



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

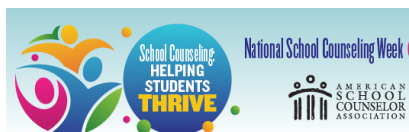
## Monthly Update

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR • BUSINESS SERVICES  
PUPIL SERVICES • TEACHING AND LEARNING SERVICES

### February 2025

#### District Administrator

##### National School Counselors Week



National School Counselors Week is an annual celebration the

first week of February that highlights the tremendous impact school counselors have on our students' success. This year, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the dedicated counselors in our district.

School counselors play a crucial role in our educational system by:

- Supporting students' academic achievement
- Fostering social and emotional development
- Providing college and career guidance
- Advocating for students' needs and well-being
- Collaborating with teachers, administrators, and families

The School District of New London is fortunate to have exceptional counselors who go above and beyond to ensure our students thrive. Their tireless efforts contribute significantly to:

1. Improved student performance
2. Increased graduation rates
3. Better school climate and safety
4. Enhanced social-emotional learning

On behalf of the School District of New London, we extend our sincere thanks to all our school counselors. Your dedication, compassion, and expertise make a lasting difference in the lives of our students and our community.

School District of New London School Counselors:

Lisa Brovold	Jen Tate
Sarah Pagel	Theresa Reynoso-Doran
Elizabeth Schuh	Cassidy Flanders
Morgyn Zielke	

#### District Parent Advisory Council

The School District of New London's District Parent Advisory Council met on February 3 to address the critical topic of school safety in education. The meeting covered a wide range of subjects, focusing on how the District proactively develops and implements comprehensive safety protocols for students, staff, families, and local authorities.

The School District of New London District Parent Advisory Council's purpose and intent is to provide a communication bridge between community and the District while fostering cooperative dialogue among parents and community stakeholders to support the District's mission of "Success for All Students."

The next District Parent Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025.

#### Annual School Perceptions District Survey

We are pleased to announce the launch of our annual School Perceptions District survey, which will start on March 3.

This comprehensive survey provides a valuable opportunity for our key stakeholders - students, staff, and parents/guardians - to share their insights and experiences, helping us to continually improve our educational environment.



#### Students Grades 5-12

Our student participants will provide feedback on four crucial aspects of their educational journey:

1. Connection
2. Learning
3. Environment
4. Experience

## Staff

Our dedicated staff members will share their perspectives on five key areas:

1. Academic
2. Engagement
3. Support
4. Student Experience
5. Staff Experience

## Parents/Guardians

We highly value the input of our parents and guardians. Their survey will focus on five essential elements:

1. Informed
2. Included
3. Educational Excellence
4. Atmosphere
5. Experience

## B 212

The February 2025 B212 Extra Degree of Effort recognition celebrates the 2024-2025 District Years of Service recipients. Each year in February, we take pride in acknowledging the significant milestones achieved by our committed employees across all District groups. These individuals embody our mission of "Success for All Students" through their unwavering dedication and service.



On behalf of the School District of New London, we extend our heartfelt appreciation and sincere gratitude to all our years of service honorees. Your loyalty, expertise, and passion for education continue to inspire and elevate our entire school community.

**40** - Lois Cunningham (Bus)

**35** - Peter Mroczynski (MS)

**30** - Paul Desrochers (MS),  
Ann Pinch (MS), John  
Ruckdashel (HS), Mary  
Faucher (SB)

**25** - Jann Berglund (MS), Jay Daly (MS), Lisa Daly (MS),  
Samantha Kable (HS), Tara Korth (MS), Jennifer  
Saucerman (RF), Karrie Nieto (HS), Leslie Paul (MS)

*Thank  
You*

**20** - Michelle Huebner (HS), Christine Dey (Bus),  
Candith Hoewisch (RF)

**15** - Megan Fielding (HS), Tiffany Schulz (HS), Lindsey  
Uvaas (HS), Julie Sturgill (PV)

**10** - Becky Marquardt (HS), Stefanie Neely (PV),  
Carol Smiles (HS)

## Director of Business Services

### School Bus Driver Appreciation Week

February 10 - 14 is school bus driver appreciation week. The district's group of drivers are dedicated every day to providing transportation to our students by school bus or a van. We appreciate their efforts and want to give a special shout out this week during school bus driver appreciation week!



Here is a list of our drivers and other transportation staff to recognize:

### Route Drivers

Mark Plowman, Cindy Grunwald, Jeff Bubolz, Kari Schroeder, Chris Dey, Angie Bigalke, Lois Cunningham, Bobbi Schucknecht, Mike Frisch, Mike Ritchie, Ken Carew, Dorla Johnson, Angela Brown, Ray Reichel, Mike Kammer and Jerry Jennerjohn.

One note -- we also would recognize Joanne Rhoden who retired in January 2025 after providing over 34 years of service to the district as a bus driver and also other roles.

