

# 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



# SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE



School District of New Berlin friends, families and supporters - we are proud to share with you our 2023-24 Annual Report.

Our Annual Report is a point of pride. It allows all of us who work for the SDNB, as well as those who have children that attend our schools, an opportunity to reflect on the year that was, turn the page and set our sights on the new year approaching.

For those community members that do not yet feel connected to our district in some way, we offer this annual report not only as a glimpse into our schools, but also into the inner workings of our budget, community events and partnerships and so much more. We encourage you to review the many great things that happen each school year.

We are incredibly proud of what our staff, students and district achieved in 2023-24. And if you flip through the pages yourself, we believe you will be, as well.

Thank you for reading our Annual Report and for your continued support of the School District of New Berlin.

***Expect Excellence,***

Superintendent Joe Garza

**Don't wait for next year's Annual Report to read about the great things happening in our schools!**

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## **DISTRICT MISSION:**

To empower, inspire and support students as they establish goals for their future and develop plans to achieve them.

## **DISTRICT VISION:**

The School District of New Berlin fosters a learning environment in which our public schools, families, post-secondary partners, public officials, businesses, community organizations and other citizens work collaboratively to prepare all students to succeed in a diverse, change-oriented, global society.

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# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## SCHOOL BOARD GOALS

Last summer, the School Board established a series of goals aligned with the district's overarching strategic goals. Through the work of administration, the Board achieved its 2023-24 objectives:

**Goal 1 - Student Achievement** - Constantly strive to increase student achievement through opportunities and accountability.

**Action items:**

- Support the superintendent in achieving his academic goals.
- Have administration create a dashboard on the district website to track student performance on a rolling 3-year basis.

**Goal 2 - Staff** - Increase job satisfaction and make the SDNB an attractive employer.

**Action items:**

- Obtain a comprehensive staff wage assessment to ensure compensation is comparable/competitive to other high-performing districts.
- Assess turnover data to ensure continued low attrition rates, in particular staff voluntarily leaving to go to other districts.

**Goal 3 - Fiscal** - Act with fiscal responsibility and be good stewards of physical assets.

**Action Items:**

- Obtain from administration a report on how much money has been received in sponsorships, where money is now or how it has been used and what are the plans to use it in the future.
- Increase Fund 41 annual funding from \$1 million to \$1.2 million for the next preliminary budget.

**Goal 4 - Community** - Engage the community more.

**Action Items:**

- Determine what opportunities are remaining for sponsorships.
- Promote the dashboard created under Goal 1 to the community.

**2024-2025 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Janet Schulz,**  
President

**Mitchell Helmer,**  
Vice President

**Ron Seidl,**  
Treasurer

**Amy Crosby,**  
Clerk

**Renee Koneck**

**Allison Spindler**

**Matt Zielinski**



### APRIL 2024 ELECTION

Incumbent **Ron Seidl** and newcomer **Matt Zielinski** won the spring School Board election and were sworn into office by Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Bradley in April. Mr. Seidl began his second, three-year term. Mr. Zielinski replaced **Jeffrey Kurth** (bottom, pictured with Janet Schulz), who completed four terms on the Board before choosing not to run for re-election.

**JOIN US**  
for the School District of New Berlin's Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing



**CHECK OUT**  
the SDNB's New  
Data Dashboard @  
[www.sdnbdatadashboard.com](http://www.sdnbdatadashboard.com)

**MONDAY, SEPT. 23,**  
**AT 7 P.M.**  
**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM E**

**Note:** The meeting / hearing will also be streamed live on YouTube.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

## 2022-23 DISTRICT SCORE

83.0

1 of 15

## STATE REPORT CARD

The Department of Public Instruction annually releases district and school report cards as a measure of accountability. According to the 2022-23 report cards issued in November:

- the SDNB “significantly exceeds expectations” for the seventh consecutive year;
- of 378 districts statewide, the SDNB is one of just 15 to reach that level, and one of only nine K-12 districts to do so;
- all six SDNB schools “exceed” or “significantly exceed” expectations;
- of the more than 1,000 K-6 elementary schools in the state, Poplar Creek (90.4) was one of just 42 to achieve a 90 or better.



