

The Sun Prairie Experience

A Community Newsletter | SPRING 2018



From the Superintendent

Dear families, taxpayers, business owners, and community members,

The Sun Prairie Area School District has a long tradition of excellence in education, innovation in our student programming, and strong collaboration with our community. As one of the fastest growing school districts in the state and nation, we are not only committed to continuing our traditions but also strategically improving our school system on behalf of kids and families. The very organization of this newsletter follows our strategic plan. Here, you will find stories of students and staff that bring our strategic plan to life! Indeed, our mission is to: "Inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom. This is the Sun Prairie Experience.

I look forward to our continued work on serving the children and families of Sun Prairie!

I'll see you soon :)

Brad Saron,
Superintendent



Invite the Superintendent to your next meeting.

Do you have a group of people that would like to learn more about the School District? **Call 608-834-6562 to set up a date and time.**



**Sun Prairie Area
School District**

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

Learn more about the School District and meet our staff!

Tune into
Homeroom,
the Sun Prairie
Area School
Districts radio
program on
103.5 The Sun.
Superintendent
Brad Saron will



share an update
and bring along a special school district
guest to introduce to you. This program is
a great way to stay connected to the School
District. *Homeroom* is hosted by Sun
Prairie Resident, Todd Milewski and is
brought to you in partnership with the Sun
Prairie Media Center.

Listen to 103.5 The Sun on Wednesdays
at 10:30 am or Sundays at 5:30 pm. If you
are not able to catch the show live, visit the
district webpage under For Community
and District Radio Program to find a topic
and listen to the program recording.

Get Involved

Tutor in our schools, attend music
and sporting events, attend guest
artist series and theater events at our
Performing Arts Center and use the
High School pool during open hours.
Visit **sunprairieschools.org** to see
how to get involved with our schools.

Upcoming 2018 Dates:

MARCH

- THURSDAY 22 Summer School Registration Begins
- FRIDAY 23 End of 3rd Quarter
- MONDAY 26 First Day of Spring Break

APRIL

- MONDAY 02 First Day Back from Spring Break
- TUESDAY 03 VOTE for School Board Members
- MONDAY 09 Band-O-Rama, 7 p.m. High School Field House

MAY

- WEEK OF MAY 07 School Employee Appreciation Week
- THURSDAY 10 All City Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m. High School Field House
- SATURDAY 12 Prom
- FRIDAY 25 No School
- MONDAY 28 No School — Memorial Day

JUNE

- THURSDAY 07 Last Day of School for 4K Students
- FRIDAY 08 End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester, Last Day of School for Students in Grades K–12 — *HALF DAY*
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
- MONDAY 18 Summer School First Session Begins

JULY

- MONDAY 09 Summer School Second Session Begins

SEPTEMBER

- TUESDAY 04 First Day of School for All Students — *FULL DAY*
- MONDAY 10 First Day of School for 4K Students



Under the direction of Steve Sveum, the Sun Prairie High School Wind Ensemble performed in New York at Carnegie Hall in February and received two standing ovations. They also performed at the Wisconsin School Board Convention in Milwaukee in January where they received a standing ovation after performing three selections to a full house of school officials.

Come hear why Sun Prairie Schools were voted one of the Best Communities for Music Education! Community members are always welcome to attend our concerts.



Board of Education

The Community is always welcome to attend School Board meetings. The schedules, agendas, and minutes can be found on the district website under District and School Board.

Board Meetings can be viewed from the comfort of your home through our transparency partner KSUN on Demand from the Sun Prairie Media Center.



VOTE Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Three Candidates Seek Two School Board Seats

Current School Board member Marilyn Ruffin will seek re-election for her seat on the School Board. Two additional candidates, Bryn Horton and Paul Kudrle will run for School Board. Marta Hansen will not seek re-election. Since there are three candidates, a primary election is not needed. The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

Strategic Plan

In 2013, the School Board and administration embarked on developing the school district’s strategic plan by completing more than 50 “SWOT” analyses with area community groups. In 2014, the school district held a series of meetings with the Community Strategic Planning Team, composed of 60 employees, community members, district and school leaders, and School Board members.

This team’s efforts resulted in the Sun Prairie Area School District Strategic Plan. This plan is monitored by the School Board in an open meeting twice per year, is cascaded to school and department plans, and is aligned to the School Board’s governance goals.

Vision

Recognized as a high performing district of choice that reflects the cultures of our diverse community.

