

## ADMINISTRATION

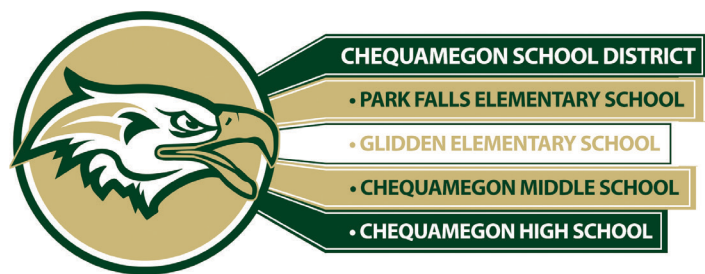
PFES looks to the future; page 3

## ACADEMICS

Professionals give middle-schoolers insight ; page 5

## STUDENT SUCCESS

CHS Senior improves the quality of life for grouse; page 8



# The Eagle

## CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FREE CHECK OUT THE CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT AT [WWW.CSDK12.NET](http://WWW.CSDK12.NET) SPRING 2025

## Widening Our World fund unlocks opportunities

Scholarships lighten the burden for families to pursue programs

By CHAD PALZKILL



four types of funding available are: 1) payment of tuition and costs for student attending a non-district program, 2) travel and costs for a student of a summer intern or job program, 3) payment of stipend and/or travel expenses to bring a spokesperson to a classroom or school, and 4) assist with group costs of travel and attendance to a non-school program on an individual basis.

Are you wondering if an opportunity in your area of interest would be accepted for funding? Put in an application and find out. The board has diverse criteria for what it will approve, and scholarships have been awarded for a variety of programs. Part of the approval is made based on what personal growth and positive life experiences might benefit the individual. One recipient took acting classes in New York, and another traveled to Spain to play softball. The applica-

There are countless opportunities out there for students to expand their cultural, technical, and creative knowledge. The challenge that arises with any worthwhile endeavor is, of course, the cost. Time invested and the collateral cost to those in your personal orbit are constant hurdles, but one of the single-biggest barriers to entry is the financial expense. More often than not, these programs and experiences come with a moderate-to-heavy price tag, dissuading interested parties from following through on application. The Widening Our World (W.O.W.) funding program at Chequamegon School District offers a financial cushion for aspiring individuals to take a leap forward in their learning and growing.

The W.O.W. fund comes from a variety of sources and is entrusted to a board comprised of community and school staff members. The board's purpose is to review applications for



funding as well as solicit donations from altruistic parties to maintain and expand the fund. While the program doesn't cover the full cost of the opportunity it goes to support, it will aid families by lightening the financial burden. The

tion can be found at any CSD school office and at [csdk12.net/widening-our-world-fund](http://csdk12.net/widening-our-world-fund). Reach out to any W.O.W. board member or CSD school principal for more information.



From the Desk of the District Administrator

By KYLE CRONAN



District residents need to know that Chequamegon School District is a great school district. There is so much to be proud of and so many accomplishments, too numerous to list everything!

We are a small Northwoods flavored school district with big-time accomplishments. Be proud of the US News and World Report ranking that named the high school as one of the best in the state. Be proud of our numerous middle and high school students who each year have the opportunity to shine in the arts, attending numerous choir and band honors events. Be proud of the efforts of our students to make their schools more welcoming with the revitalization of the CHS Student Council and the newly formed CMS Culture Club. Be proud that our elementary students each day build upon their reading skills. Be proud that our high school students take dozens of college credits each year through the Start College Now program. Be proud that our middle school students represent our District at numerous events such as forensics and advanced science fairs. Be proud that our staff continue to seek further education to become better teachers and to refine their skills.