## AP SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

ONLY 6%

## BEST HIGH SCHOOLS

U.S. News & World Report RANKINGS

## U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

The SDNB’s high schools were once again considered among the state’s and nation’s best, according to the U.S. News & World Report’s 2024 rankings:

- Eisenhower ranked fifth in Wisconsin for the third straight year and fifth time in six years;
- West climbed two spots to 18th after ranking 20th two years in a row;
- a total of 462 Wisconsin high schools were ranked by the publication;
- among the top-five, Eisenhower is one of only three traditional public high schools; West ranked in the top 15 for traditional public high schools;
- both schools finished in the top 5 percent of the nearly 17,700 nationally ranked schools;
- Ronald Reagan (70th), Elmwood (91st) and Poplar Creek (150th) all made the publication’s list of top elementary schools in the state.

RANKED 5th

• Eisenhower and West were two of just nine Wisconsin public high schools to earn Gold level Advanced Placement School Honor Roll recognition.

• 4,570 schools nationwide were recognized on the 2023 AP School Honor Roll; 914 (6 percent of those eligible) received the Gold level recognition.

• Eisenhower and West were two of only four Waukesha County high schools to achieve that mark.

TOP 5% OF 17,700 Schools Nationally

# WORKFORCE RECOGNITION

## MOVIN' ON UP

**Matt Stempniewski**, who had been principal at Poplar Creek for the past eight years, is the director of elementary schools, replacing Brady Reinke, who is now a superintendent in a neighboring district. **Kevin Gemignani**, formerly an associate principal at Eisenhower, has filled Mr. Stempniewski's shoes as principal at Poplar Creek.

Groundskeeper **Matt Newman** was promoted to director of buildings and grounds following Andy Stefancin's retirement.

**Mark Otto**, formerly an associate principal at Sussex Hamilton, is the new principal at West after Michael Fesenmaier retired. Also at West, **Greg DePue** came out of retirement to resume his previous role as associate principal.

And **Andrew Gerlach**, who had been a literacy coach at West, was promoted to associate principal at Eisenhower to replace Mr. Gemignani.

## PHY ED TEACHER EARNS AWARD...

Ronald Reagan physical education teacher **Katie Mulloy** was presented with the Presidential Outstanding Service Award during the Wisconsin Health and Physical Education Association's convention. She has served the association as treasurer and as the chair of the Health Moves Minds program.

## ... AND SO DO TECH ED TEACHERS

West tech ed teacher **Bill Trudell** earned a Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology Education Impact Award. The award, presented by Plexus Corp., recognizes educators who excel at inspiring students toward future career opportunities in STEM fields. Eisenhower tech ed teacher **Dana McLaren** received an award of recognition by FANUC America for her support and advocacy for automation education.



## 'HERO' PRINCIPAL

Orchard Lane principal **Royce Lindner** earned Modern Woodmen of America's Hometown Hero award. The award is given annually to individuals in southeastern Wisconsin who demonstrate good moral character, selflessness, humility, a caring nature, someone who is courageous and generous, and someone who pops into your head when you think of "hometown hero".



## THANK YOU RETIREES!

In addition to **Andy Stefancin** (13 years with district) and **Michael Fesenmaier** (19), eight other SDNB employees retired at the end of the school year: **Kellie Sanders**, Chief Academic Officer (8); **Beth Destache**, first-grade teacher at Reagan (30); **Eileen Ochs**, administrative assistant at Eisenhower (27); **Rebecca Donlin**, English teacher at Eisenhower (17); **Mary Beth LaHaye**, sixth-grade teacher at Poplar Creek (13); **Timothy Minik**, student learning assistant at West (11); **Laura Michelz**, student learning assistant at Eisenhower (5); and **Catherine Myers**, special education assistant at West (5). Congratulations to all of the retirees, and thank you for your many years of service to the SDNB.



## FOUR SDNB EDUCATORS EARN HERB KOHL HONORS

For the seventh consecutive year, at least four SDNB educators were chosen as Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Fellowship award winners: **Jessica Albert**, a fifth-grade teacher at Elmwood; **Diane Hudaj**, an English/speech teacher at West; **Matthew Hunt**, a counselor at West; and **Dana McLaren**, a technology education teacher at Eisenhower and West. They were among the 100 Wisconsin teachers to earn the award. Fellowship recipients are educators who have been chosen for their leadership and service in and outside the classroom, their ability to inspire a love of learning and to motivate their students.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## HOME BUILDERS AT IT AGAIN

Construction III students spent the first semester participating in a partnership with Tim O'Brien Homes to build a home in New Berlin. The students dedicated nearly half their school day on the job site. This marked the sixth consecutive year the SDNB has partnered with the construction company to provide real-world experience and training to those interested in the trades.



