



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

## Monthly Update

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

### May 2024

#### District Administrator

##### School District of New London Retirees

We congratulate the following individuals who have served the School District of New London by supporting students and the school community. Your dedication is appreciated and valued by the district.

- Debra Calabria - 14 years
- Kim Crowell-Handrich - 13 years
- Deborah Volk - 26 years



Congratulations as well to the following School District of New London employees who were recently recognized as New London Chamber of Commerce Educator/School Personnel of the Year Award nominees:

- Scott Bleck
- Kevin Spindler
- Joe Gruentzel
- Erin Marsh
- Laurie Laubenstein
- Tara Korth
- (Missy Porath & Becky Marquardt 2023 recipient)



##### New London Chamber Award - Educator/School Personnel Of Year Recognition

Congratulations to Brian Yerkey, High School Principal, who was recently recognized as the 2024 New London Chamber of Commerce Educator/School Personnel of the Year Award at its annual banquet.



##### B 212

The class of 2024 has earned the month of May B 212 "The Extra Degree" of effort recognition. Thank you for your continued effort to make our school community great! With great respect and dignity, the class of 2024 has navigated the educational landscape to lead our school community. Our seniors display tremendous strength and are ready to fulfill our District vision to be effective communicators, problem solvers and critical thinkers, self-directed lifelong learners, and responsible contributing citizens. Congratulations to the class of 2024 for current and future accomplishments. Our entire school community celebrates your success!



**End of Year Celebrations and Accomplishment**

As we move through May, it is time to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students, staff, and school community. Let's unite as a school community and participate in the District's multiple year-end activities that demonstrate our Bulldog Pride! Your presence and active involvement are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion we share toward the School District of New London. Thank you for your unwavering support.



**Director of Business Services**

**America's Farmers Grow Donation - Heideman**

April Heideman, Waupaca County Farmer, selected the STEM Automotive Program at New London High School to receive \$5,000 from the Bayer Fund. This program is to partner with farmers to make a positive impact in the communities they live in.

This donation builds upon past donations to provide the Automotive Program with additional funds to support the curriculum locally in New London.



On behalf of the District, we sincerely thank April and her family for thinking of the district this year and also for the past several years.

**Crossing arm violations**

The State of Wisconsin updated school bus crossing arm violations with Act 154. A survey last year compiled data that there were 627,000 illegal passes of school buses. This year's survey was on May 8, 2024, and will be released later this summer.



Our school bus drivers report crossing arm violations almost on a daily basis. They are very diligent on their routes, and we appreciate their active engagement.

We have videos of several "close calls" each year and each day our drivers are very diligent with stopping and letting students cross. We report the violations and from the information we have, the drivers are being ticketed. Drivers can lose four points and may be assessed a fine of \$500 - \$1,000.

Please actively discuss the importance of following traffic laws related to school buses.

**Director of Pupil Services**

**ACCESS for ELLs Score Results**

The School District of New London had nearly 100 students that took ELL ACCESS tests this year.

Our Bilingual staff of Joanna Mertz, Jordan Thompson, Nadine Grundy,



and Kelly Mungia conducted the testing. ACCESS stands for Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English for English Language Learners. It is a large-scale test that assesses the student's acquisition of the English skills necessary to be successful in a mainstream classroom. Students earn scores from 1-7. Level 1 is entering—students then go through the stages of beginning, developing, expanding and bridging before the final exit stage—level 6. Level 7 is used for students who are native English speakers or who have never been designated as ELL. This test does not assess content area knowledge. The testing is typically conducted each year in December and January to determine the gains our ELL learners are making.

**Dynamic Learning Map Testing Concludes**

As described by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the DLM (Dynamic Learning Maps) assessment measures the academic progress of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in the subject areas of ELA and Mathematics at grades 3-11, Science at grades 4 and 8-11, and in Social Studies at grades 4, 8, and

10. This is an online assessment delivered via the computer; however, some students may need their teacher to present the items to them. The teacher will then enter the student's response into the online platform.

The DLM system is designed to map a student's learning throughout the year. The system will also use items and tasks that are embedded in day-to-day instruction. Instruction for these students is based upon the Wisconsin Essential Elements and aligns with the Wisconsin Academic Standards. This gives teachers the opportunity to see what students know during the year when teachers still have time to change instruction to better support student learning.

### **Procedural Self-Compliance Assessment Cycle Update**

The special education department has been working with the Department of Public Instruction to complete the Procedural Self-Compliance Assessment Cycle. This is a process which is conducted by each School District every five years. We are nearly complete with the process. DPI will be assisting with the last portion of examining our student evaluation and Individual Education Plan records prior to the end of the 23-24 school year. Thus far the process has gone very well. When the entire process is complete, another update will be provided to the school board.