Do we have room for growth and improvement? Yes, and we are in the process of implementing a growth-focused strategic plan. This year we have implemented growth goals in the strategic pillar titled S.O.A.R. (Student Opportunities Are Realized). In order to provide transparency to our progress, we are publishing updates in the form of School and District Scorecards on our Chequamegon Strategic Plan web page. During this summer, we will provide a final set of Scorecards for the 2024 - 2025 school year and then look forward to goal setting for the 2025-2026 school year. You can access these scorecards by utilizing this QR code:

To visit the Strategic Plan webpage, use this QR Code:



On another note, we are in the process of developing our District budget for the 2025-2026 school year. The Board's Finance Committee has spent time reviewing our current financial status and then reviewing future budget models. There are challenges that the District will face with regard to the budget. Population decline in our region along with inflationary pressure are two examples of our future challenges. I want to be clear that there are multiple paths forward that

continue to ensure that Chequamegon School District continues to provide the high-quality programming that our students and families expect. We are committed to growing our list of accomplishments and points of pride. There are some unknown factors for this next year; the most pressing is the status of the state budget.

I want to express my thanks and the thanks of the District to the community members and organizations that have contributed to replacing the softball and football scoreboard at the athletic complex. Without strong community partnerships, this would not have been possible. Furthermore, I want to thank the many parents and community volunteers who came out to support the spring musical production. Without parent and community involvement, this event would not be possible. Finally, looking ahead, the Parent-Teacher Organization has the opportunity this year to be the beneficiary for the Northwoods Community Credit Union Golf Classic charitable golf outing that is held later this summer. This is a great opportunity for community members and parents to have some fun and to support our students.

I end this article where I started, Chequamegon School District is a great school district, we together in our communities can continue to make a positive impact for our students.

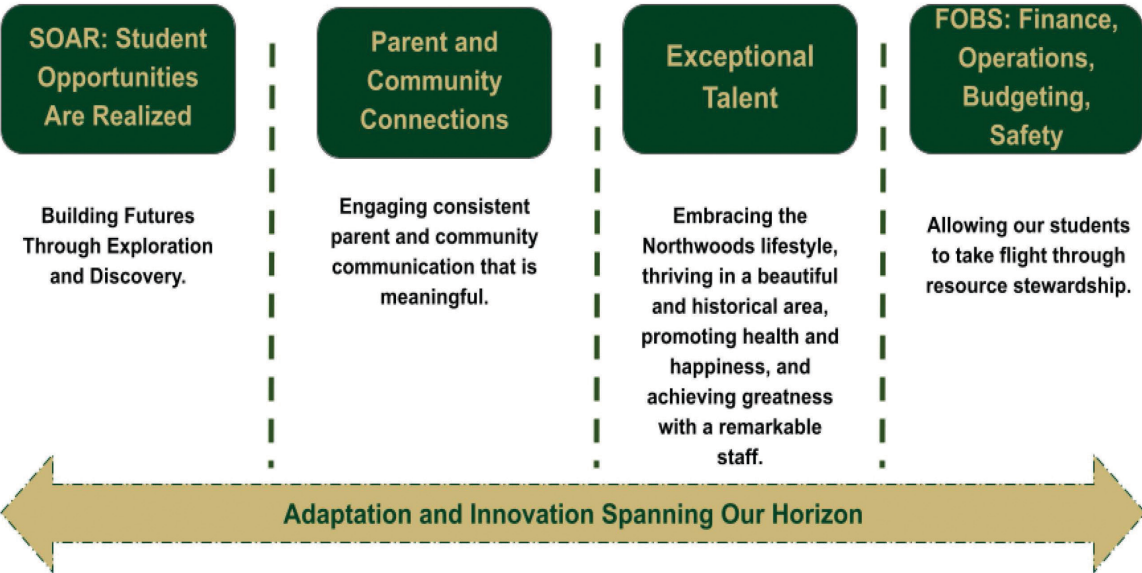
CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION

Our Mission is empowering students for their future success.

- Engaging programs that extend beyond academics
- Nurturing well-rounded citizens
- Providing skills needed to thrive in an ever-changing world

CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION

Through strong community partnerships, inspired graduates become productive, resilient, and compassionate citizens.



