MEMO

TO: BLUE RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MR. RYAN PEYTON, SUPERINTENDENT

FROM: SUNNY MCMURRY, PRINCIPAL, RUTH M. SCHNEIDER ELEMENTARY

DATE: 11/13/26

RE: NOVEMBER 2026 PRINCIPAL REPORT

Exemplary Knights
This month, we are celebrating the following students as our Schneider Exemplary Knights!

Kindergarten: Riott Britt nominated by Tracy Parson
I would like to recommend Riot Britt for November's Exemplary Knight for Kindergarten. Riot is such a joy to have in class! He comes to school each day with a smile and a positive attitude, ready to learn. He is incredibly kind and helpful to both his classmates and teachers, always willing to lend a hand wherever and whenever he is needed. Riot is also a wonderful encourager, often cheering on his classmates and offering words of encouragement like, "Good job!" He is not only kind and encouraging but also a hard worker. He demonstrates perseverance by continuing to try even when something is challenging. He is always willing to step outside his comfort zone, try new things, and give his very best effort. Riot truly exemplifies what it means to be an Exemplary Knight!

First Grade: Amelia Wehrle nominated by Kari Brackenhoff
I am thrilled to recognize Amelia as this month's Exemplary Knight! It is such a joy to be her teacher. She walks into our classroom each day with a bright smile, a positive attitude, and an eagerness to learn. She participates enthusiastically, shares thoughtful ideas, and consistently puts forth her best effort while taking pride in her work. Amelia has already made tremendous growth in all areas this school year! Her dedication extends beyond the classroom as she practices sight words, math facts, and reading at home each day. Along with being a hardworking student, Amelia is a wonderful friend who shows kindness and compassion, welcomes others, and helps everyone feel included. She makes our classroom brighter, and we are so lucky to have her as part of our first grade family!

Second Grade: Tucker Maddox nominated by Charity Nadrozny
Tucker Maddox is the ultimate TEAM player in Room # 204. Tucker works well with classmates and cares about the success of his 'teammates' rather than individual praise. Multiple times a day, Tucker is encouraging his classmates with high fives and tells them good job. If a 'teammate' is struggling, he shows empathy and tries to help the teammate. He shares his smile with all of us everyday and brings laughter to our classroom with his good sense of humor. Tucker is responsible and is a TRUE leader in our classroom. Tucker is very smart and is always giving his best effort in the classroom. He is a

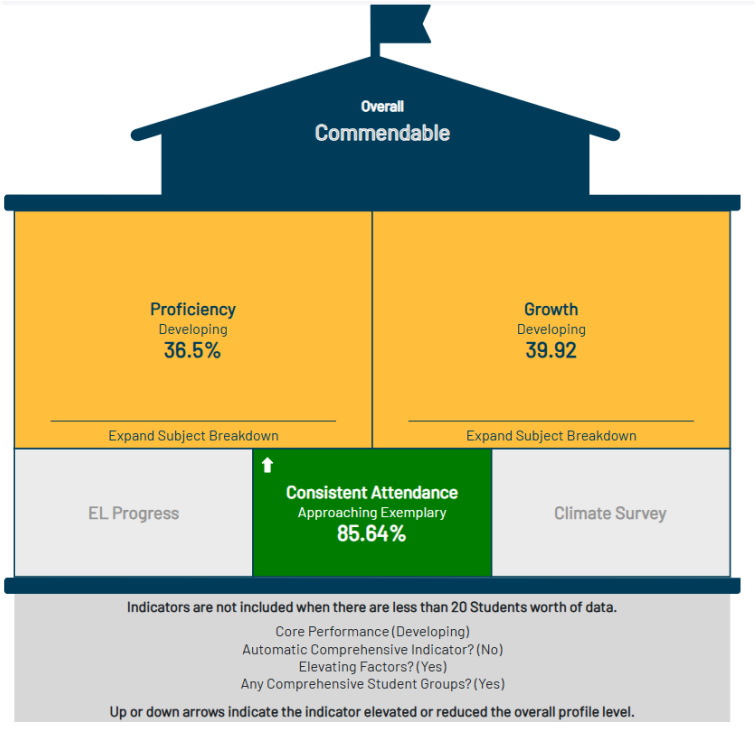
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natural-born captain who leads by example. He is exactly the kind of superstar teammate you want on your team, any day of the week! Keep up the GREAT work Tucker!!!!!!!!

Third Grade: Lili Garrett nominated by Emily Weiler
I nominate Lili Garrett for Exemplary Knight. She is an important part of our 3rd grade classroom! She is a voracious reader with a fantastic vocabulary. Also, Lili sets a good example by participating in class, working hard and doing her best on all her assignments. Even when things are tough, she keeps a good attitude and doesn't give up. Her work area is organized, she is respectful of the class rules and routines, and is always ready to get to work. Keep up the amazing work, Lili!

