

Spirit of Excellence Award


Spirit of Excellence Award 2013-14 Application

School Name Neenah High School
Address 1275 Tullar Road Neenah, WI 54956
School Phone 920-751-6900
WASC Region III Student Council Advisor Mr. Andrew LaLuzerne

Principal Mr. Brian Wunderlich
Home/Cell Phone 920-527-8561 Email bwunderlich@neenah.k12.wi.us

Application Coordinator / Main Contact

Name Nicholas Munce
Email nrobert.21@gmail.com Phone 1-715-421-9598

Principal Signature 

As principal, with this signature, I hereby validate all information presented in the Spirit of Excellence portfolio submitted by my school. All of the information submitted is accurate and representative of the criteria proposed. I understand that any falsification of information in the portfolio will automatically disqualify my school for this award. I also understand that if chosen as the state recipient, I must work with the WASC, WIAA, and "When We Were Young" Productions to coordinate a date for a school/community assembly to be aired during WIAA State Tournament play.

Application Deadline: February 3, 2014
For more information, visit www.wasc.org/spirit

Spirit of Excellence - Application

Spirit of Excellence Award

Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Community Blood Drive

Authored by: Sophia Szymonski

Number of Students Participating: 120

Number of People Affected: 300+

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

Three times per year National Honor Society holds blood drives in partnership with the Community Blood Center. Students are able to come and donate blood on either of the blood buses provided. Each donation saves up to three lives. After donating, National Honor Society members walk students inside where a variety of food is set out. National Honor Society students gather this food by asking for donations from local restaurants. If a student donates a certain number of times, he or she can have the honor of becoming a “Gallon Grad”.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

Even if one student donates blood, three lives can be saved. By having a blood drive at school, students and teachers alike are more willing to donate blood. The location is convenient and every donation counts. The National Honor Society group is currently working improving the turnout at these drives by increasing the number of ways it is advertised. Not only do members hand out forms at lunch, but now they go into individual classrooms to spread the word.



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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Cookies and Cards for the Elderly

Authored by: Laura Rafferty

Number of Students Participating: 30

Number of People Affected: 150



Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

A few weeks before Thanksgiving, a group of freshmen became concerned about the large number of elderly people in nursing homes who would not be visited by loved ones over the holiday season. In an effort to brighten the holiday season for these people, the freshmen got together to bake and decorate over 150 cookies. Along with the cookies, each student also made multiple Thanksgiving cards to distribute. Once they were finished with the cookies and cards, the students traveled to Peabody Nursing Home in Menasha, WI to give out the items. While they were there, the students talked to the elderly people and wished them a happy holiday season.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

The freshmen were successful in their goal to brighten the days of many elderly people who received a cookie or a card. What meant most to the nursing home residents was the time the students took to talk to them and show them that someone truly cares about them. The group of freshmen also benefitted greatly from this experience. They learned the value of caring and giving back to others during the holiday season. The looks on the faces of the nursing home residents when they received the cookies or cards will stay with the students for years to come and inspire them to serve their community regularly.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Freshman reaching out to Special Education Students

Authored by: Laura Rafferty

Number of Students Participating: 30

Number of People Affected: 20

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

As part of their community service project, a group of freshmen and five upperclassmen leaders (part of a Freshman Seminar group) decided to visit Neenah High School's Special Education students. First, the freshmen did research about autism and cognitive disabilities to become more aware of the situation of the students they would be visiting. Later, the 25 freshmen and their leaders visited the Special Education classrooms and were introduced to the students there. During the visit, the freshmen played board games with and talked to each of the Special Education students, along with hosting a Christmas party with them a few weeks later.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

This experience was extremely beneficial to both the Freshman Seminar group and the Special Education students. Along with having fun, the freshmen were able to broaden their horizons and become acquainted with people they otherwise would never have met. They also learned the importance of treating people with patience and understanding. The experience was very meaningful to the Special Education students as well. They were able to spend time with people their own age, along with making new friends and having a lot of fun.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Empty Bowls

Authored by: Lisa Dorschner

Number of Students Participating: 60

Number of People Affected: Unknown

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

Empty Bowls is a national grassroots initiative to raise awareness and action for feeding the hungry. They hold a community event to help raise money for local food pantries and homeless shelters, and this year it was held in Oshkosh. Record numbers of people came out to support the cause, which raised \$9000 for local food pantries and homeless shelters. The organization invites the donations of ceramic handmade bowls by local professional artists and schools along with food donations, and Neenah High School was one of the schools that participated. In anticipation for this event, sixty students from our school, as well as Mrs. Dorschner, created bowls for the event. These are students who took Ceramics 1 or Ceramics 2 in the spring semester of 2013, as well as fall semester, 2014.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

When students participate in events like these, it reminds all of us and the community with an ever-important purpose of fine art, and that is to keep culture in touch with the true, good, and beautiful in life. In this case, beautiful art is made and shared for the purpose of helping those in need. The idea of Empty Bowls sends a strong message that there are people in our community who are struggling with hunger, and it is important to build this awareness. While the idea of being creative is important, the end purpose of that creativity which helps another human being in need is far more profound, and that is something the students were encouraged to think about. The students were enthusiastic about this project from the beginning to the end. Their leadership and passion for this initiative was something to be proud of.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Diversity Fair: Finding Kind Notice, Choose and Act

Authored by: Jody Harrell/ Heart Club

Number of Students Participating: 200

Number of People Affected: 2,500

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

Gandhi encouraged us to “be the change you want to see in the world.” Diversity Fair at NHS is an all-day student planned event, which serves to heighten awareness, educate and encourage student action for change. Students collaborate with faculty creating an assemble celebrating our addressing diversity issues and setting up information booths to inform and encourage action. CD/LD English classes, school clubs, teams and organizations, and community groups all contribute to this Fair. The whole process empowers students to notice issues, choose to do something and take action.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

This event truly empowers students to aware and effect change in their school. An example would be when students see situations like bullying and they have the courage to do something about it, to create posters for awareness, or to speak up and get help, to listen to the victim and respond instead of just walking by. The Diversity Fair is a vital part of the action for change in our school. Being kind, finding acts of kindness, and caring became the theme for this fair and were celebrated. We will continue this event this spring.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Tutoring at Tullar

Authored by: Sophia Szymonski

Number of Students Participating: 30

Number of People Affected: 30

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



In today's world academic success is key to one's future. For this reason, Neenah Key Club began a partnership with Tullar Elementary school. Each Tuesday and Thursday, thirty Neenah High School students head over to Tullar and spend an hour after school tutoring elementary school kids and helping with homework. Each high school student is matched with an elementary student for the year. This matchup provides a mentorship-type program along with having each child know there is at least one person for them to be held accountable too and who cares about their academic success.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

The impact this program has had is tremendous. Teachers have seen kid's grades go from straight D's to straight A's over the course of the year. Elementary students not only learn what they need to for classes, but also learn good study techniques at a young age. High schools are able to use their knowledge to help others, be a role-model, and even have a good time. We are constantly recruiting more high school tutors, because the more tutors provided, the more Tullar students that can join the program.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Eco Club's Impact

Authored by: Meggie DiPoto

Number of Students Participating: 12

Number of People Affected: 2,000 (Entire School)

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



Last year, Eco Club determinedly raised \$1,800.00 for a water refill station located in the Neenah High School Cafeteria. The station keeps track of the plastic water bottles our school saved from the landfills by installing it, and already, there has been an astounding effect. Last year, Eco Club collected 500 batteries by holding a battery collection in the school library. With that success, Eco Club expanded the Battery Recycling system by providing collection areas in other locations around the school as well. They currently are fundraising to build birdhouses and bat houses that they can distribute around the campus.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

Eco Club is a close-knit group but has made a large impact in our school. The work they do may go unnoticed to some, but every little project they do not only helps our school, but the whole community. I personally never know what to do with my used batteries, but now with the Eco Club battery collection bins, I don't have to think twice about where to put them. To get the school more involved and willing to help, Eco Club could educate all the students on the projects they're working on and how they're helping the Earth.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Kids Night Out

