The Horwitz Deremer Planetarium
A District Treasure

A Spectacular 40-foot show dome technology and special effects that allow visitors to explore the sun, moon, stars, and more without leaving their seats.

The Horwitz Deremer Planetarium is owned and operated by the School District of Waukesha and located in the Retzer Nature Center. Through our partnership with the Waukesha County Parks System, we are able to offer activities for all.

Tickets can be purchased for all upcoming shows by visiting https://hdplanetarium.tickletap.com/admin/dashboard/

• Shows for all ages
• Space crafts
• Story time
• Astronomy mini-labs
• Daycares
• Homeschool
• Summer Camps
• Year-round planetarium shows
• Astronomy workshops
• Public Visits
• Telecope visits
• Scout merit badges
• Corporate & private events
• Outreach opportunities

planetarium@waukesha.k12.wi.us
facebook.com/sdwplanetarium
sdw.waukesha.k12.wi.us/planetarium

3rd Annual Enrollment Fair
Saturday, December 7, 2019
Waukesha North High School  2222 Michigan Avenue

Follow Us on Social Media
@waukeshaschools  @waukeshaschooldistrict

To develop in our students the capacity and skills to become Community, College, and Career Ready

Volume 2, Issue 1  2019-20
It was a busy summer in the School District of Waukesha. Through your support in passing the referendum last year, we were able to make significant facility upgrades and to consolidate Blair Elementary with Hawthorne and Lowell Elementary, beginning with the 2019-20 school year.

Administrators had proposed consolidating the schools to rectify projected deficits of $2.5 - $4 million, due to declining resident enrollment and other costs. All three schools were within a one-mile radius of each other and were operating well below capacity.

After Blair Elementary closed in June, Hawthorne and Lowell Elementary prepared to welcome new students from Blair. Both schools held meet and greet events, and students readily embraced a new learning community in their schools.

We are proud of our schools, our students, and our outstanding educators who guide them along their academic paths. Together, we are keeping our schools strong and robust, and we thank you for your continued support.

Whittier Receives Upgrades

In honor of its 25th anniversary of community service, GE Healthcare has funded a $25,000 school project at Whittier Elementary that involves creating a new service for busy families just like yours!

Would you like to ensure your little learner will be ready to start school socially, emotionally, and academically? The School District of Waukesha is offering a new service for busy families just like yours! Families play a critical role in preparing their children for success, and our goal is to actively engage with parents for the benefit of the child and the family by building strong partnerships prior to your visit and enrollment.

By making these connections sooner, we are hopeful that our early learners can receive additional assistance from our district staff (as early as age three) or we are able to assist in referrals to appropriate community agencies to ensure your child’s early learning experiences are impactful and facilitate a smooth schooling process.

Registration and text notifications, you will receive information on a wide variety of topics, such as:

- Developmental Screenings
- Important Enrollment Dates
- Immunization Reminders
- School Sponsored Activities
- Community Outreach Events
- Early Learner Tips
- Additional questions? Contact the enrollment office at 262.970.1024 or enrollment@waukesha.k12.wi.us

To register visit: http://bit.ly/SDWDCensus

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) announced that Waukesha Engineering Preparatory Academy’s composite ACT score is 25.8, the second-highest score in the state! The Engineering Academy is a charter school located within Waukesha South High School.

In addition, one-quarter of their high school career is spent taking seven rigorous Project Lead the Way Engineering courses that compliments and expands upon their core academic course load at Waukesha South High School.

Of the 1.6 million National Merit entrants, approximately 16,000 students are named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program. Congratulations to the following Waukesha students:

- South High School: Alex Kempen, Alex Clyla, Eric, Dubberstein, and Matthew Langer
- eAchieve Academy: Danielle Hewitt
- Online Virtual School: Grades K - 12
- Online Virtual School: Grades K - 12

Semifinalists will advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and all other requirements. Finalists are selected in February.
It was a busy summer in the School District of Waukesha. Through your support in passing the referendum last year, we were able to make significant safety and security upgrades to 11 of our elementary schools. In this issue of our community newsletter, you'll be able to see these facility upgrades and learn about the next steps.

We've also completed a successful consolidation of our schools. Last spring, the School District of Waukesha Board of Education approved a plan to consolidate Blair Elementary School with Hawthorne and Lowell Elementary, beginning with the 2019-20 school year.

Administrators had proposed consolidating the schools to rectify projected deficits of $2.5 - $4 million, due to declining resident enrollment and other costs. All three schools were within a one-mile radius of each other and were operating well below capacity.

In honor of its 25th anniversary of community service, GE Healthcare has funded a $25,000 school project at Whittier Elementary that involves hands-on learning in a STEM environment.

