

For Immediate Release

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Ripon Middle and Elementary Schools Ranked by US News & World Report

RIPON, Wis. — The Ripon Area School District is pleased to announce that Quest Elementary School, Murray Park Elementary School, and Ripon Middle School have joined Ripon High School by earning the Best Schools distinctions from US News & World Report for 2024-2025 school year. This is the second year that Ripon has four schools with this recognition.

Out of 1,002 Wisconsin-ranked schools, Quest has earned the #48 ranking, and Murray Park is ranked #171. RMS is ranked #165 out of 545 middle schools in the state. U.S. News analyzed 105,096 Pre-K, elementary, and middle schools to determine rankings in each state.

Quest Elementary is a charter school that serves 139 students in grades 3-5. The school's #48 state ranking highlighted that 72% of students scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 62% scored at or above for reading. The school's minority student enrollment is 12%. The student-certified staff ratio is 13:1 and the school enrolls 35% economically disadvantaged students.

Murray Park Elementary serves 173 students in grades 3-5. The school's #171 state ranking highlighted that 57% of students scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 52% scored at or above that level for reading. The school's minority student enrollment is 16%. The student-certified staff ratio is 12:1 and the school enrolls 47% economically disadvantaged students. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of both our students and teachers," said Principal Jessi Johnson. "Their commitment to excellence has set a standard for our school and community, and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments."

Ripon Middle School serves 302 students in grades 6-8. The school's #165 state ranking highlighted that 47% of students scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 43% scored at or above that level for reading. The school's minority student enrollment is 18%. The student-certified staff ratio is 11:1 and the school enrolls 35% economically disadvantaged students. Principal Danny Zamost commented, "Our staff and students are united by a shared determination to put in the hard work necessary to learn, grow, and help each student reach their full potential. It's truly rewarding when that effort is recognized, reminding us all that when we work together and preserve that, it leads to lasting success."

The US News explains that "great elementary and middle schools educate their students from all socioeconomic backgrounds with the goal of setting them up for success. In turn, their students develop the core competencies in state curricula to best prepare them for high school." The official rankings can be found on the US News and World website at:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/middle-schools/wisconsin>

U.S. News has published an in-depth [methodology article](#) that provides more information about the rankings and how they were calculated. The rankings use the same methodology for all included grade levels. For each state, schools were assessed on their shares of students who were proficient or above proficient in their mathematics and reading/language arts state assessments. Half of the formula assessed the scores themselves and the other half incorporated the test results in the context of socioeconomic demographics. In other words, the top-ranked schools are all high-achieving and have succeeded at educating all their students.

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock shared, "These distinctions celebrate the continuous improvement efforts of our dedicated staff in each of Ripon's schools. The Ripon School Board and leadership team are so proud of and thankful for our students, staff, and families for their commitment to raising achievement. This commitment ensures our children in Ripon have the best education we can possibly provide."

Any comments or questions, please contact Dr. Mary Whitrock at (920) 748-4600.

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