



Sun Prairie Area
School District
Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

2023-2024

A PROGRESS REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

DEAR SUN PRAIRIE AREA COMMUNITY

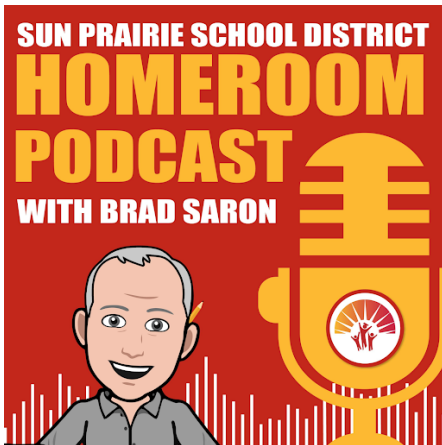


Please accept this report of areas of both progress and improvement for the 2023–2024 school year. This report seeks to bring our accomplishments to life, highlighting our dedicated educators and staff, amazing students, and supportive families and caregivers. It also acknowledges our challenges. My tagline for the 2023–2024 school year was “We move as a community.” The stories of success and resilience captured in this report are possible only with support from you. Our areas for continued improvement and the challenges we face will be resolved only as a community. Together, we work in partnership to ensure that every child in our school community has the resources, opportunities, and relationships they need to thrive.

Dr. Brad Saron
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Saron', followed by a long horizontal line.

WHAT'S INSIDE



Join Dr. Saron as he hosts guests on the *Homeroom* podcast to help our community learn more about our staff and programs. The episodes are available on our “*Homeroom* with Brad Saron” web page or wherever you get your podcasts. Thank you to the Sun Prairie Media Center for their partnership in making this podcast possible.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK	3
BOARD OF EDUCATION	4
STATEMENT OF EQUITY	5
2023–2024 BY THE NUMBERS	6
CULTURE OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE	7–11
COMMITMENT TO EQUITY	12–15
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	16–17
CULTURE OF ENGAGEMENT & INCLUSION	18–23
CULTURE OF OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE	24–25
ATHLETICS, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES	26–29
GRADUATION 2024	30–31
OUR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	32–33
OPERATING REFERENDUM 2024	34–35

Vision

Recognized as a high-performing district of choice that reflects the cultures of our diverse community.

Mission

Inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

Our Commitment to Equity and Excellence through Continuous Improvement

Culture of Educational Excellence

Student Experiences Goal

Educational experiences in Sun Prairie will be rigorous and aligned to standards. Exceptional experiences include student goal setting, active student participation in their learning, and multiple opportunities and means to demonstrate their learning.

Student Learning Environment Goal

The educational environment establishes the conditions where every child feels welcome and able to succeed. In order to create the necessary conditions for learning, educators create spaces where the classroom community accepts and supports the development of all students as people, where learning partnerships thrive between students and adults, and where there is an established culture of care.

Culture of Engagement and Inclusion

Community of Exceptional & Diverse Educators & Staff Goal

Strive to proactively recruit, retain, and engage diverse and exceptional talent.

Communications & Community Engagement Goal

Excel in how we collaborate and communicate with all careholders, and build relationships that promote positive outcomes for students.

Culture of Operational Excellence

Finance Goal

Prioritize the investment of our resources to support educational experiences in and out of the classroom, the physical environment for students and staff, and the teams serving our organizational mission.

Facilities Goal

Prioritize the investment of our resources to support educational experiences in and out of the classroom, the physical environment for students and staff, and the teams serving our organizational mission.



BOARD OF EDUCATION



Diana McFarland
President



Latoya Holiday
Vice President



Lisa Goldsberry
Clerk/Treasurer



Dr. Steve Schroeder
Governance Officer



Bryn Horton
Member



Alwyn Foster
Member



Katey Kamoku
Member

Dear SPASD Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for reading this Annual Report. Public education is the foundation of our society and our democracy. Nearly 8,500 students walk through our doors each day, and our 1,300 SPASD employees work hard every day to love, inspire, and prepare them for success. Our local community organizations and volunteers also contribute in countless ways, both in and out of the classroom, and we want to acknowledge their priceless investment in our students. It truly does take a village to raise our children well, and we are hopeful this report will provide you a glimpse of how our District supports that effort every day in every school across this community.

Your Board is committed to modeling lifelong learning for our students, supporting our excellent staff, and ensuring transparency and accountability to our community for the results of our District. This year, the Board is actively working to revise our policies in four specific areas: Communication, Equity, Facilities/Finance, and Organizational Culture. We are continuing to improve the **alignment of our expectations from the boardroom to the classroom and back again** with a clear shared definition of what success looks like. School Board meetings this year will also have an enhanced focus on data-informed decision-making and student academic results. The outcomes of our students are the true test of our system, and we are working hard to get them where we want them to be, or believe they can be. While we are not perfect, we are committed to ensuring that all of our students graduate prepared for careers, military service, and college. Every Child, Every Day.

We are often asked why we invest the time and money in mailing this information to community members. Simply put, this is your School District. About 70% of our community does not have children in our schools. However, we all share in the investment in our students, who are our future. We believe it is essential that everyone is aware of the happenings, good and bad, within the SPASD.

Thank you for your continued support. We are proud to serve you.

Diana McFarland
President

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Jojo Knauss & Isabella Roberts – *Senior Representatives*

Reagan Loomis & Devin Willis – *Junior Representatives*

AT THE SUN PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, WE STAND BY OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FAMILIES.

The Mission of the Sun Prairie Area School District is to inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

The SPASD celebrates and values our diverse community. We support and are inclusive of all students, staff, families, and community members of all races, ethnicities, faiths, national origins, home language(s), socioeconomic status, immigration status, political viewpoints, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities.

In order to realize our Mission, we are committed to changing the foundational inequities that we acknowledge exist in our system, and we unequivocally state as follows:



We stand by our Black and Brown students, staff, and families. We will continue to speak and act swiftly against statements of bigotry, social injustice, discrimination, racism, and hate that may plague members of our community. We are committed to developing and implementing strategies and best practices that dismantle racism, bigotry, and ethnic oppression within all aspects of our schools and School District.



We stand by our immigrant students, staff, and families. All are welcome and safe in our schools regardless of immigration status.



We stand by our students, staff, and families with disabilities. We will continue to staunchly protect the rights of people of all abilities and create educational environments in which all educators collaborate for high educational outcomes for all students.



We stand by our LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and families. We take seriously our responsibility to provide safe, nondiscriminatory, and inclusive environments for people of all orientations and identities, as they reflect our diverse community.



We stand by our students, staff, and families of lower socioeconomic status. We will do all we can to meet the nutritional, physical, and emotional needs of all students regardless of their economic status.

ALL CHILDREN WILL BE SAFE AND LOVED IN OUR SCHOOLS. ... EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY.

2023-2024 BY THE NUMBERS



15
SCHOOLS

8
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS SITES



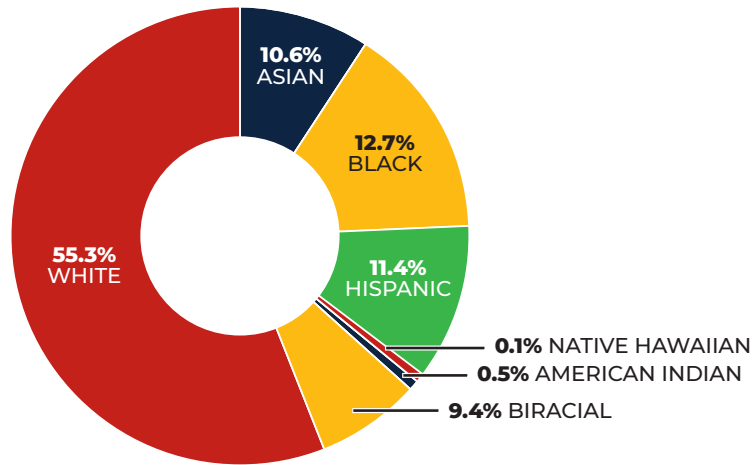
8,412 **457**
STUDENTS 4K LEARNERS

STUDENTS FROM
15
COUNTRIES

262,735
SQUARE FEET OF
FACILITIES LOCATED ON
483
ACRES OF LAND

25,000
HOURS OF COMMUNITY
USE OF FACILITIES

DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDENTS BY RACE



60
LANGUAGES
REPRESENTED

TOP 5 LANGUAGES

1. ENGLISH
2. SPANISH
3. HMONG
4. TELUGU
5. TAMIL



4,300
STUDENTS RIDE
THE BUS DAILY



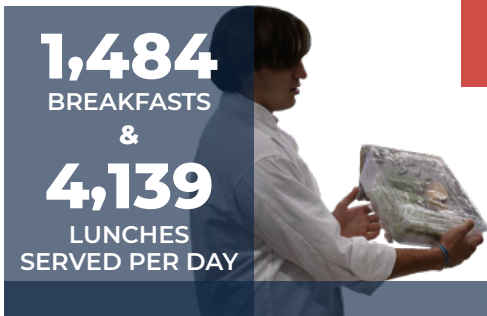
OUR STUDENTS ARE
SUPPORTED BY

7 & **4**
BOARD MEMBERS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

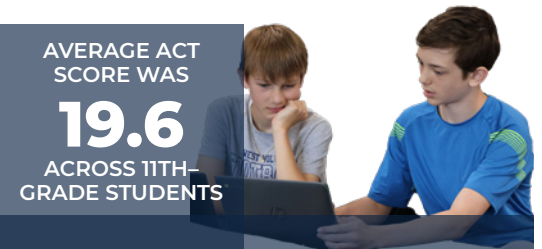


491
STUDENTS
PARTICIPATE IN OUR
4K PROGRAM AT

7 & **4**
PARTNER SITES SCHOOL SITES



1,484
BREAKFASTS
&
4,139
LUNCHES
SERVED PER DAY



AVERAGE ACT
SCORE WAS
19.6
ACROSS 11TH-
GRADE STUDENTS

34.9%

OF STUDENTS WERE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE/
REDUCED MEALS DURING 2023-2024

30.2%
2019-2020

28.4%
2021-2022

32.5%
2022-2023



1,924

STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12
PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR
MORE SCHOOL CHOIR, BAND,
AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS

32
ADVANCED PLACEMENT
COURSES
&
21
DUAL-CREDIT COURSES

CULTURE OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

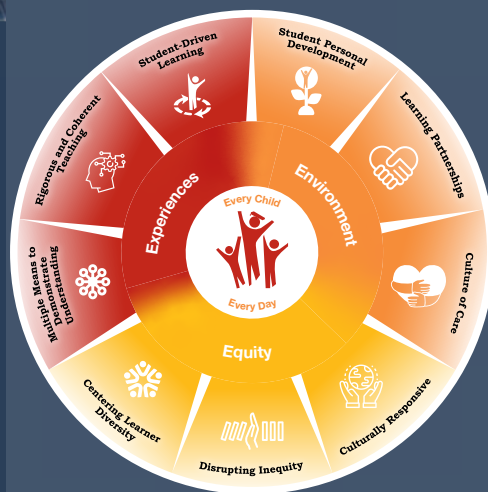
Our District's **Instructional Framework** is an interrelated set of systems and expectations that guide curriculum, instruction, assessment, and learning climate. This framework combines the specific expectations for student learning with strategies and practices to guide teaching and assessment.

STUDENT EXPERIENCES GOAL

Educational experiences in Sun Prairie will be rigorous and aligned to standards. Exceptional experiences include student goal setting, active student participation in their learning, and multiple opportunities and means for students to demonstrate their learning.

STUDENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT GOAL

The educational environment establishes the conditions in which every child feels welcome and able to succeed. In order to provide the necessary conditions for learning, educators create spaces where the classroom community accepts and supports the development of all students as people, where learning partnerships thrive between students and adults, and where there is an established culture of care.



IMPROVEMENT IN READING RESULTS

Through our universal screening tool, Fastbridge, we noticed some encouraging growth in reading skills for our kindergarten and first-grade students from last spring to this spring. This is a great early sign that students are making progress as they move through our school system.

At the secondary level, we saw improved student performance on reading in our middle schools. We also maintained a high English Language Arts credit attainment at our high schools.

K-1 READING
SCORES:

SPRING 2023 SPRING 2024
48% **57%**

6-8 READING
SCORES:

SPRING 2023 SPRING 2024
57% **60%**

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ARTS CREDIT ATTAINMENT: **95%**

We also saw positive signs with early elementary reading that we are making progress on closing the gap for our historically marginalized learners.

K-1 READING SCORES:

	SPRING 2023	SPRING 2024	
White Students:	64%	72%	+8%
Black Students:	29%	56%	+27%
Hispanic Students:	42%	67%	+25%
Multiracial Students:	47%	64%	+17%

	SPRING 2023	SPRING 2024	
Students with Disabilities:	34%	54%	+20%
Multilingual Learner Students:	42%	62%	+20%
Students below the Poverty Line:	40%	64%	+24%

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN EDUCATION

We saw increased frequency of the use of Restorative Justice in Education practices at our middle and high schools, which is positively impacting our efforts to decrease the need for exclusionary practices.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

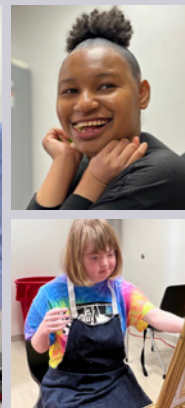


ADULT TRANSITION PROGRAM

We offer an Adult Transition Program that serves students with disabilities after they fulfill their high school academic requirements. The goal of the program is to work with students, caregivers, and other agencies to support the transition to life after high school (ages 18–21). It is a community-based program that focuses on:

- Employability skills and exploration
- Self-advocacy
- Adult daily living skills

14 students graduated from the program this year,
12 of them with paid employment.



READING IS ESSENTIAL

CAMP READ-A-LOT

Westside Elementary hosted the annual family Read-a-Lot event, which included literacy games, activities, and resources for families with the event themed as a campout. This is one of a series of family engagement events connected with academic resources.



HISPANIC STUDENT UNION READS AT NORTHSIDE

Members of our Hispanic Student Union took a trip to Northside Elementary to read books to the students in both Spanish and English.



RIGHT TO READ

Eighteen states now require teacher training in the science of reading. There must be a widespread shift in how America thinks about teaching reading, from policymakers to teachers to parents. To increase understanding about this critical topic, we invited our community to join us for a viewing of the film *The Right to Read*, and for group discussion about how learning to read leads to more equitable outcomes in society.



STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCES



VETERINARY SCIENCE ISN'T HORSEING AROUND

Students in Sun Prairie High School's Veterinary Science class (combined SP East and SP West) completed their veterinary science physical examination summative on horses. Our student Lillian shared her horses with the class for this learning experience.

PRAIRIE PRESERVATION PARTNERSHIP

In anticipation of the addition of a small learning space included with the proposed city well located at Sun Prairie East High School, a portion of the farmland on Highway N was seeded with native prairie plants. The project started with conversations with the farmer about planting soybeans to return the appropriate nutrients to the soil. The cost of the seeds was covered by innovation funds and grants. Students from the SP East Ecology and Agriculture courses planted the seeds.

COSMIC EXCITEMENT ABOUT THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

When a solar eclipse passed over the skies of Sun Prairie in April, students and staff alike from across the District headed outside for the unique opportunity to view it. The eclipse was a fun day that ignited excitement about science in many of our students.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

710 students were part of the AVID program this year.
100% of our AVID graduates were accepted into college.
OVER \$1 million in scholarships was awarded.

AVID PROGRAM

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a college-readiness system designed to increase school-wide learning and performance for students in grades 7–12. The program targets students in the academic middle who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard.



SERVING UP SOME TASTY RESULTS



LETTUCE TOWER

Students at SP East harvested several pounds of lettuce from hydroponic lettuce towers. It was then used on the school's lunch garden bar. This isn't just farm to school—it's farm AT school.

DESSERT CHALLENGE

SP West ProStart / Culinary Arts students Max, Jace, and Gavin took on the Wisconsin ProStart monthly challenge with a sweet twist, creating an indulgent white chocolate brownie with raspberry coulis. Their culinary masterpiece stood out among fierce competition, earning them a spot as one of the top 5 winners out of over 100 entries. Their dessert didn't just satisfy the judges' sweet tooth—it set a new standard for chocolate desserts.



HOLIDAY COOKIES

The SP West ProStart / Culinary Arts class turned the holiday season into a delicious celebration by offering staff a mouthwatering selection of 22 different holiday cookies and candies. With their culinary skills on full display, these students handcrafted and beautifully packaged over 2,300 sweet treats, spreading festive cheer one bite at a time.



PAVE SWEET AUCTION

Our SP East Culinary Arts 1 & 2 students made desserts for the PAVE Sweet Auction. PAVE is a domestic violence shelter for women and children. This year our students helped raise \$1,280 for the shelter, exceeding their contributions from last year. The top selling dessert was a chocolate peanut butter bliss cake that sold for \$320.



EXCELLENT HOSTS

Our District, staff, and students were on display as we hosted the Wisconsin Area School Board Region 12 meeting for other area school districts. Our ProStart students, with the support of teacher Jill Hansen, made and served a meal while Matt McVeigh's Jazz 1 class played background music during the dinner.



EMPTY BOWLS DINNER

The Empty Bowls Dinner at SP West was a great success. ProStart students served soup and desserts they made in class, Ceramics students made bowls that were available for purchase, Business and Marketing students promoted the event and led tours of the school for guests, and Orchestra students provided music for the event. Proceeds went to the Sunshine Place. Thank you to all the amazing students, staff, and guests who made this event possible.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION

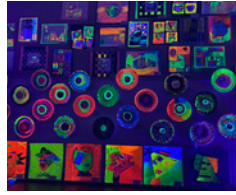
Our **inaugural cohorts of Spanish-English Dual Language Immersion (DLI) classes at Northside Elementary and Westside Elementary have begun.** DLI creates a classroom environment where multilingual learners whose home languages are Spanish, English, and/or other languages come together to learn collaboratively. **These classes are taught in Spanish and English,** allowing students to foster proficiency in their primary language while honing communication and literacy skills in a second language. This program not only enhances the academic performance and graduation rates of multilingual learners but also equips them with tools for success beyond the classroom. Students gain the ability to read, write, and communicate effectively in both their primary and secondary languages, all while developing a keen sense of multicultural awareness.



CREATIVITY

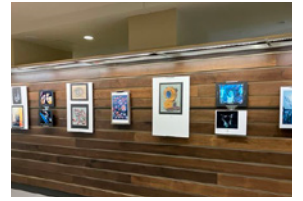
ARTS AND ACTIVITIES NIGHT

Horizon Elementary School welcomed families into their school for some family fun and to show off their students' creative talents to parents, caregivers, and siblings.



UW HEALTH ART SHOWCASE

The SP East and SP West Art Departments showcased their students' artwork at UW Health's East Madison Hospital. Thank you to our art teachers for providing our students this great experience.



MUSIC



COMBINED ORCHESTRA & CHOIR CONCERT AT SP EAST



WMTV 15'S "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON"

The Concert Choirs and Mixed Choirs from both SP East and SP West came together to record a song for WMTV15's "Sounds of the Season" broadcast. Their performance aired along with performances from other area schools this past holiday season.



WISCONSIN STATE FFA HONORS BAND

Out of 99 applicants, Kaitlyn from SP West was accepted into the Wisconsin State FFA Honors Band to play the alto saxophone. She is the first FFA member of SP West to receive this honor. Congratulations, Kaitlyn!

JAZZ FEST

The Essentially Ellington Regional High School Jazz Fest was hosted at the SP West PAC. Ken Keith and Mark Mellecker, our two theater technicians, created new lighting effects using mesh wire, which allowed them to change the lighting for each band that played. Twelve schools participated, and a series of guests attended.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND & SINGING SERGEANTS

The US Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants performed to a full house at the SP East PAC. A few select students were lucky enough to perform with the band for a song, and SP East Band Director Joe Mesner was able to conduct a song with the band. Many military veterans and families attended, celebrating Military Family Month.



CAREER READY

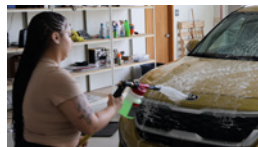


MADISON COLLEGE NEXT GENERATION FIRE ACADEMY

Congratulations to the 10 Sun Prairie students who successfully completed the Madison College Next Generation Fire Academy. They are now certified firefighters, certified Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs), or both, equipped to serve our community. Pictured here are some of our graduates alongside Sun Prairie Fire Chief, Chris Garrison.

WE ARE PROUD TO PARTNER WITH CEOs OF TOMORROW

The CEOs of Tomorrow program started in 2016. Its goal is to inspire young people to discover their entrepreneurial talents and use them to make the world a better place. Engaging, hands-on activities help students learn important life skills and make a positive impact while also earning money.



The **Prairie Phoenix Academy Entrepreneur class** gives students an opportunity to start their own business. The 2023–2024 cohort of students learned about marketing, finances, and advertising while running a car detailing business called Splash and Dash. They washed two cars a day after school, and all the money they earned went back to them.

Westside Elementary's after-school program of fourth and fifth-grade CEOs of Tomorrow Wildcats gave their final presentations to a cafeteria full of friends, family, and community members.

COMPETITIONS

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Our two teams, SP West High School and Prairie View Middle School, competed at the regional level in the African American History Academic Challenge organized by the 100 Black Men of Madison.



CREATIVE WRITING FESTIVAL

Students and staff from SP West attended the UW–Whitewater Creative Writing Festival. They met and learned from fellow writers to improve their skills. Congrats to Julianne and Amelia for earning special recognition for their writing.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONTEST

At the FFA Leadership Development Contest, members competed in various speaking and leadership contests. Jada placed 2nd in Extemporaneous Speaking and advanced to sectionals. Maecie placed 3rd in Employment Skills, and Logan placed 4th.



FINANCE & INVESTING CHALLENGE BOWL

Ethan, Sripada, Gabe, and Jacob competed in the Finance and Investing Challenge Bowl. The team represented both SP East and SP West and won the consolation bracket.

