

Fall 2020

# Young Arrow



It was a day  
I will  
never forget

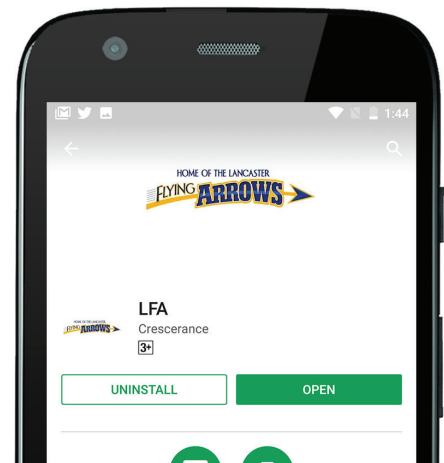
WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL • SEPTEMBER 1, 2020





SEARCH AND DOWNLOAD

LANCASTER FLYING ARROWS



# Our school district has much to be thankful for

As I sit down to fill this space, Thanksgiving is eight days away. As a school district, we have much to be thankful for.

The Lancaster Community Fund has supported Lancaster Community Schools for several years. In addition to the Jungle Gym systems and new additions to the Lancaster High School technology education shop featured in this publication, our teachers are using new laptops

this school year thanks to the Lancaster Community Fund.

I met with teachers recently to learn how the new laptops have been beneficial. Their answer was clear: what they are doing day-in and day-out would not be possible without the laptops.

The construction of Kids Court-yard was such a large undertaking with so many helping hands. We are so grateful many helping hands

continue to keep it looking good as new nearly 20 years later.

As Mr. Sturmer shared last week, "It is vital to the success of the school to have a healthy relationship between the community— especially the families of our kids—and the school."

Thank you, everyone.



Robert Callahan | Editor

## LANCASTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



### FLYING ARROW

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Cover photo by Robert Callahan.

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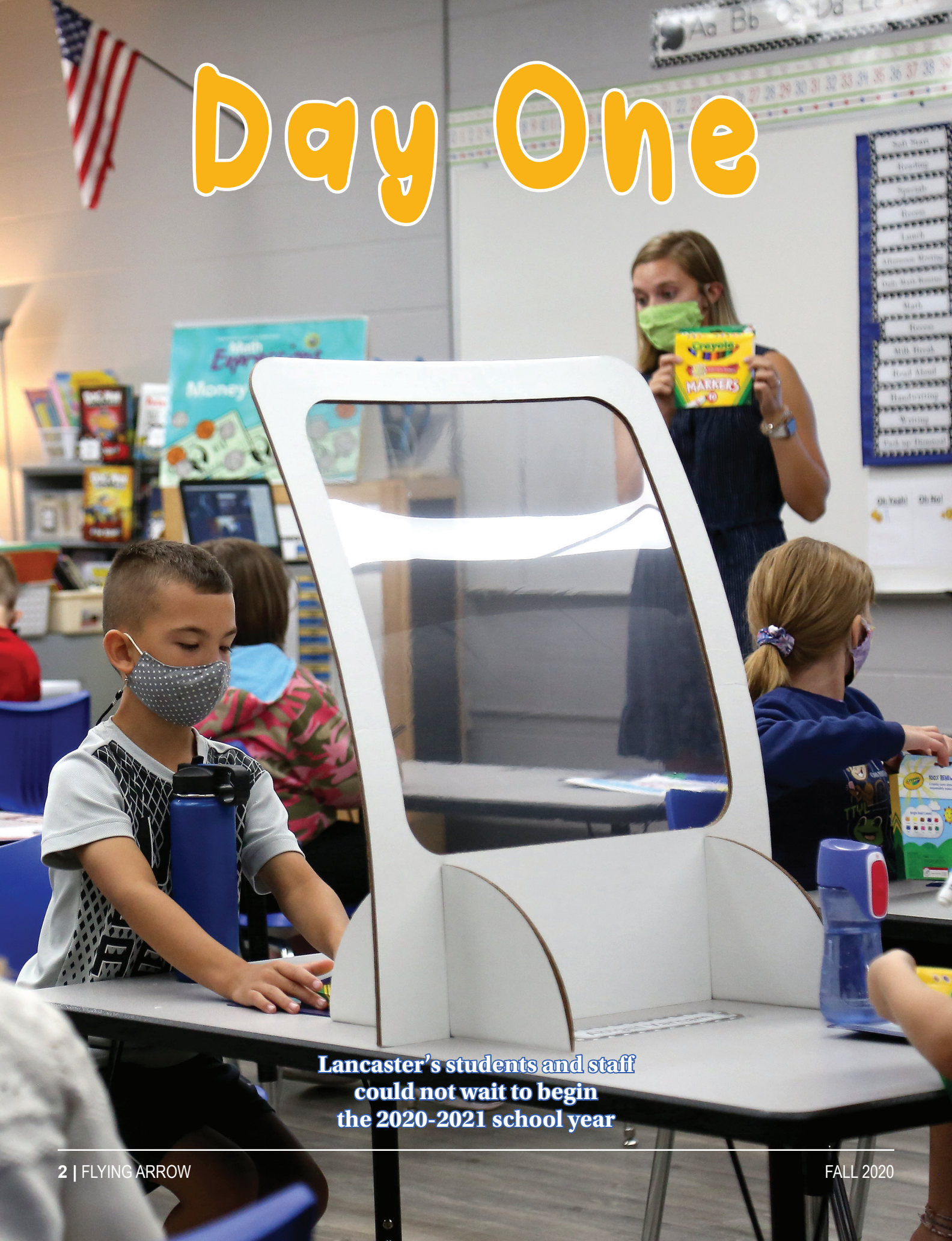
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# Day One



**Lancaster's students and staff  
could not wait to begin  
the 2020-2021 school year**



BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Tuesday, Sept. 1 marked the first day of school for several school districts throughout southwest Wisconsin, including Lancaster Community Schools.

