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Preparing Our Students for the "Real World" Through Exemplary Math Instruction

At the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District we are committed to providing each and every student with a high quality education. We are currently in year three of our Learning for All initiative, and our subsequent quest to challenge and support all students. This year our teachers have continued to embed instructional practices that promote rigor, and place students at the center of their own learning. One prime example of our efforts can be seen in the area of math instruction.

Recently our K-8 math teachers had the privilege of working with Mary Richards, Wisconsin Mathematics Council 2018 Teacher of the Year. During this training, they learned about traditional practices that actually contribute to student misconceptions, and how to plan lessons to promote student engagement, academic "math talk", and deep conceptual understanding. According to Ms. Richards, "Math instruction is just not the same now as it was even ten years ago. Our students need to go beyond applying rigid rules and procedures...they need to understand the reasons behind those procedures. This is essential for preparing them for the future, where they will need to be flexible thinkers regardless of what they choose to do."

So how can we teach students to be flexible thinkers through math? Isn't this a discipline where there is simply a "right" or "wrong" answer?

According to our training, the first step is that we need to stop telling students how to solve problems. "New" math involves presenting a real-world mathematical problem to students and allowing them first to consider on their own how to solve it. Students then collaborate to compare plausible solutions, they listen to each others' explanations, and they compare their reasoning with others. These are the kind of higher order thinking skills that are typically reserved for the END of a math unit in a more traditional setting, but with the "new math" approach they are brought to the forefront of a lesson, and daily!

Aside from being expert problem solvers, students must also "talk

the talk" of mathematics. Within the "new math" model, essential math vocabulary is deliberately taught, and students are held accountable for using precise language when explaining their reasoning. Just like writing an argumentative essay in English class, a huge part of doing math involves accurately and precisely explaining how to perform certain operations. In fact, explanation questions have become a huge focus of many standardized tests, including the Forward and ACT. What's more, according to Tere Masiarchin, CESA 2 Bilingual and Bicultural Program Director, making vocabulary a primary focus of instruction not only benefits all students, but it is absolutely crucial to making the curriculum accessible for English Learners.

Opponents of the "new math" model might argue that taking too much time to deep dive into certain math concepts might actually be to a student's detriment, as his or her class might not "get through" all the content in time for the test. However, put succinctly, this is not what the WI Common Core State Standards for math have intended: not all content is created equal, and it is absolutely essential that teachers know and emphasize grade level "power standards" in their instruction, as it is these concepts that will make or break a student's ability to handle future math. Moreover, it is arguable that helping students to develop a deep conceptual understanding of key math concepts actually makes them better equipped to tackle math problems that they have not seen. Our PEASD teachers look forward to learning more about best practices for teaching math. K-6 teachers will be doing a site visit to the Milton School District to witness this kind of math instruction in action at their respective grade levels. Our middle and high school teachers will also be working with local experts at CESA 2 to finetune their current curriculum, assessments, and instructional practices. The future of math at PEASD certainly looks bright.

Kindergarten Round-Up!

Children in the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District who will be four or five-years-old on or before September 1, 2019, will need to register for the 2019-2020 school year. All parents of children who will be four or five years old and are not currently enrolled at Palmyra or Eagle Elementary schools will need to call or email for registration materials.

Please contact your local school office between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to notify the district of your intent to register your child. Parents of Eagle Elementary students are asked to call Mrs. Scheel at 262-594-2148 or email sscheel@peasd.org. Parents of Palmyra Elementary students are asked to contact Mrs. DePorter at 262-495-7103 or email rdeporter@peasd.org. Registration packets will then be mailed to each kindergarten family.

Please spread the word to neighbors and friends who may have children eligible for 4-K and 5-K in the fall. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



PANTHER NATION news

"To ensure students excel with intellect and virtue, inspired by innovative educators who engage and challenge each individual."

Palmyra-Eagle Area School District / www.peasd.org / March 2019

Shrek the Musical

Over 50 Palmyra-Eagle students in grades 3rd-12th were part of the cast and crew for the district's spring musical this year. Starring senior Tim Dieter as Shrek, the stellar performances took place on March 8th, 9th, and 10th. Other notable roles included Alexandra Burrill as Fiona, Nova Rutkowski as Donkey, Hunter Pagel as Lord Farquaad, Jillian Brown as Pinocchio, and Bailey Marsh as Gingy. Palmyra Elementary teacher Chelli Taylor led the production and was assisted by elementary music teacher Sarah Mickelson and elementary band teacher Brittany Pfaff.



