



A Word from Dr. Pfeiffer

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year. As your superintendent I can enthusiastically say that we are off to an exceptional beginning and, as is indicative of our Neenah Rockets, the sky is the limit! Our students are outstanding, our staff is amazing, and our community continues its

support of our schools and the advancement of student learning. Neenah is a very special place.

This year, we continue to focus on the following District initiatives:

1. **Resources** – make the most of District resources (i.e. personnel, technology, finance, facilities)
2. **Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment** – research-based instruction using benchmark, formative, and summative assessments
3. **Supervision & Evaluation** – implement a meaningful model for supervision, evaluation, and professional development

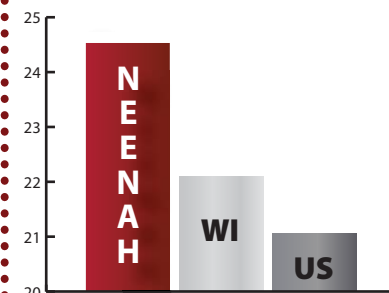
4. **Communications** – build internal and external trust by developing and implementing a defined communication process

The core of our strategic objective is to remain focused on student learning with an eye on becoming the finest school system in the state. While focusing on the above goal, we will always continue to work closely with our community concerning finance and its implications on our taxpayers. The good news includes:

- **Our staff remains committed to supporting students and their educational advancements!**
- **Class size average at the elementary level has decreased!**
- **Programs and opportunities for our students have been maintained!**
- **We have developed Version 1 of our *Digital Conversion Plan!***
- **We have a balanced budget for the 2011-12 school year and have decreased taxes for Neenah Joint School District residents!**

I invite you to read more about the great things that are happening in our District through our website. As always, we encourage you to consider becoming involved by attending our meetings or providing suggestions and feedback at **920-751-6800 ext. 105**.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - 2009/2010 ACT Test Scores Neenah Ranks #1 in Fox Valley ACT Composite



Once again, Neenah is the top-ranked school district in the Fox Valley region in each of the four subject areas including reading, English, math, and science. Additionally, Neenah had the highest composite score of 24.5. Currently, Neenah has the 12th highest ACT score of 426 school districts in Wisconsin.

This achievement is reflective of our outstanding students, staff, and parents.

NJSD Meets Wisconsin State Budget Challenges, Maintains Core Objectives, and Reduces Tax Levy

Hard Work and Commendable Efforts for a District that Ranks Among the Highest Achieving and Lowest Tax Levy Rates in the Fox Valley Area!

On March 1, 2011, Governor Walker delivered his State of Wisconsin budget address to a very interested state audience. The budget proposal significantly reduced state aid to K-12 schools and essentially prohibited school districts from increasing property taxes to make up for any loss of revenue.

The state budget, containing numerous changes to school funding, was signed into law by Governor Walker on June 26, 2011. The collective bargaining legislation (Wisconsin Act 10) became law on June 28, 2011 - two days before the beginning of the school district's new fiscal year.

Suddenly, but not unexpectedly, the District found itself needing to reduce the 2011-12 budget by approximately \$4.6 million. A portion of the needed expenditure reductions would come from legally mandated changes to their pension plan (Wisconsin Retirement System). Other legislative changes allowed for the District to receive greater contributions toward the cost of their health and dental insurance plans.

With the assistance of the new state laws and by identifying new strategic opportunities, the **District has not only met its expenditure reduction goal of \$4.6 million but it was able to maintain programs that are central to the District's core values. The student to teacher ratio in kindergarten is the lowest it (cont. page 2)**

YEAR	NJSD Budget Reduction	Tax Rate per \$1000	Average Elementary Class Sizes (Enrollment)	Avg. ACT Score	AP Test Scores (3 or higher)
2008-09	\$900,000	\$8.06	23.1 (2,681)	24.4	72.4%
2009-10	\$1.6 million	\$8.51	23.1 (2,700)	24.9	79.2%
2010-11	\$2.8 million	\$8.81	23.5 (2,748)	24.5	73.6%
2011-12	\$4.6 million	\$8.57	22.4 (2,760)	TBD	TBD

NJSD Meets Wisconsin State Budget Challenges (from page 1)

RESULT - Despite declining State of Wisconsin funds, the District's total tax levy **DECREASED** by 2.4%

HOW? - Strong efforts across the gamut of our District. All should be recognized and commended for their hard work!



has been in many years; a plan to provide all students with advanced, mobile technology has been initiated, (see page 6 for more), and the District continues to aggressively address its long term obligations.

On November 1, 2011 the Board of Education (BOE) adopted the 2011-12 budget and certified the 2011-12 school property tax levy. The total budget decreased by over 8 percent from the prior year due in large part to employees paying for more of their own benefit costs. The equalized property tax rate (for school purposes) declined by 2.4% from the previous year. The equalized property tax rate for the Neenah Joint School District is among the lowest in the Fox Valley Area.

The development and implementation of the 2011-12 budget is essentially complete and management of the budget continues on a daily basis. While maintaining a focus on student learning, we continue to look for additional opportunities to save money for District taxpayers.

