



SOLON SPRINGS

TRADITIONAL - MONTESSORI - EAGLES ACADEMY - VIRTUAL - EAGLES' NEST

School District of Solon Springs

Eagle Flyer

Feb/March/April 2026



Dr. Seuss week was a huge hit, not only with our students and staff, but with our families and local businesses!



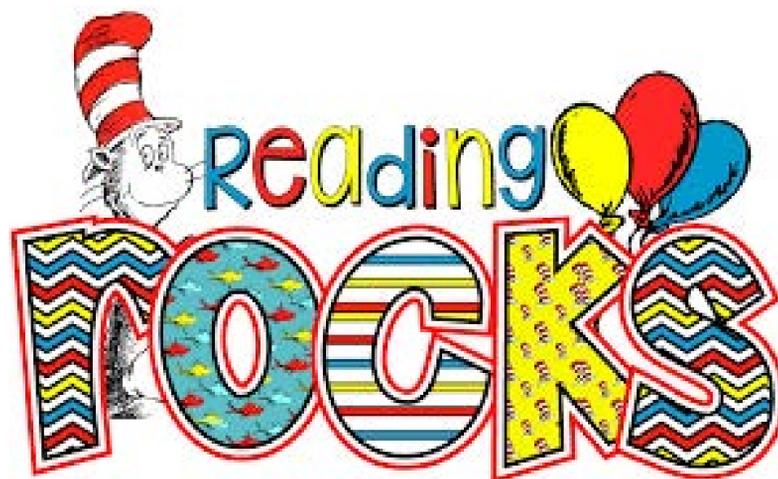
On Friday, March 6th, families were welcomed into the school to accompany and enjoy these activities with their students. Stations were set up by businesses and were geared towards math and reading for all to enjoy!



We want to thank these businesses for their time to help make this event fun for all!



- Douglas County DNR
- Douglas County Forestry
- ECE
- Atrium
- Inside Out Nutrition
- Balanced Wellness
- Eagles' Academy
- NAPA
- Solon Springs Concrete
- Hidden Greens
- Dr. & Mrs. King
- Music with Mrs. Sanborn
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Art with Mrs. Semborski



Superintendent Column:



Peter Hopke
Superintendent

Dear Solon Springs Families and Community Members,

As we continue through the second half of the 2025-26 school year, our focus remains on three pillars: **fiscal responsibility, educational excellence, and strategic growth**. We have several vital updates regarding our facilities, our staff, and the opportunities available to your children for the upcoming school year.

2026-27 Open Enrollment: Join the Eagle Family

We are officially in the "Open Enrollment" season for the 2026-27 school year. This is the window for families living outside our district boundaries to apply to join Solon Springs, as well as for families interested in our charter schools.

- **District Open Enrollment:** The state-wide application period is open now and runs through **April 30, 2026**.

Our district office is ready to assist any interested families with the process. You can find the charter application directly on our website or stop by the office for more information. Solon Springs is a great place for your students to soar!

Facilities Update: Renovation & Expansion

Following our productive community meeting on January 28, we are refining our facility plans. The guiding principle for this project is to provide necessary upgrades while maintaining fiscal prudence and responsibility. We are focusing on high-impact, low-cost solutions for:

- **Secured Entry & Safety:** Establishing a secured entry to maximize student safety during the school day with minimal expansion of the office area footprint.
- **Classroom & Storage:** Identifying "underutilized" internal spaces for conversion before considering new footprints.
- **Daycare & Fitness Room:** Exploring multi-purpose designs for new spaces where these spaces can serve students during the day and the community in the evening, maximizing every square foot of the new investment.
 - The daycare relocation would provide more security and support for current daycare staff and children. Likewise, our maintenance staff would support the facility all day when students are present without requiring transportation.
 - The addition of the fitness center would free up a classroom space that is currently being used for this purpose.

The objective of this project is to address our current space and safety concerns, tackle deferred maintenance issues, and provide usable space for our programs. The plans for consideration will include different options based on priority and budget. More information will be released in the near future and a community survey will be delivered some time in May for public feedback. Please stay tuned.

