



Cardinal Community Connection

Necedah Area School District • 1801 South Main Street • Necedah, WI 54646 608-565-2256 www.necedahschools.org

Students Visit Oak Grove Assisted Living Facility



Submitted by Ms. Heather Moore

On February 14, 2018 middle school students involved in the club "Something for Seniors" ventured out to Oak Grove Assisted Living Facility. While at the facility, students directed and assisted the residents in a painting activity for Valentine's Day. Afterwards cookies and hot cocoa were shared along with conversations about families, interests, and everyday life. This was a wonderful experience for the students and residents alike. The students are learning about the aspects of volunteering, compassion, and community. The residents enjoyed the personal contact and reflected on their past with the students. We look forward to our next visit in March when we plan to do some spring time arts and crafts as well as play a little balloon baseball!

Student Allison, 8th grade - "The people there were nice and had good stories about their lives. They liked to talk and have us around to visit with."

Student Tapenga, 8th grade - "This experience gives a chance to see what the assisted living place is like and what they do. The ladies there are very nice and they treat us with respect."



Earth Day Volunteers Ready to Help!

Spring has sprung and it is time to beautify our town! On April 18th the middle and high school students will spend the afternoon volunteering in the community for clean up. As part of our 4th annual Earth Day Clean Up, we would like to offer our services to members of our community.

Homeowners will need to supply tools such as rakes, wheelbarrows, and shovels. Homeowners are also responsible for removal of any debris.

If you are in need of any yard clean up such as leaf raking, garbage pick up, or hauling brush and live within the Village of Necedah, please contact by April 11th.

Heather Moore
565-2256 ext 304
hmoore@necedahschools.org

or

Molly Moseley
565-2256 ext 312
mmoseley@necedahschools.org

Community Connections: Giving Is a Way to Build Our Community

By Tanya Kotlowski, Superintendent



In a world that can be tempered by fear, self-serving agendas, and chaotic disruption; it has never been more important for members of a community to support one another through mutual care, concern, and respect. One way we can make a difference is through giving. Giving can be a gift to oneself, a gift to others, and a gift to our community.

The most powerful gesture of giving is not necessarily monetary, in fact, some of the most influential gestures of giving are done through generous acts of sacrifice and love. What a powerful way for us to interact with one another, and as a community.

The viability of our community is dependent on our collective efforts to care for one another, no matter what our backgrounds and experiences, or our beliefs and dreams. We can respectfully agree to disagree, as we navigate this complex world through conscious giving.

Our collective efforts of giving, or our ability to offer care and concern during both simple and complex times, is a key factor in community growth and prosperity. Our ability to look beyond our current assumptions about others, and generalizations about groups of individuals, or our community as a whole; is a gift to ourselves, and those we interact with. An act of giving means trying to understand each other's strengths and talents, while at the same time nurturing interactions that allow us to examine reasons for a person's behavior, knowing that what appears on the surface is not always what is on the inside. Drawing on our basic human nature of patience and forgiveness are keys to our own happiness and the collective joy in our community.

Giving might simply be an opportunity to take time for others; a moment to listen, the courage to share, a gesture to unite and support one another when times are hard. Being a part of a community is larger than oneself, and requires patience and forgiveness, care and concern. I couldn't be more proud to serve the community I was brought here to nurture and to love. Be patient with one another, listen carefully, and always be kind. You never know the struggles of a person from what you see on the outside.

If you would like to engage with me on a more regular basis, you can find weekly entries in a personal blog I started. You can use this blog to gain perspective, get inspired, and make a difference...one interaction at a time. <https://kotlowski.wixsite.com/tanyakotlowski>

Necedah Chess Club Spring Tournament

By Sara Przybylski, Elementary Teacher



The Necedah Chess Club will be holding our Spring tournament on Saturday, April 7th. All students and community members are welcome! Beginners are encouraged! Our last two tournaments not only included players from Necedah, but also many players from communities throughout our region including Mauston, Tomah, Adams-Friendship, and New Lisbon. Our tournaments are free of charge to all players, but donations are accepted to defer costs associated with running the tournaments. Trophies and medals are given to top players in each division including adult, high school, middle school, grades 3-5, grades K-2, and an over all champion. Learning and practice sessions will be held throughout the month of March. More information regarding these sessions and our tournament can be found on our Facebook page, our Necedah school website, or by email at chess@necedahschools.org.

School Board Formally Recognizes Student Success

Submitted by Tanya Kotlowski, Superintendent

The Necedah Area School District Board of Education formally recognized 23 students of the term at the board meeting on Monday, December 18, 2017. The Board has adopted this new practice of formal student recognition to show their deep commitment to the children of the Necedah community.

Students were nominated and recognized by their building principal for varying achievements including both academic and personal growth. The Board is proud of the varying accomplishments of students in the Necedah Area School District, and is proud to recognize the continued growth and success of our students.

Elementary School Students of the Term



Front Row: Zalei Diaz, Jaxson Kuntz, Marisa Endreas, Blaise Van Hoof, Lillyann Bottensek, Collin Parker
Back Row: Addisyn Schumer, Riley DelConte, Emma Negaard, Keagan Starr, Victoria Sloniewski, Joseph Zavala

Middle/High School Students of the Term



Left to Right

Back Row: Jasmine Popp (HS), Holden Manhart (HS), Mikayla McNally (HS), Paige Uksas (MS), Dan Bunk (MS), Sheridan Reichel (HS)

Front Row: Gianna VanHoof (MS), Adam Heiss (MS), Scarlet Rubel-Healy (HS), Dominac Steffen (MS), Marysta Saylor (MS)

Not Pictured: Cody Cichy, Audrey Williams, Ethan Mallory, Justice Bennett, Bronson Stark, Zoe Kimball, Trevyn Knickelbein, Lorenzo Arbanas, Gabriella Arbanas, and Cole Parrish

**Congratulations Students. Our School Board is very proud of you.
We will be recognizing Term 2 and 3 students at the March School Board Meeting.**

Musical Accolades: Solo & Ensemble Awards

By Cheryl Jackson



On Saturday, February 24, the Necedah Music Department took approximately 60 middle school and high school students to Almond-Bancroft High School for the Solo & Ensemble Festival. They participated in a total of 43 events. The events ranged from vocal and instrumental solos, to duets, trios, and larger ensembles. Students had been rehearsing for these events during their music classes, as well as coming out of other classes at weekly intervals. Some practiced before school and/or after school. Many also put in a lot of practice time on their own at home. Their hard work was evident in their performances. They received many compliments for their level of preparation.

