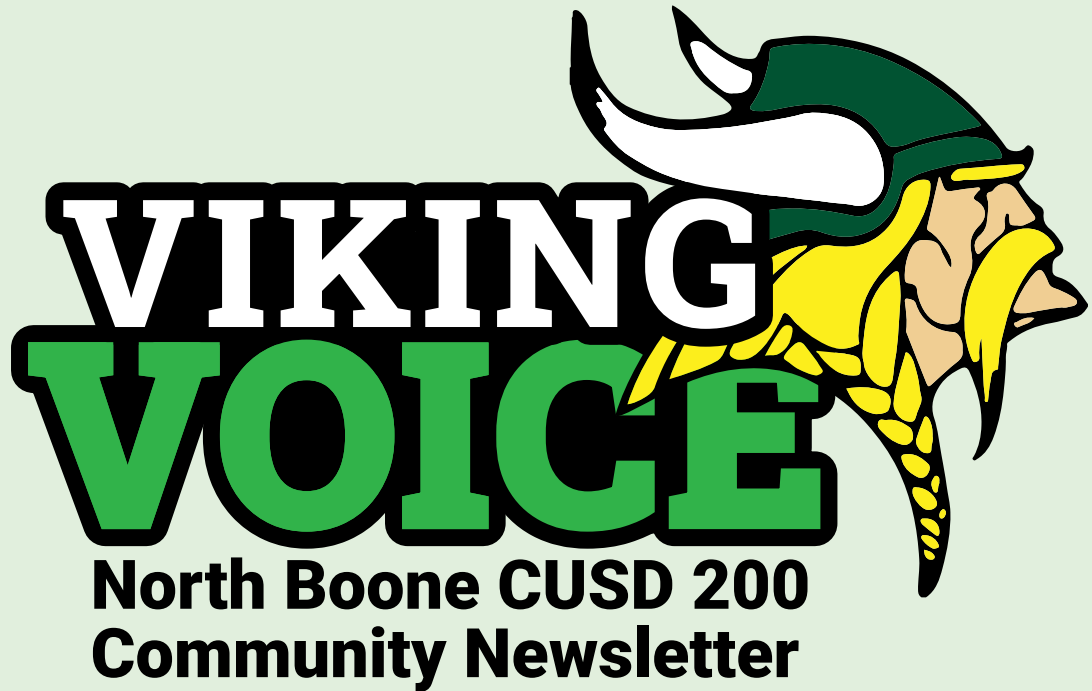


In this issue:

- Prestigious academic and financial recognitions awarded to NBCUSD
- Facility upgrades throughout the district
- Curricular advances
- New learning resources
- An exciting sports triumph
- Positive budget and tax information



SPRING 2023 EDITION



Mike Greenlee

Superintendent
North Boone Community
Unit School District 200

Overall, our proactive planning, careful oversight, and wise investments in people, property, and resources are paying off.

District performance is optimizing student performance

A message from Superintendent Greenlee

Welcome to our community update! We have a lot of great news to share. Our faculty, administration, and staff have been working hard, following an ambitious roadmap to meet the highest possible standards in equipping students for success. Too, we're effectively appropriating state educational pandemic recovery funds to significantly enhance learning and learning environments.

Overall, our proactive planning, careful oversight, and wise investments in people, property, and resources are paying off. Guiding our actions is the Viking Vision, a comprehensive five-year strategic plan to advance everything from student achievement to funding procurement.

While we're proud of our progress, we continue to set our sights even higher. The vital mission—and opportunity—to prepare our students for bright futures, is at the core of every district decision. We look forward to interacting with you, the NBCUSD family, and our greater communities, as we navigate our way. In an effort to prioritize communications, we'll be providing timely updates going forward, and extending our community partnerships. Thank you for your interest and support!

Michael Greenlee

Superintendent, North Boone Community Unit School District 200

Capron Elementary Among Top 10% in the State

Capron Elementary School recently achieved "Exemplary Status" recognition for excellent work in advancing student achievement. The Illinois State Board of Education analyzes public school performance statewide in its annual Illinois Report Card review. This resource provides families, policy makers, and community members with data to compare academic performance, student and educator profiles, and other valuable indicators among Illinois schools and districts.

Capron Elementary School was recognized for attaining tremendous growth in student achievement over the prior year. Students' performance, as measured by Illinois Assessment Readiness (IAR) testing, demonstrated growth ranking in the top 10% of all Illinois elementary and middle schools. At the elementary level, third and fourth grade students participate in IAR testing, which evaluates reading and math proficiency.



