Badger Independent School District May 2026

Badger Barker

www.badger.k12.mn.us

2026 Graduation

By: Kylee Larson

Colors
Green & Gold

Motto
"Chase your dreams, but always know the road that'll lead you home again."
-Tim McGraw

Flower
White Rose

The 2026 Baccalaureate will be on May 13th at 7pm in the Badger Gym.

The 2026 Graduation will be on May 17th at 2pm in the Badger Gym.



Back: Quentin Kukowski, Braxton Pearson, Tryg Olson, Hailey Lundgren, Emmitt Isane, Owen Lund
Middle: Zaymein Rud, Maxston Haugen Rosadino, Emily Burkel, Noah Gust, Breydon Foss
Front: Briggs Jenson, Quillan Wirta, Jordyn Gilbert, Morgan Hickey, Khloe Fletcher, Liam Winrow

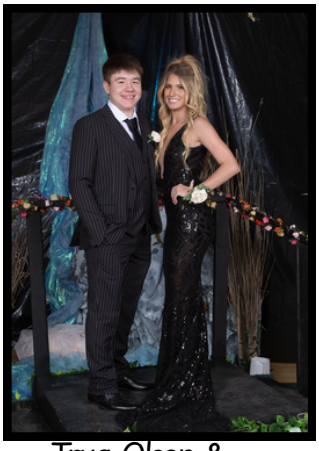
Prom 2026
Night in the Bayou

By: Ashlyn Johnson

This year's prom theme for 2026 was "Night in the Bayou." Prom took place on April 11th. The doors opened at 7:00pm, and the Grand March began at 7:30pm. Twenty-six couples attended the 2026 Prom, and many prizes were given out at Post-Prom. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a huge success!



Levi Wahl &
Katelyn Gust



Tryg Olson &
Zairyn Wimpfheimer



Breydon Foss &
Emily Burkel



Morgan Hickey &
Tiana Jacobson



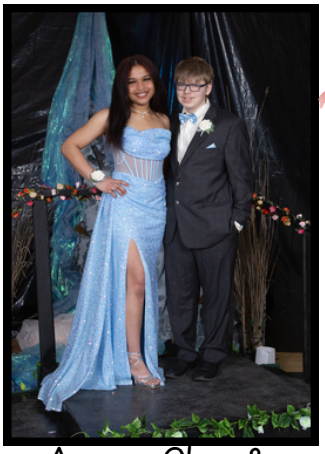
Khloe Fletcher &
Briggs Jenson



Peyton Lee &
Asher Clark



Hallee Magnusson &
Braxton Pearson



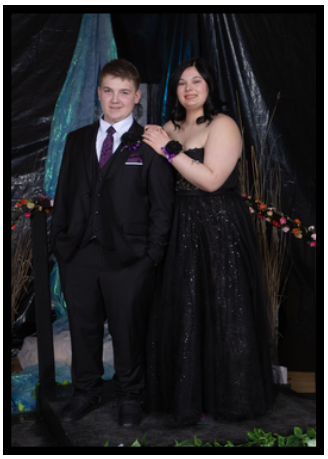
Azmera Olson &
Quentin Kukowski



MacKenzie VonEnde &
Austin Przekwas



Avery Beito &
Ashlyn Johnson



Liam Winrow &
Greta Wociechowski



Will Foss &
Adysen Gregerson

Photo Credits: Wibbles Photograpy

The Badger Barker

Dates To Remember

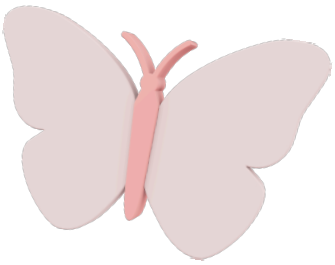
By: Addison Olson

May

1. MCA Window Closes
1. School Principal's Day
1. School Lunch Hero Day
4-8. Teacher Appreciation Week
5-7. K MAP Math @ 10am-11am
6. HS Spring Concert @ 7pm
6. Env. Sustainability to UMC for a conference
6. National Interpreter Appreciation Day
8. Elementary Spring Concert @ 1:45pm
8. Kindergarten Graduation @ 1:45pm
10. Mother's Day
13. Yearbook Signing Day 11:25am
13. School Board @ 6pm
13. Baccalaureate @ 7pm
15. MAP Window Closes
15. Last Day for Seniors/Grad Practice/Cookout
17. Graduation @ 2pm
18. National Speech Pathologist Day
19. Elem Track & Field Day (Rain out day May 20)
22. Last Day of School - Student Dismissed @ 12:30pm

June

10. School Board Meeting @ 6pm
21. Father's Day



What do you call a snowman in June?

A puddle!

What gets sharper the more you use it?

Your brain!



The Badger Barker

May

1 – Varsity Track Conference Meet @ EGF
1 – Softball @ Warroad
1 – Baseball @ Ada–Borup–West
4 – Baseball @ Mahnomen–Waubun
4 – Boys Golf @ Bemidji
4 – Girls Golf @ Park Rapids
4 – Track and Field @ Roseau
5 – Boys Golf @ Hallock
6 – Girls Golf Section 8A @ Bemidji
7 – JH Track @ EGF
7 – G&B Golf @ LOW
7 – Baseball @ Stephen/Argyle Central
8 – Varsity Track @ West Marshall
8 – Softball JH Tournament @ TRF
8 – Baseball @ Sacred Heart
8 – Boys Golf @ Ada
9 – Gator Softball Classic Tournament
11 – Varsity Track @ Roseau
11 – Baseball @ Kennedy
12 – JH Track @ Roseau
12 – Softball @ Roseau
12 – Baseball @ LOW
12 – B&G Golf @ Warroad
13 – Boys Golf @ EGF
14 – JH Track @ TRF
14 – Baseball vs Northern Freeze
14 – Varsity Track @ Ada
14 – Softball @ TRF
14 – Golf B&G @ Roseau
15 – Varsity Track @ TRF
15 – Baseball @ Clearbrook–Gonvick
16 – Softball NCE/UH JV Tournament @ Twin Valley
18 – JH Track @ LOW
18 – Baseball vs Win–E–Mac
18 – Girls Golf @ EGF
19 – JH Track @ TRF
19 – Softball Section Play–In
19 – Baseball @ Roseau
21 – Baseball @ NCE/UH
21 – Softball Section Quarterfinals
26 – Baseball Subsection Play @ High Seed
26 – Softball Section Finals
28 – Baseball Subsection Finals @ Sacred Heart

June

2 – Softball State Tournament
3 – Softball State Tournament
4 – Softball State Tournament
4 – Track and Field State Tournament
5 – Softball State Tournament
5 – Track and Field State Tournament
6 – Track and Field State Tournament
9 – Golf State Tournament
10 – Golf State Tournament
11 – Baseball State Tournament
12 – Baseball State Tournament
15 – Baseball State Tournament

Sports Schedule

By: Katelyn Gust







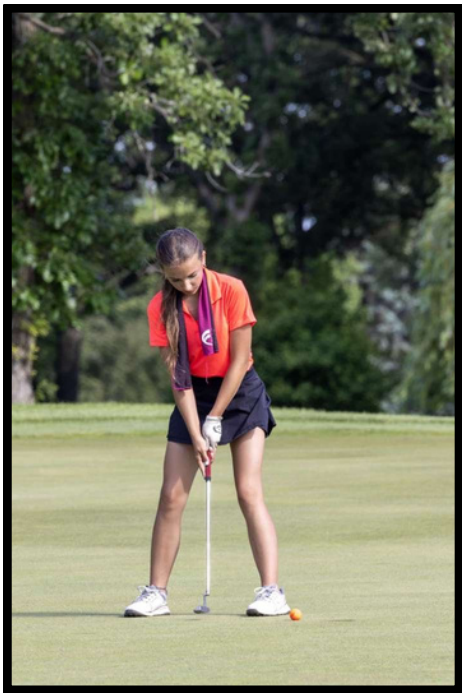


The Badger Barker

Spotlight on Sports - Girls Golf

By: Emmitt Isane

Emily Burkel is a senior golfer, and her favorite snack on the course is peach rings. Her favorite courses are at Lake of the Woods because the greens are usually slow, and at Bemidji because it's a gorgeous and fun course. She looks up to her coaches because they push her to be her best and always root for her. The advice she would give her younger teammates is: "You're not competing against people, you're competing against the course. Golf is a mental game. Make friends with kids you golf with on the course." Emily's biggest achievements in golf are winning the Section 8A Individual and Team Championships, being a back-to-back state champion, and making friends on the course.



