

ADMINISTRATION

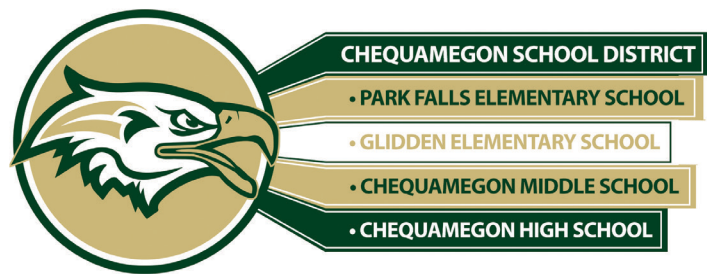
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ACADEMICS

Watch our CMS Eagles Soar at spelling; page 5

STUDENT SUCCESS

CHS student groups embrace service; page 8



The Eagle

CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FREE CHECK OUT THE CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT AT WWW.CSDK12.NET SPRING 2026

CHS students shine in *Once Upon a Mattress*

Talented cast and crew pull off another spectacular production

By ANGELINA WILSON



This year's Chequamegon School District musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*, brought laughter, energy, and heart to the stage. A whimsical retelling of the classic "Princess and the Pea" tale, the story follows Princess Winnifred, an unconventional and spirited young woman who arrives to prove she is a "true" princess. Faced with the Queen's impossible tests, including the infamous stack of mattresses, Winnifred's authenticity, humor, and determination ultimately win over the kingdom. Filled with comedic twists, memorable music, and lovable characters, the show celebrates being true to oneself.

Behind the scenes and on stage, our students demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication, talent, and collaboration. This group rose to a new challenge this year by learning an impressive nineteen dances, the most choreography we have ever undertaken. Even more remarkably, students picked up music and lyrics so quickly that choreography began within the very first week of rehearsals.

Our cast represented a wide range of experience, from freshmen to seniors, and what stood out most was how they supported and challenged one another. Students consistently sought out feedback, asked thoughtful questions, and pushed themselves and each other toward higher standards. What made this production even more special was the care students showed for one another. From helping with hair, makeup, and costumes to encouraging each other backstage, their teamwork created a seamless experience for audiences, even after losing several key dress rehearsals due to weather challenges.

Several standout performances made this production especially memorable. Addy Gauthier, in her role as Queen Aggravain, delivered impressively long, page-length monologues with confidence, precision, and comedic flair well beyond her years. Freshmen Liam Horowitz, Wizard, and Aden Perron, Prince Dauntless, brought remarkable energy and stage presence in what

can only be described as breakout performances. Nate Nichols, Sir Harry, and Abby Brenholt, Lady Larken, captivated audiences with their beautifully blended duets.

Dance remained a highlight throughout the production. Mallory Smith, as Princess Winnifred, fully embraced the role with bold, over-the-top comedic dancing and a fearless performance style. No matter how big or exaggerated the choreography became, she never held back. She would always respond with a cheerful, "Okay, Ms. Wilson, whatever you want," and then deliver beyond expectations.

A particularly unique element of the choreography came through Blake Brandenburg's portrayal of King Sextimus, a character who communicates entirely through pantomime. This allowed for creative staging of traditionally spoken scenes through movement and added a distinctive and engaging layer to the performance.

This success would not have been possible without the incredible dedication of our staff and community. Director Mark Donner continues to be the steady force behind the CSD musical program. His ability to coordinate the countless moving pieces, including scheduling, teaching the music and lyrics, staging, and production logistics, weeks and months in advance creates the strong foundation that allows both students and staff to shine. His commitment to excellence inspires everyone to do their best work.

We are also grateful to Rebekah Kjetland and her husband, Stephen, for their work on costumes, props, and set construction; Ann Kief and Rebecca Eden for their artistry and leadership in painting the set and guiding stage crew; and William Weiler & Terry Wilson for managing the technical elements, including new mics.

See Musical, Page 8

From the Desk of the District Administrator

By KYLE CRONAN



As I write this article with 50-degree weather outside my window, I would like to be confident that spring has arrived, but after the two winter storms this past week, I will hold off on that conclusion.

THINGS THAT PUT CHEQUAMEGON ON THE MAP

I am going to take a moment to brag about one of our school programs, Music! The spring musical has just concluded, and it was wonderful! Thank you to all of the students in the cast, to the many parent and staff volunteers, and to Mr. Donner and his assistant director, Ms. Wilson. If this were the end of the brag, my comments would be lacking. Aside from the spring musical, the choir is taking a trip to sing in New York over the Easter holiday weekend. Additionally, by the time you read this article, the students will have also completed the solo/ensemble festival, along with the band and choir large-group festivals. Once that is all done, the spring concert season will kick into full gear. To say the least, our District's music program is phenomenal, the opportunity provided to our students is tremendous, and the lifetime of memories that our students have are priceless. I encourage all of our District's residents to take in one of the many music events this spring and experience the joy that our students display in their performances. You can catch our students at all age groups performing this spring; it is worth the time to see the kids in action.

