

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Photo by Mark Kauzlarich, AHS Alumni

What's Happening in the Ashwaubenon School District

SPRING 2019

Through the Lens of the Superintendent



As we started the 2018-2019 school year in the Ashwaubenon School District, we set out to work as a team to foster a systemic district-wide culture that provides a healthy learning environment for our students. A highly successful school year full of memories and opportunities is drawing to a close, and we feel an incredible sense of purpose for the work that lies ahead. As a school community, we have all been intentionally focused on excellence and on student achievement as our primary objective. We strongly believe that when we provide a collaborative learning environment that focuses on designing and delivering quality instructional practices, our students will achieve at higher and higher levels. That is why we have invested resources, time, and effort in making the Ashwaubenon School District a Professional Learning Community (PLC).

As we come to the end of my first year as your superintendent, I wanted to take a few moments to let you know how grateful I am for all of your hard work this year. Whether you are a staff member, parent, or community member, I appreciate all you have done to help our students be successful. It truly takes a 'Village' where all of us are moving forward in the same direction to provide a high quality educational experience for ALL students.

However, as we pause at the end of the year, it is important that we take time to reflect on the numerous bright moments in our journey together, and much for us to be proud of.

Here are some of the amazing examples of our bright spots this year:

- Creating a positive district-wide culture and sharing our amazing ASD story.
- Strengthening Families Program at Parkview, Pioneer and Valley View
- National Merit Scholars - Emmaline Teska, Simran Armstrong, Mieka Clark, and Kyra Schamber
- 2019 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Student Initiative Scholar - Celeste Weidemann
- Parkview's HEA Kids' Pack that, in its first year, has over 100 students participating and was recognized with a community WPS Volunteer Award!
- State Championships for the AHS Dance Team, Nordic Ski Team and wrestler Cody Minor
- Parkview's Peer Mentoring Program and the Jaguars Unite Peer Mentoring Program at AHS.
- WI State Music Association State Honors - Koby Harris, Evan Larson, Madeline Miner, Sam Stanko, and Kate Stenson

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Thank You & Farewell to Brian Nelsen



Congratulations to Brian Nelsen, Principal of Ashwaubenon High School, as he enters retirement this June. The Ashwaubenon School District has been honored to have you as a part of our learning community for the past 19 years. Mr. Nelsen began his journey in Ashwaubenon 19 years ago, when he served as the high school Associate Principal. He then transitioned into the role of Director of Pupil Services. In 2013, he took on the leadership role of Principal at the high school. We thank you, Brian, for your dedication and service to our students and school community!

LEARNING

2019 Golden Apple Awards

Golden Apple Recipients



Valley View Elementary Literacy Team
 Deb Patterson, Sheryl Stathas, Ann Brennenstuhl,
 and Stacie Schabow

Teachers of Distinction



AHS - German
 Melanie Lasee



Cormier - 4K
 Carla Foote

Through the Lens - continued from page 1

- 2019 Golden Apple Team of Sheryl Stathas, Ann Brennenstuhl, Deb Patterson, and Stacie Schabow, along with Teachers' of Distinction Carla Foote and Melanie Lasee
- National Excellence Award - AHS Technology and Engineering Program
- Valley View's Shadow League promoting student engagement
- Over 250 students will receive diplomas from Ashwaubenon High School on June 2, 2019. I wish all of our 2019 AHS graduates the best in the next chapter of their life.

We remain committed to enhancing student success and creating a strong and equitable system which our Village of Ashwaubenon can be proud of. We embarked on this work together as a team to deliver academic rigor and celebrate the diverse needs of EVERY student. We cannot build a better Ashwaubenon School District without each and everyone of us contributing our best for ALL students. When we reach for excellence, our students reach with us, and at times even move beyond us, towards becoming productive citizens. Thank you for your ongoing support and being our partner in this life-changing work.