### **Director of Teaching and Learning**



#### **4K and 5K**

Families listed in our census having students eligible for 4 year old or 5 year old

kindergarten have been sent packets and notified with both digital and traditional materials regarding their opportunity to register for 4K or 5K for the next year. We are still waiting for a response from a number of those families. Having an accurate number of students enrolled at each grade level helps us confirm staffing and materials needed.

Students enrolled for the fall are also eligible for participation in Summer School.

### **2024 Program Success and Recognition**

Although all of our staff does a tremendous job of meeting the needs of our students, we had a few significant transitions this year that are worth noting.



#### **Title IA**

Nikki Tesch, Sugar Bush Elementary served as our Title I coordinator. As a champion of this effort she worked with our binder for compliance and worked on consistency across

programming throughout the district. In addition to serving students, the title team did a great job taking on a Coaching role for classroom teachers in our first year of implementing all 4 units of ARC to fidelity in our K-4 classrooms. The processes for intervention were more streamlined this year with the RTI Handbook being followed more closely and data driving the decision making process. These efforts continue to support the district goals for impact on the KPIs and on student achievement, as well as staff and student engagement.

Alissa Davis joined the Title IA efforts with a focus on transition and again facilitated consistency in the process and in the implementation of ARC and intervention. In addition to supporting the regular education programming, she helped support special education, bilingual and educational assistants who were new to the American Reading Company Program.

The Intermediate/Middle School saw success with common language for instruction including a no excuses editing list, integrated vocabulary across Science and Social Studies to complement American Reading units, and shared ownership for all students with regard to equitable conferencing.





### Alternative Education

Brett Pickerts joined New London this year as a lead for the Alternative Education program at the Intermediate / Middle School. In his role, he coordinated engagement activities like the spelling bee, managed the Rural Virtual Academy partnership including parent communication, and responded to needs based on data for both struggling and excelling students. He worked closely with Alissa Davis and the rest of the team to ensure a process similar to what was in place for intervention that was implemented for alternative plans.

Jacqueline Schommer transitioned into the lead of Next Generation Academy this year and also led the district Alt Ed PLC. This included not only managing the program and enrollment for Next Generation, but collaboration, alignment and data collection for the Alternative Education efforts across the district. This team has set strong expectations for each other, starting with a focus on attendance and streamlining a process for student success plans.

They met throughout the school year to set attendance goals, create a common language for working with families/students, and create a form to use in Educlimber. They are looking to meet over the summer to create a handbook.



### ARC Implementation Team

The following members served on the ARC Implementation team in addition to admin and title team members; Linda Larson, Jordan Krause, Becky Winkler, Trisha Miller, Amy Hoppenjan, Amie Blanchette, Dani Kamba, and Joanna Mertz. Along the way, others were added for their specific insight and feedback. Having a team for direct communication at each level in the elementary was pivotal in our second year. Thank you all members and Kirk Delwiche for representing the elementary principal team in this effort.

### Math Team

Jody Peterson and a group of elementary staff grounded themselves with the work from **Building Thinking Classrooms** by Peter Liljedahl and looking for strategies for engagement to complement

the efforts in our math curriculum. In addition to a book study, they piloted efforts to model for their teams next year. Similarly, the Intermediate/Middle School math team used the same book to reflect on efforts in mathematics. At our last inservice, our current publisher hosted an online session to remind our staff how to get the most out of our programs and resources. As we head into next year, we will continue to explore thinking tasks, gamification and student agency strategies to impact student learning.

There are certainly other celebrations, but these efforts do not go unnoticed.

### Title I End of the Year Needs Assessment

Each year, Title I requires us to participate in an annual data review and needs assessment. Included in this effort we reflect on current data, look at student achievement data, and set priorities for the upcoming school year. We also share a survey with families to solicit feedback and input.



Thank you to those who help guide our goals for continuous improvement.

### Registration



All registration activities will take place **digitally only again this year through Family Access**; we will not be hosting open walk-in registration.

In-person registration appointments can be requested by calling building secretaries. Families will receive further information in July and August along with reminders. New families can begin the process and assure they are on our list to receive updates by clicking the New Family Enrollment link on the homepage of our website. Bilingual families will be invited for registration support by our Bilingual staff; families will be contacted for their individual appointment times.

### Summer School Registration

Please continue to promote summer school opportunities and enrollment. Details can be found online on our website. If assistance is needed,



please have families contact the summer school coordinator for their level.

