



## Superintendent's Message

In celebration of **Teacher Appreciation Week this month**, a special thank you goes out to our staff and also the parents and extended family of all our students. We so appreciate the partnership we share as we work collectively to offer an outstanding educational experience in Ripon.

Here's how the articles in this quarterly update connect with each of the School Board's four strategic pillars and corresponding objectives:

### Student Learning and Engagement

- Provide well rounded education in a healthy and safe environment (Science Fair p. 1, Music in Our Schools Concert p. 3)
- Using evidenced-based interventions and support services to ensure every student graduates from high school prepared for their college and career plans (Youth Apprenticeship Numbers p. 3)
- Close achievement gaps in literacy and math (Journey Project School p. 3, Preschool p. 4)

### Service and Partnership

- Increase partnerships and satisfaction through CQI (Robotics p. 1, REF - Scholarship Drive p. 2, Webster Grants - p. 2, Baseball with RC p. 2, Youth Apprenticeships p. 3, Senior Center p. 4, Board Members and Officers - p. 5)

### Human Resources

- Increase opportunities to build high quality staff (Preliminary Budget p. 3)

### Finance and Operations

- Refine systems to find efficiencies (Auction Helps With Clean Up p. 4)

Our District continues to work to serve you by striving for excellence through innovation. Together we are making a difference for the children of Ripon.

Respectfully Yours,



Dr. Mary Whitrock, Superintendent of Schools  
Go Tigers!



## Service & Partnership

### Ripon Robotics Qualifies for Finals



**The Ripon High School Robotics team placed 7th out of 42 teams at the FIRST Wisconsin Regional competition. After 12 qualification rounds the team moved on to the finals for the first time ever.** Under strict rules, with limited time and resources, the team used sophisticated technology to build and program a robot to play a themed field game as part of an alliance with other teams. Students programmed the robot to drive autonomously for a portion of the competition, pick up and shoot balls into a basket as well as climb to the top rung of a competition structure via remote control. As part of the competition, each team develops a brand, raises funds, and works to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in their local community. Alliance Laundry Systems, J.M. Smucker, and Accurate Controls as well as other generous businesses and individuals donated over \$12,000 to this year's team. Team coach David Higgins shared "we've already started working on a new drive system for next year's challenge and are looking for help with the marketing, coding, and finance portions. It's a rewarding experience." The robotics team began in the 2016-2017 school year and team members are eligible to earn a varsity letter.



## Student Engagement & Learning

### Spring Science Fair

**Murray Park Quest students** chose something of genuine interest, identified a problem and then tested their hypothesis. They reported their results and conclusions at the fair. Superintendent Dr. Mary Whitrock enjoyed visiting with students about projects such as fingerprint patterns and a student built hovercraft.



**Service & Partnership**

**Play Ball!**



Barlow Park Legacy students celebrated "Opening Day" with a visit from athletes on Ripon College's softball and baseball teams.

**Elected to School Board**



Betsy Heffernan



Gary Rodman



Nate Zimdars

2022-2023

**School Board Officers**

President - David Scott

Vice President - Betsy Heffernan

Board Clerk - Gary Rodman

Treasurer - Andy Lyke

At the Spring Election the Ripon community elected incumbents Betsy Heffernan, Gary Rodman, and Nate Zimdars to serve three-year terms on the Board of Education.



**Scholarship Drive  
By The Numbers**

**2022 Donation Total:**

**Over \$12,500**

**Total Awarded**

**Since 1999:**

**Over \$160,000**

**Service & Partnership**

**Webster Foundation Awards Over \$12,000**

**The Webster Foundation awarded RASD six different grants totaling over \$12,000.** The grants support a variety of programs and projects across the district. One of the projects is the Inspirational Playground at Barlow Park Journey to foster play for Early Childhood wheelchair students and those with motor related disabilities. Features of the equipment include targeted learning to encourage cooperative play, social conversation, problem solving and creativity to boost overall social and emotional development.



The Webster Foundation supports middle school students through the 8th Grade WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program. 8th grade WEB leaders welcome 6th grade students at middle school orientation, give tours of the school and provide activities to help new students feel welcome. This style of peer mentoring matches an 8th-grade "upperclassman" with an incoming 6th grade student to offer support throughout the school year with a positive role model.