Sincerely,
 Kurt Weyers, Ed. S.
 Superintendent of Schools

New Directions in Literacy Instruction

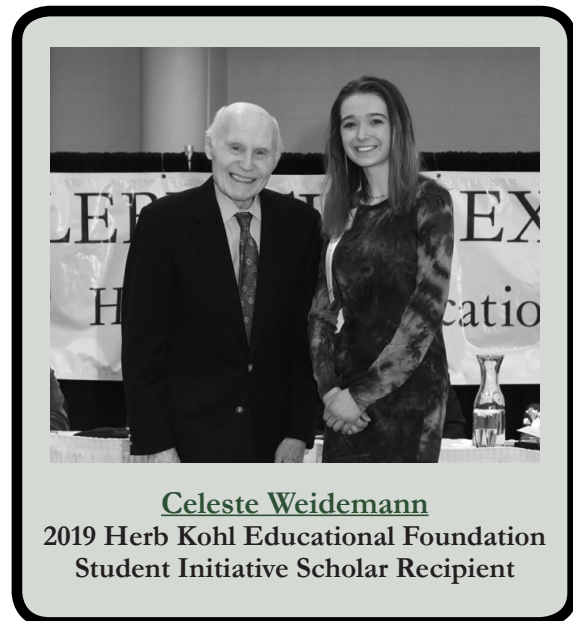
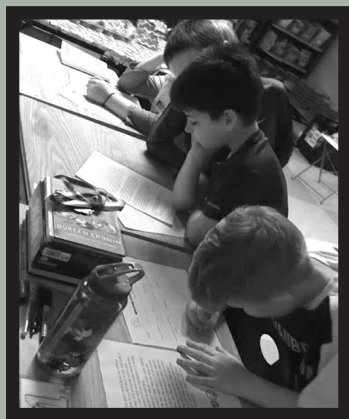
Andrea Reichenberger, District Literacy Coordinator

What do you remember about your own classroom experiences when it comes to reading and writing? Did you consider yourself a reader or a writer? Why or why not? What differences have you noticed between your own experiences with reading and writing with that of your children or of your grandchildren in the Ashwaubenon School District? We hope that your answer is "a lot" because we've been working very hard to make significant changes to our literacy instruction over the last few years, and we continue to do so. We do this because we know more now about how to accomplish our goals of making every child a reader and a writer.

Research shows that students can be high achieving when everyone (teachers and their students) is reading and writing numerous relevant and engaging texts each day and applying authentic literacy practices. Do you remember when you were given a writing assignment? Instead of being taught the strategies that proficient writers use, was your writing corrected by the teacher and handed back to you? We are moving away from such practices because they don't align with what we know about providing effective feedback. Instead, we embrace explicit, clear instruction in writing through writing conferences. Just as published authors engage in the essentials of the writing process: reading, rehearsing, drafting, revising, and editing, so do our students. You may have noticed your child writing outside of school or their increased excitement about writing in general. Maybe you've even been able to attend a classroom writing celebration. When we celebrate our

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LEARNING



Celeste Weidemann

2019 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation
Student Initiative Scholar Recipient

New Directions in Literacy - continued from page 2

students as writers, teach the authentic processes of writers, and provide choice as writers, they become writers. The same goes for reading.

What we read, view, and listen to also influences what we write and create.

The texts we read aloud, have available in both our school and classroom libraries, and use for teaching content, make a difference. We use the read-aloud time to mentor kids in the higher level comprehension skills that they'll bring to their own reading. Remember, not all readers are able to approach the same texts. Because we want to make every child a reader and a writer, we want to create experiences to make our children engaged and successful. We have to meet them where they are at. We are excited to see growth in our students, and we are going to continue to learn, reflect, and make improvements in our own instruction to increase student reading achievement. We are also:

- Making reading and writing a priority and revamping our K-5 schedules to make for longer blocks of literacy time.
- Purchasing reading resources and providing training that will help teachers understand how to better meet the literacy needs of all of our students.
- Emphasizing reading and writing authentic and engaging texts (K-12).
- Embedding grammar instruction into our teaching of reading and writing. Formal, isolated grammar instruction has not been shown to improve reading comprehension or writing ability. Check out *Patterns of Power* by Jeff Anderson.
- Purchasing high-interest books for classroom libraries to allow for self-selected reading, literacy conversations, and the read-aloud (K-8).

What you can do to help support your child in their literacy development:

- Encourage him/her to continue reading and writing at home and especially over the summer! Be a cheerleader for your child!
- Have books, writing tools in a special place at home. Read and write together!
- Encourage nonfiction reading! Building background knowledge in a child's topic of interest improves vocabulary and reading comprehension.
- Make a special effort to avoid inadvertently "labeling" books by gender. We want both boys and girls to read books about science, math, insects, dinosaurs, planets, engineering feats, etc.
- Go to Barnes and Noble or other local book stores together and share the experience of picking out a great book!



