

2018 - 2019

A REPORT to our COMMUNITY



Sun Prairie Area School District Futures depend on us...every child, every day.



In 2019, Sun Prairie graduated its largest class ever with 650 students crossing the stage.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

We invite you to see what our 2018–2019 academic year looked like. We're proud of our student success, our excellent staff, and our partnerships with the community.

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"

I feel that the School District has set itself up to meet the needs of any type of child or family who enters the School District. I like the high level of technology at all levels. The overall educational experience and extracurricular options have choices for all academic and specialized interests of all children in the District. There are plans for students with disabilities, children needing IEP, children who are performing at expected levels, high-performing children, and children who are new to the area, state, or country."

-2018-2019 Parent Survey Comment

DEAR SUN PRAIRIE COMMUNITY,

The 2018–2019 academic year was a historic year for the Sun Prairie Area School District (SPASD). From the opening of Meadow View and Token Springs Elementary schools to personalized learning in classrooms to the passing of a \$164 million referendum for a second high school, new multipurpose stadium at Ashley Field, a new Prairie Phoenix Academy (alternative high school), and a renovated Cardinal Heights, your School District continues to do what is best for the children in this wonderful community.

We are excited for you to read our first annual report to the residents and families of the SPASD. We hope the information is helpful and makes you proud to be in a community that values public education as much as this community does.

This next academic year promises to be just as exciting and busy as this past year. We are in the middle of designing the second high school and will break ground this fall on the "new" Ashley Field, all while ensuring that our faculty and staff are working toward our equity goals and that all of our students are engaged in their classrooms.

Along with the Board of Education, we are proud to serve, support, and lead a dedicated team of teachers, support staff, coaches, and administrators. They are the hardest working, most dedicated people we have ever had the privilege of working with. They teach, inspire,



and love all of the 8,500 students in the SPASD. Please consider volunteering in a classroom, supporting a fundraiser, or simply thanking a staff member for their incredible service to our community.

We are proud of what we accomplished together with all of you during the 2018–2019 academic year, and we know the 2019–2020 academic year will be our best year yet!

Thank you again for your tremendous support of the children in this School District.

Every child, Every day,

Steve Ochweden

Dr. Steve Schroeder, Board of Education President

16.5

Dr. Brad Saron, Superintendent



Our Vision:

To be a high-performing district of choice that reflects the cultures of our diverse community.

Our Mission:

Futures depend on us to inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education is the governing body of the Sun Prairie Area School District. The Board leads, directs, and supervises the affairs of the District through policy development and accountability. The Board serves and is accountable to the community, primarily by ensuring that the District achieves the results described in the Board's student results policies and that it operates according to the values expressed in the Board's operational expectations policies.



The Sun Prairie community has supported over a quarter of a billion dollars in referenda funds over the past three years. We do not take your support for granted. We will work even harder to be the School District of Choice and to ensure that **EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY** is inspired and loved by the amazing staff in our School District.



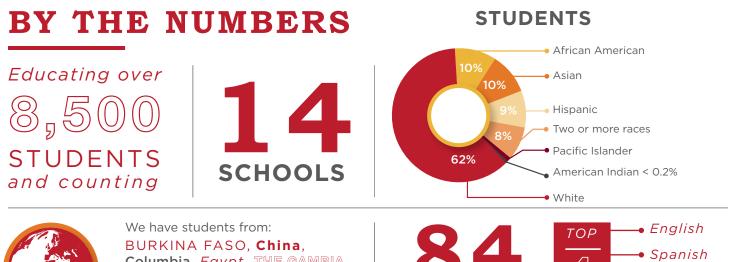


Left to Right, Back: Dave Hoekstra, Bryn Horton, Steve Schroeder, Marilyn Ruffin, Tom Weber; Front: Carol Sue Albright, Emily Flood, Aisha Tunkara Caren Diedrich

The Board will govern lawfully and ethically with primary focus on:

- Setting the vision and direction rather than focusing on internal preoccupation
- Strategic leadership more than management detail
- Future rather than past or present
- Clear distinction of Board and Superintendent roles
- Ensuring that all voices be heard, especially the community whom we serve and represent
- Building trusting and respectful relationships
- And, most important, student achievement

The Board of Education has worked hard to develop clear Student Achievement Results Policies and Operational Expectations for the School District. We encourage you to review our policies, expectations, and monitoring reports located on the website.



