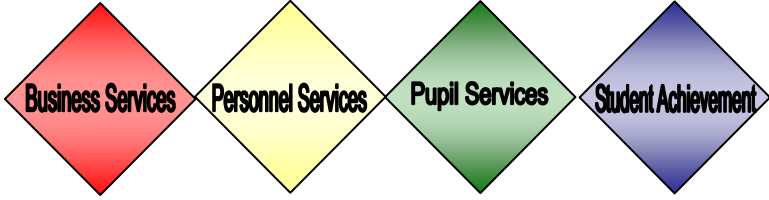




# School District of New London



## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: July, 2010



### Four-Year-Old Kindergarten:

June 28, 29, and 30 marked the dates of training for eighteen School District of New London staff and collaborative partners representing the Day Care Center of New London, Kuddly Kids, and Headstart. Participants have met certification requirements for the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards and the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale.

The Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) provides a framework for us to:

- Share a common language and responsibility for the well-being of children from birth to first grade.
- Know and understand developmental expectations of young children.
- Understand the connection among early childhood, K-12 educational experiences, and lifelong learning.

The Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) is a resource that will allow us to effectively evaluate each 4K site based on:

- Space and Furnishings
- Personal Care Routines
- Language-Reasoning
- Activities
- Interactions
- Program Structure
- Parents and Staff

Mr. Yerkey and Mrs. Collar have placed orders for equipment and supplies. ECERS scales were used to guide these purchases. Parent letters were recently sent in an effort to keep families informed of the progress being made toward implementation. We are currently fielding requests from families who may have a conflict with their child's assigned placement. An updated FAQ sheet can be found on the front page of each elementary school's website.

### Project Lead the Way--Gateway Academy:

Gateway Academy is a week-long day camp that provides fun and challenging projects using curriculum developed by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). The Academy is funded through a partnership of grants attained by Waupaca and Outagamie counties. This program is specifically designed by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers—Education Foundation and 4-H to help middle school students explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Middle school students will work in teams to build their own solar powered car, launch water bottle rockets, and create their tallest tower. Students will learn engineering techniques at Gateway Academy which gives them a glimpse of what a career in STEM industries would be like. During the week campers will work together in a fun, exciting environment using leading-edge technologies to sample such disciplines as robotics, aeronautics and computer design.

4-H activities, including field trips to area industries will compliment the tech activities. A lunch with morning and afternoon snacks is provided each day.

School District of New London PLTW teachers Brent Dusek, Kyle Lubinski, and Jay Daly will facilitate sessions during the week of July 19-23. Sessions will take place at the High School.

**An Open House will be provided on Thursday, July 22 from 10:00-1:00.** Students will showcase projects and participate in a Robotics Competition at 11:00 on this date. Families and community members are invited and encouraged to attend to learn more about the opportunities provided through Project Lead the Way.

