
MEMO

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

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

DATE: 4/10/26

RE: APRIL 2026 PRINCIPAL REPORT

Exemplary Knights

This month, we are honoring the following students as Exemplary Knights!

Kindergarten: Emmett Morrow

The academic and social-emotional growth I have seen from Emmett since the start of his kindergarten year has been outstanding! Emmett does not always enjoy every activity we do in the classroom, but he has done a great job learning how to “fake it ‘til you make it” and still pay close attention to the academic parts of those unpreferred tasks. This shows huge growth and maturity!

Emmett also has such a fun personality to be around and thinks in very creative ways. I love to see how Emmett shares his creative thinking with his peers while creating new games to play in the classroom and on the playground. He is great at sharing the role of “leader” during games and understands the importance of considering the feelings of others.

Emmett is going to be a very successful 1st grader because of all of the hard work he has put in this year. He has mastered all of our core kindergarten goals, has become a reader, and is fluent in math concepts. What an Exemplary Knight!

First Grade: Wyatt Pauling

Wyatt is a strong leader in our class and in first grade. He is caring, dedicated, and committed to others. You can often find him helping someone who has fallen on the blacktop, including others by passing the ball in a basketball game, or inviting someone who is sitting alone to join him. This kind of maturity and kindness is special and has been a blessing to our class in many ways.

Wyatt is also an active participant in class and takes his learning seriously. Whether he is finishing lessons on I-Ready or writing about adventures, he applies himself and consistently produces quality work.

I look forward to seeing Wyatt continue to grow into the young man he is becoming and to seeing the positive impact he will have on others at Schneider.

Second Grade: Ivy Koca

Ivy is a delight to have in class! Ivy is new to Schneider this school year and one would never know because of the kind of friend she is to her peers. Ivy is a quiet leader that encourages others. She always includes others and is a good friend to all. She works hard at school and listens and follows directions. She is respectful to adults and always wants to make the people around her happy! Ivy is extremely

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creative and intelligent. She is a 'think outside of the box' problem solver! Way to go Ivy!

Third Grade: Kyler Mitchem

I nominate Kyler Mitchem to be the Exemplary Knight for 3rd grade for many reasons. First, he sets a great example in our school community. He works hard, follows directions, is polite, and is a good role model. Next, Kyler is wicked funny. His great sense of humor keeps us entertained. Finally, Kyler is a good friend. For all those reasons, and more, I think Kyler is an Exemplary Knight!

Our Exemplary Knight Staff Member this month is Mrs. Maria Aldrich!

Maria provides calm support for all students she encounters in a day! She is able to help students regulate by calming the situation rather than expecting them to get over their frustrations quickly. She is a great support to our entire school as well. She greets students each morning with a welcoming demeanor even if they aren't in her class. Maria is also supportive to teachers and provides helpful information about our students that she has received while in the office over lunch. Maria is a great example of an Exemplary Knight who leads by example, is welcoming, supportive, genuine and much more!

Kids Heart Challenge

Over the last couple of months, Mr. Ethan Hanson has worked in partnership with the American Heart Association to teach our students about the importance of healthy hearts through the Kids Heart Challenge. Through his efforts, the hard work of our students, and the incredible generosity of our community, Schneider brought in \$15,288.22 for the American Heart Association! WOW!

IAR

Third graders completed the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) tests following spring break. Schools receive the results of these assessments in the fall. Our staff will continue to review the results in alignment with Common Core State Standards to determine areas in which we can both celebrate and strengthen instruction.

CKLA

Teachers and students alike have been working hard learning about all kinds of interesting and rigorous topics in CKLA. Even our earliest grades are learning about continents, presidents and seasons. The knowledge will serve them well as they move ahead each year, as the concepts will continue to build throughout the grade.

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Supporting SEL Growth

One way we work to support Social Emotional Learning in our youngest learners is through Zones of Regulation. This program teaches children how to understand and identify their feelings and emotions and

how to respond appropriately when those emotions put them in the “red zone.” Recently, our school was featured on the Official Zones of Regulation Facebook Page for the display Ms. Cheyenne Clayton made. We are so appreciative of all her hard work helping our students bloom!



