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# 2nd Quarter News from Mr. Wilhelm

Middle/High School Families,

What a great first semester of the 23-24 school year! We have so much to celebrate and be proud of! Our theater department put on a wonderful performance of Into the Woods, our fall sports seasons were a huge success, our winter sports are on their way to having great seasons, our music department held their holiday concerts, our 8th graders worked very hard on their National History Day projects, our middle school Math team competed in a competition held here at Edgar, just to name a few of the great things we have happening at Edgar.

Did you know that our Edgar Middle School placed in the top 40% of middle schools in the State of Wisconsin, making it a U.S. News Best Middle School. This is amazing news! A huge shout out goes out to all of our staff and students.

As we turn the corner into our second semester, here are a couple reminders. Please continue to check your family access account so that you can monitor your child's attendance and grades. Attendance is always an important factor in school successes. It is important to remember that per Wisconsin State Statute, you are limited to excusing your child 10 times in a school year without a professional note. It is important that any absences involving a professional visit (doctors, dentist, lawyer, counselor or other appointments) are accompanied with a signed note/letter from the office of visit. Any absence that includes a professional note of excuse will not count towards the limited number of allowable excused absences for your child.

You play an important role in your child's success and it is imperative that we all work together in educating our children. Let's continue to make Edgar great!

Respectfully,

Mike Wilhelm Middle/High School Principal



## Highlights from our classrooms

#### Business

Marketing Principles, Intro to Business, and Desktop Publishing are going well as we finish up our 2nd Quarter. All of these classes are working on Microsoft Office; Powerpoint, Excel, Word, and more. We are finishing the semester going strong. Getting students college and career ready!!

Accounting students are getting ready and looking forward to their final exam. :) We have learned a lot about the different types of accounting as well as the careers in that given field.

-Mrs. Hahn

#### Science

This semester the freshman general science class has been working on understanding the basics of Physics. The student had been excited to dive into this new material and learn about Physics. The students will be able to understand how these different physical sciences impact their everyday lives. In Chemistry, the students have learned about Nuclear Chemistry and how It impacts their lives. They were also able to explore and participate in their research about Nuclear Chemistry events, explorations, or incidents that have occurred throughout history or even in the future.

#### -Ms. Schoenfuss

Biology students have been learning about the diversity of the animal kingdom studying invertebrate and vertebrate organisms. Students have solidified the content learned in class regarding animal classification, and the specific anatomical structures and physiological adaptations that make them unique by completing a series of six lab dissections in class. Environmental science classes have been discussing nonrenewable and renewable energy resources. Activities are being completed in class that further enhance their understanding of energy use that have them look at energy bills, ways to conserve energy in their homes, and even completing an energy audit of rooms within the school using IR thermometers, watt meters, and light meters.

-Mr. Dahl



During the first semester, seventh-grade science students learned about how energy, matter, and chemical processes work. Eighth-grade science learned about matter, energy, the history of life, and how animals/plants change over time. Both classes learned how we can take these concepts and apply them to real-world situations.

-Ms. Lassa

#### **Social Studies**

The Social Studies department as a whole is working with students on making claims and providing evidence. Through this we are working on writing skills that will help students be successful across all content areas. During this second quarter 6th grade covered a variety of fascinating topics including Ancient India, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, and Ancient China. The students explored the geography, development of each society, major accomplishments, leaders, and culture of these civilizations. The students concluded the semester with an Ancient World History Awards Ceremony.

The 7th grade just wrapped up the semester with a unit on the Civil War and wrote an essay on the many accomplishments of Harriet Tubman. The 8th graders recently participated in the National History Day local competition, where they explored turning points in US History. Twelve students will compete at UWSP on March 28 in a regional competition with a chance to advance to the state level.

In High School the Issue in a Global Society class analyzed different world cultures and global conflicts. The 10th graders Researched major conflicts that the United States have been involved in and how those affected our society. In Sociology, students finished the class with a study of collective behaviors and social movements, while Financial Planning analyzed the different types of loans and the best practices to obtain and repay those loans.

