

◆ *Inside...*

**District Data**

**Pages..... 1-13**

**High School**

**Highlights**

**Pages .....14-15**

**Middle School**

**Maneuvers**

**Page.....16**

**Elementary Excerpts**

**Pages .....17-19**

**Primary Pride**

**Pages.....20-22**

**Winter Concerts and**

**Upcoming Dates**

**Page.....23**



## *Perspective*

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

The School District of Lodi engaged in a strategic planning process in the spring of 2021 to engage the community to set priorities for the District and the Board for the next five years. The third pillar of the strategic plan that came out of this process is *Innovative Communication Connection*, meaning that we are committing to stakeholders to provide clear and transparent communications and opportunities for engagement. To help the District implement this pillar of the strategic plan, the District engaged in a communications audit and developed a two-year communications plan. This plan included keeping items in place that our community found useful in communications. Some examples include broadcasting and recording all Board of Education meetings, monthly newsletters from each of the buildings, and the Community Link that we send out four times a year. The plan also added or re-emphasized other communication strategies to increase the information that is available to students, families, staff, and community members. Here are some examples of the strategies:

- Moved points of pride to the beginning of the Board meetings
- Increasing our social media presence and social media content on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Developed a [Connect with Us](#) page on District webpage to help connect people with information
- Revitalizing the Lodi Pride Campaign (Guardians of Lodi Pride)
- Developed a document summarizing what occurred at each Board meeting ([Board Summary Document](#)) which can be found on the Board of Education’s page on the District’s website.
- Publishing the Community Link on the District’s website so community members could access links if interested in learning more about a topic.

Another strategy in the communications plan was to develop an opportunity for more interaction between Board members and the community. To accomplish this goal, the Board is going to host a **Board/Community Linkage session on December 4 at 6 pm at Lodi High School**. The purpose of this session is for the Board to share information on some critical areas they have been working on and allow community members to provide feedback and ask questions. The night will begin with an informal meet-and-greet session for Board members and community members, with light snacks to be provided by our Food Service Provider Taher. At 6:30 pm there will be a short overview of the evening and then those in attendance will be broken into three groups. These three groups will go to different areas in which Board members will be giving presentations and taking feedback. The three areas the Board will share information on and take feedback are:

- Strategic Plan Implementation
- Referendum 2022 Implementation/Report
- Greenspace Study

After 15 minutes the groups will rotate so that each person gets to attend, learn, and give feedback to Board members on each of these areas. This feedback from each area will be written down and shared with all Board members.

In order to ensure that there is enough food and materials for those present, the District is asking that those who plan on attending to RSVP to the district by the end of the day on November 27, 2023 by calling Maureen Palmer at the district office at 608.592.1060 or by registering on a Survey Monkey form at the following link.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/lodilinkage>

We look forward to seeing you on December 4 at 6 pm.

District Phone & Fax 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 Fax .....	592-3852

## Board of Education

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

Heather Baron .....*President*  
 Kristi McMorris..... *Vice-President*  
 Scott Bilse ..... *Treasurer*  
 Terry Haag..... *Clerk*  
 Angela Lathrop..... *Director*  
 Sarah Raemisch..... *Director*  
 H. Adam Steinberg.....*Director*

Board of Education members' names, contact information, committee assignments, meeting agendas and minutes are included on the School District of Lodi's website at [www.lodi.k12.wi.us](http://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.



## Winter Break Hours of Operation

All schools and school offices, including the district office, are closed for winter break beginning at the end of the school day on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> through Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Please NOTE: Students' first day back from Winter Break is on Wednesday, January 3, 2024  
 This is due to the staff workday on January 2.**



SIGN UP FOR THE  
BOARD/COMMUNITY  
LINKAGE  
PRESENTATION

December 4, 2023 at 6 pm

COME AND INTERACT WITH  
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

HEAR ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PLAN, CURRENT REFERENDUM  
REPORT, GREENSPACE STUDY



sign up with the QRcode,

Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/lodilinkage>  
or call Maureen Palmer at 608.592.1060



**Please register for the Board/Community Linkage Presentation** using the QR code, the link above  
or by contacting Maureen Palmer.

**Presentation will be held at the Lodi High School.**

**There will be light appetizers served in the beginning of the evening.**



**Emergency School Closing  
Information 2023-2024**



If school buildings need to be closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies, parents will be notified via email, voice mail and /or text message from our Infinite Campus software.

The information will be posted on our district website and Facebook page, and it will also be broadcasted on air and websites of:

WISC-TV Channel 3

WMTV Channel 15

WKOW-TV Channel 27

## ***Interested in Becoming a Lodi School Board Member?***

**Board of Education  
Tuesday, April 2, 2024 Spring General Election**

Terms of office for the following board members for the School District of Lodi will expire in April 2024.

Listed in alphabetical order:

Terry Haag  
Angela Lathrop  
Kristi McMorris

## **BALLOT ACCESS CHECKLIST FOR 2024 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES**

Each of the following forms must be completed and filed on time by candidates for School District office in order for the candidate's name to be placed on the ballot at the **February 20, 2024 Spring Primary** and the **April 2, 2024 Spring Election**.

The filing officer for school district office is the School District Clerk. Candidates should contact their filing officer or designee for further information or to obtain any of the necessary forms.

