

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Michael Bellino
Assistant Director, Marketing and Communications
Keeneyville School District 20
(224) 519-4715
mbellino@esd20.org



From Ice to Insight: Chicago Wolves Inspire Young Readers at Waterbury Elementary with “Read To Succeed”

Chicago Wolves forward Evan Vierling encouraged students to make reading a daily habit — offering a ticket to a Wolves home game as an added incentive.



ROSELLE, Ill. (Dec. 10, 2025) — Wolves met Wildcats on Tuesday as Waterbury Elementary School hosted Chicago Wolves forward Evan Vierling as part of the independent American Hockey League franchise’s “Read To Succeed” literacy program.

Since 1996, the Chicago Wolves’ “Read To Succeed” initiative has encouraged more than 1 million students to make reading a fun and rewarding part of life. For the ninth consecutive year, the team is offering “Read To Succeed For Schools,” presented by JULIEBeforeYouDig.com, the Wolves’ official education partner.

The program is designed to motivate and reward students in kindergarten through eighth grade for their efforts in reading, whether through existing or new school initiatives. To support these efforts, the Wolves provide free reading logs. Waterbury students who complete the reading program will

earn a certificate for a complimentary ticket to a selected Chicago Wolves home game during the 2025-26 season.



Photo courtesy of Daily Herald senior photographer Brian Hill / bhill@dailyherald.com

“I think it’s very important,” Vierling said of the initiative. “When I was younger, this would have been something that I would have been so excited for, and I feel hearing about reading from someone a bit older than them and at school is just as important.”



Second-grade students kept the visit lively with fun and unexpected questions. Vierling shared that his favorite book is *Harry Potter*, his favorite dinosaur is a Tyrannosaurus rex, and admitted he’s never been skydiving. He laughed at questions about internet memes — including the intentionally

nonsensical “6-7” expression — and revealed a hockey detail: he’s lost three teeth and now has replacements.



“The ‘Read To Succeed’ program is an incredible opportunity for our students,” said Waterbury Elementary Principal Dr. Jon Pokora. “Having a professional athlete like Evan Vierling share his love of reading makes the message so much more powerful. It’s inspiring for our kids and adds a fun, memorable experience that connects literacy to real-life goals.”

For details on the Chicago Wolves’ “Read To Succeed” program and how to participate in the 2025-26 season, visit www.chicagowolves.com/community/educational-programs/read-to-succeed-for-schools.

About The Chicago Wolves

The Chicago Wolves are an independent American Hockey League franchise with five league championships, eight conference titles, 11 division crowns and more than 1,000 wins. Their all-time roster features more than 350 players who’ve also competed in the National Hockey League. More than 7 million fans have enjoyed Wolves hockey at Allstate Arena, and the club boasts the AHL’s most comprehensive television schedule as the majority of the team’s games are broadcast in HD on My50 Chicago. To discover the best and most flexible deals on season tickets as well as group outings, visit www.chicagowolves.com/tickets or call 1-800-THE-WOLVES.

About Keeneyville School District 20

Keeneyville School District 20 (KSD20) is a public elementary school district located in Hanover Park, Ill., serving approximately 1,350 students from preschool through eighth grade across four schools: Greenbrook Elementary, Waterbury Elementary, Spring Wood Middle School and the Early Childhood Center. Founded in 1887 and renamed for local developer Albert F. Keeney, the district has a proud history rooted in community growth and educational innovation. With more than 230 dedicated staff members, KSD20 supports families in Hanover Park, Bloomingdale, Keeneyville and Roselle. As the largest feeder to Lake Park High School District 108, the district is dedicated to inclusive, high-quality education and its mission to ignite each student’s power and potential.