EXCELLENCE IN ACTION ACROSS GRANTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT



GOOD NEWS

FIND HIGHLIGHTS FROM:

- Activities & Athletics
- Grantsburg Elementary
- Grantsburg Middle School
- Grantsburg High School
- iForward

GRANTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Boys 4x100 Relay Team Wins State Title, Sets School Record

The boys 4x100-meter relay team won the state championship at the State Track and Field Championship with a time of 43.04 seconds.

The winning performance also set a new school record, marking a historic achievement for the program. The state title and school record capped an outstanding season and reflected the team's speed, dedication, and hard work.



Pirates Earn All-Conference Honors Across Spring Sports

Grantsburg student-athletes earned numerous all-conference honors during the spring sports season, highlighting the dedication and success of Pirates competitors across track and field, softball, and baseball.

Track and Field First Team

100m Dash
Reece Jensen
200m Dash
Reece Jensen
Selah Prusinski
High Jump
Eden Burkman
110m Hurdles
Devan Holmstrom
300m Hurdles
Ayden Lozier
Selah Prusinski
Long Jump
Selah Prusinski
Pole Vault
Lauren Hallberg
Sawyer Spaight
Shot Put
Nick Hansen
4x100m Relay
Curtis Fenton
Emma Larson
Lauren Hallberg
Daxter Schultz
Eden Burkman
Kacey Rombach
Reece Jensen
Tyler McCormick
4x800m Relay
Jaxon Finch
Josh Hartke
Noah Hartke
Wyatt Hoefs
800m Run
Josh Hartke
1600m Run
Hattie Antonich
Josh Hartke

Track and Field Second Team

100m Dash
Eden Burkman
High Jump
Aliyah Henderson
Tyler McCormick
110m Hurdles
Ayden Lozier
100m Hurdles
Kayla Sawin
4x400m Relay
Elly Anderson
Hattie Antonich
Emma Larson
Kacey Rombach
Shot Put
Daxter Schultz
Stacie Hansen
Triple Jump
Emma Larson

Track and Field Honorable Mention

200m Dash
Tyler McCormick
800m Run
Hattie Antonich
1600m Run
Noah Hartke
3200m Run
Jett Jensen
300m Hurdles
Sam Rockensock
4x800m relay
Adalyn Henderson
Charli Bonander
Mari Anderson
Natallie Spafford
Discus
Nick Hansen
Pole Vault
Ayden Lozier
Triple Jump
Jacob Feit

Softball First Team

Piper Olson,
Conference Player of the Year

Ruby Rengo
Kaylie Moore
Presley Olson

Softball Second Team

Abby Rombach
Jayden Armato
Kylie Hansen

Softball Honorable Mention

Brynn Christopherson
Kate Peterson

Baseball First Team

Caleb Rombach
Levi Anderson
Caden Matheny

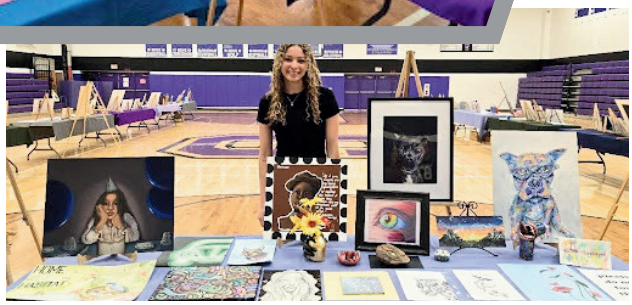
Baseball Second Team

Henry Quintana
Ryker Stelsel

Congratulations to all the Pirates athletes on their outstanding accomplishments and recognition during the spring season!







Senior Art Show

Sixteen student artists participated in this spring's Senior Art Show in the high school gym, showcasing a wide variety of 2-D and 3-D work. Pieces included charcoal drawings, large oil paintings, soapstone sculptures, stained glass, woodcrafts, metalwork, ceramics, origami, and more.

Organized by Mr. Tomczak, the annual Art Show highlights the creativity, growth, and craftsmanship of student artists as they share their final piece of work of their high school career. The event also provides an opportunity for students, families, staff, alumni, and community members to view and celebrate student expression.