For many returning Lancaster students, it was their first day in the classroom in nearly six months.

“The last few months have been tough on everyone,” said Lancaster Middle School social studies teacher Andy Haas. “Our administration came up with a plan that helps us get a bit of normalcy back in our students’ lives while also giving parents options for different delivery methods.”

Haas, a 1999 graduate of Lancaster High School, began what he hopes is his lucky 13th year teaching on Tuesday.

“I am not going to lie, I was pretty nervous,” he said. “I have had numerous graduate school classes that prepared me for synchronous and asynchronous instruction, but I had never live-streamed a class before. I really want to make sure that my virtual students get the same experience as my in-person students.”

How did the first day go?

“Today was amazing. Our students were patient, understanding and eager to learn,” Haas said. “I do miss seeing their smiles when I say something funny.”

“I am so thankful to the parents here in Lancaster for trusting us to educate their children in a safe, welcoming environment that we are establishing. Such a team effort has been involved to make this happen. It really takes a village to raise a child.”

Kennedy Mezera, who like Haas is a Lancaster High School graduate, not only celebrated the first day of school, but her first day on the job.

“As I walked into my classroom I was flooded with emotions,” she said. “I felt thankful; that my room had come together so swiftly, with so much hard work and help. I felt proud; that I was starting my career in an

amazing community that I love. I felt nervous; as I anticipated a year full of unknowns.

“Most of all I felt excited; to start the year with my amazing group of students and team, a year that would be full of hard work and growth.”

Lancaster Middle/High School principal Mark Uppe-na described Tuesday as the beginning of a “new normal” for now.

“I just think given the circumstances it went fairly well. It is sure different,” he said. “It is not a normal start to the school year, but what is normal anymore? It was a new normal. The kids did a great job, the best they could, getting through the day and doing what we asked them to do. We have some things to shore up

a little bit, but overall I think it was a good start to the school year.”

Winskill Elementary School principal Brad Sturmer saw a lot of joy on the faces of his staff and students.

“Today went great, which I expected it to,” he said. “We have a great team. Great teams step up to challenges. I knew we would.”

“We had three weeks of summer school that went great. I knew today was going to go just the same.”

Missy Sperle began her 24th year of her teaching career on Tuesday, and first as a fifth grade math teacher at Winskill Elementary School.

“Being back today was a feeling I can’t even put

into words,” she said. “No, it was not perfect. No, it did not go as smoothly as years past. But man was it great to be back.”

Sperle shared she and her students talked a lot Tuesday about focusing on the positives, and that being together, whatever it takes, is their collective goal.

“Not all kids were thrilled about wearing face coverings and I will be honest, teaching through a mask is a whole new experience,” she said. “But like I told my students, if wearing a mask is what gets us back