Authored by: Celia Nalbach

Number of Students Participating: 30

Number of People Affected: 85

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

In November of 2013, the Neenah Girls Cross Country team held their fourth annual Kids Night Out. This opportunity for elementary aged kids in the area promotes healthy lifestyles. The high school runners volunteering at the event entertain the kids by playing running related games, doing team bonding activities, teaching them about the sport and the importance of being active, and ending the night with a race. Kids Night Out is a great way for the participants to make new friends and inspire them to be a team player.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

Not only does this event allow parents to have some free night for about four hours one Friday evening while their kids run screaming through the halls of Neenah High School, but it allows the girls on the Neenah Cross Country to give back to the community and be role models to perhaps the future of the team. Promoting, planning, and setting up this event took a lot of work, and preparations started long before the cross country season even began. Although the night is a little hectic, like usual it was a huge success, and the Cross Country team plans to keep hosting Kids Night Out in the years to come.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: STOP

Authored by: Meggie DiPoto

Number of Students Participating: 30

Number of People Affected: 450

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

STOP is a program that goes around to all the fifth grade classes in the school district and teaches them the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The STOP members act as great role models for the fifth graders. The kids are very engaged in activities such as acting out scenarios they may face when they're older, so if those situations ever happen, they'll know how to react.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

The kids enjoy interacting with high school students and seem to be able to connect more with them rather than adults. While the fifth graders learn a lot, they haven't been in any experiences where they are pressured to make those decisions. STOP would be very useful to have come to the middle school because they're older and would actually be able to use what they learned.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Quarry Quest (Key Club and Swim Team)

Authored by: Meggie DiPoto

Number of Students Participating: 100

Number of People Affected: 15,000



Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

Every year, Neenah hosts Quarry Quest, a family outing that attracts people from all around the community to come learn about mining and construction. The quarry is opened up and provides many kid-friendly stations including crane rides and searching for gold. Neenah High School made a large appearance throughout the day with several clubs and athletic teams offering their time to work the stations and make the day a success. In fact, this year alone, more than \$90,000 was raised for children's charities in the Fox Valley. For the first time, Key Club entered a sand sculpting competition held that day and earned \$300 dollars for a family in the community.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

Volunteering at Quarry Quest was a great success and was very appreciated. Seeing the large football players interact with the little toddlers in the sand united the community and allowed the team to bond while helping others. Quarry Quest allowed teams, like the Neenah girl's swim and dive team, a chance to give back to the community that supported them throughout the season. Both Key Club and the swim and dive team hope to continue this annual volunteer opportunity in their club and team.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Best Friends Mentoring Program

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Number of Students Participating: 20

Number of People Affected: 45

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

Generous students of Neenah High School volunteer their Monday evenings to mentor a young individual in need of attention through the Best Friends Mentoring Program. Students must submit an application and then undergo a rigorous selection process in order to become a "Best Friend". Once selected, the high school student pairs with a youth participant to engage in various activities with throughout the year.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

This group of civically-engaged students shine a light on the goodness in Neenah High School. With virtually no reciprocation, the students spend their valuable time mentoring a young person, with the only goal of improving their future. This selfless act truly illustrates the spirit of Neenah High School. In the future, the program could be more effectively advertised in order to secure the most positive student role models possible.

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Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: American Heart Association “Red-Out”

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Number of Students Participating: 400+

Number of People Affected: Countless community and school members

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

For the past three years, Neenah High School has worked extensively with the American Heart Association to create a “Red-Out” event in support of the organization. The students and faculty, in conjunction with community members, have banded together in a sea of red to raise awareness about prevalent cardiovascular issues. Often paired with a home basketball game, the efforts of the entire Neenah community to recognize cardiovascular health have far-reaching benefits.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

The “Red-Out” stands out as a truly impactful event at Neenah High School. It has become a staple in the month of February, an event that the entire community looks forward to. Beyond raising awareness about cardiovascular health, the “Red-Out” unites the Neenah Community behind a solitary cause, a truly powerful idea. The advertising in the school has been extremely effective in the past years. However, the community advertising could see improvement, as some community members remain unaware of the event or its benefits.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Madrigal Singers

Authored by: Meggie DiPoto

Number of Students Participating: 35

Number of People Affected: Entire Community

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



Under the direction of Amy Westcott, Madrigal is a group of high school choir students that performs songs throughout the community. In December alone, Madrigal performed out in the community eleven times and helped spread the holiday spirit. They caroled at the EAA Christmas Air Adventure, downtown Neenah, local grocery stores, and several retirement centers all for no cost. Their perfectly harmonized singing brought smiles to everyone they encountered and provided excellent entertainment for community events.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

Madrigal members take a lot of time out of their schedule in order to perform as well as they do. Although the idea of singing around the community may seem a bit simple, it leaves a much larger effect than one may expect. These talented singers spread the holiday joy throughout the community with each performance and hope to continue this tradition each year.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: Dance Marathon

Authored by: Connor Navis

Number of Students Participating:
40 (From Neenah)

Number of People Affected:
Unknown

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



The Dance Marathon is a service project that supports the Children's Miracle Network. The project ran for roughly 6 hours over the course of one night. For this project our school worked to create teams of students which compete to raise the most money. All proceeds of the event go directly to supporting the children and their families through the Children's Miracle Network. This past year the Dance Marathon was able to raise roughly 22,000 dollars with hundreds of kids participating in total. As planning for this project took place, each team of students was assigned a family and a child that had been through the network, as the miracle family. Our school held events with these families such as an ice cream social, poster making, and a bowling party. Through this event, participants get to see firsthand, the effect they can have on the lives of others.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

Not only did this event raise a large amount of money for the Children's Miracle Network, it showed the impact that high school students can have on their community. We were able to listen to the stories of families where they stay and connection with the Children's Miracle network has changed their lives. This event was a huge success in our school with many new people interested in participating this coming year. It was very inspirational to see the impact we can have and to raise that much money, which all went to help local families. In the future we hope to get even more students from Neenah participating.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Service Dimension

School and Community

Project Name: The Comeback

Authored by: Celia Nalbach

Number of Students Participating: 50

Number of People Affected: 25,000 (Entire school and community)

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



A freshman at Neenah High School had undergone several brain surgeries due to a bacterial infection that spread to his brain. NHS Student Council called upon other clubs in the school such as Key Club, National Honors Society, DECA, and Kind Council to raise money for this family. This group of clubs called themselves The Comeback, and decided not to just make a difference for this family, but for the school and the whole community. Neenah's Homecoming week was dedicated to The Comeback, and they raised over \$13,000 for the family through penny wars, a Miracle Minute, a Drive in Movie, a Cookout, an ice cream social at a local ice cream shop, and other donations. The Comeback was not only meant to support this student and his family but to bring back Neenah's pride in its homecoming week.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

This event was extremely successful! The students that made up The Comeback were able to actively engage the entire school and community in this amazing project. It was extremely moving to hear students saying "I'm proud to go to Neenah" as they dropped a five dollar bill into a donation bucket. Elementary schools were involved with penny wars, and it was great to see the whole community participating in the Drive in Movie, the cookout, and the ice cream night. The outcome was much more successful than anyone thought it would be, but it was great to see Neenah students actively involved in the homecoming week! It would be very hard to duplicate this event, however we hope to do something special with our homecoming week in future years.

Spirit of Excellence Award

January 20, 2014

Subject: Letter of Recommendation

To Whom It May Concern:

This reference letter is provided at the request of Neenah High School students, who have asked me to serve as a reference on their behalf. I have known these mentors for the past four to five years in my capacity as Program Services Coordinator with Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha. Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha serves children between the age of five and eighteen by providing the opportunity for a special one-to-one relationship with a Best Friend mentor.

The Best Friends After-School mentoring program requires the high school students to stay after school to mentor an elementary or middle school student once a week. Many of these students show incredible flexibility, maturity and commitment to the program. While supervising this program each week I witness excellent leadership skills and positive attitudes from the mentors while working with their mentees.

These high school students are very influential to their mentee's. I have heard from parents and school counselors that the young kids look forward to hanging out with their mentors each week. These mentors are always enthusiastic and encouraging when working with their mentee's.

Being a mentor comes with a lot of responsibility. All of the Neenah High mentors go above and beyond what is expected of them weekly and I highly recommend all of these students for the Spirit of Excellence Award. They are an outstanding group of students!

