



Expect
Excellence
School District of New Berlin

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**WISCONSIN
TEACHER
OF THE YEAR**

**NEW BERLIN WEST'S
COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER**

Saghar Homayounpour

See page 15 for more details!

VISIT WWW.NBEXCELLENCE.ORG



SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

School District of New Berlin Friends, Families and Supporters - Thank You for Reading the 2022-23 Annual Report!

In this year's report - our annual "highlight package" - you'll see a recap of many of the great things that happened throughout the year in our great district. You'll see evidence of our efforts to provide the best possible learning environments that we can for all students. But what you won't necessarily see is the heavy lifting we did related to the state's major literacy issue.

Before the state Senate and Assembly passed a comprehensive reading bill that Gov. Tony Evers signed into law this summer - a bill designed to improve reading proficiency for students across Wisconsin - the School District of New Berlin was at the forefront of the change.

After years of research, data-diving and comparisons, we made the important decision to implement a new English Language Arts - or reading - curriculum. Throughout the 2022-23 school year, staff and administrators worked diligently to implement the curriculum, which is centered on the "Science of Reading."

In January, we presented at the State Education Convention on our work, and in partnership with Wisconsin Reads, we presented a showing of the powerful documentary "The Truth About Reading" at the West Performing Arts Center. In the spring, we welcomed State Senators John Jagler and Rob Hutton and State Representative Dave Maxey to Elmwood Elementary for a "Science of Reading Snapshot", to demonstrate how we used to teach reading instruction and contrasted it with how we are doing it now. And as state lawmakers and legislators debated the merits of the science of reading and the funding needed to implement it statewide, I testified in front of the Senate Committee on Education, urging them to support the bill and invest in our students' futures.

We have quickly become an example of what could be achieved across the state. And we are proud to be leaders in this effort and advocates for change that we believe will benefit the students of New Berlin - and Wisconsin - for decades to come.

I hope you enjoy our Annual Report and continue to support us as we turn our attention to the 2023-24 school year!

Expect Excellence,



Superintendent Joe Garza



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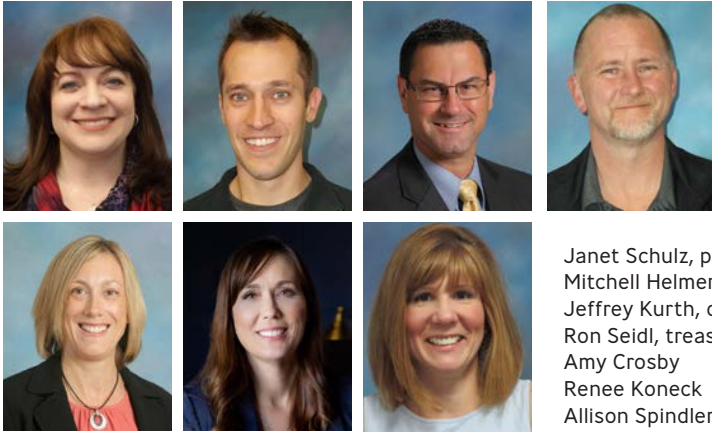
Don't wait for next year's Annual Report to read about the great things happening in our schools!

 facebook.com/nbexcellence  twitter.com/SDNBSchools

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

2022-2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION



Janet Schulz, president
 Mitchell Helmer, vice president
 Jeffrey Kurth, clerk
 Ron Seidl, treasurer
 Amy Crosby
 Renee Koneck
 Allison Spindler

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board of Education is providing input and overseeing the strategic planning ideas and suggestions for the next three-year cycle, the 2023-2026 school years. Many great things happen in schools, at district office and throughout the community daily in support of the SDNB students and staff as they strive for excellence. The strategic planning process builds upon that work and identifies priorities to continue to make progress toward our strategic goals in alignment with the district mission and vision.

SDNB'S STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. Students will graduate ready for college, careers and future opportunities;
2. Attract, retain and honor high-quality staff;
3. Maintain and promote fiscal responsibility that reflects a commitment to student learning;
4. Develop mutually beneficial relationships in the community.

CAREER EXPLORATION PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Throughout the year, the School Board recognizes several groups and organizations that support the SDNB's career-readiness initiatives. Those honored during the 2022-23 school year included:

- **GPS Education Partners**, a non-profit organization that specializes in work-based learning solutions for students
- **Zachariah's Acres**, a non-profit organization that focuses on serving individuals with special needs through nature, wildlife and agricultural experiences.
- **St. Vincent De Paul**, whose activities include running thrift stores, meal programs, shelters and helping centers.



BOARD EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT RETIRES

Longtime SDNB employee and executive assistant to the School Board and superintendent, **Diana Hanson**, retired in September 2022 after spending 23 years with the district. **Anne Warchol**, who has been with the district for nearly eight years, replaced Hanson.



APRIL 2023 ELECTION

Incumbent **Amy Crosby** and newcomer **Allison Spindler** were sworn into office by Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Bradley in April. The pair were the only two candidates to run for the School Board in the 2023 spring election. Ms. Spindler replaced **Krislyn Holaday-Wondracheck**, who served for six years on the School Board through April, and chose not to run for re-election.

JOIN US

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



**MONDAY, SEPT. 25,
 AT 7 P.M.**

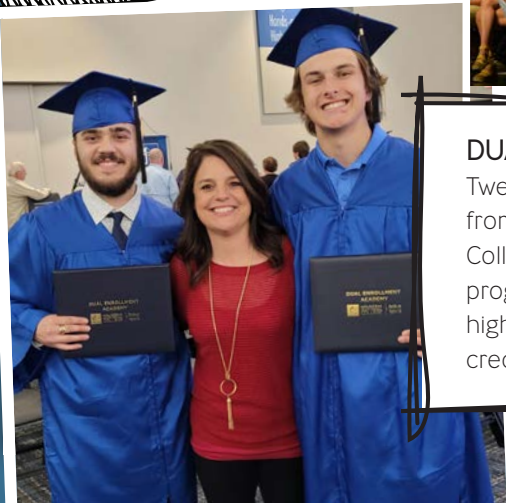
**NEW BERLIN EISENHOWER
 COMMONS**

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



CLASS OF
2023
CONGRATS!