Are you aware that Chequamegon High School (CHS) has the highest percentage of students in the CESA 12 region of Wisconsin earning Dual Credits and Advanced Placement. Dual Credit is a system by which high school students can earn both high school and college credit concurrently. Our District partners with Northcentral Technical College in this effort. On our most recent state report card issued in November of 2025, it stated that 61.4% of our high school students had successfully completed

a dual enrollment course. For comparison, across the entire state of Wisconsin, for the same time period, only 26.6% of students completed a dual enrollment class. For Advanced Placement (AP), 26.2% of CHS students successfully completed an AP course as compared with 20.3% across the entire state. Some students are earning industry-recognized credentials within their coursework, and other students are completing work-based learning experiences.

As you can see, within our schools, we have reason to be proud of our students and our staff. There is so much that our schools offer that is not only top-notch in our region but top-notch in our state.

FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR CHEQUAMEGON

While there are many things that we should brag about, there are also some challenges facing the District. Quite frankly, the challenges facing Chequamegon School District (CSD) are not unique; these are challenges facing districts across the state.

We have seen our overall student population decline over the past several years. This is a phenomenon that is affecting the vast majority of school districts in Wisconsin. To demonstrate this decline, let's review the enrollment at Chequamegon High School. Over the past four years, the CHS enrollment has shrunk by approximately 50 students. If the current projections for enrollment hold, next year will be the low point in the high school, with approximately 168 students, and the decline will be nearly 60 students over five years. Current enrollment trends place the CHS enrollment anywhere from 168 students to 185 students over the next five years. Using current data, the next peak enrollment at Chequamegon High School would be in the 2033 - 2034 school year with approximately 198 students. In that school year, the current 2nd grade would enter high school. The only two grades with 50 or more students are the current senior class slated to graduate this spring and the current 2nd grade. All of the other grades at this time have fewer than 50 students. The average enrollment per grade at

Chequamegon School District is 46 this year.

For some bigger-picture context on the enrollment situation. Wisconsin has 14,000 fewer students enrolled this year than a year ago. Wisconsin public school enrollment has declined by 37,346 students over the past five years. Unfortunately, this trend is likely to continue as the current 12th-grade class in Wisconsin is currently the largest cohort in our state's public schools and has nearly 17,000 more students than the current Kindergarten cohort in Wisconsin, which also happens to be the smallest cohort.

How do smaller enrollments challenge our school system? Foremost, school funding is directly tied to enrollment. Based on the current funding model, this year CSD received approximately \$12,507 per student in our revenue formula. If CSD loses just 10 students in enrollment, that is a loss of \$125,070 in revenue.

Over the past few years, the District has steadily looked for ways to reduce costs. The District has undergone significant changes over the past two years to our health insurance benefits as a way to reduce overall costs. Additionally, the District has reduced staff through attrition where possible. The District will continue to examine ways to be more efficient as has been done in other districts.

CSD has fared better financially than compared to many of our neighboring Districts. Currently, the District has no debt and has not recently gone to referendum for operational expenses. The District has also managed to keep on pace with necessary maintenance items, such as replacing aging roofs. This year, the District is slated for a much-needed overhaul of the fire alarm system at the South Campus in Park Falls.

However, while the District has not recently had to resort to taking on debt or passing an operational referendum, the challenges of declining enrollment will continue to squeeze the District's resources. Maintaining the high quality of programming discussed at the beginning of this article should be at the forefront as the District works to address the fiscal challenges that will result from the slow but steady decline in enrollment.

Exciting summer fun and learning at PFES

By TIM KIEF

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

Daily Schedule:

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

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

Dates: July 6 – August 14 (Monday – Friday)
No camp the week of June 29 (4th of July week)

Daily Schedule:

- Wrap-Around Care: 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM
- Camp Activities: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Camp Ends: 4:00 PM
- Wrap-Around Care: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

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

PFES Summer School

Dates: June 8 – June 26 (Monday – Friday)

21st Century After-School Program Summer Camp

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Great things are happening at Chequamegon North Campus

By KACEY HANSON

There is a lot to celebrate at the Chequamegon North Campus, where the Glidden Elementary and Chequamegon Middle School students and staff continue to create a positive, engaging, and supportive learning environment.

At Glidden Elementary, our youngest learners are building strong foundations each day, academically, socially, and emotionally. Classrooms are filled with curiosity, collaboration, and creativity as students develop their skills in reading, writing, and math while also building important life skills such as teamwork, kindness, and perseverance. Our dedicated staff works hard to ensure every student feels supported and valued, helping to create a school culture where all students can thrive. Students and staff enjoyed celebrating read across America week in March [Catkins photo].