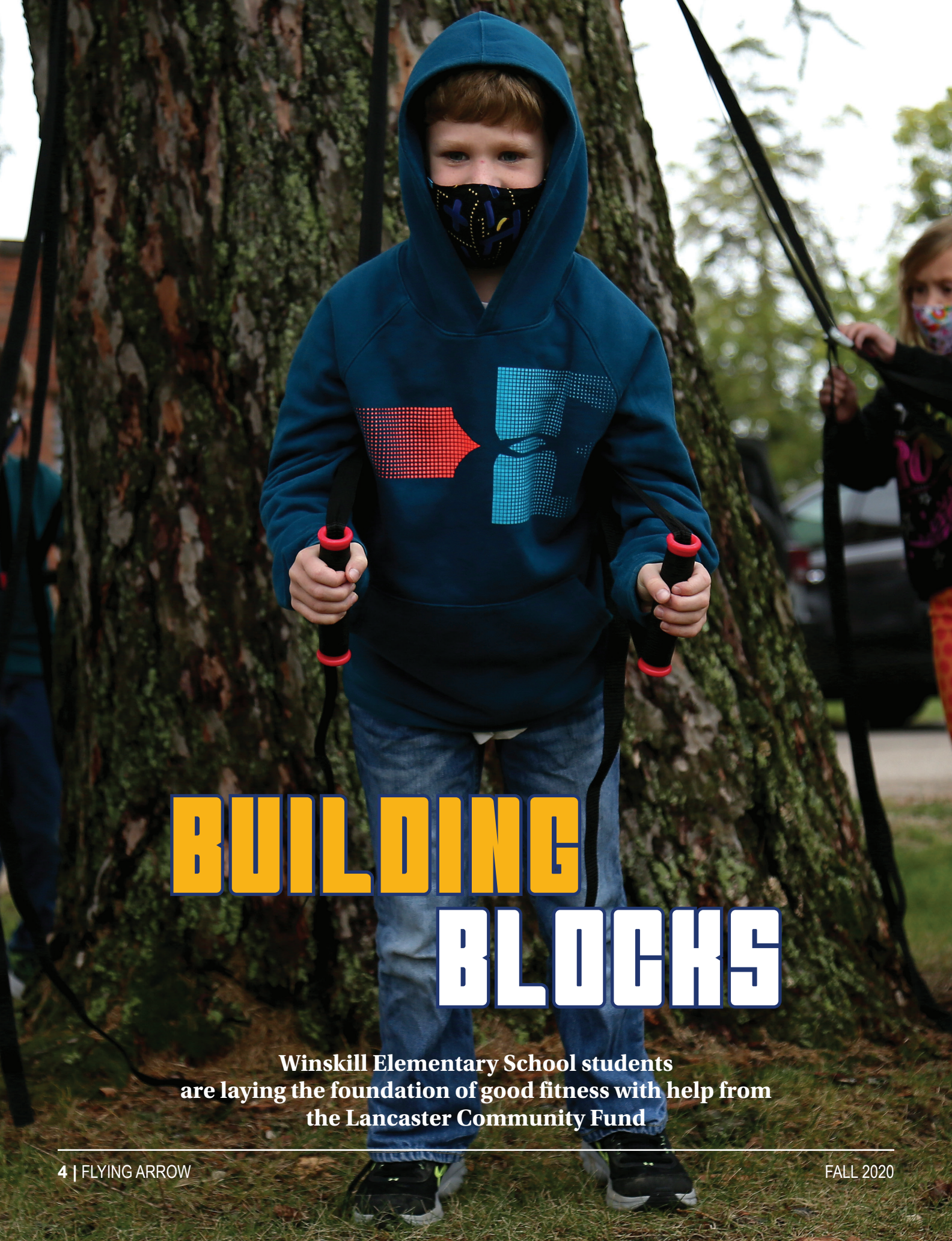


Robert Callahan photo

*Missy Sperle began her 24th year of her teaching career on Sept. 1, and first as a fifth grade math teacher at Winskill Elementary School.*

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# BUILDING BLOCKS

Winskill Elementary School students  
are laying the foundation of good fitness with help from  
the Lancaster Community Fund



BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

**W**inskill Elementary School students are laying the groundwork of good fitness thanks to the Lancaster Community Fund.

Physical Education teacher Zach Chambers applied for and received a \$1,716 grant late last year, which allowed for the purchase of 24 Jungle Gym systems from Foundational Fitness, Inc.

“Mineral Point has them in their high school. I had asked my former phy ed teacher where he had gotten them because I wanted to start implementing some flexibility and strength training that is adapted or simplified,” Chambers explained. “A lot of kids can’t do a pull-up. A lot of kids can’t do a push-up. By having an adaptive way for them to do it, it can help build strength without that visual worry, like, ‘I can’t do a push-up.’”

“Well, on the Jungle Gym trainer, you can do a push-up. I often hear, ‘I can’t do a pull-up.’ Well, most kids can’t, but if you work on the trainer, then you can slowly work up to being able to do an actual pull-up. That was kind of my philosophy.”

Chambers shared his interest in the Jungle Gym systems was twofold.

“With our students with special needs, their strength is priority two to help them with their coordination and their balance,” he said. “By doing it this way, teaching them how to use this equipment, it helps them. It was two-sided. I wanted to help all students. This helps all students and not just an individual student.”

While his physical education colleague Sarah Williams has been awarded Lancaster Community Fund grants previously, this was Chambers’ first time submitting a grant proposal.

Was the grant writing process difficult?

“Not too much,” Chambers said. “You have to sell it. How is this going to support all students? You need to make sure that it does. Because if it just helps some of the students, in my opinion, it is not as justifiable.”

Students began using the Jungle Gym systems in February. The Jungle Gym attaches or removes from

wall-mounted brackets in each gymnasium. The unstable environment challenges students to adapt and stabilize themselves.

“It is providing all students with some success. I keep going back to, there are a lot of kids that cannot do a push-up or cannot do a pull-up. But then they learn how to adapt to the system and adjust the system to where they need it, and now they are able to do pull ups,” Chambers said. “Now they are like, ‘Well, this is super easy!’ Well, then make it a little harder. Create different angles. Figure out how to make it more difficult. As we evolve in the process, we can show them the different adaptations.”

“There are hundreds of different things that they are going to be able to do. It is going to take time—it will probably take a couple years before we are at that point—but if we focus on our base strength now, we can evolve as we move on.”

Students utilized the Jungle Gym as part of their daily warm-up in February.

“It will be slightly different this year with COVID-19,” Chambers said. “I don’t want to have to over-clean them so they wear too fast, so it will be once a week or every six days we will use it for our strength and conditioning day. Then when we get into our flexibility units and strength units, we will use it again.”

The assistance of the Community Fund was invaluable, Chambers said.

“Without the help of the Community Fund, I wouldn’t have been able to do this,” he said. “We would have had to buy maybe two systems a year based on all the other needs in our budget.”

“If we wouldn’t have had the Community Fund’s backing on this, it would have probably just been a pipe dream of the next 10 years to have the amount of systems and the amount of abilities we have. With their generosity we were able to provide 12 systems in each gym with all the bells and whistles, and the cards and the program. We can only move up from here now.”



Robert Callahan photo

*Both Winskill Elementary School gymnasiums include 12 Jungle Gym systems from Foundational Fitness, Inc. Students began using the systems in February.*





Stack Limit  
12  
13  
14  
15

MAVERICK 18 BANDSAW  
SERIAL NO. 10000000000000000000  
MFG. DATE 10/2019  
MFG. PART NO. 10000000000000000000  
MFG. LOCATION 10000000000000000000

# ***In with the new***

Three new pieces of equipment  
are a welcome addition to  
Lancaster High School's tech shop



**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

**L**ancaster High School's technology education shop is home to three new pieces of equipment thanks to the Lancaster Community Fund.