Columbia, Egypt, THE GAMBIA, India, Kenya, PUERTO RICO, Russia, SAUDI ARABIA, Tibet, and Ukraine LANGUAGES/ DIALECTS SPOKEN



574 Students participate in our 4K program at 11 partner sites

2,000+ PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL CHOIR, BAND, OR ORCHESTRA

Our boundaries extend across

10 MUNICIPALITIES &79 SQUARE MILES

2,500+ STUDENTS RIDE THE BUS DAILY

1,000 SCHOOL BREAKFASTS & 3,750 SCHOOL LUNCHES SERVED DAILY TO OUR STUDENTS

23,000 HOURS OF COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

1,895,340 square feet of facilities

1 Community School @ 4 Sites SUPPORTED BY





HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) CLASSES

TEACHING, LEARNING, & EQUITY

Our Teaching, Learning, & Equity team has an explicit focus on student achievement, academic growth, gap closing, and postsecondary readiness for every child, every day. We strive to increase our academic outcomes through access and opportunities in and out of the classroom.



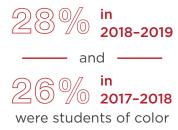
The Black Excellence Achievement Makers award ceremony honored over 150 of our African American students who are making achievements in our community.

14% of our K-12 population are advanced learners



Over 2,000 students participate in school choir, band, or orchestra.

Of students that took one or more AP classes,





2,630 students in grades 6–12 participated in activities and athletics.

19 SENIOR STUDENTS

participated in Youth Apprenticeships in a variety of fields:

- Construction
- Information Technology
- Health Care
- Finance
- Agriculture
- Engineering
- Biotechnology
- Automotive
- Vet Technician

SUMMER SCHOOL

We coordinate one of the largest summer school programs in the state. Summer school allows us to extend learning opportunities throughout the summer, including enrichment, review, initial credit, credit recovery, and specialized camps. In addition to robust academic programming, we also provide transportation and nutritious meals for our students.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DESTINEE BUNCH a senior student in our avid program

I grew up in poverty. I'm a minority woman. I'm supposed to be pregnant by now, according to society's expectations, and college shouldn't be on the brain. I've always known I wanted to go to college. AVID helped me get the right footing so that I could not only get into college in the first place but also know what I have to do to get through college the right way. Part of the AVID program is looking at careers and the kinds of colleges available. I learned about so many different kinds of jobs and the education necessary and, because of that, decided to go into the medical field. And I'm not the only one. AVID has given my peers opportunities to earn scholarships, land internships, and be involved in countless summer programs so that they can explore different career options.

I plan on attending Carthage College in the fall of 2019, with a major in psychology and an emphasis in pre-med. I plan on using those to open my own mental health clinic (non-residential) for people in poverty.

AVID is an elementary through postsecondary college readiness system designed to increase school-wide learning and performance for students. Currently in Sun Prairie, AVID is offered for students in 8th through 12th grades.



99% college accepted

99% of our AVID students were college accepted and received **\$1,000,000** in scholarships in 2018-2019.