In addition to success in the classroom, our North Campus students continue to shine in extracurricular activities. One recent highlight

is the outstanding participation in the band and choir Solo & Ensemble where four buses and almost 150 middle and high school students demonstrated courage, preparation, and musical talent as they performed in front of judges and received valuable feedback on their performances. We are incredibly proud of the effort and dedication our students put into their performances. Their willingness to step outside their comfort zones and represent our school community is commendable.

The Glidden Community Learning Center grant continues to offer open gym at the north campus at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays for all community members. Please remember all students must be supervised by a parent or an adult.

The success at Chequamegon North Campus is a direct reflection of the strong partnership between our students, staff, families, and communities. Together, we are creating meaningful learning experiences and opportunities for all students.

We look forward to continuing this great work and celebrating even more accomplishments in the months ahead!

PFES continued from Page 2

Registration & More Information

We encourage families to sign up early to secure their spot. Look for registration materials in ParentSquare. If you have any questions or need further details, please contact the school office or Amy Weinberger.

We look forward to a fantastic summer of learning and fun at Park Falls Elementary!

While Park Falls Elementary is busy planning for a fantastic 2026-2027 school year, I will be beginning a new chapter of my own as I retire this June. My time here has been filled with inspiration, and I am so proud of everything we have accomplished together. I have full confidence in our school's bright future and will always carry with me the time I spent as your Principal.



COMMUNITY VOICES

Chequamegon Pool wraps up a successful season

By ANGELINA WILSON

As the Chequamegon School District Pool prepares to close for the season at the end of April, I would like to thank our school and community for another fantastic year.

This season was filled with opportunities for students and community members to stay active and engaged. From grade-level open swims and community lap swim to water aerobics and Aqua Zumba, the pool remained a hub of activity. After-school swim lessons and weekend pool

birthday parties also brought energy and excitement to our space, making it a fun and welcoming environment for all ages.

I would also like to recognize our graduating senior lifeguards—Mallory Smith, Zoey Eimermann, Adison Bablick, and Noah Siegmann—for their dedication and leadership. Their commitment to safety and support of our programs has made a lasting impact, and they will be greatly missed. As they take their next steps, I wish them all the best—may they continue to explore, grow, and discover just “how far they’ll go”.

Thank you again for a wonderful season. The CSD Pool looks forward to welcoming everyone back next year.



Helping reluctant readers

By MICHELLE BYHOLM

As a librarian, I hear it all the time: “I don’t like reading,” or “I can never find anything to read.” Helping a reluctant reader find that one “game-changing” book is perhaps the most challenging—yet rewarding—part of my job.

Reflecting on my time as an elementary student in the 1970s, the choices were admittedly slim. We had *Dick and Jane* in the primary years, followed by *The Black Stallion* or *Little House on the Prairie*. I felt for the boys, there wasn’t much variety. Today, the landscape has shifted entirely. With a literal world of genres and topics at our fingertips, it’s surprising that reluctant readers still exist—but they do.

Here are a few strategies we use in the library to bridge that gap:

- **Make it Personal:** With so many options, making a choice can be overwhelming. I start by asking what a student enjoys outside of school—movies, TV shows, or

video games. Matching a book to those existing interests is the best way to get a “foot in the door.”

- **Share Your Spark:** Genuine excitement is contagious. When I share exactly why I loved a story, it entices the reader to give it a shot. Even if they end up not liking it, it starts a vital conversation about what they would prefer to read instead.
- **Look Beyond the Cover:** We’re told not to judge a book by its cover, but for a reluctant reader, the cover is the “make or break” point. To move past a snap judgment, I encourage readers to check the back cover or the inside flaps. Once they see the substance of the story, the cover becomes just one small part of the package.
- **The Power of Display:** There is a reason bookstores and modern libraries now display books “cover-out.” While uninterested eyes might glaze over at a sea of book spines, they almost always stop for a bold color or a striking font.
- **Embrace Graphic Novels:** Yes, really!

Graphic novels are fantastic tools for drawing in readers who feel overwhelmed by dense pages of text. The combination of narrative and imagery helps them use visual cues to decode the story and build confidence.

- **Lean Into “Obsessions”:** If a reader only wants to read paperbacks about dogs or browse eBooks, let them! If they are reading and happy, we’ve won the battle. We can use those “obsessions” as a springboard to introduce higher-level reading or similar subjects later on.

Ultimately, the goal isn’t just to get a book into a student’s hands but to foster a lasting connection with reading. Whether it’s through the visual storytelling of a graphic novel, an obsession with a specific topic, or simply looking past a book’s cover, every reader has a “key” that can unlock their curiosity. By meeting students where they are and celebrating their unique interests, we can transform the phrase “I don’t like reading” into “What should I read next?”

4K takes mom, dad to work

By DONNA WEIK

Registration for the upcoming school year is open. If you have a child who will be four years old on or before September 1st, please call either campus to register for the fall and to sign up for a visitation day on April 23rd or 24th.