Empowering Our Educators: 2026-27 Professional Development

To ensure our effectiveness continues to grow, we are starting to plan a robust Professional Development (PD) calendar for next year tailored specifically to **educator-identified needs**. Key focus areas will include:

- **Interventions for Student Success:** Utilizing new tools and resources to address student lagging skills to increase student proficiency. Educators will continue to have collaborative planning time to share best practices and instructional strategies
- **Data-Informed Instruction:** Training staff to use real-time student data to pivot lessons instantly to meet individual needs. This will result in increased student engagement and academic success.
- **Social-Emotional Growth:** Equipping staff with the latest strategies to foster a safe, focused, and high-achieving classroom environment.

Important Dates to Remember

- **April 7:** School Board Elections (2 seats)
- **April 30:** District Open Enrollment Deadline
- **May 23:** Graduation
- **June 5:** Last Day of School

Thank you for your continued support of the School District of Solon Springs. We are proud to serve this community and are excited about the progress we are making together. As always, GO EAGLES!

Peter M. Hopke
Superintendent
School District of Solon Springs

SHOP TALK



Desi Martineau finished his Welding curriculum and moved on to Metal Arts, where he used the plasma table to design and cut out this firepit for the family. He then welded it together and finished it with high heat paint.



Jacob Taggart combined metal art using the plasma table and woodworking skills to create a custom sign that will be mounted on wood.

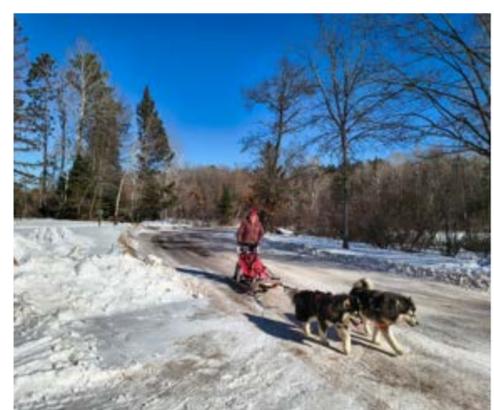
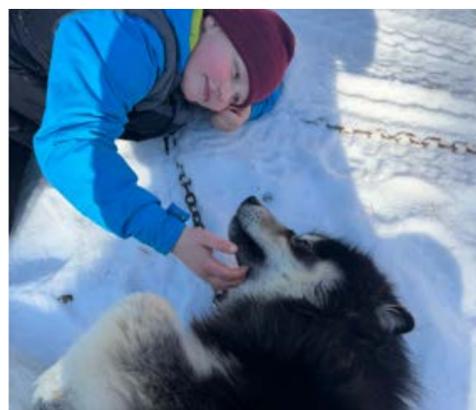


Wyatt Swanson, Reece Long, Logan Wondra, and Kaesyn Fringer all made outdoor benches out of treated lumber.



Fishing Day Experience

2026 Ice Fishing Day was a success. Classes ventured to Upper Lake St. Croix to learn about ice fishing and dog sledding. Students enjoyed 20 minute sessions between tip-ups, jigging, and sled dogs. Thank you to all the community members, DNR staff, and high school volunteers who came out to help make this event happen.



Do you have community news, information, or ideas that could be shared in our newsletter?

If so, please contact Christine Nordness: cnordness@solonk12.net

Forensics Team

We have rekindled our Forensics program this year! In February, middle school students attended their Level I speech festival in Ashland and at their Level II contest in Eau Claire this March, all groups received evaluations of "Excellence" in all three rounds earning our school 10 blue ribbons! Congrats Eagles!

Forensics participants choose from a variety of speech categories including Readers' Theater, Play Acting, Radio Speaking and more. The goal of Forensics is to build confidence in public speaking and the dramatic arts.



Participants included:

Mila Brietzmann, Brooklyn Denham, Brielle Musch, Faye Strem, Everette Simenson, Millianna Tye, Cooper Glassmaker, Calvin Rau, Christian Dobson, William Warring, Lucien Boettcher & Walter Rose



Engineering 101

Mrs. Makela's 11th & 12th Grade Engineering class took their learning outside and made catapults. They had to design a catapult that would be capable to reach certain distances. Below is the Engineering class aiming to hit their prizes!



