

# The Bay Window

May 2024

*Dream. Aspire. Achieve.*



## Williams Bay High School Ranked #1 in Walworth County

Williams Bay High School is ranked #1 in Walworth County and #31 in Wisconsin according to the 2024 Best High Schools by U.S. News & World Report. The 2024 Best High Schools ranked approximately 17,655 public high schools based on a broad range of data to determine which high schools do the best job of preparing students to be college and career ready.

The 2024 Best High Schools rankings take a holistic approach to evaluating schools, looking at five factors: college readiness, college curriculum breadth, state assessment proficiency, state assessment performance, and graduation rate.

High School Principal, Emily Soley-Johnson, shared, "This is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our entire school community that we have achieved such recognition. This accomplishment reflects the outstanding efforts of our students, the tireless support of our parents, and the exceptional professionalism of our staff. Together, we have shown what is possible when we work collaboratively towards a common goal."

District Administrator Dr. William White added, "This recognition is not just numbers and statistics; it's a reflection of the unwavering pursuit of excellence that defines our school. It is a validation of the exceptional educational experience we provide to every student who walks through our doors. While this is a moment of celebration, it is also a reminder of the responsibility we carry to maintain and enhance the quality of education we offer."

The Williams Bay School District continues to be a place to "dream, aspire, and achieve."



## Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: Insights from the Women's Leadership Center's 'Building Self-Confidence & Resilience' Event



On Friday, April 19th, The Women's Leadership Center of Williams Bay hosted a conversation for female students in grades 10 - 12. The title of the event was "Building Self-Confidence & Resilience: Fostering a Growth Mindset that Helps You Bounce Back". The four speakers were Madeline Sukhdeo, MarySue Barrett, Marllory Conlon, and Donna de St. Aubin. Each of these women are trailblazers in their fields of expertise and shared their journeys of successes and setbacks. Our students were able to learn

about dealing with failure, having their voices heard, figuring out options available after high school, and participated in roundtable discussions during lunch. Lauren Schnobel, Sarah Beinetti, and Olivia Wiley supported the organization and advertising of the event. All participants shared their excitement about the day and plans of continuing this partnership with the Women's Leadership Center. More information about the center can be found at [Women's Leadership Center](#).



### **Valedictorian Aaron Johnson**

Aaron Johnson has been a part of the Williams Bay School District since 4K. During that time, he routinely challenged himself academically, whether that be in the classroom or in extracurricular activities. He took numerous honors and AP courses throughout his high school career, and held his place on the high honor roll for all four years. Additionally, he excelled in extracurricular academic activities such as Academic Bowl and Math Team. In the former, he placed first individually for Physical Science his freshman year and third individually in General Science senior year. In the Math Team, he has placed first individually in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Advanced Math in his eighth grade, freshman, sophomore, and senior years respectively.

Outside of the classroom, Aaron had consistent involvement in many different clubs and groups. He was a member of the Spanish Club for four years, being elected Secretary for his senior year, and a member of the History Club for three, serving as the Co-Chair of the Media and Design Committee. He was also a representative for the Student Council and a member of the DRIVEN Committee, in which he participated in many community and school outreach events. Perhaps most significantly, Aaron shaped his music career for the majority of his life. He played the clarinet for Concert Band, Honors Band, Jazz Band, and the pit orchestra throughout his years learning the instrument, taking both Solo & Ensemble events to WSMA State. In addition, he studied the piano under Mrs. Christine Groth for ten years, earning numerous accolades in that time, and became a Level 9 Certified Pianist with High Honors under the Royal Conservatory of Music. Aaron utilized these skills in school, playing piano for the Jazz Band and keyboard in the pit orchestra for several high school musicals; in addition, he took piano solos to WSMA State for five consecutive years.

Upon graduation, Aaron plans to attend UW-Madison and pursue a degree in biology.



