



Expect  
Excellence  
School District of New Berlin

# 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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# SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE



The 2025-26 school year is right around the corner, but before we become completely engrossed in what lies ahead, we are thrilled to take this opportunity - the 2024-25 Annual Report - to look back and celebrate a year that was remarkable in so many ways.

The report takes the brightest moments of the 10 months of the school calendar and condenses them into a 16-page booklet filled with accolades, accomplishments and achievements. We also include valuable information about our budget and strategic finance planning, the Education Foundation of New Berlin and our expanded efforts to make the West Performing Arts Center a social hub for our great city.

Putting this report together is a labor of love - and I'm always amazed by the final product. So much happens in a given year, and the Annual Report not only captures the best of those moments, but also serves as a reminder of the amazing students, staff, coaches and community our district is blessed to call its own.

We hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report as much as we enjoy publishing it, and we hope it brings you as much pride as it brings us.

And as we look ahead at this upcoming school year, we thank each and every one of you for your continued support.

**Expect Excellence,**  
Superintendent Joe Garza

*Joe Garza*

## VISIT THE SDNB DATA DASHBOARD

The Board of Education's data dashboard, which launched last summer, provides all stakeholders an overview of the district's progress toward its strategic goals: increase student achievement; maintain and promote fiscal responsibility; foster a collaborative work environment; and develop relationships and partnerships with the community.

The dashboard will be updated every November with data from the previous school year. You can find the dashboard at [www.sdnbdatadashboard.com](http://www.sdnbdatadashboard.com).



**DISTRICT MISSION:**  
To empower, inspire and support students as they establish goals for their future and develop plans to achieve them.

**DISTRICT VISION:**  
The School District of New Berlin fosters a learning environment in which our public schools, families, post-secondary partners, public officials, businesses, community organizations and other citizens work collaboratively to prepare all students to succeed in a diverse, change-oriented, global society.

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**Don't wait for next year's Annual Report to read about the great things happening in our schools!**

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# BOARD OF EDUCATION



## SPRING 2025 ELECTION

Incumbents **Mitch Helmer**, **Renee Koneck** and **Janet Schulz** ran unopposed in last spring's School Board election and were sworn in for another three-year term by Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Bradley in April. Schulz was also re-elected as the Board president by her peers, with Helmer being re-elected as vice president.

# MAJOR ADDITION FOR 2025-26

Among the School Board's important work during the 2024-25 school year was the decision to launch a 4-year-old kindergarten program in the SDNB starting this fall.

4K programming and curriculum will be centered on developing early reading, writing and math skills, as well as social skills, with a focus on learning through play and "school readiness".

The half-day program with morning and afternoon sessions will be housed at both Ronald Reagan and Elmwood. Students will attend school five days a week, and transportation will be provided for all resident students.

The addition of 4K gives families yet another reason to choose the SDNB when they decide where to live and raise a family. Until now, the SDNB was the only district in Waukesha County and southeastern Wisconsin without a traditional 4K program. More importantly, the addition of 4K will give all resident students a jumpstart on reading, writing and math basics, creating friendships and learning how school "works".

All resident children 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 can enroll in our 4K program, which replaces the district's successful, tuition-based Early Learning Program. Registration has been open since the spring, but afternoon session seats are still available.

**Learn more about the new 4K program, or begin the registration process, at [www.nbexcellence.org/prospective/4K.cfm](http://www.nbexcellence.org/prospective/4K.cfm).**

## 2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Janet Schulz**,  
President

**Mitchell Helmer**,  
Vice President

**Ron Seidl**,  
Treasurer

**Amy Crosby**,  
Clerk

**Renee Koneck**

**Allison Spindler**

**Matt Zielinski**

## JOIN US

for the School  
District of New  
Berlin's Annual  
Meeting &  
Budget Hearing



**MONDAY, SEPT. 22,**  
**AT 7 P.M.**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM E**

**Note:** The meeting / hearing will also  
be streamed live on YouTube.



# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

“ It takes an incredible amount of dedication and effort from everyone in our organization to achieve and sustain the level of excellence we have for the better part of a decade. These are just some of the ways in which we measure ourselves up to the best districts in the state and we’re proud that we continue to be among them. ”

- Joe Garza, Superintendent

## U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

The publication assesses students’ proficiencies in math and reading, as measured by state assessment tests, and formulates a ranking based on those overall results as well as those results in the context of socioeconomic demographics. In other words, the top-ranked schools are high achieving and successful in educating all of their students.



