River Ridge School District



TIMBERWOLF NEWS

January 2024

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IMPORTANT DATES

January 3

School Resumes

January 10
Board Meeting

January 17 & 18
High School
Semester Exam

January 19
No School
Teacher In-Service
Records Day



River Ridge Winter Program and Concerts









The High School and Middle School Winter Concert and Elementary Winter Program featured an array of outstanding performance by our talented students. The students sang popular and traditional Christmas songs along with some fun songs about the magic season, winter fantasy, Christmas lights, and all about the snow. The beautiful instrumental music was complete with bells, warm sounds of brass, wind, and percussion. Thank you music teachers, Mr. Kylar Kinyon, Mrs. Diane Malcom, and Mr. Phil Stiemke for the wonderful music in our schools. Santa Claus made a special appearance at the Elementary program.

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Mission Statement

The River Ridge School
District will strive to
provide a safe, challenging environment for each
individual student by
promoting excellent staff
development, encouraging meaningful parent
involvement, and earning strong community
support through honesty,
integrity, and open communication.



Visit our website at www.rrsd.k12.wi.us

District Administrator

Clay Koenig 608-994-2715 or koenigcl@rrsd.k12.wi.us

Editor

Tamara Hoffman hoffmanta@rrsd.k12.wi.us

Question or suggestions for future articles, please call the District Administrator's Office at 608-994-2715

High School Semester Exam Schedule

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

1st hour – 8:00-9:30 3rd hour – 9:40-11:10 5th hour – 12:15-1:45 7th hour – 1:55-3:25

Thursday, January 18, 2024

2nd hour – 8:00-9:30 4th hour – 9:40-11:10 6th hour – 12:15-1:45 8th hour – 1:55-3:25

Rules:

- 1. Students are not required to be in school until their first scheduled exam. Once in school, students are to stay until exams are completed for the day. Students should report to study hall if between classes with exams. Seniors have open campus for lunch but MUST sign in and out from office if they leave the campus.
- 2. All students should sign in if they arrive after 8:00 AM. Students should sign out if they leave before 3:25 PM. Students that arrive late or leave before the end of the last hour of the day should have signed permission slips turned into office by Tuesday, January 16.
- 3. A student may not leave the exam area until the 90-minute period is over. There will be no loitering in the hallways. Teachers will keep students in their room.
- 4. Students are expected to be in the classroom on time when the bell rings to begin the exam.
- 5. Any student missing any exam time must make arrangements with the teacher for make-up time. Grades are due to the office by Monday, January 22 at 8:00 AM.



NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities. The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers."

Amy Jones - Student Service Coordinator 608-994-2715 ext. 302 P.O. Box 78, 11165 County Highway P Patch Grove, WI 53817

Bill Hannah - Elementary Principal 608-994-2715 ext. 102 P.O. Box 78, 11165 County Highway P Patch Grove, WI 53817

School Counselor News

by Caron Townsend

Dates to Remember

8th Grade Registration

January 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM (Students/Parents)

Registration for 2024-25 School Year

9th-11th grade students will start registering for their 2024-25 classes the first week in February. If any parent has a question about their child's credits or classes needed for graduation or post-secondary education plans, please contact Ms. Townsend.

ACT for Juniors

All juniors will be required to take the ACT test on March 12, 2024. Because this is a mandated assessment from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, we ask that you avoid all appointments on this date.

Water Bottle Donations



All the River Ridge Elementary students received a water bottle from the Delta Dental of Wisconsin "Sack Plaque" program. This season, for every sack the Green Bay Packers make against opponents, Delta Dental of Wisconsin would randomly draw one school to receive water bottles for the students. The school was notified they would be receiving water bottle for every student in the elementary building. Thank you Delta Dental of Wisconsin for the donations, the students enjoyed the gift.

A Teacher for the Day



Mrs. Copsey's 1st grade class had a special visitor to the classroom. Peyton, a 5th Grader, earned a reward in her classroom where she got to "Be a Teacher." She chose to help in the 1st grade room. She read the students a story and played Christmas BINGO. Thank you, Peyton for sharing with the students.

Thank You

River Ridge would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their donations to the school district:

Linda and Dave Shihata - hosted our Missoula Play Directors. The donation was equivalent to \$1085.

