

School District of New Berlin

Expecting Excellence

One Size Does Not Fit All

How the SDNB strives to help students with unique career paths

Last year, Eisenhower's Manzoor Mohis, then a junior, needed to create - and regularly consult - a Google sheet just to help keep track of his daily schedule. He had a college class, an internship and classes at Ike, including an English class that he would attend at different times depending on the day.

"Sometimes I'd be in discussions with one group of people and the next day I'd be discussing the topic with an entirely new set of people," he said. "That was weird, but it worked."

Makayla Arndt, Manzoor's classmate, spends only sixth hour at Eisenhower. The rest of her day is spent taking college courses through the Start College Now Program at Waukesha County Technical College and at the 18-week internship with the Milwaukee Police Department she started this semester.

West junior Kristian Price also attends WCTC; he is a fully enrolled student in the mechanical engineering design program. Tyree Sawyer, another West junior, is an amateur boxer and Wisconsin Golden Gloves champion. His schedule is entirely virtual to allow him to train for the sport he loves.

Similarly, 2023 Eisenhower graduate Natasja Radulovic, who in February represented the United States at the 2024 World Junior Cup Speedskating Championships in Hachinohe, Japan, was regularly out of the classroom as a result of her intensive speedskating training regimen and competition travel.

Each of the students have very unique paths toward success beyond high school, but what do they all have in common?

They are all prime examples of the School District of New Berlin's willingness to meet the specific college, career and life ready needs of all students.

FOCUS ON COLLEGE, CAREER & LIFE

College and career - and life! - readiness, or CCR, has been the SDNB's rallying cry for years. The district is committed to providing a solid foundation for all students to be successful in their chosen path after graduation. The vision of an SDNB graduate identifies the knowledge, skills and dispositions students should have in order to be ready to effectively navigate future opportunities. This charge is not only a staple of the district's strategic plan, but it is woven into day-to-day plans and preparations across all grade levels at all SDNB schools.

The foundation for CCR readiness begins in the elementary schools. Beyond providing students with the basic skills needed for success in reading, math and other core subjects,

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Alumni Corner,
Pg. 7

2023
Eisenhower graduate
Natasja Radulovic

Photograph:
Noel Stave Photography

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students also learn about future potential careers through Jump Into Your Future Days and the fifth-grade BizTown experience. Including student dispositions as part of their report cards ensures that by the time those students are in sixth grade, they are well-rounded and prepared for middle school.

In middle school, students actively participate in the academic and career planning process, choosing classes that align to their interests. And special career days expose students to a variety of professions that will one day be available to them.

By the time they enter high school, students may be in a position to pursue a career they are passionate about. That means that each and every year hundreds of students with unique interests and skills are setting their course on a myriad of different paths.

“We have a shared responsibility to help students explore a wide variety of learning opportunities that support their personal, academic, social and career goals,” Superintendent Joe Garza said.

“But supporting students in finding out what it is they want to do and the educational experiences it takes to achieve those goals is not a one-size-fits-all operation.”

Manzoor is a prime example. He’s now a year into his internship, jointly sponsored by Marquette University and the Medical College of Wisconsin. He attends multiple 3-hour workshops per week where he has an opportunity to further his research understanding through exposure to state-of-the-art technology, scientific scholarly writing and laboratory techniques and methodologies.

His focus is lung research and genetic defects that cause chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD. His schedule is slightly less convoluted this year as it was last year, when he had a college course in the mix as well.

“It was a dream schedule,” Mohis said. “I got to do everything I wanted to do. I got to take a college class, I got to do an internship, I had classes at Eisenhower and I was even in two sports. It was great.”

COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES

The SDNB has been a trailblazer when it comes to the number of opportunities it provides students outside of its own walls. College in High School partnerships with the UW System of Colleges and participation in WCTC’s Dual Enrollment Program are just two ways students can get ahead. There is also the Youth Apprenticeship program, that provides students with occupational and hands-on work



Eisenhower senior Manzoor Mohis balances his classwork with an internship that includes 3-hour workshops focused on genetic lung defects.

experience while taking concurrent coursework that connects to a variety of career paths such as manufacturing, information technology and more.