## WEST EARNS FIRST ACDEC CHAMPIONSHIP

At the state academic decathlon competition, West was crowned the overall state champion for the first time in school history, while Eisenhower was named the Division 3 state champ.

West's **Sebastian Correa** earned top scholar honors, breaking the school record for highest points earned. The team earned 30 individual medals, placing first statewide in economics, literature, math, music and interview. The Vikings also qualified for the national competition in Pittsburgh in the spring. Eisenhower's top scorer was **Isha Joshi**, who joined her teammates in amassing the highest team score in Division 3, and the sixth-best statewide regardless of division.



## PATHWAYS STUDENTS GET CREATIVE

Students in the SDNB's Beyond 18 Pathways program collaborated with construction students to create impressive game card holders they sold at a fundraising craft fair in the spring.



## REPEAT SPELLING CHAMP

Elmwood sixth-grader **Ethan Robert** repeated as champion of not only the school district spelling bee over the winter, but also of the regional bee to advance to the Badger State Spelling Bee.



## PERFECT ACT SCORE

**Amelia Sikri** made it back-to-back years for West to claim a student with a perfect ACT score of 36. Only about one quarter of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn the highest composite score possible, putting Amelia in elite company.



## ROLLIN' IN THE HARDWARE

Eisenhower's middle school engineering team dominated STEM Forward's Contract Contest at WCTC. Using their creativity and skills to design and build a chain reaction machine that rolls dice in 8-20 steps, Eisenhower groups finished first, second and fourth in the standings and earned the Best Construction and Peer awards.



## 'FUN' IN FUNDRAISING

- **Poplar Creek's** Creek Crawl, organized by the school's Parent Teacher Organization, ran out of hot dogs - despite ordering 600, more than ever before - and raised \$40,000.
- **Ronald Reagan's** Home and School Association organized the annual Fun Run and raised nearly \$50,000, a portion of which went to library upgrades.
- **Elmwood's** "Fun" Raiser raised close to \$50,000 for the school community, with the culminating activity, a Booth-or-Treat event, that included booths organized by families and a successful raffle.
- **Orchard Lane's** Kindness Fundraiser - where students solicit donations and promise to repay them through acts of kindness - grossed nearly \$28,000 and helped the Parent Faculty Council claim the naming rights of the Star Commons.



## KINDNESS WEEK

All four elementary schools celebrated Kindness Week in November. One of the highlights was the kindness chain link; every time a student was seen doing something kind by a classmate or staff member, the school added a link to the chain. The schools also took part in a spirit week and kindness book read alouds, and collected nearly 3,900 items for a local food pantry.



## DECA CHAPTERS IMPRESSIVE AT STATE

The Eisenhower and West chapters participated in DECA's State Career Development Conference, with 20 students qualifying for the international event in Anaheim, CA last spring. Participants engaged in a series of tests, projects, and roleplays, showcasing their skills and knowledge.

A total of 43 students competed with 29 earning medals. Eisenhower's international qualifiers were **Tanja Ajder, Emily Daniel, Molly Flanagan, Aryan Joshi, Axel Krainz, Sara Mueller, Abby Oelschlager, Elaina Raicu, Ami Scott, Jalesh Hari Sesham, Keegan Tadych, Rebecca Tharaniyil** and **Megan Wisniewski**. West's international qualifiers were **Amelia Sikri, Mariah Flood, Sania Dhillon, Sydney Keelan, Graham McKenzie, Sebastian Correa** and **Dan Tiwari**.

# ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE



## VIKINGS WIN STATE TRACK EVENT, SET RECORD

West's girls track and field team scored in four events at the Division 2 state meet in La Crosse, highlighted by a state-record run in the 800-meter relay. **Ashley Babcock, Caroline Gerovac, Aubrey Lane** and **Natalie Leupi** finished in 1 minute, 42.65 seconds, nearly 2 full seconds faster than the runners-up. The time bested a 14-year-old mark of 1:42.86 set by Milwaukee Lutheran in 2010. But that's not all. In the 400 relay, Babcock, Lane and Leupi teamed with **Julia Garny** for second place.