### **All School District Candidates must:**



***Complete and submit a Campaign Registration Statement (Form CF-1)*** to the filing officer prior to raising or spending any funds, and no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024**, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. If the form is faxed or emailed, the original document must follow postmarked no later than January 2, 2024. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(5), 8.21, 8.30(4), 120.06(6)(b), Wis. Admin. Code EL § 6.04.

➤ ***New Candidates***

File a campaign registration statement before campaign funds are collected or spent. Wis. Stat. §§ 11.0202(1)(a), 11.0101(1).

➤ ***Continuing Candidates***

Amend your current registration, including the office sought and the new election and primary dates. Wis. Stat. §§ 11.0202 (1)(a), 11.0101(1).



Complete and submit a ***Declaration of Candidacy (Form EL-162sd)*** to the filing officer no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024**, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. If the form is faxed or emailed, the original document must follow, postmarked no later than January 2, 2024. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(5), 8.21, 8.30(4), Wis. Admin. Code EL § 6.04

Please note the Lodi School District Office will be closed from December 22, 2023 at the end of the school day through January 1, 2024

***For additional information, contact:***

The School District of Lodi District Office, 115 School Street, Lodi, WI 53555 (592-3851, ext. 5480)

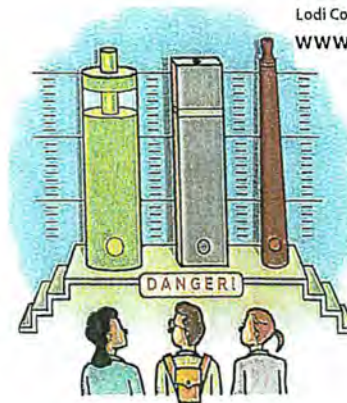


Lodi Community Action Team  
[www.lodiaction.org](http://www.lodiaction.org)

# How to Talk to Kids About Vaping Risks

Use this guide to start an honest conversation at home about e-cigarettes and addiction.

Youth vaping remains a public health crisis. Today, about 1 in 36 middle school students currently use e-cigarettes, and the majority of kids have seen them used at school. Many kids think vaping is harmless, but it can have serious health consequences. Given the right tools and information, parents, educators, and other influential adults can make a profound difference in the lives of their children and students by sharing the facts and tips to help them stay safe.



## Facts About Teen Vaping



Most e-cigarettes, including the popular Juul brand, contain nicotine, the same highly addictive chemical in regular cigarettes.



Many e-cigarettes used by teens are shaped like SB sticks, pens, or even water pens, which makes them easy for students to hide at school.

Kids who vape are more likely to start smoking cigarettes.



A 2019 outbreak of serious lung illnesses linked to vaping products, including e-cigarettes, has affected thousands of people, including healthy teens and young adults.

Nearly **80%**

of current middle school e-cigarette users report using a flavored product.



Despite what some kids think, vaping is not safe. In fact, one Juul pod contains as much nicotine as a whole pack of cigarettes.



Some e-cigarette aerosols contain chemicals, such as formaldehyde, that can cause cancer.



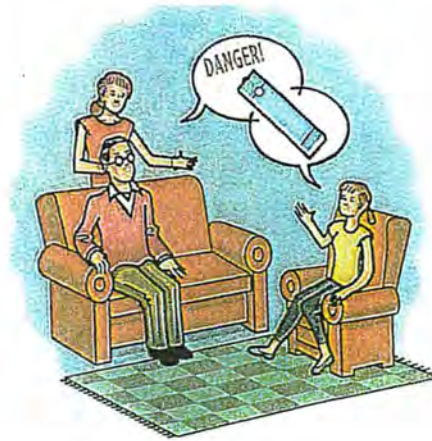
Teens are more susceptible to nicotine addiction than adults because their brains are still developing.



## Practice Ways to Say No

Ask your child if they've ever felt pressure to try vaping. Then strategize what they can say or do if another kid offers them an e-cigarette, and have them practice by responding to different situations.

- Say a simple "No, thanks," or "Nah, that's not my thing."
- Change the topic ("Hey, are you going to band practice today?").
- Walk away and do something else.
- Talk with a friend, parent, or trusted adult.



## Healthy Habits at Home

The environment in your home plays a big role in your child's decisions. Keep it healthy to help kids avoid harmful habits.



- **If you smoke or vape, try quitting.** Teens report that one of the top reasons they try e-cigarettes is that a friend or family member uses them. Share the reasons why you want to quit, and ask your family for their support as you start your journey.
- **Establish a tobacco-free home.** Don't allow smoking or vaping in your home. Make sure to ban smoking and vaping in your car too.
- **Steer clear of smoking and vaping in public places.** Avoid restaurants, parks, and other locations that allow people to smoke or vape.
- **Set family health goals each week.** Take a walk together around the neighborhood, try a new vegetable each week at dinner, do one-minute yoga stretches together, or challenge everyone to drink more water. Working as a team keeps it fun!

## Resources

Teens may not know the signs of nicotine addiction. If you think your child is vaping, talk to them about why it is harmful. Ask for support from others. Remember: It's never too late to get help.