Khloe Fletcher is a senior golfer, and her favorite snack on the course is beef sticks with cheese. Her favorite golf course is the Bemidji Town and Country Club because it's so beautiful and is fun yet challenging. Khloe's favorite memory is the van rides and jumping into the lake after advancing to state. Her biggest achievement in golf is earning a varsity position in her 8th grade year. She looks up to Derek Janousek because he pushes her to do her best and always gives the best advice. Some advice she would give younger teammates is: "Slow down and take it all in, because it's going to be gone before you know it."



Senior Band Musicians of the Month

By: Liam Winrow



Emily

What instrument do you play, and why do you play it?

Emily Burkel: I play in the percussion section. I picked it because of the variety of instruments within the section, and I like hitting things and breathing while I play.
Tryg Olson: Baritone, Mrs. Erickson said we needed one, and it sounded good.
Noah Gust: I play the trumpet. I love melody parts, and it is a fun instrument to learn.
Morgan Hickey: Clarinet, I chose this instrument because I thought it would be fun to learn.

How long have you been in band?

Emily Burkel: 8 years
Tryg Olson: 8 years
Noah Gust: 7 years
Morgan Hickey: Since 5th grade, but I did online school for half of my 10th grade year and my 11th.



Tryg

What is your favorite song to play in Band?

Emily Burkel: I like playing songs with a lot of moving parts and/or percussion syncopation.
Tryg Olson: "Carry on Wayward Son".
Noah Gust: "Low Rider." I think it's a fun song, and who doesn't like George Lopez!
Morgan Hickey: "Timber", because I have the melody.

Favorite part about being in Band?

Emily Burkel: The different types and genres of music we get to learn and play.
Tryg Olson: Talking to everyone in the band.
Noah Gust: The friends you make and the memories you create.
Morgan Hickey: Getting to play new music pieces.



Noah

What are you looking forward to this year?

Emily Burkel: I'm looking forward to the spring concert on May 6th! Our songs are very fun.
Tryg Olson: Graduation.
Noah Gust: Making more memories and enjoying what I have left, time-wise.
Morgan Hickey: The spring concert and getting to play with the band one last time during graduation.

What advice would you give other musicians in Band?

Emily Burkel: Enjoy Pep Band while it lasts.
Tryg Olson: Stick with it and practice.
Noah Gust: Keep going! I know it's a common phrase, but it's true. Band is a great place to learn music, but also to find people and community for yourself.
Morgan Hickey: Enjoy it, because you won't have band after you graduate.



Morgan

What is your favorite Band memory?

Emily Burkel: Playing Pep Band at state volleyball and playing "Jackbox" with friends on the bus.
Tryg Olson: State volleyball.
Noah Gust: Going to state volleyball and just having fun down in the cities.
Morgan Hickey: Going to play at state in Minneapolis at the Target Center.

The Badger Barker

Kindergarten Graduation

By: Ashlyn Johnson

Kindergarten Graduation will take place on Friday, May 8th in the Badger School Gymnasium at 1:45pm.



Top: Briggs Berger, Ezra Yager, Micah Jensen, Isaac Evans, Layton Galusha, Alana Nick, Joesph Jensen
Bottom: Everlee Grensteiner, Karma Spivey, Ella Didrikson, Indy Berger, Taelynn Covey, Kaycee Schram

FCCLA State Leadership Conference

By: Kylee Gust

Congratulations to all of our hard-working FCCLA members who went to state and presented their projects on March 29th at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington in Bloomington, Minnesota. Great job to all members, including our senior, Emily Burkel, and others such as Adysen Gregerson, Avearah Hanson, Ava Warne, and Delyla Carpenter for making and presenting their events.

Members who advanced to the National Competition, which will be happening on July 6-10 in Washington, DC, at the Walter E. Washington Carver Convention Center, include:

Emily Burkel - National Advancer - Public Policy Advocacy
Avearah Hanson - National Advancer - Focus on Children
Ava Warne - National Advancer & Regional Vice President - Food Innovations
Delyla Carpenter - National Advancer & Regional Secretary - Interpersonal Communication



Delyla Carpenter, Emily Burkel, Ava Warne, Avearah Hanson, and Adysen Gregerson

Adysen Gregerson - (National Advancer Alternate) - Repurpose & Redesign

These outstanding leaders represented our chapter, school, & community with resolve, professionalism, and grace. Their respect and kindness to others were exemplary, and we are so proud.

The Badger Barker

Senior Choir Musicians of the Month

By: Zay Rud



Emily Burkel

This month, one of the seniors we interviewed was Emily Burkel, a first soprano singer, who's been in choir for six years. Her favorite music to sing is any music with high notes. Her favorite part of being in choir is singing a variety of musical styles. The thing she is looking forward to most this year is the spring concert. Advice she would give to other vocalists is to “take advantage of the lessons Mrs. Carpenter offers.” Emily’s favorite choir memories include traveling, competing at contests, and singing in music revues.

The other senior that we interviewed this month was Khloe Fletcher, a soprano, who’s been in choir since her 8th-grade year. Her favorite music to sing is any kind with a good beat. Her favorite part of being in choir is “seeing how far we have come since the beginning of the year.” Something that Khloe is looking forward to this year is graduating. Advice she would give to other vocalists is to “sing out. Don’t be shy. If you make a mistake, make it big.” Her favorite choir memory is getting a 40/40 superior rating at contests.



Khloe Fletcher

The Badger Barker

MN History Contest

By: Naomi Turpitt

The Minnesota History Day competition is a Minnesota Historical Society program where students in grades 6–12 research topics based on an annual theme and present them through projects. It promotes in-depth research through categories like documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, websites, and podcasts. The competition progresses from school to regional, state, and national levels. After taking the test, these three 6th grade Badger students advanced and will meet at Roseau City Center on April 29th, 2026:
Brentley Williams, Blair Przekwas, and Collin Matthews.



Brentley Williams



Blair Przekwas



Collin Matthews

Baseball Summary

By: Katelyn Gust

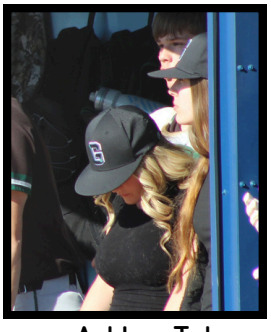
Gator Baseball started their season on April 14th, traveling to Red Lake County to take on the Rebels, and unfortunately got mercy-ruled in the fifth inning, losing 0-10. On Monday, the 20th, they went to Fertile to play the Falcons and lost 4-17, getting mercied again. The next day, the boys traveled to Karlstad to play the Northern Freeze, losing 8-14.



