

Ripon Area School District  
**Ripon School News**

"MORE CHOICES. BETTER RESULTS."

JUNE 2014

WWW.RIPON.K12.WI.US

**From the Superintendent's Desk**



*As I reflect on my first year in Ripon as your superintendent, many highlights come to mind. The year was filled with success stories and also important foundational work to build on moving forward into next year.*

*It has truly been a great school year in many ways. The Ripon Area School District is so fortunate to have dedicated students, talented teachers and staff, involved parents, and a supportive community.*

*That combination has led to many accomplishments and moments for which we can all be proud;*

- RASD exceeded expectations on the new state report cards;
- RASD outperformed the state in 22 out of 23 categories on the state assessment;
- RASD surpassed the state average on the ACT;
- Journey K- 2 Project-Based Charter School opened;
- Ripon received national recognition as a 2014 Best Community for Music Education;
- RHS received state recognition as a Level III Advanced Placement Pacesetter School for impressive AP access and excellence in AP exam scores;
- Our teachers earned advanced degrees and received state level recognition;
- Our staff presented at regional, state, and national conferences;
- Our students and staff helped to feed the hungry by bus and truck load;
- Our students collected more coats than any other school in our region;
- Our students assisted in the building of the Ripon Habitat for Humanity home;
- RASD joined efforts with the community to support the families affected by the fire in downtown Ripon;
- Numerous students attended regional, state and national competitions and received awards and recognition for their academic, artistic, and athletic talent;
- RHS seniors received over \$1,000,000 in scholarships to support their continuing education efforts;
- The Ripon Community revealed support for a \$29.1 million proposed Plan C to combine the high school and middle school on the current high school site as well as continuing the current operational referendum.

*As we look ahead, the District will focus on the Board's defined core priorities including adapting programs and services to maximize student learning; implementing measures to attract, retain, and better utilize quality staff; and promoting community awareness of, involvement in, and support for education.*

*Next year, RASD will work to further define our long-range facilities plan, continue to build rigorous academic programs; complete a procedural special education self-reflection through the Department of Public Instruction, use new state level assessments including PALs at 2nd grade, SMARTER Balanced in grades 3-8, Aspire in grades 9 and 10, Work Keys in grade 11, and ACT in grade 11; and build partnerships to ensure our students are ready for college and careers.*

*There are truly many accomplishments for which we can all take great pride and many more accomplishments ahead. Ripon Area School District is affecting the lives of our students and their futures. We are truly investing today for our tomorrow.*

*Thank you for a great 2013-14 school year!! I look forward to the fall as we continue to build on this year's success in 2014-15.*

*Respectfully yours,  
 Dr. Mary Whitrock  
 Go Tigers!*

**Facilities Community Engagement Session**  
 June 14, 2014  
 6:30 p.m.  
 RHS Room 167

**Over \$1 Million Awarded in Scholarships**

Ripon students received over \$1,000,000 in scholarships which were announced at the high school's annual Awards Night. There were 118 scholarships awarded, many of the 153 graduates receiving multiple scholarships.

The Ripon Education Foundation awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships to 16 deserving graduates.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients! And a special thank you to all the contributors who made these scholarships possible so our graduates can pursue further education.

**Coming to Your Mailbox**

The 2014-15 full-color community calendar, designed as a student graphic arts project, is being printed and will be mailed to all 54971 households in late June.

Look for it!

**2014 Summer School Dates Set**

The 2014 Summer School session will begin on Monday, June 16. The last day of Summer School will be on Friday, July 18. There is no school on July 3 & 4 for the Independence Day holiday.

**153 Students Graduate**

High School diplomas were handed out to 153 members of the Class of 2014 in an outdoor ceremony on Ingalls Field. Master of Ceremonies was Class President Adele Parks. Student speakers were Jacob Wallner and John Lyke. Mr. Mark Bradley was the faculty speaker. Congratulations to our 2014 Ripon High School Graduates!

**Survey Results**

The community-wide School Perceptions survey results were shared with the Board of Education at their regularly scheduled May Board meeting. Over 1000 residents in the Ripon Area School District participated in the survey which was higher than expected compared to other similarly sized communities. Based on the survey Plan C to combine the high school and middle school on the high school site had the most support.

