

January - February
2025

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www.luxcasco.k12.wi.us

Superintendent

Jo-Ellen Fairbanks

Principals

Peter Kline,
Primary School

Heather Mleziva,
Intermediate School

Todd Chandler,
Middle School

Tyson Tlachac,
High School

The Spartan Impact

It is hard to believe that we are a little more than halfway through the 2024-25 school year!

I'd like to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the incredible efforts and achievements that help to shape our school community. The success of our District is a direct reflection of the hard work and commitment of our students, staff, and families who strive daily to make our schools an exceptional place to learn, work, and grow.

L-C continues to be one of the highest-performing districts in Northeast Wisconsin and across the state based on the 2023-24 District Report Cards from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). L-C ranked among the top 20% of state school districts, finishing 82nd of 421 districts and earning an Exceeds Expectations designation. This type of achievement occurs because of L-C's highly qualified and dedicated teachers and staff. Their unwavering passion, patience, and dedication make a profound difference in the learning and growth of our students.

L-C High School has 47.6% of students (153) participating in Youth Apprenticeship or other work-based learning programs. This is nearly triple the state average! Additionally, nearly 1 in 10 L-C High School students earned at least one- industry recognized credential last year. These results could not have been achieved without the support and collaboration of our community and business partners. Their forward-thinking, engagement, and monetary, supply, and equipment donations have been instrumental in driving our career-readiness vision forward.

As we head into the second half of the school year, let's embrace the exceptional school district that is L-C and continue to make this a great year!

Dr. Jo-Ellen Fairbanks, Ph.D.
Superintendent



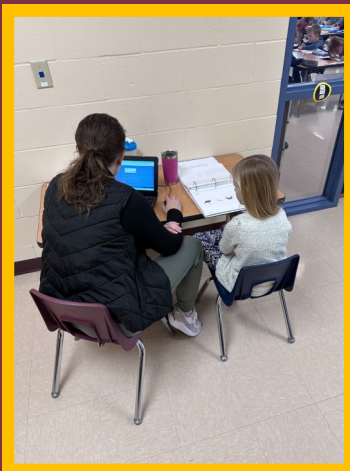
Primary School News

Reading Assessments

The middle of the year brings about student assessments in reading and math to determine where students are in their learning. In 2023, the State of Wisconsin passed a law called Act 20. This law states that each student in grades 4K-3 will take an assessment called the AimswebPlus Early Reading Screener. A screener is an assessment that quickly checks students' reading skills. While utilizing screeners has been done for a number of years in the Luxemburg-Casco School District, this is the first year we are utilizing AimswebPlus.

The screener will check important literacy skills including alphabet knowledge, letter sound knowledge, phonemic awareness, decoding, and oral vocabulary. The skills are tested differently based on the student's grade level. The AimswebPlus Early Reading Screener will take place 3 times per year. The screening took place in fall and will be repeated again in the winter and spring.

Beginning with the winter screening window, parents will receive their student's reports sharing their student's percentile rank which helps show how the student's score compares to others at the same grade level. The information from the early reading screener is one way that our teachers will learn about and monitor students reading skills. If a student's score is below the 25th percentile, a reading plan will be developed to help that student meet grade-level goals. This is called a Personalized Reading Plan, or PRP, PRPs are now required by the state. While plans for reading intervention have been in place for many years in our district, this will be the first time a formal plan is required by law. Our district is in a very good position to meet the requirements of Act 20 thanks to the hard work of our staff and our teaching practices.



College & Career Skills At the Primary School

In today's rapidly evolving world, employers are increasingly looking for candidates who possess technical knowledge and have a strong foundation of interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence. In the Luxemburg-Casco School District, we recognize the importance of preparing our students for the workforce by focusing on soft skills—qualities such as communication, teamwork, empathy, problem-solving, and adaptability. At a young age, we begin teaching these skills and qualities to support students in practicing and developing their interpersonal-emotional skills. The old saying, "Everything I need to know I learned in Kindergarten," does have merit when it relates to these skills. To support this at the Primary School, we have introduced the Character Strong curriculum, this school year.



