

District Level Highlights

It's amazing to see apparel, car stickers and even business signs noting "Beloit Proud". We have so much of which to be proud in this community including the achievements of our students and staff in the School District of Beloit. Please share in our joys and accomplishments in this year's edition of the Points of Pride:

- Graduation rates have again risen in Beloit, with the rate at Beloit Memorial High School, 91.2%, higher than the state average of 88.6%.
- State Superintendent Tony Evers offered congratulations to three School District of Beloit Schools – Converse Elementary, Cunningham Intermediate, and Roy Chapman Andrews Academy for earning Wisconsin Title I School of Recognition honors for the 2014-15 school year. "These schools are examples of the success we need in all of our schools to close the achievement gap," Evers said.
- Converse Elementary was also named a Department of Public Instruction Spotlight School - one of a handful of schools in the state chosen as models for our schools to observe and model.

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More Stories!



Check out our news blog, FULL of student and staff profiles, programs, awards, photos and videos. To quickly access the site from your phone or mobile device, scan the QR code on the left (beloitschools.org).



District Highlights Continued

This year saw full implementation of the 1:1 iPad initiative, with students showing extraordinary proficiency in not only using current software and applications, but demonstrating the ability to adapt to rapidly changing technology.



Four of our teachers earned National Board Certification this year - the highest level a teacher can reach: Heidi Andre, Chris Behrens, Rachel Braun and Lyman Elliott.

Several more of our teachers were selected by the Beloit Rotary Club as Teachers of the Month: Suzette Nunez (Aldrich), Kathy Cerniglia (Morgan), Deb Karpfinger (Aldrich), Christopher Klatt (BMHS), Jennifer Murry (McNeel), Laurie LeFevre (February), Susan Spencer (McNeel), Emily Allen (Morgan), Nancy Furman (Robinson), Mary Ellen Fuentes (Todd).

The first transition phase to intermediate schools (grades 4-8) took place this year, with Cunningham and McNeel both becoming intermediate schools. Building addition dedication ceremonies were held for Gaston and Cunningham this past Fall, just as major progress was made on the new school: Fruzen Intermediate, set to open in the Fall of 2015.

We had strong student representation at the joint Beloit-Janesville Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Ceremony at Blackhawk Technical College, including our BMHS Choir and Theatre students.

Our Advanced Career Education program grew, including the addition of our first House Build project in which students build a house from the foundation up under the supervision of local industry professionals.

Since February 1st, students in the District have checked out more than 7,500 e-books, (840 different titles) from our District OverDrive Digital Library.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Converse

Once again, Converse earned Wisconsin School of Recognition. This is the fourth consecutive year in receiving this honor.

We were also named a DPI Spotlight School, one of only thirteen in the state, which resulted in 5 Spotlight Visits to Converse including the Department of Public Instruction. All guests left with very positive comments about Converse and our district! Because of the Spotlight grant funds, staff were able to attend three state conferences to bring even more ideas back to our school.

Converse was also an Ecolab Grant Recipient in order to provide more resources for students. Special thank you to Carole Campbell for her help with this!

We enjoyed several family events this year, including the Title 1 Math Night with take home math games for families.

Our active PTO will purchase new playground equipment for the following school year.

All students in kindergarten through third grade were engaged in exciting lessons using their classroom iPads with structured guidance from their knowledgeable teachers.



Gaston

This fall, we held our dedication ceremony, involving student musical performances and esteemed speakers from the community and local government, to celebrate the building addition, new playground and school garden.



Gaston received a School of Distinction award from the WI PBIS Network for our work in building positive behavior systems. Furthering our work, we centered our PBIS and Character Trait Assemblies around the *Pyramid of Success* by Coach John Wooden.

STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Math) began this year, with students participating in Project Lead the Way Launch, Lego STEM curriculum, along with the National Geographic Leveled Books. We presented Project Lead the Way Launch at the *STEMposium* at Blackhawk Tech in Milton, WI. Representatives from four schools from the Madison School District came and visited to see the one-to-one technology in the classrooms and the STREAM program.

We maintained a strong commitment to Professional Learning Communities and interventions to meet the students' needs after the PLCs leaderships went to the *PLC at Work Conference* in Lincolnshire, IL.

Hackett

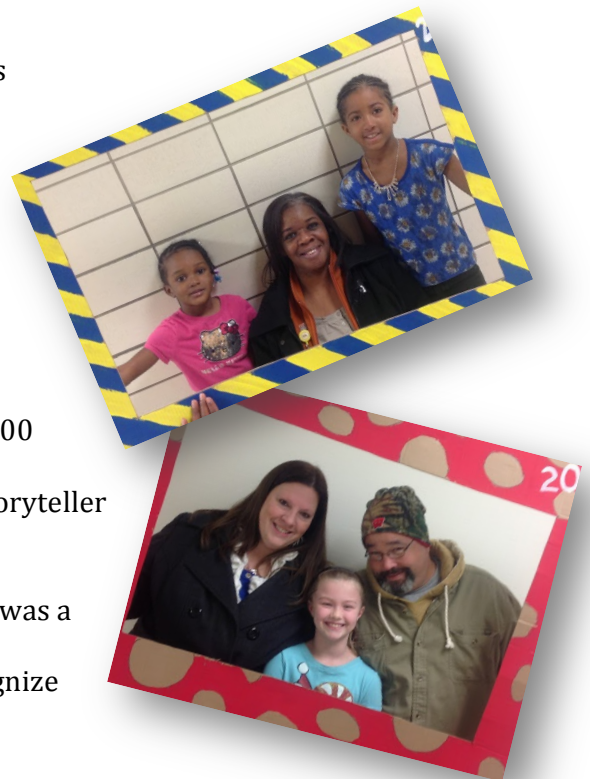
Hackett families and staff have had a great year! We have worked together with the community and focused on the importance of educating the whole child. Here is a synopsis of the great happenings at Hackett for the 2014-15 school year.

