



Expect  
Excellence  
School District of New Berlin

2019-2020  
ANNUAL REPORT



**TOGETHER  
IN EXCELLENCE**

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# Expect Excellence

School District of New Berlin

### 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.

### 2020-21 BOARD OF EDUCATION



2020-21 Board of Education (left to right): Janet Schulz, Jeffrey Kurth, Susan Manley, Amy Crosby, Krislyn Holaday-Wondracheck, Kate Unger, and Mitchell Helmer. Ms. Crosby and Ms. Holaday-Wondracheck won re-election in April. Ms. Crosby is president; Ms. Schulz is vice president; Mr. Kurth is clerk; and Mr. Helmer is treasurer.



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



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## BY THE NUMBERS

**4,238**  
TOTAL STUDENTS

**380**  
2020 GRADUATES

**6** SCHOOLS  
2 Middle/High Schools  
4 Elementary School

**86.9**  
SDNB'S STATE REPORT CARD SCORE

## Join us for the School District of New Berlin's Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing

MONDAY, SEPT. 14, AT 7 p.m.  
WEST PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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

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)

# WELCOME TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR!

Our Annual Report is a key component of our communication and engagement with the great community of New Berlin, which we are proud to serve. It is a tool we use to celebrate our tremendous students, staff and families, shine a light on the previous year's accomplishments and preview highlights for the upcoming year. Our aim is to also provide examples of excellence made possible by the investment our taxpayers make in our public schools each and every year.

The astute observer will notice a format change with this year's report: larger page sizes, fonts and photos compared to previous years. But beyond that, this year's Annual Report is unlike previous years. That's because last school year was unlike any other, and 2020-21 could follow suit.

March 13 was the last day our district held in-person classes for the 2019-20 school year. That day our staff and students grabbed their devices and as many supplies as they could and said awkward goodbyes, never imagining that afternoon would be the last time they would sit down in a classroom together.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to rethink and reimagine everything. It was - and continues to be - challenging, but we have persevered. Although our buildings and facilities were closed, our district most decidedly was not. Yes, our students unexpectedly missed out on a lot at the end of last school year, but thanks to our amazing staff and the support and patience of the families that make up this district, we continued with our mission to empower, inspire and support our students so when the day comes, they can graduate College, Career & Life Ready.

Before the shutdown, our students and staff accomplished so much. You will see examples of that throughout this report. You'll also see how we made distance learning work in an emergency, and just as importantly, how we stayed connected with our students even when we could not be together. It was an unprecedented year, but we rose to the occasion and made the best of the circumstances despite the daily uncertainties.

If we have learned anything, it is that it is impossible to predict what next year's Annual Report will look like because no one really knows how the 2020-21 school year will unfold. We have spent months preparing and planning and are ready to pivot at a moment's notice. We know that what school looks like today could look different tomorrow. We know that we have to be flexible, yet provide stability the best that we can. And we remain hopeful that no matter what this school year brings, that our students and staff continue to garner the support of our families and the community.

**We have so much to be proud of in our district, and that will continue, no matter what we face together.**

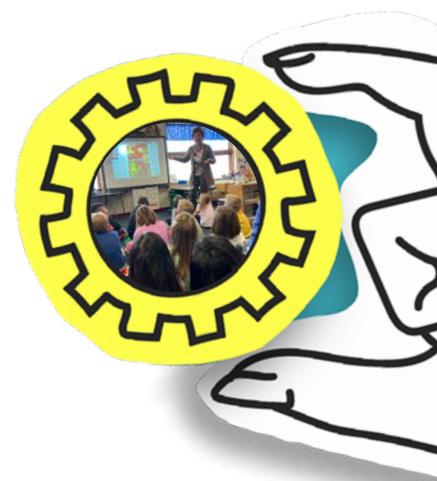
*Joe Garza*      *Amy Crosby*



Joe Garza,  
Superintendent



Amy Crosby  
Board of Education  
President



# AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## DISTRICT'S STATE REPORT CARD SCORE CLIMBS FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

All SDNB schools continue to "significantly exceed" or "exceed" expectations according to 2018-19 state-issued District and School Report Card Report. The district also "significantly exceeds" expectations, one of only 40 of 421 districts in Wisconsin to reach that level.

### Among this year's highlights:

- The district's overall score climbed for the second straight year, from 84.7 in 2016-17 to 85.7 in 2017-18 to 86.9 in 2018-19;
- West, with its 83.5, "significantly exceeds expectations" for the first time since the report cards were issued in 2014. In all previous years, West "exceeded expectations";
- Eisenhower's score climbed from 86.1 a year ago to a district-best 89.0;
- Both secondary schools, as well as Elmwood (87.4) and Ronald Reagan (84.2) elementary schools, "significantly exceed expectations"; Poplar Creek (82.4) and Orchard Lane (81.3) "exceed expectations".



| District score | 86.9 |
|----------------|------|
| Elmwood        | 87.4 |
| Orchard Lane   | 81.3 |
| Poplar Creek   | 82.4 |
| Ronald Reagan  | 84.2 |
| Eisenhower     | 89.0 |
| West           | 83.5 |



## EISENHOWER AND WEST AMONG THE BEST

The high rankings from the folks at U.S. News and World Report continued for the district's two high schools. According to the publication's 2020 rankings, Eisenhower finished 5th - for the second straight year - and West was 25th among the 453 ranked Wisconsin high schools. Those rankings put both schools within the top 5.5 percent of the nearly 18,000 nationally ranked schools. Methodology is based on measures including: college readiness, college curriculum breadth, reading and math proficiency and performance, among others.

# NEW FACES / PLACES

The upcoming school year will find some new additions to our administrative team, as well as some familiar faces in new places.



Kristine Springer, a former English teacher at Eisenhower has been hired as a new associate principal at Ike. Most recently, she was an interim assistant principal at Muskego High School.



Poplar Creek will have a new associate principal as well. Jennifer Torosian has spent the last seven years as an administrator at the Milwaukee Academy of Science, the last five as principal, and will join principal Matt Stempniewski at PC.



Ronald Reagan will have a new building administration tandem next school year. Angela Patterson, who most currently served as principal at Lake Bluff Elementary in Shorewood, will replace Brady Reinke as principal. Joining Mrs. Patterson as Reagan's new associate principal will be Matt Stich, who most recently was the principal at Eagle Elementary School.