Resources: For more information regarding the District's budget, please see past NJSD Dialogue Issues:

Fall 2010 - BOE Adopts Budget; Sets Property Tax Levy
page 2 - www.neenah.k12.wi.us/publications/dialogue/NJSD%20Dialogue%20Fall%202010.pdf

Spring 2011 Page 1 in Dr. Pfeiffer's Letter
www.neenah.k12.wi.us/publications/dialogue/NJSD%20Dialogue%20Spring%202011.pdf

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Lakeview Elementary's Family Fun Run/Walk
Saturday, January 28 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Neenah High School Field House
1275 Tullar Rd.

Variety of basket raffles will be available - tickets are \$1 and may be purchased in advance or the day of the run/walk
More info: jmkroth@aol.com or 751-6965

NJSD takes on Bullying Barbara Coloroso Presents to Staff and Community



We Can All Do This Together - On Wednesday, September 28, during the District-wide Fall In-service, all staff were treated to a presentation about bullying, by expert Barbara Coloroso. Coloroso is an internationally recognized speaker in the areas of parenting, teaching, school discipline, non-violent conflict resolution, and reconciliatory justice. She is also the author of five international best-sellers, including her books *kids are worth it!* and *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander*.

Thanks to our sponsors, NJSD was able to open our in-service doors to educational staff from over 18 local school districts. For two hours staff learned strategies on how to identify and deal with bullying situations. Barbara entertained, enlightened, and educated as she explained the importance of addressing bullying behaviors early on. Staff then divided into smaller groups and were led in discussion by the NHS LAUNCH Leaders, breakout sessions coordinated by Mr. Chad Buboltz and Mr. Brian Borchardt.

In the evening, Coloroso presented to parents and community members from throughout the Fox Valley. She explained how parents are crucial in helping raise kind children. Parents and teachers alike praised the program, exclaiming: "**Wow! Amazing information and knowledge! Wish this would have been available to my parents!**" and "**One of the best (programs) NJSD has offered.**"

This program was sponsored by the **John J. and Ethel D. Keller Fund** within the **Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region**, the **NJSD Student Assistance Program**, the **Educational Foundation of Neenah (EFN)**, and the **Neenah Education Association (NEA)**. The entire event was organized by the **NHS School Climate Committee and NJSD Student Assistance Program**. For more information about Coloroso or to hear an audio clip of her presentation visit www.neenah.k12.wi.us/sap.

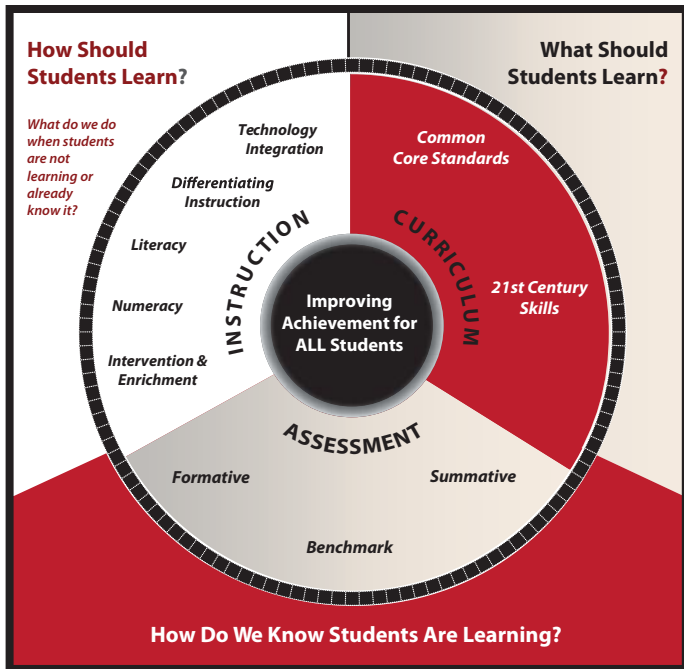
Opera for the Young performs Hansel and Gretel
Tuesday, April 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Coolidge Elementary's Gymnasium
321 Alcott Drive

This is a free event, thanks to our sponsors: **Performing Arts for Youth** and the **Educational Foundation of Neenah (EFN)**
More info: 751-6955

A Passion for Excellence - Improving Student Achievement

How Should Students Learn? The Framework for Student Success is a guide for improving achievement for all students in the Neenah Joint School District (NJSD). In a previous Dialogue article, the question of what students should learn was answered, in part, with the Common Core State Standards. Continuing the series, “A Passion for Excellence – Improving Student Achievement,” this edition of the Dialogue focuses on how students should learn. Additionally, it addresses what the District does when students are challenged with learning or already know the material.



Neenah Joint School District Framework for Student Success

Technology Integration and Differentiated Instruction

Learning for all students starts at the universal or classroom level. To aid in meeting the varied needs of our students in the classroom, NJSD staff has been participating in a multi-year professional development plan around differentiating instruction. Incorporating learning opportunities that match students’ interests, learning styles, and readiness for the information are common ways to differentiate instruction.

This year’s professional learning plan integrates differentiated instruction with technology, which is a natural partnership. Integrating differentiated instructional practices with technology devices and applications will enhance student engagement and learning. Chris Lehman, Principal of the Science Leadership Academy, Philadelphia, PA, captured this relationship when he said, “We will begin to shift the focus from learning tools to learning with tools.”