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Title I Gingerbread Family Night

by Nikki Nemitz and Karen Jeardeau



On December 6, River Ridge Title 1 held its annual Family Gingerbread Night. Families enjoyed building and decorating gingerbread houses together as well as reading stories, making crafts, playing games, and making memories! With the help of a great team of River Ridge staff as well as some volunteers from the boys basketball team, the night was a great success. Thanks to all the families that participated in this fun event. It was wonderful to see so much family engagement!



Grinch Visits The School



The day before Winter Break was a day filled with activities and the Grinch visted the school. Fun was had by all staff and students.

RRAP Holiday Gifts



RRAP gifted all the elementary and middle school students River Ridge bags this holiday season. The 4K -4th grade students recieved bags to help carry their snowgear and the middle school students recieved cinch sacks for their gym clothes. RRAP hopes all the students enjoy the bags! Happy Holidays!

Keep Collecting

River Ridge School District is continuing to collect:

- * **Box Tops**-get the App and scan your receipt, it is so easy to do.
- * **Pop Tabs** -from the tops of cans-this helps families stay at the Ronald McDonald House
- * Country Hearth
 (UPC label--Loaves4learning)
- * Prairie Farms--milk caps

The items can be dropped off in the main office or with Lisa Clark.

Any questions, please call: Lisa Clark - 994-2715 ex 221 or email: clarkli@rrsd.k12.wi.us

3rd Grade Heritage Project

by Tricia Kuenster



Third Grade students have been busy learning about the history of the United States. During this Social Studies unit, the students have learned about where many traditions, foods, languages, arts, and holidays come from. They have also done some interviews and research of their own to learn more about their family history. The kids have been excited to share with each other the traditions their families take part in and have even tried a few new recipes from their countries of origin! We were also fortunate enough to have a few families come teach us about their family traditions and the countries they come from during this time. Celebrating differences and learning new things about each other has made for some great connections in our class!



Emergency School Closing Information

Although we make every effort to keep our students in school for the full session once school has started, certain circumstances may require our school schedules being adjusted. During the school year when it becomes necessary to close the school early due to inclement weather or an emergency, it is imperative that you make previous arrangements with your children in the event that they are to go to a neighbor's or relative's house or if someone else will be picking them up at school. **Please plan ahead** and be sure you discuss the plan thoroughly with your child. If there is a change in the procedure during the school year, please make sure your child is aware of the change.



Resources

While Holidays can be a time of joy and good cheer, they can also be a time when feelings of sadness and stress can arise. Should a loved one need extra support to deal with emotional/behavioral health concerns, there are community resources to help.

Unified Counseling Services
(Lancaster) - 608 723-6357
Family Advocates, Inc.
- 24 hour helpline 1 800 924-2624

Grant County Dept. of Social Services 608 723-2136

Grant Regional Health Center (Lancaster) 723-2143 Crossing Rivers Health (Prairie du Chien) 357-2000

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (call or text)

Text "HOPELINE" to 741741



Semester Ends

Thursday, January 18

No School Friday, January 19

Records Day

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New Year's Day. A fresh start. A new chapter waiting to be written.

-Sarah Ban Breathnach

Middle School Student Council Activity

by Ava Nies



To celebrate the end of quarter 1, our River Ridge Middle School Student Council put together an incentive party for those who have worked hard so far this year. Students were given the opportunity to choose between seven movies to watch on November 21. A few members of the Student Council helped to hand out popcorn and toppings during the movie session. Each movie was about two hours long, which gave the student body a good half-day to relax. It was overall a very successful day and it was enjoyed all around. We wouldn't have been able to have these incentives if our students didn't engage themselves each and every day. It's always nice to have a reward for your hard work, and this was a very fulfilling day for all in the middle school wing. We look forward to the rest of the year and many, many more incentives to come.







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The Middle School Student Council is hosting a:



ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH With Mr. Sperle as DJ

5th and 6th 6:00-7:30 PM

7th and 8th 8:00-9:30 PM

- Location: Middle school gym
 - Enter through the rear parking lot doors
- Pop, popcorn, and candy will

be available for purchase

Admission: 5 canned good items OR \$5 Donations will go to our local food pantry



YOU CAN'T MISS THIS!