Orchard Lane will see a change in the administrative team as well. Royce Lindner, former principal at Elmwood, and most recently the district's Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning, will serve as principal. Julie Kader, who was the school's associate principal before shifting to Ronald Reagan for the 2019-20 school year, will return to Orchard Lane in her associate principal role.



Finally, Brady Reinke, former principal at Ronald Reagan, assumed the role of Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning this summer.



## HERB KOHL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARD WINNERS

Three SDNB teachers and five high school seniors were chosen as Herb Kohl Education Foundation 2020 award winners. Julie Ibar, an art teacher at Elmwood Elementary; Donna Malone, a special education teacher at New Berlin West, and Jessica Santiago, a Spanish teacher at West were three of 100 Wisconsin teachers to earn this year's \$6,000 Fellowship Award with a matching award given to their respective schools. Educators are 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.

In addition to our staff recipients, five district students earned the Kohl Excellence Scholarship. Eisenhower's Connor Forberg, Anjaly Nagarajan and Grace Woo, and West's Brynn Flanders and Noah Miller each received the \$10,000 award. The winners are selected based on their strong academics, high motivation to achieve, engagement in co-curriculars and leadership ability, among other criteria.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Julie Ibar



Donna Malone



Jessica Santiago

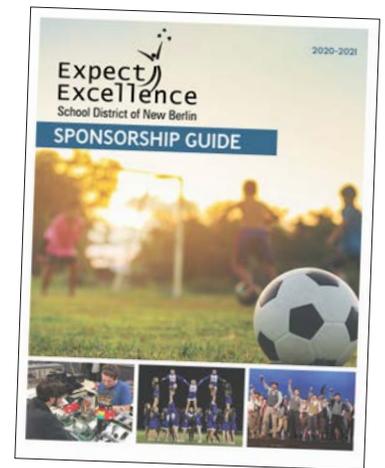


## Academic, Performance and Athletic Spaces for Rent

The SDNB is pleased to offer its school spaces for use through rental agreements with the greater community. Our facilities can serve as the perfect space for meetings, social occasions, performances and athletic events. To learn more about existing facility rental opportunities, visit [www.nbboxcellence.org/district/renting-facilities.cfm](http://www.nbboxcellence.org/district/renting-facilities.cfm).

## Naming Right Sponsorships Available

Sponsorships and naming rights are available for a wide variety of facilities across the SDNB. As an important source of alternate revenue for the district, we are pleased to offer a range of sponsorships to fit every budget. Having a classroom, learning commons, or even the West Performing Arts Center named for your company can gain exposure for your brand while investing in one of the top-rated districts in the state. Similarly, naming a space in honor of a loved one can serve as a meaningful way to show your support for our students. **To learn more visit [www.nbboxcellence.org/community/naming-right-sponsorships.cfm](http://www.nbboxcellence.org/community/naming-right-sponsorships.cfm).**



## NOW IN OUR THIRD YEAR!

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

# DISTANCE LEARNING

In mid-March the SDNB, along with the rest of the schools in the state, was ordered to close our doors at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. What we had hoped was just a temporary measure intended to last for a couple of weeks, turned out to be much longer than originally anticipated. It meant an immediate pivot to distance learning. It was an all-hands-on-deck effort on behalf of administration, teaching staff and not the least of which, our families, to adjust to our new normal. Throughout the challenges, there were many highlights.



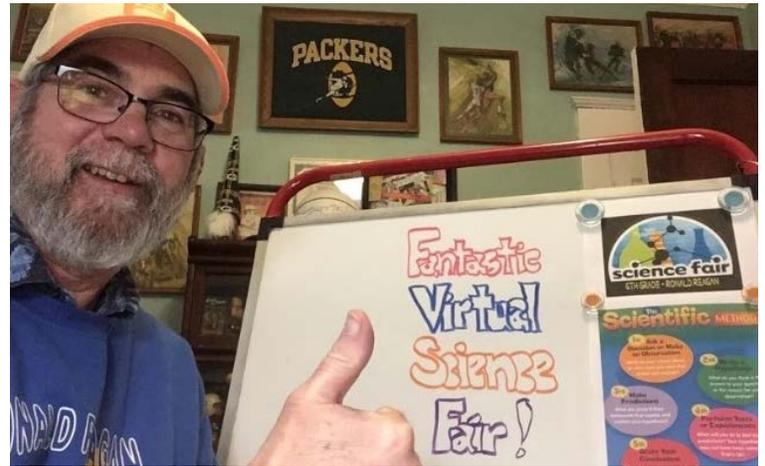
## DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVE POSITIONED THE DISTRICT FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Back in 2015, the district launched a multi-year 1:1 digital device initiative with the goal of providing an individual technology device for all students to support a more robust learning environment. Students in grades 7-9 received Chromebooks that first year. Over the course of the past four years, the 1:1 initiative has been expanded to provide all secondary students (grades 7-12) with Chromebooks and most recently, elementary students in grades K-6 with iPads. This initiative allowed for an easier transition to distance learning than many other districts that did not have a 1:1 initiative in place at the time of the closure order.



## FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES DID NOT MISS A BEAT

Despite Wisconsin's "Safer at Home" order, the Food & Nutrition Services Department continued to provide lunches to students and their siblings in need during this time. Not a single day of services was skipped, thanks to a quick pivot by staff. Lunches were available to more than 300 families via pick-up or delivery each day and continued through the end of August.



## ACADEMIC APPROACH

The SDNB was fortunate it was in a position to institute "emergency" distance learning for our students. The approaches differed from school to school and class to class as staff did their best to provide quality educational experiences to all students. There were live Zoom meetings, recorded lessons, independent learning, and even pen-and-paper assignments for some of our youngest students. Teachers received additional time to collaborate and develop new lesson plans that focused on meeting student needs with various tools and methods.

## VIRTUAL SPIRIT DAYS

In addition to keeping academics on track, our staff also recognized the importance of finding ways to reinforce the relationships within their individual buildings. Virtual spirit days were a way for both our elementary and secondary buildings to foster a sense of belonging and to provide a welcomed respite from the work at hand.

## WEBSITE SERVED AS HUB

Much like the adage about building a plane as you are flying it, the administrators and teaching staff had to define and re-define a distance learning approach and learning structure for our families all while beginning to teach remotely. Needless to say, the district recognized that communication was a crucial part of the transition. The distance learning web page became the hub for families to access valuable links and resources designed to support SDNB's distance learning. The district and the school's social media platforms allowed staff and students to stay connected through the sharing of photos and videos that were full of heartfelt messages and evidence that despite physical separation, the learning continued, albeit in new and sometimes unconventional ways.



## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

An important strategic goal for the district is attracting, retaining and honoring high quality staff for the benefit of our students. We always knew we had a great staff. The last few months have made us appreciate their talent and work ethic even more. Although they work tirelessly every year, this spring saw them rise to the occasion as never before. We did our best to honor them during teacher appreciation week in early May.

# COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS



## MAKING SPACE FOR MAKERSPACES

The 2019-20 school year saw the continued creation and completion of makerspaces in the district. "Making" can be thought of as a capacity that enables students to prototype, build and create using a unique set of tools and allows them to represent their ideas in unique ways and produce them in tangible objects. Making is connected to curriculum-based learning and is driven by the design thinking process.

The makerspace initiative kicked off in earnest in 2018 with a survey of available spaces within each of the schools. Maker champions were then identified at each building, received training and now serve as teacher leaders at the building level. Last year, all staff received training on how to guide their students to engage in the design thinking process and began to use the spaces with their students.



## GETTING AN EARLY START

Our students' elementary school years provide a strong foundation to inform their planning when they get to middle/high school. Through a variety of purposeful activities and experiences designed to support students' development, they are able to discover who they are as learners, identify their interests and strengths, and gain confidence in their unique abilities. Junior Achievement's "Jump Into Your Future Day" for grades K-6, as well as their BizTown program for 5th grade students are two of these programs.



## FAB LAB OPENS AT WEST

The SDNB held a ribbon cutting and open house in November to celebrate the completion of a district Fab Lab, located at West. Special guests included state senators Dale Kooyenga and Dave Craig, Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow, members of the Waukesha County Business Alliance, School Board members, and members of the Education Foundation of New Berlin board of directors, among others. The fab lab is a dedicated room designed for innovation, invention, collaboration and learning through digital fabrication. Thanks to a financial commitment from the EFNB and through a partnership with Palmer Hamilton PHabLAB, who chose West as a beta site which allowed the district to receive an approximately 30 percent discount on associated costs, this new resource engages students to better prepare for future STEM-related careers.

Housing industrial-grade fabrication and electronic tools such 3D printers, CNC routers, laser engravers and Google Jamboards, the lab is a perfect environment in which students can use digital tools and resources within a design process to identify and solve authentic problems. Although housed at West, the fab lab is available for students at both secondary schools to engage in project-based, hands-on learning. Naming rights for the fab lab, the ideation classroom space within the lab, and various work and equipment stations throughout the lab, are available.

## CAREER EXPLORATION PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHTS

Businesses, organizations, individuals and post-secondary institutions that support the district's college and career readiness efforts are essential to the success of our students. Partners recognized by our Board of Education for their contributions this past year include: Lifetime Realty Group/Co-Founder Scott Klaas, New Berlin Rotary Club and The Mad Cete/Founder Steve Chepp. We thank them for championing this important collective work.



## CAREER DAY A SUCCESS

Close to 90 volunteer professionals shared their knowledge and personal career journeys with our Eisenhower students at the district's annual Career Day in November, part of the district's College and Career Readiness Event Series. The event is made possible thanks to a partnership with Junior Achievement of Wisconsin.

# CAREERS IN ACTION

Although our annual springtime tours which expose students to some of the projected hottest jobs and industries were cancelled due to COVID-19, many of our students were still able to learn about potential careers and working environments through a number of industry-related experiences.

## CYBERSECURITY

West students participated in CyberPatriot, the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, created by the Air Force Association to inspire students toward careers in cybersecurity or other STEM disciplines. The competition places students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with finding and fixing cybersecurity vulnerabilities in a virtual operating system for an imaginary company.

## LOOK WHAT I BUILT!

Construction III students helped build a new single-family home in New Berlin's Red Fox Crossing neighborhood thanks to a partnership with Tim O'Brien Homes. Spending a minimum of three hours a day on the job site, students assisted with all aspects of construction including framing, roofing, plumbing, electrical, HVAC and finished carpentry.



## MANUFACTURING

Our Project Lead the Way Principles of Engineering class took a field trip in November to Madison-Kipp Corporation in Sun Prairie. Students learned about the manufacturing processes behind some of the key components of automobiles, the various career opportunities in the manufacturing industry, and how Industry 4.0 is revolutionizing what it means to design and manufacturer products.



## CONSTRUCTION

In early February, middle school students attended the Waukesha County Business Alliance's Kids Building Wisconsin event at Milwaukee Tool which allowed students to see and experience the variety of jobs in the construction industry. Hands-on activities included working an excavator simulator, bricklaying, pipe cutting, virtual welding, millwork, and taking a sledgehammer to a popular demolition wall.

## ENGINEERING STUDENTS TAKE ON ZOO TRAIN CHALLENGE

Through the Learn Deep partnership with the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Coalition for Sustainable Rail, our PLTW Engineering Design & Development classes from both Eisenhower and West joined students from IO area schools to begin a design challenge to redesign the coal handling process used for the zoo's steam locomotive.

To kick off the project, students had a chance to visit the site, and see what it is like to lift a bushel bucket of coal. Throughout the year, the students worked with peers from the different schools to develop conceptual designs and present them to review panels that included zoo train operators, staff from We Energies coal handling facility, engineering students and faculty from MSOE and UWM, and representatives from Komatsu and GZA Environmental. Students used the feedback to finalize their designs before a final review.



## SKILLSUSA

SkillsUSA teams from both Eisenhower and West participated in the Carpentry Competition part of the NARI Home Improvement Show at State Fair Park. The teams had 12 hours to read detailed blue prints and construct the project per specified building codes.



## PLEASED TO MEET YOU

Middle schoolers joined Collins Aerospace at its "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" event aimed at reaching out to girls before they enter high school and introduces them to engineering-related careers.