Neenah has established high expectations regarding how we want students to learn and is excited about the new challenges and learning opportunities that the integration of differentiated instructional practices and technology brings to our staff and students. To learn more about differentiation, please see

this issue’s article, *Maximizing Student Potential through Differentiation at Tullar Elementary*. In addition, the article regarding *Putting Technology into the Hands of Students* reveals more about NJSD’s technology initiative.

Literacy and Numeracy - Literacy and numeracy are cornerstones of successful student learning. For the past five years, every school in the NJSD has developed school improvement plans that include lofty yet attainable goals and action steps to improve student learning in both of these content areas. School improvement plans are organized around curriculum, instruction and assessment, classroom interventions, technology integration, and student, family, and community support. We have high expectations for ourselves in literacy and numeracy and we are committed on a daily basis to achieve our goals.

Intervention and Enrichment - We want our students to learn in a classroom environment that is constantly diagnosing individual and group needs and prescribing enrichment and intervention activities based on individual levels of achievement. The academic needs of most students are met at the universal level. However, if student achievement through a number of measures, including formal and informal assessments and teacher observation, indicates that the student has already mastered the material or needs further assistance, teachers respond based on the student’s individual needs.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC CONCERTS - PUBLIC WELCOME

- Nov. 29 - Shattuck **Orchestra** - 7:00 p.m. Shattuck Auditorium
- Dec. 1 - Shattuck **Band** - 7:30 p.m. Shattuck O.J. Gym
- Dec. 6 - Shattuck **Choir** - 7:30 p.m. Shattuck O.J. Gym
- Dec. 8 - Horace Mann **Band & Strings** - 7:30 p.m. Horace Mann Gym
- Dec. 13 - Horace Mann **Choir** - 7:30 p.m. Horace Mann Gym

ELEMENTARY MUSIC CONCERTS - PUBLIC WELCOME

All at NHS’s Pickard Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

- Dec. 5 - **Lakeview** - 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 6 - **Wilson** - 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 8 - **Hoover / Taft** - 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 13 - **Tullar** - 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 14 - **Roosevelt** - 6:30 p.m. at Roosevelt
- Dec. 15 - **Coolidge** - 6:30 p.m.

Meet our New Principals

Neenah Joint School District welcomed three new Principals this year: Shattuck Principal Mrs. Stephanie Phernetton, Shattuck Associate Principal Mr. Chad Buboltz, and Wilson Principal Mr. Ryan Hammerschmidt.

What was the last job you had before assuming your new roles?

Mr. Hammerschmidt: I was Principal at North and Spring Valley Elementary in Antigo, WI for the past three years.

Mrs. Phernetton: I was Principal of Case High School in Racine, WI. Like every job I've had, my favorite part was working with the kids!

Mr. Buboltz: I've spent the last twelve years teaching Social studies and most recently at Neenah High School. I loved being on the front lines educating students and valued the relationships I was able to create with students and colleagues every day.

Mr. Buboltz, what do you love most about your job?

Mr. Buboltz: My job presents me with new opportunities each day. In one work day, I can engage students in conversations about learning and growing. I can discuss curriculum and the state of education with teachers. I can discuss sports with some of the best coaches around. I can discuss the stage with our young actors and their directors. I can learn new perspectives from our support staff and be challenged by parents who stretch my thinking. That's a busy day and what's really exciting is *every day is like that!*

What's your biggest goal this year?

Mrs. Phernetton and Mr. Buboltz: We'd like to challenge our students and staff to learn as much as they can, have fun while they're doing it, and always be kind to one another. We'd also like to reconnect with our community and take Shattuck, an already outstanding school community, to the next level.

Mr. Hammerschmidt: I'm learning as much as I can about Wilson. With being new to Wilson, getting to know the students, families, and past history is vitally important.

What do you love most about Neenah?

All: Neenah as a community takes pride in who they are. From the athletic field, to organizations, to small businesses and corporations, to the teachers and students in their classrooms, each member of this community takes tremendous pride in being the best place to live and learn in our state. We feel very fortunate to be a part of that!

What do you like to do in your free time?

Mr. Buboltz: My family is my free time. I have two children ages eleven



Mrs.
Phernetton

Mr.
Buboltz

Mr.
Hammerschmidt

and eight, and my wife's and my parents still live in the area along with all our siblings, their spouses, and their children.

Mrs. Phernetton: I spend time with my new baby boy, Easton, and my husband Adam. We also like to fish, boat, and I really enjoy gardening and travelling.

Mr. Hammerschmidt: I love to be outside hunting, fishing, golfing, or just spending time with my wife, daughters, and my three-legged lab.

Mr. Hammerschmidt, what do you think about elementary kids?

I love them! In elementary, every day is a different adventure, but no matter what, the kids love their principal.

Mrs. Phernetton, what do you think about middle school kids?

I think this is the funniest, most enjoyable group by far. Students at this age are smart, goofy, can still laugh at themselves, and care a great deal about their peers. This is the time when students should try new things, get involved, and discover new interests and talents. They are good people and we can all learn from them!

What message would you like to send to your students?

All: Do your best, work hard, have fun, celebrate success, learn from your mistakes, and be kind to one another!

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CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS throughout NJSD!