Above: Will Holmstrom, Brody Kaunonen, Sam Fromm, Isaiah Ahlberg, Tristen Groski, & Jack Peterson

Spelling Bee Winners

We had (3) students represent our school district for the Spelling Bee in Ashland, Wisconsin this year: Haedyn Bialka (7th grade), Marjorie Sanborn (3rd Grade) & Brinley Seaton (4th grade). We want to congratulate these students for their hard work and dedication.

Way to be an Eagle and soar!



Eagles' Nest



Eagle's Nest is looking for substitute teachers and teacher assistants!

All rooms are currently full, to get added to the wait list, please contact:

Angela Maclellan

715) 718-6141



Principal Report



Anne Kriskovich
Principal

Dear School District of Solon Springs Families,

As we move through the school year, we want to take a moment to connect with you and share some important updates from the School District of Solon Springs.

Upcoming Testing:

This spring, our students will be participating in several important state assessments, including the ACT, PreACT, and Forward Exam. These assessments play a crucial role in helping us understand student progress, identify areas for growth, and ensure that we are providing the best possible education for every child. The data gathered from these tests allows us to tailor our instruction and support services to meet the individual needs of our students. We encourage all students to put forth their best effort during these testing periods. **The ACT and PreACT will be administered on March 26 and the Forward assessment will be administered between March 16 - April 24.** More specific information regarding testing dates and schedules will be shared with families as those dates approach.

Upcoming Events:

As we head into April, we have several exciting opportunities for you to connect with our school and explore our different program options.

- **Middle/High School Spring Concert** on Thursday, April 30th.
- **Elementary Spring Concert** on Friday, May 8th.
- **Wolf Ridge Camp for 6th Grade Students** from May 13 - 15. Our 6th-grade students are preparing for their annual journey to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. This trip is a hallmark of the 6th-grade experience, focusing on ecology, team-building, and outdoor survival skills.
- **High School Graduation** on Saturday, May 23 at 11:00 am.
- **Montessori Crossover Program** on Thursday, June 4th at 10:00 am. A very special tradition for our Montessori community! We invite families to join us as our students officially "cross over" to their next level of learning. This ceremony honors the growth and independence our students have achieved this year.

Congratulations:

Once again, we are incredibly proud to announce that our High School Girls Basketball team has earned the title of back-to-back Conference Champions! Please join us in congratulating these outstanding athletes and their coaches on this well-deserved accomplishment.

Thank you for your continued support of the School District of Solon Springs. We are fortunate to be a part of such a strong and caring community. Together, we can ensure a bright future for all of our students. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at 715-378-2263 x203 or send an email, akriskovich@solonk12.net and I will be happy to assist the best that I can.

Sincerely,
Anne Kriskovich
4K-12 Principal

Gordon Area Food Shelf

“The Gordon Area Food Shelf serves all who qualify in southern Douglas County. We are currently open every Wednesday from 9 am - noon. Please spread the word.”



Middle School Volleyball

Thank you for your support!

<u>JV Record</u>	<u>Tournament Record:</u>	<u>Varsity Record</u>
Conference Matches: 4-4	JV/Varsity Home Tournament: 1 st Place	Conference Matches: 6-2
Overall Sets: 16-13	Varsity @ Butternut- 3 rd Place	Overall Sets: 36-18
Overall Matches: 5-4-2		Overall Matches: 12-4-1

This season has shown real growth for our volleyball team. Through consistent effort and teamwork, we've improved our skills, communication, and confidence on the court. Each match reflects better execution, stronger chemistry, and a deeper understanding of the game. The progress we've made is a result of learning from challenges and continuing to move forward together. JV and Varsity both took 1st place in our home tournament on January 31st. The varsity team then went to a tournament in Butternut and went 6-0 for pool play and placed 3rd overall.