The middle school Tech Ed grant provides additional funds to purchase a new woodworking planer. Tech Ed teacher Chris Lalor notes "In total, the Webster Foundation has generously provided over \$15,000 to purchase supplies for the Lego Robotics Class, storage, a new table saw, several mobile work tables, and other tools."

The Foundation is also providing funding for the RHS Science Club to host a Science Day for high school and middle school students, comfortable seating for the RHS Spanish Club, and a copy of the book "The Berenstain Bears Trouble With Money" to each K-2 student through the FBLA Money Smart Week when RHS students visit each K-2 classroom to read a book and lead a lesson about money.

**\$4,500 Early Learning:**  
*Inspirational Playground*

**\$2,000 8th Grade Program:**  
*WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)*

**\$1,800 RMS Tech Ed:**  
*Equipment Replacement*

**\$1,600 RHS Science Club:**  
*Science Education Week*

**\$1,500 RHS FBLA:**  
*Money Smart Week*

**\$1,000 RHS Spanish Club:**  
*Comfy Chairs*

**Service & Partnership**

### Youth Apprenticeships Grow



**Finance & Operations**

### Auction Site Helps With Cleanup



**The Facilities Department utilizes the Wisconsin Surplus auction site** from time to time to sell items no longer needed or at end of life. This year items included: two 14 year old fleet vehicles, a meat slicer, handicap rails, HVAC air compressor with additional components, electrical disconnects and starters. Quite a few items were sold from the Sullivan street house purchase including: the garage, decking material, landscaping stone, electrical panel and new insulation rolls. A future sale will have several more items from the house as staff prepare for final removal and demolition of property. The proceeds of this sale are added back into the district budget to help pay for items necessary to support student learning.

**Student Engagement & Learning**

### Journey Project School Coming Soon

**The School Board and Governance Council unanimously agreed to replace their charter contract with a local agreement** thus making Journey the non-charter option for 4PS-Grade 2 students starting next year. The Board also approved closing Barlow Park Legacy at the end of this year due to low enrollment. Students in Barlow Legacy will attend Barlow Charter or Journey Project School.

**Student Engagement & Learning**



*Students in Grades 5-12 showcased their music to a packed house at the annual Music in Our Schools Concert on March 8.*

**Finance & Operations**

### Preliminary Staffing Budget

**The School Board approved a preliminary budget for 2022-23.** The \$21 million budget includes more than \$1 million of one-time ESSER grants to fund positions that support students' academic, social, and emotional growth. The budget also includes \$80,000 of School-Based Mental Health Services Grant funding.



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 ECRWSS  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 RIPON WI  
 PERMIT NO. 197

Area School District  
 PO Box 991  
 1120 Metomen Street  
 Ripon, WI 54971  
 (920) 748-4600

POSTAL CUSTOMER

## MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering learners, engaging community, enriching the world.

## VISION STATEMENT

One of Wisconsin's finest school districts, fostering excellence for all through innovation.

## ORGANIZATION VALUES

Integrity	Excellence
Commitment	Collaboration
Innovation	Kindness



TIGER UPDATE EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION SPRING 2022

### Student Engagement & Learning

## 2022-2023 School Year Preschool Enrollment

**Parents with children who will be four years old by September 1, 2022 may enroll their child now for next year.** The enrollment window for the 2022-23 school year is open. Parents should visit the Preschool page on the District's website to find detailed information about each preschool site location. To complete the enrollment process click the "Enroll New Student" icon on the District home page, select the enrollment link, and follow the online enrollment process. Children must be four years old by September 1, 2022. Contact Kristi Schmitt at (920) 748-4600 or via email at [schmittk@ripon.k12.wi.us](mailto:schmittk@ripon.k12.wi.us) for more information or for assistance.

### Service & Partnership

## Ripon Senior Center Visit



**S**uperintendent Dr. Mary Whitrock recently joined residents at the Ripon Senior Center for conversation about the many accomplishments of Ripon students and staff and plans for the future of RASD. The students in Mrs. Bork's Intellectual Disabilities Class at the high school made shamrock themed gifts for each person in attendance. These students have enjoyed sharing their craft items all year with the Senior Center.



1120 Metomen St, Ripon, WI 54971



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