



Winter 2023

# THE Phantastic PHANTOM

The mission of the School District of West De Pere is to create a safe comprehensive educational and social environment for students and staff which will produce life-long learners with the capacity to succeed in the local and global community.

# W

A Vision of  
Pride and Excellence  
HOME OF THE  
PHANTOMS



Dr. Lau and Mrs. Krahn



Rex Reader With Westwood Students



Intermediate School created Ring Wing Gliders



Middle School Pep Assembly



Hemlock Creek Math Name Change Day



Westwood



Intermediate School with Library Pet Dobby



The Grinch At Hemlock Creek



Snow Much Fun



Middle Dance Team





#### WEST DE PERE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jenni Fuss – President  
Joe Bergner – Vice President  
Scott Borley – Treasurer  
Barb Van Deurzen – Clerk  
Ryan Van Den Heuvel – Member

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
Dennis Krueger (920) 337-1393

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
Dawn Laboy (920) 337-1393

**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM**  
Amy LaPierre, Ph. D. (920) 337-1393

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES**  
Amy Schuh (920) 337-1393

**ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR**  
Scott Eggart (920) 338-5229

**WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY**  
Grades 4K-4  
1155 Westwood Dr. (920) 337-1087  
Fax: (920) 337-1091  
Principal: Jason Lau, Ph. D.  
Associate Principal/  
Summer School Director:  
Kristin Krahn

**HEMLOCK CREEK ELEMENTARY**  
Grades K-4  
1900 Williams Grant Dr. (920) 425-1900  
Fax: (920) 425-1914  
Principal: Kathleen Held  
Associate Principal/4K Director:  
Mike Kowalczyk

**WEST DE PERE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**  
Grades 5-6  
901 S. Ninth St. (920) 425-1901  
Fax: (920) 425-1902  
Principal: Scott Marsden  
Associate Principal: Chuck Brehm

**WEST DE PERE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Grades 7-8  
1177 S. Ninth St. (920) 337-1099  
Fax: (920) 337-1380  
Principal: Jim Finley, Ph. D.  
Associate Principal/Athletic Director:  
Jason Zielinski

**WEST DE PERE HIGH SCHOOL**  
Grades 9-12  
665 Grant St. (920) 338-5200  
Fax: (920) 338-5310  
Principal: Russ Gerke, Ed. D.  
Associate Principal: Justinn Heraly  
Associate Principal: Scott Eggart

**PHANTOM KNIGHT  
SCHOOL OF OPPORTUNITY**  
400 Reid St. Suite W (920) 425-1915  
(920) Fax: 425-1919  
Administrator: Jason Lau, Ph. D.

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
400 Reid St. Suite W  
(920) 337-1393  
Fax: (920) 337-1398

West De Pere Community,

When I walk the halls of our schools, I often become emotionally moved. Our teachers and administrators are engaging students in many different ways. Support staff are noticed going above and beyond to help teachers and students. Bus drivers are seen smiling and waving, doing their best to start and end a student's day in a positive way. Parents are helping in multitudes of ways. Amazing humans are entering our schools and changing each other's lives in tremendous ways because they genuinely care about what happens today, tomorrow, and in the future for our students.



Dennis Krueger  
SUPERINTENDENT

This newsletter is a way to celebrate both the wonderful things that are occurring and the tremendous people within our school district. Enjoy the success stories and achievements written about within these pages. I encourage you to reach out with a positive text or email message letting someone know you read the article and are excited for them.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to each one of you. The difference you are making is recognized and appreciated beyond words. Together, we are making it a great time to be a West De Pere Phantom!

With gratitude,

Below is a summary of a few items we have recently accomplished and/or are working on.

- The WDP App launched in November: Our new App currently has had over 1000 downloads and continues to grow. It serves as yet another method of communication both within and outside of the District. If you have not yet taken time to download it, I encourage you to do so.
- More options for students at the High School. It is important that we continue to emphasize practices that prioritize student needs to ensure a multitude of pathways toward student success. These upcoming changes provide yet another avenue for students to pursue their interests.
  - Family and Consumer Science courses are to be restructured into pathways of culinary arts, health care, and human services. Included in the new pathways are new courses such as Baking and Pastry Arts, Medical Terminology and Student Success, Relationships, Foods Around the World, and Human Services.
  - In the Technology Education Department we will offer Residential Design and Construction as a new course.
  - The Science Department is in the process of developing a new summer course opportunity, which will launch in the summer of 2024. "Pushing the Boundaries" will be a five day environmental experience in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota.
- Upgrading facilities: In order to ensure that our facilities remain up to date, we are in the process of optimizing the function of the office area at Westwood Elementary with an office renovation, as well as, improving food service operations at the Middle School with an improvement in the food service area. Additionally, the Middle School will be having two new chillers installed this spring. All projects should be completed and ready for full use by the start of the 2023-24 school year.

