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Perspective

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

Lodi has Highest District School Accountability Score in History

On November 19, 2024, the State of Wisconsin released the 2024 state accountability report cards for schools across the state of Wisconsin. All five schools in the school district of Lodi fell into the “Exceeds Expectation” category. The district also had their highest score in the history of the district on the state accountability system in 2024, surpassing the 2023 rating which was the previous highest ranking. It should be understood that these ratings are a point in time reflection of our schools and district and don’t reflect the full picture of what happens in the district on a day to day basis. That being said, it makes sense to take a moment and congratulate our students, staff, and families for their hard work and partnership which makes these scores possible. These results would not be possible without the community supporting our educational programs through that passage of the latest operating referendum.

Please see the Curriculum and Instruction section of the Community Link written by Dr. Karls for further information on the school accountability scores.

Board/Community Engagement Session

The School District of Lodi’s Board of Education held an informative and stimulating community engagement session on November 6, 2024, to discuss the work that has been done in the district with the funds that were approved in the 2022 operating referendum. The session, held at Lodi High School, was an opportunity for board members to engage in conversation with community members about issues that matter most to them. The Board held a community engagement session in December of 2023 as well.

The event showcased the board's commitment to openness and community involvement in shaping the future of education within the district. Attendees started the evening with an informal meet and greet with school board members and school administrators. Participants were then provided with a comprehensive overview of the 2022 operating referendum that was supported by the community. The presentation portion of the meeting started with board members sharing information about why the School District of Lodi needs referendum funding. Information was shared on the state school funding formula which was initially intended to fund schools with revenue limits while also being indexed to inflation. Board members were able to show information from the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials indicating that when the state disconnected the state school funding formula’s connection to inflation it had a significant negative effect on school funding in Lodi and across the state.

Board members then highlighted how the funds approved by the community in the 2022 referendum have been used to maintain programming, stabilize class sizes, and support staff. They discussed how this work has been in alignment with priorities set forth in the

strategic plan that was developed by the community in 2021. In addition, the board was able to share some of the maintenance and technology upgrades that have occurred since the passing of the referendum, including updated wifi and student/staff devices, the upgraded track, and the new roof on the Lodi Elementary School/OSC building. Board members also shared several upcoming referendum projects that are scheduled including a new roof for Lodi High School. The board closed the presentation by showing the progress that the district has made in several areas since the passage of the referendum, specifically in communication and in academics. The academic progress was highlighted by sharing the 2023 state school accountability report cards in which every school within the district was rated in the exceeds expectation area. The district also had their highest score in the history of the district on the state accountability system in 2023. *Note: the 2024 state accountability report cards were not out at the time of the community engagement session.*

At the end of the presentation, board members opened up the floor for questions. There were several questions from community members about staffing, staff retention, school funding, and the process used for assessing facilities and taking projects out to bid. Those in attendance also gave the board feedback on additional information they would like to see in future presentations.

The Board of Education for the School District of Lodi remains dedicated to fostering open communication channels with the community, ensuring that stakeholders have a voice in shaping the educational landscape. Future sessions and engagements are anticipated to further strengthen this collaborative approach towards educational excellence and community enrichment.

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 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30 pm closed session /6:30 pm regular session in the District unless posted otherwise.

Heather Baron..... *President*
 Terry Haag..... *Vice-President*
 H. Adam Steinberg..... *Treasurer*
 Sarah Raemisch..... *Clerk*
 Scott Bilse..... *Director*
 Sarah Ripp..... *Director*
 Theresa Valencia..... *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, 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 20th through Wednesday, January 1st.

HELP US PLAN FOR FUTURE ENROLLMENT

Preschool Census



If you are a School District of Lodi resident and have children (birth through 5 years of age) not currently enrolled in our district, we would like to hear from you.

- The benefit to you is that if you fill out the census, you are in our system and we are able to contact you with information appropriate for the age of your child(ren).
- The census is different from registration.
- Please do not include currently enrolled Lodi students.

