



**NORTHERN OZAUKEE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Spring / Summer 2024

# WARRIOR CONNECTION



**Top 12%**

K-12 Districts  
in Wisconsin



116 AP  
tests  
taken

28 Tech  
Ed  
Classes



**15** OYA Students  
16% participation  
of eligible students  
the most in OZ. Co.

**\$184,120**

given on Senior  
Awards night



14% of  
Staff are  
alumni

**VISIT** [www.nosd.edu](http://www.nosd.edu)  
for more information



## Hello Northern Ozaukee School District Community!

On behalf of our team, thank you for taking the time to read the NOSD Spring/Summer Newsletter. Our students, staff, and families have created an outstanding school district where we know and care about our students. We focus on preparing our next generation for life with the skills and core values that will allow them to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

The Warrior Connection Newsletter is sent to every member of our community two times each year. Our hope is that even if you don't have school age kids attending our schools, that you too can see all of the good that is happening and how our schools are a central hub of this great community. Academically, NOSD ranks in the top 12% of K-12 school districts in the State. This year alone, our students took 116 advanced placement tests. We have 28 technical education classes that prepare our students with the skills needed for the workforce. We have 15 Ozaukee Youth Apprenticeship students representing the highest percentage of students involved in this program of any school in our county. 14% of our staff are alumni of our District. Our seniors were recently awarded over \$184,000 from the Northern Ozaukee Schools Scholarship Foundation and local scholarships as they enter the workforce or their next educational endeavors. Finally, NOSD has been awarded over \$1 Million in grant funds from the Bruce Krier Foundation in the last 8 years to help transform our District in many ways.

In order to continue to build on these levels of achievement and accomplishments by our students, NOSD will need the continued support of the community to make this possible. We hope you enjoy learning more about our students, staff, and schools in this edition of the Warrior Connection. Thank you and go Warriors!



Sincerely,

Dave Karrels  
Superintendent



## EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE:

# The Profound Impact of the Bruce Krier Foundation on the Northern Ozaukee School District

With the reality of school funding in the state of Wisconsin, we would be remiss not to acknowledge the powerful impact grants have in our District. While we have recently been fortunate to be recipients of many grants, those funded by the Bruce Krier Foundation have moved the needle at the Northern Ozaukee School District to become a premier educational facility. Over the past 8 years, NOSD has received over \$1 Million in funding from the Bruce Krier Foundation Grant. These funds have greatly impacted NOSD.

In 2017, we were awarded our first Bruce Krier grant. This helped the district to update technology infrastructure and pave the way for updates for years to come. This grant helped NOSD prepare for the future of education. As we all know, in 2020 the face of education changed and 1:1 devices shifted from a luxury to an essential educational tool. In addition, the style of teaching and education shifted and the Innovation Room became an even more sought-after space for not only those at NOSD, but also for the community.

In the fall of 2018, the community voted and passed a capital referendum that would help transform the look and feel of nearly all of the NOSD campus. However, one of the spaces that remained untouched was the OMS/OHS library media center. When it was time to apply for the Bruce Krier Foundation grant we knew this was the most logical space to transform. In 2019, NOSD was successfully awarded \$164,000. The goal was to utilize the grant funds to transform the central hub of NOSD into a space where multiple classes and student groups could gather, problem solve, and collaborate in a technology rich environment. Thanks to the grant funds it became a space where students feel welcome and are encouraged to think, grow, share, and create.



The first two successful grants paved the way to continue transforming various spaces and ways of thinking and learning at NOSD. In the following years, we used grant funds to transform the OES library and update classroom technology and teacher laptops. In 2022, we shifted from updating interior spaces and technology to enhancing the outdoor learning spaces around the NOSD campus. In 2022 and 2023 combined the grant funded \$229,000 for outdoor learning projects. From ADA-compliant walking paths, trail markers, and learning kiosks in the forest to redesigning the NOSD backyard and the inclusion of natural climbing structures, the Bruce Krier Foundation has left a lasting legacy on the advancement of outdoor education at NOSD.

