



# GOOD NEWS

The official quarterly GSD community newsletter

SUMMER 2024

## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (EVER) AT NELSON PRIMARY

A large part of the plans for the referendum approved by voters in 2022 was to decommission Nelson Primary School and to expand the elementary school to make room for our youngest learners.

The building was constructed in 1962. By decommissioning the school, the district saved millions in maintenance costs and improved students' academic opportunities.



The last group of Grantsburg staff and students posed for photos on the last day of school at Nelson Elementary.

## FINE ARTS IN GSD

We are proud to offer extensive fine arts programming with performing arts, visual arts, and literature.



In this newsletter, look for this icon for examples of our extensive fine arts programming.



## Little Pirates GRANTSBURG'S 4K PROGRAM

A FULL-TIME PROGRAM IN 24-25!

An exceptional full-time 4K program!

- Monday - Friday, 8:20 AM - 3:25 PM
- New space in the Elementary School
- Access to GSD services and resources
  - Transportation
  - Student services and interventions
  - School food service
  - Experienced instructional staff

click the link to

## Jump to...

[District Updates](#)

[High School](#)

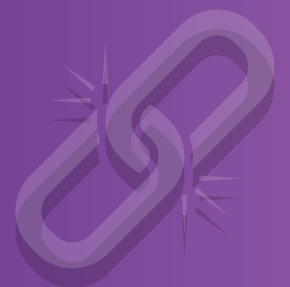
[Middle School](#)

[Elementary School](#)

## MORE WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

A clickable directory

- [GSD News](#)  
*News articles from GSD.*
- [Live Feed](#)  
*A social feed on our website.*
- [Community Education](#)  
*View our Community Ed catalogue!*
- [Events Calendar](#)  
*See what's happening in GSD.*
- [Athletics Department](#)  
*Sign up & see schedules.*



# GHS CAREER EXPO 2024

Grantsburg High School welcomed representatives from 40 partnering organizations, businesses, and post-secondary schools on Wednesday, May 1, for the 2024 GHS Career Expo.

Throughout the event, students had the opportunity to explore diverse career paths, branches of the military, and local education prospects in the Grantsburg area by visiting resource tables. As students visited each station, representatives stamped their 'passport' booklet in exchange for thoughtful questions or comments about opportunities within their organization.

**Approximately 250 high school students participated in this annual event.**

"We are thrilled with the success of this year's Expo," said Leah Lade, School Counselor at GHS. "The profound impact it has had on our students and representatives alike is truly inspiring. We have received excellent feedback and look forward to expanding this event in future years, inviting more organizations to join us in shaping our students' futures."

The Grantsburg School District extends appreciation to the dedicated professionals whose generosity of time, knowledge, and enthusiasm made this event both meaningful and memorable.

Grantsburg High School Counselor Leah Lade invites interested parties to contact her regarding partnership opportunities for the 2025 GHS Career Expo at [leah.lade@gk12.net](mailto:leah.lade@gk12.net) or 715-463-2531.



*Coming this summer!*

# PARENT TEACHER HOME VISITS



Building Trust & Community

PTHV is a high-impact family engagement strategy to build trusting home-to-school bonds through casual and voluntary in-home visits.

Teachers participating in PTHV will randomly select families to schedule a visit with.

Not every student in the teacher's class will receive an invitation for a visit.

Families may decline the invitation for the visit if they do not wish to participate. Teachers will contact the families directly to schedule a visit to accommodate both parties. Participating teachers have completed professional training on how to hold these visits to maximize their impact and effectiveness.

Teachers will visit homes in pairs and hold a casual visit to discuss their child and their goals, hopes, and dreams for their child's school year. Following the initial visit, teachers will reflect on their experience and incorporate that feedback into the child's classroom experience. Please contact your building principal with questions!

## SUMMER SCHOOL HAS SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Our Summer School program had an outstanding year! We served around 350 students, offering over 30 different courses. Our diverse curriculum included engaging classes such as Fashion, Gymnastics, Cooking Sessions, Crocheting Workshops, 1st Grade Reading, and Weight Training.

