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# THE MUSTANG FROUND-UP

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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

## MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

LITTLE CHUTE  
INTERMEDIATE • MIDDLE • HIGH

### Ms. Lori VanHandel to Retire this Spring

**Intermediate/Middle School Principal Mrs. Lori VanHandel informed the School Board in February of her plan to retire at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. VanHandel's last day in the District will be June 30, 2021.**

Mrs. VanHandel began her career in education as a high school physical education and health instructor from 1987 to 1999 at Onalaska High School in Onalaska, Wisconsin. During this same time period, Ms. VanHandel was the varsity softball coach for Onalaska High School.

In 1999, Mrs. VanHandel left the classroom and moved her family to the Fox Valley where she became Assistant Principal of Horace Mann Middle School in Neenah, Wisconsin. She remained there until 2004 when she accepted the position as Little Chute Area School District's Middle School Principal.

During the past 17 years, Mrs. VanHandel has collaborated with all stakeholders associated with the success of Little Chute's intermediate/middle level students. In 2007, she was integral in a district-wide building referendum that provided students and staff with updated indoor and outdoor school facilities. In 2011, she helped guide the facilitation and implementation of an intermediate school that saw our 5th grade students move from the elementary school to the middle school campus where 5th and 6th grade students were housed together within an



intermediate school learning model. With the introduction of the Little Chute Intermediate School, Little Chute Middle School moved from serving students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade to serving students in grades 7 and 8. In 2017, she again played a critical role in reshaping the main campus learning environment when she helped guide an intermediate/middle school transformation which saw the creation of shared learning spaces throughout the main campus.

"Without a doubt this was a difficult decision as I know I will miss everyone I work with," Mrs. VanHandel told the Board of Education. "I will miss seeing the students every day. The students at Little Chute Intermediate/Middle

School are the best!" Mrs. VanHandel went on to say, "The staff at Little Chute Intermediate/Middle School consists of dedicated educators, who care about each other and the students and families that they work with. It was an honor to work alongside them during the past 17 years."

Upon retirement, she and her husband, Bob, plan to stay in the area. Their daughter will be a senior at Little Chute High School next year and is a member of the Little Chute Softball Team. Mrs. VanHandel is looking forward to having more time to golf and spend time with her family and parents at the cottage.

Mrs. VanHandel shared, "I am so appreciative of the supporting parents and community members throughout the past 17 years and proud to have been part of the Mustang Team."

#### 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.

# Emergency Broadband Benefit

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and Department of Public Instruction are working together on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. The EBB program allows internet service providers to offer temporary discounts of up to \$50 per month off of eligible household's internet access bills. Low-income households may also get discounts on a laptop, desktop or tablet computer.

Households are eligible if ONE member of the household qualifies for the FCC's Lifeline program, receives free and reduced-priced school lunch, or did so in the 2019-20 school year, or is a Federal Pell Grant recipient. You also qualify if you have experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020, or you meet the eligibility criteria set by the participating internet service provider.

Enrollment is now open on the EBB website.  
<https://fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

The Department of Public Instruction is committed to improving digital equity in the state of Wisconsin. As part of their efforts, DPI is collaborating with Measurement Lab (M-Lab) to collect data on internet connection speeds across Wisconsin. M-Lab's internet speed test data will be used to create detailed reports and to provide maps of internet connection speeds across the state. These reports can help the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access and other broadband task groups target initiatives to improve internet speeds statewide.

"Want better home internet service? We're working on it and you can help. Three clicks, no questions. It's that easy. Take the home internet speed test today."



<https://speed.measurementlab.net>

## FOX CITIES Excellence In Education Shining Star Awards



**Tracy Schmidt**  
**Excellence in Student  
Services Award  
2021 Recipient**

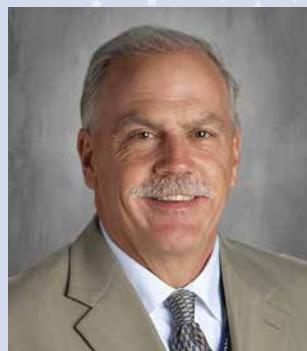
Little Chute  
Intermediate/Middle  
School



**Tim VanEperen**  
**Educator of the Year  
2021 Finalist**

Little Chute  
Intermediate/Middle  
and High Schools

## RETIREMENTS



**Dave Botz**



**Sue Priebe**



**Lori VanHandel**

# Mustang Extracurricular Update

Kelly Wallace, Activities Director

As a department, we are thrilled with the number of extracurricular opportunities we have been able to provide our 5-12 students this year. From drama productions, to clubs and organizations, and athletics, our students have had many choices of extracurriculars to participate in.