We are extremely proud of these students! Standing in front of someone and allowing them to judge you on a musical performance can be terrifying. Our students were brave and represented our school and community well. Almost all of our events received a superior or excellent rating. Also, we had four events involving 10 students that received the coveted "Starred First" rating, allowing them to advance to State Solo & Ensemble. This will take place in La Crosse on May 5. Those events and students are:

Vocal Double Trio - Gabby Arbanas, Sophia Becerra, Justice Bennett, Alysha Daniels, Sarah Jackson, and Anna Renner

Vocal Trio - Vanessa DeGuire, Kyle Dukelow, and Agne Vaitkeviciute

Soprano Solo - Mekenzie Mootz

Alto Solo - Vanessa DeGuire (2 state events for Vanessa!)

We are excited to announce that Necedah will be hosting Solo & Ensemble on February 23, 2019. We look forward to having a lot of student and community participation in this great event!



Back Row: Mekenzie Mootz, Kyle Dukelow, Vanessa Deguire

2nd Back Row: Alysha Daniels, Agne Vaitkeviciute

3rd Back Row: Sarah Jackson, Anna Renner, Gabby Arbanas, Justice Bennett

Front Row: Sophia Becerra

Options = Opportunities at NHS

By Mark Becker, MS/HS Principal



One comment I have heard over my time as principal at Necedah Middle/High School is that we have limited options for our students. Unfortunately, it may look like this from the outside, as we are a small rural district. However, our staff works extremely hard to provide creative and flexible learning options for our students. The following is a list of course options that we offer that you may not be aware of:

Advanced Placement Courses - Inside our school walls, we offer AP Literature, AP Language, and AP Calculus. With Distance Learning and Virtual Learning Options, we are able to offer many more AP courses for students to meet their interests and needs.

Honors and Advanced Courses - Each of our departments offer Honors and Advanced Level coursework to challenge our students.

Work-Based Learning Options - Necedah High School offers Supervised Work Experience, Peer Tutoring and Youth Apprenticeship Options in partnership with CESA 5. These opportunities allow students to earn credit while they are learning valuable life skills on the job.

Distance Learning Network - Through our partnership with the NorthWest Educational Consortium Services (NWECS), we can provide students options for classes outside of Necedah High School without leaving our building. Currently, for example, we have a class of students taking Physics from a teacher over the distance learning network up north in Luck, WI.

Virtual Learning Network - This year we have added to our options for students by offering Virtual Learning courses through various providers, including Wisconsin Virtual School. This allows our students greater flexibility in their schedule, especially if there are two courses that conflict in our schedule that they want to take.

Independent Study Options - Have an interest area you would like to really focus on? We offer students Independent Study Options, which allow them to discuss ideas and options with an instructor and create this Independent Study Option together.

Transcribed Credit Courses - Awards students credit through Western Technical College for a variety of courses, including Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Welding, and Construction.

Currently, we are working on a Charter School grant that would again provide even more flexible learning options for students. Our Staff and Students are truly trying to realize our district vision of “Leadership and learning without personal limitations and beyond institutional boundaries.” For more information about Necedah High School, and the educational options we can offer students, please visit our website - <http://www.necedahschools.org/schools/middle-high/>, or contact Mark Becker at Mbecker@necedahschools.org, or 565-2256 x102. As we say every day at Necedah MS/HS, “Have a great day Cardinals, and Make It Count!”

Vision, Mission and Beliefs

By Tanya Kotlowski, Superintendent



With the consistent help of many community members, we are excited to provide you with the final draft document of our vision, mission and belief statements. Details of the district improvement process can be found on our website at:

<http://www.necedahschools.org/district/strategic-visioning.cfm>. The resources on this webpage will provide you with details of the process and feedback used to develop our final draft.

We welcome feedback from our community. Please share your feedback, questions, or concerns around the final draft of our vision, mission, and belief statements by **Friday, April 6, 2018**.

The visioning process included community feedback from both school visits and the visioning event, which took place on November 15, 2017. The District Leadership Team (DLT) worked diligently for a month to analyze the community's feedback, in order to develop a final draft of our district's vision, mission and belief statements. The final draft was rolled out to teachers on Friday, January 15, 2018 for their consideration and feedback. On Thursday, January 25, 2018, the DLT reviewed the feedback, and tweaked the final draft to provide additional direction and clarity.

The vision statement is intended to push both our personal and institutional limits and boundaries, in order to help us grow and improve towards increased student learning outcomes. We have also included questions that will guide our improvement efforts and decision making, and belief statements to guide our deeper strategic planning process.

Thank you for your engagement in our district planning and improvement work. You are a valuable stakeholder in our continued efforts to better and more efficiently meet the needs of every student in our school community.

We are grateful for your partnership in this important work.

Setting Up Parent Controls To Monitor Student Internet Activity

By Kris Saylor, Technology Director

Monitoring student activity on the Internet is an increasingly important parenting strategy. Most of us did not grow up in the digital age, with the ability to access any information you can imagine on the Internet. If you can think it, you can access it. This ease of access causes concerns for the safety of our children.



There are various parental controls available on most Internet-enabled devices including computers, smartphones, tablets and gaming systems. When enabling parental controls, use age-appropriate settings to filter, monitor and block your child's activities.

