

Community Link

The Newsletter of the School District of Lodi

May 2022

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Perspective

.....by *Vince Breunig*
District Administrator

Thank You

The voters in the School District Lodi approved a non-recurring annual operating referendum of \$5.98 million for each of the next five years on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. The operating referendum consisted of two parts, \$3.85 million for operations and \$2.13 million for maintenance and technology upgrades. The operations part of this referendum will be used to preserve the high level of achievement that our community has come to expect by allowing the District to maintain our current level of instructional, career and technical education, STEAM, and extracurricular programming while also allowing the District to focus on attracting and retaining staff. The maintenance and technology upgrades portion of the referendum will allow the District to replace the roofs at both the Lodi Elementary School/OSC School and Lodi High School, upgrade HVAC controls systems at Lodi Middle School and Lodi Elementary School/OSC, reconstruct the track, along with upgrading cabling, wifi, and addressing other technology needs within the District.

The District has already taken steps moving toward next year based on the community's support of the referendum. You may have noticed that the District posted positions shortly after the referendum passed. These are not new positions for the District, but positions that have come open due to staff retirements or resignations and will help to keep us fully staffed going into the 2022-2023 school year. The Board has also approved staff compensation consistent with what was shared in the referendum materials, attempting to not only help our staff keep up with our neighboring districts, but to catch up slightly. This action, which takes steps to attract and retain exceptional team members, aligned directly with the priorities that were shared by the community in the strategic planning process. The maintenance and technology upgrades are also in the works, but will not begin until the spring and summer of 2023.

The District is so grateful to the community for their support of our students, our families, and our staff. The strong partnership between our families, our community, and our District continues to be a necessary component in the education of all of our students. The community's support of the referendum speaks directly to the District's mission: **“In partnership with our community, nurturing every student’s potential for growth and opportunities - socially, mentally, & academically- in a safe, respectful, and an inclusive environment to create innovative problem solvers.”** This only occurs through our partnership with our community. A partnership that benefits all of us, but most importantly the students in the School District of Lodi.



Board of Education

Regular meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at
5:30 pm closed session /6:30 pm regular session in the District Office, unless posted otherwise.

H. Adam Steinberg - President
Angela Lathrop – Vice President
Barb Beyer - Treasurer
Terry Haag - Clerk
Heather Baron - Director
Scott Bilse - Director
Kristi McMorris - Director

Board of Education members' names, contact information, committee assignments, meeting agenda and minutes are included on the School District of Lodi's website at www.lodi.k12.wi.us, Board of Education link. If you do not have access to the district website, contact Maureen Palmer at 592-1060 to request this information.

District Phone Numbers

Primary School	592-3855
Primary School Fax	592-1015
Elementary School.....	592-3842
Elementary School Fax.....	592-1025
Middle School	592-3854
Middle School Fax.....	592-1035
High School	592-3853
High School Fax	592-1045
District Office.....	592-3851
District Office Fax	592-3852

Make sure to download the Lodi Schools
mobile app!!!

Go to your app store on your phone and
search:

School District of Lodi WI





2022 Summer School

Session 1

June 13th ~ June 30th, Monday ~ Thursday

Morning Session Primary School Campus: 7:55 am ~ 10:55 am

Morning session High School campus: 8:00 am ~ 11:00 am

Afternoon Session (high school campus only during Session 1) 11:30 am ~ 1:00 pm

Session 2

July 11th ~ July 29th, Monday ~ Thursday

Morning Session Primary School Campus: 7:55 am ~ 10:55 am

Morning session High School campus: 8:00 am ~ 11:00 am

No Afternoon Session

Summer School Open House: Thursday June 9th, 4:30 ~ 6:00 pm

Students can walk through the buildings and see where their classes are located.

Any questions contact Emma Neumauer, Summer School Coordinator:

neumaem@lodischoolswi.org (608) 592-102

Stadium Turf Field Brings Money, Fun to Lodi

The Lodi Community is reaping the benefits of having a turf field in the Lodi High School Stadium. Not only is the turf field an incredibly functional athletic field, but it also provides a highly conducive environment for High School Physical Education & Music classes, community recreation & wellness activities, Lodi youth athletic competitions, and summer camps & clinics.

Recently, the Lodi Youth Soccer program hosted a soccer games drawing teams from around the area. The highlight of youth children being able to play on the beautiful Lodi Turf Stadium was not the only perk of the games, but the games went on, even though other area soccer fields were too wet to play on. "Hosting soccer teams from other communities brings revenues to the greater community too," says District Administrator Vincent Breunig, "A tournament, such as this draws commerce from people purchasing gas, coffee, food, and other items while in our community." "Stadium field renters are charged a usage fee, which comes into the school district as revenue offsetting the Community Services Property Tax Levy," explains Lodi School District Business Manager, Brent Richter.

Lodi High School classes are taking full advantage of the stadium turf field as well. "The turf has been a game-changer in PE class," states Michelle Puls, Lodi High School Physical Education Teacher. The turf is utilized almost every day in the fall and spring by the Physical Education and Music classes. It lends itself well to team sports activities, such as Ultimate Frisbee, Flag Football, Lacrosse, and Soccer, where it's not only a great playing surface but can be used before, during, and after heavy rain. "For the most part even with wet weather, the turf stays dry, so no more wet shoes! We were on it this spring when it snowed! I love it!" said Mrs. Puls. Assistant Principal Jason Marshall comments the following, "The artificial turf field is not only an asset to our athletic and music programs, but provides a safe and reliable surface for PE students to utilize during the school day. With this year's wet spring, having a surface with great drainage that is free of mud has allowed us to move our PE classes outside without any concern. A typical spring usually involves discussions of how to minimize damage to fields that haven't fully dried out from the winter, how to promote healthy grass growth, and how to balance the many groups that seek green space. The stadium turf has been a gamechanger giving students and athletes a ready-to-use space as soon as the snow was gone."

