

The Ringgold



REVIEW

Timely Information & Updates

Winter 2025 - Vol. 5

From Ringgold School District



Dear Ringgold Families,

Welcome to the first 2025 edition of The Ringgold Review. The new year is off to an excellent start.

We are pleased to share the results from the 2024 stakeholder experience survey, showing strong improvements since we began administering the surveys in 2022.

Additionally, we are announcing a new Comprehensive Plan, furthering the District's commitment to amplifying student and employee experiences while maintaining organizational excellence.

This issue also highlights student achievements, renovations taking place across the District, new hires, and important announcements about summer programs and next school year.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support and are excited to keep you informed with news and developments as the year progresses.

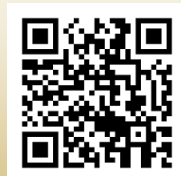
Sincerely,

Randall Skrinjorich

Mr. Randall Skrinjorich

Superintendent of Ringgold School District

To receive future District publications digitally please sign up here.



Ringgold Moves Forward with New Comprehensive Plan

Some exciting work is taking place at the District, as we are rolling out a new Comprehensive Plan, focused on improving student outcomes through curriculum, instruction and assessment. The Comprehensive Plan looks to build upon commitments made in our Strategic Plan, enhancing the student and employee experiences while maintaining organizational excellence and paving the way for a brighter future.

"We are aligning our efforts with the goals of our Strategic Improvement Plan to create a unified vision for the future. Together, these initiatives will guide our district toward long-term success by fostering innovation, enhancing student outcomes and building a strong foundation for every learner," said Superintendent Mr. Randall Skrinjorich.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education mandates all local educational agencies to continuously engage in Comprehensive Planning, an essential component of ensuring enhanced student performance and quality results. Comprehensive Planning requires districts to demonstrate continual growth through research-based programs, ongoing staff development, aligned resources and active public participation in the planning process.

The plan was developed over the last two years by a committee of stakeholders, including educators, administrators, community members and school board officers. It states that over the next three years, the District will create curriculum maps utilizing the Understanding by Design (UbD) curriculum framework. The structured model requires educators to begin by identifying desired learning outcomes, then plan assessments to measure those outcomes, followed by learning activities leading students to achieve the intended understanding, essentially working backwards.

"This approach emphasizes deep student comprehension and enables students to transfer their knowledge and skills to different situations, both in the classroom and beyond," said Mr. Skrinjorich.

The plan was delivered to the school board for review in January and will be available to view on the District's website after March 31. ■

2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration on March 12



Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year will be held from 9 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, at both Ringgold Elementary School North and South. Parents can reserve their timeslot for [Ringgold Elementary South here](#), and for [Ringgold Elementary School North here](#).

The child must be **five years old by July 31, 2025** to be eligible for kindergarten enrollment in the 2025-2026 school year. The documents listed below must be provided in order to complete the registration process.

- Birth certificate
- Current immunization records
- Two forms of proof of residency, such as mortgage statements, rental/lease agreements or utility bills (must include the name, address and date within the last three months)

The registration visit will include an assessment administered to incoming kindergarteners, which provides an understanding of a child's early learning and development.

"We will do some screening of the kids, which will allow us to see where they are academically and evaluate their behavioral and regulation skills. This will take place while the parents are completing the enrollment process," said Mrs. Sherry Black, Director of Pupil Services at Ringgold School District.

Those unable to attend the March 12 registration can contact their child's elementary school to reschedule.

To ensure a child is prepared for kindergarten, parents and guardians should make sure their child can...

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

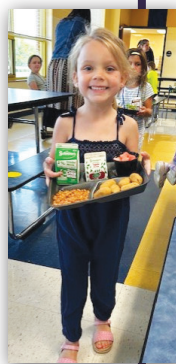
- Zip and unzip their lunchbox, backpack, jeans/pants and jacket on their own
- Open drinks, snacks and lunches
- Independently use the bathroom and wash their hands
- Sit and listen for 10 minutes
- Follow one to two step directions
- Quietly wait and take turns
- Count to 10 out loud
- Write their full name and recognize it in print
- Say their ABCs and identify most letters of the alphabet
- Use scissors to cut a line

Lil' Rams Pre-K Summer Camp, ESY Program Begins on June 16

Lil' Rams Pre-K Summer Camp and Extended School Year (ESY) Program will be held simultaneously from Monday, June 16, to Thursday, July 3, at Ringgold Elementary School South. Both camps will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and provide breakfast and lunch. Bus transportation will be offered, starting at 8:30 a.m., and passes will be mailed to the residence before June 16.

