

New Student Registration
 The first step to enroll new students in the Ripon Area School District is to complete the online registration application found on the district website under the Families tab- Enroll New Student. The free and reduced lunch form can also be found under the same tab. After the student has been registered, parents/guardians can bring their child(ren) to picture day on August 11 or August 13. Please contact Britnie Meyer at 748-4600 with any questions.

Picture Dates

August 11, 2020
 8:00am - 6:00pm
 RHS Commons

August 13, 2020
 8:00am - 6:00pm
 RHS Commons

Returning Student Registration
 Registration materials will be mailed to all families mid-July. Contact your child's school if you do not receive a packet or find the information on our website under the Families tab- Registration. Families will be completing the registration process online through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If you are unsure of your Parent Portal username and password, please contact Britnie Meyer at meyerb@ripon.k12.wi.us.



Area School District

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



POSTAL CUSTOMER

McKinney-Vento Assistance Act

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. 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 Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for humans. If you are aware of any children who may qualify according to the above criteria, please contact Sherry Leverance, Homeless Liaison for the Ripon Area School District at leverances@ripon.k12.wi.us or at (920) 748-4616. All information will be kept confidential.

Free and Reduced Priced Meals

The Ripon Area School District announced ifor children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program or milk for split-session students served under the Special Milk Program. Each school office and the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party. The following household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility. Children from families whose annual income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free and reduced price meals or free milk if a split-session student does not have access to the school lunch or breakfast service.

Family Size	Annual Income Level			Monthly Income Level			
	Free (at or below)	Reduced (at or between figures listed)	and	Free (at or below)	Reduced (at or between figures listed)	and	
1	\$16,588	\$16,588.01	and	\$1,383	\$1,383.01	and	\$1,968
2	\$22,412	\$22,412.01	and	\$1,868	\$1,868.01	and	\$2,658
3	\$28,236	\$28,236.01	and	\$2,353	\$2,353.01	and	\$3,349
4	\$34,060	\$34,060.01	and	\$2,839	\$2,839.01	and	\$4,040
5	\$39,884	\$39,884.01	and	\$3,324	\$3,324.01	and	\$4,730
6	\$45,708	\$45,708.01	and	\$3,809	\$3,809.01	and	\$5,412
7	\$51,532	\$51,532.01	and	\$4,295	\$4,295.01	and	\$6,112
8	\$57,356	\$57,356.01	and	\$4,780	\$4,780.01	and	\$6,802
Each additional member, add	+5,824	+5,824	and	+486	+486	and	+691

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a notice to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced price meals or free milk, households must fill out the application and return it to the school (unless notified at the start of the school year that children are eligible through direct certification). Additional copies are available at the office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by agency or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. To obtain free or reduced price meals or free milk for children in a household where one or more household members receive FoodShare, FDIPIR, or Wisconsin Works (W-2) cash benefits, list the FoodShare, FDIPIR or W-2 case number, program name, list the names of all school children, sign the application, and return it to the school office. For the school officials to determine eligibility for free or reduced price meals or free milk of households not receiving FoodShare, FDIPIR or W-2 cash benefits, the household must provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, total number of household members, and the adult signing the application form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the box to the right of "Check if no SSN". Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, welfare, child support, etc.).

Under the provisions of the free and reduced price meal and free milk policy the Business Services and Marketing Specialist, will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to: Mary Whitrock, Superintendent, 1120 Metomen Street, (920) 748-4600. If a hearing is needed to appeal the decision, the policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the school. Such changes may make the household eligible for reduced price meals or free meals or free milk if the household income falls at or below the levels shown above, and they may reapply at that time. Children formally placed in foster care are also eligible for free meal benefits. Foster children may be certified as eligible without a household application. Households with foster children and non-foster children may choose to include the foster child as a household member, as well as any personal income available to the foster child, on the same application that includes their non-foster children. The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. Public Law 103-448 limits the release of student free and reduced price school meal eligibility status to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs. Consent of the parent/guardian is needed for other purposes such as waiver of text book fees.

Service and Partnerships

Improving Community through Food Service

Although the school year was disrupted by COVID-19 school closures, the Ripon Area School District food service program has continued its essential services. Between March 18 and July 2, more than 72,000 nutritious meals were provided to community children at no cost. The district offers the meals through the Summer Food Service Program, a federally funded program which ensures children receive healthy meals when school is not in session. Weekly meal kits will continue to be distributed to all children (age 18 and younger) each Monday morning from 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. through at least August 21. Free delivery service continues for anyone not able to pick up curbside. To request delivery, families should complete the delivery request form available on the COVID-19 information page under the Families tab of our website.