Character Strong is a comprehensive program designed to help students develop essential soft skills that are critical for success in their personal, academic, and eventually, professional lives. The curriculum has an overarching monthly focus for the school with grade-specific engaging lessons that align with the monthly focus. The focus characteristics include Respect, Responsibility, Gratitude, Empathy, Perseverance, Honesty, Cooperation, Courage, Creativity, and Kindness. By actively engaging with these components, students have begun to develop an in-depth understanding of interpersonal and social-emotional skills. Additionally, they are beginning to build the foundational skills employers highly value.

Embedded into the curriculum each month is a song that supports the students' learning relating to the monthly theme. The students enjoy learning the songs and singing them each day during their Character Strong time. During school assemblies, the songs are replayed and students sing along showing the whole school what they have learned about that month's theme. Here is a link to the song for January about perseverance: <https://youtu.be/FC4vQ5AqKyY>

Furthermore, Character Strong encourages students to take ownership of their actions, practice emotional regulation, and engage in constructive problem-solving—skills that are crucial for self-regulation, managing stress, and maintaining a positive school/work environment. As we continue to prepare our students for the future, the Character Strong curriculum will play a key role in helping them develop the soft skills needed to become kind, caring, and well-rounded individuals.

Intermediate School News

Music Role Models

On December 18th & 19th, several 6th grade band students took a walk over to the Primary School to play a few holiday songs, talk about instruments, get an up close and personal look at all the instruments, and spread some holiday cheer with the 4K through second grade students. The Primary students were tested on their knowledge of instrument names (a flute is now called a "slizzalin," along with many other humorous guesses), and all ended their time by singing Jingle Bells along with the band as they played.



Team B.O.S.S. Takes the Plunge for Special Olympics

Our Luxemburg-Casco School community is coming together for an incredible cause! Staff and Intermediate and High School students will participate in the **Special Olympics Polar Plunge** on **Saturday, February 22nd** at the **Perkofski Boat Launch**, located by the Brown County Fairgrounds at **1500 Fort Howard Avenue, De Pere**. The event begins at **noon**.

This year's team, proudly named **Team B.O.S.S.** (Briella, Ollie, and Sage's Spartans), is diving into icy waters to support Special Olympics—a global movement that empowers individuals with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and valued members of their communities. By promoting respect, inclusion, and opportunity, Special Olympics fosters a more inclusive and compassionate society for all.



To help support this amazing cause, the Intermediate School is hosting a **Penny War**—a fun and friendly competition to raise funds. Additionally, you can contribute directly to our Polar Plunge efforts by donating through our **Team B.O.S.S. page** at <https://plungegreenbay.funraise.org/team/team-boss>

Join us in making a difference! Whether you're contributing to the Penny War, cheering at the plunge, or donating online, your support helps create a world where everyone is valued and included.

Let's go, Team B.O.S.S.!

Youth Art Month

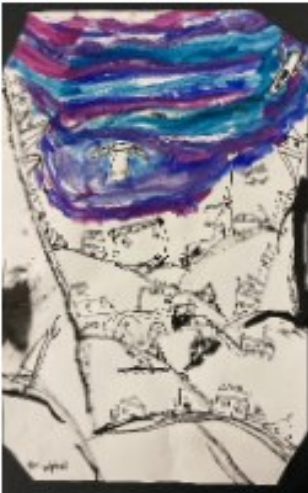
This year 5 hardworking students will have their artwork be part of the Wisconsin Art Education Association Youth Art Month Regional Exhibit. The show will be hosted from January 25, through February 23, 2025 at the Neville Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The artist reception will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at the museum at 1:00pm. The reception will end by 4:00 pm.

The regional show will be judged locally by working artists and art teachers.

Three works of art submitted from each art teacher will be selected to move on to the State Youth Art Month Show as part of Wisconsin's Youth Art Month Celebration. This will happen in March.

This is a HUGE deal! Our school has several hundred students and only 5 can be chosen for this event. Make sure to visit the regional show at the Neville Public Museum and support our LC students.