All of our clubs and organizations have continued to meet this year, giving our students opportunities for involvement. The drama department has come up with innovative ways to keep our students involved. The High School Play, *The Pandemic That Didn't Define Them*, was recently released to the public. The cast met virtually to learn their lines and then recorded their production. The High School Musical, *Little Women*, is following a similar format. The cast meets in person in small groups and will record scenes to be pieced together to make a movie. Our competition-based organizations (Destination Imagination, Skills USA, DECA, HOSA) held virtual competitions this year. Forensics was offered to our IS/MS and HS students. Some of the competitions were virtual while a few were face-to-face. Our clubs and organizations have continued their philanthropic work with various fundraisers, drives, and community service projects.

Students have been able to participate in athletics as well this year. All WIAA sports have been played with various mitigation strategies. Middle School sports have followed the WIAA guidelines as well. A few notable accomplishments this year include a 5th place finish at State for the Boys Cross Country Team, Riley Huss taking 9th place at State Cross Country, and a 6th place finish at State Wrestling for Matthew Janssen. The Dance Team competed in accordance with the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches recommendations. They advanced to the state competition where they submitted recorded routines for judging and won 2021 State Champions in D4 Pom as well as 4th place in D2 Kick. Spring sports are geared up in late April and teams will compete through the month of June this year. We are so proud to have been able to offer athletics for our students this year and are pleased with how our coaches, athletes, and parents have dealt with the new guidelines that were put in place.

We are excited to share that we were able to hold an outdoor prom at Doyle Park on Saturday, May 1st. Our prom committee and prom court organized a prom that they will never forget.

This year has been nothing close to normal, but with offering extracurricular activities, we have tried to provide some normalcy for our students.



## Congratulations Anna Maass!

In order to fill the vacancy due to Lori VanHandel's retirement, we are excited to share that Anna Maass will be our **new Intermediate Middle School Principal** starting July first for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Maass joined our district as an English teacher at the start of the 1999-2000 school year and has since held the roles of Athletic Director, Varsity Volleyball Coach and currently Associate Principal for grades 5-12. In her current role, she contributes to our district through leading our administrative team and staff through best practices in the evaluation system as well coordinates our district safety team.

In gathering input from staff and the administrative team, it became clear that Mrs. Maass is the right leader for this position. Some of the words used to describe her as a leader were supportive listener, fair, dedicated and someone who doesn't give up on students. We are confident it will be a smooth transition with someone dedicated to LCASD and knowledgeable about the needs of our students in this age group.

Anna and her husband Mike have two daughters who attend our district. Their family stays busy being involved in sports as they coach, cheer and play. They also enjoy being able to spend time at their cottage.

# Elementary Library Update

by *Becky Ackermann, Library Director*

The elementary school library recently experienced a complete redesign to align the space with the elements of a Future Ready Library and to better meet the needs of our learners. As the central hub of the school and a room that serves all staff and students, the library staff created the vision for the space. The area is flexible to meet the needs of the library program and other groups who use the library, allows for collaboration and creative making, provides places to cozy up and get lost in a book and inspires wonder and curiosity.

Gone are the shelves that are too tall for our youngest learners and the difficult-to-move tables and chairs! Now the space features brightly colored walls and furniture, lower mobile shelving that allows for sightlines throughout the entire space as well as easy access for our youngest learners, large group and small group flexible furniture, and plenty of reading nooks! We are so grateful for the opportunity to see the dream and vision for the elementary library move from ideas on paper to seeing the beautiful space that it is today!

## BEFORE



## AFTER



# Class of 2021

By: *Tony Bird*

What a year it has been! The unpredictability of the last year has been a challenge for educators and students in LCASD. A year ago at this time we were making preparations to have our graduation ceremony at Field of Scenes drive-in movie theatre. It served as a great venue under the circumstances, but we are very proud to announce that our 2021 commencement ceremony is returning to the fieldhouse. We are excited to recognize the collective accomplishments of our Class of 2021 and see them off in traditional fashion. Graduation will be held on Wednesday, June 2, at 7 pm. Capacity will be limited, but we will be livestreaming the event so those not in attendance can celebrate our senior class. This senior class has been prevented from having some elements of their high school experience, but they have never wavered in their resilience and perseverance.

In addition, we will be recognizing our seniors' academic accomplishments on Wednesday, May 19, at 7 pm with our virtual Senior Scholarship Recognition program. This event allows us to highlight the academic achievements of our graduating class as they pursue their academic endeavors.

Both events will have links posted on our district website as we get closer to each event. **Please join me in congratulating our Class of 2021** and remember...**Once a Mustang, always a Mustang!**

# Welcome, Alex Baierl!

In order to fill the vacancy due to the transfer of Heidi Schmidt, we are welcoming Alex Baierl as the **Director of Pupil Services** starting July first for the 2021-2022 school year. Through the hiring process, staff and the administrative team learned of some of the positive attributes which made her the top candidate among the strong candidate pool. Words to describe her through the process were data driven, strategic thinker, student centered values, and collaborative.