Building Character

- Recognized as a School of Distinction by the Wisconsin RtI Center for its PBIS program
- 77 Students participated in social-emotional groups
- 15 different social-emotional groups took place

Family Events

- Reading Counts Workshops
- Family Fitness Night
- Movie Nights
- Multi-Cultural Night
- Grade level Breakfasts
- Applebee's Breakfast
- Carnival
- Family Picnic
- STAR awards for parent participation
- McTeacher Night-raised \$900
- Winter and Spring Sing
- Literacy Night: Bilingual storyteller with free books for all
- Chuck-E-Cheese Night
- 1st Annual Holiday Bazaar was a huge success
- Parent Celebration to recognize dedicated parents
- Math Night
- Monthly 4K Family Days



*Hackett Highlights Continued***Community Partnerships**

- UW Extension Nutrition partnership
- Just Say No- Optimist Club
- Beloit Public Library Booklegger program
- Beloit Memorial High School Student mentors
- Beloit Public Library Art Show
- Visual Performing Art Show at BMHS
- Agriculture in the Classroom- Rock County Farm Bureau
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- Beloit College Women's Lacrosse team volunteer during the day and at our family events
- Beloit College Men's baseball team volunteers as lunch buddies to our students
- Roy Bossingham, a generous community member, donated over 500 children's books to Hackett School and students. The books ranged from hardcover picture books to easy readers and chapter book series!
- Mrs. Zamudio (parent) has lunch with our students daily!
- Junior Achievement- ABC Supply
- Read Across America Day - Community members invited into classrooms to read to students
- Mr. David from Boys and Girls Club - Aggression Groups & mentoring boys
- Beloit Hospice - Grief Group
- Other community members as mentors
- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church sending food home with our students during breaks
- First National Bank

**Grants**

- Sarah Cary: Eco Lab grant \$3000, Stateline Community Foundation \$300, McDonalds School Health Grant \$1000, Fuel up to Play \$800
- Stateline Community Foundation \$16,000
- Meemic Foundation Grant: \$500

Merrill

Students and Families

As part of Merrill's PBIS program, golden ticket parties were organized each quarter to celebrate students' outstanding behavior. The dance party and snow painting were popular!



We provided a variety of new and exciting activities as part of our CLC program, such as Chess and Checkers, Mural Club, and Drama. We also opened our library and computer lab on Saturdays to families this year. All children who attended received a free book every time they visited.

In May, we took 40 students involved in our CLC program to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. Students enjoyed hands-on exhibits, a 4D movie, and front row seats to the aquatic show.

Thirteen third graders were selected for our Paw Patrol this year. Paw Patrol members ate lunch with our Kindergarteners and First Graders, modeling good table manners. These students then went to recess with students to play games, help resolve conflicts, and assist with lining up.

Students raised \$509 during our Jump Rope for Heart event this spring. All proceeds benefit the American Heart Association.

In four short days, students raised \$365.68 to help purchase a funnel ball for our Merrill playground. Our Home and School Committee donated the remaining funds for this effort.

Merrill Highlights Continued

Our Rise 'n Shine Readers program offered families an opportunity to read and enjoy breakfast before school. After students reported to class, parents stayed to receive reading tips and resources from our literacy coach, Bridget Westbury.

Merrill's Home and School Committee organized a variety of family events such as family movie nights, Walk Your Child to School Day, our Black History Month kickoff, Read Across America's Reading Restaurant, Muffins for Mom, and Donuts for Dad.

Staff

Merrill's Physical Education teacher, Jake Traeger, received a \$1,000 Balanced Active Lifestyle Grant from McDonald's this year for fitness equipment.

Merrill participated in the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant. A behavior intervention specialist, Janet Lobdell, was hired to help staff and students with positive behavior strategies and provided staff training. We were also selected as a soft launch for trauma kit training in conjunction with the Beloit Police Department and local medical professionals.

On May 3, a team from Merrill packed 1,000 meals as part of Rock County's Million Meals event in Janesville. Rock County received 250,000 meals of the meals prepared.

Community

BRAVE (Beloit Residents Against Violence Everywhere) volunteers provided extra eyes and ears along common walking routes after dismissal. BRAVE also passed out coffee and hot chocolate to families during drop off time throughout the school year.

Last July, volunteers from Bike and Build, a group biking across the country to raise awareness for affordable housing, refreshed our school garden and built six raised beds. We then had helpers from Community Action and the Merrill Community Center help fill our new beds. This spring, students planted vegetable seeds and will be tending our "new" garden this summer. We are also excited to plant a butterfly garden this summer in conjunction with Rock County Conservationists' Monarch Butterfly Initiative.

