

ELK RAPIDS SCHOOLS

From the Superintendent's Desk

Dear Families and Community Members:

Did you hear the news? At the regional track meet this spring, the high school girls' 4 x 200 relay team (Nevada Molby, Paige Fosdick, Aleah Manley, and Hunter Shellenbarger) broke the school record that stood for 43 years! Molby (100 meters), Shellenbarger (200 meters), and Sarah Zamaites (400 meters) each placed first in their respective events and are individual regional champions! And, the Elk Rapids High School tennis team, ranked 7th in the state, claimed the school's first ever regional title, winning six of eight flight championships! These last few weeks of the 2021-2022 school year, the tradition of excellence in our student-athletes on the field continues with the softball team earning honorable mention at the state level, and the soccer team heading into the playoff season as the 5th ranked team in the state.

Moving inside of the walls of Elk Rapids High school, the excellence shines bright with the class of 2022. The senior class has taken their final walk through the high school halls. Senior honors night has passed. We now gear up for graduation on June 5th at New Hope Community Church, celebrating the newest alumni before they begin the next chapter.

While the incredible events of the high school student body are in the spotlight in these final days of the school year, the work it takes to stand tall at graduation, turning the mortar board tassel from the right to the left, begins many years earlier in the elementary and middle schools. Throughout the Elk Rapids School district, as each class moves closer to the finish line, another successful year is being celebrated.

After two long years of fighting the pandemic and working to keep lives as normal as possible for our staff, students, and families, how refreshing it has been to see students and families throughout the district engage in the traditional end of year events. Kudos to our fine arts programs for the fantastic in-person concerts, performances, and art displays we enjoyed this spring. The all-school picnic held at Lakeland Elementary, newly formed Mill Creek Garden Club, and Cherryland Middle School 5K Color Fun Run are events that brought our community and schools together!

Lakeland and Mill Creek Elementary schools have held kindergarten round-up, and we anticipate another strong year of enrollment, continuing the need for four sections of kindergarten next fall. Fifth grade and eighth grade students are working through transition programs in preparation for their moves to the next level in their educational journey.

And did you hear? The girls' middle school 4 x 200 relay team (Ava Smith, Leighton Smith, Ava Canning, Nora Wnek) took first place at the Lake Michigan Conference Middle School Championships this spring! Great things are happening all through Elk Rapids Schools – the future looks bright! – *Julie Stolowski-Brown*