In May of 2024, we were awarded a grant in the amount of \$90,000. These funds will be used to transform the Warrior Flex Room. The intent is to incorporate mobile furniture and updated technology in this space. We look forward to seeing the learning and growth that happens in this space with our students and the community.

The Northern Ozaukee School District is profoundly grateful for the generosity of the Bruce Krier Foundation. This support represents far more than just financial assistance; it symbolizes a shared commitment to the education and well-being of our students and the advancement of our community.



### CREATIVE CANVAS:

## Nurturing Minds through Fine Arts in Education at NOSD

In a world increasingly driven by technological advancements and scientific innovations, the significance of the arts in education might sometimes be overshadowed. However, neglecting the arts overlooks a fundamental aspect of human development crucial for fostering creativity, critical thinking, and empathy. Arts education plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals.

Providing fine arts opportunities for all NOSD students is valued in our district. One of these unique opportunities includes NOSD Fine Arts Night. On March 21st, NOSD hosted its 6th annual event that showcased talented 4K-12th grade students in visual, performing, and vocal arts. Over 1,200 pieces of artwork filled the halls of OHS; including the highly anticipated glow hall. In addition, 19 instrumental pieces, and 9 dance performances captivated the audience. It was truly a night filled with accomplished works of art that had a large turnout of students, families, and the community as we celebrated the talents of our students and the dedicated Fine Arts team of teachers.

NOSD is also making strides to embrace the arts in education through two other performing arts opportunities. On April 11th, under the direction of OHS Sophomore Katelyn Michael, students in 3rd-5th grade performed the mini-musical "A Kid's Life." Directing a mini-musical was a part of Katelyn's 8th grade seminar project. This 18-week learning experience grew into what is now a Spring tradition. Students' talents shined on stage, in the wings, and in the tech booth as this performance was directed, run, and performed solely by NOSD students. This experience was the first performance for many of the young performers, several of the 5th grade students were in the 2023 Fall Musical and auditioned for the 2024 Musical Cinderella that will take place November 15th-17th. In addition, NOSD now has a Warrior Youth Dance team. This year the team consisted of 54 youth dancers, ages 6 to 11, from NOSD and Divine Savior Catholic School. The goal for this team is to provide a high-level developmental dance experience for students in 1st-8th grade.

Unfortunately, despite the many benefits of arts education, it is often scaled back in school curricula due to budget constraints and a narrow focus on the importance of test scores. However, at NOSD we continue to feed into the arts to allow our students to explore their creative potential and develop essential skills through the arts. We look forward to seeing how the skills our students learn through the arts continue to grow into the future.



## District Financial Snapshot:

As a result of strategic long-term planning and strong financial management, NOSD has improved the District's overall financial position over the past 5 years. With this improvement, the District has been able to align District reserves with the recommended amounts by both the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and our financial auditors. This is a change from 5 years prior where district reserves were only one-third of recommended levels.

Now after many years of strong fiscal management by staff members, administration, and the Board of Education, the District is at a point where maintaining current programs and support for our students is not sustainable without additional funding. The need for additional funding is not unique to NOSD, as over 70% of school districts within the State of Wisconsin have already approved additional school funding through an operational referendum. As we have been communicating, large deficits are forecasted for the 2024-25 fiscal year and we need to keep high quality schools and staff in our community. These deficits are expected to grow annually based on the gap between additional new state funding and inflationary increases to expenditures. In order to keep the great things happening at NOSD, we will need to bring an operational referendum forward again in the future.



Joshua McDaniel, CPA  
Director of  
Business Services



connections helped make this learning experience a success.

