



Superintendent's Message

Spring is right around the corner and Ripon schools continue to offer face-to-face instruction. Now with fewer cases of COVID, on-site testing, and vaccinations, we look forward to life without masks. This newsletter is organized by the Board's four strategic priorities.

Student Engagement & Learning

Solid education in a healthy/safe environment
(Awards p. 1, School Choice p. 4)

Provide support services to ensure student success

(Mental Health Efforts p. 3)

Service and Partnership

Increase partnerships and satisfaction through CQI

(#Ripon Roar p. 2, Parent Satisfaction p. 3, OSHA Certification p. 4)

Human Resources

Increase opportunities to build high quality staff

(Staff Satisfaction p. 2)

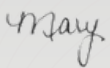
Finance and Operations

Refine systems to find efficiencies

(Open Enrollment, p. 1, ESSER Funds p. 2, Budget Update, p. 3, Enrollment p. 1-3)

Thank you to everyone helping to keep COVID spread low in our schools.

Respectfully Yours,



Dr. Mary Whitrock, Superintendent of Schools
Go Tigers!



Student Engagement & Learning

What Do Ripon's Recent Awards Mean?

Ripon Area School District (RASD) earned two Best Elementary Schools (Murray Park and Quest Charter) and two Best Middle Schools (Ripon Middle School and Catalyst Charter) badges in U.S. News and World Report's first-ever rankings of public elementary and middle schools. The distinction is awarded to the top 30% of schools in the state, with Ripon schools being at or near the top 10%.

According to U.S. News, for each state, schools were assessed on their pupils' proficiencies in mathematics and reading, as measured by state assessment tests. Half of the ranking formula was the results themselves; the other half was the results in the context of socioeconomic demographics. In other words, the top-ranked schools are high achieving ones that succeeded in educating all of their students. All data for the rankings are from third-party sources, including the U.S. Department of Education.



Ripon High School ranked #8,357 out of approximately 24,000 high schools nationally placing it in the top 35% of schools. The ranking methodology uses state education data from the 2018-2019 school year. Additional data was provided by the College Board and International Baccalaureate on their respective college-prep and Advanced Placement programs.

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 is 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."



Finance & Operations

District Gains Through Open Enrollment

On the 2nd Friday count date in January, the Ripon Area School District had an enrollment of 1,783 students, with 353 non-resident students enrolled. After accounting for 122 students who were open enrolled out of the district, RASD had a net gain of 231 students through open enrollment. The Odyssey Academy of Virtual Learning boosts the district's open enrollment numbers by attracting students who prefer to learn from home in a virtual classroom. Today, Odyssey's 286 students make up 16% of the total student population. Although fewer students are enrolled this year compared to last year - student enrollment is up from 2019-2020.

Human Resources

Staff Satisfaction Survey

Results	2017	2019	2020	2021
Satisfaction	3.10	3.54	3.91	3.80
Responses	86	85	130	134

The Staff Satisfaction Survey results show participation and overall satisfaction are up significantly from the first survey in 2017.

Service & Partnership



Over 244 donors gave \$37,350 to the Ripon Education Foundation's 2021 #RiponRoar campaign. The next opportunity to support the Foundation is during their Spring Scholarship Drive, April 23-29, 2022.



4th-grade teacher Erica Mailand displays reading materials provided by the Ripon Education Foundation.

Finance & Operations

ESSER Funds Impacting Students



As part of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Plan, Ripon received close to \$3 million in funding to use over three years. The funds are for the purpose of providing additional support in each school to assist students with learning loss and social emotional needs caused by the COVID pandemic as well as needed materials, supplies and staff to reduce the number of COVID cases in each school. With these additional funds, the Board approved additional positions for the 2021-2022 school year, including 3.5 classroom teachers, 3 student services positions

a part-time nurse, a part-time special education aide, and additional hours of clerical support and interpreter/translating services. Having additional staff to assist with the challenges brought on by COVID has allowed students to have more personalized instruction and interventions. When the additional ESSER funding ends, the District will look for other sources of additional funding, such as grants, savings in other areas of the budget, and/or work to absorb the additional staff members in these positions into regular permanent positions within the District.

Finance & Operations

District Total
1,785
students in 21-22

Ripon High School
479
students in 21-22

Ripon Middle Catalyst
326
students in 21-22

1,951
students in 20-21

488
students in 20-21

327
students in 20-21

*Data from 3rd Friday in September Report

Student Engagement & Learning

Mental Health Awareness Night

Students from Ripon High School and Berlin High School Boys and Girls Basketball teams joined **forces** to host Mental Health Awareness Night at their January 14 match up. Students and staff representing all four teams wore shirts with the green mental health ribbon and event date on the front and a message to end the stigma on the back. Guests from all four teams had the opportunity to buy tickets for numerous donated items with the proceeds to be used to provide mental health resources to students and staff in both schools. The following message was shared over the sound system at halftime: "Mental health is sometimes an uncomfortable topic that is shied away from by many. Tonight we



want to bring it to the forefront and join the fight to end the stigma. By being open with one another, we hope that people can build connections and assist each other when faced with adversity. Hopefully, people can start to feel more comfortable sharing their personal struggle. Remember it is okay for all of us not to be okay at times."



Service & Partnership



Results	2017	2019	2020	2021
Satisfaction	3.85	3.87	4.15	4.01
Responses	211	262	321	368

The Parent Satisfaction Survey results show participation and overall satisfaction has grown significantly from the first survey in 2017.

Finance & Operations

Midyear Budget Update

At the midway point of the 2021-22 school year, the RASD budget is **healthy**. Through January, the district has spent roughly 43% of its projected year-end budget. Revenue is equal to 41% of year-end projections. In December 2021, the District was awarded approximately \$207,000 in unrestricted federal revenue. This revenue will be used to reduce current-year Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund grant spending (ESSER) so that the district has more revenue in the 2022-2023 school year to pay for rising costs.

Looking ahead to the 2022-2023 school year, the district is mindful that the revenue from state and local sources within the revenue limit is frozen at 2020-2021 levels while inflation is high. This means that RASD will use its one-time federal grants to maintain services and cover increasing costs for salaries, medical benefits, transportation, etc. The federal ESSER grants will be spent by the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Murray Park
Quest
313
students in 21-22

Barlow Park
Journey
372
students in 21-22

Odyssey
Academy
295
students in 21-22

293
students in 20-21

384
students in 20-21

459
students in 20-21



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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 WINTER 2022

Student Engagement & Learning

School Choice Deadline

Ripon families of K-5 students have a choice between charter schools and content based/student-centered instruction schools. The 2022-2023 School Choice deadline is February 28. No matter the choice, children can thrive in all types of classrooms. Because the learning goals are the same for all students in a grade level, moving from a charter school to a more traditional school or vice versa can be done because it is a change in the classroom style and not a change in the substance of the grade-level material. Barlow Park Journey Principal Dr. Tanya Sanderfoot commented, "We don't see ourselves as four competing schools, rather, we are pleased to offer four amazing options for families to choose the best delivery model for their children"

Service & Partnership

RHS Students Earn OSHA Certification



Congratulations to the RHS Tech Ed students who completed their 10-hour, independent, on-line course to become OSHA certified. Having this credential is great for future employment.



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