

RIVERMEN

WINTER 2026-2027 REGISTER

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENT

Nov. 5 & 6
Parent-Teacher
Conferences
3-8 PM & 8-11 AM

UPCOMING EVENT

Veterans Day
Program
Nov. 11, 9 AM
Brunch to follow

UPCOMING EVENT

Holiday Concerts
Grade K-5, Dec. 8
Grade 9-12, Dec. 14
Grade 6-8, Dec. 21



INSIDE:

Don't miss all the hands-on learning our elementary students are engaged in.

Plus lots of great updates from the band and middle & high school students.

DATES TO NOTE:

November 20, 2026
End of Trimester 1

November 23-24, 2026
No School
Staff In-Service

November 25-27, 2026
No School
Thanksgiving Break

December 23, 2026 -
January 3, 2027
No School
Winter Break

January 21, 2027
MidTrimester 2

January 22, 2027
No School
Staff In-Service

51610 High School Road
Alma, WI 54610
School phone: 608-685-4416
School fax: 844-202-1023
www.alma.k12.wi.us

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATES TO NOTE:

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY

November 5, 2026
Student Early Release

1 PM

Parent-Teacher Conferences
3-8 PM

November 6, 2026

No School

Parent-Teacher Conferences
8-11 AM

November 11, 2026

Veterans Day

9 AM w/ brunch to follow

November 18, 2026

Right Start - "Thankful"
6-7 PM

November 20, 2026

End of Trimester 1

November 23-24, 2026

No School
Staff In-Service

November 25-27, 2026

No School
Thanksgiving Break

December 8, 2026

K-5 Holiday Concert
7 PM

December 14, 2026

9-12 Band/Choir Holiday Concert
7 PM @ Pepin

December 16, 2026

Right Start - "Winter"
6-7 PM

December 21, 2026

6-8 Band/Choir Holiday Concert
7 PM @ Alma

December 23, 2026 - January 3, 2027

No School
Winter Break

January 20, 2027

Right Start - "New Year"
6-7 PM

January 21, 2027

MidTrimester 2

January 22, 2027

No School
Staff In-Service

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

Mr. Rob Stewart, Superintendent



STEWART@ALMA.K12.WI.US



Hello everyone. I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. It is absolutely amazing how quickly the 2026-2027 school year continues to fly by. Halloween is here, November is right around the corner, and Parent-Teacher Conferences are Thursday, November 5th and Friday, November 6th. These conferences serve as an excellent opportunity for our staff, students, and parents to come together to reinforce connections and maintain plans for success. Although conferences are a scheduled time to come together every year, please do not wait or hesitate to reach out to us at school if you ever have any questions or concerns. Communication is no doubt one of the essential components to the success of every child's education.

As the school year continues to move quickly, so do the changes in weather. With Wisconsin, winter weather is right around the corner, so I wanted to provide a few quick reminders when it comes to school delays and cancellations. First and foremost, we will try and make these types of decisions as soon as we can to get that information out to our families and communities. We will use our school information system to send out emails, text messages, and voicemail messages. If you have new phone numbers or emails since the school year started, please reach out to DeeDee Johnson [johnsond@alma.k12.wi.us] in our high school office. We will also get information out on delays and cancellations to all of our local news stations. Please remember that the first two cancellations are treated as 'normal snow days' with no school for students or staff. If we have more than two cancellations, we will look at using our E-Learning Days. If the time comes to utilize our E-Learning platform, more information will be sent out by our offices and individual teachers.



SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

Mr. Rob Stewart, Superintendent

STEWARTR@ALMA.K12.WI.US



In this particular newsletter insert, I always like to share a budget update as we just recently finalized the budget and set the levy at our budget hearing/annual meeting, and at our school board meeting in October. Although there are many factors that go into the school budget, two of the primary ones that we look at is the overall levy and the school district's portion of the mill rate. The reason for this, is that these two aspects of the budget affect our communities and our taxpayers the most. Although this year our overall levy is up slightly, that is a direct result of the state reducing our primary equalization aid by almost \$170,000 this year. Despite this significant reduction in state aid, the district was still able to decrease our mill rate for the eighth year in a row. You may recall that our mill rate seven years ago was \$13.25 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Since that time, we have been able to successfully lower our mill rate every year. This year again, we are predicting another decrease in our mill rate, going from \$6.76 down to \$6.45. This decrease will continue to take our mill rate to the lowest point I have been able to find on record going back over twenty years.

