





RINGGOLD

Shines With Community

PRIDE

Ringgold School District | 2025 • 2026 Annual Report



FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

At Ringgold School District, we believe family and community support are essential to student success – so essential, in fact, that they serve as one of the four pillars of our strategic plan. In this report, we celebrate the growing partnership between our schools and the communities they serve through our theme, "***Ringgold Shines with Community Pride***."

As you read about our students' remarkable achievements throughout the 2025–26 school year in academics, athletics, leadership, and the arts, the collective impact of our educators, families, and community members becomes unmistakably clear.

This year, Ringgold High School students hosted the inaugural Ringgold Community Day and earned first place at a regional STEM competition. Community members filled our schools for student performances and art exhibitions, while our athletes continued to excel across a wide range of sports. Meanwhile, the Class of 2026 is confidently taking its next steps into higher education, military service, and career pathways.

Looking ahead, a no-cost partnership with **WestEd** (https://www.wested.org) will provide targeted reading support for eighth-grade students. In addition, work is underway to implement new Grade 5 and 6 English Language Arts pacing and assessment guidelines. These efforts build upon our existing K–4 ELA and math pacing frameworks and reinforce our commitment to providing equitable educational opportunities for every student.

There is so much that makes the Ringgold community proud.

Sincerely,

R. Skrinjorich

Mr. Randall Skrinjorich

Superintendent of Ringgold School District



Ringgold Community Day Strengthens the Bonds Between Community & School

About 200 community members, students, teachers and parents gathered together to enjoy bands, a student-run market, a cornhole tournament and a 5K race during Ringgold's first Community Day on April 18.

The event, which was held primarily at Chess Park in Monongahela, was designed, planned and organized by Lighthouse, a Ringgold High School student-driven organization that aims to foster a positive cultural and academic environment.

"My favorite thing about Community Day was seeing all the communities in Ringgold come together," said Lighthouse President and senior Miranda Santina. "We were able to bring kids and adults from every town to one place where they could enjoy time together and see the quality of our District."

Bridging the gap between the student experience and the community experience was Community Day's primary goal, said RHS biology teacher and Lighthouse sponsor John Laukaitis. "It was also a chance to highlight our students' ability to execute and implement an event of this scale and for the community to see our students being entrepreneurial."

The student organizers said creating the event taught them many things. "Planning a large-scale event requires time, effort, and determination to make a meaningful impact on the community," said Lighthouse Secretary and sophomore Nicholas Stasko. "Every part of the experience showed me valuable lessons about leadership, teamwork, and how I can grow as a person while also helping those around me."

Lighthouse Vice President and sophomore Grace Custer, Treasurer and senior Kailyn Webb, and Lighthouse members senior Dylan Bartkus and sophomore Harlow Spalla also helped organize the event.



Ringgold High School Wins First Place at the 2026 Range Resources Corporation STEM Challenge



Ringgold High School students Alissa Rotta and Daniel Sesco took first place in the 2026 Range Resources Stem Challenge in April. The bridge they built from Popsicle sticks and glue held 380 pounds before failure – more weight than bridges built by 19 other teams from high schools across Fayette, Greene and Washington Counties.

Ringgold students Avery Laughlin and Joie Perrotta also competed. The two teams and their advisors, teachers David Gilpin and Matthew Egizio, prepared for the event together and cheered each other on.

Alissa and Daniel took home a $100 prize and a plaque and Mr. Gilpin, who teaches honors engineering & design and home improvement, and Mr. Egizio, who teaches social studies and gifted education, shared a $1,000 classroom grant.

Ringgold Middle School Students Shine in Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella



Where does a kind girl find the inspiration to be as mean as Cinderella's stepmother?

"I took inspiration from being the Student Director and having to keep control in the auditorium," said Rachel Urso, the eighth grader who played the antagonist in Ringgold Middle School's production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella:Youth Edition." "I'm not usually a mean person, I think, so it was a fun challenge."

The production, which ran March 26 through 28 and sold 200 tickets nightly, offered challenges and opportunities for all 65 participating students.