### Signs of Addiction

- Cravings to use e-cigarettes or other tobacco products
- Feeling anxious or irritable
- Continuing to vape despite negative consequences
- Going out of one's way to get e-cigarettes

### Getting Help

- Talk to your family doctor about treatment options
- [smokefree.gov](http://smokefree.gov)
- CDC Quitline: 1-800-QUIT-NOW
- For Young People: Text "DITCHJUUL" to 88709
- For Families Helping Young People: Text "QUIT" to 202-899-7550





# **Lodi C.R.E.W. and Pool**

Community Resource Enrichment and Wellness

Lodi CREW and the Indoor Community Pool is the place to check out if you are looking for something to do. We offer programs for all ages and abilities. Our community collaborations bring out the best instructors and programs for the Lodi Community.

Now you are able to register online through our website using this link (<https://lodi.cr3.rschooldtoday.com/public/home/>) or by scanning this QR code on your phone camera!



Here is a list of some of the upcoming CREW programs:

- Boot Camp
- Indoor Walking Club
- Zumba
- Little Devil Dribblers
- Youth Dance teams
- Little Yogi's



**The Lodi Indoor Community Pool is the place to come for all your aquatics needs.**



**Here are some of the offerings at the Pool:**

- Swim Lessons (including private lessons)
- Aqua Fitness classes
- Open lap and family swims
- Pool rental opportunities (such as birthday parties and more!)
- Pool memberships
- Youth Swim Team
- Red Cross Lifeguard and WSI certifications

**The pool is also a great place to help with recovery from sports injuries for both students and adults!**

To see current and upcoming programs check us out on the school website page: [www.lodi.k12.wi.us](http://www.lodi.k12.wi.us)  
click on the community tab and go to CREW or Indoor Community Pool

Friend us on Facebook (Lodi CREW)

**Be sure to check out Peachjar on the schools web page for program fliers!**

# Food Service

*Diane Leuck – Food Service Director*

Welcome to Fall! What an exciting time for food service, students and staff! We sent out a survey. Please take a moment to fill it out and send it back. We truly want your feedback. We are here to make our food service be the best for our students, staff and parents.

We have done some new things already and will continue to try and see what students really like. I want to say thank you to the students for being willing to try everything with an open mind. We have been successful with roast pork and whole grain noodles, Italian turkey pieggas, breakfast burritos, Philly flatbread, chicken & bacon alfredo flatbread, queso chicken and Spanish rice. We still have a lot more to come.

We have been doing two specials a month-one regular and one plant based. A couple of the plant based we have done are Korean Bibimbap and zucchini pesto pasta. This month we are featuring a Philly Cheesesteak and eggplant flatbread. I hope everyone can get out to try it. We are also still featuring our Harvest of the Month which spotlights a spice, vegetable and fruit.

We will be running our Turkey dinner with all the fixings on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. We are thankful to be able to offer some delicious food and thankful thoughts to everyone.

Our “Great Apple Crunch” was a success thanks to local orchards: Jasper Apples, Ski-Hi Fruit Farm, Sacia Orchards, Lapacek Orchard. We had a complete assortment of apples to offer everyone. The complete joy and excitement on all the students’ faces is just a pleasure for me to witness. It gets better every year. We would love it if we can just keep this tradition alive and continue to make it bigger! Look on the district facebook page to see some pictures of the students crunching their apples!



Lastly, I would like to feature my manager of almost 20 years Jill Daehling. Jill is our foodservice rock star! Jill does everything and is always willing to try new things. Jill keeps all of our schools stocked and ready for service every day. We appreciate how hard she works every day and her commitment to our food service program. Please tell her thank you if you see her and show her how much we all appreciate her! We are so thankful for Jill!

So, as we inch closer to Thanksgiving let’s make sure we are thankful, grateful and surrounded by those we love. Happy Holidays!

---

## Volunteers Needed

Do you love kids and have some extra time to spare? Consider volunteering in our schools. Your contribution will benefit teachers and students and be a rewarding experience for you. Community members and parents who volunteer in our schools, make a world of difference in the education of our students. There are many different ways to volunteer and share your talents. We encourage you to contact a building office for more information:

Primary School - 608.592.3855  
Middle School - 608-592.3854

Elementary/OSC - 608.592.3842  
High School - 608.538.3853



# Business & Operations

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

## **Annual Meeting Recap**

On October 23, 2023 The School District of Lodi held its annual meeting. The following information was presented to attendees in some form or fashion.

## **Tax Levy**

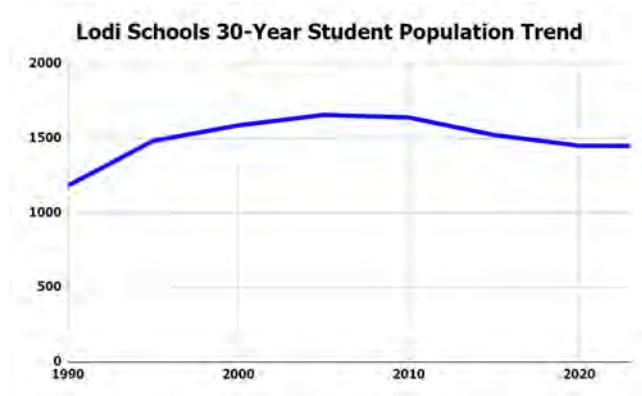
The Lodi School District Board of Education certified an all fund tax levy of \$17,075,890 for the 2023-2024 school year. This levy increased by approximately 1.96% over last year. The increase was mostly due to the referendum state budget revenue limit increases. Also, the Lodi School District Board of Education adopted a final budget for all funds of \$21.9 million for the general fund, which was an increase of approximately 4% over the prior year.