They also offer different functions depending on the provider, these include:

- Setting specific time limits on your children's use
- Controlling/Blocking games your child can access
- Prevent children from using specific programs
- Manage content children can search for online

The following website has various resources available for parents for this purpose.

<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/parental-controls-2>

Works Cited

"Online Safety - How to Set up Parental Controls." Webwise.ie, 30 Jan. 2018, www.webwise.ie/parents/parental-controls-2/.

Necedah Area School District

District Development: Envisioning Our Future

Necedah Area School District values collaborative, community engagement. Learning priorities, belief statements, a vision, and a mission have been drafted through a 5-month collaborative learning and thinking process. Community input around this initial draft of our vision, mission, and beliefs is essential to ensuring a collaborative community approach that prioritizes shared values around the future of every student.



Vision

Leadership and learning without personal limitations and beyond institutional boundaries.

Mission

We will effectively prepare every student for an ever-changing world by ensuring authentic engagement and utilizing transformative learning solutions.

In order to realize our vision, we challenge ourselves by asking these critical questions:

1. Are we providing adequate learning options that extend the learning environment beyond the **boundaries** of our school walls?
2. Are we **limiting** a student's access to high-level learning?
3. Are we **limiting** the learning *options* a student is provided to excel?
4. Are we **limiting** our personalized approaches to address individual student needs, interests, readiness, and strengths?
5. Are we **limiting** a student's individual potential through context, interactions, or connections within and outside of the school building?
5. Are we **limiting** the engagement of students by our own perceptual limitations?

Contributing to the Vision and Mission: Collective Belief Statements

We believe in developing skills for an unknown future: critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity/imagination, and collaboration/teamwork by...

- Crafting a learning environment that is flexible, collaborative, and cultivates individual passions, interests, and strengths.
- Inspiring confidence and resilience to encounter the unknown in our personal and professional lives.
- Communicating and collaborating effectively with and amongst all people.
- Creating relationships and interactions that strengthen our students, schools, community, and world.
- Developing responsible citizens equipped to live in an interconnected digital world.
- Creating global and social awareness to understand internal and external influences on our lives.
- Inspiring eager, confident participants in our classrooms, schools, community, and world.
- Sharing learning opportunities through connections with business and industry; problem-solving experiences within the school, community, and world; and work-based applications through virtual and experiential learning venues.
- Empowering all staff to think about varied instructional approaches and respond creatively to provide flexible learning environments that positively impact student engagement and learning.

Health Updates

By Kammy Quinnell RN, BSN



The Necedah Student Wellness committee has been working hard for the last few years to procure grants and funding to allow us to purchase a Healthy Vending Machine to be housed in our MS/HS commons. This vending machine will have healthy vending options available to students after school. We are anticipating machine delivery and in service sometime in March/April 2018.

More than 230 Necedah Elementary and Middle School students participated in the Seal-A-Smile dental program this school year. As part of the Seal-A-Smile Dental grant, in conjunction with Juneau County Public Health, students in 4K-6th grade (whose parents consented) can participate free of charge. The dental screenings were performed by licensed dental hygienists and treatments including dental inspection, fluoride treatments and possibly sealants on students in grades 2, 5 and 6.

Necedah Lions Club came at the end of October 2017 and completed vision screens on 250+ students in 4K, Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th grades as per Prevent Blindness national recommendations. Nurse Kammy has also done an additional 50 more vision exams on students this school year.

Extracurricular Activities

By Cora Dillin, Athletic Director



The students of Necedah Schools are reaping the benefits of having so many extra-curricular offerings for them to choose from. Whether sports, music, DECA, Forensics, Power Lifting, Skills USA, Jesters Club and others; our students have the opportunity to participate in various venues and learn valuable lifelong lessons. All of this at a cost of only one to two percent of the overall school budget.

Interscholastic sports and activities promote citizenship and sportsmanship. Studies have shown that students who participate in activity programs tend to have higher grade point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates and fewer discipline problems than students generally.

When students participate in education-based sports and activities, it gives them a chance to become more confident, feel appreciated by their school, and to contribute to something bigger than themselves. It gives them a chance to shine. Students learn self-discipline, build self-confidence and develop skills to handle competitive situations. These are all skills that will help students become productive citizens and successful in whatever they choose to do in their future.



Necedah Area School District Board of Education Upcoming Meeting Dates 2017-18

Month	Day	Time
March	19	6:00 pm
April	16	6:00 pm
May	21	6:00 pm
June	18	6:00 pm
July	16	6:00 pm
August	20	6:00 pm

Changes in dates and times can be located on our website: <http://www.necedahschools.org/>

You will find the most up-to-date information using the navigation bar at the top called *District*. You will then see link for the *Board of Education*, including *Meeting Schedule*.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Tanya Kotlowski, Superintendent at 608-565-2256 ext. 120.

WE SERVE OUR STUDENTS SO THAT THEY BECOME SUCCESSFUL, LIFE-LONG LEARNERS WHO ARE PRODUCTIVE, COMPASSIONATE, AND PREPARED FOR AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD.

Functional Needs Registry

By Tanya Kotlowski, Superintendent



While planning for various emergency preparedness improvements at the school, it became equally important to also consider the wellbeing and needs of members of my community, in case of a community emergency or crisis.

As such, I want to encourage my community to support our most fragile citizens. These individuals are those who would not be in a position to help themselves in the case of a community emergency, such as a natural disaster, prolonged power outages, etc. These individuals might be homebound or medically fragile; specifically, those who might require the response of a first responder if our community experienced an emergency or crisis.

There is a copy of the registry form in each office in our school building, or you can pick up a form at your local municipal office. I am happy to mail you a form if you connect with me at 608-565-2256 ext. 120. If I can support you, or a community member, in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Together, we are our best. I want us to be safe, and to take care of those who need us the most.