Mission

Inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

Teaching & Learning Goal	Workforce Focus Goal	Community Engagement Goal	Facilities & Operations Goal
All students surpass their annual academic growth targets and graduate ready for success.	Proactively recruit, retain and engage talent that reflects and is responsive to our diverse community.	Excel in how we serve all stakeholders and build relationships with families, community members, and businesses that promote positive outcomes for students.	Use district resources effectively and efficiently. Facilities and services meet the needs of our diverse and growing student population and community.

What Math Looks Like in Our Schools Today?

The Sun Prairie Area School District School Board and staff are committed to continuously improving our practices related to teaching and learning to allow our students to achieve at very high academic levels. Our focus area for the 2017–18 school year is mathematics from grades 5K–12. Our staff have been working over the past three years to improve our academic outcomes in math by reviewing our current data to analyze for areas of improvement; unpacking the math standards; aligning the math standards into an articulated curriculum with learning targets (I Can...statements) grades 5K–12; previewing and selecting instructional materials; participating in professional development; implementing new instructional materials grades 5K–8; and revamping schedules to focus more time during the day on mathematics instruction.

GRADES K-5 BRIDGES IN MATHEMATICS

What is it?

Bridges focuses on developing in students a deep understanding of math concepts, proficiency with key skills, and the ability to solve new and complex problems. Learning activities tap into the intelligence and strengths all students have by presenting mathematically powerful material alive with language, pictures, and movement. Students in a Bridges classroom talk about math, describe observations, explain methods, and ask questions. They are encouraged to find multiple ways to solve problems and show different

ways of thinking. This is a vital way to help students build more flexible and efficient ways to solve increasingly complex problems. Hands-on activities engage them in exploring, developing, testing, discussing, and applying mathematical concepts.

What does it look like in our schools?

We asked Jill Schmoldt, a 1st grade teacher at Horizon Elementary, as an educator, what she likes about the

“

As a parent of two students and as an educator in Sun Prairie for 18 years, I'm appreciative that the district invests in high quality, rigorous curricula. We are always looking for the best of what is on the market and expect our students to learn at high levels.”

-Jill Schmoldt, 1st Grade Teacher at Horizon Elementary

new curriculum and instructional materials?

“I enjoy how engaging it is for all learners. There are a plethora of math manipulatives that makes abstract math concepts come to life for students. The curriculum also encourages lots of math conversations both in small groups, large groups, and in partnerships. Communication of learning is an essential skill that is a vital component of the careers of the future. Having them practice these skills as early as first grade is crucial.”

GRADES 6-8 CARNEGIE LEARNING FOR MATH

What is it?

Carnegie has a blended approach to student learning. Their materials include consumable texts and an online math component called Mathia. These two components work together to give our students the best possible understanding of math. We do not want our students to just memorize math. We want them to understand that Carnegie materials give us the flexibility to let our students work together in their consumable books

and also allow students to think through math individually with Mathia. We have found this blended approach to be beneficial to all our students.

What does it look like in our schools?

We asked Kate Maselter, a Prairie View Teacher, as an educator, what she likes about the new curriculum and instructional materials?

“The materials are very teacher and student friendly. Students can see the progression and it makes sense to them. At the middle school level some students will express that they are not interested in working in small groups, because they want to work at their own pace. I like how Mathia, the online program, gives those students an opportunity to learn the way they learn best. Ideally, Carnegie is designed with a 60/40 model, meaning 60% of the time is done in small groups using the text and 40% of the time is used for individual self paced learning through Mathia. Mathia time in class allows me as the teacher time to check in and conference with individual students. In the past, we did not have the time or structure to be able to do this.”

GRADES 9-12 CPM MATHEMATICS

What is it?

CPM strives to improve mathematics learning in classrooms everywhere. CPM will push students to ask questions, to make connections and deepen their conceptual understanding in addition to improving their skill base. With this increased understanding, the students can realize that the mathematics

truly makes sense. CPM achieves these goals by giving students the opportunity to engage in mathematics with their peers in the classroom. Additionally, students have the individual assignments that will allow them the chance to reason through problems on their own.

What does it look like in our schools?

We asked High School Math Teacher Lisa Hennessey as an educator what she likes about the curriculum and instructional materials? We have noticed a huge shift in student engagement now that students are expected to engage with mathematical problems daily in class. Students are able to articulate their mathematical understanding better than before and are gaining much deeper understanding. Not only this, but I see students learning how to engage with their peers and build lifelong skills of collaboration and communication.