Some students participate in co-ops, or supervised work placements, where students average 10-15 hours of paid employment per week and concentrate on the development and practice of positive work traits. Mix in mentorships, service-learning opportunities, internships - and in the cases of Tyree and Nastasja, unique athletic aspirations - and quite a bit of schedule juggling is required.

“The entire Eisenhower community has been beyond supportive of me in giving me the opportunity to pursue my athletic career,” said Nastasja, while at the airport before boarding a plane for Japan. “I think one of the most influential resources the school provided me was flexibility in my academic schedule so that I could have more time dedicated to my sport.”

Kristian, the mechanical engineering student, for example, is enrolled in math and engineering classes at WCTC. As his college schedule changes at the term - he’s currently enrolled in Calculus 2 and

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MEASURING STUDENT PROGRESS

The SDNB annually tracks various academic-, career- and life-ready indicators that determine a student’s college and career readiness on its CCR Data Dashboard.

» Distinguished College & Career Ready Graduates

2020	2021	2022	2023
41%	43%	42%	43%

» College & Career Ready Graduates

2020	2021	2022	2023
84%	81%	81%	81%

GET MORE SDNB NEWS IN YOUR INBOX

Now With Nearly **7,000** Recipients

Nearly 7,000 parents, guardians and community members get the SDNB’s monthly e-newsletter, The EDGEducation Digest, delivered right to their inbox.

SIGN UP!

The Edge gives an inside look at what’s happening in each of our six high-achieving schools, includes important updates from the Board of Education and is full of valuable information from various district departments.

Signing up is easy! Send an email to feedback@nbexcellence.org and request to be added to our mailing list, and we will send you the next issue of The Edge.



SDNB Maintains High Marks



For the seventh consecutive year, the SDNB “significantly exceeds expectations”, according to 2022-23 state-issued district report cards. More impressively, of the 378 districts statewide, the SDNB was one of just 15 to reach that level, and one of only nine K-12 districts to do so.



Additionally, all six of the SDNB schools either “exceed” or “significantly exceed” expectations on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s school report cards.

The report cards are intended to offer accountability of how well schools and districts statewide are preparing students to graduate. They provide scores (out of 100) in four priority areas: student achievement, growth, target group outcomes and graduation readiness. All four of the SDNB’s priority area scores were the same or higher than at least 93.9 percent of all districts in the state.

Elmwood, Poplar Creek and Eisenhower “significantly exceed expectations”, while Orchard Lane, Ronald Reagan and West “exceed expectations”. Of the more than 1,000 public elementary schools in the state, Poplar Creek, with its score of 90.4, was one of just 42 to achieve a 90 or better.

“Only a small number of Wisconsin school districts achieve at the highest levels, and even fewer are able to maintain that consistency year after year,” Superintendent Joe Garza said. “It is definitely a challenge, but for the better part of this decade, our students, staff and families have been up to the task.

“While the state report cards are just one way to measure a district’s success, it is an important tool that not only lets us celebrate where we are, but also helps us identify areas in which we can improve.”

STUDENT & STAFF Shout Outs

Teacher of the Year

Saghar Homayounpour was recognized at the 2024 Wisconsin State Education Convention in Milwaukee in January. Ms. Homayounpour, a computer science teacher at West, and her fellow teacher of the year nominees were honored during the convention’s opening-day general session. She also participated in a teacher-of-the-year panel discussion during the convention.



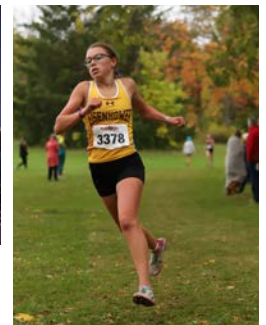
Dance State Champs

The West dance team earned the Division 2 hip hop state title at the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches state meet in La Crosse earlier this month. At the same meet, Eisenhower’s run of four straight dual state titles came to an end as the Lions settled for a still-impressive second in D2 jazz and D4 poms.



Spelling Champ

Elmwood sixth-grader **Ethan Robert** repeated as the district’s spelling bee champion this winter. He, along with **Miguel Edathala** (fourth grade, Orchard Lane), **Hadley Glascock** (sixth, Orchard Lane), **Spencer Gottheardt** (seventh, West), **Hardi Patel** (eighth, Eisenhower) and **Isaiah Zastrow** (fifth, Poplar Creek) advanced to the regional bee Feb. 13.