Please complete the census survey

Scan the QR code or visit the district website to fill out the survey for the Lodi School District.

Do you have questions? Contact
Kris Karls, District Registrar
karlskr@lodischoolswi.org 608.592.1053

Si tiene preguntas sobre el formulario,
comuníquese con el Intérprete del Distrito
al 608.592.3855 Opción 5



<https://forms.gle/18efXmLQpF1JLn498>



Emergency School Closing Information 2024-2025



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

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

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
neaumem@lodischoolswi.org



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

Interested in Becoming a Lodi School Board Member?

**Board of Education
Tuesday, April 1, 2025 Spring General Election**

Terms of office for the following board members for the School District of Lodi will expire in April 2026.

Listed in alphabetical order:

Heather Baron
Scott Bilse

BALLOT ACCESS CHECKLIST FOR 2025 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 18, 2025 Spring Primary** and the **April 1, 2025 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-1L) to the filing officer prior to raising or spending any funds, and no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025**, 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 7, 2025. 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 primary and election 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 7, 2025**, 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 7, 2025. 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 23, 2024 at the end of the school day through January 1, 2025

For additional information, contact:

Moe Palmer at the School District of Lodi District Office, 115 School Street, Lodi, WI 53555 (592-3851, ext. 5480) or palmema@lodischoolswi.org



CBD AND "LEGAL THC"

(Presentation was held on October 22, 2024)

Drug Recognition Expert, Detective Pete Warning presented facts about Cannabidiol (CBD) and THC consumable products. Viewers will learn tips and resources to keep children, youth and communities safe.

Want to learn about CBD and other synthetic marijunanna products?

If you missed out on seeing this presentation, you can view it here:

LINK: <http://bit.ly/410TDmr>

OR

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH!

Sponsored By:
City of Lodi Police Department and LCAT



Lodi C.R.E.W. and Pool

Community Resource Enrichment and Wellness

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

Registration is available online through our website using this link (<https://lodi.cr3.rschoolday.com/public/home/>) or by scanning this QR code on your phone camera!



Here is a list of some of our current CREW programs:

- Boot Camp
- Zumba
- Movement and Strength
- Youth Wrestling
- Youth Girls 1st and 2nd grade Basketball
- New Me Challenge (Beginning in January)
- Walking Club

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)
- Water Aerobics 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!*

Our pool is used *year-round* by all community members. The pool has programming for all age groups including adults, senior citizens, youth and tots. The pool collaborates with the district's physical education teachers offering lessons for elementary, middle and high school students as part of the Phys Ed curriculum.

High School Students also have the opportunity to become Certified as Lifeguards and Swim Lesson Instructors in Phy. Ed Class! After certification, these students are then able to work at the Lodi Community Indoor Pool.

To see current and upcoming programs check us out on the school website Page: www.lodi.k12.wi.us click on the community tab and go to CREW or Indoor Community Pool. Friend us on Facebook for up-to-date classes and information! (Lodi CREW)

Food Service

Diane Leuck – Food Service Director

Greetings from the Food Service Department! The year is flying by and we are now at holiday time again.

We have been very busy in the Food Service testing new things. We have been offering our LTO's again this year (Limited Time Options). In September we had Cheeseburger Fries and Hot Honey Chicken Pizza. In October we had a Buffalo Chicken Grilled Cheese and our plant based special was Three Bean Sweet Potato Chili over Rice and Baked Chicken Legs. In November we are offering Chicken Fried Beef Steak and Turkish Tortilla Hacks. Check out our flyers for future offerings!

Our Harvest of the month is also going strong. In September we featured Tomatoes, Zucchini and Sweet Marjoram. We had an Italian Pasta Bake and Roasted Zucchini. In October we featured Apples, Kale, and Cinnamon. In November we are featuring Kiwi, Sweet Potato and Rosemary. We have had a lot of specials using these ingredients and we hope the students are enjoying them. We had Kale Salad with cranberries and a vinaigrette. So tasty!