At our family movie night in November, over 90 coats were distributed to kids by the Beloit Fire Department as part of Operation Warm.

Merrill partnered with Children's Hospital's Exchange Family Resource Center at many school events to provide resources. Many Merrill families benefited from the program's support.

Turtle Creek Bookstore and Ronald McDonald made visits to Merrill to distribute free books to all 4K and Kindergarten students.



In April, a weekly food pantry for Merrill families began at Kolak in partnership with Caritas and Second Harvest. This opportunity will be offered to our families every Friday all summer.

Merrill representatives attended Porter Avenue Watch Group meetings throughout the school year to receive neighborhood updates and provide information about school happenings.

Robinson

Robinson had another stellar year with our wonderful students and families. We welcome the 15 students from other school districts that have joined the Robinson family as we grow programming options. This past year, we expanded our Dual Language Immersion program to second grade, and will include third grade next year as well as another 4K section!



Some of our highlights this year include:

- 4k literacy - over 80% of students are reading at least at a level A!
- 1st Annual Soul Food Dinner was a great success.
- Noche Latina night had a great turn out and connected families with community organizations.
- Teachers from Robinson presented at the WIABE (association for bilingual educators) conference!
- Robinson had the first elementary school electronic sign installed for communicating with families.
- Kindergarten literacy data was greatly improved!
- 3rd Annual Olympics took place on June 5th.
- Family picnic was well attended.
- Computers for Families program put many computers in the hands of families without access to this technology!
- Food drive for tornado victims in Rockford area.

Todd

Todd is proud to have earned a School of Merit Award from the WI PBIS Network for work in fostering a culture of positive behavior, as well as a School of Merit award from DPI for the implementation of Response to Intervention in our building.

We were thrilled to include Early Childhood three year olds this year.

Todd School is very fortunate that we are located close to Beloit College. We have several programs that work collaboratively with the college. We not only have at least three to four Duffy intern students to work to develop an after school reading program, but we have students to spend their time with Todd students completing their field experiences and we have a program involving visual arts and psychology that includes several Beloit College students working with Todd students on critical aspects of art.

We celebrated many different family activities throughout the school year, including Grandparents' Day!

A building goal for Todd is to actively seek students to participate in at least 2 extracurricular activities each year. We have Student Council, Just Say No Club, Spirit Squad, Drama Club, Destination Imagination, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, after school sports, second grade after school reading club in collaboration with Beloit College, and EXCCEL after school programming.



Todd School was fortunate to receive the 21st century grant for a third cycle. We are in our 12th year of the EXCCEL after school program at Todd. The program was developed to enhance the learning for students needing extra assistance. We provide a snack, recreation, homework time, and designated reading and math extensions. We have approximately 36 students attending daily from 1st grade through 3rd grade.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

McLenegan

On the eve of closing as an elementary school, the 50th Anniversary of McLenegan school was celebrated in May, with attendance of over 300 guests. Staff from each generation of McLenegan's history returned to McLenegan to reunite with friends and past students. Past principals Carol Fox and Dr. Robert Pickett led the ceremony as honorary emcees.

Other highlights this year included:

Students celebrated "Socktober" this year, we raised over 600 pairs of new socks donated to project 16:49 and Merrill Community Center. To end "Socktober" we also had a sock hop with hula hoop competition and limbo.

The student council raised money to build 10 buddy benches for the primary and intermediate schools. We partnered with the local fire department for the assembly and students sanded and stained the benches. The council also did a spring drive to gather items for the Merrill Community Center's after school program.

Our last annual carnival was held at the end of May. Students were able to earn tickets for good behavior throughout the week before the carnival. Students came together and made posters and helped set up games before the carnival started. They were happy to volunteer their time and were constantly looking for additional opportunities to help!

Students earned money for our school by running laps for a jog-a-thon.

McLenegan hosted many events this school year to engage families. The events included Hispanic Heritage, Trick or Treats, Muffins for Moms, Donuts for Dads, the Reading Restaurant, Granola for Grandparents, Dr. Seuss Movie Night, March Luncheon, and a School Carnival. In addition, over 70 parents and students attended the McLenegan Family Science Night. This event was held with Mad Science out of Milwaukee. Students made slime and cotton candy that they were able to take with them from the event.

Students enjoyed participating in the Packer Outreach program. Students completed 5 stations of football drills. The program emphasized the Play 60 theme that the NFL has been promoting.

McLenegan fifth grade student had artwork published in the Southern Lakes Anthology and was presented an award at UW-Whitewater.

McLenegan 5th graders took first place in the annual Spring track meet. The highlight was taking 1st-3rd in the Tug-A-War!

CaKorea Lomax from Mrs. Lynch's class won an essay contest for the Dr. Martin Luther King's commemoration at Blackhawk Technical College; the essay competition was called "Together We Can".

Many students participated in the Magic Waters and Six Flags Reading Programs, those students earned free tickets to the amusement parks.

200 students met the reading goals needed to earn a free Snapper baseball game. This a community outreach program the Snappers offer annually.