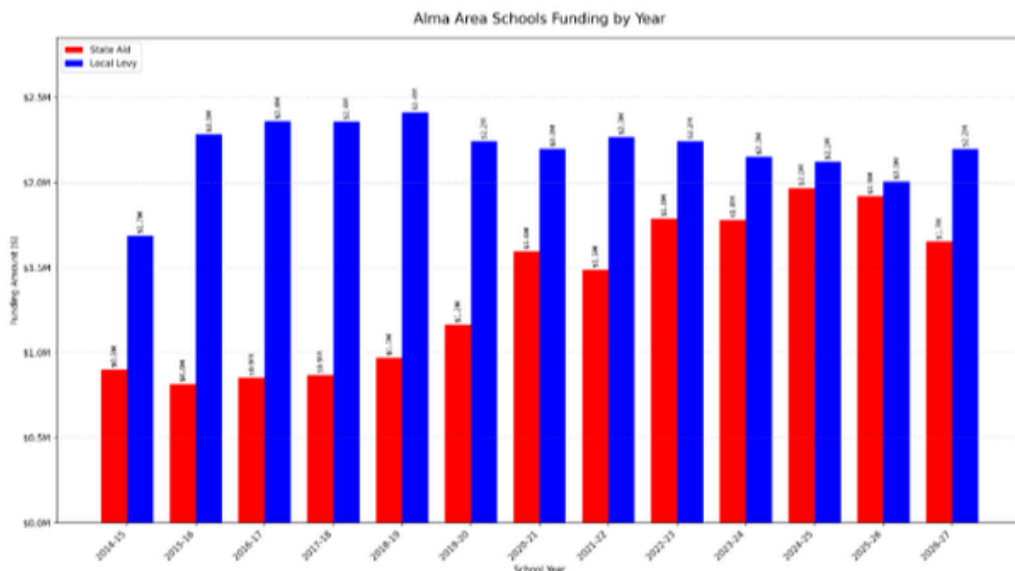
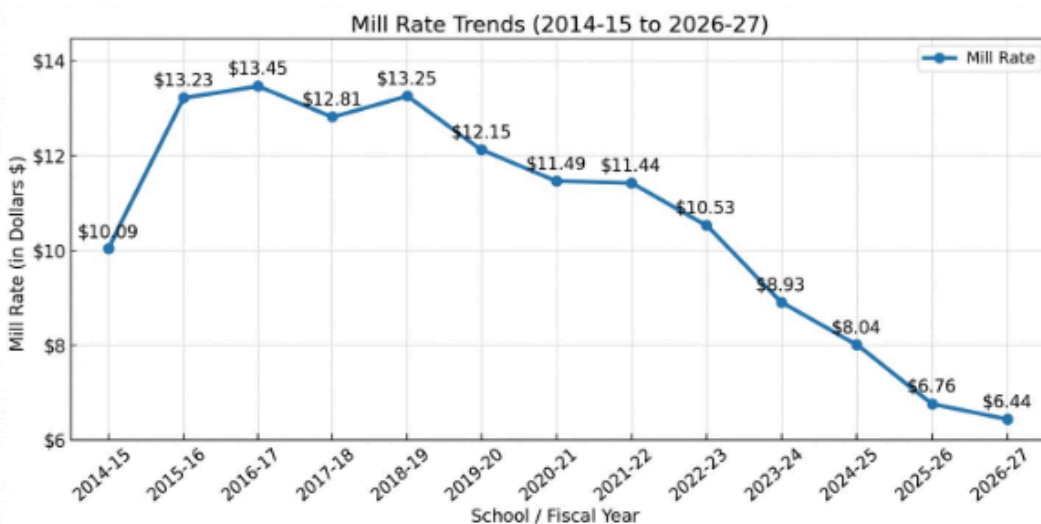
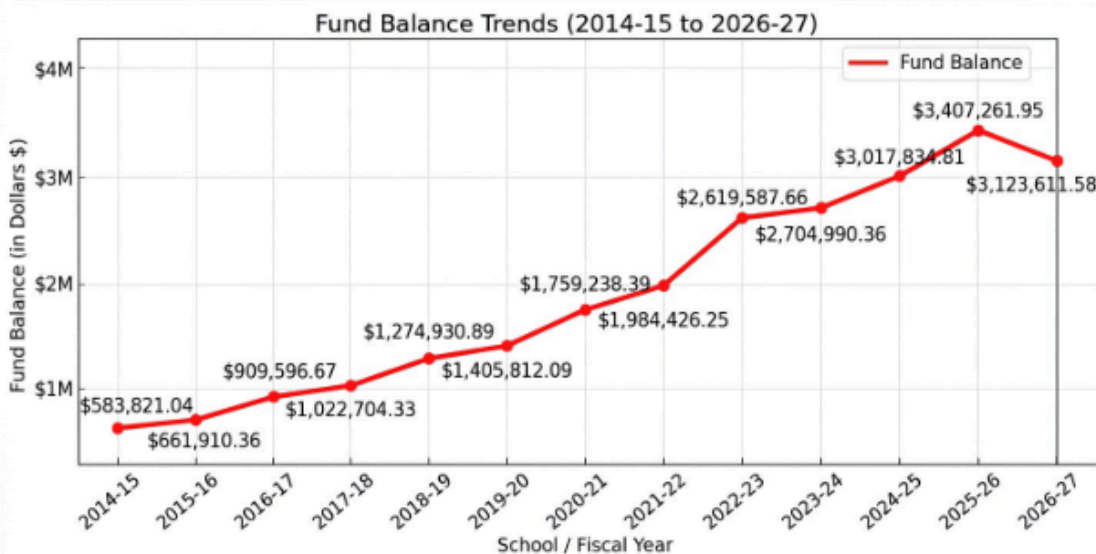
Year	State Aid	Local Levy	Total Funding	% State	% Local	Mill Rate	Fund Balance
2014-15	\$902,034.62	\$1,688,934.00	\$2,590,968.62	35%	65%	\$10.09	\$583,821.04
2015-16	\$816,803.00	\$2,283,805.00	\$3,100,608.00	27%	73%	\$13.23	\$661,910.36
2016-17	\$851,248.27	\$2,360,773.00	\$3,212,021.27	27%	73%	\$13.45	\$909,596.67
2017-18	\$867,427.42	\$2,354,786.00	\$3,222,213.42	27%	73%	\$12.81	\$1,022,704.33
2018-19	\$971,644.31	\$2,411,123.00	\$3,382,767.31	29%	71%	\$13.25	\$1,274,930.89
2019-20	\$1,165,403.86	\$2,239,440.00	\$3,363,070.86	35%	65%	\$12.15	\$1,405,812.09
2020-21	\$1,595,254.62	\$2,197,667.00	\$3,792,921.62	42%	58%	\$11.49	\$1,759,238.39
2021-22	\$1,487,904.81	\$2,268,208.00	\$3,756,112.81	40%	60%	\$11.44	\$1,984,426.25
2022-23	\$1,788,968.31	\$2,242,576.00	\$4,031,544.31	45%	55%	\$10.53	\$2,619,587.66
2023-24	\$1,778,312.10	\$2,152,191.00	\$3,930,503.10	46%	54%	\$8.93	\$2,704,990.36
2024-25	\$1,967,742.50	\$2,121,618.00	\$4,089,360.50	49%	51%	\$8.04	\$3,017,834.81
2025-26	\$1,919,544.11	\$2,007,359.00	\$3,926,903.11	49%	51%	\$6.76	\$3,407,261.95
2026-27	\$1,651,716.60	\$2,195,454.00	\$3,847,170.60	43%	57%	\$6.44	\$3,149,551.59

Following, are a few different graphs that break down the information in the chart above, and depicts trends from the 2014-15 school to this current school year.

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

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STEWARTR@ALMA.K12.WI.US



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To go along with the excellent news of continually decreasing our mill rate, during this same time period we have been able to decrease our referendum approved debt at a quicker rate than anticipated. On April 7th of 2015, voters approved the issuance of a general obligation bond not to exceed three million dollars. This huge ask and approval allowed the district to replace antiquated steam boilers and install a new geothermal heating and cooling system. Additional, new energy efficient univents were installed, along with the replacement of most window units and some major lighting upgrades. This \$3,000,000 bond was established over a twenty-year period, sunsetting in 2035. However, due to sound fiscal management and investment practices, the district will be able to pay off this remaining debt by the end of the 2027-28 school year, thus eliminating seven years of additional interest and costs. All of this adds up to excellent news for our District and all of our stakeholders.

I also would like to just take a moment to reflect on key renovations and improvements that have occurred over the past three years at Alma Area Schools. This list certainly is not comprehensive, but I wanted to highlight some major work. I think this list is something that we should all be very proud of as a district. It definitely demonstrates the forward thinking of our school district, as well as the financial planning to be able to pull these projects off all while maintaining a balanced and secure budget.

- Complete renovation of our Junior High and High School bathrooms
- Huge upgrade to our locker rooms
- New intercom system throughout our building and externally
- Large roof replacement project
- Alma Alumni wall
- Painting of the entire building exterior
- Parking lot maintenance
- New playground equipment and landscaping
- New classroom flooring
- New classroom furniture
- New kitchen equipment
- Gym floors refinished yearly
- New scoreboard, shot clocks, and scorer's table
- New electric bus and charging system
- New fabrication lab in the Junior High & High School
- Multiple pieces of new equipment in our Fab Lab and Industrial Tech area
- Complete renovation of our Elementary and staff bathrooms
- Addition of Elementary Fab Lab and equipment
- New school vehicles
- Updated district phone system
- New industrial dehumidifier units throughout the building for enhanced air quality

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

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As we continue to push forward and ensure that we are upgrading areas in a timely manner and providing our students with a variety of tools to be successful, we are continually examining areas of improvements. Some specific areas that we will be focusing on moving forward include:

- Upgrading our current fire alarm system
- Additional roof replacements
- New heating and air handler unit
- Potentially adding a new diesel bus to our fleet
- Upgrades to our industrial technology and shop area
- Additional equipment in our new fabrication lab
- Continue our upgrades to classroom flooring and furniture

To conclude, when factoring in all of the necessary yearly operational costs, our current staffing across the district, and these essential improvements, I can confidently state that we are operating within an overall stable budget for the 2026-2027 school year.

Every year's budget continues to reflect the administration and Board of Education's commitment to sound fiscal practice. The district's fund balance is at a healthy state, with this year's beginning balance at \$3,407,261.95. It is important to understand that the fund balance is not cash sitting in the bank. The fund balance is made up of all the District's assets versus deficits. The ultimate goal is to have a fund balance that allows the district to pay for yearly expenditures and not have to short term borrow while waiting for revenues to come in.