EXEMPLARY STATUS: TOP 10%

Our school is making an outsized impact in our community—and the state. The Capron report card is just one reason the North Boone Community Unit School District is making the grade.

The success was due, in part, to an extensive tutoring program at Capron with nearly 100% participation among third and fourth grade students during the 2021-2022 school year. Hour-long, after-school sessions were held four times a week to supplement and reinforce learning, with an emphasis on math.

The tutoring, which continues this school year, is a wise use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds received as part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This legislation provided support in response to needs created by the pandemic, including potential learning losses during interruption of in-person school instruction. This spring, Capron launched an after-school Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) club for students in grades K-4.



Nicole Difford

Capron
Elementary
Principal

I believe that with our dedicated families, students, teachers, and staff, we will continue to shine.



Be Informed!

To keep community members who reside within our district updated with events, news, and sports insight, we invite you to sign up for emails and/or text messages.



Use one of the following methods:

- Scan the **QR code**
- Fill out a survey at this link: bit.ly/nbsurvey1
- Email comment@nbcusd.org with your name, email, and phone number (if desired)
- Call the North Boone School District office and ask to be added to the mailing list at **815-765-3322**

\$2.3 Million Upgrades Are a Breath of Fresh Air

This fall, most North Boone district students will return to school buildings with improved ventilation systems. HVAC projects are planned at Manchester, Capron, and Poplar Grove elementary schools, and the North Boone upper elementary and middle school campuses.

Phase I of the project, to be completed this summer, includes new unit ventilators which will provide improved filtration and circulation of fresh air in all rooms. When combined with the installation of new boilers at North Boone Upper Elementary School last summer, the approximate cost of the first phase of upgrades is \$1.5 million.

During the summer of 2024, Phase II of the project will extend to the gymnasiums of Manchester Elementary School and Poplar Grove Elementary School, as well as the gymnasium and cafeteria at Capron Elementary School. These spaces will be equipped with new rooftop air handling units at an approximate cost of \$800,000.

The changes will significantly improve building air change rates and energy efficiency. Moreover, the upgrades will optimize the health and comfort of students, faculty, and staff.

The modernization of our HVAC systems will enhance our learning and working environments, better aligning our facilities with our innovative educational efforts.

The \$2.3 million project is a judicious expenditure of federal pandemic relief grants allocated for state educational support. HVAC work will be completed by a local supplier, retaining these significant funds in our community.

North Boone Community Unit School District Superintendent, Mike Greenlee, is eager to continue district building

improvements, noting "the modernization of our HVAC systems will enhance our learning and working environments, better aligning our facilities with our innovative educational efforts."

North Boone Cheer Takes 5th in State

Our Viking squad members are not just cheerleaders, they're cheerLEADERS! The five-time Big Northern Conference champs took home 5th place at the 2023 IHSA State Cheerleading Competition. After taking 2nd place honors at their sectional in the small varsity division, our talented eight-member team advanced to the elite state-level event. In the state competition, held in Bloomington, Illinois, our squad outperformed 20 other teams to tie the program's third-best finish in its history.



Currently led by Viking alums, Coach Jenna Shattuck and Assistant Coach Olivia Topping, North Boone cheer has a long tradition of excellence. The program is the only small varsity team to earn top-10 state finishes for six years running. And, these results include two podium finishes: 3rd in 2019 and 2nd 2022.



Coach Jenna Shattuck and Asst. Coach Olivia Topping

The long hours of practice by our athletes and the dedication of our coaching staff have been recognized with another season of accolades. It's time for all of us to cheer on the Vikings who lead our school spirit all year long.

Fiscal Management is Right on the Money



**FINANCIAL
RECOGNITION**

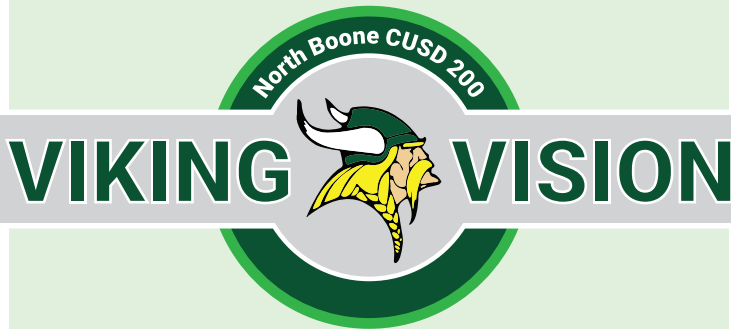
District taxpayers can once again be assured of the most efficient use of their tax dollars. For the ninth year in a row, we are honored to receive an Illinois State Board of Education "Financial Recognition" designation. After the state's annual in-depth audits of financial health, the ISBE classifies districts with one of four ratings, with "Financial Recognition" being bestowed on those with the strongest fiscal footing.

