



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

## Monthly Update

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

### March 2022

#### District Administrator

##### National School Breakfast Week



March 7-11 was recently recognized as National School Breakfast Week, an opportunity to highlight school food service staff and their commitment to ensuring that students start

their day ready to learn. Food services is a critical component that actively supports our effort to address one of our key strategic directions to "maximize student achievement." Day in and day out, our school food service program understands the importance of meeting our student's nutritional needs.

March also marks two years since the Covid pandemic outbreak saw schools across Wisconsin balance instructional strategies and food services support. Although there were challenges with supply chain resources and staffing shortages, our school food service programming continues to demonstrate impressive adaptability and pivot when necessary to support our school community.

Thank you to Travis Mayer, our food service manager, and the entire food service team for supporting the School District of New London.

##### High School Post-Secondary Fair

On March 9, New London High School hosted its annual post-secondary career fair. Again this year area employers representing local business shared information with students and staff on potential career paths and employment opportunities. Additionally, post-secondary educational

opportunities were shared from area technical schools, public and private college/universities as well as military service opportunities.



##### March B 212 Recognition

On March 4, 5, and 6, the high school fine arts department presented the spring play "Murder by Indecision." Congratulations to the cast, crew, and directors for your B212

effort to go above and beyond. The cast overcame unexpected challenges from an illness during the performance dates, which altered the roles and performance sequence. In the spirit of

"the show must go on," our students rose to the challenge and presented our school community with great performances! Congratulations to our fine arts spring play participants for your B212 attitude.



##### Freshman Academy Awards Presented



The mission of New London High School's Freshman Academy is to guide ninth graders as they transition from middle school to high school.

Each school year, administrators and teachers encourage all incoming ninth graders to do their best academically *and* to become active members of a school-sponsored club, activity, or sport. At the end of the first semester, 76 students had done exactly

that -- earned a GPA of 3.3 or higher and actively participated in a co-curricular group or team.

To that end, an awards ceremony was held in the NLHS auditorium on February 25. The gathering was an opportunity to recognize students who earned an award as well as to encourage all students to do their best in the second semester and beyond.

Principal Brian Yerkey spoke to the assembly, reminding students to use a valuable resource available to each of them -- time. And District Administrator Scott Bleck advised students to make the most of the opportunities available throughout their high school journeys.



New London High School congratulates these students for earning a Freshmen Academy Award: Kaia Amaral, Flor Avendano-Vega, Carolyn Backes, Madeline Batte, Max Behling, Addysen Bellile, Brooke Bergsbaken, Lydia Besaw, Eli Bruneau, Kaylee Bryan, Zoe Buss, Natalie Collar, Ian Cummings, Ethan Eidenberger, Zachary Esser, Allysun Euhardy, Thomas Fields, Sydney Garza, Vincent Glatczak, Ryan Griffin, Karissa Hall, Olivia Hamel, Mason Handschke, Kaylee Harris, Eve Hedtke, McKenna Heimbruch, Talen Hobbs, Samantha Hoerth, Lily Hoffman, Haley Horn, Kate Johnston, Steven Kable, Isaac Kling, Claire Klotzbuecher, Hailie Krueger, Grace Lankow, Claire Lemke, Hudson Lubinski, Porter Magolski, Makayla Manshack, Addison Marsh, Kelsey Maus, Mia McCartney, Kimberly Murphy, Ava Neely, Degan Nelson, Erin O'Donoghue, Fernanda Ortiz Valdiviezo, Chase Osborn, Julissa Patino Gomez, Jacinthe Pecher, Ava Peters, Nickolas Ploederl, Kyle Radmer, Allyson Recla, Evan Retzlaff, Zahara Retzlaff, Briant Sakowski, Mataya Sievert, Madison Simenson, Madison Stepniak, Maren Stepniak, Allison Stilen, Grace Stone, Jonah Stone, Caitlin Stroesenreuther, Emily Tayek, Kori Van Elzen, Clara

Voss, Natalie Wagner, Paige Walbruck, Kendra Walter, Janet Weng, Henry Wesenick, Morgan Williams, Bethany Wilson

### **Intermediate/ Middle School Project Work to Begin**

Targeted project work will begin in select areas at the Intermediate/Middle School during our recognized spring break. With the anticipation of facility improvements, remodeling, and upgrades, the construction demo over spring break will allow construction phases to stay on track to meet the project timelines. As a district, we look forward to targeted facility improvements at our Intermediate/ Middle School that will take place over the project timeline.