BOUNCE HOUSES FUNDRAISER

SPONSORED BY RRAP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 8 AM TO 12 PM RIVER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL \$10/CHILD

FUNDRAISING TO ADD EQUIPMENT TO THE PLAYGROUND

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You may apply for open enrollment from February 5 - April 30, 2024

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.

Who may participate in open enrollment?

Any Wisconsin resident in 4K to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the open enrollment program. However, a child may transfer to a nonresident school district for early childhood education or 4K only if the child's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the child is eligible for that program in the resident school district.

How and when may parents apply?

The open enrollment application period for the 2024-2025 school year is from February 5 -April 30, 2024. The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.

Parents may apply online at https://dpi.wi.gov/oe.

Can I apply to a virtual charter school under open enrollment?

A pupil may only open enroll to an online/virtual school if: (1) the school has been created as a virtual charter school that meets the requirements of the charter school law [Wis. Stats. 118.40 (8)] or (2) the pupil is required to physically attend school in the nonresident school district every day that school is in session. Other important things to know about applying to virtual charter schools:

*A virtual charter school is not homeschooling. Pupils attending virtual charter schools are public school pupils.

- * You must know the nonresident school district in which the virtual charter school is located. If you have any questions about this, call the virtual charter school.
- * You must know your resident school district in order to apply.
- * A list of virtual charter schools may be found at https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools/virtual-charter-schools.

Can an application be rejected?

Yes. Nonresident school districts may deny an application if regular or special education space is not available for the pupil; special education or related services are not available; or if the pupil has been referred for a special education evaluation but has not yet been evaluated. Nonresident school districts may also deny an application if the pupil has been expelled during the current or preceding two years for certain violent conduct or if the pupil was habitually truant from the nonresident school district during any semester in the current or previous school year.

If there are more applications than spaces, pupils must be selected randomly, after giving preference to pupils already attending school in the nonresident school district and siblings of currently-attending pupils.

Some school districts establish waiting lists to fill unused spaces, but others do not.

Can a resident district prevent a pupil from leaving?

Yes, in limited circumstances. A resident district can deny a pupil's application for an invalid application (early or late application or missing information), ineligibility due to age (too young or too old), or if the resident district does not offer the same type of prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten, or early childhood program as the nonresident district or the pupil is not eligible for the program in the resident district. These are also reasons that a nonresident district can deny an application.

Can parents appeal if an application is denied?

Parents whose applications are denied may appeal to the DPI within 30 days of the denial. State law requires the DPI to uphold the school district's decision unless DPI finds that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable. The DPI's decision may be appealed to circuit court.

Must pupils reapply every year?

Once a pupil is accepted into a nonresident school district, the pupil may continue to attend that district without reapplication except that:

- *The nonresident district may require a pupil to reapply one time—at the beginning of middle school, junior high or high school.
- *A pupil may be returned to the resident school district if the special education required in a new or revised IEP is not available in the nonresident district or there is no space.

Open Enrollment Continues

*A pupil who has become habitually truant in the nonresident district may be returned to the resident district.

Is there a cost for parents to participate in the open enrollment program?

There is no tuition cost to parents for participation in open enrollment. Parents of open enrolled pupils may be charged the same fees as resident pupils.

Who is responsible for transportation?

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school. If transportation is required in the IEP for a child with a disability, it must be provided by the nonresident district. School districts may provide transportation to open enrollment pupils if they wish. Usually, if transportation is provided, parents must transport the pupil to a location in the nonresident district.

Low-income parents may apply to the DPI at the end of the school year for partial reimbursement of their transportation costs.

Can a parent select a specific school in the pupil's nonresident school district?

Yes. A parent may request a specific school or program in the nonresident district. However, assignment to the requested school or program is not guaranteed and your pupil may be assigned to a different school other than the one requested. It is up to each nonresident district to determine a pupil's school assignment.

Can an open enrolled pupil participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities in the nonresident school district?

Open enrolled pupils have the same rights and responsibilities as resident pupils.

Inter-scholastic athletics are governed by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), which has rules concerning transfer pupils. Parents should check with the school district's athletic director about eligibility.

