



THE MUSTANG ROUND-UP

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT:

- p.1 - District Administrator's Message
- p.2 - Classroom Happenings
- p.3 - Extra Curricular Update / Mustang Apparel
- p.4 - 5th Grade Happenings
- p.5 - Creative Flexcursions / A New Furry Friend
- p.6 - Gratitude Month / 2020 District Tax Levy
- p.7 - Board of Education Election / Looking for Extra Income? / Important School Dates

DEC
20
20

LITTLE CHUTE
Area School District
fostering a community of learners

1402 Freedom Rd. | Little Chute, WI 54140
(920) 788-7605



ROUND-UP

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

The ACT was the only state assessment given during the spring of the 2019-20 school year.

This assessment is given to all juniors.

Angela Wachtel, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Composite	2018	2019	2020	English	2018	2019	2020	Reading	2018	2019	2020
State	19.8	19.6	19.9	State	18.8	18.5	18.7	State	19.9	20.0	20.1
LCASD	20.1	19.0	20.5	LCASD	19.5	18.5	19.5	LCASD	20.3	19.8	21.4
LCCPA	23.4	21.0	23.6	Math	2018	2019	2020	Science	2018	2019	2020
LCHS	18.7	18.3	18.8	State	19.9	19.6	19.9	State	20.2	20.1	20.4
				LCASD	19.8	18.0	19.4	LCASD	20.4	19.9	21.3

District Administrator's Message

During the first quarter of this unprecedented school year, we have all adapted and participated in the rapid monumental change regarding how we deliver instruction to our students. Everyone associated with the Little Chute Area School District has been instrumental in creating multiple learning platforms where teachers (in the midst of a pandemic) can continue to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all our students. As we move into the second quarter of the school year, it is becoming evident that we have moved beyond learning new routines and procedures and advanced towards measuring our successes with assessments and evaluations. While our main goal still remains focused on the return of all students to the classroom, during our current multi-level learning platform approach, we are experiencing students mastering concepts and growing their learning. For this, I am extremely grateful.

Since the beginning of the school year, I continue to hear from students, staff, and families about how comforting it has been to be able to connect with each other and to be learning together again, either face-to-face or virtually. The gratitude that has been expressed that our fall student athletes have been given the opportunity to compete, and our performing arts students have been given the ability to perform has been shared by many. We all look forward to this momentum continuing through the end of the first semester, and beyond. However, in order to keep our face-to-face learning platform viable and extra-curriculars happening I need your help, particularly as we enter the holiday season.

Our Mission

The mission of the Little Chute Area School District is dedicated to fostering a community of learners where we meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students.

As you consider your holiday traditions and finalize your family plans, I ask that everyone think about the ways we can help to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect those who are most vulnerable to the virus. Mask wearing, frequent hand washing/sanitizing, and maintaining social distance, whenever possible, are layers of protection that are proving to be effective against the spread of COVID-19. Our goal is to keep our "Return to Learning Plan" going and to allow face-to-face instruction to continue for as long as we are able. Please remember it takes all of us to keep the Little Chute School/Community safe and open for face-to-face instruction.

Finally, I want to recognize and give a **SHOUT-OUT** to our teachers, administrators, directors, support staff, maintenance, and tech support personnel. Their continued dedication and support of families and students in this district has been nothing short of amazing. While I clearly understand that we have all experienced some glitches and hiccups during the implementation process of our multiple learning platforms, collectively this group continues to place the needs of our students as their top priority. It is my privilege to work alongside a group of passionate professionals who care so deeply for the students and families we serve.

Happy Holidays, stay safe, and stay healthy,

David Botz
District Administrator,
Little Chute Area School District

Our Vision

Little Chute schools will be learning communities where students express a genuine desire to learn in a welcoming and secure environment. We will challenge all learners to become engineers of their own future by nurturing their creative and intellectual growth. We will provide the launch pad for students to excel in any field of interest by developing the whole child in a diverse and technical society.

Classroom Happenings

Angela Wachtel, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

We have been challenged to teach, collaborate and learn in new ways. Way to meet the challenges, LCASD!



Technical education classes use the new **xSTECH Router** to design and then create by cutting through plastics, woods, and aluminum. This provides students with hands-on experiences in programming, prototyping, and manufacturing principles.