## GET OUR APP

Now you can keep up with the who, what, when, and where of the West De Pere School District through our app available on all mobile devices!

- Keep up with all the latest news, information, and announcements
  - Find out about events and activities
  - Contact teachers, staff, and administration
  - Access school menus, supply lists and more
  - Links to payment portals and social media
- Scan to download the app!



## Hemlock Creek Readers



# Phantoms *Giving Back*

## 3rd Graders Making a Difference

Hemlock Creek 3rd graders and their teachers made 6 tie blankets and donated 30 sets of sheets and 10 pillows to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which provides beds and bedding to children in need.



## Intermediate School Pajama Drive

The Intermediate School collected 115 pairs of pajamas for House of Hope in Green Bay. Thank you to all students and families who were able to make a donation and to the IS Student Council for their work on the pajama drive.



## Dance Team Making a Difference

The West De Pere Dance Team & Families adopted a family this past holiday season. The team was able to donate presents to a district family and make the holiday season much more special!



## Middle School Tie Blankets

The advisories of Ms. Mineau, Ms. Blanchard, and Ms. Hagel made tie blankets from supplies donated by Peace United Methodist Church in Green Bay. The project was part of the blanket-knot-a-thon Knots of Love for Project Linus.



## Sting Cancer

Join WDPHS Sting Cancer for our Walk to Sting Cancer on Saturday, April 29 on the WDPHS Track. Registration begins at 10:00 AM and the power walk is from 10:30 - 11:30. \$5 for Children and Students, \$10 for Adults, and 4 and under are free. Use the QR code to register for the event.

This is not a timed race; if it rains, the walk will be held in the fieldhouse. Our goal is to help raise awareness for all types of cancer and support those in our community affected by cancer. Money collected goes towards care packages and scholarships. Sting Cancer Members have gotten together twice this year to make tie blankets to go in our care packages. As always, if you know anyone recently diagnosed with cancer in the West De Pere area, please contact [kbesel@wdpsd.com](mailto:kbesel@wdpsd.com) or [nkempen@wdpsd.com](mailto:nkempen@wdpsd.com) so we can deliver a care package and hopefully brighten their day. Together, we can Sting Cancer!



## West De Pere Middle School National Junior Honor Society

In December, West De Pere Middle School National Junior Honor Society hosted a book drive project. Each advisory class in the school competed to collect the most children's and young adult books. The top two seventh-grade and the top two eighth-grade classes that collected the most books were awarded a special lunch. In all, over 500 children's and young adult books were collected and then donated to the Freedom House in time for the holidays. At the Freedom House, the books will fill their library shelves, and will also be given to children to keep. Thank you for your contribution and support!



# Phantastic Phantoms

## 2023 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Congratulations to Vaughn Gerrits, son of Mark and Suzanne Gerrits; Leah Goodman, daughter of Shawn Goodman and Brandi Denell; Jozef Kralovec, son of Mark Kralovec and the late Martha Kralovec, and Jacob Rottier, son of Chad and Kara Rottier, on their achievement of earning semifinalist status in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program competition. Vaughn, Leah, Jozef, and Jacob achieved this accomplishment by demonstrating their strong academic abilities on the PSAT test last school year. They share this honor with only 16,000 other students nationwide. Vaughn, Leah, Jozef, and Jacob will now have the opportunity to compete for finalist status, before final consideration to earn a National Merit Scholarship, in which only 1.25 percent of the top test takers in the nation achieve.



## Intermediate School S.T.E.M. Class



Students designed snowflakes out of KEVA Planks, which are cuboid wooden blocks. They are teaching tools that can be used as a manipulator.



Students made paper helicopters as part of their flight unit.



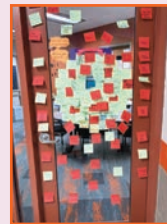
6th Grade students assembled and code their LEGO robots to be able to go through a maze.

## Hope Squad Updates

Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program that focuses on creating a positive school climate and eliminating the stigma of mental health. Students are asked to nominate their kindest, best listening, and most caring peers to be a part of their school's Squad. The Hope Squad members meet throughout the school year to learn about mental health, how to create belonging and connectivity within their building, how to stop bullying, and how to connect their struggling peers to trusted adults.