Community Connections share pictures & news from all our schools. Find them on the left-hand side of our website, www.neenah.k12.wi.us

**Hoover Basket Raffle, Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo
Sunday, February 19 from 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

Hoover Elementary Gym

950 Hunt Avenue

\$1 raffle tickets may be purchased in the office

Phone: (920) 751-6960

Prize list online at: <http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/ho/pto>

Meet our New Teachers



First row, left to right: **Brenda Rahmlow, Ashley Baumler, Gina Connor, Vicky McDonald, Mandy Froehlich.** Second row: **Anna Zimmers, Jessica Bayer, Emma Bobholz, Samantha Kalmerton, Allison Schwaab, Katherine Jones, Stephanie Dembiec, Maria Biebel.** Third row: **Emily Huss, Virginia Greer, Kristi Hooyman, Erica Bowers, Matthew Becker, Peter Keys, Danielle Dercks, Nicole Lecker, Debra Elmer, Timothy Kachur, Sue Buss, Meghan Frazier, Kelly Steinke, Allison Sherman, Katherine Connor.**

Not Pictured: **Michelle Halfman, Lisa Weiss, and Karalyn Dehn.**

This year, Neenah welcomed thirty-one new teachers across our District. We ask that you take the time to welcome them to our community and help them in their transitions. We are very excited to have them as part of our team and our Neenah community.

NJSD Winter Weather Closing Procedures

The Neenah Joint School District provides transportation for approximately 3,000 of its 6,400 students. Under normal circumstances, a decision to close or delay school is predicated on the safe transportation of our children to and from school and **will generally be made no later than 6:00 a.m.** This will provide time for local radio and television stations to broadcast school closings, allow time for the bus contractor to notify drivers not to report, and allow time for parents to make day care arrangements for children who will be staying home. Safety for children, employees, and parents is the overriding factor in making the decision to close school.

Generally when school is closed, all after-school activities will also be canceled. When a decision is made to close the Neenah Public Schools, it has been agreed that all private schools being served with transportation in the District will also be closed. It should be noted that in the past there has been some confusion when the announcements have referenced the "Lena Schools" rather than the Neenah Schools. The following radio and television stations will be contacted to broadcast any school closing announcements:

Radio Stations: WNAM/WOSH/WWWX/WVBO/WPKR; WEMI/WEMY; KFIZ; WTAQ/WNFL/WOZZ/WROE/WZBY/ WNCY / WIXX; WHBY/WAPL/WECB/WZOR/WSCO/KISS FM **Television Stations:** WBAY-TV 2; WLUK-TV FOX 11; WRFV-TV 5; WGBA-NBC 26. You may also obtain messages about school closings via the NJSD Website: neenah.k12.wi.us, find us on **Twitter** as **NeenahSchools**, or find us on **Facebook** as **Neenah Joint School District**.

Neenah High School Holiday Concert - Public Welcome

Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Pickard Auditorium, NHS
1275 Tullar Rd.

Community iPad Night at Horace Mann Middle School

Monday, Nov. 21 from 6:00. - 8:15 p.m.

Curious about iPads? Please join us! Students and staff will lead interactive stations showing the community a variety of ways the iPad is used in the classroom. **Community members will rotate through sessions learning while using the iPads.**

For more info call Brian Wunderlich at 751-6940 ext 135

Technology in Action

Putting Technology into the Hands of Students

On August 16, 2011, Neenah Joint School District's Board of Education approved its Digital Conversion Plan. The plan unifies the curricular and technological goals of our District to best prepare students for learning and working in this technological age. The proposal includes a move to a technology-rich learning environment where resources, activities, and engaging assignments can be accessed through portable learning devices by all students. The use of technology, combined with good teaching practices, will produce key student deliverables.



For more information on iPads and education, please see: www.apple.com/education/ipad or www.apple.com/education/apps/

1. TESTING iPads IN SELECT CLASSROOMS

NJSD plans to integrate portable learning devices at all grade levels over a progression of time. As part of its 2011 investment, NJSD purchased 240 iPads for 6th graders at Horace Mann Middle School. This allows one learning device for every two students, otherwise known as a 1:2 model. We also have class sites at Hoover (two 5th grades) and two class sites at Roosevelt/Alliance (one 5th grade and a combined 4th/5th grade) who will test iPads in a one device per one student (1:1) model.

All classroom teachers will undergo extensive training on how to use the iPad in the classroom setting and more importantly, how to transform the way they teach to incorporate immediate access to resources, higher level thinking skills, and curriculum related real-world problem-solving.

NJSD technology mentors are currently working with a single iPad in their classroom and will eventually have small iKits available to them. The iKit will have 10-15 iPads in it for check out and student use in the classroom. We will also form small student advisory committees to provide feedback as to how the iPads impact student learning.

It is an exciting time for the field of education. Technology advances at rates faster than ever before. We acknowledge that we are teaching and training our students for jobs that have not even been invented yet . . .

What we do know is that their job will involve higher level thinking skills and will require the use of technology to create, collaborate, communicate, and adapt to change. With our conversion to more digital resources, NJSD students are receiving a firm foundation in curriculum powered by technology.

2. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2012

Early in 2012, we will evaluate the implementation of portable devices in the classroom. The results of the evaluation will lead to the next steps of our digital conversion plan.

The District will hold a series of community sessions to explain the digital conversion process as well as sponsor educational sessions to help all parents learn about technology and education in NJSD. Tentative dates for these events, are listed in our events section at the bottom of this page.

