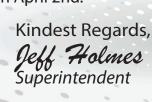
Our District Provides Opportunities That Can Transform Lives

On April 2nd, residents of the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District have a crucial vote on a non-recurring, three-year operational referendum. This referendum would raise \$2.5 million yearly for the next three years to sustain our exceptional academics and enrichment programs that encompass more than just the basics, retain and maintain high-quality staff and support services, and appropriately maintain facilities that prepare our students to thrive. It is estimated that the additional funding will cost five cents per \$1000 of assessed property value. Please keep in mind, "Education is the great equalizer". These formative opportunities pave the way for growth and success regardless of background and the inverse can be true if those opportunities become otherwise.

Decades of mindful budgeting, state funding limits, and inflation have outpaced District revenues. Without this community investment, \$7.5 million in devastating reductions become unavoidable over the next three years. We could lose talent and programming that help young minds reach their greatest potential. Ranging from educators to support staff, early childhood literacy to inventive STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) initiatives, and other crucial aspects of public education. Go to our website to learn more about referendum information, which can be found at https://cfsd.chipfalls.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2024.cfm. Please vote on April 2nd.













Scan the QR code for Referendum 2024 Information or go to pages 6 & 7.



NSPIRE • SUPPORT



LEARN









The Student Success Pillar is committed to guaranteeing that students have equitable access to a universal curriculum aligned to academic standards identified by each unique content area; in turn, helping all students grow in their knowledge, skills, and aptitudes as learners. Additionally, this pillar strives to prepare students to succeed in their future endeavors by focusing on the skills that will help students in their own college and career planning as well as fostering technology skills for a changing world.

One of the district Student Success Pillar actions this year is the creation of student success dashboards and individual student success profiles at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The dashboard and profile will provide students and their families, progress measure metrics associated with research based Redefining Ready college and career readiness indicators.

To learn more about this topic, please go to Redefining Ready! (https://www.redefiningready.org). Another resource for information is Redefining Ready Powered by CESA 7 - Readiness Scorecard (https://sites.google.com/cesa7.org/wi-redefining-ready/home).

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Student Success

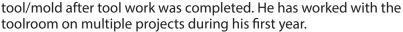
Providing students with the resources and support they need to succeed.

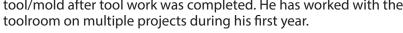
A Youth Apprenticeship gives high school students the opportunity to receive occupational related instruction and training to earn a WI skills certificate. Chi Hi Junior, Aydon Perkins is employed at ITW Deltar Fasteners in Chippewa Falls through the Youth

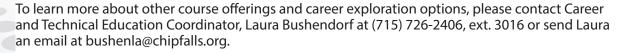
> Apprenticeship program offered at the high school.



(left) Per Aydon's Supervisor, Aydon is assembling and prepping the blenders for production use. The blenders are used for a blending process when a base material (natural color) is mixed with a colorant. A few years ago most of the mixing was done by hand. These systems help reduce the manual process. He has assembled over 20 blenders for production. (right) Aydon is assembling a









Chi Hi Junior Cameron Schara recently designed a banner for the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District that will be proudly displayed at school and community events as well as at job fairs. Cameron worked many hours, often in his free time, to accomplish this piece of work. His academic path at Chi Hi has included many classes in graphics, media, and business. Cameron is a very talented student who works hard in and out of school and already is coowner of a family photography business, RC Limitless Photography. Thank you for your time and talent Cameron!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



CFMS Students Engage in Schools2Skills™ Tour

Recently, students from the Chippewa Falls Middle School were able to participate in a Schools2Skills™ tour that included stops at Nordson, Chippewa Valley Technical College Manufacturing Center and the Chippewa Falls High School Technical Education area.

Schools2Skills[™] is a program that inspires students, parents, and educators to learn more about careers

available in and around Chippewa Falls, in partnership with the Chippewa Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. School and Chamber staff work together to bring groups of middle school students into the workplace and education centers to highlight different career paths and to explain the education required to succeed in today's work environment. The program includes tours of manufacturing, healthcare, engineering, automotive, construction and hospitality industries. CFAUSD is grateful for the collaboration with the Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce and other area partners that make this unique program available for our students.







Congratulations to the 11 DECA members that represented Chippewa Falls at their State competition recently. These 11 students are off to their international competition in Anaheim, California next month. Congratulations to all of the qualifiers and good luck in California!