“We like that our students are better at persevering through learning and never giving up. The problem-solving skills our students engage in during

math class are exciting and great preparation for beyond high school in any field. We also enjoy watching students become leaders in this environment, challenging themselves and their peers daily.” ●●●

“

Carnegie offers a nice balance between small group, self discovery type problem solving and more traditional math. I feel as though in the past we have lost the importance of teaching students the basics of math. Carnegie does a nice job including the basic skills needed, while delivering rigorous math to our students.”

-Kate Maselter, Prairie View teacher



Youth Apprenticeship Program

The Sun Prairie High School Youth Apprenticeship program is a unique opportunity for juniors and seniors to start preparing for a career while still in high school. This is not a program just to get out of school to work. This program provides the opportunity for work-based learning, occupational instruction, and academic education. In addition, youth apprentices earn an hourly wage while they learn from skilled professionals.

The high school, working with the State of Wisconsin and the Dane County School Consortium, currently offers apprentices in the following areas: Agriculture, Auto/Diesel Technician, Biotechnology, Engineering, Finance/Accounting, Health Services, Hospitality/Tourism, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Marketing, Pharmacy Tech., Veterinary Tech., Welding, and Construction (Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, and Masonry/Concrete).

that they work and their performance on the job is graded by the mentor. Each career area has a Skill Standards Checklist of requirements of what the student must learn during the apprenticeship.

There are substantial benefits to students involved in this program as they get a head start on their career while in high school. For some students, this solidifies their career choice before they enter post-secondary. For other students, they may find out that this is a field that they really are no longer interested in. The majority of apprentices are offered employment once they graduate from high school. Many either work full time for the company where they had their apprenticeship or work part time while going on to school.

The rigor of the program dictates that this program is not for every student. Trying to manage going to high school for part of the day, working the other half, and then

This program has grown substantially over the years from six students in a couple of career areas to twenty-six students in a wide range of career pathways.

Local businesses such as UW Hospital at the American Center, Wilde East Towne Honda, SP Health Care Center, Kenworth, Stevens Construction, Summit Credit Union, QBE, Findorff, Prairie Gardens, Park Bank, Zimbrick Chevrolet, the University of Wisconsin, and EKM Machine, among others, have provided mentors for students in this program year after year. This program would not be successful without their participation.

Students in a one-year program must have 450 hours of paid work; students in a two-year program must have 900 hours. Students also receive school credit for the hours

possibly taking a night class in that career field is not easy. Good grades and good attendance are a must!

Students who are interested in being considered for an apprenticeship need to fill out an application and get three recommendations. Additional information can be found on the Dane County Consortium website (dccc.org). Interested students and local businesses interested in hiring a student can contact Nancy Everson, YAP Coordinator at 608-834-6734 ●●●

HEAR IT FROM OUR STUDENTS



ANDREW UPPERMAN works for Kenworth as a diesel mechanic. "I have been working at Wisconsin Kenworth since July 2016. In the two years that I've worked there as a diesel mechanic, I have learned so much, from engine rebuilds, to complex electrical diagnosis and much more. Since day one I have gained a lot of independence. None of this would have been possible without the Youth Apprenticeship Program, because of the YAP I have taken automotive classes at MATC which have taught me much more on top of what I have learned at work. The apprenticeship program has helped me get my foot in the door and get a head start on the rest of my career. I highly recommend the YAP to anyone who knows that they want to be in a certain industry, and to anyone who is willing to balance school, work and make some money at the same time."



DOMINIC COOPER works for Findorff building the new elementary schools through the Youth Apprenticeship Program. He has been working at the Thompson Road site, now named Token Springs Elementary. "For me it's meant a head start on actually being an adult before my peers. It's also meant getting a different and more enriching learning experience without the limitations of the classroom. What I've enjoyed most is how much I have been forced to learn and think on the fly. While being on the site there is more of a "learn as you go feel" that makes everyday different and interesting."

After high school, Dominic wants to attend UW-Stout to play football and major in construction management. He says that he would definitely recommend YAP to every student. "I think if you are set up to graduate on time and you have all your credits you *SHOULD* be doing it. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and experience the real world outside of school."