For more information, please see the following resources:

1. Previous NJSD Dialogue articles accessible via the Publications page of our website www.neenah.k12.wi.us/publications:
2. Digital Conversion Plan - www.neenah.k12.wi.us/adm/technology/NJSD%20Digital%20Conversion%202011.pdf
3. Digital Conversion Budget - www.neenah.k12.wi.us/adm/technology/DigitalConversionBudget.pdf

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UPCOMING NJSD TECHNOLOGY FORUMS

Tentative Dates, please check our website for time confirmation & location
November 30 - The Digital Conversion Plan: What does it mean for our District?
January 30 - Social Networking with expert Justin Patchin from UW-Eau Claire
February 28 - Hands-on with social networking
March 28 - Curriculum powered by technology
April 30 - A year in review: The Digital Conversion Test Pilots (outlined above)

A Night at the "Cotton Club"

Featuring: **Neenah High School Jazz Ensemble**
Neenah High School Cafeteria
Saturday, January 21 - 6:00 p.m.
Tickets must be purchased in advance from NHS Student Services
NHS - 1275 Tullar Rd.
Phone: (920) 751-6900

Rocket Homecoming - 2011

School Spirit and Another Football Victory for Neenah



Homecoming Week September 19-23, 2011

The Rockets defeated Fond du Lac 28-7 in front of a large crowd at Rocket Stadium in an event that included the marching band's debut halftime performance of the season and recognition of Neenah's 2001 WIAA playoff team. Neenah High School teacher Janine Abt was even thrust into the spotlight by accepting a halftime marriage proposal from her boyfriend Mike Balistreri, who was part of the 2001 team recognition.

Students and staff participated in school spirit days throughout the week that included Up North Day, Class Color Day, Superhero Day, Favorite Character Day, and Red and White Day. Students also took part in float building activities throughout the week with their respective classes and various clubs.

Homecoming day opened with the morning pep assembly and a performance from the Neenah High School marching band. Each of the fall sports teams and activities were recognized and the classes participated in a cheering contest and a relay race. The DECA Club held a fashion show to exhibit its newest Rocket merchandise, the spirit squad performed a dance routine, and Detective Pat Pedersen entertained the students by performing two songs. The king and queen of the homecoming court, Charles McDonald and Sarah Sausen, were also revealed.

The parade drew a large gathering along Wisconsin Avenue and had outstanding participation from the student body. The marching bands and spirit squads from both Neenah High School and Shattuck Middle School participated along with numerous other groups from both schools.

The homecoming dance was held on Saturday night in the high school cafeteria and drew one of the biggest crowds in recent history with nearly 1,400 students in attendance.

Congratulations to the students and staff at Neenah High School on another memorable homecoming week!

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Did you KNOW?

Neenah's ABC (Academic Booster Club) has resources on its website devoted to helping students and their families.

1. Literacy Presentations
2. Best Reads List
3. Math and the Curricular Path

www.neenah.k12.wi.us/organizations/abc/resources

Please check back periodically for upcoming forums and updates.

Join our NJSD Board of Education Meetings

Held on the **first** and **third Tuesday** of the month, unless otherwise noted, at **7:00 p.m.** Public is welcome!

NJSD Administration Building, 410 S. Commercial, Neenah

Maximizing Student Potential Through Differentiation at Tullar Elementary



Life in a Second Grade Math Classroom - Neenah Joint School District encourages differentiation in all classrooms in order to maximize student potential along ALL levels. This means teaching to individual student needs, not to a whole class as if they all have the same knowledge when a unit is entered.

At Tullar Elementary School, second grade teachers, Jennifer Michalkiewicz, Lisa Cummings, and Kat Weiler, in conjunction with Math Support Specialist, Amy Vosters differentiate in math for every unit, all year, every day, and with every student through flexible grouping.

What is flexible grouping? Flexible grouping is a model where all students are placed in instructional groups that may change for each concept area. Groups are based on each student's performance, ability level, and need. Flexible grouping enables teachers more time to provide focused instruction to a narrower range of students. Some students demonstrate they have mastered certain skills and concepts, other students show that they still need help with particular skills. The goal of flexible grouping is to ensure that all students are being challenged and are not taught beyond their instructional level.

Increased focused instruction promotes higher student achievement, because the focused groups enable teachers **"to create in depth and unique programming that meets the changing needs of students,"** explains Mrs. Vosters. Mrs. Michalkiewicz agreed, **"In one class, we can cover a standard number line from 1-10. In another class, we can discuss number lines from negative to double or triple-digit numbers. It's a great opportunity to celebrate math diversity and exploration!"** The flexibility to move students from one group to another is an essential component that keeps them engaged and challenged.

Compare this new learning environment to the old school model where students received advanced or remedial instruction based on an annual test score. Now, with more frequent and specific testing, all students are given the opportunity to switch back and forth to study curriculum comfortably within like knowledge groups. They are able to shift from group to group for every unit based on their skills knowledge as demonstrated in classrooms as well as on pre-and post-assessments. **"One student, for example, might really excel when it comes to telling time, but struggle with problem solving. The student is able to participate in a group that matches their readiness level for each concept area,"** explained Mrs. Weiler.

