From the Superintendent's Desk

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year!

In just a few weeks we will begin the new school year. This is certainly an exciting time, one filled with much anticipation and eagerness on the parts of students, staff and parents. Throughout the summer, our district team has continued our commitment to excellence by teaching summer school, hiring and training staff, writing curriculum, and cleaning and repairing buildings. This work prepares our students, staff and facilities for the first day of school.

This newsletter contains a special “Back to School” pull-out section complete with essential information to help you prepare for the new school year. In addition, you will find highlights from 2013-2014 in the “Year in Review” and insights about 2014-2015 in the “Year Ahead”. The front page of this edition includes an update on the seventh facilities engagement session with the community. The District’s commitment to providing a transparent and open process through development of our long-range facilities plan with the community.

As the school year moves into full swing, I want to personally invite you to discover the Ripon Area School District. You can become a partner by attending events to support students or volunteering in our schools to see firsthand the high quality education that occurs each day.

For new students and families, welcome to RASD. We are honored you chose us. For our returning students and families, welcome back. We look forward to continuing to serve you. The staff is ready and committed to providing your children with exceptional educational opportunities everyday throughout the year.

Respectfully Yours,
Dr. Mary Whitrock
Go Tigers!

Global Connections

Superintendent Dr. Whitrock and Middle School Principal Tom Holt traveled to China this summer with close to two dozen educators from across the country. The 10-day tour, sponsored by Education First (EF), included visits to schools, discussions of the tour, educators accessed online learning materials prior to visits to schools, discussions and conferences with educators in other countries and how we can regarding how American schools can establish professional connections with educators in other countries. The tour, educators accessed online learning materials prior to visits to schools, discussions and conferences with educators in other countries.

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Facility Planning Update

District Administration along with CG Schmidt Construction and Plunkert Rysick Architects presented a facility planning update at a joint Community Engagement Session and Board of Education Workshop on Monday, July 14. This seventh Community Engagement Session covered survey results with comments analysis, feedback from Ripon city staff, budget verification, scope of work with schedule milestones, and the roadmap to referendum on November 4, 2014.

Of the four plans presented to the community, Plan C was approved by 50% of district residents and the final proposed referendum budget is $29.1 million. District Administration has engaged staff, teachers, city officials, parents, business leaders, civic organizations, and the community on the day-to-day operations of the buildings and the improvements needed to make Ripon a school district of choice.

The facility planning team continues to address concerns identified by all stakeholders including site drainage, campus traffic and parking, building proximity to Ingalls field and rail road tracks, ability to expand if enrollment increases, tornado safety and shelter, building sprinkler systems driven by code compliance, building and site evacuation routes in the event of an emergency or disaster, and utility connections and load capacity.

Community participants have had seven opportunities to provide feedback to the planning team that have focused on both the operational, space, and educational deficiencies at all schools, but now are mainly focused on discussing Plan C with the combined middle and high school,” said Mary Whitrock, Superintendent.

The Board of Education and District Administration continued their work moving forward with Plan C and finalizing the operational and facility building/remodeling referendum at the Monday, July 14 Board Workshop. The Board heard a Financial and Tax Impact Presentation from Carol Wirth with the Wisconsin Public Finance Professionals. The presentation centered on a historical comparison of the revenue limits, state aid, and tax levy amounts since 2008. The revenue limit determines how much revenue the District has to pay for operating expenses.

The next step for the School Board is to adopt the resolution, and prepare to go to referendum with two ballot questions. The Board reviewed a draft of the official operational and building/remodeling language that will appear on the November 4 referendum ballot. The $29.1 million in borrowed funds, at an estimated interest rate at 4.5%, cannot be used to pay operating expenses, and state law limits repayment of borrowing to 20 years.

As the process continues, the District will be meeting with city officials, staff, and hosting additional Community Engagement Sessions and buildings tours. If the Board votes to proceed to referendum, the deadline for the Board to approve the resolution is August 18. The Board encourages the entire community to participate and offer feedback during this exciting process.