We are also featuring our Turkey Dinner on the 20th of November as a practice run for the real one the following week. We are thankful to be able to offer our students and staff this traditional meal with our gratitude for supporting Food Service and we hope everyone joins us for the meal. We will be featuring a special meal in December for the holidays also, so stay tuned.

Our Great Apple Crunch was a huge success again this year. The students really enjoy getting to try different kinds of apples. Once again, we supported our local orchards by purchasing their apples. We bought them from Lapacek's, Jasper Orchards and Ski-Hi. We appreciate their partnership! Our students colored pictures and hung them on the walls showing why they like to "crunch". We will continue to try and keep this tradition alive and make it bigger every year. If you want to come in and crunch an apple with your student please let us know.

In December we will be welcoming our talented Taher Culinary Chef John Sugimura to Lodi. He is featuring a meal on December 10th for our high school students and staff and teaching about his Japanese culture. He will be working with Mr. Fassbender and Mrs. Moldenhauer and their classes and sharing his knowledge. He will make some special food for everyone to try. If you see him please welcome him and show him why we have so much Lodi Pride!

Lastly, I want to feature an employee who is a very important part of our staff at the High School. Mary Varner has worked here in Food Service for many years. She is loved and respected by students and teachers and is a leader for the whole staff. Please thank her for all her years of service and for her ability to work with all students. Thank you Mary!



So, as we move into the holiday season I hope everyone is thankful, grateful and surrounded by family and friends and lots of love at this magical time of the year. Happy Holidays from the Taher and Lodi School Food Service family!



Business & Operations

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

A BIG THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO LODI!

For those of you who didn't know, this will be my last article as I'll be retiring from the School District of Lodi in January 2025. As I prepare to retire a wave of nostalgia washes over me. It feels like just yesterday that I began this journey in 2005 as the Business Manager. The years have flown by, filled with countless challenges and success stories.

I've had the privilege of working with exceptional colleagues, supporting dedicated educators, and serving a community that truly cares about its schools. My own children have thrived in this district, receiving a top-notch education that has prepared them well for the future.

While I'm excited to embark on a new chapter, I'll cherish the memories I've made in Lodi. The friendships, the shared experiences, and the collective effort to provide the best possible education for our students – these are the things that truly matter.

As I say goodbye, I'm filled with hope and gratitude. I'm confident that the School District of Lodi will continue to flourish, and I wish everyone involved continued success.

District Introduces Health Savings Account Option

The school district has implemented a second health insurance plan, that is a health savings account. What is a health savings account?

A Health Savings Account (HSA) is a tax-advantaged savings account that can help you save for future medical expenses. To be eligible, you must have a high-deductible health insurance plan.

With an HSA, an employee can deduct contributions from his or her taxable income, invest in savings, and withdraw funds tax-free for qualified medical expenses. This includes doctor visits, prescriptions, and more. Unused funds can be carried over to future years, making HSA's a valuable tool for long-term financial planning. To provide greater flexibility, the district now offers several health insurance plans, allowing staff to choose the plan that best aligns with their individual needs and preferences.

New Retirement Savings Plan Available to District Employees

In January 2025, the district will be implementing a new savings program for staff, titled the mandatory contribution Tax Sheltered Annuity program. A Tax-Sheltered Annuity (TSA) is a retirement savings plan offered by certain employers, often in the public sector, but is very similar to the 401k in the private sector. Contributions to a TSA are made with pre-tax dollars, reducing current taxable income. The funds grow tax-deferred within the account, and withdrawals are generally taxed as ordinary income upon retirement. TSAs provide a valuable way to save for retirement and potentially lower your tax burden.