## **State Equalization Aid Increase**

For the 2023-2024 school year, the School District of Lodi will receive additional revenues of approximately \$1,000,000 in state aid. The increase of approximately 18% in state aid is due to the state legislation allocating schools almost \$550 million in additional state aid.

## **Lodi Schools Student Population Trends**

The School District of Lodi enjoyed substantial growth in student population from 1990, where we served approximately 1180 students, until approximately 2008, where the school district served nearly 1700 students. For the past several years, Lodi schools have seen plateaued enrollment at approximately 1450 students. The following chart shows our schools population trend over the past 30 years.



## **Debt Service Overview**

The School District of Lodi carries debt on two issues. First, a referendum approved debt loan for the new Primary School which was placed into service in 2018. The annual payment to that debt is approximately \$1.1 million, which is due to be completed in 2037. The second debt service is the district's payment to our non-referendum debt including the stadium redevelopment project. This payment is approximately \$64,000 annually and will end in March of 2031.

## **Mill Rate**

The mill rate is the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property. The mill rate is based on "mills." It is a figure that represents the amount per \$1,000 of the assessed value of the property, which is used to calculate the amount of property tax. The all funds school mill rate for 2023-2024 decreased 1.1 mills from 9.9 to 8.8. However, the district's property value certification did increase 14%. Both of these data pieces impact the taxes property owners in the School District of Lodi will see in 2024.

## **Referendum 2022-2027**

The school district of Lodi is currently in the second of a five year referendum. More information about the current referendum can be found at the following link:

<https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/about/referendum-22>

## **ESSER Funding**

The school district of Lodi is currently engaged in leveraging its final allocation of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds. More information about the districts usage of ESSER funds can be found at the following link: <https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/our-district/esser-dashboard>



# Curriculum and Instruction

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

School District of Lodi Families and Community,

Having multiple children enrolled in the School District of Lodi, I can personally attest to the abundance of incredible opportunities our students enjoy every day. It's not just about academic challenges and engagement; I'm equally amazed by our commitment to the arts, physical well-being, career and technical education, and more.

Let me share a few highlights from the School District of Lodi and the Curriculum & Instruction department. If you're searching for Lodi themed holiday gifts, don't forget to explore our fantastic Fabrication Lab!



## **Preparing for the Future - School District of Lodi Receives Its Highest State Report Card To Date, And Another Designation Of Exceeds Expectations!**

Since 2012, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has been required by state statute (Wis. Stat. 115.385) to generate school and district report cards for every publicly funded school and district in the state. The report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to celebrate success and improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. These report cards include data on multiple indicators for multiple years across four priority areas (Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-track to Graduation). Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*. Once again, the School District of Lodi received a rating from the state of Exceeds Expectations. In addition, all schools in the School District of Lodi received a rating of Exceeds Expectations! The overall score the district received was its highest ever. Lodi Middle School also received its highest score to date, and Lodi High School received its second highest since these reports were first created!

Internally, our teams have had the opportunity to analyze these reports to celebrate areas of success and be responsive to areas we self-identify for growth. If you would like to learn more about the School District of Lodi reports, please use the following link (<https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/our-district/curriculum-instruction>).

## **Preparing for the Future - STEAM Update**

*Authored by Tyler Potter (Director of Technology)*



STEAM education, which integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics, has become a unique part of Lodi schools. It provides a holistic approach to learning, encouraging students to think critically, solve problems, and foster creativity. Through STEAM, students gain a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of these subjects, while seeing real world application of these skills. This multidisciplinary approach prepares our students for the demands of the 21st century workforce, where innovation and adaptability are key. STEAM education also fosters a love for learning, promoting curiosity and exploration. It empowers our students to become lifelong learners, capable of tackling a wide range of issues, from climate change to technological advancements, thus contributing to the progress of society as a whole. In essence, STEAM education equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world and drive forward advancements that benefit both individuals and society as a whole.

Our primary and elementary school students have been engaged in a diverse array of STEAM projects this year. These projects encompass a wide range of subjects, such as exploring the principles of roller coaster physics through marble runs, delving into city planning with Keva planks, uncovering the mysteries of electricity using Snap Circuits, and embracing Computer-Aided design through 3D printing. Meanwhile, students at Lodi Middle School are deeply immersed in their STEAM curriculum, focusing on CNC machining, robotics, 3D printing, and digital design techniques. Lodi High School takes this commitment to STEAM education even further, offering students a multitude of opportunities within our Discovery Center, Fabrication Lab, and AV Studio. In the Discovery Center, students are actively experimenting with music and video editing, digital design, 3D printing,

laser cutting, and robotics. Simultaneously, those in our Fabrication Lab are diligently learning advanced manufacturing processes in preparation for our upcoming winter holiday Lodi gear sale. Additionally, students enrolled in our Writing for Publication course have skillfully crafted multiple video productions for our staff and students, making use of green screen technology and editing software.



**Community Connection - Lodi Fabrication Lab Holiday Sale** - Like last year, if you are interested in purchasing holiday gifts from the High School fabrication lab, you can order at the following link (<https://sites.google.com/lodischoolswi.org/lodi-fablab/home>).