We captured some fantastic moments from these activities, and everyone had a blast participating. We look forward to continuing this tradition of educational fun and enrichment in the years to come.





## CONGRATULATIONS GHS CLASS OF 2024



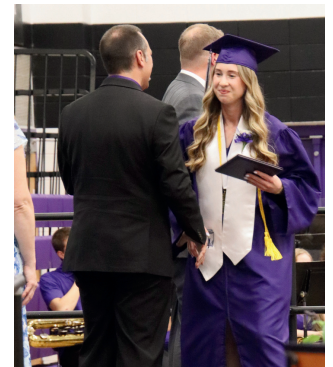
The commencement ceremony was held on Friday, May 17, in the GHS Gym.



Salutatorian for the Class of 2024, Vincent Vogland, delivers the Welcome speech at graduation.



Memory Speech - Jordan Java & Mitchell Meyer deliver the memory speech during the ceremony.



Valedictorian, Lucy Dahlberg, delivered the farewell speech at graduation.



Samuel Spafford & Brandon Lucas, Military Service cords

Recipient of the Community Service Award, Jordan Java.



# VOLUME 103 OF THE JACK PINE SLIVERS YEARBOOK



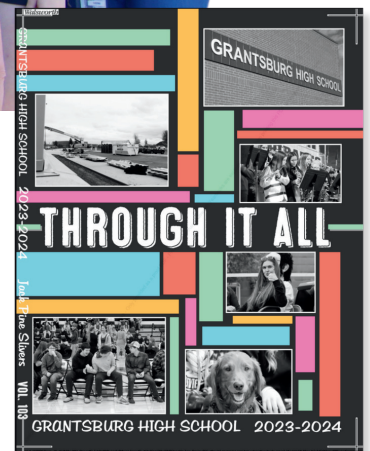
Every year, the yearbook team, under the dedicated leadership of Mrs. Tiffany Johnson, works tirelessly to produce a yearbook of exceptional quality. This year's team maintained high standards, working voluntarily into the summer to finalize the edition.



*Volume 103 will join the high school office series and historical society collection in the fall, preserving memories of the school year. Their diligent work, alongside past teams, will be cherished for years to come.*

Throughout the school year, the yearbook team captured our school community's essence with event photos and student life documentation. Beyond their 45-minute class sessions, students devoted extra time to cover day and evening activities, ensuring a vibrant yearbook.

A highlight of this edition is a special dedication to retiring math and physics teacher Mr. Mark Johnson, recognizing his years of service and impact.



## GHS RANKED AMONG TOP SCHOOLS IN US

Grantsburg High School has once again been recognized by U.S. News & World Report, ranking #117 in Wisconsin and in the 79th percentile nationally. The rankings assessed nearly 25,000 public high schools nationwide based on six key factors, including College Readiness and Graduation Rate.

This recognition underscores our commitment to academic excellence and student success, reflecting the dedication of our students, faculty, and staff.

For more details on the rankings and methodology, visit [U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools](https://www.usnews.com/best-high-schools).



## GHS STUDENT ART ON DISPLAY IN MADISON



GHS students Teresa Meier and Taylor Anderson have been honored for their artwork, selected among 50 pieces statewide from grades K-12. Their art will be displayed at the Tommy G. Thompson Center in Madison, the new home for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Their achievement reflects the exceptional talent nurtured in Grantsburg's art classes, led by Mr. Jeremy Tomczak. This recognition underscores the high-quality art education at Grantsburg High School.

Thank you to Mr. Tomczak for promoting the arts and for bringing statewide recognition to our students and Grantsburg. This accomplishment celebrates our school's artistic community.



## 2024 STUDENT ART SHOW



This spring's Senior Art Show in the high school gym featured 19 talented participants showcasing a diverse array of artwork, including 2-D pieces, ceramics, and crafts. Now in its 10th year, the event has become a cherished tradition, highlighting seniors' finest artistic endeavors and drawing students, families, staff, and community members to admire the imaginative displays.

