

## ADMINISTRATION

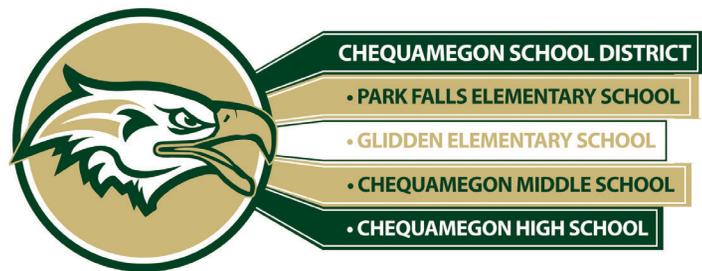
CHS students look to the future; page 3

## ACADEMICS

A state celebrity comes to Park Falls Elementary; page 5

## SPORTS

Athletics goes big in the middle school; page 7



# The Eagle

## CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

## CHS Madrigal kicks off the 2025 holiday season

Students, staff, and community members alike enjoy this festive tradition

By MARK DONNER & CHAD PALZKILL



and entertained enthusiastic audiences inspiring feelings of seasonal good cheer. It has weathered consolidation, staffing changes, and even a global pandemic to keep the traditional holiday spirit alive for the community at large.

The 2025 Madrigal Dinner will run Saturday, December 6th & Sunday, December 7th. Seating will begin at 4:00 p.m. for a 4:30 showtime. Approximate run time for the event is two hours, including twenty-five songs and the full dinner service. Tickets are \$25 a seat and can be purchased through the Chequamegon High School Main Office. Don't miss this beloved community tradition celebrating music, fellowship, and the holiday spirit.



One of the most welcomed holiday traditions of Chequamegon School District is its premiere Yuletide event, the CHS Madrigal Dinner. A group of Chequamegon High School's most talented vocal musicians, outfitted in the garb of an Elizabethan-era royal court, take to the stage and entertain the community with an ensemble of classic carols and contemporary melodies. All the while, patrons feast on a six-course meal carefully prepared by the staff of the Chequamegon Food Service Department, under the direction of Food Service Manager, Dana Miesbauer.

The current incarnation of the Madrigal, produced with great care and hard work by district music icon, Mark Donner, and a collective of students, goes back to the holiday season of 1989. In the decades that have followed, hundreds of talented, jovial students have donned ornate gowns, pantaloons, and head adornments



## From the Desk of the District Administrator

By KYLE CRONAN



Chequamegon School District continues to offer outstanding opportunities for our students and community residents.

### Academic Excellence and Student Value

We have much to celebrate. For the second year in a row, Chequamegon High

School has been named one of the best high schools in the state and nation by US News and World Report. Our focus on literacy is also yielding impressive results: over 72% of our 3rd-grade students are meeting or exceeding reading proficiency on the Wisconsin Forward assessment, significantly exceeding the state average of 50.3%.

Our commitment to preparing students for life after graduation offers significant value. Last year, 123 dual credit students earned 642 transferable college credits, saving families approximately \$87,848 in college tuition. Our high school students also achieved an Advanced Placement Exam pass rate of just over 74%, which can lead to waived college requirements.

### Student Life and Enrollment Trends

There is so much happening each day and evening across the District. We were thrilled to receive a grant from the Ann Marie Foundation for an upgrade to the auditorium sound system, which supports musicals, concerts, and many other performances each year. Just this morning, students headed out for a field trip to a leadership conference, while last week, the cross-country team hosted both the Middle School and High School Marawood Conference

meets. Chequamegon Middle School students also show their dedication by providing treats to our nation's veterans at the District Veteran's Day program.

We are seeing positive trends in enrollment, with fewer students leaving the District via open enrollment and more students entering. Both Chequamegon Middle School and Park Falls Elementary School have reported increased enrollment this fall. Glidden Elementary School is holding steady, and while Chequamegon High School is down about 16 students, this decrease was predicted based on our long-term enrollment trends. Overall, the District has about 11 more students in our classroom seats this fall over last year.

### Strategic Planning and Fiscal Responsibility

We are entering the second year of our Strategic Plan, driving continuous school improvement. Last year, goals focused on academic achievement and student measures, such as attendance and school culture. This year, new goals are being established based on student performance data and lessons learned, adding critical focus areas for the 2025-2026 school year: improved communication and connections with families/community, staff attractiveness, retention, and District finance, operations, and safety. You can review last year's goals and results on our Strategic Plan webpage and Scorecards.

