

The Middle Connection

School Newsletter



www.lodi.k12.wi.us

Term 1

November, 2019

Halloween Candy Collection:



Lodi Middle School students were trick or treating for a cause on October 31. They were collecting candy for our active duty service members. All candy collected was sent from Lodi Middle School to active military to say thank you for your service. An added perk, Lodi Valley Dental, donated \$1 per pound of candy that we collected to Reach Out Lodi. Dr. Joel Crane also agreed to personally match the donation (plus add in some extra money). A grand total of 168 pounds of candy was collected and a total donation of \$400 was donated to Reach Out Lodi. Thank you to all those that donated!

UPCOMING DATES:

Nov. 21st

7th Grade Future Quest Trip

Nov. 22nd

iPod/Hat Day

Nov. 27th – 29th

No School – Happy Thanksgiving!

Dec. 6th

No School – Staff Collaboration

Dec. 10th

Winter Concert @ HS PAC

6th Grade 6:30pm

7th & 8th Grades 7:30pm

Dec. 13th

All School Dance/Open Gym

3:30-5:00pm

Dec. 20th

National Ugly (or not) Holiday Sweater Day!

Dec. 23rd – Jan. 1st

No School – Winter Break

Jan. 6th

HS Course/Scheduling Meeting
(for current 8th graders)

6:00pm HS PAC

Jan. 16th

End of Term 2

Jan 17th

No School – Staff Collaboration

Jan 20th

No School – MLK Day



Culvers Share Night



MMMM frozen custard is what many people were saying on Tuesday, October 29 when they visited Culver's in Waunakee for the annual Lodi Middle School "Share Night." A shout out to volunteers Sally Chapman, Connie Huisman, Abby Tejeda, Joe Prosek, Terry Roach, Michelle Howe, Ady Howe and Lisa Helt. All those volunteers helped make the night a success. Also, thank you to all those that came out and ate as well. We received a donation of \$536 from Culver's Waunakee. THANK YOU!

SUPER 6TH GRADE HAPPENINGS:

6th Grade Science

In Science class we are diligently working on accomplishing the Ecosystems Next Generation Science Standards. We have been working on determining how limited resources limits ecosystems growth and how organisms interact with each other and exploring how changes in ecosystems affect populations. We will also soon be starting a statewide science experience focusing on water! How our actions here in Lodi impact our local and distant waterways. An engineering project called Engineering an Urban Landscape focusing on preventing runoff in urban areas will be included in that unit. Students have been using their Chromebooks to simulate science labs that we can't do in a normal school setting, but can perform them using technology, increasing their learning and understanding of some difficult topics.



Orange Day

On Thursday September 13 Lodi Middle School was a sea of orange for hunger awareness. September is hunger awareness month and orange is the color that signifies and reminds people that there are others in our community that are hungry. We had a total of 280 students and staff at Lodi Middle School wear orange for this event. The Lodi Sausage Company and Meat Market partnered with LMS for this event and

the Lodi Sausage Company and Meat Market donated \$.50 for every person wearing orange at LMS that day to the Lodi Food Pantry, which means together we raised \$140 for the Lodi Food Pantry to help eliminate hunger in our Lodi community.

This event not only helped eliminate hunger in Lodi, but it served as an important learning opportunity for our students as well. First it made awareness of hunger in our community, but it also served as a unifying activity to bring our school together and help all of our students feel that they belong to not only our school community but our Lodi community. We learned that we can make a difference with our actions, and how collectively our actions can make a big impact!

Expeditions

On September 11, the 6th grade class took a trip to Expeditions, a camp near Devil's Lake. During our trip, the sixth graders were split into two major groups: 1) a group that took part in obstacle course challenges, and 2) a group that was taught about early fur trapping and trading through canoeing and negotiating with "traders."

In the fur trading group, kids paddled canoes across part of Devil's Lake to find imaginary furs that they were able to trade in for candy once they got their canoes back to shore. If individuals did not work together as a team, the amount of time it took to cross the lake (or not fall in the lake) became more challenging.



