



DECEMBER 2020

# CARDINAL CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST** - *Benjamin Franklin*  
**Dr. Rick Spicuzza, Superintendent of Schools**

The global pandemic has affected every facet of how we function as a school district. Every decision we make as a district has an incredible impact on our families and students, and this is not lost on me or our school board. Adapting to the ever-changing circumstances of the COVID pandemic hits all of us individually and collectively. I wish we could make all of this go away, but that is not our reality. As PSD and families deal with the various instructional models on what feels like a minute-by-minute clock, our board is tasked with not only the short-term issues of COVID, but legitimate longer-term goals detailed in the board's strategic direction. A first-level responsibility of the board is to ensure the facilities are maintained and operational. These basic necessities go beyond annual budgets and require generational support by our community.

This fall, our PSD Board continued its work on a long-term, 10-year plan for the district that aligns to its mission, vision, and strategic direction. After almost three years of work with SDS Architects, the school board sent a district-wide community survey that addressed the entirety of the strategic direction with one ask: 1) address requisite maintenance needs, 2) improve safety and security, 3) optimize space utilization and, 4) align our learning spaces to our academic model. The community's response suggests it is not ready to support all four initiatives at the cost of \$16-\$22M. However, as a board and community, we have a shared obligation to ensure the infrastructure (e.g., roofs, electrical work, boilers, etc.) remain up-to-date. December and January will be critical months for our board as they are challenged to make decisions in the best interest of students and staff, while protecting the investment that generations have provided. The community's support of our 4-building district is appreciated; we need to invest now, and in the future, so equitable programming can be delivered 4K-12.

The past nine months have affirmed to us all, the critical role that schools serve to educate, feed, transport and keep students healthy and safe. We are extremely proud of our staff being able to keep our 4K-5 open to this point, and our secondary staff, students and families for adjusting through hybrid and virtual programming. Hope is on the horizon with vaccines and updated information.

Happy Holidays

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## MAKING HISTORY - GIRLS GOLF SECURES PRESCOTT'S FIRST STATE TITLE



*The Prescott girls golf team and coaches proudly display the 2020 WIAA, Division 2 Championship trophy. After a rain-shortened first day and a rapidly-changing leaderboard, the team claimed the title at Blackwolf Run in Kohler, WI.*

*Pictured left to right: Coach Maddie Wagner, Head Coach Chad Salay, Ava Salay, Rhi Stutz, Liz Rohl, Jessica Heinsch, Maddie Reiter, and Coach Darren Reiter.*

Coach Salay wasn't sure there would even *be* a 2020 girls golf season, so it's even more astounding that the team played their matches, but also brought home Middle Border Conference and State Championship titles. "Once the season began, the next question was whether there would be a state tournament. WIAA wasn't able to commit until mid-season. We were very thankful that they (WIAA) made the entire season happen with detailed planning and safety measures in place," stated Salay who shared highlights of the season's historic wins and player profiles.

"During the season, the definite high was clinching the conference championship while shooting a school record at our last 9-hole conference meet in Baldwin. Although we did not officially clinch the conference championship, mathematically it was going to be very tough to lose it. Our girls knew this and we celebrated a bit; however, we still wanted to win the 18-hole conference final at New Richmond and that's what we did to clinch it! It was certainly a great feeling knowing we had ended the Tigers' five-year reign, as well as secured Prescott's first girls golf conference championship.

Additionally, 5 team players finished in the top 15 of the individual standings to earn an All-Conference status: 1st teamers; Ava Salay and Rhi Stutz, 2nd teamers; Liz Rohl and Jessica Heinsch, and Honorable Mention; Maddie Reiter. As a coach, I have never seen this happen before!

The greatest moments of the state tournament came on the last five-six holes for our team. We were 'neck and neck' with defending champions, Madison Edgewood and Prairie School, for most of the day. On this last stretch of holes, our girls played their best golf. They put the pressure on the other teams who were unable to match our play.

I believe the highlight was on the final hole (one of the tougher driving holes on the course with a huge pond on the right and several large bunkers on the left side). Each of our players pounded their drives right down the middle of the fairway, while other teams drove into the water and bunkers. The players especially demonstrated razor-sharp mentality and heart on this hole. We had a comfortable last stretch to the victory - which *wasn't* so comfortable for most of the day!"

The solid lead also allowed Salay to check on where his daughter, Ava, was standing individually. He felt she was playing well enough to have a chance to win and knew she'd played in similar situations. Ava needed a birdie for the chance to tie on the last hole. She hit two great shots but came up a little short on her final putt. Ava took home a second place title for the second year in a row!