The Class of 2023 was celebrated during senior awards night, senior walks through the elementary schools, graduation, and more during the final weeks of the school year!



DUAL ENROLLMENT
 Twenty-eight SDNB students graduated from Waukesha County Technical College's Dual Enrollment Academy, a program that allows students to explore high-demand fields and earn college credit while still in high school.

BY THE NUMBERS

Class of 2023 students:
367 West - 193
 Ike - 174

2023 seniors entering the military: **1**

Scholarship dollars earned: **\$3.5M**

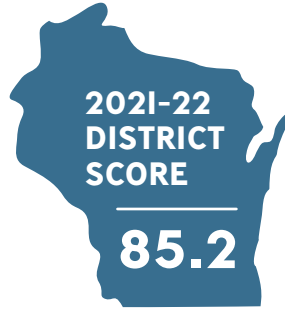


CLASSROOM EXCELLENCE



STATE REPORT CARDS

The SDNB was one of just 18 out of 377 districts in Wisconsin to “significantly exceed” expectations on the state-issued report cards last fall. The district was also one of just 13 K-12 districts to achieve that mark. All SDNB schools continue to “significantly exceed” or “exceed” expectations according to the state’s school report cards, with Elmwood, Orchard Lane, Poplar Creek and Eisenhower “significantly exceeding expectations”. Scores for five of the six schools increased from the previous year, as did the district’s overall score, from 84.2 to 85.2.



STATE SOLO ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

Select music students performed at the Wisconsin School Music Association State Solo & Ensemble Festival in April. Students receiving an “exemplary award” for their performances were Eisenhower’s **Ethan Chen** (violin solo), **Logan DeWaide** (marimba solo) and **Sarah Carroll** (music theater solo), as well as West’s bass clef choir members **Mitchell Anderson**, **Ryan Bartley**, **Vince Bartley**, **Nathaniel Cadogan**, **Micah Cannariato**, **Daniel Cataldo**, **Ann Doyle**, **Maverick Frost**, **Viviann Gordon**, **Marcus Intravaia**, **Elijah Jandrisevits**, **Nicholas Macakanja**, **Lucas Neustifter**, **Luke Olen**, **Holly Raetz**, **Maria Sundararajan**, **Sydney Tombari** and **John Thomas**.



HOME BUILDERS

For the fifth consecutive year, SDNB students kicked off the school year by working with Tim O'Brien Homes to build a home. The students are in the district’s Construction III class and typically spend half the school day for the entire semester onsite working on the house. They learn from professionals everything about house building, from foundation concepts, framing, plumbing, electrical, roofing, finishing and more. The class built a home in a Lisbon subdivision.



WEST, EISENHOWER COLLECT 20+ JERRY AWARDS

West’s performances of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Footloose* and Eisenhower’s *Rock of Ages* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* combined for 21 Jerry Awards from the Overture Center of the Arts.

FOOTLOOSE: outstanding orchestra, **Leila Hill** (Spirit Award), **Korben Moelter** (Spirit Award), **Brad Esch** (outstanding scenic design), **Erin Shaughnessy** (outstanding scenic design), **Stewart Johnson** (outstanding lighting design), **Andy Armstrong** (outstanding scenic design), **Taylor Molitor** (outstanding scenic design), **Todd Pitchler** (outstanding lighting design).

ROCK OF AGES: **Ryan Kittson** (outstanding lead performance), **Abby Woodard** (outstanding supporting performance), **Joey O’Neill** (outstanding dance performance), **Mary Kirby** (outstanding lighting design).

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: **Mitchell Anderson** (outstanding supporting performance), **Jessie Hou** (Spirit Award), **Andy Armstrong** (outstanding scenic design), **Taylor Molitor** (outstanding scenic design), outstanding stage crew.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: **Spiro Perra** (outstanding supporting performance), **Nick Gurda** (Spirit Award), **Josh Hill** (outstanding sound design).



PERFECT ACT

Eisenhower’s **Andrew Rivedal**, **Srinika Pattaswamy**, **Manzoor Mohis** and **Eliska Liang**, and West’s **Angel Chao**, all recorded perfect scores on the ACT. Only 0.33 percent of all people achieve a perfect 36 on the exam. Angel was the first Viking to record a perfect score since at least 2004.



CHESS EARNS STATE CROWN

The Eisenhower chess team won the school's first-ever state championship at the Wisconsin State Scholastic Chess Championships in Oshkosh. The state title team included members **Andrew Rivedal, Alex Hogg, Pratyush Shahir, Dima Olekhovich** and **Logan DeWaide**.



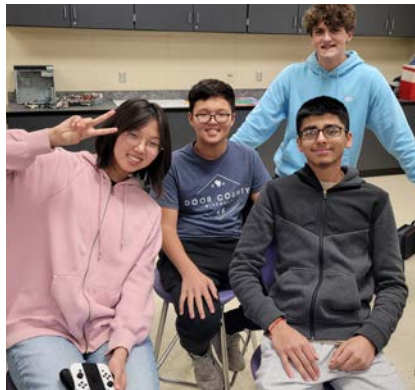
MORE STEM SUCCESS

Eisenhower Rube Goldberg teams enjoyed success in STEM Forward's Engineering Machine Design Contest. Eisenhower Gold won special awards for Panther Persistence and Best Presentation, while Eisenhower Purple claimed the Best Design special award and third place overall. Both teams advanced to the championship April 21 in Minnesota, where Eisenhower Purple finished second and Gold placed fifth.