The Lodi Community, Recreation, Education, and Wellness (CREW) program hosts numerous programs on the field, such as "Boot Camp," "Youth Cheerleading," "Youth Football," and "My First Sports." These programs are being utilized by children ages 3 to adults in their 80s, says CREW Director Diana Karls. Programs run by Mrs. Karls, have flourished in our community and the introduction of the turf option has propelled her programming to an even higher level with access to a highly functional recreational surface. The CREW program and Lodi Optimist Club partner together to host Lodi's own "One Mother of a Run," on Mother's Day weekend. The Lodi Stadium Turf Field is used for youth-run, adult warm-up areas, and finish areas.

"The school district maintenance department is saving money on the elimination of field painting, mowing costs, and other traditional field preparation," claims Lodi Buildings & Grounds Director, Neal Reible. "While there is a little more clean-up time due to the increase in community usage, the district is able to offset those expenses with usage fees charged to those groups."

Turf Fields are rapidly becoming the norm across Wisconsin and the country. On the Northside of Madison alone,



On the Northside of Madison alone, DeForest Area, Fall River, Lodi, Sauk Prairie, Wisconsin Dells, and Waunakee Community all have installed turf fields, with River Valley putting a turf field on their stadium this summer. The Lodi Stadium turf field, installed in the summer of 2020, cost around \$1.0 million with over \$500,000 being funded by donations.



Lodi Community Action Team

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles for Youth!

Did You Know???

Many teens try alcohol and other drugs for the very first time during the summer months!!

According to National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism:

People ages 12 to 20 drink 4.0 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States.

In 2019, 4.2 million young people reported binge drinking at least once in the past month.

In 2019, 825,000 young people reported binge drinking on 5 or more days over the past month.

Source <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/brochures-and-fact-sheets/underage-drinking>

LCAT would like to highlight these important steps that any parent or other adult can take to help prevent youth from using these substances:

- **Be Involved** – ask WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN and WHY; also offer to drive and chaperone (while respecting boundaries)
- **Be a Good Role Model** – your own drinking and drugs habits influence youth's; think about the reasons you're using and what messages you're sending to the youth around you, and seek help if you need it
- **Be Aware of Risks** – teens especially need guidance about their choices, as their brains are not yet fully developed; a single night of fun may seem okay, but educating yourself and youth about the dangers of alcohol and drugs can help overindulgence
- **Be Consistent, Firm, and Loving** – set boundaries and stick to them! – think of ways you can spend time together as a family to foster trust & family bonds
- **Work with Your Community** – remember “it takes a village” – know who your teens are hanging out with, as well as their parents

***get involved with community groups that aid in communicating facts & concerns about potential teen alcohol and drug use – like LCAT!!**

For more information on LCAT visit www.lodiaction.org, and/or to get involved with LCAT please email Bryan Bilsse (bilssebr@lodischoolswi.org)



Lodi C.R.E.W. and Pool

Community Resource Enrichment and Wellness

This year our *collaboration* efforts have grown as we continue to offer quality programs for all community members.



C.R.E.W.

“Little Explorers” program is an outstanding *collaboration* with the High School staff and students. This year we *collaborated* with high school teachers Ms. Puls, Ms. Tonn, Ms. Gleiss, Ms. Robarge and their high school students. Our Little Explorers were exposed to art, library, agriculture, fitness and health. This program offers a great “first experience” of learning for 3 and 4 year olds. Our Little Explorers became a very popular group within the high school as both the explorers and high schoolers became friends.

Stephanie Caves continues to grow her “Movement and Strength” program providing quality guidance to our community adult population. The program brings folks with limited range of motion into our setting at the High School to help work on mobility and strength of motion. Some of our adults in the program have *collaborated* with Ms. Puls’ healthy lifestyle classes to form “pen pals,” The program enhanced the lives of all involved.

Youth Track and mini track has become a part of the Lodi Track tradition. High school coaches and tracksters frequently coach and help out with our youth programs.

Not only do we offer sporting activities, we are also committed to the arts. This year we are offering many assorted crafting programs for students. We are very excited to be *collaborating* with a new community organization called LAMA (Lodi Art and Music Academy.) Keep an eye out for our programming efforts with LAMA and all the wonderful opportunities for kids interested in the arts and music.

Mileage Club

CREW has *collaborated* with the Lodi Primary school to launch the recess Mileage Club. With a grant from Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation, CREW purchased the software and incentive package to begin a fun option for kids at recess. We started by introducing the



program to the 2nd grade students who have the option of running a quarter mile loop at their recess. We have been very impressed as the students have already racked up 158 miles their first week! Next school year the program will be offered to all the primary and elementary students.

Pool

Our Aquatics programs continue to grow. The Lodi Indoor Community Pool offers programs for all age levels and abilities. Our pool is the place to come for those looking to recover from injuries and surgeries. Community members can obtain a pool membership which is extremely affordable. The Lodi School District offers free memberships to all Lodi community senior citizens.

This Fall a brand new program is coming to our pool due to the generosity of folks donating to Ken and Jackie Smith's fundraising efforts. Ken is hiking the Appalachian Trail and has set up a fundraiser for his attempt in which 100% of the proceeds will go towards the purchase of a log for the pool to offer a log rolling program for the community! If you are interested in donating you can go to Kens *Go fund me* page and look under *Miles for CREW*.

Here is a list of some of the pool offerings:

- Swim Lessons (including private lessons)
- Parent/tot swim lessons
- Aqua Fitness classes (H2O Happy Hour)
- Open lap and family swims
- Pool rental opportunities (such as birthday parties and more!)
- Pool memberships
- Red Cross Lifeguard and WSI certifications

C.R.E.W. and POOL are going to be going paperless. Please check our on-line registration, web page and Facebook page for information and registrations. We are also working on QR codes and other ways to help in our communication efforts. This will help us in keeping cost down and help with saving a tree!