Cyber safety; protecting yourself

By WILLIAM WEILER

In light of the recent surge in cyber attacks, safeguarding your personal information and online well-being is paramount. Here at Chequamegon School, we actively educate our students on the significance of their digital footprint and the critical need for its protection. Just as we teach our students to exercise caution online – urging them to avoid clicking unfamiliar links or downloading suspicious attachments – we extend this important reminder to you. Before sharing any personal details or engaging with online content, please take a moment to verify its authenticity. Remember, cybercriminals often employ sophisticated tactics to deceive individuals into divulging sensitive data. By remaining informed and exercising caution in your online interactions, you become an essential part of our collective security.

To further support your vigilance, we encourage you to take a brief, anonymous quiz designed to help you identify phishing attempts. Simply scan the QR code below – no personal information is required. This is valuable knowledge for every internet user.





# Park Falls Elementary is planning for 2025-2026!

By TIM KIEF

## Exciting Summer Learning and Fun at PFES

As spring blossoms, we are gearing up for an exciting summer filled with learning, adventure, and fun. Our PFES Summer School and 21st Century After School Program Summer Camp are excellent opportunities for students to stay engaged, explore new interests, and make lasting memories. Here's what's coming up:

### PFES Summer School

Dates: June 9 – June 27 (Monday – Friday)

Daily Schedule:

- Arrival & Breakfast: 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM
- Camp Activities: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Lunch: 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- 21st Century After School Program Wrap-Around Care: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Students will enjoy various enriching activities to enhance their academic skills while having fun. This program is an excellent way to keep students engaged and prepared for the next school



year.

### 21st Century After School Program Summer Camp

Dates: July 7 – August 16 (Monday – Friday)  
No camp the week of June 30 (Fourth of July week)

Daily Schedule:

- Wrap-Around Care: 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM
- Breakfast: 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
- Camp Activities: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Lunch: 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- Camp Ends: 4:00 PM
- Wrap-Around Care: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Our summer camp offers hands-on learning, outdoor adventures, creative projects, and many opportunities to explore and discover. Whether your child loves science, art, sports, or storytelling, there's something for everyone.

### Registration & More Information

We encourage families to sign up early to secure their spot. If you have any questions or need further details, please contact the school office or Amy Weinberger. We look forward to a fantastic summer of learning and fun at Park Falls Elementary.

Stay tuned for more updates, and enjoy the rest of the school year!

# Chequamegon High School spring events update

By JOHN OSWALD

As we near the end of the school year, our students have been very busy. On March 27, our juniors had the opportunity to visit UW-Stevens Point and Northcentral Technical College (NTC) in Wausau, where they explored post-secondary options and learned more about the programs available to them. The following day, March 28, we hosted the Solo & Ensemble event at CHS, welcoming students from Phillips, Butternut, and Prentice. It was a busy and exciting day filled with fantastic performances. To close out March, 17 of our high school students traveled to Green Bay from March 31 to April 1 to compete in the FBLA State Competition, showcasing their skills in various events. These activities reflect the dedication and talent of our students as they continue to grow academically and artistically.

### Upcoming Events

- April 23 – Senior Class Trip. A day of celebration and memories for our graduating class.
- April 25 – Northwood Tech Healthcare Career Exploration Event in Ashland. We are taking 30 high school students to explore

- career opportunities in healthcare.
- April 26 – Prom will be held from 8:00 PM to 11:30 PM, with the Grand March taking place at 8:30 PM. Admission for the Grand March is \$2.
- May 5-16 – AP Exams in Biology, Chemistry, U.S. Government & Politics, Environmental Science, English Language and Composition, and Physics. Our students have historically performed well on these exams, and we anticipate continued success this year.
- May 18 – Band “Pops” Concert in the gymnasium at 2:00 PM.
- May 20 – Spring Choir Concert at 7:00 PM.
- May 21 – Senior Awards Night in the auditorium at 6:30 PM.
- May 24 – Graduation Ceremony at 1:00 PM. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!
- May 26 – Memorial Parade at 9:00 AM.
- June 4 – Last day of school for students in grades 9-11.