FLEXING FLUID POWER

The Eisenhower middle school Fluid Power Challenge teams earned two of five trophies in a 40-plus-team competition. Eisenhower-Purple took home the Teamwork Champion trophy and Eisenhower-Gold won the Design Champion trophy. The STEM-based competition, sponsored by the National Fluid Power Association and Price Engineering, challenges students to solve an engineering problem using fluid power and requires them to work in teams to design and build their mechanisms.



SOLID FIRST SEASON FOR ESPORTS

The Eisenhower esports team, a club new to the district last year, won its first-ever playoff match during the fall season. Sponsored by CoreBTS and Technology Plus, the exciting new program - organized, competitive video gaming - is expanding to West this fall.



BEYOND 18 PROGRAMS PROVIDE EXPERIENCES

The district's Beyond 18 programs - Pathways and Young Adult Services - participated in a wide range of hands-on learning experiences. In addition to operating a food service program called the Crockery Company, they worked at several community businesses, including Above Par Golf Cars and the Ronald McDonald House, learned health and gardening at Zachariah's Acres and met with social groups out in the community.



ROBOT CHALLENGE

Aren Schik, Jack Klein and **Dima Olekhovich** earned a gold medal in the SkillsUSA Wisconsin Industrial Robotics competition. The team was challenged to plan, program and execute an automated solution to a real-world, material-handling challenge using a six-axis industrial robot workcell.



FRENCH EXCELLENCE ...

More than 30 West students competed at the regional French pronunciation contest and 28 qualified for the state competition, the most in school history. The students spent enormous amounts of time learning, practicing, memorizing, incorporating judges' feedback, and perfecting a poem for the contests.



... AND SPANISH, TOO!

Twenty-three West Spanish students attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2023 National Spanish Exams. The exams measure performance and achievement. Three students - **Sebastian Correa**, **Luis Prado** and **Carlos Rodriguez** - earned gold medals, six earned silver, three earned bronze and 11 were honorable mentions.



ALL-OUT BLITZ

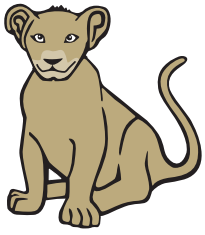
The Blitz Robotics team visited Poplar Creek to share about robotics careers, showcase their robot, and teach students about circuits while they built doodle mini robots. The team designs and builds a robot for competition, hosted by FIRST, a global robotic community. The club helps cultivate a passion for STEM through a mentor-based program which builds science, engineering and technology skills. Life skills such as communication, problem-solving and leadership are also emphasized.



WEST ACDEC REPEATS AS STATE CHAMPS; ALSO NATIONAL RUNNERS-UP

West followed up a 2022 Division 2 academic decathlon state title performance with the Division 3 championship in 2023. **Vivian Dinh**, West's top scholar, was second overall in the Honors division and earned first place with a perfect score in super quiz. **Sebastian Correa** and **Angel Chao** were first with perfect scores in interview; **Austin Bentrup-Trumbull** had a perfect score in super quiz and **Marcus Hernandez** was first in economics. Eisenhower placed second behind West, led by **Isha Joshi**, **Al Gurda** and **Morgan Gagnon**.

West also qualified for Online Nationals in April for the first time in school history, where the Vikings were second among the medium-sized schools. Chao was the second-highest top-scoring student overall, including the top score in literature. Other Vikings top performers in their division were Hernandez (economics) and **Wyatt Doyle** (social science).



ELMWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LITERACY NIGHT EXCITES

Elmwood's first-ever literacy night was a big hit. Students cozied up in the school's reading nook, visited the New Berlin Public Library stations and completed makerspace activities, while families learned more about the district's new English Language Arts curriculum and programming.



S-O-L-I-D

Elmwood fifth-grader **Ethan Robert** won the district spelling bee and the CESA I regional bee before moving on to the state spelling bee in March.



ORCHARD LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



STAR COMMONS AT ORCHARD LANE

More than just books, computers, and technology, the Star Commons at Orchard Lane sponsored by the Orchard Lane Parent Faculty Council is enriching the lives of today's students and tomorrow's leaders. Fundraising finished in June with more than \$185,000 committed in a public/private partnership with the SDNB. The final installation of bookshelves is anticipated to be completed in October.

Details on the grand opening event celebrating our donors and Orchard Lane families and teachers will be coming soon!



HIGH INTEREST DAY

High Interest Day is one of Orchard Lane's yearly highlights. Parent volunteers and the school's Parent Faculty Council put together an awesome day for students, with special showcases and hands-on activities related to hobbies and other interests.



POPLAR CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



RONALD REAGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



CREEK CRAWL FUNDRAISER

Poplar Creek raised more than \$44,000 at its annual Creek Crawl. Here are a few fun facts: attendees consumed 560 hot dogs, so many people attended that every available parking spot was filled; parents of former students volunteered to help; and a donation was made from Australial!



CALL THE DOC

Ronald Reagan first-graders celebrated the end of their knowledge unit on the human body with "doctor day". They performed "surgeries", charted numbers, repaired broken bones by matching vocab words, checked inventory by counting in tens, and built each of the five systems they learned about - skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, and nervous - out of playdough.



COMING TO LIFE

Ronald Reagan was transformed into a living wax museum where Greek gods and goddesses came to life when third graders celebrated their ancient Roman civilization unit with a fun and enlightening project.