Indoor Community Pool website:

<https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/community/community-indoor-pool>

CREW Website:

<https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/community/community-resource-enrichment-wellness>



Like us on Facebook: Lodi CREW



Business Office Briefs

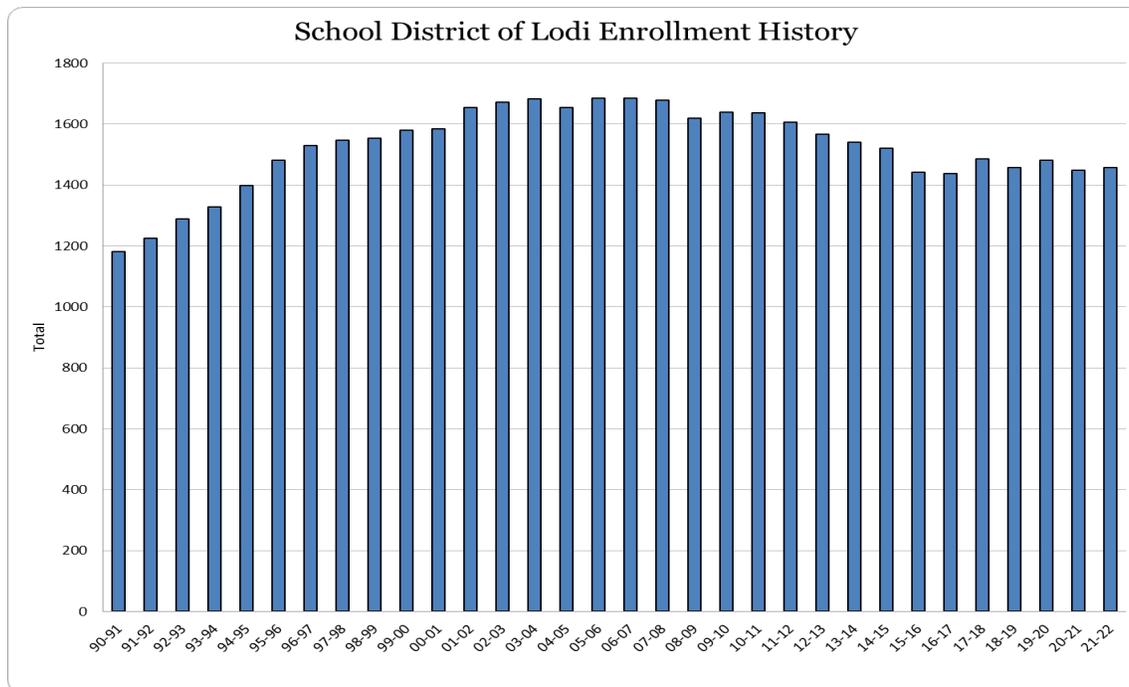
Brent Richter – Business Manager ♦592-3851 ♦richtbr@lodischoolswi.org

Lodi Business Office Happenings:

Spring is not only a time for personal energy renewal, warmer & longer days, and planning for exciting summer opportunities, but it also holds the time when school contracts are renewed, the ensuing school year budgets are built, and audit preparation begins. School district fiscal years are framed between July 1 and June 30. The Lodi Board of Education will approve a 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget in June. Final 2022-2023 budgets are “adopted” at an October or November 2022 meeting after all necessary financial information has been received by the district.

Highlight on Enrollment:

Student Count (enrollment) is crucial data that the district tracks closely as enrollment is tied to the revenues a district receives. In the simplest form, the more students, the greater revenue potential a school district receives. The following chart illustrates a 20-year history of enrollment in the district.



The Budget Process

(Information taken from Wisconsin DPI website)

The development of a school district’s budget is a long-range process that typically consists of seven distinct steps, including a multitude of meetings with staff, administration, board committees, which ultimately result in an “adoption of a final budget”.

Step 1 - Development of a “Proposed Budget”

The Administration and school board collaborate to develop a proposed budget which identifies expected revenues, expenditures and fund balances for the budget year. The School District of Lodi begins with a budget projection from a third party, non-bias professional organization to support internal decision making processes. School district administration utilizes the Wisconsin DPI recommended budget format to provide to the board in June or July for approval.

Step 2 - Budget Hearing Requirements

Under the guidance of Wisconsin Statutes § 115.01(3) and Wis Stat § 65.90, the School District of Lodi administration presents a “Proposed Budget” to the school board in June or July. This budget is reflective of projections taken from known current data and the outcomes of the RW Baird School Finance Budget Model.

Step 3 - Annual Meeting Requirements Step

Per Wisconsin Statute § 120.08(1)(a), school districts are required to hold an annual meeting. The School District of Lodi's annual meeting, set by the electors at the prior annual meeting, is traditionally held in October, after all known data is available to set the tax levy. Per Wisconsin Statute no annual meeting may be held before May 15 or after October 31.

Step 4 - Original Budget Adoption

The school board adopts an "Original Budget" (aka: Final Budget) no later than the tax levy is set under [Wis Stat § 120.12](#). The School District of Lodi traditionally holds a budget meeting after the annual meeting to "adopt a final budget" and "certify the tax levy".

Step 5 - Setting of the Levy and a Sufficient Tax Amount Requirements

On or before November 1, a school board must determine if the tax voted at the annual meeting is sufficient to operate and maintain the schools for the school year. If the amount so determined is not sufficient, the school board shall raise the tax, while the board may lower the tax if the amount so determined exceeds requirements. The tax levy shall not exceed limits established by Wis Stat § 121.91

Step 6 - Report the Tax Levy to the Wisconsin DPI

A certified tax levy, one voted on by the taxpayers, is required to be reported to the Wisconsin DPI in an early November DPI established deadline.

Step 7 - Budget Changes/Amendments Process

Minor budget changes occur during the course of a fiscal year. The budget can be revised by a vote of the school board or in case of significant changes, a 2/3 vote by the board of education. The school district's hired auditors review budget changes, therein complying with mandatory reporting to the WI DPI.