-Mr. Rau and Mrs. Springer

#### **ELA**

In middle school ELA, we are in the midst of our first year implementing our new ELA curriculum, EL Education. We are excited to explore this engaging and rigorous program with our students.

In 6th grade, students have been immersed in the exciting world of Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan. Through this novel, they have not only sharpened their



reading skills, but also worked on various aspects of language arts. They have delved into grammar skills, practiced narrative writing, honed their ability to compare and contrast texts, and strengthened their skills in finding the main idea of a text. We are impressed with their progress and enthusiasm for this literary adventure.

Meanwhile, our 8th graders have been captivated by the rich storytelling of Summer of the Mariposas by Guadalupe Garcia McCall, which explores Latin American Folklore. In addition to immersing themselves in this compelling novel, they have been working diligently on their writing skills. They have focused on crafting narratives, accurately punctuating sentences, locating textual evidence to support a main idea, and refining their grammar skills. We have witnessed their growth as writers and their deep understanding of the power of storytelling.

We also want to share with you the exciting novels that our students have just started reading. In 6th grade, our students embarked on the historical fiction journey of Two Roads by Joseph Bruchac, which delves into the experiences of Native American boarding schools. This novel promises to provide insights into a significant period in our history as students explore themes of culture, identity, and resilience.

In 8th grade, our students have begun exploring the thought-provoking nonfiction book, The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan. This book takes them on a fascinating journey to uncover the truth behind the American food chain. Through this exploration, students will develop a deep understanding of the complexities of our food system and its impacts on our health and environment.

#### -Mr. Andreshak

During the second quarter, 6th grade ELA students finished studying Greek Mythology and created a new demi-god character to add into a chapter of <u>The Lightning Thief</u> book one of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan. They created a slideshow and presented their new character and chapter changes to their class. The new focus of study is on Indian Boarding Schools while reading <u>Two Roads</u> by Joseph Bruchac. Set in the time of the Great Depression students will compare and contrast a collection of texts focusing on equity, challenges, and multiple perspectives.

During the second quarter, 7th grade ELA students with Mrs. Guldan completed their study of the Lost Children of the Sudan. They created a children's ebook as a final project and shared their book with the third-grade students. Students enjoyed the challenge of writing a children's book that focused on the difficult topics of environmental hardships and



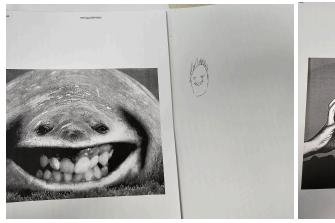
problems around the world. The new learning focus is on epidemics while reading <u>Patient Zero</u> by Marilee Peters. Students will explore the history of a collection of epidemics, conditions that contribute to the spread, and look into both medical and social epidemics throughout the quarter.

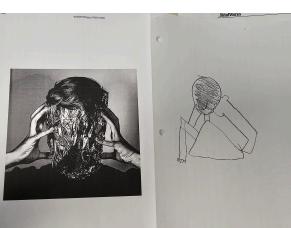
-Mrs. Guldan

Reading: In our middle school reading intervention, we implemented Corrective Reading to provide targeted support for students facing reading challenges. This evidence-based program focuses on building foundational skills such as decoding and comprehension, tailored to individual student needs. Corrective Reading has been shown to empower our students to overcome reading difficulties and enhance their overall literacy proficiency.

#### -Mr. Niemann

The High School Special Education classroom focused on communication skills. Students were able to explore, first hand, the importance of being clear with their words. Students learned that sometimes they mean one thing but say another. Learning communication styles among their peers, and themselves is essential to effective communication in the present and future. The class completed an activity where students were sitting back to back. Student 1 was holding a random photo they were looking at and student 2 had a drawing pad and pencil. Student 1 would verbally state what the picture looked like in descriptive detail to Student 2, and Student 2 had to draw the photo from the verbal description without looking at the photo. The class was able to see the difference in communication and perception at the end of the class. The students enjoyed the different drawings among their peers and were able to see the difference between the effectiveness of their words.