The following were this year's participating student artists:

Johannah Adolphson
Dakotah Burkman
Lilianna Collins
Jayden Halvarson
Aliya Henderson
Jersey Hicks
Prestin Java
Samantha Kramer
Aiden Lake
Olivia Mathews
Teresa Meier
Addison Peasley
Kaitlyn Robin
Katrina Spafford
Gilma-Jean Wylie
Kaiden Xurvein

Thank you to everyone who helped support the setup and cleanup of the event.

GHS Celebrates America 250 Milestone

Grantsburg High School celebrated the upcoming U.S. Semiquincentennial exactly two months ahead of the nation's 250th birthday. Students enjoyed red, white, and blue popsicles while listening to patriotic music and learning about the significance of this historic milestone.

The celebration also highlighted Wisconsin's contributions to the nation, including pioneering the primary election system, workers' compensation laws, and the federal Social Security Act. Leading up to the event, students wrote reflections on what America means to them, which were used to create two large American flag displays. The school community joined in the celebration by wearing red, white, and blue.



GHS International Club Hosts Annual International Market

The International Club and Spanish classes recently hosted their annual International Market. Students sampled foods, played student-created games, and learned about cultures from around the world through interactive, hands-on experiences.











GHS Renovates Independent Living Skills Space

Renovations are underway at Grantsburg High School on an independent living skills space for students with applicable IEPs. This dedicated environment will simulate real-world settings, providing safe, hands-on opportunities to practice essential daily routines.

From cooking and basic home management to personal care, the space is designed to build self-reliance and confidence. This specialized space will help ensure students develop the practical skills needed to thrive after graduation.

Congratulations, Class of 2026!

As we celebrate our graduates, we recognize the growth, determination, and resilience they've shown throughout their journey.

We are proud of what you have accomplished, and even more proud of who you are becoming.

We wish you continued success in all you pursue.





GMS Hosts Spring Family Engagement Night

Grantsburg Middle School welcomed students and families for its annual Spring Family Engagement Night on June 2. This year's "Safe Summer Send Off" theme focused on helping families prepare for a fun, healthy, and safe summer while strengthening connections within the school community.

Hosted by the Grantsburg Middle School Hope Squad, Student Council, and Youth of Burnett County Prevention Coalition Leadership Group, the event featured bounce houses, lawn games, a safe summer resource fair, a free book fair, pizza, and snacks for families to enjoy together.

Thank you to Burnett County Behavioral Health and Public Health, Burnett Medical Center, the Youth of Burnett County Prevention Coalition, the Grantsburg School District Reading Program, the Grantsburg School District Nurse, Grantsburg Elementary School, and Get It Done Services and Rental for helping make the event a success.





YOBC Leadership Group Participates in Big Gust Days Parade

Members of the Grantsburg Middle School Youth of Burnett County (YOBC) Leadership Group participated in the Big Gust Days Parade, hosted by the Grantsburg Chamber of Commerce.

The student leaders proudly represented Grantsburg Middle School while promoting healthy decision making, substance use prevention, and positive leadership throughout the Grantsburg community and Burnett County.



GMS Hope Squad Hosts Spring Food Drive

The Grantsburg Middle School Hope Squad hosted a Spring Food Drive to benefit the Grantsburg Area Food Shelf, collecting 178 pounds of donated food.

Thanks to the generosity of students, families, and staff, the drive made a meaningful impact on the community. Grantsburg Middle School also extends its appreciation to the Hope Squad for their leadership and commitment to serving others.







GMS Student Groups Make a Positive Impact

Grantsburg Middle School extends its appreciation to the GMS Student Council, Hope Squad, and Youth of Burnett County (YOBC) Leadership Group for their ongoing efforts to support a positive school culture and community engagement.

Through their leadership and service, these student groups continue to make a meaningful impact across Grantsburg Middle School and the broader community.