Transportation Update

By Scott Darnell, Transportation Director



The week of February 12th was School Bus Driver Appreciation Week, and we would like to recognize the outstanding job our bus drivers do, day in and day out! We celebrated with a pancake and sausage breakfast for the drivers (pictured below). Some of the elementary classes made posters to hang in the bus garage, and our kitchen staff, along with some student helpers, decorated cookies for our drivers. Our drivers take great pride in what they do. For some students, the bus driver might be the first person he or she sees in the morning, and they know that they can help set the tone for a student's entire day. Our drivers greet each student as they come on the bus and again when they leave in the afternoon. On average, we transport nearly 400 students per day on our daily routes. When we add in the after school program and extra curricular trips such as sporting events, band, forensics, and field trips, it is amazing the number of times a bus is dispatched out each month. Last year a bus left our driveway just over 3800 times to perform these daily tasks, transporting our students safely.

Our buses go through constant safety evaluations, and they are safety inspected by the State Patrol annually. We are now in the process of updating our fleet of buses. We currently have a combined total of over 1.5 million miles on our fleet. This year we replaced a bus with a new LP bus, which is providing many benefits to the district. Please check our last newsletter if you would like to learn more about that unit. We are currently working on a replacement plan to keep our buses up to date for the safety of our students. This plan will allow us to operate in a safe, as well as cost efficient manner. **We have also added a Twitter account for the bus garage.** You can find us [@necedahbus](https://twitter.com/necedahbus). We will be posting important information concerning bus delays, weather related delays, or tips for students & parents concerning our buses.

We are currently looking for substitute drivers. The position pays \$16.60 per hour with summers off, and no nights, weekends, or holidays. This is a perfect job for a semi-retired person, a stay-at-home parent, or someone needing a little extra cash. We will provide paid training and help the new hire obtain a CDL-B driver's license. Please stop in to the bus garage located at W6353 Hwy 21 or give Scott Darnell a call at 608-565-2115 for more information.



Gifted Talented Minute

By Keith Crispell, GT Coordinator



The 5th-grade Math Knowledge team of Faith Bilski, Syvanna Schumer, Evan Horak, Michelyn Hansen, and Riley DelConte competed in Sparta recently against 16 other schools. The 5th-grade team had a strong showing finishing higher than sixty percent of the competing field.



The Scripps National Spelling Bee took place at a district level here in Necedah with all grades participating from 6th through 8th grade. Emarie Thomas came in first place while Abigail Fountain was the runner up. Both girls competed at the Regional Championship in Portage.



Brandon Fuller (back left) won a very competitive National Geographic Geography Bee and has a chance to compete at the state level. Next to him on his left is runner up Anna Zavala, and Ethan David. (Front row) William VanHoof, Chloe Rubel-Healy, Stephen Murray, Hope Garski, Keagan Barrick, Andrew O'Loughlin, and Owen Peak also competed representing their grade levels from 4th through 8th as they each won their respective classroom Geography Bees.

Showing their Quizbowl gold medals and wearing huge smiles is the 7th grade team comprised of Will VanHoof, Payton Burke, Jude DeGuire, Marysta Saylor, team captain Sophia Boudreau, and Mya Gehle



The 3rd grade Innovation/Invention Fair hit new heights as a record setting number of 3rd graders, twenty-four in all, participated by creatively inventing new ways to solve everyday problems. The rise in participation of nearly 45% can be attributed to the creation of an elementary fabrication lab. The Fab Lab housed in the old computer lab in the elementary wing supplies students with generic building materials, tools, and space to creatively build, code, problem solve, and invent tangible prototypes of real world items. The students' inventions/innovations were critiqued on a number of preset criteria. After the evaluations, four items were chosen to attend the Innovation Fair in Cashton with nearly 20 schools participating. The students gained valuable skills and knowledge in problem solving. One student said he learned, "not to give up and keep trying." Several students shared that same sentiment as they told of the multiple attempts tried at creating something until they found a way to make it work.



Mr. Cary Winch, a local businessman and inventor himself, came to spend the afternoon with the third grade class. Being a regular judge of the invention fair at our district level, he was very impressed with the increased number of participating students.

A young third grade innovator, Joseph Zavala, demonstrated his new portable lighting system using a variety of materials for the light filament. He found graphite from a pencil gave the brightest illumination.



Zachary Stridde (left) demonstrates his pet food dispenser. (Right) Victoria Sloniewski, Cameron Goeb, Eli Horak, Allysa Lavigne and Eden Burke proudly display their ribbons and their inventions.



Necedah 5th Graders Distribute 1,486 Books to Elementary Students

By Wendy Horbinski, Elementary Principal



A group of 5th Grade students, who call themselves The Ice Cream Leadership Team, wanted to make a difference. “We all like ice cream so we decided that should be our name,” said team member, Addy Kunferman. These fine 5th Graders organized an Elementary book-drive with the goal of collecting books students could add to their libraries at home. “Many kids don’t have a lot of books at home or have grown out of the ones they do have and want something new to read,” said Syvanna Schumer. Addison Schumer added, “Having a book drive is a good way to collect books from students and community members that are not being read and redistribute them to students who are ready to read them!”

The team conducted their book drive from February 1st to the 14th and selected the theme, “For The Love of Books.” They honed their communication skills by reaching out to local businesses and inquiring if they would host a collection box. Boxes were delivered to the Necedah Community Siegler Memorial Library, The Vets Hall, The Bank of Mauston-Necedah Branch, The Necedah Bank, and St. James Lutheran Church. Collection boxes were also placed in the Elementary and the Middle School/High School offices at school.

“It was exciting to go back to each drop site after two weeks and see how many books had been donated! We are very thankful to the organizations that supported our project,” said Meghan Goeb. The team used recesses to sort through the books, label them, and organize them to be distributed to the students. They were shocked to learn they had collected 1,486 books. “So far we have handed books out to 4K, 3rd, and 5th grades. It felt really rewarding to see how excited the students were to receive their new books!” declared Ava Kuntz. “I can’t wait to hand out the rest!” added Michelyn Hansen.

