

Clipper Pride

This publication is brought to you by the School District of Sturgeon Bay.

Spring 2022

School District of Sturgeon Bay
1230 Michigan Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

FROM DAN'S DESK

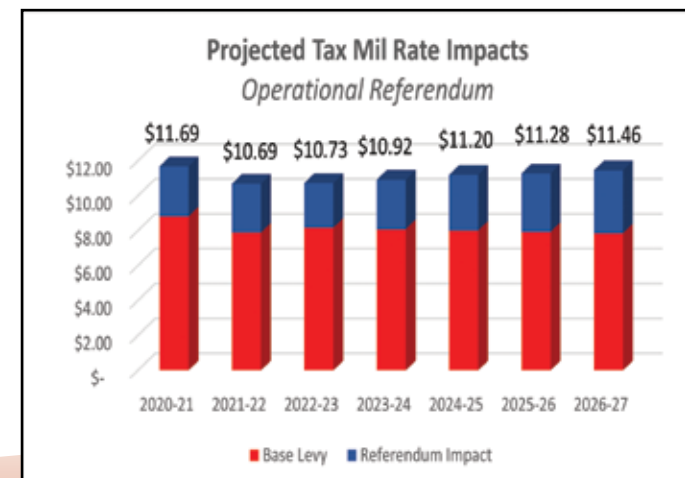
Residents and Sturgeon Bay Clippers Supporters,

As I write this newsletter introduction it is a sunny day in February, which is a welcome boost and a sign of the days to come. Speaking of the future, I want to highlight two things and also say thank you to this amazing community.

Most importantly, THANK YOU for the ongoing cooperation and support. This is a huge reason our district has been able to hold in-person school for our students' success every day of the 2020-2021 school year and the 2021-2022 school year. I also thank you for taking the time to stay informed and for supporting our district and students and staff in the great work they do each day.

On a business note, I wanted to inform you that an educational programming referendum will be on the April 5, 2022 ballot. I'll highlight just a few things here, but there is more Referendum information available on the Sturgeon Bay Schools website within the District tab. The school board voted to shift from a 3-year referendum cycle to a 5-year cycle with the annual revenue limit override amount being lower during the first four years (2022-2026) than the current year's rate (2021-22), which was approved by voters back in 2019. While the Board sets the override amounts based on a 5-year projection, they have a track record of not taxing to the maximum rate allowed by voters if it turns out that the full override amount is not needed. For example, while up to \$3.6 million was approved for this current year's override amount, the Board "under levied" by over \$800,000 since the entire \$3.6 million was not needed to cover 2021-22 operational expenses. In doing so, the Board continues to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

The annual referendum projected tax rates are listed in the graphic below:



Total Override Amount	Total Change from Previous Year	Impact from Previous Year on \$100K house	Mill Rate
\$2.6 million	\$1 million decrease	\$4 (33 cents/month)	\$10.73
\$2.9 million	\$300,000 increase	\$19 (\$1.58/month)	\$10.92
\$3.3 million	\$400,000 increase	\$28 (\$2.33/month)	\$11.20
\$3.5 million	\$200,000 increase	\$8 (67 cents/month)	\$11.28
\$3.8 million	\$300,000 increase	\$18 (\$1.50/ month)	\$11.46



I also want to announce efforts to improve the SBHS Auditorium, recently renamed the Robert H. Nickel Auditorium. Former SBHS Principal Bob Nickel was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in early January and passed away February 2, 2022. With the blessing of the Nickel family, we are planning to update the Auditorium as a way to honor Bob's musical legacy and recognize his contributions to the Arts and Music programs. The steering committee is raising funds for the auditorium updates which will include new flooring and seating (finally no more squeaking, creaking seats!) as well as updates to the paint, lights, stage storage and sound booth and the possibility of a performing arts scholarship.