Moving forward, 2024-2025 will mark a special school year for NOSD and the 8th grade Seminar experience as the total number of students impacted by the class over the past two decades will cross the 1000 mark. While there have been numerous memorable seminar projects in the past 17 years, a few stand out as examples that truly impacted the NOSD community and fulfilled authentic, purposeful goals. For example, this past spring marked the third year for OES Student Theater, as 64 OES students auditioned and 32 OES students performed the mini-musical “A Kid’s Life” under the direction of OHS Sophomore Kate Michael. Kate started this journey in the Spring of 2022 when she learned about directing a musical during Seminar. That year she directed nine students in the musical “Tom Sawyer and Company”.

Another example of how this class has impacted the NOSD community is through the running of the Paul Saggio 3v3 basketball tournament. For three consecutive years, students chose to learn more about running a 3v3 basketball tournament. As a result, they were able to run successful events for our school community while using the profits to fund over 10 years of senior scholarships in the name of long-time teacher and friend, Paul Saggio.

As seen in the examples above, many topics often focus on “service learning” opportunities, but that certainly is not the expectation. Many excellent seminar experiences are more “product” focused, as students create physical projects to be used, played with, and viewed, possibly leaving a legacy for years after they leave middle school. It is not uncommon to see students take an active interest in leaving our school better than they found it. 8th graders have given back to our district by designing fidget desks, a sensory board for some of our youngest warriors, art displays throughout the district, and even interior design makeovers.

One of the rarest, but most authentic forms of inspiration the Seminar class can leave on others is the

## SEMINAR PROCESS

### 7 STEPS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN



#### 1) CHOOSE A TOPIC

Students brainstorm potential ideas and use various strategies to determine if one topic is a better fit than others.

#### 2) LETTER OF INTENT PROCESS

Students make a proposal based on their self selected topic, which includes a written narrative, video, and a presentation to a letter of intent committee consisting of 3 NOSD staff members.



#### 3) CONNECT WITH MENTOR

District employees select a project to mentor. Once identified, students schedule at least three in person meetings with their mentors to discuss their topic and assignments.



#### 4) SIX INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS

Students plan out 6 individual assignments and work through them with the guidance of OMS teachers, their mentor, and other staff members when needed.



#### 5) SCHOLARSHIPS AND BOOK ORDERS

Students have the option to apply for a scholarship to help off-set some costs that may be associated with a project and have the cost of one book covered.



#### 6) CREATE BITMOJI CLASSROOM

Students create Bitmoji classrooms to organize assignments for their presentation. Bitmoji classrooms are collected and presented to the NOSD community as a final large Bitmoji school



#### 7) PRESENTATION NIGHT

8th Grade Students present their individual topics to K-8 classrooms during the school day and to the NOSD community in the evening.



unintentional spark of motivation one student can have on someone else. For example, an 8th grade student chose to design a technology-based board game, allowing gamers to play a physical board game while simultaneously engaging in battles, mini-games, and story development on the computer as game pieces reached certain parts of the board. Fast forward a few years and two NOSD staff members turned this concept into a week-long computer programming summer camp for students.

By engaging in the seminar experience, students focus on a range of skills that contribute to lifelong learning. For example, many students utilize video creation during at least one of their six assignments. A recent 2024 OHS graduate and co-founder of an NOSD-inspired Instagram account credits some of his video editing skills to his Seminar experience. Additionally, this year many students focused on entrepreneurship, creating products to sell. Examples include making healthy dog treats to sell, student-made soap, candle-making, and even pipe cleaner flower bouquets. One student not only focused on what it would take to sell, but also started her own profitable thrifting business and learned more about social media, marketing, and strategic planning.

Communication, collaboration, problem-solving, self-reflection, and continued learning are all driving forces in the seminar process. It is a time when 8th grade individuals use cross-curricular knowledge to showcase successful student-led experiences.



While my seminar experience of hosting a 5K run was quite demanding, seeing the positive impact it had on participants as well as the opportunity to help so many realize their goals, made it all worthwhile.