### Sub Drivers

Patience Juve, Mark Langel, Billy Zeimet, Bruce Peth, Kirk Merrill, Jeff Grachien, Amanda Thorpe, Al Tank, Tony Porath, Dave Faulkes, Mike Wohlt and Erin Hammen

### Van Drivers

Ken Price, Pam Ritchie, Stacy Christian, Al Magolan, Karen Magolan, Mark Miles and Owen Batten

### Transportation Staff and Bus Paras

Marc Marsh, Josh Fischer, Tara Marsh, Mary Frisch and Klaudine Steinberg.

### Budget Topic

The 2025-27 biennium budget process is under way and there is a topic that is important to understand the impact it has for New London.



This is the appropriation for the Special Education and School-Age Parents Aid program. All Wisconsin school districts are eligible for this categorical aid based upon eligible expenditures for students who qualify for special education programming. The categorical aid amount is received throughout the fiscal year based upon prior year costs.

During the 2023-25 biennium there was significant discussion about moving this reimbursement percentage up to at least 33% of eligible costs. The budget summary published by the State of Wisconsin estimated the amount to be 33.3% reimbursement of eligible costs in 2023-24 and 2024-25. This was an important development because that categorical aid did not increase much over several bienniums.

The local challenge is that this categorical aid is not sufficient but sum certain. This means that the appropriation of money is a set number in the state budget instead of a sum sufficient to get to 33% of eligible costs. This is a key variable in all school district budgets.

This year New London was expecting \$1,816,789 in categorical aid. In the latest update we received the actual reimbursement is expected to be around 29.6% of eligible costs. This will be over \$70,000 in revenue the district will not receive because the appropriation was less than the intended goals of the 2023-25 biennium budget. This will require a larger transfer from Fund 10 to 27 to cover the costs. Each year the district transfers just under \$4,000,000 from fund 10 to 27.

School districts are faced with many challenges in their budget. Closing achievement gaps and student growth are measures on the school report cards. These two categories cover all students in school

districts but I wonder why more funding is not appropriated for special education categorical aids. Districts are expected to close achievement gaps and maximize student achievement with fewer resources to do so or make cuts in other areas of the budget to meet funding requirements.

### Director of Pupil Services

#### Shamrock Club of New London

On Thursday, Feb. 6---Anne Stedman (President of the Shamrock Club of New London) brought a donation of \$500 to support the purchase of additional AED devices in the district. The School District of New London would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the Shamrock Club for this generous donation.



#### Bilingual volunteers, giving their time

Three women in our community have stepped forward to generously donate their time to support our English Language Learner students. Carmen Martzahl gives time (primarily at the elementary level) to support our Spanish speaking students and

families. In addition, we have two additional women who are providing support for our French/Haitian Creole speaking families. Both Helene Pohl and Kathie Kinnaman are assisting in this capacity. I would

like to thank these three women for the donation of their time and talents to support our district families.





### **Donations of Boots/Jackets keep coming in to the District**

Gloria Mihna, a citizen of New London has continued to donate items to the district for the entire school year. Last week she brought another large shipment of boots and coats for our students. The School District of New London would like to thank Gloria for her continued support of the district for the past several years.



### **February 7, 2025**

Tom Pease, Children's entertainer, performed at the Washington Center for our 4K families for a community outreach event. Songs, dancing and children's entertainment accompanied this event which was attended by over 100 students and parents. The Catalyst Academy Students were also present to provide support for the event in terms of set-up and clean-up. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.

### **4K Day of Fun**

The annual 4K Literacy Event will take place on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Washington Center in New London. This is a chance for families to meet their future 4K teacher and also a chance for families to complete the 4K registration process. The students at Catalyst Academy and the 8th grade Student Council will assist in making this event a success.



Play based activities will take place during the event. To help us plan, please call 920-982-2011 to let us know you plan to attend.

### **Director of Teaching and Learning**



#### **Career and Technical Education Month**

New London has always been proud of providing exploration in career and technical education (CTE). This month we help celebrate CTE month across the state.

### **Open Enrollment and Virtual Learning Options and for 2025-2026 School Year**

#### **Open Enrollment Application Period**

**Dates:** February 3 - April 30, 2025

**Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2025

#### **Open Enrollment for Non-Resident Families**

Families residing outside the School District of New London but interested in attending our schools should complete the open enrollment application.

**Application Link:** [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Open Enrollment]  
(<https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>)

#### **Contact Information**

For questions about enrollment, please contact:

Lesley Baehman

Email: [lbaehman@newlondon.k12.wi.us](mailto:lbaehman@newlondon.k12.wi.us)

Phone: (920) 982-2011

We encourage all interested families to apply, even if unsure about their commitment level. This ensures you have the option available when making your final decision.

#### **Virtual Learning with Rural Virtual Academy**

The School District of New London is proud to offer virtual learning options through our partnership with Rural Virtual Academy. This flexible option is available to meet the diverse needs of our families.



1. Enrollment process follows the state open enrollment window
2. Interested families should apply early to secure a spot
3. Final rosters will be determined in August 2025

#### **Enrollment Priority:**

1. Current students and their families
2. New applications in order of receipt

\*Note: Class sizes and special education needs will be considered in determining acceptance.\*