

Ripon School News

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK



November 12-16 marks the 97th celebration of American Education Week across the country. The week is intended as a time to thank educators from teachers and support staff to parents, custodians, food service, substitute teachers, crossing guards, coaches, advisors, education specialists, the community, bus drivers, and administrators for the role

they play in the development of the nation's 50 million K-12 students. We are so fortunate in Ripon to have such a dedicated staff.

This November edition of the Ripon Area School District Newsletter provides information on report cards and grading, the tax levy, upcoming concerts and Board meetings.

The newsletter spotlights student awards, special events, and international visitors. Also, please see the feedback from the recent Tiger Nation alumni survey. Congratulations to our equestrian team champions and our 2018 Distinguished Alumni Recipient Tracy O'Brien.

In addition, the newsletter highlights the many generous donors that supported special events and initiatives in the district over the past two months. There is also an update on planning for Odyssey Academy of Virtual Learning.

As we move forward to build an even stronger, higher achieving district, I want to thank you for your continued support and involvement in the District. Together we are living our mission by engaging learners, engaging community and enriching the world.

Respectfully yours,
Dr. Mary Whitrock
Superintendent of Schools
Go Tigers!

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS

On October 27, a record number of Ripon Middle School and Catalyst Charter students attended the Expanding Your Horizons Conference (EYH) at the University of Wisconsin Madison. 34 students attended the conference which focuses on career exploration activities in science, engineering and mathematics for young women in middle school. Through hands-on workshops and visits to workplaces, EYH conferences, which are held nationwide, provide middle school girls with the chance to interact with professional women who work in a variety of fields from universities, technical colleges and businesses. They find out what it's like to work in different careers, try out some of the skills needed for success in a particular field, and have a chance to meet other girls who share in their interests. One Ripon student commented, "It was really fun! I got to meet other girls my age who had similar interests as me, which helped me think about my career after school. I think it was a good opportunity to learn about new careers and get new ideas for where I want to go career wise in my future. In my group, I learned more about how to work as a group and build with my team".



TAX LEVY UPDATE

Local property taxes used to pay for public schools will drop as well as the mill rate (tax per \$1,000 of property value) paid by taxpayers for schools. This year, the local property taxes levied for our school district will decline by \$298,431 compared to 2017-18. The average mill rate for district residents will be \$9.57, a decrease of \$0.69 from last year. This year's changes to the mill rate are due to increases in local property values (+2.6%), decreases in three-year student F.T.E. membership averages (-17), and increases in state aid (+\$156,762). Please note that your individual property tax rate is dependent on the municipality that you reside in, and "each municipality must raise the funds needed to operate its own functions in addition to its share of the funds needed for the county and school district operations along with the state forestation tax" (Wisconsin DOR, 2018).



GIVING TUESDAY

Consider a gift to the Ripon Education Foundation this #GivingTuesday. #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (Nov. 27 this year). #GivingTuesday is an appeal to help others. It kicks off the charitable time of year and end-of-year giving.

#GivingTuesday is the perfect time to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Ripon Education Foundation before the end of the 2018 tax year.

Thank you to all of our donors from across the country. Your support helps the Ripon Education Foundation impact Ripon students through innovative teaching grants and scholarships. For more information and a direct link to give online, visit riponeducationfoundation.org.



FIRE SAFETY WEEK



Barlow Park and Journey students received a fire safety presentation from the Ripon Fire Department in honor of Fire Safety Week. This year's theme was "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere." Students learned about three basic steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire and how to escape safely in the event of one.

ALLIANCE LAUNDRY TOURS



Thank you to Alliance Laundry for hosting Ripon High School and Lumen Charter School Sophomores. This is an annual event where Alliance gives our students a comprehensive tour of the plant and explains career opportunities.

RHS ANNUAL HALLOWEEN BASH



Ripon High School hosted the Annual Halloween Bash again this year. They had a fabulous turnout of nearly 200 visitors. The little goblins that attended enjoyed a photo booth, games, activities, and yummy treats. The entire event was made possible by the efforts of Ripon High School students from the following RHS clubs/organizations: FBLA, Spanish Club, German Club, Key Club, Multicultural Arts Club, FFA, Student Council and National Honor Society. Our thanks to all who attended.



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RIPON TIGER NATION WAS LAUNCHED



The Ripon Area School District recently launched an Alumni and Community Interest Survey, asking former students to provide feedback and input on their impressions of the district and how to best engage them.

In large numbers, alumni spoke to the positive outcomes for Ripon graduates, made possible by quality programs, teachers and facilities. The district's academics, fine arts, athletics, STEM program and recent facility enhancements also received high marks from survey respondents.

