

Ripley Central School Blue Eagle Express

Like Us at
www.facebook.com/ripleycsd



You are invited!

The 2018-19 school year is off to a great start! We would like to showcase all of the learning that has been taking place here at Ripley Central School.

On February 19th, RCS will be holding our first Community Showcase from 6:00-7:30pm. Everyone is invited to:

1. View student work
2. Enjoy some light refreshments
3. Create a one of a kind piece of Art
4. Reconnect with your local school

Each month our PTO puts on an event for our students and families. This event will be designed for the entire Ripley adult community. Please mark your calendars and save the date. There isn't any cost associated with this event. We hope to see you here!

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Superintendent's Message



Hello everyone. It's a great day to be an Eagle! Our students have had a wonderful first trimester and we're picking up steam for an even better second trimester. The district has shown some real growth over the past few years and based on the results I have seen since September; I have every reason to believe our growth will continue this year and beyond.

I have enjoyed my time here, and while I have only been here for six months, the community has welcomed me with open arms. The children have been a delight to spend time with and I've learned so much about what makes this community a uniquely wonderful place to be. Even though I have been here for six months, there are still days I feel like it's my first day. However, that doesn't change my belief that Ripley was the right place for me to continue my educational journey and how grateful and honored I am to be here.

As I grow older and spend more time in education, it seems that each year goes by more quickly than the previous one. Maybe it's the fact that it's December and my brain automatically reverts to the Decembers of my childhood and the excruciatingly slow pace we seemed to travel on our way to Christmas. While waiting for Santa to come seemed to take forever, I think it was all the days I had to be nice to my sister and not pick on her that seemed to make the days take forever. Whatever the reason for days to go by so quickly during this time of my life, it doesn't change the fact that January is right around the corner and the planning for 2019 – 2020 will begin sooner rather than later. Before that happens though, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a blessed holiday season. May your days be filled with warmth, love, and gratitude. Be safe and we'll see everyone in 2019.

Principal's Message



It has been a wonderful first three months of the school year and I have thoroughly enjoyed learning the unique customs that make this school so special!

One of those customs is the way parent-teacher conferences are run. Parent-teacher conferences at Ripley Elementary are actually a time when the teachers do very little talking. Instead, the students K-6 run the conferences, informing their parent(s) about how they're doing, what their goals are going forward, and what kind of learners they are. Our first round of Student-Led Conferences took place on December 7th. A big thank you to our parents and teachers for the outpouring of support!



Ongoing Communication



We will continue to utilize the **SchoolMessenger** and district website to notify you of delays, early dismissals, and closings. Please make sure all of your contact information is up to date in the main office (716-736-2631).

The Blue Eagle Express will be published three times each year and mailed out to Ripley community members in December, April, and July.

Please make sure to “like” and “follow” our Ripley Central School Facebook page and Twitter feed. Weekly school happenings are documented on both sites. There are two links on our website’s main page making this task easier (one click of the mouse). Please visit our school website at:

www.ripleyelementary.weebly.com

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions, concerns, or celebrations. I look forward to getting to know each of you.

Warmest Regards,
Mr. Micah Oldham

Curriculum Corner

EL Skills Curriculum

First grade has implemented the EL Skills curriculum this year. This is a big change from our previous curriculum. Students spend the majority of the skills block rotating between centers, such as independent reading, writing, word work, and a teacher group to work on skills at their level. Scholars have been showing zest and self-control as they work primarily independently within their group to practice their current skills.

In the writing center, class journals are provided where students can add to a topic and express their thoughts and opinions. During word work, scholars show grit while playing an interactive game that focuses on a specific skill. In independent reading, students are building their reading stamina.

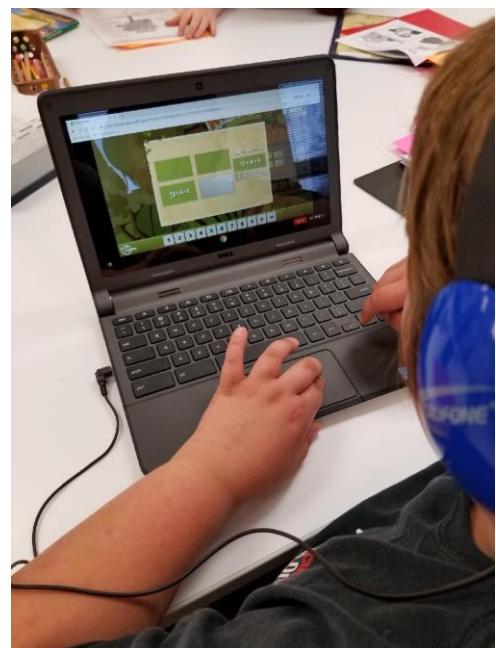
We are excited to continue this program and see great academic growth and success within grade 1. First grade teachers will be our experts and model classrooms as we work to implement the EL Skills curriculum in Kindergarten and Second Grade in the 2019 – 2020 school year.