## CNA PROGRAM COMPLETES SIXTH YEAR

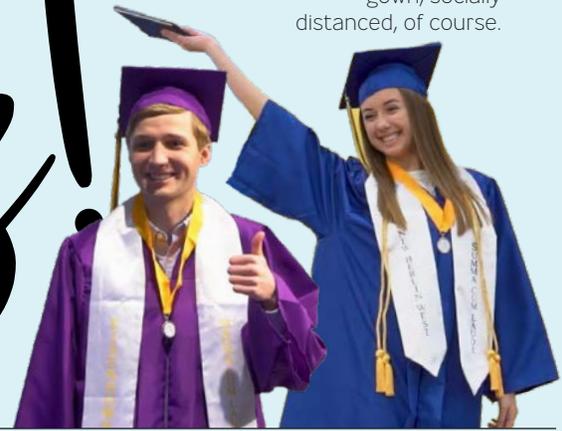
The district's certified nursing assistant program marked completion of its sixth year of supporting students interested in pursuing healthcare-related careers after graduation. Thanks to our partners LindenGrove New Berlin, BrightStar Care of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha Technical College for their continued support.

## ACP MILESTONE

The district marked an Academic and Career Planning milestone this June with the graduation of the Class of 2020. ACP is a process that actively engages a student in preparing for life after high school through development of a personalized plan which helps guide their middle/high school learning experiences to support the goals a student sets for themselves. An early adopter of ACP, the district was chosen as a state pilot for the initiative and began implementing infrastructure, programs and services to support college and career readiness efforts during the 2013-14 school year. This year's graduating class, 6th graders at that time, is the first cohort to prepare for and progress through their secondary education, while immersed in and informed by the Academic and Career Planning process.

# GRADUATES 2020 Congrats!

Students were invited to have their photo taken in their cap and gown, socially distanced, of course.



## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Throughout the end of the spring semester and into the summer months, the district held out hope and made preparations to hold traditional commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020. As the July 31 date grew close, the district followed the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' recommendation at that time to cancel plans for in-person graduations. Despite the cancellation, the district and schools found alternate ways to celebrate the class, wrapping up the events with a virtual commencement celebration. Here's a look at some of the ways we sent off the Class of 2020 during what was an unprecedented time.



On May 1, SDNB staff delivered yard signs to seniors at their homes, courtesy of Lifetime Realty Group.



Through a sponsorship courtesy of Concordia University Wisconsin, the senior class was featured in a 30-minute special as part of a series of senior spotlights broadcast on local television channel My24 Milwaukee.



Virtual commencement celebrations were broadcast on the district's YouTube channel on July 31.



On June 5, seniors received their diplomas via drive-through events, paired with senior car parades at the elementary schools.





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 MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  
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### HUNCHBACK NAMED OUTSTANDING MUSICAL

The Eisenhower Theater program's production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* was named Outstanding Musical by the Overture Center for the Arts Jerry Awards. It's the fourth time in nine years that the program, led by Mary Kirby and Natalie Baertschy, has been recognized for excellence in high school musical theater. Senior Kennedy Harwood received a Jerry Spirit Award.



### IKE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

The 2019-20 school year saw Eisenhower celebrate its 50th anniversary. While the occasion was recognized throughout the year, the anniversary really took its place front and center during homecoming week and then again in February with the Education Foundation of New Berlin's "50 Years of Athletics at Eisenhower" fundraising event. Held at Whirlyball in Brookfield, the celebration's focal point was the induction of an inaugural class into the newly established Eisenhower Hall of Fame. More than 220 attendees - many alumni - enjoyed dinner, drinks and a silent auction, and of course, some friendly competition on the bowling lanes and Whirlyball court. Presenting sponsors KPH Construction & Environmental and Ascension Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin made the event possible.



### CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Junior Kevin Leng and senior Eugene Liang took first and second place respectively at the Chemistry Olympiad competition held this spring. As a result of their scores, they were invited to participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad. Of the nearly 16,000 students who compete in the Olympiad at the local level, only approximately 1,000 end up qualifying for the national exam.

### ACADEMIC DECATHLON NAMED D2 STATE CHAMPS

Not only did the AcDec team take first place in the Division II state competition, but they finished second overall among all schools in the state. Junior Kevin Leng was named top scholar, among the many awards he won. Junior Soham Nandi took gold varsity overall, amongst his many earned accolades. Claire Ahrens, Melissa DeRome, Abbie Gosetti, and Kylie Wolff also brought home hardware.

### DECA SHINES AT THEIR STATE COMPETITION

Just days before COVID-19 quarantine began, members of the Ike DECA team competed for state accolades and a chance to qualify for the international competition, which was ultimately cancelled. First-place medal-winners included senior Anjaly Nagarajan (double qualifier for internationals) and junior Nishi Upadhyay. Additional qualifiers included Naisha Bepar, Suzaane Bian, Melisa Erman (double qualifier), Alisa Kansra, and Rachel Schaefer. Shriya Kansra and Kendall Witt medaled in their respective categories as well.

### IKE WELCOMES MASTERWORKS FESTIVAL

On March 9, members of the orchestra under the direction of Josh Kimball, welcomed the Masterworks Festival for High School Chamber Music. Five area schools participated in the festival, playing various chamber works from composers like Mendelsohn, Dvorak, and Mozart. Members of the Pro Arte Quartet coached the school groups, who were preparing for a chamber music concert in April.



### MS. DOBNER EARNS AWARD

Technology education teacher Jennifer Dobner was awarded the Wisconsin Technology Education Association Award of Excellence in recognition for exemplary achievement in technology education by the WTEA. Most recently, Ms. Dobner has taught Graphics I, II & III and Construction courses.

### SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

Senior Melisa Erman was awarded a National Spanish Honor Society Joseph Adams Senior Scholarship. As a member of Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, Melisa displayed evidence of high achievement in Spanish throughout high school. She is one of only 60 Spanish or Portuguese students nationwide to receive this award.



### SENIOR BUILDS OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Jonathan Hansen built an outdoor classroom in the Eisenhower Forest for his Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout service project. The classroom includes a covered whiteboard and four 12-foot standing tables. The senior said it took a total of over 250 hours for the project from conception to completion. One hundred thirty-eight of those hours were courtesy of friends and family who helped construct the space. Thank you Jonathan!



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WEST**  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  
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### CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED ON NEW SPACES

2019 saw the construction and completion of two new spaces at West. The Fab Lab (short for fabrication laboratory), is located off the main lobby. The workshop provides students and staff a dedicated space in which to turn their ideas into prototypes through digital fabrication. A partnership with Palmer Hamilton P Хаб Lab, who chose West as a beta site, allowed the district to build the lab at a discounted cost. Once completed, the fab lab was showcased by Palmer Hamilton during a National EdSpaces Conference held in Milwaukee in October. The district hosted an official open house in November with community stakeholders to celebrate the new resource which offers students a chance to better prepare for future STEM-related careers.