Cash Flow vs. Fund Balance

We often get asked, "what is Fund Balance?" and "how does it affect Cash Flow?" A simple explanation is that: Fund Balance is a measure of assets minus liabilities. This measurement is taken on June 30. Per state statute, this measure is taken at the end of a school's fiscal year. In the private sector, Fund Balance is known as "Owner's Equity", or simply "Equity". A common misconception is that the fund balance is a cash account and therefore corresponds to the district's bank balance. While cash is an asset, it typically comprises only a portion of the district's fund balance on June 30. Typically, Lodi's Fund Balance is about 60% in cash on hand and 40% booked as receivables, meaning those payments won't be received until sometime in the ensuing months. Cash Flow, is simply defined as the "movement of money in and out of a company" (investopedia.com). If a school district does not have enough funds (cash on hand) to cover its monthly, semi-monthly or regular expense payments, a school district may have to borrow short-term to pay its bills. The School District of Lodi has not had to borrow money for cash flow purposes since around 2001.

Important websites:

Wisconsin DPI - School Financial Services Homepage: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sfs>

School District of Lodi: www.lodi.k12.wi.us

US Dept. Of Education: <https://www.ed.gov>

Important Upcoming Dates:

June 30, 2022 - Fiscal Year Ends.

June/July 2022 - Board Approves "Proposed 2022-2023 Budgets".

September 16, 2022 - Student Count for Statutory Revenue Limit calculations.

October 1, 2022 - Property Value Certification.

October 15, 2022 - State Aid Certification.

October 24, 2022 - School District of Lodi Annual Meeting.

The Outstanding Business Office Team:

Business Manager: Brent Richter

Payroll: Crystal Hoffman

Accounts Payable: Kris Karls

Human Resources: Kris Lehman

Maintenance in Motion

<https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/our-district/buildings-grounds>

Who We Are.

Buildings & Grounds Director: Mr. Neal Reible (Pictured)

Maintenance & Grounds: Mr. Josh Greeno (Lead Maintenance), Mr. Joe Fobes (Grounds)

Mr. Joe Fobes, Grounds Worker, spends most days maintaining the district's green spaces (athletic fields, playgrounds, other green spaces).

Mr. Greeno, Maintenance Lead position handles daily maintenance and building needs.



Building Custodians: Mr. Richard Brisky (Lodi Primary School), Ms. Linda Heins (Lodi Elementary/OSC), Mr. Doug Geeslin (Lodi Middle School), and Mr. Scott Roelke (Lodi High School).

Daily work includes custodial needs, including supporting lunch hours, building office staff needs, minor maintenance tasks, and student needs where practical.

Swing CREW: Mr. Todd Holerud, Mr. Patrick Miller.

The Swing CREW is responsible for the setup and takedown of district spaces for after-school activities, as well as co-curricular and community events. They also complete maintenance and custodial jobs as needed.

Summer Projects & Cleaning:

The Buildings & Grounds team is beginning to make preparations for the summer cleaning season. Summer cleaning is hard work, and fast-paced, which includes heavy lifting and long hours. During the summer, the department adds four seasonal employees to cover all the needs of summer cleaning. Classroom additions, such as technology upgrades are also completed at this time. The big project for the summer is the Middle School HVAC upgrade, which will do a full switch out from the outdated pneumatic controls to a fully digital control system. The school district applied for a \$342,000 grant, which would cover the full system upgrade. Notification of the award should happen by the end of May 2022.

Employee Spotlight

Name: Joshua Greeno

Position: Lead Building Maintenance

Employed at Lodi: 1.5 years

Past employment: UW Maintenance, Frank Beverage

Hobbies: Hunting, outdoor activities.

Other interest: Mechanical repairs.

Employer Comments: Josh has been a great addition to the staff.

He takes the initiative needed to make repairs and do his work expediently and efficiently. Staff around the district say Josh works well with Lodi staff and students, especially when he is subbing as a daytime custodian.



“Transparent Solar Energy,” What’s that?

Solar Energy is probably the most aggressive technology being discussed by B&G Directors across the state and country. With increased energy and utility bills plaguing schools, it’s incumbent on our school leaders to consider every option available. A research group from Michigan State University has developed a new-age technology, called “Transparent Solar Energy.” The following is a recent article snipped on what this is and how it works.

Transparent solar is a cutting-edge technology that gathers and uses light energy through windows or any glass surface, regardless of the angle. It has the potential to be a game-changer in terms of broadening the scope of solar.

In terms of engineering, researchers have created several means of transparent solar technology. Most generally though, the majority of them function more as a transparent solar concentrator, which means they are made to absorb specific UV and infrared light wavelengths that aren't visible to the naked eye and transform them into energy capable of powering electronics.

This technology is also called photovoltaic glass, and it's manufactured to provide a ranging level of transparency. Back in 2014, researchers at Michigan State University (MSU) developed the first entirely transparent solar concentrator, which could convert almost any glass sheet or window into a PV cell. And by 2020, scientists in the United States and Europe have achieved 100 percent transparency for solar glass, bringing us one step closer to the goal of a sustainable future that does not rely on the grid of the fossil fuel industry.

According to Lodi B&G Director Neal Reible, “At this point, the upfront cost of solar power for our district appears to be cost prohibitive and the return on investment is around 10-15 years, but The School District of Lodi will continue to explore every opportunity it can find around energy savings and efficiencies, as well as apply for any grants that may be available.”

Food Service Focus

Director’s Notes - A Year in Reflection:

On March 1, 2021, the School District of Lodi hired us (Taher, Inc.) to manage its food service program. As we cross the finish line of a full year, I can honestly say the year has been full of accomplishments. Some accomplishments I am specifically proud of are improved student & staff communications, special offers on limited items such as Huevos Rancheros, broadening our students’ pallets with “Harvest of the Month” offerings such as Naturally Rooted potatoes, and placing a unique focus on our local “Farm-to-School” programming, with programs like the district wide “Great Apple Crunch” with apples being purchased from local orchards.



We also partnered with “The Little Potato Company”, from DeForest, Wisconsin who helped us educate Lodi students about different varieties of potatoes, such as “Creamer Potatoes.” The Little Potato Company sponsored a day where they donated four different kinds of potatoes, all seasoned differently, for student meals. The students loved them!

School programming with Food Services program collaboration is one of our primary goals. We’ve made incredible strides toward achieving this goal. Taher partnered with Connor Anderson’s FFA classes to harvest fresh radish microgreens, which were then made into pesto pizza for student lunches. We also partnered with Michelle Howe’s Middle School Science classes, which grew two different lettuce products, in their own hydroponic gardens. The Middle School Food Service team used these greens in the Middle School salad bar. These partnerships not only provided a great learning experience, but it also gave the students an opportunity to watch the fruit of their efforts put into real world lunch programs.