"Almost all of my family graduated from this wonderful school district," wrote one alumnus. "Our success as adults is due in part to our preparation from Ripon schools." Another wrote: "I am proud to be a Ripon Tiger because it was in that school that I figured out who I am. Between the classes I took and the teachers who mentored me, it all led me down the path that I currently walk today."

It was wonderful to read all the great responses and comments. However, practical feedback was also shared that will enable the district to connect with more alumni in the coming months. For example, many respondents reported that they would like to receive alumni-focused news and updates via the Ripon Tiger Nation website, social media and email and e-newsletters. They also expressed interest in getting invited to more school- and alumni-related events and activities.

More than 70 percent of alumni said that they would find considerable benefit in keeping in touch with their former classmates through an online directory — something Ripon Tiger Nation provides. They also said that they would like more information on volunteer opportunities, along with guest speaking in classrooms and mentoring current Ripon students.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in this survey. It was a great experience for our district and staff, and we look forward to taking the results and brainstorming how we can best reach you, our alumni and community supporters, as we move forward.

Ripon Tiger Nation can be found at <http://ripontigernation.nationbuilder.com/>

ODYSSEY ACADEMY

The Odyssey Virtual School of Learning Governance Board held their second meeting this month. This team is comprised of dedicated parents and community members working to make Odyssey Academy's innovative learning option available to parents across the state. The Odyssey Academy model appeals to many home-school families because parents have voice and choice in the selection of curriculum materials for each child, parents provide much of the instruction, and parents receive a budget each year to purchase those materials with for their child. Currently the Board is working to finalize a school logo, and a charter contract and parent student handbook to bring to the RASD School Board for approval.

UPCOMING CONCERT PERFORMANCES

RHS/L Winter Choir Concert December 3 7:00 PM	Barlow Park Winter Concert December 17 6:00 PM
RMS/C Winter Choir Concert December 4 7:00 PM	Journey Winter Concert December 18 6:00 PM
RHS/L Winter Band Concert December 10 7:00 PM	MP/Q Holiday Sing-a-Long December 19 2:00 PM
RMS/C Winter Band Concert December 11 7:00 PM	BP/J Holiday Sing-a-Long December 21 2:00 PM

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Regular Board of Education meetings are held in the Ripon High School Community Room at 6:00 p.m.

November 19
December 17
January 21
February 18



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISTRICT

Ripon Education Foundation
Chris & Jayne Rufener Rauch
Shirley Pohlman
Alliant Energy
Alex Will- LuLaRoe

CURRICULUM CORNER



As we approach the end of the first quarter for all middle and high school students and the first trimester for our elementary students, it is important to understand how student progress is communicated to families.

Our standards-based report card in grades 4PS-8 gives us a tool to accurately communicate to families the proficiency levels and progress their child is making toward learning the standards in Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. The report card also provides information about students' performance on skills and concepts in Art, Music, and Physical Education, as well as successful learning behaviors and effort throughout the year. Additionally, our report card provides specific feedback on progress toward these standards so students, families, and teachers can work together to set meaningful goals for improvement. A standards-based report card puts the emphasis on learning, rather than on a comparison between and among students. Standards-based grading is intended to measure student performance accordingly to year-end goals. Students work throughout the year to achieve these end-of-year goals or standards. This is different from the traditional assessment and reporting system that our high school students experience, which gives a single letter or number grade for broad subject categories.

The academic performance levels at the K-8 schools uses a 4-point scale, including whole and .5 increments to indicate marking-period levels of performance toward the standards. There is no correlation between the numeric marking system and the traditional letter grade - "ABCDF" system. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or principal. On behalf of the Ripon Area School District, I extend my best wishes to you and your child for a most successful school year.

GERMAN STUDENTS VISIT THE RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visiting high school students from Vincent Luebeck Gymnasium in Stade, Germany visited Ripon High School students for two weeks in October. They shadowed RHS students, enjoyed local day trips, and visited the kindergarten students at Barlow Park/Journey. Thank you to the host families who graciously opened their homes to the German students and teachers.



CATALYST VISITS THE DISCOVERY EXPO

Catalyst students ventured to the state capitol to experience dozens of interactive, hands-on exploration stations that featured STEM activities ranging from virtual reality to health and medicine, chemistry, astrobotany and more. The Discovery Expo was held at the Discovery Building on the UW-Madison campus. Students explored the hands-on activities at their own pace and interacted with scientists, STEM professionals and students from UW-Madison and beyond. The Discovery Expo was a great opportunity for everyone to discover something new and exciting about science.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The Ripon Area School District is proud to announce that the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award has been awarded to Tracy O'Brien. Making a difference in the lives of people and his hometown is a way of life for Tracy O'Brien.

