

the cardinal line

Elementary Boundary Review Update

The Board of Education has concluded its review of the Elementary Boundary Review Committee's (EBRC) recommendations regarding attendance area adjustments. After thoughtful consideration of the proposal, the Board has decided to postpone implementation, with further discussions to begin in November 2025. Any potential boundary changes would not take effect until the 2026-27 school year at the earliest.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the EBRC members whose diligent analysis of enrollment data, facility capacities, and community priorities resulted in a comprehensive recommendation. Their dedication to this important work has provided valuable insights that will guide future planning.

This review process—our first in nearly 20 years—has been an invaluable learning opportunity for our district. While no immediate boundary changes will occur, the information gathered remains essential as we navigate ongoing declining enrollment changes and resource allocation challenges.

In the meantime, district and building administration will continue working within our current boundaries to address facility utilization and class size balancing. We remain committed to providing equitable educational experiences for all students while responsibly managing our resources.

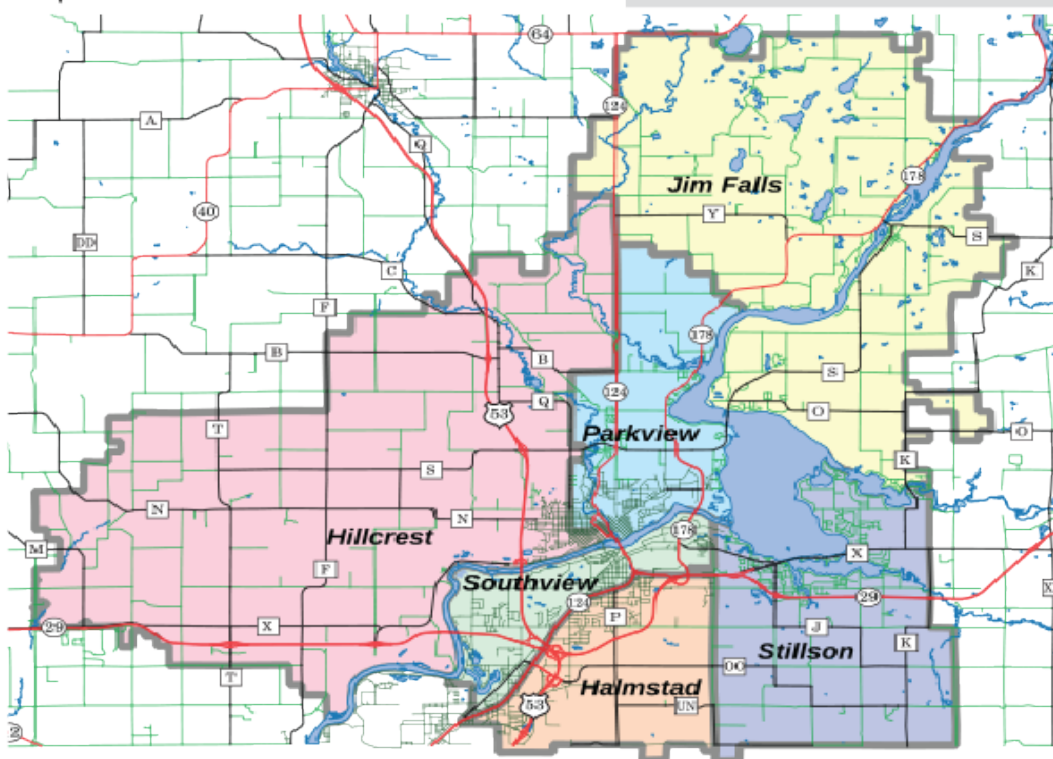
The District will keep families informed as discussions resume later next school year. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we work together to ensure the best possible educational environment for our students.



Elementary School Boundary Map for 2025-2026 School Year

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

Halmstad	Jim Falls	Southview
Hillcrest	Parkview	Stillson



INSPIRE ● SUPPORT ● LEARN



FROM SUPERINTENDENT HOLMES'S DESK: LOOKING AHEAD

Preparing for Federal Education Changes: Insights into US Department of Education Restructuring

Dear Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District Community,

On March 20, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order to begin dismantling the U.S. Department of Education, a move that could significantly impact federal education funding nationwide. This reorganization directly affects our district, which currently receives approximately \$2.5 million annually for Title services and Special Education programs.

