

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Contact: Mary Whitrock, Superintendent

WhitrockM@ripon.k12.wi.us

(920) 748-4600

Digital Learning Will To Be Used For Grades 7-12 Make Up Minutes

Ripon, WI – At a Special Board meeting on April 1, administration recommended the Ripon Area School District use of digital learning learning in Grades 7 - 12 to make up the most recent snow day on February 25. This means the last day of school for all Ripon students will be June 7, 2019. The previous two snow days were made up by changing two vacation days, March 22 and April 22, into student contact days. The district waited to make a recommendation for how to address this last snow day until closer to the end of winter noting last year there was a snow day on April 16.

During the discussion, Superintendent Mary Whitrock noted staff interest in using digital learning for students on inclement weather days during the 2019-2020 school year, a practice that is gaining popularity with many districts across Wisconsin. In order to provide support to teachers and give practice to students, the recommendation was to make up the minutes lost through the most recent snow day this year with digital learning opportunities for students that will mimic the learning that will be put in place next year.

Because the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requires 1,137 minutes of instruction for Grades 7-12 as compared to 1,050 minutes for Grades 1-6, Ripon elementary students (grades 1-6) do not have minutes to make up. Students in Grades 7 - 12 are short 258 minutes of the DPI requirement.

Over the course of four weeks, teachers in Grades 7-12 will provide 33 minutes of digital learning for each of their courses to be broken up into the scheduled hours as follows:

Week	Period
April 22-26	0 and 1
April 29- May 3	2 and 3

May 6-10	4 and 5
May 13-17	6 and 7

Teachers will utilize either Google Classroom (7-12) or Canvas (9-12) to push out content on Friday after school for students to complete the following week. Content will equal approximately 33 minutes of learning. Teachers will use platforms such as Screencastify, Wakelet, Synth, Flipgrid, Playposit, and EdPuzzle to engage students in the content.

In preparation for the digital learning, school staff will check in with students to ensure they have access to the internet when they are away from school. All students in Grades 7-12 have a district issued chromebook they already take back and forth from school to assess assignments and complete work at home. The district will provide a professional learning session over the next few weeks to assist staff in developing their lessons. Many staff already use some type of digital learning in their classes.

This option is now possible as the state of Wisconsin modified the state administrative rules to recognize new and emerging methods of delivering instructional programming. PI 8 spurs innovative ways to engage students and teachers outside of the traditional day and place through virtual options for learning. The DPI website includes planning considerations to ensure the digital opportunities district's provide support educational equity for all students and contain academic rigor. The site provides examples of how two Wisconsin school districts, Random Lake School District and Neenah Joint School District, put those planning considerations into action to use digital learning on all their snow days already this school year.

Please contact Superintendent, Dr. Mary Whitrock, at whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us with any questions.

###