Reflex Math

Ripley Scholars began a new math fluency program this year called Reflex Math. Reflex Math is an adaptive and individualized program for each student. Its purpose is to help students master basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Reflex is full of games that students love. Reflex takes students at every level and helps them quickly gain math fact fluency and confidence. The program allows teachers to monitor progress and celebrate success. Students are excited to work on Reflex Math and have shown great growth and success with the program.



Classroom Highlights

Our Caterpillar PK3 Love a Good Challenge!

When the rest of RCS began their daily reading and math fluency homework challenges, these little folks jumped right in with their older peers.

Every night we get to read for 15 minutes with our special big people (mommies, daddies, older siblings, and even grandparents and aunties!) and then mark it on our charts. We also count 5 of something – pennies, bath toys, fruit snacks, or even rings on a tree—and then write what we counted on our chart.

When we bring those charts to school, Mrs. Graham stamps them or puts stickers on them to celebrate all of this great practices. We are so proud of how much learning we do every night!

Researchers tell us that children this age should have a 200- to 300- word vocabulary, and that reading each night builds up those words for us. Education experts say that nightly math practice improves our fluency and makes us stronger mathematicians.

But what we Caterpillars know is that reading with someone special makes us love books. We look forward to snuggling and listening to our favorites, and we love to look at the illustrations and find details that grownups may miss.



#WEARECREW

At Ripley Central School, we create a school culture that is planned for, developed, and sustained through practices that bring the community together, promote shared understandings, and encourage all community members to become crew, not passengers. Students at Ripley are well-known and supported by adults. One structure for developing this relationship – and supporting students socially, emotionally, and academically- is crew.

The structure of crew allows for relationship-building, academic progress monitoring, and character development. Crew allows students to build positive connections with their peers and with their crew leader. Crew is strategically planned to address and assess these multiple goals.

A key part of crew and EL Education is the concept of service learning and giving back to others. During the month of October, students in grades 3-6 hosted a Fall Festival for students in grades PK - 2.

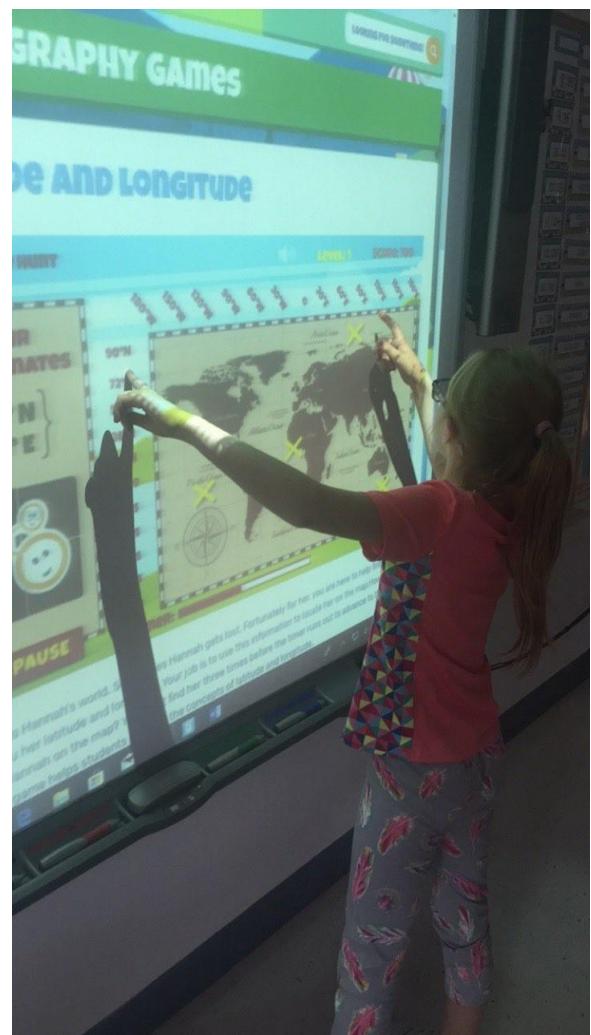
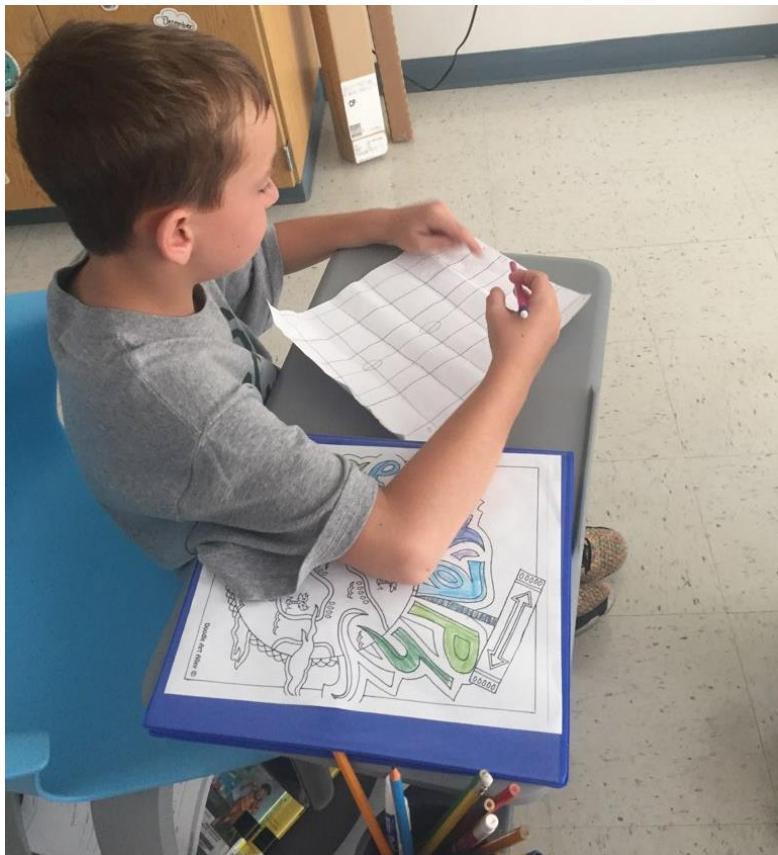
The Fall Festival required these intermediate students to plan and create games that would provide our younger primary students educational or fine/gross motor practice. It was amazing to watch the students interact and help each other through the stations. Students in grades 3-6 should be proud of their work with social intelligence and their grit during this service learning project!



