



# WOLFPACK EXPRESS

Focusing On Activities In The School District of Manawa

October 7, 2021

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## Manawa Schools Show Off New Features



BY DR. MELANIE J. OPPOR  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Back to School Night at Little Wolf High School and Manawa Middle School were extra special this year.

School staff and students had the opportunity to showcase all the exciting new features found throughout their building. The August 31st Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and public tours was the first chance for many SDM citizens to see all that was accomplished with the capital improvement referendum.

LWHS/MMS is now more accessible for everyone with the addition of ADA ramps on both the north and west sides of the building. An elevator allows for easy access from the lower level Fitness Center to the upper main floor of the building. There were numerous infrastructure upgrades such as HVAC, natural gas, electrical, and plumbing that are not necessarily readily visible but add to everyone's comfort level and safety.

The commons is a totally revitalized performance space as well as serving as the cafeteria. All asbestos tile was removed revealing the polished concrete that guests will notice throughout the building. Polished concrete is durable and easy to clean. All new acoustical panels and lighting were added to the commons. The windows now also have room darkening shades that allow blocking daylight during certain performances. The room was repainted in a light gray to give it a more modern and bright look.



The stage curtain and all backdrops are new. Hardwood Specialists refinished the floor after contractors removed the wings and expanded the usable stage space. Mainstage Theatrical Supply provided completely updated light and sound systems that can be controlled from the portable panel in the back of the commons or from stage right. The stage is also now ADA accessible via the ramp from the commons. An access garage door was added between the band room and stage to allow larger props, percussion instruments, or other items on stage.

The band room reverse risers fondly known as the "pit" has now been filled in. The flat surface allows for better ADA accessibility and also

enables the director more flexibility in setting up the ensembles in different configurations. Instrument storage lockers were purchased to make it easier for students to safely store their instruments. The former instrument storage



room was converted to a uniform storage room. In this way, the practice rooms are no longer used for storage and can actually be used as practice rooms. The large overhanging soffit along the front of both the band and choir rooms has been removed to enhance acoustics.

New casework was installed in all science labs. This has improved organization and storage. The



New Features  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES!

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## New Features

FROM PAGE 1

emergency natural gas shut off valve was moved to a red button next to the classroom door. It previously was a valve above the ceiling tile that was difficult to access in a hurry. The eye wash stations were also moved to the area next to the door. The science labs received new flexible learning furniture to easily move from presentation to group work to lab stations using one set of furniture.

A new set of high school mens and womens multi-stall bathrooms were added just past the agriculture classroom.

The food science and project lab is a real asset to the agriculture program. Students taking the food science course were previously cooking on two old electric stoves in the back of the agriculture shop. The new space has four fully appointed cooking stations with proper fume hood ventilation and storage for kitchen equipment and utensils. Stainless steel lab tables on casters allow for flexible work stations. There is an added "grow space" for guest animals with a separate air exchange system to prevent odors from being drawn into the building. This area is also designed to accommodate plant grow stations.



Guests to the building will notice that the agriculture and woods rooms have swapped locations. This allows the robotics, engineering, and art departments easier access to the technology project area so that they can share equipment. There is a new dust collection system for both shop areas. Most of the woods equipment was replaced with safer, more efficient pieces. The placement of equipment was also reorganized to flow from the raw production area to the finishing zone.

Employers today want new employees who can work well with others and who can use the expertise of a group to find new and improved solutions to problems. For this



reason, many schools now have collaboration spaces like the new HS collaboration space. Teachers plan activities that give students the opportunity to work and collaborate together to learn and grow from each other. Collaborative learning has been shown to not only develop higher-level thinking skills in students, but boost their confidence and self-esteem as well. Collaboration spaces often mirror business work spaces with attractive lighting, comfortable, moveable furniture, and carpeting. Any new carpet found in the building as seen in the collaboration space is now a carpet square material that is much easier to clean or can be individually pulled up and replaced by a custodian if one gets dirty or damaged beyond repair.