Ms. Rapach had 8 students complete over 1000 hours of reading at home this year! This was reading above and beyond the regular reading minutes that were required by all students.



Morgan



Morgan has enjoyed a fantastic last year as an elementary school during this district transition to intermediate schools (grades 4-8). One of our highlights included both of our Destination Imagination teams earning the right to compete at State; one team earned a spot at the final Globals competition!

Our priority of increasing student achievement remained strong. As an example, in fourth grade math, the percent of growth projection met was: African American - 148%, Caucasian - 222%, and Hispanic - 168%.

(Programs to enhance achievement: Response to Intervention tier groups, Readers and Writers Workshop, Universal Differentiation, Leadership Teams, Positive Behavioral Intervention System (PBIS), 1:1 iPads, Flexible Grouping, Cooperative Learning, TRIBES (culture-building), Co-Teaching, Professional Learning Communities, and Student Intervention Team.)

Community Involvement

- Boys Scouts
- Girls Scouts
- Junior Achievement
- Rock County Nutritional Program
- Beloit Public Library
- Girls Who Rock
- Caritas Canned Food Drive
- Student council hosted a penny war fundraiser which raised enough money to provide holiday meals for school's families.
- STAR Blast Celebrations achievement and STAR Matrix incentive / parent partnership opportunity.
- Community involvement through the Community Reader Program where members of the community come into the classroom and read to the students.
- Each 4th grader this year participated in the Morgan School Wax Museum where they researched a famous person and then "became" that person in character and families attended.
- Raising and lowering the American flag each and every day at Morgan using proper flag etiquette with Veteran

Parent Survey Results

- 100% expressed a belief that Morgan provides a safe, secure, respectful environment for all children and parents.
- 99% stated that their Morgan educators care for their child.
- 99% feel they are active partners in their child's education.
- 99% believe that their calls and questions are responded to thoughtfully and respectfully within an efficient timeframe.
- 99% of parents express the school reports positive attributes and areas of growth.
- 100% feel positive about their child's school.

Staff Survey Shows Positive Climate

Staff survey results impressively displays a positive, healthy culture and working environment where individuals are consistently treated with respect, communicated with effectively, engaged in shared decision-making, and collaboratively support one another to meet the academic/social-emotional needs of all students.



In fact, one of our teachers, Kathy Cerniglia, earned the Barbara Hickman Beyond Expectations award for the many opportunities she provides for students during and after school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Aldrich

We have enjoyed visits by fourth and fifth graders as they tour our school in preparation for our transition to becoming an intermediate school. Our current students have also been busy with the following:

Career Education

- 50 students attended UW-Madison's Engineering Day, letting them learn more about engineering as a career.
- A conference was held in Milwaukee for middle school students to attend a College Career field trip for 30 Aldrich students.
- 20 Aldrich students visited Milwaukee's Urban World in February.
- 100% of 8th grade conferencing was completed, preparing them for high school and postsecondary planning.

Building Character

We implemented a scan system to reward students for following the school's expectations. Students who received 5 scans could attend one of several PBIS Assemblies where Aldrich students competed in games, student vs. staff basketball, spirit week contests and our end of the year carnival.

Our active Student Council was responsible for: Spirit Week, Box Tops (over 2000 collected!), Penny Wars, Daily Video Announcements for the entire body, the Winter Formal Dance, and 8th Grade Dance.

National Honor Society inducted 70+ members at their 1st Chili Contest. Earlier in the year, NJHS ran a food drive schoolwide, feeding 10 families and raising \$121 for an area food bank.

Performing Arts

- Lori Gustafson, Lisa Reshkus and Kolten Bell directed Aldrich's Fame Musical this year, with students leading an incredible show filled with song and dance from the 80's.
- Aldrich Jazz & Concert Bands Wins 1st Place at Gurnee, Illinois' Music in the Parks. They scored a 95.7 and beat all the middle and high school bands that competed.
- Aldrich Concert Choir Wins 2nd Place at Gurnee, Illinois' Music in the Parks.
- Aldrich Orchestra Earns Honorable Mention at Gurnee, Illinois' Music in the Parks.



Academics

The preliminary round of the school wide National Geographic Geography Bee was completed the last week of January with 10 room champions who were selected to advance to the Championship round. The 10 finalists were: Victor Estrella, Jameson Hosey, Saul Parente, Olivia Delgado, Kobe Chandler, Max Balliet (Room Co-Champion), Edson Perez (Room Co-Champion), Justine Christenson-Ranum, Quinton Scoville and Kasandra Duran-Vazquez. The School wide Bee was held Tuesday, February 3rd at 4:15 in the Auditorium. After an arduous competition, Max Balliet came out on top as the 2015 Aldrich School Champion.

Once again, Aldrich had two Destination Imagination Teams compete at Lake Geneva Badger School District. The teams were coached by Jamie Thompson and Eric Stibbe. Both DI teams earned 3rd at Regionals.

Math 24 Regionals at UW-Madison had four students from grade 6, six students from 7th grade and six students from grade 8 attend and compete. In grade 7 and 8, we had two students earn a 2nd and 2 students earn a 4th place.

