



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE TOMORROW RIVER

DISTRICT OFFICE

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PreK-4 Elementary Principal

## ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 23, 2017 SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The community members of the Tomorrow River School District have reason to be proud of the achievements of our students during the 2016-2017 school year, which reflects positively upon our scholars, their parents, their educators, and all those who support our schools. Following are both highlights and achievements which indicate the successful year our students and staff experienced at all levels of the District. We also offer an overview of the goals we have established for the 2017-2018 school year. Thank you for your support!

*– Michael Toelle*

## 2016–2017 STAFF AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Highlights from our Counselors

- Four students received their CNA licenses
- Transcribed Credit program:
  - 45 unduplicated students took at least one TC course
  - Students earned 188 Mid-State college credits, saving over \$ 27, 000 in tuition cost. This does not include textbook costs.
- Youth Options program:
  - 12 unduplicated students -Earned 37 Mid-State college credits.
  - 1 unduplicated student earned 6 credits through UW Colleges online
  - Class of 2017 earned over \$319,625 in scholarship money
- In 2016-17 school year, Amherst Middle School Students earned 2150 Falcon PRIDE POPS card.
- EVERY middle school student earned at least 1 Falcon PRIDE POPS card.

### Math Department

- After implementing a new AP Statistics curriculum in Math in spring of 2017, passing scores increased from 35% to 100% in ONE YEAR.
- All five students who took the AP Calculus AB exam also passed with a 3 or higher.
- The Amherst High School Math League received the FIRST PLACE team award in our division at the Central Wisconsin Math League hosted at UW-Stevens Point last year!

**“Teaching Tomorrow’s Children”**

- We also had individual winners of Nolan Struble who placed second place in our division for the Geometry category and Vince Omernik placed third in our division for the Algebra category. Have to remember our mathletes!
- High School Math Teacher Maggie Leonhardt attended the first of two summer sessions for a GAP Math grant program through UW-Oshkosh to bring a small-group intervention program into our high school.

### **High School Business/FBLA**

- We had 49 members participate in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club. Of these, 21 advanced to the State FBLA Competition in Appleton. This is a 31% increase of students advancing over the previous school year.
- Our High School FBLA club took 5th place as a team at the regional competition held in Nekoosa. We competed against 26 other school districts, including four Division One schools (FBLA competes geographically, not by school enrollment numbers).
- 23 high school students took and completed Accounting I, which is transcribed with Mid-State Technical College (MSTC). This is dual credit. Meaning, in addition to the Amherst High School credit, they will receive 4 college credits while still in high school.
- 15 high school students took and completed Microsoft Office-Introduction, which is also transcribed with MSTC. This allowed them to earn 3 college credits while still in high school.

### **School Garden**

- The school garden expanded by adding several raised beds.
- Three apple trees were planted to increase the size of the apple orchard to five trees.
- Produce from the school garden saved the food service program over \$800.

### **Student Authors**

Three fourth grade students from Mrs. Nicholson's class won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the regional literary competition sponsored by Delta Kappa Gamma. Sam Stuczynski received special recognition at the state level for the artwork in his book.”

### **After School Success Program (AASSP)**

- The After School Program had 156 students in grades 4k-8th enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year. 18 of those students were given a scholarship to be able to attend.
- ASP received a \$750 grant from the Tomorrow River Lioness Club to use towards our Cooking Club and to purchase art materials and new games.
- Our Reading Club had 5 tutors that provided extra reading help after school for 12 elementary students.
- We started a Cooking Club that met every Thursday for ASP students grades 4-8. Students learned different cooking/baking techniques, and well as some basic kitchen safety.
- Besides our regular after school activities, ASP also offered Drama Club, CWES, Girl Scouts, math mania, and swimming lessons.