The special education suite includes three classroom spaces where the teachers and paraprofessionals can work with students individually or in small groups. There is also a large shared daily living experience space where students can practice skills like cooking, cleaning, or doing laundry. Students also practice basic employment skills.

In order to create the Middle School Suite, the office addition was created. Ms. Connolly, the school counselor, has her office here along with her clerical support person. The counseling office and main office are connected by a back



hallway that provides privacy for students but also allows for easy access to the conference room that all the offices share. The main middle school/high school office has a conference room, offices for the Athletic/Activities Director, District Reading Specialist, and Principal Wolfgram. In the reception area, Mrs. Koehn and Mrs. Draeger also have access to a work room and a spacious health room complete with a private restroom. A new feature of the building is also an accordion folding fire protection doorway called a Won Door that closes across the front entrance in the event of a fire. The doorway allows people to exit but would prevent a fire from spreading to other parts of the building.

Grades 6 to 8 have their core courses in a new middle school suite. The middle school has its own dedicated learning space but students also have easy access to opportunities for advanced course placement in the high school plus all of the exploratory and encore courses. The middle school has a more modern look with the sliding glass doors that face the middle school collaboration space. This allows teachers and students the freedom to expand their small group learning into the collaboration space with the teacher still being able to keep an eye on the students. Also for the first time, the middle school has a fully appointed science lab much like the high school science labs so that middle school students can do more hands-on experimentation. The middle school also has its own set of restrooms.

Most of the gymnasium upgrades were done with the regular district budget but the improvements make it a pretty impressive space. Hardwood Specialists did a complete refinishing of the floor that now includes the updated School District of Manawa wolf logo along with

**New Features**  
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# Welcome Back Students and Staff!



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The contents of the original 1969 time capsule are displayed in the main entry of MMS/LWHS.



## New Features

FROM PAGE 2

paw prints marking the Wolves entrance to the court. The new finish showcases the beautiful maple hardwood. The light fixtures were equipped with new LED light bulbs that provide a cleaner, white light. Master Electric also installed new ceiling fans as the original fans had started to fail. Thank you to the Manawa Athletic Booster Club for purchasing the new gym wall mats that truly completes the look.



The Fitness Center addition is one of the most popular new aspects of the building. Every day physical education classes and sports teams enjoy the use of this new space. The limited pieces of equipment that used to be in the basement - former women's locker room - were worn out. Plus, the basement was not an inviting place to work out.

Today health and physical education classes focus on staying healthy for a lifetime so having the ability for students to have personalized workout plans is a real



advantage. The flooring is a specialized mat material that offers added cushioning. Many new pieces of equipment were added to the Fitness Center to provide a well-rounded cardio and resistance workout. There is also a teaching station with open floor space for stretching, yoga, or Pilates.

The public is invited to use the Fitness Center for a small annual fee. Citizens 60 and older can use the Fitness Center for free. Anyone wanting to sign-up to use the Fitness Center can find the forms on the District Website and drop them off with Mrs. Flynn in the District Office.

The SDM budget also provided for the new elevated MAC bleachers. Guests can now enjoy seating for 750 people with a great unobstructed view of the football field and track. The bleachers are ADA accessible and have dedicated spaces for wheelchairs and walkers.

Thank you to the School District of Manawa taxpayers for making all of these improvements possible. If you would like to arrange for a tour for your civic organization, class reunion, or other group. Please contact the District Office to request arrangements. We would be proud to provide a tour of the enhanced SDM learning spaces.



## Second Grade Students Learn About Pollinators

Students in second grade are talking about pollination in their unit of life science. A few of the activities that they participated in were making pollinators and showing how pollen (cheese) sticks to their fingers like it sticks to those pollinators.

The students enjoy these hands-on activities to reinforce the lessons they are learning.



Cheetos help second-graders Christine Griffin and Brody Voigt understand how pollen sticks to insects, birds, and other pollinators.



Jaycee Swinford made a hummingbird and Khyler Young made a fruit bat to represent a pollinator.

# STUDENTS, STAFF RETURN TO MANAWA SCHOOLS



 We're Proud to Support Our **Manawa Wolves**

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# FFA Students Learn Variety Of Skills

Agricultural education teaches students about agriculture, food, and natural resources.

