

Ripon Area School District
Ripon School News

NOVEMBER 2013

"MORE CHOICES. BETTER RESULTS."

WWW.RIPON.K12.WI.US

From the Superintendent's Desk



The first two months of school have been very eventful. I always enjoy watching the excitement and newness of the year shift into increased levels of confidence and comfortable routines for students. Since school has been in session, teachers and staff outlined their goals and focus for the year. Students have had many opportunities to demonstrate their academic, artistic and athletic talents & skills. With state report cards out and ACT results released, RASD is able to define our successes and look for opportunities to grow. We are again pleased by the high results confirming the strong programs in the Ripon Area School District.

Since my start in the district, I am frequently asked about my transition to the Ripon district and community. Recently, a student writer for the RHS newspaper asked what is different about Ripon compared to the other districts in which I have worked.

In every district, it comes down to the people and how committed they are to each other. One district may offer more opportunity while another may offer a greater sense of community. Ripon excels because it offers both. Ripon students are fortunate to be in a high achieving district that is innovative, closely connected, and supportive of all students.

One similarity between RASD and other districts is the seriousness taken with regards to the safety of students, staff, and visitors in the schools. This newsletter highlights safety and facilities as well as recent news and achievement. Also included are updates regarding recognitions of staff, students, and community members.

Throughout the upcoming months, I encourage you to visit our schools to see first-hand the outstanding learning opportunities taking place each day and the talented students and staff in the Ripon Area School District. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully yours,
 Dr. Mary Whitrock
 Go Tigers!



The HS Band has been practicing for the Veterans Day Program on November 11 at 9:38 a.m. in the RHS Gym. The public is invited to attend.



Community members showed their spirit by joining RHS students and staff for the early morning Homecoming Breakfast.



Students receive instruction in the systems and components of four-cycle engines.

Career & Tech Ed Standards

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) released revised Career and Technology Education (CTE) Standards this fall. The standards are written to include students pre-K through grade 12 in the areas of:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources;
- Business and Information Technology;
- Family and Consumer Science;
- Health Science;
- Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship; and
- Technology and Engineering.

The revised standards include creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration, career development, environment, health and safety, global awareness, information media, technology and leadership. The CTE standards will assist the district in continuing to offer relevant, rigorous, and authentic learning experience that meet our students' needs and future ambitions. CTE helps students find relevance, application, and understanding of the core subjects for the world of work and for post secondary coursework.

You're invited to Coffee with the Superintendent

November 7, 2013
 7:00am

Kristina's Family Cafe

Participants are responsible for their own food and drink.
 No purchase necessary.

Safety In All Our Schools

Safety is the top priority of the RASD. One that is heightened with every school crisis. December 7 will mark the one-year anniversary of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Since that time, RASD conducted a full review of the safety procedures and elements in each school.

The district facilities team addressed some of the recommendations from the review last spring and additional items went to the Board in October. A few remaining items are recommended for next year pending the outcome of the facilities study.

This past summer the administrative team attended a full-day training on lockdowns. As a result some adjustments were made to district safety procedures. We simplified our processes to ensure everyone knows how to react quickly and calmly to stay safe during a crisis. Equally important is emphasizing how we treat each other every day.

Everyone has a right to feel safe. As such, we expect everyone including all visitors in our schools to act with respect in words, tone, volume and actions. Good sportsmanship is required at events and civil behavior is required at schools. Together, we continue to take the steps necessary to ensure our schools are safe for everyone learning inside them.

Ripon Schools Cost Less than Wisconsin State Average

Based on the 2011-2012 information from the Department of Public Instruction, Ripon spends about \$350 less per student than the Wisconsin average. The 2011-2012 information from DPI lists Ripon as receiving \$12,234 per student whereas the state average is \$12,591. Ripon would spend an additional \$627,606 each year just to be average among Wisconsin schools with student membership of 1,758. Over \$4 million in programs and services have been cut under State law in the past 7 years.



Quest Elementary Charter School held their first project showcase night on October 17.

Project Showcase Events for Charter Schools

~ See student learning in action ~

November 14	Catalyst	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
January 28	Quest	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
February 6	Catalyst	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
February 11	Journey	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
February 25	Lumen	6:00 – 7:15 p.m.
May 15	Quest	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
May 22	Catalyst	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
May 27	Journey	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars!