- All SDNB elementary schools were recognized as being among the state's best in the 2025 rankings;
- Of the more than 1,900 Wisconsin elementary schools eligible to be ranked, Poplar Creek (74th), Elmwood (126th) and Ronald Reagan (129th) were all within the top 7 percent, with Orchard Lane finishing just outside the top 15 percent.
- High school rankings were not yet available for this publication.

## AP SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

- Eisenhower and West are two of just 11 traditional Wisconsin public high schools to earn Gold level Advanced Placement School Honor Roll recognition;
- Of the 422 qualifying schools in Wisconsin, only 4 percent earned the Gold level recognition;
- Eisenhower and West are two of only four Waukesha County high schools to achieve the mark.



2023-24  
DISTRICT  
SCORE

83.5

## STATE REPORT CARD

The Department of Public Instruction annually releases district and school report cards as a measure of accountability:

- The SDNB “significantly exceeds expectations” for the eighth consecutive year;
- Of 377 districts statewide, the SDNB is one of just 15 to reach that level, and one of only 10 K-12 districts to do so;
- all six SDNB schools “exceed” or “significantly exceed” expectations;
- Of the nearly 1,075 public elementary schools in the state, Poplar Creek (91.8) is one of fewer than 50 to achieve a 90 or better;
- Eisenhower is one of only 18 public high schools and one of just 12 traditional (non-preparatory, non-charter, etc.) public high schools to “significantly exceed expectations”.

## PROJECT LEAD THE WAY DISTINGUISHED HIGH SCHOOL

PLTW is a nonprofit organization that develops curriculum and provides pre-engineering courses for middle and high school students. These courses focus on integrating science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to prepare students for careers in STEM fields. Criteria considered to be named a “distinguished school” includes number of offerings, participation rates and strategies for enrollment.

- For the first time ever, Eisenhower has been named a PLTW Distinguished High School;
- Eisenhower is one of just 18 Wisconsin high schools to earn the PLTW distinction and one of only 32 across the state who have earned it since the program's inception in 2017-18.





# WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE

## NEW ADMINISTRATORS IN THE FOLD

**Scott Garner**, former assistant superintendent / director of human resources in the School District of Janesville, is the new Director of Employment Services. Garner was in Janesville for nearly 30 years in various roles and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to New Berlin.



Poplar Creek's associate principal **Sumeera Mansukhani** is the only new building administrator. Mansukhani spent the previous three years in the Wauwatosa School District in elementary administrator leadership roles such as an academic specialist, principal resident and principal. Before that, she was an elementary school teacher for six years in Menomonee Falls.



## DECA ADVISOR LEADERSHIP AWARD

West teacher **Meg Gardner** was awarded the Red Apple Award, a prestigious honor recognizing outstanding DECA advisors who show exceptional dedication, leadership and commitment to their students, going above and beyond to support their growth and success in DECA.



## FOUR SDNB EDUCATORS EARN HERB KOHL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

For the eighth consecutive year, at least four SDNB educators were chosen as Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Fellowship Award winners: **Matt Kotowicz**, a fifth-grade teacher at Elmwood; **Taylor Molitor**, a tech ed / construction teacher at West; **Kelli Rado**, a second-grade teacher at Elmwood; and **Alison Taxis**, a special education teacher at Eisenhower. They are four of 100 Wisconsin teachers to earn this year's award. Fellowship recipients are educators who have been chosen for their leadership and service in and outside the classroom, their ability to inspire a love of learning and to motivate their students.



## WEST TEACHER EARNS STATE AWARD AS GLOBAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

West Spanish teacher **Jessica**

**Santiago** was named the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's 2024-25 Global Educator of the Year.

With 23 years teaching middle and high school Spanish, Santiago has distinguished herself as a passionate and inspiring leader, advocate, and model for global education in her school community and across the state. Her teaching goes beyond language instruction – she also teaches about the world through language, helping students become globally competent citizens.