Help create positive experiences around reading and writing, and we promise to continue to do the same!

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

Building Connections

“Students who feel connected to the school and an adult within the school are more likely to attend school regularly, stay in school, and graduate.”

-Wisconsin State Superintendent’s Task Force on Promoting Excellence for All, 2014

The Ashwaubenon School District continues to foster a culture that is positive, welcoming and respectful to everyone. Connections are key, and we continue to find creative ways to build relationships with students, staff, and families. Just walk the hallways of Valley View and Pioneer Elementary Schools shortly after the first bell has rung and you will hear the soothing, calming sounds of music being played before the morning announcements. Moments of mindfulness activities done throughout the day can be life-changing. This calm beginning to the day is to help students get ready for learning by increasing creativity, reducing stress and enhancing emotional regulation.

Through the trauma trainings, the DPI mental health grant work at Pioneer, Valley View, and Parkview and the addition of a district-wide School Based Mental Health grant, we are able to provide additional supports to our students to help them build resiliency and feel more connected at school. We have seen more students come to school experiencing barriers to learning and struggle with how to create a school-community connection. There are many outside variables, including exposure to traumatic events, that can impact positive outcomes for our students. It’s important for students to be exposed to high academic standards, but it is also important for our students to receive a solid social-emotional skill set to push through adversity. To meet the social and emotional needs of our students, universal interventions such as PBIS and Zones of Regulation are incorporated to help make our schools safe, consistent and predictable. Motivational engagement groups were started this school year at the elementary and middle levels to build relationships and connect students. Students are provided opportunities to engage in group activities and hear the stories of community members who have overcome adversity. For some students who need additional support, we have been able to increase on-site therapy services through collaboration with Innovative Counseling at Valley View and Pioneer Elementary, Parkview Middle School and Ashwaubenon High School. For several years, Parkview Middle School has supported students by providing them a safe place to explore their feelings of grief by partnering with a Unity Grief Counselor and a grief support group. This year we were able to bring the Hope Group to students at Ashwaubenon High School.

Meeting the academic, social-emotional and career needs of students requires our staff to also receive the support and training they need to be equipped to support our students' growth and wellbeing. One way we supported our staff this year was through several Mindfulness training opportunities. The importance of self-care is essential for everyone, and staff have learned some techniques to help them work with students and manage their own challenges. In addition to Mindfulness, staff members have collaborated and shared ideas with each other through book studies, trauma trainings, and conversations to increase their capacity to address the needs of our students.



Buddy Benches

AHS students Robert, Maguire, Donovan, and Ethan designed and fabricated new benches for the playgrounds at Valley View and Pioneer Elementary Schools. These students completed this project with their teacher Mr. Barnhart.

Administrator of the Year

Congratulations to Jill Kieslich, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, for being recognized as an ‘Administrator of the Year’ by the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers! Kieslich is recognized for her dedication, curriculum alignment, and forward thinking in the area of Science.



It’s also a team approach involving parents. We enhanced our connections with families through a variety of parent wellness outreach activities. This year’s activities include Triple P parenting seminars and Strengthening Families for our elementary and middle school families, SOS (Signs of Suicide), and Parkview presentations on Trauma overview and Table Talk – An adult discussion on Adolescent Mental Health.

We have come a long way this year and will continue this momentum next year as we learn together. We, parents, students and staff, are in this together. This district is dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of all and building connections throughout the school community.

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY



ASHWAUBENON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Referendum - Community Information & Feedback Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 2019
6:00 PM

Performing Arts Center - AHS
2391 Ridge Road
Green Bay, WI 54304

Referendum - Community Information & Feedback Meeting

The District would like residents' feedback on a possible referendum to improve facilities around the District. The School Board takes pride in maintaining all District buildings that the taxpayers have built for students and residents. Most of the District buildings are over 50 years old. There is a need for improvements to better serve students or repair/replace large items that will not fit in the operating budget. To address the issues, the Board and Administration are proposing a referendum to be held early in 2020 (either the election day in February or April). At the meeting on May 21st, we will give an overview of the projects that are being considered and estimated cost for each project. Attendees will be given the opportunity to provide valuable feedback that will help the Board to determine which projects, if any, are included in the referendum question.