While the executive order and messaging from Secretary McMahon preserves several core functions, including Title I funding for low-income schools and resources for children with disabilities, the implementation details remain uncertain. The department's workforce has already been reduced by nearly half since January, with over 1,300 workers recently dismissed.

Our district leadership is taking proactive steps to ensure continuity in our educational services:

- Participating in state-level discussions about potentially new program requirements
- Monitoring for compliance changes as authority likely shifts to state agencies
- Considering alternative resource allocation and compliance strategies if needed

It's important to understand that while the executive order initiates this process, completely eliminating the Department of Education requires congressional approval. Senator Susan Collins (R), Chair of the Senate Appropriation Committee, and others have expressed concerns about fully dismantling the agency, particularly regarding programs serving vulnerable students.

Our commitment to maintaining high-quality educational services remains unwavering. We will adapt to this evolving landscape while advocating for our students' needs. District leadership will provide regular updates as new information becomes available.

Should you have any insights and concerns regarding this topic, please feel free to contact your federal and state legislators to provide input.

WELCOME TO THE
Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District



Administrative Team

BOARD PRESIDENT
David Czech

BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT
Sharon McLaughlin

BOARD CLERK
Sherry Jasper

BOARD TREASURER
Dennis Fehr

BOARD MEMBER
David Martineau

BOARD MEMBER
Peggy McKillip

BOARD MEMBER
Steve Olson

SUPERINTENDENT
Jeff Holmes

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES & FINANCE
Chad Trowbridge

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT
Sue Kern

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION & STUDENT SERVICES
Christine McMasters

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Sara Denure

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT
Katie Coppenbarger

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY & CAPITAL AC
Scott Marty

MISSION Together with students, families, and our community; we inspire, support, and learn.

INSPIRE • SUPPORT • LEARN

CFAUSD School District

MAIN 715.726.2417

Toll Free: 866-701-5864

1130 Miles Street

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Mega-Result

All students will graduate prepared with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors necessary to achieve their personal goals and make a positive impact in the world.

COMMUNICATION

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Dave Czech
President



Last year, schools across Wisconsin were at a pivotal time with funding being cut by the Federal Government and not being replaced by the State. With funding unknown, and possible staff and programming cuts imminent, we reached out to the community. Our community came through for us in a big way and we will always remember how important each tax dollar is when we make our decisions. Now, more than ever, parents are involved and want their voices heard. Running for the Board is one way to be involved but not everyone has the time to do so.

We, as a Board, recognize that the parents in our District want us to focus on the education of the students, and ensuring the safety of our students. I can assure you that is at the forefront of every decision we make. But there are other ways to get involved and have a voice that do not require actually running for the Board. 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.

Regular 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 your Board of Education, we welcome dialogue with you. Our contact information is easily accessible on the district website under Board of Education. We look forward to hearing from you!

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: chipfalls.k12.wi.us/board

CFAUSD PODCAST JUST LAUNCHED

<https://www.echometownradio.com/beyondthebell>



Original Music by: Micah
Uttech
Chi Hi Class of 2026



NEW EPISODES DROP 2nd MONDAY of EACH MONTH

Get ready to hear from the amazing staff, students and families that make up the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District. From exciting updates to the unique voices that make our school district so special. We cover a wide range of topics that highlight what makes our district truly outstanding! Discover us!

#MIGHTYCARDINALS



Thank you to MICAH UTTECH creator and performer of the original music for the Beyond the Bell. Micah pictured with Chi-Hi Principal Donna Goodman

THIS NEW PODCAST SERIES AIRS the SECOND MONDAY of EACH MONTH from JANUARY 2025 - MAY 2025 and from SEPTEMBER 2025 -DECEMBER 2025. BE SURE TO TUNE IN!!

<https://www.echometownradio.com/beyondthebell>

Our District Measure of Success

- Graduates are college or career ready as indicated by our Student Success Dashboard

Our Multi-Year District Strategies for Success

- Increase the use of the Student Success Dashboard indicators to monitor progress toward our 3 year measure of success
- Build connections to our community through curriculum connected learning and/or volunteer experiences
- Provide educational staff with the necessary resources, training, and coaching to deliver high quality instruction aligned to research supported educational practices.