Teachers connect virtually for professional learning at the start of the school year and during weekly PLCs. Here, Mr. Kratzke with the first grade teacher team virtually collaborates during PLC time.



Remote Teaching and Learning.

The classroom learning continues even when a teacher is at home. Like many teachers, Ms. Ley seamlessly leads her 6th grade class in a collaborative reading lesson. Students participate both virtually and in person.

Mustang Extracurricular Update

Kelly Wallace, Activities Director

Opportunity and flexibility are the focus of the Activities Department this year. After a spring shutdown and a summer of uncertainty, our goal has been to find ways for our students to participate, compete, or engage in the activities they enjoy, with a few new protocols and procedures to keep them safe.

On the athletic side, the Northeastern Conference decided to move forward with high school fall sports and compete with conference schools only. Girls Golf and Cross Country were the first teams to practice and compete. Our Girls Golf team had the largest participation numbers we have seen in awhile. Varsity achieved their goal of making it to Sectionals as a team. Cross Country's season looked much different from previous years. The team ran in small quads against conference schools only, and Little Chute even hosted meets on our campus. The boys team tied at the Conference meet, eventually losing to perennial power Freedom in a tie-breaker. They took second place at Sub-sectionals, which was new this year, and also at Sectionals. The team placed 5th at State, with Riley Huss taking the podium with a 9th place finish at State. The girls team also had a successful season placing third in Conference and second at Sub-sectionals. Individual runner Jessica Wilson qualified for State. Boys Soccer was back in the mix this year as a JV squad. They had a very short season but the team learned a lot and the future looks bright. Volleyball grew a lot as a team this year and gave Xavier all they had in a close Regional Semi-final loss. Football finished the regular season with a record of 4-3 and are headed to the playoffs. Due to COVID, there will be no State for football, rather they will play the first two levels only. Middle School athletes also got to compete this fall. Both Cross Country and Volleyball had opportunities to play against Valley-Bay Conference Schools. Middle School Boys Basketball is about halfway through their season.

On the activities side, many of our clubs and organizations are in full swing. Although many of their meetings are held virtually, our wonderful advisors are giving the students an opportunity to get involved in another community outside of school where they can work on their leadership skills and focus on their talents and creativity. Many of our competition-based organizations will compete virtually this year.

Extracurriculars are an invaluable part of the educational experience, and we are proud to be giving our students opportunities.

Looking for Some Mustang Apparel?

The Little Chute Area School District is selling Mustang apparel at our school store, the Mustang Locker Room. **We are excited to announce a new website for the school store: <https://themustanglockerroom.square.site/>.** With the new website, the Mustang Locker Room is now able to accept credit card payments. For all orders, we are also offering curbside pickup before and after school. The store is run by students with the guidance of Business Education Teacher and DECA Advisor, Taylor Grenlie. **GO MUSTANGS!**



5th Grade Happenings

Katie Debruin, 5th Grade Special Ed. Teacher
Allison Kloehn, 5th Grade Teacher
Lindsey Rietveld, 5th Grade Teacher
Stephani VanGroll, 5th Grade Teacher
Greg Verhagen, 5th Grade Teacher



5th Grade Fallen Timbers Fun

On Friday, November 6th, the 5th Grade students spent the day working out in nature with their teachers, classmates, and the staff from Fallen Timbers! The students created Leaf Paintings with different kinds of leaves around



the school. The Fallen Timbers staff hid geocaches all around the outside athletic complex where the 5th graders used GPS devices on a Geocache Scavenger Hunt. Their outdoor survival skills were tested as well, during the Amazing Survival Race! During



the different challenges, the students learned about water filtering, shelter building, fire building, the "Rule of Three," and some first aid techniques. Both the weather and fun activities made it a great day to be learning outside.



Personal Air Pressure Labs

The 5th grade teachers gathered extra materials so that the students could still participate in hands-on Science Labs while following Covid-19 guidelines!



Each student was able to have their own science lab materials so they could use the Scientific Method to hypothesize, design an experiment, observe and draw conclusions on different



air pressure concepts. The kids enjoyed getting their hands wet, being active in their learning, and having freedom and responsibility to learn through a real science lab!