Ms. Baierl started her career serving as a school psychologist in the Ashwaubenon School District for nine years. She served as a diagnostician, worked with students and families through the special education evaluation process, collaborated with staff, and led the development of their Rtl system. Ms. Baierl is now completing her sixth year as an Associate Director of Special Education in the Appleton Area School District where she has collaborated with principals and district administrators to provide the special education programming for elementary and middle schools. She has also led the district school psychologist staff.

Alex currently resides in Greenville with her husband and two children, Gabby and Caleb. Alex enjoys repurposing furniture and vintage goods, exploring blog writing and spending time at her family's cottage.



## Making Memories

**It is spring and that means the hallways are buzzing with color, sounds, and excitement. It also means that we say "good-bye" to our 8th grade students as they finish their four years with us at LCIMS.** Typically we have an 8th Grade Celebration to send off our 8th grade students, however Covid has caused us to approach this final event differently. The 8th-grade teachers and administration will do everything that they can to still make the end of the year special for the class of 2025. In lieu of the traditional ceremony and dance that takes place on the day before the last day of school, the Class of 2025 will partake in different activities throughout their last day. On the morning of **Thursday June 3**, we would first like to recognize the students by gathering together as a class in the auditorium and showing a video that includes all students and their future aspirations. Following the video will be the Awards Ceremony for the

eight-grade end-of-the-year awards, (this ceremony will be recorded for parents to watch at a later date.) Chef Denny and the Taher staff will then be providing a cookout theme for lunch and students will be able to enjoy their lunch outside (weather permitting.) As long as it isn't raining, the festivities will continue out on the school grounds where kickball, water-balloon toss, lawn games, and basketball await them! Between all of the activities, students can partake in an ice cream bar courtesy of the Play 60 Committee and listen for their name to be drawn for one of the many door prizes. Students will also be able to try their hand at knocking some of their teachers and Mrs. VanHandel in the water by participating in the Dunk Tank provided by Jake's Jumpers. **Even though this day will be unlike the others in the past, it will still be perfect because we will all be together, making memories we will never forget.**

# NHS Chapter

By: Hunter Hermus

This year has looked different for our NHS Chapter. It has been tough not being able to have everyone get together due to some kids being virtual everyday, but we have consistently held meetings and made our club relevant in these times. Members have sought unique opportunities to complete their 20-hour service requirement as well as work hard to remain solid in the four pillars of National Honor Society: character, leadership, scholarship, and service in our school and community.

## The 2020-2021 NHS officers are . . .

President - **Tim Buchholz**  
Vice President - **Kaitlyn Kerrigan**  
Secretary - **Autumn Davis**  
Treasurer - **Callah Dornfeld**  
Service Coordinator - **Taylor Steinbach**  
Public Relations Officer - **Hunter Hermus**

## The returning 2020-2021 NHS members are . . .

**Conner Morrill**  
**Drew Robinson**  
**Gracie Thiel**  
**Morgan Trzebiatowski**  
**Logan Vandenberg**

Our induction ceremony looked a bit different this year, enjoying it through our computer screens rather than the auditorium. The officers and returning members worked extremely hard in preparing and executing a never done before virtual induction. Returning members led the majority of the induction ceremony with various speeches, biosketches of new inductees, and even a creative poem that incorporated the names and interests of the new members. The ceremony went very well and received a lot of positive feedback.

## The 2020-2021 NHS Inductees are . . .

**Abby Robbins**  
**Hunter Janssen**  
**Kaitlyn Kerrigan**  
**Trisha Lenz**  
**Katie Mlodzik**  
**Michael Rambo**  
**Isabella Meyer**  
**Karsen Hammen**  
**Allison Fischer**  
**Courtney Hietpas**  
**Kyra Lefeber**  
**Leah Pauls**

Along with a successful induction, our chapter was able to participate in numerous volunteering opportunities. Various small groups spent some time serving food at the Pillars homeless shelter. Others drove around and dropped off care packages for SOAR Fox Cities and ringing bells for the Salvation Army. With all the uncertainty in the world, it was great to get involved and help out others in need.



# LITTLE CHUTE

Area School District

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## 5th Grade Happenings

By Allison Kloehn

Fifth grade students in Mrs. Kloehn, Miss DeBruin, and Mr. Verhagen's English Language Arts classes completed an author study unit in which they selected an author to study based on their interests, read multiple books by the author, and discussed the author in book clubs. At the end of the unit, students celebrated their work by sending fan mail to the author including ideas for the author's next best selling novel! Students are patiently waiting to hear back!



## Important School Dates

- May 31 - Memorial Day
- June 2 - High School Graduation
- June 4 - Last Day of School
- June 14 - New Family Registration Opens
- July 12 - Returning Family Registration Opens
- Aug. 2 - School Picture Day (all grades)
- Sep. 1 - First Day of School