Furthermore, it is important to note that this year we are predicting that our fund balance will decline by just over \$280,000 mainly due to some essential building projects. The two most notable of these upgrades will be a very large roof replacement and the addition of a new air handler unit. Both of these projects are a necessity and will continue to successfully set up the district for years down the road.

The District of Alma stakeholders have done an excellent job handling the financial challenges that have been thrown our way. There is no doubt that many challenges still lie ahead for our district. However, we will continue to use sound fiscal practices and do our research to ensure that we are making the best decisions possible for our students, staff, families and communities.

Investing in our children's public education is the only sound investment we can make to ensure our way of life continues into the next generation.

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

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The District of Alma is certainly 100% committed to providing the best education possible for our students with the revenues that we have to work with. We continue to take a very proactive educational approach where we aim to personalize instruction for all students so that we can maximize their fullest potential. We are continually adding curriculum resources, adapting instructional approaches, and incorporating emerging technologies to best prepare our students for a world that is changing faster than ever before. We also look to provide educational experiences that go beyond the curriculum so that we can ensure we are developing critical thinkers that have the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively to achieve success. History has shown that our students are college and career ready when they exit our doors, but we are committed to pushing that preparation further. At the end of this packet, you will see our Portrait of a Rivermen document. I included this one-page document as I believe it provides an excellent snapshot of the learning experiences and authentic opportunities that we provide all students. Additionally, our elementary and secondary schools continually receive “exceed” expectation ratings each year on State standardized assessments and our school district report card. Finally, although we are seeing lower student counts in our early grade levels, our overall enrollment has remained fairly balanced, due to a large number of students and families electing to open enroll into our school district every year. I believe this balanced enrollment is definitely a direct correlation with the hard work that we do every single day and reflects the excellent school system that we have in place.

Year	Enrollment in Building	Open Enrolled In	Open Enrolled Out	Summer School FTE
2017-18	242	44	11	11
2018-19	246	46	17	12
2019-20	241	41	23	15
2020-21	240	44	28	6
2021-22	246	45	33	14
2022-23	238	46	33	13
2023-24	247	61	29	17
2024-25	263	72	28	19
2025-26	264	77	25	18
2026-27	245	66	26	20
Average	247	54	25	15

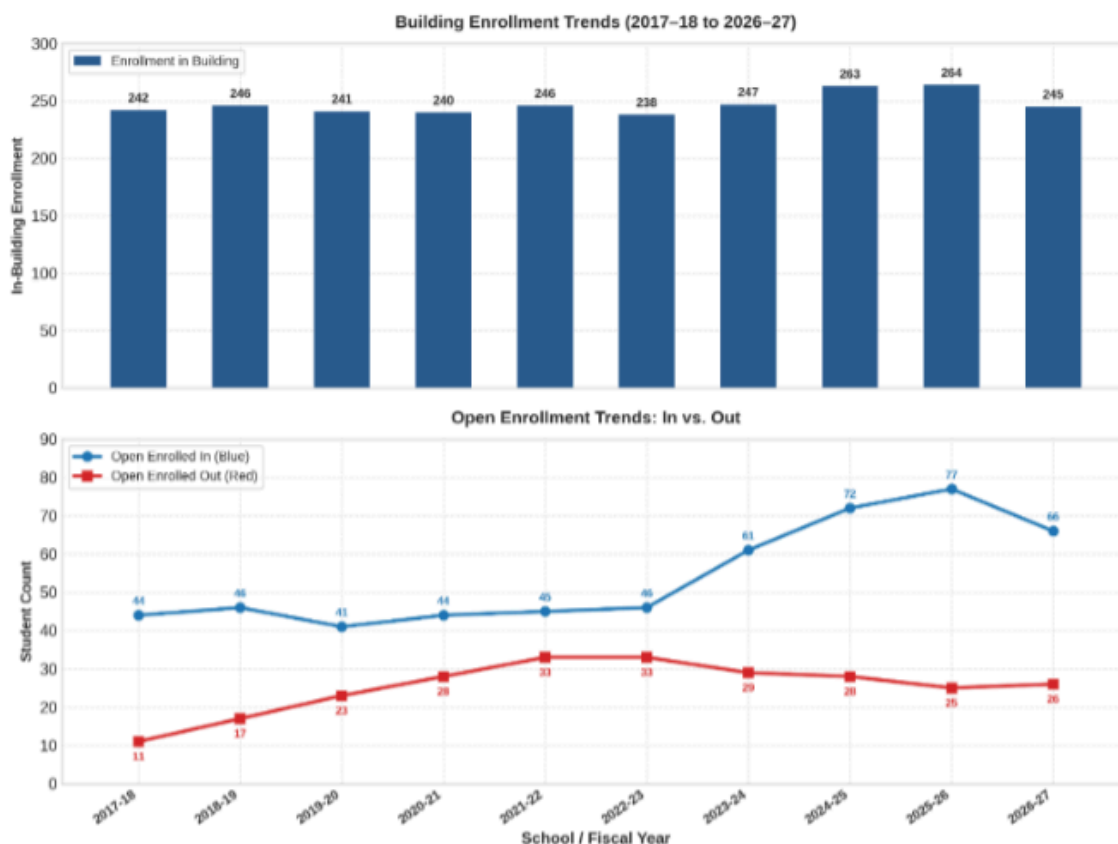
SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

STEWART@ALMA.K12.WI.US

Mr. Rob Stewart, Superintendent



Following this table, you will see a couple graphs that further break down the information presented on the previous page. The bar graph is a visual representation of the number of students attending school in Alma from the 2017-18 school year to present day. This number combines resident students attending school here, along with nonresident students that open enroll into our district and attend here. In short, this number represents the actual number of students that walk into our building on a daily basis. Although this number has definitely fluctuated over the years, when comparing it to the average, it has remained relatively stable throughout the 10-year period. The second graph is a line plot that compares the number of students open enrolling into our district, versus those resident students open enrolling out. As you can see, we have always had more students electing to enroll into our district then out, and those numbers have risen significantly throughout the past four years, with the exception of a slight decline this year.