Chequamegon 4YK Visitation Day

April 23rd, 2026
Glidden Campus
(715) 264-2141 Ext. 1224

April 24th, 2026
Park Falls Campus
(715) 762-2474 Ext. 2352

Call your preferred campus to schedule an appointment.

What to Expect

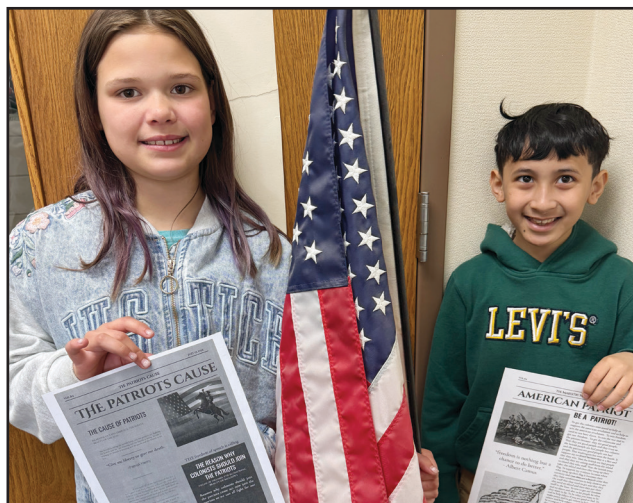
- Play time and a snack for your child.
- Time for staff to observe developmental milestones and discuss them with parents.
- Parent orientation to discuss the 4YK program and expectations.

America through ELA

By NICKOLAS GRAMS

In Mr. Grams 4th Grade Class, we have recently wrapped up our third English Language Arts Module for the year. The students took a deep dive look into the American Revolution.

Students' focus throughout the module was to learn much about differing opinions. Students were very intrigued with gaining an understanding of what our nation was founded on and how opposing opinions turned into ideology that inspired the First Americans to stand up and fight for what they believed was right, to form a free nation. Students gained an understanding about how to form their own opinions, how to look at sources and resources from differing perspectives, and how important it is to stand up for what they believe in, even if not everyone around them agrees with what that might be or what they think is right.



GES celebrates Read Across America

By JANET HOFFMAN

For Read Across America Week, Glidden Elementary celebrated by coming together with members of our community to share in the joy of reading and learning. It was a special week that truly showed how school and community can connect to support our students.

Mrs. Belanger from Catkins Animal Rescue read a book about a rescue dog and brought along two brother cats. She talked with the students about how to care for animals and treat them with kindness. Brooklyn and Dave from The Dead Squirrel read a book about pizza, taught the students how to make their own pizzas, and then everyone got to enjoy eating them. Mrs. K. from the Park Falls Public Library visited, shared some of her favorite books, and led a fun activity with the students. Laure McCloskey, a retired science teacher, also stopped by and brought some exciting animal friends, including a bearded dragon, roaches, leopard gecko, snake, and hermit crab.



Throughout the week, we were joined by many amazing guest readers, including Principal Hanson, Mrs. Halverson's nieces from Ashland High School, Mrs. Brandenburg, Mrs. Mineau, Mrs. Graceffa, Christin Lemke, Jen BeBeau, Jen Gillogly, Dean Rutledge, Kristin Epps, and Mr. Cronan. Our students loved hearing stories from so many familiar faces. These experiences helped strengthen the connection between our school and community, showing students that reading and learning extend far beyond the classroom.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took time out of their busy days to be part of this special week. Your support, generosity, and willingness to share your time and talents made a lasting impact on our students and helped make this experience truly meaningful. Read Across America Week was truly a storybook success! It was a fun, memorable, and slightly wild way to celebrate the joy of reading.

CMS: Career Talk Tuesdays

By MARIA BRANDENBURG



Students at the Chequamegon Middle School have been learning about careers every Tuesday during advisory time. Each week, a specific career is highlighted, and students learn what the key job entails, the average pay scale, and what type of education is required to excel in that field. In addition, they work through an online platform named XELLO to connect their strengths and interests to career opportunities that would fit their passions.

Several times throughout the year, special speakers have come to the North Campus to share about their occupations and explain why their professions could be a good fit. Ashley Pankratz explained the honesty and hard work it takes to be a bank manager. Matt Schultz shared about his experience in Forestry and Real Estate. In March, students met Woody the Wildlife Ambassador, a wood turtle who resides at Northwoods Wildlife Rescue in Minocqua. They loved hearing about the many ways this organization impacts our community- from student and community education to rescuing endangered eagles. Sheridan Perry and Bart Kotarba spent time discussing the importance of being a good steward of our beautiful Northwoods, and encouraged students to get involved by making good decisions whenever they are in nature. Students will soon hear from an architect and a lawyer to hear what real-world skills they should focus on to pursue their life goals.

It's never too early to show students ways to live out their purpose and guide them to finding fulfilling careers after graduation.

