



Superintendent's Message

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! In just a few weeks we will begin the new school year. This is certainly an exciting time for students and staff. Throughout the summer, your district team continues our commitment to excellence by teaching summer school, hiring and training staff, writing curriculum, and cleaning and repairing buildings to be ready for the first day of school. As always, our Ripon family team will align our work this year around the Board's four strategic priorities.

Student Engagement and Learning

- Solid education in a healthy/safe environment
- (Field Trip, p.3; Full-Day 4K, p.6; Free Summer Food Service, p.6)
- Provide support services to ensure student success
- (Grad Profile, p.2; Registration p.5)
- Close achievement gaps in literacy and math (Achievement, p.1; Summer School, p.1; Gap Closure, p.2)

Service and Partnership

- Increase partnerships and satisfaction through CQI (Community Calendar, p.3; Junior Achievement, p.3; Strategic Planning p.3)

Human Resources

- Increase opportunities to build high quality staff (Exit Surveys, p.2)

Finance and Operations

- Refine systems to find efficiencies (Summer Projects, p.6)

For new students and families, welcome to RASD. We are honored you chose us! For our returning students and families, welcome back! We look forward to continuing to serve you. The staff is ready and committed to providing your children with exceptional education opportunities everyday throughout the year.

Respectfully Yours,

Mary

Dr. Mary Whitrock, Superintendent of Schools
Go Tigers!

Student Engagement & Learning

Impressive Ranking for Ripon Achievement



2023 Ripon High School National Honor Society Members

Ripon excels compared to other districts regionally and statewide.

Ripon students placed 51st in Wisconsin (87th percentile) out of 377 ranked school districts on the 2021-2022 state report card achievement rankings. Ripon aggregate state test score of 73.8 on Language Arts significantly exceeded the statewide average of 59.6. Similarly, Ripon's aggregate mathematics score of 72.5 significantly exceeded the statewide average of 57.7.

Ripon student achievement stands out even more impressively when considering Ripon ranked 51st academically, yet 135th for economic level. Compared to other districts, Ripon students score about 22% higher than predicted when considering economic factors. This means Ripon is high performing even with a high poverty level.

Ripon accomplished this by differentiating instruction to meet students where they are and helping students build strong connections within the school community. Ripon supports students with before and after-school programming; reading, language, math, and behavior interventionists; an extensive summer school program; and educators who make skills-based learning a priority.

Student Engagement & Learning

Summer School 2023

The District's five week summer school program from June 12 - July 14 is for students of all ages in all four school buildings. A variety of course options are available including enrichment; remedial reading, writing and math; and credit recovery.





Human Resources

Staff Exit Surveys

The results show **44% retired; 22% moved to reduce commute; 100% would recommend the District as a great place for a friend or family member to work; and 100% affirmed the job matched their expectations.** Staff commented: every staff member cares deeply for the well being of students; staff treated as professionals; and the leadership and the staff set me up for success and were always so helpful. Staff suggested: more job shadowing; support with the demands of the position; help to continue to market the school, continued emphasis on staff collaboration, and restorative practices for addressing behavior issues between students.



The Class of 2023 celebrates the end of their time at RASD with the traditional cap toss.



Student Engagement & Learning

Ripon is Closing the Gap

Each year the School Board receives a Midyear and an End of Year report on student achievement. The reports focus on reading and math proficiency in K-Grade 8, then focus on course pass rate and honor roll in Grades 9-12. In addition, the reports track indicators of success such as attendance, pupil service contacts, and office discipline referrals. The School Board reviews the number of students needing some type of intervention to close an achievement gap, and the capacity of each school staff to provide that many intervention sessions to those students.

Utilizing this information, the staff in each school works to ensure all students receive support to become proficient. Based on a school wide assessment in reading, the percentage of students in Grades 3-5 who began the year with a gap of being two or more grade levels behind their peers, went from 30% to only 7%. The data guides the school staff in preparing for the fall to ensure students receive extra academic support until they reach proficiency. At the high school level, students passed over 98% of all classes and 50% of all students made the honor roll. Of this year's graduating class, 65% made the honor roll.

To see the full report for 2022-2023 and previous years, visit the District website and go under the District tab to see District Data and Results.