The Student Success Pillar team would like to highlight one of our three year strategies for student success, specifically: **to build connection to our community through curriculum connected learning and/or volunteer experiences.**

Our school district is committed to fostering a culture of community-connected learning and service. Through meaningful experiences, students develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to become informed, engaged, and responsible citizens. The key elements of community-connected learning and service include:

- **Authentic Learning Experiences:** Students engage in meaningful activities that have a real-world impact
- **Collaboration:** Students work with peers, teachers, and community members to achieve shared goals.
- **Critical Thinking:** Students analyze complex issues and develop innovative solutions.
- **Communication Skills:** Students effectively communicate ideas and information to diverse audiences.
- **Civic Engagement:** Students develop a sense of responsibility and contribute to their community.

Each level of our educational system encourages and provides opportunities for students to engage in community service and community-connected learning activities.

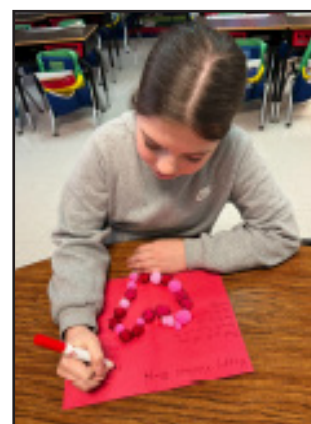
Elementary School (Grades K-5)

- **Community Service:** As a class or school: engaging in simple acts of kindness or service projects such as sending thank you notes to Veterans or nursing homes, kindness projects, participating in food drives, or helping neighbors.
- **Community-Connected Learning:** Exploring the local community through field trips, guest speakers, and hands-on projects. Students will learn about local history, culture, and environmental issues, and apply their knowledge to real-world situations.

Halmstad students and staff worked together to send Valentine's cards to local Veterans. For each card created a dollar was donated by a local group to support local Veterans.



5th grade members of the "Kindness Crew" stayed in during recess to work on these cards and many other students worked on cards when they had open time during the week.



StudentSuccess

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



Presenters from Chippewa Valley Home Builders gave Southview students a presentation on entrepreneurship.

A National Honor Society student visited 5th grade students to lead them in making cat toys for the Humane Society.

Students learned about helping the community and about how the high school students can lead!!



Middle School (Grades 6-8)

- **Community Service:** Participating in more structured service projects, such as volunteering at local organizations, engaging in community initiatives, or mentoring younger students.
- **Community-Connected Learning:** Delving deeper into community issues, researching local problems and proposing solutions. Students will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while making a positive impact on their community.



Students volunteering in the Cardinal Market at CFMS



6th Gr. Readers Create Valentine's Day Cards for Veterans



High School (Grades 9-12)

- **Community Service:** Engaging in community service, such as volunteering at local organizations, participating in service-learning projects, or completing internships.
- **Community-Connected Learning:** Connecting academic learning to real-world experiences through internships, career shadowing, and community-based research projects. Students will develop career readiness skills, explore diverse career paths, and contribute to their community.

By emphasizing community-connected learning and service, our school district aims to empower students to become active and compassionate citizens who are prepared to address the challenges of the 21st century.



DECA Valentines for Veterans



Football Captain's Project



Men's Basketball in Irvine Park



StudentSuccess

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

OUR PEOPLE PILLAR

Our employees are our most important asset. They work hard each day to provide the best experience for our students. We are grateful they have chosen us - the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District. Enjoy meeting some of our staff members who are at different points in their careers. You will learn about **why they stay** in the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District.

Jeremy Black- 5th Grader Teacher at Halmstad Elementary



Hired in 2024. This is my first year within the District and I am very excited with how I have been treated. Everyone has been easy to approach and willing to help me with any issue or answer any question I have had. If they didn't know, they would point me in the right direction. I have been given honest feedback and helpful ways to improve in different areas. People also are willing to listen to ideas I have. I feel that the district is proactive and is always looking for ways to improve too! I am very excited to be a part of this district and look forward to being a part of it for many years to come.

Morris Clark - PE Teacher at Jim Falls and Southview Elementary

Hired in 2019. Staff is taken care of by administration and through benefits. There are many great and supportive people that I work with. I am very proud to work for this district.