Eagles Academy Project Showcase & Open House

Thursday, May 21, 2026

5:00-6:30 PM

Session 1 • 5:00- 5:40 pm

Session 2 • 5:50- 6:30 pm

solonk12.net/schools/academy/

715.378.2263

bhager@solonk12.net

Why attend?

- **Celebrate and support** our students' learning.
- **View projects** including marketing, memorization, story writing, self care, leadership in sports, engineering a subwoofer, and more!
- **Ask questions** about how students learn through projects and learn more about Eagles Academy.

Everyone is welcome- community members, prospective students and their families, current families and more!

Always an adventure at



Sponge Bob Musical



Youth Edition

It was an honor to present our first musical in recent years here at Solon Springs. After listening to our students' enthusiasm, The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition became the clear choice for our debut.

When my daughters were young, I wasn't familiar with Bikini Bottom until my sister told me, "I like SpongeBob because he is always so positive and happy." Thanks to that recommendation, the show became a staple of our family fun. To this day, we still laugh while quoting our favorites—including the classic "Ma-ma-ma-ma-man-ray!"

While I initially wondered how a cartoon could translate to the stage, I have been delighted by this production. The score is a masterpiece of collaboration, featuring legends like Cyndi Lauper, Panic! At The Disco, John Legend, and Sara Bareilles. This lineup is what truly sold me on the show; it is a pop-rock celebration guaranteed to bring my favorite things to the stage: smiles and laughter.

This production is a celebration of optimism, and it has been a joy to watch these children bring it to life. We hope this performance brings as much laughter to your evening as it has to our rehearsals.



Karin Fuller

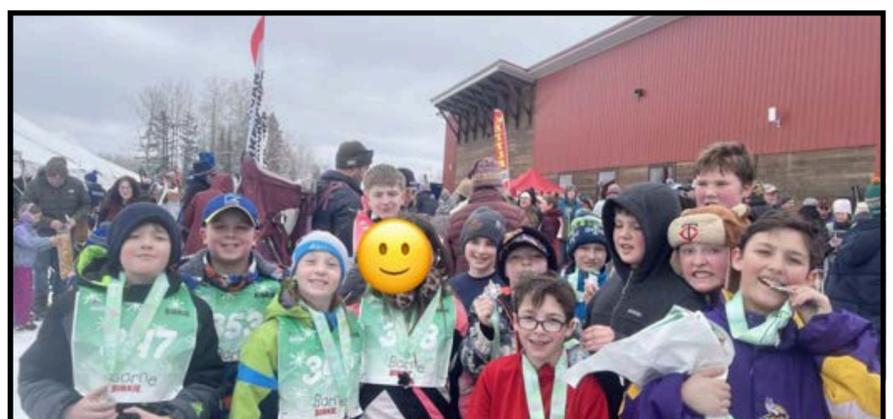


Barnebirkie Ski Trip

In February, Montessori E2 and Eagles' Academy students had the opportunity to ski in the Barnebirkie Ski Race in Hayward. Students spent the weeks leading up to the race practicing and building stamina for a 1k or 3k race.

They also fundraised the entry fee for this race through their "Soup-er" Bowl fundraiser where they made and sold soup during our Candlelight ski event.

Some students skate skied while others classic skied. Students did a great job representing our school well at the largest cross country ski race in North America!



Shakespeare's Macbeth

On March 3rd, students from the junior and senior English Language Arts classes experienced Shakespeare's Macbeth. All was "fair and foul" as the actors and actresses performed one of history's greatest tragedies phenomenally, and our students were able to see how the scripts we study transform on the stage. The play was enjoyed by all!



All Conference Band

On January 13, seven Middle School Band students participated in the Northwestern Wisconsin Music Association All-Conference Band at Northwestern High School. Students were selected alongside other top music students from the region to rehearse with acclaimed conductor and composer Christine Hullmer. They performed an exciting live concert at the end of the day.