PARA ESPAÑOL VEA LA ULTIMA PAGINA

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17 Teachers Pursuing Promotion

The Ripon Area School District has announced the names of 17 teachers who are being considered for promotion under the district's new salary structure. The teachers and their schools are: Becki Bard (RHS/Lumen), Melanie Beahm (BPES/Journey), Sherry Byng (MPES), Keycia Dahlvig (BPES), Vicki Ermatinger (MPES), Mike Feidt (MPES/Quest), Sarah Highlander (BPES), Dan Jonas (RHS/Lumen), Gary Krahn (RHS), Amy Maciolek (RHS/Lumen), Kathy McMillan (BPES), Christina Muenchow (RMS/Catalyst), Angie Osheim (RMS), Carrie Phillips (BPES), Keri Simacek (Quest), Stacey Matuszewski (MPES/Quest), and Kara Weir (MPES).

Community members have until November 9th to submit feedback to school principals on any of these teachers. The principals are Dr. Myra Misles-Krhin (BPES and Journey), Mr. Randy Hatlen (MPES and Quest), Mr. Tom Hoh (RMS and Catalyst), and Mr. Dan Tjernagel (RHS and Lumen). Principals will use community feedback, along with other information and data, in developing their promotion recommendations for these teachers.

The new salary structure focuses on teacher improvement and collaboration. Teachers become eligible for promotion every six years. A promotion review committee consisting of teachers and administrators examines each teacher's promotion file and makes a recommendation to the Ripon Board of Education in May. This is the second year of the new salary structure and the promotion process.



Sixth graders at RMS enjoyed an inquiry based adventure to the Mill Pond.

Tonya Alling Receives 2013 Friend of Public Schools Award

The Ripon Area School Board presented Tonya Alling with the school district's Friend of Public Schools Award for her work with the Ripon-Green Lake Tractor Cruise, active membership in Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club, and primary leadership position in the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District of Kiwanis International (WUMDK). The award was presented to Alling in front of a standing ovation at the district's all-employee back-to-school meeting August 28.

Alling is a friend of public education for Ripon and for surrounding communities. Her work with the Ripon-Green Lake Tractor Cruise Benefit has resulted in significant growth of the event in just four years from 14 to over 50 participants with more than \$50,000 raised.

Through the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club, Tonya has also been involved in supporting students in a variety of ways such as organizing the club's local scholarships, taking a leadership role in the annual Kiwanis Children's Fair, and being instrumental in the start-up of the Kiwanis Toy Lending Program at the Ripon Public Library.

In the midst of all these activities, Tonya saw a need to assist parents of autistic students in our community and across the state. Thanks to her efforts in WUMDK, the project has already raised over \$120,000 and given away more than 250 iPads to students, including 15 Ripon families and one Rosendale family.

This is the second year the District has presented a Friend of Public Schools Award. The Ripon Rotary Club received the 2012 Friend of Public Schools Award for its sponsorship of the STRIVE program at RHS since 2006.

Throughout the school year, the STRIVE program hosts programs regarding networking and career building, career options discovery tour, ethics and social responsibility project and politics and government expo.

Check the web for
100s of photos!
www.ripon.k12.wi.us

Curriculum Corner



Dr. Melanie Oppor
Curriculum Director

Did you know? (Reading is Fundamental review of literacy statistics found at: <http://www.rif.org>)

- Thirty-three percent of 4th grade public school students are at or below the "Basic" level on the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading tests. Twenty-six percent of 8th grade public school students performed at or below the "Basic" level on the NAEP reading test based on the National Center for Education Statistics (2009).

- The number of high school seniors who read at or above "Proficient" has been declining since 1992, according to the NAEP reading test

(NCES, 2002).

Research is helping to improve our lives in many ways. Dentists and doctors can offer new treatment options that make recovery quicker, reduce pain, and fix troubling problems we used to tolerate for a lifetime. Advancements in educational research are also offering exciting new information about how people learn. By understanding what happens in the human brain while learning is occurring, teachers can use techniques that help students tap into their brain power.

This year, teachers across the district are studying how people learn to read and write and how these two areas of literacy are connected. Twice a month during Late-Start, the Murray Park and Quest teachers are watching a video series where a literacy expert demonstrates reading and writing strategies in classrooms across the nation. Teachers try the reading/writing strategies with their students and share

the results with colleagues at the next meeting. Ripon Area School District teachers can also choose a professional book. One of the book choices focuses on helping students write about their learning. District Reading Specialist, Jill Puhlmann-Becker, led training sessions for all teachers on writing to describe, inform, and explain and for grades 6 – 12 teachers on strategies to help students read across all subject areas. These are just a few examples of how RASD teachers are using literacy research to improve learning opportunities for all students across the district.

