

Community Connection!

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AUGUST 2023

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Mr. Mark Holzman



We are in the waning days of Summer, and it is an exciting time to be in the School District of Janesville!

We are one of the largest employers in Rock County, and yet we realize that not everyone has a direct connection to our school community. With that in mind, we are providing you with this newsletter to share some updates and information about our schools. Our district is more than just a place of learning; it is a vibrant community that also fosters friendship, understanding, and success.

This school year, we will continue to provide enriching, safe, and supportive learning environments. Our driving emphasis will continue to be reading and math, and with the community's help, focus on the importance of regular school attendance for student success. Parents, your involvement is crucial to your child's success, and we value your partnership and appreciate the support you provide to our school community.

The start of school can be a busy time, and we have spent many months planning to make it a smooth transition. Looking ahead, we are starting a strategic planning process to help guide our District forward, with the intent to find the best way to meet the needs of current and future students. Janesville is a great place to live, learn, work, and play, and I am grateful to be a part of that.

With gratitude,

Mark Holzman, Superintendent

DISTRICTWIDE FACILITIES STUDY UNDERWAY

The School District of Janesville is undertaking a comprehensive assessment of its facilities, which consist of over 2.25 million square feet across 20 sites, totaling 250 acres within the City of Janesville. The facilities assessment is an important next step following our successful Secure Pathways projects from 2020, which further enhanced the safety and security of our schools.

Once complete, the facilities assessment will establish the baseline conditions within each of the district's buildings. The average age of our school buildings is 62 years, with 4 buildings nearing 90 years of use by generations of Janesville students, staff, and community. As we look into the future of our school system, it is critical we gather objective data to guide and inform the development of a long-range facilities plan.

In the coming months, consultants will assess the conditions inside and outside our facilities. They will review the plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and other critical systems that help run our buildings. This professional team will help us understand how well our educational environments support our current and future educational, co-curricular and athletic priorities.

We look forward to sharing the results of our facilities study late this fall and gathering your input as we begin to consider solutions to address identified facilities needs. Stay tuned!

DID YOU KNOW?

- The School District of Janesville (SDJ) is the 9th-largest district (by enrollment) in Wisconsin, with 9,537 students (2022-23).
- SDJ has 2 comprehensive high schools, 3 middle schools, 12 elementary schools, 3 charter school options, and a robust 4-year-old kindergarten program at sites across the community.
- The average age of our buildings is 62 years (newest-Kennedy Elementary -1999).
- In 2023, 838 seniors graduated and received their high school diplomas from the SDJ.
- In 2022-23, SDJ served 667,326 breakfasts and 838,901 lunches to students in our schools.
- SDJ is one of the largest employers in Rock County with around 1,600 full and part-time employees.
- Re-investing in our communities, 88% of SDJ employees make Rock County their home (71% live in Janesville).



KTD PROFILES HELP INTRODUCE SDJ EMPLOYEES

We might be a little biased, but we think the people who work for the School District of Janesville are more than a little AMAZING! And once you get to meet them, we think that you'll agree!

With a workforce of 1,600 employees, getting to know each and every one would be just short of impossible.

In an effort to get things started, SDJ introduced a question-and-answer profile series in 2022-23 titled "Know the District." In addition to teachers, principals, and paraprofessionals; those featured included counselors, food-service workers, IT professionals, and more. The goal was to provide not only information about employees' professional backgrounds and accomplishments but to also share a glimpse into who they are as people.

New interviews are on the way for the 2023-24 school year, but we invite you to check out last year's features at:

<https://www.janesville.k12.wi.us/about-us/our-stories/know-the-district>

JSRI STUDENTS BATTLE BACTERIA

No one knows where the next great science breakthrough might occur. But if students in the Janesville Summer Research Institute (JSRI) have any say, it might be in a Parker High School classroom!

Since 2019, students have spent part of their summers with Parker biology teacher Zach Pratt investigating how antibiotic resistance evolves in certain bacteria and how once-feared viruses might help mutate or kill stubborn microbes.

In Pratt's program, which is partially funded by the Carbone Cancer Center in Madison, students collect samples from various sources in search of bacteriophages - viruses capable of killing targeted bacteria without harming humans, animals, or plants. Once students discover these "phages," they then expose the phages to a lab strain of E. coli bacteria to see if the bacteria develops a resistance.

To learn more about this, check out <https://www.janesville.k12.wi.us/about-us/our-stories/past-stories>



SUMMER SCHOOL MUSICAL WRAPS "LEGALLY BLONDE"

Students taking part in the School District of Janesville's Summer School Musical program recently wrapped their production of "Legally Blonde: The Musical."

In addition to exposure to acting, singing and dance, participants gained exposure to the inner workings of sound and technical production. And because the program is open to students in and out of SDJ, it also offers chances to make new friends!