Congratulations to these amazing students!

Our **Exemplary Knights Staff Member** this month is **Dr. Andrew Kutemeier.**
Dr. K, our Tri-County Special Education Association District Social Worker, is extremely knowledgeable about special education regulations and shares that knowledge with his teammates. He brings a wealth of information to his teammates and is always willing to help others. Dr. Kutemeier also forms great relationships with students, staff, and families. When he is in the hallway, he is always finding ways to connect with them on a personal level and make them feel comfortable. In meetings with families, he always brings great insight into details to help continue to strengthen relationships between the school and families. He is always calm and stays focused on the meeting at hand. Dr. Kutemeier is a great resource for the Blue Ridge School District and we are excited to have him on our team!



Illinois School Report Card Data
As a school, we will be reviewing our School Report Card data in partnership with Dr. Stacie France from ROE 17. The state determines a school's designation based on calculated scores. The overall designations are Exemplary (highest), Approaching Exemplary, Commendable, Developing and Comprehensive (lowest). Schneider's overall designation from our data is **Commendable**.
As you can see on the summary, our ELA and Math Proficiency is 36.5% (Developing) and our ELA and Math Growth is 39.92 (Developing). Our Consistent Attendance was 85.64% (Approaching Exemplary), which

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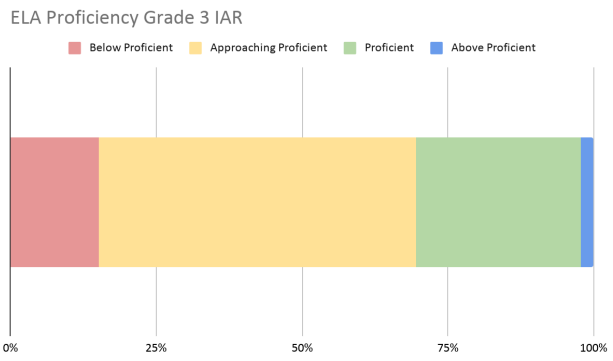
elevated our designation from Developing to Commendable.

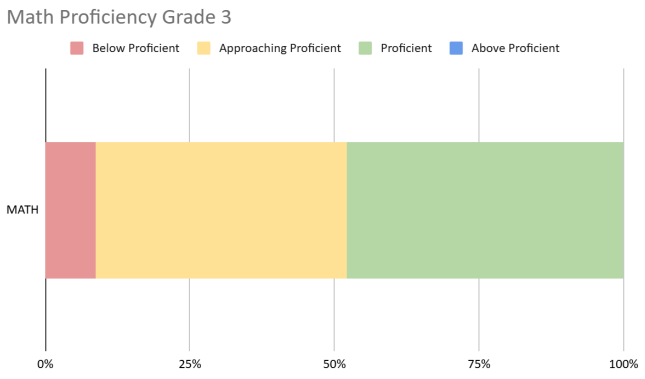
Although many schools have several data points beyond what we have in determining their school's overall designation, Schneider's scores are based on only three components:

- **Student proficiency** in ELA and Math based on IAR scores (only 3rd graders take IAR)
    - This is based on IAR scores of students who were in third grade last spring and is a reflection of the preparation they receive up through the time they test, starting as early as kindergarten. Although only 3rd graders take IAR in our building, proficiency scores are developed from the time students start school because IAR is testing learning standards that are built upon each year. These scores are reported to us in the fall following IAR, when students are in 4th grade. By reviewing multi-year data, we can identify trends in areas where students need more support or stronger instruction.
    - Our proficiency scores fell into the "Developing" range, which indicates that we need to strengthen instruction in both ELA and math.
    - When considering specific areas to strengthen within ELA and Math, writing had the most number of students scoring in the lowest range of scores, as seen in "Writing: Written Expression," "Writing: Language Conventions," and "Expressing Mathematical Reasoning."
    - Our kindergarten, first grade and second grade teams of teachers are working in partnership with Dr. Meaghan McKenna from the University of Illinois to develop writing skills of our students. We look forward to seeing this effort reflected in upcoming writing scores.

