

Referendum Projects—Progress Report

What's New?

With the exception of site plan approval from the Village, all of the referendum project plans are now 100% complete. All of the projects have been delayed a year due to supply chain issues and long negotiations and approval processes. Unfortunately, those delays, as well as unprecedented inflation, are also creating budget challenges. That said, we are committed to delivering high quality facilities as cost effectively as possible, and look forward to hard bidding all of the projects this fall/winter to get the best prices possible for our projects and get construction started next spring.

What's Next?

As part of Village approvals, the District is working with the Village Plan Commission and their Engineers on the layout of the site. A variance was required to connect the school's proposed private road at the Village intersection of 8th and 11th. While the Village Engineer recommended conditional approval of the District's site plan, the Village Board denied our request for driveway variance at the July 19th Board meeting. We are revising the layout and engineering of the site, and continuing to work with Village Engineers on our plans. We will meet again with the Plan Commission as soon as possible.

Primary School Front View



Primary School Images

Primary School Back View



Hallway/Classroom Area



Library



Small Group Collaboration Space



Gymnasium



Cafeteria/Commons



NGSD & State Budget Update

As promised when the facilities referendum was passed, the School District of New Glarus is holding its mill (tax) rate the same for the 11th year in a row at \$11.63.

NGSD remains committed to holding the tax rate steady and has no plans for another referendum, but as you may have noticed, many school districts around the state have either recently had operational referendum questions on the ballot, or are planning to in the near future. The number of operational referendum questions reflects a significant shift in the state's commitment to funding schools. Over the years, more of the responsibility for funding schools has moved from the state to local property taxpayers, via referendums.

To illustrate this shift, in 2002, Wisconsin was ranked 11th in the nation for school funding. By 2020, our state had fallen to 25th. This is the largest drop in the national ranking of any state over this time period. In fact, Wisconsin public school funding is now 6% below the national average.

This shift is escalating now, as Wisconsin school districts enter the second year of \$0 increases to per-pupil funding from the state. We also face high inflation rates and challenges recruiting and retaining educators as fewer people go into the education field.

All Wisconsin public schools, including New Glarus, benefited from federal funds directed to pandemic relief, allowing us to address student needs during the pandemic. However, these dollars and one-time-use funds cannot be applied to ongoing expenses, such as hiring permanent staff.

We remain committed to making the most of every single taxpayer dollar invested in our schools, whether that investment is made at the state or local level, but it's important for the public to know that this is becoming more difficult in the current state budget climate. Fortunately, in New Glarus we are still able to operate without another operating referendum, while still keeping the tax rate at the same level it's been for the past 10 years, but it's becoming much more difficult.

New Glarus Receives High Scores

New Glarus continues to receive high scores on both state report cards and in national rankings. The most recent state report card results are as follows:

New Glarus School District: Exceeds Expectations
 New Glarus Elementary School: Exceeds Expectations
 New Glarus Middle School: Exceeds Expectations
 New Glarus High School: Exceeds Expectations



Additionally, US News and World Report conducts annual high school rankings and this year New Glarus High School was named a US News Best High School with an overall score of 93 out of 100. This score ranked New Glarus High School as 33rd in Wisconsin out of 514 high schools, which was the highest in Green County and the Capitol Conference.

Summer Learning!



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Mark Your Calendar:

September 1—First Day of School
September 5—No School—Labor Day
September 26—Homecoming Week
September 30—No School In-Service Day
October 28—No School



Community Connections

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE...

A Way of Life
School District of New Glarus

Summer 2022

Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year

Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year! We've had a great summer in the New Glarus School District! Overall, we held a total of 5 weeks of summer school, with over half our student population attending at least one class. We've also been busily planning for the upcoming school year, with all of our plans continuing to focus on the four goals in our Strategic Plan:

1. Increase the percent of students who are college, career, and life-ready by developing the whole learner.
2. Recruit and retain high quality staff and assist all staff as they continually improve and grow.
3. Provide high quality facilities that foster academic and emotional growth.
4. Ensure equity so all students have equal access to high quality educational experiences.

We made great strides towards those goals last year, even in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, and this year we have high expectations for strong growth again. In regard to goals 1 & 4, we are refining our work on the essential learnings for all students in all subject areas as well as providing even higher levels of support so all students make significant growth both academically as well socially and emotionally. In regard to goal 3, we've been continuing our work on the referendum projects that passed at a 70% pass rate in April 2021. There is more information later in the newsletter about those efforts.

Finally, in regard to goal 2 and our efforts to recruit and retain high quality staff, as you've likely heard it's getting more and more difficult to find teachers and support staff. Fortunately in New Glarus, we have not only filled our teaching positions, but have found outstanding new staff to join us. Some are just out of college, while others are coming from districts such as Middleton, Verona, Belleville, and Kenosha, including one who was named Teacher of the Year in their former district. Below are their names and positions in the District.

Sadie Driscoll—High School Math
Rychia Bosman—High School Science/Biology
Cassidy Colby—High School Science/Chemistry
Kylie Inabnit—7th Grade Math
Baily Hubbard—8th Grade Math
Bobby Schmitz—6th Grade Science
Jeff Winden—7th Grade Social Studies
Bailey Wilson—5th Grade
Erin Russ—School Psychologist



We look forward to having you meet our new staff and are so thankful they are joining our NGSD team!