

For Immediate Release

December 7, 2023

Contact: Mary Whitrock, Superintendent

WhitrockM@ripon.k12.wi.us

(920) 748-4600

Ripon Middle and Elementary Schools Ranked by US News & World Report

RIPON, Wis. — The Ripon Area School District is pleased to announce that Quest Elementary School, Murray Park Elementary School, and Ripon Middle School (RMS) have earned the best schools distinctions by US News & World Report for the 2023-2024 school year. Quest and Murray Park ranked #42 and #138 respectively out of 951 Wisconsin elementary schools ranked in the state while RMS is ranked #271 out of 494 middle schools in the state. U.S. News analyzed 103,099 Pre-K, elementary and middle schools to determine rankings in each state.

Quest Elementary is a charter school that serves 146 students in grades 3-5. The school's #42 state ranking highlighted that 67% of students scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 62% scored at or above for reading. The school's minority student enrollment is 15%. The student-certified staff ratio is 13:1 and the school enrolls 19% economically disadvantaged students.

Murray Park Elementary serves 168 students in grades 3-5. The school's #138 state ranking highlighted that 62% of students scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 47% scored at or above that level for reading. The school's minority student enrollment is 17%. The student-certified staff ratio is 13:1 and the school enrolls 42% economically disadvantaged students. Principal Renee Bunge comments, "Our Murray Park/Quest students and staff work incredibly hard to continue to learn and grow. We are very proud of them for their continued hard work, perseverance, and progress."

Ripon Middle School serves 257 students in grades 6-8. The school's #238 state ranking highlighted 37% of students scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 35% scored at or above that level for reading. The school's minority student enrollment is 14%. The student-certified staff ratio is 13:1 and the school enrolls 28% economically disadvantaged students. Principal Rick Bunge comments, "We are always looking to grow and improve. It is nice for students and staff to be recognized for their hard work."

The US News explains that "great elementary and middle schools educate their students from all socioeconomic backgrounds with the goal of setting them up for success. In turn, their students develop the core competencies in state curricula to best prepare them for high school." The official rankings can be found on the US News and World website at:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/middle-schools/wisconsin>

U.S. News has published an in-depth [methodology article](#) that provides more information about the rankings and how they were calculated. The rankings use the same methodology for all included grade levels. For each state, schools were assessed on their shares of students who were proficient or above proficient in their mathematics and reading/language arts state assessments. Half of the formula assessed the scores themselves and the other half incorporated the test results in the context of socioeconomic demographics. In other words, the top-ranked schools are all high-achieving and have succeeded at educating all their students.

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock shared, "These distinctions celebrate the continuous improvement efforts of our dedicated staff in each of Ripon's schools. The Ripon School Board and leadership team are so proud of and thankful for our students, staff, and families for their commitment to raising achievement. This commitment ensures our children in Ripon have the best education we can possibly provide."

Any comments or questions, please contact Dr. Mary Whitrock at (920) 748-4600.

###