-Mrs. Gianneschi



#### English 10:

During the second quarter, students have been working hard to develop their speaking skills. They gave chapter summarization presentations on the novel Unwind, showcasing their ability to effectively communicate the key points of a story. In addition, they participated in a thought-provoking Socratic Seminar, discussing how the themes of Unwind relate to our world, both past and present. As we enter the third quarter, students are now midway through studying the play Macbeth. They have been exploring how skilled writers like Shakespeare employ figurative language to enhance their storytelling. Furthermore, we have discussed the impact of directorial choices (e.g., lighting, costuming, casting, blocking) on the audience's interpretation of the play. By understanding how both authors and directors influence their audience, students will be well-prepared for their unit final: adapting and performing scenes from Macbeth with a twist!

Quarter two has come to a close, and our students have done a phenomenal job in English 11! Throughout this quarter, they have been honing their persuasive writing skills, culminating in the completion of their argumentative essays. Through their argumentative essays, students exercised their abilities to develop a strong thesis statement, provide evidence, and refine their grammar and punctuation skills. Another unit that was concluded recently was the logical fallacies unit. Students explored different types of logical fallacies and had the opportunity to identify and analyze them in the context of Arthur Miller's play, The Crucible. It was amazing to see how they applied their critical thinking skills to dissect arguments and recognize flawed reasoning. For our last unit of the quarter, students learned about various rhetorical strategies and were able to identify and analyze them in the documentary Blackfish. Through this unit, they have gained a deeper understanding of how rhetoric is employed to influence opinions and engage audiences.

-Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Higgins

#### **HS Math**

The high school math department has been busy covering a large array of topics. Algebra 1 has been working on Two-Variable Statistics and Functions. Students have been utilizing Desmos to complete projects and other classwork. The Geometry classes spent the quarter working on using proofs to show their understanding and knowledge using the topics of similarity and trigonometric ratios. In Algebra 2 students finished up their class by learning all about different types of advanced functions like exponential and trigonometric. They were able to show how to transform these functions into any situation they needed by creating some transformation poster projects.

-Mr. Diestelhorst and Mr. Niemann



#### MS Math

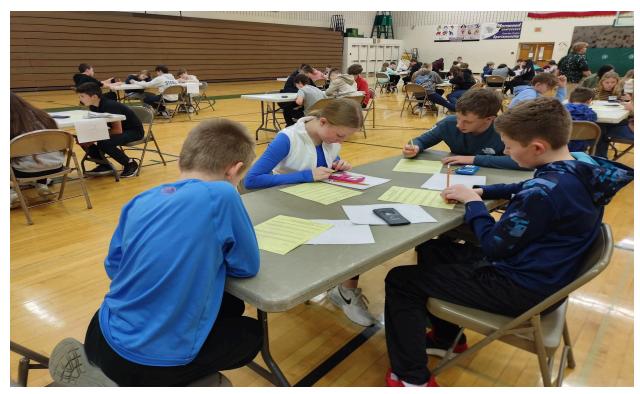
On January 8th, 2024, Edgar Middle School hosted a middle school math league competition. There were 23 teams with a total of 92 students from 9 different schools at this year's competition. Edgar's teams finished in 1st, 2nd, and 5th-tied. In the individual results, Edgar had 8 students placed in the top 20.

#### **Individual places:**

Camryn Schmidt -1st
McKenzie Mueller - 2nd
Emmitt Van Ornum - 4th
Eli Yessa - 7th
Adeline Peterson - 8th
Fynn Olmsted - 9th
Maddie Jacobs - 13th (tied)
Ella Van Ornum - 19th (tied)















Congratulations to all who participated!

-Mrs. Haas



# Edgar Middle/High School Quarterly Newsletter Agriculture and Welding

1st Block Animal Science

During the second quarter, the focus of the course transitioned away from Dairy Science to other categories of livestock. We covered units in Beef Production, Equine Science, Poultry, and swine. During each of those units, we learned how the animal is raised for production, meat cuts and what products we get from each animal. To wrap up the course, small animals were covered with emphasis on dogs and cats. Students learned how to train dogs with Archie and Oscar as our examples and we conducted a Cat Show creating different breeds of cats to show off.