For more information contact: Public School Open Enrollment Program Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841

Toll-free: 888-245-2732, option 2 Email: openenrollment@dpi. wi.gov

Website: https://dpi.wi.gov/oe

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Breakfast/Lunch Menu - January, 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
No School	No School	Breakfast Pizza Chicken Patty on a Bun French Fries/Sweet Potato Fries Peas Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk	Sunrise Biscuit w/Sausage Mini Corn Dogs Tater Tots Baked Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk	Blueberry/Cinnamon Breakfast Cake Crispy Chicken Wrap Harvest Cheddar Chips Fresh Veggies & Dip Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk
8	9	10	11	12
Pancakes & Bacon Hamburger/Cheeseburger on a	Farmer's Casserole & Toast Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Breakfast Pizza Mozzarella Dippers w/Marinara Green Beans	Cereal & Toast Pancakes Sausage Links	Breakfast Burrito Chicken Fajita Savory Rice
bun Onion Rings Baked Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk	Corn Dinner Roll Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk	Fresh/Canned Fruit Mil	Hashbrown Fruit/Fruit Juice Milk	Steamed Carrots Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk
15	16	17	18	19
French Toast Sticks & Bacon Cheese Quesadilla Spanish Rice Corn Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk	Biscuits & Gravy Spaghetti & Meat Sauce Steamed Broccoli Fresh/Canned Fruit Garlic Toast Milk	Cereal & Toast Chicken Nuggets Macaroni & Cheese Mixed Vegetables Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk	Breakfast Bowl BBQ on a Bun Smile Fries Peas Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk	No School
22	23	24	25	26
Cereal & Toast Cheddar Chili Mac Green Beans	Cinnamon Roll Cake Walking Taco Corn	Rise & Shine Croissant w/Ham Chicken Patty on a Bun French Fries/Sweet Potato Fries	Chocolate Chip/Blueberry Breakfast Cake	Bright Eyed Bushy Tailed Bagel Sandwich w/Sausage
Fresh/Canned Fruit Cornbread Milk	Fresh/Fruit Salad M&M Cookie Milk	Peas Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk	Meatballs & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Steamed Asparagus Fresh/Canned Fruit Dinner Roll Milk	Pizza Fresh Veggies & Dip Fresh Fruit/Fruit Slushies Milk
29	30	31	1	2
Sunrise Biscuit w/Bacon BBQ Pork Sandwich Cheesy Hashbrowns Baked Beans	Breakfast Sliders Cheeseburger Casserole Green Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit	Yogurt Cup & Muffin Chicken Fajita Savory Rice Steamed Carrots		

Breakfast is served with choice of 1/2 cup of fruit and 1% chocolate milk, FF white milk, or 1% white milk.

Two entrees will be offered each day. Students may choose one. The second option for PK - 4th grade is a yogurt lunch (consists of 4 oz. yogurt, uncrustable, vegetable, fruit, and 1% chocolate milk, FF white milk, or 1% white milk). Protein and cheeses are available for 5th - 12th as a second option.

Each meal must have a combined 1/2 cup total of vegetables and/or fruit on the tray in order to qualify for a reimbursable lunch.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day No School	No School 7:00 PM HSGB vs Seneca 6:00 PM HSBB at Seneca	3 School Resumes	4 8:30 AM Potency of Poetry 7:00 PM HSGB vs Highland	8:30 AM Potency of Poetry	6 RR MSGB Tournament 9:30 AM WR at Lancaster
7 Dorian Choral Festival	8 Dorian Choral Festival 12:30 PM MS Spelling Bee	6:00 PM HSGB vs Wauzeka-Steuben 6:00 PM Wrestling @ Onalaska	10 School Board Meeting	6:00 PM HSBB vs Belmont	FFA Halftime Conference 6:00 PM HSGB at Potosi	FFA Halftime Conference 10:00 AM WR at Weston
14	15	4:30 PM MSGB vs Highland 6:00 PM HSBB vs Cassville	17 HS Semester Exam	End of 2nd Quarter HS Semester Exam 4:30 PM MSGB at Riverdale 6:00 PM HSGB @ Belmont 7:00 PM WR @ Pecatonica	i	9:00 AM WR at Arcadia
21 FFA Banquet	4:30 PM MSGB at Potosi	4:30 PM MSGB vs PdC 6:00 PM HSBB @ Boscobel	7:00 PM 8th Gd Orientation	4:30 PM MSGB vs Boscobel 5:00 PM WR at Kickapoo 6:00 PM HSBB vs Highland	26 6:00 PM HSGB vs Benton	9:30 AM WR JV RR Tourney
28	29 6:00 PM HSGB vs Galena	30 4:30 PM MSGB at Fennimore 6:00 PM HSBB vs Shullsburg	31 Library Presentation			

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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE RIVER RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN: November 8th, 2023, AT 6:00 PM.