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

5:00 PM REGISTRATION
5:30 PM START

ADMISSION: NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM

PRE-REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED
EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

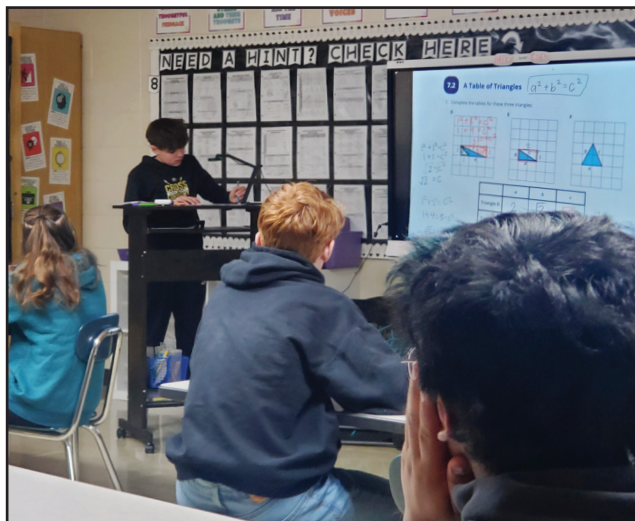
FIRST PLACE PRIZE

APRIL 29TH
CHEQUAMEGON HIGH SCHOOL GYM

For Questions Email: chsstudentcouncil@csdk12.net

Teachers for a day in 8th grade

By REBECCA EDEN



A few 8th-grade students took the lead in introducing the Pythagorean Theorem, showing their classmates how to find the hypotenuse of a right triangle. It was exciting to see their confidence grow as they explained their thinking and worked through examples together.

Great work by our student leaders. We're proud of your effort, curiosity, and willingness to learn from one another.

CMS student competes at Badger State Spelling Bee

By KACEY HANSON

Chequamegon School District is proud to recognize Bradley Brinegar, grade 8, for his outstanding achievement in representing both the District and the CESA 12 region at the Badger State Spelling Bee.

The Badger State Spelling Bee, held annually in Madison, Wisconsin, brings together top spellers from across the state to compete at a high level of academic excellence. This year's competition took place in March and featured students who advanced through local and regional spelling bees, earning the opportunity to showcase their skills on a statewide stage.

Bradley earned his place at the state competition by demonstrating exceptional spelling ability, focus, and determination throughout the qualifying rounds. Competing against some of the best young spellers in Wisconsin, he advanced through multiple rounds before exiting in the fourth round, demonstrating a strong accomplishment in such a competitive field.

While the competition itself is challenging, the experience is equally rewarding. Bradley's mom shared that he "had a great time" at the event and expressed appreciation for the opportunity, noting how meaningful the experience was for him and their family.

Participating in the Badger State Spelling Bee is not only a testament to Bradley's hard work and academic dedication but also a reflection of the support he has received from his teachers, family, and the Chequamegon school community.

We congratulate Bradley on this impressive achievement and for representing Chequamegon with pride. We look forward to seeing all he accomplishes in the future!

Alumni Szymik receives forestry award

By PAULA ZWICKE

Maya Szymik, 2025 CHS graduate and now UW-Stevens Point student, has been selected recipient of the 2025 Wisconsin School Forest Award, student division, in recognition for her contribution to the Wisconsin School Forest Program and her local school district. Maya was nominated by Ms. Callie Petroski, Chequamegon Elementary School fourth-grade teacher. Maya was presented with a plaque on Friday, April 10, by a LEAF Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program representative.

Maya's project at Tracy Lake School Forest began when she decided to extend the learning in her environmental science course. She landed on this essential question: How will planting trees and native vegetation at Chequamegon School District Tracy Lake Property better support a Ruffed Grouse population while also teaching other K-12 students about ecosystems?

During the school year, Maya researched ruffed grouse--their anatomy, behavior, and habitat needs--as well as the Tracy Lake School Forest's overall health and capacity for habitat improvements, including prior forest management and habitat development. She did field research on the Tracy Lake parcel numerous times with forestry and wildlife community professionals, Matt Schultz of Pine Curve Forestry & Wildlife Consulting and Ken Pemble and Josh Dutler of the U.S. Forest Service. This collaboration grew her understanding of the current health of the forest ecosystem at Tracy Lake and solidified her project proposal design, all with an eye toward



sustainability--of the wildlife opening she revitalized and also future ones.

By mid-school year, Maya prepared and presented a project proposal to District Superintendent Kyle Cronan as well as her community partners. The proposal included a timeline with action steps to rehab one wildlife opening deemed most conducive to improvements, such as mowing and reseeded, and located adjacent to an alder shearing. In-kind labor provided the machinery and human power to prepare the ground as well as in-kind expertise on the proper native seed mixes.

Besides Maya's propensity for conservation and the outdoors, her ruffed grouse habitat project confirmed her decision to pursue a degree in a natural resources field at UW-Stevens Point in September 2025 where she co-leads the Wildlife Society Club's ruffed grouse habitat research team.