Other top efforts included Leupi in the 100 dash (seventh) and Lane in the 200 dash (eighth), as well as Eisenhower's **Gabby Peterson** in the pole vault (seventh, tie) and **Faith Wehrman** in the 3,200 (eighth).

## HOOPS MILESTONES

Eisenhower boys basketball senior captain **Ari Nimani** became the fifth boys player in school history to eclipse 1,000 career points, and Eisenhower girls basketball coach **Joel Claassen** reached the incredible milestone of 700 career victories in early February.



## WEST DANCE TEAM WINS STATE; IKE DANCE RUNNERS-UP

The West dance team earned its first state championship in six years and second overall when it claimed the Division 2 hip hop crown at the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches state meet in La Crosse in February. The Vikings, who were state runners-up in the hip hop competition in both 2020 and 2021, previously won the state title in 2018.

One month later, the Vikings earned first place in the extra small school division in both pom and hip hop in Orlando in March, bringing home two national championship trophies.

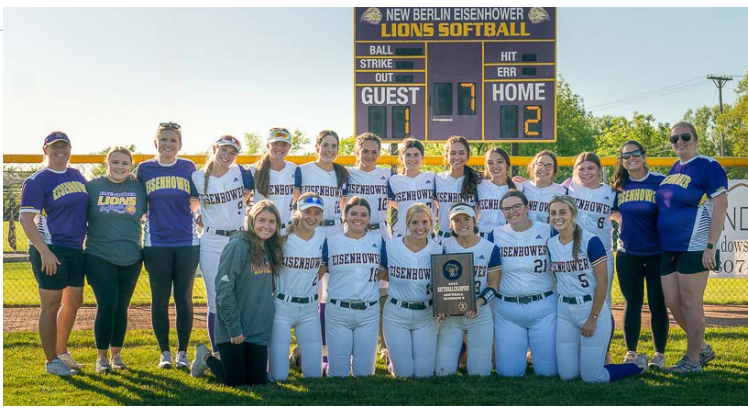
Meanwhile, the Eisenhower dance team saw its run of four consecutive dual state championships in D2 jazz and D4 poms come to an end, but the Lions still finished as runners-up in both events. The Lions were also second in pom in the small school division at the national competition in Orlando.



## CONTINUED CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

Eisenhower junior **Faith Wehrman**, the 2022 WIAA Division 2 state cross country champion, followed her championship season with a sixth-place finish at the state meet in Wisconsin Rapids in late October. She led the Lions to a 14th-place overall team finish. Also at state, West freshman **Emily Zeller** finished in an impressive 25th-place in her state debut.





### SWIMMING / DIVING STARS

Eisenhower had nine entries in the D2 girls swim and dive championships at Waukesha South in November where they finished 13th overall. Senior **Meredith Giese** led with a fourth-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle - she was also ninth in the 100 free - and junior **Emily Wagner** took fifth in 1-meter diving.



### IKE SOCCER FALLS JUST SHORT

The 2022 state champion Ike boys soccer team fell one win shy of a return trip to state when the Lions' season ended with a narrow loss to Pius XI in the sectional final. Likewise, the Lions' girls team, vying for its fourth-straight state appearance and led by conference player of the year and first-team all-state selection **Sarah Stadler**, an LSU recruit, fell to Catholic Memorial in a sectional final shootout.

### SOFTBALL ADVANCES TO STATE AGAIN

Led by Woodland Conference player of the year and first team all-state selection **Ryann Nutt**, the Eisenhower softball team (21-5) qualified for the eighth state tournament in school history - and second in a row - when it defeated Pius XI, 2-1, in the sectional final. In Madison, the Lions fell in the semifinal to eventual state champion Waupun by that same score.

### WRESTLER REPEATS

**Amelia Poplawski** and **Natalia Poplawski**, two of four New Berlin United competitors to advance to state, both made the podium at the WIAA Girls State Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison. Amelia, a sophomore, replicated her fifth-place effort from the previous season at 132 pounds; Natalia, a junior, finished sixth at 138.

**Discover the ultimate hub for sports and fitness at OAW Indoor Sports Complex, where our expansive 153,000 square feet cater to every athletic need.**

**EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS WE OFFER:**  
youth leagues, softball & baseball tournaments, softball & baseball classes/lessons, birthday parties, group fitness classes, pickleball, adult leagues, golf simulator leagues/rentals, and MUCH more!

**CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR OFFERINGS AT [OAWINDOOR.COM](http://OAWINDOOR.COM)  
CALL 262-682-4919 WITH ANY QUESTIONS!**

OAW Indoor Sports Complex is a proud sponsor of the School District of New Berlin & New Berlin West Athletics

# BUDGET DETAILS / STRATEGIC FINANCE



## FISCAL PRIORITIES

Balancing the School District of New Berlin’s immediate fiscal needs and long-term financial health happens annually. With administration’s and the School Board’s joint focus on providing high-quality educational experiences for all students AND realizing the desires of all taxpayers, fiscal responsibility and strategic planning are the overarching themes of every budget cycle.

### SMALL UPTICK FOR TAX LEVY, TAX RATE

After 10 consecutive years of decreased tax rates, including a 14.80 percent drop last year to \$5.87 per \$1,000 of equalized value, the SDNB is expecting a slight increase in the tax rate for 2024-25. The preliminary budget, approved by the School Board this summer, calls for a 1.36 percent increase of the tax rate to \$5.95. The result is an estimated increase of \$28 gross school tax levy on a home valued at \$250,000.

### 2024-25 PRELIMINARY BUDGET KEY POINTS

In June, the School Board approved the district’s preliminary budget, which sets fiscal priorities for the school year and allows the administration to operate until the original budget is adopted in October.

**Several factors can lead to changes between the summer’s preliminary budget and the fall’s original - or final - budget, including state aid distribution, equalized property values, legislation and more. Preliminary budget assumptions, however, include:**

- Flat enrollment and state aid projections;
- \$325 increase in per pupil revenue limit;
- elimination of ESSER reimbursement;
- Board approved 3.0% increase in base wages and associated benefit increases;
- various classroom staffing increases;
- increases in transportation and utilities

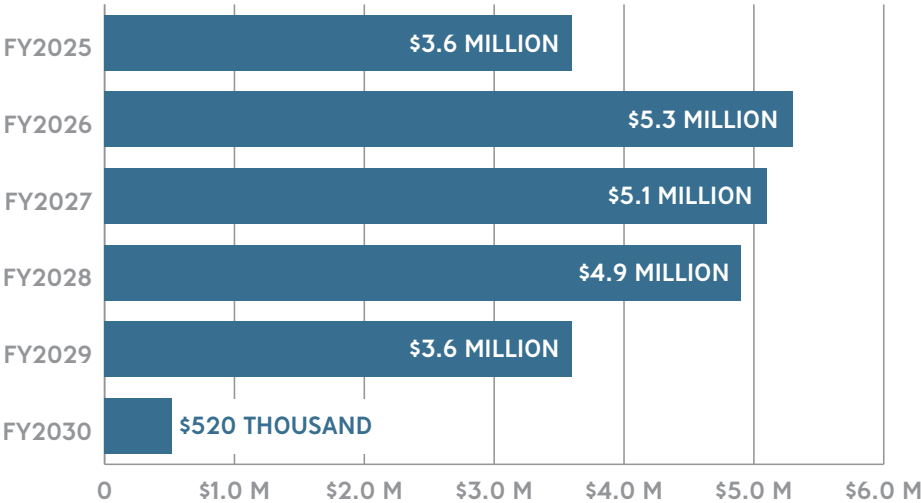
## 10-YEAR TAX LEVY HISTORY

SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALIZED VALUE (Tid out)	CHANGE	TAX LEVY	CHANGE	TAX RATE per \$1000 EQUALIZED	CHANGE
2015-16	\$4,428,088,120	2.30%	\$49,692,034	1.12%	\$11.22	-1.16%
2016-17	\$4,566,665,526	3.13%	\$50,973,224	2.58%	\$11.16	-0.53%
2017-18	\$4,779,770,578	4.67%	\$51,745,449	1.51%	\$10.83	-2.96%
2018-19	\$4,977,053,088	4.13%	\$50,791,524	-1.84%	\$10.21	-5.72%
2019-20	\$5,247,647,190	5.44%	\$49,109,185	-3.31%	\$9.36	-8.33%
2020-21	\$5,363,814,925	2.21%	\$45,742,523	-6.86%	\$8.53	-8.87%
2021-22	\$5,736,657,174	6.95%	\$43,412,556	-5.09%	\$7.57	-11.25%
2022-23	\$6,494,577,054	13.21%	\$44,719,245	3.01%	\$6.89	-8.98%
2023-24	\$7,262,867,814	11.83%	\$42,621,284	4.69%	\$5.87	-14.80%
2024-25 Estimate	\$7,408,125,170	2.00%	\$44,097,996	3.46%	\$5.95	1.36%