Highlight Project “Pig Roast:”

Arguably, the biggest accomplishment of the year was the pig roast we held for the Lodi High School and Middle School. Lodi students were involved with this project right from the time the pigs were delivered to the schools (after slaughter). Taher Chef Chris Murray (Chef Chris) was on sight to oversee the whole event and roast the pigs - while we all slept! Chef Chris and Food Service Director Diane worked with the FFA classes on culinary skills. Students got to see the pig roast from many different aspects, including, preparation (seasoning the pig), making homemade BBQ sauce, cooking “Mexican Sweet Corn”, and preparing & seasoning roasted potatoes. We also taught students how to cut and core the fresh pineapple as well as make homemade apple desserts.



Chef Chris explained to students how managing a project like this is an overnight affair - basting, marinating and

hydrating the meat all through the night is a critical element of producing an outstanding final product. Chef Chris glazed and ornamented the final product to create a spectacular presentation.



Special guests attending the Pig Roast included: Thailand Exchange Program Leaders, Lodi Mayor Anne Groves Lloyd, Lodi Police Chief Wayne Smith, Fire Department Personnel, and members of the Lodi Enterprise. Principals Joe Jelinek (High School) and Derek Pertzborn (Middle School) were special guest pig carvers. Lodi student's energy around this project created an awesome atmosphere at both schools and it was an extremely rewarding project for Taher and Lodi students.

Employee Spotlight:

Name: Lacy Motesnbocker

Position: Middle School Food Service

Employee with Taher: First year

Hobbies: creative arts, music, and socializing

Other Interests: Psychology

Employer Comments: Lacy is focused on getting the job done! She is efficient, flexible and has learned a lot at each school. The students love Lacy and enjoy seeing her every day. She engages them on a positive level and is always respectful and genuinely interested in their wellbeing. We are truly thankful she is part of our Taher-Lodi School District family!



What's "Coming Down the Line" in food service:

- **RESUME CHARGING FOR MEALS:** June 3, 2022 marks the last day of free meals as the federal subsidy to school food service programs comes to an end. Schools around the state and country will resume charging for meals on June 4, 2022.
- **FOOD CHAIN ISSUES:** Taher will continue to monitor food chain supply chain issues as this has been a challenge school food service programs have been dealing with over the last several months.
- **PIN NUMBERS:** Students will be retrained on how to enter their pin numbers and how to serve themselves correct portions and components once the next school year starts.
- **FREE & REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS:** Free and reduced applications will be distributed later this summer. If you plan to submit this application, please do so as soon as possible and return it to our office for expedient processing.
- **CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY:** We will again engage in a survey process with students, staff and parents to make sure that Taher is providing the best meal options possible. *We completed a survey this year and have made changes according to responses.
- **STRIVE TO BE THE BEST:** We will continue to strive to meet everyone's expectations and exceed them. Thank you for your support.



Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Nicholas Karls – Director of Curriculum & Instruction ♦592-3851 ♦karlsni@lodischoolswi.org

School District of Lodi Families and Community,

In Lodi, we continue to see widespread community engagement and investment in our schools. We are so thankful for the strategic plan the community developed in conjunction with the School District of Lodi. This plan has already helped to shape so much of our focus throughout the current school year and will also lead us in the future as we continue to build the very best district in the region. Once again, thank you for your commitment to excellence for each and every student in the School District of Lodi. Moving forward, we all have so much to be grateful for; the future of Lodi is bright.

Innovative Community Connection - Community Connection Classroom Partnerships



A key component of the School District of Lodi Strategic plan is focused on developing community connections. During the 2021/2022 school year, over 30 School District of Lodi educators started to develop opportunities for classrooms to connect with various business and service organizations in our community and region. When we started this initiative, we were unsure how much interest there would be in this area. I can now safely say that we have significantly exceeded our expectations in year one! By my count, we have had over 50 different regional business or service organizations visit our schools this year! Individuals from these organizations have shared with students information related to their field of employment or service. In addition, they have shared important skills students need to develop to be successful in today's workforce. Thank you to all of the individuals who have helped to make this area of the strategic plan so successful. If you are part of a regional business or service organization and would like to learn more, please feel free to contact Nick Karls karlsni@lodischoolswi.org or Joe Jelinek jelinjo@lodischoolswi.org. We hope to continue this area of focus in the future and develop additional classroom connections!

District Workforce - Lodi Has A Pair of 2022 Kohl Teacher Fellowship Award Winners!

Each year the Kohl Teacher Fellowship program recognizes and supports teaching excellence and innovation in the state of Wisconsin. Recently, two local educators were recognized for their efforts by this program. Congratulations to Lodi Elementary School teacher **Laura D'Agostino** and **Library Media Specialist Paula Tonn**. If you would like to learn more about the Kohl Teacher Fellowship program and read a press release about 2022 award recipients, please use the following link: https://www.kohleducation.org/in_the_media/press_releases.php



Here are just a few photos from various classroom connection opportunities!



Preparing for the Future - Supporting Career & Technical Education

The School District was awarded grant funds to put toward the purchase of an Inventibles X Carve Pro CNC machine for the High School Fabrication Lab. The X Carve will allow students to design anything with a computer-aided design (CAD) program and then program the X Carve to cut it out of any non-metal sheet material up to one inch thick.

The uses for this machine are endless, but in industry, this type of machine is often used to produce parts or components for larger products. Our students will create project components as well as items that can be sold in our Fabrication Lab store.



The X Carve also uses software that our middle school students are familiar with, allowing for a quick transfer of skills.

A huge thank you to Tyler Potter (Technology Director) and Jamie Licht (Career & Technical Education Teacher) for their support in this area!

Student Services

Adria Schroeder, Student Services ♦592-3851 ♦lokenti@lodischoolswi.org

May is Mental Health Month!