Maya's project implementation improved the natural habitat at Tracy Lake School Forest, which impacts the wildlife and humans who use the trail system and forest now and for years to come, long past Maya's graduation from CHS. Maya's selection as a recipient of the 2025 Wisconsin School Forest Award exemplifies Chequamegon School District's commitment to youth leadership and lifelong learning.



AP Calculus wraps it up

By NINA EIMERMANN

AP Calculus AB students have officially wrapped up the full College Board curriculum—such a huge accomplishment! I'm incredibly proud of all the hard work they've put in to get to this point.

Over the next four weeks, we'll be focusing on strengthening their problem-solving skills and making deeper connections between different ways of understanding calculus—whether that's through graphs, numbers, or algebraic thinking.

All of their effort will lead up to the AP Calculus AB Exam on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. I know they're more than ready to take on this challenge, and I can't wait to see them shine! Student results will be available in summer.



Notes from the Band Room...

By KRISTEN KIRCH

Spring will soon arrive, and hopefully the Northwoods will begin to emerge from its winter hibernation. While the season may feel quiet, the band program has been anything but dormant. Throughout the winter months, instrumental students have been busy preparing for auditions, participating in honor bands, performing at sporting events with the pep band, and getting ready for the busy festival season ahead.

In January, Mallory Smith and Hailey Bodoh performed with the Wisconsin Concert Band Association's All-State High School Band at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. High school instrumentalists from around the state were selected to perform in this prestigious group. The band was under the direction of renowned director, Dr. Emily Threinen.

On March 5, the UW Symphony Band and their esteemed director, Dr. Phillip Ostrander, came to the high school for a visit. The band performed for the Intermediate and high school bands as well as sat "side-by-side" with them

as Dr. O rehearsed their music. Chequamegon students were challenged to play things "like" the college band. It was an excellent learning experience for the students, and we hope to be able to do it again. The Chequamegon Band Booster Organization provided a pizza lunch for the college students before they headed off to their next destination.

In early March, Mariah Beczka, Carla Akripa-Rodriguez, Rachel Santiago, Harrison Graceffa, Mallory Smith, Lexi Spencer, and Liam Horowitz traveled to Decorah, IA, to participate in the Dorian Band Festival at Luther College. They worked with world-class directors over the two days and then put on an amazing performance.

On March 27th instrumentalists performed before state-certified judges at the annual Marawood North District Solo and Ensemble Festival which took place at the Phillips High School.

Sunday, April 26th, will feature instrumental students who qualified for state competition at the Pre-State Solo & Ensemble Recital. They will perform for the public in the high school cafeteria at 2:00 p.m.

The month of May will also be filled with musical experiences. Saturday, May 2nd, Chequamegon music students will perform for judges at the Wisconsin School Music Association's State Solo and Ensemble Festival on the campus of Stevens Point. Sunday, May 17th, at 2:00 p.m. is the Instrumental Pops Concert. This concert will feature the Junior,

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Chequamegon Choirs have a full docket

By MARK DONNER

Things have been very busy in the middle and high school choir rooms since the last newsletter. Highlights include:

- In January, Elisiana Wirsing, Kalaniva Salvador, Sherika Rudolph, and Alex Tervort represented Chequamegon High School as members of the Dorian Festival Choir at Luther College. Just under one thousand singers sang in this amazing choir.
- Alex Tervort sang bass in the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association's (WCDA) Bass-Clef All-State Choir at the annual state convention in Eau Claire.
- Destiny Kasirye (Alto I) and Chelsea Peth (Soprano II) sang in the WCDA Treble-Clef All-State Choir at the annual state convention in Eau Claire.
- Kinsley Kovarik (Soprano), Emma Rowell (Alto), Bennett Brunell (Tenor), and Mcvon Warren (tenor) sang in the WCDA Middle Level All-State Choir at the annual state convention in Eau Claire.
- In January, over thirty students auditioned for the musical *Once Upon a Mattress*, and a cast was announced.

- In February, the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) held auditions for the State Treble and Mixed Honor Choirs.
- In March, over 50 students in the cast and crew came together to present the musical *Once Upon a Mattress*. The musical was well attended, and the students involved thank everyone who supported their efforts.
- The middle and high school choir entered over 60 events in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival that was held at Phillips High School on March 27th. Twenty of those events qualified for State Solo and Ensemble, which will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on May 2nd.

April and May are always full of activities and events. It is also a busy time in the choir room. If you get a chance, come out and support the kids in their endeavors; it is appreciated by all the kids. Events to come:

- On April 1-6, 68 choir members and adults will travel to New York City. Highlights will be their performances at the flagpole on Liberty Island near the Statue of Liberty and on the deck of the USS Intrepid. The choir will also see the Broadway productions of *Hamilton*, *Wicked*, and *The Great Gatsby*.