“We learned all about how to organize a project and that you must make a commitment to carry it out. Also that it’s really worth it because it’s a really good feeling to make a difference for other students. We want to thank our teachers, Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mr. Beaver for allowing us to work on the project and Mrs. Horbinski, our Principal for being our advisor,” said Faith Bilski.



The Ice Cream Team pauses from organizing the 1,486 books they collected through their “For the Love of Books” drive. Front (L to R) Michelyn Hansen, Addison Kunferman, Meghan Goeb. Back (L to R) Addisyn Schumer, Faith Bilski, Ava Kuntz, and Syvanna Schumer.

Necedah Cardinal After-School Program -- servicing students and families for over 10 years

By Linda Lowery, After School Program Coordinator



Our Necedah School District community is celebrating over 10 years of after school programming! The mission of our Cardinal After-School Program (ASP) mirrors the Necedah School District mission: *We serve our students so that they become successful, lifelong learners who are productive, compassionate, and prepared for an ever-changing world.* The Necedah Cardinal ASP provides the environment and service to help students obtain an extra boost academically and personally so that they continue the journey through what is stated in our mission.

This program has been very fortunate to be awarded the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) grant. This highly competitive federal grant is a non-repayable fund. In addition, the Cardinal ASP has received support from a private foundation/funding source to best meet program objectives while working on the mission. Both the 21st Century CLC and the private foundation/funding source depend on yearly accountability reports which determines future funding. The Necedah School District's general fund does NOT provide funding for the Cardinal ASP. All expenses associated with our Cardinal ASP are solely supported through the 21st Century CLC grant and private foundation/funding sources.

The 21st Century CLC grant objectives are academically driven with reading and math at the forefront. The grant also has enrichment requirements in place. Enrichment can be a variety of activities and programs that complement what students are learning in the classroom. In addition to providing students with a healthy snack, students focus on their reading and math skills during the Academic Practice segment. They then participate in a variety of enrichment opportunities that complement what is learned during the school day. An example of this would be cooking or snack making – a long list of science and math connections can and are made through the cooking enrichment classes. The Cardinal ASP also provides student field trips off campus to extend learning opportunities. The Cardinal ASP currently has 126 students enrolled for this Monday through Thursday program. Students in grades three through twelve participate. In addition, this program supports workforce skill building for high school students or PALs (Pupil Achievement Leaders). These PALs practice job application/hiring skills as well as professional development training throughout the program year.

Along with regular attendance and 'miles of smiles' from the ASP students, i.e. fans, the program has seen positive objective results as well. In the 2016-17 program year, sixty percent (60%) of the regular attendees either maintained or achieved a 3 or B or better reading and math grade from fall to spring. In the 2016-17 program year, sixty-nine percent (69%) of the regular attendees were absent less than 10 school days. This valuable program is accountable for many other objectives as well.

In addition, the program continues to work on community and family connections. They have partnered with several entities and organizations to best serve the Necedah community. One example of this family connection is the Families, Food and Fun in the Kitchen class. The success of the after-school program is largely due to the partnerships! Those partners are: *Endeavor Foundation, Saylor Family Educational Scholarship Trust, University of Wisconsin – Extension, Juneau County FoodWise Program, Necedah Community Siegler Memorial Library, Village of Necedah, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Bank of Mauston- Necedah Branch, Farm to School Program and the Necedah School District.*

To peruse the details and reports of this valuable program as well as photos capturing the reason *why they do what they do*, visit the after school program link on the necedahschools.org website.

Thank You for Engaging With Us!

By Wendy Horbinski, Elementary Principal



Elementary Parents have taken advantage of several opportunities to engage with their children and our staff this semester. In January, over 200 students and family members braved the winter weather to share an evening of food, folks, and fun at Family Math Night.

Students and families learned how to play various card games that can be played at home with the goal of building number sense and extending mental math thinking and reasoning. In addition, more than 10 community organizations that provide services to youth were there to share information and make connections with families.

Third Grade teachers and students invited parents to Data Binder Night. This school year, 3rd grade students have been keeping track of their progress on reading and math goals in their Data Binders. On Data Binder Night, students led a meeting with their parents sharing their successes and their goals for the remainder of the school year. The 3rd Grade Teachers were on hand to support students and answer any questions parents might have. The evening appeared to be a success. I heard one 3rd Grade student who was completing her evaluation form for the evening declare to her mother, “The best part of Data Binder Night was getting to spend time talking with you!”

One of the most anticipated student-family activities every spring is 2nd Grade Dinosaur Discovery Night! Parents are invited for an evening of activities that include student-written books and reports, art projects, trivia games, dinosaur digging, and refreshments...just to name a few! It is the culminating event where students share everything they have learned in their Dinosaur unit. It is fantastic to hear the 2nd graders share their knowledge about these prehistoric eras and their creatures....and do it with accurate

vocabulary! It was evident that the parents shared their pride!

We appreciate that parents and families have supported our students and staff by participating in these activities with us. As stated by Garcia and Thornton in the November 18, 2014 NEA Today article, “Ongoing research shows that family engagement in schools improves student achievement, reduces absenteeism, and restores parents’ confidence in their children’s education. Students with involved parents or other caregivers earn higher grades and test scores, have better social skills, and show improved behavior.” As an Elementary Staff, we will continue to look for ways to meaningfully engage with our families, as we know it is an important component for student success. We look forward to seeing you at our Spring Concert performed by the 4th & 5th Graders on March 13th and at our Elementary Spring Carnival on April 5th!



Zander Negaard shows his father, Douglas, how to dig for fossils at Dinosaur Discovery Night.

Unreliable Data Creates Misunderstanding Around Student Achievement

By Tanya Kotlowski, Superintendent



We are excited about the planning work we are doing, as we engage with stakeholders in our school community. We are building a foundation of success from the collective ideas we share as we envision a future for our children, and establish priorities around our shared values and school data. One source we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement is the mandated *School Report Card*.