The artwork ranged from drawings and paintings to origami, embroidery, photography, stained glass, pottery, and more. This celebration honors each artist for their dedication, making them feel special and promoting our art program.

Special thanks to Natalie for her extra help. We look forward to next spring's showcase!

Congratulations to this year's creative participants: Jessi Daskocil, Angel Anderson, Sophia Anderson, Kelsey Handy, Naomi Newell, Amaya Henderson, Elana Simmons, Paige Wundrow, Natalie Johnson, Ciara Wesenberg, Charles Glonek, Lilly Bongaarts, Sidney Gronski, Aubrey Memmott, Lucy Dahlberg, Piper Hicks, Samuel Spafford, Trista Goepfert, and Alex Peterson.





# ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

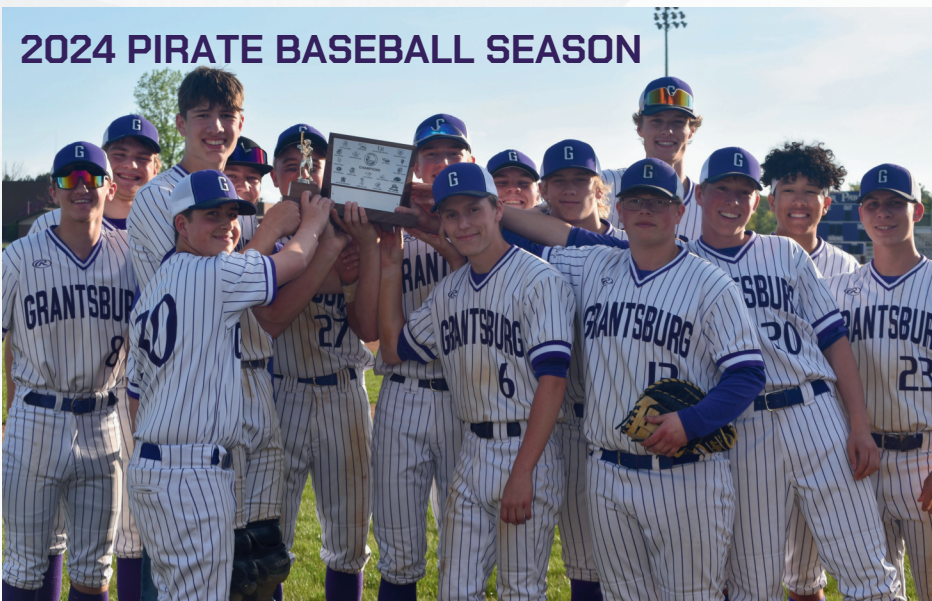


## TRACK & FIELD MAKE PIRATE HISTORY

The GHS track and field teams had a historic season, winning both the boys and girls Conference Championships for the first time in school history. The girls team broke school records in the 4x100m, 4x200m, and 4x400m relays, showcasing their talent and teamwork. The boys team also excelled, claiming both the Regional and Sectional Championship titles, marking only the fourth time in Grantsburg history.

Eleven athletes represented GSD at the State Tournament Meet. The girls 4x200m relay team—Noelle Doornink, Selah Prusinski, Anika Lee, and Jordan Java—finishing earning the team's first State Champion title. This incredible achievement reflects their hard work and dedication.

## 2024 PIRATE BASEBALL SEASON



The 2024 Pirate baseball team had an impressive season, finishing with an 11-1 conference record and securing the conference championship. Vinny Vogland led the team with a .415 batting average, playing a crucial role in their success. Zach Rombach was named Conference Player of the Year, highlighting his exceptional talent and dedication. The team's accomplishments reflect their hard work and set a high standard for future seasons.

## BOYS GOLF

The boys golf team had a fantastic spring season with many new members joining, bringing enthusiasm and dedication. Team members consistently achieved personal bests, showcasing their growth and commitment. Standout performers Aiden Gordon and Alex McCormick earned all-conference honors, reflecting their exceptional skill and hard work.

With their talent and determination, the team is poised to dominate the conference next year.



