

GRANTING WISHES

Neenah Schools Benefit From Local Grants

Every Neenah Joint School District elementary class will add Project Lead the Way Launch activities to their science curriculum as a result of a \$75,000 grant from Bemis Company, Inc.

The grant will be divided equally among 10 schools with each receiving \$7,500 over a two-year period. Project Lead the Way Launch is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum that develops students as innovators, team members, problem solvers, designers and creative thinkers.

"All of the curriculum is aligned to 21st Century skills that engage students in critical and creative thinking," said District STEM Coordinator Curtis Bartlett. "This is preparing students for jobs that don't even exist yet."

Project Lead the Way Launch incorporates Next Generation Science Standards which will enrich the current science curriculum. Every grade level will focus on four modules every year. Two of those subject areas are in engineering. The others are biomedical and computer science.

At least one lead teacher will be selected at each of the kindergarten through fifth grade schools to pilot the program during the 2016-17 school year.

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Students in the Shattuck Middle School Velocity Program received a \$5,000 grant from SCA that will help improve the raised garden beds outside of the school. The grant will assist in expanding the gardens to grow produce that will be donated to the needy.

Student Group Creates Legacy Benches at Neenah High School



A group of Neenah High School students have been creating projects to better their school and community. The group, called Future Forward Neenah, has been established as a way for students to leave their physical mark in their school and community through a variety of projects.

Most recently, the group has built several benches that have been placed in the hallways of Neenah High School. These wooden benches with iron frames are available as a memorial for Neenah High School alumni, classes, retirees or other individuals. The cost of the recognition is \$1,000 and is tax deductible. The payment goes toward the materials and construction of the bench as well as other Future Forward Neenah projects. The Class of 2016 purchased a bench as a class gift. Last year, Future Forward Neenah remodeled the Mercury Commons area at the high school and the group has already set plans for additional projects.

Each bench will feature an engraved plaque. A donation to the project will leave a lasting memorial in Neenah High School and enable students to learn in a proactive manner by supporting their school and community. Anyone interested in assisting with the project and creating a recognition on one of the benches may contact Jon Joch at: jjoch@neenah.k12.wi.us or 920-751-6800 ext. 10105.

Words From the Superintendent



Balancing our own personal checkbooks is a challenge, but keeping tabs on an \$87 million budget that relies heavily on fluctuating community and state funding sources is an enormous task.

While we are certainly not immune to the financial difficulties facing districts across the state and nation, we are proud of our financial position in Neenah and what we've accomplished in recent years. Our Board of Education has made wise financial decisions, we've been careful in our spending and generous donors have helped fill some gaps. This past spring, over 50 Wisconsin districts faced referendums while Neenah has not asked voters for a referendum since 2007.

This past year, Neenah had easily the lowest tax rate in the Fox Valley for the third straight year at \$8.57 per thousand dollars of property value and that included vouchers for private school students. During that time, we had the lowest staff/student ratio at the elementary level for our area at 22.5 students per teacher. We also established a four-year-old kindergarten program and expanded our magnet program for high-achieving students. Our ACT scores for graduating seniors remains the best among Fox Valley public schools and we have personal technology devices in the hands of every student in grades 3-12.

In 2016-17, we will increase salaries and offer stipends to our staff based on performance for the fourth consecutive year. We also offer the highest starting salary of any Fox Valley district as we strive to continue having the best possible staff working with our students.

Public education has faced plenty of obstacles in recent years, but we continue to find ways to keep our District among the best. Our community should be proud!

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Dr. Mary Pfeiffer
Superintendent of Schools

“Rocket Ready”

New Program Improves Shattuck Culture



Shattuck introduced its “Rocket Ready” program at the start of the school year with the help of a BMX bike stunt team that discussed bike safety and responsibility

A new positive behavior program called “Rocket Ready” has made a significant impact at Shattuck Middle School in just its first year.

The program teaches students to “Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe.” In the first eight months of the program, Shattuck’s discipline referrals have dropped nearly 11 percent. The overall school culture and environment has seen a significant positive shift as well.

“Behavioral skills are just like academic skills,” said Associate Principal Bill Richardson. “We

are constantly re-teaching and re-teaching those common expectations. The old system of punishment has been proven not to work and this entire program is evidence-based and data driven.”

