

**New Student Registration**  
 The first step to enroll new students in the Ripon Area School District is to complete the online registration application found on the district website under the Families tab- Enroll New Student. The free and reduced lunch form can also be found under the same tab. After the student has been registered, parents/guardians can bring their child(ren) to picture day on August 3 or August 5. Please contact Sally Glander at 748-4600 with any questions.

**Picture Dates**

August 3, 2021  
 11:00am - 6:00pm  
 RHS Commons

August 5, 2021  
 8:00am - 2:00pm  
 RHS Commons

**Returning Student Registration**  
 Registration materials will be mailed to all families in July. Contact your child's school if you do not receive a packet or find the information on our website under the Families tab- Registration. Families will be completing the registration process online through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If you are unsure of your Parent Portal username and password, please contact Sally Glander at glanders@ripon.k12.wi.us

**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@ripon.k12.wi.us or at (920) 748-4616. All information will be kept confidential.

**Free and Reduced Priced Meals**  
 The Ripon Area School District announced ifor children 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. Each school office and the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party. The following household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility. Children from families whose annual income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free and reduced price meals or free milk if a split-session student does not have access to the school lunch or breakfast service.

Family Size	Annual Income Level			Monthly Income Level			
	Free (at or below)	Reduced (at or between figures listed)	and	Free (at or below)	Reduced (at or between figures listed)	and	
1	\$16,588	\$16,588.01	and	\$1,383	\$1,383.01	and	\$1,968
2	\$22,412	\$22,412.01	and	\$1,868	\$1,868.01	and	\$2,658
3	\$28,236	\$28,236.01	and	\$2,353	\$2,353.01	and	\$3,349
4	\$34,060	\$34,060.01	and	\$2,839	\$2,839.01	and	\$4,040
5	\$39,884	\$39,884.01	and	\$3,324	\$3,324.01	and	\$4,730
6	\$45,708	\$45,708.01	and	\$3,809	\$3,809.01	and	\$5,412
7	\$51,532	\$51,532.01	and	\$4,295	\$4,295.01	and	\$6,112
8	\$57,356	\$57,356.01	and	\$4,780	\$4,780.01	and	\$6,802
Each additional member, add	+5,824	+5,824	and	+486	+486	and	+691

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a notice to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced price meals or free milk, households must fill out the application and return it to the school (unless notified at the start of the school year that children are eligible through direct certification). Additional copies are available at the office in each school. 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 agency 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 in a household where one or more household members receive FoodShare, FDIPIR, or Wisconsin Works (W-2) cash benefits, list the FoodShare, FDIPIR or W-2 case number, program name, list the names of all school children, sign the application, and return it 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, FDIPIR or W-2 cash benefits, the household must provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, total number of household members, and the adult signing the application form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the box to the right of "Check if no SSN". 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 Services Specialist, 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: Mary Whitrock, Superintendent, 1120 Metomen Street, (920) 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 if the household income falls at or below the levels shown above, and they may reapply at that time. Children formally placed in foster care are also eligible for free meal benefits. Foster children may be certified as eligible without a household application. Households with foster children and non-foster children may choose to include the foster child as a household member, as well as any personal income available to the foster child, on the same application that includes their non-foster children. The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. Public Law 103-448 limits 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.



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

**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

**Tiger Update - Connecting With Our Community Supporters**

**Finance and Operations**

**Summer Facilities Projects**

The goal of the Facilities Department is to provide students the best environment for learning. Upcoming summer projects at each site include:

- Murray/ Quest - classroom and exit lighting and climbing wall in gym;
- Barlow/Journey - lighting, HVAC, concrete/asphalt, clocks, technology, water softener;
- Middle School/High School - lighting and asphalt;
- Administration Building - sidewalk, generator, cabinets and countertops; and
- Ingalls Field - painting, asphalt, bathrooms/ team room furnace, repair and paint track.

The RASD 10-year capital plan is designed to identify replacements prior to failures. Thanks to the investment of the Ripon community, RASD facilities remain in good repair. In addition, the replacement of major building components at end of life results in decreases to utility costs and minimal ongoing maintenance.



**Service and Partnerships**

**Free Food Service Continues**

Free meals are available for anyone in the community 18 years old and under through the summer and next school year. The food service program, now under the direction of Aramark, provides a week's worth of nutritious and tasty meals for breakfast and lunch that are available for FREE through the district's Curbside Food Service program. Reserving meals is easy with just a few clicks on the Curbside Pick Up Reservation Form located on the Food Service page of the RASD website at www.ripon.k12.wi.us. Reserved meal pick-up is from 7:30 - 9:30 am every Monday at door N9 of Ripon Middle School, 750 Tiger Drive.