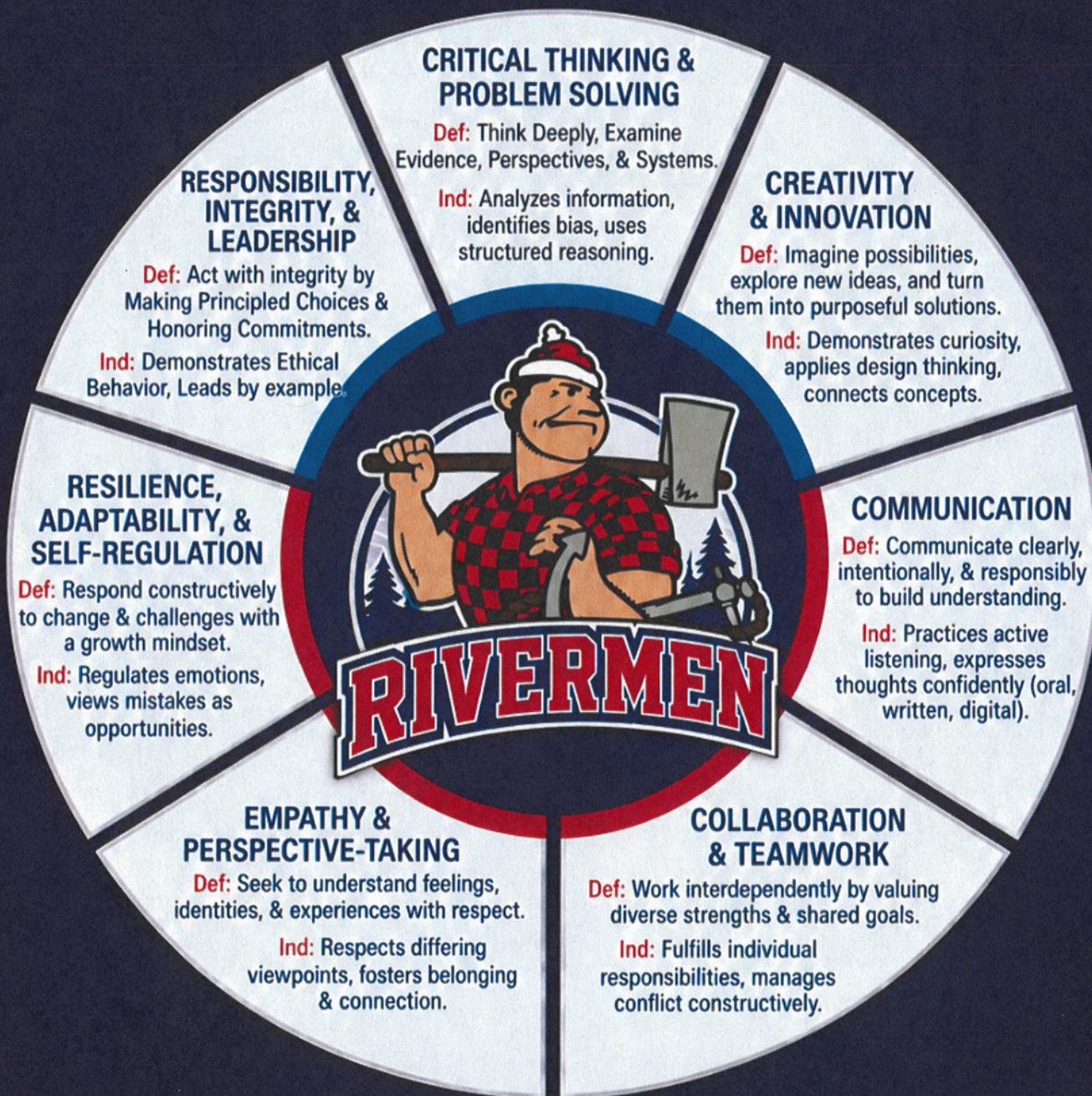


I would like to conclude by thanking all of the students, parents, district staff, school board and community members that strongly support these efforts. If you have any additional questions, or would like to tour our building and see firsthand many of the improvements that have been made, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. Thanks, and make it a great day!

Rob Stewart

Superintendent of Alma Schools

ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICT PORTRAIT OF A RIVERMEN



TRADITION • PRIDE • EXCELLENCE

ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATES ARE RESILIENT, SELF-DIRECTED LEARNERS WHO THINK CRITICALLY, COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY, AND EMBRACE CHALLENGES WITH CURIOSITY AND PERSISTENCE. THEY ACT WITH EMPATHY, INTEGRITY, AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY, CONTRIBUTING MEANINGFULLY TO THEIR COMMUNITIES. PREPARED FOR LIFELONG GROWTH, THEY LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE AND A COMMITMENT TO MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE.



S1610 High School Road
Alma, WI 54610



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www.alma.k12.wi.us



NEWS



ALMA AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Promoting Life-long Learning and Achievement



From left to right:

Back: Dan Elsenpeter, Deborah Noll, Kris Johansen;
Front: Corey Hanson, Todd Myren



PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The School District of Alma recognizes that, in a just society, each person is worthy of respect, regardless of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, talents, abilities, and economic status. Students need to develop feelings of self-worth and confidence in order to experience a sense of pride and accomplishment. Therefore, expectations shall be high, yet realistic and reasonable. The values of fairness, generosity, and tolerance shall be commonplace. The social and cultural climate of the school will be based on mutual trust and respect held by both students and staff.

We believe that it is essential that we understand the ways and means of our former generations in order to appreciate and enhance our future. It is important that the school looks at current and future technological advances as tools for learning, understanding, and achievement.

The School District of Alma must serve as a reflection of the needs, values, strengths, and aspirations of the community. The success of its mission is dependent upon the collaborative work of the school, home, and community resources to provide the best educational opportunities for all.

MEET YOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Todd Myren, President
Corey Hanson, Vice President
Deborah Noll, Secretary
Dan Elsenpeter, Treasurer
Kris Johansen, Member



Welcome to Kris Johansen! Thank
you for your willingness to sit on
our school board!



School Board
Meeting Minutes

ALMA PRIDE





Mr. Jake Dodge - dodgej@alma.k12.wi.us

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

News

WISCONSIN EDUCATION FAIR

Juniors had the opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Education Fair to meet with representatives from prospective colleges across the country and narrow down their post-secondary options. With over 60 colleges and two-year institutions represented, students had ample opportunities to learn about their future pathways.



WORLD DAIRY EXPO

Ms. Jumbeck and her students traveled to Madison, WI for the World Dairy Expo. Exploring the latest technology and innovations in agriculture made for an eye-opening and educational experience.

HOMECOMING

The Student Council did a fantastic job preparing for the Eagles/Eaglets breakfast held on Friday morning of Homecoming week. Our elementary students were thrilled to hang out with their high school Eagles!



FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

The FAFSA opened on October 1st. Universities across the UW System have priority deadlines starting as early as January 1, 2027. We strongly recommend that seniors and their families submit the FAFSA before the end of the calendar year to maximize aid opportunities.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Jake Dodge
dodgej@alma.k12.wi.us

News



FALL CLEAN-UP

Juniors and seniors spent an afternoon cleaning up around Alma and tending to local flower beds to prepare the community for fall and winter. As always, the students took great initiative and did a wonderful job keeping Alma looking its best.



HEAVENLY HATS

The Student Council organized a Heavenly Hats fundraiser, raising \$500 to support children fighting cancer. The funds raised will help purchase brand-new hats to bring comfort and encouragement to patients during treatment. Great job, everyone!



RIVERLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Eleven juniors signed up to serve as ambassadors for the Riverland Energy Cooperative. Throughout the school year, these students will participate in meetings to learn about the energy industry and regional energy resources.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Jake Dodge
dodgej@alma.k12.wi.us

News



CVTC 8TH GRADE EXPLORATION

8th graders attended interactive breakout sessions at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC), exploring various hands-on modules focused on technical career pathways and future vocational choices.



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Our annual Veterans Day Program will take place on November 11, 2026, starting at 9:00 AM. We invite community members, families, and local veterans to join us in honoring those who have served.

RED RIBBON WEEK

Alma Schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week, the nation's largest and oldest drug-prevention awareness program, where schools and communities unite to take a visible stand against drugs and commit to healthy lifestyles. On Wednesday, Oct. 28 students wore red to show their support. Elementary students also received ribbons, pencils, and coloring sheets to celebrate the week.

SAY NO TO DRUGS

RED RIBBON WEEK

WEDNESDAY 28, 2026

MEANING

Red ribbon week is an annual drug use prevention and awareness campaign. Recognized all over the nation, this is a time for education on prescription drug misuse, illegal drugs, and drug violence. It began in 1985 and has been celebrated since.

"Make a difference. Be a hero. Stay drug free."

WEAR RED WEDNESDAY

Illustration of a red t-shirt and red pants.