KRISTINA YANG says, "The Youth Apprenticeship Program has been very helpful in giving me a stepping stone to the career field of my choice. Being in this program has been great because it gives a student just enough time to get homework and studying done, while still being able to work part-time. For about six months now, I have been working as a certified nursing assistant at Sun Prairie Health Care Center. I've always known I wanted to work in the healthcare field; thus, by sophomore year I knew I wanted to take the nursing assistant course offered at Sun Prairie High School. I took the course, spring of 2017, and by July of 2017 I had gotten my certification and immediately searched for a job. I really like working at Sun Prairie Health Care Center because it is a small facility, so you can get to know each and every resident. Working as a nursing assistant has made me realize that I picked the right career path, and I am so glad to be a Youth Apprentice. The Youth Apprenticeship Program has allowed me to go to school for a shorter period of time, so I can really focus on the couple of classes I have while making sure I keep up with my nursing skills. From working at this job I have learned skills I can use for a lifetime. I am so glad that I am a part of this program and hope there will be plenty of incoming students enrolling as well".

Student Spotlight

Outstanding Young Person Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to our middle and high school students of color that received Outstanding Young Person Awards in January from the Urban League of Greater Madison. This is awarded to students that exemplify a commitment to academics, extracurricular activities and volunteerism.

CONGRATULATIONS to Montana Morauske for receiving the 2018 Betty Franklin-Hammonds scholarship.

This year's recipients:

Patrick Marsh:

Fabrizzio Roman,
Eastlan Shields,
Lamin Janneh



Prairie View:

Jayden Yamoah,
Mariama Jadama,
Arhman Lewis,
Brandie Duran



Cardinal Heights:

Jillian Patton,
Julissa Toto-Xolio,
Moussa Diallo



High School:

TouZaj Cha,
Abhinav Jamanachi,
Madison Mosley,
and Rishav Roy, in
addition to other high
school students.



Mentor Program

Sun Prairie Area School District strives to ensure that ALL students have the best learning opportunities and highest quality instruction regardless of the experience of their teacher. Therefore, all teachers new to the teaching profession in the Sun Prairie School District will receive professional development, a mentor and 1:1 support during their first two years of practice.

Purpose of a Mentor Program:

To accelerate growth to increase effective new teachers, increased overall teacher retention, and improve student achievement.

Research indicates that when new educators are supported with a high quality mentor during the first two years of induction into the profession, significant positive results occur in retention, educator effectiveness, and student achievement. A high quality mentor program includes skilled educators that are fully-released from their classroom responsibilities to provide ongoing professional development and embedded support to

new teachers right within their classroom environment. Mentors guide beginning teachers to create learning environments and instructional practices that are equitable and accessible to all students. Sun Prairie School District demonstrates a strong commitment to the growth and retention for our new teachers and their students by providing a formal mentor during this once-in-a-lifetime induction phase into education. ●●●



Our Mentor Team

We are hiring!

With the addition of two new elementary schools, we are seeking talented and diverse staff for a variety of positions! View the district webpage and click on the Employment Opportunities button on the top right to read more about the positions we have available. All applicants should apply through WECAN.

Connect with us on [in](#) LinkedIn and watch for our job postings.

Did you know...

81% of our staff had level movements this year! This is an example of the success of our **collaboratively developed compensation system** for teachers. We are so very fortunate to have such a highly trained staff working for our kids and families.



School Record Broken

CONGRATULATIONS to High School Senior Jayda Jansen, pictured with Head Coach, John Olson. Jayda broke the Sun Prairie Girls Basketball career record on December 29, 2017. Jayda had 1,511 points through Regional Finals. Her career average is about 15.7 points/game.

Community Changers Club

Community Changers is a committed group of High School students that meet weekly to talk about issues in our community including poverty. They are currently planning a spring fundraising concert and focus on recruiting more students to the club. Club president, Anna and Chief Communications officer, Isaac say that their goal is to elevate the conversation around poverty in Sun Prairie. This club is run under High School Science Teacher and Club Advisor, Scott Kloehn. This group has been very successful in their fundraising efforts in the past. The club regularly donates money to the Sunshine Place but is looking to expand and establish a scholarship for Sun Prairie students. They have doubled their membership this year and look forward to more students engaging in topics that affect Sun Prairie students and families. Watch for more information about their spring concert where local high school artists will perform.



Prairie View Principal Nancy Hery is retiring.

After sixteen years as the Prairie View Middle School Principal, and 31 total years in education, Nancy Hery will be retiring at the end of June. She has made a huge impact on Sun Prairie students, parents, and co-workers and will leave large shoes to fill.

Nancy says that she loves working at Prairie View Middle School. “The kids, staff and parents are what makes our school great.” Her favorite part of being an educator with Sun Prairie kids is that once they leave PVMS they still stop by to see her and the staff. “I also get to see them in the stores, read about them and how they are doing, and still be a part of their growing up! I love to keep up on them.”

