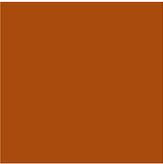




CELEBRATING  
OUR STEPS  
TOWARD  
SUCCESS





**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.

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



[facebook.com/nbexcellence](https://facebook.com/nbexcellence)



[twitter.com/SDNBSchools](https://twitter.com/SDNBSchools)

The School District of New Berlin does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability. Learn more here: [www.nbexcellence.org/district/disclaimers.cfm](http://www.nbexcellence.org/district/disclaimers.cfm)

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Joe Garza,  
Superintendent

We are excited to share with you the many highlights of the 2016-17 school year. Our Annual Report recaps the remarkable success our students and staff accomplished together in the School District of New Berlin.

You will read about many achievements. Among them: teachers of the year; state rankings; athletic state champions and a National Blue Ribbon Program nominee.



Tom David  
Board of  
Education President

Many contribute to our collective success. Parents continuously make sure their children arrive at school on time, make it to practice or are ready for an evening concert. Hundreds of volunteers annually lend their time to go on field trips, talk to students about their careers or serve on a booster club. Business and education partners provide opportunities to our students to help guide them through K-12 education, giving them a “leg up” on students locally, statewide and nationally.

We rely on the support of ALL stakeholders, and thank you for it. We hope this report provides a sampling of what we are able to offer to New Berlin’s children simply because people like you have chosen to live in this wonderful community.

We will continue to maximize all of our resources to expand and improve student-learning opportunities, hire the best and brightest educators and maintain our facilities. And we believe this report reflects the excellence you have come to expect from the School District of New Berlin.

Superintendent Garza & the Board of Education

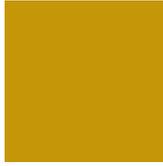
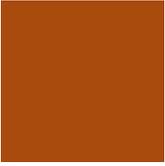
Handwritten signatures of Joe Garza and Tom David in black ink.

Joe Garza, Superintendent, Twitter: @garza\_joe

Tom David, Board of Education President



2017-18 School Board (left to right): Amy Crosby, Jody Kugler, Nate Nickerson, Krislyn Holaday-Wondrachek, Tom David, Jeffrey Kurth and Susan Manley



## MAKING THE GRADE

All School District of New Berlin schools “significantly exceed” or “exceed” expectations, according to state-issued District and School Report Cards released in November. The District also “significantly exceeds” expectations. The report cards are intended to offer accountability of how well schools and districts statewide are preparing students to graduate college and career ready.

### AP DISTRICT HONOR ROLL

The School District of New Berlin was one of 433 school districts in the U.S. and Canada honored by the College Board with placement on the seventh annual AP District Honor Roll. To be included on the honor roll, the SDNB had to, since 2014, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.



### GRADUATE ACT SCORES AMONG BEST

The district’s composite ACT scores for graduating students remained among the best among southeastern Wisconsin schools. Both Eisenhower (fourth) and West (10th) ranked favorably among more than 30 comparable schools including all those in the Woodland Conference and Waukesha County, and others.





## HIGH MARKS: WASHINGTON POST, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Eisenhower and West, once again, earned national recognition.

On the Washington Post's 2016 America's Most Challenging High Schools" index compiled annually and based on Advanced Placement (AP) test participation, Eisenhower jumped from seventh in Wisconsin in 2015 to fourth, and West climbed from 10th to eighth. The list is designed to identify schools that have done the best job in encouraging high school students to take college-level courses and tests. This is the sixth consecutive year both Eisenhower and West have been ranked by the Washington Post.

Also last spring, Eisenhower and West maintained their spots on the U.S. News & World Report's 2017 Best High Schools list. Eisenhower, ranked sixth, was one of only six Wisconsin schools to earn the publication's national gold medal, which is given to the top 500 schools nationwide. West, ranked 11th, earned a silver medal.

### The U.S. News & World Report's rankings methodology is based on four criteria:

- students perform better than expected in their state;
- disadvantaged students perform better than state averages;
- student graduation rates meet or exceed a national standard of 75 percent or higher;
- students are prepared for college-level coursework.



## TOP SCHOOL PR AWARD

The district's 2014-15 Annual Report was honored by the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association with a Spectrum Award of Excellence. Spectrum Awards recognize high-quality public relations efforts produced by or on behalf of Wisconsin school districts. The report also earned WSPRA's top prize, the Lighthouse Award, given to one project annually. Additionally, the district's Academic and Career Planning guide was recognized by the National School Public Relations Association with an Award of Excellence, while the 2015-16 Annual Report and video "Life After High School" earned NSPRA Awards of Merit.



## GREEN & HEALTHY SCHOOLS

The district began participation in the Wisconsin Green & Healthy Schools program. This program is supported by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Natural Resources to reduce impact, improve health, and increase environmental literacy in schools through nine focus areas: community involvement, energy, environmental education, environmental health, recycling and waste management, school site, transportation, water, and health and wellness.