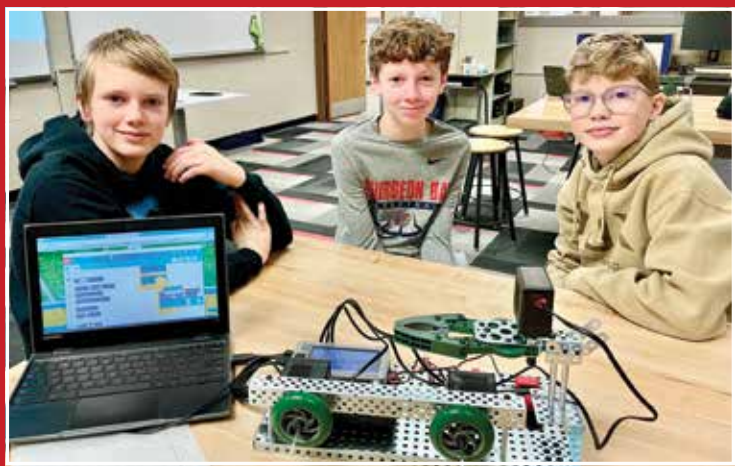


For more information, please contact our District Office at 920-746-2800 or read more on the school district website by clicking on the "SBHS Auditorium Project" Quick Link on the left side of the home page.



With Clipper Pride,
Dan Tjernagel
Sturgeon Bay
Superintendent of Schools

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL



Middle School is an excellent time for students to explore and discover their passions which is why TJ Walker Middle School has added several elective course offerings in recent years, including Outdoor Adventure and E-Sports (both featured in past newsletters).

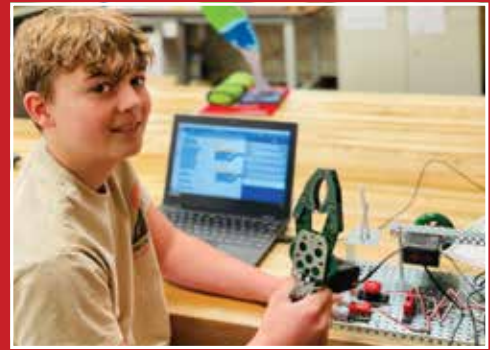
This current school year, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Robotics is a new course in which students are given problems and the tools needed to discover and create workable solutions.

Students learn how to work as a team, communicate and think critically. The PLTW teacher states, "my students' learning goes beyond how to build a robot

to do tasks. They also learn how to negotiate, compromise and problem solve together. They use math and speak a new language through coding." Project Lead the Way Robotics class offers the opportunity to be creative and think outside the box and also learn and adjust from mistakes.



Project Lead the Way also offers elementary science based curriculum which is being used at both Sawyer and Sunrise Elementary schools. Students in grades 1-5 explore age appropriate, standards-based science concepts as well as basic computer science, engineering, and biomedical science activities in a hands-on format that develops essential skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance.



SUNRISE AMBASSADORS - GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY

Several years ago, Sunrise Elementary School staff created a program that would accomplish two goals of recognizing student leaders and offering opportunities for students to volunteer and give back to their community. In collaboration with the former Volunteer Center of Door County, the Sunrise Ambassador program was created.



Each month, every 3rd-5th grade classroom teacher nominates a student who has demonstrated the "Sunrise Way" of being safe, respectful and responsible learners. Nominated students either demonstrate these traits daily, or have shown real growth in becoming a safe, respectful and a responsible part of the Sunrise community.



As Sunrise Ambassadors, these students are given the opportunity to volunteer at various community organizations including Crossroads at Big Creek,

Door County Maritime Museum, Door County Cancer Center, Sturgeon Bay Fire Department, Boys and Girls Club, Habitat ReStore, Potawatomi State Park and the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Examples of projects the student Ambassadors have completed include serving lunch to senior citizens, making decorations, organizing supplies, planting trees, cleaning exhibit spaces, and clearing and repairing trails. The goal of these monthly visits is to develop a sense of membership with the wider community through active participation in a community service project. The look of pride on each Ambassador's face is almost as rewarding as the response from the area organizations.