Back to School Open House Information

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Happy Campers

El Sueno, the (mostly) Latino college and career-bound club, took a camping trip to Devil’s Lake and Rocky Arbor State Park for team building, sightseeing and recreation. They enjoyed beautiful hikes on the East and West Bluff trails, swam in the lake, tried rowing a boat, ate hotdogs, pudding pies and s’mores around a campfire, and got wet in the storms the second night. A good time was had by all!

FFA Breakfast

The 27th FFA Alumni Breakfast provided a special time for guests to enjoy a delicious breakfast, tour a working farm, and visit with friends and neighbors. Proceeds from the breakfast support the FFA program at Ripon High School. This year’s breakfast was held at the Hinz family farm in Pickett.

In the Mail

Mrs. Dahlvig’s first grade class wrote to the President of the United States in April! In the middle of May, her class received a letter from President Obama along with a signed photo and information about the White House. He thanked the children for writing to him. He ended his letter by saying, “...always remember that nothing is beyond your reach as long as you are willing to dream big and work hard. If you stay focused on your education, I know there are no limits to what you can achieve.” The children were very excited.

Budding Actors & Actresses

The first graders in Mrs. Standke’s class at Barlow Park Elementary shared their theatrical abilities when they put on three plays for family and friends. The students sang and danced their way through renditions of “The Four Musicians,” “Goldilocks and the Three Bears,” and “The Little Red Hen.” The students closed the program by sharing their interpretations of the author’s message in each play.

Water Fun

In celebration of all of the children’s hard work this school year, the BPES PTO sponsored a dunk tank on June 6th for the children to practice their aiming skills! Many staff members, including Dr. Misles-Krhin and Dr. Whitrock, hopped into the dunk tank to see how many students could make them fall into the water. The students cheered each other on, laughed and enjoyed their time “dunking” each staff member.

Graduation Celebration

Students from the 4-year-old preschool (4PS) program at Ripon Children’s Learning Center (RCLC) wore caps & gowns for their graduation ceremony. The students entertained their family and friends before walking across the stage to receive their diplomas. Congratulations!

Summer School Fun

Care-a-Van Class

It is better to give than to receive. This is a very real life lesson that some Ripon students are learning first hand this summer. The third through fifth grade Care-a-Van class literally begins class each day by hopping into a district van to visit a new location. Each day of the week, the class and their teacher provide volunteer services and learn valuable lessons about the rewards of giving of your time and talents in service to others. This group of civic minded students is under the guidance of retired teacher, Tracy O’Brien, who has a heart for giving back to his community.

The Care-a-Van class is based on the principles of service learning. According to the Learn and Serve America National Service Learning Clearinghouse, service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

The Volunteer Center of Fond du Lac County is a community partner with the Ripon Area School District in the design and support of this unique class. How does this partnership work? Volunteer Center coordinators, Nancy Zompolas and Dusty Krikau, contact area businesses and service organizations that would benefit from the donated hours of student volunteers. Interested RASD students and a certified teacher are provided by the district. One of Mr. O’Brien’s roles is to help students to understand how to be a successful volunteer by teaching them about the various businesses or organizations being served. Whether delivering a cheerful message to a senior citizen or stocking the shelves at a food pantry, students learn how volunteer work fills a vital need in the community.

This summer the Care-a-Van students have provided volunteer services at the Ripon Public Library, Little White Schoolhouse, Ripon Children’s Learning Center, Boys and Girls Club of Berlin, Brandon Food Pantry, Fountain View Care Center, Traded Treasures, Maplecrest Manor, Ripon Medical Center, Prairie Place, Ripon Food Pantry, Michalene’s, and Ripon Senior Center.

Over the course of the 23 summer school days, each Care-a-Van student will provide over 90 hours of volunteer service. This incredible number of service hours is invaluable to the Ripon community and the lessons learned by students are priceless.