A group of 19 staff members went through training last summer. Tracee Lemke-Hildreth, Samantha Johnson and John Meyers guided the program, which is based on mini-lessons (called “Rocket Fuel”) and rewards (called “Rocket Bucks”). When students are seen by staff members doing significant positive behaviors, they are given Rocket Bucks and entered into a weekly drawing for prizes from community donors.

“It’s acknowledging students for appropriate behaviors,” Richardson said. “Establishing a positive climate is the ultimate goal.”

Students were treated to assemblies with a BMX stunt team and a dance crew that carried a message about positive behaviors. Many of the District’s elementary schools are also implementing positive behavior programs that use similar language and expectations.

“If we’re using a similar structure that creates a congruence where students understand a common language and expectations of positive behaviors across teachers and grade levels K-8,” Richardson said.

Elementary Schools Honored for PBIS

Four Neenah Joint School District elementary schools have been rewarded for their work with developing positive behaviors in schools by the Wisconsin Response to Intervention Center.

Clayton, Hoover, Lakeview and Wilson Elementary Schools were among 222 schools statewide named a School of Merit for their work accomplished through the implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). The Wisconsin Response to Intervention Center is funded by the Department of Public Instruction to provide statewide training and technical assistance to help create responsive schools and districts.

PBIS is a system-wide framework that enables schools to be more effective and responsive to student social-emotional needs by implementing a multi-level system of support for their behavior. Schools were selected based on an application process that included team and meeting information, implementation and outcome data, a narrative that described the data systems and practices of PBIS implementation.

NJSD Names 2016 Hall of Fame Class; Banquet Set for Oct. 15

Seven prominent alumni and former staff members of the Neenah Joint School District comprise the District's second annual Hall of Fame class in 2016.

Graduates Dr. Wellington Hsu, Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, Jean Kessler, Tom Wiesner and Ivan Williams are joined by former teachers Tom Berven and Patricia Westphal as inductees. The group is added to the 10 inaugural members honored last year in the Hall of Fame.

The inductees were selected by a committee of 15 individuals that included former and current employees and alumni. They will be honored at a banquet on Sat., Oct. 15 at 11:30 a.m. at Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Neenah as part of the District's homecoming festivities. Tickets will go on sale in July.

Berven coached his 50th season of boys tennis at Neenah High School this spring, including his 46th as head coach. He taught social studies at Neenah High School from 1964-97.

Hsu, a 1993 graduate, is an endowed professor at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and a spine surgeon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Jasser, a 1985 graduate, is the founder and president of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy, which was founded as an effort to provide an American Muslim voice advocating for the preservation of the founding principles of the United States.

Kessler, a 1959 graduate, taught high school physical education from 1969-96 and was a trailblazer for girls athletics programs in Neenah, serving as the first girls basketball and volleyball coach.

Westphal taught science at Neenah High School from 1973-2002. In 2004, she won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Association of Physics Teachers.

Wiesner, a 1957 graduate, was captain of the University of Wisconsin's 1960 Rose Bowl team and was influential in the growth of Las Vegas, serving as the Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

Williams, a 1923 graduate, taught American History and coached football, basketball and tennis at Neenah High School from 1930-70. He created the Park and Recreation tennis program in 1934.



Neenah's four-year-old kindergarten program concluded its first year with a spring concert at Riverside Park. Students from Washington School sang three songs together and students from the other four sites joined for three songs before combining for one final song.



Staff members from ThedaCare visited Roosevelt Elementary for a Health Career Day on May 5. Each class rotated through four different presentations that included an x-ray technician, pharmacist, nutritionist, occupational therapist, therapy dog and surgical nurses.

Neenah Schools Receive Future Neenah Civic Partner Award



With numerous student and staff groups giving back to their local community, the Neenah Joint School District has been honored with the Civic Partner of the Year Award from Future Neenah.

"This award is in appreciation of the time and effort of the teachers, staff, booster club volunteers and students of the Neenah Joint School District for the enthusiasm they put into community-based learning opportunities provided through private/public partnership," said Future Neenah Executive Director Amy Barker (pictured, left), who presented the award to School Board president Scott Thompson along with FNB Fox Valley representative JoAnn Burgett.

Among the activities, District art students annually provide artwork for the Future Neenah annual meeting that is displayed throughout downtown. High School students are involved with "A Very Neenah Christmas," Walking Tours of Neenah, the Farmers Market, musical performances and writing blogs.



The Neenah boys tennis team finished state runner-up this spring for the second time in the past four years. The Rockets also captured their 36th conference title in the past 38 years.

