

## **Elmwood Elementary One of Eight Public Schools Nominated for National Blue Ribbon Honor**

New Berlin, Wis. - State Superintendent Tony Evers has nominated eight public elementary schools for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, which recognizes overall academic excellence or progress in improving student achievement. Among them is Elmwood Elementary School in the School District of New Berlin.

“The Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in striving for solid student academic achievement,” Evers said. “Our public school nominees provide a safe and supportive learning environment where young people can build a foundation for future academic and life success. I wish our nominees well in the next phase of the Blue Ribbon School process.”

Schools nominated to the program must complete the Blue Ribbon Schools application and undergo the national review process. Awards, presented to “Exemplary High Performing” and “Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing” schools, typically are announced in early September. Elmwood is trying to become the third SDNB school to earn the award; it would join Eisenhower Middle/High School and the former Prospect Hill Elementary.

In November, Elmwood received a score of 96.5 on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s School Accountability Report Card. Elmwood’s score “significantly exceeds” the state’s expectations and ranked fifth among all elementary schools in Wisconsin.

Elmwood has an enrollment of approximately 560 students. Katy Williams is in her first year as principal of the school. She replaced Royce Lindner, the district’s director of elementary teaching and learning, last summer. Jaime Veal is the associate principal.

“All of our elementary schools ‘significantly exceed’ expectations according to the state report cards, and we’re extremely proud of the work done at each and every one of them,” Superintendent Joe Garza said. “Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Veal and the entire Elmwood staff are wonderful motivators and educators. Our Elmwood students, families and staff should be incredibly proud of this accomplishment.”

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized more than 8,500 of America’s schools since it began in 1982. Schools must be among the top schools in the state for overall achievement on statewide assessments or closing achievement gaps between student groups to be considered for the program.

The other 2017 nominees are:

- Mountain Bay Elementary School, D. C. Everest Area School District
- Robinson Elementary School, Laona School District
- Shorewood Hills Elementary School, Madison Metropolitan School District
- Oriole Lane Elementary School, Mequon-Thiensville School District
- Phillips Elementary School, Phillips School District
- West Salem Elementary School, West Salem School District
- Washington Elementary School, Whitewater Unified School District.