

## THE BLUE DEVIL BULLETIN



The official newsletter of the Oconto Unified School District





Referendum Special

## **OUSD REFERENDUM APPROVED!!**

By Superintendent Emily Miller

We are delighted that both questions on the capital bond referendum have passed! This is a milestone for our community. The projects that this bond referendum will support are incredibly important for our students, staff, and the community as a whole.

Between now and 2022, we will address school updating with safety and security, upgrades to our high school cafeteria, and future ready classrooms. We will also be able to address building needs such as windows, water fixtures, and overall efficiencies. As we move through these plans we will be working with architects, engineers, and our staff to provide the best laid plans.

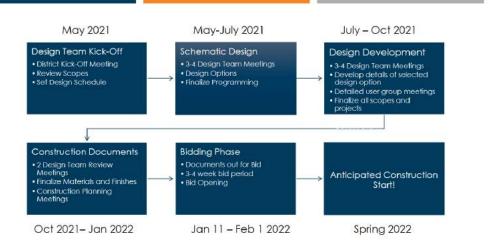
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## TIMELINE FOR REFERENDUM

## What are the next steps?

As we move forward, the District will share timelines and updates, and provide opportunities for learning and feedback. We look forward to our continued engagement with our community, and thank you for your support of the Oconto Unified School District.

### DESIGN SCHEDULE





## Six Key Elements of a Future-Ready Learning Environment

- Choice: When students get to choose where and how they'll work, they become more engaged and inspired.
- Comfort: Create a learning environment that combines ergonomic furniture, maximum-efficiency lighting, and optimal air quality and temperature, and watch their achievement take off.
- Versatility: Choosing flexible, movable furniture that can serve a variety of purposes allows you to do this effectively.
- Connection: Create spaces that don't just allow but actively encourage collaboration, such as by using mobile, agile desks and tables that can easily be arranged into flexible group sizes.
- Stimulation: Learning spaces should be designed in a way that's stimulating and engaging for students.
- **Technology:** Learning environments should support a school or district's vision for using technology to advance instruction.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE



## ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANT

## How is OUSD using relief funds?



By Superintendent Miller Oconto School District

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant, is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This grant provides funds to help school districts respond to changes in student needs due to COVID-19. The WI Department of Public Instruction is awarding ESSER funds directly to school districts through grants. However, these funds are a one time allocation that cannot be used for general operating expenses. The funds must also be used by 2024. Oconto Unified School District cannot count on these funds to sustain our future budget.

So, as a school system we were asked to look at our systems and evaluate our needs in reference to the impact on our buildings, students, and staff due the pandemic. We asked ourselves what is different about how our schools operate because of COVID? What do we need to remain safe and get our students back to a relatively normal school experience?

Once we did that we then made plans to best use the ESSER funds. The CARES Act provides a broad, permissive list of allowable costs. We could not spend the money on just anything. We **needed to prioritize** our needs within the list of the following program types:

- Preparedness and response to COVID-19
- Outreach and services to special populations
- Addressing long-term closures
- Education technology
- Mental health supports
- Addressing afterschool and summer activities
- Continued staff employment

I am proud of how we approached our needs. We initially looked at how we can remotely teach our students. We allocated money towards technology for our staff and students, updated chromebooks, laptops, and hotspots for the internet, and updated smartboards for the classrooms. We also focused on the professional development of our teachers to build the knowledge base to be prepared for virtual teaching.

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## THE BLUE DEVILS BULLETIN

We also realized that we needed to prepare for the students to be back in our buildings. We then focused on our mitigation efforts. We knew that we needed to provide a safe environment for our students and staff. We developed a plan for distancing which included plastic barriers for classrooms. We also purchased air filtration systems and disinfecting sprayers. We hired staff for our elementary and middle school offices to help with cleaning or help in the nurse's office.

