November 2022 ISSUE 05 | Fall 2022

School District of Altoona

# RailroaderReview

Engage • Equip • Empower

"Offering large school opportunities with a small school approach."





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# A Note from our Superintendent:



Dear community members,

We have had a great start to the school year! And, we are excited to share with you the opportunities we are developing in the School District of Altoona. Especially exciting is knowing that the work we are doing in our schools is a direct result of feedback from our community. In May of 2021, 60 community stakeholders joined us in discussing their vision of the future of the community of Altoona along with what knowledge, skills, and experiences they believe students need to be ready to thrive and lead in the Altoona of tomorrow. We used their feedback to develop a strategic plan. The key strands of the plan are **Academic Outcomes**, **Future Ready Outcomes**, **Personal Success Outcomes**, and **Operational Outcomes**. These four strands are braided together to result in **Tomorrow Ready Citizens**. We are grateful for the opportunity to build the future of our community and proud to have a plan that directly represents community input. To demonstrate our on-going commitment to ensuring our community's feedback comes to life in our schools, this newsletter will continue to be organized by strand and will showcase the learning, programs, and opportunities in our schools.

The future of Altoona is promising and exciting. Thank you for your partnership and support as, together, we make our schools and community the very best it can be.

My best, Hidi Eliopoulos Dr. Heidi Eliopoulos Superintendent

### THE SDA ANNUAL REPORT

# Check it out!



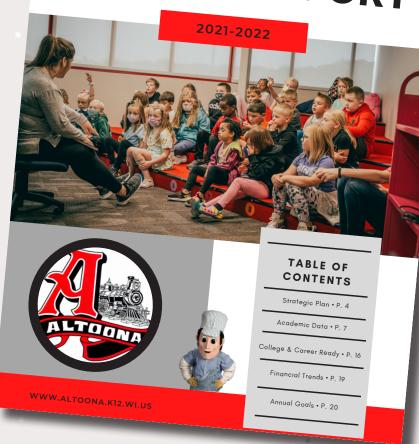
Open the QR reader application or the camera on your smartphone. Point it at the QR code – you should be able to point your camera from any angle and still receive the necessary information.

#### https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G\_wHwYrqd-77mUuLNwQSk1zLdo2Jsa-Vn/view

It is the policy of the School District of Altoona that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil service, recreational, career and technical education or other program or activity because of the persons' race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability as required by s. 118.13, Wis. Stats.



# ANNUAL REPORT



# Welcome!

The School District of Altoona has entered into an agreement with Prevea Clinic, Inc. Prevea will provide Dr. Ulgen to serve as our Medical Advisor. Brittany Engel RN, our school nurse, will collaborate with Dr. Ulgen to ensure all students receive the highest quality health services.

Nurse Brittany will provide health services to students when they are in schools and other educational settings. Her goal is to treat student injuries or illnesses and advise students, their parents or guardians, and staff on health issues.

We welcome Dr. Ulgen and Nurse Brittany to the district!





Students 2nd-grade (must be 7 years old) through 5th grade are invited to join the After-School Boys and Girls Club Program. The annual membership fee is \$15 per kid or \$30 for a family of two or more kids. Scholarships are available upon request. The Boys and Girls After-School Club is located at the Altoona Intermediate School.

Ready to Get Your Student Started?
Fill out the Membership Application at:
<a href="https://cvclubs.org/local-clubs/eau-claire/">https://cvclubs.org/local-clubs/eau-claire/</a>

Contact Roxie Schmidt, Site Director, at rschmidt@cvclubs.org or 715-838-7358.

#### **Membership includes:**

- After school snack
- Breakfast, lunch, and two snacks during school breaks & summer programming
- Daily homework help & tutoring
- Over 40 fun, educational, and outcome-driven programs, based on five core areas:
  - Leadership & Service
  - The Arts
  - Education
  - Health & Wellness
  - Sports & Recreation
- Transportation to the Club from School

Academic OUTCOMES



By: Heather Kretz AIS & AMS Parent



"I wish my kids would learn about finances and how businesses work in school!" Ever thought of or heard that? We are happy to share that Junior Achievement provides lessons on how to kids make sound financial choices, how to run your own business, and ways to explore career choices are happening in our classes!