CFMS Students Head to State Spelling Bee

For the first time in many years, two students from

the Chippewa Falls Middle School qualified to compete in Madison at the Badger State Spelling Bee. 7th-grader Irie Christensen

won the District Spelling Bee contest and 8thgrader Braxton Bell secured a spot at the State

competition as a top five speller in the District contest. Irie and Braxton will compete on March 16

at the Mitby Theater in Madison for a chance to travel to Washington D.C. for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Good luck to both in Madison!



FFA MEMBER WINS **SCHOLARSHIP**

Lydia Marquardt, CFAUSD FFA member was awarded a \$1,000 National FFA SAE grant by Boot Barn. These grants are designed to help FFA members create or expand Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. An SAE requires FFA members to create and operate an agriculture related business, work at an agriculture-related business or conduct an agricultural research experience. Lydia's application was selected from among 1,258 applications nationwide. Congratulations, Lydia!





Caring Culture

Caring Culture

Cultivating an environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Spotlight on the Chippewa Falls Middle School (CFMS)

The CFMS Caring Culture team continues to focus on emotional regulation and sense of belonging. There are different activities and lessons that are created and implemented each week during Cardinal Time to focus on students' emotional regulation and sense of belonging. In January, they kicked off their Cardinal Time Winter Olympic Games where each Cardinal Time created their own country and participated in minute-to-win-it games. The finalist for each game then represented their Cardinal Time at the Winter Olympic Final Game ceremony that took place by grade level in the auditorium. The Cardinal made a special appearance by carrying the torch for the opening of each ceremony. The Caring Culture team has future games planned for the spring to continue building off the momentum from these games.







Secondary Students Learn Resilience







Chippewa Falls Senior High School and Middle School had the privilege of hosting Tasha Schuh, an inspirational speaker, in February.

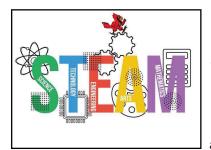
Tasha shared her story of having a life-changing accident at the age of 16 that left her paralyzed from the chest down. Tasha's acronym, PATH – Purpose, Attitude, Team and Hope empowered students to be resilient during life's obstacles.

Our students learned:

- The importance of having a positive attitude
- The importance of surrounding themselves with the right people
- How to find purpose in their daily lives
- Tangible ways to improve their mental health through resilience
- The importance of knowing that it's okay to ask for help

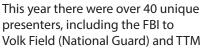
Tasha's story of tragedy, transformation, and triumph inspired our students to know that no matter how difficult life can get, there is hope.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



Nick Gagnon, Chi-Hi Science teacher, along with a number of district and community stakeholders, hosted the 8th STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Night on February 28, 2024. This event started in 2013 and the event has had over 10,000 people in attendance. That's an average of approximately 1,500

attendees per event! Over 100 separate businesses, government entities, universities, etc. have presented at STEAM Night since its inception.



Technologies to GNC as well as several educational institutions.



those discussions STEAM Night was born. Our goal was to connect our local STEAM businesses with our students/staff in a positive way. We wanted to reframe the conversation so that focus was on "our" kids and "our" community. We wanted to show the community that our students are worth the investment. Equally important, we wanted to show our students that staying in the Chippewa Valley is an option. We're lucky to have so many great local manufacturing and technology based businesses in the Valley, which many of our students didn't know existed."

Thank you to our co-hosts, Chippewa County Economic Deleopment Corporation and TTM Technologies as well as all of our area partners who attended and made this year's STEAM Night a great success!





Empowering a dedicated and talented team of employees who are passionate about serving our students and community.





DID YOU KNOW? TEACHERS : ADVANCED Nancy Roshell is an incredible individual who has served this district, our building, and community in so many ways! She is a friend, teammate, mentor, counselor and the list goes on. Her kindness, compassion, and loyalty are undeniable traits. She is extremely patient with everyone she interacts with, and is always willing to help and lend her expertise.

When asked why she continues to work at Chi-Hi, Nancy responded, "The staff are kind and dedicated, and the students are caring and fun to be around! In addition, the District continues to provide many educational opportunities for our students, which play a huge role in our students' future endeavors. Finally, they all make me smile with pride!"

Nancy, you have blessed us with 40 years, and continue to demonstrate your dedication, consistency, and adaptability to all of us. This is a gift that we all benefit from!