GMS and GHS Students Create America 250 Flag Display

Grantsburg Middle School and Grantsburg High School recently came together to celebrate America 250 by creating two American flags made entirely from handwritten student reflections.

Students responded to prompts such as “What do you love about America?” and shared recognition of family members who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces. Their reflections were incorporated into the flag designs, creating a meaningful community tribute ahead of the nation’s 250th anniversary



GES Partners with CESA 11 and Harvard on Student Learning Research



Last year, Grantsburg Elementary School joined other CESA 11 districts in a research partnership with Harvard focused on student learning and instruction.

Third grade teachers implemented a six-week instructional unit in science and social studies designed to build background knowledge, strengthen vocabulary, and support concept mapping. Through the work, students engaged in deeper thinking and skill-building that strengthened overall learning outcomes.

Patricia Bergman, Elizabeth Moritz, and additional CESA 11 leaders attended the Summer Leadership Institute last summer and returned in June 2026 to continue the collaboration and share learning from the project.







GES Students Head Into Summer with New Books

Every student at Grantsburg Elementary School is heading into summer with a brand-new book, thanks to a generous donation from the Toys for Tots Literacy Program and the Burnett County Family Resource Center.

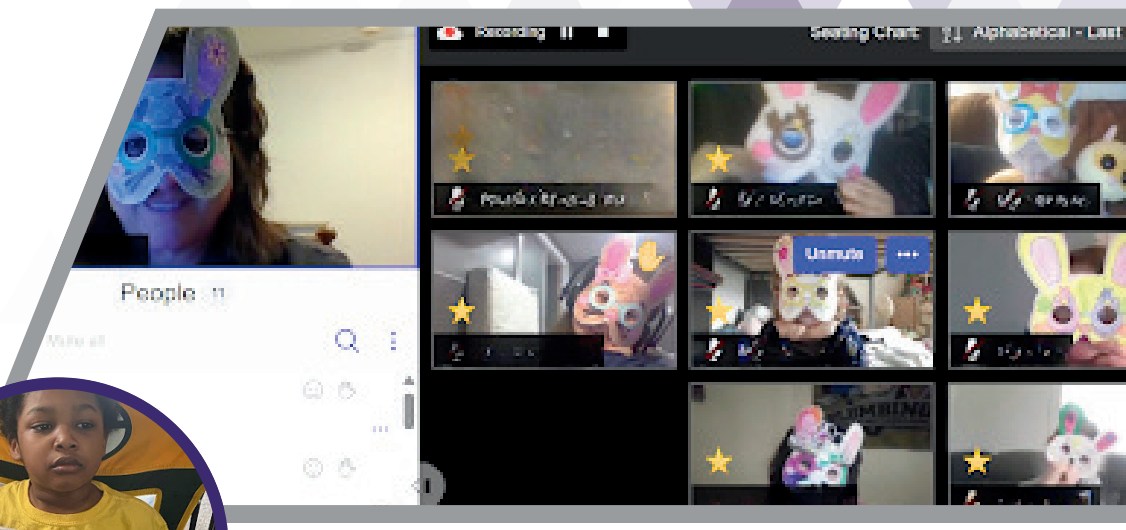




GES End-of-Year Fun Activities

Grantsburg Elementary School wrapped up the year with a variety of fun classroom celebrations and schoolwide activities. Students enjoyed experiences such as a glow room, silent dance party, classroom camping, and the 3rd Grade Pirate Cup.

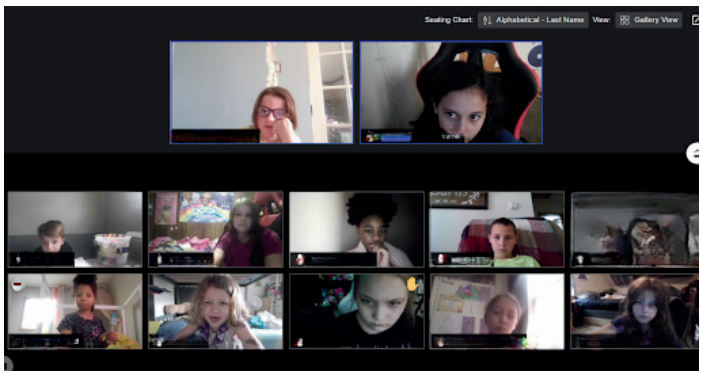
Second Grade Easter Celebration
Second grade students celebrated Easter with a creative holiday-themed activity. Students designed festive bunny masks and fully embraced the spirit of the day with imaginative, themed learning experiences.