CHAMPIONSHIP BELT

Poplar Creek's Kindness Week included activities such as an all-school read-aloud, a food drive to benefit the New Berlin Food Pantry, spirit days, "kindness" bingo, students writing special notes to each other and many more acts of kindness. Additionally, all year long, classes competed for the Kindness Championship Belt, given to the kindest class each month, in physical education.

School District of New Berlin
Early Learning Program

Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten & Beyond

- For 3- and 4-year-olds
- Age-appropriate programming
- Focus on social and emotional development
- Maximum 10:1 student/staff ratio



Visit www.nbboxcellence.org/prospective/early-learning-program.cfm or call (262) 789-6242 for more info today!



**EDUCATION FOUNDATION
OF NEW BERLIN**

HIGHLIGHTS & CELEBRATIONS



RECORD-BREAKING SCHOLARSHIPS

The EFNB announced \$15,000 in scholarships awarded to 2023 SDNB graduates.

Payton Alexander Memorial Golf Scholarship - \$1,000

- Molly McCormick - Eisenhower
- Aidan Stange - West

Peter Michaud Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

- Ralph Audi - West
- Jacob McDowell - Eisenhower

Ike Soccer 2022 Champions Scholarship - \$500

- Simon Fetherston
- Kendall Witt

West Extra Lap Scholarship - \$2,000

- Grace Timmers
- Josh Meyer

New Berlin Athletic Association Scholarship - \$1,000

- Madison Billings-Nowak - West
- Cole Godec - West
- Margaret Kolp - West
- Josh Meyer - West
- Caden Schmeier - Eisenhower
- Kendall Witt - Eisenhower

The EFNB launched its scholarship program in 2022, awarding \$3,000 to four students. Community partnerships, businesses, and motivated individuals fund these opportunities. Are you a business and individual interested in creating your own scholarship through the foundation? **Visit efnb.org for more details.**

IMPACT GRANTS

Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors, the Education Foundation of New Berlin awarded more than \$16,000 in Impact Grants to programs that benefit students across all six schools.

★ **PROJECT LEAD THE WAY** (awarded to **Caroline Haebig & Jennifer Schlie-Reed**) - to provide opportunities for all kindergarten through fifth grade students to participate in consistent, strategic learning experiences that develop skills related to computational thinking, foundations of programming, computer science and systems by utilizing "Project Lead the Way" computer science launch modules during students' regularly scheduled library time.

★ **CALMING CORNERS** (awarded to **Jennifer Coyle & Todd Hrenak**) - to support all Orchard Lane students by employing a space in each classroom, chosen by the teacher, where students can go to help regulate their physical and emotional state and learn strategies for emotional regulation.

★ **BATTLE OF THE BOOKS** (awarded to **Katie Berg & Emily Barber**) - to support the Ronald Reagan third and fourth grade Battle of the Books club, which promotes reading comprehension, while creating a fun atmosphere for learning. The tremendously popular club will be able to increase the number of books available.

★ **CONSTRUCTION TOOLS** (awarded to **Taylor Molitor & Ben Bauer**) - to purchase miter saws, plumbing crimping and expansion tools, and metal electrical boxes. These tools provide students with the necessary equipment to complete a much wider range of construction projects in the fields of carpentry, plumbing and electrical work.

★ **TOUR GUIDE VOICE AUDIO TRANSMISSION SYSTEM** (awarded to **Dana McLaren & Devin McKinnon**) - to support middle and high school students by enhancing partnership tours and field experiences which are used to show and teach students about manufacturing, construction, and engineering jobs. The audio system will be utilized to ensure all students can hear what is said and participate more fully.

★ **ELEMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY** (awarded to **Leah Schretenthaler, Terry Berg, Amy Weber & Kyra Seely**) - to broaden and strengthen current art curriculum with the addition of a sixth grade photography unit. The grant helped purchase four Pinsta-Pro camera kits to show students the magic of analog photography. The kits will rotate through the elementary schools for a month-long unit.



TOAST TO EDUCATION

Cheers to a successful inaugural Toast to Education! With a fantastic turnout of 485 participants, the event was filled with joy, laughter, and a shared commitment to supporting our community. Guests enjoyed sampling beer and wine from 20 vendors! Together, we raised an incredible \$45,000, which directly benefits the EFNB and numerous clubs across the SDNB.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our incredible sponsors who played a significant role in making this event a resounding success. Our Premiere Event Sponsor, TDS Telecommunications LLC, and Love Where You Live Event Sponsor, Advantage Design + Remodel, deserve a special mention for their generous support and commitment to advancing excellence in education.

Many families, teachers, sponsors, businesses and community members have our gratitude for contributing their time, resources, and enthusiasm to ensure the event's success.

BE A FRIEND OF EDUCATION

The EFNB has an exciting promotion that you won't want to miss! Our goal for 2023 is to make 250 new Friends, and we want YOU to be a part of this incredible initiative!

By becoming a Friend, you'll not only contribute to our mission of supporting and strengthening excellence in education, athletics, and extra-curricular activities throughout the SDNB, but you'll also join a community of passionate individuals dedicated to making a difference.

Here's how it works: make a generous gift of \$25 or more to the EFNB, and your contribution will go directly toward enhancing educational opportunities and empowering students in our community.

But it doesn't stop there! As a Friend, you'll also enjoy exclusive benefits and recognition, including:

- ★ Recognition on our website;
- ★ Updates on the impact your support is making;
- ★ Invitations to special events and fundraisers.

Together, let's create a brighter future for the students of New Berlin! Join our mission, make a lasting impact, and help us reach our goal of 250 Friends in 2023!

To become a Friend and contribute to our cause visit www.efnb.org/donate or return the enclosed envelope with your gift.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to excellence in education! Together, we can achieve great things!