Michelle Kelly worked with Nancy at Prairie View Middle School for fourteen years and says,

“Nancy’s most noteworthy attribute is her genuine pride of her students and staff. Nancy loves to celebrate her school’s greatness; in fact, she wallpapered her school with her satisfaction. As anyone who has walked the PVMS halls knows, there are posters filling the halls with the students and staff who make the school what it is. She also loves to use her school data to show off her high achieving and well behaved students. The students and staff of PVMS truly fill Nancy’s bucket.”

In many ways, Nancy became refreshingly predictable over time. Her expectations for students as well as her staff were clear: be on time, do your very best, and be kind. That is her formula.

“Wear you Mickey Mouse ears,” she would say, meaning, be hospitable, and make sure everyone who enters the building feels welcomed.

Kelly recalls that mostly, Nancy wants kids to feel loved and happy. She has always wanted Prairie View to be their home away from home where kids and staff want to be, and she never tires of her antics to keep the children and staff loving their school.

Do any of these sound familiar? Relay racing with scooters, watermelons, hoola hoops, pumpkins, and cornstalks? Why go skiing when you can take the kids tubing up at Cascade? Human foosball, anyone? Yes, we used PVC piping to build a foosball table that filled the gym and was great for indoor recesses! She introduced Sun Prairie’s first Fun Run.

To get students to believe in themselves or be kind or work hard or to simply get to class on time, Nancy loved to write lyrics and then get us to sing or rap them. Nancy has cleverly managed to get her teachers to wiggle, jiggle, and just be silly—all for the kids. Anyone remember the Phillip Phillips “Home” song that turned into a back-to-school welcome video she convinced the entire staff to create in the PVMS halls for the kids?

Nancy also has a game face she often brought to school. She held very high standards for her students and staff, so if things weren’t right, she took action. Nancy never avoided a difficult situation.

Eastside Elementary Principal, Craig Coulthart, shares a story about the time that Nancy taught a student to swim on her own time. “At school, Nancy takes time to meet with students to figure out how she can encourage them succeed. She truly cares about her staff and will go to the ends of the earth to give them what they need to help students. Nancy will truly be missed.”

Nancy plans to stay busy after retirement. She plans to stay active in politics, hoping to become more active in helping people understand the importance of public school education and the importance of our teachers and staff. Nancy and her husband David plan to continue doing what they love, being with our children, visiting friends and family more often, traveling and using their passports, and continue biking, skiing, swimming, boating and having fun outside.

“I love being a principal at Prairie View in Sun Prairie. I love my teachers and staff, really enjoy middle school children, and the community and families are so welcoming to me. I will truly miss them. My one hope is that I have helped make a difference in children’s lives and that middle school will be something they look back at, reflect, and remember it was a great time for them!”

If you see Nancy, please thank and congratulate her for sixteen years educating Sun Prairie kids! ●●●●



Congratulations are in order!

The following teachers passed their National Boards in December.



Kelli Elert - 3rd Grade Teacher at Northside Elementary



Jill Schmoldt - 1st Grade Teacher at Horizon Elementary



Jami Dugan - Kindergarten Teacher at Eastside Elementary



Bridgette Baldwin - Kindergarten Teacher at C.H. Bird Elementary

National Board Certification was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide. It is the most respected professional certification available in K-12 education. Teachers who have gone through the Board certification process say that it is the most valuable and transformative professional development they have ever received. The opportunity to connect professional learning with classroom practice brings to life a teacher’s experience, helping them reflect on individual student learning needs.

Chris Gleason Middle School Teacher of the Year, Lifechanger of the Year award nominee

Robert Holden once said “The real gift of gratitude is that the more grateful you are, the more present you become.” Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in the “Extra Yard For Teachers” event held at the College Football National Championship Game in Atlanta, Georgia on January 8th. As I walked out onto the field at Mercedes-Benz Stadium with my fellow State Teachers of the Year just prior to the National Anthem, I heard 77,430 people screaming and cheering. Those fans were not cheering for us necessarily; they were cheering for the teachers who made a difference in their lives.

As we returned from standing on the field for the National Anthem, our teacher group formed a circle, hugged, cried, and vowed to keep using our “teacher voice” in order to improve and celebrate teaching and learning. The unfortunate truth is that the “teacher supply is shrinking. If current trends continue, we would see as few as 200,000 available teacher hires each year by 2025, resulting in a gap of more than 100,000 teachers annually.

I am so thankful for the College Football Playoff Foundation for utilizing college football’s largest stage to elevate the teaching profession through the Extra Yard for Teachers platform. We need to continue to encourage our youth to consider teaching as a profession. Our future depends on the excellence of our teachers.