Kindergarten and First Grade Virtual Buddy Day Recap
Kindergarten and first grade students participated in a Virtual Buddy Day connecting with peers through breakout rooms and collaborative activities. Students shared favorites, met new friends, and created portraits of their virtual buddies. The experience focused on building connections, creativity, and social-emotional learning across virtual spaces.

Second Grade Virtual Buddy Day Extension
Second grade students also participated in Virtual Buddy Day activities, building connections with peers through online collaboration. Students engaged in interactive conversations and creative work that supported friendship-building and communication skills in a virtual learning environment.







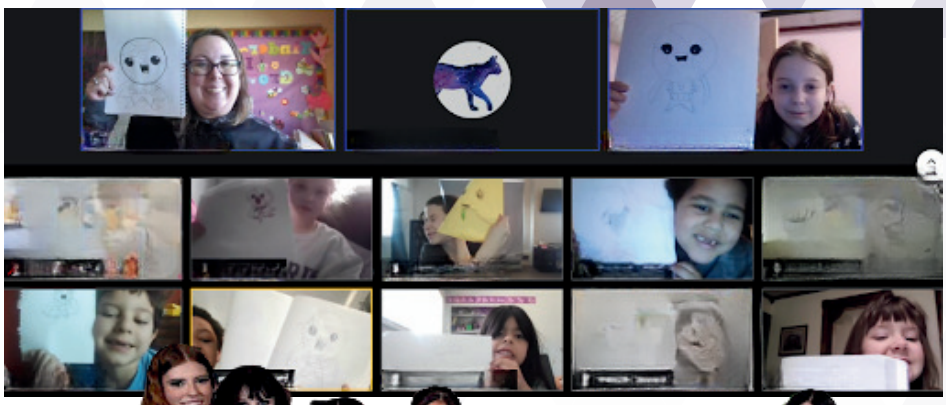
Student Spaceflight Experiment Headed to Space
Mrs. Kavajecz and student Lilyona Wallberg worked together at the iForward office on a mission that's truly out of this world. As part of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP), they successfully prepared and packaged the Fluid Mixture Enclosure (FME) that is now headed to space.

The team also prepared a second, identical "ground control" FME that will remain on Earth. Once the space-bound enclosure returns, both samples will be compared to study how microgravity impacts the experiment and its results.

This hands-on experience gives students the opportunity to engage in real scientific research connected to spaceflight and experimentation beyond Earth's atmosphere. Participation in SSEP provides a unique chance for students to apply classroom learning to authentic NASA-related scientific processes.

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program and proud of the students and staff involved in this unforgettable learning experience.

Kindergarten Earth Day Celebration
Kindergarten students celebrated Earth Day with special guests from the fifth grade Student Council. Students learned about environmental responsibility through a read-aloud and participated in an Earth-themed drawing activity designed to inspire creativity and stewardship for the planet.





First Grade Students Celebrate Earth Day
This special day provided students with an opportunity to learn, reflect, and celebrate our planet together.