### **Salutatorian Dylan Hulke**

Dylan Hulke spent his high school career working towards preparing himself to be a leader in the real world. He worked hard to become the captain of the History Bowl Team and the founder and president of the Chess Club, while also striving to be a leader outside of the classroom. He spent his time outside of school working at GLAS (Geneva Lakes Education and STEAM) Education on various projects, eventually leading his own. He worked on the LENSS sensor, a more affordable alternative to other light pollution monitors, as well as the water quality sensor for Geneva Lake, which saw him lead a team to build a custom sensor from scratch to monitor the health of the lake. On his own, he worked to create a cheap yet effective prototype sensor that would automatically adjust lighting in the school to significantly reduce the amount of wasted light, therefore noticeably reducing power costs. Although the school decided not to implement this system, it could still be applied to other buildings to save energy. Additionally, he worked to be a leader in the classroom, striving to set an example for his fellow students, whether that be through his hard work in projects or his leading of the percussion section in the band. He received multiple notable awards, such as placing first in geography at the Trailways Academic Bowl two years in a row, as well as being recognized for his achievements at the Geneva Lake Rotary Club and the Trailways Academic Conference. Towards the end of his senior year, he worked on constructing a rocket from scratch, outfitting it with sensors to record telemetry data. Dylan hopes to pursue a career working on rockets or satellites, majoring in aerospace engineering at the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities.



# Congratulations on your retirement!!!



*Parla Thiel*

High School Math Teacher

I started my teaching career at Williams Bay in the fall of 1977. I have had the privilege of teaching a variety of high school math classes including: Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Math, Pre-Calculus, and AP Calculus. In the early part of my career, I also had the opportunity to teach a computer programming class.

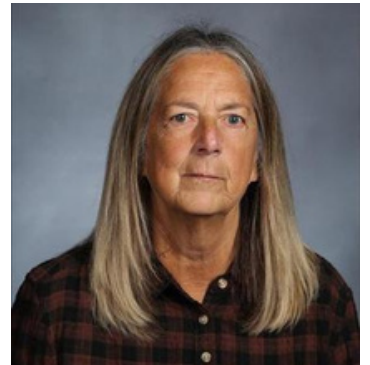
Throughout my time at Williams Bay, I actively participated on various committees such as the technology committee, building leadership committee, and served as the math department chairperson. Additionally, I coached JV Girls Basketball, worked as the school photographer, and served as a class advisor.

Teaching, interacting with students, serving on committees, and capturing memories through photography have been truly rewarding experiences. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Williams Bay community for 47 years. As I move on, I do so with a sense of accomplishment and pride in being part of such a wonderful school district.

*Judy Hopkins*

Elementary School Administrative Assistant

I am just writing this little note to say thank you to everyone for the last 28 years I have worked at William Bay Elementary School. I have decided to retire. It will be a happy time, but also a little sad. I have enjoyed all the parents, children and staff I have gotten to know and also had a lot of laughs and stories to tell on the way. So again thank you for being you (everyone) and sharing your lives with me. I will see you at the beach or hopefully they will still let me on the golf course!



*Sue Osborne*

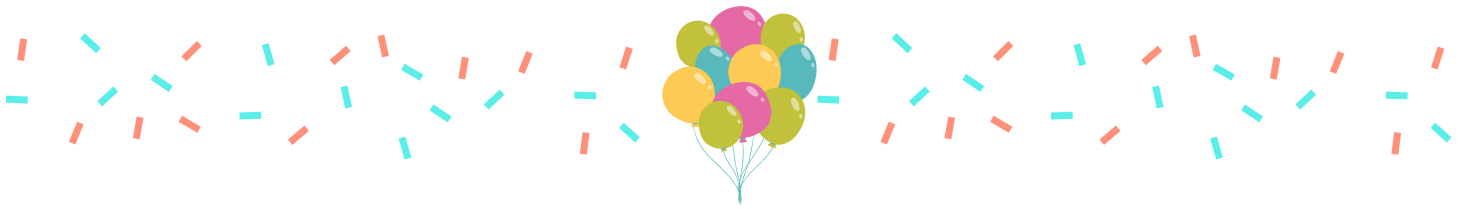
4th Grade Teacher

I grew up helping my aunt, who taught second graders, prepare her room each summer for the next school year and I watched her correct papers after our weekly Sunday family dinners. The teaching path was laid out before me. After a slight detour after graduating high school, I pursued the teaching profession, met my husband (who was the son of the art teacher in the school of my student teaching placement), and began the career I knew I was destined for.