Mental Health Awareness Month was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in America, and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. Mental Health Awareness Month strives to reduce/end the stigma that surrounds mental illness like deficit thinking and misconceptions.



Each May the Mental Health America (MHA) organization releases a number of activities based on a different theme. The 2022 theme is Back to Basics. After more than one year of pandemic living, many people have a heightened awareness of the impact stress, anxiety and isolation can have on their health and well-being. The goal of Back to Basics is to provide foundational knowledge about mental health conditions. Mental Health America recognizes these three steps can have a positive impact on your mental health and the mental health of those you love.

1. Stay mentally healthy - Creating positive routines can support your mental health and help build skills to use if you become aware of symptoms of a mental health condition. Food choices and nutrition, exercise, sleep, stress management, coping skills, and building a support system are aspects of mental health and wellbeing. Having routines and positive ways to promote mental health can positively impact one's overall well-being.
2. Recognize when you need help - Occasional bad days are to be expected, but when something suddenly and significantly changes negatively or impacts your ability to function in a typical way, it is time to seek help. One goal of Mental Health Awareness Month is to reduce/end the stigma of seeking mental health support when it is needed.
3. Getting Help - When you or someone you care about is experiencing mental health challenges, it is common to feel like no one can understand what you're going through. When seeking help it is important to think about your support system. For adults this can include family members, coworkers, and trusted friends. Children's support systems can include parents, other family members and trusted friends. Teachers and pupil service staff are also part of the children's support system at school. Your support system can help to access additional resources. Some options may include; learning more about the types of mental health professionals, seeking support groups or in-patient care, accessing local services, and finding therapy.

If you would like a staff member from the school-based mental health team to reach out to you, or your child, please contact Adria Schroeder, Director of Student Services at 608-592-1054 or at schroad@lodischoolswi.org.

Information for this article was gathered from Mental Health America. *Homepage*. Mental Health America. (n.d.). Retrieved April 28, 2022, from <https://www.mhanational.org/>

Additional Resources:

- Mental Health America (MHA) website: <https://mhanational.org/>
- National Alliance on Mental Illness website: nami.org/support
- Mental Health Crisis Lines
 - The Crisis Text Line - text MHFA to 741741 for free 24/7 counseling

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline - 1-800-662 HELP (4357)
 - The Trevor Project - specializes in supporting the LGBTQ Community
 - Call - 1-866-488-7386
 - Text STAR to 678678
 - www.thetrevorproject.org
 - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 608-280-2600 or 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
 - Provides free and confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
 - Lifeline Chat is a service of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline that helps connect individuals with counselors around the US - <http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>
 - Parental Stress Line - 1-800-632-8188
-



Online Registration for 2022-23 School Year

***Online Registration for the 2021-22 school year
will open May 16, 2022 and will close on June 24, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.***

All registration will be done online.

(Online payment is now available)

*You will need your parent portal login information to complete the registration.
If you do not have your login or password or do not have access to a computer, please contact
Your child's building administrative assistant for help
More information will be sent via infinite campus.*



*Joe Jelinek – Principal
592-3853 ext. 4402*

High School Highlights

*Jason Marshall- Associate Principal
592-3853 ext. 4403*



High School Highlights

No matter the time of the year, Lodi High School is a busy and exciting place for our students, staff and parents. High School families and community members can choose from countless events that showcase the many talents of our young people. However, there is a time of year, right around when staff and students return to school after Spring Break, where the busyness and excitement is taken to another level. This is when we traditionally begin the countdown to graduation and there never seems to be a night off. With end of the year concerts and competitions in the music department, Capitol conference and state art events, Fine Arts Night, Senior Scholarship Night, and the many athletic events that are inevitably scheduled and then re-scheduled with the hope of advancing to state tournament competition, our students and parents have much to look forward to during the final three months of school. Of all of the activities that remind us of how talented our young people are, the one that stands out is a celebration sponsored by the Lodi Rotary Club. This event is the Outstanding Impact Awards.



The Outstanding Impact Awards is a celebration recognizing the impact that adults in our schools and our community have had on some of our most accomplished students. Nine seniors are honored because of their exceptional academic accomplishments. Other students are recognized for Fine Arts, Career and Technical Education, Athletics and Physical Education, Most Improved, overcoming the Most Barriers to Success. Each of these students has an opportunity to select an adult in their lives that had a tremendous impact on them over the past 12 years. Honored adults include teachers at all grade levels, coaches, other co-curricular advisors, and community members. The night consists of each student expressing their thanks to the person they nominated for the award, and their nominee reciprocating. The words expressed by both the students and their recipients bring joy, laughter, and in many cases tears to the audience. This evening filled with heartwarming acknowledgements makes you realize how impactful the adults in our young people’s lives can be. It’s difficult to imagine a flaw in such a wonderful evening, but Mr. Breunig, who helped MC the event, reminded us of one.



“The educators who were recognized tonight represent all the educators within the district. We had 13 students out of the class of 2022 get to select an educator who had an outstanding impact on their life. All of the other students in the class of 2022 also have outstanding educators in their lives as well, they just didn’t have the opportunity to share their story and the educator that impacted them at this ceremony. Even the students who were chosen, had a difficult time choosing only one educator who had an outstanding impact upon their life as a student”.

We are not just fortunate to have 14 amazing educators that have positively touched the lives of our class of 2022, but countless others that will never be recognized formally in an event such as the Outstanding Impact Awards. So, as we count down the days to another graduation, we need to remind ourselves that there are countless adults, teachers, coaches and parents that have positively impacted our future generation, and their contributions should not go unnoticed.

