

November 23, 2021

Dear West Ridge Families,

We have had a wonderful fall at West Ridge! We are excited about having all students back in person and for the opportunity to impact your children on a daily basis. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve the academic, social and emotional capacity of every single one of our students. The school report card is one resource we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute ([Wis. Stat. 115.385](#)) to generate a school report card and district report card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. The report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to celebrate successes and improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. These public report cards can be found online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The current **school report card is primarily based on last year's performance during the 2020-21 school year**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings on the 2020-21 report cards.

At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Achievement** - proficiency in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments
- **Growth** - year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- **Target Group Outcomes** - outcomes for students with the lowest test scores: the Target Group.
- **On-Track to Graduation** - reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education.

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed on the front page of the school or district report cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a "percent correct" measurement. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

Overall, West Ridge scored a 54.6 which "Meets Few Expectations." While we expected to see a dip in overall performance based on the lingering impact of the global pandemic, we want you



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to know that our staff is committed to closing the gaps that have accrued over the past year and a half. It also is important to note that not every student took the Forward Exam last school year due to several families choosing to remain in remote learning upon the choice to return to school in March 2021. We are committed to working collaboratively with all of our families in order to get our students to where they need to be academically.

I want to share these results with you because they help illuminate some of our successes and help pinpoint areas of focus in Racine Unified School District. As DPI stresses, these report cards are just one source of information about our school. Over my tenure at West Ridge the past five years, our building has gradually decreased suspension/ODR (Office Discipline Referrals) data while gradually increasing academically in our MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) data year after year in both math and reading, but also we have increased in both math and reading from Fall to Spring annually.

School and district report cards can be accessed online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> along with resources that explain the report cards. I have included the report card for West Ridge here as well. Our school report card is also posted on our school site which can be accessed from the RUSD website at [www.rusd.org](http://www.rusd.org).

Please let me know your thoughts and questions as they arise. I look forward to working with you to make 2021-22 a successful school year for all of our students! I also encourage every family to reach out to your school teacher if you have not already done so in order to find out what specific activities/skills you can work on with your child at home. Collectively, we will overcome the deficits from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'TJ George'.

TJ George

“Empowering students to achieve academic and social success.”