The different obstacle courses provided many challenges that small groups had to talk their way through. Many groups found that without strong communication skills, the obstacle courses could be very challenging or even impossible. The kids' input regarding the day was very positive. Many kids said the activities were all very exciting. In addition, the warm weather made it a tremendously fun experience!



Wisconsin Science Festival

On October 18, 6th grade students participated in the annual Wisconsin State Science Festival event at the Discovery Building at UW Madison. Students were exposed to the many different areas of science and were able to participate in a lot of hands on learning opportunities to really "get their hands dirty" learning about science. Students were also exposed to the numerous careers available in the science industry.

Stupendous 7th Grade News:

Social Studies:

At the end of the first quarter, students experienced their first Responsibility Raffle. At the end of each quarter, students that arrive to class prepared and have all of their work in on time are recognized through a raffle of prizes. It is a great way to celebrate responsibility and end the quarter. All students begin the next quarter with a clean slate for the next raffle.



In November, we will learn about Mexico. We will look at where the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico turned sour and why the issue hasn't really been resolved. We also will learn about some of the geography and culture of Mexico. We also recognize Veterans Day by creating cards and letters that will be sent to members of our military. They will be delivered in care packages organized by Operation Gratitude.

In December, students will learn about the countries of Central America and the Caribbean. Students will become an expert on a country in Central America and present it to the class. We also will learn about how important the Panama Canal is to the Western Hemisphere. During our Caribbean Unit, we will learn about Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. We will focus on the different relationships the U.S. has with Cuba and Puerto Rico.

In January, we will learn about the geography, history, and culture of South America. Students will complete a project for an amazing adventure around the continent. At the end of January, we will have our first semester exam that will include material from all of our units from the Western Hemisphere.

Rendler Language Arts:

9/11 Special Event:

You may remember your child asking you what you remember about 9/11 at the beginning of the school year. In Language Arts we devoted that day to remembering not only what happened, but we also wanted to also honor the many unsung heroes who tirelessly provided comfort and support to our nation.

Our day began with the reading of a children's book that was based on the true story of a rescue fire boat called into action, followed by various timelines of events as they unfolded. Our program ended with two short video clips that honored the 300+ search and rescue dogs who spent weeks at Ground Zero looking for survivors and the many first-responders who are still dealing with the fallout today.

Students created powerful images that are symbolic of the past and current events of 9/11. These images were created by using small torn pieces of paper and glue.

Writing and Literature

Students have been working on a variety of written assignments throughout the quarter. Our first activity was spent writing "friendly letters". The final letter was written from the perspective of a 7th grade student on the eve of September 11, 2001. Using the technique of personification, the students wrote to Lady Liberty to discuss their hopes for our country's future in spite of the events that took place that day. I am happy to share that the letters were powerful and inspiring. As we began reading our first literature book, *Harris and Me*, by Gary Paulsen, the students were asked to write one-sentence summaries for each chapter. This is a very difficult skill to master, but they worked very hard, and the results were better than expected. In addition to the tests and written work, they had an opportunity to



showcase their creative side. Using leaves, twigs, moss, and other items from Mother Nature, the students created their favorite scene from the book, and needless to say, they are fun!

Children's Books

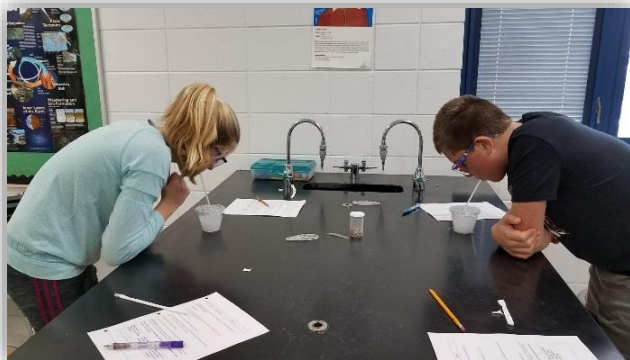
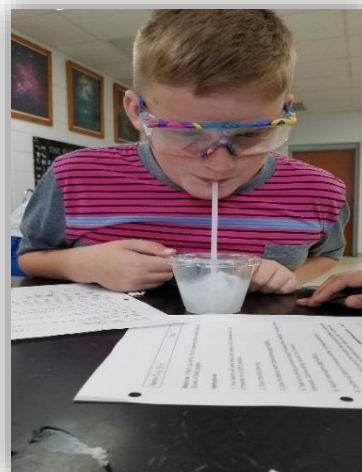
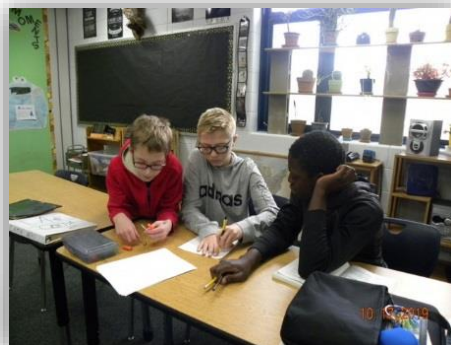
Our current focus is on creative writing. Students are writing and illustrating an original children's story which will be available in both a paper and online edition. They are assessed on the writing process, which means they have written, edited, and revised their story and the stories of their peers multiple times.