As a recent participant in a U.S. Department of Education-funded global curriculum development program, Santiago, through collaboration with other global educators, helped design an inquiry-based, standards-aligned Spanish unit to engage students with real-world environmental issues around the globe. She also serves as president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and is a trained facilitator in global learning.

As the 2024-25 Global Educator of the Year, Santiago received a Council on International Educational Exchange scholarship to represent Wisconsin on a global site visit to Rome.



## 2024-25 RETIREES

Elmwood first-grade teacher **Kim Mantel** and second-grade teacher **Michelle Breitenfeldt**, with a combined 59 years of service, retired at the end of last school year. They were the only classroom teachers to retire, and were joined by fellow retirees **Leslie Moczydlowski** (library assistant, Eisenhower), **Cathi Stram** (speech/language pathologist), **Don Salentine** (buildings and grounds) and **Kathy Sellenheim** (special education / student learning assistant, Orchard Lane).



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## SPELLER IMPRESSES AT NATIONAL BEE

Eisenhower seventh-grader **Ethan Robert** turned in a remarkable performance at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, where he was a semifinalist and tied for 10th overall. Ethan, one of 243 national qualifiers, correctly spelled words such as “promyshlennik”, “adobo”, “metonym”, “acetarious” and “vibices”. He has won three school district and regional spelling bees in a row, and was the first New Berlin representative to make it to the national bee in 10 years. He’ll get one more shot at it next year when he’s an eighth grader.



## PROJECT SEARCH SUCCESS

Through hard work, dedication, and a commitment to excellence, Eisenhower’s **Nola Sandell** successfully completed Project SEARCH at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. She made such a lasting impression that the hospital created a position just for her on the neuropsych clinic team. Project SEARCH provides students with disabilities a workforce alternative for their last year in high school.

## WEST ACDEC REPEATS AS STATE CHAMPS

For the second consecutive year, West won the Division 3 championship at the Wisconsin Academic Decathlon state competition. **Vivian Dinh** took first overall in the honors division, outscoring 74 other students while medaling in economics, interview and essay. **Liam Lucas** medaled in four events to become West’s highest-scoring sophomore ever.

At the same event, Eisenhower took second in D2, as **Isha Joshi** finished with a bronze in honors within overall score and medals in science, art, social science, speech, music and economics.



## EDUCATORS RISING MEMBERS MAKE MARK AT STATE EVENT

Two members of West’s Educators Rising club qualified for the national competition following their performances at the state event. **Joshua Jackelen** finished first in creative lecture and **Nick Macakanja** was second in public speaking to secure their bids to the national summit in Orlando. Educators Rising is a state and national organization that provides a place for students to explore career choices and opportunities for volunteerism and service within the field of education and teaching.



## PERFECT ACT SCORE

After a one-year hiatus, Eisenhower claimed another perfect ACT score thanks to senior **Sophia Grosman**. Sophia, who earned impressive scores on the exam as a sophomore and junior, utilized a solid timing strategy that helped her plan how long she could spend on each question as she progressed through the test. Only about one quarter of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn the highest composite score possible.



## NEW CAR BUILDING, RACING PROGRAM

New Berlin launched its new Learn, Build, Race Team, a global academic competition in which student teams build and race their own open-wheel race cars. New Berlin students competed at its first-ever competition at Road America in Elkhart Lake in the spring.



## CREEPY, KOOKY AND REALLY GOOD

West's performance of "The Addams Family" earned four Jerry Awards from the Overture Center for the Arts for excellence in high school musical theater. **Lucas Neustifter** and **Lucy Gratz** earned Spirit Awards while **Shawn Anderson** and **Lori Doyle** earned Outstanding Costume Design awards.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## NATIONAL QUIZ BOWL CHAMPS

Eisenhower's science team won the National Academic Competitions Quiz Bowl tournament in Rosemont, IL, in June, after winning the Wisconsin State Spring Quiz Bowl event in the spring. The team of **Dino Ahmetovic**, **Isha Joshi**, **Dhakshesh Kiran**, **Sylvia Li** and **Joshua Lin** became the first team ever to score more than 400 points three separate times over the course of the national competition.