Sincerely,

Maia Van Groll

Program Services Coordinator

Spirit of Excellence Award

Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha

*Building healthier lives, free of
cardiovascular diseases and stroke.*
1-800-AHA-USA1 • www.heart.org



Midwest Affiliate

1555 N. RiverCenter Drive, Ste. 212,

Milwaukee, WI 53212

Phone: 414-271-0000

January 22, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to recommend the Neenah High School National Honor Society for The Spirit of Excellence Award offered by the Wisconsin Association of School Councils and the WIAA.

I have had the privilege to work with the Neenah High School National Honor Society the past three years for the Red Out event in support of the American Heart Association. At Neenah High School, this event takes place at a girls basketball game and the National Honor Society has been instrumental in coordinating and promoting this event. They have taken leadership of the event within the school community by spreading the message and mission of the American Heart Association. Heart disease is the number one killer of women, yet many women do not realize heart disease as a health risk. The National Honor Society has spread this message to the school community in hopes this message will save a life. They have also shown school spirit by attending basketball games leading up to the Red Out event to promote the event. Lastly, they have been a great service to the American Heart Association through the raising of life-saving donations.

In conclusion, I highly recommend the Neenah High School National Honor Society as they are deserving of this award. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of recognizing this group of academic and motivated students. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at jackie.weir@heart.org or 920.539.0458.

Sincerely,

Jackie Weir

Youth Market Director

American Heart Association

Spirit of Excellence Award



The
Community
Blood
Center
Inc.

January 23, 2014

Dear WASC and the WIAA,

It is with great appreciation that I recommend the Neenah Joint School District for the Spirit of Excellence Award. Through their outstanding blood drive program, the Neenah Joint School District makes an invaluable contribution to the community each year. The impact of blood donations given at this high school is not measured just in numbers, but in lives touched.

Let me ask you a question: if you knew someone who had saved another person's life, what would you think of that person? Would your level of respect be elevated? Would you think of that person as a hero? Now consider; what if you knew a group of people who help save hundreds of lives each year?

There is such a group: the people of the Neenah Joint School District. For years, they have conducted an exceptional, vibrant blood drive program with the Community Blood Center. Their contributions reach beyond the recipients who need transfusions to survive. Their donations have impacted blood recipient families, friends, and communities.

In the last year alone, over 400 blood donations were given through the Neenah Joint School District. Successful high school blood drive programs don't happen without strong leadership, at a staff level and student level.

The act of giving blood is a selfless, anonymous deed. Most recipients will never know the heroes who donated the blood they received. Most donors will never get to meet the people whose lives they helped save. By undertaking this selfless, compassionate action, the students and staff at Neenah display outstanding school spirit, as well as service to their school and community. The impact of the Neenah Joint School District's successful blood drive program resonates with thousands of people each year, in Wisconsin and beyond.

What is the value of a life? What is the value of a group of people who helps save hundreds of lives each year? The Neenah Joint School District is surely worthy of receiving the Spirit of Excellence Award. This group is deserving of the highest recommendation, appreciation, and gratitude.

Most sincerely,

Jeff Kwasny
Recruitment Manager
The Community Blood Center
Appleton, WI

4406 West Spencer Street • Appleton, WI 54914
920-738-3131 • 800-280-4102 • Fax: 920-738-3139

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: State Parade

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Number of Students Participating: 75

Number of People Affected: 2000

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

In celebration of Neenah High School's wildly successful fall season, the Athletic Department organized a "march" through the school in recognition of state qualifying teams. The entire student body lined the halls at the end of the day to recognize the Girl's Swimming and Diving Team, the Girl's Cross Country Team, and the Girls' Volleyball Team. All of these teams qualified for their respective State Tournaments, an outstanding testament to **Neenah Pride**.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

In its inaugural year, the fall sports parade was a success. The Athletic Department is considering running a parade for each season. Students and faculty alike commented on the school pride that they could feel during the procession. The timing of the parade, however, was suspect, as the Cross Country State Meet and the Swimming and Diving State Meet had already occurred, perhaps slighting these two teams from the full effect.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: Neenah High School Dance Team

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Number of Students Participating: 15

Number of People Affected: 200-1,000 (depending on the attendance of the game)

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



The Neenah High School Dance Team has become a mainstay of Rocket Basketball games. The squad is selected after three days of intense tryouts in November. The most talented girls are selected, and they begin preparing. Their hard work and preparation is evident at halftime, where the girls entertain the crowd with top-notch dancing performances. This display illustrates the breadth of talent and pride that exists at Neenah High School.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

The Neenah High School Dance team has made tremendous strides since last year, an indication of Neenah High School's never-ending pursuit of excellence. The squad, which previously consisted of four girls, has now expanded to fifteen talented and dedicated members. The perception of the Dance Team, along with the public perception of their performances, has vastly improved. In the future, the team may seek to expand further, while still maintain the rigorous talent standards that it holds, as the girls seek to bolster Neenah Pride with their efforts.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: Dave Mader Shootout

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Number of Students Participating: 1 (per game)

Number of People Affected: 200-1,000 (depending on the attendance of the game)

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

Another halftime mainstay at Rocket Basketball contests in the Dave Mader Shootout. At halftime, one lucky student from the “Rocket Rowdy” student section is selected to face off against former Wisconsin Badger (turned Neenah State Farm Agent) Dave Mader in a basketball contest. The student, whether they emerge victorious or fall victim to Dave’s shooting talent, is rewarded with a small prize from a local business.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

This uproarious halftime contest plays a large part in the unique experience that is a Neenah Rocket basketball game. Combining a local celebrity with student involvement to create a delightful display for the entire crowd to enjoy stands as an excellent symbol of Neenah as a whole. The connection between school and community that exists in this contest truly exists through every activity. However, the contest is not without fault. Extending the chance to participate to anybody in attendance may make the contest more accessible and enjoyable for all.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: Extra Bleachers at Homecoming Football Game

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Number of Students Participating: 500

Number of People Affected: 2000 (entire school)

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

With the Neenah Rocket football squad having their most success in years, excitement was at an all-time high for the Homecoming Football Game. Once the excitement generated by The Comeback, a new Homecoming experience for NHS, was factored in, Rocket Stadium literally could not hold the passion pouring out of Neenah fans. Principal Brian Wunderlich was forced to rent an additional section of bleachers for the contest in order to assure every student a place in the stadium.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

This pure display of passion for Neenah Athletics is commonplace at Neenah High School. The rare, close-knit fabric of students, community members, and athletes is rarely found anywhere else. Although Mr. Wunderlich does not always have to rent extra seating, the message sent by that rental resonates through every activity at Neenah High School. Every student, whether they know it or not, was affected by this action. The rental served as a tangible account of the pride that Neenah holds in itself, a truly priceless commodity.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: National Anthem Singing

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Number of Students Participating: 1

Number of People Affected: 200-1,000
(depending on the attendance of the game)

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



Talented singer Bridget Hammett, a Neenah High School sophomore, entertains the crowd at nearly every Rocket sporting event with her exceptional rendition of the National Anthem. Bridget has become a mainstay at Rocket sporting events. The only time she doesn't sing the Anthem is during volleyball games, which she competes in.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

Bridget epitomizes Rocket Pride. She showcases the talent of Neenah High School and is an enormous source of pride for every member of the Neenah Athletic Community. Personally, I experienced the director of the WIAA State Volleyball Tournament walk across the facility to the Neenah Student Section in November and invite Bridget onto the court to sing the National Anthem. She nailed it, and the pride of every Neenah member in attendance swelled.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: "Rocket Rowdy's" Student Section

Authored by: Ryan Thomas

Number of Students Participating: 50-150

Number of People Affected: 200-1,000
(depending on the attendance of the game)



Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah Rockets student section supports all Neenah athletic teams by cheering in an extremely vocal, yet organized manner. Powered by a dedicated group of upperclassmen who organize the section and coordinate themes, the Neenah High School students consistently provide the energy that pushes their team just a little further when the going gets tough.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

The Neenah Rockets student section is one of the most influential and key aspects of any Neenah sporting event, whether at home or on the road. The so-called "Rocket Rowdy's" truly live up to their name through their loud and vocal support of any sports team. Area athletes have consistently cited Neenah as the toughest place to play because of the presence of the Rowdy's. Consistent turnouts of 100 or more students, unified by an event-specific theme, truly give the Rockets the fuel to succeed in a competitive FVA conference. This year has seen an improvement in the quality of the cheers over previous years, and, should this trend continue, future years will see more positive cheering, even in the face of bitter rivalries.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: Annual Homecoming
Game Ball Run

