The Ripon Area School District recently received multiple grant awards totaling over $1.25 million including: $900,000 over five years for a virtual charter school; $32,000 for workplace and transition readiness for students with special needs; $250,000 for safety upgrades and trainings; and $75,000 to further work with school-based mental health.

Superintendent Whitrock noted, “I am extremely proud of our staff for identifying opportunities and needs across the district and seeking additional funding to meet those needs. The grant funds will allow the district to move forward with important work meeting the needs of our students and staying on the cutting edge.”

**District Receives over 1.25 Million in Grant Funding**

The September Edition of the Ripon Area School District Newsletter celebrates the first days of school, new team members, bus drivers, student achievement, and the many dedicated years of service by our staff. In addition, Curriculum Director Chrisy Damn spotlights our August inservice days framed with a hygrothermal theme. This theme was especially fitting as the district received $4,000 from the Ripon Education Foundation to complete the plantings in the outdoor classrooms at the middle school and high school commonly referred to as the Alumni Courtyards.

This newsletter highlights upcoming family outreach events, showcase nights, and other special events. Congratulations to Jim Gethar and Pat Gruhn, the 2018 Friend of Public Schools recipients. They accepted the award at the All Staff Meeting in August.

During the 2018-19 school year, our continuous quality improvement efforts continue with a focus on updating our mission, core values, and belief statements. These form a guiding framework for all we do in the district moving forward. Discussion occurred regarding the use of more visionary vocabulary such as learners, learning facilitators and learning communities in place of student, teacher and schools which conjure up more historical images of education and learning environments in our district.

Thank you to everyone for setting the tone for a successful and exciting school year. I look forward to working with you this year to achieve our vision as one of Wisconsin’s finest school districts, fostering excellence for all through innovation.

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

**2018-19 Family Outreach Events**

- **Food, Friends and Fun**
  - November 1
  - 6:00-7:30

- **Positive Parenting**
  - January 22
  - 6:00-7:30

- **Kid Concoctions**
  - March 5
  - 6:00-7:30

- **Craft Creations**
  - April 16
  - 6:00-7:30

For more information please contact the Barlow Park office.

The first week of school has been full of procedures, working on opening lockers, collaboration, and much more. For additional photos of the first week of school see the back page.
BRAVE PROGRAM

Ripon Area School District will again offer the BRAVE afterschool program to elementary and middle school students. Building Resiliency, Assets and Values in Everyone (BRAVE) is a three-part program based on the concept of resiliency and asset building models. Its component parts of resiliency building, asset building, and discovery opportunities are delivered by all members of the community to empower the young people of Ripon to choose a healthy and responsible lifestyle. BRAVE at RMS/Catalyst starts on September 17. BRAVE at elementary schools start on September 24.

BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

The Ripon Area School District honored their bus drivers with an Appreciation Breakfast on August 22 as a kick-off to the upcoming school year. Bus drivers provide an invaluable service in helping to ensure the safe passage of students of all ages between home and school. The drivers serve the students of Ripon Area School District with a dedication that discounts the rigors of harsh weather, split shifts, and sometimes heavy traffic. They are daily role models to students and most often are the first person to greet students to their school day and the last to assure that they are back safely with their families.

2018 FRIEND OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AWARD

The Ripon Area School District is proud to announce Jim Gelhar and Pat Grahn as the 2018 Friend of Public Schools. Their family moved to Ripon in 2009 with their two children, both of which have now since graduated from the district. Jim and Pat continue to make significant contributions to the Ripon Area School District.

Jim served as president and on the Board of Directors of Ripon Rotary Club. He became involved in the Rotary STRIVE (Students Taking Renewed Interest in the Value of Education) program mentoring at risk high school students and providing scholarship funds to graduates. For several years, Jim helped Rotary Inboard International Exchange Students assimilate into the school district and life in Ripon.

Pat served on the Board of Directors and as president for the Ripon Education Foundation for several years and served on the Great Conversations Fund Raising Committee. As a member of the Ripon Historical Society, Pat worked diligently to help preserve the history of the district by developing an exhibit featuring items from each year a new high school was constructed in Ripon. Pat also assists with tours for elementary students.

Pat served on the Governance Council for Lumen Charter High School for approximately six years. She volunteered over 150 hours a year at Murray Park Elementary School helping struggling readers with Biscuit, her registered therapy and reading dog. Recently, Pat served on a committee establishing new district policies and practices for exchange students. In 2010, the family took in a homeless high school student for two years and their family has hosted six international students.

Jim’s company, the A.F. Gelhar, contributed funds towards a new sound system for the auditorium. Jim and Pat financially support the Ripon Education Foundation and purchased new flags for the high school band noting contributions to the arts help children learn and develop their creativity. They endowed an unmet needs fund to support basic student needs through the Boys and Girls Club of the Tri-County Area and helped support the purchase of a new K9 officer.

The Ripon Area Public Schools are fortunate to have friends such as Jim Gelhar and Pat Grahn, who provide leadership and make personal connections as well as monetary donations.
Ripon Area School District pauses each year to recognize staff who have attained “Oarsman Status.” This award is given after three years of service in the district. During those first years teachers are supported and assisted by fellow staff members when needed. Receiving their own oar signifies that they are ready to “steer and paddle” on their own.