As we looked at the academic side we know that we need to put a significant amount of focus on our students. We started to work through identifying the academic gaps that COVID created. We have done that through meeting with staff to discuss where the students are at and where they need to go. In these discussions we feel we have a strong handle closing those gaps. We will do this in summer school as well within reviewing and updating our curriculum as we see the need. We will also be investing the opportunity to run an after school program that would focus on academic and social emotional support for our students.

There is always more that will come and I encourage you to look for ways that you see our school system prioritizing our students and supporting our staff. Oconto is an EXCELLENT place to live and a wonderful place to work.

Sincerely, Emily Miller









A LETTER BY MRS. KRIS ALWIN (OUSD BOARD OF EDUCTAION)

## **THANK YOU**





Dear Community,

I want to take an opportunity to thank the many, many people it took to prepare for the OUSD Referendum and the voters for passing it on April 6, 2021.

OUSD's need for the referendum started with the leadership of our Superintendent, Emily Miller. From there she educated the school board and administration of the needs and vision for our students. The groundwork started with the staff in the District Office and Administration. The school board spent many long Tuesday night meetings looking at the needs and concerns of the school district and how to prioritize the referendum request to our community and voters.

Once the needs were identified - the YES Committee was formed. Thank you to the YES Committee who spent a lot of their time supporting the referendum by attending meetings, distributing yard signs, and being a positive voice for our students.

Thank you to the voters for supporting our students, staff, and community. We are encouraged and thankful for your support. From here, details and plans are being worked on with Sitelogic. Please watch for updates on the OUDS website, Facebook Page, and future newsletters.

Again, thank you to everyone and know you had a positive impact on our student's education.

Sincerely,

Kris Alwin
OUSD Board of Education, Vice-President

## **WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**



Samantha Boucher Rural Seat

SAMANTHA BOUCHER TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION RURAL SEAT



Bobbi Christopherson
City Seat

BOBBI CHRISTOPHERSON TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CITY SEAT

## **OUSD SCHOOL BOARD 2021**



## THANK YOU FOR SERVING ON OUR SCHOOL BOARD



**Mr. John Pinkart** served on the board for 12 years and **Mr. Rick Richter** was on the board for 3 years. You both have been integral to the important advances we have made as a school district. THANK YOU for your leadership and commitment. We appreciate all the time you spent serving our board.





#### Guest Column



## HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT MONEY?



Banking Office Manager at The Stephenson National Bank & Trust: **Diane St.Martin** 

Some skills, like money management, will ALWAYS be essential, no matter the circumstances.

How soon is too soon to talk to your kids or grandkids about money? If they're old enough to ask for a toy or bike, they're old enough to start learning financial lessons. The best ones are part of everyday life.



Be a model of good saving and spending behavior for your children. This is especially true if you involve them in financial discussions.



Here are **some ideas** to help you get started:

#### Read a Money Book

Does your child like stories? Read a money-related book, or watch the <u>videos</u> that can be found on our website (see bottom of article). Afterward, ask questions about the book that encourage your child to think about how they would save and spend money, and ask if they would do things differently than the characters in the story.

#### Monkey-See, Monkey-Do

Be a model of good saving and spending behavior for your children. This is especially true if you involve them in financial discussions. For example, before taking a family vacation, ask your child to help set their budget for toy/souvenir purchases. OR have them help make the grocery list and compare prices while shopping.

The videos referenced above, as well as many other financial education resources are available here: SNBT- Financial Literacy

FOR PARENTS: Watch the <u>videos</u> below together or read a money-related book.



"Penny Pot"

Discussion Questions



"Sammy's Big Dream"



"Dollars & Sense"



## Spring Recipe!





## **GRILLED ASPARAGUS**



**by Mrs. Kim Baker**OES Literacy Coach & OUSD
Title I Coordinator

It's asparagus season! Whether you grow asparagus in your own garden, purchase at a farmer's market, or find it in ditches alongside roadways, grilling asparagus brings out its best. Grilled asparagus is a delicious side dish, and it is simple to throw right on your grill alongside other meats and/or seafood. Pictured here is asparagus from my garden.



