



RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Randall S. Skrinjorich
Superintendent of Schools

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Thomas W. Grierson
Assistant Superintendent

Monday, August 28, 2023

Dear Ringgold families,

Welcome back! We hope you had a fun and relaxing summer and are as excited as we are about the opportunities before us in the new 2023-2024 school year. Our goal is to make this truly a LEAP YEAR with a focus on making great leaps forward in improving each student's school experience, strengthening our engagement with our family and community members, and demonstrating an overall commitment to excellence.

As a district we made gains in student reading growth last year, and we will continue to implement a strong reading and writing focus in 2023-2024 through these notable programs and others:

- Foundations (K-3), a structured literacy approach grounded in the science of reading to make learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for lifelong literacy.
- DIBELS/Amplify (K-6), and adaptive early literacy assessment and instructional system that helps make the science of reading a personalized learning experience, and
- The Collins Writing Program (4-12), a framework for using writing to engage, teach, and assess students while building essential writing skills and habits.

Along with reading and writing, we also saw considerable improvements in math last year. We expect them to continue with our use of Eureka Math², a curriculum that provides consistent and rigorous math models to students, increased opportunities for student discourse, and a new level of flexibility to make math instruction more engaging.

This is Year 2 of our implementation of *the Leader in Me*, which provides a focus on helping students build on the 7 Habits through the development of their own leadership portfolios and setting academic, leadership, and career-readiness goals for the 2023-2024 school year.

~ Preparing students today for the challenges of tomorrow ~

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

While we are extremely excited about all the good news, we are faced with an extremely difficult challenge this year: getting the students to and from school. Ringgold, like almost all districts, is faced with a bus driver shortage that may be hard to overcome this year. Our Transportation Department has done an outstanding job over the last few years with limited resources, but the challenges ahead are more difficult than ever.

As a result of this situation, periodically, there may be short delays picking up students and/or returning them home within individual schools on individual bus routes. This could vary by school or route, and it will not be a district-wide, daily situation.

When a delay is inevitable, families will be notified via One Call. Families will always have the option of driving their student(s) to school to arrive on time. **In preparation for this, please confirm your contact information is correct in Focus.** If any information is incorrect in Focus, please contact your student(s) respective building(s).

We appreciate your support!

We are honored and privileged to be a part of your child's educational experience and look forward to working with you as part of the Ringgold School District community of parents/guardians, teachers, and students who care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth.

Sincerely,

Randall Skrinjorich

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Superintendent

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