Did you also know? (Raising Bookworms at: <http://raisingbookworms.com>)

Reading skills correspond directly to one's ability to...

- Be an informed citizen.
- Communicate effectively.
- Earn a higher salary.
- Succeed in one's chosen career.
- Achieve personal fulfillment.

Continuing the Conversation

The Board of Education continues to move forward with the facilities study. In addition to identifying repair and maintenance needs, the Board is considering what education will look like in the future.

The first engagement session, held on September 19, included a brief overview of the master planning process followed by small group sessions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of each building.

The second session, held on October 17, included a review of the compiled strengths and weaknesses gathered at the first session and time for participants to prioritize RASD schools in terms of needs and then prioritize the needs within each school.

The third engagement session, set for November 14 at 6:30 in RHS room 167, will include a review of the Condition and Capacity of Schools Report that C.G. Schmidt is completing for the district, as well as a comparison of our schools to model schools.



Innovative Teaching Grant Recipients

The Ripon Education Foundation recently announced the 2013 Innovative Teaching Grant recipients totaling close to \$3,000.

Barb Stracy, an elementary music teacher was awarded \$1,736 by the Ripon Education Foundation for an iPad Center which will allow students to explore and practice skills such as identifying pitches, instruments and music forms. Students can also record each other's performances for self-assessment or for music composition.

Kat Griffith, an English Language Arts and History teacher at Lumen and the AP Spanish teacher at RHS, was awarded \$1,200 to cover partial scholarships for students to attend the White Privilege Conference in Madison next March. This conference is one of the premiere social justice events in the nation, attracting over 1,600 people from all regions of the U.S. and many foreign countries.



The Middle School Band shared their talents with the community at the Annual Homecoming Parade.

Thank You for contributions to the District:

Lee and Sandy Stehling
Ace Canvas & Upholstery
RASD BOE Members
Mike and Pat Lambert
Ripon College Bookstore
Dr. & Mrs. Joel Cler
Tyler Cler
Polesch Construction/MP
Charity Golf
Matt Manske
Cory Pollesch
Grace Lutheran Church
Jennifer Dipold
Anonymous Donor



Crossroads students volunteered their time and skills to work on the Habitat for Humanity house.

District and School Report Cards

The Ripon Area School District exceeded expectations on the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) report cards. The positive results on the school report cards for both Murray Park and Quest can be attributed in great part to the focused work of educators across the district on the Board of Education's Response to Instruction/Intervention (RtI) annual goal for the past two school years. It is important to note that the Board of Education has continued this RtI goal for the current 2013-14 school year.

Also, it is important to note, the report cards contain information that is a year old. This lagging information is like looking at the light from stars. While a district can learn from it, the information has limitations in its ability to daily impact classroom instruction.

Teachers continually use information from multiple sources to monitor each student's learning progress. This leading information guides daily instruction, interactions with students, and grade level, team, or department discussions. It is used by the teachers to create lesson plans that specifically address the subject areas where students need more learning help. Tailoring instruction to the needs of the learner ensures that students receive a learning experience that is "just the right fit."

Think of the report cards as a trip log a traveler reviews after the trip to plan for a faster route, to find a smoother road, or to avoid traffic on the next trip. The multiple sources of information used by educators across the district for RtI are like the GPS on a mobile phone or a vehicle's dashboard. Both are present during the trip to assist the traveler every moment of the journey to maximize results.

As a district, RASD uses the report cards (the trip log) to understand how program adjustments or shifts can improve the learning opportunities provided in the Ripon Area School District. The District continues to use the GPS and dashboard information to plan and adjust instruction to meet the daily learning needs of students. The school and district report cards issued by the DPI show that this focused approach to teaching and learning has had a positive impact for RASD students.



All Ripon teachers participated in professional learning on October 11. Math, reading, technology, and student learning objectives were topics on the agenda.

Distinguished Alumni

The Ripon Area School District is proud to announce that the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award has been awarded to Lee Prellwitz. A 1966 graduate of Ripon High School, Lee is a familiar face in Ripon due to his heavy involvement in community efforts. He has served as treasurer of the Ripon Area United Way Board of Directors, served on the Ripon Area United Way Board of Directors, served on the Ripon Public Library Board of Directors and has been on the Cookie Daze committee for many years. Lee has been a member of Ripon Rotary since 2000, serving two years as club president and four years as assistant district governor.

Lee earned an MBA, with Honors, from the College of Business at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He had a twenty-nine year career at Ripon Foods, Inc, during which he served in several management positions, including plant manager. In 1992 Lee served as project manager for the baking of the world's largest cookie at Riponfest.