A new Powermatic bandsaw, Powermatic wood turning lathe and Jet metal milling machine were delivered on Sept. 30. The new arrivals meant the retirement of three pieces of equipment that were nearing 60 years old.

"I don't know this for sure, but I assume the equipment [replaced] was brand new when the former high school was finished in 1961," Lancaster High School technology education teacher Eric Mumm said. "I know they were 1960s model pieces of equipment. You could tell it was a catalog purchase, all the same equipment, and that kind-of grey color they all were."

Perception is often reality, Mumm explained.

"What is the perception our students have of the shop? If they walk in here and they see stuff that is 50 years old, 60 years old, then what is their first thought," he said. "If things are falling apart, no kid is going to want to be in here."

"I think something new shows them, 'This is pretty nice. I can learn from this.'"

While none of the equipment replaced was inoperable, the pieces were beginning to show their age.

"Two years ago, our planer had a couple bearings go bad. So we purchased the parts and we kind of thought—while these are parts that last a while—they are going to go bad eventually," Mumm said. "We thought, if this is going bad, what's next? So we had an opportunity between our budget and CTE incentive grant money, we purchased a new planer and a new jointer last year."

Enthused by the addition of the

new planer and jointer, Mumm and fellow technology education teacher Duane Leeser developed a list of additional equipment in need of replacement.

"A bandsaw is a big, heavy machine that makes a lot of noise. I have had students say and Mr. [Duane] Leeser has heard students say they don't want to use it because it is scary, because it makes all that noise," Mumm explained. "We have these two lathes that we saw some students getting interested in, but the lathes weren't well-equipped to do the kind of things the students were wanting to do."

"Mr. Leeser brought up the milling machine. It was able to work, but needed to be updated if we wanted to use something like that."

Without money in their budget or a CTE incentive grant, Mumm and Leeser considered alternative funding. Enter the Lancaster Community Fund. This was Mumm's first experience writing a Lancaster Community Fund grant request.

"It is marketing. You are writing a grant and you are marketing the situation. I had a good story," Mumm said. "We had equipment that is almost 60 years old, and the reason it is still here is because people have taken care of it and they have done a good job of maintenance. Students have done a good job of respecting it."

"We wanted to replace it, but we wanted to replace it with pretty good stuff. Powermatic, I don't know if it is necessarily a Cadillac, but it is not a lemon either. So I did price out upper models, because we want high-quality equipment that sticks around for maybe another 60 years. Think about how many students have been influenced by the equipment that we were replacing. Think of how many students the new equipment could influence going forward."

Mumm crunched his numbers and his grant request totaled \$13,000.

"That is a lot to ask for," he said. "I went into it thinking if I itemize it—we have A, B, C—if they wanted to give us all three, we would be floored. If they wanted to give us one or two, we could break it up. "The request was for all three and the Community Fund said yep, you bet. It was awesome."

What does the support of the Lancaster Community Fund mean to Mumm?

"It is good to know that we have that support. As the old saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child well, and it takes a village to educate one too," Mumm shared. "That is just great support that we see from the Community Fund that gets invested back into the community."

"Who is going to be using this equipment? Students from Lancaster, and they are going to be doing projects for people in Lancaster. Which goes with the Community Fund's philosophy and their vision, to help out Lancaster, so it is two-fold there."

The technology education shop, an action-packed 1,600 square feet, is home to approximately 15 pieces of equipment.

"This makes me really excited about the possibilities. We have some new equipment, now we need to get rid of some old equipment and get some space," Mumm said. "It gives me some peace of mind that students are going to be using some nice stuff, they are going to want to respect it because it is new and it gets them excited, which is kind of cool. I am excited about it. I don't know how else to say it."



# UNSTOPPABLE



**In a season unlike any other,  
the Lancaster girls cross country team  
answered every challenge**



**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

**I**n a word: unstoppable.

Not intense competition. Not three races in one week. Not COVID-19. Nothing was going to stop the 2020 Lancaster girls cross country team.

“Sometimes I’ll say to the girls, ‘let’s go race unstoppable,’ or ‘let’s train unstoppable,’” shared Lancaster head coach Taylor Reynolds. “I’ll remind them, when we say we’re unstoppable, it means that nothing will stop us.

“Anything that comes up in the race or whatever, we just have to find a way to survive.”

The Flying Arrows not only survived, but thrived this season, winning their second Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 3 championship in three seasons. Lancaster’s 93 points at the Division 3 championships in West Salem, Wis., on Oct. 31 was 10 points better than runner-up Ozaukee. Lancaster junior Bridee Burks crossed the finish line 21st (20:13.76), while senior Kristin Muench was 22nd (20:14.27). Three teammates—junior Anna Murphy (20:53.6), junior Finley Knapp (21:39.4) and freshman Mallory Olmstead (21:54.1)—were the Flying Arrows’ next wave of runners, followed by junior Meg Walker (22:49.9) and sophomore Maddie Schneider (22:57.4).

The 47th annual girls cross country championships were unlike any other. Lancaster competed in Session A at 9:30 on Saturday morning. Session B races followed at 12:30 p.m. and Session C at 3:30 p.m. Lancaster was one of 12 teams in Division 3 to compete for a team title, down from the traditional 16 teams. The number of competitors was reduced to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

“I was happy with the course we were able to run. It was beautiful,” Reynolds said. “The competition we had in our race was great. We were pushed in our race, which I think was beneficial for us, for sure.”