Coach Lorenson and the team in a huddle after their loss to Red Lake County



Deegan Hanson up to bat against Fertile-Beltrami



Managers Ashlyn Johnson and Katelyn Gust taking stats during their game against Northern Freeze

Photo Credits: Tina Taus

The Badger Barker

Spotlight on Sports: Track

By: Aiyanah Bieber

Hallie Glodowski, a junior on the BGMR Varsity Track team, has been in track since she was in eighth grade, making this her fourth year. During track meets and practices, Hallie likes to snack on Uncrustables (specifically peanut butter with strawberry, or the Nutella ones). Hallie states that the reason she wanted to join track is that "I didn't want to do golf, and I am also pretty good at running."

For events, Hallie runs the 4 x 200 relay and the 200-meter dash. She is a sprinter, but she is trying out for discus this year, which is the event where people throw a discus. When seeking motivation, she looks up to Anna Mooney, a friend. Hallie looks up to Anna because she started track the same year as Hallie, and has always encouraged her to keep pushing forward. Her favorite place to have track meets is Lake of the Woods, because "they have the best ice cream stand."



"Push yourself, have a goal set, and compare yourself only to you." -Hallie Glodowski

Christian Osborne (who goes by Henry), a junior on the BGMR Varsity Track team, just joined track this year. During track meets and practices, Henry usually snacks on a granola bar. Henry wanted to join track because some of his friends were in it, and it aligned with his personal interests.

Henry does both discus and shot put, just like Kylee Gust. As of right now, Henry doesn't look up to anyone for motivation, but I'm sure once he's been in track for a while, he will find a role model to look up to. Since this is Henry's first year in track, he does not have a favorite memory to share or a favorite place for track meets.



"Work hard, try your absolute best" -Henry Osborne

Fun Facts:

This is what the discus looks like. -->





<-- This is what the shot put looks like

The Badger Barker

Spotlight on Sports: Track

By: Aiyanah Bieber

Kiley Streich, a freshman on the varsity track team, joined track because she always wanted to participate in some type of sport while she was still in school. When it comes to balancing her schoolwork and other activities to stay passing, she just pushes herself to do the best she can, and she says that, "surprisingly, it works!"

Her biggest accomplishment in track so far is making it through practice. The goals that she set to accomplish by the end of this season are to perfect her form during meets, participate in at least three or more events, and last but not least, she wants to have a great, fun experience while in track.



"If you at least try, you're still winning" -Kiley Streich

Spotlight on Sports: Clay Busters

By: Katelyn Gust

Tryg is a senior on the BGMR Clay Busters team. His favorite station to start on is five because he likes to get it done first. His favorite weather to shoot in is when it's sunny with some tailwind, and his favorite house to shoot at is two. A favorite memory of his in Clay Busters is Alexandria. To keep himself motivated, he looks up to Josh Kern, saying, "he is always helping me." The advice he would give to younger teammates is "listen to all of the coaches, they know what they are talking about, and don't take it too seriously."

Tryg Olson



The Badger Barker

Spotlight on Sports: Softball

By: Kylee Larson



"The first couple of years are hard, but just push through it and enjoy it all."
– MacKenzie

MacKenzie VonEnde, a sophomore at Badger High School, plays outfield for the Gator Softball team. MacKenzie chose to join softball because she enjoys being around an amazing group of people and challenging herself. Her favorite memory is participating in the state tournament. Other than home, she enjoys playing at NCE–UH because it's always the first game of the year. She looks up to Jocelyn Waage for motivation because she always has a positive attitude and tries her best.

Ava Gust, a 9th grader at Badger High School, plays shortstop or second for the Gator softball team. Ava chose to join softball because she wanted to stay active, stay in shape, and improve at hitting the ball. Her favorite memory is when the gator softball team went to state; they played music on the bus to get hyped, and she got to watch varsity play at state. Other than home, she enjoys playing on the Roseau fields because some of her friends play for Roseau, and she gets to talk to them. Ava looks up to Kailey Hanson and Teagan Landsrud because they have been playing softball for a long time, and when they mess up, Ava can go up to them and tell them what they need to improve.

"Keep your chin up if you make a mistake, shake it off and focus on the next choice"
– Ava

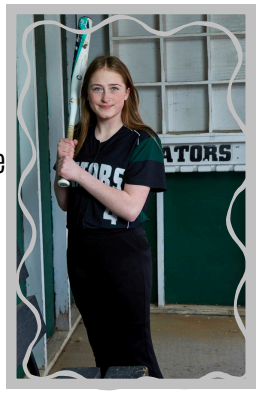


Photo Credits: Thoele Photography

ENVIROTHON

By: Kylee Gust

On April 22nd, Envirothon held its annual competition at Lake Bronson State Park. Envirothon is an outdoor learning competition for high school students. The students who attended were: Braxton Pearson, Kylee Gust, Austin Przekwas, Cale Lindland, Ava Warne, and Aspen Askelson. The 2026 State Envirothon Competition will be held at the Oliver Kelley Farm in Elk River, Minnesota, on May 18th. Our students showed their knowledge by making a presentation board on current events in the five areas they had been studying: wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and current events. Our team did not place, but they did do a great job showing Team Spirit and won the Team Spirit Award, for which the prize was a Dairy Queen card for a small blizzard.



Aspen, Braxton, Cale, Austin, and Kylee
Credits to Mr. Coltom for taking the photo

The Badger Barker




Unified Sports

By: Abram Wirta




On April 22, the Unified Athletes travelled to Roseau for their swimming event. Those that attended were Abram Wirta and his buddy Briggs Jenson, and Quentin Kukowski along with his buddy Breydon Foss.



Photo credit: Diann Hauger

Elementary Viewpoint

By: Maxston Haugen Rosadino

What's your favorite game to play during recess?

1st grade - Bridger Fichter: My favorite game is football. I like to throw the football with my brother Breydan and his friends in third grade.

2nd grade - James Evans: My favorite game is football. Because I can play with my friends.

3rd grade - Isabelle Lane: Tag, because if you have a lot of energy, you get to run. You could play walking tag if you don't have much energy. A lot of people walk around or play calm games with their friends.

4th grade - Cora Langaas: Volleyball or games with balls. Alien games can go anywhere. Playing with my friends.

5th grade - Ellie Hanson: I really love playing football, because recess has gotten boring for all the years I've been playing outside. But it sucks when the 6th graders play, because when they do, they're the only ones that get passed to. But I really love football either way.

6th grade - Owen Olson: Football because I like to play it. It is also my favorite sport to play and watch.

Bridger James Isabelle Cora Ellie Owen



The Badger Barker

Senior Spotlight

By: Jordyn Gilbert

Zaymein Rud



Parents: Scott Rud & Cortney Haugen
Siblings: Jasmyn, Bryza, Tyjmen, Willow, and Athena
Nickname: Zay, Zayzo
Favorite(s):
Sport: Boxing, MMA
Movie/Series/Show: *Dragon Ball*
Food: Hotdish
Color: Red
Quote: "Yummers" - Homelander
If you could change anything in the world, what would it be? Make teleportation exist, or any form of quicker transportation.
If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go? I would want to take my dad to go hog hunting in Texas.
What is the craziest thing you've done in high school? Rage-baited Liam many times.
What is your dream job, and why? Anything that will pay well because I want to afford nice things.