The Ripon School Board and District Administration gathered on Monday, June 9 to review the community survey comment analysis, and to further refine the scope of the \$29.1 million proposed Plan C. The Board started the workshop by reviewing the survey analysis of all community comments prepared by School Perceptions. The comments were divided into themes and were considered for incorporation into Plan C.

Comments included everything from providing enhanced security and reconfiguring visitor parking at the elementary schools, to making site improvements that provide tennis courts and additional parking for Ingalls Field at the existing middle school site. Critical comments regarding the combined building were auditorium upgrades with air conditioning, new state of the art science classrooms, and new technical education rooms. A dedicated middle and high school music center, flexible common spaces with a new middle school cafeteria, new competition high school gym and locker rooms, technology infrastructure, energy efficiency upgrades, separate middle and high school entrances, and enhanced community spaces were among top community suggestions.

Refining Plan C is a continuous process, and during the pre-design phase the board, administration and staff will continue to make decisions at a high level or from a 30,000 foot view relative to the educational model; size and capacity; number of education spaces; large system upgrades; site layout and viability; and programming adjacencies. Should a referendum pass, six to eight months of actual design work would occur before any construction would start.

The community is favorable in continuing with the current tax rate under the \$500,000 operation referendum that is in effect. Of the proposed \$500,000 operational referendum for the 2016-2021 school years, the Board reviewed what would be included in the budget (i.e. \$225,000 Curriculum; \$160,000 Technology; \$100,00 Maintenance; and \$15,000 for Vehicles).

A Community Engagement session is planned for June 18 at 6:30 p.m. in RHS room 167. As the process continues, the District will be meeting with city officials, staff, and hosting another Board Workshop on July 14. If the Board votes to proceed to referendum, the deadline for the Board to approve the resolution is August 18.

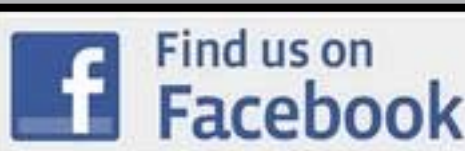


Seven of this year's STEP (Senior Tax Exchange Program) volunteers took a moment to be honored for over 1,000 volunteer hours contributed during the past year. STEP volunteers can earn a \$425 annual credit for their property taxes by volunteering in the schools. Eligibility criteria include being at least 62 years old, a Social Security recipient, and property taxpayer in the District.

PARA ESPAÑOL VEA LA ULTIMA PAGINA

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**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
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 PERMIT NO. 197







## Roars Luncheon

ROARS (Retirees of All Ripon Schools) held their spring luncheon on May 21 at CJ's. The Ripon High School Cantabile Choir was invited to perform. The show included two state solo ensemble pieces, numerous selections from the Spring Choral Concert, and a song the group performed at Baccalaureate. The program continued with Dr. Whitrock sharing the facilities survey results. All RASD retirees are invited and encouraged to attend. The next luncheon will be in the fall.

## Career Exploration Day

Murray Park/Quest Elementary School in Ripon held its annual Career Exploration Day on April 11th, 2014. All third, fourth and fifth graders participated in this event.

Thirty-five individuals from the greater Ripon area volunteered to discuss their jobs with the students. The presenters explained their jobs emphasizing skills required for their job, reasons they chose their career, career goals, and the technology they use on a daily basis. The presenters included students in "hands-on" activities in order to give students a realistic picture of what they do at their job each day. Students attended four, thirty-minute sessions held throughout the morning.

Murray Park/Quest Career Exploration Day was planned by the Career Day Committee. The committee is comprised of Murray Park staff members and students.

## Board of Education Meetings

June 16  
July 21  
August 18

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in RHS room 167



## 25th Annual UW-Madison German Day

On April 8th, 21 RHS German students traveled to Union South on the UW-Madison campus to take part in the university's 25th annual German Day Contest. Teams of students took part in various language competitions, including poetry, spelling bee, skit, DVD creation, Pictionary, vocal music solo and ensemble, and poster design. In addition to representing RHS well with strong scores in all events, students also had the opportunity to tour parts of the Madison campus and enjoy lunch on State Street. Thanks to the beautiful spring weather and the outgoing group of students, a great time was had by all!

