

**For Immediate Release**

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**Murray Park is Honored with Wisconsin Title I Schools of Recognition Award**

**Ripon, WI** - The Ripon Area School District is pleased to announce State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor recognized Murray Park Elementary School as being among 107 schools in the state that received Wisconsin Title I School of Recognition honors in the 2019-20 school year.

The Schools of Recognition award is presented to schools leveraging federal Title I funding to provide additional resources and services to economically disadvantaged students. The staff and students of Murray Park Elementary School earned an award for showing a high level of progress. Criteria for receiving a Schools of Recognition award includes reaching goals for test participation, attendance, and graduation rates. Additional criteria and a full description of award categories can be found on the DPI's website.

Murray Park Principal Renee Bunge commented "I am extremely proud of our Murray Park staff, as they work incredibly hard as a team to support our students' varying needs. While our staff explore and implement programs, services, and interventions that help us close learning gaps, they simultaneously support the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of our students. This collective work, combined with our team's daily application of Continuous Quality Improvement practices whereby teachers collect and use data side-by-side with our students in order to promote increased student engagement and accountability of learning, have been nothing short of outstanding." Under her leadership as principal over the past 5 years, the school has continued to place priority on learning and growing together as a full team, using a solutions-based approach to challenges, sharing strong teaching practices, and in working collectively to support our students' needs and one another.

Murray Park qualifies to receive Title I funding based on the number of students in the school who qualify for the Federally funded free and reduced lunch program. Jill Puhlmann-Becker, the district's Title I Coordinator noted, "Murray Park staff has been working hard to close educational gaps for all students. On the state report card, Murray Park earned 87 out of 100 possible points for growth in reading and math, well above the state average of 73.9 for elementary schools."

Chrissy Damm, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment also noted, "The tremendous growth the Murray Park students are experiencing can be attributed in great part to the focused work of our educators on the Board of Education's Response to Instruction/Intervention (RtI) annual goal in literacy for the past five school years. We have added math to our district goals for Continuous Quality Improvement while maintaining the goal for literacy instruction."

"I am so proud of the effort put forth by all of the staff, students and parents to make this recognition possible. Principal Bunge has created a culture of high achievement at Murray Park where student expectations and success is an outcome of hardwork and a system of continuous quality improvement rather than a reflection of one's current socioeconomic situation. This is a win for our students and the entire community," said Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock.

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

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