### **Director of Business Services**

#### **Total Compensation Committee Meeting**

The committee met on February 28 to review and discuss the following topics:

- A. Review and discussion of base wage increases for 2022-23 for all employee groups
  - o initial review of CPI for 2022-23. Look for committee recommendations for employee groups wage increases at March 28 meeting and potential approval on April 11
- B. Review and discussion of continuing 403(b) matching program
  - o discussion about match that began in 2020-21 school year
- C. Review and discussion of handbook revision process for 2022-23
  - o identified timeline for review and potential Board approval for 2022-23 handbook
- D. Discussion of health insurance consultants' proposals from last meeting
  - o Look for more discussion at another meeting to review self-funding



### Facilities Committee Meeting



The committee met on February 28 to review and discuss the following topics:

- A. Review and discussion of tennis court enhancements
  - discussion about meeting with City of NL Parks and Rec Committee and identified process for continued communications
- B. Review and discussion of contracted cleaning services contract
  - review of current cleaning contract and process to bring renewal to full Board for potential approval
- C. Review and discussion of high school tech ed wing updates
  - Board action recognized \$250,000 budget for Room F109 improvements from ESSER II funding on February 28

### Director of Pupil Services

#### Herb Kohl Scholarship Offered to Both Catalyst and Next Generation Students

Both the Next Generation Academy in the high school and the Catalyst Academy were each awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to be awarded to a graduating senior this year in each of those programs.

The Herb Kohl Educational Foundation annually awards its \$10,000 Initiative Scholarship to 100 graduating high school students in public, religious and independent schools throughout Wisconsin. The selection of schools is based on a rotation cycle that allows every high school in Wisconsin to confer an Initiative Scholarship once every seven years.



### Get Kids Ahead Mental Health Grant Initiative Received

The School District of New London was awarded \$39,781 from the *Get Kids Ahead* mental health initiative from the State of Wisconsin. The purpose of this grant is that all public school districts and independent charter schools are eligible, and each district will receive a per-pupil allocation ranging from the minimum award of \$10,000 to much higher awards for districts with large student populations. The grant must be spent on allowable mental health activities, including the following:



- Training for staff in mental health-related programs and initiatives including Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Compassion Resilience and Trauma Sensitive Schools
- Mental Health Evidence-Based Improvement Strategies (EBIS)
- Mental Health Literacy for students and adults
- Stigma Reduction programs
- Contracting with community mental health providers, consultants, organizations, CESAs, and other experts to provide consultation, training, mentoring, and coaching
- Parent training and informational events
- Student and Family Assistance Programs
- School-employed mental health professionals accessible to all students
- Mental Health Navigators

### Director of Teaching and Learning

#### Summer School



New London is proud to offer summer school options at all levels. Summer packets will be distributed soon, but **registration will open on April 1, 2022,**



and will use **SKYWARD** to schedule. Final staffing decisions will be made based on enrollment.

New London High School and Intermediate/Middle School will offer credit recovery based on the success and failures from the second semester. Enrollment in these programs will take place in May when counselors or administrators reach out.

**Assessment -Testing Window**



Testing windows are open. Details based on school and grade level will be shared by principals of each building.

| Grade Level or Group                                    | Assessment                            |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Grades 3-4  | WI Forward Exam                       |
| Grades 5-8  | WI Forward Exam                       |
| Grade 10  | WI Forward Exam (Social Studies Only) |
| Grades 9-11   | ACT or ACT Aspire                     |
| Students who qualify for the alternate assessment (IEP) | Dynamic Learning Map                  |
| English Language Learners                               | Access Exam                           |

If you have any questions about state testing, please email [dsievert@newlondon.k12.wi.us](mailto:dsievert@newlondon.k12.wi.us) or call the Office of Teaching and Learning or your building principal.

**Virtual Learning Options and Open Enrollment Window**

In addition to traditional instruction, the School District of New London will continue to offer virtual options for students with **Rural Virtual Academy**. Request for enrollment in this virtual option is the same as the state open enrollment window. All 13 students enrolled at RVA this year are having success. New London is proud to have this option available for families. Families who have any interest, even if they are unsure of commitment level, should apply to hold the spot. Final rosters will



be determined in August next year, but enrollment is processed in the following priority order:

- 1) Current students and their families
- 2) New applications in order they were received

\*Class sizes and special education needs will be considered to determine acceptance.

Families who do not live in our resident area, but are interested in attending New London, should also fill out the application for open enrollment. **Open Enrollment Period for the 2022-23 school year is February 7 - April 29, 2022.**

Anyone with questions about enrollment should contact Lesley Baehman [lbaehman@newlondon.k12.wi.us](mailto:lbaehman@newlondon.k12.wi.us) (920) 982-2011.

**Instructional Committee**

The New London Board of Education Instructional Committee met on February 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm. During the meeting we discussed the ongoing process to renew Math content as a result of expiring contracts. We also shared an ongoing review of our current English Language Arts programs and identified needs for students especially in the area of Phonics and emergent learners. Finally, the team discussed the use of BrainPop and other databases that are available through the district library resources.

**Update on Fork Farms**



In August I shared that New London Schools was awarded a grant by Basic Needs Foundation of the Greater Fox

Valley. This included Hydroponic farming stations with K-12 curriculum connections.

We have eight *ForkFarms* Flex-Farming stations. Our students and staff manage the farms and the harvest is delivered to the Food Pantry. Any food beyond what is needed is available to use for food service in cooperation with Chartwells.

To start, we had farms set up at the Intermediate/Middle School and the High School. In our second semester we added an additional farm to Lincoln

and Parkview and a second one was requested to the ISMS.

Our successful harvests have been shared with Chartwells, the Food Pantry and some was sent home with students who could use the fresh greens.