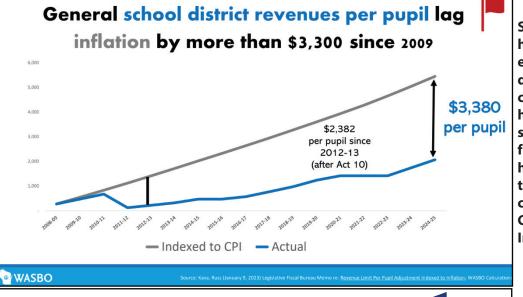
Thank you Nancy!

Finance, Facilities, and Operations

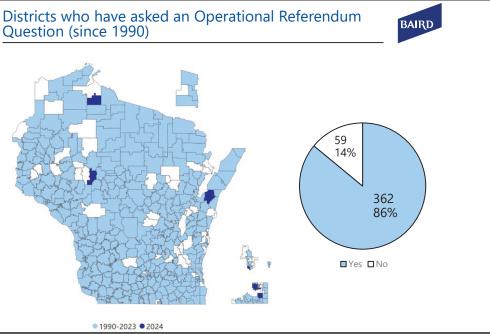
In previous editions, information has been shared about an impending funding cliff. As a district, we are at that crossroads. Many people ask, how did we get here? It turns out that it really is a school funding structural problem. This has been a statewide problem for over three decades, and we are not alone. (See graph below.)

Revenue Limits - Schools have been under revenue limits since 1994. There have only been five increases to the revenue limit within the last 11 years. The state 2023-25 budget did increase funding for schools, but it was not enough to replace expiring federal dollars that were made available during the pandemic. What also was not accounted for is four years of relatively high inflation. As a district, we are facing some of the same challenges that every consumer is. Just to name a few, rising costs in healthcare, food, fuel, supplies, and utilities. Although the District is a large organization, we are faced with the same labor shortages as any other business and see the same increases in cost as any consumer. Recent increases to the revenue limit did help, but did not make up for the loss of federal revenue and did not match inflation.

Finance, Facilities, & Operations Advancing a strong financial foundation and the facilities to support our community



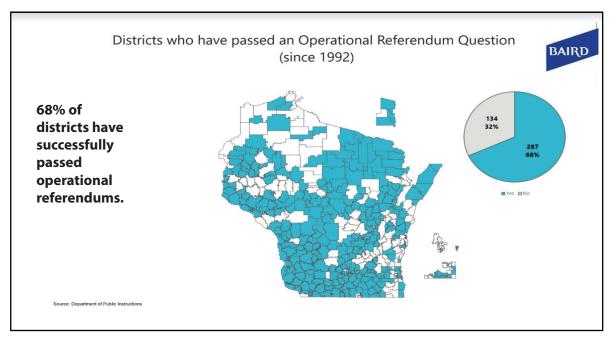
School revenues have lagged the economy for decades. This chart shows how increases in school funding gaps have continued to widen compared to **Consumer Price** Index.



Over 80% of Wisconsin **School Districts** have held an operational referendum since revenue limits were created.

April 2, 2024 Ballot Question:

"Shall the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District, Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,500,000 per year for three years, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and ending with the 2026-2027 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses to maintain staffing levels, programs, services and facilities?"



The District has made more that \$10 million in reductions during this same period of time, with nearly an additional \$10 million in operational efficiencies.

The reason that the CFAUSD is asking for a three year operational referendum is so that cuts to programs and services are not done in a drastic manner. Due to declining enrollment, there will be opportunities for continued efficiency, however those opportunities don't necessarily happen at the right time.

Our state will need to double down on school funding during the next budget cycle. By utilizing a three year referendum, it allows the District to get through that budget cycle and be able to focus on stable funding and programming in the future.

