

# Ripon Area School District

# Ripon School News

JUNE 2015

"MORE CHOICES. BETTER RESULTS."

WWW.RIPON.K12.WI.US

## From the Superintendent's Desk



*As the 2014-15 school year concludes, 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 been a very historic school year in many ways.*

*With the passing of a 29.1 million facility referendum in November 2014 by a 2-1 margin the district broke ground on the 6-12 facility this spring. The additions and renovations to the existing high school building provide for modern learning spaces. The facility project will be completed in August 2016.*

*New curriculum resources, made possible through the operational referendum, will be available for students in the fall. These resources include new reading materials to align with the writing materials that were implemented this past year. Students will also have access to new hands-on science and engineering resources.*

*In addition to being a top rated district based on our state report cards, US News & World Report recognize Ripon High School and Lumen as top ranked high schools in the country. Both RHS and Lumen received bronze ratings.*

*Earlier this school year, Ripon was named by Nerdwallet as a top ten Best Cities for Young Families in Wisconsin. The distinction is based on communities that offer the best combination of solid schools, great neighbors, and affordability. RASD is proud to be part of the reason Ripon received this recognition.*

*In a partnership with the UW-Colleges system, I traveled with leaders from Ripon and three other Wisconsin school districts to China for 10 days this spring to establish a pathway for international tuition paying students from China to earn a diploma in Ripon. Goals of the program include bringing international diversity, permitting greater study abroad opportunities, augmenting declining enrollments, and providing additional revenue to the district.*

*These are just some of the many accomplishments for which we can all take great pride and there are many more accomplishments ahead. A strategic planning team comprised of stakeholders from across the district and community met on Wednesday evenings for the past three months to set the course for the district over the next five years. The final draft of the vision, mission and strategic objectives has been submitted to the Board for their approval.*

*Thank you for a great 2014-15 school year!! Ripon Area School District is affecting the lives of our students and their futures. We are truly investing today for our tomorrow.*

Respectfully Yours,  
Dr. Mary Whitrock  
Go Tigers!



The Girl Scout Juniors Troop 6217 hosted UW-Whitewater Wheelchair athletes as part of their Cornerstones for Success Program.

## Scholarship Awards

Ripon students received over \$830,000 in scholarships which were announced at the high school's annual Awards Night. There were 115 scholarships awarded, with many of the 126 graduates receiving multiple scholarships. The Ripon Education Foundation awarded over \$10,600 in scholarships to 12 deserving students. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients! And a special thank you to all the contributors who made these scholarships possible so our graduates can pursue further education.

## Summer School

June 15 - July 17  
8:00am - 12:15pm

No school July 2 & 3 due to Independence Day.

## 126 Graduates

High School diplomas were awarded to 126 members of the Class of 2015 in an outdoor ceremony on Ingalls Field. Master of Ceremonies was Class President Aubrey Zimmerman. Student speakers were Aubrey Schoff, Peter Gauthier, and Caroline Brumley. Mrs. Barb Ames was the faculty speaker. Congratulations to our 2015 Ripon High School and Lumen Charter High School Graduates!

## Upcoming School Board Meetings

Monday, June 15  
Monday, July 20  
Monday, August 17

All meetings are held at 6:00pm in the RMS media center.

Mark Your Calendars!

## Coming Soon!

*The 2015-16 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.*

Watch for it!



Additional internal renderings can be found under the construction button on the District website.

## Facilities Update

At the May meeting, the Board of Education reviewed the first internal renderings of the 6-12 facility. The construction of the middle and high school facility was approved by voters at the November 2014 referendum and construction officially began with a groundbreaking in April 2015.

The phasing of the project work is planned heavily for the summer months over the next two years to minimize disruptions to class time, school events and normal operations. The work areas will be separated from the student areas to maximize safety and security for the students and staff.

Beginning in July 2015, Ripon High School will have a temporary main entrance on the south side of the existing building. Students, parents and community members will access this entrance from the new south parking lot and will utilize this entrance through April 2016 when the additions to the west side of the facility are complete.



Superintendent Dr. Mary Whitrock, Curriculum Director Christine Damm, and Social Studies Teacher Rick Kelm traveled recently with a state-wide delegation to establish international partnerships with public high schools and universities in the cities of Yancheng and Zhangjiagang in the Jiangsu Province of China.