The projects that are currently being considered are:

- Safety improvements at Cormier School
- Safety improvements at Pioneer School
- Asbestos abatement at Pioneer School and Ashwaubenon High School
- Repair of gymnasium foundation at Pioneer School
- Replace gymnasium floors at Pioneer, Parkview, and old gym at Ashwaubenon High School
- Replace light fixtures with LED lights in all gymnasiums in the District
- Repair high school track which has developed safety issues
- Move District Office into available space at Ashwaubenon High School
- Replace windows and doors at Parkview
- Build a multi-purpose indoor practice facility at Ashwaubenon High School
- Add air conditioning to Pioneer, Valley View, and Ashwaubenon High School

An important consideration in proposing a referendum to the taxpayers is the cost. The District recently paid off all of the bonds related to the most recent referenda for the high school and elementary schools. With this reduction in bond payments, the District will be able to issue new bonds to finance these projects without increasing property taxes above current levels. The amount financed will determine the length of the bonds that the District would issue.

The information meeting is one of several ways in which you can get your questions answered and share your opinion with the District and School Board. You are always welcome to email questions to Keith Lucius or Kurt Weyers at klucius@ashwaubenonk12.org or kweyers@ashwaubenonk12.org, or you can attend a School Board meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 in the District Office.

Tom & Stuart Visit 5K Students



Tom Pease and Stuart Stotts worked with all the Ashwaubenon 5K classes in April. Our students wrote verses to songs, and they performed those songs with Tom and Stuart at our Kindergarten Concert in the Ashwaubenon PAC. It was an evening filled with joy and music as our students proudly shared their work with their families and friends. Thank you to our music teachers, Mrs. Patti Christensen and Miss Lauren Lubinski for their collaboration with Tom and Stuart.

Marathon of Knowledge



Pioneer Marathon of Knowledge! Students participated in the Marathon of Knowledge celebrating their grade level essential learning in all subjects. Thank you to the 60+ volunteers that individually quizzed students. Pioneer PcTO raised \$9,391.65. Thank you to our families, staff, and donors! Proceeds will be used for alternative student seating in classrooms.



ASHWAUBENON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Special Points of Interest

**New Directions in Literacy Instruction • Building Connections
Referendum - Community Information & Feedback Meeting**

**NEW Interactive
Safety Resources**

The Wisconsin Department of Justice’s Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Department of Public Instruction are teaming up to keep families safe online. The departments have launched a program called “Interact!” that will give parents resources to have conversations with their children about internet safety. Interact! is an online, interactive e-course created for parents and guardians to complete with their children with the goal of sparking basic online safety discussions in the home.

<https://dpi.wi.gov/internet-safety/new-interactive-safety-resource-available>

#WeAreASD

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

2019-20 Year at a Glance

2019

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| September 2 | 4K-12 No School: Labor Day |
| September 3 | First Day of School |
| September 27 | 4K-12 No School: Teacher Inservice |
| October 25 | 4K-12 No School: Teacher Inservice |
| November 7 | 4K-12 No School: Teacher Inservice/Conferences |
| November 9 | 4K-12 No School; End of Quarter 1 |
| November 27-29 | 4K-12 No School: Thanksgiving Break |
| Dec. 23-Jan. 1 | 4K-12 No School: Winter Break |

2020

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| January 20 | Martin Luther King Day |
| January 24 | 4K-12 No School: Teacher Inservice/Work Day |
| January 24 | End of Semester 1 |
| February 14 | 4K-12 No School: Teacher Inservice |
| March 3 | Gr. 9, 10 and 12 No School |
| March 3 | Gr. 11 ACT Testing AM |
| March 5 | 4K-12 No School: Teacher Inservice/Conferences |
| March 6 | 4K-12 No School |
| March 23-27 | 4K-12 No School: Spring Break |
| April 3 | End of Quarter 3 |
| April 10 | 4K-12 No School: Good Friday |
| April 13 | 4K-12 No School: Teacher Inservice |
| May 25 | 4K-12 No School: Memorial Day |
| June 10 | Last day of school |
| June 15 - July 10, 2020 | Tentative Summer School Dates |