OUR FUNDING PRIORITIES

Strategic Priorities to Budget

-inance, Facilities,

Operations

Finance,

Facilities, & Operations

Advancing a

strong financial

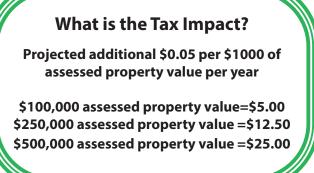
foundation and

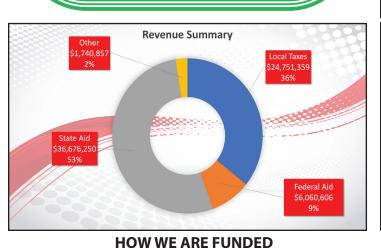
the facilities

to support our

community

Finance, Facilities





& Operations Benefits **Fund Allocations** \$12,542,876 Salaries 18% \$28,053,231 40% **Purchased Services** \$17,411,302 Other \$1,060,074 Non-Capital Special Ed Transfer Equipment \$6,233,774 \$3,927,815 9% 6%

Our People

Caring Culture

OUR EXPENSES

\$50

\$45 \$40

\$35 \$30

\$10

\$5

Student Success



The CFAUSD School Board wants you to know that we are at a pivotal point in history. Our district has a reputation of providing excellent educational services within our budgetary constraints. We do not have extras in our budget that could be cut down further like some other districts may. At times our staff has even dealt with pay freezes or increases that do not even keep up with inflation to keep this process running. Now, like almost every other district in the State, we face an unprecedented wave of events that have caused us to seek a referendum simply to pay our bills. This is what is called an operational referendum. A combination of the State using temporary and now expiring Covid funds to patch holes in local budgets, inflationary pressures that we have not seen since the early 80s, and a recognition by both sides of the political spectrum that mental health is as important as physical education and other subjects, have now squeezed us beyond cutting the extras to the point where we will have to make difficult decisions and cuts that actually affect student learning.

We urge you now more than ever to be in contact with your Board. We urge you to support us in getting the word out about why we are asking for our taxpayers to give more of their hard-earned money. Attend meetings, find out what you can do to help. Your Board is here for you. We appreciate all the contact and help we get. We look forward to hearing from you! Dave Czech, School Board President.



Regular school board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1130 Miles Street, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Agendas are posted on the district website under Board of Education. Paper copies are posted at the district office, library, and city hall. Minutes are published on the school district website and in the Chippewa Herald. As vour Board of Education, we welcome dialogue with you. Our contact information is easily accessible on the school website under the Board of **Education, Members of the** Board.

For more information regarding members, Coherent Governance policies, meeting agendas and information (BoardDocs), definition of meeting types, a link to the Board meeting live stream and annual notices visit the Board of Education page on the school website: Board of Education.

PLANNING AHEAD >> 2024-2025 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2024

- Labor Day-No School
- 3 Elem. Open Houses/6th & 9th **Grade Orientation**
- First Instructional Day

OCTOBER 2024

25 PD Day - No Students

NOVEMBER 2024

- Staff Work Day No Students
- 25-26 PD Day- No Students
- Break/Conf. Make-up Day
 - **No Students**
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER 2024

23-31 No School-Holiday Break

JANUARY 2025

- No School-Holiday Break 1
- **Staff Work Day-No Students** 20

FEBRUARY 2025

PD Day- No Students

MARCH 2025

- 10-14 Spring Break- No School
- Break/Conf. Make-up Day
 - **No Students**
- 31 Staff Work Day- No Students

APRIL 2025

- 18 Holiday Break
- 21 PD Day-No Students

MAY 2025

- 23 Graduation Day
- 26 Memorial Day- No School

JUNE 2025

- 4 Last Instructional Day (K-11)
- 5 Staff Work Day- No Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

APRIL 2, 2024 BALLOT – YOU CAN VOTE FOR TWO



INCUMBENT Sharon McIlguham



INCUMBENT Steve Olson



NEW CANDIDATE Karen Boutiette

About the Candidate:

I have lived in the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District for the majority of my life. I graduated from Chippewa Falls Senior High School, as did my two daughters. I also serve on the Lafayette Town Board.

Why do you want to be a CFAUSD **Board Member?**

I have been a member of the CFAUSD school board since April 2018. I believe the students and staff of the CFAUSD are the most important asset our district has and I want to provide the necessary resources to them to be successful, while being fiscally responsible to the residents of CFAUSD.

As a board member, what will be your top priority?

I am in full support of the operational referendum. If it passes, my priority will be to try to ensure the current services, academics, and supports will be continued.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION



There are two open seats on the April 2, 2024 ballot for the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District Board of Education. Please read each candidate's information (above). You can vote for two.



access the My Vote Wisconsin website for additional information on the April 2 election as well as specific voting information.