7th Grade World Geography had all students participate in a our week long Giant Travelling Map of Asia offers students wide and varied explorations across the continent, an expanse encompassing almost 30% of the Earth's total land mass.

Aldrich Continued

MAPS District Testing Progress

- In 6th grade, Winter to Spring, students grew 3.8 points in Math & 2.0 points in Reading.
- In 7th grade, 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, Math grew 6.1 points and Reading gained 7.8 points.
- In 8th grade, 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, Math grew 3.9 and Reading gained 5.6 points.

Activities

Aldrich Athletics had over 160 athletes participate in our 5 seasons and the Boys Soccer Team went undefeated this year.



Aldrich started our first ever Robotics Team this fall and we competed at MATC in Madison in the FLL(First LEGO League). The Robotics team finished 9th out of 25 in the FFL competition.

Rec Nights continued to be an Aldrich student body hit for all that attended. We held 8 Rec Nights in which students played sports, games and danced in the commons.

A FACE Kids grant through Dane county was implemented in Rock county; we implemented groups such as leadership, and social skills. Aldrich also had a Boys Circle & Girls Circle with the leadership of Rock County Diversions officers Sammy and Ben.

Aldrich PE led all their students through a fitnessgram as we moved away from the President's' Fitness Award and moved to the Fitnessgram. 35 students participated in a field study where they wore activity monitors on their wrists at various times throughout the year.

Guest Speakers

- 92 year old WWII Veteran, Eugene Strutzenburg, shared his living history and experiences from his days served as a veteran in WWII 1942.
- African-American Opera Singer Gwnedlyn Brown provided a unique experience for Choir class as she taught and showcased opera to students and staff.
- Black History Assembly Honors Aldrich Teacher and Community advocate Mrs. Janet B. Elzy with a lifetime Achievement Award Assembly. 20 African American Students honored for 3.5 GPA or higher at our Janet B. Elzy Black History Assembly.
- Latino Heritage was celebrated in May in our Cinco De Mayo celebration as a former BMHS graduate Jasmine Carbajal spoke to the students and community members sang and danced traditional Latino dances for the student body.
- Rachel's Challenge was presented to the entire student body where students are motivated and equipped to start and sustain a chain reaction of kindness and compassion that transforms schools and communities.



INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS

Cunningham

Our first year as an intermediate school opened with a ribbon cutting to celebrate the new addition, courtesy of the residents of Beloit as part of the 2012 Facilities Referendum. Our very talented 7th and 8th grade choir students prepared and performed 2 selections as part of the celebration.



Activities

- The orchestra performed for and heard a concert by world-renowned violinist Rachel Barton Pine.
- Orchestra students formed a group to work on music from movies, video games and TV.
- Students from all musical areas and grades participated in a music competition in Lake Forest, IL. All three groups earned a gold ranking and spent the rest of the day at Six Flags Great America.
- Selected Choir Students performed at the Rock River Choral Festival. Also featured were choirs from Aldrich, McNeel, and BMHS.
- We formed the CAV Choir this year, a choir experience for selected 8th graders and CD students.
- The Honors Choir provided the musical entertainment for this year's joint City-District Arbor Day Celebration, as well as performed 3 numbers for adjudication at the Northern Illinois Vocal Competition.
- Several grade-level sings were presented this year, as well as the following theatrical performances: "Twelve Angry Pigs", "Hoodie", "Honk, Jr." and "The Journey of Noble Gnarble".
- Twenty-one students had an opportunity to perform dramatic duo skits. Seven of those students were chosen by fellow students to perform at the the Visual Arts & Performing evening at Beloit Memorial High School on April 14.

Academics

Several students attended the local Beloit Math 24 competition, with 4 of the 9 trophies earned by Cunningham 4th grade, and 4 of the 9 trophies earned by Cunningham 5th grade. We also sent many students to Madison for the Regional Competition. Two 5th grade students and one 4th grade student earned trophies at that competition.

Students in Mrs. Combs' homeroom and reading intervention group (42 students total) participated in the Beloit Elks Americanism Essay Contest. This year's title was "What the Pledge Allegiance Means to Me"! 12 student essays were sent to the regional contest. Emily Murray received an honorable mention and Crystal Macho's essay went onto the the state competition.

Fourteen students in 4th and 5th grade participated in the annual BookQuest competition. They read books from a list of 30 titles and memorized the authors to prepare for the competition. Cunningham students earned 6 gold medals, 3 silver medals, and 5 bronze medals.

Kiwanis celebrated students who raised at least one grade per quarter without going down in any subjects.

Students worked hard throughout the year on Career Cruising. On this website, they are able to research potential careers that they may want in the future, and also they could begin planning for their future after high school. It served as a very eye-opening experience for the students when they realized their potential!

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Cunningham Continued

Character Building

- Art club did a wonderful job with designing, painting and then cleanup of the winter themed windows of the IMC.
- We had our first ever Diabetes Walk, organized by RN Lanaya Ballout and Jenni Krueger, resulting in \$1,400 raised.
- Students have pen pals at Premier Care Nursing Home. Students have written letters and colored seasonal pictures each month throughout the school year. We interviewed our pen pals in January and learned so much from them. The students and residents loved meeting their pen pals. We will be visiting again in June for a picnic. This is a wonderful experience for our kids to focus on others.
- Students in 6th grade have been working on PBIS videos to be shared with other classes within the school. Students have written scripts, directed, and starred in these video projects.
- Positive Purple Parties began this year in which students who show exemplary behavior more than 50% of the days each month enjoy a fun party at the end of the month.
- In an effort to help Ms Krueger collect tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, students brought in pop tabs from home, bringing in over 6000 tabs!