- On April 9th, Chequamegon High School will host the Marawood North Large Group Choral Concert Festival. Both the middle school and high school choirs will perform.
- On April 10th, WSMA Middle Level Honor Choir auditions will be held.
- April 29th is the tentative date for a State Solo and Ensemble Recital. Choral events that qualified for State Solo and Ensemble will perform.
- The Fine Arts Concert will be held at the Glidden North Campus on April 30th. Student artwork will be displayed, and the middle school choirs and bands will perform. Concert starts at 7:00 p.m.
- May 2nd is State Solo and Ensemble at the UW-Stevens Point.
- May 13th will be the 7-12 Spring choral Concert. The concert will be held in the high school auditorium starting at 7:00 p.m.
- The high school choir will sing at the graduation ceremony on May 23rd.
- The Madrigal Singers will sing the National Anthem at the Milwaukee Brewers game at American Family Field on May 27th.
- The middle school choir will perform at the 8th Grade Graduation at the Glidden North Campus.

CHEQUAMEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTS *The 2026 Spring Concert Series*

April 30th **Chequamegon Middle Fine Arts Festival**

May 13th **CMS/CHS Choir Spring Concert**

May 17th **CMS/CHS Band Pops Concert**

May 22nd **Park Falls Elementary Spring Concert**

May 28th **Glidden Elementary Spring Concert/Moving On Ceremony**

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Intermediate, and High School Bands. The High School Jazz Ensemble will also entertain prior to the main event. Our band booster organization will be selling popcorn, soda, and water during the concert. The band will round out their 2025/26 school year with performances at the Chequamegon High School's graduation ceremony on May 23rd and Memorial Day observances on Monday, May 25th.

Upcoming Band Performances:

- April 26 - Pre-State Solo & Ensemble Recital at 2:00 pm - High School Cafeteria
- April 30 - Middle School Fine Arts Festival Concert at 7:00 pm - Glidden Gymnasium
- May 2 - State Solo & Ensemble at the UW-Stevens Point
- May 17 - 6-12 Band Pops Concert at 2:00 pm - High School Gymnasium
- May 22 - Intermediate Band Performs at the Beyond the Notes Music Festival
- May 23 - High School Graduation - High School Gymnasium
- May 25 - Marching Band in the 9:00 am Memorial Day Parade
- May 28 - 8th Grade Graduation - Glidden Gymnasium



Chequamegon Wrestling wrap-up

By ERIC BROWN

Middle School

The Chequamegon Middle School Wrestling Team concluded the season Tuesday, March 31st, by competing at the Heart of the North Lakeland Conference wrestling tournament in Spooner where the team had the opportunity to compete against wrestlers from eighteen other schools. Coaches Eric Brown, Jerry Ernst, and Carmello Caputa are extremely proud of the hard work and dedication the wrestlers have shown this year. We also competed in Hayward, Cumberland, Northwestern, and Cornell.



High School

The CHS Wrestling Team has another awesome season. This year Coach Jerry Ernst was proud to recognize Junior Aiden McFadden as the boys MVP and Sophomore Vanessa Schmidt as the girl's MVP. This year Aiden finished the season with a 13-14 record and a 5th place finish in an extremely difficult 157 lb bracket at the Marawood Conference Tournament. Vanessa completed the season with a 19-10 record and a 2nd place finish at the Girls Marawood, Cloverbelt, & Central Wisconsin Conference Tournament.

CHS Girls Basketball soars again

By STEPHANIE ERNST

Resilience, determination, and teamwork defined the Chequamegon High School girls basketball team this season, as the Eagles turned months of hard work into one of their most successful campaigns in recent years.

Chequamegon highlighted its season with several signature wins, including a pair of conference victories over rival Phillips. The Eagles also snapped a 24-game losing streak that dated back to February 2012.

The team proved its grit with multiple come-from-behind victories. Trailing by nine points in the first half against both Butternut and Abbotsford, the Eagles responded in dominant fashion. Chequamegon outscored Butternut 38-16 in the second half to secure a 58-47 win, ending a seven-year drought against the Midgets. They followed that performance with another second-half surge against Abbotsford, turning a nine-point deficit into a 69-52. The 69 points matched the program's highest single-game total.

As the season wore on, the Eagles faced a challenging stretch against some of the top teams in the Marawood North and South Conferences, resulting in a seven-game losing streak. They turned it around and by late January, the team had set its sights on a clear goal: winning a regional game for the first time since 2012.

The Eagles closed the regular season with a decisive win over Ashland before dropping their

final two contests, including a heartbreaking loss to Athens.

That loss only strengthened the team's resolve entering postseason play. Seeded 10th, Chequamegon traveled three hours east to face No. 7 Gillett in regional action, despite having defeated two teams seeded higher.

After trailing by three at halftime, Chequamegon delivered one of its strongest halves of the season, outscoring Gillett 37-20 in the second half to earn a 55-41 victory. The win marked the program's first regional triumph since 2012.