Fresh Asparagus from Mrs. Baker's garden!

I often end up picking our garden asparagus over the course of several days to enjoy at a later time. To store it for use at another time I simply place it upright in any container, and add a touch of water. You can place a plastic bag over the top to help retain crispness and freshness. Store the asparagus in your refrigerator for several days until ready to enjoy!

To prepare for grilling, I bend the asparagus near the base, as the ends of asparagus can sometimes be tough or woody, and the asparagus will snap in the right place (This can be a fun dinnertime project for the family)! Discard, or compost, the unwanted pieces. I sometimes save them for use in another recipe where they can be prepared differently.

Ready to grill! **This part is super easy and quick!**Simply toss your prepared asparagus with an olive oil of your choice, and sprinkle with salt. I usually use recycled tin foil plates or my grilling basket for this part. I also prefer to use my sea salt grinder for this step because we enjoy the larger crystal size and coarseness of ground salt on our grilled vegetables. Depending on what we are grilling we sometimes just lay the asparagus right on the grill grates to cook. Add more salt, or even some ground pepper, as desired, while grilling. Occasionally toss or turn the asparagus to prevent burning.

When is it done? Whenever the grill-chef decides! This is **the best part**, in my opinion, because it takes an attentive griller to continually monitor and taste test the final product! Enjoy!





## SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM IS BACK



#### Food Service Director: Anne Zalubowski

The free meal program is going strong here in Oconto. Since COVID shut down our school in March 2020 we have served over 122,500 breakfasts and 137,000 lunches to kids in Oconto. Last summer alone we served 48,521 breakfasts and lunches during the bag meal program.





USDA has extended the meal program through the summer!

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This is amazing, but there is more! USDA has extended the meal program through the summer! This means we can still do bag lunch pick up after summer school lets out. The same rules still apply. You must be a child 18 years old or younger to receive the meals but an adult may pick up the meals for their family. You do not need to be enrolled in Oconto School District to receive these meals. Do you have a child visiting for the summer? They can enjoy our summer meal program too.

Meal pick-up will look a little different this year. In June, we will provide in-person meals at the Elementary School. In July and August, you can pick up bag meals at the District door. There will be no bus drop-off.

#### **In-person Dining**

During Summer School (June 14– 25) open campus meals will be served at the Elementary School. At this time anyone 18 years old or younger can come to eat breakfast and lunch. Breakfast will be served from 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and Lunch from 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday–Friday both weeks. You do not need to attend summer school to receive a free meal. We encourage every kid to take advantage of this program.





By picking up meals you will have milk in your house for the whole summer. We buy our milk from a local company so profits stay in the area.



#### Bag Meal Pick-up

Starting July 7th, we will be handing out 7-day breakfast and lunch bags. Every Wednesday you can pick up your meals for the full week. That is 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 1 gallon of milk per child. Pick-up will be 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and again at 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. There will be no bus drop-off this year.

#### Sign-up

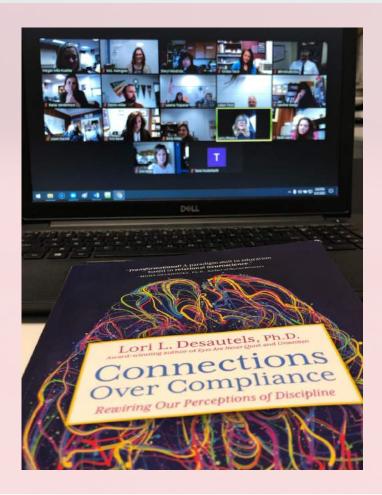
We do ask that you sign up for the July/August bag lunch program on the district website by June 25th. By taking this short survey we can plan how many meals to make each week. If plans change for you, we ask that you email foodservice@oconto.kl2.wi.us or call Anne Zalubowski @ (920) 834-7814 ext. 2111 so that we don't make your meals.

#### Why should I sign up for this free meal program?

First of all, it helps the Oconto School District Food Service Program. The money that comes back to the program can help buy upgraded equipment, start new program ideas, and even assist with activities we like to do throughout the year such as Kids in the Kitchen.

