



# Ringgold School District

2022-2023 • Annual Report



**Learning.  
*Improving.*  
Achieving.**





## Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Ringgold School District Community,

We are extraordinarily proud to present this year's Annual Report, with the theme **"Learning, Improving, Achieving,"** highlighting the many areas in which our students and faculty are engaging in a high-quality educational experience. Ringgold School District has made significant strides in bolstering our curricula to equip our students with the knowledge and skills to achieve their very best in academics. Additionally, the district continues to build upon opportunities in athletics and the arts to provide all students with avenues to pursue their passions.

In this report, we are particularly proud to share the efforts being made to improve K-12 literacy, create a positive culture within the district and across each school through PBIS and "Leader in Me", and engage our students in project-based learning so they become critical thinkers and problem solvers. We are also excited to present our Strategic Improvement Plan that will serve as a roadmap for the future of the District beginning 2023 through 2028. The Steering Committee has been working collaboratively to shape our plan, which focuses on Student Experience, Employee Experience, Family & Community Experience, and Organizational Excellence.

As we look to the future, we are excited about sharing this annual report with the Ringgold community and celebrating the achievements of this past academic year.

Sincerely,

Randall Skrinjorich  
Superintendent of Schools



## Points of Pride



### Ringgold High School

- The creative and performing arts programs at RHS are outstanding. Nearly 70 RHS student actors, musicians and stagehands performed the musical "Mamma Mia" on March 2-4. The 25th annual Senior Art Exhibit was held on March 31 and April 1. Senior students showcased and sold beautiful works of art that they created throughout the course of the school year. Finally, the Ringgold Indoor Percussion Team qualified for the Atlantic Coastal Championships in Wildwood, NJ, where they finished in sixth place by winning the Regional Championship held at Baldwin High School.
- RHS is adopting the "Leader in Me" framework, and the Ringgold Lighthouse Committee represents its focus to

grow student leaders. On May 7, the Ringgold Lighthouse Committee ran in the Pittsburgh Marathon Relay to support a cure for cystic fibrosis. The Lighthouse Committee is dedicated to bringing leadership skills and positive change to RHS, and there is no better way to demonstrate commitment to the community than raising money and pushing themselves to achieve milestones they never have before.

- There is a long history of both academic and athletic success at RHS, and the 2022-2023 school year helped to continue both. On the athletic front, the Ringgold Rams Hockey team captured the PIHL Division 2 title, defeating Bishop Canevin 4-3 in overtime, while the RHS Swim Team qualified for the state tournament, as well as wrestler Jake Conroy and runners Ryan Pajak and Angelina Massey. On the academic front, Mary Urso was named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, and the RHS Mock Trial Team won the district competition and went on to compete at regionals. The Ringgold STEAM team captured first place overall at the Trinity STEAM competition after finishing first in every category, highlighting the emphasis RHS is placing on Project-Based Learning. Also, Amiya Law and Lily Rabbit each won a full scholarship through the QuestBridge College Prep Scholars Program.

### Ringgold Middle School

- RMS began looking at successful middle school structures to improve instruction for all students. The middle school started with fifth and sixth grade students' classrooms, and created a "house" system in which students were



clustered for instruction with a smaller group of teachers throughout the day. The benefits have been very evident in that staff and students are more connected with each other, and students' needs are addressed as a team of staff members working together.



- This year's spring musical presentation, "A Night on Broadway," delighted families and Ringgold community members. The production included over 200 students and even saw the return of a few former RMS students who are now in high school. RMS is very proud of its arts program, and the students who so diligently and thoughtfully prepare for the event each year. A special thanks to Mrs. Sandrock and Mrs. Slavin for their direction and passion for RMS students.
- The 8th grade ELA classes worked collaboratively to involve students and staff in a live production of "The Outsiders," the novel that they were reading in class. Teachers and staff directed the production and the students were the actors. The students summarized the book and the author's message throughout the text. Students in 8th grade also participated as the audience and provided opinions as to the guilt or innocence of the main character.

