

Elementary School Board Report

February 17, 2026

Educate the *difference makers* of tomorrow.

Angela Shepard-

- Parent/Teacher Conferences - 186/254 attended
- ADSIS mid year report completed and submitted to MDE
- ALICE training from 2:00 - 3:00 the week of February 16th. The teachers will talk with their students about the plan should there be a safety concern at school. Options being stay in class, evacuate the building and go to Root River Church. Our plan is to have a person watching cameras to see where the issue is and announce over the speaker system to keep everyone informed so decisions can be made by our staff.
- FFA Week - February 23-27 ~ Elementary classrooms will be visited this week to promote FFA
- Winona Symphony Orchestra February 24th for grades 4-5
- March 11th ~ K-5 Music Informance Auditorium
- Fire Drill ~ All school drill the week of March 16th
- K-5 Brass Quintet - March 23rd

Early Childhood- Emily Johnson

Preschool Open House Night was PACKED on February 5th. We welcomed around 60 families to the preschool classrooms for the 2026-2027 school year. Preschoolers were able to see the classrooms, meet their teachers and do some fun activities with family and friends!



Early Childhood- Alison Kjos

We had a great turnout at our preschool open house on Feb. 5. It was fun to meet new families and share in their excitement! We have been getting ready for Valentine's Day and focusing on being kind.

We utilized the wrestling room for large motor play when it was too cold to play outside. The children are still asking when we can go back!



Kindergarten- Carissa George, Taylor Allen

Kindergarten just wrapped up our unit on Underdogs and Heroes! We explored main characters, setting, plot, and learned how to tell whether a story is fiction or nonfiction. In math, we are working through our numbers 1–100 unit, with students practicing writing their very own hundreds charts. We continue to learn new letters each day and read many decodable stories as we grow into strong, confident readers. We are very excited for the 100th day of school and our Valentine’s Day party! We will also be hosting a fun Classroom Olympics, where students will compete in different events while practicing how to measure distances.

1st- Becky Lind, Jessica Burt

February is an exciting month in first grade! We will be celebrating the 100th Day of School this Wednesday and our Valentine’s Exchange on Friday. In math, students are working on related addition and subtraction facts. In reading, we are learning about astronomy and enjoying new stories each week. For UFLI, our focus this week is on plural nouns that end in –es and past-tense verbs ending in –ed.

2nd- Shannon Kopperud, Emily Walberg

In math, second graders have begun working with three-digit addition and subtraction. In writing, students have been working hard on their personal narratives and practicing each step of the writing process (planning, drafting, editing, publishing, and presenting). In our social studies and science learning (Amplify Knowledge), we have wrapped up our unit on Greek Mythology and have begun exploring cycles in nature.



Ms. Walberg’s class earned a “Glow Day” class reward. Students presented their personal narrative writings to the class.

3rd- Andrea Larson, Krissy Kelly

The 3rd grade classrooms finished our “What’s in our Universe” units in both Reading and Science last week. We have now started learning about Native Americans in our Reading curriculum. In Social Studies, we started our States and Capitals Unit. Our math focus has been on Area and Perimeter. We continue to work on cursive writing and typing during our Handwriting time.

4th- Jon Theuer, Belle Berg

Fourth grade has had a fantastic month filled with meaningful learning and growth. We celebrated Black History Month with thoughtful discussions and explored key historical figures whose contributions we honor and recognize. In reading, we wrapped up Unit 4 of our new Amplify curriculum, where students learned about inventors and strengthened their research skills by gathering and organizing information from texts. In math, we have been working on finding the area and perimeter of irregular shapes and are now beginning Chapter 8, which focuses on factors and multiples. During WIN time, we continue to prioritize individualized instruction by grouping students across both fourth grade classrooms, allowing us to appropriately challenge and support all learners at their specific levels.

5th- Cheryl Harvey, Marsha Sawle

Math

We have completed our chapter on dividing decimals. Our next chapter will focus on adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators.

Science

In science, students have learned how energy is transferred through an ecosystem and how organisms compete and survive within it. We are concluding this unit by learning about extinction and its causes.

Reading

We completed our Don Quixote unit and have moved into a nonfiction unit focusing on ocean ecosystems and their inhabitants. We are honing in on our writing skills, with a focus on paragraph writing.

History

In US History we completed our study of the French-Indian War. We’re moving towards the start of the American Revolution, in addition to studying several historical and contemporary figures as we honor Black History Month.

K-3 Reading & Math Intervention- Meredith Johnson

- Working hard on reading fluency!
- Working hard on adding, subtracting, regrouping, borrowing, and solving word problems!