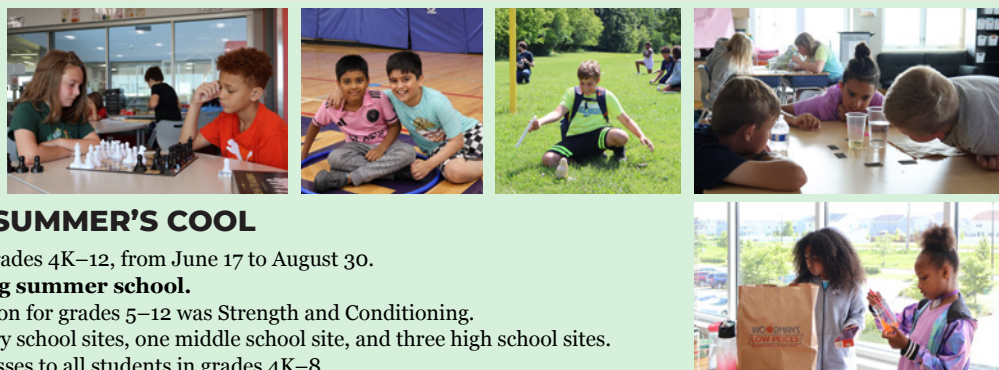


VISIONEERS DESIGN CHALLENGE

Eleven SP East students journeyed to UW–Milwaukee for the Visioneers Design Challenge, a statewide competition for students to explore careers in the world of design. Our students competed in Architecture, Digital Photography, Fashion, Graphic Design, and Exhibit Design. They worked on long-term challenges and presented their work to judges, consisting of college professors and design pros. Thank you, Ms. Naatz and Ms. Harms, for supporting them with this experience.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



SUMMER SCHOOL: WHERE SUMMER'S COOL

- We hosted summer school for students in grades 4K–12, from June 17 to August 30.
- **244 half credits were recovered during summer school.**
- One of our classes with the largest registration for grades 5–12 was Strength and Conditioning.
- We hosted our main classes at six elementary school sites, one middle school site, and three high school sites.
- We offer reading, math, and enrichment classes to all students in grades 4K–8.
- For our 9–12 students, we offer credit recovery and initial credit classes to ensure that students graduate on time.
- We offer instrumental band and orchestra classes through a variety of programs, including the well-known Sound of Sun Prairie.
- We are pleased to offer students breakfast and lunch from our school nutrition program.

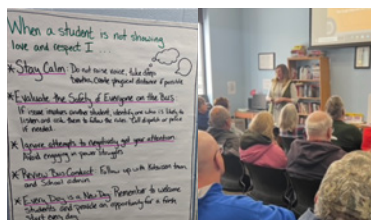
A TED TALK CREATED BY OUR STUDENTS

TEDxSP West High School was a community-enriching event. Students, community members, and staff attended TED Talks led by SP West students and teachers. Components of the event included activity booths, catering, and networking opportunities. The majority of the event was organized by SP West students, with Quinton being granted the event license and taking the position of lead organizer.



CULTURE OF CARE: KOBUSSEN BUSES

We led a mini professional development session on fostering a culture of care with over 25 bus drivers from Kobussen. They focused on building a community of love and respect on our buses and addressing situations where these values are challenged. Anchor charts from the session are now displayed near the bus keys at Kobussen as a daily reminder.



IMPROVING FINANCIAL LITERACY

Two years ago, students from Sun Prairie High School proposed improving financial education in the District. With support from Bank of Sun Prairie and District educators, their project expanded to all high schools. Now a collaborative team is implementing financial literacy lessons. Recent student feedback highlighted a desire for more frequent and earlier exposure to topics like loans and contracts. Adjustments will be made based on this feedback for the upcoming year.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

Every aspect of District operations, from the Board of Education to our strategic plan, and from the excellence of our sites to our community partnerships, embodies our commitment to supporting students who face challenges in reaching their full potential. We recognize those who have been marginalized and lack access and opportunities to thrive as scholars in our public school system. In essence, our SPASD Equity Framework is our guide to ensuring that we reach “Every” in our mission to serve Every Child, Every Day.

EQUITY IN ACTION

The community was invited to join the Sun Prairie Area School District Director of Systemic Equity & Inclusion, Dr. Michael Morgan, for a series of community conversations about our District’s equity work. Attendees were invited to share their perspectives, ask questions, and help us grow together in our work to support Every Child, Every Day.



Hmong Cultural Competency

Over 75 staff participated in Hmong cultural competency professional development to strengthen their learning about our Hmong students and families.



Hmong Family Engagement

Over the course of the year, we hosted four meetings with our Hmong community members. Together, we learned about the needs of our Hmong students and families and how we can best support them. Moving into the new school year, we will have a Hmong Family Advisory Committee and student engagement planning with our Hmong students to start developing an action plan for continuous improvement and support.



Hmong Heritage Family Fun Night

We enjoyed a memorable Hmong Heritage Family Fun Night at Prairie View Middle School with games, activities, food, and prizes. Over 100 students, parents and caregivers, community members, and staff attended. Special thanks to Briana Kurlinkus and Jennifer Yang for coleading the event’s planning and to all the volunteers whose efforts made it a huge success. We look forward to expanding the event next year.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Our bilingual family liaisons, Dania Cannon and Jennifer Yang, serve as essential links between the District and multilingual family careholders, fostering seamless interaction, cultural mediation, and unwavering support. Dania, who transitioned from her role at Patrick Marsh Middle School, works with Spanish-speaking families, while Jennifer, who joins us from a background in early elementary education, works with our Hmong-speaking families.



**Dania
Cannon**



**Jennifer
Yang**

PARENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Parent Leadership Council is a group made up of our School Community Organizations' members and our school leaders. This year, the group focused their discussions on equity and identifying how this lives in the work that School Community Organizations (SCOs) do in Sun Prairie. The group focused on teacher and staff appreciation, family experiences, the establishment of a shared/community-wide SCO, and representation from families. They have also shared staff appreciation funds and created a shared 501C3.



100%

of our elementary SCOs signed to ratify bylaws for an umbrella SCO organization called SPASCO. This will support a shared strategy and funding resources for our elementary staff and students.

BLACK GIRL WELLNESS CONFERENCE

A group from Central Heights Middle School attended the Black Girl Wellness Conference, led by Central Heights Community Schools site coordinator, Mizzier Campbell. This experience is connected to the need for affinity spaces that strengthen mental wellness and a sense of belonging.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Northside Elementary and Westside Elementary hosted a family night to celebrate Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month, bringing together our SPASD community to honor Latino and Hispanic families, students, and staff. This Noche Familiar Hispana y Latina featured free books, food, music, dancing, and valuable community resources, drawing a diverse crowd of Spanish-speaking families.



HISPANIC CULTURAL EXPLORATION

Meadow View fifth graders celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by visiting Sun Prairie West High School. The SP East Hispanic Student Union and the SP West Latinx Club hosted a celebration that included learning, music, dancing, and enjoying candies from Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia. The fifth graders also helped the Latinx Club and the SP West ProStart cooking class prepare delicious Hispanic dishes. It was a great learning experience for the Meadow View Otters and a wonderful opportunity for our SP East Cardinals and SP West Wolves to share their knowledge and talents.

REMIXED23

Our staff attended and presented at the RemixEd23 Conference. The event was a celebration of 50 years of hip-hop, 25 years of the High School for the Recording Arts (HSRA), and a conference on hip-hop academic teaching in schools. Elements of this design of HSRA can be found in the studio spaces at SP West, SP East, and Prairie Phoenix Academy. SPASD also partners with HSRA on the curriculum and professional development related to the recording arts (Rap Camps).

The RemixEd conference aims to remix education by breaking down the system into its core elements: community, family, and love, which encompass mutual respect, empathy, compassion, and justice. This approach is closely tied to social justice and culturally responsive practices. Notable speakers on this topic included Dr. Christopher Emdin, Kaleb Rashad, and others.



JUNETEENTH

Many of our staff, students, and community members gathered to celebrate Juneteenth. Despite the rain, they had a great time dancing, enjoying food, and even getting haircuts.



MULTICULTURAL FAIR

We were excited to be back at the Sun Prairie Multicultural Fair this year to help celebrate the many cultures that make up our diverse community.



PRIDEFEST

Staff, students, and community members celebrated PrideFest at SP West this summer. It was great to see the community come together and support one another.

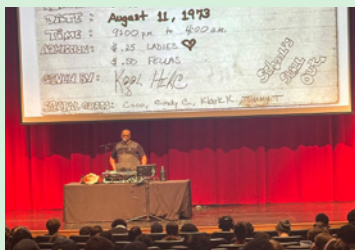


BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Our theme for Black History Month 2024 was celebrating 50 years of hip-hop. The month was filled with activities and performances across the District for the community and also school-based events. Here are just some of the highlights:



Maxine Gordon shared her experiences with students. She is an independent scholar with a lifetime career working with jazz musicians.



Chris "Godzilla" Taylor taught students and staff about the history of hip-hop and displayed his immense experience with recording engineering.



Our studio manager, Marcus Porter, shared his hip-hop and rap talents.



Black Student Union members from all three middle schools presented a Hip-Hop Gallery Walk, leading guests through the decades of hip-hop culture.



Read Your Heart Out: In recognition of National African American Parent Involvement Day, schools celebrated Black and African American students' culture through the love of reading while bringing the community together. Community members and volunteers came into the schools to read books to our students and connect with them through storytelling.



The annual Soul Food Dinner was a success. Guests enjoyed a free meal catered by McGee's Chicken and desserts made by SP East's ProStart students. Donations benefited our high school Black Student Unions.

B.E.A.M.

The B.E.A.M. Awards spotlight positive examples of Black excellence and achievement in the Sun Prairie school community. Students are nominated by Sun Prairie Area School District staff in these categories: Models Excellence in Academics, Models Excellence in Teamwork, Exemplary Peer Leadership, Models Excellence in Responsibility, and Extraordinary Growth.



Congratulations to Latoya Holiday, School Board Vice President and Governance Officer, for being selected by *Madison 365* as one of Wisconsin's Most Influential Black Leaders for 2023.



RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

Some Black Student Union members from SP East, SP West, and Prairie Phoenix Academy attended the Racial Justice Summit, held at the Monona Terrace.



RACE & EQUITY TRAINING

Site leadership teams, including E-Team members from all 15 schools, participated in race and equity training. The training focused on deepening their understanding to ensure that their SP100-day goals were centered on racial equity, diversity, and inclusion.



BSU MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Northside Elementary and Patrick Marsh Middle School marked a successful first year of their Black Student Union Mentorship Program. Middle school students mentored third and fifth graders weekly in a restorative circle, fostering a space to celebrate Black joy.



BLACK STUDENT UNION HBCU TOUR

Fifty of our BSU scholars from SP East, SP West, and Prairie Phoenix Academy went on a tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to Indianapolis, Ohio, Maryland, DC, North Carolina, and West Virginia. They visited four HBCUs, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the International Civil Rights Museum, and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.



MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE

SPASD hosted the Multicultural Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Conference for High School Students this year. The conference theme, "You Belong Here," comes from a student-created mural at Sheehan Park. Our MSAN students and their advisors, as the hosts for the conference, served as the planning team. They worked closely with the MSAN Executive Director and Project Manager for the past seven months to ensure that the conference participants, which included about 160 students from 18 school districts across the country, experienced an authentic sense of belonging.



DEMOCRACY PROJECT

Students from SP East and Prairie Phoenix Academy shined at the Wisconsin State Capitol during "A Day at the Capitol" as part of the Democracy Project. This initiative helps build a strong foundation for democracy by providing essential knowledge and experiences about rights, responsibilities, and the electoral process. Hosted by State Representative Samba Baldeh and attended by other state representatives, the event was made possible thanks to 100 Black Men of Madison and all who contributed.



HERITAGE MONTHS

It is important that every student sees themselves positively represented in their school experiences. In addition to teachers providing relevant curriculum and learning experiences that are inclusive of all students, we also expect teachers to highlight the many cultures and heritages that are represented in our schools. As a District, we invest in lifting up the heritage and awareness months and celebrations that represent the marginalized students, parents and caregivers, and community that we serve.