Community Partnerships

- Cunningham's First Annual Black History Month Presentation featuring 2 guest speakers: Higher Ground Christian Center Pastor Sherrick Anderson and Beloit City Council Member / Help Yourself Program Assistant Director Regina Hendrix.
- Students from all orchestra played an original film score written by Beloit students. 5th graders at Morgan Elementary wrote music to a short film and our orchestra performed it at a concert of the Rock River Philharmonic.
- We are thankful for a grant received by Ecolab to purchase 30 ukuleles for use in the General Music Classroom, beginning in the 2015 - 2016 school year.

McNeel

The students and staff of McNeel Middle School and Burdge Elementary School successfully merged to form McNeel Intermediate School - the HOME of the Lancers. The students and staff of McNeel embraced change and worked very hard to make the transition for our youngest to our oldest students and their families as smooth and engaging as possible.



Other highlights this year:

- The awesome students and staff at McNeel Intermediate School implemented an iPad Initiative ensuring that every student had access to an iPad and was able to use the instructional device to access and produce 21st Century learning opportunities and products.
- Approximately 100 McNeel Intermediate School eighth grade students attended the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, where they received a presentation from an admissions officer on what the UW is looking for in applicants, toured campus and heard from student athletes about what it takes to balance academics with the other parts of college life.
- College Competition Week provided every student an opportunity to adopt a college or university, learn about that university and its programs and experience a week of "Homecoming" style games and competitions.
- Our 9th Annual Student Staff Basketball Game resulted in **another** staff win while raising almost \$300 for local charities.



McNeel Continued

- Fifty McNeel Intermediate School 4th through 8th graders attended the University of Wisconsin Madison Engineering Expo where students had an opportunity to tour the engineering portion of the UW campus as well as participate in many fun and interesting engineering activities.
- The McNeel Lancer Expo featured over 20 outside agencies, 12 extracurricular clubs and activity groups as well as displays and presentations by each of our grade level and exploratory content teams with over 400 students and families attending.
- Both McNeel Lancer Boy's Basketball Teams finished the 2014 - 2015 Basketball Season undefeated.
- Through our Guided Reading Initiative, 76% of Lancer 4th grade students who began second semester more than 1 year behind their peers, grew as readers. Included in those students who grew as readers, 82% of our ELL students and 73% of our Special Education students also made impressive gains.
- As a part of McNeel Intermediate School's tribute to Dr. King's "Legacy of Service" our students participated in numerous service projects including the Lancer Book Drive, numerous clothing and food drives as well as raising funds for various local charities.
- Our popular Center Stage program provided 300 Lancer students from all grade levels enriching before and after school programs focused on improving reading, writing and mathematics skills as well as providing families a safe environment for students to receive after school programming.
- As part of our school-wide, PBIS system, Student Recognition breakfasts honored over 220 students and their families throughout the year for demonstrating great character traits of Honor, Ownership, Mindfulness and Engagement here at the Home of the Lancers.
- Our Lancer Band earned a gold rating at the Great America Band Competition!

CHARTER SCHOOL

Roy Chapman Andrews Academy

RCAA was one of three district schools to earn WI School of Recognition status by the Department of Public Instruction.

Manual Renteria Gomez earned a prestigious Initiative Scholars Award from the Herb Kohl Education Foundation this spring.



ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Beloit Learning Academy



Beloit Learning Academy students are now able to help shovel and rake lawns in their school neighborhood thanks to a donation from Beloit Culvers, Golden "K" Kiwanis, Kiwanis Club of Beloit, and Ace Hardware.

HIGH SCHOOL

Beloit Memorial High School



Purple Pride was in high gear for the entire year! Please enjoy this peek into the Knight Life.

Academics

- We hosted the WEF (Wisconsin Education Fair) which gave over 600 students an opportunity to explore 100 Technical, Four-Year, and Military options from across the United States in our BMHS Field House.
- The Beloit Rotary Club recognized 35 seniors as "Students of the Week".
- Ishanti Harris was recognized as "Student of the Month" for the Lions Club.
- Ra'jean Bradford received recognition for her essay at the joint Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in February.
- Three students in Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 classes had personal narratives published in the Beloit community Spanish language newspaper La Voz.
- Beloit poets, Ibhar Loera, Raymundo King, and Diana Rivera-Quintana, continue to build their collections of poems. This reflects students who genuinely speak for themselves and validate the culture and strength of our city.
- Mrs. Sellen's Public Speaking class along with Mr. Sindahl created the morning announcements show. This show airs every Friday morning. Students from Public Speaking are newscasters with teachers, students, and staff contributing videos and pictures to the show.