The West De Pere High School is starting its first ever Hope Squad this year, the Middle School is in its 4th year, and the Intermediate School plans to start its own Hope Squad next year! Thank you to all of our Hope Squad members and families and to our community partners for making this possible! Together, we can all spread a little hope!

Check out these wonderful "Take What You Need" walls created by our Middle School Hope Squad! The Squad wrote positive and hopeful messages on post-its for fellow students to take as needed this holiday season!



## Badger State

Each year in June, the campus of UW Oshkosh host over 725 high school girls who join together to become the fifty-first state in the Union. This week-long immersion into the workings of our government, known as Badger Girls State. As citizens of Badger Girls State, they participate in various activities of state government.

Also, 900 young men from around the state will converge at UW Eau Claire for a similar experience. The boys will campaign for various offices at the municipal, county, and state levels. In addition, both the boys and girls will be encouraged to participate



The photo left to right is Molly Piepkorn, Marah Clark, Chase Yells, and Isaac Sinkula.

in a variety of activities including discussion sessions, band and chorus, a daily Badger State newspaper, and a variety of sports.

The purpose of Badger State, sponsored by the American Legion and the American

Legion Auxiliary, is to develop leadership and citizenship skills, to educate youth about our system of government and American traditions, and to emphasize the importance of the democratic process.

West De Pere High School students chosen to attend are; Marah Clark (daughter of Carole and Timothy) and Chase Yells (son of Jane and Larry) were chosen by the Social Studies department based on their leadership potential and their interest in government. Molly Piepkorn (daughter of Sally and Shane) and Isaac Sinkula (son of Stacey and Joseph) will serve as alternates. Congratulations to all!

## Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship State Finalists

We have been notified that two of our teachers have advanced to the next round of consideration for the Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship. Our two state finalists are Melanie Clarke (math teacher at the high school) and Tara Kempen (literacy coach at Westwood). Congratulations Melanie and Tara! Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship recipients will be announced in March.



## Golden Apple Nominees

The nominees for the Golden Apple Award were recently released by the Greater Green Bay Chamber. Thirty-three individual West De Pere teachers and one West De Pere team of teachers were nominated. The Golden Awards award banquet is scheduled for April 19, 2023.



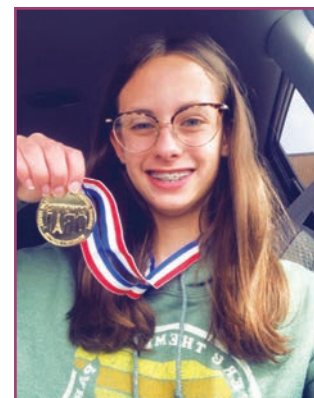
## District Wide Spelling Bee Winner Announced

Finalists from the grade-level spelling bees took part in the 2022-23 District-Wide Spelling Bee at the Middle School on Friday, January 20th. There were 24 spellers, from grades 3-8, who made it to the district level round. Spellers were well-prepared and many words were spelled. Congratulations to all who participated in the District Bee, a special recognition goes to the District Champion, 7th grader David Uttam. The top speller from each school will also have the chance to compete in the Regional Bee: Maryn Steenbock from the Intermediate School; Ella Winters from Hemlock Creek; and Aishwarya Palla from Westwood.



## Middle School French Forensics

WDPMS earned the Lillian Trottier Award for 2022 for the Concours Oral (French Forensics) Competition. They were the middle school with the greatest number of students to earn "A" rating medals in the entire state of Wisconsin. This is the 8th year for WDPMS to earn this award!



## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

School District of West De Pere residents are cordially invited to attend regular board meetings held once a month, 5:30pm, at the District Offices, 400 Reid St., Suite W (Reid Street Crossing, second floor) unless otherwise posted. An opportunity is provided at each meeting for citizens to address our Board of Education. Please visit our district webpage at: [www.wdpsd.com/board-of-education/](http://www.wdpsd.com/board-of-education/) or call the District Office (920) 337-1393 ext 8025 to confirm the meeting date, time, and location.

