



Superintendent's Message

The days are getting longer so spring must be right around the corner! This is also evident as MS/HS students select Fall 2024 courses and parents of 4-year-olds begin 4K registration. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed of the happenings within the Board's four strategic priorities:

Student Engagement & Learning

Solid education in a healthy/safe environment
(National Awards p. 1, One Primary School p. 2, Reading Tutors p. 3, 4K Registration p. 4)

Service and Partnership

Increase partnerships and satisfaction through CQI (Foundation Campaign p. 2, Childcare Program p. 3, Parent Satisfaction p. 3, Crossing Guards p. 4)

Human Resources

Increase opportunities to build high quality staff
(New Social Worker p.2, Staff Satisfaction p. 2)

Finance and Operations

Refine systems to find efficiencies
(Enrollment p. 2-3, Budget Update p. 3)

Thank you for your continued support and investment in our RASD amazing children and talented staff. Together we are shaping the future by inspiring learners, engaging the community and enriching the world.

Respectfully Yours,

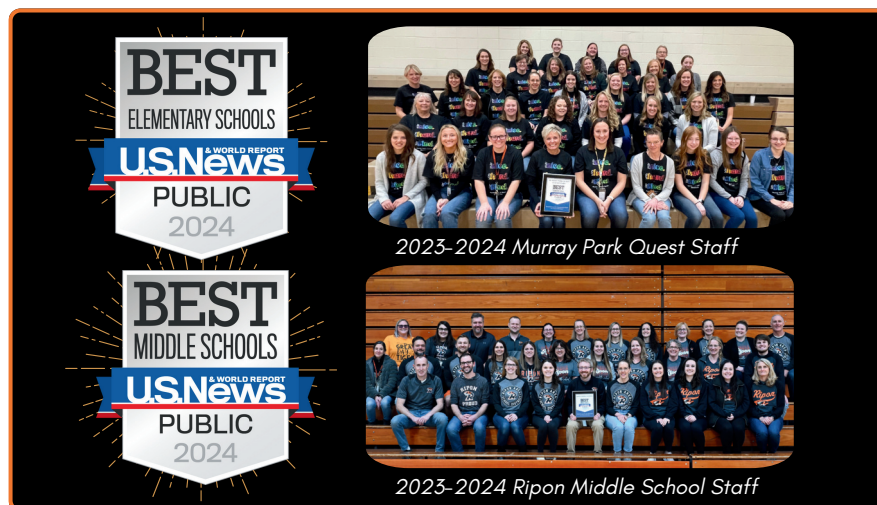
Mary

Dr. Mary Whitrock,
Superintendent of Schools
Go Tigers!



Student Engagement & Learning

U.S. News & World Report Recognitions



Congratulations to Quest, Murray Park, and Ripon Middle School (RMS) for earning Best Schools distinctions from U.S. News & World Report.

Quest and Murray Park ranked #42 and #138 respectively out of 951 Wisconsin elementary schools ranked in the state while RMS is ranked #271 out of 494 middle schools in the state. U.S. News analyzed 103,099 Pre-K, elementary, and middle schools to determine rankings in each state and recognizes that great elementary and middle schools educate their students from all socioeconomic backgrounds to set them up for success. RMS Principal Rick Bunge commented, "We are always looking to grow and improve. It is nice for students and staff to be recognized for their hard work." "Principal Renee Bunge offered praise for students and staff sharing, "Our Murray Park/Quest students and staff work incredibly hard to continue to learn and grow. We are very proud of them for their continued hard work, perseverance, and progress." This marks the second year in a row that all three schools received this national distinction.

Ripon Tigers Featured at Wisconsin Herd Game



Ripon Youth Basketball play before Wisconsin Herd game in Oshkosh, WI



Ripon Middle School and High School Choirs perform the National Anthem



The Ripon High School Pep Band gets the crowd on their feet



Human Resources

Staff Satisfaction Survey

Year	Satisfaction	Responses
2023	3.85	123
2022	3.89	128
2021	3.80	134
2020	3.91	130
2019	3.54	85
2017	3.10	86

**Results based on a 5 point scale*

Results continue to remain significantly higher than the first survey conducted in 2017 for both participation and overall satisfaction. The anonymous 21 question uses a 5 point scale to survey staff regarding:

- work environment;
- relationships with colleagues/supervisors;
- compensation and benefits; and
- opportunities for growth and movement.

For more information visit the District Data page at www.ripon.k12.wi.us.



Service & Partnership



Ripon Education Foundation

Ripon Education Foundation donors support students and staff with:

- \$43K awarded in 35 scholarships
- \$29K Teaching & Learning Grants
- \$26K Special program grants

More than \$30,000 was donated through the Foundation's #RiponRoar fall online campaign. The next event is the Spring Scholarship Drive held April 15 - 19. Contributions can be made at any time at riponeducationfoundation.org.