Laura Tuenge - 1st Grade Teacher at Stillson Elementary School



Hired in 2008. There are multiple reasons why I have worked in the CFAUSD for 16 years. I am deeply committed to positively impacting future generations in Chippewa Falls and beyond. My own children are part of this supportive and dedicated district so my professional and personal life are wonderfully intertwined within this community. The CFAUSD prioritizes academic success and provides me with opportunities to help me grow and advance my skills so I can be the best teacher I can be. I truly believe I was called to teach in the CFAUSD so that I can have a positive impact academically and behaviorally on the students I am lucky enough to educate.

GO Stillson Stingers!

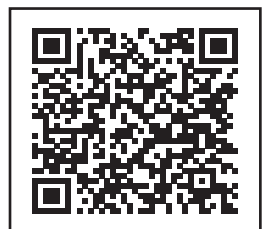
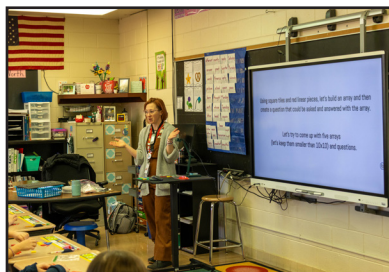
To read more stories from other CFAUSD staff on "WHY I STAY", please go to the CFAUSD District Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/chippewafallsschool/>

SUBSTITUTE SPOTLIGHT: OUR PEOPLE

Substitutes are an important part of our school district. If you enjoy working with children and want to make a difference, consider becoming a substitute in the CFAUSD. Assignments can vary by subject or grade level, but no matter what you are doing you will always have the opportunity to bring a new perspective and fresh energy to the students you meet.

For more information on becoming a substitute, please contact Steph Myers at 715-738-2660 ext 1901.

1. Make a Difference
2. Flexible Hours
3. Variety



Scan for Employment Opportunities

Our People

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

MORE from OUR PEOPLE PILLAR

Stephanie Schemberger - Middle School Grade 8 English Teacher

Hired in 1997. I have stayed in the Chippewa Falls School District throughout my career because our voices matter. Students and staff are not just a number - we are valued and celebrated.



Stacey Bowe - Administrative Assistant at Parkview Elementary

Hired in 2012. From the students, families and co-workers there is no place like the Chippewa Falls School District! Working in a school where I can freely share my ideas and thoughts makes me feel like my supervisor hears and sees me and makes me feel valued. I find the work interesting and challenging! Everyday is a new learning opportunity which is why I love coming to work everyday!



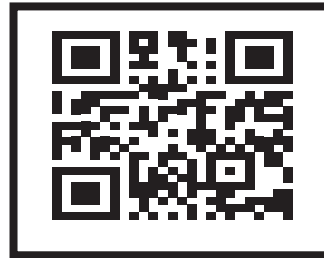
Kaylyn Palomar - Food Service - Cook Manager at Jim Falls Elementary

Hired in 2012. I grew up in Chippewa Falls and working in the Chippewa Fall School District was something I wanted to do. I love my job because I have a great boss and Jim Falls School is the best school in the district. We are a family out here. I also like that the chiropractor comes to school once a week and that we have our own Cardinal Clinic for all of our health needs.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

join our team



WE CAN WEBSITE

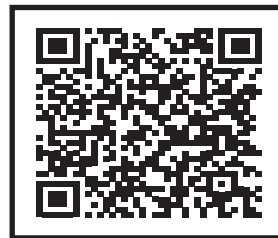
We offer a highly competitive benefits package, a family-friendly work environment, meaningful professional development and the opportunity to work with a talented team of diverse staff members who are continually working to advance the educational opportunities available to all students.

We are always looking for the best qualified educators and staff to join our team. We are excited to hear from you! All positions are posted on the Wisconsin Education Career Access Network website (WECAN). Create an account to search job listings and apply.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Sara Denure
Director of Human Resources

140 W. Elm St. Street ■ Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
tel 715.726.2417 ■ toll free 866.701.5864, ext. 1804



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

Our People

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

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

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SUPERINTENDENT Jeff Holmes

#MightyCardinals

UPDATE on FUNDING

An operational referendum was passed in April 2024 for \$2.5 Million per year for 3 years. This will be of tremendous help to the District for the short term. We truly appreciate the support of our community.