**5K RUN** **RUN YOUR HEART** BENEFITING HANDS ACROSS DE PERE

ACROSS DE PERE

**SATURDAY MAY 20TH, 2023**  
**9:00AM**  
**DE PERE HIGH SCHOOL**

**WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?**  
 ALL K-6 GRADE STUDENTS IN THE DE PERE AND WEST DE PERE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

**HOW DO I SIGN UP?**  
 JOIN THE RUN YOUR HEART ACROSS DE PERE FACEBOOK GROUP FOR FUTURE SIGNUP INFORMATION, & WATCH FOR INFORMATION IN YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL CORRESPONDENCES IN THE COMING WEEKS

**GET UP, GET OUT, AND RUN FOR A GREAT CAUSE!**



# Sports



## West De Pere Football Are State Runner-ups



## CONGRATS TO ETHAN HECK



Congratulations to Bella Bolek for punching her ticket to the WIAA State Tournament in Madison!



**West De Pere Dance Team State Champions**  
D3 POM STATE CHAMPIONS  
D2 KICK STATE RUNNER-UP

## WRESTLING



**100 WINS**  
Coach Abaray hit his 100th win coaching girls' basketball.



## NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT SIGNING DAY

### WEST DE PERE ATHLETES SIGNED WITH COLLEGES

- Eliza Aitken - South Dakota University - Track & Field
- Havanah Brockington - Michigan Tech - Soccer
- Ethan Heck - Michigan Tech - Basketball
- Benje Hencke - UW-Parkside - Baseball
- Noah Jahnke - UW-Green Bay - Cross Country
- Thomas Walder - Dordt University - Football
- Matthew Daanen - Michigan Tech - Football
- Najeh Mitchell - University of Minnesota Duluth - Football



WEST DE PERE GIRLS BASKETBALL  
**PHANTOM POWER**  
 2022-23 BAY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS



**Girls Hockey** Congratulations to our Girls Hockey Team who skated their way to becoming the Eastern Shores Conference Champs!!! Four girls from our High School play for the Ice Bears; Stacey Cloute(12th), Lakken Arnstad(12th), Alanna Dunks(9th), and Riley Mitchell(9th).

## Coach Rukamp

High School Varsity Baseball Head Coach, Joe Rukamp, has been awarded the 2022 Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association's Ethics in Coaching Award. This award is presented to a coach who displays respect, character, integrity, and class as a baseball coach.



### WEST DE PERE BOOSTER CLUB

What We Do

- Coordinate concession sales for home sporting events
- Raise money to fund school sports for items that are not included in the regular budgeting process
- Provide the Fall, Winter, and Spring athlete Conference Awards and celebratory cake or cookies for end-of-season banquets
- Offers \$7,500 in scholarships annually (\$8,500 for the 2022-23 school year)
- Supports Homecoming Kick-Off with a donation towards fireworks

THANK YOU to all those who have volunteered for our many sporting events!  
 Your efforts are appreciated by WDP athletes and the Booster club!

Spring Sports Concession Sign Up Here

## Fall 2022 All-Conference Awards:

### VOLLEYBALL

1st Team: Kayla DeBruin, Gabriella Arendt  
 2nd Team: Isabelle Dolezal

### CROSS COUNTRY

1st Team: Kate Schmoll, Noah Jahnke, Matthew Schmoll  
 2nd Team: Landon Nuthals, Ryan Flood

### BOYS SOCCER

1st Team: Hundamo Lovell, Ethan Smith  
 Honorable Mention: Jonathon

Romatowski, Joseph Jepson, Tyler Kowalczyk, Carter Borley, Evan Capelle, Zachary Buck

### GIRLS TENNIS

1st Team Singles: Leah Goodman  
 2nd Team Singles: Stacey Cloute  
 1st Team Doubles: Laura Sullivan  
 1st Team Doubles: Cadence Dugre

### FOOTBALL

1st Team Offense: Connor Hoerth, Matthew Daanen, Ryder Lesage, Najeh

Mitchell, Bryce Smith, Carter Schmitt  
 2nd Team Offense: Duke Shovald, Paul Kersten

1st Team Defense: Jacob Breier, Andrew Baumgart, Joseph Joiner, Thomas Walder  
 2nd Team Defense: Easton Deschane, Thomas Mudd, Carter Schmitt  
 Honorable Mention: Ben Schmidt (Offense), Nolan Mathews (Defense)  
 Running Back Receiver of the Year: Najeh Mitchell



# Around the District

## High School Choir News

On November 12th 26 students from the WDPHS choirs participated in the Singing in Wisconsin festival at Appleton North High School. This music festival was one of 4 throughout the state of Wisconsin that day. West De Pere had the largest representation of students in attendance of the 8 districts that participated in this annual event. The day of singing ended with a culminating performance open to the public. These 26 high school students were part of the 55-person Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble was led by a guest conductor from UW-Milwaukee.