Top Row: Piper Stegmann, Conner Benson, Autumn Moyer, & Kellyn Nelson
Bottom Row: Haedyn Bialka, Braxton Essen, Everette Simenson



Elementary Winter Concert

On Friday, December 19th our elementary students took the stage to perform their Winter Concert. Our talented students have been working hard in the music room to prepare a festive program filled with seasonal favorites and joyful melodies. From the steady beats of our youngest performers to the budding harmonies of our older grades, this was an afternoon of our students' hard work and musical growth. We enjoyed sharing the magic of the season with our school & community!



City of the North Parade

On November 21st, our band students brought back an old tradition of marching in the City of the North Parade. Students spent weeks practicing for this event. This small, but mighty band put on quite a performance. Students had a great time and are looking forward to making this a yearly tradition again.



ART

Where every piece tells a story



Seventh Grade Exploratory put together a collaboration project based on the work of artist Jen Stark. In seventh grade we focus on painting and using different paint mediums to create art.



Claire Beerntsen is working hard on an acrylic painting in independent art. Her goal is to capture light coming through the mountain tops. Claire's attention to detail shines through in all of the artwork that she creates.



Savannah Hendrickson and Wyatt Seuberth work on props and set design for the upcoming Middle School play of Spongebob the Musical.



In Art 3, Mazzy Johnson and Aylssa Fossum work on a large format mural exploring topics they encounter in current events.



Fun in F.A.C.E

Family and Consumer Education



Mrs. Guttormson's Fabric and Textile class had a special visit from Lisa and Steve Hoff from Busted Needle. They came in to talk to students about sewing machines, how to operate them and answered any questions the students had. This was a fun experience that the students really enjoyed. Thank you again Lisa & Steve for making this visit to our classroom!



Mrs. Guttormson's Culinary 1 Classes took their turn in the kitchen and created some masterpieces. First round made fruit pizzas and second round made homemade pancakes. Look at these chefs!!!!

- Olivia Kunert with fruit pizza
- Kaesyn Fringer, Landon Hoag, Kalli Nelson & Audrey Swanson with fruit pizza
- Jack Peterson with homemade pancakes