### **Special Education Department**

- We received a letter of commendation from the DPI for meeting the requirements of Part B of IDEA for the 2017 year. This assures that we have met the special education compliance indicators

required of us under State and Federal guidelines. The indicators they reviewed this year deal with graduation rates of students with IEPs; drop-out rates of students with IEPs; disproportionality by race or ethnicity in rate of suspensions of more than 10 days or expulsion of students with IEPs; participation rate on statewide assessments of students with IEPs; proficiency rate of students with IEPs against grade level, modified or alternate standards; inappropriate identification in special education; inappropriate identification in specific disability categories; timely evaluations; and preschool transitions.

- 100% of our seniors with disabilities graduated last year. Although we expect this rate to be high, a 100% rate for graduation of students with disabilities is exceptional considering that the State 4 year completion rate for the 2015 cohort for students with disabilities is 67.5%. This is the most recent information available from the State.
- Although not measured, the frequency, intensity, and duration of significant behavioral incidents or outbursts among our regular and special education populations have almost been eliminated. This is due to the unique skills of some of our staff and their willingness to share their knowledge and skills with their colleagues and parents.
- Under the guidance of one of our special education teachers, our students with exceptional needs continue to operate the concession stand in the high school. They are having great success while learning important life skills.
- We purchased a modified cash register for the concession stand that our special needs students are able to operate. Stephanie worked with the staff at Star Business Machines in Stevens Point to design a machine that is functional for her students. This is important to help build job and socialization skills.
- Our students with special needs are gaining valuable work experience throughout the school by helping with food service and maintenance activities.
- We had zero seclusions or restraints during the year.
- We met 100% of our evaluation, IEP and transition deadlines.
- We realigned the special education staff to more equitably distribute students among staff and to more effectively meet the needs of our students with IEPs.
- We had the opportunity to contribute back to the teacher preparation world by hosting several interns/externs, practicum students and student teachers. We feel an obligation to serve those as we were served during our preparation programs. Some of these are listed below:
- Last fall (September through December 2016), Elizabeth, our special education teacher at TRCCS hosted 7 UWSP practicum students. They were each with her for 2-3 hours one day per week. Four of them taught lessons. She also received the "WACTE Early Career Educator Award" for her role in helping beginning teachers.
- Doug and Beth had 4 practicum students last year and they were here the 1st quarter, one to two days per week. They spent a majority of their time observing/interacting in the study hall and inclusionary classes. (Pre-Algebra and English). One of our practicum students ended up liking the school a great deal and requested to have her student teaching experience here.
- Miranda had a speech/language pathology graduate student (from UWSP) who completed her externship with her for the spring semester (Jan 23-June 1). She is now working as a full-time speech/language pathologist in the Pulaski School District.
- Stephanie had 3 total UWSP practicum students last year. One of them first semester who came in once a week and two second semester that came in 1-2 different times per week.
- Katie and Stephanie also shared a student teacher.
- We also had a student volunteer from our high school last year each day.

## **Art Department**

- AP Art History was taught for the first time this year, and 100% of the class passed the test! (it was only a class of 2 students)
- Students participated in Visual Arts Classic again. Many students did well at Regionals, and 4 participated at State at UW Madison.
- 12 students participated in The Memory Project and created portraits for children in Bolivia and Columbia.
- Senior Art Show and Awards took place right before graduation in May. Carson Rieckmann received the Senior Art Award
- Kaycie Peck and Natasha Monahan went to the Wisconsin Art Education Association state conference in October and brought back a lot of information to establish more choice in the classroom.

#### Youth Art Month:

- 200+ students from the Tomorrow River School District had their art work displayed throughout Portage County including the International Bank of Amherst, The Lettie Jensen Library, The Jensen Center, and the Portage County Library.

### **Physical Education Department**

Kevin Vander Laan received over \$8,000 in donations/grants to bring back archery and introduce disc golf to the middle and high school students.

### **Music Department**

#### Vocal Music:

- 42 choir students participated in district solo and ensemble at Port Edwards
- 32 choir students advanced to state solo and ensemble at UW-SP
- Lily Zabler, Jessica Gutschow, Seth Barnes, Sawyer Eiden and Trent Miller were chosen to participate in the Wisconsin Choral Directors' Association's All State Women's and Men's Choirs
- The Music Department presented Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* with great success and community support.