In December, the WDPHS Choirs had their Holiday Concert performance in the high school auditorium. The 7th and 8th grade choirs each performed

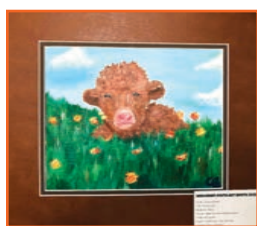
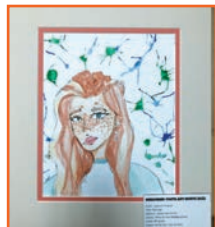
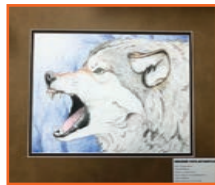
as well and the concert concluded with all 4 choirs joining together on stage to perform a song for a completely packed auditorium. The Chamber Choir performed around the big red kettle inside Bay Park Square while some of Mrs. Nusbaum's students rang bells for the Salvation Army.

The Spring Choir Concert will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 17th in the high school auditorium. Admission is free. This concert is part of our annual Fine Arts Night that begins with an art display and Jazz Band performance at 5:00 pm in the library.

## Middle School Art Corner

For the month of February, 5 middle school students had artwork on display at the Neville Public Museum. The students included: Claire Burden, Cadence Hopson, Lauren Metcalf, Ryleigh Strenn, and Ryleigh Wicke. Congratulations to these individuals for representing our school with their artistic talent!

Are you headed to Madison in March? Middle School students Claire Burden, Lauren Metcalf, and Ryleigh Wicke will have their artwork on display in Madison at the State Capitol Building from March 4 - 31. You can check out other pieces of artwork from all over the state anytime the Capitol Building is open. On March 31st, there will be a reception from 12:00-1:00 pm to award prizes to student winners. Good luck to these students!



## Virtual Reality

By: Sheila Kohl and Jennifer Gossen

Virtual Reality is a technology that has the ability to transport students to different places, letting them experience scenes such as a forest or another planet as if they were there while being engaging and interactive. While reading about an ancient civilization or looking at pictures of a heart, students could then experience the content via VR, which places them in the actual scene. This increases an understanding and retention of the material and also helps students literally see the world in new ways.

Through the use of West De Pere's Expeditions 2.0 Virtual Reality Kit students have had the opportunity to visit places all over the world! 1st graders at Hemlock Creek visited the Moon while learning about space. 4th graders visited several sites related to the American Revolution to help build their background knowledge before starting a new reading unit. 6th grade students at the Intermediate School observed different structures (pyramids, skyscrapers, and bridges) before building their own and



photoshopping them with appropriate surroundings.

The VR headsets are easy for students to navigate, and they have the potential to enhance the learning experience at all age levels.



# A Swedish Experience

Before Christmas, the students in Sue Lutz's 5th-grade class held an extraordinary Zoom meeting with their pen pals that has been eleven years in the making. Since 2012, Mrs. Lutz has been collaborating with teachers in De Pere's Sister City, Åmål, Sweden. Each year, at least two batches of letters typically criss-cross the ocean. These letters are especially vital to young Swedish students that have just started to learn English: they eagerly study each letter to scrutinize the spelling and grammatical structure then craft their own responses under the guidance of their teachers. Since the pandemic, Zoom meetings have become commonplace even for young students. What set THIS one apart, however, was that Ms. Lutz was in Sweden herself during the meeting! She was one of two De Pere educators invited to join the De Pere Sister Cities delegation overseas in



recognition of their work with students in Åmål. Both she and De Pere High School's Randy Soquet met the teachers they have been working with over the years and spent several days in the region getting a deep dive into Swedish culture. For her, this was a precious, unprecedented opportunity to learn and grow as an educator, and feels more than ever that connecting the youth of the world is one of our greatest hopes for the future. When she delivered the



fresh batch of letters to her students, her eagerness and passion to share her stories created an infectious buzz in her classroom that will hopefully ripple outward in an ever-growing circle of goodwill and understanding. *Dana Lex WDPHS*

## Meteorologist Steve Beylon

3rd Graders at Westwood Elementary had an exciting visitor! Meteorologist Steve Beylon from WBAY came to Westwood to talk to all 3rd grade students about weather, but not just any weather: extreme weather! From tornados to thunderstorms, Mr. Beylon had one very important message: Be Prepared! Students learned about some of the dangers that can accompany weather in Wisconsin and ways (like knowing the safest spot at home for each type of storm or having a weather radio and flashlight in a special spot) to be prepared for all weather in order to keep ourselves safe. Mr. Beylon's animated teaching and dynamic personality made this "very important weather alert" a highlight of our 3rd grade year!