- Personal Finance finally passed department and board approval to be a required course for graduation beginning with next year's incoming freshman. We join the growing number of districts in the country that now require financial literacy as a graduation requirement. Thanks to the Board of Education and Administration, both past and present, for seeing the value in this in the face of severe budget constraints.
- This year's Badger Boys delegate is Gerado Badillo and Badger Girls State delegate is Una Williams for this summer's upcoming leadership conference.

Staff Accomplishments



- Lyman Elliott, Chris Behrens, and Heidi Andre all earned National Board Certification in their respective fields. Less than 2% of all educators reach this level throughout the state.
- John McClelland was named a 2015 Kohl Fellowship winner.
- Soccer Coach Brian Denu was named coach of the year.
- World Language Educators Julie Horvath (Spanish) and Jamie Gurholt (French) represented Beloit Memorial by presenting at the state WAFLT (Wisconsin Association of Foreign Language Teachers) convention in November.
- Mr. Quamme was awarded a scholarship through the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers' Program to travel and study in Germany and Poland this summer for two weeks.
- Elizabeth Carpenter had an article accepted for publication in School Arts Magazine, the oldest (1901) art education magazine in the country with a readership of 50,000. Her wigs project featuring the sculptures of 10 BMHS students will run in the October issue this coming fall. Ms. Carpenter also completed an APSI in art history, bringing her third AP offering to BMHS.

Activities

Sports

The Boys Soccer team reached the State Tournament for the First Time Ever!



Steven Makinen was invited to participate in the Bellin Combine as one of the top young football players in the state. The combine was at the Green Bay Packer's facilities.

In October, 2014, Brenda Hernandez and Bailey Cronin became the first Lady Knights ever to qualify for the state cross country meet.



Girls Swim Team NISCA Academic Team Gold Award Varsity GPA 3.97

10 years in a row winning the Gold Award.

4 New Varsity Records

- 200 Medley Relay: Olivia Makinen, Grace Roegner, Jackie Townshend, Maggie Gianvecchio
- 200 Free Relay: Heaven Wells, Maggie Gianvecchio, Cece Cardenas, Grace Roegner
- 400 Free Relay: Heaven Wells, Cece Cardenas, Olivia Makinen, Maggie Gianvecchio
- 200 Individual Medley: Olivia Makinen

NISCA Academic All-American: Jackie Townshend, Kyla Robson, Megan Schildt, Erin McCawley

Boys Swim Team NISCA Academic Team Silver Award Varsity GPA 3.52

WISCA Academic All-State: Justin Stanton, Collin Heyerdahl

NISCA Academic All-American: Jarrett Malizio, Christian Schober

The new fitness center opened in early July. The number of students that are now working out has increased rapidly. It is open before school and after school and our athletic programs are utilizing it to improve all teams in the BMHS community.

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts department held their third annual Miracle on 4th Street, expanding our performance to a daytime performance of elementary students, and two evening performances. Our audience size doubled since last year.

BMHS Theatre hosted their 5th annual Haunted Hayride with great success--this year's story involved insane clowns.

The fall play this year was a complex piece of Epic Theatre performed with student-written, original music and a world premiere of a new translation of the German play by Bertolt Brecht.

The spring musical this year was Shrek, which was performed in front of 3000 patrons over two weekends. The theatre participated in the statewide Tommy Awards for high school musicals, and was nominated for 22 awards (Actual Awards are being announced on May 7th), including Outstanding Musical and Outstanding: Director (Greg Wallendal), Music Director (Jacob Truby)*, Choreographer (Kari Dray), Orchestra (Jacob Truby & Chris Behrens), Lighting (Eric Stibbe), Overall Design, Sound Design (Aidan Murphy), Set Design (Eric Stibbe & Brian Winchester), Costumes (Emily Riesenweber), Stage Manager (Justin Beckington)*, Ensemble*, Leads (Kolten Bell*, Erin McCawley*, Josh Rebene, Chris Ogden), Supporting Roles (Brad Metz, Alexia Hollis, Juliana Bennett, Shane Flaningam, Emma Corum), and Spirit Award to Sara Poff*. [* indicates awards won at the Tommys.]

BMHS Theatre was invited to perform in Scotland at the Fringe Festival for 2016. Over 2000 schools are nominated each year, yet only about 50 schools are selected each year. Our first fundraiser for this trip will be Seussical the Musical, performed May 21-23, 2015.



Art

Ten students traveled to London, Paris, Lucerne, Milan, Florence and Rome the summer of 2014 representing BMHS with aplomb.

Micky Villafuente had her sculpture selected from the regional WRAP (WI Regional Arts Program) show to represent our district at the state level show in Waukesha, this past summer.

Art Club students created a fifty foot tape mural and four large parade puppets for the lib dub and homecoming pep rally. They also made over a dozen mini murals of creative geniuses soon to deck the halls of BMHS, with funds supplied by a grant that Ms. Carpenter received from EcoLab. They are currently working on 12 trophies to be awarded at the Visit Beloit International Kubb tournament.

Angelie Tuch-Sanchez, Liz Santacruz, Caylee Rolon and McKenzie Brown had art work selected for the WAEA (Wi Art Educator Assoc.) regional show in Baraboo WI. Caylee won one of 4 NASCO artist awards. Rolon and Angelie Tuch Sanchez's pieces were then chosen to move on to the state level WAEA competition, where Caylee Rolon won first place for 11th and 12th graders.