What are the students learning from their participation in the Care-a-Van? This is what a few of the students had to say:

- “What I like best about the class is that we get to help people and when we are done, they have a big smile and they thank us.”
- “I like the Care-a-Van because we go to new places and meet new people.”
- “I learned that I am very fortunate to have what I have and some people need a helpful hand.”
- “It makes me feel happy and proud because I’m younger and smaller than a bunch of people but I can be a big help!”
- “I like that we are helping not for a reward but out of the goodness of our hearts.”

The experiences and memories created this summer on the Care-a-Van will stay with these students for a lifetime. As one student summed it up perfectly, “It makes me feel awesome because I am helping people. It just fills me with happiness knowing that people need my help, so I help them.”
Ripon High/Lumen Schools
Summer office hours: Monday - Thursday 7:00am – 2:30pm
The high school office will be closed on the following Fridays: July 4, 25 and August 1, 8, 15, and 22.
Call the guidance department for counselor availability (920-748-4637).

High school registration is scheduled for Tuesday, July 29 from 7:00am to 12:00pm and Wednesday, July 30 from 8:00am – 12:00pm.

NOTE: We are again offering early “express” registration. If you have completed your paperwork and do not have any serious problems with your student’s schedule, you may drop off your information at the RHS office or mail your registration papers to RHS, PO Box 991, Ripon, WI 54971.

Pictures for the yearbook and student ID’s will be taken during registration. Seniors should also have their pictures taken for ID purposes. No purchase is necessary.

Ripon Middle/Catalyst Middle School
Summer office hours: 7:30am - 12:30pm, Monday – Friday. The middle school office will be closed on the following Fridays: July 4, 25 and August 1, 8, 15, and 22.

If you are not able to utilize the early registration or register on July 29-30 you will need to complete the registration process prior to August 21 during the above listed office hours.

Adolescent ten-game passes will be available at the first home game for a fee of $35.00 which entitles adults to attend ten (10) home athletic activities (excluding post season tournaments) of their choice.

In order to purchase a Registration Packet for $100.00. The families include everyone in a household for athletic events (excluding post season tournaments).

Work permits are available at the high school during the above listed office hours. All individuals who have not reached the age of 18 are required to have a work permit issued prior to their employment. To secure a work permit, the individual must bring the following: birth certificate or baptismal certificate, social security card, letter from employer, a written permission from parent/guardian, and $10.00.

Schedule for the First Day of School
Tuesday, September 2, 2014
FRESHMEN & Link Crew Leaders should report to their Advisory Groups at the regular school start time at 7:50am.

SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS and SENIORS should report to school at 11:45am.
ALL students will report to their Advisory Groups at 11:50am.

Barlow Park/Journey & Murray Park/Quest Elementary Schools
A pure registration day for Barlow Park/Journey and Murray Park/Quest will be held on Thursday, July 31 from 10:00am - 6:00pm in the Barlow Park/Journey Elementary School auditorium for Kindergarten and all K-5 students. School pictures will be taken on that day in the music room.

Registration for New Students
The first step for parents/guardians who are enrolling students for the first time in the Ripon School district (including pre-school and kindergarten) is to complete registration forms at the district office located at 1120 Metomen Street, Ripon. Parents should bring their new student(s) and for each child his/her birth certificate and immunization record.

After the student has been registered at the school district office and the student’s information has been entered into the district’s computer system, the parent/guardian will be able to pick up their child’s school schedule and other school site information.

Parents should contact Jamie Voigt at 920-748-4600 or voight@ripon.k12.wi.us with any questions.

Kindergarten Plans for Ripon Schools
Your child’s first day of school will be Tuesday, September 2, 2014. This will be an orientation day for you and your child and will be two hours in length. The purpose of the orientation is to acquaint you and your child to the kindergarten classroom and to some of the daily activities your child will be involved in on a regular basis.

Your child must be accompanied by an adult on September 2. Kindergarten students should not ride the bus on September 2.

