



District Digest

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BERLIN

| www.nbexcellence.org

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Delivering Excellence

District Survey

Dear New Berlin Community Members:

The School District of New Berlin has one goal: to become the best school district in the State of Wisconsin. Accomplishing this goal will take time, focus and a more systemic approach to using data to plan and to measure progress toward our strategic framework called the “Big 8”. Success will be measured in traditional academic terms, such as advanced placement exam scores, WKCE scores, and diplomas awarded. However, the best school district in the state will also provide their students with the skills and abilities to be successful in a global society.

As we work towards this goal, we need to be accountable and listen to our parents as well as the broader community. To this end, we are conducting a district survey to better understand what we do well and where we could improve. To assist with data gathering efforts, we are working with School Perceptions LLC, an independent firm with expertise in conducting school district surveys. All survey data is returned to School Perceptions and your identity will remain confidential.

This survey is available now and will remain open until March 5th.

Simply go the website: www.survey2000.com

Enter the Survey Access Number: **Your unique access # is on the back page of the newsletter**

Take the survey!

The survey code will not identify you as it is randomly generated. The survey access number can only be used once. **To save the district expense, we encourage you to take the survey online if at all possible.** If you do not have Internet access, a copy of the survey may be obtained at any of our schools or the District Office. It can be completed and dropped off at the District Office, or mailed to:

School Perceptions
321 East Washington Street
Slinger, WI 53086

Final survey results will be reported at an upcoming Board of Education meeting and will also be available on the district website at www.nbexcellence.org. We value your ideas and beliefs about the School District of New Berlin. Your thoughts and those of your neighbors will shape the future of our school district and our young people.

John Kegel
President, Board of Education
School District of New Berlin

New Berlin's Special Education Future

On January 11, Dr. Michael Mattos, a nationally-recognized authority in education, addressed the New Berlin educational community. Emphasizing the moral responsibility of schools to insure that all students learn at high levels, this presentation was part of an on-going response of the School District of New Berlin to ensure all students are provided with a successful educational experience. The District is concentrating its resources on concepts substantiated by a decade of research and successful implementation throughout the nation. As the District makes these changes, all students, including those eligible for special education services, are the intended beneficiaries.

Special education in New Berlin has had a long and successful history. From just three classrooms in the early 1970's, special education has expanded with the changes in federal and state law. Important to these changes is that special education has learned from both mistakes and successes. We are now at a juncture that gives us an understanding of what direction special education needs to move in to result in the most long-term benefit.

Over the past thirty years, terms such as "mainstreaming" and "full integration" have defined movements that emphasized the value of involving special needs students into regular education. Sometimes these "movements" have been well thought out, sometimes they have been faddish. Regardless, as special education has matured, a research and experiential base has been developed that now provides clear direction.

Coupled with the individualized requirements integral to special education, what is most appropriate for any special needs student remains the responsibility of the entire IEP team. For some students, the location and content of their instruction may be more restricted. However, there is the clear understanding that for the majority of special needs students, instruction with their non-disabled peers in general education classrooms results in increased achievement and skill development for all students.

As the District moves forward, changes will be observed in how special education services are delivered. Integral to this change is the understanding that there is a corporate ownership and responsibility of teachers, administrators, parents and even students to make these changes result in beneficial outcomes.

Increasingly, strategies, accommodations, and modifications within the regular classroom will be a true joint effort of all staff working with individual students. Students with persistent learning and achievement deficits will be involved with increasingly intense programming and services. The intent is for all students, regardless of disability status, to develop sufficient skills to have tangible success in their learning.

This process will take time and careful consideration for the reallocation of resources. Over the next two years, the District will build educational opportunities for all students. The success of these endeavors is ultimately defined by students graduating from our schools having the skills and knowledge to be successful and productive members of their community.



Dr. Michael Mattos of Solution Tree gave a presentation at the January 11th staff development.

Michael Lin Selected as John Downey Fellow

Qiuyu (Michael) Lin, a sophomore at New Berlin Eisenhower High School, has been selected to be the John Downey Fellow assigned to compose a musical piece for a string quartet for the Chamber Ensemble Program. Michael has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, but this is the first time he has received this honor.

Working with supervising professional composer Julie Brandenburg, he will have the opportunity to write and then hear his own music. His original composition will be played on Sunday, March 21, 2010, at the Chamber Ensemble Program Recital.



Michael Lin at the composing computer.