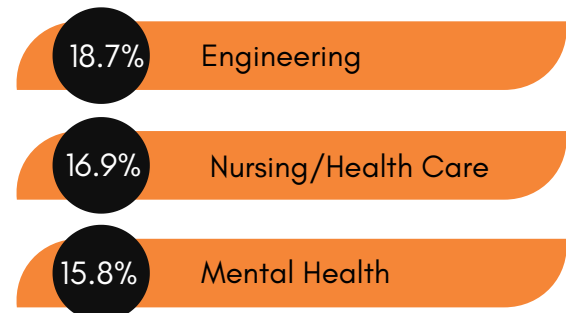


Student Engagement & Learning

Ripon High School Graduate Profile

The myOptions survey of this year's seniors provides a graduate profile. Results show the percentage of graduates first in the family to attend college increased by almost 8% compared to last year. The top three career choices for 2023 Ripon graduates continue the trend of Ripon High School students heading on to STEM fields.

2023 Graduates' Top Three Careers

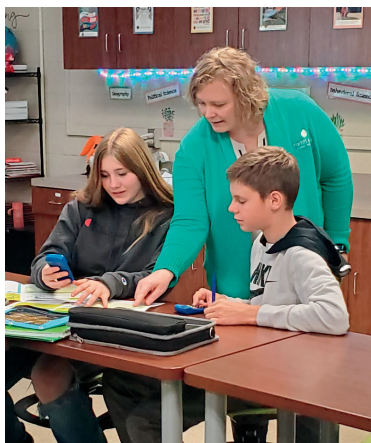


FUTURE PLANS	2023	2022
First in the family to attend college	26.4%	17.6%
Plan to attend four-year institution	86.2%	88.5%

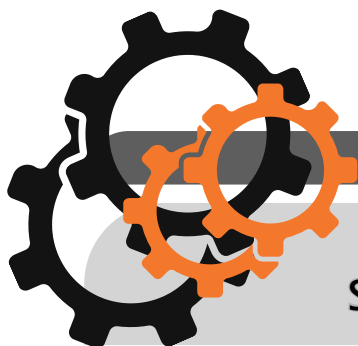


Service & Partnership

Economic Success With Junior Achievement



Ripon Middle School 8th graders welcomed volunteers from local businesses for the Junior Achievement: Economics for Success program. With the support of Fortifi Bank, Ameriprise Financial, and Walsworth, students engaged in interactive games and valuable lessons. This marks the fourth year of the program which benefits students from the expertise and dedication of these Junior Achievement volunteers. The District is grateful for their contribution to our students' economic education and look forward to the valuable lessons and inspiration they bring.



Service & Partnership

August 9th Strategic Planning

Ripon stakeholders are invited to participate in the Strategic Planning Team meeting on Wednesday, August 9 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm in the Ripon High School Community Room. This crucial gathering aims to set the direction of the District for the upcoming school year. The team will revisit the Graduate Profile work done pre-COVID, collaboratively develop rubrics for the Ideal Graduate criteria at each level, and ensure alignment with the District's beliefs and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) planning. A boxed dinner will be provided. To join the planning team, contact Jolene Meyer at meyerjeripon.k12.wi.us or (920) 748-4600. Everyone's input matters. Please consider helping to shape the future for Ripon learners.



Service & Partnership

Community Calendar Sponsors

Horicon Bank
Webster's Marketplace
Condon Companies
Cliff's Tire & Battery
Alliance Laundry Systems
Hillside Dental
Silver Creek Dentistry & Orthodontics
Thank You
2023-2024 Sponsors!

Ripon Area School District mails a free printed 12-month calendar to over 5,000 Ripon households in June to provide information about school, family friendly civic, and community events. Additional copies of the calendar are available at all schools and the district office.



Odyssey students and their families joined Odyssey staff for a field trip to Nourish Farm in Sheboygan Falls. They learned about bees and pollination, orchard growth, planting techniques, composting, diet and nutrition, the five senses and food preparation.

Asbestos Notification

As a result of federal legislation (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act-AH ERA), each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to complete stringent inspection for asbestos and to develop a plan of management for all asbestos-containing building materials. The Ripon Area School District has a goal to in full compliance with this law and is following the spirit, as well as, the letter of the law. As a matter of policy, the district shall continue to maintain a safe and healthful environment for our community's youth and employees. In keeping with this legislation, all buildings (including portables and support buildings) owned or leased by Ripon Area School District were inspected by EPA accredited inspectors and an independent laboratory analyzed samples. Based on the inspection, the school prepared the and the state approved a comprehensive management plan for handling the asbestos located within its buildings safely and responsibly. Furthermore, the Ripon School District, has completed the 3-year Re-inspections required by AHERA. Our district buildings, where asbestos-containing materials were found, are under Area repair, removal and Operation and Maintenance. This past year Ripon Area School District conducted the following with respect to its asbestos containing building materials: Continued to implement our Operations and Maintenance Program. Federal Law requires a periodic walk-through (called "surveillance") every six months of each area containing asbestos. Environmental Management Consulting, Inc. will accomplish this under contract. Short-term workers (outside contractors - i.e., telephone repair workers, electricians and exterminators) must be provided information regarding the location of asbestos in which they may come into contact. All short-term shall contact the lead maintenance person before commencing work to be given this information. The Ripon Area School District has a list of the location(s); type(s) workers of asbestos containing materials found in that school building and a description and timetable for their proper management. A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan available for review in the school office. Copies are available at 25 cents per page. Questions related to the plan should be directed to Jason Schneider of Environmental Management Consulting, Inc. at 920-648-6343 or by contacting 920-748-4600.