Second, summer gets to be a little long. Ease meal prep on yourself and your wallet. Whether it is in-person meals during Summer School or pick-up meals in July it will be one less meal you have to make for your kids. During July and August bag meals can help in so many ways. Most breakfast options are easy to grab and go for your busy day.

Milk prices add up! By picking up meals you will have milk in your house for the whole summer. We buy our milk from a local company so profits stay in the area. Lastly, it promotes healthy choices. Simple meals to warm up on the stove or in the microwave will cut down on grabbing a bag of chips or junk food. Also, if you have fruits and vegetables ready to eat for your kids, they are more likely to grab them.





## DEVELOPING A NEW LENS FOR DISCIPLINE

By Megan Mills Koehler

Student Services Director



This spring, 21 staff members within the Oconto Unified School District participated in the Connections Over Compliance book study as part of our professional development related to behavioral interventions. The book is authored by Dr. Lori DeSautels who is a professor at Butler University. The book deeply addresses the need for co-regulatory and relational touch point practices, shifting student-focused behavior management protocols to adult-regulated brain and body states which are brain-aligned, preventative, and relational discipline protocols. This new lens for discipline benefits all students by reaching for sustainable behavioral changes through brain-state awareness rather than compliance and obedience.

Over the course of two months our staff participated in virtual conversations to share and discuss our learnings as we read through the book. Dr. DeSautels utilizes the latest neuroscience to help educators and parents have a better understanding of the "why" behind many challenging behaviors. Many of her resources are available free of charge on her website <a href="https://www.revelationsineducation.com">www.revelationsineducation.com</a>.

In our last Zoom meeting, we were extremely honored to have Dr. DeSautels personally join us to answer questions that we had formulated after completing the book study.





## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

By Mrs. Alana Eder & Mrs. Kim Baker





This year our OUSD summer school is taking on a new look. Mark your calendars! OUSD Summer School June 14-25, Monday - Friday, 8am - 3pm. Bussing, Breakfast, & Lunch will be provided. There will be strong academic courses offered based on grade level academic state standards. These courses will be structured as standard specific over the course of 10 days. Students and families will be provided with a syllabus created by the teacher and reviewed by Administration outlining the standard and a 10 day plan of instruction. All students have the opportunity to enroll in these grade level academic courses. In addition, students may be recommended by their teachers for these courses.

Along with the strong academic focus this year our popular enrichment courses will continue to be offered. Some new offerings this year include the Oconto Public Library, DNR Safety Courses, Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds, History of American Football, Coding, Ceramics, Dancing Arts of India, So You Think You Can Dance and Sing?, Environmental Science, Pickleball, Yoga, and Team Sports. These courses were created and inspired by the teachers who will be teaching them.

## Sample Schedule

PERIOD 1 - 8 AM TO 9 AM
Breakfast - 9:10 AM - 9:40 AM
PERIOD 2- 9:50 AM TO 10:50 AM
PERIOD 3 - 11 AM TO 12 PM
LUNCH - 12 PM TO 12:40 PM
PERIOD 4 - 12:50 PM TO 1:50 PM
PERIOD 5 - 2 PM TO 3 PM

## Also new this year are non-traditional pop-pop courses. Including:

- CSI: OCONTO Grades 9-12
- Mini Business World Grades 3-12
- OMS Student Council Kickoff- Grades 6-9
- Strength & Speed Training- Grades 7-12

### OES NEWS





Above: First graders folded their own origami frogs and hopped to the finish line!



Above: Kindergarten students learned about an artist with a sweet tooth; Wayne Thiebaud! They also practiced identifying patterns by weaving.



Above: Second graders learned about ancient Egypt and used paper mache to build a sarcophagus! OCONTO ELEMENTARY ART

Above: Third grade students used sumition brushes to practice their Chilese callgraphy stills before painting their Shan Shur laberages?