Authored by: Ryan Thomas

Number of Students Participating: 75

Number of People Affected: 2,500

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



Every year, the Neenah Rocket Cross Country team, under the leadership of dedicated staff member John Morgen, continues the tradition of running the football that will be used during the Homecoming game from the steps of the opposing school to Neenah High School. Historically, this has been a long run, as the run from area schools back to Neenah can span quite the distance. This year, Neenah's opponent in the Homecoming football game was Wisconsin Rapids, a hefty 80-mile journey from Neenah High School. Facing the decision of whether or not to attempt this 80-mile run, Morgen and the cross country team refused to accept defeat and ran the ball the entire distance.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

This year's Game Ball run was completed over the course of five days, in a relay fashion. The cross country team faced scorching heat on some days and bitterly cold rain on others. John Morgen captured much of the run and created a short video to commemorate the accomplishment. This video was also displayed at the school assembly, and served as an inspiration for the entire school. At the Homecoming game, the cross country team was recognized for their outstanding accomplishment and dedication to athletics at Neenah.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: Meet the Rockets Night

Authored by: Ryan Thomas

Number of Students Participating: 20

Number of People Affected:500

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):

Before the start of every Neenah Rocket Basketball season, the team holds an inter-squad scrimmage to help build energy and hype for the upcoming year. This year, along with the scrimmage, the team also decided to have a slam dunk competition. This was a delightful addition to the event, which housed a group of a few hundred fans.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

This competition is very friendly for area fans, and still maintains the energy of a typical basketball game while demonstrating the team's softer side. The players are able to joke around with each other while still playing a high-quality basketball game and provide entertainment for the local fans. This function will surely continue in the future as it helps formulate an attitude of teamwork and sportsmanship for the Rockets.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: Neenah Pep Band

Authored by: Ryan Thomas

Number of Students Participating: 100

Number of People Affected: 200-1,000
(depending on attendance of the game)

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



The Neenah High School Pep Band consistently provides loud and excited musical entertainment for the crowd at sporting events. With a brigade of one-hundred members strong, volume is never an issue for this group of excited students. This band is also specifically known for being a fun activity both for those involved and for those listening, as members are encouraged to perform in an exuberant manner that would not be considered acceptable in a traditional concert setting. The band performs both old classics and modern rock songs, catering to all members of the audience at any Neenah sporting event.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

The Neenah Pep Band plays a critical role in creating energy before sporting events. Nothing kills energy at an event like silence; with the amount of excited students in the pep band, they assure that there is never silence when an important game is around the corner. Working in conjunction with the Rocket Rowdy's student section to bring passion to Neenah sports, this group makes Neenah an incredible place to play and compete.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension

School Spirit and Sportsmanship

Program Name: Cross Country Team Camp

Authored by: Ryan Thomas

Number of Students Participating: 150

Number of People Affected: 1500

Description of Activity (*150 words or less*):



Every year, both the boys and girls cross country teams simultaneously make a trip to an island getaway for team-building activities. These team camps involve several activities that create cohesion among both very successful cross country teams. They also help develop a culture of respect for all of the opponents of Neenah Cross Country. Activities at the camp include, but are not limited to: obstacle courses, canoe races, many different sporting events, a trust walk, and several early-morning team runs. Athletes are divided into several smaller teams that compete against each other, heightening the level of the competition.

Reflection on Activity (*150 words or less*):

What you may do differently/or the same in the future

Through this activity, the Neenah cross country team builds an incredible bond among runners. This is especially important when the teams are so large; all runners must feel that they add to and create the team atmosphere. This activity will surely continue for many years, as it has been a critical element in the success of one of the area's strongest and most storied teams.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Student Letter – Ryan Thomas

Sportsmanship. From a young age, our parents, teachers, and tee ball coaches have touted the concept of fair play and respect, impressing upon us the importance of poise in the face of intense rivalry and proving the power of fairness in the face of injustice. Too often, however, this positive concept is washed out as we grow older, witnessing professional athletes boast in their victories and down talk their opponents. Our culture is at odds with sportsmanship, because it consistently emphasizes how we can be better, how we can crush our opponents, how we can rise above the competition. It promotes getting better for the wrong reasons; claiming that we should do something simply because someone else says we can't. Yet, in the midst of a culture where sportsmanship is being washed out, it is still alive. It is alive in the smiles of players shaking hands with each other after a game is over, calling each other by their first names. It is alive in the mutual respect that runners in a cross country race show for each other, when one falls, and a runner from a rival school stops to help them up and keep racing. And it is alive in the hearts and minds of athletes who show true grace and compete because they respect their opponent, not because they want to prove something to them. As a Neenah student-athlete who has witnessed all of these things, I can honestly say that a spirit of sportsmanship is alive in Neenah.

I am a part-time athlete and full-time superfan at Neenah High School. I am a four-year cross country runner, chess player, and baseball player for the Rockets. When I am not competing in one of these activities, I avidly support our many other successful sports teams. One tradition that is extremely rich at Neenah is the power of the student fans. The self-dubbed

Spirit of Excellence Award

“Rocket Rowdy’s” student section is consistently cited by area athletes as one of the most formidable and powerful forces in area athletics. Fluidly organized using a top-down approach, a dedicated group of upperclassmen develops themes for each event and communicates this information through necessary media outlets. This communication allows the student section to operate with a unique sense of unity, even giving a newcomer the feeling that he/she is part of something bigger than him/herself. As an active participant in this student section, I sincerely enjoy the atmosphere that it brings to any sporting event, as its presence can truly change the tide of a game. Neenah’s culture of sportsmanship has truly impacted me as a fan.

Neenah’s culture of sportsmanship has also impacted me as an athlete. As a baseball player, I feel an almost-indescribable sense of loyalty to my teammates because of the positive atmosphere we have developed. As a junior, I played my first-year of varsity baseball and was very surprised at how well my older teammates knew the other players in our conference. Not only did my teammates speak of our opponents’ skills on the baseball diamond, they spoke of their lives outside of baseball, their hobbies, and their work ethic. They spoke of our opponents with the same respect that they treated me with as a first-year varsity player. Even as a player who saw minimal playing time as a junior, I felt like I was a real part of our team.

This feeling also compelled me to make a difficult decision regarding my academic future last spring. In the early spring of 2013, I was nominated and selected to serve as a delegate from our high school to Badger Boys State, an annual program run by the American Legion that simulates a government at Ripon College. The program is notorious for offering countless scholarship opportunities and colleges are rumored to highly value students who have gone

Spirit of Excellence Award

through this program. It also fell during the same week as the WIAA state baseball tournament, but neither I nor many others expected much of our baseball team so I did not figure this would be a conflict. However, due to an unlikely state run powered by an extremely-close knit team that caught fire at the right time, we upset four straight opponents to advance to the state quarterfinals, leaving me with a tough decision. Do I go to Badger Boys State, which will very likely help my future chances at receiving scholarships and the like, or do I journey with my team to the state baseball tournament, an experience where I likely would not play? Logically, the decision pointed me to Badger Boys, but I could not pull myself away from the chemistry and bonding that I had developed with my team, and I chose to attend the state baseball tournament. I credit this entirely to the sportsmanship of our leaders. How else could a backup third baseman who had only played one full game feel so strongly connected to his team? Truly, this culture of sportsmanship has impacted me as an athlete and as a person.

I hope I have been able to demonstrate why I value Neenah's culture of sportsmanship so much, as both a student-athlete and a fan. Even in a culture where sportsmanship is sometimes fading, Neenah maintains an atmosphere rich in excellence, while still staying true to sportsmanship and respect.

Sincerely,

Ryan Thomas

NHS Senior

Spirit of Excellence Award

Official Letter – Bob Fletcher

I have had the opportunity to officiate three varsity sports for Neenah High School over the past several years. The sports are football, basketball, and baseball. I have to say that anytime I have been at Neenah High School, it has been a positive experience. The staff at Neenah High School has always been very cordial and that has carried over into the student body. The students of Neenah are always cordial, cheer their teams in a positive manner, and treat officials with respect. Being an official that likes to interact with students and players, there has never been an issue at Neenah High School.