The days leading up to the big game included other events such as The Extra Yard for Teachers Summit, Extra

Yard for Teachers Lounge, Extra Yard 5K and Taste of the Championship. In addition, we were treated to VIP hospitality at the AT&T Playoff Playlist Live! concert series and Championship Tailgate events. While in Atlanta I met people such as Jasmine from Masterchef Junior (actually ate her food!), Hall of Famer Randall McDaniel, and ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit. I was literally feet away from Evander Holyfield, Herschel Walker, Steven A Smith, and the Zac Brown Band as well!

Growing up in my father’s band room in Arcadia, Wisconsin, never would I have imagined experiencing anything like this in my life. I have been truly blessed to have had these experiences. The challenge is to spread this overwhelming feeling to all teachers who work tirelessly every single day - usually in difficult and challenging situations. Teachers do not go to work expecting tailgate parties and VIP hospitality suites. Yet, they all deserve to be acknowledged for the difficult work they do every day. Please consider reaching out to a teacher to let them know that they are valued.

As I stood on that field and listened to our beautiful National Anthem with my fellow teachers by my side, I thought of my students, my school and the community that I love. I was present in that moment. I was grateful. ●●●●



Secondary School Space Planning

The Sun Prairie Area School District continues to be one of the fastest growing districts in the state of Wisconsin!

The Fall 2016 Phase 1 Facilities Referendum Newsletter indicated that as one of the fastest growing districts in the state, future schools will be needed to serve a growing enrollment and our community’s high expectations for student achievement and opportunity for all students. As part of our long-range facilities plan, the Phase Two project will incorporate a High School Solution Taskforce. Together, we will examine the foundation of needs and explore ideas

as we engage all stakeholders in the future of our schools.

- The current Sun Prairie High School (10-12th grade) was built in 2010.
- This year’s enrollment is 1,794 students.
- The high school’s target capacity is 1,658 students and maximum capacity is 2,073 students.
- The most recent enrollment projections indicate that within the next five years (by 2022/23) the high school will have a range of between 1,954 to 2,084 students.

On November 27, 2017, the School Board approved the development of a

process and timeline for a Secondary School Space Planning Committee. Applications were taken throughout December/January and a Committee has been established. Meetings began in February and will be held the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The entire community is invited to attend these meetings. If you would like to follow the process, visit the school district website under District and Referendum you can find the Secondary School Space Planning page. Meeting schedules, presentations and minutes will be posted for the community to view on the webpage.



Thank you for helping us name the new elementary schools

On January 23rd, the School Board approved the names of the two new elementary schools as presented by a group of 4th graders.

We are proud to announce that joining the Sun Prairie Area School District school family is:

- Token Springs Elementary School**
Mascot: Terrapin (land and water turtle)
- Meadow View Elementary School**
Mascot: Otter



Boundaries

Elementary and Middle School Boundaries have changed for 2018-19. View the maps on the district website under District and Boundary Task Force if you are not sure what school your student will attend. ●●●

Shout Out to Westside Elementary School Staff

Westside Elementary School was recently recognized in the 2016-17 Wisconsin Rtl Annual Report in article titled Recommitting to universal, equitable practices to build positive culture. Some highlights from the article include:

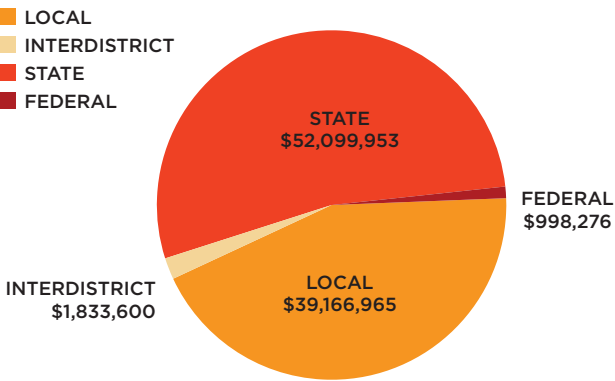
- Under the leadership of Principal Nikki Burke and Assistant Principal Jeff Hattori, Westside staff are committed to educating kids, instead of punishing them. Instead of reacting with consequences, staff are teaching behavior skills and self regulation and recognizing positive behaviors more frequently.
- The school has seen a reduction of office discipline referrals. In 2015-16 they had 2,289 referrals and in 2016-17, that number was down to 822. (Down 64% in overall referrals).
- Staff are focusing on building relationships with student and families.
- Staff professional development is devoted to identifying personal hidden bias and institutional racism.
- Staff are using mindfulness with students in and out of the classroom.