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



Regarding our finances, the final tax levy and budget for the 2025-2026 school year will soon

be approved. CSD has worked hard to be fiscally responsible, holding the line on expenses by not replacing some positions through natural attrition, aggressively negotiating our health insurance renewal, and closely monitoring all spending. Despite rising costs, our expenses increased by less than 1%, which is well below the current rate of inflation.

### External Challenges and Local Tax Impact

While CSD has managed internal spending, external decisions have unfortunately caused a situation where taxpayers in some of our municipalities may experience a property tax increase.

**Unfunded Revenue Limit Increase:** The state increased the per-pupil revenue limit by \$325. Historically, the legislature would include an increase in general aid to help offset local property taxes when this limit rises. This aid offset did not happen this year.

**Loss of State Aid:** CSD also experienced a substantial loss of state aid amounting to 18.81% or \$464,118. This reduction is directly tied to the property value of CSD compared to the property values and spending levels of all other districts. When other districts pass high-cost referendums and spend more—as one district did recently with a \$252 million referendum—it draws from a fixed state aid pool, ultimately stripping aid from districts like ours. This forces local taxes up in Chequamegon to cover the gap.

To end, let me express my sincere thanks to everyone who helps make Chequamegon a great place for students. We have much to celebrate across the District, we are working to continuously improve, and we are in a great position to be the thriving environment that students, families, and our community expects.

## Chequamegon North starts strong

By KACEY HANSON

The 2025-26 school year is off to a strong start at Chequamegon North. Our Glidden Elementary and Chequamegon Middle School students have shown enthusiasm for learning, kindness toward one another, and pride in being part of the Eagle community. This year, we have added a new Eagle Expectation, 'Be A Learner,' to our previous expectations of 'Be Responsible,' 'Be Respectful,' and 'Be Safe.' This emphasis arises from the discovery of the need to teach students academic behaviors, such as how to study and take practical notes. All behaviors need to be taught, and before this year, we had only focused on social behaviors. This year, we will introduce a focus on learning how to learn.

This fall, we reintroduced our advisory program that begins each day with connection and conversation. These activities help students build relationships, practice respect, and set the tone

for a positive start to the day. We've also launched the GiveThx program, which allows students to recognize acts of kindness among their peers—small gestures that make a big difference in our school culture. Visit [givethx.org](http://givethx.org) for more information on this research-based program, current-



ly in use at Chequamegon Middle School.

Students have also been actively participating



in clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities, showing dedication, teamwork, and school spirit. From athletic events to music and art opportunities, it's been wonderful to see so many students exploring their interests and celebrating their talents.

As we look ahead to the second quarter, we're grateful for the support of our families and community partners. Whether you've volunteered, attended an event, or encouraged your child at home, your partnership matters. Together, we're creating a positive, caring, and high-achieving school environment where every student can soar. Go Eagles!

# A different method of grading

By TIM KIEF

At the Park Falls and Glidden Elementary Schools, we know every child's learning journey is unique. That's why we use learning-based, standards-focused report cards to give parents a clearer, more detailed view of their child's progress. Our younger grades have been using this reporting approach for several years, and we have now included the upper elementary grades, achieving greater consistency throughout the system.

## What Are Learning-Based Report Cards?

Instead of a single letter grade, students are assessed on specific "I Can" statements that reflect the skills and standards for their grade. This shows what they know, what they are learning, and where they need more practice using a proficiency scale.

### 3-Point Proficiency Scale

3 – Proficient - I fully understand this grade-level skill.

2 – Progressing - I am working toward understanding this skill.

1 – Beginning - I am not yet progressing toward this skill.

This language helps parents and teachers talk with children about academic performance in a more meaningful way. "Progressing" is a word that guides a positive, growth-oriented mindset. Achieving "Proficient" indicates that the child can repeat the skill independently.

Example		
Subject	I Can Statement	Progress
Math	I can add and subtract within 20.	3 – Proficient
Math	I can understand place value.	2 – Progressing
Reading	I can identify the main idea of a story.	3 – Proficient
Writing	I can write complete sentences with correct punctuation.	2 – Progressing

Learning-based report cards help families and teachers work together to support each child's growth. If you have questions or want ideas to help at home, please reach out to your child's teacher. Thank you for supporting every student's learning journey.