Morgan Kuykendall, Alyssa Crawford, Donya Quotum, RaeJean Bradford, joined Ms. Carpenter and Walter Blunt in having work accepted for the Beloit College Black Lives Matter show that ran this spring at the Wright Museum.

Angelie Tuch-Sanchez, Liz Santacruz, Caylee Rolon and Morgan Kuykendall were selected to exhibit at the Congressional Art Show in Madison.

Music Notes

Another year of Knight Choir brought the house down at its annual performance and was featured in the Madison TV news region.



The BMHS Jazz Band 1 was selected as a finalist for the 20th Annual Essentially Ellington Jazz Band Competition and Festival. This was the fourth consecutive and 5 out of the last 7 years to make the finals. Six students brought home "Outstanding Soloist" awards: Breanna DeNure (Saxophone), Nora Lewis (Saxophone), Joe Hudson (trombone), Frank McKearn (trumpet), Alex Aceves (banjo), and Maddie Patch (clarinet). Jazz I also took home the top awards at the Coe College Jazz Summit (Cedar Rapids, IA.) and UW-Platteville Jazz Festival.



Frank McKearn (trumpet) was selected to participate in the inaugural Jazz Academy in Castleton, VA (Summer 2015). This two-week program, designed and instructed by Wynton Marsalis and a select team of faculty, will serve as a rigorous training institute for 42 of the most advanced and dedicated high school jazz students (grades 9-12).

The BMHS Bands completed a successful trip to Florida. The Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band I, and Jazz Band II competed at Festival Disney, while the BMHS Pep Band perform at Universal Studios. Jazz I brought home it's third Golden Mickey for Best Overall High School Jazz Band.

Student Life

Ninth Grade students were able to participate in Challenge Day, where they learned how to "Be the Change."

Bailey Cronin and Tyler Dupuis were selected to attend a Rotary leadership Camp in May.

Over 750 Dads and daughters participated in the annual Father-Daughter Dance.

Hundreds of students attended a flawless Homecoming and Winter Formal dance.

A Community Readiness Assessment was completed and a logic model is in place to address Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, and Queer safety and inclusiveness in the BMHS community.

The Student Equity Committee was formed. This group, made up of students, staff, and community members, was created to create a safer and more inclusive environment for LGBTQ students at BMHS.

Volunteerism

Beloit Memorial in partnership with Beloit College Upward Bound and Kids Against Hunger, packaged over 120,000 meals for the hungry in Rock County and the around the world.

BMHS Staff and Students brought awareness to Heart Health by participating in a Red Out at school and at a Boys Basketball game in January. This led to a district total of \$2,222 that was donated to the American Heart Association.

Art students were active in their community. Alicia Steffa and Alex Knoble had their painted doors displayed and then auctioned off for the knock on our doors campaign, run by Visit Beloit. Ms. Carpenter's sculpture class created 6 gorgeous paper dresses for the Becca's Closet fundraiser. They were the talk of the event.

Active NHS members devoted their time and talents to 49 events/charities and accumulated over 2,100 service hours. From Kids Against Hunger to the Salvation Army Bell Ring, Knights of Columbus, Beloit Public Library, Caritas, and many more. Here's to supporting our community -- awesome sauce! Members worked tirelessly to provide services to BMHS activities and student tutoring labs to embody the tenets of NHS -- scholarship, service, leadership, and character for their peers and the BMHS community.

"What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good."

-- Aristotle

Community Partnerships

Hall Of Fame honors to former Beloit educator and current community activist, Gene Van Galder, a 1966 graduate.



All 11th Grade Juniors participated in the "Mock Interview" experience through the English Department and the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation Business-Education Partnership.

All 9th Grade students participated in a Financial Literacy class provided by Junior Achievement.

We will have hosted our Vietnam Veterans twice this year. It allows every freshmen to be a part of this long standing tradition.

BMHS Hosted the YES (Youth Emotional Stability) Conference--a conference supporting Mental Health throughout Rock County for almost 400 professionals and family members in February 2015. The Mission of YES in Rock County will strengthen our community's response to children and adolescent's social / emotional health through enhanced awareness, prevention, identification, and treatment of children's mental health issues.

BMHS and the School District of Beloit entered an amazing partnership with Beloit Health Systems and opened a new Student Based Health Center to provide physical and mental health care services to our students right in the building during the school day to dramatically increase access to care for our community.



Thank you for sharing
in our joys,
accomplishments
and highlights this
year!

Board of Education

Shannon Scharmer, President
Michael Ramsdail, Vice President
John Winkelmann, Treasurer
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John Acomb, Member
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Dennis Baskin, Member

The School District of Beloit complies with all federal, state and local laws prohibiting discrimination against students based on their membership in any protected class.

The School District of Beloit complies with all federal, state and local laws prohibiting discrimination in employment based on a person's membership in a protected class.

The mission of the School District of Beloit, committed to excellence and strengthened and enriched by diversity, is to prepare each student to compete, contribute and thrive as an admirable citizen in a rapidly changing world by engaging students in a wide variety of high quality, relevant programs in partnership with families, schools and the stateline community.

Dr. Tom Johnson
Superintendent of Schools

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