The reason that the district asked for a 3 year operational referendum was so that drastic cuts to programs and services did not have to occur. Reductions and efficiencies have been made and will continue to be made because of a slight decline in enrollment. This referendum was requested to continue important programs and services for our students, to maintain appropriate class sizes, and to continue to operate and maintain our facilities. No new programs or services were created as a result of the passing of the referendum.

By utilizing a 3 year referendum, it allows the district to get through the current state budget cycle and to focus on stable funding and programming in the future.

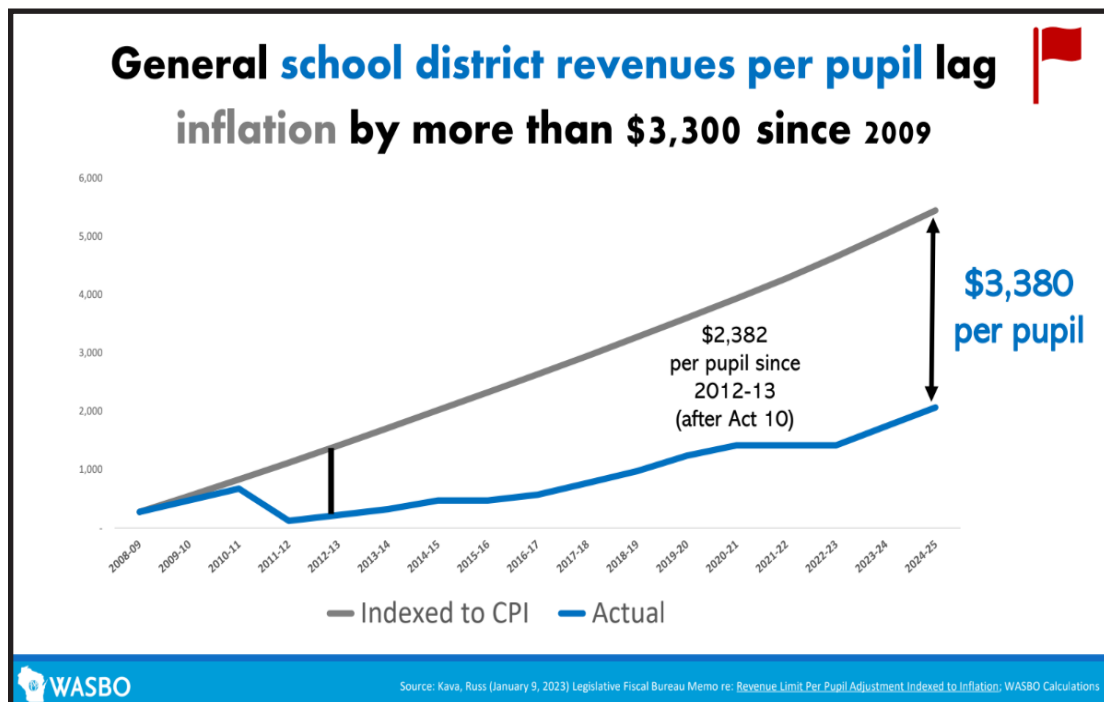
Our state will need to improve school funding during the next budget cycle. Below is a review of the historical points that led up this.

Revenue Limits: Schools have been under revenue limits since 1994. There have only been 5 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 4 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 health care, 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, and Operations

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. Correspondingly, more than 68% have successfully passed operational referendums.

UPDATE on FUNDING cont.

The Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District has made more than \$10 Million in reductions since 1994, and an additional \$10 Million in operational efficiencies during this same period of time.

If additional funding is not provided during the next state 2025-2027 budget cycle, additional reductions or future operational referendums will be necessary. If revenue limits would have kept pace with inflation, the district would have an additional \$16 Million annually. This biennial budget will be critical for all Wisconsin schools. Here is what we are asking our legislators for:

1. Adjust the revenue limits to better reflect the actual costs of providing quality education, including considerations for inflation and regional cost differences. We ask that the low revenue limit threshold be lifted to \$12,500.
2. Add a declining enrollment provision that keeps the hold harmless amount in the revenue limit.
3. Increase base state aid to reduce reliance on local property taxes and operational referendums.
4. Provide additional funding for districts to implement innovative programs and technologies that prepare students for the evolving job market.
5. Create a more equitable funding distribution that addresses the unique needs of diverse student populations, districts facing socio-economic challenges, and provides for greater student mental health support.
6. Establish a regular review process to ensure the funding formula remains responsive to changing educational needs and economic conditions.
7. Create a sustainable increase that schools can rely on in the future.