New Intervention Model for Secondary Students

As we continue to grow in providing supportive intervention models for learning in the School District of New Berlin, both secondary schools are implementing additional supports to students for learning in the core subject areas. An educational initiative in Wisconsin and the nation is Response to Intervention (RTI). The premise of RTI is that schools should not delay providing help for struggling students until they fall far enough behind to qualify for special education, but instead should provide timely, targeted, systematic interventions to all students who demonstrate the need.

This model of interventions is in place and being expanded through a model that will function with the school library being the physical hub of learning support and interventions within the school. The current model of interventions includes the following supports for secondary students:

- Classroom teachers
- Specified courses (Intensive Writing, Read 180, etc.)
- Learning Labs staffed by classroom teachers (mathematics and English/writing)
- Student learning assistants (writing/organization – grades 7-9)

Students access this support through both voluntary and assigned programming. Many of these supports are provided during a study hall, before or after school, and during lunch.

NEW MODEL:

The district has determined a new model. Providing additional support for students is necessary to truly implement the appropriate foundation for student learning. In this model, a significantly increased number of students will have study hall in the school library with common access to an expanded support system that includes all current supports identified above along with additions in the areas of mathematics, science and social studies. These additions, through the addition of support staff, will provide an enhanced level of targeted interventions for our students. This program will allow students to voluntarily attend or be assigned to regular, ongoing intervention areas to support their classroom learning in the essential areas of the curriculum. This increase in staff and support for students is further benefited through the communication of instructors in the particular subject area with the support personnel in the LMC. These supports will be accessible one hour before and after school as well as throughout the school day. This intervention model is research-based and proven to be successful. The goals for the program are increased learning and success for

all students with the ability for all students to access the support provided and not be inhibited by their school schedule. We are excited to implement this plan and will continue to develop it. As your students access this new program, please contact a building level administrator with questions or to provide feedback. We view this as a true positive for students to grow in their ability to demonstrate learning success throughout the school year. Thank you for your continued interest and support of your students and learning.





Superintendent Dr. Paul Kreutzer, District Energy Manager Roger Bortmann and Director of Building and Grounds Bob Pulliam displaying the School District of New Berlin Energy Star Awards.

Energy Star Awards

The School District of New Berlin has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) prestigious ENERGY STAR award, the national symbol for superior energy efficiency and environmental protection. Commercial buildings and industrial plants that rate in the top 25% of facilities in the nation for energy efficiency may qualify for the ENERGY STAR. Each of the District's five elementary schools (Elmwood, Glen Park, Orchard Lane, Poplar Creek, and Ronald Reagan) have received this honorable award.

"The School District of New Berlin is extremely proud to accept the EPA's ENERGY STAR award in recognition of our energy efficiency efforts," said Superintendent Dr. Paul Kreutzer. "Through this achievement, students and staff have demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship, as well as helping to maintain fiscal conservancy by lowering our energy costs."

Commercial buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR use an average of 40% less energy than typical buildings and also release 35% less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The District improved energy performance by managing energy strategically across the entire District and by making cost-effective improvements to the buildings.

"Whether you are running a grocery store, a school, or an office building, getting the most out of your energy dollars—while reducing your carbon footprint—just makes sense," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson.

EPA's national energy performance rating system provides a 1-100 scale that helps organizations assess how efficiently their buildings use energy relative to similar buildings nationwide. A building that scores a rating of 75 or higher is eligible for the ENERGY STAR. Commercial buildings that can earn the ENERGY STAR include offices, bank branches, financial centers, retailers, courthouses, hospitals, hotels, K-12 schools, medical offices, supermarkets, dormitories, and warehouses.

ENERGY STAR was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 50 different kinds of products, new homes and commercial and industrial buildings. Products and buildings that have earned the ENERGY STAR designation prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the government. In 2006, with the help of ENERGY STAR, consumers in the US saved about \$16 billion on their energy bills while reducing the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 27 million vehicles.

For more information about ENERGY STAR visit www.energystar.gov

District Safety Initiatives

The District has increased its efforts toward safety over the course of the last two years. We have focused on safety and in the last six months have completed the following:

- Maintained a cooperative relationship with the NB Police and Fire Departments through work within the safety committee, fire drills and inspections, and intruder drills and assessments to name a few
- Focused District professional development on safety
- Increased the number of staff certified in CPR/First-Aid/AED
- Updated and increased Automated External Defibrillator (AED) equipment throughout the District
- Provided "go-kits" in every classroom and office that includes updated first-aid kits and other necessary emergency tools and equipment
- Developed crisis planning procedures and training staff in their implementation
- Held cyber bullying parent meetings

The District will look to maintain and enhance its safety efforts throughout, in order to provide a safe educational learning environment for all.