Walk the Halls

Palmyra-Eagle High/Middle School is inviting the community to "Walk the Halls" of the school building. The program aims to offer community members an opportunity to exercise, especially during cold and inclement weather. Walk the Halls will be available Monday - Thursday from 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm during the school year (on days when school is in session). To help ensure the safety and security of staff and students, all "walkers" will be required to register with the high school office staff during office hours (7:30 am - 4:00 pm) before beginning the program to receive a "Walker" identification badge. Participants must bring a valid photo identification for registration and the process must be completed annually. Individuals must enter the building using door #1, the main entrance, and visibly wear the "Walker" identification badge when participating. Hope to see you soon!



See more voting details on page 6



Dear Parents, Community Members & Taxpayers,

Continuous improvement. There is a direct correlation between high quality classroom learning experiences and student performance on standardized test score measurements. Student results on state mandated assessments, such as the Wisconsin Forward Exam and the ACT, offer insights into connections between day to day classroom learning and reported student accountability scores. As a district, our staff members are dedicated to providing opportunities for students that will prepare them for success beyond high school - whether attending a two-year or four-year post-secondary institution, entering the world of work, or joining the armed services. We strive daily to prepare our students to be college, career and life ready.

In keeping with our stated district mission statement, district educators are constantly working to provide meaningful, relevant, and challenging learning opportunities for our students. During the past several years, the district has purchased new curricular materials for all grade levels in the areas of Science and Social Studies, and have supported teachers with professional development opportunities supportive of the new curriculum. Continued efforts in Reading and Writing at the K to 6th grade levels and in high school math have also taken place the last several years. Recently, attention is being given to math grades K thru 8th and up, next will be better alignment of the middle school transition in other core academic areas such as English and Literature.

Historically, the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District has met or exceeded State of Wisconsin determined benchmarks for proficiency on statewide assessments. While the district is proud of such results, efforts continue to be focused on areas for improvement. We are very pleased that the past three years of measurements on the Wisconsin Forward Exam have resulted in the closing of gaps for students who receive special education services,

English language learners and pupils living in poverty. While closing those gaps we are also working to enhance all children's academic performance on statewide accountability measurements that are required by the state.

Our high school staff have also targeted increasing student results on the ACT examination that is now a requirement for all high school juniors. For the last two years, formal ACT "test prep" offerings have been held during scheduled resource time to familiarize our students with this type of assessment tool. Student results are reviewed, and additional supports offered, to further enhance student responses to the format of questions as posed on the ACT itself. Sophomores, who take the ACT Aspire examination, establish growth goal targets as juniors based on their results. The ACT Aspire, coupled with individualized growth goals, can be helpful in predicting actual performance on the ACT as a junior.

At the elementary schools, built in intervention time has been scheduled to assist students who may need additional time and supports to be successful in their academics. This year the high school schedule was revised to move away from the previous assigned Study Hall. Dedicated time at the conclusion of each school day was implemented, which allows teachers and students access to each other for various academic supports.

These efforts are all offered within an environment in which students are able to get to know their teachers and teachers are able to form positive working relationships with the learners assigned to their classroom. Small class sizes afford the creation of such teaching - learning relationships and is a source of great pride in our educators.

Continuous improvement. As our mission statement indicates, "To ensure students excel with intellect and virtue, inspired by innovative educators who engage and challenge each individual." Our work continues.

Sincerely,
Dr. Steven M. Bloom, District Administrator
Palmyra-Eagle Area School District

eagle/palmyra elementary

Building a Reader's Life

In an effort to promote a lifelong love of reading, the entire learning community at Eagle Elementary School is working hard to build a reader's life for all students. The process began in August when the new school year started. As a collective group, the teaching staff determined that developing a love for reading was this school year's highest priority.



It was then determined that a Professional Learning Community (PLC) would be formed to brainstorm ways to increase reading engagement and help struggling readers. To help establish the goal, the teaching staff has met after school on a consistent basis to form a book study on the works of literacy expert Jennifer Serravallo.

As a result of the book study and the rich conversations it produced, staff members became determined to bring back the program

One School, One Book that Eagle Elementary School participated in three years earlier. This program is a special, community-wide shared reading event. Every family received a copy of the same book - *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, courtesy of the Eagle PTO, and was asked to read it together at home over the course of several weeks. Reading aloud at home is valuable because it better prepares children to be effective readers, while also being a fun and worthwhile family activity. With this program, the aim has been to further build our community of readers.