## PIRATE SOFTBALL FINISHES 23-1

Pirate softball had an incredibly successful season, finishing 23-1 despite a challenging schedule. They showcased their state championship caliber throughout the season, culminating in a dramatic 12-inning 1-0 loss to Fall Creek in the Sectional finals. Fall Creek later won the Division 4 title, highlighting the matchup between the state's top teams.

We are immensely proud of our players. Five Pirates earned all-district first-team honors, with four receiving all-state accolades. Megan Schafer, our only senior, concluded her outstanding career, leaving a legacy of excellence.



*Thank you to BMC for providing free physicals to our student-athletes, ensuring they are healthy and prepared to compete.*



#GoGrantsburgPirates



## GMS SPRINGS INTO HEALTHY HABITS

On April 16, families gathered for “Spring Into Healthy Habits” family night, featuring valuable wellness information and fun activities. School nurse Adrianna Addison presented “Sleep Hygiene 101,” offering practical tips for restful sleep in our technology-driven society.

Community organizations, including Youth of Burnett County, BMC, Burnett County Health and Human Services, and Public Health, provided resources at information tables. Families enjoyed creating container gardens and playing games, with prize drawings thanks to donations from Wood River Garden Store, Burnett Dairy, and the Country Store.

Thanks to all participants, contributors, and volunteers who made this event a success, fostering healthier habits and community connections among our families.



## GMS EXPLORES THE ST. CROIX RIVER WITH WILD RIVER OUTFITTERS

Students in grades 6-8 enjoyed an enriching field trip near the end of the school year, exploring the St. Croix River courtesy of Wild River Outfitters. Highlights included canoeing along the river, with many students experiencing canoeing for the first time.

The beautiful weather added to the day’s enjoyment, complemented by the enthusiastic support of this local business. The outing provided hands-on learning in nature, fostering a deeper appreciation for the environment and outdoor activities.

We thank Wild River Outfitters for their generous support and commitment to offering educational and recreational opportunities for our students.



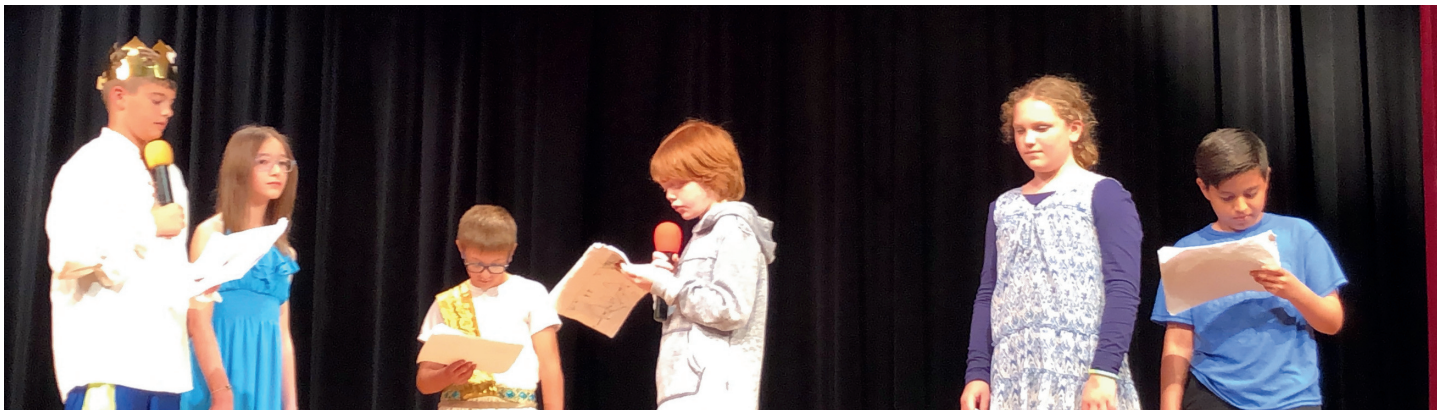
## GMS PRESENTS "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"



5th grade students embarked on a creative journey, dedicating themselves to learning lines, crafting costumes, and creating props for their performances of scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Their hard work culminated in memorable performances for families, friends, and classmates.