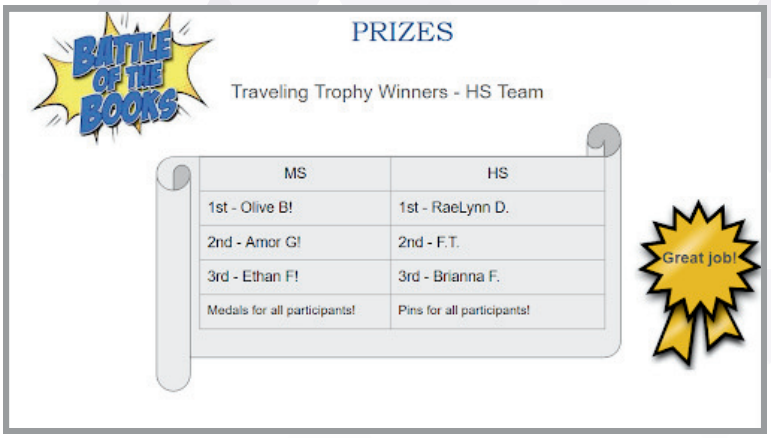


iForward Prom Celebration 2026
This year's Prom was held at the beautiful Wisconsin Hotel and Buffalo Phil's in the Wisconsin Dells, and it was truly a night to remember!

There was an incredible turnout, and seeing everyone dressed to impress was the highlight of the year. Students completely owned the dance floor, dancing the night away and making memories that will last a lifetime.

Thank you to everyone who helped bring this fairytale evening to life. So proud of these amazing students.

Battle of the Books 2026 Results
We are so proud of the amazing students who participated in the first annual Middle School vs. High School Battle of the Books! After an intense competition on May 4, readers were officially crowned in this exciting celebration of literacy and teamwork.



Middle School Winners:
1st: Olive Bryant
2nd: Amor Gary
3rd: Ethan Fladhammer

High School Winners:
1st: RaeLynn Dalrymple
2nd: F.T.
3rd: Brianna Friedel

Overall Team Champions: The High School Battle of the Books Club, who take home the traveling trophy! A huge shoutout to advisors Mrs. Lexen and Mrs. Waters for leading these talented students through a year of dedicated reading and preparation. Congratulations to everyone who participated—you are all literary stars!

Elementary Student Council Year-in-Review
Who says you need a physical hallway to build an amazing school community? This year, our incredible Student Council proved that leadership knows no bounds! From virtual meeting rooms to high-energy virtual events, our student leaders truly stepped up to make this year unforgettable.



Here's a look at what we accomplished:

- **Weekly Meetings:** Every Thursday, our class reps logged on to practice democracy and collaborate in real-time. They were the engine behind all our success!
- **Monthly Assemblies:** We brought the big stage to your screens! From celebrating our Students of the Month to playing Gimkits and Blookets, these assemblies were packed with energy and fun!
- **Spirit in Action:** We kept the vibes high with creative Dress-Up Days! Whether it was PJ Day or Wacky Hair & Hat Day, seeing all those smiling faces on our video calls was the best.

A huge thank you to our amazing Student Council for proving that even when we're apart, we can build a community where every student feels seen, heard, and celebrated.

"Seeing our students navigate leadership in a virtual space has been inspiring. They didn't just 'attend' school this year; they built a community where every student felt seen, heard, and celebrated."
Mrs. Washa, Student Council Advisor

Spring Family Field Trips

Students participated in spring field trips to a variety of regional destinations, with both in-person and virtual options available. Whether learning on the road or joining from home, students took part in enriching experiences designed to extend learning beyond the classroom.



Students visited a variety of engaging locations across the region, including:
Appleton: Badgers Sports Park
Osceola: St. Croix Valley Hobby Farm
Duluth: Skyline Social & Games
Wisconsin Dells: Knuckleheads
Madison: Vitense Golfland
Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum
Eau Claire: Action City Trampoline Park
La Crosse: International Owl Center





Students also explored virtual experiences, including:
Virtual Zoo
Virtual Escape Room
Virtual Career and Occupation Field Trip

Thank you to all who participated and helped make this year's experiences so memorable.



Graduate Spotlight

A major milestone was recently celebrated as Preston Johnston graduated, becoming the school's first second-generation graduate.

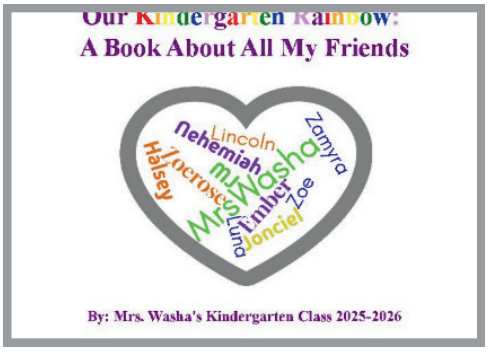
The family's connection began in 2009 when his mom, Portia Kolecheck, graduated. A special full-circle moment highlights Portia at her graduation holding baby Preston.