**Northeast Wisconsin YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP**

**Sophia**  
West De Pere High School

Sophia is in the 11th grade. She participates in Youth Apprenticeship in Manufacturing at Green Bay Packaging Folding Carton Division.

Sophia's Supervisor says,

*"Sophia is open to trying out new departments in the plant. She is willing to train to learn about other jobs and machines. She gives her best effort when working on projects."*

Sophia says,

*"I'm really enjoying my job. Every day there are always new things to do. There are big projects that I get to work on as well as smaller tasks. I get to see everything from electrical work to welding to machine programming and troubleshooting."*



**GREEN BAY PACKAGING**  
FOLDING CARTON DIVISION

#ThisIsC7

**Northeast Wisconsin YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP**

**Lauren**  
West De Pere High School

Lauren is in the 11th grade. She participates in Youth Apprenticeship in Health Sciences as a Nursing Assistant at Country Villa Assisted Living.

Lauren's manager says, "Lauren has been an ASSET to our team since starting in May 2022. Lauren dove into the caregiving field 2 feet first with a heart that only a true person meant to be in healthcare shows! Lauren's smile is contagious and she continues to go above and beyond for our residents and her teammates everyday. Being recently named EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH for Country Villa Freedom, we are thankful that Lauren has chosen our community to start and grow her healthcare career in! Lauren will grow to do amazing things!"



**COUNTRY VILLA**  
Assisted Living  
Freedom, WI

#ThisIsC7

**Northeast Wisconsin YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP**

**Garret Elbe**  
West De Pere High School

Garret Elbe is in the 11th grade. He participates in Youth Apprenticeship in Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics as a Diesel Technician at Fairchild Equipment.

Garret's Manager says, "So far everything is going great, he shows up on time, comes in when no school, always stays busy. He's got tools and uniforms now. Still says he really enjoys it. We have him work on some of the smaller jobs and he seems to handle them well. Other than that, he seems like a good fit."

His Human Resources Manager says, "I am so excited that we found an awesome first apprentice for our new program here at Fairchild. Garret is a rockstar!"



**FAIRCHILD EQUIPMENT**

#ThisIsC7

# Around the District

## Middle School Choir News

Four 8th-grade choir students participated in the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association All-State Middle-Level Honor choir at Lawrence University in Appleton. Hundreds of the best singers in Wisconsin from 5th grade - college participated under the direction of nationally renowned choral conductors. The choir students who were selected are Lilly Ellingson, Aidyn Gauthier, Lauren Metcalf, and Jaxson White-Tegge.



## Hemlock Creek Therapy Dogs

Therapy dogs are used in schools around the country to create a positive and welcoming environment for everyone. Therapy dogs need to have a calm, friendly, well-behaved personality and go through classes and testing to gain their therapy dog certification. At Hemlock Creek we have two therapy dogs who visit monthly! Several students each month get the opportunity to read to and interact with the dogs.



Tucker is a three year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel owned by Mrs. Gossen, Hemlock Creek's library media/instructional technology specialist. Teddy is a five year old Golden Doodle owned by Judy Dvorak. Using therapy dogs at school has been so beneficial for improving literacy skills, building confidence, and creating a positive learning environment.



## NAGC

In November, the West De Pere School District Talent Development Team attended the National Association of Gifted Children Annual Convention in Indianapolis.

Team members attended a variety of sessions about gifted education and collaborated with educators from all over the country.



## West De Pere FFA News

### District Leadership Development Events

West De Pere FFA Members competed in Leadership Development Events (Speaking Contests) on January 23rd at Mishicot High School. The following members competed; in Parliamentary Procedure (3rd Place): Avery Berner, Sarah Callahan, Destiny Viste, Remi Dantzman, Izzy Kinser, James Ashpole; in Employment Skills: Avery Berner, Olivia LeMere; and Extemporaneous Speaking (3rd Place): Hailee Kessler-Lappen. Great job to all who participated!

### Miss US Agriculture

On January 17th Emilie Berner, Wisconsin's Miss United States Agriculture and West De Pere Alumni came to visit the high school agriculture classes and play some Ag Fact Bingo! It was a



great opportunity to learn all about Wisconsin Agriculture and hear Emilie talk about her role and how it has impacted her. Emilie Berner is a former West De Pere FFA member and officer!