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Khloe Fletcher



Parents: Tony Fletcher & Bryana Molskness
Siblings: Trey & Crosby
Nickname: Khloe Michele, Kole, Kloe Belle, Khlo, Khloe Bear, and Khloe Mitchal
Favorite(s):
Sport: Golf
Movie/Series/Show: *Breakthrough*
Food: Chicken Strips
Color: Pink
Quote: "If given the choice of being kind or being right, choose kind" - Wonder
If you could change anything in the world, what would it be? How much people care about what other people are saying or thinking.
If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go? Bethanie, we would go to Hawaii and then to Arizona to golf the coast.
What is the craziest thing you've done in high school? Driving Mrs. P's van around the parking lot.
What is your dream job, and why? NICU Nurse because helping vulnerable babies reach their full potential is my passion.
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The Badger Barker

Senior Spotlight

By: Jordyn Gilbert

Breydon Foss



Parents: Brian and Sarah Foss
Siblings: Tanner, Dillon, Jacob
Nickname: B-Foss, Foss
Favorite(s):
Sport: Football
Movie/Series/Show: *Fury*
Food: Chocolate chip waffles
Color: Blue
Quote: "Focus on the duty." - Chris Kyle

If you could change anything in the world, what would it be?
Fuel prices

If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go? Dillon, go to Alaska and kill a grizzly bear.

What is the craziest thing you've done in high school?
I ate Coltom's muffin.

What is your dream job, and why? Hunting guide in the mountains.

Gator Clay Busters Summary

By: Breydon Foss

Gator Trap Shooting started on March 29th. The students can sign up to shoot on either Sunday or Wednesday. The Trap Shooters have to shoot 50 rounds each day, 25 rounds per session. Coming up on May 30, they have a Gator Invite. It's an event where a bunch of different schools come to Greenbush Trap Club to compete. The Gator Fun Night is when the team gathers for an evening to shoot against the coaches and play fun shooting games.

Week 1 Update:
-Top Male shooter was Levi Olson! He scored the first season straight 25!
-Top Female shooter was Kylee Gust!

Week 2 Update:
-Top Female shooter was Kylee Gust!

Phenomenal shooting already and growth in the first 2 weeks from all of our shooters!

This year, there are 52 Gator Claybuster shooters!

Week 3 Update:
Top Female- Kylee Gust

Students with straight runs of 25:
Ryder Gust
Grant Olson
Levi Olson

Information provided by Gator Clay Busters Facebook Page

BECKY DOSTAL - BEA Teacher of the Year 2025-26



I am pleased to recognize Becky Dostal as the Badger Teacher of the Year. I have known Becky for many years in my capacity as a staff member at Badger School and have worked alongside her in multiple capacities. Over the course of her 34-year career in education, Becky has demonstrated the steady professionalism, deep commitment to children, and sustained leadership that this honor seeks to recognize. Becky's broad experience is remarkable and speaks directly to her effectiveness as a teacher and community member. Her career includes six years in K–12 special education, two years focused on K–6 special education, and 26 years as a devoted second-grade teacher. Beyond the classroom, she has coached junior high volleyball for six years, advised the school spelling bee for four years, led Early Childhood Family Education for eight years, and served as the Vice President of the Badger Education Association for over two decades. These roles illustrate not only her instructional skill but also her ability to connect with learners and families across a wide developmental range. I have observed Becky's instructional practice closely and can attest to several qualities that distinguish her work. She builds classroom environments that are calm, predictable, and joyful—conditions especially important for young learners and for students with special needs. Her lessons are thoughtfully structured and differentiated; she knows how to encourage learning so that each child experiences both challenge and success. Her peers frequently comment on her ability to translate assessment data into clear, actionable next steps for students, and parents consistently express appreciation for the care and clarity she brings to conferences and communications. Becky's long-term relationships with students are a hallmark of her practice. As she often says, "Once students have been in my class, they become my kids forever! I enjoy watching them as they grow and become incredible people." That sentiment is evident in how alumni return to visit, in how families remain engaged with the school community, and in the many graduates who cite her influence on their own academic confidence. Her commitment to nurturing the whole child—socially, emotionally, and academically—is evident in both small daily interactions and in sustained programs she leads. Her contributions extend beyond direct instruction. As a junior high volleyball coach, she modeled teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship; as a spelling bee advisor, she fostered study habits, poise, and pride in academic competition; and through Early Childhood Family Education, she strengthened early learning and family engagement across the community. Becky's long tenure with the Badger Education Association—more than 30 years—reflects her commitment to professional collaboration, advocacy, and to making our school a supportive place for both staff and students. Becky also brings perspective and humility to her work. She writes, "I have been blessed to work with many wonderful students and colleagues through the years. Badger School is a great place to belong. I am very thankful for the Badger School and community." That gratitude is not passive; it is evident in how she mentors younger teachers, volunteers for committees, and quietly assumes responsibilities that keep our school a place where everyone belongs. In my experience, teachers who combine deep competence with genuine collegiality have the greatest positive impact on school culture—and Becky exemplifies all of these qualities. In summary, Becky is an exemplary educator whose longevity, versatility, and steadfast dedication make her the ideal choice for the Badger Teacher of the Year. She consistently brings expertise, warmth, and leadership to her students and teachers alike. We are hopeful that she will continue to uplift the Badger School community for years to come.

Gretchen Lee, FCS Teacher

BREAKFAST

MAY 2026
BADGER SCHOOL

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 BREAKFAST ROUND APPLE SLICES PEANUT BUTTER JUICE MILK
4 BISMARCK FRUIT JUICE MILK	5 BRREAKFAST PIZZA FRUIT JUICE MILK	6 GRANOLA BAR GOGURT FRUIT JUICE MILK HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT 7:00PM	7 SAUSAGE GRAVY & BISCUIT FRUIT JUICE MILK	8 CEREAL CHEESE STICK FRUIT JUICE MILK KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION & ELEMENTARY CONCERT 1:45
11 MUFFINS WITH MOMS FRUIT JUICE MILK	12 CHEESE OMELET SAUSAGE PATTY FRUIT JUICE MILK	13 BAGEL CREAM CHEESE FRUIT JUICE MILK BACCALAUREATE 7PM	14 BANANA BREAD FRUIT JUICE MILK	15 EGG & CHEESE BISCUIT FRUIT JUICE MILK
18 COOKS CHOICE	19 COOKS CHOICE	20 COOKS CHOICE	21 COOKS CHOICE	22 COOKS CHOICE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 PIZZA FRESH CARROTS & CUCUMBERS FRUIT CUP BREAD MILK
4 HOTDOG/BUN SOUR KRAUT BLACK BEAN SALAD SUN CHIPS FRUIT MILK	5 CINCO DE MAYO SOUTH WEST NUGGETS FOR GRADE SCHOOL FRIED CHICKEN FOR HS MAC & CHEESE VEG FRUIT MILK	6 CHICKEN RANCH WRAP WITH FIXENS VEG FRUIT BREAD MILK HS SPRING CONCERT 7PM	7 BURGERS/BUN LETTUCE/TOM/CHEESE FRIES FRUIT MILK	8 HOT HAM & CHEESE HASH BROWN FRESH VEGGIES FRESH FRUIT MILK ELEMENTARY SPRING CONCERT KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION 1:45
11 BEEF STEW CARROTS & CELERY DINNER ROLLS MIXED BERRY CRISP MILK	12 GARLIC CHEESE BREAD SPAG.SAUCE GREEN BEANS FRUIT BREAD MILK	13 ORANGE CHICKEN RICE BROCCOLI & CAULI- FLOWER FRUIT MILK BACCALAUREATE	14 BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH SCRAMBLED EGGS HASH BROWN CINN ROLL FRESH FRUIT MILK	15 SUB SANDWICH WITH FIXINS SUN CHIPS FRESH FRUIT MILK
18 COOKS CHOICE	19 COOKS CHOICE	20 COOKS CHOICE	21 COOKS CHOICE	22 COOKS CHOICE EARLY OUT 12:30 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH AVAILABILITY