Equal Educational Opportunities

All children who reside in the district and are of legal school age are eligible to attend school. The admission of pupils shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes and board policies. The approval of the board is required for the admission of nonresident pupils. Children between the ages of 7 and 16 (those exempted by law) are required to attend full-time day school; thereafter, they may attend part-time with the permission of the principal to follow a program (except designed to help them earn a high school diploma. The same expectation of regular attendance and academic performance will apply to such students as apply to regular students. The Ripon Area School District is committed and dedicated to the task of providing the best education possible for every child in the district for as long as day the student can benefit from attendance and the student's conduct is compatible with the welfare of the entire student body. The right of a student to be admitted to and to participate fully in curricular, extracurricular, student services, recreational or other programs or activities shall not be abridged or impaired because of a student's school sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, genetic information, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. Questions regarding the interpretation or application of this policy shall be referred to the district administrator and processed in accordance with established procedures.

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Ripon Area School District that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil service, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, the national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, genetic information, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap, as required by s. 118.13, Wis. Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The District encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the policy in the Ripon Area School District. Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to: Business Manager, Jonah Adams or Director of Special Education, Becky Morrin, Ripon Area School District, P.O. Box 991, Ripon, 54971 (920) 748-4600. Any complaint regarding the interpretation or application of the district's student nondiscrimination policy shall be processed in accordance with the following grievance procedures:

- Where the grievant desires informal complaint resolution if possible, the complaint shall be submitted verbally or in writing to the school administrator at the lowest appropriate level can provide resolution of the complaint. Confirmation of receipt of the complaint must be provided in writing to all parties involved within 10 school days of the receipt of the complaint.
- Where informal of the complaint complaint. resolution efforts are not possible or satisfactory or desired, any student, parent, or resident of the district complaining of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in school programs or activities shall report the complaint in writing via the "Discrimination Complaint" form to Business Manager, c/o P.O. Box 991, Ripon, WI 54971. The business manager, upon receiving such a written complaint, shall verify receipt of the complaint in writing as soon as possible (and no more than 45 days after receipt of the written complaint) and shall immediately undertake an investigation of the suspected infraction. The business manager will review, with the building principal or other appropriate persons, the facts comprising the alleged discrimination. The business manager will make an investigation of the complaint and will file a written report with his/her recommendations with the superintendent of schools within 15 working days of receipt of complaint.
- Within 10 days after receiving the complaint the district administrator shall hold a conference with the compliance officer and then decide the merits of the case, determine the action to be taken, if any, and report in writing the findings and the resolution of the case to the grievant.
- If the grievant is dissatisfied with the decision of the district administrator, he/she may appeal the decision in writing to the board c/o the board president or superintendent of schools. The board shall hear the appeal within 30 days of receipt of the request at its next regular meeting, or a special meeting may be called for the purpose of hearing the appeal. The board shall make its decision in writing within 15 days after the hearing unless a mutually agreed to extension of time is arranged. Copies of the written decision shall be mailed or delivered to the grievant and the district administrator within 90 days of receipt of the initial written formal complaint and shall include a copy of the "Notification of Complaint of Right to Appeal" form. If the grievant is dissatisfied with the board's decision, he/ she may within 30 days appeal the decision in writing to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Appeals should be addressed to: State Superintendent, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707.
- If, at this point, the complaint has not been satisfactorily settled, further appeal may be made to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Education, 300 S. Wacker Dr., Eighth Floor, Chicago, IL 60606.
- Discrimination complaints relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement of the provision of free appropriate public education of a child with exceptional educational need shall be processed in accordance with established appeal procedures outlined in the district's special education handbook.

Annual Notice of Special Education Referral and Evaluation Procedures

Upon request, the Ripon Area School District is required to evaluate a child for eligibility for special education services. A request for evaluation is known as a referral. When the district receives a referral, the district will appoint an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if the child has a disability, and if the child needs special education services. The district locates, identifies, and evaluates all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private (including religious) schools, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district. A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability, has a legal duty to refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made. Others, including parents, who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability may also refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Referrals must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral may be made by contacting Becky Morrin, Ripon Area School at (920) 748-4616 or by writing to PO Box 991, Ripon WI, 54971.

