



WESTBY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Westby Area School District Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2018

Letter From Steve Michaels, District Administrator

The 2018-19 school year is well underway. Despite having to delay the start of school due to weather, we have enjoyed a remarkably smooth first couple of weeks. This summer has been both busy and productive in our schools, and we've been able to make some great things happen. This newsletter is intended to keep you informed about what is happening in your public schools.

My family moved from La Crosse this summer and our 3 young children are thoroughly enjoying their start at Westby Elementary School. I told our staff earlier this year how proud I am to be associated with the communities that comprise our district. When we faced historic flooding, our communities pulled together. Many staff and students volunteered to help their neighbors in the days following August 27. Tom Thibodeau gave the opening address for our welcome back ceremony and reminded us about the importance of working together. I'm so happy that my children will grow up seeing this concept of community first hand.

Please do not hesitate to reach out in case you would like more information about our schools. We are happy to help!

*The Westby Area
School District is a
community dedicated
to high levels of aca-
demic learning and
social-emotional
growth for all.
-Mission of the Westby
Area School District*



Students in Coon Valley enjoy their new playground equipment. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped install this equipment!

This "V" is for Viroqua Elementary!



Thanks for thinking of our students and staff.

Westby Elementary students formed a "V" in the gym thanking them for their kindness and donations following the flooding.

ESSA Plan

The Westby Area School District is committed to ensuring high levels of learning for all students. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaced the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

We have identified 5 areas of focus for the coming years:

1. Students with special needs
2. Students for whom English is not the primary language
3. Math curriculum
4. The gender gap
5. Economically disadvantaged students

Community Field Trips

One of our goals this year is for our district to be connected more with our community and in different ways. Our staff will be venturing out to visit some of our local business partners on early release days in September, October, and May. One of the goals is to learn about what we can do to help prepare the next workforce.

Partners for this round of visits include: Vernon Electric Cooperative, WCCU, Vernon Memorial Hospital, Organic Valley, Premier Coop, Sleepy Hollow, Vernon Communications Cooperative, and Couleecap. Thank you!



Westby Area High school students are back!

Safety Grants

Our district has been awarded 2 different safety grants. The first round will be used to install a door monitoring system that will alert us if a door is opened for a prolonged period of time (propped open). Also, shatter-resistant film will be installed on glass entryways. The second round of safety grants will be used to complete the installation of film on glass entryways and to install door locks that can be activated from the inside of the classrooms.



The "Welcome March" at Westby Area Middle School.

Norse Athletics

We are proud of our high percentage of participation in athletics and co-curricular activities.

We know that participation in these activities helps students academically, socially, physically, and provides for a well-rounded educational experience.

For a complete schedule of events, please visit our website www.westby-norse.org

Thank you to the Norsemen Booster Club for supporting activities for students in our district!



Volleyball players take a break during practice to pose with a special note from GET.

Lighting up our football field

We have been working to light our football field for several years. As with all major projects, we needed to work together. Many students, parents, and service professionals came together in order to make this happen. These lights were once at UW-La Crosse, and we were able to purchase them at auction. Over the course of this summer, we coordinated with contractors...many of whom have ties to our district and the football program. This help, much of it volunteered, happened in evenings, on weekends and included members of our football teams.

Organizations who helped make this project a reality include: Kish and Sons Electric, Fowler and Hammer, City of Westby, Vernon Electric Cooperative, Westby Area School District Board of Education, Westby Electric Utilities, Westby Area School District students, Westby Area School District Buildings and Grounds, and Parents of the Norsemen Booster Club.

Thank you to all financial donors for supporting this project. We could not have done this without your help and generosity.



Westby Area Performing Arts Center

October 20, 6:30 PM High School Choral POPS Concert

November 8-11, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

November 15, 7:00 PM 6th Grade Band Concert

November 17, 7:00 PM The Barefoot Movement (special guest: Barabaro)

November 30, 7:00 PM CMA, ACM, and Grammy Award Winner Suzy Boguss

December 4, Westby Elementary Concerts

December 6, Westby Elementary Concerts

December 10, 7:00 PM High School Bands Christmas Concert

December 11, 7:00 PM 7/8 Christmas Concert

December 14, 7:00 PM Isthmus Brass

December 19, 7:00 High School Choral Christmas Concert

Tickets required. School events are free except for the musical 11/8-11/11. Order online at ***wapac.ludus.com*** Tickets also sold at the door.

Believe—Achieve—Succeed!

Like us!

#LIKEANORSE

We have a new district Facebook page...

Stay up to date with what's happening in your public schools.

Instagram and Twitter

@WestbyAreaSD

Westby Area School District
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