An Original MGM Album Musical
based on Charles Schulz' *Peanuts*
**you're a good man,
CHARLIE BROWN**



Musical Returns to New Berlin West

New Berlin West will be rolling out the red carpet for the first musical production in a number of years. **You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown** will be directed by the PAC Manager, Ms. Brittainy Cherry, with assistance from Ms. Stephanie Sell. *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* is a musical comedy based on the characters created by cartoonist Charles M. Schulz in his comic strip *Peanuts*.

The history of **You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown** dates back to 1967 when the stage adaptation of the concept album premiered off-Broadway, featuring Gary Burghoff as Charlie Brown, Reva Rose as Lucy, Bob Balaban as Linus, Skip Hinnant as Schroeder, Karen Johnson as Patty and Bill Hinnant appearing in person as Snoopy. A big hit, it ran for 1,597 performances. In 1971, a Broadway production featuring an entirely new cast opened and in 1973, the show was adapted for television in a Hallmark Hall of Fame special. In 1985, an animated TV special based on the musical aired on television. This version was the first animated depictions of Snoopy with understandable dialogue. In 1999, the musical was revived again on Broadway with new dialogue, additional songs and orchestration.

Our Theater Department thanks the citizens of New Berlin for placing a high priority on making the Arts an extensive part of offerings to its students. The production will feature evening performances on Friday, April 23, Saturday, April 24, and a matinee performance on Sunday afternoon, April 25, 2010. The show is sure to be a true learning experience for the students at New Berlin West and we are excited to offer this great opportunity to our students.

New Berlin West's "Bridges" Program

New Berlin West proudly serves as the center for a new 7th through 9th grade program called "Bridges". "Bridges" is an academically centered program, serving students from Eisenhower and West, that makes use of a smaller classroom setting, focused on very specific learning strategies, and aimed at helping struggling students meet proficiency in their academic class offerings. "Bridges" is comprised of two teachers, Ms. Georgette Miller and Ms. Gina Salmieri, and a myriad of additional resources, including regular guidance, school psychologist, and classroom teacher intervention.

The goal of "Bridges" is to literally "bridge the gap" with students who might have fallen behind in their progress in school. These students are able to receive very specific instruction in content areas (science, math, social studies, and English) to propel them into accordance with their peers. Once the students are approaching their peers, they are slowly re-introduced into the regular classroom setting with the assistance of the "Bridges" teachers acting as co-teachers. When the students no longer need the assistance of the "Bridges" teachers, they are allowed to "cross the bridge" into independent practices. The students who are acting independently will be monitored to make sure that they continue to progress as expected.

Once students are fully independent, the "Bridges" teachers will welcome a new group of students with the expectation that they will experience the same success as the previous student population. The goal of the "Bridges" program is to act as an early intervention for our student population. Research shows that intervening early and often with students who are experiencing difficulty in school will help to give them the skills to meet the expected grade level proficiencies.



"Bridges" teacher
Georgette Miller works
with a student



"Bridges" student working
on assignments



Don't Forget!

Don't Forget to complete the School District Survey!

**GO TO:
www.
survey2000.
com**

and enter your unique survey number located on the address section of the newsletter.

A Message from Superintendent Dr. Paul Kreutzer

In this issue of the **Digest**, we want to highlight the community-wide survey (see front page). The survey is a very important tool for us to measure ourselves and seek growth and improvement. The survey will help us quantify our goals and contribute to our ongoing improvement process. As we **Expect Excellence**, we must pay careful attention to assessment and our stakeholders' views. Additionally, we have to maintain a clear vision and publicly established goals. We have the **Big 8** as a framework for our efforts. More recently we added specific goals with measures to each of the **Big 8** categories. We invite you to review them on our web site at:

www.nbexcellence.org/big8

Our communication efforts with you are ongoing and we truly hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to let us know your thoughts by completing the survey. Your participation in the survey and your involvement with the District is a great opportunity to help shape our future which will benefit all of us. Additionally, do not hesitate to visit us in person or online. Our two monthly school board meetings are broadcast live and archived on our web site as well. If our staff, myself included, can be of service to you, do not hesitate to call or stop by in person. We'd love to meet you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Kreutzer

4333 S Sunnyslope Road
New Berlin WI 53151



The School District of New Berlin does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.

SURVEY ACCESS NUMBER