We also encourage everyone to support our student-athletes in track, softball, and baseball. If you have a chance, stop by the ball fields and watch them in action. Schedules for games and meets can be found on our school website.



## COMMUNITY VOICES

### CPTO focuses on family

By ARIELLE HILGART

The Chequamegon Parent Teacher Organization (CPTO) continues to grow stronger each year. CPTO is committed to providing free family nights including a meal.

School PTOs (Parent Teacher Organizations) benefit schools in several ways. PTO's provide positive opportunities for community building. Our PTO brings together parents, teachers, and students in our schools to have fun, expand their social networks, and get connected. This creates a more supportive and collaborative learning environment, which benefits students' academic and social development.



CPTO is known for our FUN family nights, and we are committed to continue providing opportunities for families to be more involved in our school. No better time to get involved in CPTO than RIGHT NOW :)

Contact us at [cpto@cstdk12.net](mailto:cpto@cstdk12.net) for more information and follow us on Facebook: Chequamegon Parent Teacher Organization.



4K takes mom, dad to work

By DONNA WEIK

4K students at the south campus enjoyed some great learning opportunities with their families during the third quarter. They had a wonderful visit to the public library where they enjoyed storytime with Mrs. K., played with fun toys, and had the opportunity to craft a bookmark. For Valentine's Day, families were invited to join their children to decorate valentine's bags, do some valentine's crafts, and enjoy a sweet treat. It is always special when our families join us.



National Tell-a-Fairy Tale Day

By CALLIE PETROSKI

On February 26, 3rd-5th grade students in the after-school program hosted a special event for 4YK and kindergarten students in celebration of National Tell a Fairy Tale Day. The older students read classic fairy tales to the younger groups and led fun, engaging activities based on the stories. Demonstrating leadership and responsibility, they guided their younger peers with enthusiasm and care. Both the older and younger students had a fantastic time sharing stories, learning together and making memories. It was a wonderful experience that highlighted teamwork, creativity, and the joy of storytelling.



# CHEQUAMEGON

## 4YK INTRODUCTION EVENT

**DATE: April 17th**  
**Glidden & Park Falls Elementary**  
Morning and afternoon times are available



### CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

420 9th Street North Park Falls, WI 54552  
[www.csd12.net](http://www.csd12.net)  
**For questions, contact us at: (715) 762-2474**



BOGO book fair a HUGE success

By MICHELLE BYHOLM

Park Falls Elementary Library held a Buy One Get One Free Scholastic Book Fair during the week prior to Chequamegon School District Spring Break. Throughout the week students, parents, and community members came through the doors to find great deals. By Thursday afternoon, the shelves were cleared out, which shows how much the Chequamegon community supports reading at home.

The PFES Library staff want to thank all those that came and shopped at the Book Fair.





# Preparing students for future success

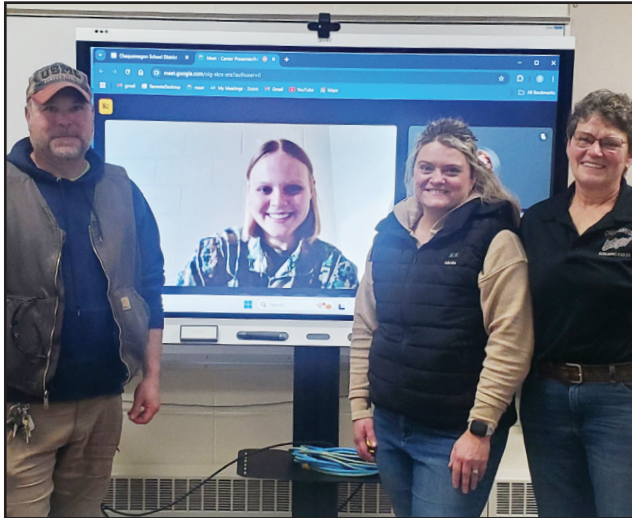
By SARAH GRACEFFA

At Chequamegon Middle School, we are committed to preparing our students for future success in college and careers. We provide dedicated time for students to research and explore various career paths, helping them understand job responsibilities, educational and training requirements, salary expectations, and projected job opportunities. Additionally, students reflect on their interests, strengths, values, and learning styles to identify careers that align with their skills and aspirations.