The logo for 'UPCOMING EVENTS' features the word 'UPCOMING' in a simple, black, sans-serif font above the word 'EVENTS'. 'EVENTS' is written in a larger, bold, sans-serif font, with each letter contained within a colored circle. The circles are arranged in a horizontal line and overlap slightly. From left to right, the colors are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

<i>May 18</i>	<i>Senior Honors Night</i>
<i>May 20</i>	<i>Senior Class Trip</i>
<i>May 23</i>	<i>Rain Date for Senior Class Trip</i>
<i>May 27</i>	<i>Senior Walk/Graduation practice</i>
<i>May 29</i>	<i>Graduation</i>
<i>May 30</i>	<i>No School – Memorial Day</i>
<i>May 30</i>	<i>HS Band at Memorial Day Parade</i>
<i>June 1-3</i>	<i>HS Finals</i>
<i>June 3</i>	<i>Last day of school for students</i>





Middle School Maneuvers

Derek Pertzborn – Principal
592-3854 ext. 3202

Peter Franklin, Dean of Students
592-3854 ext. 3203



Thank You Teachers - Flood the Inbox!



As the end of the school year gets closer, we need to make sure that we recognize our teachers for everything they do for our students each and every day. Teachers have had a tremendously positive impact on my life and I would not be the person I am today without the support of my teachers in helping me grow as a person. It is time for us to take some action to appreciate the teachers of the School District of Lodi for everything they do to make an impact on our students.



“How do I do that, Mr. Pertzborn?” Although all ways really work, what I want you to do is send your child’s teacher(s) an email letting them know how much you appreciate them. I want us to flood their inboxes with celebrations of everything they do to help the students of our community grow. And guess what? CC their principal on the email so we get to hear about the amazingsness of our staff (we already know, but it is still fun to hear!).

“What should I say, Mr. Pertzborn?” Here are some sentence starters to get you going.

- Thank you for always...
- Thank you for taking time to...
- Thanks for showing...

If you are still stuck, just go with this one...”You are truly amazing!” This last one can also be used as the salutation.

“When is the best time to send our teachers an email thanking them, Mr. Pertzborn?” The answer to that question is easy. Now. The time that we need to do this is now! I literally want you to put this down and go send gratitude to our teachers. I will wait right here. If you feel like this will not make an impact you are wrong. Every email that our teachers receive will make their day!

Who? Teachers. What? Gratitude When? Now. Where? Everywhere. Why? They are truly amazing people and professionals.

If you don’t have a student in the School District of Lodi, send an email to a former or current teacher that has made a positive impact on your life. If you don’t have email, write a letter. If you cannot find contact information, tell a friend about a teacher that made an impact on you.

Thank you for taking the time to spread some love to our teachers. They are truly amazing! Let’s take a look at some of the amazing opportunities that our teachers have provided for our students this year in the coming pages!

6th Grade - Devil’s Lake Field Trip

Thank you to the 6th grade teachers and other staff members for organizing an expedition to Devil’s Lake for their students. There were a lot of wet and happy kids!





Trail Trekkers



Thanks to Paula Tonn and Jessie Lane for organizing Trail Trekkers for our students. Each Wednesday students are provided with an opportunity to walk a different section of the Ice Age Trail as a part of this after school club. Each week approximately 20 students are attending this activity.



7th Grade Language Arts - Patriot Day

Thanks to Kim Rendler for organizing activities around Patriots Day, which occurs on September 11 each year in memory of the people killed in the September 11 attacks of the year 2001. As a part of this project, students interviewed their parents about their memories of this event.



Blended Agriculture

Middle School Blended Agriculture students put together the Fork Farms Tower Hydroponics Garden. Students from our 6-8 grade Blended Agriculture course will be growing fresh local produce for the school lunch program. The Hydroponics Garden will be housed in the LMC. This program was made possible by 3 grants, Sauk Prairie Hospital Foundation, Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation, and the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers. Thank you to Michelle Howe for writing the grant that created this opportunity for our students.



Mentes Abiertas/Open Minds

The Latino Leadership Club, “Mentes Abiertas/Open Minds,” high school students were able to meet and mentor some of our middle school students this past week. They celebrated language, culture and identity from various heritages within the Lodi School District. Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Spain, and Venezuela. Our students are proud of their heritage! What a great way to learn that “El mundo es un pañuelo ~ It’s a small world.” Thanks to Katie Crane and Jen Morgan in helping to facilitate this opportunity for our students.



8th Grade - Transition Activity and Falconry Presentation

Thanks to the 8th grade team for putting together an activity to help students transition to the high school. As a part of the day, students from the high school came over to answer questions that 8th graders had about high school. Thanks to Mr. David Zilker for bringing in his falcon for this presentation.



STEAM and Tech Ed in Action



Thanks to Mark Schirra for sharing these pics of his STEAM and Tech Ed classes! 8th grade students designed boats that they raced as a part of a project in Tech Ed. 7th grade students in STEAM are working through rotations where students are working with snap circuits and creating music. 6th grade students developed skills in Tech Ed that helped them to create wind chimes. Not sure if everyone appreciated the 6th grade students carrying them down the hall when they were finished :).

8th grade students designed boats that they raced as a part of a project in Tech Ed. 7th grade students in STEAM are working through rotations where students are working with snap circuits and creating music. 6th grade students developed skills in Tech Ed that helped them to create wind chimes. Not sure if everyone appreciated the 6th grade students carrying them down the hall when they were finished :).





Elementary/OSC Excerpts

By Michael Pisani, Elementary/OSC School Principal ♦592-3842 ext. 2102 ♦Grades 3-5

Hello Community Members,

It is so hard to believe we are in the last weeks of the 2021-2022 school year, and what a year it has been. It is great to continue to roll the COVID dial back to pre-COVID practices as the year has gone on. In addition to winding down one year we are deep in the throes of planning for the next year and using the Strategic Plan that our community helped develop during the spring of last year. Here is the outcome of that hard work and community input.

District Mission:
In partnership with our community, nurturing every student's potential for growth and opportunities; socially, mentally & academically in a safe, respectful, and an inclusive environment to create innovative problem solvers.

Preparing for the Future	Nurturing the Whole Student	Innovative Communication Connection	District Workforce	Operational Excellence
Exploring academic and career excellence for diverse futures through opportunity, relevance, & readiness	Creating a sense of belonging by growing empathy and compassion, inspiring the emotional and physical wellbeing of each student	Committing to stakeholders to provide clear and transparent communication and opportunities for engagement	Attracting and retaining exceptional team members and engaging them in continuous improvement	Planning for the district, incorporating innovation, budget forecasting, building maintenance & future needs for the district ensuring operational viability

Innovation

 School District of **LODI** WISCONSIN

In our building we have been focusing on two pillars of the Strategic Plan: “Preparing for the Future” and “Nurturing the Whole Child”.