# CHS students open doors in Careers, College, and Leadership

By JOHN OSWALD

Chequamegon High School has had a busy fall semester, filled with opportunities for students to explore future careers, develop leadership skills, and connect their learning to real-world experiences.

Earlier this year, Chequamegon High School once again earned recognition from U.S. News & World Report in its 2025–2026 Best High Schools rankings. For the second year in a row, CHS placed in the top 40% of high schools nationwide, earning the distinction of being named a U.S. News Best High School. This recognition is based on several key measures, including our strong graduation rate; student performance on state assessments in math, reading, and science; and college readiness indicators, such as ACT scores and Advanced Placement (AP) participation and success.

## Career and College Exploration

This fall, Mrs. Patterson took 30 Chequamegon High School students to Northcentral Technical College (NTC) in Wausau to participate in an interactive event focused on careers in health care and manufacturing. Students had the opportunity to explore a wide range of postsecondary programs, meet with instructors, and participate in hands-on demonstrations that helped them better understand the training, skills, and education needed to succeed in these fields.

Earlier in the month, the entire junior class visited the University of Wisconsin–Superior, where they toured the campus, met with admissions staff, and learned about the many programs and opportunities available to college students. Shortly after that visit, five students returned to

UW–Superior for the University's Transportation & Logistics Day. During this event, students explored the key components of the transportation, logistics, and supply-chain industries. They participated in hands-on activities that illustrated how goods move through supply chains and learned about the wide variety of careers involved—from distribution and warehousing to transportation planning and logistics management.

## Leadership Development

October also brought outstanding leadership development opportunities for CHS students. A group of students attended the Northwoods Youth Leadership Summit in Minocqua with Mrs. Tank and Mrs. Eimermann, where they engaged in structured activities aimed at strengthening teamwork, communication, and decision-making skills.

Earlier in October, six CHS students represented our school at the Marawood Leadership Day, which brought together student leaders from Marawood Conference schools to share ideas and collaborate on school-improvement initiatives. The event concluded with each group presenting their proposed action plans. Our students identified increasing student involvement in extracurricular activities as a key goal, an idea that aligns closely with Chequamegon High School's strategic plan. They discussed ways to support this effort, such as surveying students about activity interests, creating short promotional videos highlighting clubs and teams, and meeting with incoming eighth graders to encourage participation.

## Career Fairs and Networking

In addition to these events, CHS students attended the annual Hodag Career Fair at the Hodag Dome in Rhinelander. The fair brought together colleges, technical schools, apprentice-

# School breakfast; good for kids, good for parents

By DANA MIESBAUER



For parents with busy morning schedules, it's sometimes difficult to ensure that kids are eating a healthy breakfast before they head off to school. Children often aren't ready to eat right after waking up, and it can be challenging to find nutritious breakfast foods they like. Some kids refuse breakfast at home and discover they're hungry when they arrive at school. The School Breakfast Program provides a great option for parents.

As you may know, a great breakfast is offered at school for all students. Whether it's in the cafeteria or at our new mobile breakfast cart, all meals are well balanced and provide a nutritious start to the day. Studies have proven that kids who eat breakfast achieve higher academic scores, are more alert in class, visit the school nurse less often, and are better behaved in school. If morning meals are difficult for your family, let the School Breakfast Program help you out.



ship programs, and local employers, giving students the opportunity to explore a wide variety of career and education pathways. Students engaged with representatives, asked questions about future opportunities, and collected valuable resources to guide their planning after graduation.

These experiences highlight the many ways Chequamegon High School continues to provide students with opportunities that prepare them for success beyond high school, academically, professionally, and as active contributors to their communities. Each event not only broadens their perspective but also helps them make meaningful connections between their classroom learning and their future goals.

## 4YK learning through play

By DONNA WEIK

Our 4YK students have spent the first quarter learning routines, schedules, expectations, and social skills. Most learning at this age is through purposeful play. This is a type of play that is a balance of teacher-led, teacher-supported, and child-led play. Purposeful play helps children develop language, learn to solve problems and control their behavior and feelings, explore social roles, and move their bodies in new and challenging ways. We recently had a lesson about feeling proud. Mrs. Wegner assisted a team of children to create a structure that they were very proud of. The communication, problem solving, creativity, and cooperation that took place was outstanding.