#### Band:

Heid Music congratulated Amherst Middle School & High School Band Program led by Jolynn Wucherer as the January School of the Month. "The Amherst Band program is a 6-12 grade program, taught by Mrs. Wucherer. When Mrs. Wucherer first came to Amherst she had barely 30 students in the high school band, and due to scheduling conflicts, only 5 students in band all year. This year [2016-2017] there are 80 members in the high school band, and a thriving middle school program of over 110 students. Highlights for the program include concert band, state solo and ensemble events, high school drumline, and making numerous trips to State Tournaments for Football and Basketball."

### **Library/IMC**

Middle School Library: Circulations of all materials increased by approximately 8% from the 2015-2016 school year, most notably Fiction books which saw an increase of 16% from the prior school year. From 15 different book displays throughout the year, over half of the books displayed were checked out - accounting for 120 books. 168 books were borrowed from local sources through interlibrary loan, expanding the borrowing power of our library on behalf of our students. Lessons on identifying fake news and verifying sources were presented to Middle School Computers and High School English classes during second semester, in addition to research skills lessons. 123 students participated in the "are you a sucker for guessing games" contest, which was the most popular library contest for the school year.

**"Teaching Tomorrow's Children"**

## Media Department

The Falcon yearbook staff won the National Award for Yearbook Excellence for the 6th year in a row.

## Athletics

**Boys Soccer:** Head coach- Erik Linde

- Hosted and won their first ever Regional playoff game. They beat Antigo to advance to the second round of Regional playoffs.
- They lost to the #1 seed (Waupaca) in the second round of Regionals.
- The team really improved as the season went on, and the guys had a lot of fun.

**Volleyball:** Head coach- Beth Pittman

- Finished 5th in conference.
- They upset the #4 seed in the first round of the Regional playoffs. They were trailing St. Mary's Central 2 game to 0 and ended up winning the match.
- They lost to the #1 seed (Wittenberg-Birnamwood) in the second round of the Regional playoffs.

**Cross Country:** Head Coach- Don Rosene

- The boys team advanced to the State meet after taking 2nd place in the sectional race that we hosted along with SPASH.
- The girls team had a great season finishing 4th in the sectional.

**Football:** Head Coach- Mark Lusic

- The team won conference and earned the #1 seed in the post season.
- Sectional Champions after defeating Stanley-Boyd in the Level 4 playoff game
- Back-to-Back State Champions after defeating Cedar-Grove Belgium at UW-Madison!!
- That is the team's 3rd State Championship in 5 years, and the team's 4th appearance at State in 5 years.

**Cheer and Dance:** Head Coaches: Sarah Gerdes and Brooke Mahoney

- The program continues to grow and develop quickly!
- The team has performed at many events such as the Homecoming Pep Assembly, and many of our home sporting events.
- The team has been a great addition to our Athletic Department!

**Wrestling:** Head Coach: Dave Peterson

- Two Juniors, Max Villnow and Bryce Holderman, qualified for the State competition in Madison. Max did not place (suffered an injury) and Bryce took 3rd.
- Both Max and Bryce were conference champs in their weight class.

**Girls Basketball:** Head Coach: Gregg Jensen

- The team became co-conference champions after finishing with a 13-1 conference record. They tied with Wittenberg-Birnamwood.
- They finished with a 24-2 overall record, earning a first round bye in the playoffs.
- The girls advanced to the Sectional Final game, but lost a close game to Wrightstown.

**Boys Basketball:** Head Coach: Scott Groholski

- The team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in conference with a 11-3 record in conference.
- They finished with a 17-6 overall record.
- The boys lost to Freedom in the Regional round of the playoffs.

**Boys and Girls Bowling:** Head Coaches: Steve Cieslewicz & Barb Conradt

- Both the boys and girls teams advanced to the State tournament.
- The girl's team is the District 9 – South Conference Champs.
- The girls also won the Division 2 State Championship!