Construction on a school cafe was also completed in the fall. The Commons Cafe is located in the West Idea Center across from the TechKNOW help desk. Staffed by West marketing students, the reimagined space serves a variety of cafe-type food and beverages in a relaxed environment, giving students and staff a chance to enjoy a treat while sitting at the high top tables or booths. The cafe was financed through funds raised by the Food Service Program which are only allowed to be used on related expenses (unable to be used for other educational purposes).

### SENIORS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Class of 2020 earned a collective \$1.5 million in scholarships to help offset post-secondary education costs. Among the many students who received these financial awards, a lucky few received scholarships that cover full tuition for four years. Noah Miller was one of only 10 out of 500 applicants to receive the UW Platteville's Chancellor Scholarship, Danielle Miller was awarded the Marquette University's Burke Scholarship, and Alyx Knueppel was one of six students chosen for the Mount Mary University's Caroline Scholars Program which covers full tuition, room and board.

### GEOBEE STATE SEMIFINALIST

Eighth grader Renee Sandoval was named one of the semifinalists for the National Geographic GeoBee State Competition. Renee was one of 100 Wisconsin students in grades 4-8 who secured a spot to compete at the state level by earning one of the top scores in the state on the qualifying test.



### THEATRE ARTS AWARDS

*Legally Blonde* was recognized by the Overture Center for the Arts Jerry Awards program with an Outstanding Supporting Performance award for Alyssa Buckett. William Dettlaff was named winner of the Spirit Award.



### RIPPLE EFFECT

As a way to promote positive support and relationships between students, staff and community members, West initiated a program named Ripple Effect. With the goal of recognizing the positive assets of students such as a growth mindset, leadership qualities or making extra effort to go above and beyond, the program builds rapport and appreciation among members of the West community through personal connections.

In addition to that initiative, West sent a contingent of students to the Josten's Renaissance Conference which was held at Carroll University last December. Attendees learned how to be positive leaders in the school and strengthen school culture.



### DECA STATE COMPETITION RESULTS

Leadership, savvy decision-making and smooth communications skills were on display by West students at this year's state DECA competition held March 10-12. Among the winners and accolades, Jacob Lange, Joshua Lange and Noah Miller all double-qualified for the international competition which had been slated for the end of April before its cancellation due to COVID-19. Charlie Blinka, Wes Evans and Elizabeth Schulz also qualified in their events for internationals.

### ACDEC DIVISION III STATE CHAMPIONS

For a second year in a row, the Academic Decathlon team was named Division III state champions thanks to a first-place finish by the team in Speech as well as individual awards earned by Yue Xi Mo, Megan Macakanja, Jadelyn Guzman, Brynn Flanders, and Braden Frangesch.

### MS. JECHA SELECTED

Social studies teacher Jaclyn Jecha was selected for a National History Day program titled "Legacies of World War I", only one of 114 teachers selected nationwide. Ms. Jecha participated in discussions with educators around the world as they learned more about World War I and its lasting impact.





# ELMWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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



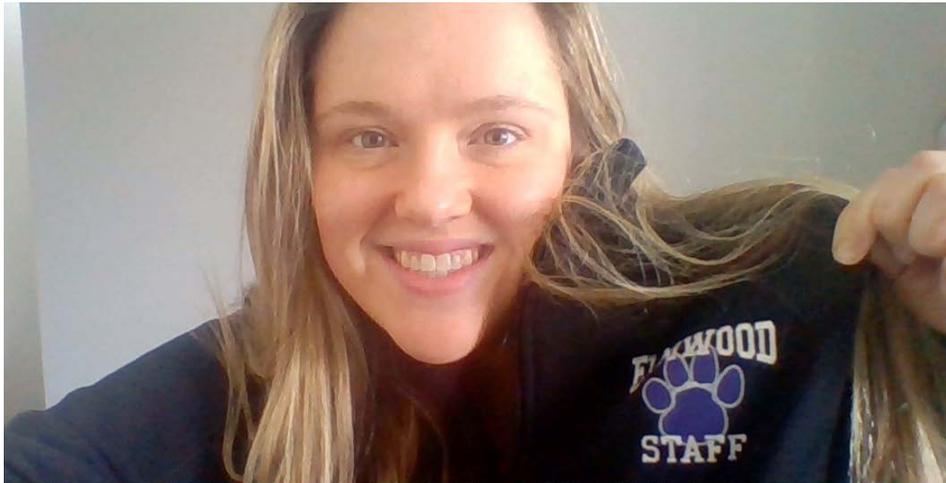
## CITIZENSHIP FOCUS

Students in grades K-6 work hard to be safe, respectful and responsible during the school day and in the community. Student council did a great job modeling what it means to be a responsible citizen through the planning and execution of outreach projects and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Way to go Lion Cubs!



## LEGO TEAM

Elmwood's Lego team, Wondrous Walters, participated in the FIRST LEGO League tournament at Marquette University High School in November. The league introduces science, technology, engineering and math to students ages 4-14 through hands-on learning.



## GOOD FRIENDS

The Elmwood Home & School Association sponsored a visit by Good Friends, a non-profit organization that uses social emotional tools to establish a culture of acceptance in schools. The students enjoyed their program which promoted awareness, acceptance and empathy.



## VIRTUAL SPIRIT DAYS

Students, staff, and families engaged in a Virtual Spirit Week in April. With themes such as Marvelous Maker Monday and Wild Cub Wednesday, students and staff were able to connect in a fun way the week leading up to spring break by participating at home and sharing with classmates and teachers via virtual formats.



## FALL FEST

A favorite of staff, students, and families alike, the annual Fall Fest included dancing, caramel apples and lots of fun costumes. The Home and School Association organizes this spectacular event each October. The cherished fest is a safe, fun way for families new to the school, as well as veteran families, to strengthen their connections within the Elmwood community.



## FUN RUN

Elmwood raised more than \$26,000 to help establish the next phase of their Makerspace. Dr. Williams and Mrs. Veal dressed up as cowgirls, complete with giant cowboy hats, to celebrate surpassing their school goal.



# ORCHARD LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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



## KINDNESS WEEK CELEBRATED

Students and staff alike participated in January's Kindness Week, which featured thematic days such as "Hats Off to Kindness" to help reinforce the importance of treating others with consideration and compassion and being the "I" in KIND.



## FUTURE BUILDERS

Sixth graders attended the Kids Building WI event at Milwaukee Tool in February. The event provided a glimpse into the different careers available in the construction industry as students got to try out their hand at various building-related skills.