POSTAL CUSTOMER

# TIGER UPDATE

Area School District Summer 2021 Excellence through Innovation

**Superintendent's Message**



As the 2020-21 school year comes to a close, we celebrate the graduation of 123 high school seniors, and recognize our 2 retirees who served the students of Ripon Area School District for a combined 46 years, and commend our team for staying open all year. Congratulations!

Each article and feature story in this quarterly report provides an update on the District's work aligned to the four strategic priorities set by the School Board. Highlights of that work included:

- Student Learning and Engagement**
- Provide well rounded education in a healthy and safe environment (*Learning Continues with Summer School p.1, Graduate Profile and Future Plans p. 2, School-Based Mental Health Services Grant p. 3*)
  - Close achievement gaps in literacy and math (*End of Year Report on Student Achievement p. 2, Barlow Park Charter Update p. 3*)

- Service and Partnership**
- Increase partnerships and satisfaction through CQI (*Community Calendar Sponsors p. 3, REF Grant for School Projects p. 1*)

- Human Resources**
- Increase opportunities to build high quality staff (*Staff Exit Survey Data p. 2, 403(b) Retirement Plan for Staff p. 3*)

- Finance and Operations**
- Refine systems to find efficiencies (*Food Service Free Meals Continue p. 4, Summer Facilities Projects p. 4*)

Thank you for your diligence in keeping COVID spread low inside and outside of school. Together we made a difference to the children of Ripon.

Respectfully yours,  
 Dr. Mary Whitrock, Superintendent of Schools

**Student Engagement and Learning**

**Learning Continues with Summer School**

Our Ripon schools are buzzing with activity this summer. Not only is the facilities team busy working on projects, but students are too. Art students are sketching under the trees in the middle and high school courtyards, enjoying popsicles while reading, programming robots, cooking, sharpening their math skills, "camping out" in a tent inside their classroom, learning how to swim or play an instrument and even learning how to drive a car. Ripon Area School District (RASD) offers a five week program from June 14-July 16 with a variety of enrichment courses for students of all ages as well as opportunities for additional support in reading, writing and math for elementary students and credit recovery for high school students. Despite the challenges this year brought due to the pandemic, Ripon is fortunate to have a very strong group of summer school teachers dedicated to serving our students.



**Service and Partnership**

**Ripon Education Foundation Awards \$25,000 School Grants**

- The Ripon Education Foundation (REF) awarded grants for each school in the district totaling \$25,000 for prominent project(s) to benefit students across the District with a focus on physical and social emotional health which have been especially impacted due to COVID:
- \$4,999 12' x 12' pergola for the outdoor classroom in the high school West Courtyard;
  - \$9,340 for two basketball hoops (\$3,500 each) and tables for outdoor classroom space at the middle school (\$2,340 );
  - \$2,800 for two 12' soccer goals at Murray Park Quest;
  - \$3,095 for a nature playground art panel and two shade trees at Barlow Park Journey;
  - \$900 for the three preschool sites' outdoor play areas (garden wagons, see-saw teeter-totter, balls, sleds, kitchen equipment, and trikes);
  - \$1,876 for two additional picnic tables at Crossroads Academy.

## Staff Exit Survey Data

Of staff who responded to the survey:

50% were moving to reduce commute; 83% would recommend the District as a great place for a friend or family member to work; 100% affirmed the job matched expectations; 50% were moving to reduce commute.

Staff commented on Ripon's: sense of community and pride for its school system; great place for opportunity and change; strong administrative support; family atmosphere; focus on kindness and positive environment as reasons they enjoy their job. Staff shared a need for more communication at times; noted the stress of high expectations; and recommended more support staff benefits and additional onboarding support as areas for growth.

## Student Engagement &amp; Learning

## Ripon High School Graduate Profile and Future Plans



Ripon High School (RHS) students are surveyed through myOptions to assess their post-secondary interests and preparedness. Areas reviewed include students' current high school courses, post-secondary interest groups, characteristics of their ideal college, future school plans and preparation activities, professions of interest, and first generation college-bound students. Here's what Ripon graduates shared:

- 33.3% plan to pursue a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) career
- 89.9% plan to attend a four-year institution
- 17.6% will be the first in their families to attend college



## Student Engagement and Learning

## End of Year Student Achievement Report

Student end of year achievement data was reported to the School Board in June.

The literacy and math data from district level assessments reflects the impact of COVID compared to two years ago although significantly less than anticipated. Additional classroom teachers to reduce class sizes at the elementary, an additional counselor shared between middle and school and two additional behavior interventionists in grades K-8 have been added to support the social emotional needs of students for the 21-22 school year.