There have been some questions about the student outcomes, as reported on our State Report Card. Although we certainly have, and always will have improvements to make; it is also imperative to understand the inaccuracy of our District data, as defined by the Department of Public Instruction.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) generates a School Report Card and District Report Card for every publicly funded school and district in the state.

Our current **School Report Card is primarily based on last year's performance, the 2016-17 school year.** At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas, in which we receive a score:

- **Student Achievement** proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments
- **School Growth** measured by year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- **Closing Gaps** in performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of a racial or an ethnic group with their peers)
- **On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness** showing reliable predictors of how many students are on-track to graduate from high school and student readiness for post-high school success

This year we saw a fluctuation in our overall district score. The fluctuation of our overall district score is particularly impacted from a significant score fluctuation on the Middle/High School scorecard, which experienced an overall fluctuation of 13.6. The fluctuation on this school report card was so significant, that the Department of Public Instruction notes the significant change by placing a caret ^ next to the accountability rating. The caret is there to caution us when reviewing our report card, as this notation suggests a larger variability than would have been expected, over a 10 point change, so it is unclear if the score change accurately reflects an actual change in student performance.

I would suggest, the overall score fluctuation does not reflect a change in student performance, but is due to the statistical volatility of the score calculations, specifically influenced by small school size and a large percentage of economically disadvantaged students. Both of these influences play a significant factor on *School Growth*. Our teachers, students, and programs have not changed in one year, so the assumption I draw would be there are significant issues with the technical aspects of report card calculations, and this has had a negative impact on both our overall District Report Card, and specifically, our Middle/High School Report Card. It is disappointing I am validating a message from the Department of Public Instruction, in terms of justifying an identified statistical problem, but yet we still have this label attached to our students, staff, school and community. Yes, we have other sources of valuable achievement data; however, with an increased focus in our state to highlight the state report card scores, these results are the primary source of comparison for factors influencing state funding (enrollment), community prosperity, and overall impressions of school success.

Continued on Pg 17

I have confidence in the positive direction of our District, and have faith in the wonderful things happening in our classrooms, schools, and community. Specifically, we have focused attention on reading at Necedah Elementary School, and our reading gaps have closed, to the extent we are now outperforming the state. Also noteworthy, the overall *Student Achievement* in both English Language Arts and Mathematics at Necedah Elementary School is outperforming the State. At the same time Necedah Middle/High School is outperforming the state in *On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness*, which has been a focus area in our schools this past year.

We have many testimonials of students leaving Necedah High School who are successful in college and life, and I am proud of our traditions of excellence. We have great students and families, and have lots to be proud of. With the continued support of our families, business and industry, and our community, we will continue to build off our bright spots to ensure continued growth and success for every student.

The district planning work that has taken place with our stakeholders over the past six months will prove to be a driving force of continued improvement and innovation. I am excited about the collective vision we are establishing for our future, and have every bit of confidence we will build off our strengths to better meet the academic and social emotional needs of every child in our school community.

I am personally committed to the assurance of providing a high quality educational system so our community feels a strong return on their investment in our children and schools. I believe deeply in the potential of my students, families, staff and entire school community. Together, we can accomplish anything, and our children deserve our collective best.

Students Continue to Excel Through Support from Local Businesses

By Carl Semrow, Technology Education Teacher



Local businesses through The Necedah Manufacturing Advisory group continue to play an important role in student success. Businesses continue to step forward offering support and guidance as we strive to keep our learning objectives as relevant to student needs as possible. As Academic Career Planning (ACP) is rolled out to our student body we have relied on our business partners to help our students plan for their futures.

Activities such as Learning Lunch career speakers and field trips have helped students gain insight into different career paths. Members of the business community have not only helped to inform our students but also helped our staff maintain up to date and relevant curriculum.

Staff has gained insight on business trends by networking with businesses and participating in facilities tours. A variety of businesses, organizations and individuals have also come forward to provide support in the way of direct funding, machine time, and material donations. This continued support has allowed the Technology Education department to purchase cutting edge technology. In addition to our CNC vertical mill we have been able to add 3D printers, a CNC plasma table and a vinyl cutter to our fabrication lab capabilities all though the support of these partnerships. Students also have the opportunity to refine their skills through the Youth Apprenticeship program in which students supplement their junior and/or senior year with an apprenticeship served with a local business. This capstone experience enables students to gain insight on a future career path through coursework and relevant work experience. Future goals include the addition of several more pieces of high tech equipment including a laser engraver, embroidery machine and CNC router with increased access to technology to elementary and middle school students.

Family Math Night at Necedah School – Making Math ‘Cool’ on a Wintery Night!

By Linda Lowery, After School Program Coordinator



Necedah Elementary and Middle School celebrated math learning and family gathering during its Family Math Night! This event included festivities with all elementary grade teachers highlighting math skills and learning through fun, hands-on activities. This event also provided middle school students and families math tips and resources through a Middle School Math presentation/discussion. A variety of informational booths that included school specific booths as well as local and county organizational booths participated in this math event that sparked conversations and connections. A special thank you goes out to representatives present on behalf of the following community/school booths: Parents and Teachers Together (PATT), Girl Scouts, Farm to School Program, University of Wisconsin- Juneau County Extension –FoodWise

Program, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Innervisions Counseling and Consulting, Fuel UP To Play 60 Program, Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE) Coalition, Necedah District – Community Connection, and Cardinal After-School Program. Families were given event ‘tickets’ encouraging visits to a variety of math activities throughout the night including visits to these booths. Tickets were then submitted for prizes that brought this Family Math Night event to a close. The Necedah School Title Program and the Cardinal After-School Program collaborated with staff, volunteers and partners which set the ‘stage’ for fantastic participation from families/community! Over 200 people were in attendance at this event! The staff would like to thank this event’s sponsors: Parents and Teachers Together Team (PATT), Wal-Mart, Festival Foods, Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls and Nekoosa, Hardware Hank-New Lisbon, Pizza Hut, Cardinal After-School Program, Necedah School District and a Private Donor. We look forward to this annual event to continually offer a community gathering venue and celebration of learning!