ELA: Overall				Writing: Written Expression			Writing: Language Conventions		
Below Proficient	Approaching Proficient	Proficient	Above Proficient	Lower	Middle	Higher	Lower	Middle	Higher
7	25	13	1	24	12	10	24	6	16

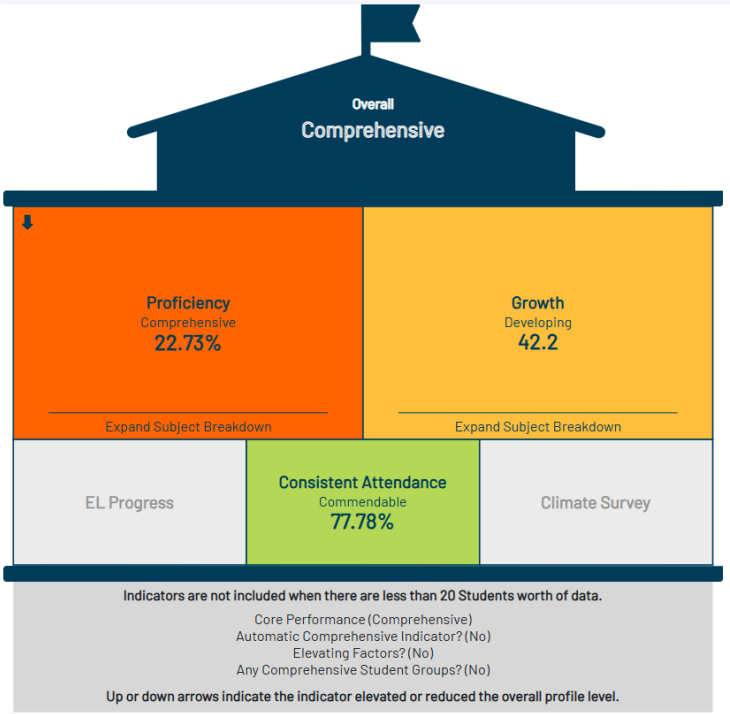
Math: Overall				Major Content Performance Level			Additional & Supporting Content Performance Level			Expressing Mathematical Reasoning Performance Level			Modeling & Application Performance Level		
Below Proficient	Approaching Proficient	Proficient	Above Proficient	Lower	Middle	Higher	Lower	Middle	Higher	Lower	Middle	Higher	Lower	Middle	Higher
4	20	22	0	3	21	22	5	13	28	17	11	18	4	15	27





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- **Student growth** in ELA and Math based on IAR scores
    - This is based on IAR scores of students when they are in 4th grade and compares how they did on IAR in 4th grade with how they performed in 3rd grade. These scores are reported to us in the fall following IAR, so the growth scores reflect the cohort of current fifth graders and are based primarily on their 4th grade year of learning. Because we have very little influence over these scores, we will not spend much time reviewing them.
    - Our growth scores fell into the “Developing” range.
- **Student Attendance** (this includes all K-3 students)
    - This is the percentage of students present for 90% or more of total school days in the academic year. This metric can elevate a school, but cannot lower a school’s designation. Because our attendance score was high, this put our score in the "Approaching Exemplary” range, which elevated our school’s total score to Commendable.
    - Attendance remains a goal for our school. We are aiming for 95% average daily attendance, which will hopefully elevate our score again.



Targeted School Improvement

Beyond overall scores, ISBE also tracks the performance of student groups within our student population. While our overall school performance is Commendable, ISBE has also designated Schneider Elementary for Targeted School Improvement (TSI).

Targeted School Improvement is assigned by ISBE when a specific student group falls below state benchmarks, even if the overall school performs well. For us, the data reveals an academic and attendance gap among our low-income students.

This designation allows us to secure targeted resources for our low-income learners, ensuring every child receives an equitable educational foundation. In partnership with ISBE, our leadership team is developing a multi-year School Improvement Plan focused on boosting schoolwide ELA and math achievement. This current year is our planning year and will involve our Instructional Leadership Team developing a thorough School Improvement Plan. In the following three years, we will execute and evaluate this plan.

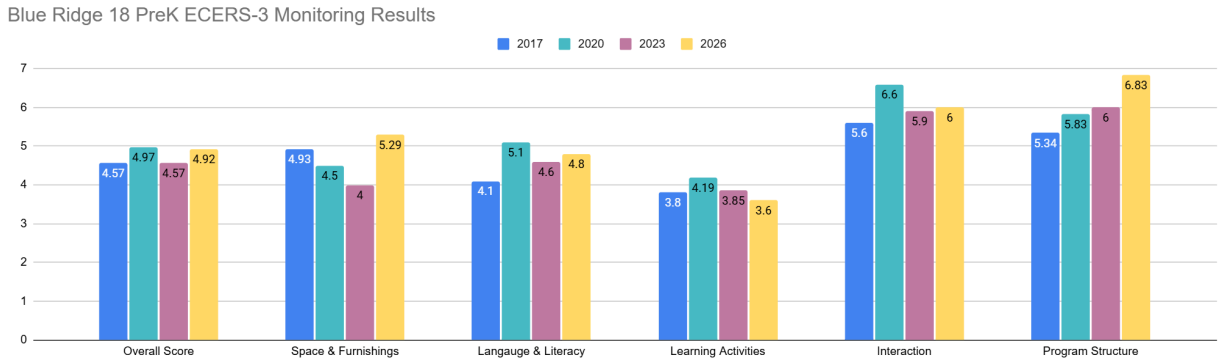
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Instructional Data: ECERS-3

Our Pre-K program is rated with Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-3 to assess the quality of our program. We have an official monitoring visit every three years and this year, our monitoring visit took place mid-October. We have already received our ratings! Ratings from the past four visits are compared below. We will now work with our Pre-K teachers to develop specific goals to submit to the state based on our ratings and their feedback.