- I. Call to Order- Board president Ken Nies called meeting to order at 6:00 PM
- II. Roll Call- Present; Ken Nies, Jason Cathman, Aaron Stagman, Kirk Hamann, Josh Copsey, Adam Guthrie, Megan Kussmaul
- III. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. Statement of Notice- Board President, Kenny Nies approved the posting and called the meeting official.
- V. Appearances No public appearances.
- VI. Approval of Minutes

A. October 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and October 25, 2023, Special Board Minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jason Cathman and seconded by Megan Kussmaul. Motion passed on a voice vote.

VII. Reports

- A. Finance Tracy Stagman
 - i. Financial statements, receipts, and expenditures Tracy Stagman presented the financial statements, receipts, and expenditures for October 2023. Aaron Stagman made a motion to approve the financial statements and expenditures pending an audit of the 2023/2024 year of revenues of \$237,807.76 and expenditures of \$1,698,902.73. Jason Cathman seconded the motion. Motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote.
- B. Buildings and Grounds Report
 - i. Maintenance Directors Report, Jim talked about the roof project and that we are moving forward with a new engineer Unified Theory (UTI) for the project.
- C. Superintendent's Report, the board watched presentations from students who were on the Washington D.C. trip. Also watched a presentation from three 4th graders on cubbies for the

elementary wing. Clay talked about different events that happened in the school during October. Also presented was the application for the competitive Stronger Connection Grant. If successful, this grant would fund an at-risk coordinator, paid counseling sessions for students and professional development for a two-year period of time.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Teacher Longevity: Plan is to start a teachers committee.
- B. Operating Referendum Discussion: Reviewed the needs of the district.

IX. New Business

- A. Hiring/Resignations
 - i. Adam Guthrie made a motion to hire Brian Kazda as Assistant Softball Coach. Seconded by Josh Copsey. Motion carried on a voice vote.
 - ii. Kirk Hamann made a motion and seconded by Aaron Stagman to hire Michael Skaife as Specialized Spec Ed Transportation Driver. Motion carried on a voice vote.
 - iii. Adam Guthrie made the motion to accept the resignation of Erin Kluesner as Missoula Coordinator co-coordinator, seconded by Megan Kussmaul. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- B. Volunteer Coaches: Jason Cathman made the motion and seconded by Kirk Hamann to approve the list as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- X. Appearances There were no public appearances.

XI. Information

- A. Upcoming Meeting Schedule
 - i. Regular Meeting, December 12, 2023, 5:30 PM
 - ii. School Board member suggestions and Recommendations for future meetings

XII. Adjourn – Megan Kussmaul made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Aaron Stagman. Motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM



River Ridge School District 11165 County Highway P Patch Grove, WI 53817

Bulk Rate U. S. Postage Paid Patch Grove, WI Permit No. 1

River Ridge School District - Educating Tomorrow's Future



Administration

Clay Koenig - District Administrator	994-2715 Ext. 100
Bill Hannah - Elementary Principal	994-2715 Ext. 102
Wade Winkers - MS/HS Dean of Students	994-2715 Ext. 114
Tracy Stagman - Business Official	994-2715 Ext. 104
Amy Jones - Special Education Coordinator	994-2715 Ext. 302

Other Contacts

Wade Winkers - Athletic Dir	rector994-2715 E	xt. 114
Technology Coordinator	994-2715 E	xt. 130

Board of Education

Kenneth Nies - President	988-4536
Jason Cathman- Vice President	994-3263
Adam Guthrie - Clerk	778-7080
Kirk Hamann - Treasurer	778-0700
Josh Copsey - Member	732-5773
Megan Kussmaul - Member	412-0924
Aaron Stagman - Member	994-2114

Office Hours

Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.