



THE MUSTANG ROUND-UP

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT:

- P. 2 - 4K Registration/Open Enrollment
- P. 3 - School Highlights
- P. 4 - LCASD Exceeds Expectations on State Report Card
- P. 5 - Importance of Athletics
- P. 6 - Communication Survey Follow-Up
- P. 7 - ESSER Update
- Back cover - Donate for New Bleachers



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LITTLE CHUTE
Area School District
fostering a community of learners

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

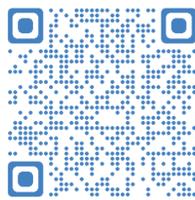


ROUND-UP

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Message from the Administrator



Our second semester has just begun and we are very proud of what we have accomplished thus far and look forward to the second half of our year.

We are also into the second year of our Blueprint for Brilliance. The focus areas in our Blueprint continue to be our measure for how we allocate resources, measure our school goals, and drive the time spent with our students and our professional growth for staff.

If you are interested in our current progress in our Blueprint for Brilliance, you will find our updated measures on our district website—scan the QR code for more information! We are holding ourselves accountable to keep our focus on achieving our district goals.

- Heidi Schmidt, District Administrator

It's Time to Think About the 2023-2024 School Year!



4K REGISTRATION

Do you have a child who will be 4 years old before September 1, 2023? If so, it's time to think about registering for school! Registration for 4K starts on February 6, 2023. If you live outside of the Little Chute Area School District, you also will need to complete Open Enrollment Applications.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

We continue to attract families from outside our district for many reasons which include our amazing staff and opportunities for students throughout the educational path. Do you know someone who lives in another school district who is thinking about applying for open enrollment into the Little Chute Area School District? Let them know we will be accepting applications soon! The open enrollment application window will open on February 6, 2023 and close on April 28, 2023.

If you have any questions about the registration process please visit the Little Chute registration and enrollment page at tinyurl.com/4yyn7fn9.

With our small class sizes and individualized instruction, we believe you will find Little Chute Elementary School's 4K Program to be an excellent learning opportunity for your child.



School Highlights

INTERMEDIATE & MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS GIVE BACK

November and December provided an opportunity for the LCIMS students and staff to be Cooperative Societal Contributors and generously give back to the community. In November, the Middle School Student Council organized a food drive for grades 5-8. The grade level that donated the highest number of items elected a staff member to dress up in our turkey costume at the end of the day before Thanksgiving break. Mrs. Meulemans was a great sport as the 8th graders rocked their donations this year. This drive resulted in over 1100 food items being donated to the local food pantry. The Intermediate School Student Council assisted in helping count and box all the items.



December's donation campaign was titled "The Giving Tree." The tree had paper light bulb ornaments which had personal hygiene items printed on them and was located in the commons near the auditorium. Anyone could take a light bulb from the tree and bring back the matching item to be donated to Harbor House, a safe place for women and children. Example items were diapers, dish soap, laundry detergent, deodorant, toothpaste, etc. LCIMS would like to thank everyone who contributed to either or both of the campaigns. Your generosity no doubt helped families in need this holiday season.

FLEX ACADEMY ENGAGES STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Our charter school serves students in grades K-8 using an innovative blended approach focusing on Personalized Learning, Health and Wellness, and Service Learning. We incorporate a digital curriculum through a hybrid learning model, which includes a minimum of two face-to-face days (at Flex) and at home work. The Flex Team works collaboratively with each student's learning coach (typically a parent) to engage in a blended academic experience from various locations, including home, within the community, and at school.

One of the unique benefits of our school is the sense of community through our multi-grade activities. Two that are favorites among our students are Flexcursions (field trips) and Pillar Days. Flexcursions allow students to learn out in the community and Pillar Days are days set aside for students to participate in projects and activities with other students while focusing on our three pillars.

Our sense of community extends into our students' families. We have many parents who attend our Flexcursions and have great whole-family participation in school-led events, such as our Winter Gathering, a time we gather to celebrate our school community with refreshments and family activities.