Kickapoo/La Farge, who tied Lancaster at the Division 3 Darlington sectional, also raced in Session A and finished third in the final standings. Times from each session were combined to determine overall placements.

Did Reynolds have an idea how Lancaster would fare after Session A?

“I couldn’t have guessed. How can you guess when you’ve seen your team and three others, but there’s still eight other teams that are left to compete,” he said.

Though he couldn’t hazard a guess, Reynolds departed West Salem happy with his team’s effort.

“I did like the fact that Bridee and Kristin—that’s a heck of a one-two punch—and they ended up coming through sixth and seventh for team points. So I felt good

we were able to match every team’s one-two, or be really close to it,” he explained. “Where our strength comes through is all of a sudden you have Anna and Finley, who both ran crazy-good, and Mallory was right there. Mallory did an excellent job like hanging on, when every step she was in excruciating pain.

“Another positive was I knew that Meg and Madison were close to number five runners in our race, and if they weren’t beating them, they were seeing them and racing them. They were both running tough.”

Lancaster’s run to West Salem was a gauntlet. After winning the Southwest Wisconsin Conference title on Oct. 16, the Flying Arrows won the WIAA Division 3 Boscobel subsectional three days later and the sectional championship on Oct. 23.

“Typically we race once a week, and sometimes we race two or three weekends in a row and have a weekend off,” Reynolds noted. “So three races usually means a span of three weeks to a month, and we did three of them in seven days.

“So I told the girls after sectionals, I don’t care if you were a little bit not feeling it today, you got the job done. Perfect. We just did three weeks if not a month’s worth of races in seven days.”

A season that ended in a state championship was one Reynolds was not confident was going to happen.

“Honestly, I thought for sure the season would get moved to spring, if not canceled. I was very confident we were not going to have a fall across country season,” he said. “I almost was kind of thinking maybe it would be better, because there would be hopefully a vaccine and we could for sure complete a season.

“My biggest concern with the fall season was I was so fearful that we would start it, get more than halfway through, it would be determined too dangerous, and stopped. Then all of sudden we have these great kids, guys and girls, that worked really, really hard all summer, and after half a season it could be done.”

The WIAA approved fall interscholastic opportunities—with a delayed start—during a virtual meeting on July 23. The Lancaster Community Schools Board of Education approved following the WIAA calendar on Aug. 3.

Lancaster’s student-athletes began logging their summer miles well before the fate of the season was determined.

“As a team we coordinated a running club on our own. We met two times a week as a team, but ran on our own the other days,” Burks shared. “As a team we decided we would still work hard in hopes of a full

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# Help from our Friends.

A team effort  
keeps Kids Courtyard  
looking its best



**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**  
**K**ids Courtyard at Winskill Elementary School looks good as new thanks to the Friends of Winskill and many helping hands.

More than 30 volunteers applied a fresh coat of paint and stain, and pulled a plethora of weeds Sept. 26-27. Friends of Winskill members have maintained Kids Courtyard since its completion in 2001.

Kids Courtyard is routinely stained every two years, but the volunteer event was rained out last fall and postponed in the spring due to COVID-19.

A new supply of wood chips was installed in October thanks to several Lancaster High School student-athletes.

The Randy Dudler Kids Courtyard Endowment, part of the Lancaster Community Fund family of funds, reimburses the Friends of Winskill for paint, stain and supplies.

"Friends of Winskill's main mission is to give back to the students and teachers of Winskill through various donations and events," explained Friends of Winskill President Courtney Duncan. "We post regularly on our Facebook page to keep parents and community members informed of what we are working on, what project we need volunteers for, as well as meeting agendas and minutes."

Friends of Winskill

meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. Meetings were held in the Winskill Elementary library prior to the pandemic, but are now held via Zoom. Zoom links are available in the meeting agendas posted on the Friends of Winskill Facebook page.

"We are always looking for more active members to help with ideas and planning," Duncan said. "Our goal for this year is to have at least one parent from each grade level to be actively involved.



Contributed photo

*Weed removal at Kids Courtyard was no easy task.*

"We also have parents who don't necessarily come to meetings but are always willing to help, whether it be volunteering at an event, planning an event, seeking donations, etcetera."

Friends of Winskill holds two fundraisers each school year: a Little Caesars pizza sale and a Vesperman Farms donuts and kettle corn sale. Past Friends of Winskill events include Grantland

Theatre movie nights and the Winskill Express holiday event. The Friends of Winskill have also supported Winskill Elementary's STEAM Night and sponsored speakers during the Week of the Young Child.

"We also have a SCRIP program for local and national retailers and restaurants, where Friends of Winskill receives a portion of sales for each gift card sold," Duncan shared. "These can be purchased on the RaiseRight app or using a paper form you

can complete and return to Winskill."

Joining Duncan on the Friends of Winskill Board of Directors are Sara Bahl (Vice President), Heidi Nelson (secretary) and Michelle Yager (treasurer).

"All parents of Winskill students are considered Friends of Winskill members, but if anyone wants to be more involved, they can contact a board member, a fellow parent that

currently attends meetings, or simply attend a meeting," Duncan said. "We are a very welcoming group and are always open to new ideas and suggestions."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Friends of Winskill is encouraged to like the Friends of Winskill Facebook page.