Reading plays a critical role in the development and education of each child. As Eagle Elementary teachers discussed this year, students do not fall in love with reading by doing worksheets or endless reading passages. They fall in love with reading when they are provided with opportunities to enjoy a variety of books and to read independently. Promoting a lifelong love for learning by reading with those closest to them has been instrumental in building a reader's life, where all children engage in selecting and reading good books that peak their interest. We set the stage at school by dedicating time each day for students to read self-selected books. Our hope is that through our modeling at school, we will be setting the stage for each child to develop the foundation for their own reader's life.



Art Everywhere

Artwork from students in both Eagle and Palmyra Elementary Schools has been abundantly displayed throughout our greater community this year. Elementary art teacher Beth Dobberstein arranged a PEASD Art Walk this winter where creative pieces were on display at Eagle businesses 1863 Coffee Saloon & Cafe, MP Taqueria, the Eagle Historical Society as well as a the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts in Brookfield. Additionally, in partnership with the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, and as part of the Uncovering America program, the 3rd-grade students from Palmyra and Eagle Elementary had their artwork on display at the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit Forest Friends Headquarters depicting: "People and Their Environment" throughout the month of February. Beautiful watercolors and ink prints of Wisconsin birds inspired by John James Audubon, black and white photography of The Eagle Nature Trail, inspired by Ansel Adams and nature sculptures were all showcased. The students also utilized their art to share the results of their bird watching research project. In celebration of National Youth Art Month, district artwork from students in grades K-12th will be on display the entire month of March at both the Powers Memorial Library in Palmyra and the Alice Baker Library in Eagle. Please stop by to see what our talented students have created!



Mentoring at Palmyra Elementary

At Palmyra Elementary School, staff members take an interest in supporting children in many ways. One of these is through our mentoring program. Mentoring is a structured, consistent and purposeful relationship between an elementary student and a caring adult who provides acceptance, support, encouragement and guidance to assist in providing youth development and student success. The mentoring program addresses issues such as skills for school success, behavior, social needs, and emotional needs. This opportunity is supported by school staff including teachers,

administrators, paraprofessionals, and other support staff. Mentors spend time on a daily or weekly basis each week during the school year with their students. These meetings take place during the school day and on occasion, before or after school. Students may be referred by the Academic/Behavior Concern (ABC) team, teachers, administrators, and parents. Students must willingly participate and parental consent is required. Palmyra Elementary Reading Specialist, Katey Morgan, is the facilitator for the mentoring program and can be contacted at kmorgan@peasd.org.

Math Enrichment

Both Eagle and Palmyra Elementary schools offer multiple opportunities for students who want to take their love of math beyond the classroom. Each year groups of students in 4th - 6th attend the Southern Lakes Math Meet held at UW-Whitewater. The event offers a team and individual component for students to compete against other schools. Math 24 is another option for enrichment. Math 24 is a card game in which the objective is to find a way to manipulate four integers so that the end result is 24. Groups meet weekly to play and practice. In the spring, the top 3 individuals at both buildings from grades 4th-6th compete in a regional tournament. Through the Lego Robotics Club offered at Eagle Elementary, students learn science, logic, programming and engineering all while having fun. The club meets regularly after school in the Makerspace. Palmyra Elementary's Makerspace Club travels weekly to the Powers Memorial Library where the group explores STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) activities in the library's Makerspace. Other extra enrichment choices include Strategy Games and Chess Club which encourage decision-making and math skills.



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VOTE ON APRIL 2, 2019

Referendum Question

Shall the School Board of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District be authorized to exceed the revenue limit under Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes in the amounts set forth below on a non-recurring basis over a period of four years commencing with the 2019-20 school year as follows: \$1,750,000 in the 2019-20 school year, \$2,500,000 in the 2020-21 school year, \$3,250,000 in the 2021-22 school year and \$4,000,000 in the 2022-23 school year for the purpose of paying District operation and maintenance expenses as provided in the foregoing resolution?

If you **SUPPORT** the proposed question, you would vote



If you **DO NOT SUPPORT** the proposed question, you would vote



For the most up-to-date election information regarding your voter information, how to register to vote, how to obtain an absentee ballot, and where your polling place is located, please visit: <https://myvote.wi.gov>

Absentee Voting

Are you unable to vote at your polling place on April 2, 2019? There are several absentee voting options:

RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT BY MAIL

Wisconsin voters can receive their absentee ballot by mail. If you are a regular voter who would like to vote in the 2019 Spring Election, make sure to submit your request for an absentee ballot by March 28, 2019.