## Did you know?

Thanks to an emphasis on teacher retention as part of the district's strategic plan, there was a 39 percent decrease in licensed educator turnover following the 2016-17 school year compared to the average of the five previous years.

# VISITS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS

Over the last several years, the School District of New Berlin has emerged as a leader among Wisconsin school districts in preparing students for college, careers and life. Thanks to the hard work of a dedicated staff and continued student-achievement results, the district's college and career readiness initiative continues to receive attention from the state's most influential leaders.



## GOV. WALKER

During a stop at New Berlin West in February, Gov. Scott Walker praised the district's Future Teachers Program as well as its efforts to encourage students to earn early college credits and gain work-based experiences while they are in high school.



## LT. GOV. KLEEFISCH

Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch visited in March to learn about the district's college and career readiness initiative and how it supports the state's interest in talent development, attraction, and retention. The SDNB is a leader in the implementation of Education for Employment legislation and Academic and Career Planning.



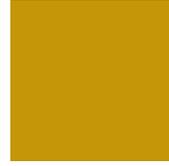
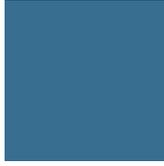
## STATE SUPERINTENDENT EVERS

In February, State Superintendent Tony Evers, joined by John Ashley, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, visited the district to learn how it is using the research-based performance metrics recommended by the American Association of School Administrators to shape subsequent phases of its college and career readiness initiative.



## STATE SEN. LEAH VUKMIR

Certified nursing assistant students got a visit from State Sen. Leah Vukmir, who learned more about the district's CNA program. Sen. Vukmir is a registered nurse and has an extensive background in healthcare. She commended the students on their decision to pursue their CNA certification.

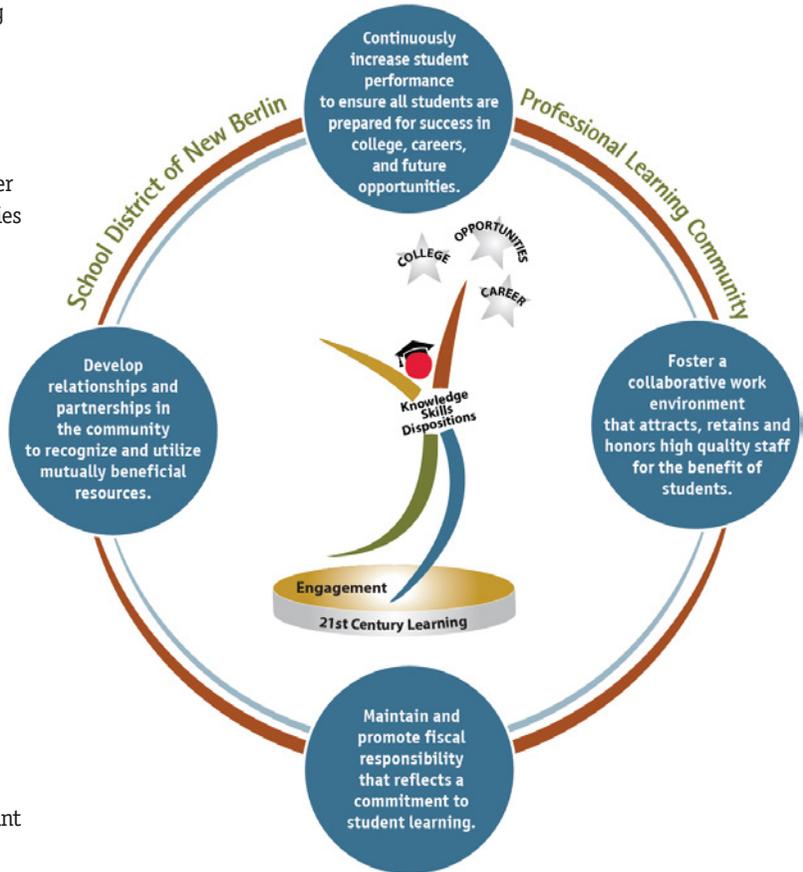


# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

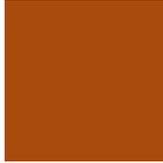
The district made significant gains toward accomplishing the goals defined in the 2015-17 strategic plan. Those goals were:

- Students will graduate ready for college, career and future opportunities
- Attract, retain and honor high-quality staff
- Promote fiscal responsibility that reflects a commitment to student learning
- Develop relationships in the community

As the district develops its next three-year strategic plan, it will do so with a focus on sustaining current and past successes while pursuing innovative strategies to ensure a relevant and rigorous education for every student in alignment with their personal, academic, social and career goals.



