Superintendent’s Message

West Allis-West Milwaukee Schools

“Working together as a school community, we must put children first . . . we all have an obligation to touch children’s lives and make a difference.”

Superintendent
Kurt Wachholz

April, May, & June 2012

WAWM Schools Receives Numerous Awards

This spring the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District has received three awards from area publications. In March Milwaukee Magazine recognized the WAWM Schools as the Number One Overperforming School District. This recognition says that the result is a ranking that identifies school districts making the most of what the Milwaukee Magazine states are “the cards they’ve been dealt.” The West Allis-West Milwaukee Schools earned this top ranking in both the K-8 and High School levels and proved that all of the hard work that our entire administration, teaching staff and support staff have done for children is paying off with positive results and recognition.

Additional recognitions have been garnered by the West Allis-West Milwaukee Schools. One of these is First Place by the Wisconsin Business Journal as Best New Development or Renovation – Elementary/Secondary Education. The other award is from the Wisconsin State Law Journal state-wide commercial construction publication called The Daily Reporter, and they presented the WAWM Schools an award for “Top Projects of 2011.” These print publications recognized top architectural and construction projects throughout Wisconsin. The West Allis-West Milwaukee Schools were one of thirty projects state-wide to receive the Law Journal award and one of only sixteen to receive the Business Journal award from throughout the State. The WAWM Schools are in exclusive company, as other projects to receive the award this year were The Chazen Museum of Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Marquette University Engineering Hall, the Summerfest South End Development project, the UW-Parkside Rita Tallent Pickens Regional Center for Arts and Humanities, and the new Union South Construction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to name a few.

These last two awards stem from the District’s purchasing out of receivership (bankruptcy), and then renovating, consolidating, repurposing, and creating revenue-generating facilities. These buildings are the former Allis-Chalmers Executive Office Building and Tractor Manufacturing Office Building located on South 70th Street in the heart of downtown West Allis, the Center of the WAWM School District, in close proximity to many K-12 campuses, and the center of the community businesses.

The South 70th Street facilities now house the School District offices, programs, and departments as well as the Recreation Department, Maintenance, MIS, Food Service, professional development, community meeting rooms, and the District Learning Center. A community room was also established, called the Allis-Chalmers Room, and is dedicated to the original builder and tenant of the facility and has a number of photos depicting the history of Allis-Chalmers in West Allis. In addition, the lower floors of each of the facilities are leased out to agencies and businesses with a similar mission to the School District. The revenue generated from these rentals covers the total operational costs of the entire facility and in addition also generates over $600,000 in additional revenue which supports programs. This is extremely important especially during these very challenging financial times for education.

Next Generation Learning Highlights From This Year and Projections for 2012-13

The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District is offering a number of cutting-edge initiatives that support next generation learning, personalized learning, inquiry based instruction and 21st Century employability skills. These include the creation of Next Generation Learning Community classrooms at the elementary school and courses in blended and digital learning in the intermediate and high schools.

Next Generation Learning communities at the elementary are multi-age groups of students who work with a team of teachers to personalize learning. These classrooms utilize personalized learning paths to guide students learning through a progression in all academic areas. Technology and inquiry based learning are used as tools for personalization and engagement. Building positive connections with students, parents, family and community is an important part of the program.

At the intermediate level, two courses were designed specifically to teach students to become on-line learners. In sixth grade, students are introduced to on-line learning through a course in financial literacy. While exploring this 21st century theme, students develop the skills to be effective on-line researchers, collaborators and thinkers. In eighth grade students continue in this blended digital format and have another opportunity to further develop the skills necessary to effectively be on-line learners in an inquiry class.

Classes at the high school prepare students for the option of hybrid or blended learning classes in Biology and Chemistry. In addition to classroom participation in labs and discussion groups, students use a computer-based curriculum on a platform called Moodle to research, collaborate and complete assignments on-line. Course material and content is available to students on-line 24 hours a day, seven days a week without having to carry around a textbook, notebook or even pens and pencils.
Star Powered Staff Continues to Excel for Students!
Our Star Powered Students Excel as Well!

Each month this school year, we have recognized staff members and students from our 17 schools who exemplify Star Power leadership and/or behavior. It is important to recognize the accomplishments of our staff who every day go above and beyond by doing their very best in ensuring that all students in the WAWM School District learn and excel.