PARTICIPATE

Wear RED on Wednesday!
Pin a red ribbon to your clothes.
Interact with the bulletin board.
Attend a drug-prevention talk.
Donate to the cause.
Share your story.
Read more at redribbon.org

STAFF UPDATE

2026-2027

MRS. JILL RITCHIE

My name is Jill Ritchie, and I am excited to join Alma as the new 3rd grade teacher. This is my 18th year of teaching, with the majority of my career spent in middle school. I made a conscious choice to move to elementary education because I saw deficits in my students that I wanted to help address earlier in a child's educational journey.



I grew up in Durand, WI, and graduated in 1994. I earned my BS in Education from UW-La Crosse and my Master of Education from St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

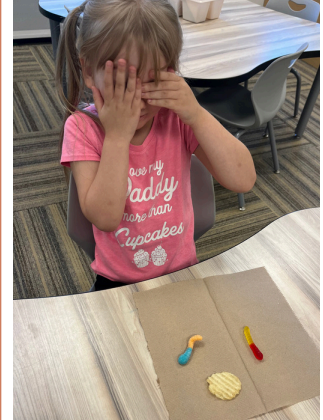
I was drawn to Alma because of its wonderful community culture, and I also have a personal connection to the district — my mom served as the elementary principal there about 30 years ago. As I begin my first year, I am most looking forward to helping my students excel academically and continuing to foster in them a genuine love of learning.

Since arriving, I have been struck by how welcoming the staff and families have been. Everyone has gone out of their way to make me feel at home, and that sense of community has made the transition into a new district feel seamless. I also deeply appreciate the resources available to teachers here and the tremendous amount of support we receive — it's clear that Alma is invested in helping its teachers succeed, which in turn allows us to give our best to our students.

On a personal note, I have been married to my husband, Eric, for 20 years, and we live in Eau Claire with our three beautiful daughters.

"SENSE-SATIONAL" KINDER CLASS

Mrs. Mueller

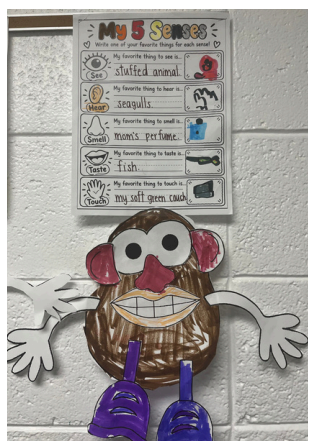


Our kindergarteners had a "sense-sational" week learning all about the 5 senses!

We participated in hands-on activities that helped us explore each of our senses. For sight, students covered their eyes while their safety partner helped guide them around the classroom. For hearing, we closed our eyes and listened to different animal noises to see if we could identify the animal by sound alone. For taste, we tried sour, sweet, and salty foods. Some students even chose to close their eyes for a true taste-test surprise! For touch, Mrs. Mueller prepared 6 brown paper bags with a mystery object hidden inside each one. Students could use only their sense of touch to feel inside the bags and identify the mystery objects. For hearing, we went outside on a scavenger hunt to sounds we could hear on our playground.

To end our week, we made homemade applesauce! A huge thank you to Carrol and Sonya Iberg for donating the apples. Students took turns peeling the apples and loved smelling the apples as they cooked down. Our classroom smelled amazing!

What a fun week of exploring, discovering, and learning with our five senses! We definitely put our senses to work!



THE BEST PART OF ME

Grade 3

Mrs. Ritchie

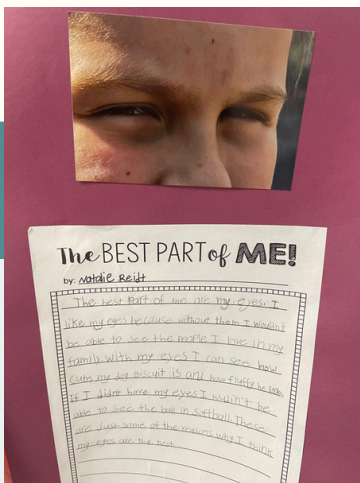
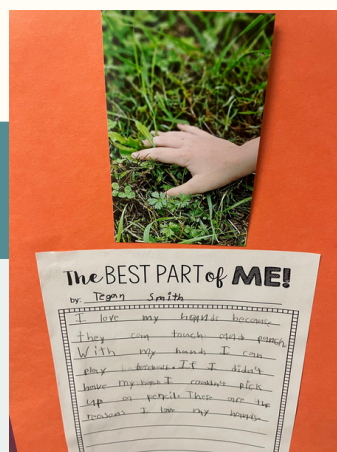
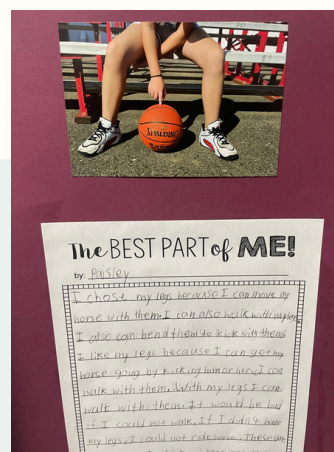
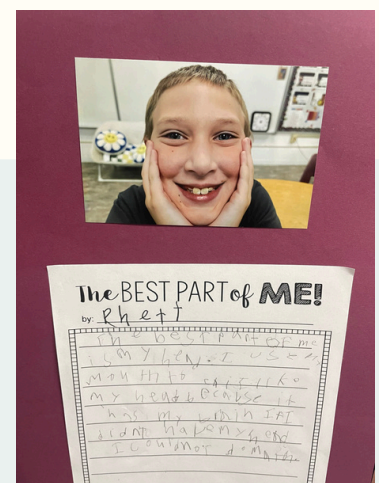
Third Graders Shine in a Special Writing and Photo Project

Mrs. Ritchie's third graders recently completed a special writing and photo project called "The Best Part of Me." Each student chose their favorite part of themselves and wrote about why they like it.

The project began with a read-aloud of *The Best Part of Me* by Wendy Ewald. Inspired by the book, students drafted and polished their writing, then paired it with a photograph of their chosen feature.

Along the way, students practiced organizing ideas and supporting them with reasons, while learning to see themselves with kindness and appreciation.

We're so proud of our third graders' creativity and effort. Ask your child to share their "Best Part of Me" project during conferences!



ritchiej@alma.k12.wi.us

TRACK & FIELD DAY

alma elementary

Monday the 19th was a beautiful day for the elementary's Track and Field day! From high jump to relay racing, the entire elementary student body was given the opportunity to participate in some friendly competition and enjoy the day outside. Split up into grade groups, each student was able to choose the events they wanted to compete in, including high jump, long jump, jump rope, softball throw, Frisbee toss, hurdles, 50 meter dash, 100 meter dash, 400 meter dash, and relay. Congratulations to all our event winners as well!

This event was a blast, all thanks to Phy. Ed. teacher Tim Ruff, paraprofessionals Hailee Mcquistion & Melanie Inglett, student volunteers: Hunter Schmalzriedt, Garrett Krause, Max Carothers, Kevin Bauer, Anders Johansen, Macy Stewart, Nessa Noll, Bella Brouillard, Alivia Elliott, Emma McMahon, and many more. A huge thank you to all those who took time off their day to come out and watch too! It truly does make all the difference.

We would like to give special shout-outs to all the organizations and people who contributed as well: Dairyland Power, the Alma P.I.E. Club, Chippewa Valley Sporting Goods, Betty Glander and Rivermen Industries, and more.



Article and Photo Credit: Olivia Austin

RIVERMEN CLUBHOUSE

**NOW
ACCEPTING
NEW
ENROLLMENTS!**

Rivermen Clubhouse is Alma's after-school program designed to support the emotional, social, and physical growth of our students in a safe and welcoming environment. Our caring staff offers fun, age-appropriate activities, academic support, and plenty of opportunities for creativity and connection.