## BUTCHERS, BAKERS AND CANDLESTICK MAKERS

Students jumped at the chance to spend part of a day in January engaging with dozens of local professionals who visited the school to help give students a chance to explore a variety of careers. OL Stars got to see and hear from visitors who provided an introduction into their world of work through hands-on demonstrations and activities.



## PLAYGROUND RECEIVES NEW BLACKTOP

The Orchard Lane playground got a new blacktop in May.



## COLLEGE AND CAREER SPIRIT DAYS

In addition to participating in their annual Jump Into Your Future Day, Orchard Lane Stars enjoyed a whole week focused on careers including College Spirit and Career Spirit Days which allowed students to wear college attire and dress as a career of interest.

## LOCK-IN A SUCCESS

One of the last events prior to the "Safer at Home" order was the annual 4th-6th grade lock-in. Students enjoyed a variety of activities including slime-making, a photo wall, and enjoying cotton candy.



## STAR TREK FALL FUNDRAISER

The Parent Faculty Council's Star Trek Walk-a-Thon was a success, raising more than \$11,000 to help fund many wonderful programs offered at Orchard Lane. The event, which includes family and friends, features grade-level walks to Lions or Gatewood Parks.



# POPLAR CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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



## GIRLS ON THE RUN

The Girls on the Run club participated in the annual 5K run in November. The 10-week program inspires girls to recognize their inner strength and celebrate what makes them one-of-a-kind through dynamic discussions, activities and running games. The program culminates with a service project along with the 5K event.



## TEACHER PARADE

May 19 may have been rainy, however, that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the teaching staff as they made their way in a car parade along a neighborhood route in search of the familiar faces of their students and their families during Wisconsin's "Safer at Home" order. They weren't disappointed! The PC community came out in force cheering, waving and holding signs in their front yards and elsewhere along the route. Cody Coyote even made a guest appearance.



## DR. SEUSS CELEBRATION

The famous author got a day in the spotlight when PC hosted a Dr. Seuss's birthday party in March. More than 200 families attended the evening event dedicated to Seuss-themed activities. Just a guess, but we bet the infamous green eggs and ham dish was on the menu.



## JUMP INTO YOUR FUTURE

Students in all grades enjoyed February's "Jump Into Your Future" Day where volunteers, many of them parents, "show and tell" about their occupations. This is an annual event for PC, which piloted the JA program during the 2014-15 school year.



## PTO CREEK CRAWL

With almost \$27,000 raised with the help of families, the 2019 annual Creek Crawl was a great success, despite a rainy day which resulted in the walk taking place through the school hallways instead of on the outdoor path as planned. In addition to the walk itself, the evening featured a hot dog dinner and family sock hop. Rain or shine, principal Matt Stempniewski kept his promise to wear rival sports team gear all week instead of donning his beloved Brewers, Packers, Bucks and Wisconsin apparel.



# RONALD REAGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4225 S. Calhoun Rd. | (262) 789-6550



## INCLUSIVITY ASSEMBLY

Staff and students got a chance to put on a “different pair of shoes” thanks to an Adaptive Scholastic Athletic Program put on by The Ability Center. The disability awareness assembly shared an important message of inclusiveness, where everyBODY is included, regardless of ability.



## EAGLE FUN RUN REACHES GOAL

Despite having to move the Fun Run inside on account of rain, the Eagle community reached its goal of \$45,000, and as a result, the students were treated to a lip-synch concert from principal Brady Reinke and associate principal Julie Kader. The celebratory concert spanned multiple music genres and saw many costume changes. Top fundraisers in each grade were able to participate in a dodgeball competition with staff and relished the opportunity to give the administrators a Silly String shower.



## VETERANS DAY RECOGNITION

As in years past, the Ronald Reagan community welcomed veterans for a special program as part of their annual Veterans Day celebration.

## GALLERY NIGHT

Ronald Reagan hosted a Gallery Night in January to showcase the work of hundreds of talented artists. It was held in conjunction with the 5th and 6th grade Fine Arts Night where attendees were treated to a night of musical performances for Reagan's choir, band and orchestra.



## GOING GAGA FOR GAGA BALL

Gaga ball is a dodgeball variant that is played in a small ring, the gaga pit. Made possible from proceeds from the Eagle Fun Run, the two pits saw action not only from students, but also from parents during “Take Your Parent to PE Week”.

## MR. MICHAUD RETIRES

Fifth-grade teacher Peter Michaud retired after 22 years with the district. Mr. Michaud was very involved in social studies at the state level, even earning the accolade of Elementary Teacher of the Year by the Wisconsin Council for Social Studies in 2018.



# NEW BERLIN ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS



## LIONS CO-CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, D3 STATE SEMIFINALISTS

2019 saw the Ike varsity football team persevere throughout a challenging season to win a share of the Woodland Conference title, and to get by opponents Union Grove, New Berlin West, and Plymouth before facing off against DeForest in a 14-9 loss in the state semifinals.

## IKE DANCE WINS TWO STATE TITLES

Eisenhower's dance team won two state championships this year, by taking first place in both the D2 Jazz and D3 Pom categories at the WACPC State Dance Championships. Their record-setting season saw the Lions jazz routine go undefeated and was capped off with a national championship title in the Small Pom Division when they traveled to Orlando for the Contest of Champions Dance Nationals.

## IKE BOYS BASKETBALL SEASON CUT SHORT

One of the toughest disappointments of the year was an early end of the 2020 playoff season for the boys basketball team. Although their run for a state championship was cut short, it didn't diminish an incredible season that saw them named conference champions, regional champions (beating Whitnall 76-53) and WIAA sectional finalists, (defeating Catholic Memorial 66-50). With a 20-5 record overall, the Lions were a permanent fixture on the Division II top ten list each week.



## VARSITY BOWLING

The varsity bowling team finished its season with a 12-4 record, which was enough for second place in the toughest division in District I. The team averaged 188.9, which was the sixth-highest average of the 23 teams in the league, and earned its first invitation to compete in the state tournament in early March.

## ACEVEDO FIFTH AT STATE

Senior Donovan Acevedo earned a 5th place finish in the Division I, 285-pound bracket at the WIAA state tournament in March. Junior Noah Nieberle was a state qualifier and sectional runner up.

## VIKINGS WIN CONFERENCE TITLE

For the first time since 1991, the Vikings Football team was named Woodland West Conference Champions.