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Strategic Plan Update: The **Finance, Facilities, and Operations Pillar** is making good progress on strategic actions and is on track to complete all items by the end of the year.

- All sites were assessed by the architectural firm ATS&R and an updated 25 year master plan was shared with the Board at the January 28, 2025 board meeting.
- Applied Population Laboratories completed a long range enrollment projection that was presented to the Board during the December 17, 2024 board meeting.

Both of these items were important pieces of information for the EBRC (Elementary Boundary Review Committee) which wrapped up their work in early April.

- The parent/caregiver experience survey was administered, and all buildings will use the results as a communication tool about the successes and results in the area of resource allocation and facility satisfaction.

For more information about the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District, check out the *Annual Report-Budget* or visit our web site at: cfsd.chippfalls.k12.wi.us



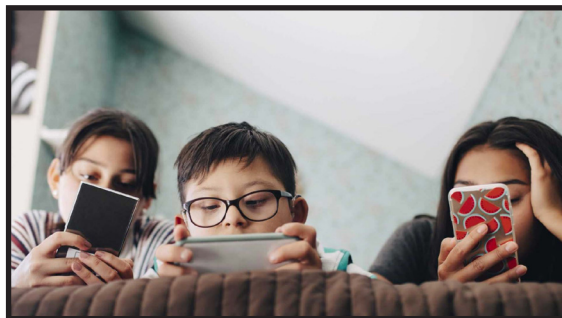
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BUDGET
BOOK



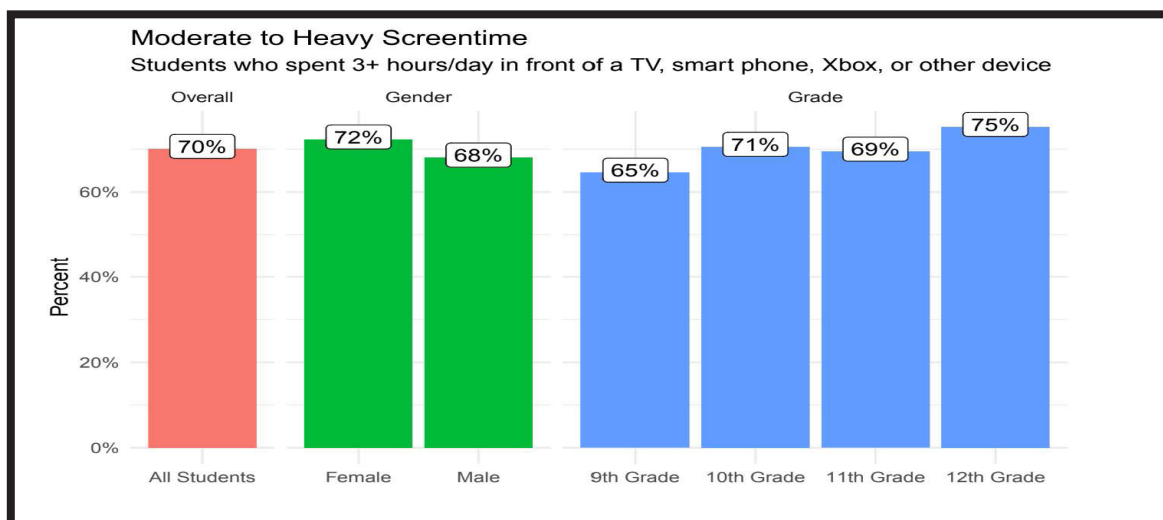
Finance,
Facilities,
& Operations

Advancing a
strong financial
foundation and
the facilities
to support our
community.

How Much Time is Too Much Screen Time?



Play is absolutely vital for a child's growth! It's how they learn about the world, build friendships, and even manage their emotions. When kids play, they're developing important social skills like cooperation and communication. They also learn to understand and express their feelings, which is crucial for their emotional well-being. Plus, play helps them learn self-control by teaching them how to wait their turn, share, and negotiate. To further support their development, try to limit screen time. Too much screen time can interfere with sleep and hinder the development of essential social and emotional skills.