The Department of Systemic Equity and Inclusion partnered with school sites to ensure that our heritage and awareness months are acknowledged, celebrated, and recognized and that the positive attributes of the respected heritages and cultures are featured.



We will continue to pay close attention to our changing enrollment and work toward adding even more heritage and awareness months to support our students across the District. We always encourage and support all school sites' efforts to lift up all heritage and awareness months so that our diverse student population feels a sense of belonging at school.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Community Schools unite educators, community members, families, and students to foster learning and development by coordinating resources and opportunities in and out of the classroom.



The Community Schools strategy transforms a school into a place where educators, local community members, families, and students work together to strengthen conditions for student learning and healthy development. As partners, they organize in-school and out-of-school resources, supports, and opportunities so that young people can thrive.



C. H. Bird
Elementary School



Creekside
Elementary School



Northside
Elementary School



Westside
Elementary School

**We are proud to have eight full-service
Community Schools in our District.**



Central Heights
Middle School



Patrick Marsh
Middle School



Prairie View
Middle School



Prairie Phoenix
Academy



Collaboration among schools, families, community members, and community organizations provides connections to:

- Academic enrichment activities, such as tutoring, sports, and clubs
- Health and social services
- Family and community engagement

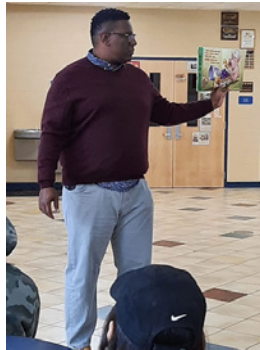
Out-of-school programs work with community partners to offer academic, wellness and enrichment activities. These partnerships are essential for high-quality after-school programs, enhancing each school's ability to offer enriching options and additional academic support beyond regular school hours in Sun Prairie.

Other initiatives offered by Community Schools include:

- School-based food pantries and clothing closets
- Walking school buses
- Family nights

100 SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The 100 Scholars Program, also known as Saturday School, is another extended and enriched learning opportunity. In partnership with 100 Black Men of Madison, this program provides small-group academic support for K–5 students at Northside Elementary and Creekside Elementary.



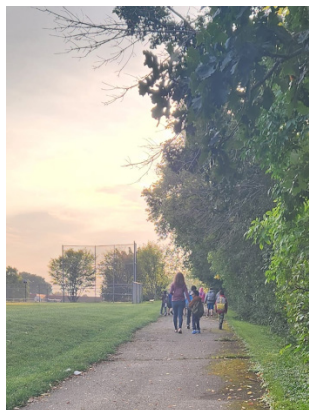
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Site Leadership Tackles Chronic Absenteeism

Each Community School has a site leadership team. The collective goal for the year was to improve chronic absenteeism by 2% across all sites.

Attendance increased an average of 3.5% across Community School sites in the last 100 days of the school year.

One way that Northside Elementary led in their community was by starting an attendance challenge for the final 30 days of school with the catch phrase **"Be here to end the year!"**



Walking School Bus

The Walking School Bus at C. H. Bird Elementary and Westside Elementary helps ensure that students get to and from school safely and on time. This is an initiative to support attendance at our schools.

40,000 MEALS FOR HAITI

220 volunteers came to C. H. Bird Elementary to pack 40,000 meals for children in Haiti. This amount of food will feed 200 children for a year. A huge shout out to Door Creek Church for partnering with Community Schools for this incredible event.



FALCON MENTORS PROGRAM

This program provides Prairie View Middle School students with the opportunity to mentor younger peers at Royal Oaks Elementary and to empower Prairie View students with leadership and professional growth skills that can help them succeed in and out of school.



SCHOOL-BASED FOOD PANTRY

Seven of the eight full-service Community School sites operate a school-based food pantry in partnership with the Sunshine Place. This year, we served over 800 families from these pantries.

We launched a neighborhood meal delivery in partnership with the Sunshine Place and the Sun Prairie Public Library / Dream Bus, supplying food, basic needs items, and access to library materials to our families. Over 9,000 meals were delivered on Friday evenings during the school year and throughout the summer months in neighborhoods across Sun Prairie.



PRAIRIE PHOENIX ACADEMY TUTORS

Prairie Phoenix Academy (PPA) students support the academic achievement of elementary students by serving as tutors every Thursday afternoon. This program matches elementary scholars from Creekside Elementary with PPA students. Staff provide games and activities that support the skills the students are working on during the day. This service is part of a workshop developed by PPA advisors to help students earn credit toward graduation while also supporting the academic growth of younger students.



CELEBRATING MRS. DARGA

"BE LIKE MIKE" AWARD

Stacy Darga, the Community Schools site coordinator at Westside Elementary, was honored with WMTV15 Madison's "Be Like Mike" Award. This award recognizes the culture of care she creates for our students and for making a tremendous impact on our community.



REININGER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Many gathered to honor Mrs. Darga as she received the Reininger Lifetime Achievement Award, which is awarded to a Sun Prairie resident for their efforts over several years in service of their community.



Thank you, Mrs. Darga, for the love you have poured into Westside and the Sun Prairie community. We wish you all the best in this next chapter. Happy retirement!

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to Jamie Racine, who was awarded the National Community Schools Initiative Leadership Award for her excellent work leading Sun Prairie Community Schools.





CULTURE OF ENGAGEMENT & INCLUSION

COMMUNITY OF EXCEPTIONAL & DIVERSE EDUCATORS & STAFF GOAL

We strive to proactively recruit, retain, and engage diverse and exceptional talent.

SPASD boasts a dynamic team of over **1,400 staff members**, each playing a crucial role in our school community. From inspiring teachers and dedicated custodians to supportive instructional aides, skilled school nutrition servers, administrative assistants, and groundskeepers, our diverse team ensures that every aspect of our schools runs smoothly. Our staff are exceptionally talented and committed.

WE ARE PROUD THAT OUR RETENTION RATE CONTINUES TO GROW

89.7%
2017–2018

92.1%
2018–2019

93.8%
2019–2020

90.0%
2020–2021

86.1%
2021–2022

89.7%
2022–2023

90.0%
2023–2024

“All things considered, the District is a good place to work.”

% OF STAFF RESPONDING “AGREE” / “STRONGLY AGREE”

73.5%
2020–2021

62.5%
2021–2022

85.3%
2022–2023

86.8%
2023–2024

DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING OUR STAFF IS A PRIORITY. DURING THE 2023–2024 SCHOOL YEAR, WE OFFERED:

355
professional
learning workshops
to our staff, with

6,820
staff attending

MENTORING FIRST-YEAR TEACHERS

We have a mentorship program for our new staff, to ensure they have the support they need to support students. Mentors help coach beginning educators by observing lessons and collaborating on developing student-centered lessons and best instructional practices.



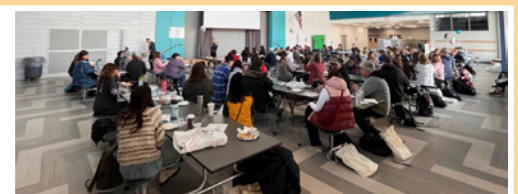
MULTILINGUAL LEARNER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fourteen multilingual learner teachers joined our coordinator of Multilingual Education at the WIDA Annual Conference in Milwaukee for three days of deep professional learning. WIDA is a national leader in multilingual education assessment, standards, and professional development at UW–Madison. This year’s conference was themed “Adelante with a Multilingual Mindset,” which truly embraces our District’s journey as we embrace bilingual education and an ever-growing multilingual learner student population.



EDCAMP – 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We proudly hosted the tenth annual EdCamp–Madison, one of the longest-running EdCamps in the country, marking a decade of providing impactful learning opportunities in Sun Prairie. The planning team estimated an impact on over 50,000 students. Attendees this year were from two states and spanned the profession from pre-service teachers from Viterbo University to recent retirees.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS CONTINUES TO BE A FOCUS FOR OUR DISTRICT.



SPASD maintains its platinum-level status, the highest designation from the Wellness Council of America (WELCOA), recognizing our commitment to employee health and wellness. WELCOA, a leading authority on workplace health, commends our District for prioritizing the well-being of our staff and families. Our Wellness Department, recognized as a model of excellence, exemplifies best practices in workplace wellness. Karyn Richmond, Wellness Coordinator, recently presented “Best Practices in Workplace Wellness: Creating a Culture of Care” at the Wisconsin Association of School Boards Annual Conference and will speak on “Leadership Support as a Top Priority in Employee Well-Being” at the Association for Wisconsin School Administrators Convention.

Here are just some of the ways we have encouraged wellness among our staff:

- 73 individuals participated in our 30 Days of Mindfulness September Challenge.
- The Employee Wellness Clinic continues to provide District and City of Sun Prairie employees with excellent care while lowering our District’s insurance costs. **The clinic maintains a 100% satisfaction rate.**
- We offered a free intro to QiGong.
- Staff had access to Pickleball lessons and club play free of charge.
- **The Road to Inner Wellness: Creating the Life You Want:** This unique four-part series was offered to staff through professional development.
- Staff could attend water aerobics courses taught by fellow staff members.



ELEVATE FINANCIAL WELLNESS

20% of our employees currently use the ELEVATE platform to learn ways to improve their financial wellness.



Thank you to Bank of Sun Prairie for sponsoring our employees’ access to this platform.

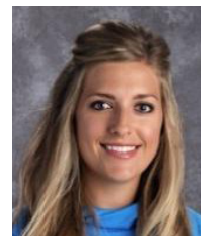
OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

Dia Yang, a third-grade teacher at Token Springs, received the Outstanding Educator Award presented by the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC). She was honored for this achievement at a Badger basketball game in November.



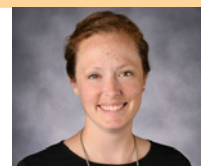
EARNING HER CERTIFICATION

Jenna Boberg was recognized as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). She is a Physical Education / Health teacher at SP East and SP West. To earn this distinction, Jenna demonstrated exemplary knowledge, contributions, and ongoing professional development in interscholastic athletic administration.



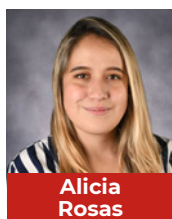
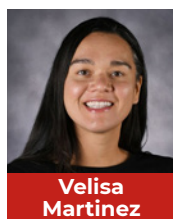
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Anna-Lisa Dahlgren, AP Human Geography teacher at SP West, was honored with the Distinguished Teaching Award by the National Council for Geographic Education.



NOMINATIONS FOR AMERICA'S FAVORITE TEACHER

Congratulations to Velisa Martinez and Alicia Rosas on being nominated for America’s Favorite Teacher. This recognition is a testament to their dedication and passion for our students and their embodiment of the spirit of commitment and equity for all.



GEHRKE-MCALLISTER LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Wisconsin School Counselor Association awarded Prairie View school counselor Rick Hudson the Mary Gehrke-McAllister Leadership Award. Congratulations to Mr. Hudson, and thank you for your dedicated service to students.



BIG EIGHT CONFERENCE COACH OF THE YEAR

Five Sun Prairie coaches were recognized as the Big Eight Conference’s Coach of the Year in their respective sports. Congratulations to Coach Maselter, SP East boys’ basketball; Coach Nelson, SP United wrestling; Coach Marchese, SP East baseball; Coach Olson, SP East softball; and Coach Maughan, SP East boys’ track and field. Thank you for all you do to lead, educate, and support our students and athletes.