Youth Art Month State Exhibit will be on display from March 1 - March 28, 2025 at East Towne Mall in Madison, Wisconsin. The celebratory awards date is Friday, March 28, 2025 from 12:00 (Noon) - 1:00 PM. There will be awards given, goodie bags, and lots of fun to be had by all!



Mrs. Mleziva's "Whoa Board" Incentive



After a successful first year, the Whoa Board is back! The Whoa Board is a student accountability system that focuses on positive student behavior. When students act using our Spartan Way expectations: being safe, responsible, or respectful, they earn a Whoa ticket from a teacher. Once a student earns a Whoa ticket, they fill out their information on the ticket, place it in the ticket box, and initial an open box on the Whoa board itself. Once the board is filled, Mrs. Mleziva draws between 8-12 student tickets and those students earn a reward such as T-shirt, popcorn, or ice cream party.

Middle School News

Semester Transition As Part of Exploration

Once a student gets to the middle school level, their academic pathway becomes much more of a secondary one than an elementary one. LCMS students are scheduled into classes that are traditionally referred to as “required” or “core content” including English language arts, math, science, social studies and physical education. Additionally, we have seventh graders take an introductory level computer course, while we have eighth graders take a course that serves as an introduction to word processing and personal finance. However, they also begin to have more choices in their schedule.

Each year our students have the opportunity to select elective courses they are interested in or they would like to try. They are able to select classes in art, family and consumer science, music, Spanish and tech. ed. During the middle of January, when the first semester transitions to the second, the majority of our students experience changes in their schedules that have them completing one of those courses and starting a new one. These opportunities are valuable experiences for them during the current school year; and, they can be very informative when they begin the process of course selection for the upcoming school year. For our eighth graders looking forward to high school, it adds a heightened level of excitement.

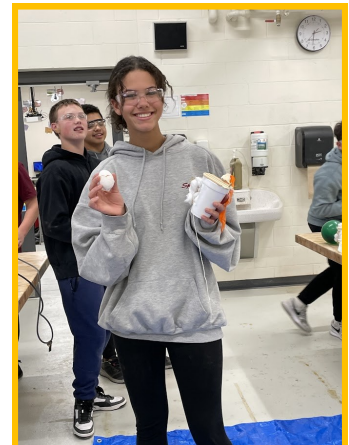
Some Upcoming Dates

February 20 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 27 - Mini-Course Day

March 14 - End of Third Quarter

March 17-21 - Spring Break



High School News

Supporting Personal Finance:

A Partnership with Fox Communities Credit Union and Bank of Luxemburg

This fall, Luxemburg-Casco High School took a significant step toward equipping students with essential financial skills by partnering with Fox Communities Credit Union and Bank of Luxemburg. Through innovative tools, engaging presentations, and interactive events, these partnerships emphasized the importance of financial literacy and saving habits.

Empowering Students with “Cashy” and the Savings Challenge

One of the standout features of the initiative was “Cashy,” an investment tool sponsored by Fox Communities Credit Union and Bank of Luxemburg. This program, along with in-class presentations and the Reality Store event, encouraged students to think critically about their financial futures.

To inspire students to practice real-life saving skills, Fox Communities Credit Union introduced the Savings Challenge. Students were tasked with saving \$10 weekly throughout the semester, using accounts at any local bank or credit union, and submitting proof of their savings to their teacher.

Although 15 students began the challenge, only two persevered to the end. Their dedication didn’t go unnoticed—each was rewarded with \$150 from Fox Communities Credit Union as a testament to the value of staying committed to financial goals.



The Reality Store: A Glimpse into Real-Life Finances

Bank of Luxemburg played a pivotal role in the fall’s Reality Store event, an interactive simulation designed to give students a taste of managing personal finances. Participants began with a career of their choice and navigated through various stations representing real-life expenses and decisions, such as insurance, vehicle choices, and budgeting.

The exercise highlighted the connection between career choices and financial planning, helping students understand the challenges of maintaining a balanced budget while managing day-to-day expenses.