Through these subjects, a wide variety of skills are learned, including science, math, communications, leadership, management, and technology. Courses offered at Little Wolf High School include Leadership, Animal Science, Wildlife, Food Science, Employability/Financial Skills, Plants/Animals/You, Work Study, Independent Study, and Youth Apprenticeship.

The program strives to build a strong foundational understanding of the relationships between agriculture and the environment, food, fiber, energy, animals, lifestyle, the economy, leadership, and technology. Manawa's agriculture teacher/FFA advisor is Sandy Piechowski Cordes and she is hosting student teacher Erin Montgomery for the first semester.

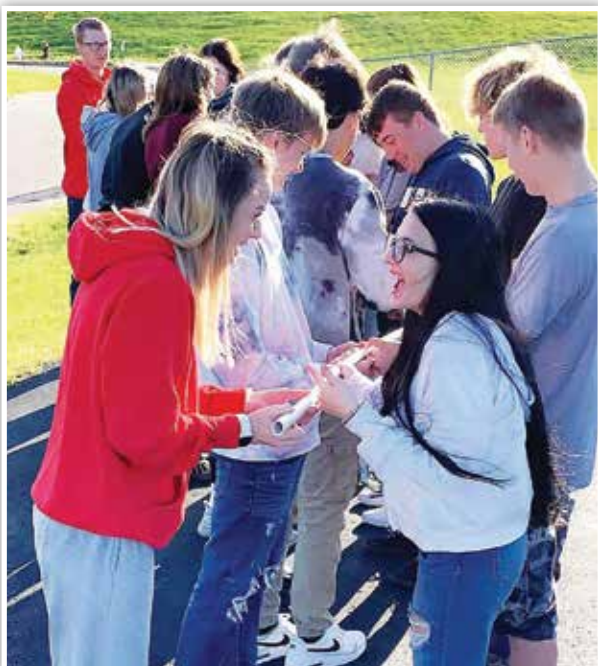
Because of improvements made through the referendum, the program has been able to expand offerings in the lab areas. This allows for more hands-on activities and learning experiences for students. The lab areas are brighter, functional, and more accessible for exploration and learning.

Agricultural education is delivered through three interconnected components:

- Classroom or laboratory instruction.
- Experiential learning — Learning experiences that usually take place outside of the classroom, supervised by the agriculture instructor.
- Leadership education — delivered through student organizations such as the National FFA Organization.

This summer, 34 students were able to take class for credit to work on the above three components. Projects included raising animals, working in industry, book clubs, volunteer work, and personal improvement projects.

Manawa FFA has a proud tradition of growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture. The FFA is recognized on the state and national level for their program of activities. Activities the FFA chapter supports include agricultural literacy, food pantry drives, Think Pink for cancer awareness, the Wolfwalk, and elementary school volunteering.





The School District of Manawa showcased the FFA, Drama Club, and LWHS Marching Band in the 2021 Rodeo Parade.

## Social and Emotional Learning

BY JANINE CONNOLY

HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) has become a major focus in the state of Wisconsin and across the country.

What is social and emotional learning and why is it important for students? Simply put, social and emotional learning is about teaching students the skills and helping them apply these skills to be competent in managing their emotions, set goals, show empathy for others, make solid decisions, and create and maintain healthy relationships.

Each grade in the state of Wisconsin has social and emotional learning competencies. These competencies are

taught throughout the day in a variety of ways by all staff members. Parents and families are key to helping students develop these positive skills. The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has created many tools to help families support these skills in students. These can be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health/social-emotional-learning/for-families-and-parents>.

At Manawa Middle School and Little Wolf High School, students spent time the first week of school learning about ways to manage emotions, what strengths they have to help them when they feel overwhelmed, and opportunities to learn and practice healthy coping skills.

Families and community members can also assist students by talking about your own ways you have had success with managing emotions and coping when times are tough.

We are all in this together!

## New Student-Teacher

The Manawa agriculture department is excited to have student-teacher Miss Erin Montgomery join our district for the first semester of school.