Fall Sports Standouts

Eisenhower junior **Faith Wehrman**, the 2022 WIAA Division 2 state cross country champion, ran an impressive sixth at the state meet in Wisconsin Rapids in late October. Also this fall, Eisenhower senior **Meredith Giese** capped her high school swimming career with a fourth-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle - she was also ninth in the 100-freestyle - and junior **Emily Wagner** finished fifth in 1-meter diving.



String Fest Success

More than 400 musicians from all six schools in grades 5 through 12 participated in the annual String Fest performance at the Drexel Fieldhouse at West. The annual event is a showcase for the district’s talented musicians.



More Good News!

EISENHOWER AND WEST - two of just 9 Wisconsin public high schools to earn Gold level Advanced Placement School Honor Roll recognition, for schools whose AP programs are delivering results while broadening access

RONALD REAGAN, ELMWOOD AND POPLAR CREEK - all ranked in the top 150 public elementary schools in Wisconsin by the U.S. News & World Report





EDUCATION FOUNDATION

OF NEW BERLIN

Dollars for Dreams: Apply Now for College Scholarships!

Attention graduating Eisenhower and West seniors: here's your chance to turn dreams into reality with the Education Foundation of New Berlin's scholarship opportunities. Act now, as applications are open until April 22, through the online Scholarship Portal found at www.efnb.org.

TOAST TO EDUCATION IS MARCH 9

Join us for an evening of celebration and support for the Education Foundation of New Berlin. The Toast to Education features a beer and wine tasting extravaganza showcasing more than 24 breweries and wineries. The event is presented by Matty's Catering - so the appetizers and desserts are sure to be delicious.

Between sips, guests are invited to participate in the wine pull, muffin pan betting game, 50-50 raffle, putting contest, basket raffle, silent auction and enjoy live music!

Hosted by and benefiting the EFNB, this truly is a community event. The EFNB invites all SDNB clubs and activities to participate in the fund-earning. A portion of each ticket sale can be directed to a club of the buyer's choosing. Likewise, proceeds from items featured in the silent auction and raffle benefit many of the district's clubs. Further, sponsors of the event can donate up to half of their sponsorship to a club of their choosing and all of the event volunteers will be earning funds for their clubs.

The EFNB has some special initiatives including the grant and scholarship programs, but they also facilitate opportunities for the district's elementary parent groups, athletic teams, performing arts groups, language trips and more to earn funds for the projects and programs nearest to them as well.

SO, PLEASE JOIN US IN A TOAST TO EDUCATION!

IMPORTANT NOTE: *This event is exclusively for individuals aged 21 and above. Please ensure you bring a valid ID for entry—no exceptions will be made.*

PRESENTED BY

MARCH 9, 2024
 7-10 pm
 New Berlin Eisenhower

BEER & WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER
Toast24.givesmart.com

PAYTON ALEXANDER MEMORIAL GOLF SCHOLARSHIP

Honoring the memory of Payton Alexander, a 2020 alumna from West's girls' varsity golf team, this scholarship awards \$1,500 each to one boy and one girl from an SDNB golf team. Payton's legacy and her passion for golf and education are remembered through this scholarship which also aims to bring awareness to childhood cancers.

PETER MICHAUD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Michaud was a beloved elementary school teacher to many in the SDNB. Family, teachers and students honor his memory with two \$1,000 scholarship awards. Because of Mr. Michaud's passion for world travel and exploration, candidates must submit an essay expressing their own interest or experience with travel and/or world exploration. One winner will be selected from both Eisenhower and West.

EXTRA LAP SCHOLARSHIP

This \$2,000 award supports a West student-athlete who goes "The Extra Lap". The recipient is hardworking, resilient, and always puts her team first while overcoming challenges. She puts in the extra effort to maximize personal performance in order to better the team and teammates. She has overcome personal challenges and has a lot of passion and grit.

IKE SOCCER 2022 CHAMPIONS SCHOLARSHIP

Celebrating the historic achievement of the Eisenhower girls and boys high school soccer teams in winning the school's first two WIAA state soccer championships in 2022, the scholarship will recognize one girl and one boy Ike soccer player with a \$500 scholarship for contributions to the soccer program, school and community leadership, and demonstration of Eisenhower's school values.