#### 3rd block Introduction to Welding

During quarter 2, students applied their knowledge of welding to make projects. Using the CNC plasma table, students in the course designed a fire pit, cut out pieces and welded them into a final project. We also made a 3D logo out of metal and had enough time to cover metal art. In addition, students disassembled and reassembled a small engine. We covered all the parts of a 4 stroke engine and how to troubleshoot operation issues.

#### 4th Block Advanced Welding

During the 2nd part of the semester, students in the course take their knowledge of welding and create a project. During this time, students designed and welded a fire arch for maple syrup production, a metal quenching tank for the classroom, and a new wood rack to store our extra lumber in the shop areas. For each project the students have to read their designs and be able to troubleshoot along the way.

-Mr. Reinders

#### Tech Ed

Greetings, Edgar community! As we journey through the academic year, it's exciting to highlight the strides made in our technology education program. In the recently concluded Intro to Tech and Woods courses, students delved into the realms of engineering and woods, embarking on hands-on learning experiences that promise to shape their futures.

In the engineering and woods component of Intro to Tech, students engaged in a captivating project – crafting a flag-shaped end table. This endeavor not only honed their



technical skills but also sparked creativity as they applied engineering principles to construct functional and aesthetically pleasing furniture. T

Meanwhile, Woods 1 students embraced the idea of "voice and choice" in their projects. The woodworking enthusiasts showcased their skills by building an array of impressive items, including desks, entertainment centers, and coffee tables. This approach allowed students to tailor their projects to their interests, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in their creations. The diversity of projects underscores the versatility of woodworking skills and the potential for individual expression within the discipline.

These courses not only equip our students with tangible skills in technology but also instill crucial problem-solving abilities and a penchant for innovation. As we witness the flag-shaped end tables and personalized woodworking projects adorning our homes, we celebrate the commitment of our students to embracing technology education and look forward to the continued growth and success of our program. Stay tuned for more exciting updates from the technology education departments at the School District of Edgar.

-Mr. Streit

## **Physical Education**

Through the second quarter, high school and middle school PE students have explored a variety of individual lifetime wellness & team sports activities including Swimming, Net Games (Badminton, Pickleball, Eclipse Ball), Indoor Soccer, Basketball, and Floor Hockey. At the start of the 2nd Quarter freshman finished the swimming unit at the Marathon Swim Center while Sophomores finished up the Net Games unit. Shortly after Thanksgiving Break, the freshmen started a 3 week net games unit that covered singles/doubles badminton and pickleball! During this time Sophomores worked through a team sports unit covering soccer, and basketball! After Christmas Break, both Freshmen and Sophomores participated in a whole group nine team round robin Floor Hockey tournament. To finish off the second quarter all students finished with their second round of Fitness Testing! At the Middle School level students have engaged in Inline Skating/Rock Climbing, Volleyball, Basketball and Floor Hockey. Most of our Middle School units follow the same timeframe as our High School units. However, at the Middle School level our focus is more skill based/small sided games to keep improving everyone's skill before they get to High School! We love seeing the growth and improvement that students have made physically and mentally throughout the first semester in all units!

> PE Staff, Andrew Lukasko, Connor Handrick, Adam Decker



### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

Students in the Family and Consumer Science classes have been very busy for the first part of the year. The Employability Skills class completed their preparation for the workforce with a digital portfolio, resume, reference sheet, and interview with area employers. Several employers visited the class to share employer expectations and needs in the workforce and words of wisdom that they have for our students.

The culinary students mastered basic skills in the kitchen which they showcased at the dinner theater. We had a sewing class run in the high school for the first time in several years and it was fantastic. Students covered the basics of hand sewing and mending. They used the sewing machine to make pillowcases and lounge/sleep pants.

The FCCLA again collected canned goods for The Circle of Joy food pantry and helped decorate our Oak Street park with the Lions Club.

We currently have 32 students in the school-to-career program which rounds out a very busy schedule. Our students are active and engaged. It is busy but it is fun!



-Mrs. Federwitz















## **Exploring the Beauty of Choir**

We're excited to bring you the latest news and updates from our middle school and high school choir.