### Ringgold Elementary School North

- Students and staff at RESN embarked on a new way of inspiring leadership one student at a time. The "Leader in Me" provides a framework of several habits of highly effective people. Students are learning the Leadership Language and earning Leadership "Shout-Outs" by demonstrating various leadership actions.
- RESN expresses its gratitude to families who attended and supported the Art Fair. The event was a great success, highlighting the exceptional artwork created by RESN students. RESN thanks the PTA for sponsoring the event and the itinerant teachers who created the mesmerizing "Under the Sea" glow room, allowing parents to see their children's artwork glow with iridescent paint.



- At the 2022 Invention Convention, RESN students won first place in the 4th Grade Division for their invention, The Happy Maker, a vending machine that dispenses Happy Notes with the goal of spreading happiness to all.
- RESN successfully held its inaugural "Fox in Socks" sock drive, which resulted in an impressive donation of 2,137 pairs of socks to the local food pantry in Finleyville. RESN extends heartfelt gratitude to the students and families for their exceptional generosity, and to the third grade students who made a remarkable contribution of 612 pairs of socks.

### Ringgold Elementary School South

- Moms and Sons Night Out at the RHS cafeteria was a great success for both RESS and RESN with over 240 attendees! Mothers and sons were able to enjoy spending time together, paint flower pots, plant Marigolds, enjoy a special photo opportunity, decorate a picture frame and cards, eat some pizza and cupcakes, and bid on some fabulous Chinese Auction baskets put together by Ms. Denitti. This was also a wonderful opportunity for students from both South and North to meet each other. Proceeds will be split between RESS and RESN PBIS Teams.



- Over the past five years, Mrs. Victoria Meucci and Mrs. Shannon Kellam expanded the music program at RESS substantially. Third grade instrumental numbers grew from 39 to 80 students; third and fourth grade instrumental numbers combined grew from 124 to 203 students; and the music program in general, including chorus, has grown from 144 to 275 students. Due to these numbers significantly increasing, RESS had to break up the performances and initiate the first-ever and successful Third Grade Orchestra Showcase! The Spring Concert focused on fourth grade musicians in band, orchestra, and chorus.
- This year, RESS invited Foster Grandparents back into the building and into the classrooms! Foster Grandparents are volunteers who tutor and mentor young learners to improve their intellectual thinking, social, emotional, motor and/or language development skills. They have always been a wonderful addition in RESS classrooms, and the students absolutely love working with them. The pandemic paused the program for a few years, but it has been such a delight to welcome them back into the building and into the hearts of students, faculty, and staff! ■

# Ringgold Makes Strides in Curricular Improvements

Ringgold School District prioritized three key areas of learning this past year, aligned to its priorities in the District Comprehensive Plan. In particular, RSD has focused on improving its reading program, implementing positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) to promote student leadership and positive school culture through the “Leader in Me” program, and increasing project-based learning to engage students in real-world problem solving. These initiatives reflect the District’s commitment to providing a high-quality education that prepares students for success in college, career, and life. The following sections highlight the progress made in these areas and showcase the impact of these efforts on our students and community.

## Reading Improvement

Across K-12 grade levels, Ringgold School District has implemented benchmark assessments for reading at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. Based on



beginning of the year data, the reading coordinators at each building place students into small groups at each K-6 grade level. Each day, groups receive reading intervention in which students practice the skills aligned with their identified needs and strengths.

The reading coordinators for Ringgold Elementary School South, Ringgold Elementary School North, and Ringgold Middle School provide instructional support to the teachers who utilize specific lessons and materials based on the needs of the students in their intervention group. Progress monitoring takes place every ten days to determine whether students have made improvements in the skills being practiced during the intervention cycle. The results of progress monitoring drive the following sequence of lessons, with the goal of specifically targeting each child’s area of need so they can master the foundational skills necessary to become a successful reader.

For grades 7-12 at RSD, reading intervention is happening within classroom time. Using beginning, middle, and end of year assessment data, teachers help address learning gaps that resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, a teacher might identify skill deficiencies based on assessment data and implement mini lessons at the beginning of a unit to practice foundational skills that students are lacking.

“We are seeing meaningful growth in our students, particularly in our K-2 classes, thanks to the commitment and dedication of our classroom teachers and reading coordinators,” said Shannon Crombie, Director of Curriculum.