About the Candidate:

I am 67 years old and married to my wife Deb for 46 years. We have four daughters and nine grandchildren. Five of our grandchildren are enrolled in the CFAUSD. I am a retired business owner and a Chi Hi grad.

Why do you want to be a CFAUSD **Board Member?**

I am running for a third term as a school board member. The past six years have seen many challenges for the CFAUSD and also many reasons to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and district. If elected I will continue to do my best to serve our district and community.

As a board member, what will be your top priority?

The kids, it's always about the kids. As a school board member I have always tried to be mindful of that fact when making decisions. I have had many opportunities to see how our administration and staff work towards providing the best education we can offer for our students. If elected I will do my best to represent our community.

About the Candidate:

I am married with an 11 year old daughter in the Chippewa Falls Middle School. I am an occupational therapist by background and currently Rehabilitation Clinical Manager at a local health care organization. I also have my Masters in Business Administration.

Why do you want to be a CFAUSD **Board Member?**

Many, many reasons. Each year, I

am reminded how each person that my daughter comes in contact with plays a role in her growth from the administrative assistant greeting us to the amazing teachers we have had. Having an excellent education for all our children is so vital to the stability and growth of the community. We have been so blessed to have amazing teachers and we cannot have a successful educational system without supporting teachers and schools. We need to support mental health (programs for mentoring, structure, basic needs), supporting all staff including substitutes, balancing available technology with the absolute need for engaged teachers, and supporting families where they are at. Also, as a parent, when there is a crisis, I want clear, concise information that provides clear directive and hold administration accountable if this isn't done. As a taxpayer, there is a important referendum being put forth and I am concerned that there is a potential for future difficulties if the reasons for this are for inability to meet budget for the next few years. In all fields, there are labor shortages and the cost of replacing employees is high. We need to demonstrate how important each employee is from the moment they start. As a board member, what will be your top priority?

Ensuring every single student in our district has a great education.





2023-2024 YTD Voyagers 307 Students

2023-2024 YTD Student Connections 152 Students

> 2023-2024 YTD Community Ed

104 : 3,078 CLASSES : PARTICIPANTS

Dear Community Members,

We are excited to share the latest updates from the Cardinal Community Learning Center! Our programs are designed to empower, engage, inspire, and create a sense of belonging for students of all ages!

In addition to our regular Community Education opportunties, this year the CCLC worked with our community partners to host our first annual Age Your Way event for our older citizens. Due to it's success, we are excited to announce that our second annual Age Your Way event will be held October 18, 2024!

The Middle School Student Connections Groups, along with the Voyager's After-School Program, continue to provide a support environment for our children to learn and grow. From STEM activities to creative arts, the CCLC is committed to offering diverse programs that cater to the unique interests, abilities, and talents of each student. Our programming fosters both academic, social, emotional, and personal development.

Our FREE Strengthening Families Program has served 116 CFAUSD families with a total of 338 people from its inception in 2019. We are thankful to our community partners that have contributed to its success!

The CCLC strives to collectively work with our local community to strengthen school and community bonds. In doing so, we were able to bring in Tasha Schuh, a nationally recognized guest speaker, to CFMS and Chi-Hi to deliver a message to our students that empowers them to live a life of resilience and hope. Together with our elementary school's PTO's, we were able to conjointly offer three family fun events! We strive to help our students and community members form a stronger connection with our schools, see the great things happening, and to better understand the needs that exist. We are thankful to our citizens that continue to support the CCLC!



The cast from the musical *Annie Kids* produced by the Voyagers Program, directed by local theater director Sue Decker.

Everyone is all smiles after being taught how to weld by the *Chi Hi Advanced Welding students* through the Community Ed program. Per the survey, 100% agreed the students were amazing!



Voyagers students had the opportunity to learn all about horses through this hands on class at Holly's Place. They learned how to care for these beautiful animals and basic riding tips.



Community members channeling their Inner "Bob Ross" during Joy of Painting class.