New this school year, JA will be hosting a career fair at AMS with more than 15 local businesses representing various career clusters. During the career fair, students will partake in lessons on basic employability skills, including a Q&A panel from local employers. 8th grade students will also get to experience hands and eyes-on career learning opportunities this school year, as they enjoy site visits to local businesses highlighting various career clusters.

If you're interested in hearing more about the program and volunteering your time, please reach out to: Heather Kretz; hkretz@market-johnson.com, Education Managers: Brenda Peterson bpeterson@jawis.org and Allyson Barka abarka@jawis.org. https://northwestwisconsin.ja.org/community/eau-claire-county

# 3RD GRADE READING PARTNERSHIP

with the Altoona Football Program

The Altoona Football team partnered with the Altoona 3rd grade class to promote reading during the month of March! Each 3rd grade class-

room adopted a football player who read to the class twice during the month, while

to the class twice during the month, while students also participated in a reading challenge. At the end of the month, each class had a student identified to "pie" their adopted football player! Coach Hanson and Elementary Principal Leslie Lancette also took pies in the face!



Future-Ready

# VIRTUAL REALITY

Imagine holding a beating heart in your hand, visiting a distant planet, climbing to the top of a volcano and watching lava bubble, or walking through the ancient ruins of Greece! These are just a few of the Virtual Reality Experiences students have participated in this past school year.

During the 2021-2022 school year, our district purchased 4 cases of Class-roomVR headsets for students and staff to use to bring their classroom learning to life. And staff and

students alike had a blast trying out a new way to learn!

way to learn:

Virtual Reality is just one of the unique ways we connect our students to the learning space of tomorrow!





## **SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH**

(SBMH) SUPPORTS

#### What is School-Based Mental Health?

- Provides students the opportunity to receive therapeutic supports in the school setting, during school hours
- Connects students with professionals who are clinically licensed therapists and regularly treat concerns related to mental health
- Allows students to receive integrated emotional, behavioral, and therapeutic supports that can be beneficial to their educational experience

#### Who can receive School-Based Mental Health Services?

 Students who display higher levels of social-emotional challenges such as feelings of depression, anxiety, or difficulties regulating their mood. Situations that arise that might necessitate intervention on a therapeutic level might include:

Divorce/Family Changes
Death of a Family Member
Complicated Medical Diagnosis
Difficulty with Attention
Traumatic Life Event

#### Parent/Guardian Role

- Parents/Guardians sign a permission form for the School-Based Mental Health Coordinator to review insurance and determine network providers
- Parents/Guardians are provided applicable resources
- Parents/Guardians sign a release of information for the district to communicate with their child's therapist

#### Who can I contact?

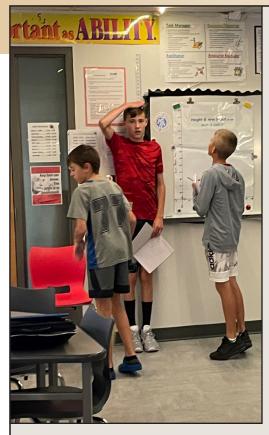
Stephanie Rohe, School Social Worker (Grades 4K-5), 715-839-6050, ext. 272, srohe@altoona.k12.wi.us

Jennifer Kronenberg, School Social Worker (Grades 6-12), 715-838-7102, ext. 349, jkronenberg@altoona.k12.wi.us









# Teaching Teamwork in Math

Students in grades 4K-12 have mathematics programs that teach more than just math. They also work on employability skills, skills employers throughout Chippewa Valley have indicated are a need when they are hiring employees. The problem-based nature of the lessons requires students to use reasoning, critical analysis, and justification of their thinking and answers. College Preparatory Mathematics, the math program used with students in grades 6 through 12, gives students fewer problems to solve than a typical math textbook, allowing them time to persevere in solving problems. Students make sense of the math by working in study teams. They share information, provide clarification to each other, build on the ideas of others, and critique other students' work. problems are non-routine which encourages application and extension. Problem solving, teamwork, and communication with others are critical skills our students need to be effective in the work world today!