## Leader in Me

What exactly is school culture? It’s the fundamental beliefs and values that shape the social and academic environment of a school. Ultimately, school culture encompasses the way students, teachers, administrators, and community interact with each other. Positive school culture is key to supporting student success and creating a school environment where all members of the school community feel a shared sense of belonging and respect.

In each building and grade level, Ringgold School District has implemented “Leader in Me” as a framework for PBIS, to promote student leadership and positive school culture. PBIS is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students’ behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. Leader in Me is based on the book **The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People**, by Stephen Covey:

- 1. Be Proactive:** Accept responsibility for your actions. Be in charge of your moods and choices. Focus on things you can control.
- 2. Begin with the End in Mind:** Know what is most important to you. Think ahead. Set meaningful goals. Have a plan to accomplish them.
- 3. Put First Things First:** Do your most important things first. Have discipline to stick to your goals. Say no to things that distract you from achieving your best.
- 4. Think Win-Win:** Have courage to stand up for your needs and wants. Be considerate of others’ needs and wants. Seek mutual benefits.
- 5. Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood:** Diagnose a problem before prescribing a solution. Listen with your ears, eyes, and heart. Present your thoughts clearly.
- 6. Synergize:** Value people’s differences, particularly their strengths. Combine your thinking with their thinking to create third alternatives.
- 7. Sharpen the Saw:** Find balance in life; avoid burnout. Strive for continuous improvement of your body, heart, mind, and soul.



"These are the principles we are trying to teach children on a daily basis," said Sherry Black, Director of Pupil Services. "Our goal is to create a program that is not only positive and reinforces good behavior, but also emphasizes the fact that everybody can be a leader." RSD underwent District-wide training on "Leader in Me" in August 2022. Each building has its own "lighthouse team" tasked with embedding Leader in Me into school culture.

"In the long term, we know that when implemented with fidelity, PBIS will result in a reduction in discipline referrals and improvement of social and emotional learning," said Black.

## Project-Based Learning



Efforts are being made across Ringgold School District to implement more project-based learning opportunities in every grade level and subject area. In today's ever changing and

complex world, the ability for learners to engage in real-world problem solving is critical.

"The idea was to make learning exciting, interesting, and relevant again for students through project-based learning," said Shannon Crombie, Director of Curriculum. "We're trying to get away from being so tech heavy like we've been over the past few years with the pandemic, and trying to teach kids that subjects are interrelated."

At Ringgold High School, students in Ms. Heather Roman's AP Environmental Science class participated in an event known as Running of the Wools in Washington, PA, an event to commemorate the role of sheep farming and wool production in Southwestern Pennsylvania in the 1800s. Students collaborated to design and build a sheep feeder as part of the weekend celebration. The class submitted an essay on silvopasture and alley cropping to support the theme of their feeder, which will also be on display during the Washington County Fair in August.

Fourth grade students at Ringgold Elementary School South created circuits using playdough and toothpicks when Women in STEM, an organization through Duquesne University, visited their classrooms. At Ringgold Elementary School North, through a collaboration with California Area School District, the music, art, and technology teachers are working with students to design, build, and play 3D printed instruments. ■

# Ringgold Focuses on Facilities

Ringgold School District is committed to providing the highest quality education possible, and that includes recognizing the critical role that school facilities play in student success. With the recently opened middle school and current upgrades at all schools, Ringgold has demonstrated its commitment to creating an environment that fosters growth, learning, and achievement. Here are some of the facilities upgrades that were recently completed:

## High School Art Wing Upgrades

Ringgold High School's art wing has undergone an inspiring transformation, revitalizing the learning environment for student artists. The upgrades include renovated restrooms, improved ventilation, enhanced safety measures, and the addition of natural light through new windows and doors. Upgraded educational resources and aesthetic enhancements — such as painting, new flooring, casework, and whiteboards — further enhance the art wing. These renovations demonstrate the school's commitment to fostering creativity and providing an ideal space for artistic expression.

## Administrative Office Upgrades



RSD is also in the middle of a construction project at the Administration Office. The project consists of a renovation to construct a new staff development room, HVAC upgrades and interior upgrades. The HVAC upgrades include

the installation of nine new rooftop units utilizing MERV 13 filters, UV disinfecting and BI-Polar Ionization. The corridors and board room received new paint, ceilings and lighting, and the corridor also received new flooring.