Congratulations to the entire Westside Elementary Staff for improving school culture, building relationships and supporting student success as you continue this important work! #cardinalpride

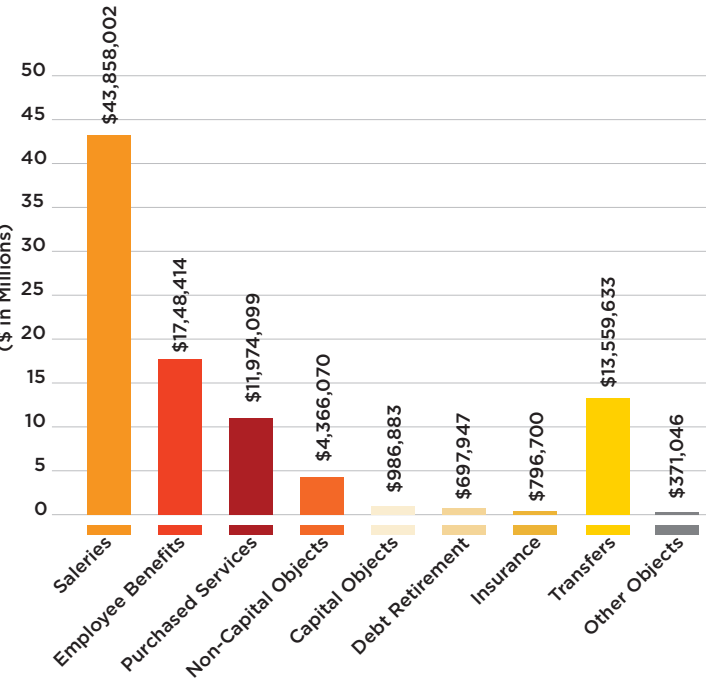
To read the entire article: goo.gl/jmUK4W



General Fund Revenue



General Fund Expenses



Kindness Retreats

Kindness Retreats were held throughout January and February at all seven elementary schools. These special, day-long retreats for 4th graders helps to build a more caring community by engaging students in activities that demonstrate the powerful value of kindness and the painful effects of bullying.

The Kindness Retreats are presented by Youth Frontiers, Inc., a Minneapolis-based non-profit organization. The high-energy session for 4th graders teaches them how to be a hero by treating others with kindness and challenges them to reduce bullying in their schools.



Retreats are designed to teach kids about the importance of being kind through a high-energy day filled with music, singing, team building exercises, and small group discussion led by community volunteers, school staff, Prairie Phoenix Academy, Cardinal Heights, and High School students.

The Kindness Retreats are made possible by generous donations from the sponsors: Sun Prairie Rotary Club, Bank of Sun Prairie, Sun Prairie Education Foundation and the Sun Prairie Area School District. Supporters include Summit Credit Union and Hallman Lindsay in addition to the schools SCO's .

Kindness goes beyond the day-long retreat. Some of our schools have implemented Kindness Clubs and other activities like painting kindness rocks to show a caring school environment.

Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers! We could not do this very important work without you. ●●●●

Sun Prairie High School Students Help plan events for Black History Month

The Sun Prairie High School Black Student Union met with parents, family members and administrators at a recent African American Parent Network meeting for an engaging conversation around Black History Month activities. While the district and each school site celebrates the month in a variety of ways, this year, more advance planning and with community and student input, allowed the district to roll out a coordinated plan to engage students. The students brought many ideas including movie nights, soul food dinner, guest speakers, school events and more. ●●●●

Pictured: Speaker, Hip Hop Architect Michael Ford with high school students.



Reality Rocks

Reality Rocks is sort-of like the game of Life. Over 650 students in Economics classes make life decisions and move from booth to booth to make purchases like finding a place to live, insurance, groceries, child care, pets., etc. while keeping track of their revenue. This event is held twice a year (December and April). Thanks to the SP

Business and Education Partnership and the high school economics teachers for their hard work on this event and to the 85 volunteers that made this event possible! ●●●●



Sun Prairie Area School District Summer School 2018

We are extremely proud of the large, diverse and ever expanding Summer School program that we offer to our students. Sun Prairie Area School District offers a comprehensive program for students who are currently in 4K (4 year old Kindergarten) through 12th grade. Our offerings range from a course that introduces our youngest learners to what it is like to attend Kindergarten to high school students who are eager to earn credit during the summer. We provide students the opportunity to participate in review classes where they may need or want to strengthen their academic skills and numerous enrichment classes

In 2017 over 5,000 kids attended Summer School Programming!

where students can learn a variety of skills and concepts from art, music, physical education, world languages, science, yoga, and numerous others. The Summer School program welcomes all students in the Sun Prairie District,



including those from the parochial and private schools, and open enrolled students.