Barnes Selected as WIAA Scholar Athlete Award Recipient

With 10 varsity letters and success in the classroom and community, Neenah High School senior Alyssa Barnes has been honored as a recipient of the WIAA Scholar-Athlete Award.

Barnes is one of 32 students statewide and just one of four girls from Division 1 schools to earn the award. A total of 820 seniors were nominated for the award, representing 420 different high schools. Each school is permitted to nominate one male and one female athlete. Barnes is the sixth student from Neenah to win the award in its 33-year history. Alison Parker was the most recent winner in 2013. Other winners were Brett Hartman in 2009, Brooke Bohannon in 1999, Karen Schaper in 1994 and Faith Handevidt in 1992.

Barnes, the daughter of Steve and Mary Beth Barnes, achieved a 3.78 grade point average. She has signed a letter of intent to attend UW-Green Bay in the fall on a soccer scholarship. Barnes earned four varsity letters in basketball and three in cross country. She earned her fourth letter in soccer this spring.

Barnes is a two-time first-team all-conference performer in both basketball and soccer. She was named the area's Player of the Year in soccer in both 2015 and 2016.

In addition to her athletic and academic success, Barnes has been active as a volunteer for Special Olympics. She also served on Neenah's student council and leadership council.



Neenah Students Pitch in to Help "Rock the Block"

The city of Neenah's downtown bus shelter recently underwent a facelift with much of the work being done by Neenah High School students.

Students in Art 4 and Drawing and Painting 2 classes created a mural. The painting shows an oak tree being held up by a pair of hands. Also, freshman and sophomore students in the REACH program cleaned, prepped and primed the walls. Students also cut out wood letters outside of the Neenah Historical Society building.

In addition, several members of the Neenah High School culinary club prepared and served lunch for workers helping with the various projects in the downtown area.



Neenah High School freshman Jordan Slominski took second place in the high school intermediate category at the Wisconsin Chinese Language Speech Contest on April 16 at UW-Milwaukee. Slominski also performed a song during the opening ceremony of the 13th annual event.



Bemis and SCA Grants Aid Neenah Students at All Levels

Continued from Page 1

The lead teachers will train other staff members at their schools during the second semester and, the following year, at least two of the four modules will be implemented in every classroom District-wide. The goal is to have all four modules of the curriculum fully implemented by the 2018-19 school year.

Bemis has been a close partner with the Neenah Joint School District with Project Lead the Way activities at all grade levels.

SCA Supports Arete and Velocity Academies

Two Neenah Joint School District projects were each recipients of \$5,000 environmental education grants from SCA.

The Arete Academy at Neenah High School and Velocity Academy at Shattuck Middle School were among 16 recipients nationwide of the grants that help local schools foster environmental learning among students of all ages. Students will be able to delve into projects to study hydroponics, water quality, urban gardening, future cities and more.

The Arete Academy is an innovative project based learning program that combined all four core subject areas and is comprised of about 110 freshmen and sophomore students. Assessment is conducted through authentic projects rather than testing. The grant will fund a greenhouse composting area and a rain barrel project in order to study hydroponics, genetics in biology and sustainability. Students will grow produce to be used in farm-to-table meal preparation for the school's culinary arts program.

Velocity is a similar program at the middle school level that incorporates all subject areas into a regular school day in a creative fashion for reluctant learners. The grant will help fund a garden project. Velocity already maintains several raised garden beds and the grant will assist in expanding the gardens to grow produce that will be donated to the needy. The project also will help teach other students how to properly plant and grow produce.



A grant for the Neenah High School Arete Academy will fund a greenhouse composting area and a rain barrel project in order to study hydroponics, genetics in biology and sustainability. The greenhouse was completed this spring behind the school.

Fit for a Kid

Neenah Middle Schools Rank Among the Nation's Healthiest

Two Neenah middle schools are among an elite group of schools nationwide honored with a National Healthy Schools Award by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Horace Mann Middle School received a silver award and Shattuck Middle School received a bronze award. The entire list of award winners has not been released, but there were only 250 schools honored nationwide and three from Wisconsin during 2014-15.



It marks the second straight year Horace Mann has been recognized after earning the bronze award last year. Shattuck received the award for the first time. Both schools will be honored at the Healthier Generation Leaders' Summit in October in Washington, D.C.