4-5 Reading Intervention - Margaret Marklowitz

Over the past month, instruction focused on building fluency, word pattern recognition, and blending skills to support comprehension. Students practiced decoding and reading with increased accuracy and automaticity, applying these skills within connected text.

Emphasis remained on comprehension, with activities designed to reinforce understanding of words and meaning in context.

K-3 Reading & Math Title- Lacey Drinkall

This past month we have been busy working on improving our reading fluency and comprehension! We have been doing different techniques like repeated reading, phrase reading and the "Read Like Us" strategy!

In math, we have been working on number recognition, decomposing numbers and 3 digit addition and subtraction!

4th-12th grade has finished up their winter testing window and the CAPTI was administered to those who qualified. These results are being used to organize our reading groups and will be used on our Literacy Plan in the Spring.

PE- K- 4- Teresa Brown

We have a student teacher from Winona State, Mr. Welsh, you will see him in a couple of the pictures.

Kindergarten, first graders and second grade did a speedstack unit. Speed stacks help with eye-hand coordination, right and left brain activation, bilateral coordination and much more.



We also did many fun games using the parachute, working on taking turns, listening to directions and being safe.

Kindergarten through second grade also did a bowling unit. The benchmark we worked on was the underhand roll. We also incorporated math skills by doing various score sheets adding up the pins.



Third and fourth graders also did a speed stacks unit. We also did a unit called a cooperative team challenge. This unit works on communication, respecting one another, including everyone, and that it is ok to have an error, that is part of learning.



PE- 5- Chris Drinkall

5th grade PE has finished up their team challenges and are starting a mini golf unit. Over the last month they have also had a unit on badminton and nitro ball.

Music K-4- Jodi Monerson

Kindergarten: We are working on our yearlong practice of keeping a steady beat. We have also been learning how to move our bodies while singing and playing musical games. We have learned about A and B forms in music, and how to listen if pitches are going up, down or staying the same. We are learning about timbre of voices and instruments through many fun games. We have had a chance to learn about opposites in music (loud/quiet, fast/slow, long and short sounds, etc.), and are learning to play many instruments along the way.

1st Grade: We have been learning about the scale and how to sing/show the movement of the scale. We have studied in great depth about the piece of music “Peter and the Wolf”, as well as all the instruments that are represented within that piece of music. We have learned about different tempos and practiced listening whether music is fast or slow. We used rhythm sticks like drum sticks to read and play music, we learned about Lunar New Year and about the history of spirituals.

2nd Grade: We learned extensively about the composer Bach, and listened to his music. We composed class rhythms to perform as B sections to our songs, and played many classroom instruments. We improvised on our xylophones as well as learned to play level borduns. We learned a hand jive and played songs using boomwhackers. We learned a native american song, and an accompanying stick game. We are just beginning our in depth understanding of the proper names for musical symbols (example, quarter note, treble clef, eight notes, etc.).

3rd Grade: We learned extensively about the composer Beethoven and listened to his music. We have been bucket drumming and are now able to bucket drum to songs. We sang songs and played games in a minor key, as well as learned numbers counting. We continue to practice our treble clef note names and we learned about Mahalia Jackson (gospel singer), and Jon Batiste. We have learned about Lunar New Year as well.

4th Grade: We learned a lot about the history of the song Auld Lang Syne, as well as learned a fun partner song that uses that melody. We have been studying the

instruments of the orchestra in preparation for their trip to listen to the Winona Symphony Orchestra. We have continued learning the recorder and are just moving into learning our 6th note on the recorder. We learned about themes and variations, and learned a wonderful song inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We continue to practice our treble clef note names, and learned about Nina Simone (jazz artist). We have transitioned to numbers counting and are practicing that skill. We have also learned about Rhiannon Giddens and Yo-Yo Ma.

Music 5- Ben Mahlke

Students are receiving and learning their band instruments, and they are beginning to learn how to sing in a choir and use proper vocal technique.

Art- Sam Cunningham

The fourth graders are finishing up 3-d sculptures of clay dragons this week. They completed a lovely still life water color with a focus on atmospheric perspective last week. Second grade continues with art making Clay Frogs. They completed a portrait unit on proportions and color theory of monochromatic painting them one color with different values.

Special Education- Amber Meisch, Aspen Blom, Sophia Wescott

The special education department is working on increasing skills in reading, writing, math, executive functioning, and social emotional. Our current social emotional topic is empathy and students have been actively working on increasing skills during role-playing situations as well as during natural occurring situations.

Social Worker- Kelly Smith/School Counselor - Lindsey Olson

3rd and 4th graders are getting special lessons on friendship this month, co-taught by both of us. We are focusing on healthy friendships, how to handle conflict, rude vs. mean behavior, and the power of our words. In addition, some new “Toilet Talk” posters have gone up to remind students how to handle some of these issues!