I taught 5th grade in another district for 25 years, and was then grateful to join the amazing Williams Bay team to teach 4th grade for the past 5 years. This is an amazing community school with an exceptional administration and teaching staff!

My family's needs have determined that it's time for me to focus my attention back at home, but I will always fondly remember the students, families, and colleagues that I've had the privilege with which to complete my teaching career. Go bulldogs!





**Kathy Dowden**

1st Grade Teacher

As I look back over my teaching career, I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to work with so many amazing people and families.

In my retirement, I look forward to spending more time with my husband, Dan. I am excited to travel a bit, to make my own schedule, and to spend extra time with my children and grandchildren.

I will always sing the praises of the work that is done in this building by the many dedicated staff members. This school, and the employees are exceptional!

Williams Bay will always hold a special place in my heart. The staff and the students mean a lot to me. I will miss them.

**Deb Soplanda**

Study Hall Supervisor, History Club Advisor & History Bowl Coach

I have spent all but 10 years of my life in the Williams Bay School District, 13 years as a student, 17 years as a parent of students and 28 years employed by the district. Throughout that time, I have been blessed to see a truly excellent school system through good times and bad (COVID), as well as superior educators at work doing what they do best and love.

I am so grateful for the opportunities that I have had during my career at WBHS.

Where else could I have slept on a World War II submarine, traveled the world, worked on renovating a park and so much more - only at Williams Bay School District.

While I will miss these adventures with my students, I am looking forward to new adventures in the future with my husband. My thanks, love and gratitude to the students, teachers and administration of the Williams Bay School District. It's been fun!



**Chris Randall**

Elementary Paraprofessional

Mrs. Randall has worn many hats since she started in Williams Bay in 1998. She has served as a playground supervisor, lunch supervisor, library aide, and helped out wherever needed during her time with the district. She is known throughout the district for the smile that never leaves her face and the kindness she shows everyone that she comes across.

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## Last Day of School!

Elementary:  
Wednesday, June 5th



Middle/High School:  
Thursday, June 6th



## **From the Desk of Dr. White, District Administrator**

On behalf of the Williams Bay School District, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your support in approving the recent operational referendum. I am grateful for the Williams Bay community and its willingness to engage in open and honest conversation about the merits of the referendum question. We understand that this decision was not made lightly, and we are humbled by the overwhelming support that we have received from the Williams Bay community. Your commitment to our schools has demonstrated your understanding of the importance of education and its impact on our children's future.

Now the school district must focus on addressing the district's key priorities to achieve the best possible outcomes for student learning and success. Utilizing the District's Strategic Plan, we will focus on the following four goals:

### **Ensure a positive learning climate and school culture to promote continuous student growth and achievement in the Williams Bay School Community.**

Our school community was extremely clear through all our presentations that it values high academic performance and high-quality education. Recently, Williams Bay High School was recognized by U.S. News and World Report as the highest ranked high school in Walworth County and 31st in the state of Wisconsin. This standard of excellence has become the norm for our district and one that we strive to maintain. We know that some data indicators did not meet the expectations that have been established and we must work hard to ensure that every student graduates from our school district college and career ready. We will use the funding that was maintained by the successful referendum to maintain low classes sizes, protect programs, and to ensure high quality learning experiences are given to each student. This includes providing rigorous instruction in reading and math and giving students access to hands-on activities that allow them to be prepared to attend college or enter the trades.

### **Develop a systematic process to attract, train and retain high quality staff.**

We shared throughout the referendum process that the district had not been able to maintain competitive wage and salary compensation for our employees. This has resulted in an inability to attract and retain high-quality staff. We committed to using the consistent funding from the referendum to ensure that our young educators earn a livable wage as promptly as possible and that all our employees were competitively compensated in comparison to educators in neighboring and regional school districts. The Board is working to implement a compensation model that will allow the district to attract and retain high quality staff.