### **Operational Excellence - Supporting Career & Technical Education**

Feedback provided by the community during the strategic planning process clearly identified future investments in Career and Technical Education (CTE) as a priority. The Board of Education conducted walkthroughs of some of the Lodi High School technical education spaces in October to review equipment in need of replacement/updates. One time Federal ESSER funds were then leveraged by the Board to facilitate some of the needs in these areas. We are thankful for the continued support from the Board of Education!



*Sample equipment updates: Radial Arm Saw, Jointer, Planer, Injection Molder*



# Student Services

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

## School and Community Resources Available to Families in Need

### **Blessings in a Backpack**

Blessings in a Backpack is a non-profit organization that feeds over 88,900 students in over 1090 schools in 46 U.S. States and the District of Columbia. The program is a hybrid of private sector funding and public partnership carried out in public schools. Blessings in a Backpack provides food on the weekends for students in need in the School District of Lodi. Bags are distributed in a discreet and confidential manner. If you are interested in this program, please contact Adria Schroeder - Director of Student Services at 608-532-3851 x5486 or [schroad@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:schroad@lodischoolswi.org).

If you are in a position to donate to Blessings in a Backpack on behalf of students in the Lodi Community, you may donate in two ways.

1. Donations by mail: All checks should be made out to “Blessings in a Backpack” with LODI WI SCHOOLS 1832 in the memo line. Checks can be dropped off locally or mailed to:
 

Lodi Primary School	Lori Harrenstein, Treasurer
c/o Val Bilkey	254 Lodi Street
1307 Sauk Street	Lodi, WI 53555
Lodi, WI 53555	
2. Donations by visiting the website ([blessingsinabackpack.org](http://blessingsinabackpack.org)) and make your payment online using a credit or debit card. Under the “Designation” section choose “specific school.” Then in the “comments” box, type LODI WI SCHOOLS 1832. If you would like the gift to be a monthly recurring donation, you may click the Recurring Gift button below the “additional information” section and enter the “end” and “start” dates.

### **Reach Out Lodi**

Reach Out Lodi is a not for profit organization that has food, clothing, school supplies, and other basic essentials available for families. Call ahead to set up an appointment and check on available resources. If you are interested in supporting Reach Out Lodi, please visit their website ([www.reachoutlodi.org](http://www.reachoutlodi.org)) to make a donation or buy supplies from their wish list.

Address: 601 Clark Street, Lodi, WI 53555  
Phone Number: 608-592-4592

### **Santa Project**

The Santa Project is an organization within the Lodi Community that has been providing Christmas gifts, winter gear, clothing, shoes, and other necessities to families with children in our school district who are in need of assistance. If you are in need of support for the upcoming holiday season or if you are in a position to help with donations or adopting a family, please contact:

Pam Cunningham  
[lodisantaproject@gmail.com](mailto:lodisantaproject@gmail.com)  
Phone Number: 608-220-2452

### **Free and Reduced Meals**

Students in households receiving benefits from FoodShare, the Food Distribution Program, W-2 cash benefits, children in foster care, children who meet the definition of homeless, and children whose household income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines are eligible to receive Free and Reduced Meals. More information about Free and Reduced Meals and the application can be found on the Lodi School’s District Website under “Our Families” and then “Food Service.” If you have questions about Free and Reduced Meals, contact Ariel Andrews at 608-592-3855 x1017 or [andrear@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:andrear@lodischoolswi.org).



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

# High School Highlights

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



## The Lodi School Forest -

Before the Fall of 2022, most students and staff at Lodi high school would have shrugged their shoulders if they were asked about the Lodi School Forest. Most know there is a forest but haven't used it or even discovered its location. In fact, the only class that has consistently used this valuable resource over the years really isn't a class at all. It's a team.



The boys and girls cross country runners have been using it as a natural practice course to help prepare for competition. Most students have not had the opportunity to explore and learn in this environment that includes 40 acres of outdoor classroom. Just two high school classrooms have ventured out to the School Forest over the past few years: Wisconsin Wildlife and Forestry and Field Ecology. However, recently more and more students of all ages have ventured out to the School Forest thanks to the initiative and effort of several educators. Since the Fall of 2022, more and more Lodi students, teachers and community members have explored this valuable resource that has been accessible to the public for close to 90 years.



Just two high school classrooms have ventured out to the School Forest over the past few years: Wisconsin Wildlife and Forestry and Field Ecology. However, recently more and more students of all ages have ventured out to the School Forest thanks to the initiative and effort of several educators. Since the Fall of 2022, more and more Lodi students, teachers and community members have explored this valuable resource that has been accessible to the public for close to 90 years.