"We had 30 students waltzing with each other in the ballroom scene," said eighth-grade English teacher and production choreographer Jessica Monaco.

"There is three-part harmony in a few places!" added music teacher and co-director Colleen Tolliver. "That was a new thing for students."

Transforming Cinderella from poor girl to princess on stage took problem solving, said Tara Schmidt, the seventh-grade math teacher in charge of lights and sound. "We borrowed a really cool dress that hid the gown underneath and we used a flashing light sequence to take attention away from Cinderella."

Sloane Zdravecky, the eighth grader who played Cinderella, loved the quick-change gown but is proudest of her "In My Own Little Corner" solo. "It required a lot of critiquing and practice to get it right, but it ended up being one of my most memorable moments from the show," she said.

Behind the scenes, the stage crew thought fast to move misplaced props and activate overhead microphones when individual mics failed, noted Ms. Monaco.



Middle school productions are open to all students grades 5 through 8, said eighth-grade English teacher and co-director Julia Natalia. "Everyone has the opportunity to shine and showcase whatever they are great at, on stage or backstage," she said. "All talents together turn into one beautiful production."

Ringgold 8th Graders to Receive Extra Literacy Support Through a WestEd Partnership

Ringgold eighth graders who are struggling to read at grade level will soon receive additional literacy skills support thanks to a federal Education, Innovation, and Research (EIR) funded project that includes a new edition of WestEd's Reading Apprenticeship Academic Literacy Learning curriculum and related staff development.

Reading Apprenticeship Academic Literacy Learning (RA4ALL) is an update to the already proven Reading Apprenticeship Academic Literacy course where study findings demonstrated that the course had a positive and statistically significant impact on students' reading comprehension scores–an effect size equivalent to a 63% improvement over and above expected year-to-year gains.

The RA4ALL update does not make fundamental changes to the curriculum, but any change, no matter how small, requires WestEd to conduct additional research to re-confirm effectiveness. Teachers will monitor student progress – something they would do anyway – and share that information with SRI International, the company testing the update for WestEd. In exchange, Ringgold teachers and Instructional Coach Tim McKay will receive free professional development training this summer and the curricular resources will be free to the District, said Assistant Superintendent Gregory Saraceni. Purchasing the resources would cost tens of thousands of dollars, he said.

RA4ALL is a Tier II intervention targeted for students who are one to five grade levels behind in reading. Data will determine which students need this resource, said Dr. Saraceni, who estimates that between 60 and 80 students will participate next fall.

"Our goal is to build reading fluency, stamina and comprehension, which will have a ripple effect in student achievement across all subjects," Dr. Saraceni said.

28th Annual Ringgold High School Senior Art Exhibit



The 28th Annual Ringgold High School Senior Art Exhibit featured the art of about 120 students in grades K-12 from all four District schools in a two-day event on March 27 and 28.

"The senior art students who headline the exhibit are required to show their work, as this is part of the curriculum," said RHS Art Teacher Al Lewis, who organizes the show with RHS Art Teacher Theresa Campa. "These students set up their own display and sell their creations to peers, faculty, friends, family, and the community," he said.

The show is open to any District student who wants to participate, Mr. Lewis said. He and Mrs. Campa work with four other District art teachers to collect student art. The number of people who attend the show seems to increase yearly, Mr. Lewis said. "I'm very excited to do this each year and look forward to making it a great experience for the kids in our District," he said.





POINTS OF PRIDE

RINGGOLD HIGH SCHOOL

Students Explore Career & Education Options at the Largest RHS College & Career Fair Ever



Ringgold High School students met with 100 representatives from colleges, technical schools, the military, trade unions and companies at the April 16 College & Career Fair.

Students in grades 9 through 12 updated their resumes and pre-planned their time with the organizations and representatives of the careers or colleges that most interested them.

Organized by the student members of The Future is Mine Club and club co-advisors Tiffani Trice-Kolar, Career Exploration teacher, and Mandy Lutska, Health teacher, this was the largest fair yet. Connections made at the annual fair have helped students refine future goals and even land jobs, Ms. Trice-Kolar said. At a student's suggestion, she plans to add employers who offer summer and part-time jobs next year.

