The Ringgold REVIEW

Timely Information & Updates From Ringgold School District

Fall 2026 - Vol. 8



Dear Ringgold Families,

Welcome to the 2026–27 school year! In this issue of The Ringgold Review, I'm proud to share stories that showcase the ways we are building a bright future together.

Read on to learn about:

- Some of our stellar teachers who creatively help students acquire the knowledge and skills they need for a lifetime of success.
- Upcoming renovations at Ringgold High School that will use input from educators and student leaders to transform outdated classrooms into a cutting-edge learning environment.
- The 2026–27 School District budget, which prioritizes students' needs and supports the people who work with them every day while also respecting our taxpayers. Ringgold has never raised taxes above the Act I Index!
- A high school student and cheesecake entrepreneur who won a business grant because a Mon Valley Business Alliance leader tasted her work at Ringgold Community Day and encouraged her to apply.
- Two new District administrators who bring a wealth of experience in elementary education and transportation services.

These stories highlight what our District achieves when we center the goals of the 2023–28 Strategic Improvement Plan: Creating a learning environment that allows students to reach their full potential and a work culture that supports employee growth, partnering with families and the community, and fostering organizational excellence with a focus on safety, communication, fiscal stewardship and continuous improvement.

I can't wait to see what this incredible learning community does next!

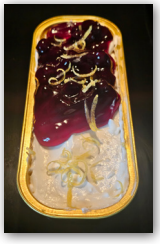
Sincerely,

Randall Skrinjorich

Mr. Randall Skrinjorich
Superintendent of Ringgold School District

RHS Senior Wins $3,000 Mon Valley Business Alliance Grant for Lil' Delights Cheesecakes







Less than a year after making her first cheesecake, Lillian Shvarts sees a sweet future ahead.

When the Ringgold High School and Mon Valley Career and Technology Center Culinary student needed to raise money for a Spring 2026 Family Consumer Science trip to Disney, she turned to dessert. But not just any dessert. "I wanted to do something unique that people around here would really enjoy and that's not so easy to get." Lillian said.

Last December, she made her first-ever cheesecake, then 49 more, for the Range Resources Student Holiday Market and sold out. She made 60 more for Ringgold High School's holiday market and sold out again. "That's when I thought, 'This could be a thing,'" Lillian said, and Lil' Delights Cheesecakes was born.

After enjoying one of Lillian's cheesecakes at Ringgold Community Day this past spring, Mon Valley Business Alliance Director of Business and Community Engagement Tanya Cheney suggested she take an MVBA business course that culminated in pitching her business idea to a panel of judges. In August, Lillian, then 17, won the $3,000 second-prize grant and hopes to buy a mobile food trailer so she can take her 6-ounce cheesecakes to vendor shows across Pennsylvania and beyond. Meanwhile, the RHS senior continues to sell about 100 cheesecakes a month. Oreo, lemon-blueberry, and the seasonal pumpkin are her current top sellers. She takes orders via Instagram, @lil_delights414.

Lillian's cheesecakes also met her original goal, paying her way to Disney, where Ringgold Family Consumer Science students competed at Cooking Around the World, winning a Judges' Award. Lillian was among the 12 out of 750 competitors to bring home a Judge's Spotlight Pin. Ranked third in the state in culinary competitions, she has secured culinary arts scholarships from the Culinary Institute of America and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

"I've found my career path," she said. "I want to delight people with cheesecakes."

New to Our Staff

Meet Our New Coordinator of Elementary Education, David Dunham



Ringgold Coordinator of Elementary Instruction Mr. David Dunham has nearly 30 years of experience serving students, teachers, and school communities in a variety of instructional and leadership roles.

Mr. Dunham was most recently a curriculum specialist and supervisor of educational programs for Intermediate Unit 1, where he supported schools and educators in curriculum, instruction, professional development, school improvement, literacy, career readiness, and instructional coaching. He also supervised the English as a Second Language program, nonpublic school programs, and federal programs.