NEW BERLIN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NBAA) SCHOLARSHIP

The NBAA scholarship will award up to five graduating seniors from West and/or Eisenhower with scholarships to help with college tuition, books or educational fees associated with education beyond high school. Applicants must also have participated in NBAA activities, either as an athlete, umpire or referee.



TO LEARN MORE OR DONATE
 please visit www.efnb.org



West counselor Tammi Fure and junior Kristian Price had to get creative with Kristian's schedule this school year.

Technical Statics - so, too, must his high school schedule. He relies on his counselor to help make this happen.

"My counselor, Mrs. Tammi Fure, has been a huge part of planning this path for me, mainly getting my high school schedule arranged so differently than normal," Kristian said. "She helped me sign up for my college classes and figure out what I needed to do in order to attend the classes. She made it work."

Fure and her colleagues at West had to get particularly creative with Kristian's schedule, splitting class periods mid-semester to coincide with WCTC's term schedule changes. But the creativity will allow Kristian to finish his WCTC associate degree weeks before he graduates from West with his high school diploma.

"We have hundreds of students in our high schools every day and a majority of them are here straight through the day," Fure said. "But we have a lot of students that need scheduling accommodations. It's our job to make it work for them in a way that allows them to pursue their dreams while at the same time satisfying their graduation requirements."

It's a sentiment Manzoor appreciates.

"My counselor, the principals and teachers are always willing to try," he said. "If there is a scheduling challenge, rather than saying, 'Oh we can't do that', they are always thinking, 'How can we make this work? How can we help him take these classes and still let him be a normal student?'"

Learn more about the SDNB's college and career readiness efforts at www.nbexcellence.org/district/ccr.cfm.

NEW BERLIN WEST SEASON 2

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Successful Second Season of Concert Series Draws in Greater Community

After dipping their toes in the water with two shows during the inaugural community concert series in 2022-23, School District of New Berlin officials dived in head first for the second go-around.

Four shows into the bigger and better second season - with two shows remaining - large audiences have been visiting the West Performing Arts Center and enjoying everything from holiday classics to country hits, and a whole lot in between.



"We wanted to give people who might not normally step foot in our schools a reason to do so," SDNB Chief Financial Officer Patrick Miller said. "So far, we've done just that. We're giving the community a chance to come out and see amazing live performances right here in New Berlin in our state-of-the-art WestPAC."

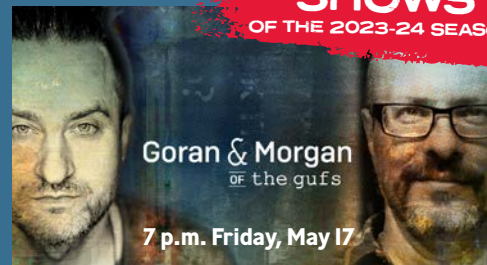
Two amazing shows will round out the series this spring. First up is The 5 Card Studs, singers of 1960s and 70s radio hits, on Friday, April 19. Closing out the series is Goran & Morgan of The Gufs with acoustic 90s alternative rock Friday, May 17. Both shows begin at 7 p.m.

Milwaukee funny man Pat McCurdy and local country act The WhiskeyBelles kicked off the second season with shows in November and December. Tenors MKE followed with an incredible night of holiday and Christmas classics. And The WhiskeyBelles returned in February, along with the Joshua Michael Band and the Dan Lepien Band for a night of Keepin' It Country.

The concert series is put on in partnership with the Education Foundation of New Berlin; EFNB volunteers sell beer, soda and water during the performances, beginning one hour before the show through intermission. Proceeds from the concerts benefit the WestPAC and the EFNB.

"We've been grateful to expand our partnership with the school district to present this year's concert series," said Julie Cordero, director of the EFNB. "It's a fun way to bring people together while raising money for programs that directly benefit our students and staff."

FINAL TWO SHOWS
OF THE 2023-24 SEASON!



Tickets are still available for The 5 Card Studs and Goran & Morgan of The Gufs. Visit www.nbexcellence.org/community/westpac-tickets.cfm for more information.