### Halftime Conference

Two FFA officers, Olivia Sachse and Destiney Viste, were chosen to represent West De Pere FFA at the Halftime Conference in Stevens Point in January. They learned so many new things to bring back to the chapter and more importantly ways to improve it. They were able to meet other FFA members from all over the state and work with the State FFA officers to discuss and plan out the remainder of the school year. Workshops included many important topics such as Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, proper FFA event planning, and leadership.

# WEST DE PERE SCHOOL DISTRICT 4K PROGRAM

The School District of West De Pere has scheduled 4-Year-Old Kindergarten registration dates for children who would be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2023, and are planning to attend 4-Year Old Kindergarten in the fall of 2023.

**Registration will take place on Thursday, March 9 from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

**To register, please bring proof of residence (a utility bill works great), an original birth certificate, and an immunization record/waiver to either Westwood Elementary School or Hemlock Creek Elementary School.**

Our 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program is half days, five days a week. Depending on space availability at each site, children may be served at a location (either school or partnering child care facility) outside of their home school attendance area. All Four-Year-Old Kindergarten students are eligible for busing. Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is a voluntary program and no child will be required to attend. The Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program is developmentally appropriate and may include but is not limited to: readiness skills, language development, social development, emotional development, physical development, and self-help skills.

If you are new to the area and have not completed a census form, please contact the district office at (920) 337-1393 ext. 8010 to have your child counted on the school census. If you know a neighbor with small children, please share this information with them.

*If you have any questions concerning registration, please call Westwood Elementary at (920) 337-1087 ext. 1315; Hemlock Creek Elementary at (920) 425-1900 ext. 3321, or Mike Kowalczyk, 4K Director at (920) 425-1900 ext. 3327.*

## Pre-School Developmental Screening

The School District of West De Pere offers developmental screening for preschool-aged children. The school district uses census data to mail out the Ages and Stages developmental questionnaires throughout the year, asking parents to complete the questionnaire and return it promptly by mail. As the questionnaires are returned, school professionals score them and provide written feedback to parents on the general developmental readiness of their child(ren). In certain circumstances, the school district will invite children to participate in an additional on-site screening. If you would like to request a developmental questionnaire, please call the Department of Student Services at (920) 337-1393 ext. 8012.

## Five-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration

The School District of West De Pere recently held kindergarten registration for children who are planning to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2023. In case you missed it or your child does not attend our 4K program and you are planning on sending your child to kindergarten, please register your child as soon as possible at your school of residence: Hemlock Creek Elementary School, 1900 Williams Grant Dr, De Pere or Westwood Elementary School, 1155 Westwood St, De Pere.

Children must turn five years of age on or before September 1, 2023, and live in the West De Pere School District to be eligible for the West De Pere kindergarten program. For registration, you will need to bring your child's birth certificate and proof of address to the elementary school office. The child does not have to attend the registration. If you have any questions, please call (920) 425-1900 ext. 3320 for Hemlock Creek or (920) 337 1087 ext. 1322 for Westwood.

**\*Please note that immunization requirements can be waived only if a properly signed health, religious, or personal conviction waiver is filed with the school.**



**August 22-24**  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

# 2023 KINDERGARTEN CAMP

Let us help your future Phantom get a jump start into life as a kindergartner in West De Pere! Students must be registered for Kindergarten in the School District of West De Pere and will attend camp at the school they will attend Kindergarten during the fall 2023-2024.

Additional information:  
Visit [www.wdpsd.com](http://www.wdpsd.com)  
Click on "DISTRICT" and  
"Summer School"  
(listed under "ABOUT US")

**\$5**  
REGISTRATION  
FEE

**ONLINE REGISTRATION**  
OPENS: MAY 9 AT 9:00 AM  
CLOSES: JUNE 13 AT 3:30 PM  
LINKS ARE NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL DAY OF REGISTRATION

**QUESTIONS?**  
CONTACT THE  
SUMMER SCHOOL OFFICE AT  
920-425-1900 X3100  
OR  
[SUMMERSCHOOL@WDPSD.COM](mailto:SUMMERSCHOOL@WDPSD.COM)

<https://www.wdpsd.com/district/summer-school.cfm>

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST DE PERE  
400 REID ST. SUITE W  
DE PERE WI 54115

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 52  
De Pere WI 54115  
ECRWSS

THE  
**Phantastic**  
PHANTOM



## POSTAL CUSTOMER

## West De Pere High School Theatre

This winter, West De Pere High School Theatre asked the community for donations in order to supplement funding for a video wall. The dynamic scenery used in Mean Girls on February 23, 24, and 25 would not have been possible without Lighthouse Productions and the generosity of our donors! Thank you for making this show so fetch! We couldn't have done it without you!