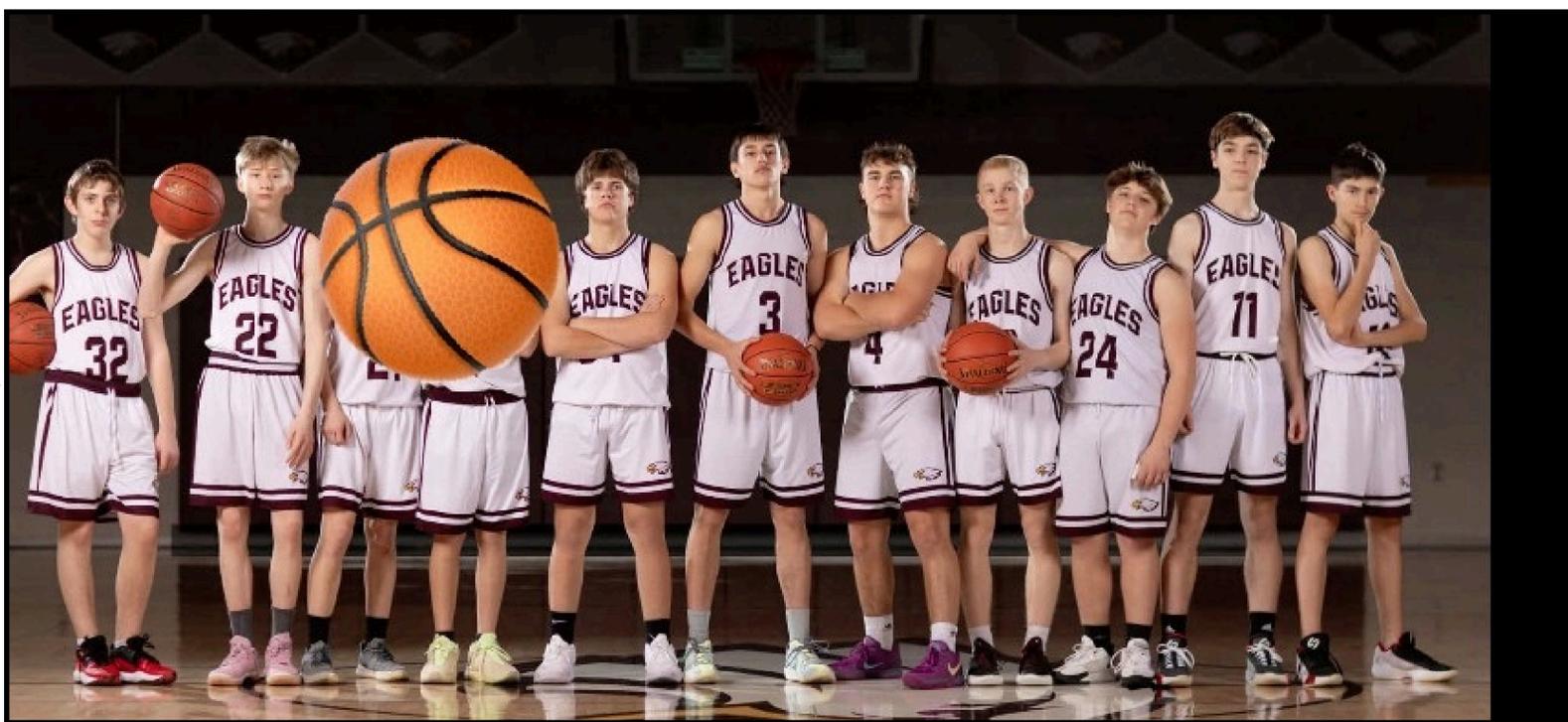
High School Girls Basketball



The Solon Springs High School Girls Basketball Team concluded their 2025-2026 season ending as Conference Champions and Regional Champions for the second year in a row. Their final record was 23-4. They finished with another undefeated season in the Northern Lights Conference with a 16-0 record. This puts them at a 34 game conference winning streak beginning last season. Many athletes received Academic All-State from WBCA. Five athletes received All Conference awards. The season was a success and they are sure to come back next year even stronger!

High School Boys Basketball

The '25-'26 Eagles boys finished with a 12-13 record overall and 10-8 in conference. The Eagles lost in the second round of the regional to Turtle Lake. The Eagles had 3 all conference selections in Taven Nelson (2nd team), Isaiah Ahlberg (3rd team), Jake Taggart (3rd team).



Superior Days

This February, thanks to the generous funding from the UW-Madison Extension for Douglas County, nine of our High School juniors and seniors attended Superior Days in Madison, WI. Superior Days encourages Douglas County youth to become engaged with civics and local policy by directly meeting with our legislative and government staff. This year, seniors Ayden Frostman, Miles Hoyt, Vaelena Smith, Serena Smith, and juniors Rozlynn Bunt, Samantha Towle, Wyatt Swanson, Amelya Gohde-Caywood, and Sophia Smith attended the event.



Senior Class Trip

All students reported back to school after spring break, but that was short-lived for seniors! On March 18, seniors took off for Wisconsin Dells for a 3-day, fun-filled trip. They stayed and played at The Wilderness Resort, shopped at the Outlet Mall, and got out of an escape room in record time! Thank you to the chaperones for going with to help create these unforgettable memories!



Sandy "Spin" Slade Visits E1

Mrs. Linden's E1 class has been hard at work on their narrative writing projects. Some students chose to write about famous individuals who have made a meaningful impact on the world, while others conducted interviews with family members or friends to tell their stories.

To bring this unit to a meaningful close, students had the special opportunity to hear from one of our district's own alumni. We were honored to welcome Ms. Sandy "Spin" Slade into our classroom. She shared her inspiring journey, reflecting on how it all began right here in our small school. Students listened as she spoke about following her dreams, pursuing her passions, and building a path as an entrepreneur.

It was a powerful and memorable experience that helped students see how storytelling connects to real-life journeys and possibilities.



