



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

memo

To: Board of Education
From: Amy Melinder, Director of Community Engagement
Date: October 27, 2025
Re: District Highlights

Comments: **Student artwork on display**

Throughout October, artwork created by Edgewood Elementary School students in grades 1-4 is featured upstairs at the Woodridge Public Library. Some amazing student talent is on display!

Student earns national recognition in stock market essay contest

We are proud to recognize Stirling Hebda, a Jefferson Junior High 7th grader, for his outstanding achievement in financial literacy education.

Last year, as a 6th grader in Edgewood Elementary's gifted program, Stirling participated in the Stock Market Game, a yearlong simulation where students invest a virtual portfolio while learning about teamwork, decision-making, and financial responsibility. As part of the program, students completed the InvestWrite essay contest, reflecting on how investing could help them reach their future goals. Stirling's essay was selected from more than 700 entries nationwide, earning him 1st place in Illinois and 2nd place in the nation in the middle school division.

For his accomplishment, Stirling received a laptop computer, trophies, certificates, gift cards and other gifts during a virtual awards ceremony hosted by the SIFMA Foundation. We congratulate Stirling on this remarkable honor and thank Sara Tomasevich, Gifted Specialist at Edgewood Elementary, for guiding and supporting students through this valuable learning experience.



Wolverine cross country team makes school history

We are proud to recognize the Jefferson Junior High boys cross country team for a historic achievement in school athletics. On October 18, the team competed in the IESA state cross country meet in Normal, Illinois, and for the first time in school history, they brought home the state championship title.

The Wolverines demonstrated outstanding teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship throughout the season and delivered a strong collective performance when it mattered most.

We would also like to recognize three student-athletes for placing individually among the top competitors at the state level:

Ben Eliopulos, who finished 5th overall

Luke Riskus, who placed 7th

Nick Swade, who came in 15th

A well-deserved shoutout goes to Coach Steve Gomboz, Jefferson PE teacher and boys cross country coach, for his leadership, encouragement, and support in guiding these student-athletes to success.

We are incredibly proud of these student-athletes and their coaches for their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. Please join us in congratulating the Jefferson Junior High cross country team on this well-deserved accomplishment.