Beyond classroom exploration, students gain real-world insights through visits to local businesses, where they learn about manufacturing careers, and college campuses, where they par-

ticipate in STEM-focused activities. Each year, a career specialist from Northwood Technical College in Ashland engages students in career-related activities to further support their learning.



At the middle school, we've introduced Career Tuesdays, where a new career is presented to students each week during their morning advisory. The goal is to expose them to a wide variety of career options.

We invited community members to share their career journeys with our students this year. So far, our guest speakers have included:

- Autumn Kunderling – Marines recruit
- Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Ashland Fire Department
- Tracy Davis – Massage therapist
- Tara Tervort – Mayor and business owner
- Michelle Rodriguez – Current college student
- Jesus Rayo – Business owner and chef

One presenter shared their experience of moving to the U.S. and their journey toward building a career. At the same time, our guests provided valuable insights, encouraging students to strive for success in school and beyond. We are also excited to welcome upcoming speakers, including Ashley Pankratz, a regional bank manager, and Tess Richard, an architect.



We are grateful for the incredible support from families and the community, whether by serving as presenters or helping connect us with potential speakers. We look forward to continuing this initiative, providing students with inspiring role models and showcasing the many different paths they can take to achieve their goals.

## Chequamegon Middle School World Culture Club highlights

By TRACY KNUTSON

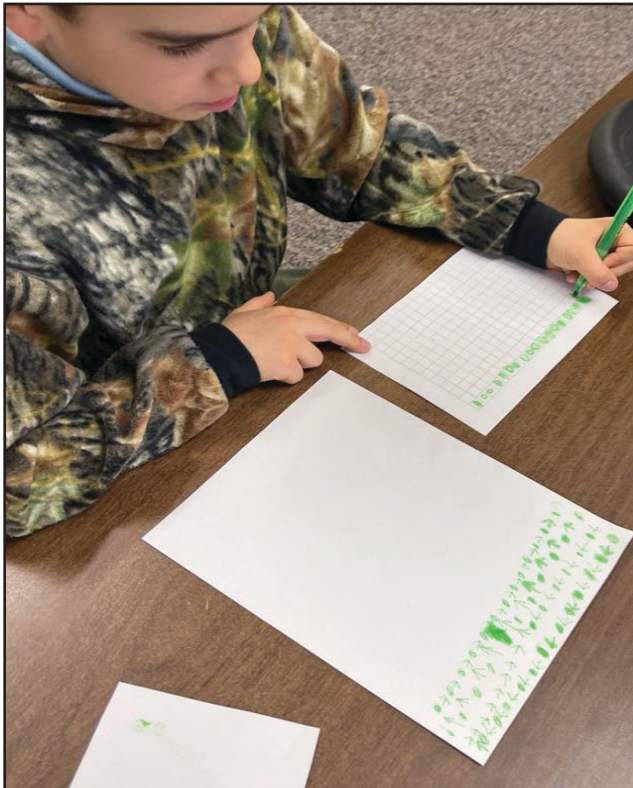
The CMS World Culture Club is composed of approximately twenty, 6th - 8th grade students who meet one time a week to create and plan activities that promote world cultural awareness and citizenship at CMS. In March, students celebrated the Federated States of Micronesia by displaying posters in our lunchroom on the Micronesian culture, providing Advisory classes Micronesian Trivia Questions, and offering the student body a unique opportunity to watch a Micronesian dance performance by students within our own school. Four traditional Micronesian dances were performed to music. It was an incredible experience!