Student Engagement and Learning 5th Annual STEM Camp

The fifth annual STEM camp will be a virtual learning experience for our high school students this summer and will run for two weeks July 20 and ending July 31. The camp will offer students a half credit of science while learning about a variety of topics in computer science and environmental studies. This entire camp is offered free of charge to Ripon High School students as an extension of the 2020 Summer School Program. We have invited students from surrounding districts to participate for a \$150 fee.

Service and Partnership

Partnering With Local Agencies and Fond du Lac County Health Department

The Ripon Area School District continues to work with the City of Ripon Police Department and Fond du Lac County Health Department through each step of the current COVID-19 Pandemic. When planning for the #BeThe Light, the graduation caravan and the reverse parade for elementary students to say goodbye to their teachers, the district reached out to each organization to review plans and ensure appropriate safety measures were in place for the participants. The district looks to continue this partnership through the summer and fall to support local efforts to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Student Engagement and Learning

District Applies for DPI Waiver for Special Programs

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will grant a waiver of instructional minutes for any district that applies due to COVID-19, understanding that the likelihood of the minutes requirement for all students in an alternative virtual learning environment would be limited. Ripon has met the instructional minute requirements for the 2019-20 school year. However, districts are being advised to apply for the waiver as their ability to meet the full scope of the instructional goals and objectives in all Individualized Learning Plans (IEPs) for students in the district's special education program was impacted.

Ripon **TIGER UPDATE**
 Area School District Summer 2020 Excellence through Innovation

Superintendent's Message

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! As we plan ahead during this unprecedented time, we know we will need to be flexible to see just what COVID-19 will mean for this new school year. You can be sure our Ripon family team will be here to connect and engage in every way possible to serve our students, families and community, as we align our work with the Board's four strategic priorities.

Student Learning and Engagement

- Solid education in a healthy/safe environment (Special Programs Waiver p. 6)
- Provide support services to ensure student success (Graduation Rate p. 2)
- Close achievement gaps in literacy and math (Virtual Summer School p. 3, 5th Annual STEM Summer Camp p. 6)

Service and Partnership

- Increase partnerships and satisfaction through CQI (Virtual Field Trips p. 1, Partnering With Local Agencies and Fond du Lac County Health Department p. 6, Improving Community with Food Service, p. 6)

Human Resources

- Increase opportunities to build high quality staff (Odyssey Academy Growing p. 2, Impact of COVID-19 p. 2)

Finance and Operations

- Refine systems to find efficiencies (November Operational Referendum Survey Timeline p. 3, Ripon Community Provides New Ingalls Turf p. 2, Nature-Based Playground Nears Completion p. 3)

For new students and families, welcome to RASD. We are honored you chose us. For our returning students and families, welcome back. We look forward to continuing to serve you. The staff is ready and committed to providing your children with exceptional education opportunities everyday throughout the year.

Respectfully yours,
 Dr. Mary Whitrock
 Go Tigers!

Service and Partnership

Community Members Take Students on Virtual Field Trips

As the snow melts each Spring, Ripon elementary classrooms are filled with chatter about annual end-of-year field trips that take students outside of the classroom and bring curriculum to life. Many might think that the whole notion of field trips was abandoned at the end of this past school year, but thanks to a couple of creative parents, willing business owners and community members, our students went on field trips - virtually!

Parent Sarah Heyn came up with the idea in what she calls "a middle of the night brainstorm". She shared "I was thinking about the many changes to normal routine that kids and teachers were already experiencing with the Coronavirus pandemic. It seemed to me that losing the end-of-year field trips and Field Day celebrations was yet another loss. We couldn't do in-person experiences, but maybe our community could give kids something that was an interesting alternative."

Her idea took shape and when school staff jumped on board. She found a partner in elementary parent Jamie Draglovich and together they planned and contacted businesses and groups in our community. Heyn noted "We were encouraged by the community's overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. In those first weeks of the stay-at-home order, everyone was mentally exhausted and uncertain. And, yet, so many people went outside of their comfort zone both using video technology and being on camera. For us, as organizers, it was so uplifting to know that when the larger world was scary our Ripon community came together to support kids." Just over 30 different videos were shared with the parent duo who worked with school communications staff to edit and prep the videos for grades K-5.