He believes that all students can learn when we meet them where they are, and he is excited to work alongside Ringgold teachers, administrators, students and families to support continued growth across the District.

Mr. Dunham holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in educational leadership from California University of Pennsylvania (now PennWest California), as well as certifications in K–12 principal leadership, K–12 Spanish, and English Language Arts.

When not at work, he enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and two children and serving his community and church.

Meet Our New Director of Transportation, Keenan Law



Ringgold Director of Transportation Mr. Keenan Law has managed safety and training in the transportation industry for 15 years.

Before joining Ringgold, he was CDL program manager at DMJ Transportation, working with more than 300 drivers from multiple school districts and supervising a team of 14 trainers. Prior to his 13 years in school transportation, Mr. Law was executive leader of logistics for Target.

Mr. Law holds bachelor's degrees in human resources and general management from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He was drawn to his Ringgold position because it allows him to bring all of his previous work experience into one role.

When not working, Mr. Law enjoys spending time with his three children attending their numerous activities.

Upcoming Events

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

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

October

RESN:	**Friday, October 30:** Fall PTA Craft
RESS:	**Thursday, October 22:** Picture Make-Up Day & Title I Night
RESS:	**Friday, October 30:** Fall School-Wide Activities
RHS:	**Thursday, October 15:** FAFSA Information/Completion Night
RHS:	**Thursday, October 15:** Homecoming Bonfire
RHS:	**Friday, October 16:** Homecoming Football Game
RHS:	**Saturday, October 17:** Homecoming Dance (Juniors & Seniors)
RHS:	**Tuesday, October 20:** Fall Drama Show
RHS:	**Wednesday, October 21:** Trunk-or-Treat
RHS:	**Friday, October 30:** Senior Night Football Game & RSD Staff Recognition
RHS:	**Monday, October 25 - Wednesday, December 2:** Foster Love Bag Drive
RHS:	**Tuesday, October 27 - Friday, November 20:** Thanksgiving Food Drive

November

RESN:	**Thursday, November 5:** Veterans Day Luncheon/Assembly
RESN & RESS:	**Tuesday, November 10:** Parent/Teacher Conference Day
RESN & RESS:	**Thursday, November 12:** RESN/RESS Joint Skate
RESS:	**Thursday, November 5:** Veterans Day Program
RMS:	**Monday, November 9:** Veterans Day Program
RMS:	**Tuesday, November 10:** Parent Conferences
RHS:	**Monday, November 2:** Blood Drive
RHS:	**Friday, November 6:** Veterans Day Assembly
RHS:	**Monday, November 9:** Powder Puff Football
RHS:	**Tuesday, November 17:** Winter ASVAB Administration
RHS:	**Monday, November 23 - Wednesday, December 15:** Interact Toy Collection
RHS:	**Monday, November 23 - Wednesday, December 16:** Humane Society Tree Collection
RHS:	**Tuesday, November 24:** Holiday Market

December

RESN:	**Friday, December 18:** Winter Concert Assemblies
RESN:	**Tuesday, December 22:** Winter PTA Craft
RESS:	**Monday, December 7 - Friday, December 11:** Santa's Shop
RESS:	**Friday, December 11:** PBIS Incentive #2
RESS:	**Friday, December 18:** Winter Concert
RESS:	**Tuesday, December 22:** Winter Schoolwide Activities
RMS:	**Thursday, December 10:** 7th & 8th Grade Winter Concert
RMS:	**Tuesday, December 15:** 5th & 6th Grade Winter Concert
RMS:	**Wednesday, December 23:** Winter Carnival
RHS:	**Tuesday, December 2:** Winter Choir and Drama Club Showcase
RHS:	**Monday, December 7 - Tuesday, December 15:** Winter 2026 Keystones
RHS:	**Friday, December 11:** Winter Band & Orchestra Concert
RHS:	**Saturday, December 12:** Breakfast with Santa
RHS:	**Saturday, December 12:** Dress Drive

