

# The Mustang Round-Up

News from the Little Chute Area School District

## Welcome to the New Little Chute Area School District Newsletter!

As the 2018-19 school year comes to a close, I am reminded of the privilege it is to serve the school/community of Little Chute. With the conclusion of another school year, it has always been a good time for me to professionally reflect on all that I am thankful for, the list is long... I have a supportive community, involved parents, dedicated passionate professional educators, students engaged with their own learning, and a support staff team that is focused on the success of all students. To everyone associated with the Little Chute School/Community - thank you for another GREAT school year.

### Creating Spaces Where Students Thrive

The 2018-19 school year started out with the opening of our newly renovated Intermediate/Middle/High school campus. The goal of this ambitious project was to create spaces where students could thrive. The renovation included a two-story addition and nearly 50,000 square feet of the 1966 and 1997 building was renovated. See page 2.



Fiscally, during the entire building project process, we remained good stewards of the additional taxpayer dollars entrusted to us. Electors in Little Chute strongly supported the referendum question two years ago when the predicted impact of the building project (alone to the tax rate) was \$1.29 per \$1000 of property value. I am pleased to report that the ultimate impact was an increase of \$0.29 per \$1000 of property value.

We celebrated the dedication of the building in November with an open-house. If you were unable to attend and would like to arrange a tour, I invite you to contact the district office at 920-788-7605 to schedule a tour.

Sincerely,

David M. Botz – District Administrator



*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.*

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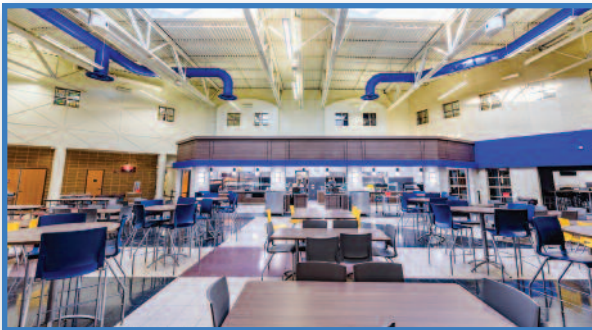


# Spaces Where Students Thrive

In April 2017, a referendum was passed to renovate the existing Intermediate/Middle/High School. The finished building is outstanding and provides a school where all students will thrive mentally, emotionally, and physically.



New front entrance to the Intermediate/Middle/High School



Renovated commons area



Renovated commons and food service area



Renovated fitness room



Student collaboration space



Graphics throughout the complex show our Mustang pride

# What is the *Eight*?

The district's new **8 Café** located at the main campus has quickly become a popular lunch hangout for students and staff. What is the meaning behind the name?

The **8 Café** name refers to the District's 8 Learner Goals.

- 1 Artistic Appreciator
- 2 Cooperative Societal Contributor
- 3 Effective Communicator
- 4 Global Cultural Participant
- 5 Problem-Solver and Critical Thinker
- 6 Participator in Personal Wellness
- 7 Self-Directed Learner
- 8 Technology/Quality Producer

More information about learner goals can be found in our Blueprint for Brilliance.



## Blueprint for Brilliance

### *A Guide for Student Excellence*



The Blueprint for Brilliance is a three year plan that guides all employees of the Little Chute Area School District to ensure that the district's mission - dedicated to fostering a community of learners where we meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of ALL students as they prepare for their post-secondary career options.

composite test score. Collectively, we support student achievement through three pillars; curriculum/instruction, professional development and health and wellness.

Little Chute Area School District earned an overall rating of Exceeds Expectations on this year's State Report Card issued in November by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. We continue to use this data and other information to build upon our foundation and further our mission to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students.

If you would like a copy of the Blueprint guide mailed to you, please call the District Office at 920-788-7605. The plan is also available on our website [www.littlechute.k12.wi.us](http://www.littlechute.k12.wi.us).

The foundation of the Blueprint is student achievement. Overall student achievement is measured annually by the District's State Report Card and the High School's ACT

# 4K Enrollment in Progress

## Join Our Community of Learners!

Are you a Little Chute Area School District resident with a child who will be four (4) years of age by September 1, 2019? Enrollment is underway in our innovative 4K program. 4K is a half-day program. The morning class runs from 8:10 am to 10:50 am; the afternoon class runs from 12:25 pm to 3:05 pm.

