



TIGER UPDATE

WINTER 2025

Excellence through Innovation

Superintendent's Message

Spring is in the air! This month, students registered for Fall 2025 courses, state testing began, and the open enrollment window opened. 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
(*One Intermediate School p. 1, National Awards p. 1, Mental Health Night p. 3*)

Service and Partnership

Increase partnerships and satisfaction through CQI (Foundation Campaign p. 2, Parent Satisfaction p. 3, Innovative Grants p. 4)

Human Resources

Increase opportunities to build high quality staff
(Superintendent Search 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 the amazing children and talented staff in our district. 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!



The School Board recognized Ashley Bradley who qualified to perform with the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) State Honors Jazz Band.



Student Engagement & Learning

One Intermediate School for 2025- 2026

During the fall semester, Murray Park and Quest staff and the Quest Governance Council engaged in conversations about creating one 3rd-5th grade elementary school in Ripon. Quest opened in 2010 as a Grade 3-5 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. Since that time, two schools have resided in the Murray Park Elementary School building.

Since Quest opened, parents needed to choose between Murray Park and Quest. 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 will create one cohesive model of education for Grade 3-5 students in the Ripon Area School District.



Expanding best practices such as hands-on Project Based Learning.



All school events like the annual Spelling Bee and Science Fair will continue.



Starting out the day with a classroom Morning Meeting will continue.



Murray Park Elementary



Quest Elementary



Ripon Middle School



Ripon High School



Human Resources



Staff Satisfaction Survey Results

Index	Score
ACADEMICS: We are effective in teaching and supporting our students.	3.79
ENGAGEMENT: I like working at this school because I am valued, heard, and can contribute.	3.91
SUPPORT: I have the support I need to help educate our students and work as a team.	3.95
STUDENT EXPERIENCE: Students are accepted, respected and supported at school.	3.89
STAFF EXPERIENCE: Staff are accepted, respected and supported at school.	3.92

Response Scale:

Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1.



The anonymous survey was completed in October 2024 with a 61% participation rate up from 55% the previous year. The survey was conducted by School Perceptions and uses different questions and rating scale so results can not be compared to last year's survey.



Service & Partnership



Ripon Education Foundation

\$31,491

thank you!