Julie Cordero, Director
Education Foundation of New Berlin

Supporting the SDNB

The EFNB developed new initiatives to better support the SDNB community by facilitating opportunities for clubs to raise funds in partnership with the EFNB. In 2022-2023, the clubs listed below partnered with EFNB through the Toast to Education, Fourth of July Family Festival, or Fiscal Sponsorship Program earning more than \$60,000 for their programs!

- | | |
|--|--|
| Best Buddies | Fishing Club |
| Blitz FIRST Robotics Team | Food Service Angel Fund |
| Construction Program | New Berlin Backfire BUILD Team |
| Drew Lietke Memorial Mental Health Care Fund | Orchard Lane Parent Faculty Council |
| Eisenhower Academic Decathlon | Payton Alexander Memorial Scholarship Fund |
| Eisenhower Athletics/Activities | Peter Michaud Memorial Scholarship Fund |
| Eisenhower Band Boosters | Poplar Creek Parent Teacher Organization |
| Eisenhower Baseball | Ronald Reagan Home and School Association |
| Eisenhower Basketball | School District of New Berlin |
| Eisenhower Boys Golf | United Boys Swim Team |
| Eisenhower Boys Tennis | United Boys Volleyball |
| Eisenhower Cheer | United Girls Golf |
| Eisenhower Cross Country | United Wrestling |
| Eisenhower Dance | West Academic Decathlon |
| Eisenhower Football | West Athletics & Activities |
| Eisenhower French Club | West Band Boosters |
| Eisenhower Girls Basketball | West Boys Basketball |
| Eisenhower Girls Swim | West Boys Golf |
| Eisenhower Girls Volleyball | West Boys Soccer |
| Eisenhower High School | West Cross Country |
| Eisenhower National Honor Society | West Football |
| Eisenhower Orchestra | West Girls Soccer |
| Eisenhower Prom | West Girls Tennis |
| Eisenhower Rube Teams | West Softball |
| Eisenhower Science Team | West Theatre |
| Eisenhower Soccer | West Track & Field |
| Eisenhower Softball | West Youth Boys Basketball |
| Eisenhower Theater | West Youth Football |
| Eisenhower Track & Field | West Youth Girls Basketball |
| Elmwood Home and School | West Youth Girls Volleyball |
| E-Sports Team | |

INVEST IN NEW BERLIN STUDENTS!

Make your donation to the Education Foundation of New Berlin at www.efnb.org.

ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE



IKE BOYS SOCCER REACHES PINNACLE

Just months after the Eisenhower girls soccer program claimed the first soccer state championship in school history, the Lions boys program joined them at the top. Sophomore **Jack Bretzmann** scored a goal in the state semifinals against Wisconsin Dells and one in the Division 3 state final against Notre Dame as Eisenhower earned a pair of I-0 tournament victories and its first state title.



EISENHOWER DUO EARNS HISTORIC WIN

Ava Meyer and **Maia Samuelson**, Eisenhower's top doubles team, notched a historic victory at the WIAA Division 2 State Tennis Tournament in the fall. Making their third straight state appearance, the seniors and top-seeded team improved to 33-2 with a 6-4, 6-1 triumph in the title match. No other Eisenhower or West tennis player – boys or girls – had ever won the state tournament.



YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH

Faith Wehrman became the first runner in New Berlin schools history to win the WIAA cross country state meet. The Eisenhower sophomore finished the Division 2 run in 18 minutes, 14.8 seconds, 10 seconds better than the runner-up to cap an historic season. The victory came one year after Wehrman took second at state as a freshman.



WEST CHEER CLAIMS STATE TITLE

West claimed the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches state cheer championship in the super small traditional routine category in February. The Vikings also finished fourth in the gameday small division. Team members included **Elena Cardenas**, **Julia Cullaz**, **Aubrey Flanagan**, **Clara Fleming**, **Evonna Goralski**, **Kathryn Johnson**, **Abby Kessenich**, **Rylee Kessenich**, **Renata Kloth** and **Sicilia West**.



WRESTLING HISTORY

Freshman **Amelia Poplawski** finished her state tourney run with a pin in the fifth-place match, going 4-2 at the meet. She was one of nine state qualifiers for New Berlin, and became the first female wrestler to medal in district history.



SCHULTZ GOES BACK-TO-BACK...

Meghan Schultz capped her incredible high school career with another state championship. The West senior successfully defended her state shot put crown with a Division 2 state-record throw of 49 feet 2.5 inches at the track and field state championships in June. She also finished second in the discus – with another school record – helping West finish fifth in the team standings.

...AND SETS SCORING MARK

Schultz, a UW-Green Bay basketball recruit, finished her hoops career at West as the school's all-time leader in points (1,666) and rebounds (861).



EISENHOWER DANCE MAKES IT FOUR STRAIGHT

The Eisenhower dance team continued its dominance by winning its fourth consecutive dual state championship, winning the Division 2 jazz and Division 4 pom competitions at the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches state meet in February. The team was led by seniors **Kyla Koski**, **Camryn Rajala** and **Ella Wendlick**.

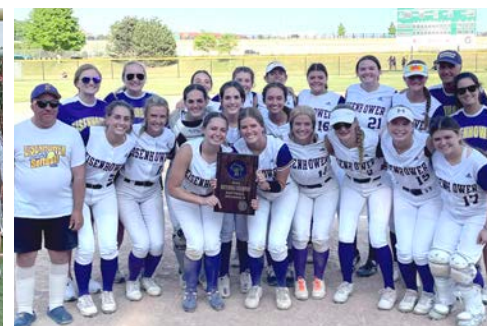
TENNIS TEAM TAKES FOURTH

At the WIAA Division 2 State Tennis Tournament, Eisenhower's **Alex Schmidt** and **Luke Yoon** pulled off a couple of upsets and long, thrilling victories to go 3-2 and earn fourth place. The remarkable effort capped a season in which Schmidt, Yoon and their Lions teammates won the conference dual and tournament championships and were subsectional co-champions.