January

RESN:	**Friday, January 15:** RESN Winter Bingo
RESN:	**Thursday, January 28:** PTA/Community ALICE Presentation
RESS:	**Friday, January 22:** Elementary Band Tour
RESS:	**Monday, January 25 - Friday, January 29:**Book Fair
RMS:	**Thursday, January 28:** 7th & 8th Grade Snowball Dance
RHS:	**Wednesday, January 13:** 8th to 9th Grade Transition Assembly
RHS:	**Saturday, January 16:** Breakfast with Princesses
RHS:	**Saturday, January 16:** Dress Drive
RHS:	**Wednesday, January 20 & Thursday, January 21:** 8th to 9th Grade ELA Assessment
RHS:	**Friday, January 22:** Underclassmen Snowball
RHS:	**Monday, January 25 & Tuesday, January 26:** 8th to 9th Grade Science Assessment
RHS:	**Wednesday, January 27 & Thursday, January 28th:** 8th to 9th Grade Math Assessment

District Construction Updates

New Stadium Score Board Enhances Ringgold Events

With tremendous video capability, state-of-the-art sound system, and a new position right on the 50-yard line, the recently installed 12-feet tall by 25-feet wide score board at Joe Montana Stadium has enhanced the Ringgold event experience!



Design of Ringgold High School Project Phase III Underway

Conversations that will shape the future of Ringgold High School are underway. When Phase III is finished, the 50-year-old school will essentially become a brand-new building. About 95% of educational spaces, such as classrooms, will be redone, with many getting new interior walls to reshape the building for current and future needs. “We are gathering information and speaking to staff and student leaders to find out what everyone needs so that we develop a design that best fits uses,” said Director of Buildings and Grounds Bill Hoffman.

The project is expected to go out to bid in February or March. Phased construction will begin on one cluster of classrooms at a time at the end of the 2026-27 year. Students will remain onsite, but will be kept away from the construction zone. The goal is to have the project completed during the 2028-29 school year.

New Ginger Hill Building Set to Open in February

The District’s Transportation and Buildings and Grounds departments are expected to move into a new 12,000-square-foot steel building at Ginger Hill in February. The building, which will replace a deteriorated, 100+ year old building, includes garage bays for vehicle maintenance, classrooms, meeting rooms, a locker room and storage space for both departments. Completion of the site work, which includes a canopy over the parking island in the lot where buses and other vehicles are stored, is slated for spring or early summer.

Ringgold’s 2026–27 Budget: Investing in Our Students and Our Community

A strong school district is at the heart of a strong community. Ringgold School District’s 2026–27 budget reflects that belief by putting students first, supporting the people who work with them every day, and respecting the taxpayers who make our schools possible.

The $63 million budget continues to invest in classroom instruction, student services, and the programs that help Ringgold students learn, grow, and prepare for their futures. At the same time, the District remains committed to careful financial management. The 2026–27 budget does not require a tax increase above the Act 1 Index, continuing Ringgold’s record of never raising taxes above the Index.

Reaching that balance required thoughtful planning. Like families and businesses across our community, the District is facing higher costs. Transportation expenses, cyber school and charter school tuition, and health insurance costs have all increased. These expenses are part of the District’s responsibility to provide educational opportunities and services to our students.

The budget also recognizes that our employees are an important part of what makes Ringgold a community. This year, the District reached new agreements with teachers, paraprofessionals and administrative assistants, and cafeteria workers. These agreements provide employees with fair and predictable compensation while helping the District better plan for future costs.

These agreements are about more than numbers in a budget. They provide greater stability for our employees and greater predictability for the District as we plan for the years ahead. They also reflect the spirit of cooperation among Ringgold employees, the Administration, and the School Board.

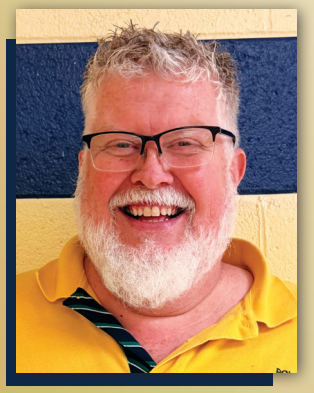
Ultimately, the 2026–27 budget is about making responsible choices for the entire Ringgold community. It is about providing our students with the opportunities they deserve, supporting the employees who serve them, and being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

We are proud of the work that went into developing this budget and grateful to the Ringgold community for its continued support of our schools and, most importantly, our students.