I would like to thank my AVID teacher, Ms. Mezei, who has guided me in the right direction since I came to the high school and has always reminded me to have fun and make good choices." —Jaharee Weah, class speaker for the graduating class of 2019

Over **574 students** participated in our **4K program** at 11 partner sites



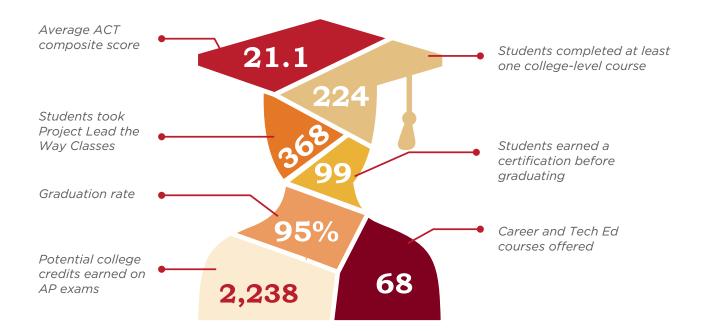
Students with disabilities in **grades 1–8** exceeded our STAR math accelerated growth goal by **11%**

11%

MALIE

8

SUN PRAIRIE STUDENTS: COLLEGE AND CAREER READY



WESTSIDE STEAM

In partnership with Dr. Herro from Clemson University and Dr. Quigley from the University of Pittsburgh, Westside Elementary School is working to embed STEAM programming into its everyday curriculum. STEAM blends concepts from **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art,** and **Math** to answer real-world problems. Students read scientific articles, complete scientific research, and even use robots and electronic textiles to demonstrate learning.

Curiosity, collaboration, creativity, and communication are all skills that students build while learning content through a STEAM lens.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

In 2019, Community Schools partnered with the Boys and Girls Club at Patrick Marsh to offer 8 weeks of summer programming for 57 elementary and middle school students. Community Schools also partnered

with the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA at the Youth Center at Prairie Phoenix Academy to serve 125 teenagers. Community Schools is expanding to C.H. Bird Elementary after this year, that school becoming the fourth site for this program.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

In the past, digital citizenship was thought of as "keeping kids away from the bad stuff" or simply "not cyberbullying." Our misunderstandings and insecurities about the internet and social media contributed to a fear-based message of protection and the (erroneous) belief that students set out to intentionally misbehave online. Because students were not given guidelines about what they should do, they inevitably made mistakes.

Each of our schools focuses on a positive and empowered view of digital citizenship. While we do teach repeated lessons on safety, protection of personal data, and respect for intellectual property rights, our digital citizenship lessons don't stop there. Our digital citizenship education focuses on modeling of positive, proactive, and empathetic behavior online. This modeling, coupled with providing many authentic opportunities for students to practice their skills, occurs in every classroom, every day, to prepare our students to be thoughtful citizens in a digital world.



1:1 TECHNOLOGY

Every student, every day has access to school-issued devices that meets their needs to capture and create ideas. In kindergarten and 1st grade, all students have access to iPads, and students in grades 2–12 have access to Chromebooks.



Even though devices offer many opportunities, the use of them is not an all-day, everyday thing. Students will access devices as they do other classroom tools, when appropriate and when connected to their individual learning and growth. When students need something more powerful, computer and production equipment are available to help them create, invent, and bring their ideas to life!

COLOR CODED—ROBOTIC CAMP FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR

Computer science and robotics camps are available to students throughout the school year and into the summer! The program links mentors in computer science with students who attend the clubs and summer program to grow overall interest in the field of computer science!



COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR ALL

The future is today! Computer science is reinventing and redefining our world. In Sun Prairie, we know computer science is necessary for our learners. Beginning in elementary school, all students begin to learn the basics of logic models and computer



coding, building toward high school opportunities to create programs, video games, and artificial intelligence code! Experiences in learning computer science include rich partnerships with Filament Games, Google, UW-Madison, and many other groups!

MADISON COLLEGE— STEM PARTNERSHIP

The STEM Academy is a dual enrollment program where high school students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math (STEM) take a full-time schedule of college classes



at Madison College during 11th and 12th grade. Dual enrollment means that students earn both college credits and credits toward high school graduation. Students attending Madison College full time during the day, attend their home high schools only for extracurricular activities and events after the school day ends.