~Mya Schroeder



8th grader Mya Schroeder organized a 5K fun run to benefit her soccer club North Shore United. Photographed with her are family members Alex (NOSD Alumni '99), Ava ('31), Mya ('28), Mason ('26), Amy (NOSD Alumni '01).

## From the Principals



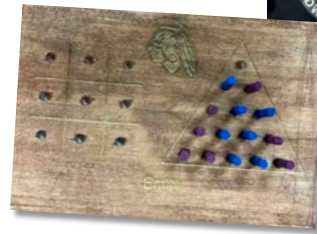
### Elementary School - LYNN KUCHARSKI



This spring on May 16th, the OES students and staff participated in a new school-wide event called Warriors Dashing! The NOSD PTR organized the event. Students and staff walked and ran a route through the NOSD Backyard and Pollinator Prairie. Both parent and OHS student volunteers helped along the course to provide support and cheer on our OES students along the route. Students and families raised over \$8,000 in pledges for this event and funds will be used to enhance the new Sensory Play area in the NOSD Backyard. This event was a wonderful addition to OES and did a great job of strengthening our community through physical activity!

### Middle School - CHARLIE SCHWARTZ

Ozaukee Middle School is a great school that believes in developing our students' knowledge, character, and understanding of civic responsibilities. We offer a comprehensive array of classes, clubs, sports, and activities for our students. One of many unique opportunities we provide our students is 8th Grade Woods. Mr. Kornelly leads students through shop safety first and then they complete two projects. The first project is a LED lit sign and the second is a game board.



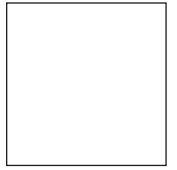
### High School - MICHAEL LEACH



I wanted to take some time to express my gratitude for being allowed to work with the students, staff, and families within our community. Over the past 7 years (5 as Principal of both OHS and WVL), we have made some great memories, navigated challenges within our community and world, and graduated many amazing, talented students. I have been blessed to have a great staff, an effective board, a supportive community members, and a collaborative administrative team. I truly value the relationships that were cultivated in my time as Principal. Ozaukee High School should be proud of the learning and growth that happens over the 4 years of High School as we prepare students for life after K-12 school ends. I look forward to staying connected with the community and seeing all of the good that our Warrior Nation brings into the world. Thank you.

# WARRIOR PRIDE





### MISSION (our core purpose)

Educate young men and women to develop strong character and prepare them for the future

### VISION (our future)

To pursue excellence at all levels of our district



## UPCOMING DATES

- Aug. 27:** OES School Supply Drop-off
- Aug. 27:** NOSD Back to School Picnic
- Sept 3:** 5K-12th First Day of School
- Sept. 4:** 4K First Day of School
- Sept. 9:** Student/Staff Photos
- Sept. 18-20:** 7th Grade Camp
- Sept. 18:** OHS Macho Volleyball/Powder Puff Football
- Sept. 20:** Homecoming
- Sept. 21:** Homecoming Dance
- Oct. 4:** No School
- Oct. 14:** Picture Retakes
- Oct. 17:** OES Families Breakfast Buddies (A-L)
- Oct. 18:** OES Families Breakfast Buddies (M-Z)
- Oct. 23-24:** OES Parent Teacher Conf. by appointment
- Oct. 31:** OMS Parent Teacher Conf. by appointment
- TBD:** OHS Parent Teacher Conf. by appointment
- Nov. 1:** Records Day- No Students
- Nov 15-17:** NOSD Musical - Cinderella
- Nov 27-29:** No School

## 2024-2025 NOSD School Board



### From Left to Right Front Row:

Dan Large (Vice President), Suzanne Miller (Secretary), Jennifer Clark (Treasurer), Stephen Burmesch (Member)

### From Left to Right Back Row:

Kevin Klas (Member), Jeff Decker (Member), Hal Steffen (Member), Rick Hamm (Member), Brent Neis (President)

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