Getting Creative with Flexcursions

Nicole Peyton, Flex Academy Administrative Assistant
Heidi Schmidt, Flex Academy Principal

Flexcursions are a favorite component of Flex Academy. These monthly events are meant to provide an experience out in the community, which extends learning beyond the classroom. In years past, community sites such as EAA Museum, State Capitol Building, and Mulberry Farm allowed for in-action learning through school-wide field trips.



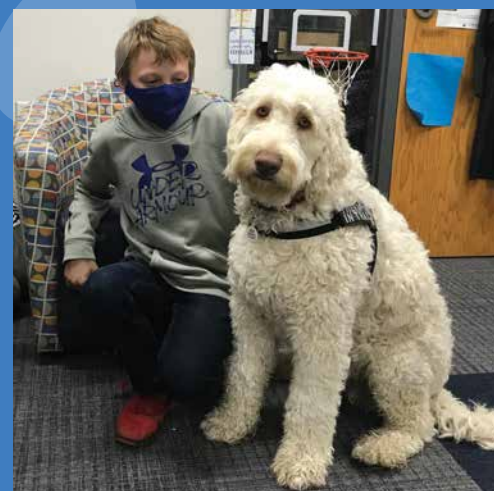
This year Flex Academy had to be creative since our district practices have followed such safety measures as eliminating field trips in order to decrease intermingling of students and gathering in large groups as one way to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. However, through a strong partnership with Fallen Timbers, the Flexcursions are still part of our programming. Fallen Timbers Environmental Center is located near Seymour, WI. It is owned by a consortium of six school districts (which includes the Little Chute Area School District) and is operated by CESA 6. Flex staff has worked closely with Fallen Timbers Director Matt Gottfredsen and project coordinator Jarrod Folkman to bring Flexcursions to the Flex Academy. In October, the students and staff were led through learning experiences focused on living and nonliving ecosystems, and weather stations. The team from Fallen Timbers also provides virtual options for our families who have chosen the virtual platform. We are so thankful for this great partnership, and we look forward to future events.

A New Furry Friend

Heidi Schmidt, Director of Pupil Services
Tracy Schmidt, Intermediate/Middle School Counselor

Dex was introduced to the Little Chute Area School District community through social media last spring as a way to connect and encourage our students. Mrs. Schmidt found ways to acclimate Dex to our building and staff this past summer while she simultaneously went through the process of going through training for Dex to be recognized as a Canine Good Citizen. Dex is now in the process of becoming a therapy dog.

To prepare for Dex to start at school, Mrs. Schmidt and Ms. Gretz surveyed students and staff to address potential fears and comfort levels of dogs. Starting in October, Dex reports with Mrs. Schmidt on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Intermediate/Middle School. Dex can be seen in the hallways, attending classes with Mrs. Schmidt and in the Pupil Services Office. Dex has already made an impact by adding a calming presence in the hallways. His positive and uplifting personality is sure to boost school climate as well.



As one member of the LCASD administrative team, I can say without reservation that I am grateful for our staff, students, and community. Our patience, resolve, and determination are what keep us going through difficult times.

In the spirit of gratitude we wanted to take an opportunity to recognize the entire LCASD staff for their tireless efforts to educate the students of the district. It truly takes a village to raise a child, and our staff goes above and beyond to help partner with parents to do this. In November, each staff member was given a yard sign to recognize them as a hero of Little Chute. Please take a moment with an email or a handwritten note to share your gratitude with any member of our LCASD staff that has helped you or your child along the way. Thank you for your continued support and we wish you and your family all the best during the holiday season.

GO MUSTANGS!

Gratitude Month

Tony Bird, High School/LCCPA Principal

November is annually designated as National Gratitude Month. During these unique times it is important for us to take a step back and show our gratitude for the blessings in our lives. Gratitude's amazing power forces us to focus on the positive aspects of life and not some of the negativity that frequently knocks on the door.

2020 District Tax Levy

Karen Moore, Business Manager

At the October 26, 2020, meeting, the School Board certified the tax levy for the 2020-21 school year. The district is pleased to report a decrease in the mill rate for the third year in a row.