In April we will celebrate Canada. CMS World Culture Club students are currently involved in a cultural exchange with students from Jasper, Alberta, Canada called Global X. This is sponsored by CESA. Students at CMS and in Canada are using FlipGrid to videotape their conversations back and forth with one another. The community in Jasper, Canada had several wildfires a year ago, and students are learning about the impact of these wildfires on their community. We will be doing a fundraising project at CMS for the Jasper Red Cross Relief Fund during April. On Tuesday, April 29th, our group will attend the Global X Spring Celebration at CESA in Ashland. We will share a Google slides presentation about our cultural exchange with students from Jasper and present our fundraising donation, hear about

## Coding class off to a great start

By CALLIE PETROSKI

The after-school 3rd-5th grade coding class is underway, with students exploring the basics of coding through Code.org's coding curriculum and unplugged activities. These lessons introduce fundamental programming concepts using both computer-based exercises and hands-on activities that reinforce logic, problem-solving, and creativity.



So far, students have been working on sequencing, algorithms, and debugging, gaining a better understanding of how coding works in everyday life. The combination of technology and interactive learning has made for an engaging experience, and the students are enjoying the challenge of thinking like programmers. The class will continue over the next several weeks, building on these foundational skills.



Eagle Haven helps others

By STEPHANIE HIRTREITER

We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support we have received through donations for Eagles Haven. These items will go out to those in need. Your generosity has made a significant difference! However, we could still use a few more essential items to ensure everyone has what they need.

Items Needed:

- Shoes
- Mesh Laundry Bags
- Thick Sleeping Bags
- Thick Camping Mattress/Cot
- Bedding
- Pillows
- Dish Rags
- Towels and Wash Rags
- Undergarments
- Jeans/Sweatpants
- Organizing Bins

If you have items to donate or questions about the program, please feel free to email shirtreiter@csdk12.net. Your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Thank you for making a positive impact in our community!



Culture continued from Page 5

other cultural exchanges from participating school districts in the area, and participate in fun activities related to global citizenship.



Finally, in May, we will celebrate Mexico and Central America. Our CMS World Culture Club students are beginning to plan activities for our student body to participate in which involve music, dance, food, stories, art, sports, etc. We're hoping to do these outside during the middle of May.

Visit Chequamegon  
on the web!  
Just scan the code.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Notes from the Band Room...

By KRISTEN KIRCH

Spring has sprung and hopefully the Northwoods is beginning to come out of hibernation. During the winter months, instrumental students have been busy preparing for auditions, participating in various honor bands, performing pep band at various sporting events, and getting ready for the busy festival season. The remaining months of the school year will bring an overabundance of performances

that will please audiences of all ages.

In January, Mallory Smith performed with the Wisconsin Concert Band Association's All-State High School Band at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. High school instrumentalists from around the state were selected to perform in this prestigious group. The band was under the direction of renowned director, Alex Kaminsky.

On February 26, famous instrumental composer, Erika Svanoe, visited the Chequamegon School District and worked with the 6th grade Junior Band, the 7-8 Intermediate Band, and the High School Band. Students

performed music that she had composed and were then challenged by her to bring it up to the next level. It was an excellent learning experience for the students. They put on a wonderful performance.

In early March, Clare Yunk, Jayden Oscar, Regan Hoffman, Anya Brenholt, Adison Bablick and Carla Rodriguez traveled to Decorah, IA to participate in the Dorian Band Festival at Luther College. They worked with world class directors over the two days and then put on an amazing performance.

On March 28th instrumentalists performed before state-certified judges at the annual Marawood North District Solo and Ensemble Festival which took place at the Chequamegon High School.

Sunday, April 27th, will feature instrumental students who qualified for state competition at the Pre-State Solo & Ensemble Recital. They will perform for the public in the high school cafeteria at 2:00 p.m.

The month of May will also be filled with musical experiences. Saturday, May 3rd, Chequamegon music students will perform for judges at the Wisconsin School Music Association's State Solo and Ensemble Festival on the campus of UW-Stevens Point. Sunday, May 18th at 2:00 p.m. is the date for the Instrumental Pops Concert. This concert will feature the Junior, Intermediate, and High School Bands. The High School Jazz Ensemble will also entertain prior to the main event. Our band



See Band, Page 7



## CMS Wrestling wrap-up

By ERIC BROWN

The CMS Wrestling team finished up their season competing at the Heart Of the North Conference Tournament in Spooner. Chequamegon hosted our first home middle school meet in over five years. We also competed in Hayward, Cumberland, Northwestern, and Cornell.