Two Ringgold Seniors Honored at 2026 SHASDA Conference



Macenzie Benner



Jules Branch

Ringgold High School Seniors Macenzie Benner and Jules Branch were honored at the annual South Hills Area School Districts Association (SHASDA) Student Recognition Conference this spring for demonstrating significant improvement during their high school careers.

SHASDA, a consortium of school districts in the South Hills region of Pittsburgh committed to enhancing public education, hosts the event annually to celebrate students who have shown remarkable personal and academic progress and/or have overcome obstacles to succeed. Students from all SHASDA districts and their families were treated to breakfast and an inspiring keynote speech from former Pittsburgh Steeler Will Allen.

"It is a wonderful event and we couldn't be prouder of our winners," said Assistant Superintendent Gregory Saraceni.

RHS Musical Anything but a *Disaster!*



Audiences found it difficult not to sing along with student actors as they performed the 1970s hits that forward the plot of *Disaster!*, a musical parody of disaster films written by Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick.

"After the show, a great deal of people who came in not knowing what to expect told us that they found the show hilarious, and that the songs brought them a great feeling of nostalgia," said school counselor Kristie Rygiel-DeBor, who co-directed with band director and teacher Dawn Mason.

RINGGOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Leadership Teams



RAM Ambassadors and Lighthouse student leadership teams spearheaded multiple initiatives benefitting their school, peers and the broader community in 2025-26. The teams organized two food drives for the Finleyville Food Bank and collected holiday donations for a local animal shelter. They coordinated fundraising and activities for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to foster a positive and engaging environment. Student leaders also assisted with the Career Fair, showed fourth graders around the building on Step-Up Day and met with school administrators to provide feedback and ideas for improving the overall school experience.

Winter Carnival





Students enjoyed the second annual Winter Carnival in December, participating in winter-themed carnival games, and crafts and enjoying a chance to test athletic and dance skills. Student leadership from both the high school and middle school Lighthouse committees worked with the RMS PBIS team on this successful fundraiser that supports PBIS activities, incentives and rewards distributed to students and staff who demonstrate RMS RAMS Expectations throughout the school year.

Coffee Cart



Student Council members ran the coffee cart at RMS this year. Students worked together to prepare and deliver coffee to teachers throughout the school, helping build responsibility, teamwork and communication skills. It has also given students a chance to interact positively with staff.

RINGGOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NORTH

Elementary Talent Show

District elementary schools jointly hosted their third annual Talent Show, lighting up the stage with twenty dazzling acts–ten from each school. Students sang, danced, performed gymnastics and created a painting live. North's Leadership Team kept the event running smoothly by distributing programs, collecting donations for a family in need and championing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiatives across both schools. The combined Talent Show is part of Ringgold's Strategic Plan for promoting Ringgold as one community.



Glow Week & Art Fair

Glow Week and the Annual Art Fair celebrated student artistic expression while integrating reading, math and science.

Students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school with a "We Shine" theme, wearing neon to create a fun and memorable assembly. The Art Fair featured 100 pieces of student art that was viewed by more than 150 families who saw it illuminated with iridescent paint, demonstrating a unique mixture of art and science. Thanks to the PTA for sponsoring the event and our itinerant teachers for creating the Glow Room.



Robotics Club

Students in the after school Robotics Club advanced their engineering skills through rigorous, hands-on STEM activities orchestrated by their teacher and parents. Funded by a PTA grant, the club completed its second year with each student successfully designing and constructing an innovative engineering invention.



RINGGOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOUTH

Buddy Day

Current kindergarteners welcomed incoming students during "Buddy Day" on May 5. Students from five different pre-k and daycare programs visited kindergarten classrooms where they read books and completed crafts with their kindergarten mentors, learned about the daily kindergarten schedule, and gained the experience of riding the bus to and from the event. We appreciate teachers, our guidance counselor, pre-k staff, and transportation for making this a positive and memorable experience.