In recognition of his community service activities, Lee received the Community Service Award from the Ripon Chamber of Commerce in 2005, and the "Cheers for Volunteers" 2011 Community Service Club award from the Volunteer Center of Fond du Lac County, Inc. In his spare time Lee enjoys reading, playing duplicate bridge, and attending UW-Madison football games.

A plaque commemorating Lee's selection will be added to the Distinguished Alumni wall at Ripon High School.

Ripon ACT Scores

The ACT college entrance exam composite score for 2012-2013 was above the state average for the 16th year in a row.

ACT Results 2012-13		
Subject	Ripon	State Average
English	21.8	21.5
Math	22.5	22.0
Reading	22.7	22.3
Science	22.8	22.2
Composite	22.6	22.1

College Credit Program

Each year students are able to take college level courses while still enrolled at RASD. This year 174 college courses were earned in 25 different classes by students attending high school in Ripon.

College Credit Program	Students Receiving Credit
Advanced Placement (College Board)	53
CAPP (UW-Oshkosh)	55
Moraine Park Tech College (Technical College System)	66
Total	174



At the start of the school year, 18 host families welcomed teachers and students from Austria. The visits allowed all participants an opportunity to stretch their multicultural skills.

Outstanding Achievement Recognition



New teachers were introduced to the Board. They are: (back row left to right) Anthony Markon (RHS - Science); Nicholas Goeldi (RHS - Science); Jacqueline Charapata (MPES - Grade 5); (front row, left to right) Laura Pine (MPES/QES - Music); Amber Willoughby - (BPES Grade 1); Katie Artymius (BPES - Speech/Language Pathologist); Kristal Mott (RMS/Catalyst - Health/Literature-8). Not pictured are Tracie Hofbauer (BPES - Special Education) and Gary Lake (RHS/Lumen Ag).



The Board of Education recognized teachers who have earned their Master's Degree in the past year: Heidi Hopp (BPES); Erin Ermis (MPES); Kristin Burgert (Catalyst); Tim Scottberg (Catalyst); not pictured: Robin Vaughan (RMS/Catalyst) and Kat Griffith (RHS/Lumen).



The Board of Education recognized the RHS Foreign Exchange Students from Russia, Slovakia, Romania, and France.



Administrative Services Center
748-4600
1120 Metomen Street
P.O. Box 991
Superintendent: Dr. Mary Whitrock
Business Manager: Mr. Rick Ketter

Barlow Park Elementary School
Journey Charter School
Grades PreK-2
748-1550
100 Ringstad Drive
Principal: Dr. Myra Mises-Krhin

Murray Park Elementary School
Quest Elementary Charter School
Grades 3-5
748-4695
64 Sunset Avenue
Principal: Mr. Randy Hatlen

Ripon Middle School
Catalyst Charter Middle School
Grades 6-8
748-4638
651 Metomen Street
Principal: Mr. Tom Hoh

Ripon High School
Lumen Charter High School
Grades 9-12
748-4616
850 Tiger Drive
Principal: Mr. Dan Tjernagel
Assistant Principal: Mr. Rick Bunge

Crossroads Academy
Grades 8-12
Principal: Mr. Dan Tjernagel

Ripon Board of Education
President: David Scott
Vice President: David Olson
Clerk: Barb Schultz
Treasurer: Gary Rodman
Members: Heather Hartling
Andy Lyke
Sherry Muskavitch
Thomas Stellmacher
Dan Zimmerman

Board Meetings
Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in Ripon High School's multi-purpose room 167 at 7:00 p.m. Any additional meetings are duly posted at the Ripon Public Library and at the Ripon City Hall. For additional information contact the school district administrative office at 748-4600.

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.



Common Core State Standards

Multiple hearings are occurring across the State to provide citizens with opportunities to share their thoughts on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These standards, for language arts and math, were adopted by the State and RASD in 2010. World-class standards, consistency and clarity are some of the positives cited, while reduced local control, increased accountability and having the same standards for every child (implying one-size-fits-all) are among the concerns.

Many seem to agree the previous Wisconsin Standards adopted in the early 90's were not rigorous enough for 21st Century students. Some have suggested renaming the CCSS as simply the Wisconsin Standards. Yet, others note the standards should be the floor or base of learning rather

than the ceiling. This would allow for even more rigor at the State and local level. Time will tell of course, but the investment the State and local districts have already made in regards to the standards and the new SMARTER Balanced Assessment replacing the current WKCE will likely be a part of the conversation.