### **Manage district finances facilities and resources in a responsible, efficient, and effective manner.**

The Board of Education understands that the Williams Bay community expects that District to be great stewards of taxpayer funding. We must continue to live within our means. The district will continue to make adjustments in response to changes in enrollment and student needs.

We also must maintain our facilities in accordance with our ten-year facilities plan. Now that we know we will have adequate funding, we will be completing two facilities projects this summer. First, the West parking lot has deteriorated and is in poor condition. It needed to be fixed for an extended period, but the expense did not fit in the budget. The cracks, crumbling asphalt, holes, and swales in the parking lot make it hazardous, especially during the winter months and at night. Secondly, outdoor security cameras were installed in 2015-2016. The quality of these cameras and the system are poor and outdated. To ensure the safety of our students and staff, and to protect the facilities, an upgrade is important and highly needed.

### **Foster community partnerships to benefit the overall development of the school community.**

The Williams Bay School District belongs to the community. We will continue to make the facility available to the public and we will continue to contribute to the community through service projects and active participation in community events. We know community members value transparency. We will continue to publish newsletters, our year in review, and maintain communication with the public so that everyone is aware of the district's progress towards these goals.

## Fourth Grade Fun: Wisconsin Day

By: Ava Johnson & AJ Scholtz, 4th grade students

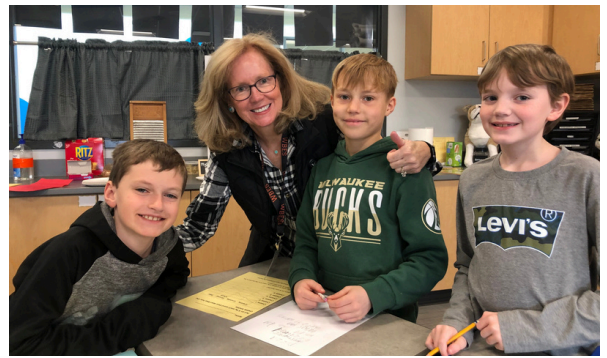
An exciting Wisconsin Day unfolded at Williams Bay Elementary for the fourth-grade students in late March, spanning two days filled with engaging stations.

Each station offered a unique experience:

1. **Trivia:** The students tested their knowledge with trivia questions and fake money, making learning a playful experience.
2. **Lincoln Log Building Challenge:** Engaging in a challenge of creativity and construction, the students built impressive structures using Lincoln Logs, showcasing their teamwork skills.
3. **Lumberjack Cafe:** At the Lumberjack Cafe, students devoured scrumptious pancakes topped with real maple syrup, whipped cream, and cherries. The cafe complete with checkered tablecloths and a menu crafted by Lauren, added a special touch to their dining experience.
4. **Cheese Tasting:** Exploring the flavors of Wisconsin, students engaged in a cheese-tasting activity, discovering the variety and richness of the state's cheeses.
5. **Weaving Bracelets:** Creativity flowed at the weaving station as students created colorful bracelets, demonstrating their artistic talents.
6. **Planting State Flowers:** Planting state flowers was a hands-on activity that connected the students to Wisconsin's natural beauty.

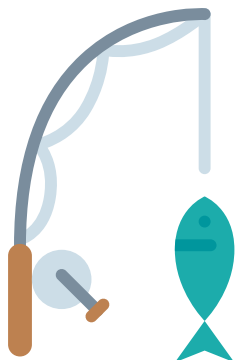
Ava mentioned that her personal favorite was the Cafe. She hopes every school in Wisconsin gets a Wisconsin Day. Students loved hanging out with friends and learning about Wisconsin. AJ even said that some of the things they learned helped them on Forward testing. How cool is that?

The support of parent volunteers and generous donations from families made Wisconsin Days possible! It provided a memorable and enriching experience for all.



## Grab Your Fishing Poles! It's Time for the Fisheree

The Williams Bay Elementary Fisheree will be held Tuesday, May 21 after school at the Municipal Piers. Williams Bay School is again sponsoring an after-school fishing contest for students in grades 4K-5. Families take students to the lakefront after school and fish from the municipal piers. Students in grades 4K-3 must be accompanied by an adult. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to join in the fun. There are prizes awarded to the students who catch the biggest fish in each grade level.