Tracy was born in Ripon, was educated in the Ripon school system, and graduated from Ripon High School in 1975. After earning his BA in Education from UW-Oshkosh, he was hired to teach in his hometown. He returned to Ripon and began teaching second grade at Alice Callan Elementary School for 14 years. He then moved to Murray Park Elementary School and taught second and fourth grade for 17 years, until he retired in 2011. Tracy was a passionate educator and prided himself in teaching children to be good citizens. He loved teaching the history of Ripon and the State of Wisconsin. South Woods was an extension of his classroom and he encouraged his students to respect the environment and love the beauty of nature as they walked the preserve in Ripon. Tracy recognized the need for students to learn mental math facts and created 17 sports games using simply a deck of cards. After the school day was over and as his own children were growing up, Tracy continued to educate young people through coaching a number of sports, mixing his interest and knowledge of sports and the ideals of teamwork and sportsmanship. Tracy was an inspiration to hundreds of young people, challenging them and helping them reach their full potential.

Tracy is an ambassador for Ripon. He is proud of the community he grew up in and is proud to share his time and talents to this day. After retirement, he began to volunteer his time at the Ripon Historical Society and share his leadership qualities by serving as president. He sparked a renewed interest in the rich history of Ripon and the many assets the Society has to offer. He researched and presented programs on the "History of Ripon Schools" and the "History of Baseball in Ripon." Tracy also served in leadership positions with the South Woods Park Association, the United Way, and the Ripon Education Association.

Tracy and his wife, Sue, raised their three children in Ripon and consider them their greatest accomplishment. Living by the motto of, "leading by example," Tracy continues to make a difference in the lives of people and in his hometown. He is humbled to receive this award on behalf of the many teachers who made an impact on his life and who he respected as colleagues during his career in education.



STUDENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE BOARD

The Board of Education welcomed three foreign exchange students from the Netherlands, India, and Belgium to Ripon Area School District at their September meeting. We hope their year in Ripon is great.



NATIONAL YEARBOOK PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Congratulations to Mrs. Brumley and students for achieving the National Yearbook Program of Excellence award from Josten's for one of the best yearbooks in the nation.



AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

Congratulations to a FFA student who was conferred the American FFA Degree. This is the highest level of membership and the first for Ripon in several years.



STATE CROSS COUNTRY



Congratulations to one student who qualified for the state cross country meet with a seventh-place finish at the Mayville Sectional. She was the first Ripon girl to qualify since 2012.

RHS EQUESTRIAN TEAM GOES TO STATE



Congratulations to the RHS Equestrian Team who competed in Division B at the WIHA State Competition in Madison. The team placed 6th out of 12 teams competing. It was very close with only a small number of points separating 2nd through 6th. Two team members placed first in their events and a senior on the team was the recipient of the WIHA Ameer Thompson Scholarship.

SCIENCE PROGRAM PRESENTS AT ROTARY

Mr. Nick Goedli, RHS Science teacher and students presented at Ripon Rotary. Mr. Goedli and his students will be traveling to Seattle, WA to present research on Infrared Excess to the American Astronomical Society (AAS) in January 2019.



QUEST PROJECT SHOWCASE NIGHT

The first Quest Project Showcase of the year was held October 25. The students were so excited to share their learning with immediate and extended family members. Family engagement makes a huge positive difference in school.



MURRAY PARK FAMILY NIGHT



Murray Park held their first Family Night of the year on October 18. It was a wonderful event with students sharing what they have learned already this year with their families.

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

Barlow Park Elementary School
Journey Charter School
Grades PreK-2
748-1550
100 Ringstad Drive
Principal: Mrs. Tanya Sanderfoot

Murray Park Elementary School
Quest Elementary Charter School
Grades 3-5
748-4695
64 Sunset Avenue
Principal: Mrs. Renee Bunge

Ripon Middle School
Catalyst Charter Middle School
Grades 6-8
748-4638
750 Tiger Drive
Principal: Mr. Rick Bunge

Ripon High School
Lumen Charter High School
Grades 9-12
748-4616
850 Tiger Drive
Principal: Mr. Randy Hatlen
Assistant Principal: Mr. Bill Kinzinger

Curriculum Department
Director: Mrs. Christine Damm

Technology Department
Director: Mrs. Mandy Froehlich

Student Services Department
Director: Mrs. Julie Krackow

Ripon Board of Education
President: Andy Lyke
Vice President: Gary Rodman
Clerk: Tom Stellmacher
Treasurer: Josh Rieder
Members: David Olson
John Sperger
David Scott
Nicole Kutz-Menard
Amy Pollesch

Board Meetings
Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in the Ripon High School Community Room at 6:00 p.m. Any additional meetings are duly posted at the Ripon Public Library, at the Ripon City Hall, and at all district buildings. 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.



EL FAMILY NIGHT

Approximately 60 people attended the first EL Family Night event of the 2018-19 school year. It was held on Wednesday, September 26 at Murray Park/Quest Elementary School. Students and adults worked together while they solved the puzzles and opened locks so that they could "break open" their box. Each student received a Ripon ELL t-shirt and a few treats. Overall, the event was an absolute success.