Looking to the Future

These collaborative efforts demonstrate the importance of teaching financial literacy at an early age. Luxemburg-Casco High School is proud of the students who rose to the challenge this semester and is hopeful that even more will participate in the future.



Special thanks to Fox Communities Credit Union and Bank of Luxemburg for their generosity and dedication to helping students build lifelong financial skills. Together, we’re shaping a future of informed, financially savvy individuals.

Things are ADDING up for the Math Team !

The Luxemburg-Casco Math Team is back up and running and the team will tell you math and fun absolutely mix.

The fun includes competing in the Packerland Conference math league. The LC team currently has 19 members, freshmen through seniors. They hold their practices on Mondays during Spartan Time, and the Packerland league meets are held Monday evenings virtually.

What happens during the competitions? High school mathematics teacher and Math Team Advisor Kyle Schleis explains: "At each meet, students take four individual tests that are 15 minutes in length. The tests are comprised of four questions, two of which are two points and two questions that are 3 points for a total of 10 points on each test."

The test topics typically cover Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 and other problem-solving topics. After the four individual tests, there is a 20-minute team test consisting of six questions each worth 10 points.

The top five scores for each grade earn a medal at the meets. There are 9 schools competing in the League with a JV level as well. At the end of the season the top 2 varsity and top 2 JV teams earn plaques for their schools

At the first meet this year, Emma Schraufnagel earned a fourth-place medal for the seniors, Rylen Hinckley earned fourth among juniors, and Eva Waigand earned a fifth-place medal among sophomores. As a team, varsity earned a fifth-place finish in a very competitive meet while the JV team earned a 3rd place finish.

If you want to try out your skills and see what type of problems the students work on, here is a sample question provided by the Wisconsin Mathematics Council for a state-wide meet: "How many different combinations of 1, 2, and 3 point baskets are there to score 10 points in basketball?"

Remember, the clock has started...and it's a great day to think mathematically! By the way, there are 14 different combinations of 1, 2, and 3 point baskets for a player to score 10 points in a game of basketball.



Front row from left to right: Averi Buresh, Kate LeGrave, Rachel Gregorich, Katie Ledvina

Middle row from left to right: Claire DuChateau, Kyra Paul, Eva Waigand, Madyson VanArk, Emma Schraufnagel

Back row from left to right: Dylan Grimm, Lane Ledvina, Reagan Doell, Blake Jauquet, Hudson Thiry, Alex Steinfeldt, Rylen Hinckley

Not pictured: Evelyn Lange, Bella Marchi, Grace Turner

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

COMING
SOON!

"Gargoyles and Grandeur: LCHS Performing Arts present 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'"

Get ready to be transported to the heart of medieval Paris! LCHS is proud to present the powerful and moving musical, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," February 21, 22 and 23, 2025.

This epic stage adaptation of Victor Hugo's classic novel tells the timeless story of Quasimodo, the bell-ringer of Notre Dame, and his struggle for acceptance in a world that fears the unknown. Featuring soaring music by Alan Menken ("Beauty and the Beast," "Aladdin"), this production will be a feast for the senses, with stunning sets, dazzling costumes, and a talented cast of student performers.

The students have worked incredibly hard to capture the grandeur and emotion of this masterpiece. Student Stage Directors Danica Gagne and Ella Vandervest have worked together to create the blocking for this show. Senior cast members involved include: Abbie DeGrave, Autumn Matz, Claire DePeau, Ella Vandervest, Kara Goeltz, Karley Beyer, Lexi Polster, Lucas Iedvina, Madalyn Lange, Madyson VanArk, Matthew Brand.

Our talented Choreography Tanya Robinson is back again teaching the cast dynamic dances. Other directors include Margaret Meder, Stacey Baird, Tami Theys, Tina LeRoy and Tim Bahn.

Tickets for the general public go on sale February 10th at 3:00 pm and can be purchased online at <https://lchschoir.ludus.com> or at the LCHS Ticket Box Office. The Performing Arts Community Presale begins February 6th at 3:00 PM for PAC members. All seating is reserved. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$11 at the door.