If your child is interested in the arts, be sure to also check out the offerings at Parker Arts Academy by visiting www.Parker-Arts.com

BAGS OF HOPE PLANS CONCERT FUNDRAISER

Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to rock when Rod Tuffcurls and The Bench Press hit the Janesville Performing Arts Center for a concert benefitting the School District of Janesville's Delivering Bags of Hope program!

A popular band from Chicago, Rod Tuffcurls and The Bench Press, has entertained at clubs and festivals throughout the Midwest. They recently sold out the Majestic Theater in Madison and regularly perform at the House of Blues in Chicago.

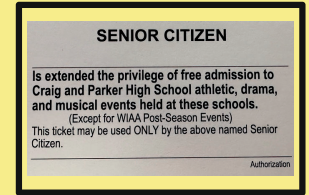
Tickets to the Janesville show are \$35 each and can be purchased online at <https://janesvillepac.org/box-office>.

Delivering Bags of Hope is a goodwill initiative that involves hundreds of volunteers who bag and deliver two weeks' worth of groceries to 50 Janesville senior citizens and 350 of the district's neediest families during winter break. Initially conceived nearly 40 years ago by workers at the Janesville General Motors plant, this storied program has been coordinated by employees in the School District of Janesville since 2008.



GET YOUR FREE SENIOR PASS!

Did you know that the School District of Janesville (SDJ) offers a Senior Citizen pass that provides **FREE** entry to any athletics event (excluding WIAA tournament games), and theatrical or musical performances at either Craig or Parker High Schools? This benefit is available for SDJ residents over the age of 65. To obtain a Senior Citizen pass, visit the Educational Services Center, (527 South Franklin St.) and bring a photo ID and proof of residence.



DIGITAL TICKETING FOR SDJ ATHLETIC EVENTS!

The School District of Janesville (SDJ) is adopting a digital platform called GO FAN for tickets to all athletic events. This means we are asking all students and fans to purchase digital tickets and passes for this year's events.

The benefits of moving to the all-digital ticketing system include saving time at event gate entrances, reducing paper-ticket waste, and providing savings when purchasing sets of event tickets.

To learn more about the Digital Ticketing for SDJ athletic events, visit:

<https://www.janesville.k12.wi.us/departments/athletics/purchase-digital-tickets>

ROCK UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL HELPING SDJ STUDENTS GO FARTHER!



Located on the Blackhawk Technical College campus (BTC), Rock University High School (RUHS) is a charter school offering unique opportunities to students.

Part of the School District of Janesville, RUHS provides students with a post-secondary educational atmosphere -- but that's not all. Thanks to a partnership with BTC, five 2023 RUHS seniors graduated with Associate degrees while also receiving their high school diplomas. Credits from those Associate degree can transfer to colleges/universities to give these students a head start on obtaining a Bachelor's degree (likely lowering the cost of that degree).

These amazing opportunities are only a few of the things that set RUHS apart. Students also can pursue any degree program BTC offers, such as a technical certificate in welding or a one-year diploma in BTC's health sciences programs.

To learn more, visit <https://rockuniversity.janesville.k12.wi.us/apply-now>.



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JANESVILLE
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER
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<https://www.janesville.k12.wi.us/departments/human-resources>

Community Connection!

Important Dates:

- Thursday, Aug. 31: Back-to-School (Elementary) and Read-Set-Goal (Middle Schools) conferences.
- Thursday, Aug. 31: 9th-grade orientation.
- Friday, Sept. 1: First day of school for all students.
- Monday, Sept. 4: No School (Labor Day Holiday).
- Friday, Sept. 29: No School (Teacher Professional Development Day).
- Wednesday, Oct. 25: Parent-Teacher Conferences (4 - 7 PM).
- Thursday, Oct. 26: Parent-Teacher Conferences (8 AM - 7 PM), no School for Students.
- Friday, Oct. 27: No School.

The full district calendar can be found at:
www.janesville.k12.wi.us/about-us/calendar

ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION CLASS - STUDENT HOME BUILD!



One of the many hands-on learning experiences the School District of Janesville offers students is the Advanced Construction class, aka the Student Home Build Project. Since 1992, this joint effort coordinated by the South Central Wisconsin Builders Association (SCWBA) and the School District of Janesville provides on-site training for students interested in careers in the skilled trades.

This past May, their latest effort was completed -- a four-bedroom, three-bathroom home with more than 2,400 finished square feet, a three-car garage, and tons of storage. The home, located on the west side of Janesville, sold in July for \$509,900.

Congratulations to all of the students who worked on the home, and a special thank you to the school district's educator, Joe Kruser; general contractor Naatz Construction, and volunteer Tom Griffin for their expertise in guiding our students through this project!

Want to know more about the School District of Janesville?

Sign-up to be on our mailing list! Text **SDJINFO** to **91999**
or use your smart phone to scan the QR Code to the right

