



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

Monthly Update

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

October 2024

District Administrator

Tyson Donation Welding Helmets

Recently, the Tyson Foods Community Relations Team approved the request for our high school welding classes to purchase 15 electric welding elements. Thank you, Tyson Foods, for supporting our career and technical education programs.



Wisconsin School Board Week

Wisconsin celebrates October 6-12 as Wisconsin School Board Week. We sincerely appreciate the dedication and commitment of our Board members to the success of the School District of New London. They are the bridge that connects the values and priorities of our community with the realm of education. Their service embodies gratitude to our community and inspires hope for the next generation. Advocating for children at all levels of government and overseeing budgets, our Board of Education plays a crucial role in shaping the path from school safety to financial planning to academic standards while ensuring educational opportunities for all.



Homecoming Week 2024

Congratulations to our school community for actively participating in celebrating our Homecoming Week 2024 from September 30 through October 5. Once again, our "Bulldog Pride" was exemplified throughout. As a school district, we have much to be



proud of as we actively demonstrate our school spirit!

Title IX Update

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards recently updated its members on the current status of Title IX recommendations.

The U.S. Department of Education's 2024 amendments to the Title IX regulations took effect on August 1, 2024. However, the status of the 2024 regulations depends on the evolving status (and eventual outcome) of pending litigation over the 2024 amendments. For example, litigation originating in federal court in the District of Kansas has resulted in an injunction that currently prohibits the U.S. Department of Education from enforcing the 2024 Title IX regulations against some K-12 schools that are located in Wisconsin. The injunction against enforcement by the U.S. Department of Education creates uncertainty regarding how at least some school districts may choose to approach the implementation of the 2024 regulations.

B 212

The October B212 Extra Degree of Effort recognizes New London high school students Janet Weng and Jonah Stone. Recently Janet and Jonah qualified as semifinalists in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP).



The NMSP is an annual academic competition for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships. It is open to all U.S. high school students who meet participation requirements. Winners are chosen based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments. Congratulations, Janet and Jonah, for giving it your "Bulldog Best" to exemplify your B212 Extra Degree of Effort.

Director of Business Services

Lumber Donation

The district would like to thank Tigerton Lumber and Mike Schulke for a donation of lumber to the district. This donation happens every year. We sincerely thank them for this donation. Mr. Gruentzel and his students also pass on their thanks.



Stadium Project Update

In August, we updated the Board from the Facilities Committee about the potential of working with Boldt to construct a concession / bathroom space at the stadium. The timeline and cost Boldt was proposing for immediately beginning the work did not work in our planning for the possible project.

As a reminder, the committee recommended continued discussion about the project. We spoke to Somerville in September about the project and they plan to design schematic plans, elevations, renderings and the opinion of probable cost for the project scope. These will help facilitate further discussion and continue to gather information about the potential of this project.

National School Bus Safety Week



October 21 - 25 is National School Bus Safety Week. My personal feeling is that we do not need a week to remind everyone to be

safe with buses on the road but the importance of recognizing the week has meaning.

We transport 1,000 kids every day. Many days we get close to 1,500 students when you think about field trips, infrequent riders and sporting events. That's why safety is important not only during a week but all of the time.

This link provides several important reminders:
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety>

I will share some of these examples during the verbal discussion of the report.

Director of Pupil Services

Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery in NL provides donation

Amy Wendlandt of Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery in New London reached out to the district to inform us that they hosted a deodorant drive at their facility in an effort to provide deodorant for all the students for their physical education lockers at the school. They conducted an internal collection with prizes for their employees to incentivize participation. This donation was collected by our school social worker, Erin Marsh, who oversees our Caring Closet.

Catalyst Academy Board Update

On October 7, 2024, the Catalyst Academy Board had their first board meeting of the school year. The Catalyst board meets every other month on the first Monday of each month to discuss items related to the Catalyst Academy. The current Catalyst Academy governing board now consists of the following members: Susan Moore-Board President, Jo Collar-Vice President, Connie Neely-Clerk, Natalie Doemel-Member. Kasey Kaepernick and Emily Marcus (instructors at Catalyst Academy) also attend every board meeting. The next Board meeting will be held at the Catalyst Academy building on December 2, 2024.

Sources of Strength Peer Leader Training

The middle school has had their kick-off event for the year with Sources of Strength Suicide Prevention training. The first meeting for the year was on October 5, 2024. Their first team event will be



team-building activities for the Peer Leaders at 1000 Islands Environmental Center in

Kaukauna on October 15, 2024. The peer leaders in the middle school have been identified for the 2024-25 school year. The students engaged in a full day of learning what the program has to offer and their role in developing that program. The Middle School is entering the fourth year of using this program. The mission of Sources of Strength is to prevent suicide by increasing help-seeking behaviors and promoting connections between peers and caring adults.

Bulldogs of Character

The Bulldogs of Character participated in the annual Bulldog Dash color run in Hatten Park on Sunday, September 15. Students ran through Hatten Park and had powdered color thrown on them. It was a great event for families. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with this event.



Caring Closet Continues to Operate in All Buildings

The Caring Closet (overseen by our school counselors and social worker) continues to operate in all buildings.

Items that are stocked include:

- Hygiene Items (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products)
- Clothing
- Socks, underwear
- Food items (limited) - Students who need food items for the weekend, are signed up for Project Backpack. There are currently 120 students utilizing the Project Backpack program.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and families in the community, the Caring Closets allow students to have their immediate needs met during the school day.

Director of Teaching and Learning

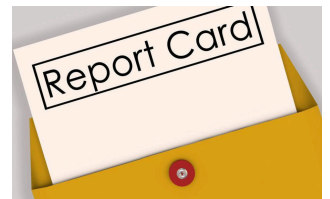
Fall Parent Teachers Conferences

Please mark your calendars for October 24, as the district will host its fall parent-teacher conferences. We strongly encourage parents and guardians to schedule meetings with their children's teachers to discuss their progress and educational goals for the academic year.



Change in Annual State School Report Card Terminology

The Wisconsin Department of Public Education recently updated its annual school report card terminology to clarify academic progress assessment.



Department of Public Instruction:

DPI focuses on growth-based mindset in updated student performance level descriptors for standardized assessments

"Overwhelming feedback in survey guides first update to terminology in nearly 10 years"

Following months of extensive engagement with internal and external education partners, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is updating terminology used to describe performance

levels on required statewide standardized assessments. The updated terms are intended to foster conversations promoting student potential and growth at every level.

“During my time as superintendent and dating back to when I was a district administrator, I’ve often heard confusion from parents, families, and legislators on what performance terms on tests meant in regard to where students are at academically,” State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly said. “We really wanted to hear from our experts, our educators, on how they talk about student performance on tests and try to use the language they use. This updated terminology is not only clearer, it also recognizes the endless potential each of our students has as learners.”

The terms developing, approaching, meeting, and advanced will replace the previous terms that have been used since 2014-15 – below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. These updated terms will be used moving forward (beginning with assessments from the 2023-24 school year) on student reports for the Forward Exam, in addition to school, district, and state secure and public reports for the Forward Exam, ACT, and PreACT Secure.