The orientation schedule on September 2 is as follows:

- Students with last names beginning with:
  A-M: 9:30am – 10:45am
  Students with last names beginning with
  N-Z: 12:30pm – 2:30pm

All yellow health data sheets and immunization cards handed out at the spring screening should be brought to registration on Wednesday, July 31. If your child’s date of birth was not verified at the spring screening, bring a birth certificate or similar evidence to the Barlow Park Elementary School office.

The kindergarten day runs from 8:00am to 10:45am and resumes after lunch from 11:45am to 3:15pm. If a student has not registered for kindergarten, please contact Myra Mises-Krhin, Principal, before the first day of school. To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before September 1.

Release Time
All students in grades K-12 are eligible to be released from school classes on Wednesdays at 2:30pm to attend religious instruction classes offered in the various area churches.

Students to be released must have on file in the school office a request form signed by the parent or guardian.

Request forms are available in the school office and/or at the participating churches. School programs such as bus transportation schedules, daily instructional programs or other school activities will not be altered to accommodate students who elect to participate in the release time program. Complaints regarding the release to attend religious instruction classes should be referred to the Business Manager at PO Box 991, Ripon, WI 54971.

Pupil Assessment Examination Excuse
Under state law, the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled in the 3rd – 8th and 10th grades in the school district, including pupils enrolled in charter schools located in the school district, may request the school board to excuse the pupil from taking the statewide 3rd – 8th, and 10th grade examination administered under the pupil assessment law.

Upon the request of a pupil’s parent or guardian, the school board shall excuse the pupil from taking an examination administered under this section.

Student Insurance
To maintain insurance for the Ripon Area School District will continue its policy of not providing any type of health or accident insurance for injured students at school for the 2014-15 school year. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide adequate insurance coverage for their children’s school sponsored activities – including athletics. Parents who are interested in purchasing a low-cost student accident insurance plan for their children may apply for the student insurance program offered by Student Assurance Services, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota, 55082. Details of the plan and application forms will be distributed and made available for student parent consideration.

4PS Information
Your child’s first day of preschool will be Tuesday, September 2nd with ADVOCAP/Head Start starting Monday, September 15th. To be eligible for 4PS, a child must be four years old on or before September 1.

An Open House at the 4PS site your child will be attending has been scheduled. The open house provides your family an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, visit the classroom, and ask questions you might have regarding the 4PS program.

Dates, times, and locations are listed below:

- Wednesday, August 27th: 4:30pm – 8:00pm - Pickett Community Center
- Thursday, August 28th: 4:30pm – 8:00pm - Prairie View ADVOCAP/Head Start
- Thursday, September 11th: 4:00pm – 6:00pm - Prairie View ADVOCAP/Head Start

If you have not already done so, all health data sheets and immunization cards handed out at the district screening in May should be brought to the open house.

4PS Information

The 4-year-old preschool schedule is as follows:

- Prairie View ADVOCAP/Head Start
  - M-Th: 8:20am – 11:50am
  - M-F: 12:30pm – 3:00pm
- Pickett Community Center
  - M, T, Th, F: 8:20am – 11:05am
  - W (late-start): 9:20am – 11:05am
- Ripon Children’s Learning Center
  - M-F: 12:30pm – 3:00pm

There are no milk program or meal books associated with the 4PS program. If you have questions prior to the open house dates, please contact the district’s 4PS Coordinator, Ms. Carrie Napaletta at 748-1550.