Above: Students in fourth grade painted with the freedom of abstract art before using their paintings to cut and fold into paper creatures. Currently, we are beginning our ceramic unit where we'll be making primates!

## OMS UPDATES

#### OCONTO MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## School Staffing in 2021-22





By Mr. Adam Timm ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL OMS & BCA

### Hiring...

A common theme in public school education has been a reduced amount of people entering the field. For whatever reasons, we do have fewer candidates applying for jobs; that's a common theme across our country. One thing I am certain of, is that the quality of our top candidates have been as good as ever. People who truly want to work in a school and are there for students, still apply. Since the education shortage began, we've interviewed and hired outstanding staff in the Oconto Unified School District.

#### Substitute Teachers...

We've had a shortage of subs prior to this school year and it continues to be a struggle to find qualified people who are willing to fill in. Substitute teachers have a tough job but are essential to operating a building. Many of our subs are retirees and have concerns about being exposed to the virus. One issue, resulting from the difficulty in finding subs, is that we have not scheduled as many professional development activities during school days. Right now we don't have the ability to pull teachers from classrooms when students are present. In order to accommodate for the sub shortage, staff have given up their prep hours to fill in, or at times, we have combined classes when it is possible and safe.

#### Covid...

Even if staff are comfortable being at school, it was at times difficult to keep them at work because of quarantine protocols. Our staff has worked more hours than ever, figured out how to provide the best education while following protocols, and learned new technology to deliver content virtually. Everyone is concerned with the long term effects of virtual learning. In Oconto the main objective has always been keeping our schools safe, giving students as many opportunities as possible under everchanging guidelines, and supporting students to the best of our ability. I am proud of the job Oconto has done bouncing in between models and being in person as often, and for the length of time we have been in regular student attendance.

Substitute teachers
have a tough job but
are essential to
operating a
building.

## Blue Devil Staff Facts

- The average staff member in the OUSD has 17.5 years experience.
- 55 OUSD staff members have earned their master's and/or advanced degrees.
- The average teaching career in the OUSD is 28 years.
- The average retirement age in the OUSD is 59 years old.



## CALLING ALL NATURE LOVERS



6th Graders of Bayshore
Academy planting trees
during their walking field
trip. Our students are
committed to sustainability!







### OMS NEWS





## **COIN WARS 2021**

#### By Mrs. Ashley Brunette

Reading & Math Interventionist

Earlier this school year, students at Oconto Middle School and Bayshore Community Academy competed in a Coin Wars competition as a fundraiser sponsored and organized by the OMS Student Council. It was decided by the members of the Student Council that all proceeds raised during this fundraiser would be given to a student's family after they experienced a devastating house fire earlier this school year.

During the 3 weeks of the competition, students in grades 5 through 8 were encouraged to bring in change from home to add to the collection jug in their homebase. Unlike the typical rules of a penny wars competition, any coins, or dollar bills, brought into school helped increase each class total. Students were discouraged from "bombing" other classrooms throughout the competition to help with social distancing and cohorting during these unpredictable times.

After the competition ended, members of the OMS Student Council collected the classroom jugs and counted the money raised. Several classrooms raised over \$100 each during the coin war competition.

Mrs. Brunette's 7th grade homebase took 1st place in the competition, raising \$190. Close behind, raising \$168 for our fundraiser, was Mr. Welch's 5th grade homebase. Mrs. Brunette's homebase enjoyed a pizza party, sponsored by the OMS student council, as celebration of their 1st place in the competition.

Together, the students and staff in Oconto Middle School and Bayshore Community Academy came together to support a local family in a time of need. Thank you to everyone who sent change to school and participated in our spring fundraiser this year. Because of its success, a coin war could become an annual event at OMS in the years to come!



The students and staff in OMS and BCA came together to support a local family in a time of need.

## DONATIONS



THANK YOU for your generous donations.