VOTE EARLY IN YOUR MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE

Starting the third Monday before Election Day, you can vote by absentee ballot in person at your Municipal Clerk's office.

RECEIVE A BALLOT FOR EVERY ELECTION BY MAIL

If you are unable to go to your polling place on Election Day due to age, illness, disability or infirmity, you can request an absentee ballot be sent to you for every election, automatically, as an "indefinitely confined elector."

Q & A Sessions

The Palmyra-Eagle Area School District School Board invites you to attend an informal "Referendum Q & A Session" to get acquainted, ask questions, and share information about the school district referendum set for April 2, 2019. Opportunities will be held as follows:

MONDAY, MARCH 18 FROM 6:00 TO 7:00 PM
Eagle Elementary School Library

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 FROM 6:00 TO 7:00 PM
Palmyra Elementary School Library

Members of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District School Board will be present to speak with you, answer questions, and listen to your input and feedback.

Area Polling Locations

VILLAGE OF EAGLE

820 E. Main Street, Eagle, WI 53119
Clerk: Cheri Zindars Phone: 262-594-3400
Email: cheri@eagle-wi.gov
Website: <http://www.vi.eagle.wi.gov/>

TOWN OF EAGLE

820 E. Main Street, Eagle, WI 53119
Clerk: Lynn M. Pepper Phone: 262-594-5800
Email: clerk@townofeaglewi.us
Website: www.townofeaglewi.us

VILLAGE OF PALMYRA

100 Taft Street, Palmyra, WI 53156-0380
Clerk: Laurie Mueller Phone: 262-495-8316
Email: clerk@villageofpalmyra.com
Website: www.villageofpalmyra.com

TOWN OF PALMYRA

W1125 State Road 106, Palmyra, WI 53156-9673
Clerk: William May Phone: 262-495-2049
Email: palmyratownclerk@centurylink.net
Website: www.townofpalmyra.org

TOWN OF COLD SPRING

W3497 Vannoy Drive, Whitewater, WI 53190-3005
Clerk: Lisa Griep Phone: 262-473-6228
Email: townofcoldspring@netwurx.net
Website: coldspring-wi.org/

TOWN OF LAGRANGE

N7899 County Road H, Whitewater, WI 53190
Clerk: Crystal Hoffmann Phone: 262-495-8200
Email: clerk@townoflagrangewi.com
Website: www.townoflagrangewi.com

TOWN OF OTTAWA

W360 S3337 State Road 67
Dousman, WI 53118-9709
Clerk: Melissa M. Klein Phone: 262-965-3228
Email: mklein@townofottawa.com
Website: <http://www.tn.ottawa.wi.gov/>

TOWN OF SULLIVAN

N3866 West Street, Sullivan, WI 53176-9621
Clerk: Dawn Lynn Phone: 262-593-8383
Email: townofsullivan@centurytel.net
Website: www.townofsullivan.com

middle/high school

Seeds of Hope

Palmyra-Eagle offers an active transition program for students age 18-21. The goal is to "teach work" to students who receive special education services and to support their growth into adulthood. Students gain skills through a combination of schooling, internships, and support



from outside organizations. The district is proud to have a new partnership with Seeds of Hope to further strengthen this process. Twice per month, Sara Rivers, a district special education

case manager, and one paraprofessional will be taking high school seniors with intellectual disabilities and the students enrolled in the transition program to Seeds of Hope located in Elkhorn, WI. Seeds of Hope is a nonprofit organization which aims to help individuals with developmental disabilities gain life skills and a higher sense of purpose through an encouraging, supportive environment. Our district students visit the location twice per month, for four hours each day. While at Seeds of Hope the students engage in vocational/job opportunities, recreation activities, as well as social emotional connections with students and adults from different schools and the greater community. This platform teaches life skills by implementing simple tasks through horticulture, construction, culinary and recreation activities. Individual tasks are modified so that everyone is needed and successful throughout the day. The program also looks to grow relationships with students and their families while they are still in school so that adults with disabilities can continue to come to Seeds of Hope after they have graduated. One of our students attested to the benefits of the partnership, "It's nice; I get to make new friends and have new experiences."