## Alice In Dairyland visits PFES

By CALLIE PETROSKI & NICK GRAMS

Fourth grade students enjoyed a special visit from Wisconsin's current Alice in Dairyland, Sarah Hagenow, on October 23. During her hour-long presentation, she shared engaging lessons about Wisconsin agriculture and the many ways farmers feed and support our communities. Students learned about local crops, dairy farming, and how agriculture connects to their everyday lives. It was an inspiring and educational visit that brought Wisconsin's farming story to life.



## The importance of standards

By THOMAS TOLLAKSON

In our fifth grade class, we began the year by learning our classroom standards. Students shared what they can do to meet our classroom standards each day at school.

- Be a respectful, responsible student.
- Say please and thank you.
- Clean up after yourself.
- Complete your assignments on time to the best of your ability.

We have emphasized the standard of saying "please and thank you" on a daily basis to stress the importance of saying these words and the positive impact they can have on those who are hearing them. We believe that being polite and showing manners is a sign of respect, and we value respect in our classroom.

We have had a great start to the 2025 school year in our classroom. We are excited to take on the rest of the school year together.

## PFES celebrates end of quarter with Fall Fun

By SARAH LYNCH

On Friday, October 31st, Park Falls Elementary students celebrated the end of the first quarter with a day full of fun, creativity, and community spirit. The special activity day gave students a chance to relax, enjoy time with friends, and celebrate their hard work so far this school year.

The morning began with a cozy fall theme as students created adorable fall hedgehog crafts using cut out leaves, googly eyes, and pom poms. Laughter and creativity filled the classrooms as students showed off their designs. Next, everyone joined in for a few lively rounds of fall bingo, cheering each other on and celebrating small wins with big smiles. Next, students enjoyed a fall movie, complete with a relaxed atmosphere perfect for an autumn afternoon.

The excitement continued as the day wrapped up with one of the school's favorite traditions — the Parade of Costumes. Students proudly showed off their Halloween costumes as families and friends gathered to watch the festive procession. From superheroes and storybook characters to classic Halloween favorites, the parade was a colorful display of imagination and school spirit.

The end-of-quarter activity day was a wonderful way for students and staff to come together, celebrate the season, and recognize the effort and growth of the first quarter. Park Falls Elementary is looking forward to another great quarter of learning and fun ahead.

## GCLC: where middle school minds grow stronger

By MICHELLE HANSON

The Glidden Community Learning Center after-school program is proud to be the longest-running community learning center in the entire state, at 23 years strong.

Whether your middle schooler lives in Glidden or Park Falls, they're welcome to join the fun, friendship, and focused academic support we offer. We know middle school can be a juggling act with grades, activities, and growing responsibilities, and we're here to help students stay balanced and confident.

Here's what a typical afternoon looks like.

3:15-3:50 - Unwind and recharge with Friends: enjoy gym games, outdoor fun, or some friendly competition in our game room.

3:50 - 4:00 - Snack Time: We fuel brains and bodies with a healthy treat before study time begins.

4:00 - 4:45 - Academic Power Hour: Students team up with an advisor to check grades, tackle homework, and get organized in a supportive, stress-free setting.

4:45 - 5:30 - Choice time: Dive into STEM projects, cooking, LEGO builds, club activities, video game design, or just relax and socialize in our game room.

5:30 - Wrap up and get ready for transport back to Park Falls or get picked up at the Glidden North Campus.

6:00 - Pick your Park Falls area child up in front of the Park Falls South Campus school.

We know transportation can sometimes be tricky. We're actively working on expanding options, but with limited funding and a shortage of drivers, it presents a challenge. If getting home from the program poses a barrier, please reach out to Program Coordinator, Michelle Hanson, at [mhanson@csdk12.net](mailto:mhanson@csdk12.net). We'll do our best to find a solution together.

Our goal is simple: to support students and families academically, socially, and emotionally. We'd love to see more middle schoolers join our community of learners this year. Let's make after school the best part of the day! Enroll your child in the Glidden Community Learning Center and see what 23 years of experience and a lot of heart can do. Scan the QR code or follow the URL below to enroll. <https://forms.gle/PvkPY4A9cRT-NcRq8A>

Register Now

GLIDDEN  
COMMUNITY  
LEARNING  
CENTER

Before & After  
school Programming



Scan here



## “You Can Sit With Us” at CMS

By SARAH GRACEFFA

The Sources of Strength team at Chequamegon Middle School kicked off the year with the “You Can Sit With Us” Campaign, a student-led effort to build connections and promote kindness. Inspired by results from a recent school survey, the campaign focused on helping students feel more included and supported by their peers.