You can learn more about the strategic plan, view our 2015-17 Progress Report and more at [www.nbexcellence.org/district/strategic-goals.cfm](http://www.nbexcellence.org/district/strategic-goals.cfm)



# COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

## HELP SECURING “NEW SKILLS FOR YOUTH” GRANT

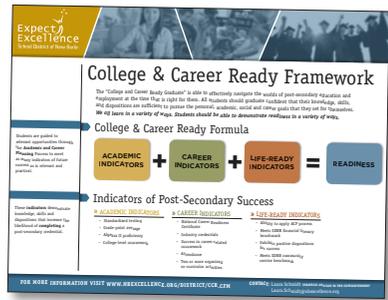
The district was invited to help secure a \$2 million grant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The money, awarded by JPMorgan Chase & Co., will be used to connect education to high-demand industries in select regions so that students have a broader view of the opportunities available to them as well as the preparation required for careers of interest. The SDNB is one of three districts, joining Milwaukee and Madison, on the state-level team and will continue to support the implementation over the next three years.

## ADVANCED INNOVATION AND DESIGN

Dozens of students participated in a new course - Advanced Innovation & Design (iAID). The course culminated when student teams “pitched” their solutions to challenges in front of an audience of parents, staff, advisors, mentors, corporate partners and invited guests during the district’s inaugural iAID Pitch Night. Nine teams took on challenges in the innovation strands of global business, tech, engineering and healthcare. Students completing this course are eligible for internships at partner companies and college credit through the UWM Lubar College of Business. Special thanks to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and The Commons, who collaborated with the district to develop this entrepreneurial skills accelerator course.

## TECH AWARD WINNERS

West’s Jennifer King and Jaclyn Windorff and Eisenhower’s Anja Schwobe and Jordan Main earned Wisconsin Affiliate of the National Center for Women & Information Technology awards. Recipients of the Aspirations in Computing (AiC) award join the NCWIT AiC community, which supports them through their collegiate years.



## MEASURING STUDENT PROGRESS TOWARD COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

The district was invited to join a national team studying the metrics surrounding the learning opportunities and behaviors that contribute to future success across a full range of post-secondary options. These metrics directly align to the district’s work over the last four years on college and career readiness. They include success in college-level coursework, attendance, engagement in career- and service-based learning, financial literacy, and more. The metrics will also be integrated into the district’s academic and career planning process beginning with the 2017-18 school year.



## DECA SUCCESS

Both the Eisenhower and West DECA teams enjoyed terrific seasons that included many state and international qualifiers. West had its first-ever medalist in the international competition. Teresa Wan was one of 20,000 competitors and finished with a top-10 test score medal! Eisenhower's Riya Mehta also competed in April's international event in California.

## PARTNERSHIP BREAKFAST

A record crowd of nearly 170 guests attended the district's fourth annual Partners In Education Breakfast in November, an event designed to update the district's partners on its college and career readiness efforts and gather insight to shape continuous improvement.

The district recognized A.S. Pindel Corporation, the Waukesha County Business Alliance and UW-Waukesha as this year's "Friends of Education" award recipients. The award is given annually to partners who have had a significant impact on the district's work over the past year.

## CNA PROGRAM GROWTH

The district's certified nursing assistants program now annually supports approximately 50 students who complete the course, which includes skills training in the lab located at New Berlin Eisenhower and clinical rotations at LindenGrove New Berlin. Students have the opportunity to take the state's CNA certification exam on site; CNA certification is a prerequisite for many healthcare-related collegiate education programs and allows students to work in a variety of healthcare settings.

## ROBOTICS LETTERING

Fifty-six students from Eisenhower and West middle/high schools were members of the New Berlin's FIRST robotics team, now entering its fifth season. New this year: the addition of a varsity/junior varsity lettering system; 19 students earned varsity letters and eight earned junior varsity letters based on hours participated, fundraising and outreach.

## TECHKNOW PROGRAM GROWTH

In an effort to extend student experiences beyond computer science/programming, the district offers TechKNOW, which exposes students to high-demand career opportunities in cybersecurity, enterprise architecture and support, and more. This program supports students interested in earning industry certifications and prepares them for related internship opportunities with the district or through community partners. This program has doubled in size over the past two years.



## HEALTHCARE ACADEMY

Five students from each high school were selected to participate in the inaugural Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin Summer Healthcare Academy. The academy allowed select students to complete an in-depth rotation in a variety of different departments, such as cardiology, pharmacy, emergency and more, throughout their summer experience.



## BUILD BIKE A FAN FAVORITE

The district's BUILD vintage motorcycle team won this year's BUILD Fan Favorite award at the Iron Horse BUILD Bike Night in Milwaukee in May. The team of students and mentors utilized several content areas, including science, technology, engineering and math, to work together and build the award-winning motorcycle.

# College & Career Ready Event Series

The School District of New Berlin coordinates a number of district-wide opportunities to support college and career awareness, exploration and preparation.



## JUMP INTO YOUR FUTURE DAYS

Every elementary school enjoyed Jump Into Your Future Days, a program designed to give elementary students in kindergarten through sixth grade a career awareness experience designed to broaden their knowledge of the world around them. Volunteers, including many SDNB parents, “show and tell” with students about their occupations and engage them in career-related activities. Last year’s volunteers included a Coast Guard member, an architect, a truck driver, an archaeologist, a video game designer and many others.

## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

The district helped launch a new Future Builders program in collaboration with Milwaukee School of Engineering. This program was offered to students in related courses at both Eisenhower and West and included a tour of the Northwestern Mutual tower project site as students explored potential future career paths in construction management and related occupations.

## BIZTOWN

For the third consecutive year, all fifth graders at all four elementary schools visited Junior Achievement’s BizTown, the interactive, simulated town run by students. Made possible through

a grant from Kohl’s Cares Field Trip Grant Program, the daylong JA BizTown visit experience features a City Hall, restaurant, newspaper, radio station, banks, retail stores, utility companies and other businesses. Students participated in JA BizTown’s local economy by serving as workers, producers and consumers by putting into practice material learned through earlier classroom lessons.

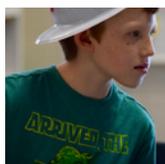
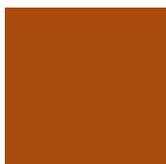


## CAREER DAYS

Career Days, an annual event for secondary students, featured more than 65 professionals from many different industries and careers within those industries. The volunteer speakers spent their afternoon engaging with students about their professions, how they chose their career, what education was required and more. Last fall’s volunteer presenters included a veterinarian, mechanical engineer, radiation therapist, chiropractor, athletic trainer, FBI agent and a robotics engineer, to name a few.

## INDUSTRY TOURS

“Careers In Action” Industry Tours expose students and staff to the types of challenges organizations are tasked with solving, potential work environments, and learning experiences that will help inform future plans. Thanks to our 2016-17 hosts: Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, Centare, PKWARE, the Commons, Husco Automotive, EmbedTek, Pentair, UW-Milwaukee and the Waukesha County Business Alliance.

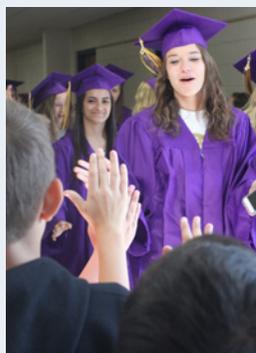


# END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATIONS



## GRADUATION

Hundreds of Eisenhower and West seniors donned their caps and gowns and walked across the stage during graduation ceremonies June 10. Families and friends filled the seats in West's field house and Eisenhower's Frank T. Granger Memorial Field on a hot, but breezy spring day.



## SENIOR WALKS

In late May, approximately 400 Eisenhower and West seniors walked the hallways of Elmwood, Orchard Lane, Poplar Creek and Ronald Reagan elementary schools, where they were greeted by high-fives, fist bumps and hugs from students and staff. The Senior Walks, now in their second year, are meant to inspire younger students and instill in them the importance of graduating. As for the seniors, they get a chance to stroll down memory lane and share special moments with their former elementary teachers.

## WCTC DUAL ENROLLMENT

Waukesha County Technical College celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2017 Dual Enrollment Academy graduates, which included West's Brandon Murray, Philip Stanley, Michael Grinker, Colin Skindzelewski and Thomas Buechs and Eisenhower's Devin Pertle and Jakob Sanders. The WCTC Dual Enrollment Academy program allows students to earn 19-30 college credits along with employer-recognized certifications in high-demand occupations to provide a jumpstart on their careers.

## RETIREMENTS

The district said goodbye to several long time staff members. Mary Jane Whitty served a number of roles in her amazing 47-year career with the district and Craig Miller taught social studies for 38 years at Eisenhower! Joining them among this year's retirees were Kris Peterson (Eisenhower), Craig Sandblom and Barbara Schemmel (West), Sue Menningen (Orchard Lane), and Shirley Rinaldi, Karen Standish and Betty Weber (district office).





NEW BERLIN  
**EISENHOWER**  
 MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL



4333 S. Sunnyslope Rd. | (262) 789-6300

**Newsweek**

AMERICA'S TOP HIGH SCHOOLS

**NEWSWEEK'S TOP  
 HIGH SCHOOL LIST**

Eisenhower returned to *Newsweek's* "America's Top High Schools" list of 500 nationwide schools. Ike ranked fifth among 21 Wisconsin schools, and second in suburban Milwaukee. The list, compiled annually, recognizes schools for college readiness.



**PERFECT ACT SCORE**

Junior Amy Weyers (class of 2018) earned the highest possible composite score of 36 on her ACT college admission and placement exam. She is the sixth Eisenhower student to record a perfect 36 in the last five years.



**SENIOR  
 HONORS NIGHT**

Eisenhower graduates earned nearly \$2 million in scholarships and more than three dozen of the award winners were recognized during Senior Honors Night in May.



**ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINS STATE**

In March, Eisenhower's Academic Decathlon team won the Division 2 state championship. Among the team's state place-winners were William Huang, Kyle Dorshorst, Samir Hossain, Grace DeRome, John Stelter and Audra Smith.

**OUTSTANDING SECONDARY  
 TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

English teacher Kristine Springer was named Outstanding Secondary Educator of the Year by the Wisconsin Association for the Talented and Gifted for making a valuable contribution to the education of advanced learners.





## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Eisenhower's Riya Meta earned a National Merit Scholarship in the spring. Ike's Mitchell Swing and Deborah Woo were National Merit Scholarship semifinalists and Caila Bachmann, Nicholas Fischer, Gwenyth Gasper, Cade Koski and Srikar Vootkur were commended by the scholarship program.



## STATE CHAMP SWIMMER

Bella Passamani became just the third female swimmer in Ike history to win a state championship, finishing first at the WIAA state meet in the 100-yard butterfly. The junior was also the runner-up in the 500 freestyle. Additionally, Ike coach Alyssa Bauer was named the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel All-Area Coach of the Year.



## COACH SCHEIDEGGER RETIRES

After a 27-year run, Dave Scheidegger retired as Ike's boys basketball coach. He went 430-167 during his career and led the Lions to the 2008 WIAA Division 2 state championship. Scott Witt was hired as his replacement.



## MORE POOL NEWS

Three months after opening to the public following a \$2.1 million renovation, the Eisenhower pool hosted its first WIAA sectional in years Nov. 5. The new pool is used almost daily by the high school swim teams, physical education students and community swim groups.

## PROGRAMMING COMPETITION VICTORY

The four-person team of William Huang, Andrew Lien, Matt Satula and Samir Hossain finished first in its division in Java programming at the Wisconsin-Dairyland Programming Competition at Marquette University over spring break. The students participated in computer science problem solving, working collaboratively to solve problems.



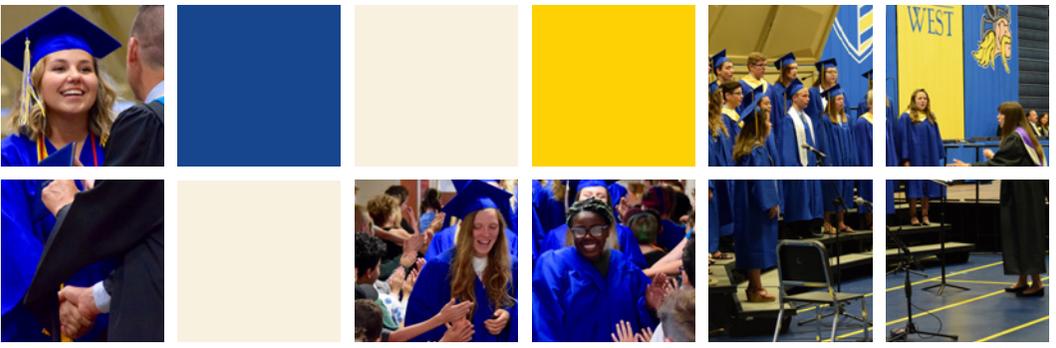
## TOMMY AWARD WINNERS

Eisenhower claimed six 2017 Overture's Tommy Awards, a program that recognizes and encourages excellence in high school musical theater. "Sister Act" earned the Outstanding Orchestra award. Erin Ashenurst, who portrayed Mother Superior, earned an Outstanding Lead award. Additionally, Grace Statfield and Madison Ranta (Outstanding Stage Manager), Sara Zavadsky (Outstanding Choreography) and Alecia Hough (Tommy Spirit Award) were recognized.



## JEFF SETZ SOFTBALL FIELD

Months after mourning the loss of longtime hall-of-fame football and softball coach Jeff Setz, the community celebrated his accomplishments when Ike named the varsity softball diamond in his honor.



NEW BERLIN  
**WEST**  
 MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL



18695 W. Cleveland Ave. | (262) 789-6400



**SENIOR HONORS NIGHT**

West's graduating class of 197 students earned a school-record \$2.3 million in scholarships. Nearly half the class was represented at the school's Senior Honors Night in May.



**SENIOR TALKS**

A handful of seniors revisited their old elementary school and met with sixth graders at Poplar Creek, Orchard Lane and Ronald Reagan. The seniors sat down with the soon-to-be middle schoolers to offer advice on the transition from elementary to middle school.



**WEST SHARES CONFERENCE HOOPS TITLE**

West's girls basketball team posted a 20-4 record this winter and earned a share of the Woodland Conference title, the program's first in 21 years. The Vikings claimed the crown along with crosstown rival Eisenhower, which won a share of its first league championship since 2012-13.

**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP**

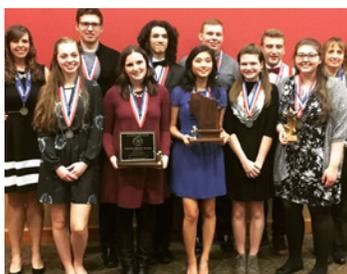
Teresa Wan was a National Merit Scholarship award winner. As a finalist, she was in the top 1 percent of all students assessed (PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index scores) across the country. West's Olivia Nyman and Rachel Rasmussen, received letters of commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.