Teachers blended the virtual field trips into their lessons which included behind the scenes tours of local businesses, the Ripon Police Department, and RASD staff members taking students on bike rides, hikes, and tours of their family farms.



Ripon Community Provides New Ingalls Turf

New artificial turf and a shock pad was installed on Ingalls Field in June. The new Ironturf synthetic grass fibers are woven into the backing material in a way that should make the fibers more durable and the pattern of weaving is designed to replicate the play of natural grass. The new turf and shock pad system is meant to improve safety of young athletes, in part, by making the surface of the field more consistent. The system is also intended to reduce the number of injuries that result from impact with the ground.

The turf replacement is funded one-third by Ripon College, with nearly all the remaining funds coming from an endowment established by referendum voters in 2006. We look forward to seeing you at Ripon athletic events this fall!



Impact of COVID-19: Staff Training to Prepare for School Opening Scenarios

Just as the second semester of the 2019-20 school year looked very different for our students, so will the summer professional development opportunities that staff participate in this summer. Many of the conferences and workshops that staff participate in during the summer months to help them prepare for the upcoming school year have been shifted to an online format. Rather than collaborating with their colleagues face to face, they will be participating through the lens of their computer screens this summer. Our dynamic staff will also be busy planning and preparing for instruction in the fall, ensuring that the continuity of learning takes place regardless of how it may be delivered to students. The administrative leadership team will be collaborating virtually with staff throughout the summer to determine the best and safest plan for students as we prepare to reopen in the fall.



Student Engagement and Learning

Class of 2020 Graduation Rate

Of the 129 students in the class of 2019-2020, 126 or 98% fulfilled all of the requirements to receive a Ripon High School diploma after four years of high school. The remaining three students have until the end of September 2020 to complete any of the requirements to still be considered by the state as having graduated in four year. Students by law have until they are 21 years old to complete high school requirements and receive a diploma. Of the 126 who graduated, 118 chose to participate in the graduation caravan held on Memorial Day weekend.

Odyssey Academy of Virtual Learning Grows

Finance and Operations

Odyssey Academy, Ripon School District's virtual school just completed their first year of instruction with students from across the state. Holding students to high academic standards and expectations through a virtual platform has met the needs of numerous families looking for an alternative pathway of learning for their child. Instruction at Odyssey Academy is highly individualized to each learner that allows students to learn at their own pace.

The start of the 2019-2020 school year started with 97 students and ended with 158. The staff consisted of two full-time elementary teachers and four part-time secondary teachers. Through open enrollment, Odyssey received 233 applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Odyssey is anticipating an enrollment of around 250 or higher at the start of the year. To accommodate the increasing enrollment, they have hired two more full-time elementary teachers and all the secondary teachers will be full-time. In addition, Odyssey will have a full-time Guidance Counselor/Testing Coordinator. This position will allow more opportunities to meet students needs, both academically and socially. The Odyssey team is truly a dynamite team, filled with teachers who are passionate about virtual learning and meeting the needs of each and every learner. They are dedicated to building foundational relationships with every family in order to maximize student learning and achievement. Odyssey Academy is thrilled to be working with such dedicated families, students and staff and looks forward to the 2020-2021 school year.



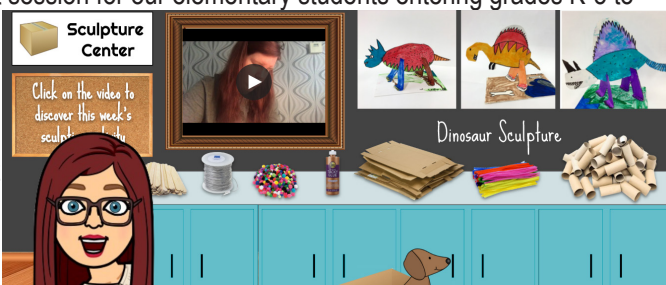
Nature Based Playground Nearing Completion

Crews arrived at Barlow Park/Journey on May 19 to install the new nature-based playground. Permanent structures are in place with a log scramble and slide slated to be added in soon. Musical instrument panels and numerous movable items will be added over the summer with the goal to have everything completed and installed by the end of July. The new structure replaces equipment that was removed in 2018.