**Golf:** Head Coach: Tom Fochs

- Robert Johannes and Vince Omernik were both named First Team All Conference and became Sectional Qualifiers.
- Robert Johannes was the Sectional Meet Medalist after shooting a 77!
- Robert Johannes qualified for the State competition.

**Track and Field:** Head Coach: Kristin Anderson

- Josh Cisewski, Lindsay Dose, and Cole McKenzie both advanced to sectionals. Cole McKenzie ran in the 800, 1600, and 3200 meter races with a personal best of 4:36 in the 1600. Lindsay Dose competed in the 100 and 300 meter hurdles.
- Josh Cisewski had the best long jump of his high school career with a distance of 22 feet 3 inches which helped him advance to the state tournament where he took 5<sup>th</sup> place!

**Baseball:** Head Coach: Andy Lind

- Marcus Glodowski and Mason Peterson earned 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Conference, and Isaac Premus earned Honorable Mention.
- Marcus Glodowski threw a no hitter vs Shiocton on 4/24/17!

**Softball:** Head Coach: Dale Jastromski

- The team hosted and defeated Northland Pines in the first round of the Regional playoffs.
- Lost to Weyauwega-Fremont in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Regional playoffs.
- The team has a lot of talented players that will be returning next year!

**Girls Soccer:** Head Coach: Bill Spees

- Lost to Clintonville in the Regional playoffs.
- The girls had a great season showing a lot of growth from the start of the season to the end!

**Maintenance Department**

- Entire Department worked diligently to host the WASBO Custodial Conference in July. With over 200 people in attendance and 26 vendors it was a complete success. It was mentioned multiple times during the WASBO Facility Managers Committee meeting as well as the WASBO Safety Committee Meeting that our conference was one of the best conferences to date and that we had set the bar for all other to follow. I was personally congratulated by the Executive Officer of WASBO for our hard work.
- Dale Peterson has completed six of the seven modules for his Facility Managers Certification.
- Ginny Thompson is currently enrolled in the WSSCA (Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association) Certification program. She has completed 6 of 10 of the modules required to date. She will be attending modules 1 and 6 on October 25th. Our expectation is that she will complete her training as of this upcoming spring conference.
- All custodians have attended no fewer than two WASBO Custodial Conferences over the course of this past summer. This has provided our staff with opportunities to learn new techniques, network with other custodians, and see new and upcoming products that may be helpful in assisting us with becoming more efficient.
- Jay Kurzynski was instrumental in the on-boarding of our new school bus as well as the planning of our old school bus.
- Painting of Football Field Goal posts.
- Installed new sink and hot water on demand water heater in concessions stand.
- Worked with Blenker Construction on removal and installation of new Scoreboard on Football Field.
- Reworked volleyball standard sleeves in HS Gym to accommodate new standards.

- Spread 90 yards of playground chips on the Elementary playground as well as around the building. Continued to enhance and beautify building by planting more flower in front of cafeteria windows.
- Removed ninebark shrubs from alongside baseball and softball fields to help plants reestablish themselves and ease of mowing. Removed all low hanging limbs from inside practice field area for ease of maintenance and security.
- Worked with contractor on the installation of the new sound system for Athletic Complex.
- Created and implemented AkitaBox Preventive Maintenance Program over course of spring and summer. Training was held during spring break for all of our custodial staff and it was pushed out to all staff members upon their arrival for staff in-service.
- Worked with Administration team to review and make modification to the Districts Emergency Guide Manual.
- Worked within our budget to complete all projects on time and within budget saving the district over \$42,806.61 from our budget as well as \$9192.02 in savings due to purchasing power and in vendor savings.
- Worked with contractor to repair the building envelope for room 80. This may save the district more money over time as there were many air gaps within the building envelope that was allowing cold air infiltration.
- Removed and reinstalled the Jensen Center Volleyball court as well as rebuilt their horse shoe pits.
- Installed parking lot light in parking lot next to Jensen Center with contractor.
- Repaired floors in HS Boys Locker Room Restroom and HS Girls Commons restroom that were failing due to water damage.
- Poured a concrete pad near the TREES Building for use of storing materials such as wood chips, in field mix, top soil, etc.
- Worked alongside community members to develop a strategy for our High School Boys Soccer team to have a practice field on site.
- Completed work on Teachers lounge with the installation of carpet and base molding.
- Installed water bubbler with bottle filler in H.S. Science Hallway.
- Reworked entire baseball field by rebuilding on deck circles and application of 2 tons of Turface materials in to in field mixture.”