## RHS & LHS Named Top High Schools

US News & World Report recognize Ripon High School and Lumen High School as top ranked high schools in the country. Both RHS and Lumen received bronze ratings. The 2015 Best High Schools rankings highlight top-performing public schools on a state and national level. The 2015 rankings include data on more than 21,150 public high schools. In this year's edition of Best High Schools, 6,517 schools received medals. A three-step process determined the Best High Schools. The first two steps ensured that the schools serve all of their students well, using their performance on the math and reading parts of their state proficiency tests as the benchmarks. For those schools that made it past the first two steps, a third step assessed the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work. In the 2015 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings, 57 Wisconsin schools earned silver medals and 83 were awarded bronze.



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Congratulations to the ten students selected to participate in the UW-Oshkosh High School Art Day 2015. They represented Ripon High School well both in the quality of their artwork as well as being engaged and involved in the workshops.

Board Remains the Same; Officers Change

Voters of the Ripon Area School District re-elected incumbents to the three open Board of Education seats at the April 7 election. Returning to the board are Andy Lyke, John Sperger, and Dan Zimmerman.

At its annual reorganization meeting required by the State, the Ripon Board elected the following officer positions: Andy Lyke as President; Dan Zimmerman as Vice President; Dave Olson as Clerk; and Sherry Muskavitch as Treasurer. Gary Rodman remained the Ripon Education Foundation representative.



The Ripon High School Outdoors Club recently completed their annual after school fishing rod building class. Fourteen high school students from RHS, Lumen, and Markesan High School participated.



French Adventure

Twenty-one French 5th graders from Paris, France were greeted with a warm welcome from the American host families on May 5th. They were accompanied by their teachers Katy Renard and Alain Buchheit and arrived in Ripon, on May 5th. The group stayed with host families throughout the Ripon community from May 5th to May 25th. Six students and three teachers will be going back to France from June 11th to June 28th.

The French Adventure exchange program is a year long project for the French children. From September to January the French children were busy improving their English and learning about American culture. The French and American children were matched up in January and phase two of the project began. The families exchanged emails, letters, phone calls, video conferences and got to know each other.

Not only were they integrated into the activities on our school campus, but the French students led cooking and dancing activities and ball games with the American students. They also were able to go on numerous field trips that enabled them to further learn and appreciate American culture.

This project is really about opening up to a different culture, about taking initiatives, and about working together on a common goal.



Curriculum Corner - Part 1 of 2

Mrs. Christine Damm  
Curriculum Director

Ripon Area School District students in grades 4PS-8 will be receiving a more balanced approach in literacy instruction beginning with the 2015-16 school year. Teachers will be gathering throughout the summer to prepare for this shift in teaching and learning. The purpose of this month's article is to provide you with answers to questions you may have about this reading philosophy.

**Question: What is a balanced literacy approach – balancing what?**

**Answer:** The balanced literacy approach is not a program that you find in a box, but rather a philosophy and structure to support literacy - reading and writing learning - in the classroom. A balanced literacy approach balances the many aspects of high quality literacy instruction. These include: whole group, small group and individual teaching settings, instruction in reading and writing, the use and access to fiction and nonfiction texts, as well as direct teaching and independent practice. In a balanced literacy approach teachers operate through these multiple environments using various approaches that differ in support from modeling and demonstration by the teacher to students taking independent control over their learning and work through a gradual release of responsibility.

**Question: What are the specific components of a balanced literacy classroom?**

**Answer:** If you visited a balanced literacy classroom some of the activities you might see would include: interactive read alouds, small group guided reading, students reading self-selected books independently, the teacher conferring one-on-one with students, shared reading (the teacher and students reading together to build fluency and word recognition), modeled writing, shared writing (the teacher and students writing together to build phonics and spelling skills), and independent writing.

**Question: What materials are used in a balanced literacy classroom?**

**Answer:** In a balanced literacy classroom the most important materials are books! Teachers use high quality books as mentor texts. These are books that teachers and students come back to often to analyze the theme, use the text as a model of good writing, practice their favorite parts to build fluency, examine the structure of the text and how it was crafted to help learn more about how all kinds of texts work. A teacher working in a balanced literacy classroom has access to leveled guided reading books. These books are leveled using the text continuum developed by Fountas and Pinnell. It has become the standard measure for leveling books according to the structure and features of the text. A small group of students would work with the teacher to gain the skills needed to read books at a certain level and build their knowledge to move forward as a reader. A balanced literacy classroom also has an extensive classroom library. Many of the books the students will read during their independent reading time will come from the classroom library. The libraries should contain books of various levels and many topics including fiction and nonfiction selections. These are the most important materials, but teachers also need easels for charting the thinking and learning during demonstration and inquiry lessons, technology to integrate into lessons as appropriate and for research and publication as students get older. Balanced literacy classrooms in short need all the tools students would need to become immersed in the learning of reading and writing and the use of reading and writing as tools to accumulate and demonstrate knowledge as they grow older.