Student Engagement & Learning

One Primary School for 2024-2025

During the fall semester, the staff and governance councils of Barlow Park and Journey engaged in conversations about creating one 4K-2nd grade elementary school in Ripon. Journey opened in 2013 as a K-2 Project-Based Learning (PBL) charter school using inquiry-based approaches. Learners are taught basic knowledge to tackle realistic problems typically in the areas of science and social studies, often integrating literacy and math. In 2020, Barlow opened as a K-2 competency-based and play-based charter school with literacy and math learners working in flexible groups with teachers based on each student's individual academic needs.

Since Journey opened, parents needed to choose between Barlow and Journey. Some parents have expressed concern their child may miss out on elements offered in the other school as well as students not always being able to interact with all of the children in their grade level. Uniting the schools would create one cohesive model of education for the early childhood through second grade students in the Ripon Area School District.



Human Resources

Meet Our School Social Worker

Ripon Area School District welcomes School Social Worker, Carrie McCarthy. She provides counseling, support with mental health, and assistance with basic needs. "Adding a district-wide school social worker was critical to meet the ever-changing needs of our school community. School social workers are skilled in bridging the gap between school, home, and community while providing critical support to our most vulnerable student and family populations," remarked Emmy Jess, Director of Pupil Services.

Carrie serves families in transitional living situations and students in foster care. She also supports students facing truancy, expulsion, and change of placement due to behavioral concerns.



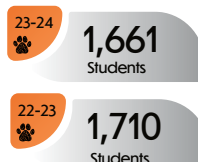
Carrie McCarthy
School Social Worker

Contact Information
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mccarthyc@ripon.k12.wi.us

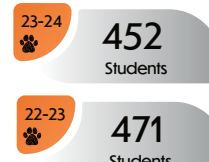


Finance & Operations

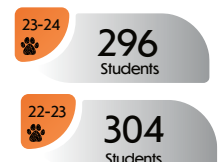
District Total Enrollment



Ripon High School



Ripon Middle School



**Data from 3rd Friday in September Report*



Service & Partnership

Camp BRAVE Makes Memories with Ripon Seniors

Camp BRAVE students visited the Ripon Senior Center on January 18th. They enjoyed lunch together, played BINGO, and made Valentine cards for veterans. Camp BRAVE provides free full-day programming to Ripon elementary students on most Teacher Inservice days. Activities include field trips and onsite events.



Student Engagement & Learning

Americorp Volunteers Build Reading Skills



Elementary students are growing their literacy skills with the help of Reading Corps volunteers. Ripon's full and part-time tutors work one-on-one with 64 kindergarten and first graders. Reading Corps has been recognized as one of the best practices in literacy promotion. Tutors provide 20-minute tutoring sessions, track student progress, and meet with reading coaches regularly to assess data and work toward learning targets. The program, through donations to the organization, pays tutors a stipend but does not charge the school district for this service. For more information about Ripon's Reading Corps contact Reading Specialist Jill Puhlmann-Becker at puhlmannj@ripn.k12.wi.us.



Finance & Operations

Murray Park Quest

23-24

309
Students

22-23

315
Students

Barlow Park Journey

23-24

380
Students

22-23

368
Students

Odyssey Academy

23-24

224
Students

22-23

252
Students



Service & Partnership

Parent Satisfaction Survey

Year	Satisfaction	Responses
2023	3.89	282
2022	3.92	326
2021	4.01	368
2020	4.15	321
2019	3.87	262
2017	3.85	211

**Results based on a 5 point scale*

Results continue to remain significantly higher than the first survey conducted in 2017 for both participation and overall satisfaction. The anonymous 21 question uses a 5 point scale to survey staff regarding:

- school safety and learning environment,
- relationship between teacher and child,
- school/district leadership, and
- communication.

For more information visit the District Data page at www.ripn.k12.wi.us.



Finance & Operations

Mid Year Budget Update

The Ripon community's ongoing investment in its students prepares them to perform at the highest level. Through December, revenues of \$5.8 million equaled 24% of projections for the school year. Last year, revenues equaled 26% at this point. Like last year, District program expenses equaled 36% (\$8.7 million) of projected year-end budget amounts. In July, the District began utilizing federal ESSER III funds and will spend down all of this grant by September 2024. Planning has begun for balancing next year's budget.



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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 WINTER 2024



Service & Partnership

Tiger Thanks Crossing Guards

Wisconsin's Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week is February 19-23, 2024.

The Ripon Tiger visited our crossing guards to thank them for keeping our students safe as they travel to and from school each day.



Student Engagement & Learning



4 Year Old Kindergarten

Children who turn 4 years old by September 1, 2024, should attend one of Ripon's Leap for Learning events specifically designed for children who will start school in the Fall of 2024. Each child's readiness will be assessed by 4K staff through a 20-minute play session while parents meet with school staff to learn about community resources and the developmental needs of a 4 year old. Children also receive a complimentary hearing and vision screening. Parents should bring their child's birth certificate and proof of residency. Register online using the link below or call (920) 748-1550. Sessions end with a drawing for prizes donated by the community.

Select Date & Register

April 4: 4-8pm
August date TBD

Scan to Register

bit.ly/3NwraNI



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www.ripon.k12.wi.us