Lil' Rams Pre-K Summer Camp

Lil' Rams Pre-K Summer Camp acclimates incoming kindergarteners by introducing the classroom setting with lesson plans, including early literacy, math, arts, music and physical education. Limited space is available and families can sign up during the March 12 registration after their child is fully enrolled. An orientation will take place on Friday, June 13, at 11 a.m. in the Ringgold Elementary School South Cafeteria.



ESY Program

ESY services are special education and related services provided to students, who must qualify under their Individualized Education Program (IEP) to attend the summer program.

Kid Writing Program Serves as a Strong Example for Nearby School District



They say imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and the District was honored to host Brownsville Area School District to observe its new foundational literacy and writing program in action, *Kid Writing*.

The K-2 supplemental teaching approach adopted at the beginning of the school year is designed to accelerate reading and writing skills through both structured and unstructured activities that help individualize instruction. Furthermore, the program's framework helps young learners develop the writing stamina needed to complete more advanced writing assignments, such as Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA), which make up approximately 25 percent of the English Language Arts section of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

Representatives from Brownsville Area School District observed 30 minutes of kindergarten and first-grade instruction in Ms. Cassandra Davies' and Ms. Chelsy Bowker's classrooms, then convened with Dr. Saraceni and Superintendent Mr. Skrinjorich, discussing the program's accomplishments, logistics, implementation and long-term goals.

"The *Kid Writing* program focuses not only on developing creativity and writing capacity among students, but also promotes the key component of writing stamina, a skill that will only strengthen students' writing ability and probability of future success on state assessments. We want to thank all the individuals who made this collaborative effort possible," said Mr. Marc Berry, Principal of Ringgold Elementary School South. ■

Mr. Jim Muraco Named November's WTAE-TV Teacher of the Month



(From left to right): Mr. Muraco's parents, Mr. Muraco, his son and wife celebrating his award.

When a surprise assembly was called, Mr. Jim Muraco thought he was there to welcome a special guest for the senior class. Instead, he was honored with the announcement that he was the WTAE-TV November Teacher of the Month.

"Students are excited to go to Mr. Muraco's classes. He makes learning fun by engaging students, whether through modeling an experiment, having students complete a lab or engaging in a real-life application discussion about the content," said Dr. Greg Saraceni, Ringgold High School Principal.

Each month, WTAE-TV selects one teacher to be honored and receive a \$1,000 check to use on the education website [DonorsChoose.com](https://www.donorschoose.org).

Ringgold High School senior, Sam Alvarez, nominated Mr. Muraco for the award, echoing the sentiments of his fellow classmates that Mr. Muraco makes the learning process exciting while maintaining a high level of rigor.

"He makes us want to come into class every time and actually learn what he's teaching," Alvarez told WTAE-TV.

Mr. Muraco's entire family attended the event to celebrate his achievement, including his parents, both of whom are educators. Mr. Muraco has been a science teacher at Ringgold High School since 2016, and has helped instill a passion in students for learning and drive to reach their full potential.

"I just want them to have the best education they can, and I think we try to give that to them. I want to play some small role in making sure that they succeed," Mr. Muraco told WTAE-TV. ■

Stakeholder Survey Data Shows Positive Growth

Studer Education

The District has unveiled the results of its annual stakeholder experience surveys, and the data reveals significant improvements. With marked gains in student engagement, parent communication, employee morale and community involvement, results affirm Ringgold's commitment to boosting the overall stakeholder experience.

Administered annually by Studer Education since 2022, the employee, parent/guardian and student experience surveys enable the District to regularly compare growth, assess stakeholder perceptions and identify areas for improvement.

Tailored surveys were delivered to each stakeholder group and utilized a five-point Likert scale response rating of strongly agree (5), agree (4), neutral (3), disagree (2) or strongly disagree (1). In the review of the data, the overall mean score for each question and the distribution of the responses across a five-point scale was analyzed and compared to the mean score of previous years.