Dedications & Student Memorials

Over the past four months, district officials have been collaborating with community members, parents and staff to obtain information regarding the many dedications and memorials on both the current high school and middle school sites. This includes reaching out to the family members of individuals who have been remembered through dedications or memorials. The Community Engagement and Strategic Planning Committee of the Board has been working with the student services team in the district to develop a recommendation to take to the full Board regarding the dedications and memorials that are affected by the construction. Conversations over the past four months have included a plan to convert the west interior courtyard into a new outdoor memorial learning space. Based on the 6-12 facilities design, this courtyard, previously inaccessible to students, will have access through the IMC, the project space in the humanities wing, and through the new main entrance corridor which is currently the high school main office. This collaborative planning process for the new space will continue through the 2015-16 school year.

Thank You for Contributions:

- Culver's of Ripon
- Ripon Science Club
- Kendal Kastein
- Jodi Simmons
- Mark Kanitz
- Lisa Schwandt
- Ripon Drug/Dave Duehring
- RHS Outdoors Club/Randy Butters
- Jim & Pat Gelhar
- Sea Trek Interactive Scholarship Programs



ROARS Luncheon

ROARS (Retirees of All Ripon Schools) held their spring luncheon on May 20 at CJ's. The Ripon Middle School 8th Grade Choir was invited to perform. The group performed pieces from the Middle School Spring Choral Concert which paid tribute to the music of the Civil War. The program continued with Dr. Whitrock sharing updates on the construction, the strategic planning process, and the recent district trip to China with the group.



Congratulations to the following RASD retirees for over 272 1/2 years of service to Ripon!



**Brenda Hahn**  
(17 years)  
Special Ed Teacher  
Murray Park Elementary



**Tina Moser**  
(18 years)  
Instructional Aide  
Barlow Park Elementary



**Loren Miller**  
(18 1/2 years)  
Custodian  
Murray Park Elementary/Quest



**Betty Mortenson**  
(19 years)  
Grade 1 Teacher  
Journey Charter School



**Kathy Towne**  
(19 years)  
Clerk/Typist  
Ripon High School/Lumen



**Linda Huth**  
(23 years)  
Custodian  
Barlow Park Elementary/Journey



**Luanne McConnell**  
(24 years)  
Instructional Aide  
Murray Park Elementary



**Brenda Zierke**  
(29 years)  
Executive Secretary  
ASC



**Les Hilscher**  
(30 years)  
Custodian  
Ripon High School/Lumen



**Mary Gabrielski**  
(35 years)  
Instructional Aide  
Murray Park Elementary



**Myra Myles-Krhin**  
(40 years)  
Principal  
Barlow Park Elementary/Journey



## Outstanding Achievement Recognition



RHS Juniors, Lauren Cook and Kaitlynn Azinger were recognized by the Ripon Board of Education on April 20 for their selection to the State Honors Band and Choir. Not present was RHS Sophomore, Aidan Schoff. Lauren was selected for Mixed Choir; Kaitlynn as alternate bassoon for Band/Orchestra, and Aidan as alternate trombone for Jazz Ensemble. Congratulations to these talented performers.



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

### STEP Volunteers Recognized

The Ripon Area School District honored members of our STEP program on Tuesday, May 26th with a reception luncheon. Our district is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated group of citizens who choose to participate in STEP (Senior Tax Exchange Program). This year's group exchanged a total of 819 hours of volunteer time.

Volunteers receive a credit toward payment of their school property taxes in exchange for volunteering in our schools. Who qualifies to participate? The criteria is simple, they must have a desire to work with students, be 62 years of age or older, receive Social Security, and reside in taxable property that they own within the Ripon Area School District.

Most of our volunteers share their time and talents well beyond the limited 85 exchange hours. As a result, our students have the benefit of additional support in their classrooms and volunteers enjoy the satisfaction of helping a child be successful.

The STEP program is facilitated through the district's BRAVE program. For more information about becoming a STEP volunteer, interested community members can contact Nancy Bouwkamp, STEP Coordinator at (920) 748-1550 at extension #1313 or at [bouwkampn@ripon.k12.wi.us](mailto:bouwkampn@ripon.k12.wi.us).



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

**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 Charter 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 School**  
Grades 9-12  
748-4616  
850 Tiger Drive  
Principal: Mr. Seth Meinel  
Assistant Principal: Mr. Rick Bunge

**Crossroads Academy**  
Grades 8-12  
Principal: Ms. Anne Lang

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

**Board Meetings**  
Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in Ripon Middle School's media center at 6:00 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.