Referendum 2022-2027

The school district of Lodi is currently in the third year 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>

Annual Meeting Recap

On October 21, 2024, the School District of Lodi convened its annual meeting and budget hearing. Positive outcomes from the previous fiscal year include a balanced 2023-2024 budget. Looking ahead, the district projects a balanced 2024-2025 budget. Additionally, a reduction of .72 mills in the mill rate is expected to lead to a decrease in 2025 property taxes. For instance, owners of \$100,000 properties may see a reduction of approximately \$72 in their annual tax bill. However, the district advises that the specific impact on individual taxpayers may vary depending on municipal factors.



Curriculum and Instruction

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

School District of Lodi Families and Community,

As a parent of children enrolled in the School District of Lodi, I am consistently impressed by the wealth of opportunities available to our students every day. From engaging academic challenges to robust programs in the arts, physical education, and career and technical education, our district truly offers a well-rounded experience. As we approach the holiday season, I'd like to share some exciting updates from our district, including the continued success of our schools, the dedication to staff development, and a special opportunity for holiday shopping in our Fabrication Lab.

Let's dive into some of the latest highlights from Lodi's Curriculum & Instruction department and beyond!



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

Since 2012, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has been required by state statute (Wis. Stat. 115.385) to produce report cards for every publicly funded school and district in the state. These report cards are designed to help schools and districts celebrate success and focus improvement efforts to better prepare students for their futures. They include data from multiple years across four priority areas: Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-Track to Graduation.

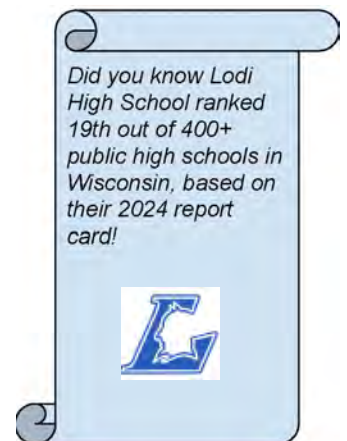
Based on these measures, schools and districts receive one of five ratings, ranging from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*.

Once again, the School District of Lodi has earned a rating of *Exceeds Expectations* from the state! Impressively, every school in the district also received the same designation. The district achieved its highest overall score to date, surpassing its previous record, and Lodi Middle School set a new high score as well. These achievements further solidify **Lodi's reputation as one of the top-performing districts in Dane and Columbia counties.**

Internally, our teams have thoroughly analyzed these reports to celebrate our successes and proactively address areas for growth.

For those interested in exploring the School District of Lodi's detailed report card data, please visit our curriculum and instruction page at the following link:

<https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/our-district/curriculum-instruction>



Did you know Lodi High School ranked 19th out of 400+ public high schools in Wisconsin, based on their 2024 report card!



District Workforce - Strengthening Education Through PLCs

At Lodi Schools, we are committed to continuous improvement in teaching and learning. One of the ways we achieve this is through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), where educators work together to enhance student outcomes.

PLCs provide our teachers with structured opportunities each week to collaborate, share strategies, and focus on key questions that help guide instruction. These questions include the following:

1. What do we want students to know and be able to do?
2. How will we know if they have learned it?
3. How will we respond when some students do not learn?
4. How will we extend learning for students who are already proficient?

Through these collaborative sessions, teachers are able to refine their teaching practices, address student needs more effectively, and ensure that all students are challenged and supported. This ongoing professional development is essential to providing a high-quality education for every student at Lodi Schools.

On November 1, our middle and high school educators participated in their third PLC training session of the year, led by a facilitator from the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators. These sessions focused on practical strategies to strengthen our PLC teams, helping educators make the most of their collaborative time. Teachers left the session with new tools and a refreshed focus on improving learning outcomes for all students.



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>).





Student Services

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

School and Community Resources

School and community organizations come together to support students and families throughout the year. The holiday season is no exception. There are several ways we can seek and offer support in Lodi. Here are some programs and opportunities to consider.