On October 29, students showed their support by wearing pink for both the campaign and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. During lunch, students sat in mixed-grade groups to meet new people and spark conversation, while recess offered additional opportunities to connect and have fun together.

The event was a great success, with many students sharing positive feedback about meeting new friends. The Sources of Strength team hopes to continue creating activities that bring students together and strengthen the sense of community at CMS.

## Teamwork means fall fun

By JEANNA HOLMAN



On October 30th, Mrs. Holman’s 3rd-grade class took a fall walk to the new park in downtown Park Falls. The students earned this fun afternoon activity by flipping all of their “CELEBRATE!” cards.

How it works is, each time the class receives a compliment or does great work together, they get to flip a card. There are ten cards in total, spelling out the word CELEBRATE! When all the characters are flipped, the class earns a special celebration. The students vote on what kind of party they’d like to have.

Past celebrations have included pajama parties, pizza parties, movie days, and more. This year, with the beautiful fall weather, the class chose an outdoor activity—a fall walk to the park to play. It was such a treat to crunch through the leaves, giggle with friends, and enjoy the playground, especially for those who don’t get to visit it often.

## CSD speech-language pathologists honored for excellence

By ANGELINA WILSON & JODI GRENDRYS

We—Angelina Wilson and Jodi Grendys, Speech-Language Pathologists serving students across the Chequamegon School District—are honored to share that we have earned the ASHA Award for Continuing Education (ACE). The ACE recognizes professionals who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to lifelong learning by completing at least 70 hours of continuing



education within a 36-month period.

Earning this achievement reflects our dedication to expanding our clinical expertise in communication, language development, and evidence-based intervention practices, so we can bring the most current, research-informed strategies to students from early childhood through high school.

Angelina Wilson shares: “Continued education allows us to stay current with the latest research, technology, and intervention strategies to best serve our students. Our field evolves quickly, and ongoing professional learning helps us ensure that every child receives the best possible support.”

Jodi Grendys adds: “Every course I take gives me new tools and ideas that I can bring back to my students the very next day. Seeing those skills make a difference in a child’s ability to communicate is what keeps me inspired to keep learning.”

We’re grateful for the opportunity to serve Chequamegon students and families, and we remain dedicated to bringing fresh, research-informed strategies into our schools every day.

## Mr. Kief: a legacy in education

By JESSICA FOLSTAD, KACEY HANSON & JOHN OSWALD

After an extraordinary 32 years of service in public education, Mr. Tim Kief has announced his retirement at the end of this school year. His career has been defined by unwavering dedication, compassionate leadership, and an enduring commitment to helping students and families succeed.

Mr. Kief’s impact on the Chequamegon School District and the broader educational community is evident. Throughout his career, he has worn many hats and excelled in each one. His roles have included School Counselor, Principal at all three building levels, Curriculum Director, Communications Director, District Assessment Coordinator, Homeless Liaison, Title IX Coordinator, Safety and Security Lead, Interim Athletic Director, and President of the Price Ice Recreational Arena Board. In addition, he has served as a respected WIAA official and led countless initiatives designed to strengthen programs and

create opportunities for students of all ages.

Mr. Kief’s work has always centered on people, students, staff, and families alike. As both a student and family advocate, he has gone above and beyond to ensure every child has the support and resources they need to thrive. His calm presence, thoughtful approach to problem-solving, and ability to connect with others have made him a trusted leader and mentor across the district.

Beyond his many professional titles, Mr. Kief’s greatest accomplishment lies in the relationships he has built and helped create. His leadership has shaped the District’s vision for excellence, safety, and equity, leaving a lasting mark that will continue to guide and inspire for years to come.

As the Chequamegon community celebrates his career, we extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Kief for his decades of dedication, leadership, and service. His work has touched countless lives, and his influence will continue to be felt in classrooms, hallways, and hearts throughout the greater community long after his retirement.