WE'RE LISTENING

HOW TO CONTACT



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STUDENT SERVICES Christine McMasters

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CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION Sue Kern

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HUMAN RESOURCES & PUBLIC RELATIONS-INTERIM Jenny Starck

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EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY Scott Marty

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BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & SAFETY Randy Knowlton

knowltrc@chipfalls.org 715.726.2417, ext. 1904

FOOD SERVICE Susan Lang

langsr@chipfalls.org 715.726.2400, ext. 2790

Chippewa Falls 4K Cardinals Kathleen Coppenbarger Director of Curriculum,

Assessment, and 4K 715.726.2785 Ext. 3004 coppenkm@chipfalls.org **Marilyn Burish**, *Admin*. Assistant burishmk@chipfalls.org 715.726.2414 Ext. 2783

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

HALMSTAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 565 E. South Avenue

Chippewa Falls

Ryan Lowe, Principal
lowerj@chipfalls.org

Heidi Olson, Admin. Assistant
olsonhj@chipfalls.org

HILLCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

715.726.2415

1200 Miles Street, Chippewa Falls

Lori Hebert, Principal
hebertla@chipfalls.org

Heidi Solin, Admin. Assistant
solinhm@chipfalls.org
715.726.2405

JIM FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

13643 198th Street, Jim Falls

Janet Goodman, Asst. Principal
goodmaje@chipfalls.org

Sara Wilson, Admin. Assistant

iara Wilson, Admin. Assistani wilsonsm@chipfalls.org 715.720.3260

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

501 Jefferson Avenue Chippewa Falls

Melissa Olson, *Principal* olsonml@chipfalls.org

Stacey Perret-Bowe

Admin. Assistant bowesa@chipfalls.org 715.720.3750

SOUTHVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

615 A Street, Chippewa Falls

Sara Denure, Principal
denurese@chipfalls.org

Debbie Tilton, Admin. Assistant
tiltondk@chipfalls.org
715.726.2411

STILLSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

16556 50th Avenue, Chippewa Falls

Jenny Sarauer, Principal
sarauejl@chipfalls.org

Mallory Prince, Admin. Assistant
pratermn@chipfalls.org

715.726.2412

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHIPPEWA FALLS

MIDDLE SCHOOL 750 Tropicana Boulevard Chippewa Falls

Derrick Kunsman, Principal kunsmadw@chipfalls.org Kelly Fixmer, Receptionist fixmerkj@chipfalls.org 715.726.2400

HIGH SCHOOLS

CHIPPEWA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

735 Terrill Street, Chippewa Falls **Donna Goodman**, Principal
goodmadk@chipfalls.org **Teresa Moran**, Receptionist
morantl@chipfalls.org

715.726.2406

CHIPPEWA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

2820 E. Park Avenue Chippewa Falls

Dave Schaller, *Principal* schalldp@chipfalls.org

Kristy Rubenzer

Admin. Assistant rubenzkj@chipfalls.org 715.723.5542 MAIN # 715.726.2417

1130 Miles Street,

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Toll Free: 866-701-5864

VISIT THE DISTRICT WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION cfsd.chipfalls.k12.wi.us



CFAUSI





11



Apply through April

Open Enrollment is a State of Wisconsin program that allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live.

Wisconsin residents in grades 4K-12 may apply to participate.

If you currently have a student attending the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District through open enrollment you do not need to apply again this year.

Application period for the 2024-25 school year ends at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024



For information on **ENROLLMENT 715.720.1850**

TAMARA SEE, REGISTRAR enrollment@chipfalls.org

CHIPPEWA FALLS AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Administration Office

1130 Miles Street <a>n Chippewa Falls, WI 54729



ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

THE CARDINAL LINE published by the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District

SUPERINTENDENT Jeff Holmes

Executive Director of Human Resources & Public Relations (Interim) Jenny Starck

DISTRICT OFFICE 715.726.2417 n E-MAIL cardinalline@chipfalls.org

cfsd.chipfalls.k12.wi.us











WECAN website



cfsd.chipfalls.k12.wi.us/Employment.cfm





CFAUSD Human Resources

Department

If you are looking for a rewarding career opportunity, wanting to make a difference in the lives of children, and work with AMAZING coworkers. Apply Today!

The CFAUSD has a lot to offer permanent employees:

- Excellent benefits package
- Paid time off
- No weekends or Holidays
- · Opportunities for growth
- Support staff pay range \$14.02 \$32.89
- And so much more!

Substitutes, we want you!

- Substitute teachers \$140 per day or \$70 for a half day
- Substitute support staff \$14 an hour
- Free school lunch when working a full day
- · Paid job shadow prior to starting

2024-25 SCHOOL CALENDAR



Tons of opportunities... more things to love!