The victory extended the Eagles' season with a regional semifinal matchup against Lena. Chequamegon competed well early, trailing by just four points late in the first half before Lena used a 15-0 run to take control. The Eagles were unable to recover in the second half, bringing their season to a close.

Chequamegon finished with a 9-17 record — the program's second-highest win total since the 2009-10 season — and, more importantly, a long-awaited postseason victory that signals a promising future.

Individually, Jalen Brunell and Madyson Ernst earned Second Team All-Conference honors, while Adison Bablick received Honorable Mention and was named to the conference's All-Defensive Team. Brunell, Ernst, and Bablick were also recognized for their success in the classroom, joining Danica Mann, Jozlyn Nelson, Ava Hanson, and Mackenzie Humphrey as WBCA Academic All-State selections.

Meet the CHS Student Council

By MADY ERNST, CHS '27

The Chequamegon Student Council is a leadership group that organizes events and plans an assortment of activities for the student body and community to enjoy. They work hard to create a positive atmosphere among students at school while also learning teamwork skills, communication, and the value of giving back.

Each month members of the Student Council collect pop tabs from the elementary students. They sort the pop tabs by classroom, then weigh them to determine which class has collected the most. The elementary students eagerly await to see who will win, with the winning class receiving the golden pop tab trophy. Collecting pop tabs is a great way to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House while also encouraging students to be involved in their school.

Last year the student council hosted the first pickleball tournament which turned out to be a big hit for the community. We are bringing it back on April 29th with prizes for the first-place winners. Admission to take part in the tournament is a canned good or nonperishable food item, and these donations will be given to the local food pantry. This is a great way for the Student Council to give back to the community.

The Student Council is working to ensure a positive environment for all students. One way they do this is by creating Porcelain Perspective flyers, which get hung up each month in the bathrooms and summarize all the important events happening that month. The Student Council uses their creativity to create a colorful poster and bring a little laughter to everyone's day with a funny joke or a fun fact. Additionally, the Student Council also creates fun locker banners for each student's birthday, and they get hung up at the beginning of each month. This is a great way to help students feel special and included.

Additionally, members also write the Student Board Report which highlights sports, music, extracurriculars, and student life. Students attend

a monthly school board meeting and give the report to the board members and others attending. The 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, Mackenzie Humphrey, Addison Kovarik, Carla Rodriguez, and Nevin Xuereb. The staff advisor is Mrs. Samantha Tank.

Service through the NHS

By JALEN BRUNELL, CHS '27

The National Honor Society has been working hard to complete their service projects. Earlier in the year, they were small but mighty, starting off the year with only three members; Senior Mallory Smith, and Juniors Abby Brenholt and Jalen Brunell, they have been accomplishing some amazing things. Their first service project started off with a community family fun night that included playing board games and enjoying hot chocolate. Recently they wanted to do something that involved the location of an animal shelter; Catkins. The members organized a donation drive where they collected dog and cat food, treats, blankets, laundry soap, etc.

The National Honor Society has inducted new members to the program who have demonstrated leadership and academically maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher. Congratulations to new members Hailey Bodoh, Malila Durand-Herbst, Cadence Johnson, Addison Kovarik, Kellen Kraing, Nate Nichols, Chelsea Peth, and Clara Weiler.



Leo Club makes positive impact

By ADDISON KOVARIK, CHS '28

The Leo Club is a volunteer community service group sponsored by the Lions Club International. Students participate in a wide variety of activities in the community including Learn to Connect, highway cleanup, the School Closet, and helping the local Lions Club with many of their events.

Learn to Connect is a program our Club hosts at the Chequamegon High School where students from the club teach community members how to use their electronic devices and other modern technologies. The highway cleanup is partnered with the local Lions Club on a highway section the Lions Club adopted; the two organizations team up to help clean the sides of the highway at least twice a year. The School Closet is a room in the Chequamegon High School open to students in need of clothes, food, hygiene products, or other supplies; it is run and stocked by the Leo Club. The Leo Club also works hard providing volunteers for many of the local Lions Club chapter activities like their egg hunt, silent auction, or Wednesday Night Live. It is a great organization to be a part of, and we are proud to share that our club is the largest Leo Club in the state of Wisconsin!

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Finally, we extend a heartfelt farewell to our graduating seniors: Angelina BeBeau, Adison Bablick, Harper Burrs, Addy Gauthier, MaKayla Glaeser, Harrison Graceffa, Dezarae Mann, Gracie Martin, Rita Oskvarek, Yareli Rayo, Norson Rodriguez, Mallory Smith, and Elisiana Wirsing. Your talent, leadership, and dedication have left a lasting mark on this program, and you will be greatly missed.

The CSD musical continues to be a shining example of what students in the Northwoods can achieve through hard work, creativity, and collaboration. This year's production was not just a performance. It was a celebration of talent.



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