## MUSICIANS AMONG ELITE

A trio of musicians - cellist **Gavin Koplin** (West), violinist **Bode Li** (Eisenhower) and bassist **Davis Cady** (Eisenhower) - earned the privilege of working with renowned conductor **Steven Amundson** and fellow top-notch musicians from across Wisconsin at the 2024 WSMA High School State Honors Orchestra at the Overture Center in Madison after acing a tough audition.

And out of the 4,400 total events at the State Solo & Ensemble Festival in April, only 400 received the highest honor - Exemplary Performance Recognition Award. And nine came from New Berlin students: Eisenhower's **Maryn Davis**, **Matias Krammer**, **Bode Li**, **Kaavya Shahir** and **Anna Yamshchikova** and West's **Vince Bartley**, **John Griffin** and **Lucas Neustifter** (twice). It was the first time in more than a decade that West had four performances awarded with the prestigious honor.



# ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE



## EISENHOWER CLAIMS STATE BASEBALL TITLE

Making its first state baseball appearance since 1989 and just the second ever, Eisenhower, led by first-year head coach **Joe Dathe** and first-team all-state outfielder **Carter Hollenback**, finished the season on an eight-game winning streak, including a 5-4 victory over Seymour in the WIAA Division 2 state championship at Fox Cities Stadium in June.

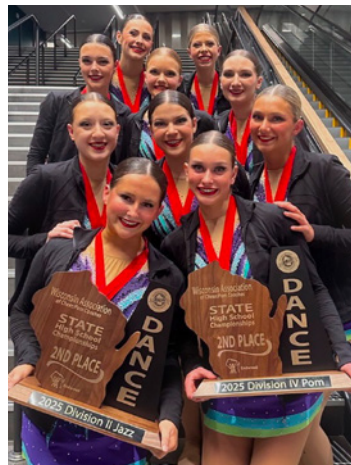
Senior **Sam Hirthe** picked up the pitching win for the Lions (23-5) in the final and snapped a 4-4 tie with a walk-off RBI double in the bottom of the seventh inning. Hirthe also had a two-run, go-ahead single in the Lions' 3-1 semifinal victory over Reedsburg.



## WEST DANCE DOES IT AGAIN

After winning its first state championship in six years and second overall in 2024, the West dance team repeated as D2 hip hop champions at the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches state meet in February. The squad previously earned a state title in 2018 and was runner-up in both 2020 and 2021.

At the same meet, Eisenhower claimed second place in D2 jazz and D4 pom for the second straight year.

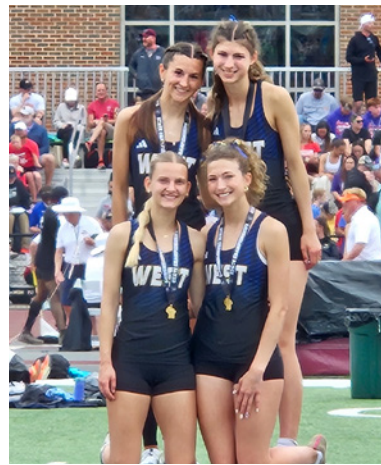


## TWO WRESTLERS FINISH ON PODIUM

Senior **Natalia Poplawski** went 4-1 over three days at the WIAA girls state wrestling tournament and claimed fifth place at 138 pounds after finishing sixth a year prior. Joining her on the podium was junior **Tesa Marrero**, who placed sixth at 107 pounds.

## TENNIS TANDEM TAKES FOURTH

At the spring WIAA D2 tennis tournament in Madison, Eisenhower's **Vishal Luthra** and **Luke Yoon** made it to the semifinals and finished an impressive fourth. During the fall season, West's **Caroline Gerovac** placed fifth, the program's highest placement in decades.