20 Years of Service

Honored for 20 years of service in the district was Jayson Duffy, Rick Kelm, Bill Kinziger, Kathryn McMillan, Marsha Blank, Heidi Hopp, Jackie Lehman, and Dee Schmidhe.

25 Years of Service

Rick Bunge was honored for 25 years of service in the district.

30 Years of Service

Wendy Hoepfner and Bill Nelson were honored for 30 years of service in the district.

2018 Oarsmen Award Achievement

Ripon Area School District pauses each year to recognize staff who have attained “Oarsman Status.” This award is given after three years of service in the district. During those first years teachers are supported and assisted by fellow staff members when needed. Receiving their own oar signifies that they are ready to “steer and paddle” on their own.

Pictured is Daniel McCulloch (RMS/C Teacher), Jim Cardinal (RHS Teacher), Gretchen Dobkins (RHS Teacher), Natasha Paris (RHS Teacher), Tammy Fox (Literacy Teacher), and Alicia Young (RHS Teacher).

RASD Welcomes New Teaching Staff

Please join us in welcoming our new professional staff members for the 2018-19 school year. Adam Minten - RHS/Lumen Choral Music Teacher; Angie Meilahn - School Psychologist; Rachel Thorsen - RHS Science Teacher; Rachel Metoxen - BPES 1st Grade Teacher; Rebecca Maas - RHS/Lumen School Counselor; Holly Schneider - BPES School Counselor; Brittany Chikowski - RMS Social Studies Teacher; and Mark Formanek - RMS/Catalyst Physical Education Teacher. We are thrilled to have such a talented group of educators become part of the Tiger family.

10 Years of Service

Honored for ten years of service in the Ripon Area School District are Brett Long, Todd Arft, and Kat Griffith.

15 Years of Service

Honored for 15 years of service are Karin Hanke, Pam Dykstra, Jamie Voight, Nancy Bauwark, and Janet Holba.

Students Recognized by Ripon Board of Education

The Board of Education recognized Ripon High School German students for their participation and medal winning scores on the National German Exam at their August meeting.

Eight Future Business Leaders of America students were honored at the Board of Education meeting in July. These students qualified for the National Conference in Baltimore, MD by placing in the top four in their event at the State Leadership Convention in April.
RESUMEN DE NOTICIAS ESCOLARES PARA NUESTROS RESIDENTES DE HABLA ESPAÑOLA

Distrito Recibe más de 1,25 Millones en Fondos Otorgados El Distrito Escolar del Área de Ripon, recientemente recibió múltiples premios concedidos con un total de más de $1.25 millones, incluyendo $900,000 durante cinco años para una escuela virtual charter; $32,000 para lugar de trabajo y la transición para los estudiantes con necesidades especiales; $75,000 para trabajos más adelante con relación a la salud mental en la escuela. Amigos de la Educación Pública 2018 Algumas de las mejoras que se han realizado este año incluyen nuevas tecnologías en el aula, mejoramiento de instalaciones y programas de apoyo para los estudiantes. RASD le da la Bienvenida a Nuevo Personal Por favor únanse a nosotros para darles la bienvenida a nuestro nuevo personal para el año escolar 2018-2019. Rachel Metoxen - BPES Maestra de Primer grado en BPES; Holly Schneider – Consejera Escolar en BPES; Angie Melahn – Psicóloga Escolar; Brittany Chikowski – Maestra de Estudios Sociales en RMS; Mark Formanek – Maestro de Educación Física en RMS/Catalyst; Rebecca Maas – Consejera Escolar en RHS/Lumen; Adam Menten – Maestro de Música de Coro en RHS/Lumen; Rachel Thorsen – Maestra de Ciencias en RHS. Estamos encantados de tener a un grupo de educadores talentosos ser parte de nuestra familia Tigre (Tiger).

Únase a la Nación Tigre de Ripon Visite ripontigernation.nationbuilder.com para que sus estudiantes se unan a la Nación Tigre de Ripon. Estamos buscando miembros para un centro de aprendizaje en línea donde se puede aprender en su propio ritmo. Lumen Charter High School Lumen Charter High School Grades 9-12 748-4616 850 Tiger Drive Principal: Mr. Randy Hatlen Assistant Principal: Mr. Bill Kinziger

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

Catalyst Governance Council
President: Steve Nankervis
Vice President: Gary Rodman
Secretary: David Olson
Treasurer: David Scott

Catalyst Governance Council
President: Shelly Kastenschmidt
Vice President: Renee Schoff
Secretary/Treasurer: Sarah Rieder
Members: Sandy Wiestenk
Bryan Ernst
Kyle Sackett

Journey Governance Council
President: Sandy Wiestenk
Vice President: Adam Jacobi
Secretary: Paula White
Treasurer: Joel Spaulding
Members: Brett Long
Heather Donovan
Jeff Spaulding
Jesse Schwingle

Ripon Board of Education
President: Andy Lyke
Vice President: Gary Rodman
Clerk: Tom Stellmacher
Treasurer: Josh Rieder
Members: David Olson
John Spenger
David Scott
Kurt Nietzsche
Amy Polisch

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.

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.