

OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION

MAY



Fifth Grade Graduation

Fifth-grade graduation marks an important milestone in a student's academic journey, celebrating their successful completion of elementary school and readiness for middle school. The occasion was celebrated with a luncheon, ceremony, photo booth, and slideshow.



Hixon Hike

The fourth and fifth-grade students celebrated the end of the school year with an exhilarating hike through the scenic trails. Thanks to a grant from the Sierra Club for funding this opportunity! Students immersed themselves in nature, bonding with their classmates and creating lasting memories before embarking on their summer break.



Yearbook Club

A group of Hamilton fifth graders attended an after-school club, designed, and worked hard on Hamilton's first yearbook for fifth-grade students. They came up collaboratively with a thoughtful autograph page with a commemorative quote. It is beautiful!

5th Grade T-Shirts

Hamilton PTO received a grant from the La Crosse Community Foundation to provide Hamilton T-Shirts for all of the 5th graders for graduation.

Kickball

In a spirited end-of-year showdown of youthful energy against seasoned experience, the fifth graders versus teacher kickball game unfolded with laughter and fierce competition. The sound of cheers echoed through the playground and unforgettable memories were created by all.



Community Schools Leadership Team (CSLT) met on May 16th

We refined our Communication Plan

The communication plan is made up of three parts:

1

Community School Reflections - In April we started sending out monthly reflections to all stakeholders to celebrate our successes, inform on project progress, and share what we have learned. You can find Our Community School Reflection for previous months here: <https://www.lacrosseschools.org/hamilton/community-school/>

2

Focus Groups - We will schedule stakeholder meetings where we share what we learn and directly seek input and involvement from stakeholders.

3

End-of-Year Report - To recap the year at Hamilton, spotlight projects and partners, share the work ahead of us, and engage stakeholders with our Community School. You can find our 2023 Community School End-of-Year Report here: <https://www.lacrosseschools.org/hamilton/community-school/>

We agreed upon our broad Focus Area

When we meet student needs and develop social/emotional skills, students have the ability to engage in Safe, Respectful, and Responsible behaviors more consistently.

CSLT will meet again in August and explore the root causes of unmet needs and lagging social and emotional skills of students.



Orchestra Concert

The Hamilton orchestra concert was a delightful showcase of young talent. We appreciate the dedication of the students and orchestra teacher Isabel Hoff.

Music Concerts

The end-of-year school music concerts were a resounding success, filling the auditorium with joyous melodies and enthusiastic applause. It was a memorable evening that celebrated the students' hard work and dedication throughout the year. Music teacher Karla Wakeen led each grade and the Beat 4 Peace after-school club with their musical selections which incorporated the lessons they've been getting all year.

Bike Rodeo

Despite the weather, we still had 98 students and 219 total participants for the event. We had 25 students who needed bikes. Emily Vance from River Trails Cycling tuned up and donated all 25 bikes. SOTA 1 4th & 5th-grade friends chalked the safety course.



Get Fresh

Get Fresh is a back-to-school readiness event. The event will provide haircuts, meals, community building, and child engagement events. We are working with Erin Raymus, with the hope of hosting the Get Fresh program at Hamilton before school starts. <https://www.ywcalax.org/resources-and-education/get-fresh-events/>



Mentor Appreciation

The kids showed their appreciation and thanks to our many mentors.



Cleaning Hamilton

Volunteers from Bridges Church started in June to help clean lockers and other areas of the building. This will be ongoing throughout the summer. Thank you, Pastor Jason and his congregation!



Hamilton Recognized

Recently, the Wisconsin Rtl Center recognized our school for our work toward fully implementing a school-wide system that, according to national research, leads to improved student outcomes.



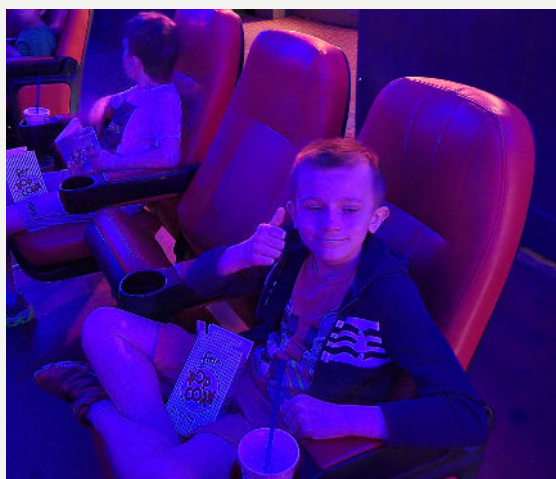
Gundersen Mentor Breakfast

We celebrated our Gundersen Mentors and Mentees with breakfast. Mentors met in the morning with Mentees throughout the year. Providing a welcoming environment for mentees to start the day on a good note.



Gundersen Mentors

Throughout the year, mentors from Gundersen met with their mentee (Student) in the morning. The mentors provided a welcoming environment for mentees to start their day on a positive note. This May we had a special breakfast for the mentors and mentees to celebrate their time together.



Celebration of Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS)

We celebrated the students' hard work by going to the Rivoli to watch a movie on May 30th. All year long the students worked hard on being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. Way to go!

Cookie Decorating and "Nailed It" Cake Extravaganza

Thanks to a grant from La Crosse Public Education Foundation for "Small Business Career Paths", students learned cookie and cake decorating, connected to small business career paths, advertising, and art history.

Twelve teachers/staff participated in a gameshow-style cake decorating contest. Amanda (an experienced cake/cookie decorator) led teams through the steps of decorating a cake and teachers decorated their cakes as a team as fast as they could!



Your Voice Matters

We want to hear from you! If you would like to learn more, ask questions, share your insights, or volunteer please contact Jon Zinniel, Hamilton Community Schools Coordinator at 608-789-5092 or zinniel@lacrossesd.org.