Literacy (Above to Just Below Grade)	Spring 18-19	Spring 20-21
Kindergarten	*	65%
Grade 1	*	63%
Grade 2	*	78%
Grade 3	91%	84%
Grade 4	72%	70%
Grade 5	64%	66%
Grade 6	59%	55%
Grade 7	68%	59%
Grade 8	67%	51%

Math (Above to Just Below Grade)	Spring 18-19	Spring 20-21
Kindergarten	*	73%
Grade 1	*	85%
Grade 2	*	78%
Grade 3	82%	80%
Grade 4	86%	70%
Grade 5	82%	71%
Grade 6	69%	70%
Grade 7	65%	65%
Grade 8	65%	48%

RHS Course Passes	18-19	19-20	20-21
Fall Semester	96.8%	97.6%	94.5%
Spring Semester	96.8%	98.3%	98.2%

Odyssey (On or Above Grade Level)	Mid-Year	End-Year
School-Wide Literacy	57%	60%
School-Wide Math	52%	55%

\*no data collected

## Thank You Community Calendar Sponsors

Thank you to our generous community sponsors for providing the resources for the RASD Community Calendar which is mailed directly to over 5,000 households in Ripon. This year's calendar was designed by Samantha Stellmacher, an RHS Senior. It provides information about school events, the Ripon Education Foundation's #RiponRoars event and Scholarship Drive, as well as family-friendly civic, and community events. This student project would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. Extra copies of the calendar are available at the district office as well as each school building.

## 2021-2022 RASD Community Calendar Sponsors

- Horicon Bank
- Webster's Marketplace
- Condon Companies
- Cliff's Tire & Battery
- Hillside Dental
- Alliance Laundry Systems
- Silver Creek Dentistry & Orthodontics

## Student Engagement and Learning

## School-Based Mental Health Services Grant

Due in part to the District receiving a \$75,000 mental health grant for the 2020-2021 school year, Ripon Area School District (RASD) staff members worked to enhance the overall mental health and social-emotional well being of all RASD students. Even with a "COVID learning year," the District made forward progress on enhancing its Equitable Multi-Level Systems of Support. All certified staff members were trained in: trauma-aware classrooms, personal wellness, and suicide prevention. Many regular and special education staff and all pupil service staff received additional training in the areas of executive functioning, emotional intelligence, mindfulness, zones of regulations, responsive classroom practices, trauma-integrated practices, suicide response protocol, critical incident recovery, anxiety and mental health issues in the classroom, holistic behavior-management.

The School-Based Mental Health Services Grant funds also allowed the District to create calming spaces in classrooms, incorporate in student-center Social Emotional Learning (SEL) materials, invest in flexible seating options for students, utilize a social-emotional learning screener at eight grades and implement software to monitor intervention strategies for students. In perhaps one of the most difficult years in education to date, RASD staff effectively responded to the ever-increasing behavioral health and emotional well being needs of Ripon students in many ways.



## Barlow Charter School

In its first year, Barlow Park Charter School (BPC) had almost 100 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year. The school opened with three kindergarten sections, one first grade, and one second grade section.

While the school allows for multi-age competency based groupings in literacy and math, students spend a good portion of their day with grade-level peers. There is a heavy focus on social emotional learning through purposeful play. In a year-end parent survey:

- 100% of BPC parents indicated they were likely to recommend BPC to a friend or a colleague; and
- 94% of BPC parents reported being "very satisfied" with their child's academic progress to "exceeds expectations".

End of year student achievement data showed 75% of BPC students who received reading intervention for the whole year made at least 14 months growth due to the competency-based instruction reinforcing intervention instruction. Enrollment for 2021-2022 has already grown to 129 students (two kindergarten sections, three first grade sections, and one second grade section.)



## 403(b) Retirement Plan for Staff

In an effort to remain competitive to attract and retain high quality staff, the Board of Education approved a \$1,000 403(b) contribution to the twenty-seven most veteran teachers and a \$250 403(b) to the remaining 194 employees in the district. The total cost of the contributions is \$75,500 and is possible due to a small surplus from unused funds in building and department budgets at the end of year. The new federal funding that districts across the country will receive next year could allow other districts to offer higher than normal salary increases and create new positions. The 403(b) contribution is intended to serve as a morale booster and a retention tool.

## Asbestos Notification

As a result of federal legislation (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act-AHERA), each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to complete a 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 be 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 the Ripon Area School District were inspected by EPA accredited inspectors and an independent laboratory analyzed samples. Based on the inspection, the school prepared and the state approved a comprehensive management plan for handling the asbestos located within its buildings safely and responsibly. Furthermore, the Ripon Area School District, has completed the 3-year Re-inspections required by AHERA. Our district buildings, where asbestos-containing materials were found, are under 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 workers 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) 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 is 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 (except 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 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 day 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 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 school 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 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 the 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, 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. A 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, WI 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:

1. 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 who 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.
2. Where informal 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 the complaint.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Discrimination complaints relating to programs specifically governed by federal law or regulation shall be referred directly to the State Superintendent.

## 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 District, at (920) 748-4616, or by writing to PO Box 991, Ripon WI 54971.