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In honor of its 25th anniversary of community service, GE Healthcare has funded a $21,000 school project at Whittier Elementary that involves hands-on learning in a STEM environment.

The GE team and staff at Whittier have transformed two classrooms into the “GE Learning for Life Center” which involved creating a space for scientific and creative exploration. In this new, vibrant space, students can film and edit digital content using the new green room and editing space, learn coding techniques, explore 3D printing and traditional construction concepts, create using the new Lego wall, and collaborate on art and science topics.

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In today's world, there are more demands and stress placed on children outside of the classroom than ever before. We know that screen time has increased substantially, which includes students accessing numerous social media platforms outside of the school day. Although this can have a positive impact at times, it also can create unique social pressures and anxieties for students. The 2019 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that student anxiety and depression are at an all-time high.

"The addition of grant funds allows us to have a broader, more universal and comprehensive reach to an increasing number of students and families. These funds allow the community mental health provider to operate in a much broader capacity within these grant-supplemented schools," said Luke Pinion, Director of Student Services for the School District of Waukesha.

The School District of Waukesha also provides a continuum of mental health supports ranging from classroom-level supports to an intensive, individual level. This includes staffing our schools appropriately with professionals who are trained and positioned for this work, which includes: 19 counselors, 10 social workers, and 20 psychologists.

Equally important is strong social-emotional learning integrated into every classroom, as evidenced by many of the schools in Waukesha. Moving into the 2019-2020 school year, all 4K-8th grade students will receive the Second Step social-emotional learning curriculum supplemented with many other evidence-based supports. All Waukesha students are explicitly taught how to manage their emotions, make healthier choices, navigate conflicts appropriately, and build positive relationships. The development of these skills is showing many positive results, including better academic performance, improved attitudes and behaviors, as well as a more meaningful connection to the school.

Since the successful referendum, we have been working hard on planning and designing the projects approved by community members. The first round of facility improvements were recently completed at several schools across the District. Design is underway for the largest components of the referendum, which will focus on our three middle schools and Waukesha South High School.

This summer we completed 11 secure entry projects including the following nine elementary schools and two secondary schools:

- Bethesda Elementary
- Hadfield Elementary
- Heyer Elementary
- Lowell Elementary
- Meadowbrook Elementary
- Prairie Elementary
- Rose Glen Elementary
- Saratoga STEM Campus
- Summit View Elementary

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The tools needed for us to meet the goal of developing the whole child - academically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively, cannot be found in a backpack. Teachers and administrators in the School District of Waukesha are working together to build upon district partnerships with community mental health providers. Through the support of various grant funds, the District is able to expand these partnerships and associated services with a broader reach to more students.

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The new secure entries have been in full use and have increased safety and efficiency at the schools. These projects are Phase 1 of 3 safety and security updates. Additional projects will be completed over the next two summers.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS
Since the successful referendum, we have been working hard on planning and designing the projects approved by community members. The first round of facility improvements were recently completed at several schools across the District. Design is underway for the largest components of the referendum, which will focus on our three middle schools and Waukesha South High School.

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The School District of Waukesha has secured one of the lowest interest rates on a 10-year bond issuance in the last 30 years. This will lower the anticipated interest expense for the November 2018 Referendum by approximately $3.5 million. The plan shared with the public during the referendum process included an estimated interest rate of 3.25%. The combination of market interest rates trending down and the District’s strong “AA” bond rating (one of only 32 school districts in the state to achieve this bond rating) allowed for an interest rate of 2.08% to be secured.

**REFERENDUM FINANCING PLAN**

|$60 million | 10-year Repayment Plan |

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<th></th>
<th>PRE-REFERENDUM ESTIMATE</th>
<th>CURRENT*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase I INTEREST RATE</td>
<td>3.25%</td>
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<td>Phase II INTEREST RATE</td>
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*Net of refunding premium; Phase I interest rate is final; Phase II is estimated based on remaining $15M left to borrow.

The District, along with our design/construction partners, continue to meet regularly to further develop and refine plans for all four projects. See the anticipated design and construction schedule for upcoming project milestones.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS UPDATE**

Over the past several months there has been significant progress made in planning and designing the next four larger projects that were part of the November 2018 referendum. This scope of work will impact Butler, Horning, and Les Paul Middle Schools, as well as Waukesha South High School. These schools will receive additions and renovations to improve secure entries, classrooms, cafeterias/commons, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) challenges. Below are a few highlights from our planning process:

- 40+ meetings with District administration, principals, staff, and design/construction management partners
- 4 building tours of similar spaces in neighboring school districts
- 50+ visits at District facilities to verify building conditions
- 5 meetings with a kitchen consultant to plan for middle school remodels

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**FINANCING**

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