**DEBT WITHIN THE OPERATING BUDGET**

The SDNB has long had debt within the operating budget. Whereas most Wisconsin school districts typically ask their communities to support a referendum for new schools or facilities, the SDNB built Ronald Reagan Elementary and made significant upgrades to New Berlin West - including the field house and performing arts center - nearly two decades ago without a referendum. Instead, the SDNB absorbed the debt into its operating budget.

But those debt payments are nearing an end; the SDNB is on pace to pay off Ronald Reagan, West and ESCO - or energy savings projects - by 2030!



**FUND 41 HIGHLIGHTS: WEST OUTDOOR ATHLETICS COMPLEX UPGRADE**

West is finally getting plumbed outdoor bathrooms. Thanks to a gracious donation from a West family, funds from previous naming rights agreements, and a commitment by the School Board and administration to use Fund 41, the district's long-range capital improvement fund, the construction of a new concessions / outdoor bathroom building is expected to be completed by the first home varsity football game of the season.

Other Fund 41 projects completed or started last school year include generator upgrades or replacements at five schools, sidewalk replacements at West and Elmwood, a parking lot section replacement at Poplar Creek and new bleachers in Eisenhower's main gym.

Summer projects and those to be completed this school year include a new switchgear system at Eisenhower, a new generator at Poplar Creek and the replacement of the public address and safety communication systems at all schools.

Fund 41 was adopted by the School Board in 2022. The fund supports the capital maintenance of facilities. Dollars levied into the fund can only be used for capital facility improvements; it enhances, rather than replaces, the regular maintenance budget and allows for early bidding on projects which results in favorable costs and timely completion dates.

Since the fund was created, the district has completed more than \$4 million worth of projects.



**FUND 41?**

Money levied into Fund 41 cannot be transferred to other funds and enhances - rather than replaces - the regular maintenance budget!

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



### COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

# SEASON TWO

Average attendance: **140**  
Total ticket sales: **\$11,790**

Biggest show:  
**178 attendees**

(Goran & Morgan of The Gufs)

EFNB's earnings (including beverage bar):  
**\$10,338**

Show Sponsors:  
Poblocki Paving  
(The 5 Card Studs)

The second season of the WestPAC community concert series was three times bigger than the first, with six incredible shows sponsored by the Education Foundation of New Berlin from November through May. Highlights included two holiday concerts, a country night, Goran and Morgan of The Gufs and more.

Learn more about Season 3 of the community concert series on the back cover or at [www.nbexcellence.org/community/westpac-tickets.cfm](http://www.nbexcellence.org/community/westpac-tickets.cfm).

## DONATIONS \$183,966

Numerous local, regional and state individuals, businesses and organizations supported the SDNB with nearly \$184,000 in donations last school year. Elementary home and school organizations accounted for \$52,500 in donations, up approximately 50 percent from the previous year!



## Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten & Beyond

- For 3- and 4-year-olds
- Age-appropriate programming
- Focus on student dispositions
- Maximum 10:1 student/staff ratio

Visit [www.nbexcellence.org/prospective/early-learning-program.cfm](http://www.nbexcellence.org/prospective/early-learning-program.cfm) or call (262) 789-6242 for more info today!



**OUTDOOR FACILITY TASK FORCE**

Last spring the Board of Education commissioned an Outdoor Facilities Task Force to explore plans and possible funding mechanisms needed to improve the outdoor athletic complexes at Eisenhower and West.

SDNB’s high schools are the only two in Waukesha County and two of only six Woodland Conference schools that do not have any turf or synthetic playing surfaces. All of New Berlin's contiguous neighbors have turf football / soccer stadium surfaces; some have additional turfed fields (i.e. baseball, softball). Additionally, the schools’ tracks need to be reconstructed, and other potential upgrades, such as the addition of lights and / or the reconfiguration of current field layouts, would result in more usage and availability.