In a recent family survey, a parent shared this sentiment: *"We are new to the LCASD this year. My children attend Flex Academy and we have been beyond impressed with Flex Academy and ALL the staff! We sought out Flex Academy for its support of individual learning needs and small learning environment. We have received so much more than I expected in the short few weeks that we've been here! We have been welcomed with love and acceptance. The school is very inclusive and supportive. When I read the district information, I find that a lot of the things we love about Flex are part of how the district runs... Thank you for providing such a positive environment for our children to learn and grow!"*



LCASD Exceeds Expectations on State Report Card

The 2022-23 school year is off to a great start throughout the Little Chute Area School District. We are proud of how staff, parents and students collaboratively work together to ensure student learning. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve the Little Chute Area School District. One source we use to reflect on our strengths and opportunities for growth is the State School Report Card.

In November, the state Department of Public Instruction released the latest report cards based on the 2021-22 school year. Those details include measures in these four priority areas:

- **ACHIEVEMENT:** proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics on annual state assessments
- **GROWTH:** individual student's year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- **TARGET GROUP OUTCOMES:** outcomes for students with the lowest test scores
- **ON-TRACK TO GRADUATION:** reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education

Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from Fails to Meet Expectations to Significantly Exceeds Expectations, as well as corresponding one to five stars. Below are the overall scores for our district and each school.

Little Chute Area School District	76.7	Exceeds Expectations	☆☆☆☆
Little Chute Elementary School	79.2	Exceeds Expectations	☆☆☆☆
Little Chute Intermediate School	81.2	Exceeds Expectations	☆☆☆☆
Little Chute Middle School	87.1	Significantly Exceeds Expectations	☆☆☆☆☆
Little Chute High School	65.3	Meets Expectations	☆☆☆
Little Chute Career Pathways Academy	79.9	Exceeds Expectations	☆☆☆☆
Flex Academy	79.7	Exceeds Expectations	☆☆☆☆

Please see our report cards and other resources at dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards.

Community Partnership - BP/LC Gas Pump

The Little Chute Area School District has always been fortunate to have incredible community support over the years. From the recent passage of school referendums to local businesses opening their doors to our students, there has been no shortage of support.

This month we would like to recognize the BP gas station located at 2051 E. Main Street in Little Chute. Since 2019, they have partnered with the school district to donate 2 cents per gallon at their Little Chute Pride Gas Pump. Approximately \$10,100 has been donated to the school district to support our students and programs. Funds have been used to support student projects, staff classroom needs, and materials for our building-wide wellness activities. We are forever grateful to the Little Chute BP gas station for its continued generosity and support of our students. If you are out and about in the future, please consider patronizing the Little Chute BP and help support our Mustang students.



School Choice is Important

The Little Chute Area School District celebrated National School Choice Week January 22-28 by holding two open houses for families interested in learning more about the district. Families are encouraged to call and schedule a school tour with one of our Principals:

Tony Bird - High School & Little Chute Career Pathways Academy Charter;
Anna Maass - Intermediate and Middle School; Melissa Yuska - Elementary School; or Flex Academy's Office. Contact us at littlechute.k12.wi.us/district/contact-us.cfm. To learn more about our schools, visit littlechute.k12.wi.us/schools.





PERSPECTIVES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETICS



HUNTER THIEL: SENIOR ATHLETE (FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL & TRACK)

Participating in high school athletics has meant so much to me and has been such a great part of my life. It has helped me grow immensely as an individual and as an athlete, and it was the best part of my years at Little Chute. Being a successful student-athlete has opened up opportunities after high school. Colleges have reached out about playing for their team and some have offered me roster spots. I also think that being a student-athlete has given me personal connections with others that I wouldn't have gotten if I had not played sports.