STATE APPEARANCES FOR IKE GIRLS SOCCER, SOFTBALL

The Lions soccer team, playing in its third consecutive state tournament and eighth overall, fell to eventual state champion Plymouth in the Division 3 semifinals to close out its campaign. And in softball, the Lions made their first state appearance in nine years – after winning their first conference crown in eight seasons – but fell short with a loss to New London in the Division 2 semifinals.



VIKINGS FOOTBALL RAISES BAR

Playing in the state semifinals for the first time in nearly three and a half decades, the West (10-3) football team fell one win shy of reaching Camp Randall Stadium. The Vikings rattled off three thrilling playoff victories before the season finale and advanced further in the playoffs than any other West team since 1988.

MORE WEST TRACK SUCCESS

Along with Schultz's championship effort, two relays also played a big role in the Vikings' fifth-place state finish. The 800-meter relay of **Ashley Babcock**, **Natalie Leupi**, **Rachel Leupi** and **Aubrey Lane** ran third while the 1,600 relay of **Caroline Gerovac**, Babcock, Rachel Leupi and Lane ran fourth, both setting school records.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Eisenhower's **Lexi Bugajski** became the first girls volleyball player in school history to record 1,000 career kills.
- Eisenhower had two, top-five state swimming performances; **Ryann Nutt** swam fourth in the 100-yard butterfly and joined **Grace Fan**, **Sarah Schroeder** and **Meredith Giese** for fifth in the 200 freestyle relay.
- The Eisenhower girls track team won its first conference title since 1995; the Lions also won the sectional.
- The Eisenhower baseball team made it to the sectional for the first time since 2014.

WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE

SURVEY SAYS...

96% **94%** **94%**

of SDNB employees believe the district has an outstanding future

of SDNB employees would recommend the district as a great place to work

of SDNB employees say they are treated with respect at work



FOUR YEARS IN A ROW TEACHER RETENTION

As of the printing of this publication, the SDNB had a 96.3% voluntary retention rate, the fourth consecutive year the district's rate has been at 94% or higher!



NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Cody Smith, formerly a science teacher and wrestling coach at New Berlin West, is the school's new athletics and activities director. Mr. Smith replaced Melissa Bahnsen, who returned to being a classroom teacher in the only change to the district's administrative team.

COMM DEPARTMENT AWARDS

The SDNB earned Wisconsin School Public Relations Association Spectrum Awards of Excellence for its 2020-21 annual report and in the writing category for its mid-year newsletter cover story about the district's BUILD vintage motorcycle club. Both SDNB projects also earned "best in category". It is the second consecutive year the SDNB received "best in category" honors in writing. The communications department also earned two National School Public Relations Association Awards of Merit for the 2021-22 annual report and last spring's newsletter cover story on the district's reading curriculum shift.



THANK YOU, RETIREES!

The SDNB celebrated the careers of eight retirees at the end of the 2022-23 school year: Elmwood kindergarten teacher **Laura Bergunde** (26 years); Ronald Reagan special ed assistant **Linda Hensel** (35); the husband-wife combo of groundskeeper **Jeff Bradley** (42) and shuttle van driver supervisor **Dauri Bradley** (27); food service assistant production manager **Karen Wirth** (27); Ronald Reagan special ed assistant **Ann Preiss** (15); West administrative assistant **Lori Reinhart** (8); and Early Learning Program student learning assistant **Jean Kaldunski** (7).

STREAMLINED HIRING RECOGNIZED

Director of Employment Services **Dr. Nicole Jones** earned Skyward's Leader in Excellence Award, which recognizes pioneers, trendsetters and forward thinkers who use Skyward to strengthen their teams, simplify operations, and improve learning outcomes. The hiring and onboarding process is now 99 percent paperless, making the district office run much more smoothly, and the improvements to the recruiting, hiring, and onboarding processes allow the district to expedite its overall hiring process.



WEST AWARDS

Jordan Napoli, now an associate principal, was named District 7's athletic director of the year by the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. Social studies teacher **Beth Vento** was selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Honor Society of High School Scholars, an honor that recognizes exemplary educators whose passion and devotion inspire students to grow and develop as scholars, leaders and citizens. And **Nicole Thompson**, a Spanish teacher, was named a Cooperative Academic Partnership Program - or CAAP - Adjunct of the Year. CAPP teachers are appointed as adjunct instructors at UW-Oshkosh and work cooperatively with professors to implement college courses.



SIX EDUCATORS EARN HERB KOHL RECOGNITION

A district-record six educators were chosen as Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Fellowship Award winners. **Samantha Braun**, a special ed teacher at West; **Saghar Homayounpour**, a computer science teacher at West; **Karin Houston**, a counselor at West; **Samantha Jayne**, an English teacher and English Learner instructional coach at West; **Devin McKinnon**, a technology education teacher at Eisenhower; and **Alison Napieralski**, a special ed teacher at Elmwood (not pictured). It is the sixth straight year the SDNB has had at least four Kohl award recipients. They were among the 100 Wisconsin educators to earn this year's \$6,000 award with a matching \$6,000 award given to their respective schools.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Saghar Homayounpour, a computer science teacher at West, was one of five distinguished educators to be named a 2024 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The selected group received the award for their tireless dedication toward students and the profession. Homayounpour is starting her ninth year as a computer science teacher at West after spending one year as a student learning assistant at Poplar Creek. She has grown West's computer science program to serve more than 200 students annually, exposing students and developing their skills in this continually evolving field. She also founded the school's successful CyberPatriot Club and is a mentor teacher who supports novice computer science teachers with one-on-one support as they begin their teaching experience.