BIG EIGHT CONFERENCE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Our District Athletics & Activities Director and SP West Athletic Director, Eric Nee, was nominated and selected as this year's Big Eight Athletic Director of the Year by his fellow athletic directors in the conference.



JOEL COYNE'S PUBLISHED CHILDREN'S BOOK

Joel Coyne, a Business Education teacher at SP East, wrote and published a children's book. Mr. Coyne wrote *The Home That Love Built* for his wife, Tricia, and son, Camden. The story talks about how all families look different and have different experiences, but love is all that's needed.



CELEBRATING 45 YEARS WITH THE DISTRICT

We want to celebrate **Eric Kubly**, a member of our Sun Prairie Schools Nutrition Team at Patrick Marsh Middle School, who celebrated **45 years of service** with our District. The dedication of our staff makes everything we do possible.



CHEERS FOR PEERS

Recognition isn't just a nice-to-have; it's a key driver of success and personal well-being at work.

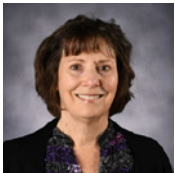
To that end, our District implemented the Cheers for Peers system to help promote staff-to-staff recognition. This allows staff members to share their appreciation for one another by submitting cheers. Employees are able to select which of our District's core values are being exemplified by the person they are recognizing. Staff are notified when they receive a cheer and can read other cheers as well. This new system has seen wide use and is a great way to recognize the meaningful work being done by our dedicated teachers and staff.

A BIG SHOUT-OUT TO THE STAFF WHO RETIRED THIS YEAR!

Their commitment to education and the positive influence they have had on our students are truly inspiring. We deeply appreciate all their hard work and wish them a joyful and fulfilling retirement.

401 YEARS

OF TOTAL SERVICE



Julie Bloesch
15 years



Lori Coulthart
15 years



Stacy Darga
13 years



Candie Douglas
24 years



Theresa Ellingson
27 years



Kathy Enstad
20 years



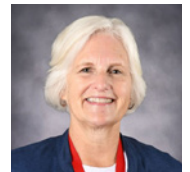
Christine Gehrman
21 years



Jo Guyette
18 years



Pat Habich-Kershner
17 years



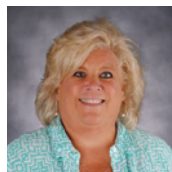
Mary Hendrickson Loeffler
19 years



John Hernandez
19 years



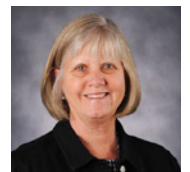
Rhonda Jones
18 years



Denise Meier
15 years



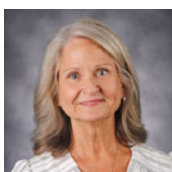
Dan Oradei
15 years



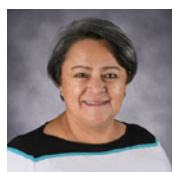
Beth Patterson
19 years



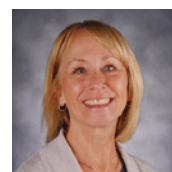
Trish Paulson
22 years



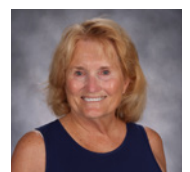
Aloy Pien
22 years



Patricia Ruiz
15 years



Julie Scott
18 years



**In Memory of
Nancy Everson**
49 years

CULTURE OF ENGAGEMENT & INCLUSION

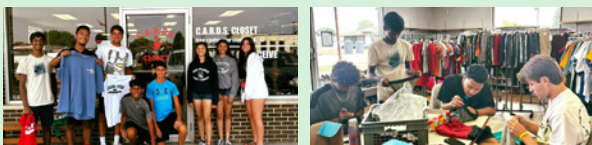
COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOAL

Excel in how we collaborate and communicate with all careholders, and build relationships that promote positive outcomes for students.

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

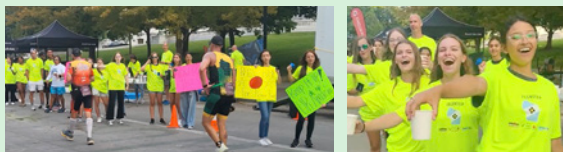
C.A.R.D.S. CLOSET

The SP United boys' tennis team spent some time together helping to organize the C.A.R.D.S. Closet.



IRONMAN VOLUNTEERS

Our SP East and SP West boys' and girls' tennis teams volunteered at the Ironman event.



BOYS LACROSSE RAISES FUNDS FOR NAMI

The boys' lacrosse team raised over \$800 for NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness).



VALENTINES FOR A LOCAL NURSING HOME

Students from Royal Oaks Elementary made valentines that were delivered to the seniors in a nursing home to brighten the residents' day.



HOCKEY FIGHTS CANCER FUNDRAISER

The boys' hockey team raised \$4,400 in a fundraiser for fighting cancer.



ADAPTED SPORTS LEAGUE

Thank you to QBE for the \$12,500 grant given to our Adapted Sports League. This money will go a long way in providing equipment and transportation for our SP East and SP West teams.



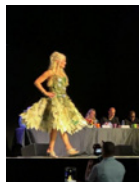
DUDES ON DUTY

Westside Elementary started a Dudes on Duty program, where male volunteers (employees, community partners, SPASD staff) spend Friday recesses with the young Wildcats. Every Friday, a "Dude" is out at recess. This program is designed to support and promote positive behavior and positive conflict resolution during days when data shows a higher conflict at recess. Thanks to George Chavez, City of Sun Prairie Neighborhood Navigator, and Brian McKenzie, our Patrick Marsh Middle School site coordinator, for being the first Dudes on Duty.



MADISON READING PROJECT'S "READY TO WEAR" FUNDRAISER

Findorff recently sponsored Allie, a Sun Prairie student, and her teacher, Shelby Orcutt, in designing and creating a dress for the Madison Reading Project's "Ready to Wear" Fundraiser. The dress on the model is completely made of paper. This is another great example of community partners supporting our students and staff.



LIONS CLUB GUEST READER

Thank you to the Sun Prairie Lions Club for gifting each of our C. H. Bird kindergartners with a new book each month and providing a guest reader to read it to them.



HUNGER HERO CAMPAIGN

The Sun Prairie Masonic Lodge #143 donated \$3,000 to the Hunger Hero Campaign. This donation will be used to help families afford school meals and make sure students in our District don't go hungry.



WE APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS AT THE SUN PRAIRIE EDUCATION FOUNDATION (SPEF) for supporting our educators and for contributing funds to make students' innovative ideas a reality. SPEF gave and/or pledged just over \$250,000 during the 2023–2024 school year.

Some examples of how funds were used:

- Adapted Sports League
- Shoes and socks for Physical Education
- Graphic design studio
- Battle of the Books
- Biotechnology equipment
- FFA Food for America program
- Band "Beyond the Notes" experience
- Gun safety education
- Black Student Union celebration



EAGLE SCOUT GARDEN PROJECT

Rishab, a dedicated Boy Scout since elementary school, successfully led the construction of six large garden beds for his Eagle Scout project. The goal was to create an educational garden at Creekside Elementary where students can learn about gardening, wellness, and community engagement. This sustainable addition, funded by the SPEF, will provide year-round hands-on learning and foster community collaboration. We are inspired by students like Rishab who make a positive impact in our community. Way to go, Rishab!



GRANTS IN ACTION

Stacy Darga, who retired from Westside Elementary in June, was instrumental in establishing the school's Community School program. Over her 13 years, Stacy consistently wrote and pursued grants, securing over \$50,000 for initiatives like art, mindfulness, outdoor learning, summer reading, school gardens, music, and Wildcat Theater. Since 2014, she has written at least one grant annually, contributing significantly to the school's funding and programs.



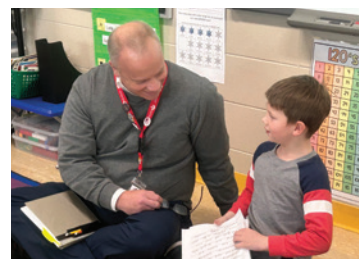
THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

and all of its members, who support our students through a variety of programs. The Sun Prairie Business and Education Partnership (BEP) enhances students' employability through programs like Reading Buddies and financial literacy events.



ADOPT-A-CLASS

The Adopt-a-Class program brings BEP members into fourth- and seventh-grade classrooms to teach vital "soft skills." Superintendent Saron was actively involved this year, teaching lessons at Northside Elementary and Patrick Marsh Middle School. For example, at Northside, he focused on kindness with the book *We're All Wonders*, guiding students to create kindness-themed pennants. Explore more at spbep.org.



REALITY ROCKS

BEP held its first Reality Rocks event. This event brought in just under 100 volunteers from over 35 local businesses and community organizations to interact and engage with 500 students from SP East, SP West, and Prairie Phoenix Academy. The Reality Rocks event is like a giant game of *LIFE*, where students learn about practical issues, such as managing a budget, owning a car, establishing credit, paying for childcare, securing insurance, etc., through a simulated event hosted and supported by community members. All Sun Prairie students have access to this financial literacy learning experience through the required Economics class at the high school level.



READING BUDDIES

Once a month, Christi Winchel, owner of Sunny Nutrition, reads to her first-grade Reading Buddies at Westside Elementary. Each month students are able to take home their own copy of the book that was read to them. Community members like Christi "adopt" a classroom and purchase the books that are used in that classroom.



FOR OUR COMMUNITY

PRAIRIE PHOENIX ACADEMY'S SECOND ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS BAZAAR

Prairie Phoenix Academy hosted the second annual Mental Health & Wellness Bazaar in May. Together, we can erase the stigma and have conversations about mental health.



BANK OF SUN PRAIRIE FOOD PANTRY SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Sun Prairie's elementary schools collectively donated 53,131 lbs. of food to the food pantry, a significant increase from last year's 38,000 lbs. Thanks to Bank of Sun Prairie and our volunteer groups for their support in making this drive possible.



VACCINATION CLINICS

Our District hosted three free vaccine clinic for families, to ensure that students are current on their vaccinations. These clinics had a great impact in reaching families from a wide variety of backgrounds, including some with limited access to healthcare.

417
TOTAL VACCINES
ADMINISTERED

SLOW DOWN CAMPAIGN

The District participated in a **countywide Slow Down Campaign** through the **Dane County Traffic Safety Commission**. Signs alerting motorists to slow down around schools were placed near all 15 schools in Sun Prairie.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 353 for their generous donation of cookies for our staff during Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.



AN AVERAGE OF **82.4%** OF FAMILIES ARE SATISFIED WITH THE COMMUNICATION THAT COMES FROM THEIR SCHOOL.

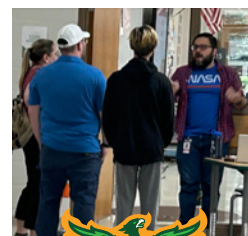
COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

In order to continue to learn what our community needs, we hosted Coffee with the Superintendent several times throughout the year. Thank you to the community members who stopped by. Please know that you are always invited. Watch our social media accounts for future dates.



PRAIRIE PHOENIX ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Prairie Phoenix Academy held a Spring Open House for those interested in potentially enrolling to ask questions and learn more. PPA is our alternative high school, which offers a competency-based approach to teaching and learning for those who might thrive outside the traditional high school model.



ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Homecoming Parades



Sunshine Place Resource Fair



National Night Out



Sun Prairie Sweet Corn Festival



Scoops with the Supes

WE ARE LISTENING!