The Joy of Singing Together

There's something truly magical about coming together as a choir and creating beautiful harmonies. In our high school choir, we've been honing our skills as we prepare for our upcoming performances.

What We've Been Working On

Vocal Techniques: Our choir class focuses on developing vocal techniques that help us reach our full potential as singers. We've been working on breath control, tone quality, pitch accuracy, and diction.



Repertoire: We've delved into a wide range of musical styles, including classical, sacred, secular, pop, and more. This diversity allows us to explore the richness of choral music and expand our musical horizons.

Concert Preparation: Our upcoming choir concerts are a testament to our hard work and dedication. We've been rehearsing diligently, fine-tuning our performances, and perfecting every detail to create a memorable and harmonious experience for our audience. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Friday, Feb. 16 Solo &Ensemble @ Assumption MS & HS Sunday, March 17 Pops Concert 2pm/6pm HS Thursday, April 11 Large Group Festival @ Columbus MS & HS Saturday, May 4 State S&E @ UW Stevens Point HS Wednesday, May 8 Spring Concert 1:45pm MS Wednesday, May 8 Spring Concert 7pm HS Friday, May 24 Graduation HS We look forward to seeing you there!

-Mrs. Kristine Hafferman

### Middle School and High School Counselors

Pheww.. What a busy season coming upon us! We are in full force preparing all of our students at the high school level for State Testing. Juniors have begun ACT Test Prep for the March test date, Sophomores and Freshman are all ready to take their state level tests that day as well. In addition, Mrs. Koehler and Mrs. Doll have been working hard to make sure we are ready for our 2nd annual Mental Health Day on February 29th. We are very excited!

-Mrs. Doll and Mrs. Koehler

#### Art

Our students have been actively engaged in diverse creative projects, showcasing their artistic talents and passion for the arts. Here's a glimpse into what is to come as we start our new semester.

Leigh Yawkey Student Show: Our students are thrilled to be part of the upcoming Leigh Yawkey Student Show. This event provides a platform to recognize and exhibit artwork from grades 9-12. This show opens March 2 and runs through the 31st. Leigh Yawkey is located at 700 North Twelfth Street in Wausau.



Marawood Fine Art Competition: As February approaches, our students are gearing up for the Marawood Fine Art Competition and student immersion day February 21st at the Center of Visual Arts. This exciting student event that includes 4 students from each Marawood Conference school. Students will spend the day with a large group of art students exploring new artistic opportunities and processes. We encourage parents and community members to visit the show at the CVA Wausau. The show opens to the public Feb 22 and runs through March 17th.

We believe that nurturing creativity is essential for the holistic development of our students. Your support and encouragement play a crucial role in inspiring them to explore the boundless world of art.

-Mrs. Imhoff

## Spanish

I am excited to see the students in my upper-level classes interested in Speaking on a regular basis in Spanish. This is especially true of the students in Spanish 3. Oliver Olmsted is in this group. He works at Walmart and often asks me questions about how to say certain things in Spanish. He says he has regular opportunities to use his Spanish there.

Spanish 2 has the privilege of having Pamela (from Mexico) in their class. She assists me with certain activities in class and shares about her country with the students.

My Spanish 1 students are a joy! They are engaged, interested in learning, and most of them are excited about what we'll learn next.

-Mrs. Hasz



# Edgar Middle/High School Quarterly Newsletter Notes from the Nurse

By Lara Beranek, RN

#### **DENTAL HYGIENE & ORAL HEALTH**

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Good dental hygiene leads to good oral health. Good oral health is a huge part of our overall physical health! Poor oral health is linked to heart disease, diabetes, and stroke along with other chronic conditions. Here are some of the basics for keeping your mouth healthy.

- Brush twice a day and take your time!
- **Use toothpaste** with fluoride and a soft-bristled brush.
- Keep your toothbrush **clean** rinse it after use and store it upright. Don't keep it covered- let it air dry to prevent growth of bacteria and molds.
  - growth of bacteria and molds.