For more information, call Cindy or Julie at the Elementary School at 920-788-7610 or visit our website [www.littlechute.k12.wi.us](http://www.littlechute.k12.wi.us).



## School Safety Initiative

LCASD has been awarded \$171,213.00 from two grants by the Wisconsin Department of Justice for safety and security upgrades. The funds will pay for additional security cameras and infrastructure, classroom safety locks, instant visitor screening, and adolescent/mental health training for employees.

These upgrades will benefit ongoing comprehensive safety improvement efforts, which for the past several years have included investments in continuous training and communication between the community, law enforcement, teachers, parents and students. The safety and security of the students in the LCASD will always be a top priority and an ongoing focus for the district.



# Flex Academy

## *Innovative, Site-based, Personalized Learning*

With the completion of the building renovation last fall, the Flex Academy moved from the Civic Center to their new and expanded home in the Intermediate/Middle/High School. Now in its fifth year, Flex Academy, serves grades K-8 and is one of the district's two charter schools. It utilizes an innovative personalized, blended learning model. Learners accelerate at their own pace, not determined by age or grade level.

### 3 Pillars

Academic



Community Service



Physical Wellness



Parents, or “learner coaches”, play a very active role in their children’s education. For more information, visit [www.flexacademyfoxcities.com](http://www.flexacademyfoxcities.com)



## Increasing School-Based Mental Health Services

**LCASD** is partnering with local agencies to increase school-based mental health services. Through a state grant award, the district is collaborating with community mental health providers to create a comprehensive support system for children, youth and families. The grant award will allow:

- Confidential and voluntary emotional wellness screenings at school for 8th and 10th graders provided through Samaritan Counseling. If there is an area of concern, staff from Samaritan Counseling will follow up to provide helpful resources and recommendations.
- Parent Peer Advocate: one-to-one support and resource connection for parents of children with mental health challenges, provided through NAMI Fox Valley. The district’s parent peer advocate is Amy Debroux 920-954-1550 or [amy@namifoxvalley.org](mailto:amy@namifoxvalley.org)
- Parent Cafés at the Elementary and Intermediate/Middle Schools through Family Services Counseling Center.

Parents come together and strengthen their capacity to deal with the stressors, worries and challenges of parenting children with mental health challenges in a supportive environment.

For more information on any of these programs contact Laura McCormick, Director of Pupil Services at (920) 788-7605 or [lmccormick@littlechute.k12.wi.us](mailto:lmccormick@littlechute.k12.wi.us)



# Mentoring Really Makes a Difference!

Adult mentors are needed for students who need someone to make a difference in their lives by showing them kindness, concern, direction and compassion. This rewarding opportunity involves a 45-60 minute weekly time commitment through CAMP, the Community

Action Mentoring Partnership. No special skills are necessary, just an ability to listen and offer friendship and encouragement. To learn more, contact Kay Hietpas, Mentoring Coordinator at 920-858-2739 or kahietpas@littlechute.k12.wi.us

## 2019 LCASD Retirements

*At the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year the following employees of the Little Chute Area School District will be retiring:*



**Mr. Kevin Pratt** – In the fall of 1990, Mr. Pratt began his career in the district as a high school student counselor. Prior to taking the position in Little Chute, Mr. Pratt was a student counselor at Laconia High School for 3 years. We would like to thank Mr. Pratt for his 29 years of service to the students of Little Chute High School.



**Ms. Laura McCormick** – In the fall of 2008, Ms. McCormick began her career in the district replacing Mr. Jim Neubert as Director of Pupil Services. Prior to taking the position in Little Chute, Ms. McCormick spent 14 years as a school psychologist for the New London School District. We would like to recognize Ms. McCormick for her 11 years of dedication to the students and families of Little Chute.



**Mr. Jim Neubert** In the fall of 1993, Mr. Neubert began his career in the district as a school psychologist. Prior to taking the position in Little Chute, Mr. Neubert was a school psychologist for the Milwaukee Public Schools for 5 years. After he was hired in the fall of 1993, he spent the following 26 years in several different positions in the district.