By providing this type of fluidity, student learning is fine-tuned according to student needs, growth, and comfort level. Teachers are better able to instruct to student needs, because they are instructing to fewer levels of variability in a given lesson, (2-3 math skill levels instead of 6-8). With three groups of focused instruction, students are able to shine in classrooms when they otherwise may have been intimidated by faster or more vocal student peers. Mrs. Cummings affirmed they all have **"seen a lot of improvement in the students' math confidence and leadership skills across all levels. The kids have enthusiastically increased their speed and accuracy in standard math drills."**

What does this look like in Tullar classrooms? Students participate in many different groups based on their readiness levels in math concept areas. Pre-assessments are given in each concept area to determine prior independent knowledge and skills. Using the information gathered from the pre-assessments, Mrs. Michalkiewicz, Mrs. Cummings, and Mrs. Weiler, in partnership with Mrs. Vosters, plan and deliver instruction that specifically targets student readiness in the given concept area. Upon completion of each unit, student growth is measured through post-assessments.

Students enjoy the interactivity and flexible grouping, as their math peers change in every unit. Additionally, they have the opportunity to work with all three second grade teachers. Second grade student Landon loves the flexibility, **"We get to work with friends from other classes - that's cool!"** Jazzmyn is thrilled **"that we get to choose from so many puzzles and games!"**

Principal Galow is **"proud and thankful our dedicated teachers ensure all students receive a strong foundation for learning concepts. They also understand that some students need to be challenged in certain units. We appreciate their hard work to ensure that all students are reaching their maximum potential."**

Calling All Shattuck Middle School Enthusiasts! Please join us as we work together to move Shattuck in exciting new directions! Shattuck's Parent Advisory Committee welcomes parents, teachers, and community members and meets **the first Monday of every month in the Shattuck Library from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

Helping our Students: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond

Neenah Tomorrow Fund (NTF) Update

Since the spring of 2010, the Neenah Tomorrow Fund has worked to provide additional funding and support for the students and programs of the Neenah Joint School District. This has been made possible through generous donations from the Neenah community.

Last year, donations helped purchase a variety of items for Neenah Schools.

Some examples include:

1. Monitors at Neenah High School
2. A new diving board at the school natatorium
3. Monitors in the lobby of Pickard Auditorium
4. A piano in the choir room at Neenah High School

Each one of these gifts has a unique and different story behind it. Whether it is working with **Wilson Elementary School** and the **Bill Pokel Memorial Fund** to provide enhancements to **Pickard Auditorium**, partnering with enthusiasts of the **Neenah Swimming and Diving Program**, or working together with the **Neenah Music Parents Organization** and the **Madrigal Singers Club** to provide enough funding to purchase a new piano. In all cases, the students and programs of Neenah schools were the winners!

Remember the Neenah Tomorrow Fund (NTF) supports both curricular and co-curricular educational opportunities for all Neenah students. We have received donations during the past year to help purchase additional **library materials**, **scales for science classes**, and **white boards for classrooms**. Engaging students in reading, science, and technology can be one of the most important factors in helping to grow tomorrow's workforce!

To learn more about NTF, please check out our website:

www.neenah.k12.wi.us/organizations/NeenahTomorrow or call **920-751-6800 ext. 106**. Click on the Wish List tab to view the different wish lists that each school in our District has submitted.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an envelope for contributions to NTF. Please remember that every donation makes a difference. Your support and donations are not only an investment in the future of our students, but also in our community. Some examples of generous gifts from Neenah Tomorrow contributors are highlighted below.

Thank you in advance for considering an investment in the Neenah Joint School District!

NJSD Scholarship Fund

Another way to support Neenah students is through Neenah scholarship funds. Each scholarship fund distribution is made in accordance with rules set up when the fund is established. Awards from these scholarships are generally made at the Neenah High School Senior Awards program each May.

Last year, \$33,000 was awarded to the Class of 2011 graduating students. If you are interested in contributing to any of these scholarship funds or would like to start a new fund please contact Jon Joch at jjoch@neenah.k12.wi.us, or call 920-751-6800 ext. 106. Contributions can be made with cash, check, or credit card.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 2011 INCLUDE:

- Frank X. Scholarship Fund
- Neenah Community Scholarship Fund
- Theda Clark Smith Scholarship Fund
- Albert & Mary Rhodes Museum and Charitable Foundation
- Albert & Arline M. Goerlitz Scholarship
- Ann L. Dobbins Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Ann Martin Memorial Scholarship
- Ann Beaster Memorial Scholarship
- Florence Armstrong Spanbauer Scholarship
- James Tomczyk Memorial Scholarship
- John P. Mulroy Memorial Scholarship
- Jordan Rowe Memorial Scholarship
- Laura Jane & Harley Loker Scholarship
- Norma Mayer Memorial Scholarship
- Robert Radtke Memorial Scholarship
- Ron & Delores Einerson Scholarship
- Superintendent's Scholarship
- Tennis Club Scholarship
- Warren Schuknecht Memorial Scholarship
- William Heidke Memorial Scholarship

Three (3) 46" LCD Monitors



were purchased for NHS's Pickard Auditorium

A Diving Board



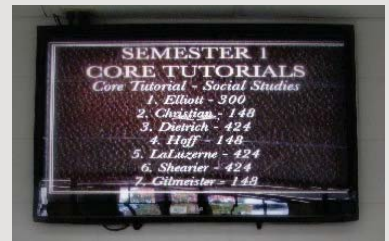
was purchased for NHS's natatorium

An Upright Yamaha Piano



was purchased for NHS's choir room

Four (4) 42" Plasma Monitors



were purchased and installed around NHS for communication purposes

Shattuck Middle School Develops Leaders



Last year, Shattuck Middle School piloted a student leadership program called **BLAST (Building Leaders and Student Teamwork)**. Over the course of the year, 7th and 8th grade BLAST students taught team-building and anti-bullying lessons to their classmates, volunteered for peer tutoring, and worked with elementary school students about making positive choices in their lives during their Red Ribbon week.