High School Career Fair



The Ripon High School Career and technical education teachers and guidance counselors partnered, organized, and hosted a Career Fair on Friday, April 17. Students rotated through a schedule of small group speakers, listened to Jack Harkins in the auditorium and attended a career fair in the gym. They had over 50 business/college/military representatives come to share information in a variety of career fields. Thanks to all who participated!

Resumen de noticias escolares para nuestros residentes de habla española

**Premiación de Becas**  
Los estudiantes de Ripon recibieron más de \$330,000 en becas las cuales fueron anunciadas la Noche de Premiación anual de high school. Fueron dadas 115 becas, con muchos de los 126 graduados quienes recibieron múltiples becas.

**Actualización de las Instalaciones**  
En la reunión de mayo, el Consejo de Educación revisó la primera rendición interna de las instalaciones de 6-12 grados. La fase del proyecto de trabajo está planeado enteramente para los meses de verano en los próximos dos años para minimizar las interrupciones durante el tiempo de clases, eventos escolares, y operaciones normales. Las aéreas de trabajo serán separadas de las aéreas de los estudiantes para maximizar la seguridad de los estudiantes y del personal.

**RHS & LHS Nombradas Escuelas Topes**  
US News y World Report reconocieron a Ripon High School y a Lumen High School como escuelas de alto nivel de high school en el país. Ambas escuelas RHS y Lumen recibieron una clasificación de bronce. Consejo Permanece lo Mismo, Cambio de Oficiales  
Los votantes de Ripon Area School District reeligieron a los oficiales actuales de las tres sillas disponibles en el Consejo de Educación en la elección del 7 de abril. De regreso en el consejo están Andy Lyke, John Sperger, y Dan Zimmerman.

**Feria de Carreras en High School**  
Profesiones de Ripon High School y Maestros de Educación Técnica, y consejeros se asociaron, organizaron y presentaron la Feria de Carreras el viernes 17 de abril. Los estudiantes fueron rotados en el horario en pequeños grupos con presentadores, escucharon a Jack Harkins en el auditorium, y atendieron a la feria de profesiones en el gimnasio. Ellos tuvieron más de 50 representantes de negocios, universidades, y militares que vinieron a compartir información de una variedad de campos profesionales.

**Aventura Francesa**  
Veintiún estudiantes de francés de quinto grado de Paris, Francia fueron saludados con una calurosa bienvenida por familias anfitrionas americanas el 5 de mayo. Ellos fueron acompañados por sus maestros Katy Renard y Alain Buchheit quienes arribaron en Ripon el 5 de mayo. El grupo estuvo con familias anfitrionas a lo largo de la comunidad de Ripon del 5 al 25 de mayo. Seis estudiantes y tres maestros irán a Francia del 11 al 28 de junio.

**Almuerzo de ROARS**  
ROARS, siglas en inglés (Retirees of All Ripon Schools - Jubilados de Todas las Escuelas de Ripon) sostuvieron un almuerzo en la primavera el 20 de mayo en CJ's. El coro del 8º grado fue invitado para cantar.

**Voluntarios de STEP Recocidos**  
Ripon Area School District honró a nuestros miembros del programa de STEP, siglas en inglés (Senior Tax Exchange Program) el martes 26 de mayo con un almuerzo de recepción. Nuestro distrito es afortunado de tener un grupo de ciudadanos talentosos y dedicados quienes escogen en participar en STEP. Este año el grupo donó un total de 819 horas de trabajo voluntario.

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 Grahn at 920-572-6585 to learn about training your dog in the READ program.

**Journey Governance Council**  
President: Bethany Nodolf  
Vice President: Shelly Kastenschmidt  
Treasurer: Wayne Webster  
Secretary: Carrie Naparalla  
Members: Christine Damm  
Steve Nankervis  
Amy Pollesch  
Sarah Rieder  
Bill Schultz

**Quest Governance Council**  
President: Julia Messitte  
Treasurer: Nicole Bauman  
Secretary: Linda De Cramer  
Members: Becki Baird  
Drew Diedrich  
Gretchen Geiger  
Haley Julian  
Brenda Rapp  
Bill Whitehead

**Catalyst Governance Council**  
President: Jack Christ  
Vice President: Renee Schoff  
Secretary: Candie Baker  
Members: Jen Erickson  
Amy Pollesch  
Sandy Wisneski

**Lumen Governance Council**  
Members: Pat Grahn  
Paula Hageman  
Adam Jacobi  
Jean Rigden

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.