### **Wellness Committee**

The 4th annual district wide Fitness Challenge ran for 10 weeks beginning January 9th. Fifteen teams comprised of 73 individuals participated in the 2017 Challenge. We added the Seven Dimensions of Wellness; Physical, Occupational, Intellectual, Social, Environmental, Emotional and Spiritual to the traditional exercise challenges.

School district employees had the opportunity to stay in shape over the summer months by joining in the 1-2-300 Mile Club. Participants who accumulated 250 miles in a combination of 100 miles walking or swimming, 200 miles running or 300 miles biking earned membership in the club.

### **Tomorrow River Community Charter School (TRCCS)**

- TRCCS joined Eco-Schools USA continuing their involvement in the Green Schools initiative in Wisconsin.

- TRCCS had its first overnight farm field trip with third grade. The students were immersed in practical work, including harvesting, animal care, cooking local food, preparing the farm for winter. This trip included hands-on opportunities, integrated learning, and community building for the students.
- Ms. Emily's third/fourth grade classes cooked lunch twice a week for the full school year, with all students participating in the preparation and enjoyment of the meals. This program incorporated math and reading skills in practical daily work.
- All of the grades students participated in the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch celebrating National Farm to School Month by crunching into locally and regionally grown apples.
- Chef Christian came to do a chef demo talking about local food through the Farm to School program.
- Three TRCCS staff members attended the Annual Alliance for Public Waldorf Education Conference in California.
- TRCCS had two first place winners and two second place winners in the Portage County Land and Water Conservation Poster Contest. The contest was about "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life!"
- TRCCS had its first teacher complete their Waldorf Teacher Certification.
- The fifth grade students participated in the Waldorf Pentathlon with 10 other Waldorf Schools. Students spent two nights and participated in five activities with one student bringing home a laurel.
- TRCCS worked with the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and Dr. Mary Goral of Transformation Teaching to offer a Waldorf Summer Intensive Teacher Training Program. Students had the ability to take classes for Masters credit, being the first public university to offer a Waldorf Teacher Training.
- During the summer of 2017 each grade's class planted garden plots; over the summer families each signed up for a week to take care of their child's class plot. Food was used to make soup, salsa, pizza, and salad.
- TRCCS had a very successful 5th annual Trike-A-Thon with funding going towards Science Equipment.
- TRCCS had its most successful Valentine's Dinner raising \$16,000 towards renovating a new classroom for the 2017/18 school year for the upper grades students. Renovations were completed during the summer of 2017.
- TRCCS worked with Mid-State Technical College students in the Renewable Energy Program to install a solar electric system. This was a wonderful learning opportunity for both the college students and the TRCCS grades students to learn about renewable energy and take ownership of the installation of a system.
- TRCCS again partnered with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association to provide all of the children's activities at the Energy Fair.
- TRCCS staff and parents joined the volleyball league at Whitetail Lanes. This was a wonderful way for the staff to be active together and socialize outside of the workplace.
- Chamomile Nusz was asked to participate in visioning a Collaborative Funding Campaign for Waldorf Education through the Rudolf Steiner Foundation. She was one of two representatives from the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education joined by two representatives from AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America), and one representative from WECAN (Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America).
- TRCCS staff adopted the Nurtured Heart Approach to working with children. This method was brought by Kat Cibaric, who began teaching as the guidance educator at TRCCS during the 2016/17 school year.
- TRCCS held its second annual Holiday Faire, doubling the number of vendors that participated during the first year.