The Task Force includes dozens of community members and several staff members, including coaches, teachers and school / district administrators. They have met three times so far with additional meetings scheduled for this fall before it shares its recommendations with the School Board.

**Learn more at [www.nbboxcellence.org/district/outdoor-facilities-task-force.cfm](http://www.nbboxcellence.org/district/outdoor-facilities-task-force.cfm).**

**NAMING RIGHTS UPDATE**

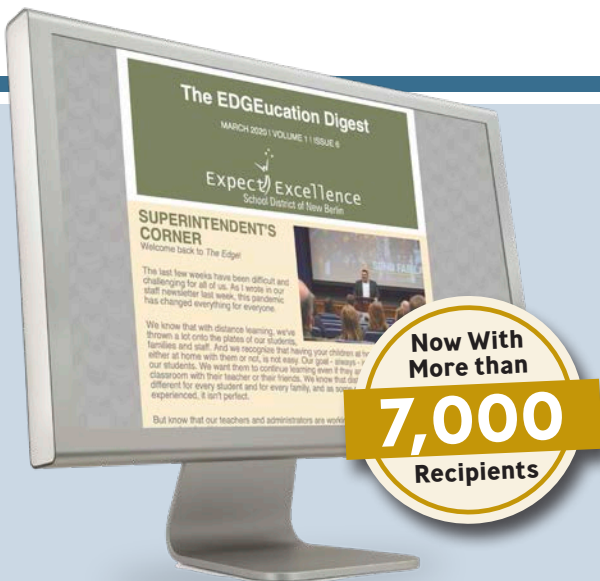
To date, the SDNB has secured more than \$300,000 in financial commitments through naming rights or related sponsorships and donations. Dozens of district venues - the West Performing Arts Center, West's fab lab and Eisenhower's pool, to name a few - are still available to local businesses, families or individuals interested in showing their support for the district through the naming rights program.

**You can learn more at [www.nbboxcellence.org/community/naming-right-sponsorships.cfm](http://www.nbboxcellence.org/community/naming-right-sponsorships.cfm).**



**NEW SAFETY PROTOCOL**

Last school year, the SDNB, in conjunction with the New Berlin Police Department, began utilizing the Standard Response Protocol, or SRP, for all building emergencies and incidents. The SRP utilizes clear, common language and is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. The SRP was implemented at all six schools, improving the uniformity of the SDNB’s safety preparedness. Students and staff trained, practiced and drilled the SRP throughout the year.



**SIGN UP FOR 'THE EDGE' TO GET THE LATEST SDNB NEWS**

Signing up for the district's monthly e-newsletter is easy. Email [feedback@nbexcellence.org](mailto:feedback@nbexcellence.org) and let us know that you want access to The Edge so you can stay on top of all SDNB information.

# ★ YEAR IN REVIEW



EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
OF NEW BERLIN



**WATCH THIS VIDEO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IMPACT GRANTS**



Scan QR code to access video

## RECORD BREAKING IMPACT GRANTS

The Education Foundation of New Berlin awarded a record-breaking \$18,000 in Impact Grant Awards to fund six amazing projects in 2024. Since its inception in 2021, the EFNB has awarded more than \$51,000 in impact grants.

### ★ HVAC TRAINERS

Construction teachers Taylor Molitor and Ben Bauer are bridging the gap between theoretical HVAC learning and its practical applications. Their curriculum promises to bring HVAC training boards into their construction classrooms ensuring students are not only equipped with theoretical knowledge but also adept at real-world HVAC challenges.

### ★ INVENTABLES

Elmwood Elementary's Leah Schretenthaler, Megan Wierl and Lisa Payne are championing safety and innovation in the makerspace with their project, InvenTables. By introducing the safest tools for children to cut cardboard and encouraging the utilization of diverse materials, they are fostering a culture of creativity and safety.

### ★ ELEMENTARY COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

Caroline Haebig and Jennifer Schlie-Reed's project brings the CODEHS computer science curriculum to classrooms in all SDNB elementary schools. Computer science empowers young learners with essential digital literacy skills to thrive in college, career and life.

### ★ EDUCATION THROUGH UKULELES

Elementary music teachers Christina Schilling, Nick Winders and Darien Hiller are enhancing instrumental music instruction by introducing classroom sets of ukuleles for each school to enhance its curriculum.