### 2023 SUMMER SCHOOL

Save the Date!

SESSION 1: JUNE 12TH-JUNE 29TH, MON-THU, 8AM-1PM SESSION 2: JULY 10TH-JULY 20TH, MON-THU, 8AM-1PM

HTTPS://WWW.ALTOONA.K12.WI.US/PARENTS/SUMMER-PROGRAMS

# SURVEY ABOUT FACILITY NEEDS

During the 2021-2022 school year, the School District of Altoona conducted a population study and a comprehensive facility study. These studies confirmed two things:

- 1. The District is going to continue to grow
- 2. Current facilities are not large enough for the student population and programs

As research about available options began, an unexpected opportunity was uncovered. NBI, located at 1218 McCann Drive, would be willing to sell us their building if the community would support our purchasing it. This would allow the addition of a school building while saving millions of dollars over building new.

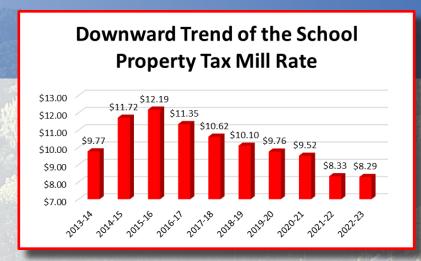
But, the community members are the owners of the school buildings. The Board and administration won't move forward with any remodeling projects until you have given your feedback about what types of projects you would support. We want to be transparent and tell you that any project to address our space needs would need to go through a referendum process. This would occur in April of 2023. Our goal in considering a referendum would be to meet our space needs while being financially responsible with the impact on our community members' hard-earned dollars.

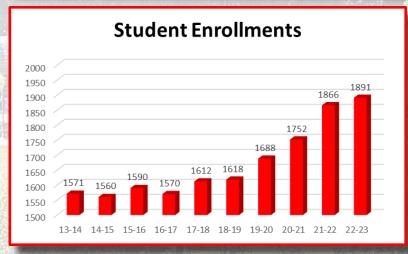
During the second week in November, every household will receive a survey. The survey will ask about support for purchasing NBI and remodeling it into a school. It will also ask about support for a variety of other facility projects that could be considered now or in the future. Please take the time to give us your input!

















# Seal-a-Smile

Annually, we partner with NorthLakes Community Clinic to host school-based dental clinics for students. Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile (SAS) grants local school-based oral health programs funding to provide preventive dental care to children in more than 850 schools across Wisconsin. The school-based dental outreach program operates within schools so students can have easier access to dental care. Below is the summary of services provided here for students in 2021-2022.

School:	AES	AIS	AMS
Students Served:	231	218	4
Teeth Sealed:	212	375	4
Fluoride Varnish Applications:	690	648	12
\$ in Preventative Dental Care Provided:	\$78,172.66	\$83,747.67	\$1,374.80

The Seal-A-Smile provides preventative dental care the students receive right at their school. Every child is eligible for the program regardless of insurance. If you have any questions, please contact Northlakes Community Clinic at 715-934-0100.

# **Board of Education**



#### **MEETINGS**

Regular Meetings of the Board of Education are typically held on the third meeting of the month and begin at 6:30 pm, unless otherwise posted. Meetings are held in the District Office at 1903 Bartlett Avenue.