One of the things that I enjoy as an official is the friendships that come with students and athletes after their high school experience is over. That has been the case with many former Neenah High School students. Many students have approached me over the years, wanting to know where they know me from. When I tell them that I am an official, they generally remember me from some game that they played or attended. Several Neenah athletes have become coaches and have always shown respect to me, now as coaches. That shows a true compliment to the leadership qualities bestowed upon Neenah students by the Neenah High School community.

Bob Fletcher

Fox Cities Officials Association

Spirit of Excellence Award

Community Member Letter – Mary Alice Browne

February 1, 2014

Dear Sprit of Excellence Council,

From a very young age, children are taught the importance of good sportsmanship. The lessons in fair play and respect for the opponents are modeled first by parents and then eventually by teachers, coaches and other adult leaders.

At Neenah High School, gracious behavior in both winning and losing is always expected in the sports arena. Athletes who represent Neenah High know the importance of treating everyone on the courts and fields with high regard.

Yet, at Neenah High School, this attitude carries far beyond the locker rooms. It is prevalent throughout the building. Students and staff are encouraged to be respectful of all members of the NHS family. On a daily basis, students rally around each other and provide encouragement. Whether a student is involved in music, DECA, forensics, or any of the other activities, he or she knows that their classmates will share their pride in their achievements with enthusiastic loyalty.

With a school as large as Neenah, it is not always easy to foster a caring environment. The staff continually promotes the idea of respect for all and to accept each other's differences. Programs such as "Challenge Day" have been brought in to help students understand what is really inside a person, and not just what is seen on the outside. With so many different backgrounds, students are taught every day that respect for each other is what matters the most.

Whether it is the girls' tennis team, the debate team or the Vintage Show Choir, good sportsmanship and respect are a main priority. Neenah High School is building strong individuals to make everyone's world a better place!

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Browne

NHS Parent

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Academic Achievement

Achievement: Project Citizen

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Project Citizen, a project that seeks to serve the Gifted and Talented Program at Neenah High School, had an unbelievably successful year. The program guided by Mrs. Valerie Cleveland, provides unique opportunities to exceptionally gifted students at Neenah High School. In May, the Neenah Project Citizen team attained a perfect score on their State Evaluation, a nearly unheard-of accomplishment.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Academic Achievement

Achievement: DECA Competition

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Neenah DECA has shown a large amount of success in competition over the past year. With a large amount of studying and practice, 18 committed DECA members were able to receive medals and awards at the state competition in March. With those medals, 10 students qualified for the prestigious International Competition held in Anaheim, California in April. After preparing for a month, the qualifiers competed with students from all fifty states and many different countries. One of the Neenah DECA members even qualified for the final round in the Apparel and Accessories Individual Series category.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Academic Achievement

Achievement: Finance Bowl

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

For the third year in a row, Neenah High School has been invited to compete in the Fox Valley Area Finance Bowl. With only select schools being invited, Neenah has shown its immense knowledge of financial terms and concepts for the first two years of this competition. Students are chosen by the school's Finance teacher, and compete in teams of four. At the last competition three Neenah teams competed at the Fox Valley Area Finance Bowl with one team even advancing on to the state competition. At the State Finance Bowl Competition, the Neenah team of seniors brought home a bronze medal, showing their knowledge and competence in finance.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

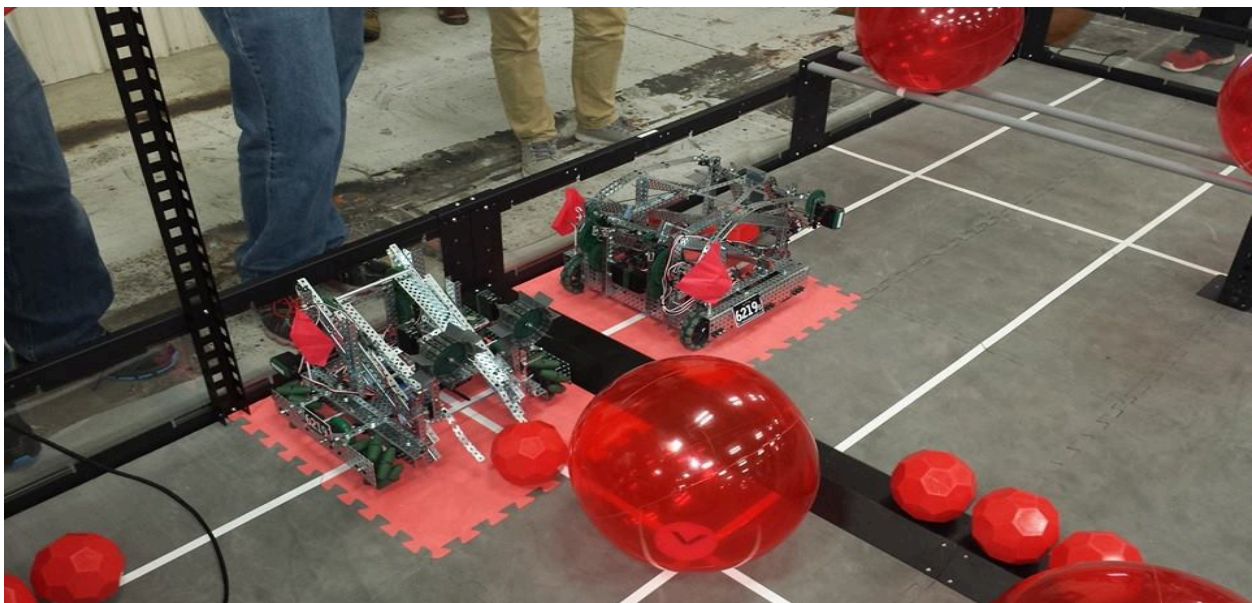
Academic Achievement

Achievement: VEX Robotics

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah High School VEX Robotics team has made a great start in only its second year of existence. Established halfway through the previous school year, this new club is currently building a base at Neenah. In the few competitions entered last year, the VEX team was able to win the sportsmanship award in April. Building on that, the team has entered the Fox Valley Vex Robotic competition League with about 35 students from Neenah. Two teams have already qualified for the state tournament in late winter, with two more teams nearly there. VEX has given the engineering students of Neenah a real life application of the skills they've learned in class. Their engineering knowledge and success so far show the immense potential of the students and the merit of Neenah High Schools Engineering education program.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Academic Achievement

Achievement: Debate

Authored by: Jennifer Recktenwald

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah Debate team has been very successful during their 2013-2014 season. There were eight policy debaters and five public forum debaters that competed at state. To have sent that many people to state this year is a huge improvement for Neenah, with only one debater qualifying two years ago. Although, that one member of the debate team went on to qualify for the Debate National tournament this year. Nathan Cho received the highest amount of speaker points which resulted in his first place finish as he represented the Neenah Debate team proudly.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Academic Achievement

Achievement: Math Team

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Neenah High School's Math Team continued its dominance in regional math competition during the 2013 season. The squad secured the Fox Valley Math League Championship, as well as boasting the league's top scorer in Thomas Hameister. Beyond winning the individual championship in the FVML, Thomas qualified for the prestigious Van Vleck Scholarship through UW-Madison as a result of his successful year. The Neenah High School Math Team truly found the "formula" for success this year!



