

For Immediate Release

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District BRAVE Program Launches Virtual Homework Help

Ripon - Ripon Area School District (RASD) looks to continue to support families through a new virtual Homework Helpline. The BRAVE program has teamed up with the Education Department from Ripon College to offer homework help in the evenings for students PreK-12 beginning Monday, April 6. BRAVE, which stands for Building Resilience and Values in Everyone, is the district's after school program and serves an average of 420 students annually in grades K-8 during the regular school year.

Since the Governor's order to close school and the district's move to online learning, BRAVE program staff have worked to find a way to continue to provide after school services and support to RASD families. The BRAVE staff will assist students PreK-8 while high school students will receive homework help from Ripon College students certifying in Education. This service will be available Sunday - Thursday in the afternoons and evenings. Access to the helpline is on the district's website at www.ripon.k12.wi.us. From the home page, families simply scroll down to locate the Homework Helpline button. One click on the button will connect them to the COVID-19 Digital Learning & Info Page. Details about how and when to connect with a tutor is listed under the Homework Helpline section.

Eliza Stephenson, BRAVE Site Coordinator at Ripon Middle School & Catalyst, looks forward to connecting students in need of homework help with tutors. "This is a great resource for all students in the district and will allow students to get help that they need when they need it." Wanda Disterhaft, BRAVE Site Coordinator at Murray Park/Quest added, "I am so grateful to my BRAVE staff for continuing to support students with this virtual Homework Help. Students will be able to receive help from a live tutor in math, reading, spelling, etc. They could even read to one of our tutors."

Jean Rigden, Director of Teacher Education at Ripon College, reached out to the Ripon Area School District to see if there were ways that her pre-service teachers could help. She shared her

excitement about the opportunities this program will provide to practicum students whose normal classroom experiences were interrupted or eliminated this spring. “The Homework Helpline provides a great community service for PreK-12 families. Partnerships like this are at the core of Ripon College’s mission,” said Rigden. “This is a win for all involved,” she added.

Chrissy Damm, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment commented, “We understand that families are juggling many things right now and the Homework Helpline is just one more way that the Ripon Area School District can offer our support. We appreciate the partnerships we have established through the BRAVE program and Ripon College, as well as the countless volunteers who have offered their support in various ways throughout this pandemic. We value the opportunity to continue to make personal connections with our students through the virtual learning that is taking place. Homework Helpline will allow us to extend our support to students beyond the daily digital classroom connections students are making with their teachers.”

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

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