Virtual Summer School

RASD's Virtual Summer School ran for five weeks from June 15 to July 16. While the closure of all public school buildings in the state of Wisconsin was in effect through June 30, Governor Evers adopted an emergency rule allowing schools to provide virtual instruction during summer and interim sessions to all students in grades K-12. At the K-5 elementary level, students enrolled in a "Getting Ready" course based on the grade they will be entering in the fall. The virtual course included a combination of core academics in literacy and math as well as enrichment virtual experiences. Multiple grade-level and enrichment teachers were assigned to each course to provide virtual instruction and to make the navigation easier for students. At the middle school level, virtual core academic courses in reading and math were offered to students based on teacher recommendations. Several virtual enrichment courses, including art and phy-ed were also offered. Google Classroom was the platform used for all communication and instruction related to summer school. Global Studies, Health, and Driver's Ed courses were offered to high school students in a virtual format. High School students also had the option of enrolling in courses offered through Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS) to earn credit this summer. RASD is also planning to host an in person two week, six day August Boost session for our elementary students entering grades K-5 to give them a jump start to the 2020-21 school year. More information regarding the August Boost session is forthcoming.



FOUNDATION FOR OUR FUTURE

EXCEL
INNOVATE
ENGAGE
INVEST

November Operational Referendum Survey Timeline

The Board of Education thanks tax-payers who participated in the community survey shared with each household in mid June. The board is seeking long-term, forward-looking options for our schools. The District's current operational referendum will expire next year. Information gathered from community members will determine recommendations and prioritize solutions.

Prior to the closing of schools in March, the Board sent several mailings and held three engagement sessions to communicate with taxpayers about the expiring referendum. Key to those conversations was providing information about the District's current financial situation and the critical need to replace the expiring referendum, despite efforts over the past six years to reduce operational expenses, ask staff to contribute more for healthcare, and use long-range planning to protect District assets.

In 2014, RASD voters passed a \$500,000 referendum for curriculum materials, technology (including student devices), maintenance, and vehicles. That referendum, which will expire in 2021, allowed the District to make great progress in developing educational initiatives to better prepare our students for careers, college, and life after high school. It also set the stage for us to transform our District virtually overnight in response to COVID-19.

Final survey results will be reported to the School Board at their July 20 meeting and will also be available on the District website, at www.ripon.k12.wi.us. The board will use the information gathered to determine the referendum question(s) to go before voters in November.

If you have comments or questions, please contact Jolene Meyer, Executive Assistant/PR Specialist, at (920) 748-4600 or meyerj@ripon.k12.wi.us. Thank you for lending your voice to this important process.

Asbestos Notification

As a result of federal legislation (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act-AHERA), each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to complete a stringent inspection for asbestos and to develop a plan of management for all asbestos-containing building materials. The Ripon Area School District has a goal to be in full compliance with this law and is following the spirit, as well as, the letter of the law. As a matter of policy, the district shall continue to maintain a safe and healthful environment for our community's youth and employees. In keeping with this legislation, all buildings (including portables and support buildings) owned or leased by the Ripon Area School District were inspected by EPA accredited inspectors and an independent laboratory analyzed samples. Based on the inspection, the school prepared and the state approved a comprehensive management plan for handling the asbestos located within its buildings safely and responsibly. Furthermore, the Ripon Area School District, has completed the 3-year Re-inspections required by AHERA. Our district buildings, where asbestos-containing materials were found, are under repair, removal and Operation and Maintenance. This past year Ripon Area School District conducted the following with respect to its asbestos containing building materials: Continued to implement our Operations and Maintenance Program. Federal Law requires a periodic walk-through (called "surveillance") every six months of each area containing asbestos. Environmental Management Consulting, Inc. will accomplish this under contract. Short-term workers (outside contractors – i.e., telephone repair workers, electricians and exterminators) must be provided information regarding the location of asbestos in which they may come into contact. All short-term workers shall contact the lead maintenance person before commencing work to be given this information. The Ripon Area School District has a list of the location(s); type(s) of asbestos containing materials found in that school building and a description and timetable for their proper management. A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for review in the school office. Copies are available at 25 cents per page. Questions related to the plan should be directed to Jason Schneider of Environmental Management Consulting, Inc. at 920-648-6343 or by contacting 920-748-4600.

