



Superintendent's Message

In May, we honor staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. Help us celebrate by telling others your personal stories about how a favorite teacher or coach impacted you. Here's how the articles in this quarterly update connect with each of the School Board's strategic objectives:

Student Engagement & Learning

- Provide well rounded education in a healthy and safe environment (*Murray Park Playground - p.2*)
- Using evidenced-based interventions and support services to ensure every student graduates from high school prepared for their college and career plans (*Playschool/4K Leap into Learning - p.2*)
- Close achievement gaps in literacy and math (*Guest Reader - p.1, Learning by Doing - p.4*)

Service and Partnership

- Increase partnerships and satisfaction through CQI (*Board Members and Officers - p.2, Webster Grants - p.2, REF Music in Our Schools - p.3, Ingalls Field - p.3*)

Human Resources

- Increase opportunities to build high quality staff (*New Superintendent - p.1, Transition Timeline - p.1*)

Finance and Operations

- Refine systems to find efficiencies (*Preliminary Budget - p.3*)

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,

Mary

Dr. Mary Whitrock,
Superintendent of Schools
Go Tigers!



Superintendent Mary Whitrock shares a favorite book with second graders during Read Across America Week.



Human Resources

Welcome Superintendent Ron Rivard



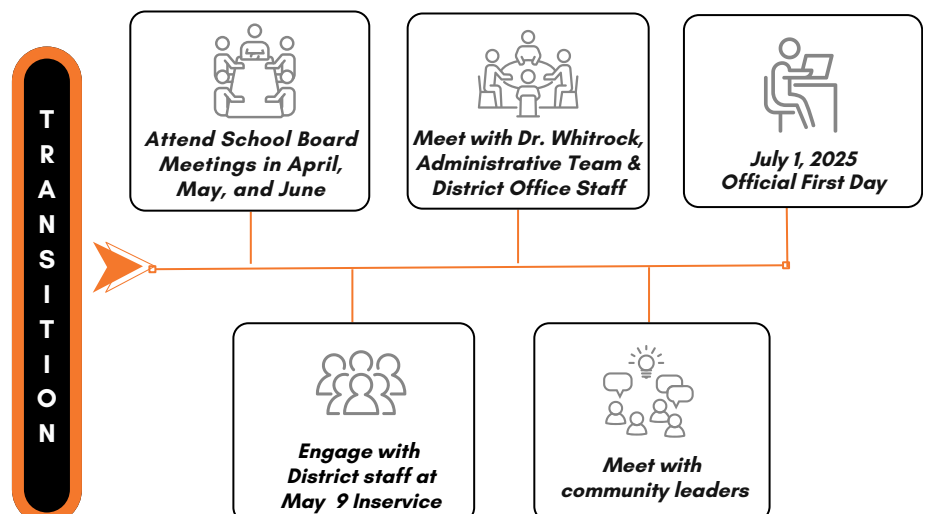
Ripon Superintendent Ron Rivard

The Ripon Area School District will welcome Ron Rivard as the new superintendent beginning on July 1, 2025. Since accepting the position, Mr. Rivard has visited Ripon numerous times, attending School Board meetings, the May 9 staff inservice, and joining administrative team meetings. He has spent several days at the district office interacting with Superintendent Mary Whitrock, Business Manager Jonah Adams, and Board Secretary Jolene Meyer.

Mr. Rivard shared, "This time before taking the official seat of superintendent is so valuable as it will ensure a smooth and seamless transition in July."

Prior to joining the Ripon Area School District, Mr. Rivard most recently served as the principal and curriculum director for Randall Consolidated School District J1. Before that role, he worked as an administrator in South Milwaukee, Waukesha, Waterford and Muskego-Norway. Rivard earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, his principal and director of instruction licensure from Cardinal Stritch University, and his superintendent licensure from Cardinal Stritch and Concordia Universities.

Superintendent Transition Plan



Service & Partnership

Elected to School Board



Chris Gatzke



Stefanie Meeker



Jessica Stollfuss

2025-2026 School Board Officers

President - Lori Machmueller
Vice President - Denise Martinez
Board Clerk - Tom Stellmacher
Treasurer - Stefanie Meeker

At the April 1, 2025, Spring Election, Ripon community members elected Chris Gatzke, Stefanie Meeker, and Jessica Stollfuss to serve three-year terms on the school board. The new members took office on April 28, 2025 at the Board's Annual Reorganizational Meeting.

Webster Foundation Grants



Barlow Park Elementary

\$1,500 Privacy Screens - Literacy Room
\$2,000 Playing with Literacy

Ripon Middle School

\$4,000 Theatre Wireless Mics



Ripon High School

\$800 Spanish Reading Program
\$1,000 Money Smart Books
\$1,000 Exploring Earth & Space
\$4,000 Theatre Short-Throw Projector

District Health Office

\$3,000 Support of student health needs



Student Engagement & Learning

Ripon High School Hosts PlaySchool

The Ripon High School (RHS) Child Development and Early Childhood Education classes host a four-week PlaySchool for children ages 2½ - 5 years old. The Early Childhood class is accredited through Moraine Park Technical College. RHS students prepare and lead activities for practice with motor skills, letter and number recognition, and creativity.



Leap Into Learning

4K Required Screening

Save your spot!
Choose your day & time!
Register at: bit.ly/4cvpn6B



Student Engagement & Learning

Inclusive Playground Symbol of Unification



The Murray Park and Quest school community is fundraising for a new, inclusive playground—a symbol of unity and growth to celebrate combining the two schools. The annual student-grown plant sale in May is one way families can support the effort.

Replacing equipment original to the building with a safe and modern play space has become a top priority. "This unification has been about more than combining buildings—it's about creating a new, shared identity," said Principal Jessi Johnson. "We want the playground to be a symbol of that unity and a place where all students feel welcome." The new playground will serve as a central hub for fun, friendship, and physical activity, helping students connect and journey together.

Finance & Operations

Preliminary Budget for 2025-2026

The 2025-2026 preliminary budget plan reduces expenditures and maintains a balanced budget while minimizing impacts on students. Given that Wisconsin's Biennial Budget for 2025-2027 determines most state and local revenue and is historically finalized after the school district must commit to teaching positions and vendor contracts, the District uses conservative projections and estimates each spring as it works to develop a balanced budget. This year, the District is projecting an increase in revenue limit funding and in per pupil categorical aid along with increases in open-enrollment tuition, the completion of Fund 38 debt payments, and new personal property aid to offset the expiration of ESSER III funds. This leaves an overall decrease of \$179,151 which the District has been able to account for through staffing changes and department budget adjustments.

Service & Partnership

Education Foundation Provides Composer

The Ripon Education Foundation (REF) was part of the Music in Our Schools event on March 11, 2025, to highlight their support of the music arts in our schools. The concert featured choir and band performances from students in grades 5-12. Donations to the REF collected at the concert will be used to commission a composer to write a combined piece for the students to perform at the March 2026 concert. The music department also plans to purchase a portable sound system for when students travel around the community to perform.



Service & Partnership

New Chapter Ingalls Field



Ingalls Field will enter a new era as Ripon College's new Hopp Stadium spurs an official end to the long-standing agreement between the District and College.

The agreement, which dates back to 1967, created an option for both organizations to use and maintain the field. With the opening of Hopp Stadium, Ripon College made their final payment under the agreement and notified the District to officially release its reversionary interest in Ingalls Field. This marks an important historic moment for both schools. Ingalls Field, formerly known as Ingalls Park, retains a prominent history in the City of Ripon. For decades, it has hosted both Ripon High School and Ripon College student athletic events, particularly football, track, and, more recently, soccer. In the absence of a new agreement, the two schools will be able to utilize each other's Facility Rental Fee Structure. At some point in the future, either or both schools could initiate conversation about a new agreement if the volume of use of each other's facilities warrants it.



Area School District

PO Box 991

1120 Metomen Street

Ripon, WI 54971

(920) 748-4600

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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
Commitment
Innovation

Excellence
Collaboration
Kindness

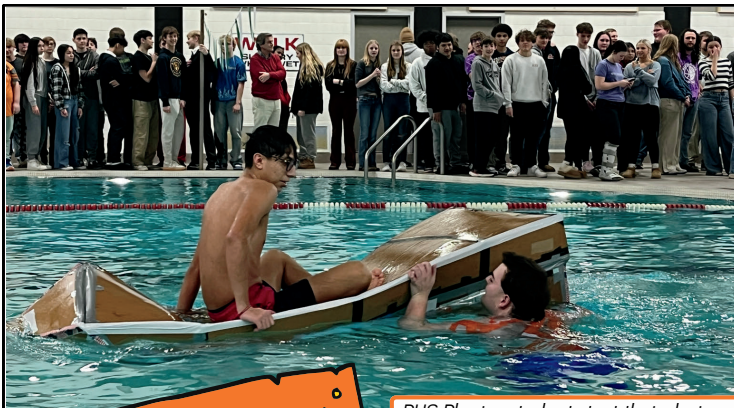
POSTAL CUSTOMER



TIGER UPDATE EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION SPRING 2025



Student Engagement & Learning



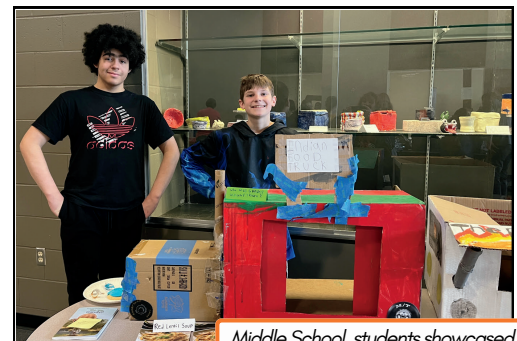
RHS Physics students test their designs in the annual Carboard Boat Race while the whole student body cheers them on.



Second-grade roller skating teaches balance, movement and is a great incentive to learn how to tie shoes.



Murray Park Quest students learn about a the life cycle of plants as they plant and tend to a variety of vegetables & flowers.



Middle School students showcased their favorite books and told the story through food at the Literacy Food Truck Event.



1120 Metomen St, Ripon, WI 54971



www.ripon.k12.wi.us