- Bryan VanderBloomen and Replay Sports Bar and Grill
- Chad Miller and Gallagher's Pizza
- De Pere Optimist Club
- De Pere Rotary Club
- Jill and John Q.
- Kiwanis Club of De Pere
- Kwik Trip
- Nancy M.
- Orthodontic Specialists of Green Bay
- Pool Works
- Schneider
- Scott's Subs
- Shirley B.
- Susan N.
- Waggs Inn Pet Hotel
- Many Anonymous Donors



## HANDS ACROSS DE PERE

Mark your calendars! The 3rd Annual Hands Across De Pere fundraising event will be held Sunday, August 27th, 2023 from 3-6 pm at the Swan Club in De Pere. Join us for RAFFLES, FOOD & DRINK, and MUSIC by THE COUGARS! All of the funds raised will go directly towards supporting our most vulnerable students in both De Pere and West De Pere Schools. We're already looking forward to this event!



Hands Across De Pere acts as a joint account shared by the School Social Workers on both sides of the river. This year alone we have helped over 65 students/families in West De Pere! We've been able to provide shoes, hygiene products, clothing, sports equipment, field trips, groceries, and even some big ticket items like portions of car repairs and security deposits to help families overcome homelessness!

We hope to see you there!

## Census

The Census counts every person in the 50 states, District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories. The Census is mandated by the Constitution and the information will provide critical data for government officials, business owners, lawmakers and many others. Over \$765 billion in federal funding is allocated annually to hospitals, schools, fire departments, roads and other resources based on census data. Beginning in mid-March, households will receive an invitation to participate in the Census online, by phone or by paper. Help shape the future of our schools and community by filling out the Census. For more information on the Census, visit <https://census.gov/en.html>.

We need your help in planning for the future in the West De Pere School District. If you have not previously filled out our Census Form, you have just moved, or you are new to the District, please contact the District Office of West De Pere or your child's school to request one.

Who needs to be counted? Household members under the age of 21 who reside at a West De Pere School District address need to be recorded on our school census even if they do not attend or plan on attending West De Pere Public Schools. If you are living in the West De Pere School District and your child(ren) attend a private school or attend school in a different district than West De Pere, they still need to be counted on the school census of the district in which they

reside.

How to complete the form-

- If you have children under the age of 21 who reside at a West De Pere School District address. Be sure to include any post office box or apartment number with the actual address of the residence.
- If there are no children under the age of 21 residing at a West De Pere school district address, please complete the address section on the form, indicate there are no children under the age of 21, and return the form. We will then remove your address from our records.

Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the West De Pere Schools District Office (337-1393 ext. 8010). Thank you for your help!

*West De Pere Softball*  
**PHUTURE PHANTOMS CAMP**

**SATURDAY MARCH 18TH**  
Grades K - 8 \$20 includes T-Shirt WDPHS TURF FACILITY

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Session 1- 9 AM to 10:30 AM</b><br><small>Registration/Check in begins at 8:30 AM</small><br><b>Kindergarten - 3rd Grade</b><br><small>Attendees can expect to learn an introduction to softball through batting and movement skills, leadership, team work, and effective communication.</small> | <b>Session 2- 11 AM to 1 PM</b><br><small>Registration/Check in begins at 10:30 AM</small><br><b>4th Grade - 8th Grade</b><br><small>Attendees can expect to learn proper catching, throwing, hitting and base running techniques as well as leadership, team work, and effective communication.</small> |
|--|--|

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**  
Scan the QR code to register  
\*\*Sign up by February 8th to guarantee t-shirt size!

**Summer School 2023**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7TH - TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH**

THE SUMMER SCHOOL OFFICE HAS BEEN BUSY PLANNING FOR SUMMER SCHOOL THIS YEAR.

COURSE OFFERINGS INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE STARTING MARCH 21ST.

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH AT 2:30 PM  
REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH AT 4:00 PM

ALL REGISTRATIONS AND PAYMENTS WILL BE PROCESSED ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION

CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT HEMLOCK CREEK, WESTWOOD, AND WEST DE PERE MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Go to [www.wdpsd.com](http://www.wdpsd.com) click on About the District, then the Summer School tab for additional information and registration.  
Questions? [summerschool@wdpsd.com](mailto:summerschool@wdpsd.com)  
920-337-1087 ext 3100