BADGER SCHOOL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

~Thank you, Badger School~

By: Jordyn Gilbert

Emily Burkel: As I reflect on the last 6 years, I am incredibly grateful for the community, school, and people who have shaped me into who I am today. Thank you to the Badger community for always showing support. Your encouragement means more than you think. To my teachers, coaches, and advisors, thank you for pushing me to be my best, believing in me, and providing me with opportunities to grow. To my teammates, classmates, and friends, thank you for the memories, laughter, and support along the way. You have made these years unforgettable. Most of all, thank you to my family for your constant support, guidance, encouragement, and love. I would not be where I am today without you. I am proud to be a Badger graduate, and I'm so thankful for everything this community has given me.

Quentin Kukowski: I would like to say thank you to Mrs. Lee, Mr. Lee, and Mrs. Kukowski. Thank you, Mrs. Lee, for making me smile every day. Thank you, Mr. Lee, for letting me come and talk to you. Thank you, Mrs. Kukowski, for cheering me up when I was having a bad day.

Zaymein Rud: I'd like to thank the teachers for teaching me stuff. I'd like to thank the teachers who are chill and lenient for not causing too much stress for me. I'd also like to thank my classmates for motivating me to keep pushing forward, and thank them for the fun memories.

Khloe Fletcher: Thank you, Badger! Coming to a new school was nerve-racking, but everyone took me in with open arms and made me feel welcome. I love the Badger School and I'm so proud to graduate here. Thank you!

Maxston Haugen Rosadino: Thank you to the teachers for providing good teaching and influencing how and what I learn. I also want to thank my peers and classmates for giving me good memories forever. Thank you everyone.

Hailey Lundgren: I would like to thank my parents, my grandma, and all my teachers at the Badger School. They have always encouraged me to try my best and shoot for the stars, which I will forever be grateful for. My time at the Badger School will always be memorable because of them. Thank you all!

Jordyn Gilbert: Thank you all for everything. I have never been anywhere so community-oriented as I have been at Badger School. I am so beyond thankful for how much all of my classmates and I have grown. Graduating from Badger School will have a lasting, positive impact on my life. Thank you!

Tryg Olson: Thank you to the community at the Badger School. Thank you to the teachers for putting up with our class. Thank you to the paras for helping everyone. And thank you everyone that has helped us along the way.

Quillan Wirta: Thank you to those who helped me with getting me to do my work and pass. For those who stood up for me during the hard times in school and at home. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for pushing me to become the bigger person in the real world.

Breydon Foss: Thank you Mother and Father for putting me in school.

Noah Gust: I want to say thank you to everyone. Anyone I have ever met has helped mold me into the person I've become. But a special thank you to my family and friends who have supported my decisions, even if those decisions weren't the right ones. You know who you are :).

Morgan Hickey: Thank you to all the staff of Badger School for shaping me into the person I am today. Thank you for never giving up on any of us. Thank you for helping us get to the point to graduate.

Emmitt Isane: Thank you to my Mom and Dad for making me go to school, and thank you to them again for getting me out of school when I need them to.

Briggs Jenson: Thank you to all the teachers and people at my school for everything. It has been a good past couple of years, and I am very thankful. Thank you!

Braxton Pearson: Thank you, everyone, for always trying to help me and keep pushing me. Thank you to all of my friends that I talk to everyday, who keep me company.

Liam Winrow: I would like to say thank you to the Badger School for the friends I have made over the last few years. I would also like to say thank you to the teachers for helping me throughout the years. And of course, I would like to say thank you to my family for giving me advice when I needed it most, and also for letting me come here. Thanks for everything!

The Badger Barker

KINDERGARTEN CORNER

BY: ASHLYN JOHNSON

What's your favorite color?
Yellow because it's in the rainbow
If you had any superpower, what would it be and why?
Fast, so I can run fast in gym
If you could sell anything in a store, what would you sell and why?
Phones it would make people happy
What's your favorite thing about Spring?
Playing outside
What's your favorite food?
Cheese pizza



Micah Jenson



Alana Nick

What's your favorite color?
Purple
If you had any superpower, what would it be and why?
Fast, so I can run
If you could sell anything in a store, what would you sell and why?
Toys they are fun to play with
What's your favorite thing about Spring?
Hot
What's your favorite food?
Umm, I like hotdogs

Campus Comment

By: Abram Wirta

What are your plans for summer?

7th Grade: Ezra Monsrud~ My plans for the summer are to play baseball, go swimming, and ride a dirtbike. I want to practice shooting my bow. I want to be outside playing as much as I can.

8th Grade: Ayden Mostad~ I don't have a ton of plans, but I'm mostly excited to go swimming, hang out with my mom, spend time with my aunt Brittany, and have no bad energy or bad vibes.

9th Grade: Elijah Monsrud~ My plans for this summer are to hang out with my friends and family. I am going to play some golf and baseball with friends. I am going to have fun at the beach with friends and family.

10th Grade: Aiyanah Bieber~ I plan on being outside a lot. I might visit my family down in Iowa, and hopefully I'll get my license. I'll be unstoppable if I do. I want to collect a bunch of plants and press them. I'm going to go collect rocks and sticks, too! I want to gather some acorns and make necklaces from them. I think I'm going to try to hang out with friends more and go to the fair too.

11th Grade: Levi Olson~ I am going to play golf. I am going to work somewhere. Maybe I will help my uncle.

12th Grade: Tryg Olson~ My plan for this summer is to work for my uncle, play as many golf courses as I can, and get ready for college.



Pictured: Ezra Monsrud, Ayden Mostad, Elijah Monsrud, Levi Olson, Tryg Olson,
Not Pictured:
Aiyanah Bieber

Mystery Reader with 1st Grade

By: Naomi Turpitt



Alyssa Aune read a story about horses to the class.



Anne Stenberg reads "How to Catch the Easter Bunny" to the



Corinne Dostal reads "Louie's Lent"



Alyssa Aune poses after reading the story.



Anne Stenberg poses with first grade after reading the story.

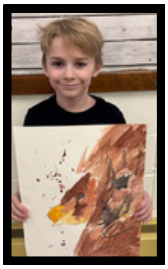


Connie Creviston poses with first grade after reading the story.

Art in the Elementary with Alyssa Aune

By: Quentin Kukowski







Another 12 weeks of art with Mrs. Aune have come and gone oh so quickly! Students created a variety of projects using chalk, oil pastels, cardboard, acrylic paints, watercolor paints, newspaper, construction paper, and mixed media. Sometimes art lessons focused on an animal, and some projects pertained to certain landscapes. A few projects allowed the students to take their own creative route and allowed them to make their own decisions.

"It's fun to see how unique each project can be from the student's perspective," says Mrs. Aune. "I think the students enjoy seeing the differences between each other's masterpieces. I enjoy seeing that as well."

Projects were displayed in the hallways upon completion. After displaying the art, students take their artwork home. This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council with funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.