Congratulations, Mr. Kief — thank you for everything you’ve done to make our schools and community stronger.



## Notes from the Band Room...

By KRISTEN KIRCH

The Chequamegon High School Band was named Class C Grand Champions at the Minnesota State Fair. They also put on an outstanding field show entitled "Remembering Queen." Mallory Smith is pictured after her final performance on the field as drum majorette.



## Upcoming Performances:

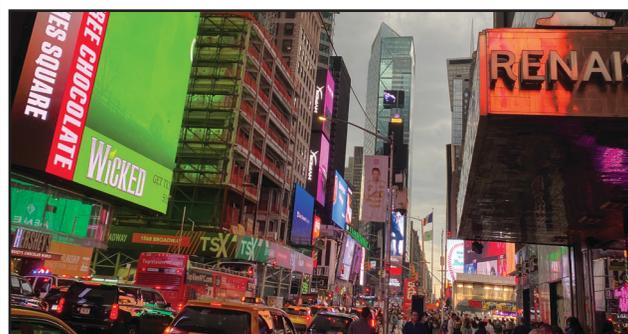
- Marawood All-Conference Band and Choir at Stratford - November 4, 2025 – All Day
- Veterans Day Program - November 11, 2025 – 8:30 a.m. High School Gymnasium
- Middle and High School Instrumental Christmas Concert - December 14, 2025 – 2:00 p.m. High School Auditorium

The Middle School Bands are also in full swing. They performed their first concert of the year on October 16 to a packed gymnasium.

## Chequamegon Choir is New York bound

By MARK DONNER

The Chequamegon Choir will be traveling to New York City from April 1–6 for an exciting performance and cultural experience. During the trip, students will visit many of New York's iconic landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty, and attend three Broadway productions.



Performances will take place at the Statue of Liberty and also on the deck of the USS Intrepid. They will also take part in a Broadway workshop, offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn directly from theater professionals.

To help make this memorable trip possible for these talented young singers, community contributions are welcome. Anyone interested in supporting the choir may contact Mark Donner at Chequamegon School at 715-762-2474, ext. 2235.

## On key with Elementary Music

By REBECCA KJETLAND

Things in Elementary Music have been going quickly. All grades have started working on their Winter Concert music, and we will be performing the song "American Tears" at the Veterans Day assembly very soon. Third graders have already achieved their white and yellow "re-corder karate" belts, fourth graders are working on their yellow "ukulele karate" belts, and fifth graders are getting to know the xylophones and bucket drums. Our younger grades are working on concepts like high and low pitches, new notes like the half note and whole note, and dynamic symbols like piano and fortissimo. Over the next couple of weeks, watch the ParentSquare app for more information about each grade's theme for the upcoming Winter Concerts! Glidden Elementary's concert is on Friday, December 12, and Park Falls Elementary's concert is on Friday, December 17. Exact times will be in the ParentSquare app.



## CHS talent represents at State Honor Choirs

By MARK DONNER



Two talented Chequamegon students have earned statewide recognition through the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) Honor Choir program, showcasing their exceptional vocal abilities among Wisconsin's best young musicians.

Destiny Kasirye, alto in the High School Treble Choir, performed at the Madison Overture Center on October 30th, under the direction of Dr. Kari Adams. Adams serves as Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. The ensemble featured 100 of the most accomplished high school singers from across the state, selected through a rigorous audition process.

Chase LaPlant, a member of the Middle Level State Honor Choir, sang at the Verona Performing Arts Center under the direction of Dr. Amon Eady from Central Michigan University. Like the high school ensemble, the middle level choir included just 100 students from throughout Wisconsin.

Both students earned their place through a highly competitive audition process, representing Chequamegon's commitment to musical excellence and the strength of its vocal program. Their participation highlights the dedication of local music educators and the talent thriving in our schools.

Congratulations to Destiny and Chase for their outstanding achievements and for representing Chequamegon with pride on the state stage!

