



WINNECONNE ALUMNI *Connection*

Winneconne Community School District

Learning today...leading tomorrow!

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WINNECONNE COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
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CAREER FAIR

In December 2011, the Winneconne High School and the Village of Winneconne teamed up to present a Career Fair. Through this collaborative effort, students were able to get the inside scoop on possible career paths and talk one-on-one with local business representatives and professionals. Steve Volkert, Village of Winneconne District Administrator, was awarded a 2012 Business Friend of Education Award from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for his support and assistance with organizing the event.



NEW FOOTBALL FIELD

The Winneconne football field was resurfaced this summer, thanks to the Gridiron Club, the Booster Club, and private donations. The schools belong to the public. It is through such generosity that the Winneconne Community School District remains a great school district that alumni can be proud to call their alma mater!



**Save the Date:
Homecoming is
October 5, 2012**

Please come and join in the fun! Of course there is the traditional homecoming parade followed by a football game versus the Ripon Tigers. There will also be an alumni tent. Please join us for a burger or brat. While you are there, please take a moment to sign in, update your contact info, and tell us what you are doing today!

**Parade - 5:15 p.m.
Alumni Tent - 6:00 p.m.
Kickoff - 7:00 p.m.**

Hope to see you there!

Welcome to the Alumni Connection

Peggy Larson, District Administrator, Winneconne School District



Let me take this moment to introduce myself. My name is Margaret Larson, but I'm commonly called Peggy. I grew up in Appleton, WI, graduated from UW-Oshkosh, earned my Master's Degree in Educational Administration from UW-Madison, and my Superintendent's Licensure from Marian University.

I student taught in the Winneconne Community School District in 1993. I had the privilege of returning to Winneconne in 1995. I taught physical education, then became the High School Dean of Students. In fall 1997, I became Middle School principal, and in 2011 became the District Administrator for this fine district. My husband Robert Larson, is a WCSD graduate from the class of 1987, our family and friends are nearby, and in short, this is home.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter: I tell you about myself because we want to connect with our alumni. You represent the tradition of everything that is great about our schools. In our newsletter, we asked some alumni to tell their stories, too. Maybe you'll recognize them!

The Winneconne Community School District continues to be recognized for its academic and extra-curricular excellence. Our students continue to score above the state average not only on Wisconsin-based standardized tests but on the ACT as well. Our WCSD staff continues to inspire, guide, and challenge our students to be the best in whatever they do. We hope you enjoy this first newsletter especially for Winneconne Alumni!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Thank you for reading the first edition of our alumni newsletter, the Winneconne Alumni Connection. We wouldn't be successful without the support of our alumni and friends in the community. We hope our newsletter will keep you informed, excited and proud of the great teachers, students and programs our district has to offer. We plan to mail this newsletter at least once a year with hopes of eventually emailing it to you when we get a large enough collection of email addresses. We have multiple ways to update your information and keep in touch. Visit our website, www.winneconne.k12.wi.us/alumniupdate.cfm, or email alumni@w-csd.org, or call 920-582-5802, or find us on Facebook.



We asked a few alumni to report back on two questions: Where are you today? How did your education in Winneconne help you? Here's how they answered.

Expanding Horizons

For more and more students at Winneconne High School, going to college or technical school is as simple as walking down the hall.



Recently, the Winneconne High School hosted a Career Fair to help students connect with future potential employers.

Fueled by the desire to better serve the needs of students and to make Winneconne competitive in an era of public school choice, our high school has steadily added options that allow its students to earn college and technical school credit while still enrolled at Winneconne. While we remain a small town school, these expanded opportunities allow our graduates to compete with their peers from larger urban areas.

One of the newest dual credit offerings at Winneconne is Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a joint effort with Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE). PLTW is a national program designed to increase middle and high school students' interest in math and science and encourage them to consider careers in engineering and biomedical sciences. Winneconne's PLTW classes are part of the Pathway to Engineering program. Students take a series of classes that include introductory courses in engineering as well as advanced

classes in aeronautical engineering, civil engineering and architecture and biotechnical engineering. The final class allows students to work in teams to solve problems. Students who take PLTW classes can earn college credit at MSOE.

Winneconne is also launching a youth apprenticeship program in agriculture. Students enrolled in the one-year program will take agriculture classes at the high school and also work for pay in the agriculture field. They may also earn credits at a local technical school through their participation.

One of the oldest college credit programs at Winneconne is CAPP (Cooperative Academic Partnership Program), which is offered through agreements with UW-Oshkosh and Lakeland College in Sheboygan. Under the agreement, Winneconne students take certain college level classes at our high school, using the identical content of the courses taught at the college. The student-paid fee earns students a college transcript when they graduate. A speech class offered through UW-Oshkosh will begin in the fall of 2012.