New Student Registration

Ripon Area School District is pleased to welcome new students and their families. Staff members are happy to answer questions and assist in the registration process. The first step for parents is to enroll their student(s) into the district by completing the online registration application at www.ripn.k12.wi.us. Click on the Families tab and then the dropdown option Enroll New Student.

Picture Dates



August 1 & 2

12:00 - 6:00 pm

Ripon High School Gym

Returning Student Registration

Returning families are required to register their student each summer for the next school year.



REGISTRATION WINDOW OPEN
JULY 1-31, 2023

- update student information
- pay fees
- request bus transportation
- submit Free & Reduced Lunch Application.

Families are advised to use a laptop or desktop to register. Tablets & Smartphones are not compatible.
Computers are available to families at the District Services Center located at 1120 Metomen St.

McKinney-Vento Assistance Act

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. 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 not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for humans. If you are aware of any children who may qualify according to the above criteria, please contact Emmy Jess, Homeless Liaison for the Ripon Area School District at jesse@ripn.k12.wi.us or at (920) 748-4616. All information will be kept confidential.

Free and Reduced Priced Meals

Ripon Area School District students who are unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program or milk for split-session students served under the Special Milk Program may apply for free or reduced-price meals or free milk. Each school office and the District Services Center has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Application forms are available to parents or guardians on the Free Reduced Price Meal page of the website or in paper format at all school offices and the District Services Center. To apply for free or reduced-price meals or free milk, households must fill out the application and return it to the school or District Services Center. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

To obtain free or reduced price meals or free milk for children for whom households receive FoodShare FDIR, or Wisconsin Works (W-2) cash benefits, an adult member needs only to list the names of the school children, give FoodShare, FDIR or W-2 case number for each child, sign his/her name and return the application to the school office.

For the school officials to determine eligibility for free or reduced price meals or free milk of households not receiving FoodShare, FDIR or W-2, the household must provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. In lieu of a social security number, the household may indicate that the signer does not possess a social security number. Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, welfare, child support, etc.).

Under the provisions of the free and reduced price meal and free milk policy, the Business Manager, or designee will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the Ripon Area School District Business Manager, P.O. Box 991, Ripon, WI 54971 (Telephone: 748-4600). If a hearing is needed to appeal the decision, the policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the school. Such changes may make the household eligible for reduced price meals or free meals or free milk and they may reapply at that time. In certain cases foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a household has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for free or reduced price meals, the household should complete an application for a family of one or contact the school for more information.

The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. Public Law 103-448 does authorize the release of student free and reduced price school meal eligibility status to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs. Consent of the parent/guardian is needed for other purposes such as waiver of text book fees.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official.



Area School District
PO Box 991
1120 Metomen Street
Ripon, WI 54971
(920) 748-4600

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MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering learners, engaging community, enriching the world.

VISION STATEMENT

One of Wisconsin's finest school districts, fostering excellence for all through innovation.

ORGANIZATION VALUES

Integrity	Excellence
Commitment	Collaboration
Innovation	Kindness

POSTAL CUSTOMER



TIGER UPDATE EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION SUMMER 2023



Finance & Operations



Summer work crews at Barlow Park Journey are busy preparing the learning spaces for the new All Day 4K Program.

Summer Facilities Projects

- Moved Ripon Children Learning Center 4K classroom to Barlow Park Journey
- Completed Phase 2 of Natural Playground (Ziplines installed in late June)
- Installed LED light panels in classrooms at Middle School and High School
- Purchased a new multi function stage with ADA accessibility ramp



Service & Partnership

Free Summer Food Service

Free breakfast and lunch is available to anyone in the community 18 years old and under. Curbside Meal Packs are also provided. See details for dates and times below.

Breakfast 8:00 - 8:30 am	Weekdays June 12 - July 14 August 30 & 31	All Schools
Lunch 12:00 - 12:30 pm	Weekdays June 12 - July 14 August 30 & 31	Ripon High School Murray Park Elementary Barlow Park Elementary

Curbside Meal Pack Pick Up

- July 18 - August 22 on Tuesdays from 7-9 am
- Pick up at Door N at Ripon Middle School
- Meal packs will include 7 breakfasts and 7 lunches with easy fresh or heat & serve options

Pre-Order Curbside
Meal Packs Here
or go to:
<https://bit.ly/3MJ1iN9>



1120 Metomen St, Ripon, WI 54971



www.ripon.k12.wi.us