This year, 8th grade BLAST students have already led and helped with activities at Shattuck, and plan to continue their leadership roles not only at Shattuck, but at various elementary schools within the NJSD as well. Seventh grade students will also have the opportunity to participate in BLAST this year. Currently the BLAST advisors are seeking names of potential leaders from the teachers, coaches, and staff at Shattuck Middle School.

BLAST students volunteered to help during orientation this fall giving tours to incoming 7th graders and students new to Shattuck before the school year started. Also, on Friday, September 16, approximately 15 BLAST students showed their leadership as Shattuck helped welcome 36 new faces to our hallways this fall! To make these students feel more comfortable at Shattuck and at home in the city of Neenah, our BLAST students facilitated the Shattuck New Student Picnic. Students toured the **Boys' and Girls' Brigade, Youth-Go, the Neenah/Menasha YMCA, and the Neenah Public Library** before heading off to a picnic lunch at Riverside Park. BLAST students and new students alike shared a lot of laughs and formed some new friendships. One new student commented, **"It's nice seeing a bunch of familiar faces in the halls and at lunch now. I'm starting to feel at home."**

neenah

Neenah High School Winter Drama presents **The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged)**

Thurs. - Sat., February 2-4 all at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets available at the door, \$5 adults, \$3 students

Pickard Auditorium, Neenah High School

1275 Tullar Rd.

The Sound of Music at Neenah High School



Feature by: **Madison Rickhoff**, NHS junior and **MiKayla Kunde**, NHS senior. Photo courtesy of Margaret Burton. *The Sound of Music* was brought to life at NHS mid-October by **Karyl Schnyder**, music teacher, and many other students involved in the cast, crew, and pit. Schnyder chose this particular production because it is a classic that allows for a larger cast. She loves that it is a true story and that you can tour the actual set in Austria. Directing and performing is nothing new to Schnyder. She has been performing on stage since the age of three and has been directing shows since she was 15. Another reason she loves *The Sound of Music*? She has been in it herself three times. Schnyder takes on the role of directing the musical at Neenah because she believes that participation teaches life skills such as teamwork and responsibility.

Schnyder is assisted with the help of **140 students** who are involved both onstage and behind the scenes. **Mitchell Van Dyke**, senior, has been involved in 12 shows put on by the Drama Department, and is the crew leader of the lighting department. He is thrilled to see his design ideas come to life onstage. Van Dyke enjoys the hard work but also admits that the last week before the show is filled with stress and anticipation. Working to put the show together despite all of the stress only brings the cast and crew closer together. **Joseph Trypuc**, a junior, says that he wanted to connect more with his friends, who are also in the show, and that they have become like family to him. He also adds that **"drama parties rock."**

There are three different shows put on at NHS each year. The fall show is a musical, followed by a drama during the winter months, and ending with a comedy in the spring. Each show has a publicity crew that pastes posters and notices around NHS as well as the surrounding community, drawing in a diverse audience each night. When opening night arrives, the cast and crew wait anxiously backstage as the seats fill in and the clock ticks closer to show time. The lights dim, places are taken, and the curtains open to another wonderful show put on in Pickard Auditorium.

Neenah High School Madrigal Dinner

Saturday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m and 6:30 p.m.

Neenah High School Cafeteria

1275 Tullar Road

Tickets are \$16 and must be ordered in advance

Contact: 751-6900 and ask for Student Services

Spotlight on Schools



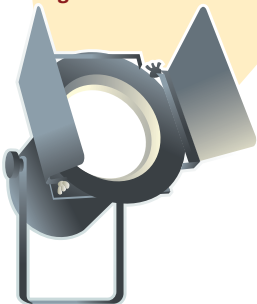
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911 REMEMBERED **Roosevelt and Alliance Elementary** students remembered the 9/11 tragedy in classrooms through learning, a peace picture, and remembrance pinwheel plantings.

WHAT DO NEENAH AND THE PENTAGON HAVE IN COMMON? **Shattuck and Horace Mann GT & Magnet** students remembered 9/11 and shared a personal connection with the Pentagon through a presentation by Steve Vogel, Washington Post Journalist and author of *The Pentagon*, regarding George Edwin Bergstrom who was a Neenah native and the chief architect of the Pentagon. The forum was put on in partnership with the Neenah Historical Society as an introduction to the Historical Society's Neenah Notables series. For more info, see: www.neenahhistoricalsociety.org/page40/page40.html

NHS MATH LEAGUE TAKES 2ND **The Neenah High School Math team** took second place to Fond du Lac, missing first by one point, at the first Fox Valley Math League competition at Ripon on Monday, October 3. Members of the first team were **Russell Burton, Keaton Kappes, Blake Nigh, Yuqi She, Luke Schommer, Calvin Baumgartner, Thomas Hameister, and Greg Rudd**. Individual awards were earned by **Thomas Hameister** - second place - sophomore and freshman division, **Eric Payne** - fifth place junior division, **Greg Rudd** - sixth place - sophomore and freshman division. Congratulations to these students and to everyone else who competed in this meet. Advisors for the math team are **Richard Frost** and **Melanie Jackson**.