STATE SUPERINTENDENT VISIT: State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly toured Eisenhower during February's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. Dr. Underly visited the school's certified nursing assistant lab, the school store and the manufacturing/engineering classroom before learning about various clubs and school organizations related to CTE.

Nurturing Minds Through Mental Health Partnerships



The School District of New Berlin is focused on proactively addressing students' mental health needs. Through strategic partnerships and initiatives, the SDNB ensures no child is left without essential mental health care and support.

Since 2019-20, the SDNB has secured nearly \$480,000 in mental health grants, collaborating with organizations including Clinical Psychology Associates and Integrative Psyche. These partnerships enable onsite mental health services directly in schools, ensuring timely and accessible support for students during the school day.

To enhance access to families in need, the Education Foundation of New Berlin established the Mental Health Care Fund, in memory of Drew Lietke. This initiative ensures that financial barriers do not hinder students from accessing crucial mental health care. The fund provides grants to selected providers, grants chosen by the SDNB and used to assist families with co-pays and/or health care deductibles to make mental health care more accessible.

The Mental Health Care Fund welcomes contributions to support accessible mental health care for every SDNB student. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made online at www.efnb.org or by mail to EFNB at 4333 S. Sunnyslope Rd. New Berlin, WI 53151.

By supporting this initiative, the community can play a vital role in ensuring that every SDNB student has access to the mental health care they need to thrive academically and emotionally.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher or other trusted staff member to initiate the process of accessing in-school mental health support.

Upcoming High School Performances


The award-winning Eisenhower and West theater programs will light up the stage and captivate audiences twice more this school year.



New Berlin West has six performances of "The Wizard of Oz" lined up for March. This musical will feature students from seventh through 12th grades in the cast, crew, and in the pit orchestra, as well as some New Berlin area youth in fourth through sixth grades joining the cast.

Performances are 7 p.m. March 7-8 and 14-16, and 2 p.m. March 16, all at the West Performing Arts Center.

In May, the Eisenhower cast returns to the stage for its final performance of the school year: the gut-busting comedy "The Play That Goes Wrong". Performances are slated for Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, both at 7:30 p.m.

 West's "The Wizard of Oz"	Eisenhower's "The Play That Goes Wrong"
March 7 & 8 @ 7 p.m. March 14 & 18 @ 7 p.m. March 16 @ 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.	May 3 @ 7:30 p.m. May 4 @ 7:30 p.m.

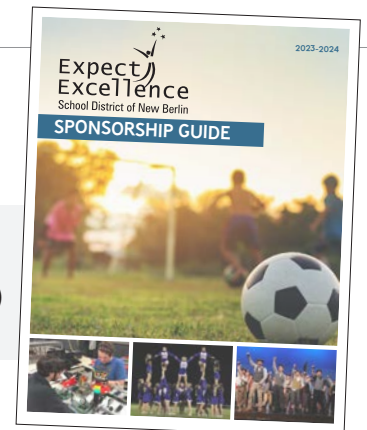
Thank You Naming Rights Partners

The School District of New Berlin is proud to partner with the following companies through the district's naming rights partnership program:

- Drexel Building Supply Field House (West)
- Aspen Orthopedic Specialists and Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin Baseball and Soccer Complex (West)
- Optimum Crush Softball Field (West)
- Waukesha State Bank Concession Stand (Eisenhower)
- Horicon Bank Vikings ticket Booth (West)
- C&M Fencing Soccer Field (Eisenhower)

Together, through the naming rights initiative, these incredible partners have committed nearly \$300,000 in support of the district.

Learn more about the naming rights program by going to www.nbexcellence.org and searching keyword "sponsorships"!





▶ Adam McCalvy, Class of 1996

Adam McCalvy has witnessed some of the greatest moments in recent Milwaukee Brewers history from a unique location: the press box. Adam, a 1996 New Berlin Eisenhower graduate, has covered the Brewers for MLB.com since February 2001. He interned with the Brewers in the summer of 1999, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2000 and now is in the midst of his 24th Spring Training as a Brewers beat writer.

Q: When did you decide that this is what you wanted to do for a living? Did it ever cross your mind while you roamed the brick-laden hallways of Eisenhower?