I can't believe the second quarter has begun, but I am positive it will be outstanding!

Students reading, editing and revising their work!

Science Scoop:

7th graders are in the midst of the Earth's History unit. Students are currently learning how different environments created the layers of sedimentary rock in the Grand Canyon. We will continue with this unit through winter break. Upcoming topics include fossils, plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes and mountain building.



7th Grade Students of the Month - October

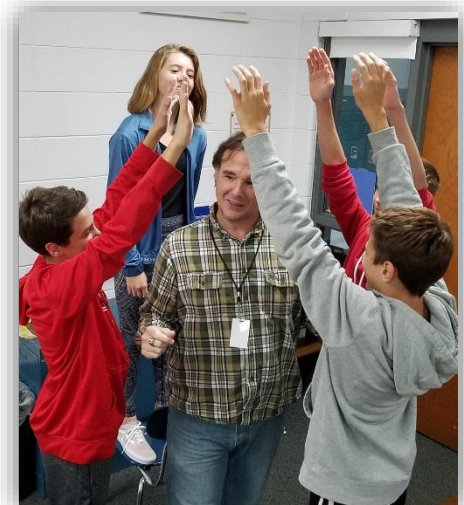
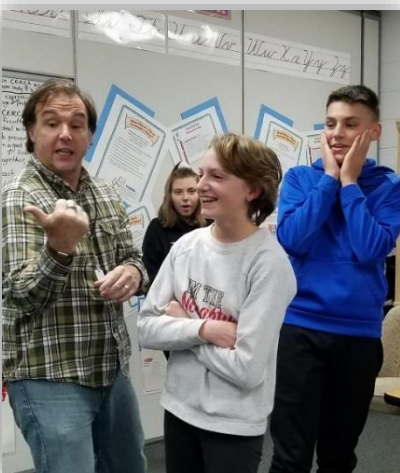
EXCEPTIONAL EIGHTH GRADE HIGHLIGHTS:

During the first quarter, eighth grade students at Lodi Middle School learned CERCA. CERCA is "an expert-designed lesson that walks students through the writing process of developing an evidence-based argument in response to a prompt" (ThinkCERCA). It is the format that the high school uses and expects incoming students to practice. Our middle school students have been using CERCA in both their language arts and social studies classes this year. In language arts, the students used CERCA to create positive traits essays. In this case, the students made claims, provided reasons, showed evidence, and proved the relationship of their claims in their writing. In social studies, the eighth graders used CERCA to provide textual evidence and reasoning for responses to questions about the Boston Massacre, the French and Indian war, and other topics. The experience the eighth grade students are receiving in the CERCA style of writing will prove valuable in the years to come.



The eighth graders of Lodi Middle School were wowed by an actor's visit provided by American Players Theater (APT) this fall. In preparation for the visit, students first read a summary of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and then attended the play at APT. The field trip helped students deepen their understanding of the story while they joined together on an adventure of the arts. In addition, students used their experience with the play to compare and contrast the two versions, meeting one of the language arts state standards. But the fun did not end there. An actor visited the classroom! Eighth graders were thrilled that they could get so close to the actor.

