

The Golden Bell Award Application

Ripon Unified School District
Legacy Leadership
Ripon High School

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Category: High School
Program Category: Expanded Learning & Engagement

Program Initiated: August thru May 2011-2019

Program Significance: (149 words)

Legacy Leaders work each day to bring the student body significant and empowering activities to show pride in our school. Members of student council are full of enthusiasm, grit, and dedication. Our Learning Goal is to be MINDFUL of our actions and professionalism as we create events for the betterment of our school culture at Ripon High School. A leader, as defined by this program, is a person who is a positive role model that can influence others by their own personal actions. A leader must model the behavior desired by participates in the task at hand. In developing our young leaders, it is essential to teach/provide/guide them with tools that will allow them to become a professional developing leadership skills. It is valuable to incorporate curriculum within our leadership program that addresses and applies to professionalism along with leaving a legacy here at the world's greatest high school.

Overall Program Description: (4 pages, double spaced, font size 11 pt, times new roman)

The Need for the Program:

This program is designed to teach the soft skills, hard skills, grit, and professionalism needed to be successful at the next level of education and within the work force. We emphasize team work, dependability, research skills event planning and academic achievement.

Program Goals & Objectives:

We are One! We are a family. We value our time together in every moment; from the crazy, busy schedule of a Spirit Week, to the stress of planning 100 events in 180 days of the school year, and to creating unique handshakes with partners in class – we are one unit. Together we laugh, we cry, we debate, we fail, and we succeed. Together, “We is one.”

We Fail Forward - In creating and executing traditional activities or new ones, we look to our successes and failures in order to push forward and to improve year after year. We spend time looking back on events we have completed, reflecting on the positives and the negatives. We strive to be better and to do more for the student body of Ripon High School.

Leadership is a Behavior, not a Position - It is an honor to hold a position in the leadership program, not a right. We take this honor seriously and know that our actions speak louder than our words. Teachers, students, parents and community members notice our behavior through our activities. Our attitude shapes not only our own class work ethic, but that of the entire student body. We must go above and beyond during our spirit days in order to lead our campus by example. We are role models, for our entire school.

Finding Your Why - In the quest to understand our individual and collective purpose we often ask, “Why?” Why do we do what we do? Why are we here? This journey is not only for the individual who is reaching for goals and aspirations in the future, but it is to create a positive school culture for every person on our campus. Our, “Why?” is never ending and is always evolving. Our, “Why?” keeps our program alert and aware of what we stand for. With our, “We Is One,” goal we can work to be strong, kind, giving and so much more for ourselves, our friends, teachers, staff, student body and our community.

Program Outcomes Through the Promotion of Academic Achievement

Ripon High’s Student Council program has been an A-G college prep course since 2016. The curriculum designed for the program meets each standard required by the state to meet qualifications to be college prep. This program is responsible for a multitude of activities at RHS along with curriculum development. Once such example is the Mock Interview event, now in its 6th season. Mock Interviews within the Student Council class are designed to pair a professional in an interested career choice with a student who is interested in that field. The student spends much of the year researching this job, completes a resume & cover letter, and sits down to be formally interviewed by the professional in that career. Time after time, when talking with current students or alumni of the program, it is stated this is one of the most impactful events which affects a student’s life. During this current year professionals, including nine alumni, participated.

Innovative Program

Ripon High School’s Legacy Leader Program is exemplary. Below are established events that show validity and significance.

- The Tribe Award: An event that has been a part of RHS for the past two years. This event supports the relationships built in a positive school culture. A teacher nominates and presents a student with a medallion of honor which represents integrity, moral character, kindness, triumph, resilience and more. The medallion received can be worn by a student when they graduate at RHS.
- The Grateful Graduate: A senior has an opportunity to show gratitude to a teacher that has made an impact on their life. They write a formal letter of thanks, dress in their cap and gown, and walk into a teacher’s class to surprise them and share their words.
- Kyoto Cultural Exchange: RHS takes in over 40 students from Kyoto Japan each year to share American culture with them. We have a cultural exchange rally for the whole school with performances from various groups at RHS and from our Japanese students. We share the love of sports, agriculture, and shopping in the states. We have a banquet with various styles of cultural food to share with our Kyoto family. Lasting bonds and friendships are formed.
- For the 2018-2019 school year, the Leadership program was awarded the Outstanding Leadership Program from the California Association of Student Leaders (CASL) at the state level. This award is given only to the top 5% of high schools in the State of California. To qualify, the Leadership program had to write a self-study on our impact here at Ripon High and how we create a positive

school culture daily. We also attended the state conference where leadership skills were taught and motivational speakers provided knowledge, tools, and enthusiasm to help our program grow.

- College Reveal: For the past four years, seniors have had the opportunity to walk the red carpet, be photographed, and announce the college they will attend. Students who qualify to participate are those who are going to a four-year university, junior college, tech school, or military. It is a night to celebrate students who wish to pursue education past high school along with acknowledging all their hard work.

The Board's Vision

The Superintendent and the Board of Trustees of Ripon Unified have fully supported the work done by the Student Council program at RHS. Through teaching lessons in the classroom, to coming to events, to positive comments made – our board knows and appreciates the impact that Student Council makes on our campus.

The board's vision includes the following and how it directly relates to the Legacy Leader Program:

- Learning Environment – Effective, engaging and innovative through the A-G approved curriculum.
- Fiscal Accountability – Completes budgets, fundraisers under the guidelines of board policy, approved Constitution, and formal ASB meetings to approve funds spent on activities and events for the student body.
- Teamwork – Together the students, staff, and administration work to create inclusive events for the student body of RHS.
- Continuous Improvement – The Activities Director is a part of the California Association of Directors of Activities as the Assistant Coordinator to Area A. Here the AD gains knowledge and skills from others around the state learning new tools of teaching and activities to implement. Equally, the role of the AD at RHS is one of teaching and execution of conferences state wide.
- Facilities – Together we work to provide safe and appropriate events in our facilities at RHS from the gyms, to the football field, to our amphitheater.
- Governance – We connect with our elementary schools via 8th grade welcome day, 8th grade parent night, Link Crew, The Grateful Graduate, and our shadowing program. Together our goal is to help and support staff and students while being prepared for college and career ready.

Sustainability

Students in the program work yearly to fundraise \$10,000 to support their expenses. Our student store operates to provide student council with funds to execute events on campus. The staff and administration support through participation of events. For example: Flash mobs at rallies, Trunk or Treat for Halloween, attending sport events, chaperones at dances, participation in Every 15 Minutes, The Tribe Award, Professional Mock Interviews, and walking with seniors in their graduation ceremony.

Replicable

In March 2019, the Activities Director of Ripon High School received the Area A Service Award. This award is given to a member of the CADA organization based on their service and guidance to helping other programs state wide and nationwide. Through professional speaking and providing conferences in the local area – the AD has shared much of what Ripon High accomplishes within a school year.

Through these shared resources and communication, RHS has helped many schools take our events and curriculum and execute them at their own sites.

Please provide a comment suitable for publication from the program lead, superintendent, or board president: How has this program made a difference for students?

Please include tangible evidence of board support and leadership through the submission of Board Agenda and/or Meeting Minutes. (cannot exceed 2 pages in length)