## WEST TRACK TEAM REPEATS IN 800-METER RELAY

One year after setting a state meet record in the 800-meter relay at the WIAA D2 state track and field meet, West's **Caroline Gerovac**, **Aubrey Lane** and **Ashley Babcock** this time teamed with **Raquel Gerovac** to do it again and win a state title in 1 minute, 42.35 seconds. Those four were also one of three teams to break the previous meet record in the 1,600 relay, but just fractions of a second kept them from another title and they finished third. Lane (third) and Babcock (fifth) were also spectacular in the 200 dash.

Additional track highlights came from Eisenhower's **Javaryn Love** (second, 400) and **Faith Wehrman** (third, 3,200), and West teammates **Trevor Berwanger** and **Zachary Hewitt** (tied for third, high jump).

## WAGNER'S DIVING CAREER COMES TO A CLOSE

Eisenhower's **Emily Wagner** closed out her high school career with a fifth-place effort in the diving competition at the WIAA D2 State Swimming and Diving Meet. She finished in the top-10 at state all four years, including back-to-back fifth-place efforts as a junior and senior.







### CROSS COUNTRY STRONG AGAIN

Eisenhower's **Faith Wehrman** finished her remarkable CC career with a fourth-place effort at the WIAA D2 State Cross Country race. She ended with four, top-six state runs in four tries, including the state championship as a sophomore. Last year's effort helped the Lions to fifth overall as a team, the best finish in school history. Also, the Viking girls, who made their first state trip ever, placed 14th; and the Eisenhower boys were 16th. It was the first time ever that the Eisenhower boys and girls qualified for state in the same year.

### SOCCER ALL-STAR

Senior forward **Jack Bretzmann**, who as a sophomore led the Lions to their first-ever boys soccer state championship, earned first-team all-state honors and will continue his career at DI University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

### BOYS VOLLEYBALL RETURNS TO STATE

New Berlin United ended its season with a quarterfinal loss to Marquette in the state tournament at the Resch Center in Green Bay, ending another solid season. It was the seventh time United qualified for state.



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OAW Indoor Sports Complex is a proud sponsor of the School District of New Berlin & New Berlin West Athletics



# BUDGET DETAILS / STRATEGIC FINANCE



## FISCAL PRIORITIES

Every year, the SDNB carefully balances its immediate financial needs with long-term fiscal health. This process reflects a strong partnership between district leadership, the School Board, and the community—all working together to provide high-quality educational experiences for every student. With respect for taxpayer priorities and a commitment to transparency, each budget cycle centers on responsible planning and thoughtful decision-making.

### ESTIMATED TAX LEVY, TAX RATE

After 10 consecutive years of decreased tax rates dating back to 2014-15, the rate increased 0.33 percent in 2024-25 and is estimated to increase again in 2025-26. The preliminary budget, approved by the School Board this summer, calls for a 7.12 percent increase in the tax rate to \$6.31. The result is an estimated increase of \$147 gross school tax levy on a home valued at \$350,000. It is important to note the levy increase is not a result of increased spending; rather, it is primarily a direct result of a decrease in state funding.

## 2025-26 PRELIMINARY BUDGET KEY POINTS

In June, the School Board approved the district’s preliminary budget, which sets fiscal priorities for the school year and allows the administration to operate until the original budget is adopted in October.

**Several factors can lead to changes between the preliminary budget and the original - or final - budget, including state aid distribution, equalized property values and more. Assumptions in the preliminary budget, however, include:**

- increase in enrollment of 24 students
- 15% reduction in state aid projection
- \$325 increase in per pupil revenue limit
- Board-approved 2.91% increase in base wages and associated benefit increases
- Various classroom staffing increases
- Increases in transportation and utilities costs
- Expenses to exceed revenue for capital maintenance funding plan