### MISSION STATEMENT

**"WE INVEST IN LEARNING TODAY  
FOR OUR TOMORROW."**

## Curriculum Corner



Dr. Melanie Oppor  
Curriculum Director

### Summer Slide --- It really does exist!

Perhaps you have heard the saying, "it's as easy as riding a bike." Well, that may be true but let's say that you have not ridden a bike over those icy winter months. The first time back on two wheels can be a little wobbly until you get back in the rhythm of bike riding again. Something similar happens with students over the summer when they are not practicing essential skills like reading and math. In education, we call that the "summer slide."

Students tend to lose some of the learning they have acquired during the school year when they don't stay connected with essential skills. According to the June 2014 Brainwaves e-newsletter, "summer slide has been studied in the United States since 1906. Most students will lose about two full months of learning but some of these students will lose as much as three months of learning over the summer break (Cooper, 1996). "Most alarming is that summer slide is cumulative. In other words, for kids getting little or no educational

stimulation in the summer, the months of learning lost 'add up' each summer pushing students farther and farther behind peers that do keep learning even though school is not in session" (Cooper et. al, 2000).

Brainwaves (June, 2014) offers the following 7 ideas to stop summer slide that are fun and keep learners of all ages involved:

Visit the public library. Books, magazines, audio books, and organized events are available at the Ripon Public Library (<http://www.riponlibrary.org>). You can meet local authors, join a reading program, and even borrow materials online!

Use the Web. Many RASD teachers offer great suggestions for websites that connect with skills students have learned in the classroom. For example, Education Place (<http://www.eduplace.com/parents/mthexp/>) is a K-5 website for families and students that follows the district's Math Expressions series. Your family may also enjoy Education.com (<http://www.education.com/>). This website offers learning information and activities for infants through the high school years. If you don't have a computer at home, you can use a computer for free at the public library.

Cook together as a family. Cooking uses reading, math, following directions, and planning skills. Plus, learning how to cook is a practical life

skill.

Make use of apps. These days technology is all around us including on our mobile phones. There are many free or low cost apps that have learning value. Ask your child's teacher about educational apps that link with skills students have learned in class.

Use virtual readers for young children. The BPES/Journey Media Center webpage has the link for the free BookFlix website where children can hear books read aloud. The school media center web pages are filled with free and age-appropriate learning links for students and families.

Take a virtual field trip. Explore websites that allow you to visit interesting and faraway places you may not be able to visit in person.

Read something every day. "This is probably the most commonly offered suggestion but is also the most important advice---try to plan for reading every day through one of the suggestions above or ideas you create and discover on your own. Getting your students to read---and listen to others reading---prevents the loss of language skills so critical to success in every academic area" (Brainwaves e-newsletter, June 2014).

So while you may be enjoying refreshing waterslides this summer, try these little tips to stop the summer learning slide.



## White Privilege Conference

Seven students and two teachers joined 2,500 others at the 15th annual White Privilege Conference in Madison. This is the third time the RASD has sent faculty and students to the WPC, the premiere racial justice conference in the nation. With hundreds of workshops, daily keynotes and a dynamic youth program, the 3-day event was unforgettable for all who attended. Attendance was funded by grants and donations.



Ripon High School hosted Friendship Day on Wednesday, May 14. 11 schools participated in the track and field event.

## Thank You for Contributions to the District:

Ripon Science Club  
Mark Kanitz  
Lisa Schwandt  
French Adventure Booster Club  
Berry Appraisal Service  
Scott & Beverly Sonnkab  
Larry Didlo

Dept of Financial Institution  
Ripon Area United Way  
WI Dept of Natural Resources  
Stevan & Ceryll Weekly  
Wohl Publishing & Economics  
Melanie Stollfuss



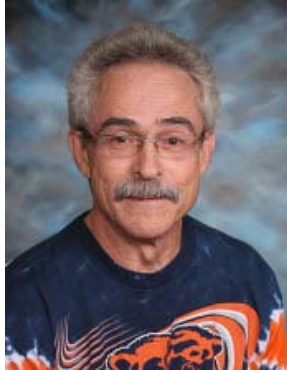
## Congratulations to the following RASD Retirees for over 178 years of service to Ripon!



