in our Schools concert will be held on March 13th at 7:00 pm in the high school gymnasium. The concert will feature the 5th through 12th grade music programs.

RMS PRESENTS THE WIZARD OF OZ

- April 12, 2018
7:00 pm
- April 13, 2018
7:00 pm
- April 14, 2018
2:00 pm

BARLOW STAFF CONSIDER APPLYING FOR A CHARTER

On February 13, 2018, the Curriculum and Instruction Program Committee for the Board of Education received information about work the Barlow Park Elementary School staff have been doing to consider incorporating social emotional learning targets and play-based instruction into the district's four year old preschool and lower elementary grades. The staff is looking at restructuring the elementary program to better fit the social emotional needs of Ripon's youngest learners and prepare them for academic rigor. Principal Sanderfoot shared the work could develop into a new 4K-2 charter similar to schools in Ontario, Finland and New Zealand as early as second semester of the 2019-2020 school year.

Since No Child Left Behind legislation, more and more academic demands are being pushed down to the preschool and kindergarten levels. "Pushing literacy and numeracy on children before age seven has come at a cost to our youngest learners." noted Principal Sanderfoot. She shared research showing that "when students are asked to do tasks their brains aren't ready for, students can believe themselves to be incapable and lose their natural desire to learn."

If the Board supported the concept, the curriculum, benchmarks, and assessments for the school would potentially be organized into multiage levels that students would move through over the course of a semester. At the end of a semester, the students would move on to another level or remain at the same level as sometimes occurs with swimming lessons. All students would work through the essential social emotional learning and academic curriculum by the end of second grade so they would be ready to move on to the more traditional grade level configurations at Murray Park and Quest Elementary Schools. Much planning and conversations between teachers, parents and community members would need to take place over the next two years to make this happen, but staff wanted the Board to know they have interest in the concept.



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 18-July 20 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

CURRICULUM CORNER

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 enhancements to the 2018 Summer School Program. This year, we will be switching to an online registration system called SignupGenius. Detailed information regarding this new registration process will be included in the summer school course booklets, which will be available the end of March.

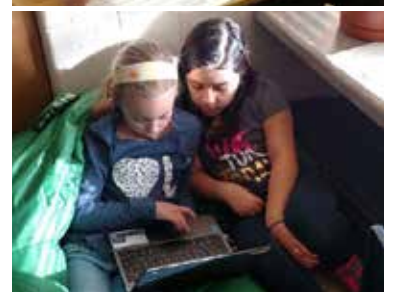
Once again, students will be attending summer school at the school in which they will be entering in the Fall of 2018. This will provide students the opportunity to get acclimated to their new instructors and school. It will also provide staff the opportunity to get to know their students prior to beginning the new school year with them. This 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 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. Several of our high school summer school courses have been designed to offer students the ability to earn credit in elective or core areas needed to fulfill graduation requirements.

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 Engineering and Science Camp from July 16-27 as a two-week extension to the regular summer session. Students wishing to participate may receive a .5 science credit towards their graduation requirements. In addition to the summer school extension being offered to high school students, we will again be offering the August Boost session 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 in the 2018 Summer School Program.



QUEST PROJECT BASED LEARNING VISIT

Educators from all across the state visited Quest Elementary School on January 31 to learn from students and staff about Project Based Learning. With a school report card rating of 93.4% (Significantly Exceeds Expectations) Quest is on the map in Wisconsin education. We have learned so much about Project Based Learning since Quest began and have incorporated many of their processes and strategies all across our District. This was an opportunity to share with other districts. Our students, staff, and parents put in so much work to host this event the same week as their Project Showcase Night.



PROJECT LEAD THE WAY VISITATION DAY

Last week representatives of districts/schools that are interested in implementing Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum were invited to attend a RASD visitation day to get more information and see a PLTW Launch in action. Our students and staff did a fantastic job! Our visitors were impressed!