Questions abounded about why the director made particular choices, how actors memorize lines, and what other jobs were involved in the production. Students participated through movement and interpretation. The energy in the room was amazing. The opportunity to see a play at American Players Theater and to work with one of their actors was an experience our students will not soon forget.



Around Our School:

COL:

Color Outside the Lines is in full swing for 7th and 8th graders. There are almost 70 students participating in our leadership group this year. That is awesome! The students have already formed many action teams. An action team is a group within COL that is planning and implementing a particular activity. COL's mission is to bring a voice to students who want to continue to make Lodi Middle School a safe and healthy place to learn. The activities that the action teams plan need to be aligned to that motto. The students are planning to hold dances and fundraisers at school, and also ring bells for the Salvation Army. They are planning presentations about bullying prevention and reducing the use of vapes and Juuls among our youth. Action teams include teams that decorate lockers for every student's birthday, as well as festive seasonal decorating around the building. In the coming weeks 6th graders will be invited to join COL and their activities will be planned and lead by the 7th and 8th graders. COL meets one time per week during flex. It is a fabulous youth organization and a great way for students to feel connected to their school, and have the opportunity to work together to make a positive impact for all who learn and work here.

Lucinda Ranney



Staff and Students in 6th Grade participated in our 1st Annual Social Emotional Learning Film Festival on Oct. 11, 2019! Students watched short videos and had thoughtful discussion/dialogue on the topics of kindness, diversity, inclusion, being an ally, and being an agent for change! Thanks to all our students and staff for their commitment to making this an important day of learning!



Music News:



Our Holiday Concert is quickly approaching! The date is set for Tuesday, December 10th, with the sixth grade Band and Chorus performing at 6:30pm and the seventh & eighth grades at 7:30pm. The concert will be held at the High School Performing Arts Center. Sixth graders should arrive at 6:00pm to get dressed and warmed up and seventh & eighth graders should arrive at 7:00pm. We are asking students to “dress up” for their performance. We request that students stay for their entire grade level concert to support performers in both choir and band.

Please remember to pick-up your products from our recent fundraiser in the HS cafeteria before or after each concert.

See you on December 10th!

Mrs. Muehlenkamp
Mr. Wilkosz



Lodi Middle School Forensics program was developed to act as an introductory activity for students in grades six, seven, and eight. Forensics is best defined as a public speaking activity, which can involve individuals, partnerships, and groups. The forensic program goal is to foster the ability to communicate orally with clarity and poise.

Students who choose to participate in MS Forensics must have passing grades, and will need to pay a **\$25.00 co-curricular fee**. If your child is involved in a sport, or other co-curricular, they may have already paid the one-time fee. They will sign a contract, which indicates a desire to participate through the entire season. Sign-up begins in November, students will then be paired with a coach. Practices may start at that time, or may begin in December, if the coach desires. Practices are usually held once per week, after school or before school, on a day that is mutually agreeable.

Lodi Middle School Forensics participants will be asked to attend two competitions during the season. Depending on the year, one or both of the competitions may be held in other districts. Our consortium consists of Poynette, Columbus, Marshall, McFarland, and Lodi. These meets are held after school, and we travel by bus to the site. Meets usually take place in March.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Torgerson at Lodi Middle School, phone # 592-3854 Extension 3234 or torgesu@lodischoolswi.org

The coaches at the middle school look forward to working with you and your student in the future as members of our forensics program.

Susan Torgerson
LMS Forensics Advisor



Library Letters

Paula Tonn, Library Media Specialist

4 Strands of Library Programming

When students come to the library sometimes they check out books. Other times they might learn and do other “library things.” So what are these “library things” that aren't books? There are many aspects of how libraries function in the lives of students. Mostly, they fall into 4 main strands:

Literacy

The first job of libraries is to be a welcoming place where students can find information to fuel their curiosity. Kids need to be able to find stories that serve as both windows and mirrors of experience. Stories that are windows allow students to “peek” into the experiences of others to enjoy a different perspective. Stories as mirrors allow for diverse students from all walks of life to see characters like themselves featured in a book. It is my firm belief that all students are just one book away from falling in love with reading and growing an identity as a “reader” either through window or mirror.