Erin is a current student at UW-River Falls. She has a passion for animal science and is currently teaching the wildlife class at Little Wolf High School and will be adding classes throughout the semester as well as assisting with the FFA.

If you see Miss Montgomery, please welcome her to our wolfpack!



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# Partnership In Education

As part of an ongoing commitment to the Manawa community, Solarus presented the school district with a \$1,000 donation. Solarus' Partnership In Education program is designed to support the schools' ongoing technology needs and general student learning initiatives.

In the community, efforts to upgrade and expand Solarus' fiber Internet infrastructure continue to enhance network performance. Fiber is the fastest, most reliable technology on the market and its equal upload and download speeds can support all of today's advanced Internet uses.

"We often have to remind people that the road to fiber is more of a marathon, than a sprint, but we



are fully committed to the investment and have made significant progress," said Erin Glodowski, Director of Marketing with Solarus. "In the past year, we've been able to upgrade 130 additional addresses, and we now have about 275 homes on fiber. This summer's construction projects will ready nearly 250 more homes for upgrades in the coming months."

For anyone struggling to connect, free community wi-fi remains activated at the Solarus office. All Manawa area residents are welcome to use it from the parking lot west of the building. To log on from your device's wi-fi settings, choose the Solarus.Guest network. When prompted, choose Join Network. You will not be asked for a password. Usage is unlimited.



All of the blacktopped surfaces were recently replaced on the Little Wolf High School/Manawa Middle School campus.



## CPM Math - What Is It?

BY DAN WOLFGAM

LITTLE WOLF HIGH SCHOOL/  
MANAWA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Now that school is underway, many parents may be curious to know more about the new College Preparatory Math (CPM) materials that I introduced to you last May.

The curriculum has not changed and teachers are still designing their instruction on the Wisconsin Standards for Mathematics, but the way teachers deliver instruction has changed.

CPM teaching strategies focus on how students best learn and retain mathematics. The way the classroom looks and feels is different than when parents went to school. Teaching strategies rely on the recommendations of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and are based solidly on the research for the best method in teaching mathematics. The research-based principles that guide instruction are:

1. Students should engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core idea.
2. Guided by a knowledgeable teacher, students should interact in groups to foster mathematical talk/discourse.
3. Practice with concepts and procedures should be spaced over time; that is, mastery comes over time.

A complex task is introduced by the teacher and then the teacher clarifies expectations for both the final product students are expected to produce in the lesson as well as how students are expected to work together to solve the particular task.

Secondly, the teacher places students in groups to engage in the exploratory work necessary in inquiry-based problem-solving. The teacher then circulates among the teams in order to understand what students are doing, support participation, and make decisions about what mathematical ideas and solutions to share and who should share them.

Lastly, the teacher brings students back together as a whole class to talk as a class about the task by asking particular teams to share their strategies and solutions — and by pressing students to explain both "the how" and "the why" of their mathematical solutions, evaluate their peers' strategies and solutions, and make connections between the various strategies and solutions.

Parents that want to know more about the CPM teaching strategies are encouraged to contact their child's math teacher or Mr. Wolfram for more information. The staff is excited and willing to speak with parents individually on the benefits of the new program.

Watch for more articles in the coming months, or visit the following link for teachers, parent and student support: <https://cpm.org/courses>.

# In-Service Held For SDM Staff

The 2021-22 School District of Manawa staff wants to welcome you to a new school year!

This year's staff in-service theme is exploring the topic What is your "Why"? Each of us has a purpose or reason that inspires us to do what we do each day.

This year, staff are exploring our "why" for choosing the work we do in our schools. Each staff member at some point chose the SDM. Now seems like a great time to go back to our "roots" for a little quiet reflection to remind us of what motivates and inspires us every day.

We heard many touching and poignant stories during in-service about valuing our students, our families, our community, and each other. Those conversations remind all of us of the essential contribution every single person makes in this school community.

Why do we choose this work --- the School District of Manawa --- it is because of you!