## SWIMMING, DIVING HIGHLIGHTS

Ike sophomore Mya Bokerman placed fourth in the one-meter diving competition at the WIAA Division 2 State Swimming and Diving Meet while her teammate, senior Anna Oleniczak, swam fourth in the 200-yard individual medley and fifth in the 100 backstroke.

## GIRLS GOLF CO-OP ENDS SEASON ATOP CONFERENCE

This year's girls golf saw the highest level of participation across the sport (JV, Varsity Reserve and Varsity) in the team's history, taking the Woodland title in only their second year of competition within the conference. Four members, Lauren Haefs, Sophie Grotkin, Saria Mano and Amanda Karvala were named to the all-conference team. Karvala finished the regular season with the conference's lowest round average for the second straight season.



## WEST SOCCER SUCCESS

2019 was another successful season for the boys soccer team. The Vikings advanced to the sectional championship game by beating Catholic Memorial, 1-0, in overtime. The Vikings bid for state eventually ended with a 2-1 loss to Shorewood.

## VARSITY DANCE STATE RESULTS

The West varsity dance team took second place in the Division II Hip Hop category in early February.



## CROSS COUNTRY STANDOUTS

Two New Berlin runners represented the district at the WIAA State Cross Country Meet. West senior Grady Davis earned his second trip to state and Eisenhower junior Julie Heinrichs became the school's first female state qualifier since 2009.



## LEWISTON COURT DEDICATION

The West fieldhouse court was officially named the "Jeff Lewiston Court" in honor of the longtime basketball coach in a January 17 recognition ceremony.

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE OFFERS PARENT UNIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES

As part of a district action plan to better support our students' social-emotional learning/mental health, the district's Mental Health Advisory Committee works to provide learning to students, staff and parents around social emotional learning (SEL) and mental health issues. The group is comprised of school staff and officials, mental health professionals and parents who collaborate on developing proactive strategies to identify potential mental health-related barriers to academic success in a safe environment. One example is the origination of a parent lecture series in 2019 which offered community members the chance to learn about important topics such as the addictive nature of technology and the importance of fostering resilience in children.

Through the committee's efforts with the help of the Education Foundation of New Berlin, the district was awarded a mental health grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The district received \$53,700 for the 2019-20 school year and will receive the same amount of funding again in 2020 to expand school-based mental healthcare counseling services provided within the district through a partnership with Family Service of Waukesha.



## AROUND THE CORNER WITH JOHN MCGIVERN PREVIEW NIGHT

On February 25, the district opened up the West Performing Arts Center for an *Around the Corner with John McGivern* preview party hosted by the New Berlin Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau. Over 600 residents attended this event which included the premiere of the long-awaited New Berlin episode. High schoolers took advantage of the opportunity to showcase a number of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses and related student organizations for attendees.

# SCHOOLS GIVE BACK

Our students, families and staff find multiple ways to give back to the community throughout the year. Here's just a sampling of some of the ways we got involved.



West's Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy members founded **The New Berlin Community Coop** to serve as a community closet and monetary fund for families and local community members who are less fortunate.

Although West's colors are blue and gold, the school proudly added a pink textile recycling bin in the front of their building this year to benefit the **American Breast Cancer Foundation** as part of a community recycling drive. District-wide donations of clothes, shoes and purses totally over 2,500 lbs and counting.

**The New Berlin Food Pantry** was the beneficiary of an Elmwood food drive in November in which 630 food items were collected. Team Elmwood worked together to lend a hand to those members of our community who are less fortunate.

Ronald Reagan Eagles and their families continue to show their support of veterans through fundraising and letter-writing campaigns which have allowed them to send nearly 50 veterans on Honor Flights through the **Honor Flight Network**.

Orchard Lane 5th graders collected and donated 84 pairs of new pj's as part of a national **Pajama Program** drive that supports a comforting bedtime routine for all children to help them thrive.



December saw West students stepping in as bell ringers for the **Salvation Army**.



Ike staff cooked and served their third meal at the **Ronald McDonald House** in Wauwatosa. On the menu was their popular, house-requested stir-fry, feeding families who have children undergoing treatment at Children's Hospital.

In January, senior Alaina Keller and Eisenhower's National Honor Society hosted a charity raffle **#LoveforLucas** to benefit the family of a 4-year-old boy from New Berlin who is diagnosed with Lymphoblastic Leukemia. The event raised over \$10,000 to help his family with related expenses.



In what they hope to be an annual event, Poplar Creek celebrated Grinch Day in mid-December. Activities highlighted commonalities amongst the PC community and focused on other important social/emotional takeaways from the famous story, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss. As part of the event, families donated non-perishable food items for the **New Berlin Food Pantry**, as well as hats, mittens and toys that went to the **Christmas Clearing Council**. We think their hearts grew three sizes that day!

# FISCAL OUTLOOK



One of the School District of New Berlin's four strategic goals is to "maintain and promote fiscal responsibility that reflects a commitment to student learning." The district, with guidance from the School Board, regularly overcomes financial challenges in order to maintain that commitment and provide an excellent education to our students and families through excellent value to our taxpayers

## HISTORY

Over the past eight years, the SDNB's projected expenditures outpaced its revenues (i.e. state aid and taxes) resulting in the district facing structural deficits of as high as \$2 million. Each year, the School Board and administration have worked diligently to balance the budget - and in some years, even experience a surplus - while maintaining the level of academic excellence expected by the community.

In the past, the Board and administration successfully managed deficits by reducing administration and central office staff and aligning teaching and student support staff to match enrollments; thanks to Act 10, changing health insurance plans and increasing the sharing in employee retirement contributions; refinancing and paying off debt; and selling excess properties.

### Did you know?

A budget surplus from 2018-19 was used to fund three key deferred maintenance projects last year: replacing the back Orchard Lane parking lot / playground area, drainage grates at Elmwood and an uninterruptible power supply (battery backup) on the main computer server at West.

More recently, the SDNB has made notable staffing adjustments and temporarily paused the funding of various department budgets, including the buildings and grounds and capital maintenance budget. In the spring of 2019, staffing reductions and other adjustments resulted in nearly \$1 million in reduced expenditures in the 2019-20 budget.