**2025 CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Holiday Concert Series**

**CHS Madrigal Dinner**  
December 6th & 7th; 4:00 p.m.  
PFES Gymnasium

**GES Christmas Concert**  
December 12th; 1:30 p.m.  
CNC Gymnasium

**CMS/CHS Band Christmas Concert**  
December 14th; 2:00 p.m.  
Harry D. Frokjer Auditorium

**PFES Christmas Concert**  
December 19th; 1:30/2:15 p.m.  
Harry D. Frokjer Auditorium

**CMS/CHS Choir Christmas Concert**  
December 22nd; 7:00 p.m.  
Harry D. Frokjer Auditorium

# Joosten directs Marawood Conference Choir

By MARK DONNER

The Marawood Conference All-Conference Choir performed on November 4 at Prentice High School under the direction of Beth Joosten, choral director at UW-Eau Claire – Barron County in Rice Lake.



This annual festival brings together talented high school singers from every school in the Marawood Conference. Students are selected through nomination by their school's choral director and spend the day rehearsing under the guidance of a guest director. The event culminates in an evening concert open to the public, showcasing the collaborative effort and musical artistry of the ensemble.

Joosten led the choir through a varied and engaging program that highlighted both the individual vocal talents of the students and their collective musical unity.

Representing Chequamegon High School at the event were:

- Sopranos: Elisiana Wirsing, Chelsea Peth
- Altos: Sherika Rudoph, Abigail Brenholt, Destiny Kasirye
- Tenors: Nate Nichols, Norson Rodriguez
- Basses: Harrison Graceffa, Alexander Ter-vort, Chase LaPlant

The festival celebrated the dedication and passion of young musicians across the conference and underscored the continued strength of choral music in Wisconsin's schools.



# The CPTO is Soaring

By ARIELLE HILGART

The CPTO is off to a great start. We just wrapped up our first Family FUN Night, and it was a huge success with about 150 people in attendance.

Our mission is to bridge family and education by hosting family-friendly events and providing funds to teachers that support family enrichment and learning opportunities.

This fall, we've already made a big impact around our school:

# SPORTS

## Skills that last a lifetime

By STEPHANIE HIRTREITER

From the field to the classroom, sports and school activities give students tools that reach far beyond graduation. Teamwork, dedication, leadership, and confidence aren't just skills for games—they're life skills that help Eagles succeed in college, careers, and community life. Participation teaches resilience, time management, and collaboration, shaping well-rounded students ready for any challenge. Keep getting involved, keep pushing yourself, and keep soaring. Every step makes you a stronger, more capable Screaming Eagle.



## CMS Athletics hits big numbers

By STEPHANIE ERNST

### Eagles Soar in a Fantastic Fall Sports Season

It's been an exciting fall for our Middle School athletics programs. From the first day of practice to the final game and meet, our student-athletes showed tremendous effort, school spirit, and teamwork. This season featured boys and girls cross country, football, and girls basketball—and each program had an incredible turnout.

We're proud to share that over 30% of our student body participated in a fall sport this year. The cross country team had 22 runners from grades 5–8, the football team suited up 12 players, and the girls basketball program had 16 players. Two athletes even competed in both basketball and cross country. It's clear that Eagle pride is strong!

### Cross Country — Consistent Effort and Outstanding Results

The cross country teams had a terrific season filled with hard work and success. The boys and girls teams never finished lower than 4th place in any meet. Both teams earned one first-place, two second-place, one third-place, and one fourth-place finish during the season.

One of the biggest highlights was hosting the Marawood Middle School All-Conference Meet right here at Chequamegon High School. The girls finished 2nd overall with 67 points, and the boys came in 3rd with 56 points—just four shy of second.

Top Individual Finishers:

- 7th Grade Girls: Kate Ernst – 1st

- 5th/6th Grade Girls: Mya Brown – 4th, Adelline Branch – 5th
- 8th Grade Boys: Easton Lemke – 4th, Bennett Brunell – 5th
- 6th Grade Boys: Greg Oswald – 3rd, Chad Peth – 4th

### Football — An Undefeated Season to Remember

The football team had a season for the record books, finishing undefeated at 6–0. The Eagles started strong with wins over Flambeau (30–6), Athens (32–6), and Prentice (40–6). They continued their dominant play with a 67–0 victory over Rib Lake. The closest contest came at Lake Holcombe, where the defense came up big with a late safety to seal an 8–6 win. The team wrapped up the season with a 23–12 victory over rival Phillips. What a great season, Eagles!

### Girls Basketball — Growing Together and Playing Hard

Our Middle School girls basketball teams wrapped up their seasons with plenty to be proud of. The A team finished with a 7–6 record, and four of those losses were by six points or fewer showing how competitive they were all season long. The B team also played strong, finishing 5–4. Both teams worked hard, improved every week, and supported each other on and off the court.