## Natatorium Renovation

Ringgold High School recently completed renovations to the natatorium. They included a brand-new pool, bleachers, pool deck equipment, flooring, ceiling tiles, and more. The boys and girls locker rooms underwent a total renovation, and the project also included the construction of a ticket window, concession stand, and new event restroom.



## Gymnasium Upgrades Boast Improved Acoustics

Several upgrades to the Ringgold High School gymnasium include refinished wooden floors and brand-new windows. To improve the acoustics in the gym, the District added acoustic wall panels, ensuring that everyone can hear clearly during athletic events and assemblies.

## Former RMS Demolition

The Summer of 2022 also began the demolition of the former Ringgold Middle School and site restoration. The former school was closed in 2017 when Ringgold opened the new middle school on the high school campus. ■

# Ringgold School District is Thrilled to Recognize the Class of 2023 Valedictorian and Salutatorian



(from left to right) Mary Urso, School Counselor  
Phoebe Daily, Lily Rabbitt

Ringgold High School celebrates the announcement of the graduating Class of 2023's Valedictorian and Salutatorian. These outstanding students have exhibited unwavering commitment, pouring countless hours of diligent effort into their studies at Ringgold High School to earn this esteemed recognition. Their dedication to their academics and the rigor that they have shown are remarkable. The district is so proud of these students and looks forward to their bright futures as Ringgold graduates.

Lily Rabbitt is the Class of 2023 Valedictorian. Lily is a College Board Nationally recognized scholar for her outstanding performance in

the classroom and on College Board assessments, and she is the recipient of the QuestBridge Match Scholarship. She has accepted a four-year full scholarship to Haverford College.

Mary Urso is the Class of 2023 Salutatorian. Mary is a National Merit Finalist and a College Board Nationally recognized scholar. To further her education, Mary will be attending Carnegie Mellon University in the fall.

Congratulations to both Lily and Mary for their exceptional achievements and the incredible dedication they have demonstrated throughout their time at Ringgold High School. ■

## Balancing the 2022-2023 Budget

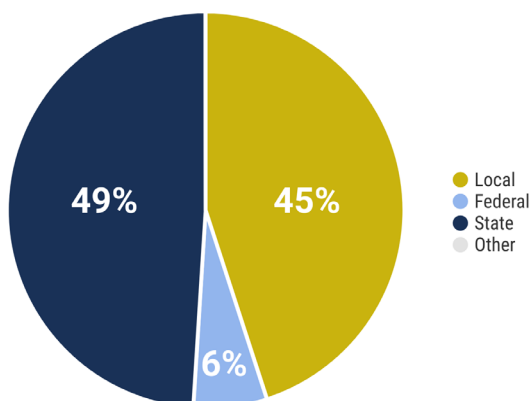
The Ringgold School District continues to maintain financial stability. The Act 1 index for the 2022-2023 school year was 4.5%, allowing for a maximum .6646 mill increase, which would generate \$797,520 of additional local revenue. The 2022-2023 final budget included a lower mill increase at .4, generating an additional \$480,000 of local revenue.

The \$480,000 increase was used to balance the budget, with the major financial impacts being State funding, contractual obligations, and cyber/charter tuition. In a time when other districts are raising taxes to the index or above, Ringgold has been successful in always remaining below the Act 1 index.

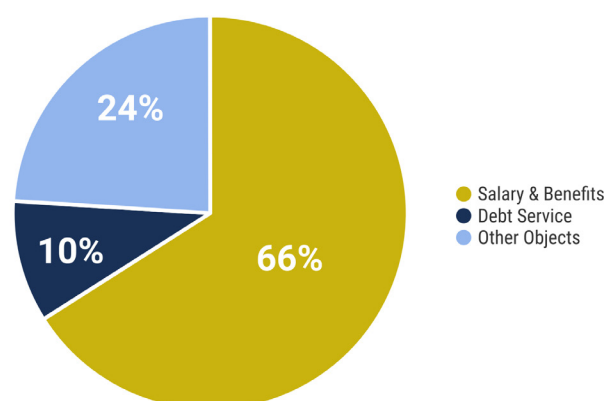
Ringgold has practiced conservative spending and as a result, made no cuts to staffing or programs.