The Ripon Area School District will continue to provide a rigorous and relevant preK-12 experience for all students. This means using School Board adopted standards to develop local curriculum, select solid resources, and provide high quality instruction. In the end, the learning opportunities provided to all RASD students are determined by the quality of the experiences our staff delivers every day. District data reflects the quality of our programs.



The first ELL (English Language Learner) Family Night was held in September to allow families to connect with the ELL teachers and team.

Resumen de noticias escolares para nuestros residentes de habla española

Seguridad en Toda Nuestras Escuelas – la seguridad es una de las prioridades primordiales de RASD. Una que ha sido intensificada en cada crisis en las escuelas. Desde el año pasado, RASD condujo una revisión completa de los procedimientos de seguridad y los elementos en cada escuela. Como resultado, algunos ajustes fueron hechos en los procedimientos de seguridad del distrito y los elementos en cada escuela. El distrito continúa tomando los pasos necesarios para asegurar la seguridad en todas nuestras escuelas.

Continuando la Conversación de las Facilidades – La junta de Educación continua avanzando con el estudio de las facilidades para identificar las necesidades de reparación y mantenimiento y considerar como se verá la educación en el futuro. La próxima sesión para conversar será el 14 de noviembre alas 6:30 p.m. en RHS, salón 167.

Ripon Cuesta Menos que el Promedio del Estado de Wisconsin - Basados en la información del Departamento de Instrucción Pública de 2011-12, Ripon gasta casi \$350 menos por estudiante que el promedio del Estado de Wisconsin.

17 Maestros Buscan Promoción – Ripon Area School District ha anunciado los nombres de 17 maestras(os) que están siendo consideradas(os) para promoción bajo la nueva estructura de salario del distrito. Se les ha pedido a miembros de la comunidad a que sometan información a los directores de las escuelas sobre estos maestros a más tardar el 9 de noviembre. (Los nombres de los maestros aparecen en la parte superior de la página 4.)

Tonya Alling Recibe el Premio de Amiga de la Escuela Publica 2013 – La Junta de Ripon Area School le presentó a Tonya Alling con el premio de Amiga de las Escuelas Públicas del distrito escolar por su trabajo con Ripon, Green Lake tractor Cruise, miembro activo de Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club, y su trabajo en Kiwanis International para asistir a los padres de familia con estudiantes autísticos aquí y a lo largo del estado.

Recipientes del Fondo de Enseñanza Innovadora – La maestra de Música Bard Stracy fue premiada con \$1,736 por la Fundación de Educación de Ripon para un Centro de iPad. La maestra Kat Griffith de RHS/Lumen fue premiada con \$1,200 para cubrir becas parciales para estudiantes que asistirán a la Conferencia “White Privilege” (Privilegio Blanco) en Madison el próximo mes de marzo.

Tarjetas de Calificaciones escolares del Distrito – Las escuelas de Ripon ya sea que reúnen o exceden a las expectativas del Departamento de Instrucción Pública (DPI) en las tarjetas de reporte. Los maestros continuamente usan información de múltiples fuentes para monitorear el progreso del aprendizaje de cada uno de los estudiantes. Las tarjetas de progreso de las escuela y del distrito emitidas por DPI muestran que este enfoque centrado en la enseñanza y aprendizaje ha tenido un impacto positivo en los estudiantes de RASD.

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, Hefty, Kleenex, and Huggies.

STEP Volunteers — Senior citizens can save on 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 Grah at 920-572-6585 to learn about training your dog in the READ program.

Journey Governance Council

President: Shelly Kastenschmidt
Vice President: Melissa Worthington
Treasurer: Wayne Webster
Secretary: Carrie Naparalla
Members: Bethany Nodolf
Amy Pollesch
Bill Schultz
Carrie Tjernagel

Quest Governance Council

President: Marguerite Parks
Vice President: Becki Baird
Treasurer: Pam Neper
Secretary: Nicky Yeomans
Members: Frank Cumberbatch
Lori Hron
Amy Pick
Keri Simacek
Skip Wittler

Catalyst Governance Council

President: Adam Mielke
Vice President: Jack Christ
Treasurer: Jean Rigden
Secretary: Candie Baker
Members: Tim Scottberg
Sandy Wisneski

Lumen Governance Council

President: Jeanne Williams
Treasurer: Pat Grah
Secretary: Paula Hageman
Members: Adam Jacobi
Deano Pape
Amy Pollesch
Lisa Scheier
Al Schraeder
Paul Wiegel
Jeanne Williams

Stay Informed about Ripon Schools

District Website — The website includes current news and a calendar of events for the entire district.

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.