

Community Connection

INSPIRE. EMPOWER. ACHIEVE.

Summer 2024

Message from the Superintendent

It was a busy and productive year at the School District of Janesville. In addition to a successful launch of the school year last September, we completed some important tasks that directly impacted the long-term direction and goals of the district.

One major task completed was our long-range facilities needs assessment. Our buildings' average age is 63 years, with many sites having antiquated, inefficient, or deteriorating building systems that are at or beyond their service life (electrical components, mechanical systems, etc.). We also noted that our schools lack breakout areas, and our career & technical education and family & consumer science labs are out-of-date.

After identifying our facilities' needs, we reached out to the community to learn more about their thoughts via a community-wide survey. With more than 3,000 responses to our survey, we are grateful that the Janesville community understands and supports addressing our operational and facility needs, and investing in our schools and students' education is investing in our community.

On a more school-centered level, we are incredibly proud of the more than 780 seniors who graduated in the Class of 2024. We offered 26

Advanced Placement courses, with more than 1,000 students taking advantage of these options! We've had hundreds of students participating in Career and Technical Student Organizations and apprenticeships.

And, we continued our partnership with local builders so our advanced construction students could learn the trades associated with building a home!

Throughout SDJ, our team is working hard to ensure students are inspired, empowered, and achieving at high levels. We continue working to engage the greater Janesville community, sharing the many great things happening in our schools!

With Gratitude,
Mark Holzman, Superintendent



OUR 2024-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR PRIORITIES



Student Academic Excellence

Foster a culture of learning focused on growth and unlocking every student's potential.

Staff Excellence

Invest in a culture of professional growth to cultivate a skilled, motivated, and connected workforce.



Operational Excellence

Align our resources to provide modern and relevant environments to support students, staff and community successes.

Family & Community Partnerships

Engage families and the community in students' education to enhance the student experience and promote our stories of success.



OUR CORE VALUES



COLLABORATION



CRITICAL THINKING



CURIOSITY



EMPATHY



RESILIENCE

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

The School District of Janesville offers its most sincere CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2024, the next great group of leaders who will make a great impact on the world! Nearly 800 students earned diplomas this school year, and we cannot wait to welcome the next group of seniors—our Class of 2025—when things kick off in the fall.

- ARISE Virtual Academy – 16 grads
- Craig High School – 340 grads
- Parker High School – 219 grads
- Rock River Charter School – 191 grads
- Rock University Charter School – 21 grads



Kindergartners Learn About Careers

In May, P4J-Preschool For Janesville (SDJ's 4-year-old Kindergarten program) hosted a "Look to the Future" career exploration event at Parker High School. Students and families learned about career options such as dentist, musician, farmer, veterinarian, artist, baker, construction worker, mail carrier, zookeeper, and many more!

The event was made possible with help from community partners such as Hedberg Public Library, Janesville Police Department, Janesville Fire Department, Children's Wisconsin-Rock County Family Resource Center, 5 Star Barbershop, and SHINE Technologies.



Monroe Elementary Celebrates Blue Ribbon School Designation

In April, staff and students from Monroe Elementary School gathered to celebrate their National Blue Ribbon School designation during a special event at the Janesville Performing Arts Center!

Monroe was one of just eight schools in Wisconsin to receive the honor in 2023—and among 353 schools nationwide. The celebration started with a police/fire department escort of buses from the school to the JPAC. Once students were seated in the JPAC auditorium, they enjoyed a short performance by the Craig High School band and cheerleading squad.

Next, Monroe Principal Sally Pope introduced a series of short speeches by several guests, including Superintendent Mark Holzman and U.S. Congressman Bryan Steil. Congratulations to the entire Monroe Mustangs family!



SENIOR STORIES: Marlene Romero Martinez

Meet Marlene Romero Martinez, a senior at Rock River Charter School! Inspired by a dream of one day entering the construction management field, she plans to continue her education in the trades through a carpentry apprenticeship.

When asked what her greatest challenge was in getting to graduation, Marlene said, "I had a lot of personal obstacles that were difficult to overcome, but I decided that I wasn't going to let that stop me from achieving my goal. I knew

I had to make a change and receive help in order to continue. My parents and teachers were always there to motivate me to continue and not let my past affect my future."

Congratulations, Marlene—and best of luck!

Senior Stories appear on the district's website and social media pages. To read them, visit www.janesville.k12.wi.us/about-us/our-stories/senior-stories.



Parker Students Get Glimpse of Transportation Industry

Parker High School automotive students got a revved-up lesson when Mr. Dettman's class met with representatives from Lakeside International Trucks to learn about career and training opportunities in the automotive field. Students got to climb aboard a semi-truck and explore the engine and cab. It was a great way to show students the exciting possibilities that exist in the automotive and transportation industry!

Cleaning Up Debris from the Summer Tornado

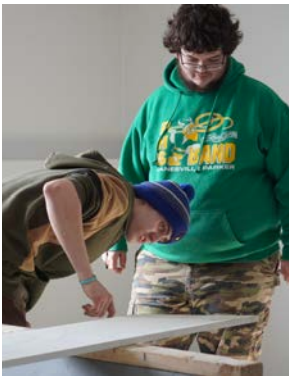
The June 22 EF-2 tornado that ripped through Janesville's south side did extensive damage to many homes in the neighborhood near Jackson Elementary School. Although the school itself escaped major structural damage, many of the established trees that stood in Jackson's front yard weren't quite as lucky.

On June 23, efforts aimed at clearing away fallen trees and picking up debris got underway. Among the many volunteers who gathered to help families in their attempt to recover was a collection of Jackson staff members.

We are grateful to those who volunteered to pitch in and help in our community's time of need. Their genuine concern for students and families was on full display!