Another reflection of the wise stewardship of district funds is the achievement of a balanced budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Proactive district budgetary measures maintain financial stability while prioritizing student curricular and co-curricular programs.

This expert direction, combined with commitments by our board of education and administration, has also resulted in a lower burden for taxpayers. **Over the tax years 2014-2021, the district tax rate was reduced by nearly 2%, and the 2022 levy remains largely stable.** Further, the district is paying off a bond issuance five years earlier than scheduled.

It all adds up to sound financial planning and management which benefits our students, families, and community. North Boone schools have a strong foundation on which to continue outstanding work into the future.

Small District, Big Achievements



You recently received a postcard with exciting, important news. We've completed a comprehensive roadmap for the future of North Boone Community Unit School District to best prepare our students for college, career, and life. It's called the Viking Vision Strategic Plan, and includes **5 big goals in 5 years**—and it's already underway!

The goals through the year 2026 are:

- 1. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** Provide a comprehensive, innovative education focusing on the whole child to promote life, career, and post-secondary success.
- 2. LEARNING CONDITIONS:** Ensure an inclusive culture of learning that allows each learner to define their pathway to success.
- 3. WORKFORCE:** Attract, develop, and retain quality and diverse staff who are committed to creating a culture of learning that engages students in their journey toward career, college, and life readiness.
- 4. PARTNERSHIPS:** Cultivate partnerships with families and the community to support and expand social and leaning opportunities for all students.
- 5. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND OPERATIONS:** Align resources and infrastructure to ensure integrity and equity in resource planning and allocation.

While our mission has always been to ensure the readiness of our students for wherever life takes them, Viking Vision details expanded and innovative strategies to guide our success. We want the entire North Boone family to join us on the journey in attaining the very best standards in student achievement, staffing, learning environments, community partnerships, and operational management.

If you haven't already, please learn about the plan, and how you can get involved, at:

nbcusd.org/district/strategic-plan

It's the culmination of tireless work by dedicated stakeholders that are eager to share the "vision" for our collective bright future. **We're all in this together!**



Innovative, Individualized Learning

Outstanding student achievement is our number one goal in North Boone district schools. In vigorously pursuing that end, we've undertaken several exciting new instructional efforts. These include incorporating exceptional curricula, investing in faculty training, actively tracking progress, and working to recover any pandemic learning loss.



TEACHING TEAMS

Faculty and staff members have been assembled into multi-disciplinary teams to track and optimize student learning. These specially trained collaborative networks, implemented in every school, meet frequently ensuring continual academic progress across grade level or content area.



ADVANCED CURRICULA

New K-4 literacy resources were piloted and assessed this year with promising results. Using evidence and data-based evaluations, a resource will be selected and fully implemented next fall. The 5th-8th grade levels, too, have seen curricular updates, with adoption of new core English Language Arts and Social Studies resources being completed over the last three years.



SUPPLEMENTAL LEARNING RESOURCES

The district has contracted to provide valuable online learning resources for students in school and at home. During school, Edgenuity MyPath® delivers engaging, efficient, level-based math support for grades 3 and 4, to maximize progress and close any achievement gaps. Students in grades 7-12 have free access to Paper Online Tutoring for personalized, on-demand tutoring, enrichment, and writing reviews available 24/7. To date, district students have utilized nearly 1,700 tutoring sessions and 1,500 writing reviews. In fact, North Boone's student body has among the highest usage rates of this academic support source in the region.



TUTORING

Free, faculty-led, in-person tutoring opportunities are offered in grades K-8. The hour-long after-school sessions take place two to four days a week and support students with skill reinforcement or individualized help.

And did you know that all district students, K-12, have access to their own Chromebook laptop computer?

Our unwavering focus on offering an excellent, comprehensive learning experience for every student, is reflected in our continual investment in instructional advances. Equipping our talented educators and staff with the best possible tools enables them to make the greatest possible impact on student success.