**Debbie Davis**  
(9.5 years)  
Ripon Middle School  
Instructional Aide



**Rick Ketter**  
(13 years)  
Business Manager



**David Oppor**  
(18 years)  
Barlow Park Elementary  
Custodian



**Linda Riegle**  
(20 years)  
Ripon High School  
Spanish Teacher



**Joanne Wickstrom**  
(22 years)  
Murray Park Elementary  
Instructional Aide



**Mary Jahnke**  
(25 years)  
Ripon Middle School  
Instructional Aide



**Pat Sias**  
(25 years)  
School Psychologist



**Kathy Davis**  
(28 years)  
Media Center Director



**Dean Evensen**  
(36 years)  
Ripon High School  
Technology Ed Teacher

## Outstanding Achievement Recognition



Cindi Pokorny was honored as a Wisconsin Association of Colleges of Teacher Education Early Career Educator Award recipient.

Check the web for 100s of photos!  
[www.ripon.k12.wi.us](http://www.ripon.k12.wi.us)



Eliza Morris received recognition for her selection as an oboist in the 2014 Wisconsin State Honors Band. Jacob Wallner, Lucas Eberhart, and Peter Gauthier were honored for their Outstanding Soloist awards from the Western Michigan University Jazz Festival.



Ripon High School was recognized as an Advanced Placement (AP) Level III Pacesetter school by State Superintendent, Tony Evers.



Jacqueline Charapata was honored as a Wisconsin Association of Colleges of Teacher Education Early Career Educator Award recipient.



Sandy Polcyn and John Lyke were selected as Herb Kohl Award recipients.





**Administrative Services Center**  
748-4600  
1120 Metomen Street  
P.O. Box 991  
Superintendent: Dr. Mary Whitrock  
Business Manager: Mr. Rick Ketter

**Barlow Park Elementary School**  
**Journey Charter School**  
Grades PreK-2  
748-1550  
100 Ringstad Drive  
Principal: Dr. Myra Misles-Krhin

**Murray Park Elementary School**  
**Quest Elementary School**  
Grades 3-5  
748-4695  
64 Sunset Avenue  
Principal: Mr. Randy Hatlen

**Ripon Middle School**  
**Catalyst Charter Middle School**  
Grades 6-8  
748-4638  
651 Metomen Street  
Principal: Mr. Tom Hoh

**Ripon High School**  
**Lumen Charter High**  
Grades 9-12  
748-4616  
850 Tiger Drive  
Principal: Mr. Dan Tjernagel  
Assistant Principal: Mr. Rick Bunge

**Crossroads Academy**  
Grades 8-12  
Principal: Mr. Dan Tjernagel

**Ripon Board of Education**  
President: David Scott  
Vice President: Thomas Stellmacher  
Clerk: Barb Schultz  
Treasurer: Gary Rodman  
Members: Heather Hartling  
Andy Lyke  
Sherry Muskavitch  
David Olson  
Dan Zimmerman

**Board Meetings**  
Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in Ripon High School's multi-purpose room 167 at 7:00 p.m. Any additional meetings are duly posted at the Ripon Public Library and at the Ripon City Hall. For additional information contact the school district administrative office at 748-4600.

The Ripon Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap or any other characteristic protected by law.



## English Learner Family Night

April 9th was the final Family Night celebration of the year for English Learner students. The well-attended, pot-luck style evening started with the recognition of graduating Ripon High School seniors: Elias Nelsen, Joel Castro, James and Peter Vander Galien, Tereza Schnell-Harrison, Kevin Mejia, Aline Huar, as well as Lumen Charter High senior Michael Huar.



These students have been part of the English Learner program in Ripon and were asked to speak about their dreams for the future and offer advice to students who are still awaiting their own rite of passage through school.