Blessings in a Backpack

Blessings in a Backpack is a non-profit organization for students across the country. 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 who may face food insecurity in the School District of Lodi. Many students rely on school meals during the week and this initiative ensures they have access to nutritious food throughout the weekend. Bags are distributed in a discreet and confidential manner.

If you are interested in enrolling in Blessings in a Backpack, please contact Adria Schroeder - Director of Student Services at 608-532-3851 x5486 or schroad@lodischoolswi.org.

If you find yourself in a position to donate to Blessings in a Backpack on behalf of students in the Lodi Community, you may donate in the following 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
c/o Val Bilkey
1307 Sauk Street
Lodi, WI 53555

Lori Harrenstein, Treasurer
254 Lodi Street
Lodi, WI 53555

2. **Donations online:** Visit the website (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.

Address: 601 Clark Street, Lodi, WI 53555

Phone Number: 608-592-4592

If you are interested in supporting Reach Out Lodi, please visit their website (www.reachoutlodi.org) to make a donation or buy supplies from their wish list.

Santa Project

The Santa Project is an organization within the Lodi Community that has been providing 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

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.

Developmental Screening Day

Developmental screenings are for children in the community who have recently turned 3 yrs. old. All children are invited to attend, particularly if there are concerns about your child’s development. You are invited to attend the screening date closest to your child’s 3rd birthday. Screenings will look at your child’s development in the following areas:

- Speech
- Academic/General Knowledge
- Vision
- Hearing
- Fine & Gross Motor

Location: Lodi Primary School
1307 Sauk Street

Dates: January 17, 2025
March 14, 2025

Times: 8:45-9:30 am AND 9:45-11:00 am

Please contact the Primary School office to schedule an appointment. 608-592-3855 ext. 1000 or giesean@lodischoolswi.org





Joe Jelinek – Principal
592-3853 ext. 4402

High School Highlights

Jason Marshall- Associate Principal
592-3853 ext. 4403



Pillar 3 of the District Strategic Plan: Innovative Community Connection

Celebrating Veterans Day at Lodi High School

This month, Lodi High School had the honor of hosting our district’s annual Veterans Day ceremony. Participating in this event offers students a wealth of benefits, whether they take on a role in the program or serve as part of the audience. The experience fosters a sense of civic responsibility and instills a deeper appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy, thanks to the sacrifices of our veterans.

The ceremony also serves as a platform for reflection, helping students better understand the realities of military service and the personal challenges faced by veterans and their families. This year, Navy veteran Paul Fisk spoke about our nation’s POWs and MIAs, while Senior Master Sergeant Todd Kern shared his experiences serving in the Air Force. He emphasized that even if military service isn’t your passion, there are countless ways to make an impact through service to your community.

The ceremony also provided an opportunity for students to showcase their talents. Members of Lodi Area Boy Scout Troop 113, Brock Wendt and Aiden Zitani, performed the presentation of the colors. Senior speakers included Juniper Schmidt, Isabelle Wipperfurth, Caleb Rotzoll, Chase Maas, and Jadyn Hellenbrand. Soloist Blake Simpson gave a moving performance of the time-honored melody *Taps*. The Lodi High School Chamber Choir performed “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and the choir and high school band collaborated to present the service songs for the five branches of the military: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, and Air Force.

Overall, the Veterans Day ceremony strengthened community bonds by bringing together veterans, students, parents, and other community members, fostering meaningful connections across generations. Events like this exemplify the many ways Lodi High School strives to build strong community ties and enrich the educational experience for our students.





Upcoming home athletic events at Lodi High School:

- Girls Basketball - Saturday, Dec. 7 @2:30 vs. Cambridge
- Boys Basketball - Saturday, Nov. 30 @ 3:00 pm vs. Sauk Prairie
- Wrestling - Scrimmage - Monday, Dec. 2 @ 5:00 vs. multiple schools

Rock the Gym

The Lodi Athletic Booster Club 10th Annual Rock the Gym will be held on Friday, January 17. During this event, attendees will have an opportunity to win an assortment of prizes donated by local individuals and businesses.