The Badger Barker

Elementary Track and Field Day

By: Liam Winrow

Badger Elementary is again hosting its Track and Field Day on May 19th, 2026. Be prepared for a fun-filled day, and please wear appropriate clothing. If it rains, the date will be pushed forward to the 20th.







March Music Madness Hits a High Note at Badger School

By: Kylee Larson





This March, Badger School turned up the volume on a fun and creative twist to the traditional bracket season—thanks to our very own Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Braaten! Bringing the excitement of March Madness into the classroom (and beyond), Ms. Braaten organized a school-wide March Music Madness bracket had students and staff buzzing with anticipation. Each teacher secretly submitted a favorite song, taking on the role of a "Masked Singer," while Ms. Braaten built a bracket of mystery hits for the entire school to enjoy. Each day, classrooms across the school listened, debated, and cast their votes over Google Forms, slowly narrowing down the competition. From nostalgic classics to upbeat favorites, every round brought surprises and spirited discussions as students tried to guess which teacher was behind each track. After days of voting and musical showdowns, the competition came down to an exciting final matchup. And now, the results are in...

"Fishin' in the Dark" is the 2026 Badger School March Music Madness Champion!

In a close championship round, the winning song was revealed to be submitted by none other than Mrs. Lambert, who claimed victory over Ms. Braaten herself! The big reveal brought plenty of smiles, cheers, and a few shocked guesses as students finally discovered the identities behind their favorite songs.

A huge thank you goes out to Ms. Braaten for organizing such a fun, engaging, and school-wide event that brought everyone together through music. Thanks to everyone who participated—and now it's time to sit back, relax, and enjoy some March Madness over spring break!

The Badger Barker

Honor Roll

By: Maxston Haugen Rosadino



Photo Credits:
Valerie Truscinski

Grades 7-9 "B" Honor Roll



Back Row: Nils Christianson, Paige Gust, Ezekiel Sather, Franki Emery, Kiley Streich, and Hadley Zimney **Front Row:** Charlotte Lane, Ryder Gust, Ayden Mostad, Rogan Hanson, Josephine Curry-Shram, Kaden Randall
Missing from Photo: Marquis Steele

Grades 4-6 "A" Honor Roll



Left to Right: Brielle Byre, Axel Stenberg, Kilah Sather, Brentley Williams, Elliot Mather, Blair Przekwas, Ellie Hanson, and Leo Duray

Grades 7-12 "A" Honor Roll



Left to Right: Delyla Carpenter, Onah Gregerson, Hailey Lundgren, Hallie Glodowski, Jens Duray, and Ezra Monsrud **Missing from Photo:** Emily Burkel

Grades 10-12 "B" Honor Roll



Back Row: Maxston Haugen Rosadino, Liam Winrow, Eli Olafson, Payton Gust, Tryg Olson, Deegan Hanson, Katelyn Gust, and Cale Lindland. **Front Row:** Quillan Wirta, Kylee Gust, Adysen Gregerson, Shaina Gust, Aiyanah Bieber, Ava Warne, MacKenzie VonEnde, Avearah Hanson, and Peyton Lee

Grades 4-6 "B" Honor Roll



Back Row: Zoey Sanden, Hannah Kjos, Alexie Berger, Tristin Emery, Kyler Samson, and Janiya Jenson. **Middle Row:** Hadley Forst, Collin Mathews, Gavon Pulczinski, Cole Askelson, Carter Kjos, and Aspen Stenberg. **Front Row:** Ethan Haugen, Shelby Lee, Shalyn Kukowski, Joseph Carlson, Cora Langaas, and Guliana Sovde

CALLING ALL CLASSES: LET'S BUILD SOME FLOATS!

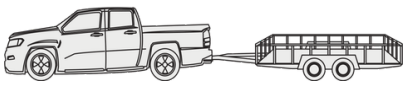
Reunion weekend is approaching quickly, and we want to see which class has the most spirit! We are inviting every graduating class, including those yet to graduate, to build and enter a float for this year's All-School Reunion Parade.

Whether you graduated five years ago or sixty, this is your chance to represent your era and show the town that your class still knows how to have a good time!

The All School Reunion Committee will host this event on Saturday, July 18.

Please pre-register by contacting Mayor Jim Rinde at the City Office at 218-469-6256 with any questions or to register a float.







BY: KATELYN GUST

Earth Day Clean Up

By: Naomi Turpitt

4th and 6th-grade students spent the afternoon cleaning up the streets in Badger. They started at the school, and 4th grade went down Tamarack Street while 6th grade took care of South Main Street. They then spent some time at Rocket Field and the surrounding area before walking back and cleaning up the playground area.

They want to give a big thank you to Charlie Walsh for joining them and helping haul garbage bags!



Snow!

By: Azmera Olson

Due to a snowstorm that had come through, Kindergarten and 1st grade enjoyed playing in the snow and making snowmen.





Community Events

By: Aiyanah Bieber

On April 4th, Badger Town and Country held an event at the Badger Community Hall from 1-2 pm. Games like Pin the Tail on the Bunny, BeanBoozled, Mini Bowling, Golf, and more were played. Candy was handed out to the children who played the games. Popcorn, juice, and water were provided for attendees. There were door prizes for those who signed up. Coloring pages for kids to color and a photo booth to take pictures with the Easter Bunny were provided. After the Easter "party," the people went down to the Badger Heritage Park to look for colorful Easter eggs. The people who won the easter egg baskets at the door were: Briggs Berger and Isabelle Lane. FCCLA had also helped assist and hosted these events. FCCLA members include: Charlotte Lane, Onah Gregerson, Adysen Gregerson, Keegan VonEnde, Ava Warne, and Delyla Carpenter.



Happy Easter

The Badger Barker

Wolf Ridge

By: Breydon Foss



Steele Marquis, Rozalyn Bieber, Tatum Rinde, Jaryn Kukowski, Kaden Randall, Emerson Jenson, Jens Duray, Tanner McClure, Ezra Monsrud, Colten Larson, Ezekiel Sather, Paige Gust, Isabella Lindemann, Eli Washington, Tayleigh Stoppelman, Abigal Wojciechowski, Charlotte Lane, Raeleena Friesner, Josephine Curry-Schram, Hadley Zimney, and Franki Emery

On April 20th through the 24th, the 7th graders traveled to Wolf Ridge in Finland, Minnesota, with Mrs. Lambert and Mrs. Dostal, and the chaperones that went with them were Stephanie Randall, Elizabeth Randall, Zach Bieber, Brittney Sather and Shannon Monsrud. This School trip fosters a deep connection to nature while supporting social-emotional learning (SEL). Students engage in hands-on exploration of forests, wetlands, lakes, and streams, developing curiosity, teamwork, empathy, confidence, and resilience alongside academic skills. Aligned with state standards, Common Core, and Next Generation Science Standards, our programs provide a transformative, immersive learning experience that nurtures both the mind and the heart.

National School Librarian Week

By: Emmitt Isane



We celebrated Librarian Week from April 19th to 25th. Thank you, Mrs. Kukowski. The librarian position opened while she was working at the high school as a paraprofessional, and she felt it was a good opportunity to try something new. Mrs. Kukowski's day is filled by managing the circulation of library materials, acquisition of new materials, labeling, and cataloging all new books, monitoring OCHS students assisting students with choosing books that might interest them, and monitoring and assisting students to successfully meet their classroom AR goal. Her favorite part is seeing a student discover a love for reading, the excitement they experience when reaching their goal, or sharing an especially good book with her. The most frustrating part is getting the most reluctant students to give reading a good try. She generally asks them what their interests are and asks them tell her about the best book they've ever read or their favorite type of movie. Harry Potter continues to be popular, as does the Rick Riordan series. After many years, there is finally a variety of popular hunting and fishing stories that she enjoys taking prode in sharing with our students. THANK YOU, Mrs Kukowski, for your hard work and dedication to our school and students.