Digital Citizenship

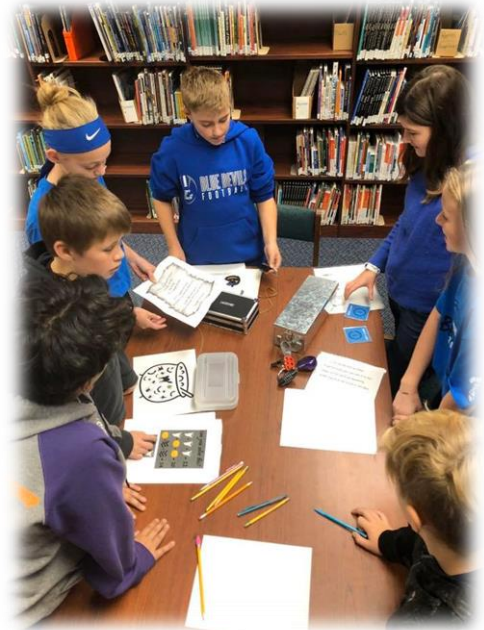
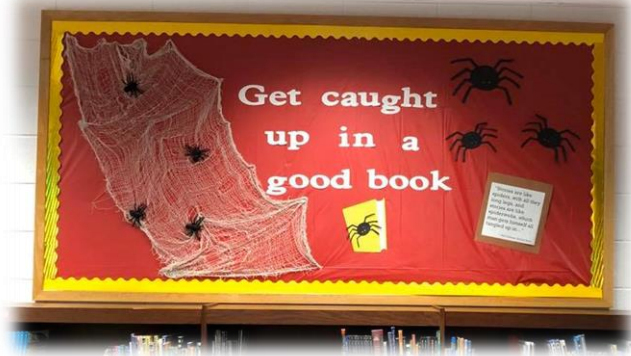
Just as citizens of a country enjoy rights and responsibilities of the place they reside, digital citizens who “live” online have rights and responsibilities. So who “lives” online? We all do. We seek entertainment, work, shop, trade ideas, get news, upload our creations and even fall in love online. Because we all have at least part of our lives online, an important facet of library programming is providing instruction in Digital Civics about how to be a contributing citizen of the Internet. Lessons include themes of privacy, safety, oversharing, understanding scams, sifting through information for truth, and how to treat fellow digital citizens with kindness and respect.

Research

Libraries have always been and will forever be places of research. While the places we look for information may have shifted over time, the process remains the same. Librarians guide students from a place of curiosity to locating, evaluating, and analyzing information to reach an answer. Much of the co teaching that is done between Middle School teachers and Ms. Tonn is with research.

Making

Being a “maker” is an old concept with a new name. People have always worked in creative community to make things that are beautiful to inspire joy or function to solve problems or both! Doing work with our hands is something many people find relaxing, and having a tangible outcome is satisfying and rewarding. Using students’ creativity to make stuff is a part of library programming. Making can mean creating artwork, practicing engineering skills, computer coding, digital storytelling with audio, video, or still photo, or lo tech making like origami or crocheting. In fact, making in many circles is synonymous with STEAM education.





THE DANGERS OF VAPING, JUULING AND E-CIGARETTES:

More information is out about the dangers of teens using vaping, Juuling and E-Cigarettes. You may have already heard about the recent cases of lung injuries and even deaths that have occurred because of the use of these products. On Oct. 3, 2019, UW Health held a press conference where they provided information about the incidence of vaping lung injuries that have occurred right here in southern Wisconsin. They report that they have treated at least 10 cases in the past two months in which patients were admitted for lung injuries after vaping, Juuling, or using e-cigarettes. In these cases the products have contained at least one of the following: nicotine, THC or CBD and was not restricted to just those containing THC.

Click on link to hear the press conference: [Link to UW Health Press Conference](#)

The use of vaping, JUUL and E-cigarettes is also a concern here in Lodi. In the Lodi Middle School between 6-20% of students report using a vaping product in the past 30 days. Many student believe that everyone is vaping, but this simple is not the case. According to the data from Youth Behavior Risk Survey, at least 80% of students are choosing to **not** participate in vaping.