Girls Basketball will be playing first at 6:00 pm and Boys Basketball will play the nightcap starting at 7:30 pm.

Mark your calendars! You don't want to miss the fun!!



Middle School Maneuvers

*Derek Pertzborn – Principal
592-3854 ext. 3202*

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



Honoring Those Who Serve

In November, Lodi Middle School 6th graders were honored with an inspiring and educational opportunity that we were able to offer our students. We had the privilege of hosting several veterans who graciously visited our school to share their personal stories, answer questions, and provide valuable insights on the significance of Veterans Day. This event not only enriched our students' understanding of history, but also instilled in them a deeper respect for those who serve our nation.

Our guests represented various branches of the U.S. military and shared stories from different periods and roles in service. The veterans described their personal journeys, from training to deployment, and the challenges they faced while serving. Through these accounts, students gained a real-world perspective on the sacrifices made by our military personnel and the impact of service on the lives of veterans and their families. Hearing these firsthand experiences allowed students to connect with history in a meaningful way, learning how the courage and dedication of our veterans protect and uphold the values we cherish.

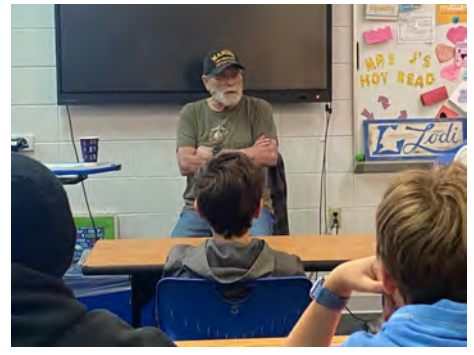
Throughout the event, 6th grade students were eager to engage, asking thoughtful questions that showcased their curiosity and respect. They inquired about daily life in the military, the skills veterans gained from their service, and the challenges of returning to civilian life. The veterans spoke about qualities like resilience, teamwork, and sacrifice; values that resonated with our students and which they can cultivate in their own lives. It was heartwarming to see our students genuinely connect with these remarkable individuals, gaining valuable life lessons beyond the classroom.

As a community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the veterans who visited us. Their willingness to share their experiences not only educated but inspired us all. We are so grateful for their time, service, and continued dedication to fostering understanding in our next generation. Let us continue to honor our veterans and teach our students about the importance of respect, gratitude, and community service.

Thank you to all the veterans who visited Lodi Middle School!

Captain Neil Bishop - US Marine Corps
Corporal Charlie Panosian - US Marine Corps Combined Actions Program
Colonel Brian Parker - US Air Force
Sergeant Bill Schrum - US Marine Corps
Sergeant Terry Anderson - US Marine Corps
Corporal Savage Clark - US Marine Corps
Larry Johnson - US Army
Ken Becker - World War II

A special thanks to 6th grade science teacher Michelle Howe for organizing this event for our students each year.





Elementary/OSC Excerpts

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

Hello Lodi Community Members,

I hope you are doing well. There are a lot of different topics I could choose from to highlight in this Community Link article. There is so much to be proud of in this community, district, and at Lodi Elementary School (LES) and the Ouisconsing School of Collaboration (OSC). This time I have chosen to focus on highlighting our partnership with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, but before we get into that I think it is important to continue to define our LES/OSC Learning Community so that you are aware of what learning looks like at LES/OSC.

LES/OSC Learning Environment Defined:

LES/OSC is a student-centered 3rd-5th grade school with highly effective educators who value people, conversations, and growth. We focus on developing positive relationships because people matter. The work we do is important but it is not more important than the students we teach and the families we serve. We value the support and partnerships we have with our families and community. Our belief is that learning is fostered best within community, not in isolation. We leverage our partnerships to help us connect with and know our students so we can nurture every student's full potential.