Friends of Winskill has helped fund the following projects in the past year:

- A new outdoor storage shed to house playground equipment
- Purchase of sleds and winter toys
- Installation of cement and picnic tables
- Purchase of cinch bags and organization bins for each student in kindergarten through fifth grade
- Purchase of books for classroom libraries
- Along with a variety of other things

"It is vital to the success of the school to have a healthy relationship between the community—especially the families of our kids—and the school," said Winskill Elementary School Principal Brad Sturmer. "People involved in Friends of Winskill are a big part of that success and they just want to do what they can to help out."

"To have that relationship where we are all in this together, trying to do what is best for kids, is going to maximize what we can do as a school for kids."



# The super six: Meet Lancaster Community Schools' new teachers

Lancaster Community Schools welcomed six new teachers to its roster of talented staff prior to the 2020-2021 school year.



*Rebecca Bailie*

Winskill Elementary School first grade teacher Rebecca Bailie was previously a third grade teacher at Fennimore Community Schools and substitute teacher for Lancaster Community Schools. She graduated from Stevens Point Area Senior High (SPASH) and attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire before graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.



*Rob Bendorf*

Lancaster Middle

School special education teacher Rob Bendorf previously taught special education at Shullsburg Elementary School. He graduated from Boscobel High School and later UW-Platteville.



*Brianne Boughton*

Four-year-old kindergarten teacher Brianne Boughton previously worked at Giggles and Wiggles Daycare, and the UW-Platteville Childcare Center, was a teacher assistant and music teacher at St. Mary's Catholic School for 3K and 4K, and a kindergarten student intern at Potosi Elementary prior to joining the Winskill team. A Lancaster High School graduate, she graduated from UW-Platteville earlier this year.

Speech-language pathologist Maggie Colvin previously worked for Unified Therapy-Outpatient Pediatric Clinic prior to joining Lancaster Community Schools. She graduated from Cuba City High School before attending



*Maggie Colvin*

Loras College, where she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education, with a minor in special education. She later attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned her master's degree in speech-language pathology at St. Ambrose University.



*Kennedy Mezera*

Second grade teacher Kennedy Mezera graduated from UW-Platteville earlier this year, prior to joining Winskill's staff. Mezera joins the long list of Lancaster High School graduates working for Lancaster Community Schools.

Lancaster Middle/High School art teacher Mari Schneider was previ-



*Mari Schneider*

ously a paraprofessional in the school district prior to transitioning to the art room. She graduated from Mineral Point High School and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Get to know each new member of the Lancaster Community Schools team:

## What inspired you to become an educator?

**Bailie:** "I had amazing elementary school teachers and they really inspired me to become a teacher. I can still remember what it was like to be in their classrooms, and I hope to leave a lasting impression on my students as well!"

**Bendorf:** "I was inspired by my daughter, who was born with a rare condition. I found that I wanted to help students with special challenges achieve their goals!"

**Boughton:** "I was inspired to become a teacher after tutoring at Winskill Elementary my

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Robert Callahan photo

*The Lancaster girls cross country team won the Southwest Wisconsin Conference championship, WIAA Division 3 Boscobel subsectional and Darlington sectional before winning the state championship at West Salem, Wis. on Oct. 31. The Flying Arrows made their fourth straight appearance at the state championships. Lancaster finished second in 2017, first in 2018 and fifth in 2019.*

## Unstoppable

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season. We all stayed positive despite the challenges.”

Using a shared Google spreadsheet, each runner entered their minutes.

“This made it easier to check-in on teammates to make sure everyone was doing their part and it also helped me stay motivated,” Muench shared. “Each and every girl worked so hard over the summer, and our success would not have been possible without all the miles we put in over the summer.

“At the beginning of the season we would have given anything just to race one time. We are all beyond grateful to have even had a chance to compete for a state trophy.”

Reynolds and the team learned of their victory in Lancaster High School’s Hillery Auditorium Saturday afternoon. With the click of a mouse, the results appeared on a video screen.

“I had prepared myself for the worst, not wanting to get my hopes up. When we learned [we won] it was just an overwhelming feeling of happiness,” Murphy said. “Having to run without all of the other teams and not

knowing the results for six hours was definitely very hard, but overall it was definitely worth it.”

For some student-athletes, the results were a weight lifted. Others were left in shock.

“It felt like 20 pounds of weight was lifted off my shoulders and I could breathe again,” Knapp said. “I was in shock. I couldn’t believe that we actually won, considering all the roadblocks we were handed.”

“I was in shock. The only thing I could do was scream. It felt so amazing, but I think we were all in denial about it,” Schneider said. “I just kept repeating, ‘guys, we actually won!’ I didn’t know what to say or do. It was the most exciting thing in my life.”

“It felt surreal,” Walker said. “It is still crazy to me that we accomplished what we had been working so hard for these past months even with all the obstacles that we had to go through.”

The wait for the results required mental preparation on Reynolds’ part.

“In a typical year, you wait 10 minutes to learn the results and that feels like a long time,” he said. “The entire day was going to feel like three years.

“I came to terms with running at 9:30 and not finding

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## Day One

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together and keeps us together, I'll do it. Whatever it takes.

"It was just great to see all the kids again. I never really thought I took teaching for granted, but man do I have a whole other level of appreciation for being in the classroom."

Brianne Boughton, a Winskill Elementary four-year-old kindergarten teacher, also began her teaching career on Tuesday where she once walked the halls as a student.