FINANCIAL

The vision and mission of our School District was developed in collaboration with our community, and the purpose of a budget is to breathe life and resources into our vision. Budgets are developed in collaboration with staff, faculty, and departments, allowing our workforce to focus on our most significant goals—supporting our students to reach their goals and engaging our community as we work toward our vision.

THE DISTRICT SAVED

in interest costs for the 2nd high school compared to the initial referendum pricing

OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, THE DISTRICT HAS D \$10,000,0 in interest costs due to the refinancing of outstanding bonds

We aggressively bid a 5-year rate hold from our health insurance provider for our HMO Plan. THIS SAVED THE DISTRICT

\$600.000-

BOND

The District has a AA bond rating from Standard and Poor's. Only four districts in the state of Wisconsin have a higher rating, out of 195 rated districts. The rating factors include economy, district finances, financial management, and debt load. The high bond rating helps lower interest costs when borrowing occurs.

The District received \$404,498 in Energy Efficiency rebates from Focus on Energy and WPPI.





WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE



WHY I CHOSE TO WORK FOR THE SUN PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT.

"I wanted to become part of the Sun Prairie Area School District family because of the District's commitment to equity and inclusion. I needed to be at a place that I was not only valued but trusted. From the very first day as the Employee Relations Manager, the District has empowered me to make decisions not only about recruitment and hiring but also about sensitive situations that could affect the community's perception of our District. I want employees to understand that I'm always advocating for them."



"I knew that Sun Prairie was undergoing a transformation. The District had a board that had recently committed to coherent governance as their governing style, coupled with leadership and a community that expects high standards of excellence. People want to be a part of a winning team. Together, we are building that in Sun Prairie!"

-Janet Rosseter, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

A District Wellness Committee is working to create opportunities for staff members to be **EMOTIONALLY, MENTALLY, AND PHYSICALLY WELL.**

2.3% RAISE \$1.5 MILLION TOTAL INVESTMENT

Our staff gets some of the best Professional Development, including: COLUMBIA TEACHERS COLLEGE, *Sharroky Hollie*, **Pacific Educational Group—Beyond Diversity**, RESPONSIVE CLASSROOMS, **and much more**.



Our staff contributed \$11,600 to United Way

programs

The nearly 1,300 employees of the SPASD serve our District in dozens of job categories from teachers to custodians, from instructional aides to school nutrition servers, and from administrative assistants to groundskeepers. However, our employees share the same goal of changing the lives of our students. The shared vision of "Every Child, Every Day" is played out through the loving interactions between our SPASD workforce and our students.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

DEREK JOHNSRUD cross-categorical teacher at northside elementary

As a staff member. I have been able to be a volunteer coach with the cross country and track and field teams, and also participate on Northside's Equity Team and Building Leadership Collaborative; the Teaching, Learning Equity Council Special Education Committee: the Math Curriculum Renewal and Design Committee; the Multi-Tiered System and Supports Steering Committee; the Professional Educator Compensation Committee; and the Workforce Excellence Committee. I think it is important that different groups of professionals are represented in the District, and I feel I have insight, knowledge, and experience to help represent different groups of teachers in the District. I also feel it is important to stay informed about what is happening in the District and to communicate the messages between District administration / School Board members and the professionals in the building. I have been able to watch the progression of our work, especially on the Compensation Committee, starting as an idea and growing through change until the School Board unanimously passed the adjustments, and now professional educators are being positively impacted by the changes.



The willingness of the District administration and the School Board and the passion for continuous improvement by staff, have made the development of the District exciting to be a part of. All of our teachers are working tirelessly every day to improve outcomes for kids. It is a privilege to serve on committees designed to improve working conditions, compensation, and climate and culture for our teachers. I could not be happier with our progress and the journey our committees are on.

Staff survey results show that with all things considered SPASD is a great place to work!