Mother and Son Night

More than 130 students and their parents from both elementary schools gathered at the Middle School on May 8 for the "Boots and Bouquets" mother/son activity night. Students created personalized keepsakes that emphasized key aspects about their mothers and denim-themed crafts, enjoyed pizza and cupcakes and tried their luck at winning numerous baskets donated by Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) representatives and community members.



STEM Night

RESS welcomed current and incoming students and their parents to the annual STEM Night this spring. With activity passports in hand, students programmed "Beebots" and used "Indy Robot Cars" to move through obstacles, created movements on smartboards using the Scratch Jr. Coding program, designed and built towers with marshmallows and sticks, completed a coding obstacle course based on athletic movements, and embraced planning strategies to build varied puzzles. Families also participated in the book fair and enjoyed delicious cookies and refreshments. STEM Teacher Ms. Jebose and student and staff volunteers helped make this an engaging and memorable evening for all.





Athletic Awards

Ringgold Boys Basketball Returned to the Playoffs

Ringgold Boys Basketball had a terrific season, qualifying for the playoffs for the first time since 2020. Team members Takeo Tolliver (1st Team) and Dennis Hawkins (2nd Team) made the Big 56 All Conference Team and David Wachinski broke the school record for most steals in a game with 10, besting the previous record of 9 held since 1995. Head Coach Scott Stephenson, who is also Ringgold's Athletic Director, was named the Mon Valley Independent Coach of the Year and the Tri-County Athletic Director's Association Coach of the Year Runner-up.



Ringgold Ice Hockey Skates to PIHL Division 2 Championship

Ringgold Hockey won the PIHL Division 2 Championship, besting Burrell 3-2 in overtime on March 16. The championship capped an extraordinary season for the club team, which includes student athletes from Ringgold as well as the Belle Vernon, Bentworth, California, Charleroi, South Allegheny and Yough school districts. The Rams finished with a 19-5 record and won the 2026 Penn State East vs West Game on April 11. Head Coach Brady Parkinson, the youngest coach in PIHL history to win a championship, also was head coach of the Division 2 Allstars.



2026 Athletes of the Year

McKenna Adams and Amoni Ward are the 2026 Athletes of the Year.



Congratulations, Student Athletes!



McKenna Adams
Volleyball
Washington & Jefferson College



Ty Anderson
Football
Waynesburg University



Imani Arnold
Soccer
PennWest California (PA)



Andrew Barkey
Wrestling
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA)



Dravin Everly
Cross Country
Point Park University



Anthony Koziel
Baseball
PennWest California (PA)



Travis Lutz
Soccer
Marietta College



Alice Ramous
Softball
Chatham College



Mia Scalise
Girls Wrestling
Washington & Jefferson College



Rihanna Tolliver
Girls Wrestling
Washington & Jefferson College



Amoni Ward
Football
Washington & Jefferson College

Around the District

Work Has Begun on Joe Montana Stadium's New Score Board

The design for the new Joe Montana Stadium score board was finalized this spring, work has begun on its foundation, and installation is set for July.

The new video display score board will be bigger and better than its predecessor, said Director of Buildings and Grounds Bill Hoffman. "It's approximately 12-feet tall by 25-feet wide, it can broadcast the previous week's highlights and it contains a new sound system," he said. "Also, an unlimited amount of sponsors can be run across the board for potential income."

Instead of the current location in an end-zone corner, the board, purchased from Daktronics, will stand at the 50-yard line.



Middle School ELA Scope and Sequence Guide Will Map Instruction for Student Success

This spring, Ringgold Middle School teachers began work on a detailed pacing guide to fifth- and sixth-grade English Language Arts (ELA) instruction and assessment.

By establishing what students must learn to meet grade-level standards, when units are taught and a common assessment method, the Scope and Sequence Guide will ensure educational continuity across classrooms, said Administrative Instructional Coach Tim McKay, who is facilitating the process. It will also ensure that students have covered the topics on state assessments prior to testing day, he said.