## 10-YEAR TAX LEVY HISTORY

SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALIZED VALUE (Tid out)	CHANGE	TAX LEVY	CHANGE	TAX RATE per \$1000 EQUALIZED	CHANGE
2016-17	\$4,566,665,526	3.13%	\$50,973,224	2.58%	\$11.16	-0.53%
2017-18	\$4,779,770,578	4.67%	\$51,745,449	1.51%	\$10.83	-2.96%
2018-19	\$4,977,053,088	4.13%	\$50,791,524	-1.84%	\$10.21	-5.72%
2019-20	\$5,247,647,190	5.44%	\$49,109,185	-3.31%	\$9.36	-8.33%
2020-21	\$5,363,814,925	2.21%	\$45,742,523	-6.86%	\$8.53	-8.87%
2021-22	\$5,736,657,174	6.95%	\$43,412,556	-5.09%	\$7.57	-11.25%
2022-23	\$6,494,577,054	13.21%	\$44,719,245	3.01%	\$6.89	-8.98%
2023-24	\$7,262,867,814	11.83%	\$42,621,284	4.69%	\$5.87	-14.80%
2024-25 Estimate	\$7,404,320,964	1.95%	\$43,596,900	2.29%	\$5.89	0.33%
2025-26 Estimate	\$7,552,407,383	2.00%	\$47,636,943	9.27%	\$6.31	7.12%





BUDGET FORECAST

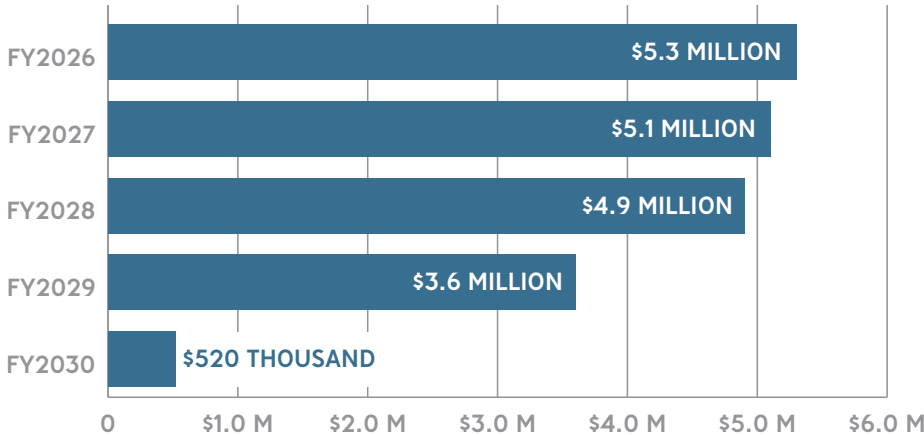
The District is considering a one-time, \$6 million draw down of fund balance in 2025-26 to support capital maintenance projects over the next several years. The drawdown, should solidify the district's financial bridge until debt payments are significantly reduced in 2030.

The debt is largely the result of the SDNB building Ronald Reagan Elementary and making significant upgrades to West more than two decades ago without a referendum. Instead, the SDNB absorbed the debt into its operating budget.

The large drawdown will result in a one-time reduction in state aid rather than reductions over multiple years; set aside funds for crucial capital improvements; and provide initial capital maintenance funding for potential outdoor facilities projects, all while maintaining twice the fund balance amount required by Board policy.

Administration strategically built up fund balance during the early 2020s and will replenish it once the debt is paid off in 2030.

Debt Within the Operating Budget



FUND 4I HIGHLIGHTS

Through the strategic use of Fund 4I coupled with a generous donation from the Mallinger family, proud supporters of West athletics, the SDNB constructed outdoor bathrooms, concessions and a storage / team room all under one roof at the West Outdoor Athletic Complex last summer. The building was open and fully operational in time for the Vikings' first varsity home football game.

Another major project completed through Fund 4I was bell and public address systems upgrades at all schools. The new systems provided improved alerts and communications options in the event of an emergency. More than just a "fancy digital clock", the system can sound immediate alarms and display common language consistent with the Standard Response Protocols, such as "hold", "lockdown" and "evacuate."

Other projects completed (or started this summer) through Fund 4I funding include switchgear replacement at Eisenhower, front parking lot replacement at Elmwood and asphalt replacement at West.

Projects planned for this school year include parking lot section replacements at West and Ronald Reagan.