**May 22nd - 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.**

8th Grade Career Fair

**May 24th - Senior Volunteer  
and Skip Day**

**May 24th: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.**

Elementary Spring Sing & Art Auction

**May 27th:**

No School - Memorial Day

**May 29th: 6:30 p.m.**

Williams Bay Athletic Booster Club  
All-Sports Banquet

**May 31st: 7:00 p.m.**

High School Graduation

**June 5th: 7:00 p.m.**

8th Grade Promotion





## Elementary Spring Sing & Art Auction - May 24th.

Students in 4-year-old kindergarten through 5th Grade have been working very hard to prepare this year's Spring Sing concert for you. The theme for this year's concert is "On Top of the World." The concert will feature upbeat and uplifting songs that will be sure to put you in a good mood. The concert will be taking place on Friday, May 24 at 1:30 pm in the elementary gym, and will be followed by the school's annual art auction. We look forward to seeing you there!

Children's Art Auction: Please join us for our 14th annual Children's Silent Art Auction before and after the Spring Sing! All of the artwork is donated by students and staff from our elementary school. Mrs. Mulhall mats and frames the student's work. All of the frames are donated by students, staff, and community members. Then the artwork is auctioned off to raise money for a local non-profit or charity. We have raised over \$10,000 to help those in need since the auction began 15 years ago! This year we will be donating to the SMILES Equestrian Therapy in Darien. We hope to see you there!



## WBHS FBLA Has Successful Competitive Season

**By: Denise Durkin, FBLA Advisor**

The Williams Bay Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), has had an exciting competitive season. In February, FBLA members went to Columbus High School to compete against 24 other schools in their first Region V Leadership Conference. The FBLA competitive events cover a wide range of business topics and are designed to allow students to showcase their skills, knowledge, and abilities in various business-related fields.

At FBLA Regionals, there were four Williams Bay FBLA members that took objective tests in the areas of Economics, Advertising, and UX Design. On the Economics test, Bradley Galvin placed first and Jose Pilo placed fourth. Alex Johnson took the UX Design test and placed fourth. Finn Pecht took the advertising test and Elliana Pape and Kara Rees competed in the Visual Design category where they presented their design of a window, door, and sidewalk display promoting Valentine's Day for a company they named Sunny's Flower Shop.

Bradley, Jose and Alex all qualified to compete at the FBLA State Leadership Conference on April 8 in Green Bay. Jose placed sixth on the Economics test and Alex placed eighth on the UX Design test. Kara and Elliana participated in the FBLA Leadership Academy.

Bradley placed first on the Economics test and will be representing the state of Wisconsin and our local FBLA Chapter at the National Leadership Conference that will take place in Orlando, Florida from June 29-July 2. Bradley's passion for and time spent studying economics has translated into his outstanding performance at the state competition and is truly commendable.

Since this was the first year of FBLA, we were unsure of what to expect when it came to the competitions. The six students who chose to compete all deserve a big shout out for taking the chance and spending the time necessary to prepare for their events. To have three state qualifiers and one national qualifier is a great accomplishment for the first year of our chapter.

We wish Bradley the best of luck competing at the FBLA National Leadership Conference. As a chapter, we now have some experience with the competitions and look forward to next year.



In need of a work permit?

Work permits are now issued online. Please visit:

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/laborstandards/workpermit>

# High School Forensics Team Shines in the 2024 Season

By: Sara Terrill, Forensics Team Coach

Williams Bay High School had two returning Forensics students for 2024: Avery Kimmerly and Jayden Cook. Three new students joined the ranks: Bayleigh Kozak, Blake Reynolds, and Lindsey Dobbertin. Avery and Jayden participated in prose, Bayleigh participated in poetry, Lindsey participated in expository, and Blake participated in impromptu.

The season started in February with the conference meet at Deerfield. Blake won the impromptu category for the conference. Next came the sub-district meet at Burlington. Students needed to earn at least two scores of 16 to advance.