## 'SOUTH PACIFIC' WINS AWARDS

South Pacific earned two 2017 Overture's Tommy Awards this spring, including one for Outstanding Orchestra. Additionally, Evan McKenzie won a Tommy Spirit Award. The Tommy Awards program recognizes and encourages excellence in high school musical theater.



## THIRD STRAIGHT STATE TRIP

The New Berlin United boys volleyball team, a co-op consisting of West and Eisenhower players, made its third consecutive appearance in the WIAA state tournament for the first time in the program's history. Following a thrilling comeback win over Muskego in the sectional semifinal, United advanced to the state semifinal before falling to eventual champion Catholic Memorial.

## ACADEMIC DECATHLON TAKES SECOND IN STATE

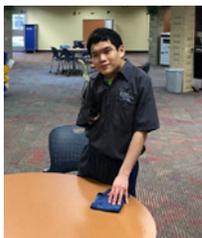
Making its first trip to state in 17 years, West's Academic Decathlon team was the D2 runner-up last spring. The Vikings earned the state title in the interview category and was third in the super quiz. Rebecca Reif, Alex Underwood and Aaron Hachmeister helped lead the way at state.

## TWO WIAA CHAMPIONS

Over a three-day span in June, two Vikings were crowned state champions. Daily Albino nearly set a state record but settled for the state crown in the pole vault at the WIAA State Track and Field Meet. Days later, senior Hunter Pipek ran away with the Division 2 state golf crown, shooting the fourth-lowest two-day total in D2 state history.

## EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

West associate principal Greg DePue, along with student Shanie Dang and special education teacher Trevor Hill, presented at the Employment First Conference about increasing employment outcomes for students with disabilities by promoting self-advocacy in their students. The team presented on the District's hiring of Shanie as a part-time custodian, and specifically the partnership between administration, the buildings and grounds department and Shanie and his family, in support of his goal toward a life-long position.

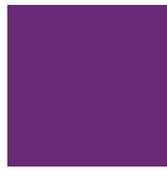


## SKILLSUSA GROWTH

One year after the program had three students its first year, SkillsUSA saw a huge boost in participation as 22 students – 21 from West – joined in 2016-17. SkillsUSA focuses on career- and technology-based education that gives students technical skills, academic skills and employability skills needed to succeed in life. This year, three students competed in the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville.

## LOSING THEIR VOICE

Steve Spencer, the voice of the Vikings football and basketball programs for more than a decade and longtime supporter of West athletics, passed away in February.



# ELMWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5900 S. Sunnyslope Rd. | (262) 789-6581



## BLUE RIBBON NOMINEE

Elmwood was one of eight elementary schools nominated by State Superintendent Tony Evers for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, which recognizes overall academic excellence or progress in improving student achievement. Awards, presented to “Exemplary High Performing” and “Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing” schools, are announced in September. 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.

## ELMWOOD EXPO

After weeks of researching and preparing, fourth graders gave their presentations about local companies, businesses and organizations - and sometimes, free samples! - to family members, school officials and their schoolmates during the annual Elmwood Expo.



## FUN RUN A SUCCESS

The school’s first-ever Boosterthon Fun Run, put on in partnership with the Elmwood Home and School organization, raised nearly \$20,000 to help support the addition of bleachers in the school gym and many other student educational opportunities.

## CHESS PLAYERS PART OF HISTORY

In May, 11 Elmwood chess players travelled to Nashville to compete in the Super Nationals VI Chess Tournament. The event broke its own record as the largest chess tournament in the world, with more than 5,500 players competing. Elmwood players earned two team trophies and six individual trophies after winning games against some of the best elementary, middle and high school players in the country!

## MORE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Staff increased number of students in the fourth (and highest) quartile for MAP Reading scores.
- Second-grade teacher Kelli Rado authored and illustrated her first book: “Our Rainbow”.



# ORCHARD LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2015 S. Sunnyslope Rd. | (262) 789-6500



## HERB KOHL AWARD

Second-grade teacher Erika Mayer was awarded a Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Fellowship Award. Mayer, in her fifth year at Orchard Lane, was one of 100 Wisconsin teachers to earn this year's award. Fellowship recipients are educators who have been chosen for their superior ability to inspire a love of learning in their students, their ability to motivate others, and their leadership service within and outside the classroom.

## BUDDY BENCH

The school celebrated anti-bullying week in October by receiving a Buddy Bench donated by Scherrer Construction. Students took photos on the new bench to show they can be a good friend. Check out the bench the next time you visit the school.



## HIGH INTEREST DAY

Numerous volunteers, ranging from high school students to senior citizens, led dozens of sessions at Orchard Lane's 15th annual High Interest Day. Among this year's sessions were juggling, marbles, historical wargaming, wrestling, yoga, quidditch, lacrosse and more.



## MORE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Student learning assistant Sue Menningen connected with high-energy students during recess to help them play basketball in a safe and respectful way.
- Fourth-grade teacher Jen Coyle wrote another creative school play for students, this one called *Tellin' Tall Tales*.