THANK YOU, NECEDAH COMMUNITY!

Your support of the February Food Drives and the Necedah Change War activities for our Necedah Food Pantry was **OVERWHELMING!**

Reminders:

- The Necedah Food Pantry is located at 1000 Farnam Drive, below the Necedah Head Start.
- The Pantry is open on Thursday mornings from 9:00 - 11:15.
- Donations are always needed.
- Call: 608-565-2701 for questions and/or arrange for pick-up of donations.

Emergency Preparedness: School Safety Updates

By Tanya Kotlowski, Superintendent and Kris Saylor, IT Director

As a district, we began our emergency preparedness journey this September, with staff training. The following points are shared as a way to help educate our community on various safety strategies our district has taken the past several months, to ensure our students are as safe as possible.

Emergency Planning: Behind the scenes the following things have been happening as we continue to grow our capacity to efficiently and effectively address an emergency/crisis.

- 1. Emergency Planning Meeting:** We held an emergency planning meeting on October 17, 2017, with various stakeholders in our school community including law enforcement, Juneau County emergency management, Town and Village Administrators, and fire and rescue for the purpose of aligning our local protocol and following best practices, as possible.
- 2. Dangerous Intruder Training:** All staff attended an active shooter training, conducted by local law enforcement, at our September and October Professional Development Days. Staff participated in a live drill on our January professional development day, and we just completed an all-school education drill, which included a PA announcement and student education. Our focus is to help our students “be prepared, not scared.”
- 3. Lockdown Procedures:** We firmed up our lockdown and dangerous intruder protocol, to outline the difference between staff response to a lockdown and an intruder. This new protocol was practiced with staff at the January professional development day.
- 4. Radios:** We updated our handheld radios to ensure they are all programmed consistently and fully operational. Training was provided to staff to address channel use, operational protocol standards, etc. We programmed an emergency channel which connects everyone in our building and our buses. This allows us to collectively communicate in case of an emergency. Using Title funds dedicated for emergency preparedness, we purchased two new handheld radios to ensure compatibility and consistency of all devices. We are continuing to work on integrating our radio system with local emergency responders (fire and police). A long-term strategy is to work toward consistent radio models and functionality through an appropriate replacement plan.
- 5. Emergency Kits:** We have created emergency kits for every classroom, 70 kits total, using Title funds to address emergency preparedness. The kits contain basic care supplies for the purpose of addressing an emergency in the classroom or school. Long term strategies include adding various resources to the kits, as funding becomes available. Staff were trained to use the kits at the January professional development day.
- 6. Communication Command Centers:** We have established a communication command center in our school. The purpose of the command center is to provide a specific location for communicating with our stakeholders (families and community) and emergency personnel. The center has internet, video (running 24/7), maps, radio, etc. The command center can also be utilized by emergency personnel if they are in our building monitoring a specific emergency. We are also working on developing a second command center, to be completed before spring 2018. Providing for two command centers allows us flexibility depending on the location of the threat.
- 7. Mapping School and Aligning Cameras:** We have mapped our school with specific locations on our camera system.
- 8. Marquis Emergency Partnership:** We met with emergency personnel at Marquis to understand the largest risks for us given the close proximity of their plant. The largest risk is a chemical spill (ammonia). We have developed protocol which aligns with this risk. Nurse Kammy has specific medical protocol, and we have activated an emergency shut off system to shut down our ventilation system, if need be.
- 9. Door Buzzers:** Updating our door system the past two years, has allowed us to control and monitor traffic in our facility. The fob-entries are located strategically around the building. In the event of a power outage there are additional outside doors that now accept a key so the building can still be accessed. Our two entry doors are set up with cameras and a buzzing system. Please don't be offended if you are asked specific reasons why you are visiting. It is part of our protocol. Our intent is to upgrade this system for the ease of use and to ensure effective camera viewing.

Necedah Learning Lunches: Connecting Students to the Real World

by Nick Swain, 7-12 School Counselor



“When will I ever use this, in the real world?” “Why do we need to learn this?”

How many times have you heard this from your child? As educators we definitely hear that all the time! Our Academic Career Plan (ACP) Team got together and came up with a unique solution to answer these questions for our students. At the start of the second semester the Necedah Middle/High School has been hosting what we are calling, Learning Lunches.

What are Learning Lunches?

In an effort to *serve our students so that they become successful, life-long learners who are productive, compassionate, and prepared for an ever-changing world* the ACP Team created an opportunity for our students to explore the 16 Career Clusters. Each week during the lunch period, interested students are able to attend a Learning Lunch where they learn from the local professionals in their respected fields, while enjoying their lunch. As students are finding out from our local employers, businesses, organizations, and agencies, their education here at Necedah is vital for their future success, goals, and aspirations whether they may be enrolling into a technical college, university, or heading into the workforce.

The goal of the learning lunches are three-fold:

1. Get students thinking about the world of work by introducing students to a plethora of career fields where they are able to explore and reflect on the various options of career paths.
2. Bridge the gap so that students understand and make the connections between what they are learning in the classroom and how their skill sets are applied in the workforce and in the real world setting.
3. Strengthen relationships between the district and all stakeholders: local community, businesses, organizations, and agencies.

Hold up, what are the 16 Career Clusters?

The 16 Career Clusters are a grouping of different occupations with similar job skills, education and training to fit into 16 broad categories. This helps keep learners from becoming overly bombarded with the millions of different jobs to sort through. Breaking all these different jobs up into 16 different categories helps students to identify which pathway is the best fit for them. The 16 Career Clusters are:

Science, Technology Engineering, & Math	Health Science	Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	Art, A/V Technology, & Communications
Business Management & Administration	Education & Training	Finance	Government & Public Administration
Hospitality & Tourism	Human Services	Information Technology	Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security
Manufacturing	Marketing	Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	Architecture & Construction

Who has participated with Learning Lunches and who are still to come?