3rd Grade Finds Latitude & Longitude

Third Grade Scholars have been showing a great deal of curiosity and zest during Social Studies, while learning to identify and define latitude and longitude. Students were given paper and instructed to draw geometric shapes. They were then asked to give their partner the locations of the various objects. The students quickly realized that it was difficult to give directions. They folded their paper 6 times horizontally and numbered the lines, and were again asked to give the location. The students realized it was now easier, but still not an exact location. They folded their papers vertically and lettered each line. The students were now able to give specific directions, using both letters and numbers.

The students learned that the horizontal lines represent latitude and the vertical lines represent longitude. We have diligently worked on these skills this week through SMART board activities, playing “Simon Says” to reinforce latitude (arms across) and longitude (arms up), playing “battleShip,” watching a variety of videos, and completing worksheets in centers. Our new skills have equipped third grade scholars to successfully locate a variety of locations on maps!



Snaps for 4th Grade Poetry

Fourth Graders showed courage during their Module 1 Performance Task Poetry Slam. This module uses literature and informational text to introduce students to what inspires people to write. It is intentionally designed to encourage students to embrace a love of literacy and writing.

In Unit 1, students begin to build their close reading skills by reading the novel in verse *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech and analyzing how the main character, Jack, feels in response to events that happen in the story. Alongside *Love That Dog*, students closely read and analyze additional poems, including “The Red Wheelbarrow” by William Carlos Williams and “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Robert Frost. They analyze the poems to determine a theme and to identify characteristics of poetry in order to effectively summarize the poems.

In Unit 2, students finish reading *Love That Dog* and plan and write an informative paragraph about what inspires Jack to write poetry. They also read *A River of Words* by Jen Bryant and learn about poet William Carlos Williams, again thinking about what inspired this poet to write. Students study a poet of their choice and write a four-paragraph essay about what inspired their poet to write poetry.

Finally, in Unit 3, students move from considering what has inspired the poets they have been reading about to write poetry, to thinking about what inspires them to write poetry. They begin the unit by writing original poems, focusing on word and phrase choice and adding punctuation for effect. In the second half of the unit, students write a presentation explaining why they wrote their original poem and where you can see evidence of this in their poem. Students also practice reading new poems aloud for fluency in preparation for reading their poems aloud for the performance task.

For the performance task, students participated in a poetry slam in which they read aloud an original poem and then explained to the audience, with the use of visuals and evidence from the poem, why they were inspired to write their original poem. Students showed amazing courage and grit while presenting their high quality work.

The image shows the cover of the "Grade 4 Language Arts" curriculum for Module 1. The title "Poetry, Poets, and Becoming Writers" is prominently displayed in the center. A large, detailed illustration of a bird, possibly a parrot or cockatoo, is visible on the right side. The top left corner features a vertical bar with "GR 4" and "MOD 1". The "Education" logo is at the top right.