During the week of the Great American Smoke Out (Nov 21) at the Middle School the COL group will be working on showing just how harmful vaping, JUULS and E-cigarette are to growing and developing teens. Listed below are some of the health concerns.

The products are dangerous for several reasons:

RESOURCES TO HELP TEENS QUIT SMOKING/VAPING

- **WI Tobacco Quit Line:** 800-Quit-Now (800-784-8669). Telephone coaching available to Wisconsin vapers or smokers who want to quit.
- **This is Quitting:** text "DITCHJUUL" to 88709. This is a texting program designed specifically for teenagers to help them quit.
- **E-Cigarettes and Youth: What Parents Need to Know:** Fact sheet from the CDC

1. The adolescent brain very is susceptible to nicotine addiction. Teen brains continue to develop until the age of 25. Nicotine use during this time of growth and development can lead to permanent harm to the developing brain.
2. Companies have targeted teens and have mislead them regarding the safety of their product. The amount of nicotine within the product is often much more than teens realize.
 - a. As an example, 1 pack of cigarettes contains 20mg of nicotine. A Juul is advertised to be equivalent to 1 pack of cigarettes, but contains 41.3 mg of nicotine.
3. Aerosolized vape products when heated, turn into multiple dangerous and even cancer causing chemicals.

Dr. Vivek Balasubramaniam, a pediatric pulmonologist and a 16 year old teen from Fort Atkinson, who says he almost died from a vape related lung injury, **are urging children and teens to never vape.** They also **encouraged all Wisconsin residents to seek help quitting all nicotine containing products** that are smoked, vaped or chewed. There are several resources for teens listed to help quit.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information regarding this topic.

6th Grade Honor Roll

High Honors (4.00 GPA)

Sawyer Baron
Alex Breunig
Makayla Burmester
Brielle Burros
Natalie Detert
Norah Gruel
Noelle Haak
Fayth Hesselberg
Maya Houdek
Grayson Koeppen
Elise Krumpen
Marah Lane
Micah Lee
Andrew Lembcke
Nathan Lichucki
Briahna Lund
Hallie Nolden
Isaac Prosek
Scarlett Reppen
Beau Ripp
Brody Ripp
Sabrina Schmidt
Sydney Schroeder
Megan Smith
Skyla Strangeway
Noah Streit
Mia Walstad
Faith Wetzol
Rylie Wilcox
Olivia Woodburn
Adysen Young



Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Tyler Anderson
Sophia Andrews
Ian Bahr
Keleigh Bannach
William Bercher
Ella Best
Lexie Bishop
Jack Bozacki
Karrell Branch
Riley Browne
Gracie Clary
Ashton Clemens
Rylan Clemens
Mikayla Dachel
Hannah Davis
Mason Edgerly
Ayden Fandrich
Raina Frey
Katherine Hall
A.J. Hernandez
Sophia Himes
Taylor Hoiland
Zander Kellogg
Adelyn Kopp
Trevor Kutz
Charlotte Leu
Madison McMorris
Theodore Melland
Luke Nesheim
Braydon Newcomb
Collin Norland
Andre Pardo
Vala Pollock
Taylor Reese
Darla Ripp
Caden Ripp
Jake Ryan
Flor Salto
Whitney Schoenberg
Rowan Skarda
Annika Smith
Bailey Stark
Ava Stephens
Anabelle Strong
Anna Thony

Honors Cont. (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Theo Traeder
Misael Valencia
Madalynn Weber
Ethan Winter

Honorable Mention (3.0 – 3.49GPA)

Lilly Bartholomew
Everett Clemens
Malinaly Fernandez Aguillon
Olivia Homewood
Chase Hunter
Kyle Kurt
Leo Lagunas
Chase Maas
Grant Miller
Alannah Moen
Jakob Newman
Weston Olsen
Lucas Rehlinger
Simon Ricks
Westley Robson
Giselle Roekle
Trenton Schlender
Bryce Skalitzky
Riley Smith
Navaeh Statz
Hayden Struse
Kenneth Taylor



7th Grade Honor Roll

High Honors (4.00 GPA)