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Students in the Chippewa Falls secondary schools are encouraged to engage in after-school activities and athletics. Currently 520 students at the middle school and 812 at the high school are actively participating in these opportunities during the 24-25 school year. Students and parents were also encouraged to attend the showing of the [Screenagers Movie](#) at the Micon Cinema on January 27th.

Students in the Chippewa Falls elementary schools participated in a coloring contest to create a picture and story about what they do to “play” without using screens. Jamie Ganske, CVHS Principal & Mental Health and Resiliency Coordinator is shown here (below left) with the prizes for students who won the coloring contest “What do you play with that does NOT involve a screen?” Winners (below right) were able to choose from a variety of activities, games and books.



Caring Culture

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



Cardinal Care

Cardinal Community Learning Center Highlights



The Cardinal Community Learning Center is excited to share our recent accomplishments and upcoming opportunities! This year, we proudly offered 96 community education classes, engaging participants of all ages and fostering a culture of lifelong learning throughout the district. Year after year, we see steady participation, reinforcing the value of providing diverse enrichment opportunities for all ages. Thank you for your continued support in making Community Education: a bridge between our schools and our community!



Our CFMS Voyagers After-School Program continues to provide middle school students with academic support, enrichment activities, and a safe space to learn and grow. Students who participate in Voyagers report making more friends, gaining confidence, enhancing their school experience, feeling more connected to school, and exploring future careers. We're also proud of the impact our Student Connections support groups have made, offering middle schoolers the chance to build resilience, develop coping skills, and form meaningful relationships.

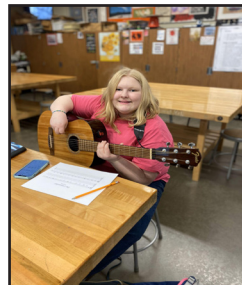
This year's elementary Family Fun Events brought joy and togetherness to our community, strengthening bonds through engaging activities for families and their children. Please consider joining us on May 16th for our **FREE** Family-Community Bike Rodeo event- please visit our website for more information and registration!

A special highlight was our 2nd annual Age Your Way Event, which celebrated aging with purpose, resources, and vitality. Mark your calendars for next year's event on October 17, 2025—it promises to be even bigger and better!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our programs. Visit our website at <https://cfsd.chipfalls.k12.wi.us/cardinal/> and follow us on Facebook for more information and to stay updated on future events and opportunities!



CCLC



GRAND CHAMPION



Parkview Elementary School
5th grader Asher Smazal won his
first Bloomer Speed Rope Jump
Grand Championship with 60 jumps.
Congratulations Asher!!!

MUSIC in the AIR

Chi-Hi Harmonics won 1st Runner-Up and Best
Band at Eau Claire Memorial's Winterfest and CFMS
Melodics won Grand Champion!!!



CONTACT US



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2025-2026 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2025

(2) No Elementary
School

Middle School-

**WEB Day ONLY 6th
Gr. and WEB Leaders**

High School-

**LNK Day ONLY 9th
Gr. and LNK Leaders**

(3) 1/2 KG &

Grades 1-5

Grades 6-12

Students begin

regular schedules

(4) 1/2 KG &

Grades 1-5

Grades 6-12: ALL

8) First Day of 4K

OCTOBER 2025

(3) No Elementary
School

(31) No School

ALL Levels

NOVEMBER 2025

(3) No School

ALL Levels

(24-28) No School

Thanksgiving

Break

DECEMBER 2025- JANUARY 2026

(22-2) No School

Holiday Break

JANUARY 2026

(23-26) No School

FEBRUARY 2026

(16) No School

MARCH 2026

(16-20) Spring
Break

APRIL 2026

(3) Holiday Break

(6) No School

MAY 2026

(22) Graduation
Day

(25) No School,
Memorial Day

JUNE 2026

(5) Last Day (K-11)



Scan this QR Code for
the 2025-26 School Year
CFAUSD Calendars for each
school level.



CHIPPEWA FALLS AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

cfsd.chippewa.wi.us

Tons of opportunities... more things to love!

NON-DISCRIMINATION The Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer that complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. With respect to employment and personnel operations, the District does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, marital or parental status, physical or mental handicap, arrest or conviction record, sexual orientation, source of income, creed, membership in the armed forces, or any other status protected by law, or the fact that an individual is a student.