Ticket Office hours

February 6th 3 to 5:30pm
 February 10th and 13th 3 to 5:30pm
 February 18th, and 20th 3 to 5:30pm
 February 21st 3-4:00 pm
 One hour before the show

Don't miss this unforgettable theatrical experience!

From Left to Right: Ella Vandervest, Madalyn Lange, Karley Beyer, Lexi Polster



Community Clothing Closet

The Community Clothing Closet is a valuable resource offering gently used clothing and accessories for women, men, teens, children, and infants. Small miscellaneous household and decorative items can also be found among the racks of jeans, pants, sweatshirts, jackets, dresses, and t-shirts.

Where: Casco Career Academy
619 Church Ave. in Casco
(Former Luxemburg-Casco Middle School)

Hours: 8:00am—3:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
8:00am—6:00pm Thursday
Closed—Saturday & Sunday
No appointment needed; Please ring the doorbell at the main entrance and someone will assist you

How can you contribute?? Donate gently used or new clothing and accessories; All ages and sizes needed
Volunteer your time to help sort and organize donations.
Spread the word to those who may benefit or want to support this community program

For specific questions or assistance: Contact Luxemburg School District Community Health Worker
Jerrell Kurowski: 920.655.3496



IF YOU SEE something SAY something

With the recent tragedy at the Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, L-C would like to remind students, parents, and community members that if you hear or see something that is suspicious, unusual, or doesn't seem quite right to please say something.

- * Notify the building's main office
- * Contact an administrator
- * Tell your teacher or other adult
- * Speak to a school counselor
- * Notify the district's School Resource Officer

Students can earn an Assoc. Degree while in High School

STUDENTS DREAM BIG & RISE

Rising Phoenix is a groundbreaking collaboration between school districts and UW-Green Bay.

The program provides high school students with a future-proofing blend of dual enrollment, ongoing student success coaching and an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS) degree while still in high school.



ISING PHOENIX PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Rising Phoenix takes a synergistic approach to learning to ensure student success.



INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Collaboration between school districts and UW-Green Bay



UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

Gives students a head start on college by earning their high school diploma and a two-year Associate of Arts and Sciences degree



EQUITY FOCUS

Closes the achievement gap by creating an equitable pathway for underrepresented students and social mobility for Wisconsin families

Intentional Support Leads to Success

- **Student Success Coaches:** Provide academic advising, skill development, and social-emotional support
- **Career Pathways:** Help students explore career pathways and connect them with college majors to create a path toward their future goals

STUDENT IMPACT

PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS (289 STUDENTS)

- 86% completed 2-year program
 - 3.32 average GPA
 - 42 average college credits earned
- 79% earned the AAS degree
 - 3.45 average UWGB GPA
 - 64 average college credits earned

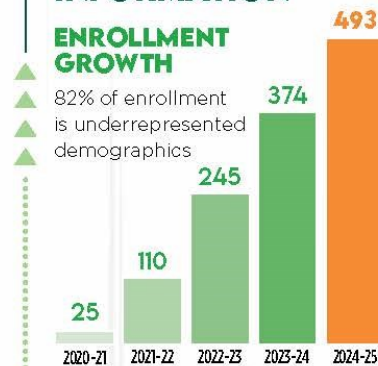
STATE IMPACT

PROGRAM GRADUATES (248 STUDENTS)

- 34% enrolled in a bachelor degree program at UW-Green Bay
- 94% enrolled in a bachelor degree program in Wisconsin

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

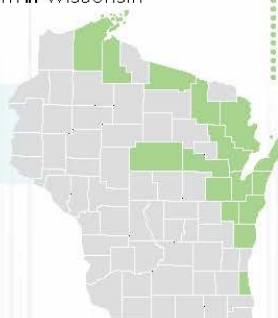
ENROLLMENT GROWTH



STATE REACH

Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Calumet, Door, Forest, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marinette, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan & Vilas counties served

►►► \$5,400,000 cost savings to students & families



www.uwgb.edu/rising-phoenix