The staff members who have been recognized with Star Power are Kathy Abraham, Heather Bain, Mark Czaplewski, Pat Gain, Greg Goelz, Susan Hinkley, Brian Thompson, and Deann Yaklich of Central High School, Alissa Christopherson, Mike Ellery, Ryan Joyal, Ryan Koch, Jen Kuhlenbeck, Larry Leinberger, Jessica Santiago, and Laura Anderle-Smith of Nathan Hale High School, Erin Hanson-Bailey, Jeremy Gemig and Mark Matthias of the Learning Center, Sara Bauhs, Cassie Christopherson, Rachel Dool, Lori Marso, Danielle Schoenwetter, Travis Tetting and Brad Valona of West Milwaukee Intermediate School, Jenny Anderson, Lynn Burke, Tammi Fure, Kevin Kaczorowski, Abby Snopek, Jenny Statza, and Heather Swenson of Lincoln Intermediate School, Maureen Georgenson, Angie Gilson, Joyce King-McIntyre, Maria Meyers, Mary Pat Michels, Jessica Mocnik, Lori Rorabeck and Jennifer Templin of Frank Lloyd Wright Intermediate School, Sadie Boss, Julie Carter, Kris Herman, and Allison Utter of Franklin Elementary School, Stacy Christenson, Brianne Meyer, and Michelle Rodriguez of Hoover Elementary School, Joanna Bannon, Liz Gold, Adam Gloudemans, and Rick Hoppert of Horace Mann Elementary School, Stephanie Ferris, Sarah Franson, Jenny Johnson, and Pam McGroarty of Irving Elementary School, Keri Hendricks, Erin McGrorty, and Annette Worden of Jefferson Elementary School, Vicki Cota, Ann Locke, and Sabrina Vermilyea of Longfellow Elementary School, Barb Cerwin, Lorna Chwala, Linda Dokken, and Stephanie Lundgren of Madison Elementary School, Kathy Berka, Kathy Ceel, Michele Pemberton, and Amanda Zelinski of Mitchell Elementary School, Molly Fitzpatrick, Darlene Moore, and Mary Wimmer of Pershing Elementary School, Patricia Kaisler, Patty Kurtz, Gail Citowitz-Placzek, and Jennifer Schwasinger of Walker Elementary School, Ashley Goral, Brendan Kelly, Cathy Makenin and Angie Nowicki of Wilson Elementary School. The efforts highlighted by these staff members focused on areas such as providing student support and opportunities beyond core classroom expectations; next generation learning; leadership to improve student learning; and modeling and leadership for and with their peers, department, school and community service.

The students who exemplified Star Power for this month are Nathan Hale High School – Jessica Rampetsreiter, Peter Keen, Kathy O’Hara, Ellie Probst, Amanda Westphal, Andy Moyle, Emily Fuchs, Eryn Rutowski, Jack Allen, Sadianne Hess, Mariah Kuecker, Katie Sarro, Sammy Joe Roebke, Sara Quesnell, and Jojze Slade; Central High School - Josh Boeder, Elizabeth Brunner, Nicole Larson, Dominic Craig, Jarvis Garrett, Mehryn Kaker, Rebecca Krizan, Bria Meier, Samantha Stehm, Mitchell Mares, Wendy Watkinson, Kimberly Kay, Katherine Hibbard, Rebecca Simet, Nick Schultz, Joe Shepard, Brittany Zoellner, Eric Vis, and Skyler Pedersen; and Frank Lloyd Wright Intermediate School – Jacob Norman who recently won first prize in the Metro Milwaukee VFW Essay Contest and will now advance to the State competition with his essay.

We would also like to recognize and congratulate the following staff members for the awards they received. Kelly Dodge of Lincoln Intermediate School and Melissa Jovasevic of Nathan Hale High School who both were named 2012 Herb Kohl Education Foundation Fellows, Michael Ellery of Nathan Hale High School who has been named a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar, and Brian Marx of Lincoln Intermediate School for being named the Wisconsin Physical Education Teacher of the Year from the Wisconsin Health and Physical Education Association.

Reminders for the 2012 - 2013 School Year

A reminder that the first day of classes for the 2012 - 2013 school year will be on Tuesday, September 4, 2012. All forms and fees days will be held in the month of August. We will have this list posted on the District Website. Please check this summer for when your child’s school will be holding their forms and fees day. All teachers will report back on Monday, August 27. For those teachers wishing to earn additional credits toward their teaching certificate, the Wisconsin Education Innovations is being held at West Milwaukee Intermediate School the week of June 18 to 22.

As Superintendent, I would like to congratulate the graduating Class of 2012. I wish you the best of luck as you transition to a new phase of your life. Remember you are always welcome back to visit the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District to inform us of the new and exciting events happening in your life.

Have a fun, happy, and safe summer break and we will see you this fall for the 2012-2013 school year.

Board of Education
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Your West Allis-West Milwaukee Recreation Department is inviting you to race over and get registered for a Summer 2012 program. Whether you are looking for fitness, enrichment, athletics, or fine arts, the West Allis-West Milwaukee Recreation Department is sure to have something for everyone. The benefits of recreation programs are endless!

The Summer 2012 Activity Brochure has been delivered to all school district residents. Additional copies are available at the West Allis City Hall, West Allis Public Library, West Allis Health Department, West Milwaukee Village Hall, WA-WM School District Administration center and online at www.wawmrec.com. Registration is underway so do not delay and get signed up today! We welcome you to call us at (414) 604-4900 or email us at recware@wawm.k12.wi.us.

Come and check out what new programs we are unleashing this summer!

New this summer for adults!
- Beginning Archery
- Making Kefir
- Butz and Gutz Fitness

New this summer for kids!
- Art Party
- Bicycling Camp
- Check Mates Chess Club
- Rock Climbing
- Silly Science
- Cooking with Mom and Dad

In addition to our new programs, we will continue to offer our traditional summer programming consisting of Tennis Instruction, Summer Playground Programs, Summer Adventures, Baseball & Softball, SAFE Camp, Adult Exercise, Arts & Crafts, Athletic Camps, Early Childhood Music and Fitness, Adult Softball, Swim Lessons, and much more. Don’t forget about our special events such as the Hershey Track and Field Meet, McCarty Park Fun Run/Walk and Pool Party, Movies in the Park, Independence Day Celebration, Annual Dance Festival and many more!

Discounted Tickets for Sale
Did you know that the WA-WM Recreation and Community Services Department sells tickets to major attractions at a discounted rate. Purchase your tickets for Great America, Noah’s Ark, Mt. Olympus Water and Theme Park, Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame, and Dells Army Ducks and save money today. All ticket sales are cash, credit card, or money order only!

Visit us on the web at www.wawmrec.com