Horace Mann has been active in the "Fuel Up to Play 60" program for several years with half days of fitness activities for students. Shattuck has also implemented the "Fuel Up to Play 60" program. Among the school's initiatives were "brain breaks" where students do wellness activities to break up their 70-minute classes.

The award also recognized the wellness education curriculum and wellness program at both schools. The food service from Chartwell's was commended for its commitment to adding healthier foods to the breakfast and lunch menu and the food service employees' participation in regular training to maintain a high quality of service and food safety. The staff's involvement in the District's staff wellness programs was also a key factor in the award.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides schools with guidelines for implementing a healthy school environment. Through an assessment tool and a customized action plan, the framework helps schools work towards a National Healthy Schools Award.

Dorner Receives CAPP Adjunct of the Year Award

Neenah High School chemistry teacher Shelley Dorner has been named one of five inaugural winners of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh CAPP Adjunct of the Year award.



Dorner is one of over 250 adjunct teachers in the CAPP program, which delivers a rigorous curriculum to high school students interested in earning concurrent high school and college credit. Adjuncts were nominated by their on-campus liaison.

Dorner received her award at the CAPP spring workshop on April 13 in Oshkosh. Dorner is in her 18th year of teaching at Neenah High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Truman State University (Mo.) and a Master of Science degree from Purdue University.



The Neenah Joint School District honored its 2016 Employees and Team of the Year on May 11. Front (L-R): Shelley Kumbier, Kathleen Wilke, Lynn Heyn, Suzy Weisgerber, Janet Linke, Kristi Stingle, Dean Olkowski. Back: Brian Wunderlich, Tara Meinke, Emily Bennett, Gregg Goers, Sara Kokko, Diane Luft.



Nine 25-year NJSD veterans were honored on May 4 as Quarter Century Club inductees (L to R): Ken Gilmeiester, Mary Counter, Dennis Girard, Mark VanDuser, Roxann Barrow, Janet Wanamaker, Monica Schoen, Amy Michaels and Janet Macklin (not pictured).

Luft Named Roosevelt/Alliance Principal; Chrisman to Hoover

A longtime Neenah Joint School District teacher has been named the new principal at Roosevelt and Alliance Elementary Schools.



Diane Luft, who was the District's 2015-16 elementary teacher of the year, will assume the role at Roosevelt and Alliance beginning July 1. Luft is a 26-year veteran of the District and most recently taught second grade this past year at Spring Road Elementary. Luft has assumed many administrative duties in recent years at Spring Road and has taught nearly every level of elementary education.

Luft replaces Melissa Chrisman who was recently named the principal at Hoover Elementary. Debbie Wedding served as Hoover's principal for the past two years and has opted to return to the classroom as a fourth grade teacher at Taft Elementary this fall.

Myers Selected to Attend Math and Science Academy

Lakeview Elementary fourth grade teacher Alisia Myers is one of two Wisconsin teachers and 154 teachers nationwide selected to participate in the weeklong Mickelson Teachers Academy July 17-22 in Jersey City, N.J.



The academy provides teachers a full week of math and science experiments to share with students in the classroom. Math and science experts from the National Science Teachers Association and Math Solutions lead the academy. All expenses are paid for by the academy, which is funded by professional golfer Phil Mickelson and his wife, Amy. ExxonMobil sponsors the event. The academy includes third through fifth grade teachers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Myers is completing her 10th year teaching at Lakeview.

Neenah diving coach Tim Foulks (left, with state Rep. Mike Rohrkaste) received the David H. Robertson Award by the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association of America. The award is presented to coaches who have five team state championships or five individual diving state champions.





Neenah High School hosted its annual Reality Store on May 25 where students embarked on a “real-life” adventure of paying bills, supporting a family and encountering unexpected issues. Students were each given a profile of a different person with a spouse, children and a salary and then experienced the financial issues families face. Community business members, staff and school board members volunteered to assist students through the activity.



Nikki Messick, an eighth grade student at Shattuck, placed second overall in the Wisconsin Crystal Growing Contest through the UW-Madison Department of Chemistry. For the 2016 middle school competition, the crystal growing material was potassium aluminum sulfate dodecahydrate, $KAl(SO_4)_2 \cdot 12H_2O$ (alum). She also placed second in the contest-inspired art competition.



Horace Mann held its annual “Nation Fest” on May 31. Students had been researching a country in the Eastern Hemisphere in social studies and displayed their projects for other students, parents and teachers throughout the school. The annual event is part of the school’s social studies curriculum.