The 2024 Wisconsin Teachers of the Year are among the 100 educators recognized earlier this year by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation's Teacher Fellowship Program, which honors and supports teaching excellence and innovation across Wisconsin. The honorees were selected by a diverse committee to represent voices, contexts, and perspectives as educational leaders throughout Wisconsin.



PHY ED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Elmwood's **Melanie Gearhart** was named the 2022 Wisconsin Elementary Physical Educator of the Year. Ms. Gearhart, a Herb Kohl award winner in 2021, received her award from the Wisconsin Health and Physical Education Association thanks in part to her innovative approaches to classroom instruction.

BUDGET DETAILS / STRATEGIC FINANCE

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The School District of New Berlin's administration and Board of Education has historically focused on providing the best-possible educational experiences and environments to all students while remaining cognizant of the needs of all taxpayers. Through fiscal responsibility focused on a transparent annual budget cycle and maximizing strategic finance tools, the administration and School Board jointly focus on both the district's immediate and long-term financial health.



TAX LEVY CONTINUES TO DECREASE

As New Berlin's equalized property value continues to rise, along with the SDNB's management of the 2022-23 budget that resulted in a 40 percent increase in state aid, the tax levy continues to fall. After the tax rate dipped to \$6.89 per \$1,000 of equalized value last fiscal year, the SDNB estimates that it will drop to \$6.14 per \$1,000 this year. The result, for the owner of a \$250,000 home, is an estimated gross decrease of \$187.50 on the school tax portion of their property bill. This will mark the ninth consecutive year the tax rate decreased.

2023-24 PRELIMINARY BUDGET KEY POINTS

The preliminary budget, approved in June, sets fiscal priorities for the upcoming school year and allows the district to operate until the original budget is adopted in October.

The SDNB anticipates several changes from the preliminary budget to the original budget, as a result of the state of Wisconsin's budget. General fund revenue and expenditure assumptions, however, in the 2023-24 preliminary budget include:

- a \$325 increase in per pupil revenue limit;
- a reduction in federal funding due to a reduction of ESSER funding;
- a 3.15 percent increase for certified staff wages;
- 0 percent increase in health-related expenses.

10-YEAR TAX LEVY HISTORY

SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALIZED VALUE (Tid out)	CHANGE	TAX LEVY	CHANGE	TAX RATE per \$1000 EQUALIZED	CHANGE
2014-15	\$4,328,411,397	4.05%	\$49,142,016	3.48%	\$11.35	-0.55%
2015-16	\$4,428,088,120	2.30%	\$49,692,034	1.12%	\$11.22	-1.16%
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	-3.01%
2018-19	\$4,977,053,088	4.13%	\$50,791,524	-1.84%	\$10.21	-5.73%
2019-20	\$5,247,647,190	5.44%	\$49,109,185	-3.31%	\$9.36	-8.30%
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	-9.04%
2023-24 Estimate	\$6,656,941,480	2.50%	\$40,859,202	-8.63%	\$6.14	-10.86%



GROWTH OF FUND 41

In 2022, the School Board approved the establishment of Fund 41, which supports the capital maintenance of facilities. The dollars levied into this fund can only be used for capital facility improvements, cannot be transferred to other funds and enhances - rather than replaces - the regular maintenance budget.

Projects that have been completed since establishing Fund 41 include:

- Eisenhower: roof repairs and fiber optic expansion
- West: sidewalk repairs and fiber optic expansion
- Elmwood: rear drive reconstruction, stormwater redirection, sidewalk repairs, and LED upgrades
- Orchard Lane: playground/parking lot improvements and LED upgrades
- Poplar Creek: parking lot, playground and LED upgrades
- Ronald Reagan: LED upgrades

These are projects being done in addition to regular maintenance that is funded in our general budget. Upcoming projects include window replacements at Elmwood, generator upgrades, and clock/bell/notification systems at each school.

It is important to note that project priority is subject to cost, availability of materials and labor and many other factors. The long-range maintenance plan, therefore, is a "living document" that changes regularly as needed.

WAWM DETACHMENT

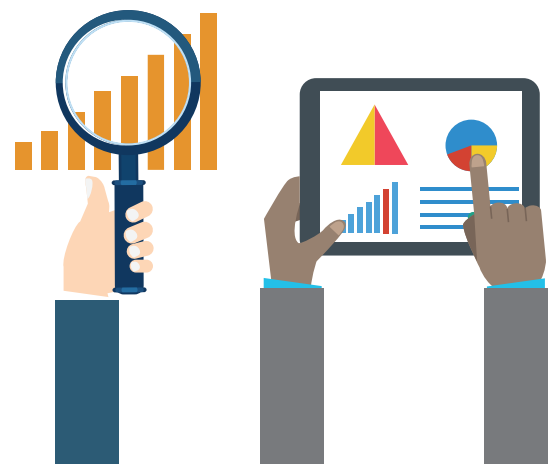
For decades, New Berlin residents living in a narrow strip along the city's eastern border, from Greenfield Avenue to Howard Avenue, were considered part of either the Elmbrook School District or the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District.

Last spring, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction approved a detachment petition that transfers approximately 160 residences from the WAWM school district into the School District of New Berlin. The detachment could result in as many as 20 new students attending the SDNB for the 2023-24 school year. Elementary students will attend Orchard Lane, and secondary students will attend Eisenhower.

The SDNB is working with the new families to make the transition as smooth as possible, and we will share more information related to the detachment's effect on the budget and more in future publications.