FOOTBALL

- Junior: Second Team All-Conference as a tight end
- Senior: First Team All-Conference as a wide receiver and defensive end; All-State Honorable Mention as a wide receiver
- 3-time varsity letter winner

BASKETBALL

- Junior: Second Team All-Conference and All-Defensive Team
- 3-time varsity letter winner

TRACK

- 2021: Third Team All-Conference in the 4x100 relay and the 4x200 relay; Regional Champ in the 4x100
- 2-time letter winner



MADELYN (MADI) BIRLING: SENIOR ATHLETE (BASKETBALL, SOFTBALL, GOLF & VOLLEYBALL)

It has meant a ton to me to be a high school athlete. Each sport brings different athletes together to compete for the same goal. Handling adversity with competition and working with many different personalities will certainly help me move forward in the next stage of life. The challenges each practice and game brings allow me to grow academically, socially, mentally/emotionally, and physically. My time management has improved due to the many things that are involved in a day. Working with different people in each sport has helped me improve socially, as well as help me face the challenges encountered during games and practices. I think students should be involved in everything they possibly can. It helps so much with the things mentioned above. It is beneficial for students to play multiple sports to learn from different people and to learn from the different roles you might have on each team (leader, supporting role, etc.). Participating in high school athletics has allowed me to have an opportunity to play softball in college. They have allowed me to compete and fight for what I want, which will help me in life.

BASKETBALL

- Second Team All-Conference
- 2-time varsity letter winner

SOFTBALL

- 2022: Second Team All-Conference
- 2-time letter winner

GIRLS GOLF

- Senior

VOLLEYBALL

- Freshman & Sophomore



KELLY WALLACE: LCASD ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Participation in athletics and activities is an extension of the classroom and affords our students opportunities to perfect and participate in their talents and passions. Extracurricular participation helps our students have a deeper connection to Little Chute High School which improves academics, social relationships and leadership skills. Hunter and Madi are both multi-sport athletes. The current trend is to specialize in one sport; however, this is not what is best for one's body. It leads to overuse injuries. Playing multiple sports allows student-athletes to cross-train, using muscles in different ways. Multi-sport athletes also get to interact with many more teammates and coaches to help them with social skills.

A key benefit of participation in extracurriculars is learning how to be a good teammate and also learning how to lead. Hunter and Madi have participated in our student-athlete leadership program for the past two years (last year in the Athletic Leadership Council and this year in the Lari DeBruin Leadership Academy). Hunter also attended the WIAA Sportsmanship Summit with a few of his peers last year where he had the opportunity to network with other student-athletes. During both their times as leaders, I have seen them evolve. They both have always been responsible and motivated student-athletes, but recently I have seen them grow into leaders who others can look up to. They have modeled how to maintain composure in competitive situations; never getting too high or low and being calming and reassuring to their teammates. Beyond athletics, both excel in the classroom.

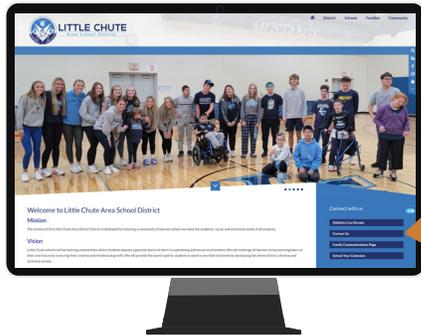
Communications Survey Follow-Up

WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO HEAR FROM YOU! In November, we surveyed our residents to gather feedback about the communication from the school and district levels. We were happy to receive responses from 322 families and 10 community members. The results will help us continue to serve and improve our communication and engagement with families and community members. Thank you to those who participated.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Responses were calculated in relation to a healthy indicator score for the following areas. Please note that an average score of 3.5 is considered a healthy indicator of family satisfaction.