#### **AGENDAS AND MINUTES**

Board meeting agendas, packets, and minutes are posted on the Board of Education website. Paper copies of the agenda or minutes can be requested by calling the district office at 715-839-6032.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION INFORMATION**

https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/school-board/index

Informational Meeting

for Any Citizen Interested in Running for the Board of Education November 10, 2022 6:00 pm District Office

There will be two seats on the ballot. At this meeting learn about:

- The roles and responsibilities of being a Board member
- The governance model of the Board
- The time commitment of Board membership
- The process for being nominated to be on the ballot

**Election Day is April 4, 2023** 



## Absentee Hotline Number

Call: 715-839-6095

Altoona High School Enter 1 | follow the prompts

Altoona Middle School Enter 2 | follow the prompts

Altoona Intermediate School Enter 3 | follow the prompts

Altoona Elementary School Enter 4 | follow the prompts

# JOIN OUR TEMM!







The School District of Altoona posts vacancies to their District website and uses the Wisconsin Education Career Access Network (WECAN) website for accepting applications for job vacancies. All applications must be submitted electronically through WECAN. The School District of Altoona does not accept unsolicited applications. Please do not send application materials unless applying for an open position. Unsolicited application materials will not be processed.

Peggy McKillip Human Resources, Payroll, and Benefits Coordinator pmckillip@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 504

#### https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/employment



The School District of Altoona is an equal opportunity employer. Personnel hiring and administration in the District are to be conducted so as not to discriminate against applicant or employee on the basis of age, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation, disability/ handicap, citizenship status, marital status, pregnancy, national origin, creed, color, political or religious affiliation, genetic information, ancestry, arrest or conviction record, military service, genetic information, use or nonuse of a lawful product off school premises during nonworking hours, declining to attend a meeting or participate in any communication about religious or political matters, or any other reason prohibited by state or federal law. Exceptions to this policy may only be made in accordance with state and federal laws. Reasonable accommodations shall be made for qualified univoluslas with a disability or handicap, unless such accommodations would impose an undue hardship to the District. The District shall also accommodate the religious practices of an employee to the extent required by law. The District does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that the District operates. Title IX's requirement not to discriminate in any education program or activity extends to cover, but is not limited to, District students, certain admissions processes, and District employment. Inquiries regarding how Title IX and the federal Title IX regulations apply to the District may be referred to a District Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, or to both. The District's commitment to nondiscrimination under Title IX and under other state and federal laws is further defined in the following policies of the School District: Policy 113, Policy 411, Policy 511, and Policy 512.

## Get Your Season Game Schedule Here!





#### Girls Tennis: Finishes the Season at Team State

The Girls Tennis finished their season at the WIAA Team State Tournament on October 21st and 22nd; something that hasn't been done since 2015. To make it there took a great deal of hardwork from every team member, several of which competed in the 2022 WIAA Girls Tennis Individual Championship, Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 13th-15th at Nielsen Stadium in Madison. Congratulations to Josie Rechek, Ava Bremer, Sofia Bach, Katelyn Beltz, Bella Bauer and Josie Rondestvedt in your participation in the Individual State Tournament! Another congrats goes out to the student athletes, Coach Emerson, Coach Dressel and Coach Barr for another Middle Border Conference Championship, making it back-to-back years the team has been crowned champs. Congratulations Girls Tennis on an outstanding season!





Interested in working an event or becoming a licensed official? Connect with us!

Elissa Upward, CAA 6-12 Athletics & Activities Director eupward@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 416 Kristi Springer Administrative Assistant kspringer@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 560

Title IX Nondiscrimination Policy Statement – As mandated by the current provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and under the regulations set forth in Chapter 106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("the federal Title IX regulations"), the District does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that the District operates. Title IX's requirement not to discriminate in any education program or activity extends to cover, but is not limited to, District students, certain admissions processes, and District employment. Inquiries regarding how Title IX and the federal Title IX regulations apply to the District may be referred to a District Title IX Coordinator (as designated below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, or to both. The District's commitment to nondiscrimination under Title IX and under other state and federal laws is further defined in the following policies of the School District: Policy 113, Policy 411.1, Policy 511, and Policy 512. District Title IX Coordinators.

# Girls Golf: Dominating the Classroom and the Course

The Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin (GCAW) annonced Academic All-State, which included our very own team members! Congratulations to Brianna Coenen (High Honors), Lauren Anderson (Honors), Karalyn Skinner (High Honors), Lydia Jensen (High Honors) and Elli Anderson (High Honors) in receiving these honors.