NOETIC LEARNING MATH CONTEST



128 students from Ripon Area School District competed in the semi-annual Noetic Learning Math Contest, a national mathematics contest for elementary and middle school students. The goal of the competition is to encourage students interest in math, to develop their problem-solving skills, and to inspire them to excel in math. More than 23,000 students representing 526 schools across the country participated in this contest. Two of our students won the National Honor Roll title which is awarded to the top 10% of participating mathletes.

RIPON TEACHER CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN NASA PROJECT



The Ripon Area School District (RASD) is proud to announce that Mr. Nick Goeldi, RHS Science Teacher has been chosen to participate in the NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program.

Mr. Goeldi is one of nine people chosen in the entire country to participate on the project. He will be working with teachers from all over the country ranging from public districts with only 60 students to engineering-based private charter schools. The team consists of four other teachers, Goeldi, and research scientists who work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Goeldi explains, "The project that we will be working on looks at the early lives of stars and how their black body radiation deviates with longer wavelengths from that of star's who are in the middle and end of their life. Specifically we are interested in a slight bump of infrared radiation that is emitted at wavelengths between 3 micrometers to 24 micrometers. The type of shape of the infrared bump can change depending on if the star is forming or if there is a swirl of gas and dust that will eventually form a planetary system."

Goeldi isn't the only person from RASD to participate in the project. He is hoping to involve several students to give them a glimpse of what scientific research and NASA research look like. Goeldi stated, "The project consists of weekly meetings with the scientists and other teachers and working on analyzing data. In late June I will be able to take two students to California Institute of Technology (CalTech) to spend a week learning how to use some of the software and programs that NASA scientist use and then learn how to apply that technology to our research. While there we will get a full tour of the Jet Propulsion laboratory."

His team hopes to have the project completed by mid December of 2018 so that they can prepare their poster on their findings and implications for how they can apply what they learned to the secondary education classroom. They will be presenting at the American Astronomical Society (AAS) meeting in Seattle Washington in January, 2019. Next year the two students chosen to go will participate in the posture session where they will be presenting their work to people ranging from MIT researchers to NASA scientists and even to Nobel Prize Laureate.

Mary Whitrock, School Superintendent commented, "Mr. Goeldi's selection to participate in the NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program is very exciting not only because it is a testament to his work as a researcher, but also because it impacts our students. For students, this opportunity provides a connection to the real world of science through NASA. This is just one example of how a teachers passion can positively impact their students. Mr. Goeldi is also one of two Ripon High School teachers bringing science to life outside the regular classroom through the International Science, Engineering and Leadership Summer Camp with Ripon College."

BEST WISHES TO SRO MICHELS AND WELCOME TO RASD SRO HENNING

School Resource Officer (SRO) Lindsey Michels announced on December 19 that she accepted a new position within the Ripon Police Department as Sergeant. The RASD Board of Education honored SRO Lindsey Michels for her tireless service to our students and staff at the January Board Meeting.



Following her recognition, Chief Wallner of the Ripon Police Department introduced our new SRO Bret Henning, an 18 year veteran of the department having served as a training officer and Sergeant in the past.



We congratulate Officer Michels and wish her well on her new position in the police department. The District is grateful for Officer Michel's dedication to our students and the excellent work that she has done in her time as our SRO. Please join us in welcoming Officer Henning to our RASD family as he begins his new journey in our district.

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED BY RIPON BOARD OF EDUCATION



The RHS Equestrian Team was recognized at the November Board meeting for earning the Wisconsin Interscholastic Horsemanship Association (WIHA) Championship at State Finals. They competed against 11 other teams in their Division and finished with a total 156 points, an impressive 36 points above the 2nd place team.



The students who participated in the French Adventure program during April and May 2017 were recognized by the Board at the November meeting. The Ripon community was the home to twenty seven French elementary students.

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 Kinzinger

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.