High School Students Build Home in Arbor Ridge



This past spring, our community was invited to tour the 2024 Student Home Build project, which involved a collaboration of students from the School District of Janesville and members of the South Central Wisconsin Builders Association (SCWBA)!

The house, located at 1813 Arbor Hills Way in the Arbor Ridge subdivision, sits on .34 acres and features nearly 3,000 square feet of finished space. The four-bedroom, three-bathroom home offers a three-stall garage, floor-to-ceiling fireplace, modern kitchen appliances, quartz countertops, ceramic tile flooring, and more. What a terrific hands-on learning opportunity for students interested in the construction field!

For additional photos, see MLS #:1977822.

Engineering Toy Cars for Families in Need

During the second semester, the district partnered with Shine Medical Technologies to participate in the The Go Baby Go project. The program has student teams modify electric toy cars to be used by families with children who have spina bifida to assist with their mobility.

The cars were donated by Blain's Farm & Fleet, and assembled by STEM students throughout the district. They got mentoring help from engineers at SHINE Technologies. Students from Arise Virtual Academy, Franklin and Marshall Middle Schools, and Parker High School took part.



Community Survey Helps Drive Facilities Planning Process

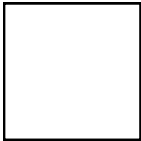
The district conducted a community-wide survey in spring 2024 to gather input on the district's operational and facility planning work. The community's input will help guide next steps, including potential referendum questions on the ballot in November 2024.



A total of 3,273 community members provided input via the survey. A majority of respondents support renewing a \$14.5 million operating referendum for two years, which would not be expected to increase the district's tax rate.

Survey results also show that while the community understands the need for district facility maintenance and improvements, the facilities' base plan did not receive majority support at this time. However, the district and board could consider presenting a revised facilities plan at a reduced cost and tax impact to voters in November.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JANESVILLE
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JANESVILLE, WI 53548



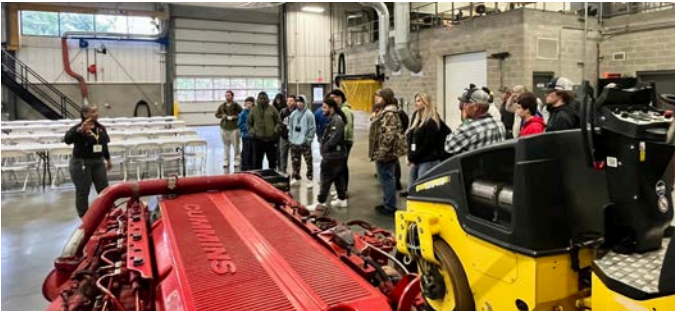
We're Hiring

As one of the largest employers in Rock County, the School District of Janesville strives to provide its employees with a challenging yet fulfilling and enjoyable work environment—and we're hiring! We have a variety of full- and part-time positions that could be a perfect fit for those in the market for their first job, someone looking to re-enter the workforce, or anyone looking for a new work experience. Learn more at www.janesville.k12.wi.us/departments/human-resources

Want to know more about the School District of Janesville? Sign up to be on our mailing list by scanning the QR code or texting **SDJINFO** to **91999**.



Students Get In-Person Look at Heavy Equipment Operation Careers



The district took more than 30 students from Craig High School, Parker High School, and Rock River Charter School to the Operating Engineer Training Facility in Coloma. There, they received a hands-on exploration of careers in heavy equipment operation!

Students toured the facility, tested their skills on heavy equipment simulators, learned about apprenticeship opportunities, and even got behind the controls of real excavators! SDJ students interested in this field can get a head start by enrolling in the Highway Construction Academy offered at their high schools right here in Janesville.

Janesville Students Among World’s Best at CodingQuest Competition

Students from Craig and Parker High Schools recently teamed up to finish as the top team in the United States—and the No. 10 school district IN THE WORLD—in the 2024 CodingQuest programming competition!

CodingQuest is an annual competition specifically for secondary students to showcase their knowledge and understanding of algorithm design, data structures, and computational thinking. Each competition runs across two weeks, where participants must solve a series of problems.

Congratulations to all involved in bringing this honor to the School District of Janesville! Team members were:

- Chris Causey, Parker
- Alex Cooper, Parker
- Kevin Duong, Craig
- Logan Flippin, Parker
- Kelsey Gunderson, Parker
- Ryan Hahn, Parker
- Alex Nouansacksy, Craig
- Daylen Schilling, Parker
- Noah Sookraj, Craig

Top 10 schools

Calculated from the top 5 students from each school to have completed the most problems in the least time cumulative

1	King George V	45 solved in 17:20:50.	2	12	13	8	42	20
2	Anatolian TUBITAK Science High School	45 solved in 22:15:44.	1	4	7	19	59	42
3	Sha Tin College	45 solved in 44:14:05.	12	10	7	31	8	
4	The British International School, Budapest	45 solved.	1	6				
5	Bangkok International Preparatory & Secondary School	45 solved.	1	6	3	5	19	6
6	Garden International School	45 solved.	2	3	3	3	18	13
7	Bromsgrove International School Thailand	45 solved.	3	3	1	10	9	
8	Victoria Shanghai Academy	43 solved.	1	3	4	12	14	
9	Jewish Free School	42 solved.	1	1	2	6	2	
10	Parker/Craig High School	42 solved.	2	4	6			

It is the policy of the SDJ, pursuant to applicable State and Federal law, that no person shall be subject to discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender expression, gender identity, gender nonconformity or change of sex, marital or parental status, national origin, disability or handicap, creed, color, pregnancy, citizenship, ancestry, arrest record, conviction record not substantially related to the nature of a person's job or activity in the school, membership in the National Guard, state defense force or any other United States or Wisconsin reserve component of the military forces, or any other reason prohibited by state or federal law.