    Replace your toothbrush every **3-4 months**
- **Floss** daily! It doesn't matter if you floss before or after your brush. If you struggle with string floss, try the floss picks or interdental brushes.
- Using **mouthwash** can help with killing germs in the mouth, keeping teeth protected from the acids caused by bacteria feasting on sugars. Mouthwash also helps keep your breath fresh and pleasant! Some mouthwashes also contain fluoride. Ask your dentist if that is something you should be using.
- **Avoid sugary drinks** like soda and sports drinks. They are one of the biggest culprits in formation of cavities (sugar=food for bacteria=acid production=HOLES in teeth!).
- **GO SEE your dentist** if you have any of these issues arise:
  - Red, tender or swollen gums
  - Gums that bleed when you brush or floss
  - Gums that begin pulling away from your teeth
  - Loose permanent teeth
  - o Changes in the way your top and bottom teeth align with each other
  - Unusual sensitivity to hot and cold
  - o Persistent bad breath or an unusual taste in your mouth
  - Difficulty swallowing
  - Mouth ulcers or sores that don't heal





# Edgar Middle/High School Quarterly Newsletter Important Dates

February 21- Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 23- Teacher Inservice (No School for Students)

March 18-Pre ACT and ACT testing

March 22-End of 3rd Quarter

March 25-29-Spring Break

May 7-8-Spring Concerts



#### **Students of the Month**

Middle School		High School	
<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Mason Heil	Noah Verville	Dillan Sondelski	Kaitlynn Hartnady and Mia Stencil
	Adeline Peterson, Paige Reinders, Mackenzie Mueller, and Emmitt Vanornum	Callie Behling and Samantha Schmidt	Lucy Kolodzie
Alex Woller	Ella Vanornum	Preston Erickson & Mya Quirk	Dom Contreras and Isaac Halama
Brynlee Bargender	Macy Mroczenski	Natallya Radke	Isabella Kaiser & Caius Higgins
Brayden Halvorsen		Alina Fischer	Gavin Mauer
Elise Peterson		Dakota Ellenbecker & Zander Chenier	Jade Tarter
		Phoenix O'Kon	Austin Schreiber and Tyler Murkowski
		Preston Erickson & Gavin Mauer	Isaac Halama and Oliver Olmsted
		Brandy Halverson	
<u>Kindness</u>	Generosity & Gratitude	<u>Teamwork</u>	<u>Hard work</u>
Elijah Kline	Mason Niewolny	Isaac Socha	Izach Myszka
Bailey Lopez	Alivia Yessa	Wyatt Klockziem	Izzy Reif
Marshall Albrecht	Kodi Werner	Addyson Nowak	Evan Lentz Ort
Dakota Kraft	Brody Baumgartner	Wade Kohel	Isaac Reemtsma & Chet Severson
Maddyson Schafer		Austin Schreiber	Brett Baumgartner
		Kloie Radke	Libby Woller
		Teegan Streit	





### FREE CLOTHING - ALL AGES - ALL OCCASIONS

The Community Closet provides new and gently used clothing to guests without income verification.

Guests may visit once per month and receive up to 10 items of clothing and 1 pair of shoes per household member. Steel toed boots available with completed voucher and employment verification.



Location: 705 S. 24th Ave, Suite 440, Wausau, WI 54403



## **SHOPPING HOURS**

Mondays: 3pm - 5pm

Tuesdays: 3pm - 5pm

Thursdays: 9am - 12pm

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Scan the QR code for more information:



United Way of Marathon County





#### **NONDISCRIMINATION**

It is the policy of the Edgar School District that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, Career and Technical/Education, extracurricular, pupil service, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap as required by s. 118.13, Wis. Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination under related federal statutes, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title II, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (handicap), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This policy also prohibits harassment.

The district encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the policy in the Edgar School District. For complaint procedures see Board Policies 1422, 2260, 2421, 3122, 4122, and 5517.

Any questions concerning s. 118.13, Wis. Stats., of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, or inquiries related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap, should be directed to:

Dr. Cari Guden, District Administrator Edgar School District 203 E Birch Street PO Box 196 Edgar, WI 54426 (715) 352-2351