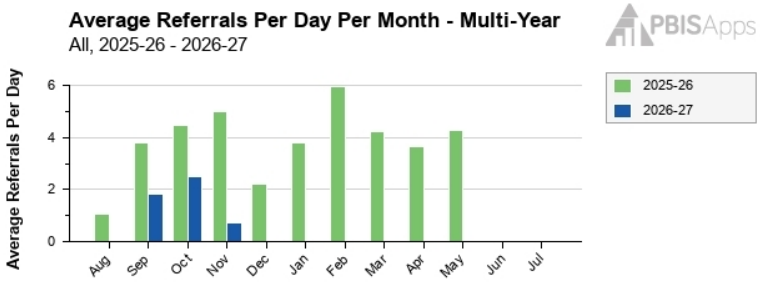
We are excited to see increased scores in all but one area from our previous monitoring visit in 2023. Our lowest score this time, which is also the only area where we scored lower than in 2023, is "Learning Activities." Specifically, we received feedback that conversations and opportunities around math could be improved.

Our Pre-K teachers work very hard to make sure all of our students have their needs met and I am excited to see this reflected in our most recent scores!



School Climate: Behavior Data

Once again, we are seeing a decrease in behavior referrals this month!



Month	2025-26	2026-27
September	76	38
October	94	50
November	90	12

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School Improvement Plan Goals

Our Instructional Leadership Team has worked together over the last several months to develop and refine our school improvement goals. We wanted to be sure they were aligned to both our district strategic plan and the identified needs of our building.

Goals	Alignment with Strategic Plan	Assessments	Professional Development
1. 70% of students will meet their growth goal in ELA on i-ready. 65% of students will meet their growth goal in math in i-ready. Math Goals: 2026-27: 65% 2027-28: 67% 2028-29: 70%	Sub Goal 1.4: By the end of the strategic planning cycle (e.g., 2025–2030), 70% of K–8 students will demonstrate at least one year of typical growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics on the end of the year diagnostic, as measured by district-approved assessment tools.	iReady	Monthly Grade Level Meetings; Data Days conversations; i-Ready Trainings; curriculum trainings; PLCs
2. We will strengthen our MTSS process for academics and re-launch MTSS for behaviors through ongoing professional development in PBIS.	Sub Goal 1.3: Provide all students with opportunities for enrichment and intervention (i.e. MTSS practices).	SWIS data, MTSS referrals	Monthly Grade Level Meetings; MTSS Meetings;Trainings with ROE, Tier 1 & 2 PBIS meetings
3. We will monitor daily attendance with a goal of reaching 95% average daily attendance and provide interventions for students on track for chronic absenteeism.	Sub Goal 1.3: Provide all students with opportunities for enrichment and intervention (i.e. MTSS practices).	Skyward Attendance Data	Skyward attendance reports, Monthly Staff Meetings, Weekly Newsletters



Schneider's Hydroponic Garden

The next time you are in Schneider's cafeteria, you will find a new installation of a hydroponic garden. This "**gardyn"** has been donated by our DeWitt- Piatt Ag in the Classroom partner, Pam Chambers, through generous funding provided by the Heart of Illinois Foundation. We are unbelievably excited to allow our students to watch food grow right in our cafeteria! This brings our learning to life! Thank you to the DeWitt-Piatt Ag in the Classroom program and Heart of Illinois Foundation!

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Veteran's Day Celebration

Our Schneider students learned about and celebrated Veteran's Day with an assembly complete with songs honoring our country as well as a flag-folding ceremony by the Farmer City MAmerican Legion. Thank you to the Legion, our guests and Mr. Norsworthy, for a moving experience that allowed our young students to develop an understanding of the importance of this day!







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Upcoming Events:

November

11/18-1:30 Early Dismissal, NO PRE-K; Pre-K Screenings

11/25- NO SCHOOL

11/26,27-Thanksgiving Holidays – NO SCHOOL

December

12/3-PreK Growing Together, Cafeteria, 5:30 p.m.

12/10-K-1 Music Program, HS Moore Gym, 6:30 p.m.
(Doors open at 6:00 pm)

12/14- P.I.E. Meeting, 6:00 pm

12/16- BRSE Holiday Sing Along, HS Moore Gym, 9:00am

12/16- Board Meeting, HS Library 7:00 p.m

12/17- Princess Theater Field Trip