# POPLAR CREEK

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

17401 W. Cleveland Ave. | (262) 789-6520



## READING PARTNERSHIP

New Berlin West and Poplar Creek launched a new student reading partnership. Just before spring break, during face-to-face readings, the older students coached elementary students and provided positive feedback as elementary students read to them. The mentors also made audio recordings of themselves reading fairy tale books that the second-graders could listen to.

## WONDER LEAGUE ROBOTICS

Students in Franceszka Lesniak's fourth-grade class competed in the Wonder League Robotics Competition. Of the 5,000 teams, only 180 completed all five missions with a perfect score. One of them was PC's The Brainz!



## HONOR FLIGHTS FUNDRAISER

First-grade teacher Nancy Baumann encouraged PC students to write letters to veterans as part of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Mail Call campaign. For each letter written, the Journal Sentinel donated \$10 to the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. Poplar Creek students wrote 418 letters, raising \$4,180, enough to send eight veterans on the flight!

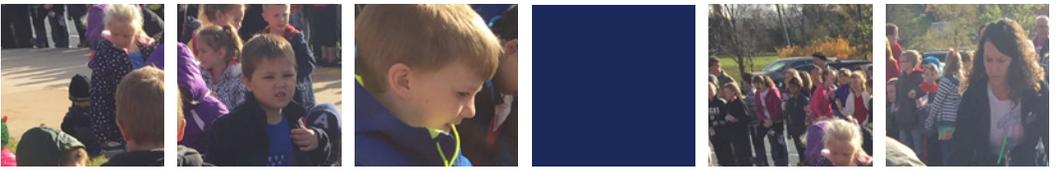


## CHESS COMPETITORS

At the Super Nationals VI Chess Tournament in Nashville in May, sixth-grader Pratyush Shahir played in the fourth-strongest high school section and took second out of 365 players. He is the strongest chess player Poplar Creek has ever had.

## MORE HIGHLIGHTS:

- First Lego League students did research on saving the honeybee population, and as a result of donations, more than 450 flower seed packets were distributed to families to plant throughout the community.
- Student council organized "The Great Beard Off" and raised \$350 for prostate cancer research. Male staff members participated in "No Shave November", and the winning class at each grade level told that staff member how to shave his beard at the end of the month.
- Students donated hats, gloves and mittens to a church in Waukesha through a donation drive run by the student council.



# RONALD REAGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## ALOPECIA AREATA AWARENESS

Staff and students raised more than \$1,000 for the National Alopecia Areata Foundation in September. Another \$800 came in from outside donors. Because the students and staff reached their goal, principal Brady Reinke had his head shaved at an all-school assembly.



## PHY ED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Katie Mulloy was named the Wisconsin Health and Physical Education Elementary Teacher of the Year. She will be honored and recognized at a banquet in the Wisconsin Dells in October.



## HONOR FLIGHT FUNDRAISER

Ronald Reagan students hoped to raise \$525 to send a veteran on a Stars and Stripes Honor Flight by selling American flags for \$1 each. As it turns out, students and staff raised more than \$2,500 and sent five veterans on the trip!



## MORE HIGHLIGHTS:

- As part of its Reagan Gives Back year-long fundraising initiative, students made more than 700 valentines for patients at Children's Hospital; families donated 335 toys for less fortunate children at Christmas; students donated \$2,600 to Pennies for Patients; and the school saved 147 lives through its annual blood drive.
- The Ronald Reagan choir sang the national anthem prior to a Milwaukee Bucks game in February.
- An Abe Lincoln impersonator visited with fifth-graders to talk about his life story, the Civil War and the history of this great nation.



# Community Connections

## DISTRICT STUDENT ART GALLERY NIGHT

The district hosted its first-ever Student Art Gallery Night in November as more than 70 student art pieces were on display and showcased for the rest of the school year throughout the district's administrative office wing. Some pieces were auctioned off with \$525 in proceeds going to the district's arts program.

## STAIRWAY TO HEROIN

Hundreds attended the Stairway to Heroin community drug abuse prevention presentation at the New Berlin West PAC in March. The district teamed with Your Choice to put on the powerful event designed to warn families of the dangers of the increased use of opiates and other drug trends.

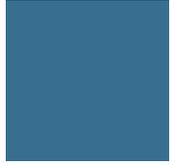
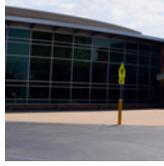


## VETERANS DAY

Dozens of veterans and special guests joined us for our annual Veterans Day Celebration last November at Eisenhower, where they were treated to musical tributes, brunch and visits from students. The event will be back at New Berlin West at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10 (time subject to change).

## DISCOVER NEW BERLIN

The Discover New Berlin Community Fair was once again a hit, with something for everyone who attended the special event at New Berlin Eisenhower. The event provided people the opportunity to learn more about the businesses, organizations, groups and neighbors that help make New Berlin great. This year's event included a STEM fair with hands-on projects for children and a special visit by former Green Bay Packer George Koonce.