The **Bond Foundation** approved a **\$10,000 grant** for the OHS Weight Room. Mr. Sohrweide submitted this grant request with a plan to replace some of the old equipment in the high school weight room. This equipment will be used by the OHS Physical Education and Athletic Departments. It will be an asset to the strength and conditioning classes which educates students on how to build a weight lifting program with proper lifting techniques and will give them the confidence to be comfortable in a weight room so that they are more likely to continue with a strength and conditioning program into adulthood.

An anonymous donation of \$10,000 was made to the OHS Band & Choir Departments for a band and choir student trip to the Mackinac Island Music Festival where they will have the opportunity to perform as part of the Mackinac Music Clinic.

Sandra Mathey donated several used musical instruments to our OMS & OHS Band

Programs. Included in the donation was an acoustic guitar, snare drum with extra stand, drum sticks, alto saxophone, trumpet, and music stand.

CoreLife, Inc. donated \$3,000 for the Student Assistance Funds at each school to be used for students in need of clothing, shoes, food, etc.

Jared & Jamie Weigelt donated a case of wax paper to the OHS & OES Art Departments.

An anonymous donor donated 50 pre-cut mats for artwork to the OHS Art Department.

Thank you ... V



## DONATIONS

THANK YOU for your generous donations.





## We appreciate your support!





## THANK YOU!

Gail Madson presented a check for \$1500 from the **STEF Organization**. This donation will be used for our OES Leadership Programs as well as our OMS & OHS Student Assistance Funds. To learn more about the STEF Organization, please go to www.foreverstef.com.





## HONORING OUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: RICK SHERMAN



By Mr. Adam DeWitt Principal OHS

OUSD has others that are retiring this year, and they deserve to be honored as well. All educators that dedicate their lives to serving the next generation are worthy of being recognized. This article, however, is an effort to celebrate a unique position within our school community.

Mr. Sherman has served as a teacher and athletic director simultaneously for many years and has left a positive, lasting impact on our athletic community. I asked several coaches to share their memories of Mr. Sherman or some of his favorite "Shermanisms". Here is what I discovered.

"Water the bamboo." Bamboo doesn't grow quickly during years, one, two, or three, but in year four, if you continue to water the bamboo, it shoots up! - Dave Ruechel

In February 2010, we had a send-off assembly for Ben Ruechel and myself the morning we left for the high school state wrestling tournament. Rick managed to find an original Oconto wrestling warm-up robe and ran up on the stage like warming up for a match.

He made an extra effort to put on a show, get the crowd going and get everyone excited for our trip to Madison.

In addition, it has been a pleasure to work with Rick. As a new coach, he did a great deal to help me learn the logistics of our scheduling, conference, and the WIAA. I was genuinely amazed by how he was able to keep Oconto Athletics moving this past year during the pandemic. – Ben Thome

Continued on pg.21

### OHS NEWS

When I started teaching 7th-grade social studies in the Oconto School District on January 5, 1976, I walked into my first class, and there, seated in the front row, was Ricky Sherman. He was an outstanding student and athlete, and little did I know we would become good friends as adults and work together for many years. I have appreciated Rick's efforts and attention to detail as an Athletic Director, and I'm also aware that he has worked hard to be a great social studies and AP history teacher.

All the best on your journey into retirement. I highly recommend it to you! - Jeff Werner

I have only had the chance to work with Rick for a couple of years. I don't have a bad thing to say about the guy. His big thing as far as a message this year, mainly due to Covid, was to stay flexible. I am starting to use that daily. When things don't go as planned, I tell myself to stay flexible. My boss at work even had remarked how nothing seems to bother me at work. I said my AD tells me to remain flexible, so I just carried it over to life. I wish Rick nothing but the best in retirement! Like I had mentioned to him, I'm sure I'll still see him running up and down the basketball court from time to time. - Nick Thomson

He used to tell me all the time, "These guys are killing me." Some of my best memories about Rick is when he used to have a sendoff for the athletes that competed at state and would put together a little skit; I would laugh so hard with some of the things he came up with. I also remember back about 16-17 years ago at a pep assembly, he put together a shooting contest for some of the winter athletes; before it began, he demonstrated each shot that started with a lay-up, then a free throw, a three-pointer, and a half-court shot. He made all four shots on the first try, but when he made the half-court shot, the student body went nuts. I can still remember the energy that created when it happened.