These performances showcased the students' theatrical talents and provided valuable experiences in collaboration, creativity, and presentation skills. The audience's enthusiasm and support added to the students' excitement and pride.

We commend the 5th grade students for their outstanding efforts and thank the teachers and staff for fostering this enriching educational experience.



## ANNUAL EGG DROP CHALLENGE

5th grade students participated in the annual Egg Drop challenge, conducting experiments to test the durability of their designs. They carefully crafted and refined containers to protect eggs from the drop off the middle school building.

This hands-on activity fostered creativity, problem-solving, and practical lessons in physics and engineering. Students eagerly anticipated each test to see which designs successfully protected their eggs.

The Egg Drop challenge, a beloved tradition, sparks innovation and promotes teamwork and perseverance among students.





# GRANTSBURG

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

AND NELSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

715-463-2320

475 East James Avenue

[www.gk12.net/o/ges](http://www.gk12.net/o/ges)

## CAMP LEARNED A LOT

Welcome to second-grade Camp Learned A Lot! We marked the culmination of our year-long learning journey with a day filled with exciting camping-themed activities. From outdoor adventures to creative crafts, we celebrated all the knowledge and skills we acquired throughout the year.

As we look forward to the next chapter in third grade, this enthusiastic group of campers is eager for "s'more" learning and new adventures. Camp Learned A Lot has strengthened our academic abilities and fostered friendships, along with a love for learning that will continue to grow.



## GES PHY-ED DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES GOOD SPORT AWARDS

The Grantsburg Elementary School Physical Education Department proudly announces this year's recipients of the Good Sport medals.

Elena Quin, Luella Melin, Ausha Erickson, Lucy Palmquist, Piper Hallgren-Draves, Vanessa Harmon, Addison Melin, Tris Olson, and James Roush have been recognized for consistently demonstrating virtues such as fairness, self-control, integrity, courage, and persistence throughout the school year. They exemplify exceptional interpersonal skills and respect for others, setting a positive example for their peers and the entire school community.



***Congratulations to these outstanding students for their outstanding behavior and sportsmanship!***

## 8TH EDITION OF 3RD GRADE PIRATE CUP

On the sunny morning of May 23, the 8th Bi-annual 3rd Grade Pirate Cup took place under ideal conditions at the Grantsburg High School track. A record crowd filled the football grandstands, showing strong community support. The fastest third-grade girls and boys eagerly took to our quarter-mile track for a two-lap race.

First, the girls competed, including runners Zoe Marhenke, Josie Meyer, Marley Palmquist, Izzy Peterson, Aria Seume, Mari Luedtke, Katelyn Olson, and Elena Quin. Josie Meyer took an early lead on the first lap, with school-record holder Zoe Marhenke close behind in second. Marley Palmquist and Aria Seume battled side by side for third. As the race progressed into the second lap, Meyer initially led, but Palmquist surged ahead down the back straight, ultimately clinching a narrow victory in an exciting finish that had the crowd cheering. Marhenke finished strongly in third, closely followed by Izzy Peterson.

Next was the boys' turn, featuring Olen Chell, Wyan Polzine, Gideon Kaiser, Zach Schmidt, Luis Ayohua-Hernandez, Gabe Tyberg, Daniel Hoefs, and Elliott Christians. From the start, Olen Chell, Zach Schmidt, and Wyan Polzine set a blistering pace. Chell, aiming for his third consecutive Pirate Cup win, pulled away decisively on the second lap, securing another impressive victory. Gideon Kaiser narrowly edged out Zach Schmidt for third place in a tightly contested race.

The bleachers were filled with supportive Grantsburg students and parents, witnessing displays of friendly competition and good sportsmanship. The 9th edition of the 3rd Grade Pirate Cup is scheduled to return this September, promising another exciting showcase of young talent and community spirit.