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Academic Achievement

Achievement: Advanced Placement Honor Roll

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Neenah High School was named to the College Board's AP Honor Roll for the 3rd consecutive year in October. In 2013, Neenah High School administered its senior class a total of 638 AP Examinations in 22 different subject areas. Of these 638, 478 examinations were passed, giving Neenah High School an exceptional 75.1% success rate. This high level of achievement landed Neenah High School on the esteemed AP Honor Roll, a clear indication of the academic excellence that characterizes the school.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

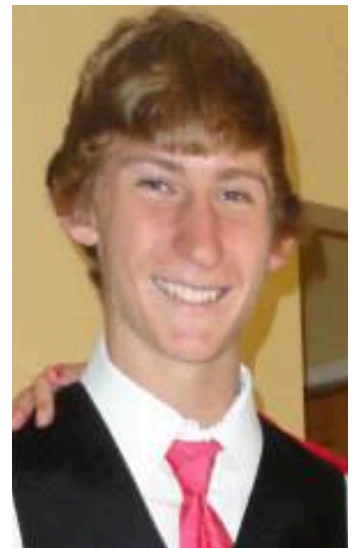
Academic Achievement

Achievement: National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Four Neenah students were chosen as National Merit Scholar Semifinalists. Calvin Baumgartner, Thomas Hameister, Laura Rafferty, and Emily Terlap have all shown their academic excellence with perfect 4.0 grade point averages. Each one of these students has taken schedules full of AP courses, and has participated in a varsity sport. Among that, they are all involved in numerous extracurricular activities showing how they are not only smart, but in fact are well rounded individuals. These students have excelled in academics, and have bright futures ahead of them.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Academic Achievement

Achievement: Science Olympiad

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah High School Science Olympiad team sent five students in six events at this past years competition. The students participated in events covering many different science concept, with the events including Boom Lever, Geocaching, Sustainability, Water Quality, Astronomy, and Circuit Lab. Individually, Kirk Lancaster took 3rd place in Boom Lever, while the team of Kirk and Theodore Wiswall placed 3rd in Geocaching.



Exploring the World of Science

Leadership Dimension

Spirit of Excellence Award

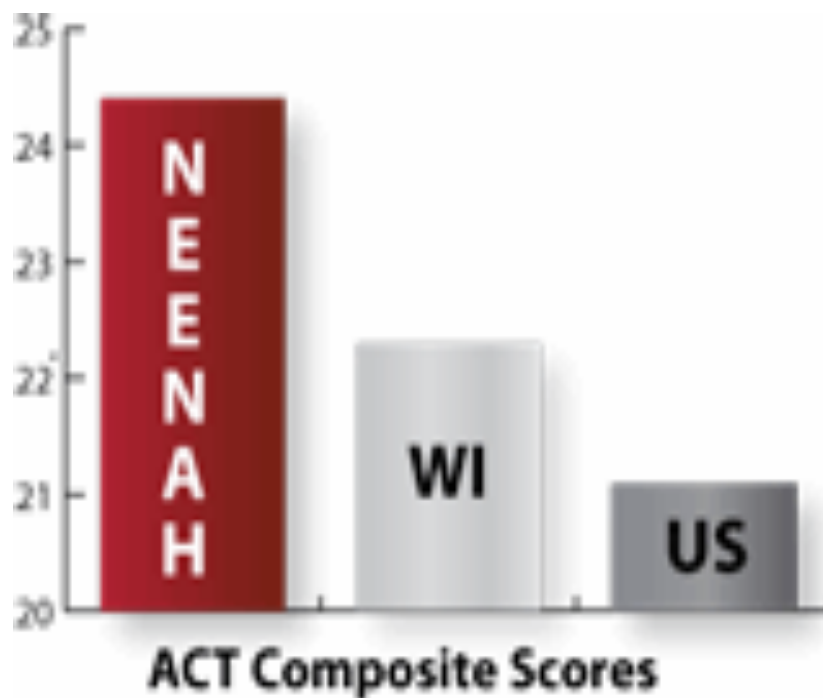
Academic Achievement

Achievement: Above Average ACT Scores

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Neenah has once again shown the academic excellence of its students with an average composite ACT score of 24.1 for the second year in a row. This average score is significantly higher than the state average of 22.1 and the national average of 20.9. The students of Neenah that took this exam excelled especially in reading with an average score of 24.7 for that category. Other scores for Neenah students include 23.5 in English, 24.1 in science, and 23.5 in math. With all of these scores above the state and national average, Superintendent, Mary Pfeiffer says it best with, "Our scores reflect the 'Passion for Excellence' that Neenah is all about.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Athletic / Co-Curricular Achievement

Achievement: Hazel Hertting Captures State Championship

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Hazel Hertting, a junior at Neenah High School, dominated the pool this fall. Hazel was the 2013 D1 State Diving Champion, a 2013 All-State Selection, the 2013 FVA Diving Champion, and the Post-Crescent Swimmer/Diver of the Year. She broke six pool and school records en route to her state championship, an absolutely tremendous achievement.



<http://www.usatodayhss.com/postcrescent/article/neenahs-hertting-dives-to-state-title--2013311160365>

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Athletic / Co-Curricular Achievement

Achievement: Girls Volleyball

Authored by: Jennifer Recktenwald

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah Girls Varsity Volleyball team had a very successful season. They hold the title of being conference champions, regional champions, and sectional champions. Their many victories lead them to the semi-finals in the WIAA Division 1 Girls State Volleyball Tournament. Along with numerous team accomplishments, many individuals were successful as well. The Neenah Girls Volleyball team had four all-state players and six all conference players. Two members of the girls' volleyball team will be playing division one college volleyball next year on full ride scholarships.

<http://www.postcrescent.com/article/20131108/APC020506/311080506/>



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Athletic / Co-Curricular Achievement

Achievement: Adam Pohlman - Soccer

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Current senior, Adam Pohlman has shown an enormous amount of success in soccer. As a part of the Varsity soccer team all four years of high school, Adam was named First Team All FVA for the past three years along with first team all-state for the past two years. He has also been recognized by the area paper and Wisconsin Coaches Association, as the Post Crescent Player of the year in the fall of 2013. Although going above and beyond, Adam Pohlman was the only Wisconsin athlete to be recognized as NSCAA First team All American, as well as being named the Gatorade Player of the Year in soccer. Adam Pohlman has been seen not only as an amazing athlete within our community, but also by the state and nation.



http://www.wisconsinsoccercentral.com/news_article/show/311148?referrer_id=812878

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Athletic / Co-Curricular Achievement

Achievement: Girl's Cross Country

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah High School Girls Cross Country team had another exceptional season in 2013. They captured their fifth straight Fox Valley Association Championship, along with their fifth straight Sectional Championship. At the State Meet, the girls secured third place, with twin sisters Jessica and Jennifer Parker capturing 2nd and 4th places, respectively. Furthermore, every member of the varsity team was a member of the Academic All-State Team.

<http://www.postcrescent.com/article/20131117/APC020505/311170354/Neenah-s-Jessica-Parker-named-All-Area-Girls-Cross-Country-Runner-Year>



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Athletic / Co-Curricular Achievement

Achievement: Girl's Track and Field

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah Girls Track and Field team once again showed its athletic dedication during the spring 2013 track season. The team contained four conference champions, along with seven 1st team All-conference runners. During the regional meet, the team performed well enough to send six qualifiers to state in six different events. At the state meet the team then captured champion status in the 3200 meter relay, the 1600 meter dash, and a State runner up in the 800 meter dash.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Fine Arts Achievement

Achievement: Choral Solo & Ensemble

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Neenah High School's Choir represented itself exceptionally well at the State Solo & Ensemble Festival in April. The group earned an outstanding twenty-two Class A First Ratings in solos and five Class A First Ratings in group efforts. The choir department at Neenah High School is led by Mrs. Amy Wescott, an outstandingly dedicated staff member.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Fine Arts Achievement

Achievement: Act II Show Choir Captures Brodhead Championship

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Act II, a show choir for freshmen and sophomores at Neenah High School, captured the coveted Grand Championship at the Brodhead Invitational on February 23rd. This invitational, dubbed *In the Spotlight*, is known across the Midwest for its prestigious competition. The group of underclassmen that compose Act II banded together and showcased their talent as they were named Grand Champions, an enormous honor.



<http://www.showchoir.com/events/event.php?id=957>

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Fine Arts Achievement

Achievement: Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition – Best of Show Award

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition offers high school students in the area the opportunity to showcase their artistic capabilities during national Youth Art Month. With the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass as the host, the art exhibition featured a primary medium of glass for the first time. Brinnae Bent swept the floor with her fused and slumped glass spectacle, “Impression”. This Neenah High School senior earned The Best of Show Award among nearly 150 pieces of glass art. Seven schools participated in the event during February and March of 2013, with the largest amount of students coming from Neenah High School. Bent’s talent and Neenah High School’s involvement showcase not only the excellence of our art program, but the skill and cultural immersion of our students in the community as well.