Preparing for the Future

To help kids “Prepare for the Future” we have been working hard on aligning our Literacy instruction practices. The next step in that journey will take place on May 13, during our Collaboration Day, when we will have nationally recognized literacy instruction expert, Dr. Jan Richardson, providing training to our staff around guided reading. During this training she will talk about components of guided reading and she will model lessons with some of our very own Lodi kids. Through this process, we will continue to build staff capacity to increase student reading achievement even more and to help kids be prepared for their future with great reading skills.

Nurturing the Whole Child

This is something we worked on before the pandemic but it has become even more important now to make sure we are inspiring the emotional and physical wellbeing of each child and to foster belonging. The first step we take to support students in this area is to deliver instruction from the 2nd Step curriculum which focuses on topics like making friends, showing compassion, and having empathy and respect. The next component of this is surveying students three times per year to measure how they are feeling and what they are learning. Lastly, based on that survey information and input from teachers and families we offer small group instruction focused on topics such as “Making and Keeping Friends,” “Social Skills,” and “Problem Solving.” About thirty percent of our student population are able to participate in these types of groups each cycle and we have at least three cycles per school year.

OSC Alumni and Current Families

As a district, we have been working on engaging the Lodi community and identifying ways to measure success. OSC has been working with Wisconsin Resource Center for Charter Schools (WRCCS) on how to share OSC’s story. Some of this work has included Governance Board training and led the OSC Board to this short survey that is linked below and can be found by scanning the QR Code. OSC is interested in hearing from Alumni and current OSC families through this survey. We will use this information in our continuous improvement process and to help us identify additional ways to measure success for OSC.



A classroom working with Archaeologist



A classroom reading celebration “Starbooks”



Fine Arts Night Celebration



Returning to eat in the lunchroom





Primary Pride

By Amy Fassbender, Primary School Principal ♦592-3855 ext. 1002 ♦Grades EC/K4-2

We are heading into the final month of the 2021-2022 school year and our students and families have been engaged in lots of fun activities since our last update in December.

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Scholastic Book Fair

Teachers and parents meet in person during the fall and spring Parent-Teacher Conferences. This is a time where families hear about the success their child is making and areas that we will continue to support their child. During this time, we had a scholastic book fair in our library. Thanks to family and community support, the total sales were \$6,764! We are so excited to use these funds to purchase birthday books that we give to each student on their birthday. We will also be purchasing books for our book rooms that teachers use for guided reading groups. Thank you to all the families that purchased books this year. We can't tell you how much we appreciate your support.



Mileage Club

We are excited to start a Mileage Club for our grade 2 students this last month of school. Special thanks to Diana Karls and Heidi Endres, for writing a grant to receive money for this! During recess, our grade 2 students can choose to run around a .25 loop on the playground and earn special prizes when they complete 5 miles. We are starting with grade 2 but hope to move this to other grades before we end the year.



Winter and Spring Concerts

Students in grades K through grade 2 participate in a winter and spring music concert. Mrs. Lexine Weber spends weeks preparing the students for this incredible event where students will sing for their families and other community members. It is a chance for them to perform and collaborate with their grade level peers. Our Spring concert is coming up on Friday, May 20.

- 12:20 pm Grade 2
- 1:10 pm Grade 1
- 2:00 pm Kindergarten

Global School Play Day

On Wednesday, February 2 our staff set aside time for teachers to take the opportunity to enjoy observing students learning valuable skills through play. Here are some things that students participated in: creative free play, free choice, play with toys, board games, STEAM, team coloring and learning games. This is a great way for students to think creatively and collaborate with their peers. Due to the positive response from everyone, we plan to do this annually!



Big Buddies Program

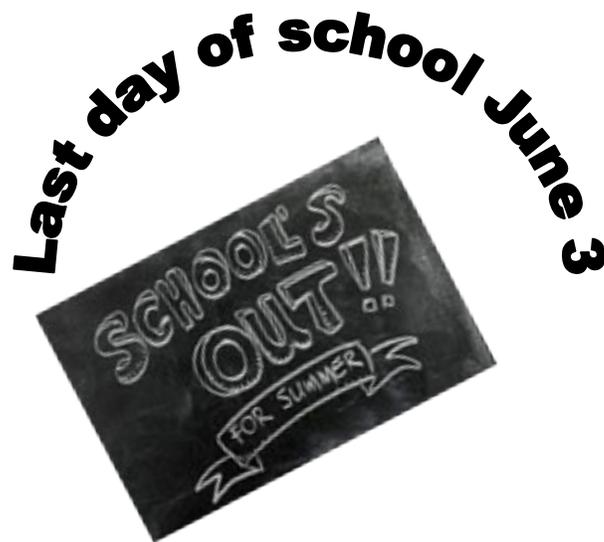
The Lodi High School Leadership Council continued the Big Buddies Program that students revived last year. The Big Buddies program connects primary school students with students who are leaders at the high school. The purpose of Big Buddies is for high school students to serve as positive role models and mentors for younger students in our community.



A huge thank you again to the Lodi community for all their support of our school! We are welcoming volunteers into the building to support our students and staff. If you have any interest in coming to do this, please feel free to reach out to our school office at 608-592-3855. We would love to have you join us!

Upcoming dates:

- May 20 K-2 Spring Concert***
- May 26 4K Picnic***
- May 27 Field Day***
- May 29 High School Graduation***
- May 30 No School – Memorial Day***
- June 3 Last Day of School for Students***
- June 6 Last Day for Staff***



Mark your calendars

***Picture Day for all students will be August 4, 2022 from 3 pm to 7 pm
at the Lodi High School Gymnasium***



Come Socialize!

All school alumni reunion.

Sunday, September 25th, 2022

hosted by the LHS Class of 1972.

At the Lodi American Legion Hall 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Business meeting will be held at 2:00

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