Do you have feedback about the District you would like to share? Do you have a question you would like answered? We are listening! Select the "We Are Listening" icon on the District's website to submit your comment or question. You can also call the District Support Center at 608-834-6500.

CULTURE OF OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

FINANCE & FACILITIES GOALS

Prioritize the investment of our resources to enhance educational experiences both inside and outside the classroom by focusing on improving our physical environment for students and staff, and ensuring that our facilities support the teams serving our organizational mission.

The general day-to-day budget for the District is

\$135 million per year.

The District funds

\$17 million above what the state and federal budgets provide for Special Education.

About

82% of the District's budget is for salary and benefits.

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

SP West High School would cost so much more in today's dollars.

SP West construction cost: **\$119,110,905** If built today, it would cost: **\$150,243,087**
26% more

SP West was recognized as an honoree for the Top Projects of 2023 by *The Daily Reporter*.



Our District's official enrollment at the third Friday count grew by **66 students** over the 2022–2023 school year.

From September through May, our District grew by an additional **135 students**.



NUTRITION SERVICES

Several Nutrition Team members participated in a Cooks Camp at Prairie View Middle School where they tried new recipes for Hmong beef larb and Mexican street corn as well as Asian rice and egg rolls. All of these items were featured on our May menus.



GRATITUDE TO OUR FACILITIES & GROUNDS STAFF

With 15 campuses, over a foot of snow in a week at times, and frigid temperatures, keeping our parking lots and driveways clear in the winter is no easy task. We want to thank our Facilities and Grounds team and school custodians for going above and beyond, working long hours in difficult conditions to support our schools and keep our students and staff safe.



RENT OUR FACILITIES

Our District facilities are available for rent. We have groups reserve gyms, meeting spaces, pools, and the indoor track at SP West. Reserve space on our Facilities Calendar. Also, be sure to check the Pool Calendar for open swim and lap swim times.

In 2023–2024, we had over **25,000** hours of community use of our facilities.

WIAA STATE LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAYED IN SUN PRAIRIE

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and the Sun Prairie Area School District have agreed to conduct the first three years of the State Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse Championship Finals at Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field. We are excited for the community to use our facilities.



RECOGNIZING OUR BUS DRIVERS

For many students, bus drivers are the first and last connection they make with our schools each day. Bus drivers play such an important role in our school system. We appreciate our incredible bus drivers and Kobussen Buses for helping our students get to school and home safely every day.



CLEAN-UP CREW

Rylen was a proud member of the C. H. Bird clean-up crew after a storm hit this spring. He felt so proud to help the crew and the school. Thanks to our Facilities and Grounds Team and to Rylen for lending a hand.



COMPOSTING

Bob Lips, kitchen lead at Royal Oaks, started a composting bin for lunch waste. This is a great way to be more environmentally friendly while helping to teach our students about conserving, reducing waste, and protecting the environment.



89% OF STUDENTS REPORTED **FEELING SAFE IN THEIR SCHOOL.**

WE INVEST IN MAINTAINING OUR FACILITIES.

Here are just some of the projects completed in the past year to support the physical environment for our students.

- New A/V systems in the cafeteriums at Patrick Marsh and Prairie View
- Fixed the leak in the 2600 area and installed an ice machine in the ProStart kitchen at SP West
- Quarterly sprinkler inspections across the District
- Installed a new opener on the stage coiling door at SP East
- Cut down trees and trimmed branches on the back drive to SP East
- Replaced a broken window at C. H. Bird and installed tempered glass in the display cabinets at Eastside in place of plate glass
- Installed a new bathroom partition at Prairie View
- Removed, repaired, and reinstalled a large heat pump at Creekside that was under warranty
- Performed the annual fire alarm testing & inspection at Royal Oaks
- Plumbing, painting, and flooring work across the District
- Repaired and repainted the SP West PAC and small theater stages
- Painted the SP East PAC stage floor

PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS (PACs)

142
CONCERTS

142 music concerts, including choirs, bands, and orchestras from the high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools, were held in our theaters.

261
SHOWS

261 different talent shows, awards programs, meetings, seminars, and presentations were held in our facilities.

856
HOURS

Rentals from area groups, including Sun Prairie Civic Theater, area dance studios, and Sun Prairie Community Band and Chorus, totaled 856 hours.

797
DAYS IN USE

SP East PAC: 209 days
SP West PAC: 187 days
SP West Small Theater: 200 days
SP West PAC Lobby: 37 days
Central Heights Theater: 164 days

294
DAYS

Out of the 366 days in the year, 294 days saw use in at least one of the venues.

2023–2024 SUN PRAIRIE DRAMA HIGH SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

SP EAST

THE LITTLE MERMAID



PETER PAN



SP WEST

GAME OF TIARAS



BEAUTY & THE BEAST



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

WALL OF SUCCESS / DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Lindsay Hagens (class of 2004) is our 2024 Wall of Success / Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Her plaque was added to the Wall of Success at the Historic Hilltop Campus and can be viewed online at Sun Prairie Schools History Wall. A former Prairie Phoenix Academy student, Lindsay has grown from running a single cell phone store to becoming a renowned real estate developer in Wisconsin. Her developments, including the recently completed Jannah Village, showcase her dedication to financial literacy and sustainable communities. Lindsay is also impacting Ghana by supporting the construction of a hospital and a school, with desks donated from SP East.



A-10 CONFERENCE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Isabel Royle (SP West class of 2023) was named A-10 Conference Rookie of the Year in her first softball season at Saint Louis University. We couldn't be more proud of our Division 1 alumnus, Isabel!



TEAM USA TRIALS

Ben Wiegand (class of 2021) competed in the Team USA Olympic Trials for men's swimming.



ATHLETICS, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

NURTURING STUDENT TALENTS

Our high schools are committed to nurturing a diverse range of student talents by offering a variety of sports and clubs. These extracurricular activities are as important as our overall support programs, providing students with valuable experiences beyond the classroom. Our dedicated and hardworking student athletes have achieved impressive successes. Here's a look at some of their accomplishments in 2023–2024.

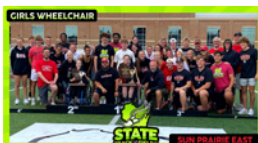
SP EAST BASEBALL STATE BOUND

The SP East baseball team was the State Runner-Up with a record of 27–6.



WIAA GIRLS' WHEELCHAIR TEAM STATE CHAMPION

SP East was the 2024 Girls' Wheelchair Team State Champion. Sophomore Megan Egstad compiled 38 points on her own to claim the State title!



GIRLS' HOCKEY TEAM STATE BOUND

The Cap City Cougars Girls' Hockey Co-op (which includes Sun Prairie athletes) won Sectionals. They beat the Metro Lynx 2–1 in double overtime and competed at State.



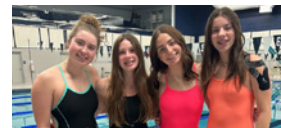
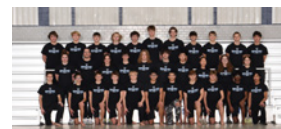
SWIM TEAMS STATE BOUND

Our swimmers from SP East and SP West competed at State. We are so proud of them!

SP West Boys: 200m Medley Relay, 200m Freestyle Relay, 400m Freestyle Relay, 100m Backstroke, 100m Breaststroke, 200m Individual Medley, 100m Butterfly, 500m Freestyle

SP East Boys: 200m Medley Relay placed 2nd, setting a team record, and was an All-American consideration. Trevor placed 2nd in the 100m Breaststroke, breaking a team record, and was an All-American consideration.

SP West Girls: 200m Medley Relay
SP East Girls: 400m Freestyle Relay



GYMNASTICS TEAM STATE BOUND

The Sun Prairie United gymnastics team was Sectionals Runner-Up and qualified for State.



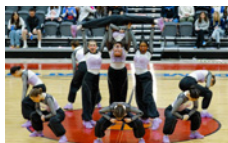
TENNIS SECTIONALS BOUND

The boys' tennis team was Sectionals Runner-Up. Congratulations to senior Nikko for being the Sectional Champion!



DANCE TEAM STATE BOUND

The Sun Prairie United varsity dance team qualified for State in Division 1 hip-hop.



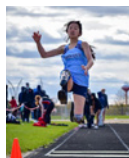
WRESTLING STATE BOUND

Congrats to Sun Prairie United wrestlers Christopher, Parker, Isaiah, Sophia, and Jaxon for qualifying for the WIAA State Wrestling Tournament.



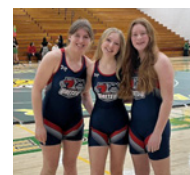
USA TRACK TEAM

Our very own student Lily made the USA track and field team that competed in Thailand this past fall.



GIRLS' WRESTLING AT BIG EIGHT CONFERENCE

Our female wrestlers made history by competing at the first Big 8 Conference female wrestling showcase. Sophia and Calli both placed 1st in their weight class. Sophia has committed to Northern Michigan for wrestling.



WFCA ALL-STATE

Ean earned the All-State award and was the first SP West student to do so. SP West was represented at the WFCA All-State Banquet for the first time.



GIRLS TENNIS

The School Board recognized SP East student Annalise, who finished 4th at the WIAA Girls' State Tennis Tournament.



ESPORTS TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS

Competing in the WIHSEA State Championships, the Sun Prairie United Esports League of Legends team triumphed after hard-fought matches and became Sun Prairie United's first State Champion in Esports.

SP East: Matthew, Tristan, Shrom, Krish

SP West: Zakariah, Ethan



HOSA COMPETES AT STATE

Janavi, Jenika, Sanjay, and Siddhi competed in their first State competition for HOSA—Future Health Professionals. Three-fourths of our SP West HOSA competitors qualified for the international competition in Dallas.



MOCK TRIAL TEAM COMPETES AT STATE

For the second consecutive year, the SP West mock trial team qualified for the State tournament. At State, Ellyson ranked in the Top 10 Witnesses, and Pragnya ranked in the Top 10 Attorneys. The mock trial team was reconstituted in 2022–2023 after a 10-year hiatus and is off to a strong start.



FBLA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Sun Prairie students Sam and Pragnya placed in the top 15 out of 16,000 individuals in their respective events at the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) National Leadership Conference in Orlando. Pragnya was also elected as a National Officer.



MODEL UN CONFERENCE

Our SP East model UN team participated in their first model UN (a United Nations simulation) conference at UW–Madison. Several students took home awards, including:

Lilia and Ceylon:
Outstanding Delegates

Penelope and Kate:
Best Delegates

Ella Grace and Maya:
Best Resolution

The entire team was awarded Best Delegation of the conference for their representation of Denmark.



SP WEST FORENSICS STATE CHAMPIONS

The SP West forensics team won the State tournament. Sixty-four teams competed, and the Wolves finished in 1st place in Division 1.

Congratulations to Coach Anna-Lisa Dahlgren who was also honored with the 2024 Hintz Award for Coaching Excellence, an award given by member coaches to one coach each year.



CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR SP EAST FORENSICS

The SP East forensics team earned 5th place in Division 1 at the State tournament. John won a State championship in Radio Speaking while Jackson and Eli defended their State title by winning the State Championship in playacting for the third year in a row.

Jackson was also awarded a senior scholarship from the WFCA.



ACADEMIC DECATHLON AT STATE

The Sun Prairie United academic decathlon team made it to the State competition in Green Bay along with their coaches, Cheryl Andreasen and Tim Keal.



SP DRAMA ON BROADWAY

Sun Prairie drama students embarked on an unforgettable trip to New York City, where they attended performances, participated in hands-on workshops, gained theater insights, and experienced the magic of Broadway.