Ripon School News
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Notification of Specific Learning Disabilities Identification Change

Wisconsin’s rule for identifying students with specific learning disabilities (SLD) has changed. No later than October 1, 2013, all initial SLD evaluations of public school students will use information from interventions to make decisions about eligibility.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Anne Lang at (920) 748-1554.
School District Releases
Lunch Program Rates
A daily noon hot lunch will again be offered by the Ripon Area School District at all district schools. A school lunch will provide each student one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) for protein, carbohydrates, iron, and one-third of the Recommended Energy Intake (REI) for calories over a week's cycle of meals. In addition, the school lunch will comply with the applicable recommenda-
tions of the most current Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including limits on fat and saturated fat. The meal will include:

- A one-half pint fluid 1%, skim, or low-fat milk chocolate milk:
- Two ounces meat or meat alternate.
- Three-fourths to one cup serving of two or more vegetables or fruits or both.
- 1-1/2 servings of fruit per week.

The cost to students, grades K-5, is $2.50 daily. Reduced lunch rates for students in grades K-12 are $4.40 per day. Adult lunches without milk are $3.00 per day.

Students who wish to be served a one-half pint carton of 1% or skim milk during break time provided for students in grades K-5 is free of charge as part of the Federal Special Milk Program. Students in grades 6-12 who do not participate in the district’s noon hot lunch program but do wish to be served one-half pint of milk with their ‘bag’ lunch may purchase a carton at any price. Rates may be subject to increase based on Board of Education action. Parents will be informed in ad
dvance of any such change.

Important Notice for Parents 2014-2015 Immunization Requirements for Children in Schools
Requirements for Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acel-
lular Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) and Varicella (chicken-
pox) Vaccine went into effect at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year. In Wisconsin parents are re
duired to have their children vaccinated, or must claim

- A one-half pint fluid 1%, skim, or low-fat milk chocolate milk.
- Two ounces meat or meat alternate.
- Three-fourths to one cup serving of two or more vegetables or fruits or both.
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dvance of any such change.
**STEP Program**

School volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to become involved at all grade levels. Tax credits for senior citizens are available through our STEP program. Parents, interested community members, and senior citizen wishing to work with students should contact Nancy Bouwkamp at 748-1550 for more information.

**CASTLE Program**

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/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.

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 milk, regardless of whether the household member is receiving other assistance.

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 held at the school for a period of time at any time during the school year.

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 held at the school for a period of time at any time during the school year.

For free or reduced price meals or free milk for children in a household where one or more household members receive FoodShare, FDPIR, or Wisconsin Works (W-2) cash benefits, list the household member and the FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 case number, list the names of all school children, sign the application, and return it to the school office.

To obtain free or reduced price meals or free milk for children in a household where one or more household members receive FoodShare, FDPIR, or Wisconsin Works (W-2) cash benefits, list the household member and the FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 case number, list the names of all school children, sign the application, and return it to the school office.

For free or reduced price meals or free milk for children, list the members of the household, including the names of all school children, sign the application, and return it to the school office.

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**Free or Reduced Price Lunch - Milk - Breakfast**

The Ripon Area School District has a policy for 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.

### ANNUAL INCOME LEVEL

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**MONTHLY INCOME LEVEL**

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- 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 milk, regardless of whether the household member is receiving other assistance.

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 held at the school for a period of time at any time during the school year.

### Información para 4 Años Pre-Escolar (4PS)

El primer día de escuela de su niño pre-escolar será el 2 de septiembre con Advacp/Head Start empezando el 15 de septiembre. Para calificar para 4PS, el niño(a) debe tener cuatro años de edad antes el 1 de septiembre.

Los eventos de Open House donde asistir su niño(a) ha sido programado. Open House le permitirá a su familia la oportunidad de conocer a la maestra de su niño(a), visitar la clase, y hacer preguntas que usted podría tener en relación al programa pre-escolar de 4 años (4PS). Las fechas, hora y lugar están listadas abajo:

- **27 de agosto**: 4:30–6:00pm en Barlow Park Elementary School
- **27 de agosto**: 4:30–6:00pm en Ripon Children’s Learning Center
- **26 de agosto**: 4:30–6:00pm en Community Center
- **11 de septiembre**: 4:00–6:00pm en Advocap/Head Start

### Escuelas elementales de Barlow Park/ Journey y Murray Park/Quest

El día de inscripción se llevará a cabo el 31 de julio de 10:00am–6:00pm, en la cafetería de Barlow Park/Journey Elementary School para estudiantes de Edad Temprana y estudiantes de Kindergarten a 2do. Grado. Las fotos de la escuela serán tomadas ese mismo día en el salón de música.