- 4.2 School Communication is Trustworthy
- 4.1 District Communication is Trustworthy
- 4.0 Satisfied with District Communication in regard to student academic progress
- Many of our families appreciate the Family Communication page on the website



Given the input, we have made some changes to the district website including the addition of helpful links to our **Family Communication Page**. We have also added a way for anyone to provide feedback, share a shout-out or pose a question to the district. Click on "**Contact Us**" on our **main page!**

"I am so happy the family communications page was added on the website so families can check one spot for all schools communication! Thank you LCASD! Keep up the good work!"
- PARENT, COMMUNICATION SURVEY

District Mill Rate Decreases for Third Consecutive Year

At the October 24, 2022 meeting, the School Board certified the tax levy for the 2022-23 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
2019-2020	\$5,592,906	9.8962
2020-2021	\$5,337,032	9.2301
2021-2022	\$4,491,825	7.2149
2022-2023	\$4,655,595	6.6995

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.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT MY PROPERTY TAX BILL?

Below is an example of a 2022 tax bill with some information about how to calculate the impact of the school district mill rate as well as highlighting other factors that have an impact on your taxes.

A - Fair Market Value x **B - 2022 School Levy Rate 0.00669953** - **C - School Levy Credit** = **D - Individuals' School Levy**

STATE OF WISCONSIN - OUTAGAMIE COUNTY
REAL ESTATE TAX BILL FOR 2022

Property Address:	Assessed Value	Equalized Value						
30,000	134,600	164,600	0.9007181480	33,300	149,400	182,700		

TAXING JURISDICTION	2021 Est. State Aid	2022 Est. State Aid	2021 Net Tax	2022 Net Tax	% Tax Change
COUNTY LOCAL	2,307,587	2,379,167	1,003.17	1,047.39	4.4%
LITTLE CHUTE SCH	12,055,682	12,189,563	966.97	1,026.65	6.2%
FOX VALLEY TECH	676,139	687,962	149.61	154.39	2.4%
VALLEY M SEWER			0.00	0.00	
TOTAL	15,551,825	15,738,699	2,897.51	2,797.95	3.7%
FIRST DOLLAR CREDIT				-64.11	-2.3%
LOTTERY AND GAMING CREDIT				-191.92	-6.8%
NET PROPERTY TAX			2,451.48	2,554.88	4.2%

NET PROPERTY TAX \$ 2,554.08

Total Due FOR FULL PAYMENT BY Jan 31, 2023 \$ 2,554.08

School taxes reduced by \$ 190.11

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

Net Annual Value Tax Credit (NET) reduced Credits 0.01699846

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

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.

ESSER Update

Between March 2020 and 2021, Congress passed three stimulus bills that provided financial support under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER or ESSERF) to local educational agencies (LEAs) throughout the country. These funds provide emergency financial assistance to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools. The funds are separated into three different grants known as ESSER I, II and III.

In Wisconsin, the Department of Public Instruction is responsible for managing and allocating the funds to public school districts including LCASD. Each of the grants has a different spending timeline with ESSER I expiring in September 2022, ESSER II expiring in September 2023 and ESSER III expiring in September 2024. The funds are to be used for the preparedness and response to COVID-19 which includes a wide variety of items and services, such as sanitization supplies, mental health services, staffing and services to address learning and the educational needs of students, professional development, access to technology and additional classroom supplies.

For ESSER I, the district received a total of \$144,497 which was spent during the 2020-2021 school year. For ESSER II, the district received a total of \$890,023. The district utilized some of the funds in 2021-2022 and will spend the remaining funds in 2022-2023 (see chart). Our focus for ESSER II funds includes math and reading support for students, English learner support, at-risk program support, software platforms for our virtual students, mental health supports and much more. It should be noted that due to current budget constraints some of the ESSER funds are being used to balance our budget and support existing staff.