ENVIROTHON TEAMS COMPETE AT STATE

Our SP East envirothon teams competed at State. Congratulations to both of our teams:

Team 1: Jackson, Daniel, Keegan, and Kimball placed 1st in the Wildlife category, 2nd in the Water Ecology category, and 3rd overall.

Team 2: Lydia, Marley, Lauren, and Michael also represented SP East well. We are so proud of their dedication and teamwork.

Thank you to all the educators and professionals who supported our students with this great experience.



FFA ORGANIZATION

State Competition Qualifiers

SP West FFA had five teams compete at the Regional FFA Career Development Contest, and three of those teams competed at State.

Floriculture placed 2nd out of 25 teams and 94 individuals.

Veterinary Science placed 4th out of 23 teams and 81 individuals.

Milk Quality and Products placed 7th out of 25 teams and 93 individuals.



Livestock Evaluation & Wildlife Contest

SP East FFA had two teams compete at UW–Platteville in the Livestock Evaluation and Wildlife contests. The team, consisting of Daniel, Keegan, Jamison, and Lauran, placed 1st out of 47 teams, qualifying them for the State competition. Daniel also placed 1st individually out of 177 competitors.

Our Livestock Evaluation team placed 14th out of 60 teams, with Lydia placing 7th individually out of 227 competitors.



Advocacy for FFA During National FFA Week

Wisconsin FFA kicked off FFA Week by holding FFA Day on the Hill at the Wisconsin Capitol. Over 200 FFA members and 43 advisors from across the state convened at the capitol for the event. SP East and SP West students visited with local elected officials, such as staff for State Senator Melissa Agard and Representative to the State Assembly Melissa Ratcliff.



Louis M. Sasman Award

Daniel from SP East and Lillian from SP West received the Louis M. Sasman Award. This award honors outstanding FFA students from Dane County high schools and is named after Mr. Sasman, a longtime State Supervisor and Kiwanis member.



GRADUATION 2024

Congratulations to our SP East, SP West, and Prairie Phoenix Academy graduates. Their hard work and dedication have led to this milestone. We are proud of their achievements and excited for their future adventures.

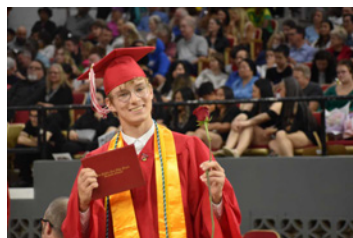
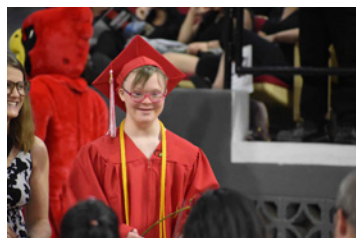
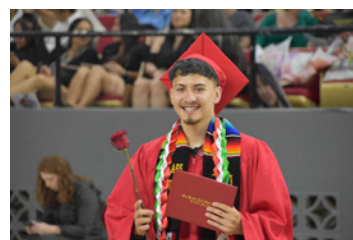
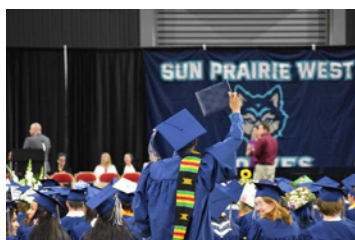
677
TOTAL
GRADUATES

SP EAST
312
GRADUATES

SP WEST
319
GRADUATES

PPA
46
GRADUATES

PPA graduates additionally attended graduation within their attendance boundary.



LAST WEEK OF CLASSES

During the final week of classes, many special events and celebrations occurred, including our eighth-grade picnics to celebrate our middle schoolers who will be transitioning to high school in the fall. As part of our end-of-year celebrations, our high school seniors took a walk down memory lane by visiting their elementary and middle schools across all of the District. In doing so, students from those schools got to participate by honoring and recognizing our graduates. Pictured below are some of these special events and moments, along with some pictures of students continuing to learn right up to the very end, including some seventh graders dissecting a frog at Prairie View Middle School.



OUR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Our School District's vision is centered around a strong commitment to equity and excellence, with a focus on continuous improvement. We are proud of the progress we have made, but we know that we still have work to do. We are dedicated to creating a fair and excellent learning environment for everyone, and we will keep striving to make things better.

CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING

1. SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN OUR RAPIDLY CHANGING COMMUNITY

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

In 2022:

26.8%

of students were eligible for free and reduced lunch.

In 2024:

34.9%

of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

187

students were experiencing homelessness.

294

students are experiencing homelessness.

607

students were multilingual learners.

690

students are multilingual learners.

Our District's enrollment was

8,411

students.

Our District's projected enrollment is

8,632

students.

The above statistics are the highest our District has ever seen.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The District is working to increase elementary literacy achievement through universal phonics and phonemic awareness instruction.

The District is also working to increase elementary numeracy achievement by deepening implementation of Advanced Math Recover (AVMR) supplemental instruction strategies.

2023–2024 Goal	Baseline	Results	What does this mean?
Improve Elementary Reading Scores	Fall to Spring K–1: 58% 2–3: 56%	Fall to Spring K–1: 57% 2–3: 54%	While the District did not meet its goal, K–1 scores showed improvement over last year.
Fall to Spring K–1: 60% 2–3: 58%	Spring to Spring K–1: 51% 2–3: 57%	Spring to Spring K–1: 48% 2–3: 54%	
Improve Elementary Math Scores	Fall to Spring K–1: 72% 2–3: 61%	Fall to Spring K–1: 68% 2–5: 61%	While the District did not meet its goal, K–1 math scores showed improvement over last year.
Fall to Spring K–1: 73% 2–5: 63%	Spring to Spring K–1: 67% 2–5: 63%	Spring to Spring K–1: 65% 2–3: 61%	

2. REMAINING COMPETITIVE WITH STAFF COMPENSATION

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

Our salaries are still below the Dane County average. We know that kids learn best when they are supported by the best staff. Retaining and recruiting high-quality educators leads to better outcomes for students. We retain and recruit the best staff when we have competitive pay and benefits.

In 2019, we passed an operating referendum to increase teachers' salaries to the Dane County average. We were in line with the average as recently as the 2021–2022 school year.

Since that time, other school districts have made teacher salaries a core component of their operating referendums. Within two years, movement by other districts has shifted Sun Prairie below the Dane County average.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The District is bringing forward for community consideration a \$25 million recurring referendum phased in over five years, with \$7 million dedicated to competitive staff compensation and benefits. If the community chooses to pass it, the District would immediately allocate \$3 million to increase pay for our current educators to bring the District in line with the county average and would increase the base salary to \$51,402 for those with a bachelor's degree and \$55,402 for those with a master's degree. The remaining \$4 million would be held to fund future adjustments to remain competitive.

3. DELIVERING CONSISTENT SCHOOL & CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

While 82.4% of families say they are satisfied with the communication that comes from their school, and 74% are satisfied with communication that comes from their students' teachers, we would like to deliver a more consistent experience from the classroom to families.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We will be working with our staff to ensure that teachers are reaching out to families to start to build connections and provide key information to ensure students can be successful.

4. PREVENTING VANDALISM IN UNSUPERVISED AREAS

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

The beautiful SP West building has physical limitations that make supervision of bathrooms a bit more challenging. Specifically, the bathrooms located outside of the "learning dens" do not have a line of sight from surrounding classrooms. Vandalism and vaping have been a struggle for the last two years.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We continue to problem-solve and partner with members of our community to maintain safe and open bathrooms for all students. This year, SP West relocated two study halls to the third floor, which was a successful move. They plan to move two other study halls to the second floor next year to create more supervision near the bathroom spaces.

Over the last several months of school, SP West worked to improve its supervision plan and partner with students, parents and caregivers, and staff to combat the initial vandalism and vaping that was happening. Through that process, they increased their presence in bathrooms, increased their consistency in responding to the vape detectors, confiscated a significantly increased amount of vapes, and saw a significant decrease in vandalism.

However, as they put pressure on the system that students were using to vape at school, students began to resort to flushing vapes, causing clogged toilets that required plumbing assistance. This led to bathroom closures. Since SP West began working with students, staff, and parents and caregivers, they saw this latest struggle dramatically improve over the last few weeks of the school year. SP West strives to have all of the bathrooms in the academic area of the building open this year.

5. BEING PROACTIVE ABOUT INCLUSIVE, TWO-WAY ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

Offering various forms of participation, whether in-person or virtual, and being responsive to community feedback are key to sustaining meaningful engagement. By valuing and incorporating diverse perspectives, schools and District organizations can foster a stronger, more connected community that works together to address challenges and celebrate successes.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We continue to look for opportunities for our community to engage and share their perspectives on topics that affect them. Engagement with the community is part of every department's strategic scorecard.

6. STRENGTHENING ALIGNMENT & IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS STRATEGY

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

2023–2024 was the first year that Community Schools operated in eight school sites, with Prairie View Middle School, Central Heights Middle School, and Creekside Elementary in their first full year. The Sun Prairie Community Schools Executive Team identified the need for establishing consistency of implementation across all sites, including consistent metrics of success, investment in the development of staff, and alignment of the Community Schools Framework across sites, whether sites are new or well established.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Superintendent Saron convened the Aligned Futures Committee to assess the current state, develop a shared vision, and establish consistent metrics. The Sun Prairie Community Schools Executive Team also engaged in weekly professional development throughout the summer to provide training and skill development to ensure that all sites are implementing the Community Schools strategy consistently across the District.

7. OVERCOMING NATIONAL & STATE-WIDE EDUCATOR SHORTAGES, ESPECIALLY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

The nationwide and state-wide educator shortage has reached critical levels, particularly in the area of Special Education. This shortage is driven by a combination of factors, including high turnover rates, increased retirements, and a declining number of new teachers entering the profession. Special Education, which requires specialized training and a deep commitment to addressing diverse student needs, has been hit particularly hard. SPASD, like many school districts, is struggling to fill these crucial positions.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

To better meet the needs of our students by hiring highly qualified and talented Special Education staff, our District is:

- Utilizing a diverse set of job posting sites to expand our reach to viable candidates inside and outside of Wisconsin
- Supporting current employees through our Grow Your Own program, which provides tuition support for current employees looking to be certified as professional educators in shortage areas, such as Special Education
- Actively participating in educational job fairs to create connections and relationships with prospective Special Education applicants and career placement offices at colleges and universities
- Supporting a referral compensation program to compensate a current employee for recruiting a staff member when the new staff member is hired. The referral program utilizes the relationships our current staff have built with prospective applicants.

OPERATING REFERENDUM 2024



The Sun Prairie Area School District has an explicit focus on student achievement, student personal development, academic growth, closing the opportunity gap, and post-high school readiness for **Every Child, Every Day.**

Our School Board has identified a vision for our District that will be served through competitive staff compensation and benefits, supporting programs and opportunities for kids, and meeting the District's fiscal responsibilities.

WE ARE PROUD THAT PRIOR INVESTMENTS IN OUR SCHOOLS ARE YIELDING RESULTS.

- Student results have improved across all screening data with **significant improvement among marginalized groups.**
- Staff retention is high. **90% in 2023-2024.**
- Staff satisfaction is high. **Over 86% of staff reported in a survey that all things considered, the District is a good place to work.**
- Students report feeling safe in their schools on average at **more than 4.0 on a 5-point scale.**
- Students have access to **cutting-edge technology.**
- Over 5,500 meals are served daily** to address food insecurity.
- Robust communication channels** have been established with the overall community to share information.
- Schools with higher needs are provided more resources through **equitable funding and staffing models.**
- Curricular materials are kept updated, and collaborative curricular **decisions are made using current research.**
- Buildings are well maintained and provide **exceptional learning environments.**
- The District maintains a high bond rating of AA** as rated by Standard and Poor's, and it remains financially stable.