During this evening we focused on literacy and played bingo where everyone had the opportunity to walk away with some books to read and a few additional prizes.

## Resumen de noticias escolares para nuestros residentes de habla española

### Más de \$1 millón de dólares fueron entregados en becas.

Estudiantes en Ripon recibieron más de \$1,000,000 en becas, las cuales fueron anunciadas en la preparatoria durante el banquete anual de premiación.

### Fechas para la escuela de verano.

La sesión de la escuela de verano 2014 comenzará el lunes 16 de junio. El último día será el Viernes 18 de Julio. No habrá clases los días 3 y 4 de Julio debido a los festejos del Día de Independencia.

### 153 Graduados

153 miembros de la Clase del 2014 recibieron sus diplomas de educación preparatoria durante una ceremonia en el Ingalls Field.

### Resultados de las encuestas.

Los resultados de la encuesta de Percepción de la Escuela que se hizo a nivel comunitario fueron compartidos con la Mesa Directiva (Board of Education) durante su junta regular del mes de mayo. Más de 1000 residentes en el área de Ripon participaron en la encuesta, número que fue mayor al esperado en comparación con otras comunidades de tamaño similar.

### Almuerzo ROARS

ROARS (Retirees of All Ripon Schools/Personas jubiladas de todas las escuelas de Ripon) celebraron su almuerzo de primavera el 21 de mayo en CJ's. El coro de la escuela de Ripon (Ripon High School Cantabile Choir) fue invitado a participar.

### Día de exploración de carreras.

El día de exploración de carreras de la escuela Murray Park/Quest Elementary School en Ripon fue llevado a cabo el 11 de abril del 2014. Todos los estudiantes en tercer, cuarto y quinto año participaron en este evento.

### 25a. Celebración anual del Día Alemán en UW-Madison

21 estudiantes de alemán de la escuela preparatoria de Ripon viajaron a Union South en el campus de la Universidad de Wisconsin-Madison para tomar parte del veinticincoavo concurso anual del día alemán de esa Universidad.

### Jubilados del Distrito Escolar del Área de Ripon

9 empleados del Distrito Escolar del Área de Ripon, con más de 178 años de servicio, se retirarán al final del ciclo escolar 2013-14.

## Ways You Can Help Ripon Schools

**Boxtops Needed** — Clip the Boxtops for Education logo on many household products and drop-off at any school office. Some of the many products with the logo are: Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, General Mills, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex, and Huggies.

**STEP Volunteers** — Senior citizens can save on property taxes by volunteering in Ripon schools. Contact the District office at 748-4600 to get more information.

**READ Dogs** — Bring your dog to school and let students read to "Fido." Contact Ms. Pat Grahm at 920-572-6585 to learn about training your dog in the READ program.

### Journey Governance Council

President: Shelly Kastenschmidt  
Vice President: Melissa Worthington  
Treasurer: Wayne Webster  
Secretary: Carrie Naparalla  
Members: Bethany Nodolf  
Amy Pollesch  
Bill Schultz  
Carrie Tjernagel

### Quest Governance Council

President: Becki Baird  
Treasurer: Pam Neper  
Secretary: Nicky Yeomans  
Members: Drew Diedrich  
Julia Messitte  
Brenda Rapp  
Keri Simacek  
Bill Whitehead  
Skip Wittler

### Catalyst Governance Council

President: Adam Mielke  
Vice President: Jack Christ  
Treasurer: Jean Rigden  
Secretary: Candie Baker  
Members: Tim Scottberg  
Sandy Wisneski

### Lumen Governance Council

Co-President: Deano Pape  
Co-President: Jeanne Williams  
Treasurer: Pat Grahm  
Members: Paula Hageman  
Adam Jacobi  
Stacy Pethke  
Phil Schaffer  
Paul Wiegel

## Stay Informed about Ripon Schools

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**District Website** — The website includes current news and a calendar of events for the entire district.

**Facebook** — Dozens of albums and hundreds of photos from school activities fill the District's Facebook page. Anyone can access it from the District's web page.

**Email News Network** — Sign up for free email updates of news about what's happening in Ripon schools. To subscribe send an email to: whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us.