The Badger Barker

Boys Golf

By: Addison Olson

Eli Olafson~ is a junior on the BGMR boys golf team. His favorite snack to munch on while on the course is Cheez-Its. Eli's favorite course to golf on is Bemidji because it's challenging, and he likes challenges. His favorite memory is "Getting second at sub sections then winning sections to go to state." Eli looks up to Coach DJ, "because he helps us a lot." Advice Eli would give younger teammates is "let bad shots go, they're in the past." His biggest achievement in golf is going to State.



Levi Olson~ is a junior on the BGMR boys golf team. His favorite snack to munch on while on the course is chips. Levi's favorite course is the Superstition Springs Golf Course in Arizona because of the views. His favorite memory is going golfing in Arizona. Levi looks up to Scottie Scheffler because "he is my favorite golfer." Advice he would give younger teammates is "Don't get down on yourself." Levi's biggest achievement in golf is breaking 40 on 9 holes.













Kool-Aid Man(Kylee Gust) stopped by the first-grade classroom and handed out Kool-Aid pouches for their afternoon snack break.

The Badger Barker



Softball Summary

By: Zay Rud



On March 30th, the Gator girls traveled to Norman County East to play NCE/U-H and came home with a victory of 16-0. On April 10th, the Gators played the Spuds in Moorhead and battled hard, but unfortunately, they lost 6-1. Also, on April 10th, they played Fargo Davies in Moorhead and lost 11-3. On the 14th, they played the Warriors in Warroad and achieved a win of 11-6. On the 16th, they played the Eagles in Red Lake Falls and lost 5-0. The Gator girls rematched the Red Lake Falls Eagles at the Greenbush field on the 21st and unfortunately, lost 12-2. On the 23rd, the Gators played the Freeze in Newfolden and brought home a big win of 16-0. Of the games listed in this article the Gator girls' W/L ratio is: W3:4L.

NCTC Career Expo

By: Asher Clark

On April 14th, the sophomores and juniors attended the Northland Career Expo at Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls. They were able to jump into hands-on workshops, explore real career paths, and experience what college feels like. The Northland Career Expo gave students in grades 10-11 a preview of what's ahead and what's possible. They were able to meet employers from across the region, explore and demand careers, and find out what skills they would need to get started. They also talked with industry pros who were excited to meet the next generation of talent. Students were able to build their first blueprint, learn about the science behind the farm, and much more.


















The Badger Barker

Track Summary

By: Zay Rud



Top Row: Coach John Lee, Isabella Lindemann, Tatum Rinde, Trevon Johnson, Robbie Henry, KylieJo Snare, Kylee Gust

2nd Row: Aiden Mooney, Maycee Olson, Teresa Cudnik, Rose Cudnik, Amora Puttbrese, Luke Hapka, Coach Gretchen Lee

3rd Row: Maria Mooney, Kiley Streich, Matthias Henry, Sasha Melby, Anna Mooney

Front Row: Hallie Glodowski, Philomena Henry, Faith Wergin, Delyla Carpenter, Kateri Cudnik, Faustina Henry

Missing from Photo: John Pena, Nils Christianson, and Henry Osborne

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The Badger students who participated in the first outdoor event were Hallie Glodowski, Kylee Gust, and Kiley Streich.

Hallie competed in discus, the 4x200m, the 200m, and the 100m. Kylee Gust competed in shot put and discus, finishing with 2nd place in discus. Kiley Streich competed in shot put, discus, and the 200m.

The Badger Barker

Superintendent News

By: Breydon Foss



Happy Spring! 4th Quarter is in full swing here at Badger School! Parents and students can view schedules and grades through the Badger School JMC Portal. Visit the Badger School Website at https://www.badger.k12.mn.us/. Students can click the "Student" tab, then "Online Student Access" to log in and view schedules and grades. Parents can click the "Parents" tab, then "Online Parent Access" to view schedules, grades, attendance, and lunch billing. Don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office if you need any assistance with logging in.

Mrs. Becky Dostal, a 2nd-grade teacher at Badger Elementary School, has been selected as the 2026 Badger Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to Mrs. Dostal on being awarded this well-deserved honor!

The Badger School Project Oversight Committee met with representatives from ICS to work on the planning phase of the upcoming renovation project on April 23, 2026. The work on planning for the project will continue through the July School Board Meeting, after which it will move into the next phase.

Wednesday, April 22, 2026, was Administrative Professionals Day! A big shout-out and thank you to all that our office staff does for our students, families, and staff: Sara Olson, Office Manager/Secretary; Leah Hasson, Business Manager; Val Truscinski, Technology Coordinator; and 2025-2026 Office Substitutes Tina Isane, Renee Rhen, and Anne Stenberg.

Five students from the Badger FCCLA Chapter participated in the 2026 State Leadership Conference, March 26-28, in Bloomington. Congratulations to Emily Burkel, Adysen Gregerson, Avearah Hanson, Ava Warne, and Delyla Carpenter for their successful participation in this year's event. Badger School wishes them all the best, as all five will travel to Washington, D.C. in July to compete at the National Leadership Conference!

Congratulations to the following students for their performances at the MSHSL Subsection 32 Vocal Ensemble Contest on March 31, 2026: Hallie Glodowski and Ava Warne: Vocal Duet, Superior Rating; Nils Christianson, Jacob Foss, Alex Gust, Kylee Gust, Ryder Gust, Rogan Hanson, and Briar Williams: Miscellaneous Vocal Ensemble, Superior Rating.

The Spring Elementary Concert and Kindergarten Graduation Program will be held on Friday, May 8, at 1:45 pm in the Badger School Gym. The program will start with a ceremony to honor the Kindergarten Graduates and conclude with music performances by the Badger Elementary Classes and Elementary Band.

The Spring High School Concert is scheduled on Wednesday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Badger School gym. The concert will feature the Badger High School Concert Choir and Badger High School Concert Band.

The 2026 Badger School Graduation Commencement will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Badger School Gymnasium. The commencement will feature student speeches from the Graduating Class of 2026, presentation of scholarships and honors, and musical performances by our high school music ensembles. Please join us on Sunday, May 17, to celebrate the Badger Class of 2026!

Badger Elementary School will be holding the annual Elementary Track and Field day for our students during the last week of school in May. The date will be determined in the near future. Please stay tuned for more information!

The last day for K-11 students is Friday, May 22. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 that day.

Gator Spring Athletics are in full swing! For a complete schedule of our Gator Athletic events, go to https://region8mn.org/public/genie/58/school/1573/

As always, your ideas, suggestions, and feedback are welcome! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. - Daniel Carpenter, Superintendent & K-12 Principal

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

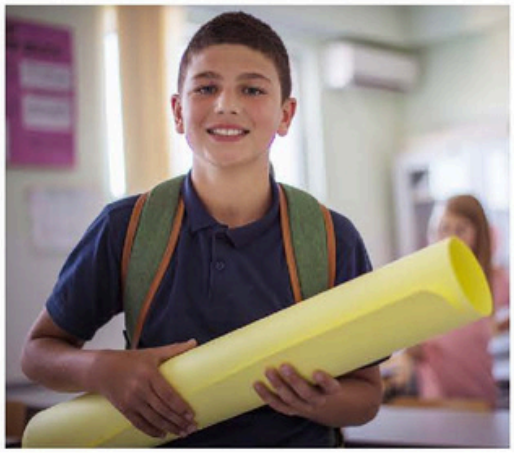
Helping Children Learn®

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

May 2026

Badger Independent School District #676

Prepare your child to manage end-of-year projects step by step



In the spring, teachers often assign long-term projects to help students apply the skills they have learned. One of those skills is time management. Reinforcing this skill at home will boost your child's ability to tackle a big project successfully.