"Wow, was it a great first day of school," she said. "Of course, our day was filled with lots of read-aloud sto-

ries, silly dances, learning to love ourselves (our first 4K rule), and getting to know all of our new friends in 4K."

Boughton shared her favorite moment involved positive self-talk with her students.

"I took my girls to the bathroom before we went outside for recess," she recalled. "After each one washed up they were looking in the big bathroom mirror, waiting to go back to the classroom.

"So I stood behind my girls and I said, 'Repeat after me: I am beautiful. I am strong. And I rocked my first day of 4K!' I then had them pat themselves on their back and say good job to themselves, and I had them give themselves a hug and say 'I love myself!' That bathroom mirror sure got a lot of sass thrown at it, let me tell you, but wow did we feel good.

"It was a day I will never forget."

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## Unstoppable

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out until five or six hours later."

Any stress Muench felt during the wait melted away when the results were revealed.

"Seeing Lancaster pop up as first place is the best feeling I have ever experienced in my life. It was such a relief to know that we were state champions," she said. "Waiting for six hours after the race created so much stress for all of us, and it all went away the second we found out we won.

"I think I was one of the most nervous girls while waiting for the results, and to be completely honest, I wasn't sure we had done it. I knew we had all done our best, but there were also two other sections of runners after us. There was so much uncertainty to all of it.

"Winning a second team state championship was the absolute best possible way that my cross country career could have ended. Each girl on the team worked so hard to achieve this goal."

Muench concludes her cross county career with four appearances in the state championships, including a silver finish in 2017 to go with two state championships. She was a three-time SWC All-Conference first team member and was a member of the second team as a sophomore, finished in the top 10 at sectional competition three times and finished in the top 40 at the state championships four times.

"Kristin told me before the summer of her freshman year that her goal for her first year was to run one race on varsity. That season she was third at the conference meet, fifth at the sectional meet and 18th at state,"

Reynolds recalled. "I had to tell her, you will get that goal right away, we'll have to move on to bigger goals. I said, you can't see it yet, but I see potential that you could be a superstar in cross country."

What will the Flying Arrows remember about the 2020 season?

"We rode a roller coaster this season, but we kept our heads down and rode it out," Burks said. "We never lost sight of our end goal, even when things were uncertain. I won't ever forget the moment when we found out we were state champs, and had met the goal that every single girl on our team had worked so hard for."

"I will always remember this season as crazy and weird," Walker shared. "Knowing all of the things 2020 has brought, it brought more crazy to us in cross country. It was hard to not have all of the things we love about this sport, but it showed how strong we are, and what we can accomplish despite roadblocks."

"I will always remember the spread out circles while stretching, the distanced breakdown, and wearing a mask and how different things were," said Lainee Burks.

In addition to the many mandatory differences in the season due to COVID-19, Muench will remember the bond she shared with her teammates.

All the quarantines and injuries throughout the season only made this group of girls stronger," she said. "They are the hardest-working girls I have ever met in my life.

"This season as a whole was the most memorable season out of the seven seasons of cross country that I have run. We have all become so close with each other, and we have a family-like bond that I will remember forever."



# Five chosen for WSMA State Honors Project

Lancaster Middle/High School was represented by five students in the Wisconsin School Music Association's State Honors Project.

Anna Murphy was chosen to sing soprano in the High School Treble Honors Mixed Choir and Rianna Straka was chosen to sing alto in the Honors Treble Choir.

Abigail Hartline was selected to play Eb, alto



Anna Murphy

saxophone in the High School Honors Band.

Murphy, Straka and Hartline were part of a virtual performance that aired on Oct. 29.

Murphy and Straka, LHS juniors, and Hartline, a senior, made their second consecutive appearances in the high school ensembles.



Rianna Straka



Abigail Hartline

Brady Sperle and Ariana Hauck, LHS freshmen, auditioned virtually earlier this year and were selected to perform with the Middle-Level State Honors Choir. Both took part in an at-home "couch concert." Students performed live in their homes with the accompaniment online.



Brady Sperle



Ariana Hauck

## The super six

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

senior year of high school. I learned that becoming a teacher would allow me to not only be an educator but also a role model, personal cheerleader, mentor, coach and a parent-figure for so many children."

**Colvin:** "I've always loved kids and want to be that positive influence in their life."

**Mezera:** "I have always had a heart for educating children. Becoming a teacher has been a dream of mine since I was a young girl helping out in my mom's classroom. I have had many amazing role models through the years that inspired me to become who I am today."

**Schneider:** "My students and the relationships developed through the schools. I wanted to do more."

**What interested you in joining the Lancast-**

## er Community Schools team?

**Bailie:** "I had the opportunity to be a long-term substitute teacher at Winskill and the welcoming environment is amazing. Everyone treats you like family, and I'm excited to be part of the team!"

**Bendorf:** "I was born in Lancaster and I have family in the area. I wanted to join a district that cares and puts their students first."

**Boughton:** "Lancaster is home! Nothing beats working with staff that inspired me to become a teacher and educating my hometown's youth. I also love knowing that all the staff will support me with anything I may need."

**Colvin:** "My dream was to work in a school. I love the small-town community and I heard good things about working here."

**Mezera:** "I am so excited to be joining the team here at Lancaster Community Schools. It feels amazing to be returning to

my hometown to teach in the close-knit community that I love. It's like a dream to be walking the same halls I walked years ago as a student at Winskill. I am thrilled to give back to a community that has given me so much! I can't wait to inspire students as my Lancaster teachers have inspired me!"