The employee survey included an average score of 3.65 with 259 responses. The highest-rated items expressed a clear understanding of job duties, feeling appreciated and respected by leaders, and seeing work positively impact those they serve. For the parent/caregiver survey, 424 respondents found their child's school to be well-maintained and clean, and feel comfortable approaching administration about issues or concerns, resulting in a mean score of 3.5. The student survey, featuring insight from 1,806 students, had an average score of 3.68. Results showed students enjoy the special electives offered, believe their principal is a good leader and find learning to be prioritized at their schools.

"We are extremely appreciative to all of our stakeholders who participated in this year's survey, as it is a crucial component of our Strategic Improvement Plan. Your feedback allows us to pinpoint areas in need of improvement, identify tailored strategies from the District Strategic Improvement Plan and implement the identified strategy," said Mr. Randall Skrinjorich, Ringgold School District Superintendent. ■

Buildings and Grounds Upgrades



Revitalizing Joe Montana Stadium's Bleachers

Slated to be completed next fall, the stadium renovation encompasses a complete restoration of the bleachers, focusing on making the structure more user-friendly, enhancing ADA accessibility and general safety.

Renovations include improvements to the bleachers' exterior wall facing the field, applying a primer and two-part epoxy to the bleachers with anti-slip properties, sealing of joints, widening aisles, adding handrails and a ramp or lift. The existing locker rooms will remain unchanged beneath the bleachers. The press box exterior will receive a facelift, new stairs to improve access, and improvements to the interior will include new countertops, flooring and lighting, which are just a few of the much-needed improvements. The upper ticket booth will also be replaced.

Construction of Bus Garage and Maintenance Facilities

The existing building that houses the District's maintenance and transportation departments was originally built as an elementary school in the 1920s. To meet the demands of both departments and address the deteriorating structure, a new site will be built, consisting of three garage bays, multiple storage areas and office rooms. The grounds will receive new asphalt, and electrical upgrades such as parking lot lighting and new outdoor receptacles for the buses to plug into. ■

Student-Athletes Make Their College Commitments Official



Ringgold High School is proud to announce that student-athletes Samuel Allen, Megan Kopp and Riley Lewis, committed to continue their academic and athletic careers in college.

“On behalf of the Ringgold community, we wish you all the best as you move forward, where we know you will continue to excel both academically and athletically,” said Dr. Greg Saraceni, Ringgold High School Principal.



Samuel Allen Baseball at Messiah University

“I have played baseball since I was four, and I feel very blessed to continue my athletic and academic career at Messiah University. I am most excited to have the opportunity to play for a successful team that has had several playoff appearances over the past few years.”



Megan Kopp Volleyball at West Virginia Wesleyan College

“My journey over the last seven years in volleyball would not have been possible or complete without the guidance of my parents, coaches, friends and teammates. They helped me through all my triumphs along the way. I am excited about college and to play at the NCAA Division II level and travel with my new teammates.”



Riley Lewis Volleyball at LaRoche University

“I have been playing volleyball since 7th grade. I chose LaRoche because I liked the community and the coach is someone I feel will help me succeed academically, athletically and personally. I am eager to build bonds with my new teammates and start this new chapter in my life.”

District-Wide Holiday Celebrations



Ringgold Elementary School North

Students, staff and PTA paid tribute to the Nation's heroes during the Annual Veterans Day Brunch, which included student performances, a flag-folding demonstration and special speaker, Captain Eric McElvenny, a disabled veteran and Paralympic triathlon competitor. Later in the month, students showcased their creativity, designing their very own Thanksgiving floats.



Ringgold Elementary School South

The holiday season brought several positive celebrations, including Friendsgiving parties in each classroom, "Polar Express" events and games for kindergarten and first grade, and the annual school-wide Holiday Concert.



Ringgold Middle School

The first Holiday Carnival, organized by PBIS to raise funds for future events, was a success, raising over \$1,000. Students had a blast playing different games and enjoying treats.



Ringgold High School

The holidays were ushered in with a celebration of the arts. The Drama Class, Razz-Ma-Tazz and Concert Choir entertained an eager audience with their Holiday Palace show, and the high school Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band dazzled the audience with new and classical hits during the Annual Holiday Concert.



Meet Our New Athletic Director!