CAN'T CATCH ME! **Coolidge Kindergarten Students Chase the Gingerbread Man** Kindergarten students at Coolidge Elementary heard the story of the Gingerbread man in the classrooms of **Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Rosera, and Mrs. Schneidewend**. Then, the gingerbread boy ran away from them, and kindergartners toured the school in hot pursuit. They visited the gym, the library, the art room, the music room, the first aid room, the counselor's office, the front office, and finally found that runaway gingerbread boy in the office of the principal, **Mrs. Metzger**. What a welcome tour it was for kindergarten friends!



CHILD FIND SCREENING The Neenah Joint School District conducts developmental screenings for preschool-age children who reside within the school district. The purpose of the screening is to identify children who may need instruction before reaching kindergarten age or who may have special needs. If you have, or know of someone who has, a child who is between the ages of two years, nine months and age five, please contact **Taft Early Learning Center** at **920.751.6980 ext. 101** to schedule an appointment. **The screening dates for this year are October 7, November 11, January 6, February 3, March 9, and March 30.**

RAISING AWARENESS AND HELPING OTHERS **Haitian Dancers Visit Clayton Elementary** Thanks to the efforts of fourth grade teacher at Clayton, **Mrs. Lori Fulmer**, the students, staff, and family members were treated to a wonderful performance by a group of Haitian dancers. The drummers, dancers, colorful costumes, and the wonderful message delivered by the group made it a memorable day for all! The Student Council sponsored a penny war and raised \$500 for the group as a donation to the children of Haiti.

"NEW" MATH MATTERS AT HOME Each month **Lakeview Elementary** students bring home a school-wide math problem. Students talk about and work with their families to solve the problem and turn in their answer to the **"Math Matters At Home"** collection box outside the main office by the due date established. From all the answers submitted by the due date, a random selection is done whereby a student "mathematician" for the month is selected. The "mathematician" for the month reads the Monday Math Minute over the PA and places math vocabulary around the school each week. The goal of this "new" family activity for Lakeview is to promote math discussions at home as well as at school.

HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL Fuels Up to Play On Wednesday, September 28 2011, students and staff at Horace Mann kicked off the Fuel Up to Play 60 program with a morning of activities. **Fuel Up to Play 60** is a program sponsored by the **NFL** that encourages students to play and be active for 60 minutes each day. All students had the opportunity to take the pledge and join the Fuel Up program. Throughout the morning, students rotated through different stations to learn and participate in different activities that keep their bodies active. Students practiced Yoga with a Yoga instructor, participated in football drills lead by members of the **NHS Football Team**, worked out in the cardio room, walked the track, played volleyball, played basketball, and played soccer. Everyone had fun!

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WELLNESS THROUGH PLAYGROUND In an effort to restore safety on our playground and increase physical activity with more meaningful, engaging play, a sub-committee of the **Spring Road Elementary PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)** has been working with Spring Road families and local businesses to afford **Project Playground**. Our mission is to pursue the Intensity Series of playgrounds that will inspire problem solving, creativity, coordination, strength, and physical endurance.

In addition to the playground structure, Spring Road Elementary is planning to install a walking track as the next phase to the project. The focus on our playground will not only serve the needs of our students, but the **Spring Road neighborhood** too. The realization of this project will mean a great deal for our students, their families, and the community at large. As we continue to raise money through monthly fundraisers such as **Market Day** and **Scrip**, we are grateful for the support we have received thus far from our families and generous donations from local businesses such as **Evergreen Credit Union, McMahan, SCA Tissue, and Scheels**.

Spotlight on Schools (cont.)

OVERALL SPORTS STANDINGS AT A GLANCE:

Four teams captured Fox Valley Association championships and six of the Rockets' nine fall sports sent teams or individuals to their respective state tournaments as part of a highly successful fall sports season at Neenah High School.

The girls cross country team headlined the top performers with a state runner-up finish, while the boys soccer team reached the state semifinals. Individually, junior Alison Parker was sixth at the state girls cross country championships and junior McKenzie Paul finished eighth at the state girls golf championships.

Boys Cross Country

WIAA Sectional Champions
WIAA State 19th Place

Boys Soccer

FVA Champions (undefeated)
WIAA Sectional Champions
WIAA State Semifinalists

Girls Volleyball

FVA Champions (undefeated)

Girls Cross Country

FVA Champions
WIAA Sectional Champions
WIAA State Runner-up

Girls Tennis

WIAA Sectional Third Place

Girls Swimming & Diving

FVA Champions (undefeated)

FIFTH GRADERS EXPLORE MUSIC!

On September 10 and 13, fifth graders descended upon the Shattuck cafeteria to try all the instruments they have the opportunity to learn in band and in orchestra.

This event requires collaboration with staff from music, operations, clerical, and administrative, and NHS student instrumentalists and Neenah Music Parents. As seen by the healthy enrollment, it was a fun event to aid in the decision of growing music skills.