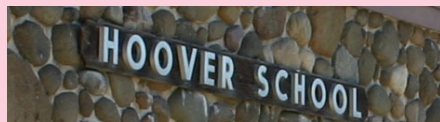
Students from Alliance established unique relationships with residents of Island Shores senior living community. The students interviewed and photographed the residents and then produced scrapbooks with photos and a biographical sketch.



Clayton added a Lego wall in the library. The wall is part of Clayton’s makerspace area and used as an incentive for positive behavior actions. The wall also encourages students to use their imaginations in their creations.



Coolidge fourth graders embraced daily movement and fitness in their classrooms this year. Over half of all fourth graders participated in the school’s “Fit Kidz” after school club, along with daily brain breaks and fun exercise routines. The school is also fundraising for alternative seating that encourages movement.



Four Hoover Elementary staff members took pies to the face as a result of students collecting over \$1,000 in a penny war for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Principal Debbie Wedding and teachers Brad Brookins, Elise Bushweiler and Michelle Dorn were voted by the students to get pies in the face.



Students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade at Lakeview are keeping their math skills sharp throughout the summer with a summer math backpack. The backpacks are filled with activities and supplies to support math skills.



Former Roosevelt and Alliance students who graduated from high school this year returned to their school on June 1 to receive a welcome back from current students. The graduates shared their experiences from their school careers and their future plans. A total of 17 graduates returned for the event.



The famous Klement’s racing sausages visited Spring Road on May 26 as part of the school’s annual fun run. The sausages cheered on the students as they ran or walked the 1.3 mile loop around the neighborhood and then joined them on the playground.



The NFL Play 60 program made a visit to Taft, providing students the opportunity to get out and try different wellness-related activities. The event is sponsored and put on by the Green Bay Packers. Taft students wore their NFL jerseys to school and had a blast rotating through the different stations.



As part of their Calkins writing units, Tullar kindergarteners wrote a persuasive letter to District administration about a lack of sand in the playground sandbox. Director of Business Services Andrew Thorson and Director of Facilities/Engineer Adam Krieger came to the class and helped to come up with a solution.



Fifth grade students in Neenah’s magnet program at Horace Mann joined four-year-old kindergarten students at Washington in a game of “Robot Turtles.” The board game teaches students ages three and over basic programming skills through problem-solving activities.



Wilson fourth and fifth grade students created marble mazes using common materials, including cardboard boxes, popsicle sticks, toothpicks, rubber bands, plastic bottle caps, straws and other items. Third grade students made creations out of decks of cards.



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Key 2016-17 Dates

September

- 1.....First Day of School
- 30.....No School - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)

October

- 14-15NJSD Homecoming/Hall of Fame
- 26.....Parent-Teacher Conferences, Grades 4K-5, 4-8 p.m.
- 27.....Early Dismissal - All Levels (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 27.....Parent-Teacher Conferences, All Levels, 12:30-8 p.m.
- 28.....No School - All Levels (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 28.....Parent-Teacher Conferences, Gr. 6-12, 7:45-11:45 a.m.

November

- 3.....Early Dismissal, Grades K-8 (End of Quarter)
- 4.....No School - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)
- 24-25No School - All Levels (Thanksgiving Break)

December

- 26-30No School - All Levels (Winter Break)

January

- 13.....Early Dismissal - All Levels (End of Semester)

- 27.....No School - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)

February

- 17.....No School - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)
- 22.....Parent-Teacher Conferences, Grades 6-12, 4-8 p.m.
- 23.....Early Dismissal - All Levels (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 23.....Parent-Teacher Conferences, All Levels, 12:30-8 p.m.
- 24.....No School - All Levels (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 24.....Parent-Teacher Conferences, Gr. 4K-5, 7:45-11:45 a.m.

March

- 17.....Early Dismissal, Grades K-8 (End of Quarter)
- 24.....No School - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)
- 27-31No School - All Levels (Spring Break)

April

- 14-17No School - All Levels

May

- 26.....No School - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)
- 31.....Last Day of School - 4K and Early Childhood

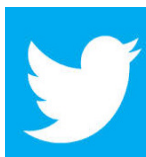
June

- 1.....Last Day of School (Early Dismissal) - Grades K-12



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www.neenah.k12.wi.us

Board of Education meetings are typically held the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 6 p.m. at the District Administrative Building at 410 S. Commercial St. (Check the NJSD website for complete schedule)