FAMILIES IN TRANSITION

Do you know a student or family that may be in need of assistance? Many families in Wisconsin have found themselves to be families in transition without a place to call home. Ripon Area School District is committed to ensuring all homeless students receive the best education possible. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth (twenty-one years of age and younger) as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those:
 - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as double-up);
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative/adequate accommodations;
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - Having been abandoned in hospitals; or
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you are aware of or are personally acquainted with any children who may qualify according to the above criteria, please contact Julie Krackow, Homeless Liaison for the Ripon Area School District at krackowj@ripon.k12.wi.us or at (920) 748-1557. All information will be kept confidential.

RESUMEN DE NOTICIAS ESCOLARES PARA NUESTROS RESIDENTES DE HABLA ESPAÑOLA

Actualización de la Tasa de Impuestos
Los impuestos locales de la propiedad usados para pagar las escuelas públicas se reducirán como también la tarifa al millar (impuesto por \$1,000 del valor de la propiedad) el cual es pagado por los contribuyentes para las escuelas. Este año, la tasa de los impuestos locales de la propiedad para nuestro distrito escolar disminuirá alrededor de \$298,431 comparado al año 2017-18. La tasa al millar promedio para los residentes del distrito será de \$9.57, una reducción de \$0.69 en comparación al año pasado. Los cambios de este año en la tarifa al millar se debe al incremento en el valor de las propiedades locales (+2.6%), la disminución de la membresía promedio F.T.E en el estudiante de tres años (-17), se incrementa la ayuda estatal (+\$156,762). Por favor note que la tasa de su impuesto a la propiedad depende en la municipalidad en la que reside y "cada municipalidad debe incrementar los fondos necesarios para operar sus propias funciones además de compartir los fondos necesarios para el condado y las operaciones del distrito escolar, junto con el impuesto de forestal del estado (Wisconsin DOR, 2018).

La Nación del Tigre de Ripon (Ripon Tiger)
Recientemente, el Distrito Escolar del Área de Ripon lanzó una Encuesta de Interés de Ex alumnos y la Comunidad, pidiéndoles a los ex alumnos a proporcionar información e ideas en sus impresiones sobre el distrito y el cuál sería la mejor manera para involucrarlos. Un gran número de ex-alumnos expresaron los resultados positivos para los graduandos de Ripon, siendo posible por la calidad de programas, maestros, y las facilidades. Los estudios académicos del distrito, arte, atletismo, el programa STEM y las mejoras recientes de las facilidades también recibieron resultados altos de los que respondieron a la encuesta. Queremos agradecerles a todos quienes participaron en esta encuesta. Fue una gran experiencia para nuestro distrito y nuestro personal, y vemos con anticipación tomar los resultados y analizar cuál es la mejor manera para llegar hacia ustedes, nuestros ex alumnos y todos quienes nos apoyan en la comunidad, mientras continuamos hacia adelante. Ripon Tiger Nation puede ser encontrado en <http://ripontignation.nationbuilder.com/>

Premios a Ex alumnos Distinguidos
El Distrito Escolar del Área de Ripon está orgulloso en anunciar que el Premio 2018 de Ex-alumnos Distinguidos ha sido premiado a Tracy O'Brien. Por hacer diferencia en las vidas de personas en su pueblo es una manera de vivir para Tracy O'Brien.

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.

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: Steve Nankervis
Vice President: Shelly Kastenschmidt
Treasurer: Carrie Naparalla
Secretary: Nicole Mashock
Members: Amber Dalziel
Heather Donovan
Brett Long
Joel Spaulding
Lisa Rollin

Quest Governance Council

- President: Becki Baird
Treasurer: Nathan Luedtke
Secretary: Linda DeCramer
Members: Nicole Bauman
Steve Nankervis
Haley Julian
Janet Ernst
Gretchen Geiger

Catalyst Governance Council

- President: Candie Baker
Vice President: Renee Schoff
Secretary/Treasurer: Sarah Rieder
Members: Sandy Wisneski
Bryan Ernst
Kyle Sackett

Lumen Governance Council

- Members: Pat Grahn
Paula White
Adam Jacobi
Jean Rigden
Paul Wiegel
Jesse Schwingle

STAY INFORMED ABOUT RIPON SCHOOLS

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.

Twitter — Numerous tweets about school events and activities cover the District's Twitter page. Anyone can access it from the District's web page.

Parent Tiger Talk — Sign up for a monthly email update of news about what's happening in Ripon schools. To subscribe send an email to: Britnie Meyer at meyerb@ripon.k12.wi.us.

Ripon Tiger Nation — Visit ripontignation.nationbuilder.com to receive regular updates and articles, along with a wide range of information on events, mentoring, and volunteer opportunities.