In hindsight I consider myself lucky that I didn't have to agonize over the decision of a major. I just always knew this is what I wanted to do. As a kid I read every issue of Sports Illustrated cover to cover, and every sports section of the daily newspaper. I just couldn't get enough of reading. My dad says I talked about wanting to work somewhere in baseball as far back as middle school.

Q: Were you a Brewers fan growing up?

I grew up a Brewers fan. We went to a handful of games every year as part of the kids fan club and I still have a box of their "What's Brewing" magazine in the garage. I spent a lot of my college summers in the bleachers with a group of friends; most nights after work we would either go play basketball at Malone Park or go to the Brewers game.

Q: What are your top-five favorite moments covering the Brewers since you started?

1. CC Sabathia clinching the Wild Card in the '08 finale and snapping the Brewers' 26-year postseason drought.
2. Nyjer Morgan's walk-off base hit in Game 5 of the 2011 NLDS. (And everything Tony Plush that year)
3. Richie Sexson's go-ahead homer in the first game at Miller Park.
4. Freddy Peralta's debut at Coors Field was so special and emotional for everyone.
5. Anything Bob Uecker.

Q: What do you like best about your profession? The least?

The best part of the job is that you literally don't know what you're going to witness when you show up every day. It could be a mundane 7-2 game. It could be history.

The worst part of the job is giving up your summer nights.

Q: What were some of your favorite high school memories?

Eisenhower was a great place to be in my four years there. My strongest memories are from running cross country. That had a big effect on me because I'd always liked sports and played sports, but this was the first chance to be a captain. We had a really close group and the best coach I've ever had in anything — Jim Prellwitz.

Q: What were you involved in at Eisenhower?

I was a nerd and filled the yearbook. Football freshman year and then three years of cross country. Basketball for a couple of years. Track and tennis in the spring. A couple of years playing alto sax in band and jazz band. I did student council and got to be student body president senior year at the urging of Mr. Prellwitz. I was in some school plays — Our Town stands out in my memory. And I was co-editor of the Paper Lion with my late friend Mike Neufeldt. That was a huge reason I kept on the journalism track in college.

Q: Any teachers, coaches, etc. you want to give a shoutout to?

Jim Prellwitz was the biggest influence on my life outside of my parents and I have been so happy to reconnect with him recently for lunch or coffee. Eileen Kohnke challenged us in AP English and convinced me to write for the school paper. There were many more.

Q: What was the single-most important lesson you learned at Eisenhower?

Say yes when an opportunity presents. The best things in life happen when you say yes to something that intimidates you a little bit.

Q: Complete this sentence in 10 words or less: The 2024 Milwaukee Brewers will...

Be full of energy from the next wave of prospects.

ATTENTION 2024-25 Kindergarten Families

Kindergarten Orientation Nights at our elementary schools are typically in May, but now is the best time to enroll your child.

Register today at www.nbexcellence.org/prospective/how-to-enroll.cfm.

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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

There are two candidates - and two available positions - in the upcoming spring School Board election in April: incumbent Ron Seidl and newcomer Matt Zielinski. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Seidl and Mr. Zielinski are expected to take their oaths of office in late April.

Jeffrey Kurth, who is in his fourth, three-year term on the Board, chose not to run for re-election. The administration and School Board plan to recognize and thank Mr. Kurth for his many years of service at an upcoming meeting this spring.



JOIN THE SDNB TODAY!

Enrollment is filling up fast for the SDNB's Early Learning Program for the 2024-25 school year.

The community-based early learning program is led by qualified staff who provide age-appropriate programming in reading, writing, math and science, as well as focus on social and emotional development in an effort to prepare students for kindergarten and beyond.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- For tuition-based students; students identified through district screening as needing kindergarten readiness skills; and students eligible for special education services.
- Half-day sessions in mornings (3-year-olds) and afternoons (3-year-olds and 4-year-olds, separately).
- Maximum 10:1 student/teacher ratio.
- Held at Ronald Reagan Elementary, 4225 S. Calhoun Road.

Any child who is 3 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2024, can enroll in the 3-year-old program for the 2024-25 school year. Any child who is 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2024, can enroll in the 4-year-old program. Priority is given to district residents, but non-residents may apply.

More information, including before- and after-session care options, can be found at www.nbexcellence.org/prospective/early-learning-program.cfm.