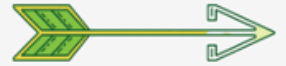
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING AVAILABLE TO MEET YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS!



For more information, please contact
Steph Noll (nollst@alma.k12.wi.us) or Skyler Case (cases@alma.k12.wi.us)
or call the office at 608-685-4416.

[Rivermen Clubhouse Handbook](#)

IN PERSON SESSIONS THIS FALL!
2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



RIGHT START

ALMA AREA SCHOOL | MONTHLY PROGRAM |
DESIGNED FOR AGE 4 AND UNDER

PROGRAM FACILITATOR: ALI MURRAY

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO FOSTER EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
- PLAY, CRAFTS, GAMES, MUSIC, BOOKS & MORE
- EARLY LITERACY FOCUS
- OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY WITH LEVEL PEERS

SIGN UP NOW!

EMAIL:
NOLLST@ALMA.K12.WI.US
OR
PFEILSTICKERA@ALMA.K12.WI.US

SCHEDULE:

DATE | THEME | TIME &
LOCATION

WED SEP 16, 2026 | FALL FUN | 6-7 PM ALMA CAFETERIA
WED OCT 21, 2026 | HARVEST | 6-7 PM ALMA CAFETERIA
WED NOV 18, 2026 | THANKFUL | 6-7 PM ALMA CAFETERIA
WED DEC 16, 2026 | WINTER | 6-7 PM ALMA CAFETERIA
WED JAN 20, 2027 | NEW YEAR | 6-7 PM ALMA CAFETERIA
WED FEB 17, 2027 | HEARTS | 6-7 PM ALMA CAFETERIA
WED MAR 17, 2027 | SPRING | 6-7 PM ALMA CAFETERIA
WED APR 21, 2027 | EARTH DAY | 6-7 PM ALMA CAFETERIA
WED MAY 12, 2027 | SUNSHINE | 6-7 PM ALMA CAFETERIA

IT'S FREE FOR FAMILIES!

BAND UPDATE

draxler-ruffj@alma.k12.wi.us



THANK YOU FROM THE ALMA MUSIC CLUB

The Alma Music Club would like to sincerely thank the following parents who worked in the concession stand this fall season: **Bobbi Blim, Amp and Pat Lisowski, Sandra and Jeff Kitzmann, Amanda Burrow, Meg Ruff, Ashley Brouillard, Sara Bowler, and Kelsey Wall.** Thank you to the following students who also helped out: **Lorna Lisowski, Olivia Austin, Emma Olson and Victoria Austin.**

A special thank you goes out to **Dan Pearson** and **Rob Stewart** for grilling brats for homecoming. We also need to thank **Carol Wieczorek** and **Betty Glander** for all their behind the scenes work. We couldn't have done this without your help and continued support.

I will be stepping down from the Music Club concession stand and am looking to hand over the duties to new people next year.

This would involve:

- Setting up the concession room at 4:30 PM before the game and starting the food
- Being on hand throughout the entire game if needed
- Helping to clean up after the game and do all the dishes/utensils
- Take care of the change box

I will continue to organize workers and make sure all food/drink is ordered.

Please contact me if you are interested. The Alma Music Department sincerely thanks you very much! Go Eagles!

CONCERTS

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Alma and Pepin High School music students will be performing for the Veteran's Day program on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 9 AM at the Alma High School.

9-12 HOLIDAY CONCERT

Monday, December 14, 2026
Pepin High School, 7 PM

6-8 HOLIDAY CONCERT

Monday, December 21, 2026
Alma High School, 7 PM

BAND UPDATE

draxler-ruffj@alma.k12.wi.us

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

JR. HIGH SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2027

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

ALL seventh and eighth grade band students will be participating in the Jr. High Solo and Ensemble Festival in Whitehall on January 30. A bus will take the students to and from Whitehall. The contest will start at 8 AM and students will be scheduled throughout the day. Parents, relatives, and friends are welcome to attend. A complete schedule of events will be handed out to students a week before the contest.

SR. HIGH LARGE ENSEMBLE SOLO/ENSEMBLE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2027

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

This would involve all large choirs (woodwind choir, clarinet choir, brass choir, etc...)

SR. HIGH SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2027

G-E-T HIGH SCHOOL

All band and choir Sr. High solos and small ensembles



BAND UPDATE

draxler-ruffj@alma.k12.wi.us

HONORS BANDS

2026 UW-EAU CLAIRE HONORS BAND

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

PABLO CENTER, EAU CLAIRE

Congratulations **Lorna Lisowski, Olivia Austin, and Roark Rundquist** for being selected to participate in the 2026 UW-Eau Claire Honors Band!

The concert will be performed at the Pablo Center in downtown Eau Claire.

2026 DAIRYLAND HONORS BAND

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS!

Alma: Nessa Noll, Deysi Hernandez-Gomez, Olivia Austin, Ashlyn Ebersold, Sarah Burrow, Grace Blank, Savannah Danzinger, Imani Lopez-Elliott, Emma McMahon, Bella Brouillard, Thomas Lorenz, Victoria Austin, Owen Brownell, and Brynn Midtovne.

Pepin: Kenzie Bocksell, Olivia Post, and Noah Pawlak

The evening concert will be at 5 PM in Whitehall High School's Sunset Auditorium.

Admission for the concert is \$4.00 for adults.



BAND UPDATE

draxler-ruffj@alma.k12.wi.us

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL HONORS ORCHESTRA

Lorna Lisowski, daughter of Pat and Amp Lisowski, was selected by audition to participate in the 2026 Wisconsin All State Honors Orchestra! Lorna will be performing at the University of Wisconsin, Madison on Thursday, October 29 at 3:30 PM.

Congratulations Lorna on this amazing achievement!

Attending her concert in Madison will be: Mrs. D-R, Amanda Burrow, Sarah Burrow, Olivia Austin, Brynn Midtovne, Emma Olson, and Ashlyn Ebersold.

2026-27 BASKETBALL PEP BAND SCHEDULE

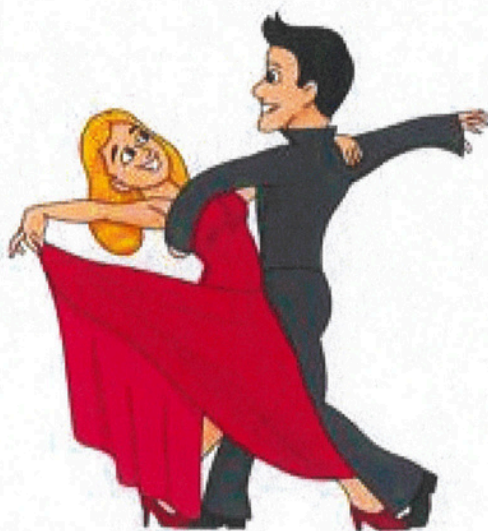
The bus leaves at 6:15 PM!

Date	Event	Location
Tuesday, November 17	Girls vs. Eau Claire Immanuel	Alma
Friday, December 11	Boys vs. Eleva-Strum	Alma
Friday, December 18	Girls vs. Whitehall	Alma
Friday, January 8	Boys vs. Augusta	Pepin
Friday, January 15	Girls vs. Indee-Gilmanton	Pepin
Friday, January 22	Boys vs. Indee-Gilmanton	Pepin
Tuesday, January 26	Girls vs. Alma Center Lincoln	Alma
Friday, January 29	Girls vs. Blair-Taylor	Pepin
Friday, February 5	Boys vs. Blair-Taylor	Pepin
Tuesday, February 16	Boys vs. Alma Center Lincoln	Alma
Thursday, February 18	Girls vs. CFC	Pepin
Thursday, February 25	Boys vs. CFC	Alma

You can either ride the shuttle back after pep band or ride back after the game with the team. **If NOT riding the bus I must have parents permission by 3:30 pm the day of pep band.**

The Alma-Pepin High School Band Presents...