90.3% Staff Retention Rate

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement is foundational to the overall direction of the SPASD. In fact, our mission and vision were developed by our community. Because it's embedded as a pillar in our strategic plan, it has guided Phase I and Phase II of our long-range facilities plan, our elementary school attendance boundary process, and most recently our District Task Force on Student Behavior and Bullying.



National Honor Society students raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of fellow student Jackson Beihoffer.



High School Construction class students partner with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a Sun Prairie family.



High school students participate in the Fire Firefighter Academy, a partnership between the SP Fire Department, Madison College, and SPASD.



All 4th-grade students participate in Kindness Retreats thanks to sponsorships from local businesses, Rotary, and the Education Foundation.



Business Education Partnership supports nominations by employers through our High School GRIT recognition program.



School Liaison Officers Tommy Foy and Lamont Crockett participate in Read Your Heart Out.



The girls' soccer team hangs out with Westside Elementary Community Schools students.



First Responders and the Barr Family were honored at a football game with jerseys worn by the team.



Many of our clubs, sports teams, and staff members serve Sunshine Supper to the community.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

QUINN WILLIAMS SUN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, 2019-2020 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

As a 10th-grade student at Sun Prairie High School, I was a Boundary Task Force member that was engaged throughout the process. I also led student engagement sessions to ensure our students were engaged. It was eye-opening for me to see all the work needed to make educated and effective decisions for the future of our students. As a student, I was able to voice my opinion about things I liked or suggestions I had when considering the impact of future buildings or facilities. I am so happy to know that every child who enters our District will not only have access to a great education but will also have opportunities to participate in great activities and sports.

3.07 out of 4.00 community survey respondents believe we are delivering a **high-quality** educational experience.

85% of the community survey respondents said that they are **satisfied** with the District.



FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

The "Operations" of the School District involve our Human Resources, School Nutrition, Athletics and Activities, Business and Finance, and Facilities and Grounds Departments. As one of the fastest growing school districts in the state of Wisconsin, the SPASD must be proactive in many of the operational needs of the School District, including hiring staff, facility planning, and maintaining our facilities.

In order to provide an environment that promotes positive spaces for working and learning, we will continue the Master Facilities and Grounds Planning process across five years. \$4 million in capital projects alone were undertaken between summer of 2018 and summer of 2019.



School Nutrition offered new salad bars and new Menu items Over 163,317 Breakfasts served (average 950/day) Over 668,290 Lunches served (average 3,850/day)



Energy saving projects:

- Replaced a chiller at Prairie View
- Retrofit LED lighting at Westside and Cardinal Heights
- Retrofit the boilers at Eastside
- Changed the way we control the boilers to run more efficiently at Eastside, Westside, Northside, Royal Oaks, and the east side of Cardinal Heights

THANK YOU, SUN PRAIRIE COMMUNITY!



Our community passed a \$5,000,000 operational referendum by 59%.

This will allow us to operate the second high school when it opens and help us align salaries for our teachers to the Dane County average.



Our community passed a \$164,000,000 capital referendum by 57%.

This will allow us to build a second high school, complete capital maintenance and make improvements to existing secondary schools, build a multipurpose stadium at the Ashley Field site, relocate Prairie Phoenix Academy (PPA), and remove the current PPA and former Early Learning Resource Center buildings.

UPGRADES FOR EQUITY

The 2016 referendum included money for upgrades at the oldest elementary schools. Our elementary



students were welcomed back from Spring Break with new classroom furniture. It is exciting to see how students are using the tables, chairs, stools, bookshelves, and more. The District was able to take advantage of excellent bulk pricing on furniture. Thank you to our community!

Follow the work of all committees on our website. View meeting agendas, presentations, and summaries. Watch for more information about community events related to these projects.



Ashley Field construction will begin after the 2019 football season ends.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

RODNEY BROCKMAN BUILDING CUSTODIAN AT PRAIRIE PHOENIX ACADEMY

Prairie Phoenix Academy is our smallest school in the Sun Prairie Area School District. It serves about 100 students and their families at a time. It has the smallest staff too: 16 adults who keep the building busy with lots of learning experiences based on powerful relationships. One of the most important people on staff is Mr. Rodney Brockman, the building custodian.