The Girls Golf Team finished their season strong, placing third at the 2022 WIAA State Girls Golf Tournament which took place October 10th & 11th at University Ridge, These student-athletes serve Madison. a great example to others, proving that academic and athletic successes are not mutually exclusive.

### Girls Volleyball: MBC **Co-Conference Champs**

The Girls Volleyball Team finished their season on Tuesday, October 18th, having lost to St. Croix Central in Regionals. The team finished the season with an overall record of 25-12 and splitting the Middle Conference Championship with Border Baldwin-Woodville.



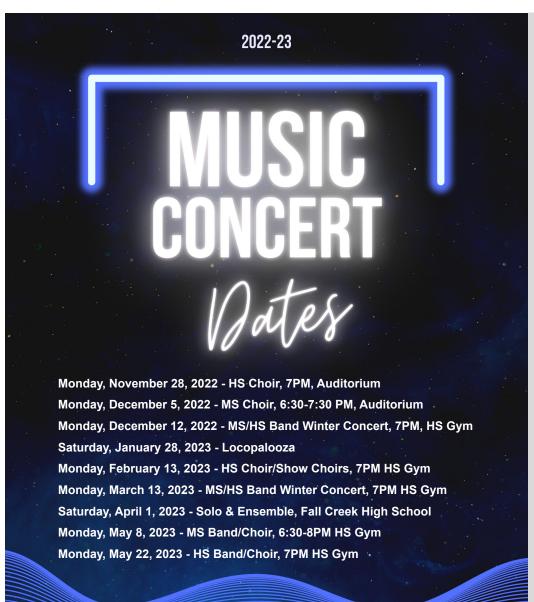






### **Fall Sports: End of Seasons**

The conclusion of fall sports takes place during the publication of this newsletter. All student athletes recognized for All-Conference, State or other accolades will be published in the District's next newsletter.





Students participating in DECA worked at the Brat Stand at Rump's Butcher Shoppe in Altoona, serving food and gathering Cinder City Days information through surveys. The surveys are the start of an ongoing project this school year.





Congratulations to this Nationally Certified group of staff! We could not be more proud of your hard work and dedication to our students and staff!

Missing from the photo: Stephanie Anderson and Kaylene Adams.







# Railway Mentoring Program at Altoona Schools

# THE PROGRAM:

The child and the volunteer meet at the child's school during a set day/time, Monday - Friday. Matches participate in activities at that site such as: playing a board game, playground activities, making crafts, or just hanging out and talking. Being a Big Brother or Big Sister is as simple as doing the things you already enjoy and sharing them with a child!





- 1 contact per week with a child.
- Matched based on mutual interests or complimentary
- Spend at least 1 year with the child you are matched with.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.

For more information on volunteering contact us at: 715-835-0161 info@bbbsnw.org www.bbbsnw.org







"I care about the whole her." -Big Sister Gloria

When compared to their nonmentored peers, our Littles are:

52% less likely to skip school. \*

46% less likely to use illegal drugs. \*

90% agreed their Big made them feel better

**81%** say their Big caused them to change what they thought possible in life. \*\*

77% set higher goals than they would have

65% say their Big helped them reach a higher level of education than they thought possible. \*\*

<sup>\*</sup> National research by Public/Private Ventures

<sup>\*\*</sup>Harris Interactive Survey of adults who participated in our program as children

16 AUGUST 2022



# C o n t a c t Information

School District of Altoona 1903 Bartlett Avenue Altoona, WI 54720

715-839-6032 | 715-839-6066 Fax

https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/

#### Superintendent

Dr. Heidi Eliopoulos heliopoulos@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Executive Assistant**

Lisa Boss

lboss@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Director of Finance and Operations**

**Gus Knitt** 

eknitt@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### Human Resources, Payroll, and Benefits Coordinator

Peggy McKillip pmckillip@altoona.k12.wi.us

# District Accountant/Accounts Payable Specialist

Elys Bohl ebohl@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Director of Student Services / Special Education**

Missy Lesik, mlesik@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Student Services Administrative Assistant**