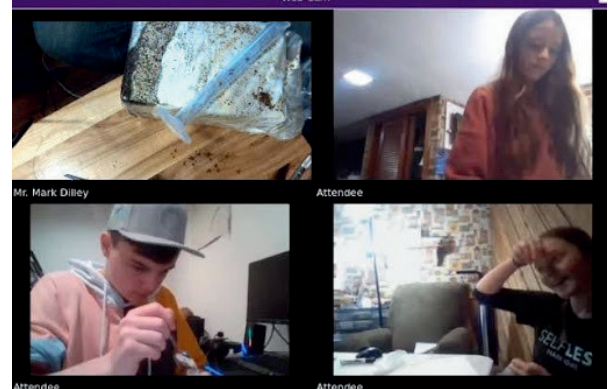




## AN UPDATE: IFORWARD "GOES" TO SPACE

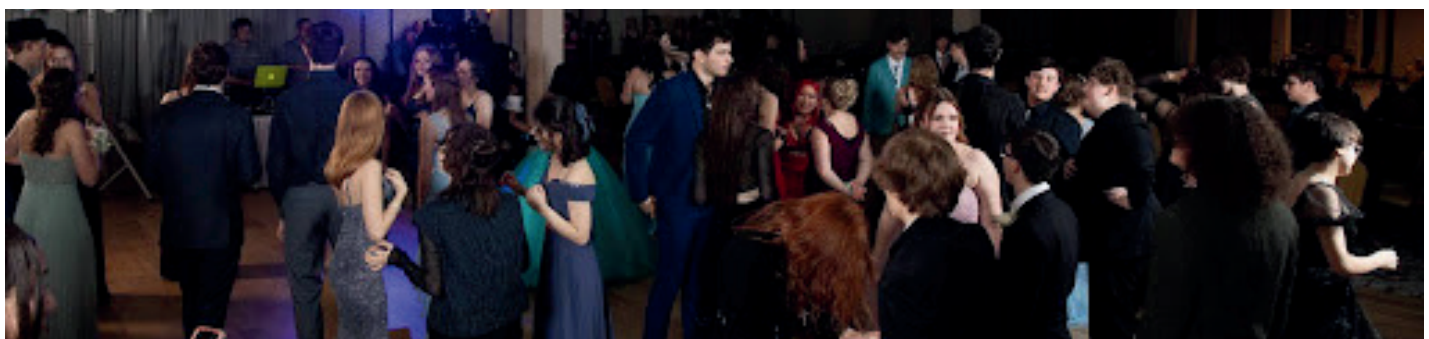
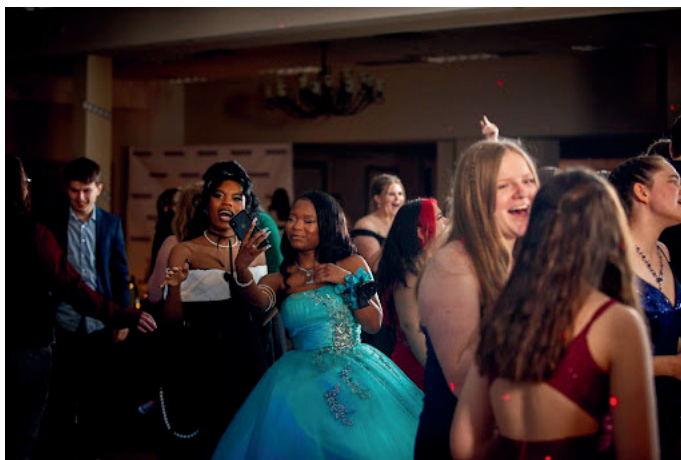
Since 2017, iForward has participated in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP), collaborating with NCSSE and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education. NanoRacks, LLC, under a Space Act Agreement with NASA, facilitates SSEP using the ISS as a National Laboratory.

For seven years consecutively, iForward's experiments have been selected for spaceflight missions, showcasing its commitment to scientific inquiry and innovative education.



