

January 24, 2020

As we move along through these wonderful winter months, the students in the Kiel Area School District continue to thrive both in academic and co-curricular activities.

We have many high school clubs currently participating in competitions: Math, Forensics, Ice Fishing, etc. The robotics team continues to prepare for their upcoming competitions and our dance team prepares for regional competition in hopes of becoming a state qualifier. Winter sports teams such as wrestling, basketball and swimming continue to exemplify what Kiel is all about: determination, hard work, sportsmanship and success.

I have the privilege to attend many co-curricular events and I am proud to say that I frequently see our students helping up their opponents, shaking hands after a hard fought match and cheering on their teammates. We continue to support our students in all of their efforts and they continue to make us proud!

Our middle school students have the opportunity to participate in a number of exciting programs that challenge their minds, including Makerspace Stem team challenges, Chess Club, Art Club, PI Girls (robotics for girls) and SWAT Boys (students working to advance technology).

Our Board of Education recently had the chance to attend the School Board Convention in Milwaukee. This professional development opportunity allows school board members to collaborate with colleagues across the state as well as one another as they help shape the future vision of our school district.

Speaking of future vision, our school board has worked tirelessly over the last year to anchor down the direction of our school district over the next five years by listening to the community and gathering input through a variety of ways. At the February 5th school board meeting, our school board will be seeing the output of all of the work, the strategic plan. In short, we will be expanding our trades and STEM offerings (plumbing, machining, robotics programming, electrical, mechanical, masonry/concrete, etc.), enhancing our partnerships with our local businesses, increasing our technical school and college level course offerings across our district, renewing our commitment to personalized learning (a curricular design that meets the needs of all students), maintaining financial stability and enhancing the social and emotional well being of all of our students. We also hope to expand our eSchool and Summer School opportunities.

Expanding in these areas is an essential part of the future of our school district; we will continue to work in this direction while remaining positive, transparent and customer friendly!

The most important foundational part of our school district is what happens in our classrooms on a daily basis. Our core instruction and student learning must always be top notch. We will continue to celebrate and learn about what happens in our classrooms at school board

meetings by bringing teachers and students to speak to our community. This year we have been lucky enough to have fifth grade students and teachers and first grade students and teachers at school board meetings, sharing about their teaching and learning. Next month, we will be welcoming high school math and language arts teachers and students. This has turned out to be a great way for our community to celebrate and learn about the great things happening in our classrooms.

Our Parent Advisory Council group will be meeting on January 29th at Kiel High School to receive an update on all of the positive things going on around our school district; examples include referendum projects, course offerings, strategic planning, etc. This group of parents meets periodically to offer insight and gain a stronger understanding of how the district operates. All are invited to attend these meetings!

A number of much needed maintenance projects have been completed around our school district, thanks in large part to the 840,000 dollar referendum that was approved by our community last spring (thanks again!). We have already re-tiled our baseball field as we move toward spring baseball, replaced many damaged doors and locks, upgraded our parking lot lighting, paved our parking lots, improved our HVAC systems, replaced tiling around our district, completed roofing upgrades and replaced the failing high school boilers. We will continue to evaluate the structural and maintenance needs around our district as we plan into the future. We will do a great job of maintaining our buildings and property into the future.

The Board of Education continues to work diligently to make sure that the planning and eventual construction stages of our Performing Arts Center move along smoothly. If you remember, bids were due back in December for this project. At this time, the school board continues to work to determine which bids to accept, as well as work to make sure the budget for this project remains in line. So many individuals have contributed and are contributing their input regarding this project to ensure that we provide exceptional facilities for our students and community.

As you can see the District has many positive events and activities going on each and every day. We welcome and encourage everyone to join us and continue celebrating the exceptional work of our staff and students! We have so much to be proud of already and our future looks bright.

During this time of "new year's resolutions," let's all make a commitment to do a couple of things: say "thank you" to a teacher, police officer, military veteran, etc., attend co-curricular events and support the talented students in our community, ask "what can I do for my community to make it better," and continue to focus on the positives. Imagine how far we could go as a community if this was our collective "new year's resolution!"

Whether you are walking through our elementary school, attending a middle school event or in a high school classroom, it is easy to see that EVERY DAY IS A GREAT DAY TO BE A RAIDER!

Let's go Kiel! #RaiderPride