## School District of Manawa Information

**District Office**  
 Phone: 920-596-2525  
 800 Beech Street  
 District Administrator: Dr. Melanie J. Oppor  
 Business Manager: Carmen O'Brien  
 Special Ed. Director: Danielle Brauer  
 Technology Director: Dean Marzofka  
 District Reading Specialist: Michelle Johnson

**Little Wolf High School**  
 Grades 9-12  
 Manawa Middle School  
 Grades 6-8  
 Phone: 920-596-2524  
 515 E. 4th Street  
 Principal: Daniel Wolfgram

**Manawa Elementary School**  
 Grades 4K - 5  
 Phone: 920-596-2238  
 800 Beech Street  
 Principal: Danielle Brauer

**Paving the Way**  
 Phone: 920-596-2526  
 407 S. Bridge St.  
 Director: Danielle Brauer

**Manawa Board of Education**  
 President.....Joanne Johnson  
 Vice President.....Russ Johnson  
 Clerk.....Russell Hollman  
 Treasurer.....Bobbi Jo Pethke  
 Director.....Pete Griffin  
 Director.....Kerri Jepson  
 Director.....Sondra Reiersen

**Board Meetings:**  
 Regular Board Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except April - 4th Monday) in the Board Room located at the Manawa Elementary School at 7:00 pm. Any additional meetings are duly posted on the district's website, in the City Hall and at Sturm Memorial Library. For additional information please contact the District Office at 920-596-2525.

The Board of Education and Administrative Team would like to thank all the individuals, groups, and businesses that so generously contribute to the District. Your gifts of money, time, materials, and talents support and enhance programs for all our students and staff!

The School District of Manawa does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.

**Mission Statement:**  
 The School District of Manawa is the place where students choose to excel academically and realize their strengths.

**Vision Statement:**  
 The School District of Manawa engages students to reach their full potential in a changing global society through highly effective instruction and leadership.



## Website Accessibility

The School District of Manawa strives to be inclusive and responsive to the needs of all district residents. Anyone finding district information or website functionality to be inaccessible to persons with disabilities is asked to contact the District Webmaster, Mr. Marzofka, by telephoning 920-596-5737 or emailing him at: [dmarzofka@manawaschools.org](mailto:dmarzofka@manawaschools.org)

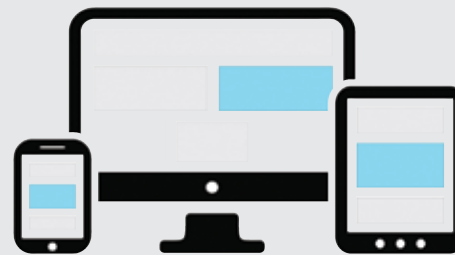
The following links provide direct access to the School District of Manawa Policies related to Section 504 and Title II along with the names and contact information for the District's 504/ADA Compliance Officers and can be accessed from the district website under Board of Education > Board Policies > Link to Policies:

- 2260.01 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY
- 1623 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- 3123 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- 4123 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- 2260 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
- 1422 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 3122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 4122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The School District of Manawa's Section 504 and ADA Compliance Officers are as follows:

**Carmen O'Brien**  
 Business Manager  
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 800 Beech Street  
 Manawa, WI 54949  
 920-596-5332  
[cobrien@manawaschools.org](mailto:cobrien@manawaschools.org)

**Daniel Wolfgram**  
 High School/Middle School Principal  
 School District of Manawa  
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 Manawa, WI 54949  
 920-596-5310  
[dewolfgram@manawaschools.org](mailto:dwolfgram@manawaschools.org)



## Website Accessibility

<https://www.manawaschools.org/district/website-accessibility.cfm>

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP MANAWA SCHOOLS

Boxtops Needed - Clip the Boxtops for Education logo on many household products and drop-off at any school office. Some of the many products with the logo are Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, General Mills, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex and Huggies.

### STEP VOLUNTEERS:

Senior citizens can save on their property taxes by volunteering in the schools through the Senior Tax Exchange Program. Contact Ruth Lord, Director at 920-596-5673 for more information.

**The SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANAWA is the place where STUDENTS choose to EXCEL academically and realize their STRENGTHS.**