Raised from #RiponROAR



- Student Scholarships
- Teaching & Learning Grants
- Special program grants

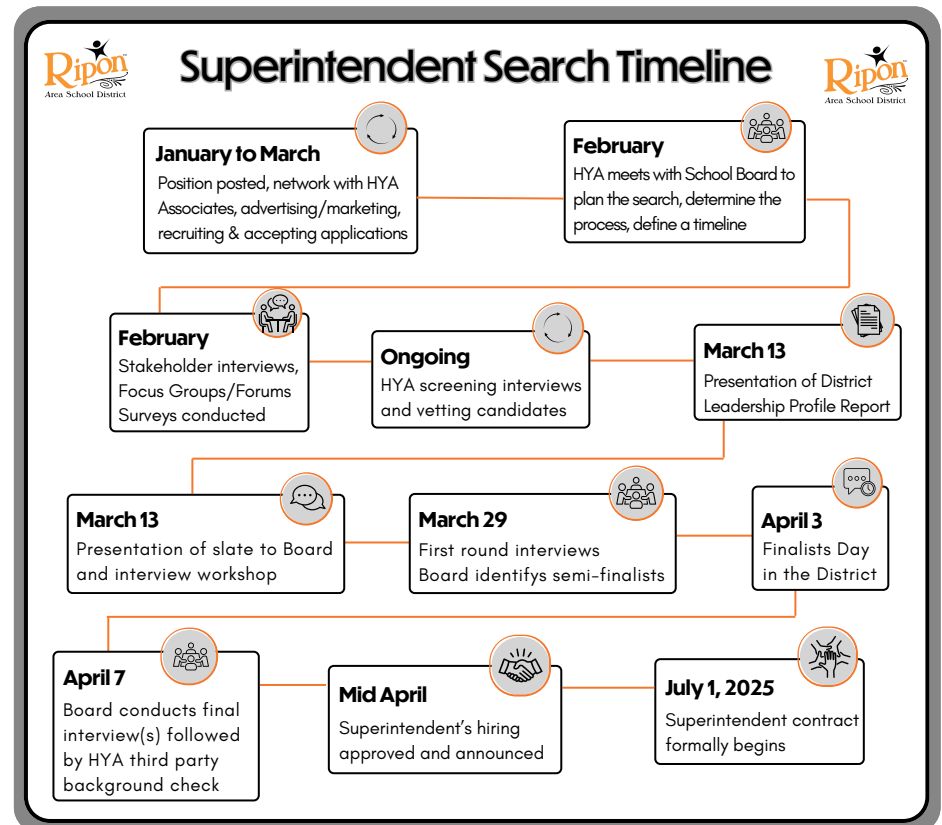
www.riponeducation.org



Human Resources

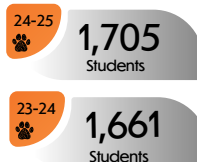
Superintendent Search

The Board selected Hazard, Young, and Attea (HYA), a national consulting firm, to head the search for the next Ripon superintendent. HYA uses surveys and focus sessions to connect with stakeholders on what Ripon is looking for in the next superintendent. HYA vets candidates completing multiple reference checks, background checks and a social media review. The Board will interview the slate of candidates vetted by HYA and plans to select the new superintendent by early April, 2025. During the transition time between being selected and starting in the position on July 1, 2025, the candidate will be able to learn more about the district and community of Ripon, meet stakeholders, and work with Dr. Whitrock to ensure a smooth transition.

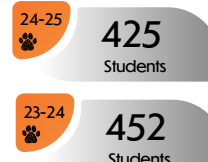


Finance & Operations

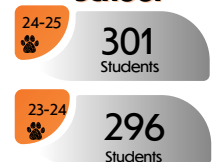
District Total Enrollment



Ripon High School



Ripon Middle School



*Data from 3rd Friday in September Report

Student Engagement & Learning

Mental Health Awareness Night

Students from Ripon High School and Berlin High School joined forces at their February 4 Boys Basketball game to host the 4th Annual Mental Health Awareness Night. The event aimed to raise awareness about mental health and provide our students, families, and community members with information and resources to support mental wellbeing. The event took place at Ripon High School, in the commons area and gym. Activities started prior to the start of the 5:45 PM JV game, and continued through the 7:15 PM varsity game. The evening included informational booths from more than 15 local mental health providers and community resources, halftime activities for students from both schools, a 50/50 raffle, and raffle baskets. Students and staff from both teams had an opportunity to purchase "Mental Health Matters t-shirts prior to the event.

At the end of the event, all proceeds were split between the two schools to be earmarked for mental health-related projects or initiatives. The event was organized by the Ripon Area School District Pupil Services team.

Therapy Dog Provides Comfort and Support

Noel is a therapy dog trained to provide comfort and support. Her owner Barlow Park Elementary teacher Mrs. Randi Schmidt attended dog school with Noel through Ideal Dog. When at school Noel is supervised by Mrs. Schmidt. Students enjoy greeting her in the morning, reading to her and her calm presence.



Service & Partnership



Parent Satisfaction Survey Results

Index	Score
INFORMED: I am kept up to date on my child's progress and what's happening at school.	3.93
INCLUDED: I am welcomed, respected, and part of the school community.	3.77
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE: My child's school is effective in helping them learn, develop, and succeed.	3.80
ATMOSPHERE: My child feels safe and supported at school.	3.94
EXPERIENCE: My family is accepted, respected and supported at school.	3.96

Response Scale:
Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1.

The anonymous survey was completed in October 2024 with 297 families (17%) participating up from the 282 families who participated last year. The survey was conducted by School Perceptions and uses different questions and rating scale so results can not be compared to last year's survey.

Finance & Operations

Mid Year Budget Update

A balanced budget of \$24.7 million in General Fund revenue and expenditures is projected. In December 2024, revenues reached \$6.68 million (27% of the budget, up from 24% last year), while expenses totaled \$8.97 million (36%, unchanged from last year). During the first quarter, the District used the final \$535,333 of one-time federal ESSER III funds to cover summer school and September payroll expenses. With these funds now concluded, budget planning for 2025-26 is underway. The District remains committed to maintaining quality student experiences and achieving a balanced budget despite the absence of this federal revenue.

Finance & Operations

Murray Park Quest

24-25

313

Students

23-24

309

Students

Barlow Park Elementary

24-25

399

Students

23-24

380

Students

Odyssey Academy

24-25

267

Students

23-24

224

Students



Area School District

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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
Commitment
Innovation

Excellence
Collaboration
Kindness

POSTAL CUSTOMER



TIGER UPDATE EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION WINTER 2025



Service & Partnership

Ripon Education Foundation Teaching & Learning Grants

The Ripon Education Foundation (REF) encourages academic achievement through financial support that provides enhanced learning and teaching opportunities for all students and teachers within the District. To date 16 grants and 6 special grants have been awarded this year. Since 1997, the Foundation's Teaching and Learning grants fund a wide array of learning tools and experiences. In the 2023-24 school year, REF awarded \$34,500 in teacher grants. A volunteer Board of Directors manages the Foundation and engages the Ripon community in fundraising campaigns to support programs such as the Teaching & Learning Grants.



An REF grant provided the Ripon High School Drama Club with a short-throw stage projector to create visuals to enhance their performances.



A grant from the REF expanded a first-grade classroom library and sparked excitement and a love for reading.



Participation in the prestigious Noetic Math Competition was made possible by a grant from REF. One student scored in the top 10% of the nation.



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