School Board Candidates

John Swanberg

I am running for re-election to the School Board. I was first elected in 2023 and currently serve as the Board Vice President. I am a graduate of Solon Springs High School (formerly St. Croix High) as well as a graduate from UW Superior and Hamline School of Law. I served 30 years of active duty as an Army Lawyer. My wife and I moved back to Solon in 2019. In addition to the school board we are active members of the Solon Springs Historical Society and keep the museum up and running over the summer. Currently I work part time for the public defender's office in Sawyer and Douglas Counties.

My priority as a school board member is giving our students the best education possible with the limited resources of a small school district. While we may not be able to compete with the offerings of larger schools, we can focus on our core subjects to prepare our students for life beyond school whether it's college, tech school, or directly entering the workforce.

Secondly I am a strong supporter of our teaching staff and paraprofessionals. They are the backbone of what we do and we owe them all the support we can give.

Finally I'd like to state that I am always open to hear your concerns about ongoing issues within the district. You can usually find me at most school sporting events or in and around town.

Andi Hankins

Hi, my name is Andi Hankins.

I will start with disclosing that my running for the school board will be taken a small step at a time. I am a mother, wife, daughter and small business owner. My three children have attended Solon Springs School since 4K and they are now a sophomore, freshman, and sixth grader. I graduated in '98, my husband in '97, his father in '59 and his mother in '69, and my father was in the graduating class of '65. I believe that the issues our little Town of Solon Springs faces are problems that many rural communities are struggling with across America concerning declining population due to economic shifts, aging and more. It is important that we keep our school vibrant and relevant while balancing the financial impact it would have on our local community. I am also learning about many issues such as hiring a new superintendent, staffing resources and time, setting priorities if there is a budget shortfall, how to recruit staff/teachers, funding and more. There is much to learn and I will continue to love and serve my family and community by leaning on faith, integrity, and looking to the future.

Thank you for your consideration!

Corey Strem No Comment received



Recognition in the Music Dept.

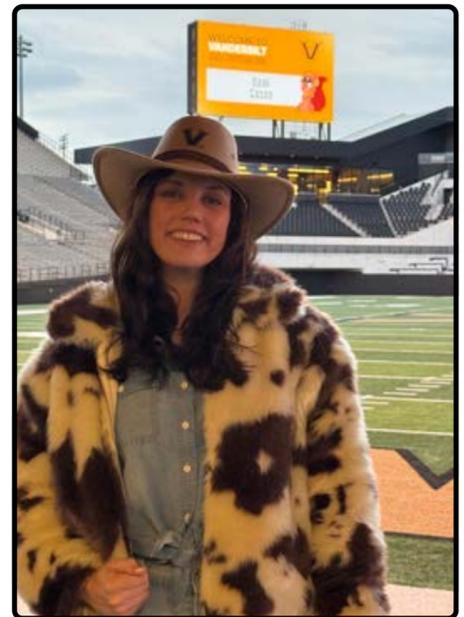
The School District would like to give recognition to the band and music teacher, Charlotte Sanborn, for her outstanding work in revitalizing our music department. Mrs. Sanborn's passion and dedication for music has significantly increased student participation and the overall quality of our school band. She instills creativity into our students and creates numerous performance opportunities such as the most recent "Christmas City of the North Parade", fostering both musical excellence and student confidence. We are grateful for the talent and commitment Mrs. Sanborn brings to the School District of Solon Springs.



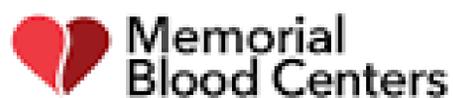
Big Dreams for Smaller Schools

Hello from Nashville, TN! With the STARS college network, I have had the privilege this week of visiting and touring Auburn University, University of Alabama, and Vanderbilt. Here, I have learned what these institutions have to offer our rural students in terms of academics, admissions support, and financial aid. I can't wait to bring this information home to our students in an effort to help them dream big!

- Ms. Dani Cason, School Counselor



Summer School registration is now open! To find out more information, please check out our Facebook page, "Solon Springs School" or our website: solonk12.net



UPCOMING
BLOOD DRIVE:

**Wednesday,
May 13th**

ECRWSS

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER