



Superintendent's Message

To help you stay informed on the progress of our continuous quality improvement (CQI) focus, this Tiger Update highlights the District's efforts in each of the School Board's four strategic areas:

Student Engagement & Learning

- Solid education in a healthy/safe environment (*RHS Best High Schools p. 1, Fall Achievement Data p. 1*)
- Provide support services to ensure student success (*Summer School 2023 p. 3, Camp BRAVE p. 4*)

Service and Partnership

- Increase partnerships and satisfaction through CQI (*REF #RiponRoar p. 2, Distinguished Alumni p. 2, Friend of Public Schools p. 2, Spring Board Election p. 3*)

Human Resources

- Increase opportunities to build high quality staff (*Education Week p. 1, Staff Surveys p. 2*)

Finance and Operations

- Refine systems to find efficiencies (*Grants p. 2, Technology and Facilities Update p. 3, Free Breakfast p. 3, Enrollment p. 3, Strategic Planning p. 4*)

Priority areas are reported to the Board and monitored throughout the year. Thank you to everyone for setting the tone for a successful and exciting school year.

Respectfully Yours,



Dr. Mary Whitrock, Superintendent of Schools
Go Tigers!



American Education Week is November 13 - 17. Education week is our chance to celebrate the achievements of our Ripon schools, hard working students, and talented staff.



Ripon Has National Best High School



Ripon's Rankings

🐾 In the State: #181 out of 574

🐾 In the Nation: #5,926 out of 17,680



Ripon High School has earned the national Best High Schools distinction by US News & World Report for the 2023-2024 school year.

State rankings are based on students' opportunity to take Advanced Placement (AP) coursework and exams. National rankings are based on a school's performance on state-required tests, graduation, and how well students are prepared for college. Principal Bill Kinziger commented, "This award reflects our staff, students', and families efforts to engage in the work of school and each other. Congratulations to everyone."

Fall Achievement Data

As part of Ripon's continuous improvement work, student achievement levels are checked three times a year using iReady, an online assessment tool. The Fall data below includes Odyssey Academy of Virtual Learning and compares achievement scores from last year to this year and then student scores across the nation for 2023 and across the country pre-COVID. Ripon is trending not only above the 2023 national normed average, but has also exceeded the national 2018 pre-COVID norm at almost every grade level.

Reading: % of Students At or Above Grade Level				
Grade (Class)	Ripon 2022	Ripon 2023*	US 2023	US 2018
Gr. 3 (2033)	34	45 (+9)	39	46
Gr. 4 (2032)	50	41 (-9)	29	30
Gr. 5 (2031)	46	44 (-2)	29	32
Gr. 6 (2030)	48	42 (-6)	31	31
Gr. 7 (2029)	45	50 (+5)	32	37
Gr. 8 (2028)	40	45 (+5)	34	41

Math: % of Students At or Above Grade Level				
Grade (Class)	Ripon 2022	Ripon 2023*	US 2023	US 2018
Gr. 3 (2033)	26	28 (+2)	13	20
Gr. 4 (2032)	19	30 (+11)	21	33
Gr. 5 (2031)	35	43 (+8)	25	37
Gr. 6 (2030)	46	51 (+5)	26	33
Gr. 7 (2029)	35	36 (+1)	22	30
Gr. 8 (2028)	39	39 (0)	20	30

*Same group of students from the fall last year

Human Resources

New Employee 30 Day Survey

- 96% feel like they are fitting in very well**
- 81% have a clear understanding of their role**
- 88% feel comfortable with all aspects of the job**

Areas for clarity include the online evaluation system and gaining an understanding of Ripon's behavior intervention system.

Service & Partnership



ROAR for Ripon!

The Ripon Education Foundation's online #RiponROAR campaign is November 13 - 17. Their goal is to have 237 donors which represents the number of staff currently serving our students. Since 2006 they have given \$1,006,496 in grants and scholarships!

Scan to Support the Foundation

riponeducationfoundation.org



Finance & Operations

Over \$980,000 in Grants

- **\$157,921** to Barlow Park Charter for the final year (five year grant totaling \$800,000)
- **\$115,000** the final payment of a five year grant for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant at Journey Project Elementary
- **\$413,732** IDEA - Special Education
- **\$277,527** Title Grants (I - IV)
- **\$15,257** Carl Perkins Grant
- **\$2,492** Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Program

Service & Partnership

Friend Of Public Schools

Cory Pollesch, Lynn Pollesch, and Jon Heatley were celebrated as the District's 2023 Friends of Public Schools. The school board selected these three gentlemen for their ongoing support for both students and staff through their continued vision and philanthropic support of the Ripon Area School District. Each year, Cory Pollesch organizes the MP Charity Golf Outing and Lynn Pollesch and Jon Heatley organize the East Central Benefit Tractor Cruise to raise funds to provide necessities for children whose families cannot otherwise afford them, such as coats, shoes, school supplies, and eyeglasses. Over \$100,000 has been given to Ripon schools through seventeen MP Golf outings while the



Superintendent Mary Whitrock presents Jon Heatley with Friend of Public Schools award.

Tractor Cruise as impacted the Ripon Student Basic Needs Fund with close to \$50,000. All three of these former Ripon students have found a way to use their interests and hobbies to be community leaders and models of compassion as they care for others.

Service & Partnership

Distinguished Alumni



(Left to Right) Sam Daun, RHS School Counselor, John Erickson, 2023 Distinguished Alumni, Bill Kinzinger, RHS Principal

Ripon High School named John Erickson (Class of 2004) the 2023 Distinguished Alumni. John's journey to create a more just, tolerant, and diverse world began at the age of six when he was a regular volunteer at the Ripon Community Food Bank. He currently serves as the Vice President

of Public Affairs, Communications, and Marketing at Planned Parenthood in Los Angeles and serves the City of West Hollywood as Mayor Pro Tempore. He has a degree in English and Women's Studies from UW-Oshkosh and master's degrees in Applied Women's Studies and Women's Studies in Religion from Claremont Graduate University in California. In 2019 he earned a Ph.D. in American Religious History.

While at Claremont, John interned for the West Hollywood City Council. In 2020 he was elected to the Council. His advocacy work includes serving as a board member of the National Organization for Women and former President of the ACLU Southern California. He serves on the UW-Oshkosh Alumni Board and is the Founding President of UW-Oshkosh's LGBTQIA+ Alumni Board.

Student Engagement & Learning

Summer School 2023 Highlights

2023 Summer School was a five-week session from mid-June through mid-July. Classes were offered at all grade levels, as well as a two-week high school STEM camp in July and Credit Recovery which ran throughout the summer. The district-wide student orientation days on August 30 and 31 counted as summer school minutes and provided for a smooth transition to the 2023-2024 school year for all students in grades 4K-12.

Summer School Participation					
LOCATION	2023	2022	2021	*2020	2019
Barlow Park/Journey/BPC	139	154	178	164	213
Murray Park/Quest	230	200	163	100	196
Ripon Middle/Catalyst	203	122	110	181	197
Ripon High School	283	309	276	231	270
Swimming Lessons	363	309	425	—	423
Student FTE Equivalent for Revenue	70	68	72	42	78

*Virtual only due to school buildings being closed

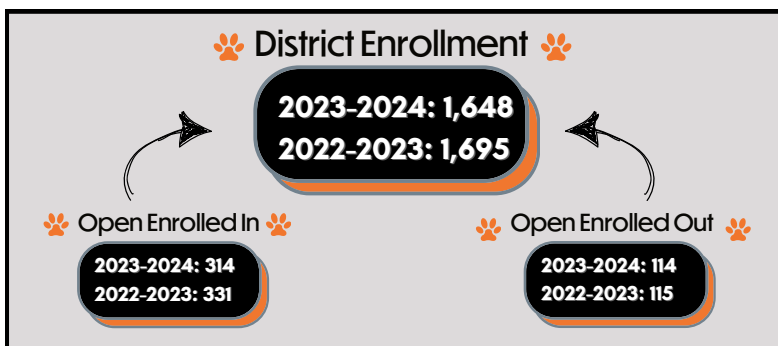


The Tennis Basics - Serving Up Aces Summer School Class for grades 3-5 featured an action-packed two hours of running, swinging, agility, and balance while learning court etiquette, scoring, and gameplay. It was led by United States Tennis Association (USTA) instructors and Ripon High Girls' Tennis Coaches Sue Novak and Deb Driscoll

Finance & Operations

Student Enrollment Comparisons

The District continues to gain more students through open enrollment than it loses. Overall student enrollment is down 47 students (- 2.8%) from last year. Roughly 70% of Wisconsin districts are also experiencing this trend.



Service & Partnership

Spring School Board Election
Tuesday, April 2, 2024

TO FILL
 Three 3-year Seats
 One 1-year Seat

Incumbents in Alpha Order:

- Nicole Dash
- Andy Lyke
- Lori Machmueller
- Denise Martinez

Deadline to declare candidacy is
January 2, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Finance & Operations

Facility & Technology Summer Updates

- Replaced 265 student and 25 staff devices
- Install 50 wireless access points
- Replaced kitchen equipment
- Removed 14 trees and planted 11 trees
- Completed phase two of BPJ natural playground
- HVAC work and/or lighting projects in several buildings
- Concrete work and/or asphalt work at several buildings
- Moved 15 teachers into different classrooms
- Replaced 15 classroom locks at BPJ
- Reconfigured library and main office at BPJ
- Replaced hallway and gym clocks

Finance & Operations

Free Breakfast Continues

Free breakfast is available to all students again this school year. The School Board approved using food service fund balance to continue to provide a nutritious breakfast option every morning.



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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 FALL 2023



Student Engagement & Learning

Camp BRAVE Keeps Kids Learning

Camp BRAVE is a free full-day program for K-5 students featuring a variety of off-site field trips on most teacher in-service days. Average attendance this fall has been 98 students. Advanced registration is required and the fall programs filled quickly. Students have enjoyed a visit to Heritage Hill in Green Bay where they engaged with historical interpreters to learn about the print shop, fur trade, and the fife and drum corps.

In October UW-Green Bay (UWGB) faculty and staff hosted interactive presentations about money and finance with a Harry Potter theme. BRAVE students enjoyed the challenge of playing with members of UWGB athletic teams and being creative when making seed balls using seeds of native Wisconsin plants.

Registration for second semester opens Dec. 1.



Camp BRAVE students asking questions about the fife and drum corps at Heritage Hill, Green Bay.



UWGB athletes played volleyball, basketball, soccer, and football with students in the Kress Center.



Finance & Operations

Strategic Planning Session

The RASD Strategic Planning Team met on September 20 to help set the direction of the district over the next school year.

The team reviewed processes and procedures related to increase proficiency and growth in English Language Arts and Math; decrease behavior referrals; and close the achievement gap (EL, Spec. Ed, Interventions). As part of this discussion the team considered the following questions: what gets in the way of reaching this goal; what resources are available to provide support to families; how might the District ensure families are aware of and using the support; and are there any additional supports needed to help families. The feedback included creating a more user friendly website with consistencies across buildings and schools as well as continuing to meet the basic needs of students.