2013 Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition Best of Show, Brinnae Bent, *Impression*, 2013, Fused and Slumped Glass

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Fine Arts Achievement

Achievement: Orchestral Solo & Ensemble

Authored by: Jennifer Recktenwald

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah High School Orchestra contains many successful musicians. Eleven orchestra soloists received Class A First Ratings at the WSMA State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Also, five different ensembles received a Class A First Rating at the WSMA State Solo and Ensemble Festival including Neenah High School's Touch Of Class Alternative String Group.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Fine Arts Achievement

Achievement: One Act Performance

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah High School One Act Play performance stole the show this year with its first place rank at the state competition. The play, DNA, was based on the poem, "To This Day" by Shane Koyczan, with nearly 30 students putting a large amount of hard work and time into making this success. This play not only brought awareness to bullying, but was a collaborative effort between Neenah High School's Advanced Theater Studies class, and select special education students.

<http://moodle.neenah.k12.wi.us/satellite/?p=7624>



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: WASC Officer Training

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The officers of Neenah High School's Student Council Executive Board journeyed to the Wisconsin Dells in mid-October to bolster their executive talents. Various board members attended different sessions in order to improve their meetings or more efficiently track their finances. Beyond these specific improvements, the officers were beneficiaries of multiple leadership and team building opportunities, improving their ability to improve Neenah High School.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: People to People Student Ambassador Program

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The People to People Student Ambassador Program serves to connect young adults with leadership development opportunities across the globe. This year, Zachary Diegel, a junior at Neenah High School, participated in the Australian Adventure Program for a 21 day stint. During this time, Zachary developed invaluable skills and talents that will benefit him for the rest of his career at NHS and beyond.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Camp Onaway Leadership Training Conference

Authored by: Jennifer Recktenwald

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Camp Onaway Leadership Training Conference is a weeklong session on Camp Onaway where high school students develop and participate in various leadership activities. They learn fundamental skills that develop their character and leading abilities. From workshops to presentations the participants of Camp Onaway's LTC program gain valuable information that benefits various aspects of their lives.



<http://www.bgbrigade.com/onaway-leadership.asp>

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: LAUNCH

Authored by: Jennifer Recktenwald

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

LAUNCH is a peer-mentoring program that helps sophomores, juniors, and seniors become leaders at NHS. The primary goal of LAUNCH is to assist the incoming freshmen in the transition process. There are currently 132 leaders that are selected for the LAUNCH program each year. The lessons LAUNCH leaders teach include topics like study skills, suicide prevention, bullying, drugs and alcohol, and social media awareness. The LAUNCH program also brings in guest speakers that talk about good values and choices. Throughout the LAUNCH program, leaders are developed inside and outside the community.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: DECA Central Region Leadership Conference (CRLC)

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

This year's DECA Central Region Leadership Conference was held a relatively short drive away in Milwaukee. Neenah DECA sent 10 students to this regional leadership conference that contained DECA members from 13 states in the Midwest. Throughout the conference students listen to inspirational keynote speakers, meet new people, and attend numerous sectionals. Through these sectionals they learn many components of leadership in and outside of the business and DECA world. The 10 Neenah High School students returned from the conference with a plethora of tips and strategies to lead at their school and DECA chapter.

<http://revolution2013.com/>



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Neenah Rotary Club Luncheons

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Each week, students full of potential and leadership are chosen to join the Neenah Rotary Club for lunch. The guidance counselors of Neenah High School alternate in selecting students for the luncheon that they feel will benefit and enjoy the experience. As students listen and weigh in on the topics discussed at this weekly meeting, they have the opportunity to encounter experienced by very few at Neenah High School.

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/Home.aspx?accountid=5707>



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Leadership Class

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Neenah High School is one of a few high schools in the area that offers a leadership class each semester. The class size ranges from 25 to 30 students, all of whom develop their leadership capabilities through this course. Offered each semester, students learn many aspects of leadership, but focus in the five practices of leadership: model the way, challenge the process, inspire a shared vision, enable others to act, and encourage the heart. Students then apply and show their understanding of these practices through an original leadership project of their own such as hosting a school wide powder-puff event.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: World Affairs Seminar

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Each year up to two Neenah High School students are sponsored by the local Rotary Club to attend this seminar. Hosted at Carroll University, delegates participate in a variety of activities that broaden their scope and knowledge of social issues. Last year Neenah was represented by two sophomore students that discussed and learned about gender equity and social injustices at this conference. The social studies teachers of Neenah choose these students based on their leadership in the classroom and interest in social studies. These two returned with a greater understanding of the social injustices within our country and world, as well as ways they could work to curtail this issue.

<http://worldaffairsseminar.org/>



School: Neenah High School

SHS - Spirit of Excellence - Leadership

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: School Board Representatives

Authored by: Luke Nelessen

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah Joint School District board of education has designated two additional spots among its representatives to be filled by two current Neenah High School Student Council students. At every open council board meeting the representatives relay a report of current activities at the high school and throughout the district. These regular reports help the board stay informed and involved in student life, aiding them to concentrate on students. Throughout the meeting these two Student Council representatives are allowed, and expected to provide a student perspective on issues affecting Neenah High School Students. By allowing students onto its Board of Education, the Neenah Joint School District has gained an important advantage over other districts by receiving direct feedback on its administrative decisions.

<http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/district/boardofeducation.cfm>

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

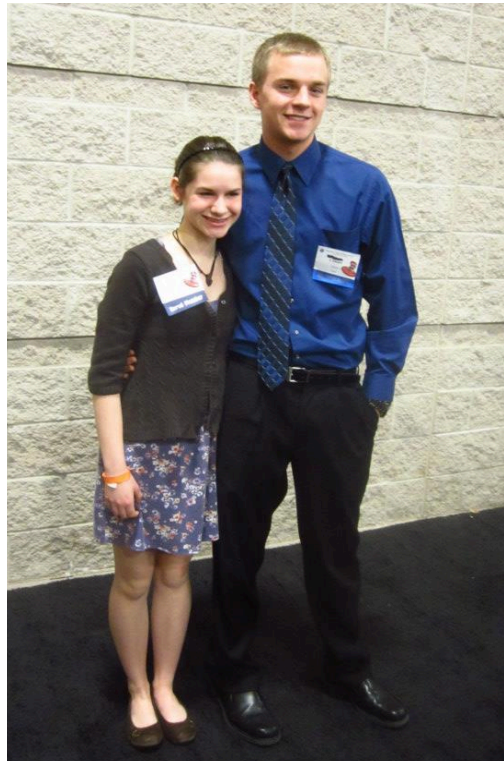
Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Key Club District Board Members

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah High School Key Club is lucky enough to house two district board members. During elections at the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan District Conference last year, Senior Connor Navis was elected as a Lieutenant Governor, and Celia Nalbach as the District Bulletin Editor. Students of only the highest caliber and potential are elected for these positions, displaying the excellence of Neenah Key Club. These two students exercise and develop their leadership abilities through work and collaborating with many other Key Clubs in the state and area.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Eagle Scouts

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Neenah High School contains multiple students that have shown their leadership through participation as Eagle Scouts. These students have shown their dedication to leadership and the community as many has been involved in the program since early elementary school. In cub scouts these students learned many skills to be applied to their lives, but by achieving the prestigious honor of Eagle Scouts, they have applied these skills with many leadership aspects. The students are required to complete various activities to earn badges, and conclude the initiation by organizing and completing a project within the local community.

<http://www.nesa.org/>



School: Neenah High School

SHS - Spirit of Excellence - Leadership

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Civic Leadership Academy

Authored by: Evan Thomsen

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Civic Leadership Academy is a program by the Civil Air Patrol in which attendees from Neenah learned about the civic process and developed leadership skills under the supervision of members of the Supreme Court, Honor Guard, and several different governmental agencies including the CIA, State Department and FBI. During the activity, attendees met with representatives from all members of Congress from the State of Wisconsin including some Representatives themselves. This activity was in Washington, D.C. and taught about how to be a servant leader from people with firsthand experience in doing so.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Civil Air Patrol

Authored by: Evan Thomsen

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Civil Air Patrol is the official Air Force Auxiliary and several members of Neenah High School have been members of the program. Within the past year these members have attended local, state, national and even international activities in which they developed leadership skills from a myriad of sources including people from government of not only the United States but from Japan, and Canada as well. They also gained leadership skills from hands-on experience of leading new members into the program through teaching classes and developing lesson plans and schedules for the program that will develop the members of their local unit. They not only become leaders; they develop leaders in future generations so that the program will continue on after they leave and keep the legacy of leadership development unsurpassed by any other organization.