We have high academic expectations but match that with the right amount of support in order to optimize student learning. Our skilled staff create and maintain a learning environment that is safe, respectful, and inclusive. We create and provide opportunities for students to engage in and take ownership in their learning while developing innovative problem solvers. We take pride in living out the district mission at Lodi Elementary School and seek ways we can give back to and serve our community.



Lodi Schools Blaze New Trail as First Ice Age Trail Campus:

In case you haven't noticed the *Ice Age Trail Campus* signs at each of our schools, the School District of Lodi has become the first ever K-12 Ice Age Trail Campus! This means our schools are working closely with the Ice Age Trail Alliance to learn about and help take care of the amazing Ice Age Trail right in our backyard. There has been a long-standing partnership between the School District of Lodi and the Ice Age Trail Alliance and we are excited to expand upon that partnership while increasing opportunities for our students to learn about and from this amazing resource.



In case you didn't know, the Ice Age Trail is a 1,200-mile hiking path that goes through Wisconsin. It's named after the Ice Age because it follows the edge of where the last big glacier was in our state. Last year the Ice Age Trail became part of the National Park System when it became one of eleven National Scenic Trails. It is so amazing that the trail is part of our community.

The recent trail campus designation was part of the special agreement our school district signed with the Ice Age Trail Alliance last spring. This agreement is called a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). It means we've made a commitment to work together in a more concerted effort for the next three years!



The coolest part? Lodi students actually built a brand new piece of the Ice Age Trail! This section goes from the high school bridge all the way to Industrial Drive. It's the only part of the whole Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin that was made completely by students. How awesome is that?

This partnership between our schools and the Ice Age Trail Alliance is super important because it helps us do all of these things:

1. Learn about nature and Wisconsin's ice age history
2. Unplug, get exercise and enjoy the outdoors
3. Work together as a community to serve
4. Take care of our local environment
5. Learn from local experts and build connections



In closing, all of this wouldn't have been possible without help from lots of different people. The trail is developed and maintained by countless volunteers throughout the state. Through our long-standing partnership with both the Ice Age Trail Alliance and our local chapter we have been able combine the work of people and groups like Kurt Wilson and his Cross Country teams, our hiking clubs, Summer Saunters, the Ouisconsin School of Collaboration, our Chamber of Commerce, and of course, all the hard-working Lodi students into becoming the first ever K-12 Ice Age Trail Campus! That's pretty cool!

I am excited about the opportunities ahead because we get to bring learning outside where students get to learn about nature, history, and science right on the trail. It's like having a giant outdoor classroom! We also get to give back. We'll work on projects to help build and take care of the trail through service learning opportunities. Students also get to meet experts. Scientists and trail experts will visit us and teach us even more about nature and the Ice Age Trail. It is an exciting time to be a Blue Devil!



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 for Pillars one, two, and three.

Pillar 1: Preparing for the Future

- **Wisconsin Act 20:** Certified staff that teach literacy continue with the Keys to Literacy Training. This training is required as part of the Wisconsin Act 20 Legislation. Our staff have worked on this training during our pre-session and collaboration days as well as additional hours through the school year that we carved out for them. The staff complete modules independently and then come together for facilitated sessions by Donica Goodwin from CESA. After these sessions, we came together with our literacy team to reflect on our current instructional practices and how they align with the foundational skills that we are required to teach. We are currently 65% through our training and we have completed these areas: reading basics (Science of Reading), oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, and vocabulary.
- **Math Facts:** This past year the Math Department recognized a need to add a structured math fact routine into our weekly practice at the K-5 level. This summer we had a team of teachers come together to develop that routine, determine guidelines for staff to use with students, and create a plan for implementation. This past fall we started this Math Fact routine to support students learning into our daily instruction. We know that this additional instruction will create the foundation that students need to help them in the area of math.
- **Word of the Week:** One of the ways to help support our students vocabulary development, a critical foundational skill, is by including a “word of the week” in our daily announcements. Each day students hear the word, the definition, the word in a sentence with a matching picture. To extend this, we have added how to divide the word into syllables and synonyms and antonyms for the word. We encourage the students and staff to use this word and find it in the books and stories they are reading/listening to. Some of the words we have focused on so far: respectful, responsible, safe, adjust,, gratitude, kindness, promise, express, and perseverance.