**Schneider:** "This is home. My husband graduated from Lancaster High School, our farm is here, and all of our children are Flying Arrows! Plus, I love blue (past Pointer)."

**What do you like to do outside the classroom (hobbies, interests, etc.)?**

**Bailie:** "I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, watching my boys' sporting events, and reading."

**Bendorf:** "My wife and I love to cook, bake and make costumes for our three girls. We recently started making our own soap as well!"

**Boughton:** "Outside of school I enjoy spending time outside, especially walking with family, hiking and kayaking. I also love country music concerts and I recently started learning how to line dance."

**Colvin:** "Outside of school I enjoy spending time with family, watch and play sports, be outside, puzzles and reading."

**Mezera:** "Outside of the classroom, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I specifically enjoy our time spent exploring the outdoors by hiking, kayaking, and camping. I also enjoy playing board games, reading and crafting."

**Schneider:** "Outside of the classroom I enjoy watching my children in their sports, riding horses and enjoying our farm with many animals. I also enjoy working on my many art projects, house DIYs, and decor business."



# FLYING ARROW SCOREBOARD

The Lancaster girls golf team finished the 2020 season with 26 total points, second only to Wisconsin Dells in the Southwest Wisconsin Conference (SWC). Lancaster senior **Morgan Cooley** and freshman **Brianna Kirsch** earned All-Conference first team honors, while senior **Sarah Farrey** earned second team accolades. The Flying Arrows finished fourth at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Division 2 Prairie du Chien regional and qualified for the Arcadia sectional. Cooley and Kirsch tied for fourth at the Arcadia sectional and advanced to the WIAA girls state golf championships at Black Wolf Run in Kohler. Kirsch finished 13th in the Division 2 field. Cooley closed out her prep golf career tied for 25th. Kirsch was named All-State honorable mention by the Wisconsin State Golf Association (WSGA) at the season's end, and Cooley was named to the WSGA All-Academic team.

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The Lancaster volleyball team tallied a 0-10 mark overall and was 0-9 in SWC play in 2020, but made noise in the post-season when it swept Iowa-Grant (25-22, 25-11, 25-20) in a WIAA Division 3 regional quarterfinal match. The postseason tri-

umph was the Flying Arrows' first since the 2013 season. Lancaster juniors **Abbi Martin**, **Tatianna Place** and **Hope Williams** earned All-Conference honorable mention status.

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The Platteville/Lancaster boys soccer team played to a 5-2 mark in the SWC this season. Coach Brandon Pink recorded his 100th career win on Sept. 29, a 3-2 win over River Valley. The Hillmen were upset by Portage, 3-2, in a WIAA Division 2 regional semifinal. Lancaster senior **Ryder Arians**, a defender, was named to the All-Conference first team. Senior **Sam Schaffer**, a forward, earned honorable mention accolades. Senior goalie **Zach Gruber** earned honorable mention status as well.

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The Lancaster girls cross country team won its fourth straight SWC championship. Lancaster freshman **Mallory Olmstead** won the individual title and was named to the All-Conference first team. She was joined on the first team by teammates **Kristin Muench**, a senior, and **Bridee Burks** and **Anna Murphy**, juniors. Muench finished second, Burks was fifth and Murphy was seventh. Sophomore Maddie Schneider earned a spot on the All-Conference second team with

her 14th place finish. The Lancaster boys cross country team finished third at the SWC championships. Lancaster junior **R.J. Hutchcroft** earned a spot on the All-Conference first team with his fifth place finish. Senior **Owen Yoose** was named to the All-Conference second team thanks to his eighth place finish, while fellow senior **Hunter Moore** earned a spot on the second team as well with his 12th place finish.

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The Lancaster football team closed out the 2020 regular season with a 4-3 mark overall and 4-1 record in the SWC. Lancaster senior wide receiver **Hayden Wagner** earned All-Conference first team offense honors, along with senior teammate **Cole Raisbeck**, who was recognized for his play on the offensive line. Raisbeck was named to the All-Conference first team defense as well as a defensive linemen. Joining him on the first team defense were senior **Lukas Howard**, a defensive end, and Wagner, a defensive back. Senior **Isaac Oyen** was named to the All-Conference first team for his contributions as a kicker. Also earning special teams recognition was senior **Preston Noethe**, who earned first team honors as a return specialist. Senior quarterback Hayden



Robert Callahan photo

*Cole Raisbeck (70) earned All-Conference first team honors for his play on the offensive and defensive line. He was also named Offensive Lineman of the Year.*

Knapp was named to the All-Conference second team offense. Joining him on the second team offense were senior offensive lineman **Myles Bender** and Noethe, for his play as a wide receiver. Junior **Carter Vesperman** earned a spot on the All-Conference second team defense as an inside linebacker. Knapp joined Vesperman on the second team defense for his work as a defensive back. Sophomore **Jacob DiVall**, and seniors **Dustin Tydrich** and **Brent Wagner** earned All-Conference honorable mention status. Raisbeck was named Offensive Lineman of the Year. Bender, Raisbeck and Tydrich earned Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Academic All-State honors as well. Each has a 3.75 cumulative GPA.



# SCARY-GOOD

*Lancaster High School students in Mr. Wright's Intro to Welding class honed their plasma cutting skills and created pumpkins from metal buckets.*



Lancaster Community Schools  
925 West Maple Street  
Lancaster, WI 53813

**THANK YOU**

**PARENTS**

**STUDENTS**

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**FROM**

**LANCASTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**