Our District is making progress for our students, our staff, and our community.

The School Board and the District are bringing forward for community consideration a **\$25 million recurring operating referendum phased in over five years.**

\$25 million
phased in over five years

OUR PROMISES TO OUR COMMUNITY IF THE REFERENDUM IS SUCCESSFUL

- The District will not seek additional operational funds for the duration of the five-year roll-in (through the 2028-2029 school year).
- The District will not levy the full taxing authority if it is not needed.
- The District will not use referendum funds to significantly expand staffing. Instead, these funds will support our current staff.
- The District will continue in its commitment to improve results for students.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

PROJECTED TAX IMPACT OF THE REFERENDUM

1st Year, 2024 Tax Bill	30¢ per \$1,000 of property value
2nd Year, 2025 Tax Bill	58¢ per \$1,000 of property value
3rd Year, 2026 Tax Bill	56¢ per \$1,000 of property value
After the 3rd Year	No additional tax increase from the referendum
The total tax impact over the five-year roll-in is \$1.44 per \$1,000 of property value. On a \$300,000 house, that is \$432 per year.	

SUN PRAIRIE IS NOT UNIQUE.

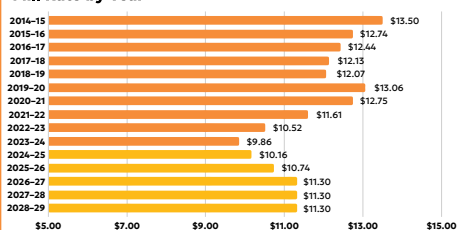
School funding challenges are happening statewide, leading to many districts resorting to operating referenda.

Dane County Operating Referenda Since November 2022

Dane County District	Referendum Date	Amount	Enrollment	Per Pupil Per Year
Marshall	April 2022	\$975K/yr for 3 yrs & \$975K/yr	915	\$1,066
Belleville	November 2022	\$999,999/yr	955	\$1,046
Middleton-Cross Plains	November 2022	Average of \$16.4M/yr for 4 yrs	7,059	\$2,319
Mount Horeb	November 2022	\$4.82M/yr	2,391	\$2,016
Oregon	November 2022	\$11.4M/yr (phased in over 3 yrs)	4,110	\$925
Sun Prairie	November 2022	\$9M/yr (phased in over 3 yrs)	8,411	\$1,070
Verona	November 2022	\$19M/yr	5,794	\$3,279
Waunakee	November 2022	Average of \$3.33M/yr for 3 yrs	4,410	\$756
Cambridge	April 2023	\$2.4M/yr	909	\$2,640
Monona Grove	April 2023	\$13.8M/yr (phased in over 3 yrs)	3,696	\$1,245
DeForest	November 2024	\$7.9M/yr	4,153	\$1,902
Madison	November 2024	\$100M/yr (phased in over 4 yrs)	25,247	\$3,961
McFarland	November 2024	\$5.25M/yr (phased in over 3 yrs)	2,390	\$2,197
Waunakee	November 2024	Average of \$1.6M/yr for 2 yrs & \$9.1M/yr (phased in over 2 yrs)	4,410	\$2,421

If the referendum is successful, the mill rate will still be lower after the five-year roll-in than it was in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Mill Rate by Year



The District's mill rate moves up and down based on the relationship between the total levy and equalized property values.

Total Levy ÷ Total Equalized Value = Mill Rate

WHAT IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

Without the referendum, the District will experience a \$6 million budget deficit for the 2025-2026 school year. The deficit is projected to increase to \$14 million over subsequent years. Without additional revenue, the District will need to engage in significant budget reductions.

The following is for illustrative purposes only of what a \$14 million reduction might look like. Any reduction process will be developed with a strategic vision and would not be simple across-the-board cuts.

	Current State	Illustrative Reduction
Total full-time staff	1,294	182
Estimated Personnel Reductions		\$12,691,000
Other Budgets		
Department Budgets	\$6,960,000	\$974,000
Athletics & Activities	\$1,400,000	\$196,000
Capital Projects	\$1,200,000	\$168,000
School Budgets	\$1,184,549	\$165,836
Summer School	\$1,100,000	\$154,000
Estimated Other Budget Reductions	\$11,844,549	\$1,658,236
Total Regular Staffing & Other Budgets		\$14,349,236



STAY INFORMED. LEARN MORE.

sunprairieschools.org/ref2024

Referendum information will be mailed to all residents, posted on the District website, and offered at information sessions.

CONTACT US

Email: ref2024@sunprairieschools.org

Dr. Brad Saron, Superintendent | 608-834-6502

Dr. Nick Reichhoff, Assistant Superintendent of Operations | 608-834-6683

Phil Frei, Director of Business and Finance | 608-834-6510

Please email pjlux@sunprairieschools.org if you would like to invite Superintendent Saron to speak to a group of your friends, neighbors, or organization so you can learn more about the referendum and ask any questions you might have.

Thank you to our community for your past support of Sun Prairie Schools!

Strong public schools:



Are an economic engine for our community



Make our community a desirable place to locate for both business and residential purposes



Protect property values

We are committed to providing an outstanding value for invested dollars.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR STUDENTS

PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

\$4 million

OUR MISSION: **To inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.**

OUR DISTRICT IS RAPIDLY CHANGING

Our students' needs are increasing more than ever before.

In 2022:

26.8%

of students were eligible for free & reduced lunch.

187

students were experiencing homelessness.

607

students were multilingual learners.

Our District's enrollment was

8,411

students.

In 2024:

34.9%

of students are eligible for free & reduced lunch.

294

students are experiencing homelessness.

690

students are multilingual learners.

Projected enrollment is

8,632

students.

The above statistics are the highest our District has ever seen.

Through our diverse array of programming, our students are able to explore their passions and develop new skills to carry them beyond their time in school, all while building connections with their peers and our staff. The District's priorities include:

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS' EARLY LEARNING

Our 4-year-old kindergarten (SP4K) and early childhood programs set our students up for success. Students who go through the early learning program enter kindergarten meeting or exceeding developmental targets for their age-group.

REDEFINING THE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE FOR JUNIORS & SENIORS

Academic and career planning is woven throughout our students' educational experience to get them college and career ready. This includes helping to connect students with the trades.

The District would allocate \$4 million in referendum funds to respond to our students' needs and continue to find ways to support every child, every day.



OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR STAFF

STRENGTHEN COMPETITIVE STAFF COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

\$7 million

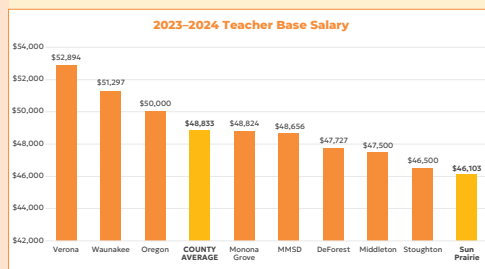
OUR GOAL: **To recruit and retain the best staff.**

Teacher retention in Sun Prairie is **90%**

This is better than the national average.

We know that our kids learn best when they are supported by the best staff. Retaining and recruiting high-quality educators leads to better outcomes for students. We retain and recruit the best staff when we have competitive pay and benefits.

In 2019, Sun Prairie passed an operating referendum to increase teacher salaries to the Dane County average. Our District was in line with this average as recently as the 2021-2022 school year.



Since that time, other area districts have made teacher salaries a core component of their operating referendums. Within two years, movement by other districts has shifted Sun Prairie below the county average.

Upon successful passage of the referendum, the District would immediately allocate \$3 million to increase pay for our current educators to bring the District above the Dane County Average and would increase the base salary to \$51,402 for those with a bachelor's degree and \$55,402 for those with a master's degree. The remaining \$4 million would be held to fund future adjustments to remain competitive.

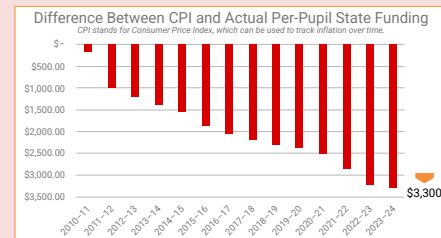
OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

STABILIZE OPERATING EXPENSES

\$14 million

OUR RESPONSIBILITY:

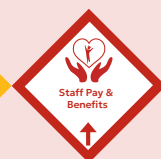
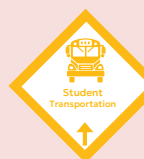
To remain good stewards of our community's investment in the finances and facilities of the District.



We have carefully managed our budget.

The mill rate for the 2023-2024 fiscal year was \$9.86, which is significantly **lower** than the \$11-\$12 that was predicted during the 2022 referendum and represents a sizable reduction from a mill rate of \$13.06 during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This means that the mill rate has decreased over the past five years, even with the referendum approved by voters in 2022. **Our District has accomplished this through diligent budget stewardship.**

Our fixed expenses have continued to rise, while state funding has not kept pace with inflation. From 2010-2024, we received \$3,300 per student less than inflation during the same time. If state funding had kept up with inflation, our District would have \$27.7 million more to use to support our staff, kids, and community.



Without the referendum, the District will experience a \$6 million budget deficit for the 2025-2026 school year. The deficit is projected to increase to \$14 million over subsequent years. Without additional revenue, the District will need to engage in significant budget reductions.

The District would allocate \$14 million in referendum funds to maintain District operations and address the costs of fixed expenses without disruptive reductions to staff or student programming.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Sun Prairie Area
School District

501 S. Bird Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



[sunprairieschools](#)



[Sun Prairie Area School District](#)



[sunprairieschooldistrict](#)



[608.834.6500](tel:608.834.6500)



608.837.9311



[sunprairieschools.org](#)

WHY DID I RECEIVE THIS REPORT?

Our School Board has expressed a specific expectation that the District share information with our community, including through this Annual Report. We are proud to highlight the work being done by our staff and students, and want to also share the challenges our District faces. While this publication is available online, it has a broader reach if we send it to all homes in our District, ensuring that this information is readily available to our community. We utilize bulk mailing, which is a more cost-effective way for us to reach our whole community, including those who do not currently have students in our schools, than if we used targeted mailing. In addition, we are constantly looking for ways to be more efficient and cost effective with our publications. This year, we have utilized a different page size and layout of the Annual Report, which has allowed us to reduce our page count and reduce the overall cost of this piece.

No student may be unlawfully discriminated against in any school programs or activities or in the usage of facilities because of the student's gender identity, gender expressions, or nonconformity to gender-role stereotypes; color; religion; demonstration of belief or nonbelief; profession; race; national origin (including limited English proficiency); ancestry; creed; pregnancy; marital or parental status; homelessness status; sexual orientation; age; or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. Harassment is a form of discrimination and shall not be tolerated in the District. It is the responsibility of administrators, staff members, and all students to ensure that student discrimination or harassment does not occur.

The District's commitment to nondiscrimination under Title IX and under other state and federal laws is further defined in the following policies: Policy AC, Nondiscrimination in District Programs, Activities, and Operations, Procedure AC-R(1), District Response to Alleged Sexual Harassment Under Title IX, Procedure AC-R(2), Expectations for Employees to Report Discrimination and Harassment.