Kimberly Pearson, kpearson@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Director of Curriculum & Instruction**

Andrea Steffen, asteffen@altoona.k12.wi.us

# Educational Technology, Career Planning & Workplace Learning

Sarah Radcliffe, sradcliffe@altoona.k12.wi.us

# District Registrar & Open Enrollment Coordinator / Administrative Assistant - Future Ready Learning

Kari Holm, kholm@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Virtual Learning**

Lindsey Jentzsch, ljentzsch@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Buildings, Grounds & Safety**

Tim Chmelik, tchmelik@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Food Service**

Polly Dake-Jones, pdake@altoona.k12.wi.us

## 6-12 Athletics & Activities Director/Facilities Use Coordinator

Elissa Upward, eupward@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Athletics & Activities Administrative Assistant**

Kristi Springer, kspringer@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Student Transit**

Brandon Birkenholz, bbirkenholz@student-transit.com 715-839-5116 Altoona High School (9th – 12th Grades)
711 7th St W, Altoona WI 54720

Phone: 715-839-6031 | Fax: 715-839-6028

#### **High School Principal**

Becky Bauer, rbauer@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **High School Assistant Principal**

Chad Hanson, chhanson@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **High School Administrative Assistant**

Melissa Buss, mbuss@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **High School Administrative Assistant**

Brenda Gilmartin, bgilmartin@altoona.k12.wi.us

Altoona Middle School (6th – 8th Grades) 1903 Bartlett Ave, Altoona WI 54720 Phone: 715-839-6030 | Fax: 715-839-6099

#### **Middle School Principal**

Steven Buss, sbuss@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### Middle/Intermediate School Dean of Students

Kyle Rundquist, krundquist@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Middle School Administrative Assistant**

Lori Watt, lwatt@altoona.k12.wi.us

Altoona Intermediate School (4th – 5th Grades) 1903 Bartlett Ave, Altoona WI 54720 Phone: 715-838-7111 | Fax: 715-839-6099

#### **Intermediate Principal**

Cale Zuiker, czuiker@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Intermediate Administrative Assistant**

Jess Bucki, jbucki@altoona.k12.wi.us

Altoona Elementary School (5K-3rd Grades)
157 Bartlett Ave, Altoona WI 54720

Phone: 715-839-6050 | Fax: 715-839-6166

#### **Elementary School Principal**

Leslie Lancette, llancette@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Elementary School Assistant Principal**

Ashley Minaker, aminaker@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Christina Moore cmoore@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Shannon Ross sross@altoona.k12.wi.us

Early Childhood Program / 4-Year Old Kindergarten

754 Bartlett Ave, Altoona WI 54720

Phone: 715-838-7350

#### **4K Coordinator**

Laura Trachsel, ltrachsel@altoona.k12.wi.us

#### **Grace Lutheran Afterschool Care**

Tyler Papierniak

tyler.papierniak@graceluthfound.com

Office 715-832-3003 ext. 20181





**ANOTE TO** Visitors

WE WANT OUR SCHOOLS TO BE OPEN AND WELCOMING PLACES FOR OUR FAMILIES, VOLUNTEERS, AND COMMUNITY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY ARE SAFE AND SECURE PLACES FOR OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF.

VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOLS WILL BE ASKED TO PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

- CALL AHEAD TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PERSON YOU ARE GOING TO VISIT.
- BRING AND PREPARE TO SHOW YOUR IDENTIFICATION UPON REQUEST.
- Sign in and wear the assigned VISITOR BADGE.
- REMAIN IN THE SPECIFIC AREA OF THE BUILDING WHERE YOUR MEETING OR VISIT IS SCHEDULED.
- SIGN OUT AND RETURN THE ASSIGNED VISITOR BADGE.

School District of Altoona 1903 Bartlett Ave. Altoona WI 54720 Proud to be a Railroader!

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**ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER** 



OUR MASCOT SPIKE THE CONDUCTOR IS HIDDEN SIX TIMES IN THIS ISSUE. CAN YOU FIND ALL SIX?









@AltoonaSD #ALTOONARAILS