## PROM AT THREE BEARS RESORT

iForward's annual Prom took place on May 2 at Three Bears Resort in Warrens, WI, themed "Hollywood Red Carpet." Students dressed stylishly, creating a glamorous atmosphere for the well-attended event. The evening featured a dinner buffet, tempting desserts, and lively dancing until midnight, fostering new friendships and strengthening existing ones.



## IFORWARD'S ANNUAL SPRING EVENTS & FIELD TRIP

On May 3, iForward hosted its annual Spring Events, including family-friendly field trips across Wisconsin. Destinations included the Chippewa Valley Museum, Hartley Nature Center, Henry Vilas Zoo, EAA, and Allen F. Blocher Planetarium.

Virtual events like arts and crafts, an Australian Zoo Adventure, and a virtual P.E. extravaganza accommodated students unable to travel.



BACK TO SCHOOL KICK OFF EVENT

MT. OLYMPUS  
WATER & THEME PARK  
RESORT

**\$20.50 PER PERSON**

INCLUDES PARKING, ADMISSION & LUNCH!

**THURSDAY | AUGUST 1st | 10 AM**

**iFORWARD**  
WISCONSIN'S ONLINE CHARTER SCHOOL

SUMMER READING SKILLS CAMP

ON YOUR MARK!  
GET SET!  
READ!

JULY 8TH-AUGUST 13TH  
MONDAY-THURSDAY

GRADES 1-3 (9AM-10AM) GRADES 4-6 (10AM-11AM)

PHONICS  
WRITING

## NEW: DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

The technology department's new dual credit program completed its successful inaugural year! Students engaged with SolidWorks and AutoCAD, earning technical college credits while honing skills in 3D printing. They applied these skills to innovative projects, enhancing their educational experience and preparing for future academic and professional pursuits.



## ADVANCING SCIENCE EDUCATION



Mrs. Tammy Dymesich, a middle school teacher, represented the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers at the NSTA Conference in Denver. She engaged in sessions on best practices in

science education, highlighting AI's potential to enhance learning outcomes. Mrs. Dymesich's contributions underscore her dedication to integrating innovative approaches into classroom teaching.

## PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Physical Science students excelled in Quarter 4 with engaging activities, including group laboratory experiments and interactive demonstrations. A highlight was the acid and base laboratory session, where students used purple cabbage juice to test substances' pH levels.

In the photo, Mrs. Laura Kavajecz is pictured guiding and facilitating the laboratory activities, ensuring students had hands-on experiences that reinforced their understanding of chemical principles.



## HAPPY RETIREMENT, MR. HANKE!

Congratulations to Mr. Hanke on his well-deserved retirement after 47 years of teaching, including the last decade at iForward. Known for his engaging math classes and musical introductions, Mr. Hanke has made a profound impact on students and the school community. We wish him all the best in his retirement!





## MIDWEST SJOGREN'S WALK IN MADISON

On June 1, several staff members participated in the Midwest Walk for Sjogren's in Madison, Wisconsin, supporting Chloe Harvick, a student living with Sjogren's Syndrome. This event highlighted Chloe's journey with the theme "Conquer it, one step at a time." Sjogren's Syndrome, an autoimmune disorder, often accompanies conditions like rheumatoid arthritis and lupus.

We appreciate Chloe and her family for inviting our staff to this meaningful event and commend our staff members for their support.



*Pictured Left to Right: Mr. Victor Lowney, Mr. Tyler Malotky, Chloe Harvick, Mr. Gage Kamp*

## 6TH GRADER EXCELS AT NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

Edward Kyser, a sixth-grade student at iForward, represented our school in the National Geography Bee. Competing against 164 sixth-graders nationwide, Edward reached the semi-finals, placing 39th overall. His achievement places him in the top 25% of participants. Edward also qualified for the International Geography Bee in Austria this summer, though he unfortunately cannot attend.

Congratulations, Edward, on your exceptional performance and dedication in representing iForward nationally!



# CONGRATULATIONS IFORWARD CLASS OF 2024



The commencement ceremony was held on Saturday, June 1, at the Monona Terrace in Madison.



*Jivnic Degbedji,  
Valedictorian*



*Grace Mullikin,  
Salutatorian*