In 1994, Mr. Neubert moved from his role as a school psychologist and assumed the position of Little Chute School's Director of Pupil Services. He served in that capacity until June 2008, when he replaced Ms. Marva Ohman as Little Chute Elementary School's Principal. Mr. Neubert has served the elementary school/community as principal for the past 11 years.

We would like to recognize and thank Mr. Neubert for his 26 years of dedication to the students of Little Chute.



**Ms. Sandra Smith** – In the winter of 2000, Ms. Smith began her career as the district's Bookkeeper. Prior to taking the position in Little Chute, Ms. Smith was employed by New Resources Corporation where she worked as a data entry specialist and in the human resources department. She is also a graduate of Little Chute High School. We would like to recognize Ms. Smith for her 19 years of dedication to the employees of the Little Chute Area School District.



**Ms. Kathy Ricker** – In the fall of 1993, Ms. Ricker began her career in the district teaching Chapter 1 students. Prior to taking the position in Little Chute, Ms. Ricker taught first grade at St. John's Elementary School for 11 years. We would like to recognize and thank Ms.

Ricker for her 26 years of dedication to the students of Little Chute Elementary School.



**Ms. Barb Airis** – In the fall of 1975, Ms. Airis began her career in the Little Chute Area School District as a substitute teacher in grades 4 through 8. In the fall of 1976, she moved into the role of a teachers aide working exclusively as a middle school aide assisting Judy Stangel in the library. With the exception of staying home for approximately two years to raise her two children, Ms. Airis has been a mainstay in our district for 42 years! We would like to recognize Ms. Airis for her 42 years of dedication to the children of the Little Chute Area School District.

# Make a Difference Now ...

## ... and Provide a Gift that Lasts Forever

The Little Chute Area School District Educational Enrichment Fund was established with support from Crystal Print, Inc. to provide a means for Little Chute Public Schools, individuals, and businesses to work together to help achieve their potential through the private funding of scholarships and innovative projects and programs not included in the district's operating budget. One of our goals is to increase the number of scholarships awarded.

### What Can I Donate?

- Cash
- Appreciated Stocks
- Real estate or other assets

Donation options are available on our district website under Educational Enrichment Endowment Fund or contact the District Office at 920-788-7605



## Focus on Energy... Focus on the Future.

The Little Chute Area School District recently received a check in the amount of \$104,000.00 from Focus On Energy for instituting significant energy-saving measures. Over the last several years, LCASD has committed to continuous energy efficiency improvements with Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Energy Jim DeBaker leading the charge. Mr. DeBaker's efforts were instrumental in this process and in securing these funds for the district.

During the recent building project Creating Spaces Where Students Thrive, the district installed high efficiency air conditioning and boilers, converted to LED lighting technology, insulated the roof, and installed Energy Star appliances in the kitchen. These ongoing efforts will save the district many thousands of dollars in energy costs, paying dividends for years to come. Along with lower utility bills, these efforts are friendly to the environment too. By completing this project, the district saved 2,658

barrels of oil from being burned and saved more than 940,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity—enough to power 140 homes in Wisconsin for a year.



**Leo Bronkalla**

## In Memoriam

The district mourns the loss of one of its pioneers, Leo Bronkalla, who passed away on January 13, 2019 in Baraboo, WI. He was instrumental in starting our high school, serving as superintendent and leading the district to open LCHS in September 1966. We send our condolences to his family, and remain forever grateful for his faithful service to the community and students of Little Chute.



**LITTLE CHUTE**  
Area School District

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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.

# Congratulations to our 2019 Graduates!



The 2019 Graduation will be held on June 6, at  
7:00 pm in the fieldhouse.

## Board of Education

**President:** Jerry Verhagen  
jverhagen@littlechute.k12.wi.us

**Vice President:** Sarah Beahm  
sbeahm@littlechute.k12.wi.us

**Treasurer:** Leon Biesterveld  
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**Clerk:** Joe Roehl  
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dpeterson@littlechute.k12.wi.us

## Little Chute Charter Schools Governing Council

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**Greg Vandenberg**

**Andrew Rinke**

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