BARLOW PARK TITLE 1 FAMILY NIGHT

Barlow Park Elementary had a terrific turnout for the Title 1 Family Night on January 31. Students hosted family and friends in their classrooms and showed off their hard work in reading and writing. The adult visitors learned a bit about the Title 1 program at Barlow Park Elementary. They culminated the celebration of our students' hard work with cookies and a free book for each child.



FACEBOOK CHANGES: HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

Have you noticed a change in your Facebook news feed? We are betting you have, as Facebook has made some significant changes. These alterations impact the stories, photos, and videos that are showing up for Facebook users. That being said, we know you want to stay connected to the awesome things that are happening at your school. So here are three simple steps you can take to make sure you never miss an update!

1. Go to your school's Facebook page. You can do this on your desktop or mobile device by typing in the name of the page in the search bar within Facebook.
2. Once you are on your school's page, find the "Following" tab under the cover image and click on the small arrow next to it.
3. Under the "IN YOUR NEWS FEED" section, select "See First."

It's that easy! Each time you login to Facebook, you will see the new posts from your school on your news feed. This will include current pictures and videos of your student along with reminders about upcoming events or other important information.

For a simple video walk-through, check out a short video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9X11WrT7MAI>



RESUMEN DE NOTICIAS ESCOLARES PARA NUESTROS RESIDENTES DE HABLA ESPAÑOLA

EL 3 DE ABRIL ELECCIONES DEL CONSEJO ESCOLAR

Los electores en Ripon Area School District (Distrito Escolar del Area de Ripon) escogerán tres miembros para el consejo escolar durante la elección en la primavera el 3 de abril. Cada año tres sillas del consejo escolar aparecen en la boleta de elección para los nuevos términos de tres años. El Consejo de Educación de Ripon tiene nueve miembros quienes son elegidos a lo largo y ancho del distrito escolar. Este año la boleta contendrá los nombres de tres titulares que están en la contienda para tres sillas. Los tres titulares son: Nicole Kutz-Menard, Andy Lyke, y John Sperger.

INSCRIPCIÓN ABIERTA

El Distrito del Área de Ripon empezó aceptando aplicaciones de Inscripción Abierta para el año escolar 2018-19 el 5 de febrero de 2018. Cualquier padre de familia, o tutores en Wisconsin que no son residentes del Distrito Escolar de Ripon pero quieren que sus niño(s) o niña(s) asistan a las escuelas públicas de Ripon en 2018-19 pueden aplicar para la aceptación de inscripción. De acuerdo a la ley estatal, las aplicaciones pueden únicamente ser sometidas empezando el 5 de febrero de 2018 a las 8:00 a.m. hasta el 30 de abril de 2018 a las 4:00 pm. Estas deben estar en el sitio del Centro de Servicios Administrativos en 1120 Metomen Street en Ripon en la fecha y hora del cierre. Fechas después del día y hora no satisfará los requerimientos de la sumisión de aplicaciones de acuerdo a las regulaciones conforme al estado que requiere que las aplicaciones que no estén en la oficina el 30 de abril de 2018, no pueden ser aceptadas y serán regresadas al remitente. El Departamento de Instrucción Pública está aceptando aplicaciones de Inscripción Abierta (para no residentes de Ripon Area School District) en línea durante el tiempo especificado en <http://oe.dpi.wi.gov>. Se motiva y se recomienda a someter las aplicaciones en línea.

LA FUNDACIÓN DE EDUCACIÓN DE RIPON EN SU CAMPAÑA ANUAL DE BECAS ESCOLARES

La Fundación de Educación de Ripon sostendrá su Campaña escolar de becas de puerta en puerta durante el fin de semana del 6 y 7 de abril de 2018. Para hacer una donación deducible de impuestos o para más información contacte a Ripon Education Foundation, PO Box 395, Ripon, WI 54971 o visite el sitio red a www.riponeducationfoundation.org.

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.