El día de inscripción se llevará a cabo el 31 de julio de 10:00am–6:00pm en Barlow Park/ Journey Elementary School. Las fotos se tomarán ese mismo día.

### Ripon Middle School/Catalyst

El horario de verano es de lunes a viernes de 7:30am–12:30pm. La oficina de high school estará cerrada los siguientes viernes: 25 de julio, y el 8, 15, y 22 de agosto.

Las inscripciones de high school están programadas para el 29 de julio de 10:00am–8:00pm, y el 30 de julio de 8:00am–12:00pm.

### Ripon High School/Lumen

Horario de Verano: Lunes a jueves 7:00am–2:30pm. Viernes 7:00am–12:00pm. La oficina de high school estará cerrada los siguientes viernes: 25 de julio, y el 8, 15, 19, y 22 de agosto. La oficina de high school está abierta de lunes a viernes de 7:00am–3:30pm para orientación para la disponibilidad de un lugar en el próximo año escolar.

Las inscripciones de high school están programadas para el 29 de julio de 10:00am–8:00pm, y el 30 de julio de 8:00am–12:00pm.

Horario para el Primer Día de Escuela

Jueves, 3 de septiembre de 2014

FRESHMEN & Link Crew Leaders deben reportarse a sus Consejos de Consejo (8:00am–9:00am) y SENIORS deben reportarse a la escuela a las 11:45am. Todos los estudiantes regresarán a sus Consejos de Grupo a las 11:50am.

### Cancelaciones y Demoras por la Nieve

Las cancelaciones y demoras se anunciarán en una radio de 1600 AM (WRPN), así como en cuatro canales de televisión: ABC canal 2 (WBAY), CBS canal 5 (WFRV), NBC canal 26 (WGBA), y FOX canal 11 (WLUK). El sitio de Internet de WRPN-AM también tiene información de cancelaciones. El sitio del distrito escolar es actualizado diariamente a las 6:30am.

**Resumen de Noticias Escolares en Español**

- **Información para 4 Años Pre-Escolar (4PS)**
- **Escuelas elementales de Barlow Park/ Journey y Murray Park/Quest**
- **Ripon Middle School/Catalyst**
- **Ripon High School/Lumen**

Se les recuerda a los padres de familia, que la política del distrito escolar es excusar a los estudiantes que estén ausentes por la decisión de sus padres, para mantener al estudiante en la casa debido a las inclemencias del tiempo, sin importar la decisión del distrito escolar para parar las clases.
Migrant Education Program

The Ripon Area School District Summer Migrant Education Program is in its second year and it is expanding to include students in grade 3-7 in addition to high school aged students. Migrant education is a federally-funded program that assists districts in providing educational services and parent involvement opportunities for migrant families.

Ripon attracts a number of migrant families who work on area farms harvesting fruits and vegetables or in the cannery industry. Migrant families often arrive in Ripon during the month of June and depart in early November. Families move based on the growing seasons of various crops across the country and Mexico so it means that their children’s schooling is interrupted. Often the children do not receive credit for the studies they have completed. Getting a high quality education and a high school diploma is quite a challenge for children of migrant families. This is where the RASD can be a huge help!

This summer, Ms. Amy Maciolek and Mrs. Dana Scott are overseeing Migrant Education instruction for students in grades 3-12. Ms. Maciolek works with students who have completed grades 8-11. The students are enrolled in a variety of .5 credit courses such as geometry, health, world geography, English, and U.S. government. Each course is contained in a workbook format that includes all the resources and tests a student would need to fulfill course requirements. This makes the course portable. If a student does not finish all of the work during his/her stay in Ripon, the student can easily take the workbook to the next destination and complete it.