Help your elementary schooler:

- **Think about the steps** necessary to complete the project. Ask your child questions: *Will you need to do research? What kind of outline will you use to organize your thoughts? Do you have the supplies you'll need for your poster?*
- **Block out time** on a calendar to complete each step. Students often delay starting long-term projects because they think they have lots of time. Assigning a deadline for each step and scheduling the time to do the work provides a more realistic view and helps keep students on track.
- **Plan a short break** after completing each step. Your child could enjoy a favorite healthy snack or short activity. Structured breaks allow your child to celebrate progress and build motivation for the steps ahead.

Then, as your child works on the project, monitor progress. Schedule regular times to check-in. If issues arise, help your child brainstorm solutions.

Discuss this year and what comes next

Your child has come a long way since September—mastering new skills, reading new books and perhaps even overcoming some learning obstacles. This month, review this year's learning together and look ahead to next year.

Talk with your child about:

- **Successes.** What goals did your child accomplish? What project did your student learn the most from? What strategies did your child use effectively to handle challenges?
- **Personal growth.** How has your child changed this year? Discuss specific instances where your elementary schooler showed resilience, a positive attitude or a strong work ethic.
- **What's ahead.** What seems exciting about next year? Is there a subject your child would like to improve in or an extracurricular activity that sounds interesting?
- **A new goal.** Have your child choose something to learn this summer. Together, make a detailed plan to achieve the goal.

Suggest a summer journal

Journaling is a low-pressure way for kids to practice writing. Themes make it fun. Encourage your child to keep:



- **A research log.** Your child could research a topic, such as *cheetahs*, and write about what they eat, their predators, how they communicate, etc.
- **A travel log.** Your child can record the sights, sounds and smells of trips around the block or farther away.
- **An observation log.** Your child can describe things in detail, and note if and how they change over time.

Celebrate successful effort

Success in one area can motivate children to try to succeed in another. So when your child reaches a challenging goal, it's time to celebrate!



Take a picture of your child with evidence of the goal—a better report card, a finished book, etc. Frame the photo and place it by your child's bed. Seeing it and starting each day feeling like an achiever may inspire your student to work toward the next goal.

Mix it up at reading time

Reading at home every day for at least 30 minutes supports students' skill development. Adding variety to reading time can keep your child interested. You can:

- **Read the news together.** Choose a newspaper (in print or online) with comics. Ask your child which is funniest. Then, read and discuss an article or two.
- **Take turns reading.** You could alternate pages. Or, you can read the narrative and have your child read the dialogue.
- **Encourage practical reading.** Have your child read instructions while you cook, build or repair something.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Helping Children Learn®

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

May 2026

Q&A How can I help my child improve before next year?

Q: My fourth grader is barely passing. I know my child needs help or next year will be worse, but I can't afford a tutor. What can I do now and over the summer to help my child catch up?



A: There are ways to help your child have a better year in fifth grade, and you are right to start now.

To get your child back on track:

- **Talk with the teacher** as soon as possible. Find out what specific areas your child struggles with. Ask what resources are available through the school to help your student strengthen those skills, now and over the summer. Can the teacher recommend educational apps and strategies you can use at home? Together, lay out a summer learning plan.
- **Rule out possible medical causes.** Have your child's vision and hearing tested.
- **Schedule time each day** for your child to work on school skills.
- **Reinforce your child's sense of competence.** Offer reminders of past learning successes, particularly those that involved effort.
- **Have fun learning together** this summer. Visit museums and historic sites. Attend a free concert. Go on nature hikes and try to identify things you see. New experiences strengthen your child's foundation for learning.

Parent Quiz Are you committed to summer safety?

Fun outdoor activities make summer special. Taking safety precautions keeps the focus on the fun. Are you doing all you can to ensure your child's health and safety during the summer? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

1. **Do you have** your child put on sunscreen and insect protection when playing outside?
2. **Do you require** your child to wear a helmet when riding a bike, scooter or skateboard?
3. **Do you make sure** that your child is closely supervised when playing in or near water?
4. **Do you give** your child plenty of water to drink when playing or exercising in the heat?
5. **Do you sign** your child up for supervised activities that provide active, interesting things to do?

How well are you doing?

More yes *answers mean you are helping your child enjoy the summer safely. For each* no, *try that idea.*

"When the sun is shining I can do anything; no mountain is too high, no trouble too difficult to overcome."
—Wilma Rudolph

Plan a summer of learning

Summer offers countless opportunities for children to learn in ways that don't feel like school. To promote learning all season:



1. **Grow a garden** together. Choosing, planting and caring for plants is a hands-on way to practice science, math and reasoning skills.
2. **Have a weekly game night.** Choose board games that involve reading, math and strategic thinking.
3. **Sign up for a reading program** at the library. These often include read-alouds, contests, book clubs and crafts.

Hold on to helpful routines

Keeping up some routines at home over the summer will make it easier for your child to readjust when school resumes in the fall. Maintain routines for:

- **Sleeping.** Bed and wake times can be slightly later, but stick to a schedule.
- **Reading.** Make time for it every day.
- **A daily family meal.**
- **Screen use.** Maintain limits and encourage healthy, active alternatives.

Promote community service

In a community—whether it's a family, a school or a city—members have responsibilities to others. Help your child learn about giving back by including volunteering in your summer plans. Your family could:

- **Participate in a clean-up effort** on your street or at a local park.
- **Fight hunger.** Your family may be able to collect food or assemble bags of supplies for a food bank or meal program.
- **Make greeting cards** to send to elderly or housebound neighbors.

Helping Children Learn®

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Thursday, July 16, 2026 6:30 p.m.
Badger Jaycee Special Bingo at Skippy Finns'

Friday, July 17, 2026
Alumni Registration at School 1:00 p.m.
Community Picnic and Softball Game at Rocket Field 5:00 p.m. picnic, 6:30 p.m. game
Food Vendors on Main Street p.m.
Skippy Finns' Beer Garden p.m.
80s/90s/Dress your Era Dance at Hall - Ottomatic Karaoke - 8:00 p.m. - midnight
Light Parade at dark

Saturday, July 18, 2026
Breakfast at Community Center - Sons of Am Legion - 8:00 a.m.
Fun Run / 5K Run / Family Walk -7:30 a.m. registration, 8:00 a.m. start
Alumni Registration (school) 8:00 a.m. - throughout the day
Parade - 11:00 a.m.
Craft / Vendor Show - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
BFD Luncheon 12:00 p.m.
Kids Games 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Heritage Wall Mini Stage Local Music - 12:00 p.m., Open House 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Alumni Program 4:00 p.m.
Bush Car Races 6:00 p.m.
Skippy Finns' Beer Garden p.m.
Street Dance 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 19, 2026
Community Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Farewell Brunch following church service

*****Tentative schedule - there may be additions or slight changes to times.*****