Big Band Dance



Saturday, February 20, 2027

7:00 pm.

Alma High School Gym

Adults: \$4.00 Preschool, students, Senior Citizens: Free

Jazz Band, Vocals, Polka Band

Fun, food, and dancing for the entire family!

Congrats!



JOAN DRAXLER-RUFF

ALMA & PEPIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUSIC EDUCATOR HONORED WITH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

WAUNAKEE, WIS. (OCT. 16, 2026) – WISCONSIN SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION (WSMA) AND WISCONSIN MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION (WMEA) ARE PROUD TO SPOTLIGHT THEIR 2026 WISCONSIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING MUSIC RECIPIENT, PEPIN AND ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUSIC EDUCATOR JOAN L. DRAXLER-RUFF.

THIS AWARD RECOGNIZES PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS WHO INSPIRE STUDENTS WITH THEIR OWN PASSION FOR MUSIC. WSMA AND WMEA PRESIDENTS STEVE MICHAELS AND RANDAL SWIGGUM, RESPECTIVELY, WILL PRESENT DRAXLER-RUFF WITH THE AWARD AT THE ANNUAL WISCONSIN STATE MUSIC CONFERENCE ON OCT. 28, IN MADISON.

DRAXLER-RUFF HAS BEEN TEACHING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS. IN THAT TIME, SHE HAS INSPIRED STUDENTS WITH A STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO THE MUSIC EDUCATION PROFESSION BY CONNECTING MUSIC TO SOMETHING LARGER AND MORE MEANINGFUL THAN JUST ANOTHER CLASSROOM SUBJECT; THIS IS EVIDENCED BY HER PROGRAM'S 55% STUDENT BODY PARTICIPATION RATE. WROTE DRAXLER-RUFF, "I OFTEN TELL MY STUDENTS AND AUDIENCES, 'MUSIC IS THE CURE.' MY GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY STUDENT I TEACH NOT ONLY UNDERSTANDS THAT TRUTH – BUT CARRIES IT WITH THEM FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES."

WSMA AND WMEA CONGRATULATE DRAXLER-RUFF ON RECEIVING THIS AWARD AND EXTEND THEIR GRATITUDE FOR HER SERVICE TO MUSIC EDUCATION.

SPORT NEWS

WINTER EDITION



WHAT'S NEW IN SPORTS

Weekly sports events are posted on our website via the Eagle Weekly.

All School Events are also posted on our website and updated regularly.

Please watch for all the upcoming sports details coming soon. If you have any further questions please contact the Alma Area School.



Betty Glander
Alma Athletic Director
glanderb@alma.k12.wi.us



Thank You

FROM: ALMA AREA SCHOOLS



Buffalo County
Quilts of Valor

Handmade hats and
mittens

Wayne Babros &
the Alma Lion's
Club

School Supplies

LuAnn Flury

Classroom Supplies,
Playground Toys, &
Spare Clothing

Nelson VFW

Funds for Band
Program

The Henthorn
Family

Books

Cardinal Health
School Supplies

Bob & Cheryl
Traun

Funds for
Academics and
Sports

Thomas Industries

Steel Sheets for
Rivermen Industries

Pilgrim's Pride (Jeff
Back)

Chicken products
for Farm to Fork
Class

Alma Lions Club

Funds for Trap
Team

The Curtis Family
School Supplies

The Grove Golf
Course

Tee it Up for
Teachers

Ron & Joyce Wanek
Foundation

Funds for STEM
activities

Dairyland Power,
PIE, and
Chippewa Valley
Sporting Goods

Funds for
Elementary Track
and Field Day T-
Shirts

Waumandee State
Bank

Gym Shoes

2026 November MENUS

Offered Daily:
Breakfast: Choice of Cereal/Oatmeal, WG
 Toast, Fresh Fruit & Juice
Lunch: Single Serve Salad
Milk: FF White, 1% White, FF Chocolate

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Breakfast: Donut Holes, Sausage Links, Oranges Lunch: Crispy Chicken Fillet, Baked Beans, Fruit Cocktail	3 Breakfast: Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown Lunch: B4-5: Mini Corn Dogs, Buttered Noodles, 6-12: Philly Sandwich, Peas, Peaches	4 Breakfast: Waffle Bowl, Fresh Fruit, Yogurt Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese, Hot Dog, Broccoli, Pears	5 Breakfast: Orange Julius, Assorted Breads, Apples Lunch: Mostaccioli, Garlic Toast, Green Beans, Strawberries	6 No School Parent/Teacher Conferences
9 Breakfast: Scone, Yogurt, Banana Lunch: Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Baked Beans, Strawberries	10 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, Bacon, Apples Lunch: Nacho Supreme, Corn, Salsa, Fruit Cocktail	11 Breakfast: Hot Pocket, Toast, Oranges Lunch: Veteran's Day Brunch	12 Breakfast: Breakfast Nachos Lunch: B4-5: Pretzel w/ Cheese, 6-12: Pulled Pork Sliders, Coleslaw, Peaches	13 Breakfast: French Toast Sticks, Sausage Links, Applesauce Lunch: KFC Bowl, Biscuit, Corn, Oranges
16 Breakfast: Long John, Yogurt, Apple Slices Lunch: Cheeseburger Wedge Bowl, Green Beans, Peaches	17 Breakfast: Fruit Pizza, Banana Lunch: Italian Club Sub, Baked Beans, Pasta Salad, Pears	18 Breakfast: Smoothie, Protein Balls, Oranges Lunch: Chicken Alfredo, Breadstick, Broccoli, Mandarin Oranges	19 Breakfast: Coffee Cake, Colby Cheese Omelet, Applesauce Lunch: Thanksgiving Dinner	20 Breakfast: Breakfast Bagel, Hashbrown Lunch: Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Carrots, Fresh Fruit
23 No School Staff In-Service	24 No School Staff In-Service	25 No School	26 No School Thanksgiving	27 No School
30 Breakfast: Muffin, Yogurt, Oranges Lunch: Build a Burger, French Fries, Baked Beans, Watermelon	<p>"This institution is an equal opportunity provider." Menu is subject to change.</p>			

2026 December MENUS

Offered Daily:
Breakfast: Choice of Cereal/Oatmeal, WG Toast, Fresh Fruit & Juice
Lunch: Single Serve Salad
Milk: FF White, 1% White, FF Chocolate

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Breakfast: Pancake Stick Lunch: Walking Taco, Corn on the Cob, Salsa	2 Breakfast: Yogurt Parfait Lunch: Stuffed French Toast	3 Breakfast: Donut Lunch: Oven Roasted Chicken Dinner, Carrots	4 Breakfast: Eagle Scrambler Skillet Lunch: B4-5: Chicken Strips, 6-12: Crispy Chicken Wrap
7 Breakfast: Uncrustable, Oranges Lunch: B4-5: Boneless Wings, 6-12: Wings, Baked Beans, Jo-Jo's	8 Breakfast: Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown Lunch: B4-5: Corn Dog, 6-12: Baked Potato Bar, Broccoli	9 Breakfast: Waffle Bowl, Fresh Fruit, Yogurt Lunch: Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Breadstick	10 Breakfast: Orange Julius, Assorted Breads Lunch: Mandarin Orange Chicken	11 Breakfast: Rivermen Special Lunch: Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza
14 Breakfast: Scone, Cheese Stick, Applesauce/Juice Lunch: Chicken Fillet, Baked Beans	15 Breakfast: Combo Bar, Toast Lunch: B4-5: Mini Corn Dogs, Buttered Noodles, 6-12: Baked Potato Bar, Broccoli	16 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese, Hot Dog	17 Breakfast: Breakfast Nachos Lunch: B4-5: TBD, 6-12: Hot Beef Sandwich	18 Breakfast: French Toast Sticks, Sausage Lunch: Pizza Hotdish
21 Breakfast: Donut Hole, Yogurt Drink, Juice/Banana Lunch: Grilled Chicken Breast, Green Beans	22 Breakfast: Fruit Pizza Lunch: Nacho Supreme, Corn, Salsa	23 No School Winter Break	24 No School Christmas Eve	25 No School Christmas Day

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Menu is subject to change.