Solo Ensemble Success

90 Palmyra-Eagle Middle and High School Band and Choir students participated at two recent Solo & Ensemble Festivals hosted by East Troy and Deerfield High Schools. Several individuals and groups received the highest rating of 1* which qualifies them for the State Solo Ensemble Festival held at UW-Whitewater on Saturday, April 27th.

Choir students who qualified for State:

-Jazmin Soto (Solo)
-Elysa Hicks and Lillian von Asten (Duet)
-Not x (female acapella group):

Mackenzie Antos, Elysa Hicks, Lillian von Asten, Jillian Brown, Sidney Chaney, Faith Laabs, Alex Burrill, Haley Czerniejewski, Lila Glatczak and Abby Riggs

-#Harmony (acapella ensemble): Mackenzie Antos, Tim Dieter, Elysa Hicks, Isaac Moss, Jazmin Soto, Jillian Brown, Allen Shahan, Alex Burrill, Adyn Guadarrama, Lane Scheel and Lila Glatczak



Band students who qualified for State:

-Adyn Guadarrama (Timpani Solo)
-Brass Ensemble consisting of Jason Slaybaugh, Rachel Mason, Kelsey Maney, Erica Kommer, Brandon Wilde, Jacob Stroh, Vivianne Hauck, Dalton Metzdorf, Kris Mecca, Gabe Cox, Logan Woessner, Jenna Johnson, John Zimmerman, Cole Marinez, Matt Hunkins, Matt Hoh, Casey Webber and Romeo Aranda.



Early College Credit

There are a variety of ways for students who attend Palmyra-Eagle High School (PEHS) to earn college credit while still attending high school at little or no cost to them. Students can earn up to 18 college credits while still attending high school and these credits also count toward their high school GPA. Principal Kari Timm believes that these programs "offer our students a wide variety of pathways to explore and start their future."

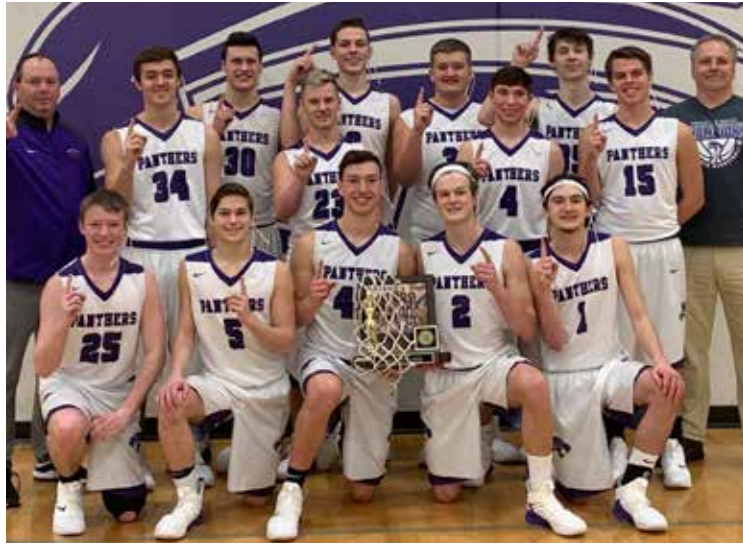
The first and most commonly known way is through Wisconsin's "Early College Credit Program" (ECCP) formerly Youth Options. This program is geared towards juniors and seniors in high school who want to take classes that will further their future career. The ECCP program is designed for 4-year colleges or university specifically. The student receives high school and college credits for each class they successfully complete. In the past, Palmyra-Eagle High School students have attended Carroll University as well as UW-Whitewater. The classes the students take are entirely up to the student and their post-high school goals. Many of our students choose to take advanced math courses including Calculus/Analytic Geometry I and II. Similarly, students have chosen to take classes related to their chosen career fields such as

Ethnic Politics, Introduction to Criminology and History through Film. The credits that are earned at the college

level can then be transferred to the student's school of choice upon graduation from high school. Through the years students have talked highly of their ECCP experiences. Current senior Tim Dieter stated, "It is something that has challenged me more than I thought it would and I don't regret it." A parent of former PEHS students who participated in the program saw the benefits as "giving students a taste of the college atmosphere with a home safety net" and "setting them up for great success by building independence without having mom or dad hounding them."

The second opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school is through the "Start College Now" (SCN) program. This program will allow high school students the opportunity to take college courses at Wisconsin Technical Colleges. It is a great option for students looking to pursue a 2-year

continued on page 8



Conference Champions!