Mr. Scott Stephenson is eager to continue the District's rich, long-standing tradition of athletic achievements in his new role as Athletic Director. He served as West Mifflin Area School District's Athletic Director for over two decades and holds a bachelor's degree in social sciences and secondary education from Point Park University. ■

District Recognizes School Board During January

School Board Appreciation Month, celebrated in January, looks to honor the leadership, hard work and commitment to improving schools and their communities. In honor of the holiday, Mr. Skrinjorich showed his appreciation to Ringgold School District's board members during January's meeting.

"I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for the unwavering commitment and service by our school board. Their insights, dedication, and leadership have played a vital role in our efforts to enhance the educational experience for our students and support our staff. Their willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions and advocacy for our community's needs are truly commendable," said Mr. Skrinjorich. "Thank you for the time and energy you all invest in our schools. Your contributions make a meaningful difference, and we are grateful to have you as a valued member of our team." ■

Highlighting Upcoming Events

Please visit the District website to view the full calendar of events

February

RMS: **Friday, February 21:** 7th & 8th Grade Snowball Dance

March

RESN & RESS: **Friday, March 7:** Read Across America

RESN & RESS: **Wednesday, March 12:** Kindergarten Registration

RESN & RESS: **Tuesday, March 18:** Annual Ringgold Elementary Talent Show

RESN & RESS: **Tuesday, March 25:** Orchestra Showcase

April

RESN & RESS: **Wednesday, April 16:** Earth Day Activities by PTA

RESN, RESS & RMS: **Monday, April 21 to Friday, May 9:** PSSA

May

RESN & RESS: **Monday, May 5:** Buddy Day for Incoming Kindergarteners

RESN & RESS: **Tuesday, May 6:** Mother/Son Activity Night for 4th Grade

RESN & RESS: **Thursday, May 15:** Band and Choir Concert

RESN & RESS: **Thursday, May 29:** Kindergarten & 4th Grade Move-Up Celebration

RHS: **Monday, May 12 to Friday, May 23:** Keystone Exams

June

RHS: **Friday, June 6:** Senior Walk Through the Elementary Schools

RHS: **Monday, June 9:** Graduation

RESN: Ringgold Elementary School North **RESS:** Ringgold Elementary School South **RMS:** Ringgold Middle School **RHS:** Ringgold High School

2025-2026 School Calendar - Ringgold School District

August 2025

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31		5				

September 2025

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
			20			

October 2025

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			22			

November 2025

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30			16			

December 2025

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
			16			

January 2026

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			18			

August

18 Teacher Clerical Day
19 & 20 Teacher In-service
21 Act 80 Day
25 First Day for Students
29 Early Dismissal

September

1 Labor Day
17 Act 80 Day

October

15 Teacher In-service

November

10 Parent Conference Day
11 Veterans Day
26 Early Dismissal
27 & 28 Fall Recess

December

1 Fall Recess
23 Early Dismissal
24-31 Winter Recess

January

1 & 2 Winter Recess
5 Classes Resume
19 MLK, Jr. Day
28 Act 80 Day

February

16 Presidents Day

March

11 Staff Development/
Teacher In-service

April

2-7 Spring Recess

May

21 Early Dismissal
22 Kennywood Day
25 Memorial Day

June

5 Early Dismissal
5 Last Day for Students
5 Graduation
8 Teacher Clerical Day

February 2026

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			19			

March 2026

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
			21			

April 2026

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
			18			

May 2026

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31			19			

June 2026

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
			5			



MARKING PERIODS

Q1 - 10/28 (46)
Q2 - 01/16 (45)
Q3 - 03/26 (46)
Q4 - 06/05 (45)

MID-TERMS

MT1 - 09/24
MT2 - 12/04
MT3 - 02/20
MT4 - 05/01

CALENDAR DAYS

Teacher = 189
In-service/Staff Dev = 4
Clerical = 2
Parent Conference = 1

Instructional = 182
Act 80 Exceptions = 3
Days in Session = 179

SNOW MAKEUP DAYS

#1 - January 19
#2 - February 16
#3 - April 2
#4 - April 7
#5 - April 6

- First/Last Day for Students
- Holiday/Kennywood - No School
- Teacher In-service - No School
- Act 80 Day - No School
- Teacher Clerical - No School
- Parent Conference - No School
- FID - Flexible Instructional Day