The district will continue to support these areas with ESSER III later in the 2022-2023 fiscal year and in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

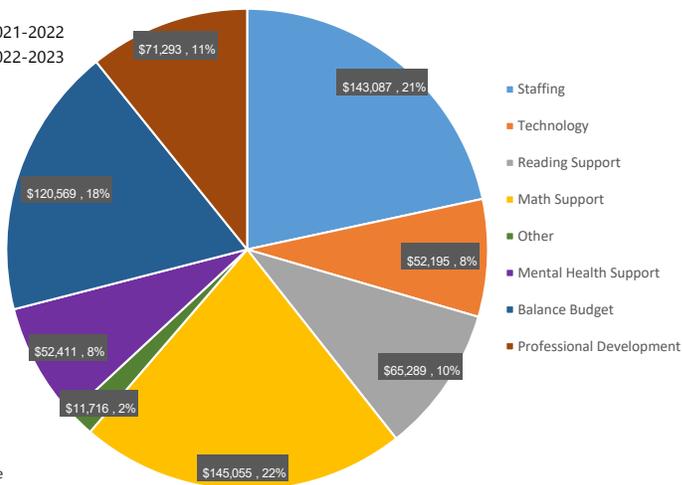
LCASD ESSER II Spending*

Little Chute Area School District

ESSER II Funding
Through January 5, 2023

Total Award	\$ 890,023.00
Amt Spent thru Jan 5	\$ 661,614.24
Remaining Funds	\$ 228,408.76

Fiscal Years Available
2021-2022
2022-2023



*Please note, a more detailed chart representing ESSER II expenditures is linked in the January 9 Board of Education meeting agenda which can be found on our website.

Board of Education



PRESIDENT: Joe Roehl
VICE PRESIDENT: Sarah Beahm
TREASURER: Rob Eiting
CLERK: Shannon Pomeroy
MEMBER: Leon Biesterveld

Little Chute Area School District Board of Education encourages you to become involved in the district. You are invited to attend Board of Education meetings.

MEETING DATES

February 13	April 10	May 22
February 27	April 24	June 12
March 13	May 8	June 26

Meetings are held at the District Office, 1402 Freedom Rd., Little Chute, WI 54140. Meetings are generally held on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 4:30 PM. For agendas and past meeting minutes visit littlechute.k12.wi.us.

Governance Council



PRESIDENT: Carl Rambo
VICE PRESIDENT: Tara Strasburg
TREASURER: Leslye Moraski Erickson
MEMBER: Melanie Thiel
MEMBER: Dawn Grenzer
MEMBER: Josh McQuillan (not pictured)
MEMBER: Katherine Freund

MEETING DATES

February 6	April 12	June 7
March 6	May 1	

Council meetings are generally held on the first Monday of the month at 5:00 PM. For agendas and past meeting minutes visit littlechute.k12.wi.us.



LITTLE CHUTE
Area School District

**1402 Freedom Rd.
Little Chute, WI 54140**

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Donate For A Better Viewing Experience!

THE LITTLE CHUTE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS COLLABORATED WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE PLAN TO UPGRADE OUR EXISTING VISITORS' BLEACHERS.

New bleachers will provide elevated stadium seating with over 500 seats, ADA ramps and 6 ADA spaces. With a limited school district budget, district funding of athletic facilities competes with dollars needed for educational programming. With that being said, the collaboration between the district and community members will support a fundraising campaign to cover costs to meet the project goal. We believe this project will provide a better viewing experience on our visitors side which will impact football, soccer, track and field, band, and any community event that takes place in Unison Credit Union Stadium. To give all businesses, alumni, current students/families, and community members the opportunity to further support Little Chute students and the community, we are offering a variety of opportunities to donate. Now is the time for you to get involved to help Little Chute Schools. **Scan the QR code to learn more about the opportunities to make a tax-deductible donation.** If you would like a presentation from our fundraising committee or have questions, please call Kelly Wallace at 920-788-7600. Go Mustangs!!



- Heidi Schmidt, District Administrator & Kelly Wallace, Activities Director

Important Dates

NO SCHOOL

February 17
April 3-7
May 29

SPECIAL EVENTS

February 23: 3rd Grade Concert
March 8-10: Middle School Musical
March 1: 1st Grade Concert
April 25: 4th Grade Concert
May 8: Spring Choir Concert
May 15: Band Concert
May 17: Senior Awards Night
May 31: Kindergarten and High School Graduation
June 2: Last Day for Students

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.

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.