All students advanced to the next level of competition. The sub-district meet was followed by the district meet in March. Students needed to earn two scores of 21 to advance to the state competition. All members of the team advanced to state. The season ended with the state competition on April 19th at DeForest High School.

Three students were able to participate at state. Avery earned a gold medal after scoring a perfect 25, Lindsey earned a silver, and Bayleigh earned a bronze.



## Students Artists Find Success at the Trailways Art Conference

The Trailways Art Show captivates and provides a diverse showcase of student's creativity and talent. Held at different schools in the conference each year, the many artistic talents of students are on display during this day long conference activity. From vibrant paintings to intricate sculptures, each piece tells a unique story, inviting viewers to delve into the depths of imagination and emotion.



Gabriella Klein  
Acrylic Painting  
Tuscon



AnnMarie Cates  
Sculpture  
Tootie Fruity Delight

This year's show took place in Randolph, Wisconsin on May 1st. Students from 20 different schools completed in 12 different categories. Williams Bay students placed in four categories.

Congratulations!



Max Robertson  
I-Printmaking  
Lauren



Ella Squires  
Mixed Media  
Rconstruction the old homestead





## **Math Team Wins 24th Consecutive Trailways Conference South Division Math Meet**

**By: Darla Thiel, Math Team Coach**

Congratulations to the High School Math Team for their outstanding performance at the Trailways Conference South Division Math Meet! The Williams Bay Math Team placed 1st in Geometry, Algebra II, and Advanced Math. The team also earned eight individual awards.

### **Advanced Math Team – 1st Place in the Conference**

Team Members included: Aaron Johnson, Dylan Karcher, Charlie Pecht, Jose Pilo, Lacey Silverman, Charlotte Zaukas

#### **Advanced Math Individual Awards:**

1st Place – Aaron Johnson

2nd Place – (Tie) – Dylan Karcher & Charlie Pecht

### **Algebra II Team – 1st Place in the Conference**

Team Members included: Noah Cornella, Braden Hayes, Derek Johnson, Avery Kimmerly,  
Finn Pecht, Lauren Schnobel

**Algebra II Individual Awards -** 1st Place – Noah Cornella

2nd Place – Avery Kimmerly

### **Geometry Team – 1st Place in the Conference**

Team Members included: Nic Anagnos, Nick Kwiatkowski, Josh LeBaron, Max Robertson,  
Will Sorensen,  
Ethan Weigel

**Geometry Individual Awards -** 1st Place – Josh LeBaron

2nd Place – Nick Kwiatkowski

3rd Place – Max Robertson

### **Algebra I Team – 4th Place in the Conference**

Team Members included: Bennett Ades, Renata Hernandez, Josten Karcher, Brynn Reinhardt,  
Elena Walker, Colin Yaeger

# Williams Bay School District Introduces Summer Course on Strength and Speed for Middle and High School Students

By: Hank Johnson, Athletic & Activities Director / Community Outreach Coordinator

Williams Bay School District is excited to announce a new summer course focused on Strength and Speed for middle and high school students. This comprehensive program aims to enhance athletic performance, improve overall fitness, and instill healthy habits in our young athletes.

### Overview

The Strength and Speed course is designed to provide students with a balanced training regimen that combines strength conditioning, speed drills, agility exercises, and injury prevention techniques. Led by certified trainers with extensive experience in athletic development, the program will offer:

- Personalized training plans tailored to individual needs
- Instruction on proper exercise techniques and form
- Nutritional guidance to support physical growth and recovery
- Team-building activities to foster camaraderie and sportsmanship

### Program Schedule

Days: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

#### High School Students

Time: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

#### Middle School Students

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

### How to Register

Registration for the Strength and Speed summer course is now open. Interested students and parents can sign up scanning the QR codes below or by visiting the Williams Bay School District website for more information.



**Williams Bay Middle/High School**  
500 West Geneva ST Williams Bay, WI  
262-245-6224



**Williams Bay Elementary School**  
250 Theatre RD Williams Bay, WI  
262-245-5571