## 2017–18 DISTRICT-WIDE GOALS

### Tomorrow River School District Mission Statement

Every child, every year will...  
...feel valued by a caring adult as a person as well as a student.  
...be given educational opportunities that are rigorous, challenging, and engaging and designed to enable him/her to reach the highest level of achievement.  
...be provided with opportunities to enable the maximizing of his/her social and emotional potential.  
*Adopted: September 26, 2011*

#### Goal #1: Recognize and celebrate district successes and accomplishments

- District level meetings will begin with positive comments about staff, students, and activities.
- Building, department, and committee meetings will recognize areas of strength and success at each meeting.
- Support, inspire, and validate staff on a continual basis in order to foster a quality classroom experience for all students.
- Explore options to communicate district success to all stakeholders on a weekly basis. (i.e. Blogs, Twitter, Facebook, TV, messaging systems)

#### Goal #2: Build greater connections with students, staff, parents, and the community

- Increase presence and visibility at school and community events.
- Support open communication and dialogue to foster awareness and support.
- Implement professional development opportunities with cross building groups to discuss educational topics.
- Develop strong partnerships and communication with all parents to enhance classroom success, recognizing parents as the primary educators of our students.
- Plan three staff social events and strive for 75% participation.
- Incorporate the knowledge and skills of community members and businesses in order to gain support for programs, develop partnerships, and enhance student academic achievement.
- Focus on the continued development of the Tomorrow River School District- “Culture of Caring.”

#### Goal #3: Empower all staff to lead and take ownership of student education and behavior

- Develop PK-12 behavioral expectations for students and share with staff in order to foster consistent rules enforcement throughout all buildings.
- Communicate shared behavioral expectations to develop a sense of parental and community awareness and support.
- Share district goals and individual building level expectations with staff, parents, and students on an ongoing basis.
- Support staff in the development of safe and orderly school/classroom in order to maintain an environment where staff can focus on teaching and students can focus on learning.

#### Goal #4: Ensure “Best Practices in Education” is standard practice at all levels

- Explore professional development opportunities with cross building groups quarterly to discuss educational topics.

- Establish a culture of data driven decision making to support continuous improvement and a clear vision for student achievement.
- Develop a 5 and 10-year plan/vision for our academic future.
- Articulate educational vision and expectations to stakeholders on an ongoing basis.
- Explore opportunities to enhance student success and develop college and career readiness through the development of community partnerships.
- Explore curriculum enhancements and curriculum delivery options available through technology, in order to foster college, career, and workforce success.
- Provide every student with a first-rate education through the continued development of a strong team-orientated approach at all levels.
- Support staff educational enhancements and training opportunities which foster curriculum creativity.(Team)
- Create and support a culture of “excellence and continuous improvement”.
- Address technology needs by developing a plan for equipment replacement and implementation of cutting edge systems, in an effort to support the general curriculum.

#### Goal #5: Promote wellness and healthy lifestyles

- Continue to develop student wellness opportunities through the Physical Education department curriculum and focusing on life-long activities.
- Updated scope and sequence for the Physical Education curriculum to align with Wisconsin Standards K-12.
- Continue to develop partnerships between community members, the food service department, service organizations, and general classrooms, to develop opportunities to enhance curriculum activities (school garden, pig project, etc.).
- Explore opportunities to support staff social, emotional, and physical wellness.
- Explore and introduce “Mindfulness” as a social, emotional and wellness tool.

#### Goal #6: Mental Health

- Establish a Mental Health action committee and explore partnerships with surrounding districts and public agencies.
- Develop relationships with county and private agencies to support staff and students with mental health needs.
- Promote mental health awareness among staff, parents, and students through multiple media.
- Investigate grant opportunities to support programs and staffing to address mental health issues.