It's been a fantastic fall full of teamwork, growth, and success. We're so proud of every student who represented our school with effort, positivity, and Eagle pride. Congratulations to all our athletes and coaches for making this season one to remember.

New playground shelter: A shade structure has been added above the 4K–1st grade playground to provide comfort on hot days and keep the sandbox available rain or shine.

- New Gaga Ball pit: Our 2nd–5th grade playground now features a Gaga Ball pit for students to enjoy active, friendly competition.
- A huge thank you to our generous sponsors — Norvado, Prevail Bank, Pieper Power, Joe Ernst, and Rick Palecek — for helping make these projects possible.

And we're just getting started. We have two more Family FUN Nights planned for February

and May, plus an exciting summer event in the works.

Want to get involved? We'd love your help and ideas! Email us at [cpto@csdk12.net](mailto:cpto@csdk12.net).



## The inner workings of student government

By JALEN BRUNELL

The Chequamegon Student Council is a leadership group that plans events, activities, and other miscellaneous things to support the student body. Recently, they planned Homecoming, working hard to create fun dress-up days and other activities for students and staff to participate in. Each activity and dress-up day was judged by teachers, as students earned points for their grade. As a result, the seniors won Homecoming 2025.

Also this year, the Student Council is helping the elementary school with their pop tab collection. They sort pop tabs by class and then weigh

them to see which class has the most. The pop tabs are a fun way to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. The elementary students love to collect pop tabs as they like to see their class win.

One of the Council's plans for the school year is to plan a pickleball tournament for the community to participate in. Last year they hosted their first tournament which was very successful and had a great turnout. The admission to join the tournament was a canned good or nonperishable food item, and the donations were given to the local food pantry. This year the pickleball tournament will be held in the spring. Stay tuned for more information.

The Student Council is working on creating a positive environment for all of the students. They will make sure everyone in the high school

has a locker decoration by the end of the year by creating a birthday decoration for everyone. They are little banners that include the person's name and birthday and get hung up at the beginning of every month.

In addition to the birthday locker decorations, they create Porcelain Perspectives, flyers that are hung up in bathroom stalls. These flyers summarize the events going on in that month. They also include little tips to the students and a fun joke. Students and staff look forward to seeing the new flyers come out every month. Porcelain Perspectives creates a positive mood and reminds everyone about upcoming events.

One last thing they do is the Student Board Report which includes sports, music, extracurriculars, and student life. The students attend the School Board meeting monthly and give the report to the board members and anyone who is interested in going to the board meeting. Board meetings take place every third Tuesday of the month at 6 P.M., switching locations between Park Falls and Glidden.

This year's Student Council members are President-Mallory Smith, Vice-President Adi Bablick, Secretary Jalen Brunell, Media and Communications Sydney Rybak, Treasurer Chelsea Peth, and members Hailey Bodoh, Cadeon Bottolfson, Abigail Brenholt, Mady Ernst, Liam Horowitz, Mackenzie Humphrey, Addison Kovarik, Carla Rodriguez, and Nevin Xuereb. The staff advisor is Mrs. Samantha Tank.



## CSD pool is open for 2025

By ANGELINA WILSON

As the temperatures dipped, the Chequamegon School District's indoor pool oasis reopened on Tuesday, November 4. We are excited to welcome students, families, and community members back for another season. Our life-guarding team—trained in water rescue, First Aid/CPR, and emergency response—is ready to support a safe, welcoming experience for all swimmers.

### What's on the schedule

- Lap Swim — great for fitness and training
- Water Aerobics & Aqua Zumba — low-impact, fitness classes
- Swim Lessons — after-school options for all levels
- Open Swim — family-friendly time in the water
- Private Rentals — birthday parties and themed inflatable events

During the school day, students across the District will also have opportunities to participate in class-period open swims.

### Fall Hours:

- Weekday Mornings: 6:00–7:45 a.m.
- Select Weekday Evenings: 4:00–6:00 p.m. (programming varies by date)

For the most current schedule and program details, please visit the Chequamegon School District website. Whether you're clocking laps, trying a class, or celebrating a birthday, the pool is a warm, bright spot to move, play, and connect this fall. Come make a splash with us!



420 9th Street North  
Park Falls, WI 54552

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