Rodney grew up in Sun Prairie and graduated from Sun Prairie High School. Several members of his family work for and have worked for the School District, and Rodney is proud to be an important part of the everyday lives of scholars at Prairie Phoenix Academy. Rodney is a positive role model in his work and in his interactions with everyone at Prairie Phoenix. When there is a project underway, like Homecoming float building, or the planting of the school garden, he helps the students and staff get the tools and materials they need to get the job done. He makes suggestions and helps kids gain confidence in their "hands-on" learning. Rodney is trusted by the kids and at times can help an upset kid settle down or help a student out for a few minutes to take the pressure off.

For events like graduation or a family night event, Rodney leads students in making the arrangements and moving materials. This is important because the students are not only preparing for the actual event like graduation but in the process are learning how to put on an event that reflects their hard work. Due to Rodney's care and respect for the scholars at Prairie Phoenix, the school experiences very little in the way of vandalism or disregard for clean-up. Prairie Phoenix scholars know that their staff cares for them and wants to help them learn how to make the world a better place. Rodney demonstrates that every day in his commitment to excellent care of our facility. **#PPAPride #maketheworldabetterplace**

DID YOU KNOW?

\$203 per student is spent on utilities.





Parent survey results show that 85% of parents believe that our school facilities are clean and well kept.

SAFETY

The safety of our staff and students is our number one priority. We continue to gather information through surveys, committees, and discussions about safety so we can continue to improve in the area of safety and security.



We applied for and received two safety grants from the Department of Justice totaling over **\$750,000 in funds.**

SOME OF THE INITIATIVES FROM THE GRANTS INCLUDE:

- Audio-visual intercom entry systems
- RAPTOR visitor entry management system
- Entry signage for all schools
- Stop the Bleed training kits
- Stop the Bleed response kits for all schools
- Tourniquets for all district vehicles
- EVAC chairs for all sites
- New and additional digital radios for all school sites
- High-visibility vests for staff supervising outdoor activities
- Safety site assessments for all schools

TRAINING OUR STAFF HAS ATTENDED OR WILL ATTEND:

- Online trauma training and ALICE training
- CPR training
- Online, ongoing safety training for all staff
- Specialized training for identified employee groups (e.g., custodians, warehouse staff, all science staff)
- Ten staff members have participated in the Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association program to be trained as Certified Safety Coordinators.

- Three staff members attended the state threat assessment conference.
- Ten staff members attended the WI DOJ threat assessment training.
- Numerous staff members are participating in training to use the MOSAIC threat assessment protocols purchased through the safety grant.

We are proud of the work staff and students have done to improve safety and security, but planning and preparing for a safe environment is ongoing work.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. We are pleased to have powerful partnerships with our local emergency responders. We work side by side with Police, Fire, EMS, Public Utilities, and the Sheriff's Departments to continually assess and improve our practices. Visit the Safety and Security page on the District website for more information.

Survey results show an increase from 4.03 to 4.05 in parents' beliefs that we have safe and healthy schools.



Student Survey results show a 1.5% increase from 2018 when students were asked If they feel safe at school.



THANK YOU

We are sincerely grateful to our community. We appreciate the partnerships that we have with the Sun Prairie community. To businesses, volunteers, and individuals across our ten municipalities, we appreciate you and all that you do to support student success.

Through a generous grant by the Sun

Prairie Education Foundation, JusTMe visited all nine elementary schools and both middle schools to teach mindfulness.

\$129,527 total community donations

WELCON

JUSTME

Benven Dobro dos Fáilte

\$350,035 total community grants









Sun Prairie Area School District 501 South Bird Street Sun Prairie, WI 53590



C The District does a great job connecting with students, looking for best practices for students, and growing teachers' learning."

—Parent Survey

STAY CONNECTED



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)