

For Immediate Release

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Ripon Area Schools Continue to Find Success

Ripon, WI - Students receive progress reports and report cards several times throughout the school year. Teachers and administrators not only distribute grades, but they also receive their own evaluations. As a part of Wisconsin's new accountability system, districts and each individual school also receive a report card from the Wisconsin Department for Public Instruction (DPI) for their work over the previous year. These report cards have recently been released, and the Ripon Area School District had a very successful 2013-2014 school year.

The District received an accountability score of 76.2%; this is a 2.9% improvement over the past three years. Scores valued between 73% and 82.9% places a school or district in the "Exceeds Expectations" category. A score between 83% and 100% earns the category of "Significantly Exceeds Expectations." All Ripon Area School District schools exceeded expectations, and one school significantly exceeded expectations. Ripon elementary schools, Barlow Park and Murray Park, received marks of 74.4% and 74.2% respectively. Barlow Park has improved 3.3% in the last three years, while Murray Park saw 5.5% improvement in the same time period. Quest Charter Elementary School was recognized as "Significantly Exceeding Expectations" with an accountability score of 88.7%, a 5.8% improvement in three years. Ripon Middle School earned 73.3%, a 0.5% increase in three years, and Catalyst Charter School earned 78.3%. Finally, the Ripon High School received a 78.0%, improving 4.8% in the past three years. Journey, Lumen, and Crossroads Schools did not receive reports based on the newness of the school, the small number of students, or being an alternative program.

Although all of our schools scored high marks, one area for improvement is the Middle School. The Middle School is only ranked lower by a small margin but has not improved at the same rate as other schools in the District. Perhaps this difference can be attributed to the learning environment. Day lighting and other issues concerning the school environment can play a significant role in student achievement and performance. These environmental concerns are changes the district can make to help our students find success. Catalyst has already worked to change the environment students are learning in by implementing some 21st century learning practices. The positive effects of this style of learning can be reflected in the accountability score. As noted previously, Catalyst earned a score of 78.3%.

District-wide students are achieving and growing in their education. The Ripon District works to ensure that all students will continue to find success inside and outside of the classroom. Furthermore, RASD administrators, staff, and teachers are committed to finding and creating the best environment for area students to succeed.

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