This is exactly why we do what we do at iForward. We are not just a school; we're a community that grows with you. Seeing a family legacy come to life like this reminds us that the hard work pays off and the future is bright.

Congratulations, Preston! And thank you, Portia, for letting us be part of your family's journey for two generations.

Kindergarteners complete 'All About Me' Project

Kindergarten students completed an "All About Me" book project featuring self-portraits and personal writing. The project supported early literacy development, creativity, and student confidence as young authors and illustrators.





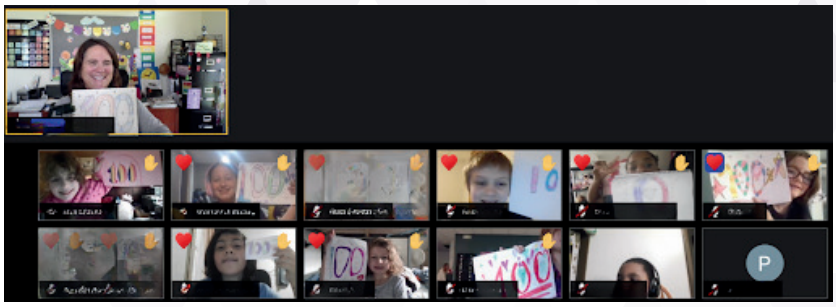
Milwaukee Brewers Field Trip Experience
Our annual trip to see the Milwaukee Brewers at American Family Field was one for the record books! The sun was shining, the energy was electric, and we had an incredible turnout of close to 300 people from iForward!

The fun kicked off at the Principal's Tailgate Party, where we fueled up on delicious brats, potato salad, chips, and treats. While we ate, the competition got real with a riveting game of Bingo. Shoutout to our student winners who walked away with some classic baseball swag like Cracker Jacks, Big League Chew, and peanuts!

To top off a perfect night, the Brewers took down the New York Yankees for a massive win. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this night so special!







Second Grade Reading Achievement
Second grade students reached a 100 percent reading goal achievement milestone. The accomplishment highlighted student progress, dedication, and growth in literacy skills.

National Junior Honor Society Induction
Students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in recognition of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and citizenship. Inductees received certificates and pins to commemorate their achievement.



Patriotic Spirit Assembly
Elementary students participated in a virtual spirit assembly celebrating national pride. Students received themed materials and engaged in a school-wide spirit event highlighting unity and community connection.







First Grade Virtual Camping Day
Our amazing 1st graders just wrapped up the school year with the ultimate Virtual Camping Day! First grade students participated in a virtual camping-themed celebration featuring creative art projects and fort-building activities.



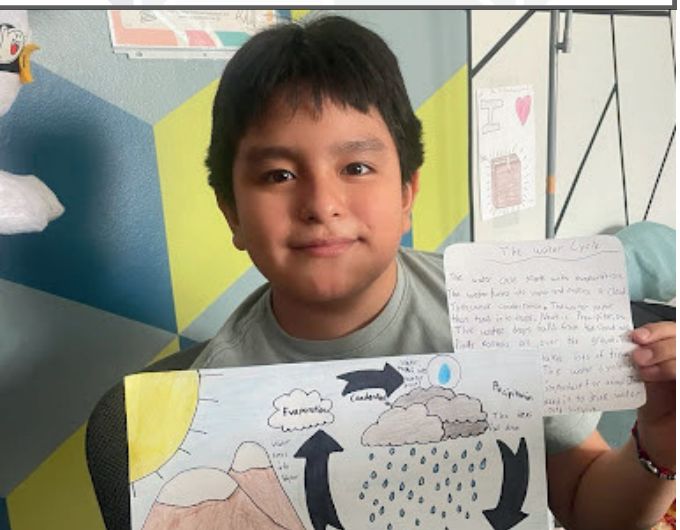
Oh, the Places We've Grown! A Look Back at Kindergarten

What a spectacular year in Kindergarten! Our students are now confident, curious readers, writers, scientists, and friends.