<http://wicap.us/>



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Certified Nursing Assistants

Authored by: Jennifer Recktenwald

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Certified Nursing Assistant class offered at Neenah High School allows high students to start in on the process of becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant. The students participate in a semester long college course through the high school where they learn about the responsibilities and tasks CNAs have to perform. Along with the everyday coursework, the students participate in clinicals and labs with registered nurses to prepare them for the statewide certification exam.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Boys and Girls Brigade

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah Boys and Girls Brigade serves to develop the youth of the Neenah area through an eloquent combination of socialization opportunities and skill and talent development programs. It then combines these two factors to create extraordinarily effective leaders that benefit the entire community. Students are given the opportunity as early as sixth grade, and many persist with the program until senior year. This program gives students the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that are both fun and build useful skills. The participants are taught the importance of service and leadership throughout their time in the Brigade. With skill development and service oriented activities, the students involved in Brigade have developed outstanding leadership capabilities that are seen throughout the community.

<http://www.bgbrigade.com/>



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Challenge Day

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Over a hundred students participated in the renowned Challenge Day, this year at Neenah. Hosted in the fall of the school year, a limited number of students are invited for an eye opening experience like no other. Students miss a whole day off school, but during that time they are widening their scope and learning about the lives of the many different students at Neenah High School. During this day they are reminded of the unknown hardships that others face and how their words can matter. Students are then placed in small groups where they share their stories and offer support to one another. The attendees of challenge day exit the school ready to lead themselves and their peers towards creating a supportive school-wide community.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Badger Boys and Girls State

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Four Neenah High School boys and girls attended the Badgers Boys and Girls State conference this past June. Students are chosen based on teacher recommendations, leadership in the classroom, and an interest in government. While at this conference the students listened to knowledgeable keynote speakers, and participated in many activities including the group simulation of a fictitious country. During this experience, students even had the chance to meet current Governor Walker. After a week of meeting new people and new experiences, they returned home with an enhanced understanding of governing bodies.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Key Club District Convention (DCON)

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

In March, Neenah Key Club sent 12 of its dedicated members to the Hyatt in Green Bay for the District Convention, DCON. Many of the attendees from Neenah were making their first appearance at the Wisconsin and upper Michigan DCON, with many unforgettable memories made. Aside from the copious amount of fun activities, the students spent most of their time during the day learning about topics relevant to Key Club. While the newly elected officers of each club learned how to contribute the most to their chapter in their positions, others learned more about serving others, personal character, and how to lead more effectively. In the end they elected their new district officers, with two being from Neenah.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Teen Symposium

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Teen Symposium is a daylong leadership retreat for freshmen, taking place at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Sponsored by the United Way and its youth board, Freshmen from all around the Fox Valley spend the day learning how they can make an impact in their community through leadership and activism. They take away ideas on how they can positively change the climate at their school. A freshman from each freshmen seminar class was offered the opportunity to attend this symposium.

<http://www.unitedwayfoxcities.org/community-dev/youth-involvement/teen-symposium>



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: REACH Project Presentations

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

This year three Contemporary Literature 12 classes tackled the tough subject of sexual assault. Working with Reach Counseling, a sexual crisis center in Neenah, they were to create a project about this and similar subjects including: abuse, violence, oppression, and gender roles in the school and community. Each student then presented their project in a venue outside of the classroom. The teacher now prepares to have the topic of sharing tough subjects presented at the 2014 Summit on Healthy Teen Relationships by two students in March.



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Key Club International Convention (ICON)

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

This last July, Neenah sent its two resident district officers to the International Key Club Convention, ICON. Held in Washington D.C., these officers spent the week of the Fourth of July in our nation's capital. Throughout this week, these dedicated students attended countless workshops aimed at developing their leadership, helping them grow as people, and learning about service organizations. Aside from that they were able to tour the many wonders found in Washington D.C., and elected their organizations international officers.

<http://www.keyclub.org/events/convention.aspx>



Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Development In & Outside School Achievement

Achievement: Teen Pair Share Day

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

About twenty Neenah LAUNCH leaders were invited to attend this conference. Hosted by the Outagamie County Pre-action Network, students attending will spend a day with leaders from many of the areas schools, at the Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley. At this conference leaders learn about the many aspects of empathy and leadership that they can apply elsewhere.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Lowering the Achievement Gap Achievement

Achievement: Academic Planning Night

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Academic Planning Night has become a tradition at Neenah High School in the recent years. The event, which was held on January 13th this year, was an enormous success. A multitude of presenters and experts spoke on a variety of topics ranging from college preparedness to curriculum offerings to specialized academic planning sessions. The dedicated staff of NHS created this night in order to “even the academic playing field”, providing every parent with an extraordinary opportunity to play an active role in their child’s education.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Lowering the Achievement Gap Achievement

Achievement: Math Intervention Program (Math Lab/Guided Math)

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Math Lab and Guided Math are two new intervention programs that have been implemented at Neenah High School this year. After students are identified as below-grade-level at mathematics by their WKCE or STAR exams, they are eligible to enroll in these specialized math programs. Teachers in Guided Math and Math Lab assist the students in creating a specialized learning plan to meet their specific goals and return their abilities to grade level. These classes allow every student an equal opportunity to succeed in mathematics.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Lowering the Achievement Gap Achievement

Achievement: Freshman Seminar

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

Neenah High School hosted its third year of Freshmen Seminar classes. This program requires each freshman to take a course in the beginning of the year that matches them in classes with identified leaders from the school's LAUNCH program. In this course the new students learn how to successfully approach high school and all of the many problems and situations they may encounter. Freshman Seminar prepares students for a successful high school career.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Lowering the Achievement Gap Achievement

Achievement: English Language Learning Program

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The English Language Learning program at Neenah High Schools strives to help students with English as their secondary language to thrive. There are students of many different languages including Spanish, Hmong, Burmese, Albanian, and many more. The teachers work with these students to allow them to learn their material, along working on their English skills. Then as the student's progress, they can eventually exit the program into everyday classes in English. This program provides an invaluable resource for students that struggle with English.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Lowering the Achievement Gap Achievement

Achievement: N.E.A.T. Program

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The NEAT program helps students to graduate that have strayed off-track. This program is for students that are identified as in need of support, and that are willing to make the commitment to reach their potential. They are paired up with a teacher as a mentor and that teacher helps keep them on track and be successful. Students are taught to utilize and diligently follow their agendas, along with setting goals with various time lengths. They are then able to apply these skills to their schoolwork and life. They also gain life skills and their NEAT mentor works with them to help prepare for the individuals future. Overall, this program does an excellent job of giving a second chance at becoming a good student.

<http://moodle.neenah.k12.wi.us/satellite/?p=7546>

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Lowering the Achievement Gap Achievement

Achievement: Neenah High School Downtown campus

Authored by: Nicholas Munce

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Neenah High School Downtown Campus provides a unique opportunity for under-achieving students to succeed. This campus, located off-site from the main Neenah High School campus and run by Mr. Michael O'Neill, provides in-depth training to students who struggle to thrive in the traditional high school setting. This unique opportunity that is afforded to Neenah High School students truly illustrates the school's commitment to providing equal learning opportunities for all.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Lowering the Achievement Gap Achievement

Achievement: Special Education Program

Authored by: Trevor Nelson

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The Special Education department at Neenah High School has continuously worked to help the special needs students at the high school. This department works with students of various categories and severity of needs to help them get the most out of their Neenah High School experience. Each category of the program is designed to meet the education and transition needs of the students with varying disabilities. The students have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and an assigned special education teacher who monitors progress and implements the IEP. The program is designed to promote student success and help prepare them for their post-secondary goals whether it be college, technical school, on the job training, work force, or supportive employment.

Spirit of Excellence Award

Leadership Dimension

Lowering the Achievement Gap Achievement

Achievement: Reading Intervention Program

Authored by: Jennifer Recktenwald

Description of Achievement (*150 words or less*):

The reading intervention program identifies students who need assistance with reading and comprehension based off of their STAR Reading Skills Test and works with them to improve their skills and knowledge. Each of the students receives individualized instruction based on their needs in a Reader's Workshop model classroom.