Fund 4I was established by the School Board in 2022 to support capital maintenance of school facilities. The funds collected through this levy are designated exclusively for capital improvement projects. Rather than replacing the regular maintenance budget, Fund 4I supplements it—enabling early bidding on projects, which helps secure better pricing and ensures timely project completion.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



## COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES 2024-2025

3 SEASON

The third season of the Community Concert Series at the West Performing Arts Center featured five amazing shows - and a record-breaking atmosphere.

Nearly 1,500 people attended the five concerts that featured Dan Lepien, The WhiskeyBelles along with Tenors MKE, No Can Do, Substitute, and Miles Nielsen & The Rusted Hearts. All five shows featured low-cost tickets and the cold beverage bar sponsored by the Education Foundation of New Berlin.

But that's not all. In January, the school district and PAC played host to FMI06's Class of 2025 concert which brought in the venue's first-ever sellout thanks to current country music stars Zach Top, Drew Baldridge, George Birge, Dylan Marlowe and Tigirly Gold. And in June, the PAC played host to the Miss Wisconsin pageant after its run of 60 years in Oshkosh came to an end.

Learn more about the new season of community concerts on the back cover or at [www.nbwestpac.com](http://www.nbwestpac.com)!

### QUICK FACTS

Average attendance: 292  
Total ticket sales: \$18,430

Biggest show: 585 attendees  
The WhiskeyBelles and Tenors MKE Holiday Concert

15% Year-Over-Year Attendance Growth\*

41% Year-Over-Year Ticket Sales Growth\*

EFNB's earnings (including beverage bar): \$12,751



VISIT THE NEW PAC WEBSITE

[www.nbwestpac.com](http://www.nbwestpac.com)

#### NEW PAC WEBSITE!

Thanks to funding provided through a grant submitted and earned by the Education Foundation of New Berlin, the West Performing Arts Center launched a new website last year.

The site showcases the growing Community Concert Series, highlights upcoming student performances and provides information on special events like Miss Wisconsin and more. The website is also more vibrant, visually appealing and user friendly.





### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS MAKE THEIR MARK

The SDNB's youngest students - those at our elementary schools - learn about the value of community partnerships and giving back throughout the year. Here are some of our favorite examples.

- On Veterans Day, Ronald Reagan students showed their patriotism and support for those who served in a variety of ways, including planting American flags throughout the lawn in front of the school.
- In February at Orchard Lane, students collected nearly 500 cereal boxes to donate to a local food pantry. But before they donated the boxes, they created a giant domino chain that extended throughout the school.
- Elmwood fourth-grade students took knowledge they gained in their classroom and used special kits to create and donate blankets to the NBPd. The blankets are used by the department to support families in need throughout our community.
- During April, the Poplar Creek Student Council collected nearly 260 pounds of pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. RMH uses the money generated from can tabs to assist families who have a child receiving medical care at Children's Hospital by providing food, housing and support. Sixth grade led the way with 83 pounds of tabs.



### ADDITIONAL SAFETY UPGRADES

In addition to the upgraded bell and public address systems (see Fund 4I Highlights on page II), the SDNB added the presence of security guards throughout the day at all elementary schools. The security personnel patrol the schools and provide additional safety support in conjunction with the district's school resource officers, who spend the majority of their day at the middle/high schools.



### OUTDOOR FACILITIES TASK FORCE

Throughout most of 2024, SDNB administration engaged dozens of community member volunteers who served on an Outdoor Facilities Task Force to develop next steps in improving Eisenhower's and West's outdoor athletics facilities.

Task Force members, including the volunteer group known as the New Berlin United Athletic Foundation, and administration have a shared interest in launching a capital campaign to support enhancing both schools' multi-purpose stadiums with synthetic-turf fields and reconstructed tracks, as well as synthetic-turf baseball and softball field upgrades. SDNB's high schools are the only two in Waukesha County and two of only six Woodland Conference schools that do not have any turf or synthetic playing surfaces. All of SDNB's contiguous neighbors have turf stadium surfaces. Lighting of the baseball and softball fields was also among the task force's considerations.

As a result of the Task Force recommendations, the School Board and the Education Foundation of New Berlin jointly agreed to fund a capital campaign wealth screening and feasibility study, the results of which were not known by the time of this report's publication. Future updates will be provided at upcoming School Board meetings.