- **How Can Families Help their Child at Home?** As a way to help our families better understand how to help their child’s learning at home, our staff have created designated sections in the bimonthly agendas that they send home to families as well as in our monthly newsletters to families. Partnering with families allows us to continue learning at home and at school.

How can I help my child at home?

Daily Reading Together

- **Read aloud:** Take turns reading a favorite storybook or discover new genres together.
- **Create a reading corner:** Designate a cozy, fun spot for reading, encouraging your child to develop a love for books.
- **Storytelling:** Encourage your child to tell or invent their own stories, which fosters imagination and language skills.



Pillar 2, Nurturing the Whole Student

- **Primary School Families** We are continuing our Primary School Families again this year. 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 and to help foster the sense of belonging, inclusion, and collaboration.
- **Mileage Club:** We are continuing our Mileage Club during K-2 lunch recess thanks to Mrs. Chantel Steinhorst and other parent volunteers. 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 as a way to promote physical well being.

Pillar 3 Innovative Communication Connection

- **Monthly Pride Pillars:** Each month we will be facilitating learning, activities, and opportunities on what Lodi Pride is and looks like by establishing Pride Pillars each month. The traits will relate to being proud of who you are. The first one for October and November is kindness. This coordinates well to celebrate Bullying Prevention Month and World Kindness Day (November 13). Students learned that one way they can be proud of themselves is by being kind to others. Here are some of the things that we did to highlight this.
 - **Kindness Lesson and Quilt:** During SEL Lesson, Mrs. Val Bilkey is doing a kindness lesson and building a Kindness quilt.
 - **Kindness Extension Activity** - We sent home a Kindness challenge to families with activities students can do to spread kindness at home.
 - **Kindness Challenge Video Clip** - We created TOP SECRET KINDNESS MISSION and added to the daily announcements email . Each day staff share missions with classes on things they can do here at school.
 - **Caught being “kind”**
Announcement: Staff shared names of students that they feel demonstrated being kind. We celebrated these throughout the month.



- **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 they colored a picture of themselves and wrote or drew some things that they are proud of in the speech bubble.

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 5th ~ 4K at 5:30 pm
- December 6th ~ ES/OSC at 12:15 pm
 - 12:15 pm: Grade 5
 - 12:50 pm: Grade 4
 - 1:25 pm: Grade 3
 - 2:00 pm: OSC
- December 12th ~ MS Band & Choir at 7 pm
 - 6:00 pm: 6th Grade Band
 - 6:30 pm: 7/8 Grade Band
 - 7:00 pm 6/7/8th Grade Choir
- December 13th ~ K-2nd Grades
 - 12:20 pm: Kindergarten
 - 1:05 pm: 1st Grade
 - 2:00 pm: 2nd Grade
- December 17th ~ HS Winter Concert at 7 pm

Important Dates

December:

- 9 School Board Regular Meeting
- 25-31 No School ~ Winter Break

January:

- 2 Classes Resume
- 8 8th Grade Course Scheduling Night 6 pm
- 13 School Board Regular Meeting
- 17 End of 1st Semester
- 17 Rock The Gym
- 20 No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Contracted day for Staff
- 23 4K Round up

February:

- 7 No School – Professional Development for Staff
- 10 School Board Regular Meeting
- 17-21 National FFA Week

March

- 10 School Board Regular Meeting
- 24-28 Spring Break



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All School Buildings including the District Office will closed at the end of the school day, Friday, December 20, 2024
Classes Resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025

Website:
www.lodi.k12.wi.us