

November 27, 2019

The last couple of weeks have been awesome for so many reasons! Our staff and students have given our community so much to celebrate.

First and foremost, our school district staff and students should be complimented for their academic achievements. Our school district once again “exceeded expectations” on the state report card. This is a reason to celebrate, as this is the third year in a row that our school district has met this level of achievement. The day to day work of our staff and students is top notch. However, we will never rest until 100 percent of our students are proficient or advanced in all areas!

Speaking of academics, we inducted nearly 20 new members to the National Honor Society at Kiel High School. Acceptance into this prestigious group is measured by academic achievement, character and community service. The students that were inducted exemplify all three of these areas and make our entire community proud.

We also watched our football team perform it’s way all the way to Madison. This collection of hardworking and committed student athletes, trainers and coaches took a perfect 13-0 record to Madison in hopes of winning a state championship. The team fell a bit short in the final game, but in the end, brought home a silver trophy, which is proudly displayed in our high school trophy case. The memories that this team brought to our community will be remembered and appreciated for generations. What a way to celebrate the opening of our new athletic complex!

Our dance team and band were also able to bring the crowd to their feet in Madison as they made us all proud of their performances; the amount of time that both of these groups put in on a daily basis is astounding; the work has paid off!

Once of the most amazing stories behind the scenes of our community trip to Madison was that we sent 10 fan buses (we actually ran out of drivers or we would have sent more), which

included the band, students and community members. All of the buses were paid for through the generous donations of our local businesses. A huge thank you goes out to the following businesses for their support in making sure so many people were able to attend the game: JK Hauling, Giebler Chiropractic, CZ Awards, Dan Meyer Family Farm, Mannenbach Mechanical, Parker John's, Roeck's Bakery, Mueller's Barbershop, Riesterer Financial, New York Life, The Kiel Lions Club, Goodfellas Barbershop, Adleman Electric, Fork and Dagger Restaurant, HG Weber, The Kiel Booster Club, Meiselwitz Furniture, Kraus Construction, Jim and Sandy Vogel Family and Windwalker Label.

I am proud that as a community, we just keep coming together for our students and each other! Our partnerships with our businesses continue to be strong.

We also watched Travis Kohlmann compete at the state cross country meet, as well as our middle school boys capture a state cross country championship at the middle school state championships. Our middle school girls team took third place at the state meet. Ally Boyer, a fantastic swimmer, also competed at the state competition in November and performed exceptionally well.

In our school district, and in connection with our business partnerships, we have a booming Robotics Program. This month, all of our talents were on display at Lakeshore Technical College as our teams competed against a wide range of other school districts. Our teams range from Jr. Lego League (elementary school students), all the way up to our high school robotics team, which includes students that will be pursuing careers in engineering and programming. One example of the expansion of this program is that our Jr. Lego League teams increased this year from 4 teams working and competing to 17 teams competing. Thank you to those that work every day to provide these opportunities for our students.

With the help of Jack Lechler, a district supporter, Katie Thiebault and David Heimann, two high school teachers, are working to connect our high school students with twelve students from Kiel,

Germany, as a way to share cultural experiences. This type of communication and connection was something that was done years ago and led to many positive experiences, including trips back and forth to Germany that were made by students and community members.

Our staff and students also did a tremendous job recognizing our local Veterans on Veteran's Day. Our students sang songs, played music and performed speeches, all in honor of those that keep us safe every day. In our school district, we will continue to teach our students the importance of recognizing the sacrifices that so many have made to protect our freedoms. Thank you to all that helped make this day a success.

On January 15th, the school board will receive an update regarding our strategic plan. We are powering forward with expanding services for our students in many areas: technical education, business partnerships, higher level course offerings, personalized learning, mental health services and financial stability. We are also going to ensure that our core instruction is sound and solid. I am very excited for this work and as details continue to emerge in regards to this plan, I will communicate with you!

It's also never too early to think spring! Our new Performing Arts Center will break ground as soon as the weather allows. The pieces of the project have gone out to bid and will be reviewed in December.

I hope to see all of you at many of our winter events, including forensics meets, girls basketball, boys basketball, boys swimming, dance team competitions, wrestling meets, robotics competitions, ice fishing club meets and our future business leaders and agricultural competitions.

I want to continue to thank the community for getting behind us and supporting our students and staff. Let's keep working together and as we do, our achievement and accomplishments will continue to soar!

Have a great holiday season!