Structural deficits, however, are anticipated to continue as the SDNB continues to pay down debt associated with the building of Ronald Reagan Elementary and major renovations and additions at New Berlin West (performing arts center, fieldhouse, etc.) out of the operating budget. The district is one of few - if not the only one - to pay for the building of a new school and a major renovation project without additional taxpayer dollars through a referendum. The decision to fund the projects in this manner - made more than 15 years ago - was strategic and purposeful and saved taxpayers millions of dollars over the years, but it remains an annual financial hurdle.

#### The structural deficits are also the result of the following:

- Needed facility upgrades at other buildings done within the operating budget, including safety/security improvements; Americans with Disabilities Act compliance; and Eisenhower classroom improvements (i.e. engineering and science labs);
- The previous decision to not levy to the maximum for several years, providing \$5.7 million in tax relief during the recession (this strategy is no longer a practice);
- Technology infrastructure investments;
- Fluctuating student enrollments;
- And, rising costs for goods and services.

## THE PANDEMIC

The SDNB's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March resulted in the reduction of budgeted expenses estimated at \$1.25 million. The largest savings came from the following areas:

- Reductions in transportation and transportation contracts
- Reduction in substitute teacher services
- Reductions in contracted cleaning services
- Utilities savings

The SDNB, like other Wisconsin school districts, will be able to use last year's savings to fund unfunded additional expenses necessary for pandemic response for the 2020-21 school year. The dollars saved in the 2019-20 school year were added to the fund balance; the additional expenses in the 2020-21 school year will be taken from that fund balance. Additional expenses will include additions to teaching and support staff, personal protective equipment, additional cleaning/sanitation supplies, additional technology to support virtual learning, and professional development to assure the district's response to students' educational needs during the pandemic are in keeping with our expectation of excellence.

Without these additional expenses, the SDNB would be projecting a balanced budget for the 2020-21 school year. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, the district is fortunate to have financial flexibility to manage possible budget shortfalls.



## 2020-21 BUDGET

Heading into the 2020-21 budget cycle, administration brought forward cost-saving measures to help balance future budgets and help fund high-priority projects in the long-range facility plans.

One of the biggest cost-saving moves approved by the Board were changes to the student bus transportation services, including a switch to a three-tiered pick-up and drop-off system. The changes are expected to result in an annual savings of \$350,000 to \$400,000 annually, or more than \$1.5 million over the remaining years of the bus transportation contract.

### Additional measures that will result in cost savings or revenue generation are:

- Changes to health benefit plans and administration - \$450,000 savings
- Reduction/restructure of Finance & Operations staff - \$115,000 savings
- Federal funding for pandemic response - \$65,000 additional revenue
- Accounts payable process efficiencies - \$59,000 savings
- Addition of open enrollment seats - potential additional revenue TBD

The projected final 2020-21 budget includes a tax levy of \$47,866,413. This is the maximum allowable by state statute and **is a 2.54% decrease from last year**. This reduction is the result of a significant increase in the estimated state aid for the 2020-21 fiscal year, which the district anticipates could be a one-year anomaly.

This reduction in the estimated tax levy combined with a projected increase in equalized property values results in an estimated tax rate of \$8.86 per \$1,000 of property value. **That is down from \$9.36 per \$1,000 last year and equates to an estimated decrease of \$125 gross school tax levy on a home valued at \$250,000.** This is the seventh consecutive year that the tax rate will decrease.

## DEBT WITHIN THE OPERATING BUDGET

Debt within the operating budget - the number one factor for the structural deficits - remains through 2028-29. The current debt payments are to pay back the loans for the aforementioned Reagan/West projects, the refinancing of Wisconsin Retirement System debt payments, a required sewer line at West and boilers at Eisenhower. Debt for the Reagan/West projects retires in 2025, at which point the Wisconsin Retirement System debt "balloons" before retiring in 2029.

The 2020-21 budget includes approximately \$4.3 million in debt payments out of the operating budget for the projects above. The remaining annual debt within the operating budget through 2029 is \$27 million, or an average of \$3.375 million a year.

The SDNB will continue to address other financial hurdles, as well, including deferred maintenance projects, increased technology infrastructure and school safety funding needs.

| School Year | Tax Rate |
|-------------|----------|
| 2013-14     | \$11.42  |
| 2014-15     | \$11.35  |
| 2015-16     | \$11.22  |
| 2016-17     | \$11.16  |
| 2017-18     | \$10.83  |
| 2018-19     | \$10.21  |
| 2019-20     | \$9.36   |
| 2020-21     | \$8.86*  |

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

*\*estimated 2020-21 tax rate based on assumption of 3 percent growth in property values*

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The Board of Education and administration continue to make short-term adjustments and reductions to balance current-year budgets while keeping an eye on potential long-term solutions to address fiscal challenges.

Last fall, a community-led Budget Balancing Task Force commissioned by the School Board developed a list of cost-saving and revenue-generating initiatives and recommendations. Prior to the pandemic, the business department was in the process of further investigating two of the top initiatives: marketing and managing the facility rentals and formalizing a marketing plan and cost scale for sponsorships and naming rights opportunities. Neither, however, is expected to result in a financial windfall.

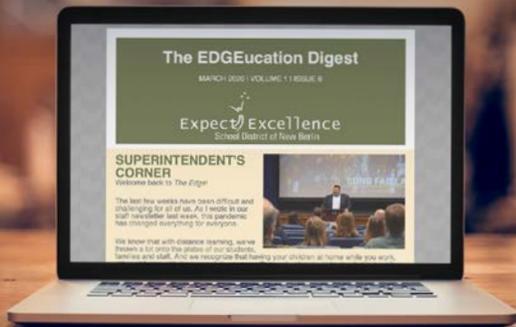
Given the recent heavy lifting done by the School Board and administration, last school year the School Board determined the district would no longer investigate school consolidation and would not bring another operational referendum to the community, two budget-balancing measures the Board previously requested administration to research.



# Sign Up Today!

New Berlin Nation is a digital community created to engage with alumni, friends and supporters of the SDNB. It's free to join and members are able to connect with each other, learn about upcoming events, get involved and more. [newberlinnation.nationbuilder.com](http://newberlinnation.nationbuilder.com)

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



Last school year, the SDNB launched a new community e-newsletter. The EDGEducation Digest, or what is more commonly known as The Edge, is emailed monthly during the school year and is filled with info on special events, school updates, School Board news and much more.

Signing up is easy. Email [feedback@nbexcellence.org](mailto:feedback@nbexcellence.org) and let us know that you want access to The Edge so you can stay on top of all SDNB information.

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE



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

### ANNUAL NOTICES:

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

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