WHY FUND 41?

Money levied into Fund 41 cannot be transferred to other funds and enhances - rather than replaces - the regular maintenance budget!



SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS



NAMING RIGHTS SPONSORSHIPS

The SDNB welcomed two great additions to its naming rights sponsorship program participants last school year.

C&M Fencing signed a 5-year, \$25,000 agreement that recognizes the locally owned company as an official sponsor of Eisenhower athletics and gives it naming rights to the school's soccer field, now known as C&M Fencing Soccer Field.

At West, **Horicon Bank** inked a 5-year, \$8,000 agreement that designates the bank as an official sponsor of West athletics and gives the bank naming rights to West's outdoor ticket booth, now known as the Horicon Bank Vikings Ticket Booth.

In two years since initiating the naming rights program, the SDNB has secured approximately \$300,000 in financial commitments through six sponsorships. Previously agreed to partnerships were with **Drexel Building Supply** (West's fieldhouse), **Aspen Orthopedic Specialists** and **Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin** (West's outdoor baseball and soccer complex); **Optimum Crush** (West's softball field) and **Waukesha State Bank** (Eisenhower's indoor concession stand).

The SDNB has a multitude of naming rights sponsorship opportunities available to interested partners. The district's sponsorship guide showcases those opportunities in three categories: academics, the arts and athletics. Venues still available for naming rights opportunities include the Performing Arts Center, indoor and outdoor athletic complexes and facilities, and many more, all the way down to individual classrooms and hallways.

Go to www.nbexcellence.org and search keyword "sponsorships" for more info!



DONATIONS

\$144,168

Last school year, the SDNB received more than \$144,000 in donations, including a combined nearly \$35,000 from the elementary home and school organizations.



After Optimum Crush signed a naming rights deal for the West softball field - Optimum Crush Field - the local company also provided a \$20,000 donation toward a new scoreboard at the Eisenhower athletics stadium!

INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL



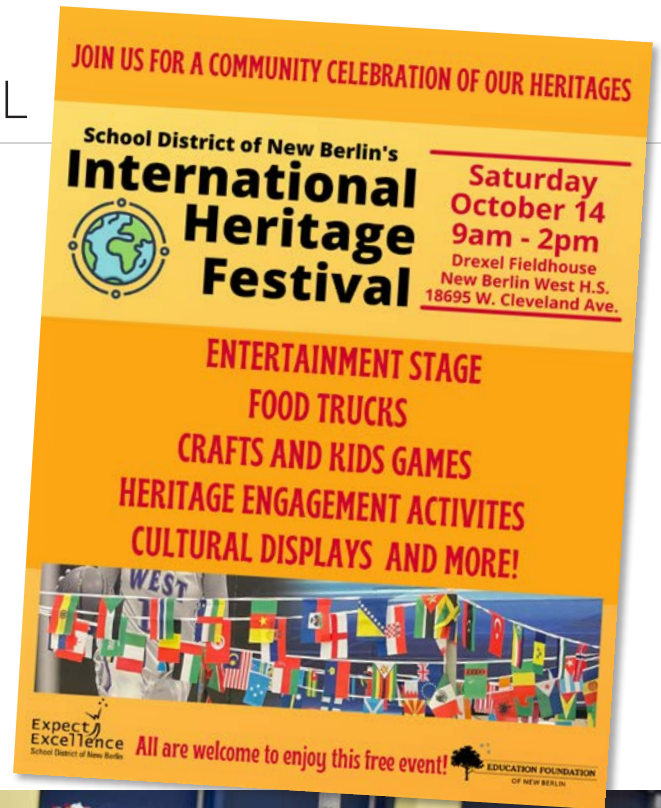
INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL TO RETURN!

Come and join us for a lively community celebration of our diverse heritages Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Drexel Fieldhouse at New Berlin West. Enjoy entertainment, food trucks, crafts, kids games, heritage activities, cultural displays, and more! Let's celebrate our diverse backgrounds together.

This year's International Heritage Festival will be a part of the eighth annual Discover New Berlin Community Fair.

The festival will include crafts and games, and opportunities for children and adults alike to engage in creative activities, friendly competitions and cultural experiences.

This event aims to foster a sense of unity and appreciation for the diverse backgrounds that make up our great community. Mark your calendars and be part of this exciting day of celebration and cultural exchange!



SIGN UP FOR 'THE EDGE' TO GET THE LATEST SDNB NEWS

Signing up for the district's monthly e-newsletter is easy. Email feedback@nbexcellence.org and let us know that you want access to The Edge so you can stay on top of all SDNB information.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NEW BERLIN

SEASON TWO

The second season of the WestPAC concert series will be three times bigger than the inaugural 2022-23 slate. This year's series, once again sponsored by the Education Foundation of New Berlin, features six incredible shows from November through May.



Pat McCurdy

(Original Musical Comedy)

7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, 2023

The WhiskeyBelles

(Country / Americana / Christmas)

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, 2023



Tenors MKE

(Christmas)

7 p.m. Wednesday,

Dec. 20, 2023

Joshua Michael Band, Dan Lepien Band, & The WhiskeyBelles

(Classic Country)

6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, 2024



The 5 Card Studs

(60's and 70's Radio Hits)

7 p.m. Friday, April 19, 2024

Goran & Morgan of The Gufs

(Acoustic 90's Alternative Rock)

7 p.m. Friday, May 17, 2024

Doors open one hour before the show.

Tickets and more information can be found at

www.nbexcellence.org/community/westpac-tickets.cfm



FEEDBACK: Questions, Opinions & Ideas welcomed at feedback@nbexcellence.org

ANNUAL NOTICES:

Located at 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.