My Cat Copper
By Noah Boozel

I love him,
I do, but he left.
He loves me and I know I will see him again.
He was orange and white.
He was lazy.
He cuddled me and laid with me,
and I miss Copper.



PTO Updates

The Ripley PTO has made it a goal to have an event **EVERY** month that families can attend and enjoy some quality time together. We had two events in October. Mr. Oldham introduced to us the idea of Book BINGO. Families came and every child walked away with **MULTIPLE** books and a pumpkin! We ended the month with our now-annual Trunk or Treat. We did it last year and it was a huge success. This year was the same! The weather did threaten the event but the Ripley Fire Hall welcomed us in and all the participants got a break from the rain and a lot of candy! Thank you to all who set up a table and helped! November's event was a Recreational Night at the school. Both gyms had games to play, such as basketball, cornhole, obstacle courses and stacking. The cafeteria had almost any board game imaginable, plus some snacks! It was a great way to spend a Friday night! In the month of December the PTO had a table set up for Ripley's Christmas Day. We had a craft for all of our little ones to complete!

We have some great ideas for the upcoming months, especially during the winter months when everyone is looking for something to do! Keep an eye out for flyers coming home or our Ripley PTO Facebook page. We hold meetings in the cafeteria at 6:30 on the second Wednesday of every month. Having parents who want to be involved in any way is super important for our school and we would love for you to join in whatever capacity you can!



Wellness at RCS

Ripley Central School District's Wellness Committee is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by fostering healthy eating and physical activity.

The Wellness Committee supported the Boys on the Right Track and Girls on the Run programs. These are nine week programs resulting in increased life and leadership. Specifically, students will learn through fun games and activities and of course, running. This is a non-competitive running program and it is meant to instill leadership and other healthy behaviors. The culminating activity was a 5K race in Buffalo, NY in November. A big thank you to the teachers and parents that volunteered their time for the races!

Students participated in a Family-Style Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20th. Students learned about proper portions and used various sized measuring serving spoons. They also learned about proper etiquette and practiced using it while sharing a meal with students from various grade levels and staff.

To promote community health and wellness, the Jingle Bell Run occurred on December 7th. This was a 5K run/walk. A one-mile children's race was also included in the event.

A big thank you to the Chautauqua County Health Network (CCHN) for helping make this newsletter a reality! We came into the year having a goal of sending out a traditional newsletter to the community. The CCHN made that dream a reality. Thank you!



**2018-2019
Ripley Central School**

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SUMMARY - STUDENT DAYS	
SEPTEMBER	18
OCTOBER	21
NOVEMBER	18
DECEMBER	13
JANUARY	20
Student Days - 180 - Staff days (includes 5 Supt. Conf. Days)	186

Sup't Conference Day - Student Led Conferences
Early Dismissal/Staff In-Service
Holidays
Vacations
*Staff In-service Day
NYS Grades 3-6 Exams April 1-3; May 1-3
Emergency Drill Day
Eagle U
* Subject to change

Attention Parents:

From time to time RCS publishes students' photos in the "Blue Eagle Express" district newsletter, regional newspapers and on social media sites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) in order to promote their positive achievements and accomplishments. If you do **NOT** want your son's or daughter's photos used in press releases, please send a written notice to:

Mrs. Laurie Kozlowski
Post Office Box 688
Ripley, New York
14775-0688

If RCS does not receive notification from you, our school will assume that you give your permission for us to recognize your child for his or her accomplishments.

Thank you.

RIPLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
12 North State Street
PO BOX 688
Ripley, NY 14775-0688

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Mr. William Caldwell, Superintendent
Mr. Micah Oldham, Principal
Mrs. Laura Napoli, Business Official
Mr. James Morrison, Transportation
Mr. Wayne McGuire, Facilities
Mrs. Jennifer Shearer, Cafeteria

POSTAL PATRON

RIPLEY, NEW YORK 14775

Board of Education Members

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Mr. Robert J. Bentley, Vice President
Mr. R. Theodore Rickenbrode, Treasurer
Mr. Larry Freiligh
Mr. Shaun Waters

**HELP
WANTED**

Substitute Teaching Positions are available at Ripley Central School.

Qualifications: Two years of college completed.

Reports to: Building Principal
Essential Job Function: To provide continuity in the absence of a teacher.

Job Type: Per Diem

**HELP
WANTED**

Ripley Central School Mission Statement

Through the collaborative effort of the students, faculty, staff and community, the Ripley Central School district provides a healthy, supportive environment which prepares productive, competitive citizens for life in the 21st century.

Recognizing the individuality of each person, we maintain that every child will achieve personal excellence through perseverance. We strive to build pride, confidence, respect and critical thinking skills in order to produce well-educated, responsible citizens who are college and career ready.

Every day, Every child, Every minute counts!