Rick has also been the person in charge of the Distinguished Blue Devil Award for many years, and I can't think of giving that award to anyone more deserving than Rick. – Jeremy Wusterbarth

Keep up the GREAT WORK! We'll miss working with you. Thank you for being a great colleague and teacher.













## BLUE DEVIL NATION ATHLETIC UPDATE



By Mr. Matt Hartin Associate Principal OHS

The Oconto JV High School Girls' Basketball team had a very successful 2020/21 season with a 14-5 record. The JV girls were competitive every time they touched the floor. The Oconto Girls' Basketball Program cannot wait to see the strides this group makes in the upcoming years!!

**Top Row:** Emmy Reed, Lauren McDowell, Coach Chad Anderson, Anna Vandenlangenberg, Olivia Brzozowski

**Middle Row:** Sophie Moody, Zoey Kingsley, Michayla Leonard, Elizabeth Finger, Hayden Beekman, Gracie Simon

**Bottom Row:** Samantha VanEss, Savannah Brill, Alex Hyland, Olivia Kryger

**Team voted awards** - Offensive MVP Gracie Simon; Defensive MVP- Zoey Kingsley; Most Improved- Olivia Kryger.



#### Let's Go Blue Devils!



## OCONTO GIRLS' VARSITY RECORDED 9-12 FOR THE 2020-21 SEASON!

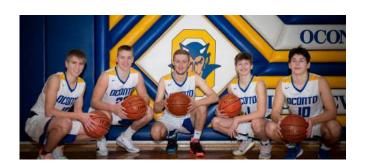
The Oconto Girls' Varsity Basketball team had an overall record of 9-12 for the 2020/21 season. The girls finished on a 5 game winning streak before losing to Bonduel in the regional semi-final. The Varsity girls have made great strides this year and towards the end of the season were competing at a high level.

They did a great job of showing improvements throughout the season. Our program is looking forward to seeing the growth continue next year.

Congrats on a good season!!



The boy's basketball team had a successful season under 1st-year coach John Moe. The team was able to play their full-season, which only 38 other teams in the whole state did during the pandemic. It is a credit to the kids and coaches themselves, plus everyone's family, to pull that off.





Coaches: JV Coach Chad Anderson, Head Coach Nick

Thomson, Assistant Coach Brian Sohrweide

**Top Row:** Payton Destache, Lianna Baxter, Hallie Wusterbarth, Maycie Phillips, Hannah Moe, Maggie Sohrweide

Bottom Row: Lexi Anderson, Alyse Viestenz, Lauren

Hendzel, Leah Allen

**Team voted Awards:** Offensive MVP Lianna Baxter, Co-Defensive MVP Hallie Wusterbarth, Co-Defensive MVP- Lianna Baxter, Most Improved- Alyse Viestenz

**All Conference Awards**- 1st team all-conference-Lianna Baxter, Honorable Mention- Hannah Moe



The Varsity had a record of 17-8 and placed 3 athletes on the all-conference team.

Josh Woller (1st team), Caleb Moe (2nd team), and Will Sherman **honorable** mention. The JV 1 program was 14–8, and JV 2 was 7–9. In all 25 kids plus 4 managers took part in boy's basketball.

Congrats on a good season!!

## HIGH SCHOOL ART

#### Seniors in Art

Every spring, senior art students at Oconto High School comb through their creative portfolio from the past four years. They evaluate their strengths, recognize weaknesses, and celebrate their growth in the areas of art, illustration, photography, and overall visual communication. It has been my pleasure to teach these young men and women throughout their educational journey in high school. Congratulations on all of your hard work and dedication, thank you for being wonderful students.