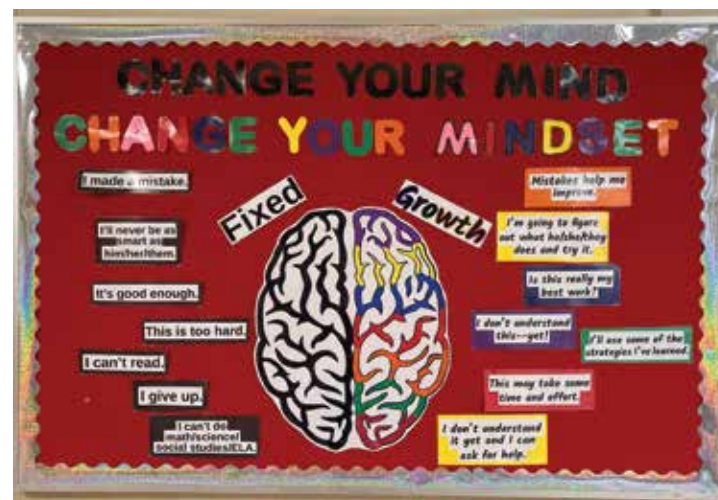
SOCIAL ACADEMIC INSTRUCTIONAL GROUPS

This year the middle school added a Social Academic Instruction Group (SAIG) curriculum to support our students' social-emotional needs and development of important life skills.

Each quarter a group of students is selected to participate, and parents are introduced to the program specifics. SAIG groups meet weekly with our counselor and lessons utilize circle format and restorative practices. In the circle format, students are reminded that there are certain things in our control and certain things not in our control. Restorative practices achieve social discipline and respect through participatory learning and decision making. These two practices are used over a nine-week period for themes that center around Classroom Survival Skills (topics such as listening, asking for help, resilience when things are hard, refocusing after distractions, etc.) and Emotional Management Skills (topics such as cooling off and thinking smart when angry, dealing with embarrassment, how to express feelings, etc.).

The students enjoy sharing through discussion and exchanging ideas with their peers. The TJ Walker Middle School staff have noticed a positive impact of the SAIG program on students in terms of improved classroom attendance and a reduction of classroom distractions.

Our goal is to help them be the best version of themselves and grow and develop as individuals who are ready to move on to high school.



ELEMENTARY OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES TO BE UPDATED

Our elementary playgrounds are 25+ years old and equipment is becoming very worn, parts made of wood are splintering and replacement



parts are no longer being made. Many areas are not handicapped accessible and do not meet the needs of our students with autism, sensory processing and other special physical needs. An elementary playground committee made up of staff and parents was formed to plan playground updates. Renovation of the existing playgrounds was found to be very costly and would not meet all of our students' needs, therefore, three new playground areas are being proposed at Sawyer and Sunrise Elementary Schools. Nearly 500 students will benefit from these playground areas on a daily basis during recess and before and after the school day. The playgrounds will also be available when school is not in session, benefiting both city residents and visitors.

The playground committee is very excited to see this project become a reality so that our students can have the opportunity to play on all-inclusive playgrounds open to students of all abilities and at so many more levels than their current play areas allow. The proposed playgrounds have serenity spots for students who need quieter places to play and music and scavenger hunt play pieces that are incorporated into the designs. There are many climbing structures promoting upper body strength and, of course, swings, slides, a leveled soccer field and basketball hoops. We cannot wait for our students to have additional positive play areas to learn and grow!



STUDENTS LEARN TO IDENTIFY CONIFERS

The High School Adapted Biology Skills class went on a field trip in January to Crossroads where they braved the zero-degree temperature to identify and gather different conifer species. One student stated, "It was freezing cold, but it was fun to get outside and do something different." The class was then able to warm up with a cup of conifer tea that they made themselves at the Collins Learning Center!



The idea for this trip began in the classroom when a student pointed out the window and began talking about the pine trees across the parking lot. "I let him know that the species he was talking about were spruce trees," says Mr. Umentum, special education teacher in the High School. The student was in disbelief and asked if he could cut off a branch to properly identify the tree. This led Mr. Umentum to create a unit in which the whole class learned to identify various types of local conifer trees.

"Taking the students to Crossroads to learn about trees was a meaningful event because this is the same place I learned how to identify trees several years earlier from head naturalist Coggin Herringa," states Mr. Umentum. "This is the first of many outdoor experiences I hope to have with my students; most people seem to forget lectures or what was discussed in a classroom setting after a few weeks, but hands-on experiences create memories that last years. I can still recall field trips and labs from as far back as elementary school. I hope I can give my students those same memorable experiences." Sturgeon Bay School District is very fortunate to have an outdoor learning space available at Crossroads at Big Creek.

DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!

To donate or learn more information please contact: Craig Sigl, csigl@sbsdmail.net 920-746-3897 or Cheryl Pfister cpfister@sbsdmail.net 920-495-9165.

See features of each play area by Scanning this QR Code:

SCAN ME