The following is a listing of all our guests who have already and are yet to come to Necedah to meet with our students:

Date	Career Cluster	Potential Career Presenters/Business/Organizations
1/9	Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math	Jeff Knutson - Marquis Energy; HVAC from WTC
1/16	Health Science	Lori - Midwest Dental; Don Cornwell - Phillips Pharmacy; Cassy H. - Food & Nutrition Jolene S. - Respiratory Therapy Director of Nursing Home
1/23	Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	Allied Co-op; WTC
1/30	Arts, A/V Technology, & Communications	Jim Murphy - WRJC Owner; Sgt Siekert RF Trans - Volk Field ANG
2/6	Business Management & Administration	Mike Horak - Creative Builders
2/13	Education & Training	Ms. Jenny - Director Leap of Faith Mrs. Brenda - Leap of Faith Childcare Work Mrs. Saylor - Retired HS Principal
2/20	Finance	Amber Campbell & Cassy Flemming - Volk Field Finance Mr. Schaller - Bank of Wisconsin Dells
TBD	Government & Public Administration	Col Western ANG ACS Commander
3/13	Hospitality & Tourism	Kalahari and others (Wisconsin Dells Tourism Center) Zookeeper, Lifeguard
3/20	Human Services	Krista Hoepner - Probation Officer, Robby Vandaver - Outpatient Therapist & Crisis Worker
3/27	Information Technology	Troy Moseley - HiCrush Proppants, LLC
4/3	Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security	Krista Hoepner - Probation Officer Warden Weber - WI DNR Necedah Police Dept & Juneau Co. Sheriff Dept.
4/10	Manufacturing	Paul Arbanas - Brunner; Mrs. Baldwin - Toro
4/17	Marketing	Terra Beaver - Realtor
4/24	Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	MSgt. Jackson, SMgt Fredrickson - Volk Field; Jessica Huff - Conductor Union Pacific RR, Kipp & Crew from WOE Training Center
5/1	Architecture & Construction	Chris Parker - Cranberry Creek

What are the overall student, staff, and presenter thoughts about these Learning Lunches so far?

The following are student, staff and presenter reactions to the Learning Lunches:

- “I like going to them! I wanna go to all of them because I am learning a lot about different jobs. I don’t know what I want to do when I grow up, so listening to the guests talk is helpful to learn about the different jobs out there.” - 8th grade student
- “I didn’t know there are so many different jobs and roles within the military.” - 10th grade student
- “I liked them, particularly the Health Science speakers. I learned a lot from these presentations and I am looking forward to getting into this career field! I would recommend continuing to offer these in the future!” - Amanda DeGuire
- “I really wish we would have had more of these when we were younger, to explore the different jobs out there!” - Senior
- “This is great for the kids, we definitely want to come back to visit with the students!” - Allied Co-op
- “It was at the career fair at my school that I found my calling in life, now it is cool that I am here giving my speal to help others find their calling.” - J. Murphy, WRJC
- “These kids ask some really great questions, it was a pleasure coming in and speaking with the students!” - Mike Horak, Creative Builders
- “It gives students an opportunity to speak with adults, on an individual basis, about the guests’ career paths, their particular line of work, and learn from them. It is vital for students to hear our guest’s story and experiences so that they can make connections, and begin to make determinations for their future.” - Mr. Becker, HS Principal
- “It’s great for the students to hear from our local career guests because they help build the connection between the classroom and real world experiences.” - Nick Swain, 6-12 School Counselor
- Student pointing to a list of a few High School Principal roles and responsibilities, which was created by Mrs. Saylor for her presentation, “Does Mr. Becker really do these things each and everyday? I didn’t know he had to do all these things each day....” - Kayden Yoss

Necedah Area School District 2017-2018 Official Calendar

MARCH '18							March
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
				1	2	3	2 No School - Professional Day
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6 End of 4th term/2nd Trimester
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16 No School - Professional Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	29-30 No School - Spring Break
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

							April	APRIL '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
							2 No School - Spring Break	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
							20 No School - Professional Day	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
							23 End of 5th term	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
								22	23	24	25	26	27	28
								29	30					

MAY '18							May
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	11 No School - Professional Day
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	28 No School - Memorial Day
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

							June	JUNE '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
							5 End of 6th term/2nd Sem/3rd Trimester						1	2
							5 Last Day of School--Dismissal @ 12:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								10	11	12	13	14	15	16
								17	18	19	20	21	22	23
								24	25	26	27	28	28	30

The last day of school will end at 1:25pm, in order to make up minutes due to inclement weather cancellations this past winter.

Local Postal Customer

Cardinal Community Connections: Adult Outreach Events

By Tanya Kotlowski, Superintendent



Using the results of a community survey this past fall, we scheduled a few adult outreach events for the enjoyment of adults in our school community.

Holding a belief that a public school in a small rural community serves as a hub for recreation and community events, we are bridging our school with our community, to afford citizens of all ages meaningful events at our school building.

As a result of the high demand for our scheduled adult outreach events, we have scheduled additional events. Please see our Community link on our website, to get the most up-to-date information at: <http://www.necedahschools.org/community>. Please note, these events are paid for by a donor, not through the use of school funds.

We added additional Toothbrush Rug: Amish Knot Rug events on Monday, April 30 and Tuesday, May 1 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm, as well as an Embroidery On Paper event, on Monday, April 23 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm and a Paint Night event on Sunday, April 22 from 1:30 - 4:00 pm. More detailed information on each of our events can be located on our website (see address above). All events take place at the school, with directions to the room posted in the building on the evening of the event. To register for an event, or offer suggestions for other adult education events, please contact Tanya Kotlowski, Superintendent at the school: 608-565-2256 ext. 120 or email at kotlowski@necedahschools.org

Save the date for our first annual Necedah Fall/Holiday Craft and Vendor Show on Saturday, October 27, 2018. Detailed information about the event can also be found at the Community link on our website. See the left-hand navigation bar called Fall/Holiday Craft and Vendor Show.