One of the most attractive parts of the program is that it is possible to earn retro credits if students successfully complete a CAPP course. For instance, students who earn a B or better in Spanish 5 will not only get college credit for that class but also retro credit for previous Spanish classes. The one down side is that students who do not do well in a CAPP class will still receive a transcript with their grade, which may count against their college grade point average. About 25 students a year take one or more of the five CAPP classes offered.

Another way to earn college credit in high school is through the Advanced

Placement (AP) program. Students who take designated AP classes that contain college level coursework can opt to take an exam at the end of the year. If they receive at least a 3 or better on a 5-point scale, they will receive college credit. While there is no cost to the students to take the classes, they do pay a fee to take the exam. Winneconne offers AP English, U.S. history and calculus. AP psychology will be offered beginning in the fall of 2012. About 50 to 80 students take AP classes each year.

For students considering technical college after high school, Winneconne has two options. The school offers advanced standing classes through an agreement with Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. The classes are taught at Winneconne but if students receive a grade of B or better, they receive high school credit and transcribed technical college credit. There are currently advanced standing classes in oral communications and veterinary science. A written communication course will start in the fall of 2012. Although the agreement is with Fox Valley, other Wisconsin technical schools usually accept the advanced standing transcripts as well.

With so many options, students are advised to start thinking early about possible careers and post secondary options at Winneconne's career center. The center has information about all of the dual credit options, job shadowing opportunities, and other types of career explorations.

Expanding the options available to students helps WCSD meet its commitment to help students learn today so that they can lead tomorrow!



Craig Mathison
Senior Account Manager, Class of 1987

I am a Senior Account Manager for Medical Informatics Engineering, Inc., an Electronic Health Record and Personal Health Record Software company. I am also involved in a number of commercial and industrial real estate investments & partnerships. I have lived in Fort Wayne, IN for the last 14 years. I've been married to Mindy for almost 12 years and have three children Carter (9), Abigail (7) and Lilly (2).

While the education I received from WCSD provided the foundation for me to pursue and achieve many successes, I feel that the small town feel, the building of long lasting relationships and the community support surrounding the school system was equally important. It allowed students to 'know' everyone of many different backgrounds and when there was a need, the community would come together. I was reminded of the power of this recently when a good friend and fellow classmate was facing significant health issues and needed help. Within a few weeks the community came together with overwhelming response, even though he had not lived in the area for over 20 years. My wife said it best when describing it to her Mother "it was a small town at it's best - it was impressive!! I don't think my class/school or many others would do this." WCSD should take great pride in that and continue to build on that great asset.



Heather Livingstone-Schwalenberg
Doctor of Chiropractic, Class of 1997

After graduating from Winneconne, I attended Winona State University on a basketball scholarship. I played two seasons, then transferred to Northern Kentucky University to play for the Lady Norse, winning the Division II National Basketball Championship in 2000.

After receiving my bachelor's degree from NKU, I pursued chiropractic college and graduated as Valedictorian from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, as did my husband, Lee Schwalenberg, in June of 2005. We have our own business, Stone Chiropractic, LLC in Kaukauna and are about to celebrate seven years of serving the Fox Cities area. We live in Appleton with our two beautiful children, three-year-old Jaiden, and five-month-old Maximus.

The small class sizes at Winneconne allowed me individualized and personal attention. I think this helped me not feel like "a number" and offered me quality experiences that I may not have received in other schools. Many teachers from WHS influenced me along the way - thank you!



Kris Feavel
Certified Public Accountant Class of 2003

I am based in Milwaukee with Johnson Controls and work in the finance area of the automotive battery group. Johnson Controls, a Fortune 100 Company, is the leading supplier of automotive batteries through private label and our own brands throughout the world.

I believe that my education at Winneconne provided the basis to my education. There was so much that I took from my education in high school that I was able to build on to help me succeed at various levels. For example, at Winneconne, I was first exposed to business/accounting classes. Little did I know that these accounting/business courses would provide me with a level of knowledge that when I began taking accounting courses at Marquette University, I felt ahead of the normal class lectures.

Another example of my Winneconne education helping me was in my language skills. While I am not a fluent Spanish speaker, my four years of Spanish language classes at Winneconne help me out today as I work closely with many Mexico entities. My experience at Winneconne was very positive. I owe much gratitude to the teachers and staff at Winneconne that contributed to my development as a student there - the teachers are the real assets at Winneconne.