Mrs. Scott is starting Ripon’s first Math Matters migrant education course for students in grades 3-7. Math MATTERS (Math Achievement through Technology, Teacher Education, and Research-based Strategies) is a program designed to improve the math skills of migrant students through scientifically-based instruction, technology integration, professional development, and parent involvement. She also works with the children to further develop their English reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

In addition to academic support, the program also provides information and access to health and nutrition services. The RASD Migrant Education Program includes a daily lunch and weekly reports to students’ parents on their learning progress. Most importantly, it provides the students with an opportunity to continue their education with the support of gifted and passionate educators who understand the challenges of a migrant lifestyle.

“Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.” Quote by César Chávez who was an American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist, who, with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the United Farm Workers union.

Senior Citizens Receive Tax Assistance for Volunteering

Each year senior volunteers are using their talents and skills to offset their tax bill. This is because the school district participates in the Senior Tax Exchange Program or STEP. For 75 hours of volunteer time, the district will pay $425 of the senior citizen’s property taxes directly to the municipality.

Senior citizens are eligible if they are a district resident, 62 years-old or older, receive Social Security, and pay local property taxes on a residence. The volunteers select their preference of tasks from a list of options at Barlow Park Elementary, Journey Elementary, Murray Park Elementary, Quest Elementary, Catalyst Middle School, and Ripon Middle School. Volunteers are trained and given considerable support as they begin their efforts. To become a STEP volunteer for 2014-15, contact Nancy Bouwkamp at 748-1550 ext 1313.

Express Registration

Parents of RMS/Catalyst and RHS/Lumen students are encouraged to use “early express” registration. Completed paperwork may be dropped off at the school office or mailed by July 29th to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ripon Middle School</th>
<th>Ripon High School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attn: Registration</td>
<td>Attn: Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>PO Box 991</td>
<td>PO Box 991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ripon, WI 54971</td>
<td>Ripon, WI 4971</td>
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Project Lead the Way Comes to Catalyst

The teachers of Catalyst Charter Middle School were recently awarded a $20,000 STEM Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to begin Project Lead The Way Units of Study. STEM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, represents one of the fastest growing sectors of the current and future job markets. As a result, teachers and schools are working to increase the opportunities for students in STEM education.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a well-known provider of STEM programs. They provide resources and professional development to teachers looking to implement more STEM education in their classrooms. Catalyst teachers are looking forward to teaching units of study, such as “Design and Modeling” and “Automation and Robotics.”

Catalyst teachers will use the grant money to attend trainings specific to Project Lead The Way Units of Study at Milwaukee School of Engineering this summer. In addition, teachers will purchase resources and equipment for their classrooms to teach various units of study. An exciting addition to the classroom will be the district’s first 3-D printer! They will also gain access to PLTW’s on-line portal and network of teachers and students nationwide.

This grant award will be of great benefit to our middle school students, as they will gain increased access to STEM Units of Study through Project Lead The Way. Catalyst teachers are excited to embark on this new experience for their students and believe this will drive an increase in STEM related interests in high school.

Outstanding Achievement Recognition

Lauren Cook was recognized for her selection to the 2014 State Honor Trebel Choir.

Ms. Cindi Pokorny and several students were recognized as Noetic Mathematics Grade Level Winners. Karsyn Bauman, Eva Baker, Nicole Sperry, Celina Lopez, Garrett Mitchell, and Kai Liptow were all honored.
English Learner Program
NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT PLACEMENT AND PARENTAL RIGHTS

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction requires that the parents/guardians of all students receiving the district’s English Learner (EL) Program services be provided with the following information annually:

- According to the WIDA: ACCESS for ELs test taken by your child last year and your child’s EL teacher, continued support in developing academic English skills is recommended.
- Your child’s academic language level based on the WIDA: ACCESS for EL test.
- Your child will receive EL services in the following way(s):
  - Co-taught classes (two or more teachers leading the classes together)
  - Small-group instruction
  - Sheltered English classes for EL students (language instruction with the EL teacher)
  - Classes to support students in the different core content areas: Math, Reading, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science (modified instruction provided by the EL teacher)
  - Collaboration/co-planning among the student’s teachers (EL, classroom, and other teachers)
  - Monitoring and evaluating the student’s academic progress

- Your child’s teachers consider your child’s skills, strengths, and needs and choose the EL services that best meet your child’s learning needs.
- The EL services offered will help your child meet the grade-level standards so he or she can be promoted to the next grade and/or graduate from high school. This support facilitates learning the grade-level content while your child learns the necessary academic language needed to understand and communicate about what he or she is learning through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.
- The requirement for exiting the EL program is to obtain a Level 6- Full English Proficiency on the WIDA: ACCESS for ELs test. Students who obtain a Level 5-Advanced Proficiency may be considered to exit the EL program if they independently demonstrate advanced grade-level skills in comparison to English proficient grade-level peers. It typically takes 7-10 years to exit the EL program.
- If your child has an Individual Education Plan [IEP] the information about his or her academic English language development is included in this plan. The teachers of the students who have IEPs collaborate to meet the objectives included in the IEP.
- If you do not agree with the available services under the EL program and you do not want your child to receive these services, you have the right to terminate these services immediately. Please contact your child’s teacher(s) to sign the Refusal of Services form.
- You have the right to change the way(s) in which your child receives these services by contacting your child’s teacher.

Please contact Dr. Melanie J. Oppor, EL Program Coordinator, 920-748-4678 or opporjm@ripon.k12.wi.us if you have any questions about your child’s ACCESS for EL test results or EL services.

District Boundaries

The Ripon Area School District consists of the entire City of Ripon and all or part of ten surrounding towns and villages. Although located mostly within Fond du Lac County, the School District also reaches into Winnebago County and Green Lake County. The School District consists of 117 square miles.


We offer choices to parents and students at every level so all children can perform at their highest potential. A variety of preschool programs, project-based learning charter schools, comprehensive elective choices, and numerous extra-curricular activities provide a more personalized and customized education for our students.

Ways You Can Help Ripon Schools

Boxtops Needed — Clip the Boxtops for Education logo on many household products and drop-off at any school office. Some of the many products with the logo are Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, General Mills, Ziploc, Hefely, Kleenex, and Huggies.

STEP Volunteers — Senior citizens can save property taxes by volunteering in Ripon schools. Contact the District office at 748-4600 to get more information.

READ Dogs — Bring your dog to school and let students read to “Fido.” Contact Ms. Pat Grahn at 920-572-6585 to learn about training your dog in the READ program.

Quest Governance Council
President: Marguerite Parks
Vice President: Becki Baird
Treasurer: Pam Nakopulos
Secretary: Nicky Yeomans
Members: Frank Cumberbatch, Lori Hiron, Amy Pick, Keri Simocek, Skip Wittler

Catalyst Governance Council
President: Adam Meike
Vice President: Jack Christ
Treasurer: Jean Rigden
Secretary: Candie Baker
Members: Tim Scottberg, Sandy Wierski

Lumen Governance Council
President: Jeanne Williams
Treasurer: Pat Grahn
Secretary: Paula Hageman
Members: Adam Jacoby, Deano Pape, Amy Pollesch, Lisa Schafer, Al Schraeder, Paul Wigiel, Jeanne Williams

Stay Informed about Ripon Schools
SupeTalk — Superintendent Whitrock talks about school topics in 5-minute videos posted on the District’s website. New videos posted monthly.
Facebook — Dozens of albums and hundreds of photos from school activities fill the District’s Facebook page. Anyone can access it from the District’s web page.
Email News Network — Sign up for free email updates of news about what’s happening in Ripon schools. To subscribe send an email to whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us.

The Ripon Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap or any other characteristic protected by law.