"I was a little nervous heading in to the final hole, but proud of how Ava stepped up in a high-pressure situation to give herself a chance to win the state tournament."





# THE STATE CHAMPS: PLAYER PROFILES

LIZ is **determined** and strives to do her best. She never gives up and always seeks to improve her game. (C)

JESSICA is **happy** and her good mood translates to her game. She enjoys playing and improving at golf and her positive attitude has allowed her to take her game to a new level. (H)

LINDSAY is **fun!** Lindsay keeps the team loose with jokes and funny stories. She wants to win just as bad as everyone, but understands that you can have fun while doing it. (A)

AVA is **driven** and out-works most anyone in order to perform her best. She understands success is attainable through commitment which shows in her work ethic and its results. (M)

RHI is **focused**. Whether at practice or in an event, Rhi is laser-focused on what she is doing. She has fun while on the course and her focus allows her to perform well with a smile. (P)

MADDIE is **reliable**. She's steady on the course and doesn't let emotions get the best of her. Maddie performs best when we need her the most. (S)



## WINTER ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

### PSD SPECTATOR POLICY:

- ◆ Open to immediate (same household) family members of athletes and coaches (2 passes)
- ◆ No visiting spectators
- ◆ Masks and social distancing required
- ◆ Entry is 15 minutes prior to start of the event, and exit is immediately following the end of event.

## CHEER FOR THE CARDINALS FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR COUCH!

Catch home games on the PSD Activities & Athletics

YouTube site: [www.youtube.com/channel/UC4zgmClhSvf-uX5YOC72AXg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4zgmClhSvf-uX5YOC72AXg)

KDWA also streams as many events as possible:

[www.facebook.com/KDWA1460](https://www.facebook.com/KDWA1460)

As always, watch the PSD website for stream links and updates: [www.prescott.k12.wi.us](http://www.prescott.k12.wi.us)



# WE ARE PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

COVID has presented enormous challenges to our country, community and profession; there's also been a bright side to the shifts and changes it has revealed. If you had asked a group of people pre-pandemic which jobs are most suited to working from home, or in a virtual space, or with a rotating schedule, teaching would definitely have been at the bottom of that list. However, over the last eight months I've been impressed with the ingenuity of staff and the resilience and flexibility of students to face this challenge. My colleagues have responded with creativity, passion, and care in a way that is made me proud to be a part of their team. Adversity always has a way of showing what people are truly made of.

One of the truly great things that has come out of this pandemic experience is how we have maintained and strengthened connections with families across the school. As the lines between on-site and at-home learning blurred, we have seen greater commitment as parents and teachers work together in partnership to support students. Families have offered their unconditional support, flexibility, and appreciation as we continued to strive towards educational excellence. It has been one of the true highs of this experience, and it is a relief to know that we have strong support for education in our community.

The best part about education has always been the

students. These past eight months have presented them educational challenges that no other generation has seen, and yet this group of students has adapted to face this situation. In the past three months, students have learned with 100% of students on-site, in the hybrid learning environment, and fully virtual. Each change and shift required a new way of engaging with the content and teachers. Students have become professionals at navigating technology, sending professional emails, collaborating on a multitude of platforms, delivering presentations, culminating assessments digitally, and organizing their daily lives around the shifting landscape that COVID has created.

Lastly, I could not be more proud of the team of educators at Prescott High School. In less than a year, this group has shifted the fundamental way they implement instruction. They have found ways to engage students off-site and to support not only their academic goals, but also their social and emotional well-being. They have become experts at teaching in an ever-shifting environment. The innovation I've witnessed in classrooms has been spectacular. While our schedule has shifted and COVID has created uncertainty, I am confident that each classroom is still teaching to the highest levels of student learning.



Students in the Entrepreneurship Class model some of the current inventory at PHS's store, The Nest. This season's most popular items are the Cardinal stocking hat and the hot chocolate! Pictured l to r: Delaney, Marissa, Emma, Mason and Lauren.



# MALONE ELEMENTARY - NAVIGATING A NEW NORMAL

Although the last 10 months have felt more like 10 years, there is much to be thankful for as we approach the holiday season. The MES staff is incredibly thankful we are still in school and teaching “live!” We were uncertain we’d make it this far and for that, we are thankful.

Students and staff have embraced their new “normal” of teaching and learning during a global pandemic. Face coverings, although worn by everyone present, are remarkably unnoticed in our classrooms and hallways. Our eyes smile as friends are greeted in the hallway and our bodies beam when new learning is understood. All have learned new ways to communicate and engage with those around us!