## SCHOLARSHIP TOTALS CLIMB

The EFNB awarded 16 scholarships totaling \$17,250, raising its four-year total to nearly \$52,000.

### EFNB 2025 Scholarship Winners

#### EFNB Community Scholarship - \$750

- Camila Garay - West
- Isabella Schneider - West
- Gabrielle DiMotto - West

#### Extra Lap Scholarship - \$2,000

- Jenna Anderson - West

#### Ike Soccer 2022 Champions - \$1,000

- Claire Markofski
- Caden Ryan

#### Payton Alexander Memorial Golf Scholarship - \$1,500

- Jenna Anderson - West
- Kevin Kreitzer - West

#### Peter Michaud Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

- Ella Dietrich - West
- Megan McDowell - Eisenhower

#### NBAA Scholarship - \$1,000

- Reid Barczak - West
- Rocco Conrad - West
- Jacob Liedtke - Eisenhower
- Megan McDowell - Eisenhower
- Devin McRae - West
- Paige Orluske - Eisenhower

Visit [efnb.org](http://efnb.org) for more details.



### COMMUNITY CHEERS AT SUCCESSFUL TOAST TO EDUCATION FUNDRAISER

The Toast to Education fundraising event, presented by the EFNB and Matty's Catering, was a resounding success, generating more than \$79,000 in support for the EFNB and 54 SDNB partner clubs and activities. From the event's 600 guests, clubs earned a significant portion of funds totaling \$28,921, demonstrating the community's commitment to educational enrichment.

### EISENHOWER ALUMNI FUEL CAREER AND TECH ED GROWTH

The Ikefest Trades Initiative Fund, established by Eisenhower alumni from the classes of 1972-1992, supports the high school's Career & Technical Education programs by providing financial resources for hands-on learning in manufacturing, construction, health sciences, and other skilled trades. Managed by the EFNB, the fund directs contributions—ranging from cash to complex assets—toward competitive grants that enhance trades education and prepare students for in-demand careers with strong wages and job security. This collaborative effort helps bridge the gap between education and workforce needs, empowering students with practical skills for the future.



### STRENGTHENING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

On World Mental Health Day (Oct. 10), the EFNB partnered with the SDNB's Mental Health Advisory Committee to raise awareness and funds in support of student well-being. The effort—combined with other donations—enabled EFNB to establish a long-term Drew Lietke Memorial Mental Health Care Fund, an investment fund with the Waukesha County Community Foundation aimed at growth to bridge gaps in access to essential mental health services for students now and into the future.

**INVEST IN NEW BERLIN STUDENTS!** Make your donation to the Education Foundation of New Berlin at [www.efnb.org](http://www.efnb.org).

## EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NEW BERLIN

# COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

The Community Concert Series at the West Performing Arts Center, sponsored by the Education Foundation of New Berlin, has an exciting lineup planned for 2025-26!



# NEW SEASON



**THE WHISKEYBELLES  
& TENORS MKE**

(Holiday Concert)

**Thursday, Dec. 18**



**ALMIGHTY VINYL**

(Classic Rock)

**Saturday, March 7**



**PANORAMA**

(Cars Tribute)

**Friday, April 10**



**TRIPPIN' BILLIES**

(Dave Matthews  
Band Tribute)

**Friday, May 15**



**HYPNOTIZED**

(Fleetwood Mac Tribute)

**Saturday, June 27**

Times and dates subject to change. Doors and the cold beverage bar open one hour before the show. Tickets and more information can be found at [www.nbwestpac.com](http://www.nbwestpac.com).

**FOLLOW US:**



**ANNUAL NOTICES:** Located at [www.nbexcellence.org/district/annualnotices.cfm](http://www.nbexcellence.org/district/annualnotices.cfm)

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to be good stewards of taxpayer funds, a cost-effective bulk mailing service was used for this publication. However, there are limitations and the service cannot precisely match the School District of New Berlin's boundaries without adding significant cost. If you do not live within the District and received this publication due to this limitation, we ask for your understanding.