Equal Educational Opportunities

All children who reside in the district and are of legal school age are eligible to attend school. The admission of pupils shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes and board policies. The approval of the board is required for the admission of nonresident pupils. Children between the ages of 7 and 16 (except those exempted by law) are required to attend full-time day school; thereafter, they may attend part-time with the permission of the principal to follow a program designed to help them earn a high school diploma. The same expectation of regular attendance and academic performance will apply to such students as apply to regular day students. The Ripon Area School District is committed and dedicated to the task of providing the best education possible for every child in the district for as long as the student can benefit from attendance and the student's conduct is compatible with the welfare of the entire student body. The right of a student to be admitted to school and to participate fully in curricular, extracurricular, student services, recreational or other programs or activities shall not be abridged or impaired because of a student's sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, genetic information, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. Questions regarding the interpretation or application of this policy shall be referred to the district administrator and processed in accordance with established procedures.

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Ripon Area School District that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil service, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, genetic information, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap, as required by s. 118.13, Wis. Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The District encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the policy in the Ripon Area School District. Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to: Business Manager, Jonah Adams or Director of Special Education, Becky Morrin, Ripon Area School District, P.O. Box 991, Ripon, WI 54971 (920) 748-4600. Any complaint regarding the interpretation or application of the district's student nondiscrimination policy shall be processed in accordance with the following grievance procedures:

- Where the grievant desires informal complaint resolution if possible, the complaint shall be submitted verbally or in writing to the school administrator at the lowest appropriate level who can provide resolution of the complaint. Confirmation of receipt of the complaint must be provided in writing to all parties involved within 10 school days of the receipt of the complaint.
- Where informal complaint resolution efforts are not possible or satisfactory or desired, any student, parent, or resident of the district complaining of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in school programs or activities shall report the complaint in writing via the "Discrimination Complaint" form to Business Manager, c/o P.O. Box 991, Ripon, WI 54971. The business manager, upon receiving such a written complaint, shall verify receipt of the complaint in writing as soon as possible (and no more than 45 days after receipt of the written complaint) and shall immediately undertake an investigation of the suspected infraction. The business manager will review, with the building principal or other appropriate persons, the facts comprising the alleged discrimination. The business manager will make an investigation of the complaint and will file a written report with his/her recommendations with the superintendent of schools within 15 working days of receipt of the complaint.
- Within 10 days after receiving the complaint the district administrator shall hold a conference with the compliance officer and then decide the merits of the case, determine the action to be taken, if any, and report in writing the findings and the resolution of the case to the grievant.
- If the grievant is dissatisfied with the decision of the district administrator, he/she may appeal the decision in writing to the board c/o the board president or superintendent of schools. The board shall hear the appeal within 30 days of receipt of the request at its next regular meeting, or a special meeting may be called for the purpose of hearing the appeal. The board shall make its decision in writing within 15 days after the hearing unless a mutually agreed to extension of time is arranged. Copies of the written decision shall be mailed or delivered to the grievant and the district administrator within 90 days of receipt of the initial written formal complaint and shall include a copy of the "Notification of Complaint of Right to Appeal" form. If the grievant is dissatisfied with the board's decision, he/ she may within 30 days appeal the decision in writing to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Appeals should be addressed to: State Superintendent, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707.
- If, at this point, the complaint has not been satisfactorily settled, further appeal may be made to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Education, 300 S. Wacker Dr., Eighth Floor, Chicago, IL 60606.
- Discrimination complaints relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement of the provision of free appropriate public education of a child with exceptional educational need shall be processed in accordance with established appeal procedures outlined in the district's special education handbook.
- Discrimination complaints relating to programs specifically governed by federal law or regulation shall be referred directly to the State Superintendent.

Annual Notice of Special Education Referral and Evaluation Procedures

Upon request, the Ripon Area School District is required to evaluate a child for eligibility for special education services. A request for evaluation is known as a referral. When the district receives a referral, the district will appoint an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if the child has a disability, and if the child needs special education services. The district locates, identifies, and evaluates all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private (including religious) schools, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district. A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability, has a legal duty to refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made. Others, including parents, who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability may also refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Referrals must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral may be made by contacting Becky Morrin, Ripon Area School District, at (920) 748-4616, or by writing to PO Box 991, Ripon WI 54971.