For more information about the 2026–27 budget, please visit the Ringgold School District website at **www.ringgold.org**

To receive future District publications digitally please sign up here.

Feature a Teacher



Mr. Earl Gilpin, Ringgold Elementary School North Art Teacher

When asking RESN students about their favorite teacher, it won't take long to hear Mr. Earl Gilpin's name. A fixture at RESN, Mr. Gilpin has an innate gift to be able to connect with students from all backgrounds in a hands-on, immersive way. Whether using traditional mediums like paint or oil pastels or innovative ones like 3D printing, one thing is for sure—Mr. Gilpin always has something fun, engaging, and educational happening in the art classroom. Even if you haven't gone to RESN, it's likely you've seen his artwork somewhere in a Ringgold publication and maybe not even known it.

"As a new principal in the district, Mr. Gilpin was one of the first teachers I sat and talked with at length this summer," said Ringgold Elementary School North Principal Dr. Eric Lauver. "It was evident from our very first conversation that he is a students-first educator who truly loves and appreciates the Ringgold School District and its residents. His commitment to his craft and to our students sets a tone of leading by example for our newer teachers, and we are blessed to have him as a Ram!"



Ms. Bethany Ripepi, Ringgold Elementary School South Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Bethany Ripepi has been a member of RESS's Kindergarten team for the past 15 years. She began her teaching career 20 years ago at Donora Elementary Center, where she served as a fourth grade and Title 1 Math teacher. Throughout her educational journey, Ms. Ripepi has taught at numerous grade levels, but she shares that her passion is helping young learners at the Kindergarten level build the foundational skills they need to be successful.

Through her time in Kindergarten, Ms. Ripepi has demonstrated the ability to build great relationships with students and families, using transparency and effective communication to show her genuine investment in the social, behavioral, and academic progress of her students. She also works extremely well with her team to develop collaborative activities that benefits all Kindergarten students. In her time outside of the classroom, Ms. Ripepi enjoys spending time with her family.



Mrs. Katrina Steingrabe, Ringgold Middle School Autistic Support Teacher

At RMS and in her District-wide special education leadership role, advocating for students is Mrs. Katrina Steingrabe's top priority.

A District parent herself, Mrs. Steingrabe excels at forging relationships with students and their families. Her knowledge of the District helps her ensure Ringgold is an inclusive environment where every student has the resources they need to thrive. She also plans field trips designed to help our students with IEPs gain real-life experiences that help prepare them for the future. Mrs. Steingrabe shares her expertise across the District, preparing and delivering professional development and mentoring other teachers.

"I had the pleasure of working with Katrina at another school district over 15 years ago, and when I had the opportunity to hire her at Ringgold, I did not hesitate," said Ringgold Middle School Principal Kenny Patterson. "I appreciate everything she does for the District and our students."



Mrs. Mandy Lutska, Ringgold High School Health Teacher

For the past 22 years, Mrs. Mandy Lutska has been more than a Health teacher at Ringgold High School. She has been a mentor, coach, advocate, supporter, and someone who believes deeply in the potential of every student who walks through her classroom door.

Ms. Lutska also brings her passion for helping others into the area of emergency preparedness. As a certified American Heart Association CPR instructor, she teaches students lifesaving skills.

She is the proud sponsor of The Future Is Mine and the Ringgold Unified Club, two programs that give students opportunities to connect, build friendships, serve their community, and discover that everyone has something valuable to contribute. She also coaches Unified Bocce, where competition becomes about so much more than winning.

"Mandy has the innate ability to bring students, staff, and families together as one cohesive team dedicated to supporting and celebrating the success of every special needs student with her infectious energy, respect for others, and empathetic nature," said Ringgold High School Principal Dr. Tiffany Bevard.