### History of the Forest - taken from the "Lodi School Forest Plan" - drafted by the school forest committee.

*The school forest property was originally granted to the town and village of Lodi in 1936 by Julia Fish, of La Crosse County. Language in the land deed states the property is donated with "the premise to be used as a school forest and to advance and support the instruction of students and the residents of the school district in agricultural and conservational programming practices." In 1945, the property was officially registered as a Wisconsin School Forest. Over the next several decades, the forest was managed primarily by work done with agricultural classes at Lodi High School. In the spring of 1957, roughly 25 FFA students from the high school hand-planted red, white and jack pine along what is now Koltes road. Records indicate a published forest management plan from 1961. Records note that in 1980, a pine sale was conducted on the property and oak was marked for removal. Maintaining the property as a pine plantation, with some fire breaks, continued to be the overall management plan. The property was once again harvested in 2003.*



*Within the last few decades, reports from former and current teachers shared about classroom visits to the school forest, most frequently on field trips by the agricultural programs at the high school and the Nurtured in Nature programs for the younger grade levels. Within the last 5 years, student trips to the school forest have been drastically reduced because of property access issues, due to the forest lacking foot access off of Koltes Road and the lack of a driveway or parking area.*

In the fall of 2022, a group of educators from around the district came together to form the School Forest Committee. Their goal was to formulate a plan to educate our teachers and community about the forest to encourage students to learn outside. They had their sights on improving the overall use in terms of number of students and staff utilizing the site, while also focusing on minor facility changes that could help improve accessibility. In order for the committee to first



gather important feedback that would help guide their plans and decision making, they were able to survey teachers through a needs assessment. This needs assessment report is described below.

### Needs Assessment results

*In the fall of 2022, teachers across the school district were surveyed via email on topics related to the school forest. The survey sought feedback on current use of the school forest, barriers to school forest use, and ideas for the future of the forest.*

*Results indicated that 75% of respondents were aware that the district had a school forest, but just 7% had ever been to the forest. Despite so few teachers having been to the school forest, 77% of teachers indicated that they would be interested in taking students to the school forest if given the opportunity. Overall, there was a strong indication from the staff in the comments section stating they had little to no knowledge about the school forest, but would have high interest in the opportunities the forest can provide.*



*Staff members were also given the opportunity to provide feedback on what areas of improvements could be made to the school forest to improve use. Respondents indicated transportation (58.1%) and facilities (62.8%) as the areas of need for most improvement. Specific ideas for improvement needs at the school forest included:*

- *Prepare a map of the school forest and directions to get there*
- *Building a parking area*
- *Build restrooms or provide porta potty*
- *Pursue timber sales and harvest*
- *Provide more overall information about the school forest*
- *Professional development for staff*
- *Signs and wayfinding at the forest*
- *Improvements to existing trails*
- *Have bench seating areas*
- *Construct an education center*
- *Develop a ski trail*
- *Develop handicap accessible options*
- *Property clean up*
- *Suggesting curriculum for various grade levels*
- *Clarity on property boundaries*



The improvement needs listed above were the first steps towards revitalizing the forest for our high school, other schools, and the greater community of Lodi. Thanks to the efforts of high school science teacher, Leo Olson, Agriculture teacher Connor Anderson, Math teacher Jason Murray, Cross Country coach Kurt Wilson, and Library Director Paula Tonn as well as staff from around the district (Chris McNeill, Diana Karls, Ashley Anderson, Valerie Bilkey, Joe Fobes) and the Lodi community (Bill Welch, Kori Schroeder, and Dylan Bell), the Lodi School Forest is on its way to becoming a sustainable outdoor classroom.

If you would like more information about the Lodi School Forest, feel free to visit their website at <https://sites.google.com/lodischoolswi.org/lodischoolforest/home?authuser=0>



# Middle School Maneuvers

Derek Pertzborn – Principal  
592-3854 ext. 3202

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



## ***Pillar 4 - District Workforce***

***Attracting and retaining exceptional team members and engaging them in continuous improvement.***

One of the pillars of the Strategic Plan is to attract and retain exceptional team members to the School District of Lodi. One thing that technology has enabled is the recruitment of team members from across the country. In recent years, Lodi Middle School has added team members from both California and Texas.

Although traveling across the country may seem like a long way to go to work at Lodi Middle School, during this school year we have added a team member from halfway around the world. In September, Lodi Middle School welcomed Luis Flores as our middle school Spanish teacher, all the way from Buin, Chile. Mr. Flores has taught English as a foreign language for the last 26 years in Chile, but is not new to Wisconsin. In 2000, Mr. Flores traveled to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and St. Paul, MN, for six months as a part of an internship. Mr. Flores is aware of the weather to come since during his internship he was here over the winter.

As a part of Mr. Flores’s travels, we have been fortunate to work with different agencies to facilitate the process. We were fortunate to work with the Sagamore Institute to facilitate a J1 visa, which is a visa specifically for teachers. Sagamore is an agency that works with teachers to secure them a visa that allows them to teach in the United States. Sagamore was able to expedite the visa process and get Mr. Flores to the United States in a matter of weeks instead of a matter of nearly a year. Without their help, we would not have been able to look at Mr. Flores as a viable candidate and we are thankful for their service in working with the embassy and our senators to move this process along as quickly as possible.

More locally, we are thankful that we have worked with Reach Out Lodi to get Luis on his feet in Lodi. Reach Out Lodi has supported Luis by providing him with kitchen utensils, furniture, a bicycle, and other essentials for his apartment. This service has eased Luis’s transition to Lodi so that he can focus his energy on getting to know our community, school, and students. We are thankful for all Reach Out Lodi has provided to support Luis.

Although I am excited for our students to have Mr. Flores as their teacher, this process has been exciting for our staff. They have also stepped up to contribute items to Luis’s apartment. I provided a list of essentials for Luis’s apartment to our staff and within two days all of those items were provided. They have also supported Luis by teaching him about Lodi Middle School and providing him a ride to and from school as the weather has turned.