Our main objective of learning has not changed, but the way we show our understanding has. This year, we have implemented a classroom learning platform called SeeSaw. Staff are very savvy in using this software to enhance their instruction in and out of the classroom. Students are creative in the ways they demonstrate their learning and mastering of the concepts being taught, and parents and families are able to get “real time” information about their child’s day!

We have had some stretches where we’ve been short-staffed throughout the building. Each and every staff member has stepped up and made sacrifices to keep things as consistent and as normal as possible for our students. It has been truly remarkable to watch my colleagues selflessly help one another and our students.

Malone Elementary staff, students, and families have been greatly tested throughout this pandemic. However, we have been innovative and purposeful in defining our *new normal, with the knowledge that many of the changes we were forced to make will enhance our learning for years to come!*





# MIDDLE SCHOOL IS **CARDINAL STRONG**

We are



**S**tronger communication between students, parents and staff

**T**echnology fluent

**R**esponsible behavior

**O**wnership of learning

**N**ever giving up, trying new things

**G**rateful for the hard work being done by all

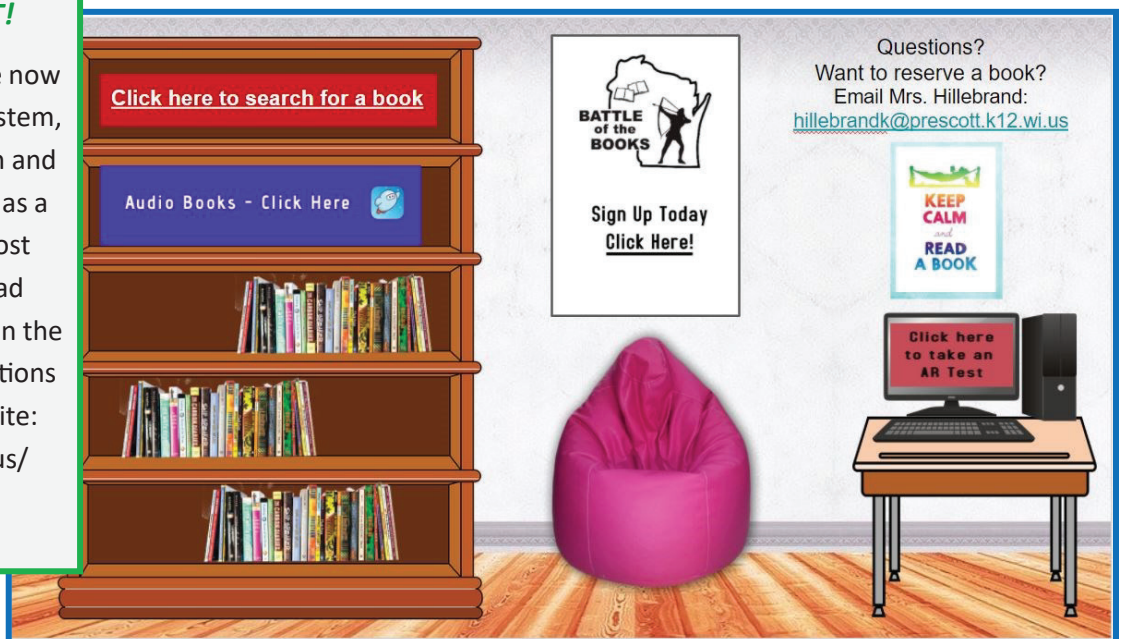
It has been four months since we welcomed students back to campus at Prescott Middle School. Since that time, we have had to change our learning model in various ways and our entire school community has done a remarkable job adapting and continuing to learn in circumstances that no one could have imagined a year ago. We have transformed our educational model to be able to provide our curriculum and instruction to all students via online platforms. While we have encountered bumps along the way, we continue to persevere, learn from each other and improve our methods on a daily basis. The graphic (left) demonstrates what we are - Cardinal Strong - and how we'll keep moving forward.

Thank you to all of our families for partnering with us to help achieve our goals this year. We recognize that there is nothing simple about supporting your child's education at this time. Students and families have done a remarkable job of being patient and working through the transformation throughout the year. Students at Prescott Middle School

are taking their learning to a new level. We are also discovering the different types of support that our families need and are working hard to meet those needs on a regular basis. As the school year progresses, we will continue to be vigilant in support of our students and families to ensure that our students are successful in their learning endeavors. I want to commend our staff for putting in the extra time and effort to transform our educational process this year. They have displayed creativity, resilience, commitment and have helped our students achieve more success than ever before. Our staff has worked in new ways that will transform the educational process for years to come.

## READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Thanks to Mrs. Simon, we now have the virtual library system, Sora. Students can search and check out books, as well as a full collection of the most popular and widely-read eBooks and Audiobooks on the Sora App. Links and directions are on the district website: [www.prescott.k12.wi.us/page/3241](http://www.prescott.k12.wi.us/page/3241).





# MALONE INTERMEDIATE - MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER



I cannot be more proud of the way that the Malone Intermediate School Community has risen to the challenges put before us by the ongoing global pandemic. Students, staff, and families have done a remarkable job of adjusting to our new ways of learning, both at school and home. I am surprised and humbled by the resiliency of all that help make the Malone Intermediate School Community the vibrant place that it is for students to grow and learn.

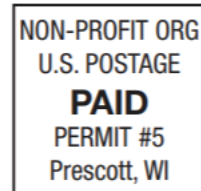
As the pandemic has closed many neighboring schools, we continue to remain open because of the strong partnership we have between school and home. Our adherence to safety guidelines, mini-cohort model in the classroom, and open communication with nursing services and teachers have limited the impact the pandemic has had on our students, staff, and families. This open communication, flexibility, and innovation have also allowed us to make several enhancements to our online learning model that has led to a greater learning experience when students and staff are learning and engaged virtually.

The adoption of SeeSaw as our online teaching platform has allowed students to plan a more active role in their learning. This technology has allowed students to create and show their learning in ways we could have not done just a year ago. This innovation has changed the ways

that students collaborate with each other and their teachers. SeeSaw has allowed teachers to provide personalized instruction and feedback in ways that help all students reach their full learning potential. It also has been a great communication tool for families to connect with teachers and make the work in the classroom more visible throughout the learning process. I want to thank everyone for their flexibility, innovation, and partnership knowing that we will have to lean on each other even more as we navigate this school year together. Together, WE make the difference at Malone Intermediate School!







## PREPARING PHS GRADUATES FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

The PHS Counseling Department knows that each student has a unique pathway to his or her future plans. Our staff is fully equipped to prepare all students for college and career readiness through a variety of lessons, meetings, tests, courses, and opportunities. It starts with monthly counseling lessons during homeroom where we meet with a large group of students to discuss a variety of topics pertaining to each grade level. We also offer individual counseling which allows us to dig deeper into each student's plans and unique situation.

During these sessions, we explore four-year planning, course schedules, letters of recommendation, time-management, study skills, work/life balance, essay writing, scholarships, loans/grants, FAFSA, and anything else relating to the student's needs.



Starting this year, we are offering a Peer Tutoring opportunity for students to help their peers who may need extra support in certain classes or subject areas. Not only does this help students who are struggling, but it also gives an opportunity for tutors to experience a new level of professionalism and responsibility.

In addition to our academic offerings, we provide many resources such as a career exploration site, college visits, job shadowing, and work release. Our career exploration

site, Xello, allows students to take personality tests and matchmaker questionnaires. After answering, they get a list of careers that match their interests and skills, then can then read more about those careers and save the ones they like. They can also use this site to explore different

Students have the opportunity to take a variety of courses and exams to help them accomplish their goals and feel prepared for life after high school. We partner with Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) to offer a job shadowing program and transcribed credit courses, where students can receive college credit along with their high school credit. They can also receive college credit by taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams by taking the nine AP classes we offer. During sophomore and junior years, students can take the PSAT test in the fall. This test helps students see where they are at academically, if they are ready to take the ACT, and helps them gauge their college readiness. During a student's senior year, they can take our Mentorship class. This class is an independent course that gives students time to explore different career options and what they need to do to prepare for their pathway. Through this class, students take advantage of job shadowing opportunities and scholarship applications.

colleges, track college applications, send transcripts to colleges, request letters of recommendation from their teachers, and see what local scholarships are available to them. Students can also take three days to job shadow. This is an opportunity to see careers first-hand to see if it is something they really would like to do, or if they should explore different options. If students have a job, we also offer a work release program that allows them to leave school early to work while receiving high school credit — and gaining work experience and a paycheck!

Every student's journey varies which is why we have different opportunities to help out as many students as possible. We want every student to achieve their goals and graduate from high school feeling ready to take on the world. Through counseling lessons, meetings, exams, courses, and real-world experiences, we make sure our students are college and career ready before they receive their PHS diploma.