School Year	Total Levy (\$)	Mill Rate
2017-2018	\$5,383,443	10.7584
2018-2019	\$5,280,011	9.9024
2019-2020	\$5,592,906	9.8962
2020-2021	\$5,337,032	9.2301

Basic Facts about School District Taxes and Levy Rates (source: dpi.wi.gov)

School district property taxes include levies for general operations, debt service, capital expansion and community services. Property values are equalized to reflect market value rather than local assessed value. The equalized levy rate is the total property tax levy divided by the current year equalized property value with tax incremental financing (TIF) values excluded. Levy rates are shown in "mills" or property tax dollars levied per \$1,000 of equalized property value.

A - Fair Market Value x **B - 2019 School Levy Rate 0.00989619** = **C - School Levy Credit** = **D - Individuals' School Levy**

STATE OF WISCONSIN - OUTAGAMIE COUNTY
REAL ESTATE TAX BILL FOR 2019

Property Address: [Redacted] Parcel No. [Redacted] Bill No. [Redacted]

Assessed Value Land	Assd. Value Improve	Tot. Assessed Value	Ave. Assmt. Ratio	Est. Fair Mkt. Land	Est. Fair Mkt. Improve	Total Est. Fair Mkt.	Parcel No.
28,700	92,200	120,900	0.8306012270	34,600	111,000	145,600	[Redacted]

TAXING JURISDICTION	2018 Est. State Aids	2019 Est. State Aids	2018 Net Tax	2019 Net Tax	% Tax Change	NET PROPERTY TAX
STATE	0	0	0.00	0.00		\$ 2,588.08
COUNTY	287,869	312,060	643.89	552.37	-14.2%	
LOCAL	2,107,956	2,296,914	909.11	919.36	1.1%	
LITTLE CHUTE SCH	10,585,910	10,705,705	1,150.37	1,232.60	7.1%	
FOX VALLEY TECH	835,410	863,037	145.04	148.94	2.7%	
TOTAL	13,817,145	14,177,716	2,848.41	2,853.29	0.2%	
FIRST DOLLAR CREDIT			-69.32	-70.26	1.4%	
LOTTERY AND GAMING CREDIT			-168.34	-194.95	15.8%	
NET PROPERTY TAX			2,610.75	2,588.08	-0.9%	

School taxes reduced by \$ 207.86 (school levy tax credit)

Important: This description is for property tax bill only and may not be a full legal description

Net Assessed Value Rate (Does NOT reflect Credits) 0.02360046

Total Due FOR FULL PAYMENT BY Jan 31, 2020 \$ 2,588.08

Warning: If not paid by due dates, installments option is lost and total tax is delinquent subject to interest. (see reverse)

How Does This Impact My Property Tax Bill?

Below is an example of a 2019 tax bill with some information about how to calculate the impact of the school district mill rate in addition to highlighting other factors that have an impact on your taxes.

Did you know? In addition to changes in the school districts levy and mill rate, the individual taxpayers' school levy impact can change year to year due to changes in assessed value, assessment ratio, resulting fair market value, and the school levy credit.



LITTLE CHUTE

Area School District

1402 Freedom Rd,
Little Chute, WI 54140

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 32
LITTLE CHUTE, WI
54140

In order to be good stewards of taxpayer funds, a cost-effective bulk mailing service was used for this publication. There are limitations to the service, and we cannot fully match the mailing list with our school district borders without adding significant cost. If you do not live within the Little Chute Area School District and received this publication due to this limitation, we ask for your understanding.

Board of Education Spring Election

LCASD Board of Education has two open seats for the Spring Election, each for a term of office of three years (2021-2024).

Electors wishing to become candidates for School Board Member at the election to be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, must file a Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy with Karmen Hopfensperger in the office of the School District Clerk, 1402 Freedom Rd., Little Chute, WI, no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Forms for making such declarations can be obtained from the Office of the District Administrator, 1402 Freedom Rd., Little Chute, WI, during normal office hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Looking for Extra Income?

Little Chute Area School District is seeking substitutes for the 2020-2021 school year in the following areas:

- Substitute Teachers
- Paraprofessionals (Aides)
- Classroom Attendants

Please contact the District Office at **920-788-7605**.

Important School Dates

December 23 to January 1 - Winter Break
January 25 - No School
February 12 - No School
March 9 - ACT Testing
March 29 to April 2 - Spring Break
May 31 - No School
June 4 - Last Day of School