We are also excited for Mr. Flores to share his culture with us and to teach him about our culture as well. We are glad that he has chosen to travel halfway around the world to land in our community and school.



These pictures are of the arrival of Mr. Flores at the Dane County Regional Airport.



I asked the following questions to some of our LES/OSC students:

1. **What is the best part of our school?**
2. **What is something others should know about what we do here?**
3. **What is your favorite memory/experience?**
4. **What advice do you have for new students?**

**Emmett:**

1. The best part is the staff. They do so much, they help you out, they help you do math and reading, they tell you what time it is, and they do cool stuff. Also, you get buddies, recess and breaks.
2. They should know we get recess, specifically the swings, kickball, gaga ball, playground.
3. STEAM class and building things is my favorite memory.
4. My advice is that everyone will give them love and hugs so don't worry.

**Caiden:**

1. The best part is the cafeteria. The lunch ladies work so hard to give us our tasty food.
2. They should know that we focus on Lodi Pride and we try to keep our reputation.
3. A lot of great/funny things happen here. For example, there was a misunderstanding and I thought a teacher had a crush on the hall monitor but what they really said was that they had a crush on Paul Molitor (Legendary Milwaukee Brewer).
4. My advice is that this is a great place, we have fun field trips, we have a great community where everyone knows each other and you will make lots of new friends.

**Camille:**

1. The best part is that we are small enough where we get to know everybody.
2. They should know that we care.
3. My favorite experience is when we have All School Recess!
4. My advice is to be kind and try not to be mean, because it can hurt other people.

**Greta:**

1. The best part is how people include almost everybody and are inclusive.
2. They should know we have great teachers that are willing to help all kids.
3. My favorite memory is all the friends I've made!
4. My advice is to try your best in class.

**Emmerson:**

1. The best part is that everyone is kind.
2. They should know that we are helpful and people focused.
3. My favorite experience is watching people be kind to each other at school.
4. My advice is to try your best and if you need help you can ask a teacher or an older student.

**Logan:**

1. The best part is recess!
2. They should know that we work hard.
3. My favorite experience was in 3rd Grade when I made friends with 5th graders in OSC.
4. My advice is don't be scared.

**Phia:**

1. The best part of our school is math!
2. They should know that we are people focused and kind.
3. My favorite memory is Field Day!
4. My advice is to keep your student office or desk cleaned and organized.

Below is the picture of the students that were recognized for being a Guardian of Lodi P.R.I.D.E. in the area of being "People Focused" by the care and commitment they show others. We are thankful for their example and the positive impact they are having on our LES/OSC learning community. We are very proud of them!



Below is a picture of our LES/OSC staff. The best way to care for and invest in our students is by hiring and retaining amazing staff. I am thrilled to be able to work with this team of expert educators. Not only are they skilled but they are student-centered and are great examples for our students and community!



# Interested in becoming a Substitute?

We would love for you to join us!



## Benefits of substituting:

- Your preference of schools
- Opportunities to make connections
- A flexible schedule that works around your other life commitments
- Work you can feel good about
- Weekly pay

## Available Opportunities:

- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Administrative Assistants
- Substitute Educational Assistants

## Want more info?

608-592-3851 or  
608-592-1026

lincoji@lodischoolswi.org  
neamem@lodischoolswi.org

School District of Lodi  
115 School St., Lodi WI  
53555



# Primary Pride

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

We are very busy at the Lodi Primary School engaging in lots of learning opportunities! As a school we are working on implementing strategies to work towards the five pillars of the District Strategic Plan. Below are some highlights of things we have been focusing on.

## Pillar 1, Preparing for the Future -

- **Science of Reading:** During our pre-session days, we were fortunate to have Donica Goodwin from CESA 5 come to lead our certified and support staff in professional development on the Science of Reading. We have been focusing on this new learning as a Primary School to best support our students in the area of literacy. During her time with us, she focused on sharing information on the following topics:
  - 2023 Wisconsin Act 20 (previously known as Assembly Bill 321)
  - Current literacy trends and the Science of Reading (overview)
  - Understanding the shift toward decodable texts