The Zones of Regulation

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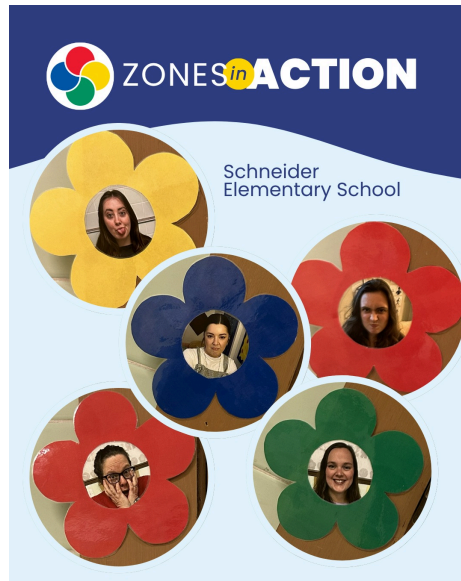
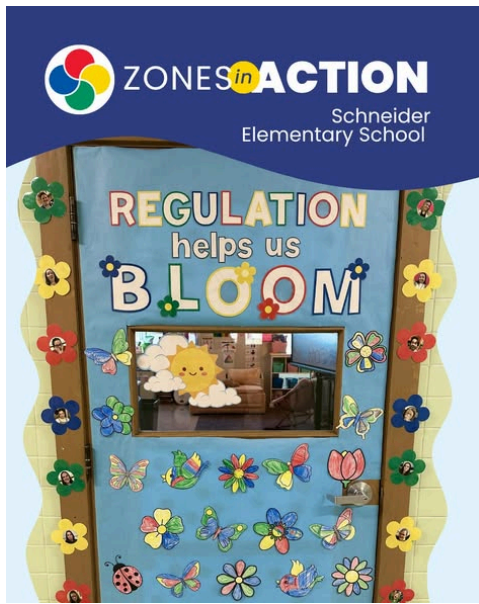
🌟 Regulation Helps Us Bloom 🌟

We love this display from Schneider Elementary in Farmer City, IL, where staff are modeling that we ALL experience The Zones.

“Students love looking at the door and trying to guess which emotion each teacher is showing! It has become a fun and engaging way to celebrate Spring while helping students learn more about recognizing and understanding emotions.” - Cheyenne, School Counselor

With the right tools, we can all grow!

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Planning for Next Year

This year has been a year of learning and observation as I work to better understand the systems and structures in place. In preparation for next year, I have worked collaboratively with staff to address some areas that have been brought to me as places where we might improve. Specifically, we have been looking at master schedules, classroom assignments, and dismissal procedures.

Classroom Assignments

At the end of April, teachers will work in collaboration with administrators to develop class lists for next year. We have asked parents for feedback on their child as a learner in order to determine the most beneficial placement. We are looking to create classroom environments that are supportive for all students. Class lists will not be released until August because we may need to make changes throughout the summer based on students who may move into or move out of the district.

Dismissal Procedures

Consistent with this year's pick-up procedure, all families who pick their child up from school (either by car or by walking up to meet them) will be required to have a Schneider-issued sign with the child's last name. Signs for the 2026-2027 school year will be distributed in the fall. This ensures that staff are not releasing children to anyone other than an approved adult. Next year, any adults without a school-issued sign will be asked to check in at the front office. While we know this sometimes creates headaches, keeping students safe is our number one priority.

A change we plan to implement is with car riders/ walkers. All students who will be directly entering a car will be dismissed from the gym and picked up in the circle drive, just as we have

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done this year. We encourage car pick-up for students who are able to get themselves into the car independently. Students should enter their vehicle on the passenger side.

In order to keep walkers safe, we will be shifting our walk-up pick-ups to the north side of Schneider. Students will be dismissed from the cafeteria to meet their adult in the area between Schneider and BRHS after their name has been announced inside the building. We will then ask walkers to follow the sidewalk to the crosswalk to return to their vehicles.

Upcoming Events:

April

- 4/15- Board Meeting, HS Library 7:00 p.m.
- 4/16- Kindergarten Tours, 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
PreK Parent Education Night, 6:00 p.m.
- 4/24- Progress reports go home
- 4/27- School Improvement Day - NO SCHOOL
- 4/30- Pre-K Parent Conferences

May

- 5/1- Pre-K Parent Conferences
- 5/11- P.I.E. Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 5/15- Third Grade Transition Up Day
- 5/20- Board Meeting, HS Library 7:00 p.m.
- 5/20- Last full day for PreK/ECSE and K-12, 2:20 Early Dismissal, End of 4th Quarter
- 5/21- Teacher Institute
- 5/25- Memorial Day-NO SCHOOL
- 5/22,26,27,28,29-Emergency Days (if needed)