It was a successful year for the Panthers as they finished the season with a record of 18-6, including an 11-1 conference record and winning their second consecutive conference title. The team made it all the way to the Regional Finals before closing out the season.

Finishing their career, seven Seniors (Revin Schneider, Morgan Carpenter, Owen Butenhoff, Josh Krystosek, Sawyer Payne, Joey Lutze and Jacob Tomfohrde) accounted for 37 wins, including going 22-2 in the Trailways South over two years and winning back to back Conference Championships.

Revin Schneider, Morgan Carpenter (both 1st Team) and Brandon Wilde (Honorable Mention) received All-Conference awards this season.

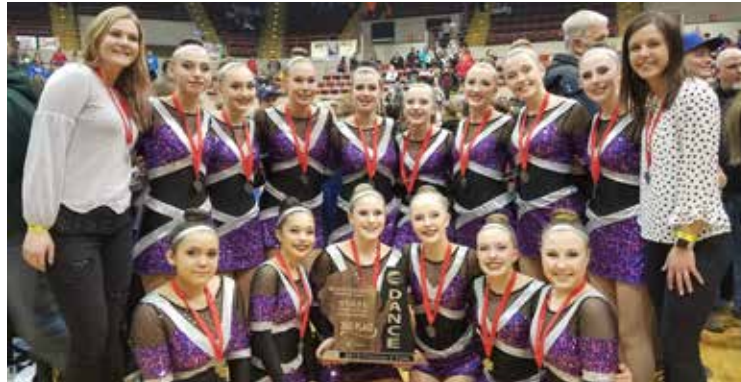
The Panther Boys JV Team and head Coach Tony Loftin enjoyed success as well this season, finishing with a record of 19-3.



Girls Basketball

It was another great season for our girls' basketball program. The Varsity team fought hard all season long but fell one game short from winning a back to back Conference Championship. The team finished with a record of 9-13. The JV girls had another outstanding season and came on very strong at the end in order to tie for first within the conference with a record of 9-12 overall. Four of our athletes earned All-Conference Honors: Rachel Mason (1st Team), Blair Webber (2nd Team), Hannah Steinbach (2nd Team), and Lilly Hammand (Honorable Mention).

A lot of the success this year stems from the heart and effort the girls put in every day during the season. Many thanks go out to everyone for all the support during the season: parents, teachers/staff, community members, Lady Panthers Hoops Club, and more. Lastly, special thanks to our seniors: Blair and Rachel. These two have done so much for the program over the years. They will be missed and we wish them the best of luck in the future!



Best Season in Program History!

The Palmyra-Eagle High School Dance Team finished in 2nd Place in Division 5 Poms at the WACPC State Competition held in La Crosse, WI on Saturday, February 2, 2019. The team qualified for the State event after finishing in first place at their Regional Competition held in Watertown on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Head Coach Jessica Steinbach and Assistant Coach Brittany Neuman led the young team to the program's highest finish in school history. Members of the talented group included Callie School, Madysyn Burzynski, Chloe Metzger, Sophie Deuster, Abbey Vick, Kenzie Emery, Sonya Konkel, Alli Behselich, Samara Nova, Isa Perez, Mikayla Peardon, Kazi Beth, Ella Schlueter and Teona Krivykh. With only one senior, Mikayla, performing on the team this year, the dancers are looking forward to continued success in the future.

Wrestling Recap

There may have been a small turnout for the team with only four wrestlers this season, but the athletes sure did make progress. Junior Jake Pronschinske has been wrestling in the program since 7th grade and was the returning letterman for the team. He finished with a record of 16-12 for the season with 8 of those coming from pins. Fellow junior Austin Pogreba was the new kid on the block, recently joining the squad. He had a record of 17-14 with four of them pins and also made it through Regionals and qualified for Sectionals. He saw some very tough competition at Sectionals but held in strong which will set him up for next year. Ben Schuster was the lone freshman and had never wrestled before but he kept at it, improved with each match (many against experienced upperclassmen) and enjoyed the experience. Tim Dillard had to deal with some injuries throughout the season but was excited to hit the mat when he could. He ended up with a record of 3-3 and all of his wins were by pin. With no seniors on the team this season, the program is looking forward to growth with several middle school students expected to join next year.



WORKING TOGETHER

TO HELP MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES HEALTHIER