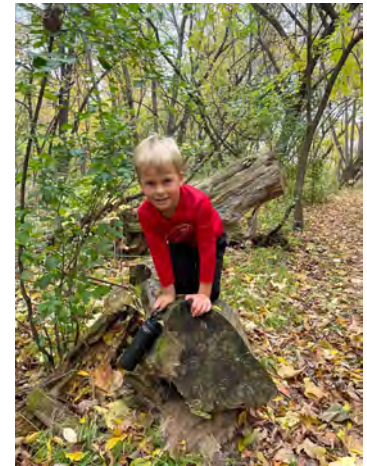
---

## Pillar 2, Nurturing the Whole Student -

- **Guardians of Lodi Pride - Kindness Challenge:** During the month of October and November we had an Operation Kindness mission to celebrate Bully Prevention Month (October) and World Kindness Day (November 13). Students participated in a variety of activities including daily "random acts of kindness" missions.
- **Primary School Families** We had our first Primary School Family Gathering on Wednesday, October 25. Primary School Families were developed to help foster the sense of belonging, inclusion, and collaboration. The "families" are vertical groups of students and staff across grades 4K-2. Students will stay in these groups as they progress through the grades and we will introduce new students from 4k to the families each fall. As "families" we will complete a variety of activities each month that build positive relationships with other students and adults in our school.
- **Big Buddies** - We are excited to share that we are continuing our Big Buddies program with the Lodi High School Leadership Council this year. The purpose of Big Buddies is for High School students to serve as positive role models and mentors for younger students in our community. The Big Buddies will meet once a month at the Primary School. The students will participate in fun activities and engage in friendly conversation on various topics to get to know each other.
- **Fall Fest and Halloween Parade** - We had a wonderful 4K Fall Fest where students were able to play games and then participate in a Halloween parade. This is just one of many family engagement events that are planned and facilitated by our staff. Special thanks to Mrs. Allie Brandt, Mrs. Missy Brickl, Ms. Denise Hasburgh, Mrs. Pam Finney, Mrs. Julie Haag, Ms. Kelsey Mullarkey, and Mrs. Kristin Smith!



- **K-5 Hiking Club:** We are once again running a hiking club with Mrs. Val Bilkey and Mrs. Melissa Walsh. Here are some photos from their hike around the Middle School and High School on Monday, October 23.



- **Mileage Club:** Thanks Mrs. Chantel Steinhorst, library assistant at the High School. She has taken over running the Mileage Club for our students at all lunch recesses. All students are invited to participate in running around the playground along a course that they track. As students run, they will earn prizes along the way. This opportunity is one of our goals on the Primary School Balanced Scorecard.

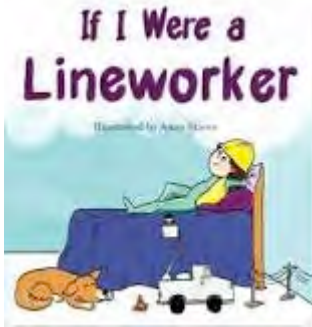
### **Pillar 3 Innovative Communication Connection**

- **School Families:** The activities that we are doing with our School Families are focused on revitalizing the Lodi Pride initiative. In order to do this, we are talking to students about what pride is. During our first family gatherings, students talked about being proud of yourself and what it means. Then colored a picture of themselves and wrote or drew some things that they are proud of in the speech bubble.
- **Guardians of Lodi Pride at the Primary School:** As a way to highlight students and staff that are demonstrating Lodi Pride, we now have “Junior Guardians of Lodi Pride - Lunchroom Helpers.” Students in grades 1 and 2 can be selected to be Junior Guardians of Lodi Pride. Assistants are looking for students that are continually displaying our expected behaviors in the lunchroom and are a role model to other peers. Over the course of the week, the lunchroom helpers will:



- Come in first for lunch to make sure they have time to eat.
- Get to wear a special apron that says "Junior Guardian of Lodi Pride."
- Help out the other assistants in the lunchroom with one of the following jobs: bell ringer (rings bell for when students are not able to get any more seconds for lunch), Mr. Rick's helper (helps with emptying trays), table helper (helps remind other students to clean up after themselves), and line up helper (helps students line up at end of lunch).

- **Lodi Utilities:** Special thanks to Lodi Utilities for coming to talk to our students in kindergarten.



**Pillar 5 Operational Excellence**

- **Heritage Park:** I am excited to share that we have completed the landscaping of Heritage Park by the slide. Huge thanks again to Brian Schmidt Enterprises for doing this project but also donating \$2,500 towards the project.



- **Gaga Pit:** We earned \$1,318 at the Primary School during the Lodi Stride with Pride event! Our goal was to purchase a gaga pit with these funds. Huge thanks to all the families and community members that supported our school. Here is a before picture of this area.



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!



---

## Winter Concerts

*All concerts are held at the HS Performing Arts Center*

---

- December 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 4K at 5:30 pm
- December 8<sup>th</sup> ~ ES/OSC at 12:15 pm
  - 12:15 pm: OSC
  - 1:05 pm: Grade 3
  - 1:40 pm: Grade 4
  - 2:15 pm: Grade 5
- December 14<sup>th</sup> ~ HS Band & Choir at 7 pm
- December 15<sup>th</sup> ~ K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grades
  - 12:20 pm: Kindergarten
  - 1:05 pm: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
  - 2:00 pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- December 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 6/7/8th Grade Band & Choir
  - 6:30 pm: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band
  - 7:00 pm: 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band
  - 7:30 pm: 6/7/8 Grade Choir

### Important Dates

December:

- 11 School Board Regular Meeting
- 13 FFA Blood Drive
- 22 End of Semester
- 25-31 No School ~ Winter Break

January:

- 2 No School – Staff Workday
- 2 Last day to file paperwork for School Board Election (no later than 5 pm)
- 3 Classes Resume
- 8 School Board Regular Meeting
- 15 No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 19 Rock the Gym

February:

- 9 No School – Professional Development for Staff
- 12 School Board Regular Meeting
- 19-23 National FFA Week



School District of Lodi  
115 School Street  
Lodi, WI 53555

NON-PROFIT  
**U.S. Postage**  
**Paid**  
Lodi, WI 53555  
Permit No. 36

## Postal Customer



All School Buildings including the District Office will closed at the end of the school day, Friday, December 22, 2023  
Classes Resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2023

**Website:**  
[www.lodi.k12.wi.us](http://www.lodi.k12.wi.us)