# 2017-18 Budget Overview

The School Board has implemented several strategies and taken advantage of various legislative acts, such as Act 10 and Act 32, to help keep property taxes low while providing a high-quality education to our students. For years, the district has overcome significant structural deficits, and for the 2017-18 budget, the district will once again need to make significant adjustments and reductions to bridge the projected gap.

The School Board has approved a preliminary budget for the 2017-18 school year that includes a tax levy of \$51,765,136, calling for an estimated tax rate of \$11.01, down from \$11.16 in 2016-17. The levy will increase \$791,912 due to normal cost increases, loss of general state aid and increased debt service cost for energy and operational efficiency projects.



Eisenhower stadium lights



West softball stadium

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

The SDNB has maintained its dedication to providing the best learning environments and facilities to our students and staff. After investing resources across the district - largely on learning environments at all schools - over the last several years, only a few capital improvement projects were needed in 2016-17.

Additionally, earlier this summer, the School Board approved a district-wide project package that will address the aging HVAC system at West, replace stadium lights at Eisenhower and parking lot lighting throughout the district, and update other HVAC systems.

## FOOTNOTE:

The budget will be adjusted as necessary before final Board approval in October at which time the district will have final enrollment, property value and state aid information.

# Fiscal Outlook

## A LOOK BACK

In 2002, preceding the current administration and current School Board, the SDNB built Ronald Reagan Elementary and made significant building improvements at New Berlin West. The School Board funded the project by borrowing money to be repaid with funds from the annual operating budget, with the hope of providing tax relief to all stakeholders. Funding this way, as opposed to a referendum, has saved district taxpayers nearly \$26.4 million in principal and interest costs over 15 years.



Ronald Reagan Elementary

At the same time, the SDNB expanded and maintained high-level educational programming in order to keep the district among the state's best for academic excellence. The School Board vastly improved the district's technology infrastructure and a number of deferred maintenance projects that needed to be completed.

To partially offset the educational programming, technology and deferred maintenance needs, the district has reduced administration and aligned teaching/support staff in a fiscally responsible manner, sought out and received various grants and aggressively pursued cost-savings strategies related to employee medical costs, maintenance of facilities, student transportation and utilities.

## TODAY

Since 2005, the nation also suffered a recession that negatively affected the housing market. We believe the longtime stagnant housing market is one of the biggest factors leading to a decline in district enrollment from 4,803 students in 2009 to 4,480 today. The decrease in student enrollment has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue limit authority.

Though the housing market turned around, and while we believe our enrollment numbers will hold steady or even increase in the future, the decrease in revenue authority will, in part, have a lasting effect on our budget. We are projecting structural deficits of millions of dollars each of the next several years, largely as a result of annually paying off the debt owed on Ronald Reagan and the West improvements.



New Berlin West Middle/High School

To put it in perspective, the impact on our revenue limit as a result of declining enrollment is approximately \$3.6 million annually. The debt payment on the Reagan and West projects for 2016-17 is approximately \$3.7 million.

There are no more major cost-saving tools immediately available, such as those afforded to districts through Act 10 that resulted in shared retirement contributions, major changes in employee healthcare plans, and more. And revenue-generating initiatives such as reinvigorating our education foundation for fundraising, launching a capital campaign, soliciting facility naming rights and sponsorships and more will likely never yield a large enough return on investment to bridge our structural deficit gaps.

If the financial outlook remains as is, the likelihood is great that it could affect our students' educational experience. Therefore, district administration has been exploring many long-range options that would help reduce or eliminate future structural deficits and maintain the district's high level of educational programming.

## NEXT STEPS

Based on these challenges, the Board is committed to bringing the entire district community – staff, families and other stakeholders – together to learn more about the situation and to consider various options for moving forward. The community's engagement during what will be an important decision-making process over the next year to 18 months will help direct the administration and School Board's next steps, and perhaps, result in more revenue-generating and cost-saving ideas. We will share more details via mail, social media and on our website at [www.nbexcellence.org](http://www.nbexcellence.org) as they become available.



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR - COMMUNITY EVENTS

Visit the calendar at [www.nbboxcellence.org](http://www.nbboxcellence.org) or call 262-789-6200 for more info

- ★ Sept. 5: First Day of School
- ★ Sept. 6: Eisenhower/West Open Houses
- ★ Sept. 25: WEF College Fair at West
- ★ Sept. 29: Eisenhower Homecoming Game
- ★ Oct. 6: West Homecoming Game
- ★ Oct. 9-10: Professional Learning Days (no school)
- ★ Nov. 10: Annual Veterans Day Program (at West)
- ★ Dec. 7: Partners in Education Breakfast

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:** Held biweekly, Mondays at 7 p.m. in the New Berlin West Idea Center. Also streamed online for viewing.  
*MORE INFO:* [www.nbboxcellence.org/district/board-meetings.cfm](http://www.nbboxcellence.org/district/board-meetings.cfm)

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



**FEEDBACK:** Questions, Opinions & Ideas welcome  
at [feedback@nbxcellence.org](mailto:feedback@nbxcellence.org)

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