We are so proud of their growth. Highlights include becoming authors and illustrators through "All About Me" books, building strong math skills through counting and early operations, and developing kindness, teamwork, and classroom community.

Thank you to our kindergarten families for their support this year.

Congratulations to our kindergarten graduates—1st grade, here they come!



Hopping Into 3rd Grade

To mark the big occasion of transitioning from 2nd grade to 3rd grade, our 2nd grade students got crafty at home and created ribbit-ing frog crafts to symbolize their giant leap forward!

We are so proud of how much these students have grown, learned, and excelled this year. Third grade, here they come!





Peace Out First Grade

First grade students celebrated the last day of school with an epic "Peace Out" theme, full of groovy vibes, bright smiles, and so much love.

We are incredibly proud of how much these students have grown, learned, and shined this year. Watch out, second grade, because this rockstar crew is coming for you!

5th Grade Year-in-Review

What an incredible, unforgettable year in 5th grade! Students didn't just learn from textbooks—they stepped into history, solved problems, and brought learning to life through creativity, competition, and collaboration.

Fifth grade students engaged in project-based learning across math, literacy, and history. In math, students strengthened skills through interactive, team-based challenges like Castle Attack, using strategy and collaboration to solve complex problems.

In ELA, students went beyond traditional writing by creating original poetry and designing creative posters to demonstrate their understanding and voice.

In history, students participated in interactive simulations, stepping into the roles of historical figures and exploring real-world decisions from the past.

This year highlighted strong growth in critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork. We are incredibly proud of everything students accomplished this year!

Inside the Culinary Arts Classroom

Student chefs have been hard at work turning the classroom into a professional, hands-on kitchen experience.

Students have been developing a wide range of skills, including:
Baking & Pastry: Mastering yeast breads, perfecting pie crusts, and creatively decorating cakes and cake pops.
Savory Skills: Preparing scratch-made soups, proteins, and learning precise temperature control and cooking techniques.
Global Cuisine: Exploring recipes and flavors from around the world through research and hands-on preparation.
Career Skills: Building teamwork, time management, food safety, and recipe scaling skills that translate beyond the kitchen.

We are incredibly proud of the creativity, focus, and professionalism students bring to every class experience!





Duo Owl Plushie Award Winners

A big ¡Felicidades! to our Semester 2 Duo Owl Plushie winners for High School Spanish!
Spanish 1: Rachelle Nichols
Spanish 2: Jersey Brown
Spanish 3: Abbi Ulrich
Spanish 4: A.P.



These students were recognized for their dedication and enthusiasm in learning Spanish through Duolingo practice and classroom engagement, both in and out of the classroom. Each winner received a Duo Owl Plushie in recognition of their efforts.

¡Muy buen trabajo, amigas!

5th Grade Book Club Connects with History

Fifth grade book club students read *Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine, a powerful biography that follows a Japanese Holocaust educator's search to uncover the story of Hana Brady, a young girl who perished at Auschwitz.



Through reading and discussion, students reflected deeply on themes of family, memory, history, resilience, and empathy. After finishing the book, students wrote heartfelt letters to Lara Hana Brady, Hana's niece, sharing how Hana's story impacted them.

To the students' surprise, Lara Brady responded. She thanked them for their empathy and shared a moving, firsthand family account from her late father, George Brady, a Holocaust survivor and Hana's older brother. He described their childhood in Czechoslovakia, the impact of the Nazi occupation, and Hana's bravery, including small acts of kindness that sustained their family during hardship.

This experience provided students with a meaningful connection to history through literature and a powerful lesson in humanity, resilience, and remembrance.

Congratulations to the iForward to the Class of 2026!

The graduation ceremony took place on Saturday, May 30 at the beautiful Monona Terrace in Madison.