2027 January

MENUS

Offered Daily:

Breakfast: Choice of Cereal/Oatmeal, WG Toast, Fresh Fruit & Juice

Lunch: Single Serve Salad

Milk: FF White, 1% White, FF Chocolate

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Breakfast: Scone Lunch: Sloppy Joes, Green Beans, Fresh Fruit	5 Breakfast: Pancake Stick Lunch: Meatball Sub, Baked Beans	6 Breakfast: Yogurt Parfait Lunch: Chicken Alfredo, Breadstick, Broccoli	7 Breakfast: Donut Lunch: B4-5: Sweet & Sour Chicken, 6-12: General Tso's Chicken	8 Breakfast: Eagle Scrambler Skillet Lunch: Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza
11 Breakfast: Donut Hole Lunch: Burger	12 Breakfast: Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown Lunch: Walking Taco, Corn on the Cob	13 Breakfast: Waffle Bowl, Fresh Fruit, Yogurt Lunch: Stuffed French Toast	14 Breakfast: Orange Julius, Assorted Breads Lunch: Oven Roasted Chicken Dinner, Carrots	15 Breakfast: Rivermen Special Lunch: B4-5: Chicken Strips, 6-12: Crispy Chicken Wrap
18 Breakfast: Uncrustable Lunch: B4-5: Boneless Wings, 6-12: Wings	19 Breakfast: Combo Bar, Toast Lunch: B4-5: Corn Dog, 6-12: Baked Potato Bar	20 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll Lunch: Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Breadstick	21 Breakfast: Breakfast Nachos Lunch: Teriyaki Chicken, Fried Rice	22 No School Staff In-Service
25 Breakfast: Breakfast Bento Lunch: Chicken Fillet, Baked Beans	26 Breakfast: Fruit Pizza Lunch: B4-5: Mini Corn Dogs, Buttered Noodles, 6-12: Philly Sandwich	27 Breakfast: Smoothie, Protein Balls Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese, Hot Dog, Broccoli	28 Breakfast: Coffee Cake Lunch: Mostacoli	29 Breakfast: Breakfast Bagel Lunch: Pizza Hotdish

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Menu is subject to change.

Illness and Health Room Policy

If a child becomes ill at school, the parent is notified. Generally, a parent is requested to pick up the child if the student is not feeling well enough to participate in normal school activities and exhibit symptoms such as:

- fever of 100° or higher
- fever with rash, behavior change or other symptoms
- difficulty breathing or constant coughing
- vomiting or diarrhea
- severe or constant pain
- signs of serious communicable diseases which need treatment and can be spread to others

Make sure each school office has your work number, cell number if applicable, and the phone number of two alternate persons to call. Other suspected communicable diseases requiring exclusion from school include chicken pox, impetigo, head lice, strep infections, or whooping cough.

HOW LONG SHOULD YOUR CHILD STAY HOME?

Below are general guidelines to follow. Any time you have questions, please consult your medical provider or school nurse. Please report cases of communicable diseases to the school nurse or attendance secretary.

- **FEVER:** Stay home until child is fever free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication and child feels well enough to participate in normal school activities.
- **VOMITING:** Stay home if child has thrown up in the last 12 hours.
- **DIARRHEA:** Stay home if child has had diarrhea two or more times in the past 24 hours.
- **COUGH AND SHORTNESS OF BREATH:** Continuous coughing or wheezing that causes chest pain should be evaluated by medical provider (who can clear the student's return to school).
- **HEAD LICE:** Stay home until all live lice are removed and remove as many nits (eggs) as possible. Children can attend school with nits. The school nurse will check the child's head when they return. Continue daily nit removal.
- **CHICKEN POX:** Stay home until all blisters have scabbed and are dry.
- **STREP THROAT:** Stay home until 24 hours of antibiotic therapy and free of fever for 24 hours.
- **INFLUENZA:** Stay home until fever free for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication and child feels well enough to participate in normal school activities.
- **COVID:** If you are diagnosed with COVID or have COVID symptoms, please stay home and talk to the school nurse about return options/plan.

FIRST AID TREATMENT/STANDING ORDERS

To help address injury and illness, we do use some basic first aid products and emergency medications with permission from the school medical advisor (Dr. Hunt). Products used in the health room include either Triple antibiotic ointment or Bacitracin, (unless student has a known allergy), Callergy Clear or hydrocortisone cream (for itching), Bee Sting Wipes, Burn Spray, Cough drops, Contact solution, Vaseline, Lubriderm or CeraVe or similar lotion for dry skin. We have diphenhydramine (Benadryl) for mild allergic reactions and Epipens in the buildings in case of severe anaphylactic reactions that could possibly occur during the school day. Albuterol for students with asthma or audible wheezing will be available in case a student has forgotten to bring their albuterol medication to school. We also have Tylenol and Ibuprofen, that can be given with parental permission for minor aches or pain.

2026-2027 District Calendar

19 summer school days



November 2026

CLOSED: Nov 11, 26, 27, 28

HOURS: Mon • Wed • Fri 9-1 | Tue • Thu 9-6 | Sat • 9-12

YOUNG EXPLORERS

1 SPY

3:45-4:30 PM

NOVEMBER 3
1-2ND GRADE

NOVEMBER 17
3-5TH GRADE

ALMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

FIRST THURSDAY

MAKER'S CLASS

NOVEMBER 5
AT 10:30 AM

PUZZLE PUMPKIN

JOIN US FOR
PLEASANT
CONVERSATION
AND A CASUAL
CRAFT

**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

ALMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

SAIL CLASS

Stay Independent and Active for Life

Every Wednesday
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Register for this FREE program today!

S.A.I.L GOALS

- Stay active
- Stay independent
- Improve strength and balance
- Reduce fall related risks

PERFECT FOR

- Adults 50 and older
- Anyone seeking a healthy, active lifestyle
- Individuals looking to build strength and mobility

ALMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sunny Days Storytime

Join the fun with stories, songs, and activities. We will explore the sun and how the sun makes energy for the library through our solar panels.

November 13, 10am
Alma Public Library

Tuesday, November 17th @ 4:30pm

Stitch in Time

Bring your project, enjoy casual conversation, and a chance to learn and share.

ALMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Family Resource Programming for Buffalo and Pepin Counties

PLAY AND LEARN

Alma Public Library

Wednesday 10-11:30am
November 18th

ALMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Happy Birthday

Make & Take Cards

NOV. 18
10 A.M.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ALMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOOK CLUB

A Flickering Light

by Jane Kirkpatrick

Nov. 19 | 1:30pm

No BOOK CLUB
IN DECEMBER

ALMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOV 24

TEENS/TWEENS

CARDS HOLDER

3:45 pm

SNACKS PROVIDED

ALMA PUBLIC LIBRARY