Band continued from Page 6

booster organization will be selling popcorn, soda, and water during the concert. The band will round out their 2024/25 school year with performances at the Chequamegon High School's graduation ceremony on May 24th and Memorial Day observances on Monday, May 26th.

### Upcoming Band Performances:

- April 27 - Pre-State Solo & Ensemble Recital at 2:00 pm - High School Cafeteria
- May 1 - Middle School Fine Arts Festival Concert at 7:00 pm - Glidden Gymnasium
- May 3 - State Solo & Ensemble at the UW-Stevens Point
- May 18 - 6-12 Band Pops Concert at 2:00 pm - High School Gymnasium
- May 23 - Intermediate Band Performs at the Kalahari
- May 24 - High School Graduation - High School Gymnasium
- May 26 - Marching Band in the 9:00 am Memorial Day Parade
- June 3 - 8th Grade Graduation - Glidden Gymnasium

Come and enjoy the numerous musical performances. There's something for everyone!

**CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTS**

*The 2025*  
**Spring Concert Series**

*May 1* **Chequamegon Middle Fine Arts Festival**

*May 2* **Glidden Elementary Spring Concert**

*May 16* **Park Falls Elementary Spring Concert**

*May 18* **CMS/CHS Band Pops Concert**

*May 20* **CMS/CHS Choir Spring Concert**



## CMS student participates in Scripps Wisconsin State Spelling Bee

By MICHELLE BYHOLM



Liam Horowitz, son of Adam Horowitz and Sonia Letzring, represented Chequamegon School District at the Wisconsin State Spelling Bee in Madison on March 28th.

Liam spent 2 to 3 hours each day studying a selected list of 4,000 words. He has participated in the CESA12 Regional Spelling Bee twice, but this was his first trip to State.

Liam held strong for a third-place finish at the end of the event.



# Tracy Lake Ruffed Grouse Project update

By MAYA SZYMIK, CHS '25

The Tracy Lake habitat management project to improve ruffed grouse populations continues to develop. I created a formal project proposal which was sent to community members and people involved in school forest work from previous years for their review. I received positive feedback and additional collaborators.

The plan for this project constantly evolves. After a field meeting with local foresters, a wildlife biologist, and a botanist, we mutually agreed that we could improve and maintain one wildlife opening this spring, which is our timeline. The opening will be mowed, raked, and reseeded with a native seed mix and grass plugs. The opening will also be extended lengthwise by using brush saws to reduce understory brush and chain saws to cut trees.

This has been an engaging growth experience. I've learned how to network and collaborate. I've grown my formal writing skills and knowledge about planting for habitat improvement.



# CHS Quiz Bowl Team finishes well in the season and tournament

By MICHELLE BYHOLM

The CESA12 High School Quiz Bowl season holds weekly matches from October through January. All matches are held virtual with teams of 4 answering questions alternating between the two teams. Questions need to be correctly answered within 15 seconds to earn 5 points. Questions answered incorrectly deduct 5 points from the teams' total.

CHS Team members this year were: seniors Zevior Carlson, Trinity Howes, and Kaitlyn Schrader; junior Elizabeth Hilgart and sophomores Riley Ensor and Destiny Kasirye. Since half the team will be leaving this year, there will



be a recruit and rebuilding of the team at the beginning of the 2025 - 2026 school year. In the regular season, the team started off strong but faltered during midseason. They reviewed their performance, made adjustments, and used it as motivation for the rest of the season finishing the season in sixth place out of 14 competitors. To wrap up the season, CESA12 holds a one day bracket-style tournament with all competitors. This year CHS Quiz Bowl team received over 200 questions and worked as a team to finish 4th in the bracket. It was a very impressive year.



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