

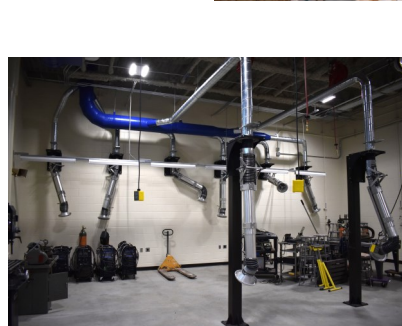
Summer Renovations and Tech Ed Addition

The Tech Ed addition, as well as renovations at the Elementary School and High School, are now complete and students and staff are enjoying the new spaces!

The Elementary School renovations included replacing worn and cracked flooring in the 2nd/3rd grade hallways, painting old lockers throughout the school, remodeling the original ceiling in the 4th/5th grade hallway, and updating lighting.

The High School renovations included remodeling classrooms and labs in Family and Consumer Science, Art, Tech Ed, and Ag. All of these spaces are now much more functional, and will allow us to better prepare students for future college and careers. The Tech Ed addition added much needed space, and is now home to our metals, welding, and construction spaces, as well as having a finishing room for projects.

We are extremely grateful to our community for supporting the referendum that allowed us to make these significant upgrades to our facilities so we can better prepare our students for their future.



Knight Pride

Primary School

On Monday, October 16th the New Glarus School District held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Primary School, which will be connected to the current Elementary School.

The original plan was to build the Primary School on 45 acres of land the District owns on the west side of the Village, but costs came in too high due to unexpected delays and inflation. Fortunately, building the Primary School next to the current Elementary School provides significant cost savings compared to the former building site because the two buildings can share duplicative services, such as the library, cafeteria, office, art, music, and guidance spaces. The new plan reduces the Primary School's square footage, while still providing the original number of classrooms and other high quality educational spaces for the youngest learners. Also, by building the new Primary School off 14th Avenue, the District avoids the floodplain around the rest of the Elementary School and alleviates some traffic congestion on 2nd Street during drop-off and pick-up each day.

We look forward to watching the new Primary School being built over the coming year and moving in during the winter of 2024/25.



Budget Update

In October the New Glarus Board of Education adopted the annual budget and set the mill (tax) rate for the current school year. The mill (tax) rate dropped 90 cents, or 7.95% from the prior year, to \$10.48. This mill rate is also \$0.30 lower than the estimated \$10.78 mill rate that was shared in spring 2023 referendum materials.

It is important to note that just because the estimated mill rate is decreasing, this does not mean that property taxes for an individual's home will decrease. There are multiple factors involved in this calculation that the district does not have control over, including: the assessment values, fair market values, and the school tax levy credit applied to the tax bill.

The state budget increased the School Levy Tax Credit by 27% for 2023-2024, thereby helping to lower the overall tax burden to taxpayers via the tax bill. The school tax levy credit is designed to offset the school property tax for wealthier communities.

Calculation of school tax portion on property tax bill:

Example: \$300,000 (estimated fair market value) x \$10.48/1000 (mill rate) - \$300 (school levy tax credit) = \$2,844 (school portion of taxes)

Athletic Complex

Due to the new Primary School being built on the current football/soccer field, the District will be building a new track/soccer/football field across from the High School. The district is able to afford a basic plan for the athletic complex, including the track/soccer/football field, press box, relocated bleachers, relocated scoreboard, and an emergency access drive at this time. Both a track and regulation size soccer field have been needed improvements that regularly come up on parent and community surveys because we currently have a large middle school track team that does not have a track to practice on, and our soccer field is not regulation size.

An Opportunity to Give

While developing the basic plan for the Athletic Complex, it was decided that it was important to develop a master plan for the area. When the master plan was created, the District engaged staff and community members to create a vision for a long-term plan that includes a versatile outdoor sports and community complex. The master plan has five main goals: modern facilities, welcoming community plaza, retaining and attracting families, staying competitive, and versatile usage.

A community fundraising committee has been formed and is hoping to fundraise the difference between what the district can afford and the master plan. The Bank of New Glarus has kicked off the fundraising campaign with a \$400,000 donation. For more information about the master plan and fundraising efforts, visit the Glarner Community Field Fundraising Committee's website at glarnerpride.com.

The first priority of the fundraising committee is to raise money for artificial turf so the facility can be used constantly from early spring until late fall, unlike grass which can only handle limited uses per year. Additionally, an artificial turf field could be used to host home playoff soccer games for boys soccer, which is not possible currently in either Belleville or New Glarus due to WIAA rules.

To donate a tax deductible donation, checks can be dropped off at any school office, or mailed to New Glarus School District at 1701 2nd Street, New Glarus. Credit card payments can be made through the glarnerpride.com website.



State Champions—Boys Soccer

Congratulations to our Sugar River Raiders Boys Soccer team for winning the first state soccer championship in school history! We couldn't be more proud of their hard work and perseverance, which paid off with wins over some very talented teams! Winning in the post-season is even more of an accomplishment for this team because all playoff games are required by WIAA to be played on a turf field, or a soccer-only field. Neither Belleville or New Glarus currently has either type of field so we can never host a home playoff game, which makes the road to state all that more difficult. Fortunately, the boys didn't let that get in the way, and came home with a gold ball!

Congratulations Raiders!



State Qualifiers Cross Country and Swimming

Congratulations to our NGM (New Glarus/Monticello) Girls Cross Country team and several of our individual MNG (Monroe/New Glarus) swimmers for qualifying for state!

The NGM Girls Cross Country team won their very difficult sectional, and finished 10th at state. Our MNG Swim Team had 3 relays and 2 individuals qualify for state! Congratulations to both teams on your very successful seasons!



School District of New Glarus
1701 2nd Street
P.O. Box 7
New Glarus, WI 53574

Mark Your Calendar:
Thanksgiving Vacation—Nov 22-24
Last Day of Trimester 1—Nov 30
In-Service No School—Dec 1
ES Holiday Lunch & Concerts—Dec 7
MS Winter Concert—Dec 11
HS Winter Band Concert—Dec 14
HS Winter Choir Concert—Dec 19
Early Release—Dec 22
Winter Break—Dec 25-Jan 1

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Community Connections

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School District of New Glarus

Fall 2023

Superintendent's Message

The past month has been very eventful in the New Glarus School District. We received our state test score results, had a great fall sports season, held an open house for our summer facility projects, said goodbye to our football field, and started construction on the new Primary School and Athletic Complex.

In regard to state test scores, we had very strong results. Our scores were the highest scores in Green County and were at, or very near, the top for all tests at all levels compared to all Dane County school districts as well. As always, there is room to grow, but overall we are very happy with these test scores that are well above pre-pandemic levels.

The fall sports season had great results as well. Soccer won a state championship, the girls cross country team qualified for state, several individual members of the girls swim team advanced to state, and all of our other fall sports made the playoffs!

This fall we've also been finishing up our summer construction projects, and getting started on the next phase, including the new Primary School and Athletic Complex. More information on all of the projects are inside this newsletter, including pictures of the projects that are complete.

We are also thankful for a group of community members who have come together to fundraise money for the Athletic Complex. The district can only afford a basic athletic complex so the fundraising committee is working to try to upgrade the field and amenities, including a turf field that could be played on continuously, a concession/bathroom building, and a plaza/pavilion that could be used for community events or as an outdoor classroom. There's more information inside this newsletter, but also check out their website at glarnerpride.com.

It's going to be a fun and busy year ahead, watching the Primary School and Athletic Complex being built, and internally, continuing to focus on our goal of having all students college and career-ready. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Thayer