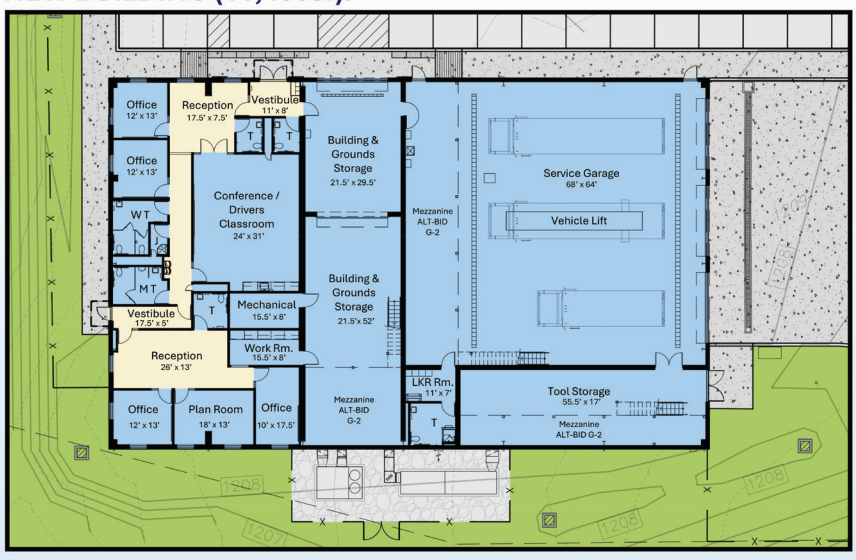
"All students deserve the same educational experience and implementing a Scope and Sequence Guide makes sure everyone is receiving similar instruction," Mr. McKay said. "Because teachers will be using the same assessments, it will also be easier for us to monitor student progress and discern when additional support is needed."

The use of Scope and Sequence Guides also benefits teachers, who will know that every Ringgold student entering their classroom received similar, standards-aligned instruction in the previous grade. Ringgold Middle School teachers will be the first to enjoy that benefit in the 2026-27 school year, since both District elementary schools implemented K-4 ELA & Math Scope and Sequence Guides in the 2025-26 school year.

While the Scope and Sequence Guides detail subject matter and unit order, teachers will continue to create their own lesson plans, tailor instruction to their students, and decide when students are ready for the next unit, Mr. McKay said. For example, elementary teachers opted to review some reading lessons in person when students returned to the classroom after a stretch of remote learning days this past winter.

New Transportation and Buildings and Grounds Building Set to Open in December

NEW BUILDING (11,400sf):



A new 12,000-square-foot steel building that will house the District's Transportation and Buildings and Grounds departments is expected to open in December.

The structure under construction at Ginger Hill will replace the current 100+ year old building that Director of Buildings and Grounds Bill Hoffman described as "deteriorated, dilapidated, and beyond useful function." The replacement includes garage bays for bus and other vehicle maintenance, classrooms, meeting rooms, a locker room and storage space for both departments.

The project also includes site work, including lighting and a canopy over the parking island in the lot where buses and other vehicles are stored. Uhl Construction, A-1 Electric, Wheels Mechanical and Hranec Corp. are expected to complete the entire $9.1 million project in spring 2027, Mr. Hoffman said.

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Meet the Class of 2026 Valedictorian and Salutatorian!



Miranda Santina on the left (Valedictorian) and Ella George on the right (Salutatorian)

Ringgold High School proudly recognizes the outstanding achievements of 2026 Valedictorian Miranda Kay Santina and Salutatorian Ella May George. Miranda will attend the University of Pittsburgh in Greensburg to study management with a concentration in finance. Ella will attend Washington & Jefferson College to study nursing. Their achievements cap off four years of academic effort and excellence. Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!

185 GRADUATES

The class of 2026 **boasts 185 graduates**, more than **$1,165,000 in scholarships and awards**, and future plans that include college, trade school, the military and the workforce.











Student Graduation Speakers

Class President **Andrew Nibbs**: A President's Reflection"

Valedictorian **Miranda Santina**: "Taking Life Seriously"

Salutatorian **Ella George**: "Perspective"

Student Speaker **Giada DeSalve**: "Leaving the Porch Light On"