Izabeth Bahe
Ava Ballweg
Kaden Ballweg
Vivian Beld
Mayah Bonafield
Michael Cahalane
Addison Crane
Braedon Dorshorst
Preston Follis
Bailey Franklin
Adrianna Gonzalez
Natalie Hellenbrand
Olivia Heyroth
Alexander Jackson
Ezekiel Jackson
Natalie Kelley
Sophie Lincoln
Tyler Oberling
Tessa Pertzborn
Summer Rake
Nicholas Rentmeister
Kathryn Schilling
Brianne Schmelling
Sydney Simpson
Christa Statz
Abigail Strong
Tatum Tatro



Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Addison Bakke
Landon Best
Grant Beyer
Lexie Birchler
Robert Boisen
Dakota Franklin
Jonah Giese
Harlie Gjavenis
Kaydeen Hall
Nellie Hatch
Jadyn Hellenbrand
Fatime Ibraimi
Hayden Johnson
Isabella Johnson
Sadie Koenig
Zion Kurtz
Samantha Leatherberry
Matthew Lincicum
Caleb Lister
Deanna Loewenhagen
Caleb Lord
Alyssa Lovik
Grace Morgan
Jackson Rentmeister
Lucas Ripp
Caleb Rotzoll
Elijah Schneider
Connor Skrum
Chase Stanek
Keegan Taylor
Amy Wenger
Isabell Wipperfurth
Laurence Wood
Mason Yates
Catherine Zajicek



Honorable Mention (3.0 – 3.49GPA)

Madison Berry
Gracie Burkholder
Sabriyya Chaplin
Amelia Clark
Audrey Dallman
Cyan Erickson
Marek Fredericks
Rejanais Hansen
Easton Hensen
Kyle Hoffman
Aiden Johnson
Jack Jones
Sam Jones
Karter Krueger
Liam Mueller
Kaylie Nichols
Amber Norland
Michael O'Mara
Tony Omosebi
Shelby Ripp
Ryan Rolfe
Ben Sebold
Trent Skalitzky
Jamie Skrum
Bentley Smith
Cameron Thistle
Ayden Trimble
Cameron Tritt
Abigail Wagner
Dominic Wipperfurth



8th Grade Honor Roll

High Honors (4.00 GPA)

Camila Becerril
Walter Beld
Mason Breunig
Jayce Kolinski
Brianna Kurt
Gianna McMahon
Morgan Paulson
Connor Pecard
Isabella Roen
Owen Smith
Alexis Wilcox



Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Mitzari Alvarez-Ortega
Anna Balfanz
Kogen Baron
Hailey Braatz
Zachary Brisky
Gianna Burke
Lauren Burros
Jocelyn Chambers
Aryana Chaplin
Crew Clemens
Samuel Clepper
Anastasia Etlicher
Rylee Fandrich
Dayne Flad
Zachary Frank
Alayna Graf
Allison Gray
Aiden Groskopf
Gabriella Guethlein
Elaina Hatley
Tyler Hellenbrand
Noah Houdek
Evan Kite
Henry Koeppen
Mason Lane
Thomas Lund
Blake Meier
Courtney Meitzner
Hallie Miller
Samantha Nyffenegger
Quetzal Peterson
Brady Puls
Miranda Risher
Skyler Rose
Madelynn Scherer
Ben Schultz
Anna Stratton
Lucas Thistle
Lea Traeder
Nicholas Week
Grace Wetzel
Noah Winter
Lillian Yauch

Honorable Mention (3.0 – 3.49GPA)

Dylan Biese
George Breiwa
Jacobco Castillo Rosales
Evan Clary
Kylar Clemens
Brooklyn Endres
Sydney Erickson
Anna Florin
Henry Fowler
Sarah Griffing
Isaiah Groskopf
Rosalee Heidenreich
Anna Kittleson
Joshua Klann
Alexis Krakow
Abigail Krey
Paxton Krugman
Brayden Kurt
Litzi Lagunas
Ben Lichucki
Drew Lochner
William Long
Harley Mahlum
James Miller
Ella Moran
Spencer Olson
Roman Richardson
Trebor Roddewig
Owen Rosga
Haylie Schwab
Holden Smith
Rowan Thistle
Damon Toothman
Kaylan Warren
Nolan Zopfi