The Sun Prairie Area School District offers transportation and a nutrition program to all students participating in the June and July programs. The June and July programs are offered on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 am-12:00 pm daily. There are additional, specialized programs offered through August and some classes are offered in the afternoon and evening. We end our Summer School program with a musical theater

production at the High School Performing Arts Center.

We have already registered high school students who would like to earn additional credits in areas like Physical Education, Health Education, Economics, Social Studies, and Art or those who would like to participate in non-credit earning classes like music and strength and conditioning. High School students who are in need of completing credits or who would like to learn more about advanced placement classes are also an important part of our program.

We are pleased that the majority of professional educators and support staff members who teach our students through Summer School are "in-district" employees. This ensures that the folks who work with our students know many of them from the regular school year. Also, the teachers are knowledgeable about the district curriculum that they build on during Summer School. There are many folks from other districts who are eager to work with our students during Summer School and many of the out-

Summer School Registration opens on March 22, 2018 at 7:00am

of-district teachers who join us during Summer School have been working with our program for many years. We appreciate that the combination of in-district and out-of-district staff members helps to make our program richer and more diverse. ●●●●



We are always ready to serve our parents/guardians, community members, staff, and most importantly students.

You can learn more about the program by going to the **Summer School page** on our **district website**.

Kristy Elementary Programs 834-6566 • **Jo** Middle and Upper Middle School Programs 834-6579
Brittany PPA and High School Programs 834-6507

At the Sun Prairie Area School District:

We stand by all of our students, staff, and families.

The Sun Prairie Area School District celebrates and values our diverse community.

We support and are inclusive of all students, staff, families, and community members of all races, ethnicities, faiths, national origins, immigration statuses, political viewpoints, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities.

We stand by our students with disabilities and their families.

We will continue to staunchly protect the rights of people of all abilities.

All children will be safe and loved in our schools.....Every Child, Every Day.



Volunteers Make a Difference

We have many community members who volunteer in our schools, making a world of difference in the education of our students. If you are wondering how to get involved, there are a variety of opportunities:

“

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

Schools of Hope, AVID Tutors, Performing Arts Ushers, Volunteer in our schools, chaperone field trips and more.

Visit the district webpage under For Community and Volunteering in the District to find more information and forms to submit.

Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers! We could not do this very important work without you.

Non Discrimination Statement

No student may be unlawfully discriminated against or harassed because of the student's sex (including gender identity, gender expression and nonconformity to gender role stereotypes), color, religion, profession or demonstration of belief or nonbelief, race, national origin (including limited english proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, homelessness status, sexual orientation, age, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. (SPASD Policy JB) Foundation and the Sun Prairie Area School District. Supporters include Summit Credit Union and Hallman Lindsay in addition to the schools SCO's .

The Sun Prairie Experience is published by the Sun Prairie Area School District. District Office located at 501 S. Bird Street Sun Prairie, WI 53590 608-834-6500

Visit the District Website for more information: sunprairieschools.org

Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

**We're
Listening**

CONTACT US

Sun Prairie Area School District
501 S. Bird St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Phone: 608-834-6500

DISTRICT CONTACTS:

Dr. Brad Saron
Superintendent
834-6502

Stephanie Leonard-Witte
Assistant Superintendent,
Teaching, Learning &
Equity • 834-6516

Janet Rosseter
Assistant Superintendent,
Operations • 834-6502

Patti Lux-Weber
Communications &
Engagement Officer
834-6562

Phil Frei
Director of Business &
Finance • 834-6510

Rhonda Page
Business Services
Manager/Busing
834-6512

Malika Evanco
Director of Human
Resources • 834-6551

Kathryn Walker
Director of School
Nutrition • 834-6527

Kevin Sukow
Director of Facilities
& Grounds • 834-6567

Eric Nee
Athletic & Activities
Director • 834-6713

Jennifer Apodaca
Director of Student
Services • 834-6520

Curtis Mould
Director of Digital
Media, Innovation and
Strategy • 834-6531

Andrea Daniels
Director of Secondary
Teaching, Learning &
Equity • 834-6572

Rick Mueller
Director of Elementary
Teaching, Learning &
Equity • 834-6566