Mrs. Rennie



Seniors: (Left to Right) Jenessa Schneider, Alaina Edger, Dan Hoffman, Josh Tiegs, Emma Walkowiak, Hailie McDonell, Neveah Brill, Adiah Fulcher, Kali Susa, Cameron Stamsta, Kylee Affeldt

Not Present: Cameron Dietrich, Abigail Dionne, Caleb Farrar, Riley Franks, Kaitlyn Johnson, Lillie Mortier, Lauren Murphy, Madison Pecor, Josefine Sieber, Aliyaha Skarban, Hallie Wusterbarth

## Seniors who earned 4-year Plaque...

4-year plaques awarded to students who have taken art from their freshman year to their senior year.





Left to Right: Justice Mitchell, Hailie McDonald, Alaina Edger, Josh Tiegs, Emma Walkowiak Missing: Lillie Mortier

## National ART Honor Society Graduate Kalista Susa

Congratulations for being the first student to graduate as an Oconto National Art Honor Society (NAHS) member. NAHS magnifies the innovation, skills, creativity, and passion for the arts. Promising continual enthusiasm and imaginative ideas in all things.

Kali has been involved in many art related activities throughout her high school career. She has been a volunteer at the elementary after school art programs, Art Community Enrichments, Art Club, and National Art Honor Society. She has also demonstrated her leadership ability by working as an art teacher's aide, helping classmates develop their projects, and by assisting students with disabilities. Her passion continues at home where she paints Pop Art images as a decoration for her room. Again, congratulation on all that you have done and accomplished.

Continue using your passion in the future for the arts.

Your sponsor,

Mrs. Rennie



# NAHS Graduate! Kali Susa



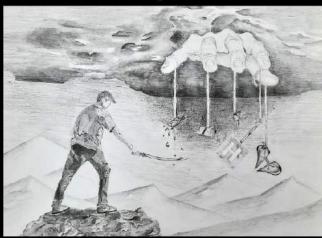


# Art Contest

This year a group of art student spent extra time working on the "BE YOU!" art contest. Be You! Building people up through artistic expression is the theme of the sixth annual student art contest sponsored by WEA Member Benefits and the WEA Member Benefits Foundation.

Young artists are invited to submit pieces inspired by the diversity each of us brings to the world—a unique personal characteristic or style of art, a life experience, something that illustrates pride in what makes you who you are, or simply a creation that celebrates how diversity enriches our lives.

Here are the following Oconto Submissions:



Freshman - Broden Krause



Freshman - Leah Kimball



Junior – Mikhayla Steele



Freshman - Jaelynn Thyrion

## **Congratulations** to this Year's Retirees!

We extend our heartfelt **THANKS** for your years of exemplary service to the district. We will all **miss** you very much. Our **best wishes** go with you in your retirement!



OHS Special Education
Paraprofessional
27 Years of Service



Rick Sherman

Athletic/Activities Director

OHS Social Studies Teacher

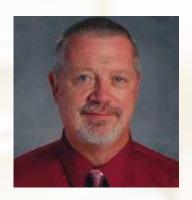
33 Years of Service



Special Education
Administrative Assistant
44 Years of Service



Pam Parise
OMS ALR Paraprofessional
24 Years of Service



Russ Young

NWLA Teacher

32 Years of Service



Betty Ward

OMS Special Education Teacher

10 Years of Service



**Debbie Plamann**Food Service Worker

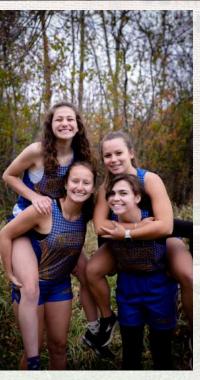
15 Years of Service



Gina Kostreva
2nd Grade Teacher
30 Years of Service

## KALEIDOSCOPE













#### **KALEIDOSCOPE**

















**Photos provided by** District Photographer - Caroline Laurin Young(LY Photography LLC), Becky LeBreck, & Andy Anaam

**Design by:** Andy Anaam (OUSD Office of Communications)

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