### ★ MATH AND DISPOSITION GAMES

Elmwood's Christopher Reed is curating a game library designed to develop both mathematical skills and positive dispositions toward community and learning.

### ★ THEATRICAL STAGE CUBES

Jennifer Coyle, representing Stars on Stage at Orchard Lane, is bringing theatrical magic to life with her project, Stage Cubes. These scenery pieces that resemble furniture such as tables, benches, and chairs, promise to enhance students' theatrical productions.

## INVEST IN NEW BERLIN STUDENTS!

Make your donation to the Education Foundation of New Berlin at [www.efnb.org](http://www.efnb.org).



## SCHOLARSHIPS

In three years, the EFNB has awarded 35 scholarships to 31 students totaling \$34,500!

**2022: \$3,000 to 4 seniors**

**2023: \$15,000 to 14 seniors**

**2024: \$16,500 to 17 seniors**

## EFNB 2024 Scholarship Winners

### EFNB Community Scholarship - \$500

- Mary Gerovac - West
- Macy McCormick - Eisenhower
- Amelia Olson - West

### West Extra Lap Scholarship - \$2,000

- Kathryn Moe

### Ike Soccer 2022 Champions - \$500

- Sarah Stadler
- Daniel Woo

### Payton Alexander Memorial Golf Scholarship - \$1,500

- Patrick Bertsch - West
- Angelina Dorshak - West

### Peter Michaud Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

- Mary Gerovac - West
- Meredith Giese - Eisenhower

### NBAA Scholarship - \$1,000

- Nora Betry - West
- Katie Gerten - Eisenhower
- Ethan Kluck - West
- Benjamin Miller - West
- Kathryn Moe - West
- Brandon Ziemanski-Dolezal - Eisenhower
- Keegan Tadych - Eisenhower

Visit [efnb.org](http://efnb.org) for more details.



## STAR COMMONS GRAND OPENING

In a momentous event in November, the EFNB proudly unveiled the Star Commons at Orchard Lane — a project that breathed new life into the school's library, turning it into a dynamic hub for students.

Through the collective support of the SDNB, community, and generous donors, the space underwent a remarkable transformation, featuring fresh enhancements like new flooring, vibrant paint, flat panels, window shades, and modular furniture. The design and installation of a mural by West AP Design students added an artistic touch to the Commons, which was also improved by the addition of the innovative makerspace.

Attended by public officials, donors, families, and school staff, the event showcased the collaborative efforts that have turned the Learning Commons into an inspiring environment for Orchard Lane students.



## TOAST 24 RECAP

The Toast to Education, presented by the EFNB and Matty's Catering was a resounding success, generating more than \$65,000 in support for the EFNB and nearly 60 SDNB partner clubs and activities. From the event's 500 guests, clubs earned \$25,041, demonstrating the community's commitment to educational enrichment.





EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NEW BERLIN

COMMUNITY  
CONCERT SERIES



EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
OF NEW BERLIN

The wildly popular Community Concert Series, sponsored by the Education Foundation of New Berlin, at the West Performing Arts Center returns for a third season. Our eclectic lineup features something for everyone!

**DAN LEPIEN BAND** 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15  
(traditional country)



**TENORS & WHISKEYBELLES** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18  
(holiday)



**NO CAN DO** 7 p.m. Friday, Mar. 18  
A Tribute to the Music of Hall & Oates - (classic rock)

**SUBSTITUTE** 7 p.m. Saturday, Apr. 5  
Tales from The Who (1960s rock)



**MILES NIELSEN & THE RUSTED HEARTS** 7 p.m. Saturday, May 10  
(rock/soul)

Doors and the cold beverage bar open one hour before the show. Tickets and more information can be found at [www.nbexcellence.org/community/westpac-tickets.cfm](http://www.nbexcellence.org/community/westpac-tickets.cfm).

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ANNUAL NOTICES: Located at [www.nbexcellence.org/district/annualnotices.cfm](http://www.nbexcellence.org/district/annualnotices.cfm)

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to be good stewards of taxpayer funds, a cost-effective bulk mailing service was used for this publication. However, there are limitations and the service cannot precisely match the School District of New Berlin's boundaries without adding significant cost. If you do not live within the District and received this publication due to this limitation, we ask for your understanding.