A large portion of the District's budgeted expenditures can be traced to three main areas: salaries, benefits, and debt service. These areas Ringgold considers "fixed" costs, as they are contractual obligations and predetermined payments. For the 2022-2023 school year, these "fixed" costs represent 76% of the budget. The smaller portion of the budget, "other objects" comprising 24%, are costs that fluctuate with use and/or the economy. One of the larger expenditures in "other objects" that has a major impact on the budget is cyber/charter tuition. ■

### Budget Revenues - \$51,537,045



### Budget Expenditures - \$51,537,045





# Ringgold Moves Forward with New Strategic Improvement Plan



Creating and inspiring a shared vision for the future has been the key priority during Ringgold School District's process of developing its Strategic Improvement Plan for 2023-2028. The Plan will serve as a roadmap for the RSD over the next five years, with four pillars focusing on **Student Experience**, **Employee Experience**, **Family & Community Experience**, and **Organizational Excellence**.

In the past year, the District has undertaken surveys of employees, families, and students, along with hosting multiple focus groups, to collect valuable data. The collected information was carefully analyzed by Studer Education, enabling the District to identify its strengths and weaknesses. This valuable insight was then utilized to develop actionable strategies and inform decisions during the strategic planning process.

The Strategic Improvement Plan was formally adopted by the Ringgold Board of School Directors on May 17, 2023.

"This is the first time that the District has had a Strategic Improvement Plan, and our main focus was really for us to build a roadmap to continually improve Ringgold School District moving forward in all aspects," said Superintendent Mr. Randall Skrinjorich.

A Steering Committee consisting of parents, community members, students, administrators, and business members met four times prior to Board approval to identify and solidify a shared vision for Ringgold's Strategic Improvement Plan. Following the four meetings, the Steering Committee was surveyed to generate a consensus that the Strategic Improvement Plan fits Ringgold's shared vision for the future.

For each of the four pillars, the District has identified priority areas and corresponding action steps outlining the strategies to ensure each priority area is addressed. Detailed action steps are available for review on RSD's website ([www.ringgold.org](http://www.ringgold.org)), and the priority areas for each pillar are listed below:

## Student Experience

- **Health & Well-Being:** Encourage healthy personal habits, social learning, character development, and promote a sense of belonging.
- **Learning & Engagement:** Empower students through a student-centered learning approach to increase student learning and engagement.
- **Career Development & Future Readiness:** Provide intentional activities for students to explore which career field is the best fit, and how to get there.

## Employee Experience

- **Professionalism, Respect, and a Sense of Belonging:** Provide a collegial environment, develop relationships, cultivate collaboration, provide opportunities for open communication, and enhance a sense of community through shared values.
- **Recruitment & Retention:** Recruit qualified applicants and retain effective teachers, leaders, and staff who exhibit pride in being a Ringgold School District employee.
- **Professional Development & Growth:** Develop aligned and relevant professional learning for all employees that improves knowledge, collaboration, and effectiveness while supporting educational and operational excellence.

## Family & Community Experience

- **Family Involvement:** Encourage, educate, and provide avenues for each students' family to be actively involved with their child's education.
- **Community Outreach & Partnerships:** Nurture strong, mutually complementary partnerships among the district, businesses, and the community to support student learning experiences.
- **Alumni Engagement:** Partner effectively with our alumni.

## Organizational Excellence

- **School Safety, Security, & Support:** Sustain safe learning environments.
- **Consistent Communication:** Cultivate practices that promote productive, interpersonal communication with all stakeholders.
- **Fiscal Stewardship:** Maintain fiscal solvency through an annual balanced budget while meeting the current and future needs of the district.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Develop, monitor, and align systems of support for all stakeholders.





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## Congratulations Class of 2023!



The class of 2023 boasts **197** graduates, over **\$1.6 million** in scholarships and awards, and exciting plans to continue on to college, the military, and the workforce.

***We wish all our graduates success and joy on their journeys ahead!***