



# 2020-2021 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments.



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| [www.chainexplorationcenter.com](http://www.chainexplorationcenter.com)

| Waupaca, WI

# OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL HISTORY

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Our mission is to provide a place where children explore their passions and gain a strong educational foundation through project-based learning in a collaborative community. The Chain Exploration Center ("CEC") is an instrumentality of the School District of Waupaca ("SDW"). The development of the CEC, and its mission to be "a place where children explore their passions and gain a strong educational foundation through project-based learning in a collaborative community," are the direct result of a formal Community Conversation hosted by the SDW in 2016-2017 (April 2017). The 100 or so community members present asked the District to "intentionally create ways for all students to explore their passions and gain strong educational foundations to follow them." This was one of the top two priorities identified during the event.

Our CEC mission statement is in direct parallel with the SDW vision to develop our students' capabilities and confidence to achieve their dreams and make the world a better place. The CEC provides choice for parents and students as to the means for students to achieve their dreams through projects that contribute to our world.

The name reflects the school campus, which sits on Silver Lake, one of the northernmost lakes in the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes. Half an acre of our 25.5-acre campus provides lake access and a dock for student projects. Twenty-five acres, zoned agricultural, was previously farmed, and is available to the CEC for gardens with an orchard, animal husbandry, prairie plantings, forestry, outdoor art projects, and community events.

The CEC's main building, constructed in 1954 and most recently renovated in 2000, has 48,300 square feet. In addition to classrooms, the building has a large performance stage, a gymnasium, a library, and art and music/practice rooms, and has broadband internet access.



## CEO, CARRIE NAPARALLA

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What a school year it has been! I still find it hard to believe I was chosen to be CEO and Administrator of Chain Exploration Center! As I began my district onboarding, I was often told about the family-like atmosphere which existed at CEC. I looked forward to meeting my staff, the students, and their families and getting to work implementing the many focal points which drew me to apply to CEC in the first place. However, the COVID-19 pandemic put a damper on the relationships I was so excited to create. While I was able to see and get to know my staff and students, physically distanced and with masks on, I was not able to meet the majority of the CEC families, something I am so looking forward to doing at our upcoming August 30th Open House!

Our mission to provide a place where children explore their passions and gain a strong educational foundation through PBL in a collaborative environment was showcased through the strength, passion, positivity, and ingenuity of the staff and students who call CEC their school. Our enrollment increased by 66% as we welcomed 4K, Kindergarten, First Grade, and Seventh Grade students and 4 advisors to the building with waitlists in grades 1 and 2 as we entered year 3 of our charter. While we started the year with only 68% of our student population attending in person, we finished strong with over 95% of students physically back in the building. Advisors worked collaboratively to ensure relationships were built and maintained with all students through book buddies, gardening partners, and project pals. While all school gatherings were challenging we managed to safely enjoy a fall schoolwide corn roast, with corn freshly harvested by our students from the Chain Community Garden.



## CEO, CARRIE NAPARALLA

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Our Suzuki concerts were held virtually in December and May. Teaching a child to play an instrument virtually cannot be an easy task and I applaud the work our Aber Suzuki instructors did to grow our students' skillset. In March, after a week-long effort to encourage reading across America, randomly selected students, who rose to the reading challenge, had the opportunity to pick an advisor of their choice as their peers cheered them on. Spring also brought out the generosity in many of us as students and staff donated money each day to participate in special dress up days. The money raised was matched by the Waupaca Breakfast Rotary and \$1,394.00 was donated by our Student Council to the American Red Cross. Our year wrapped up with an Environmental Week showcasing grade level environmental projects daily for the rest of the students and staff to enjoy. While I could talk and write endlessly about the many wonderful educational opportunities offered at CEC, the pictures included in this report really tell the story of who we are and who we hope to continue to be. We know that coming together as a school family is critical to the health and wellness of everyone involved in the work we do at CEC and are eager for the days we can engage daily with one another without restrictions.



## CEO, CARRIE NAPARALLA

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In addition to the fundamental work we do daily with students, it is equally important to set aside time for reflection and professional growth. During October and November PLC's, advisors completed a book study which helped answer some basic questions around the structure of project-based learning and the key components needed for success. This left us wanting more and in May, all staff, including EA's and specialists, participated in a 3 day PBL 101 workshop. This afforded us cross grade level collaboration time to really dig into PBL and with expert support, plan a project for implementation during the 2021-2022 school year. Additional PLC time was spent with our grade level teams at WLC and WMS restarting the Target Based Grading work begun prior to March 2020.

While I really cannot believe my first year has come to a close, I am so thrilled about all we can accomplish over the next several years. I look forward to learning more about and investing in the Waupaca Community, gaining partnerships which enhance our student projects and service learning work, designing a 4K-8 project plan with aligned standards and rubrics, creating and implementing a PLP structure which will follow a student all through their educational journey at CEC, and most importantly, growing those relationships with our students, staff, and the families who support the work we do! As Katharine Graham said: "To love what you do and feel that it matters-how could anything be more fun?"



# CEO, ADVISORS & SUPPORT STAFF

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**Administrator and CEO:** Carrie Naparalla

## Advisors

### *The Discoverers, Grades 4K & Kindergarten*

Amber Koski, 4K

Katelyn Pauling, Kindergarten

### *The Pathfinders, Grades 1st & 2nd*

Kristin Doscher & Lori Wolff

### *The Trailblazers, Grades 3rd, 4th & 5th*

Catherine Seifert, Holly Olsen & Brianna Haas

### *The Voyageurs, Grades 6th & 7th*

Devon Feldt & Ty Natzke

**Art :** Mackenzie Burns

**General Music:** Isaac Pulchinski

**Physical Activity:** Delaney Barbeau

**Educational Assistants:** Vanesa Buhler, Asherrie Opperman & Barb Rusch,  
Madeline Pulchinski

**Educational Support:** Lori Christian, Tricia Deuman, Susan Dolski, Jenny Gross,  
Michelle Guay, Renee Harms, Alex Hazen, Dawn Jacobs, Jennifer Miller &  
Tricia Nevala

**Food Service:** Cindy Christensen & Shari Erickson

**Media Center:** Chris Jaenke & Susie Lettau

**Administrative Assistants:** Andrea Hansen & Madeline Pulchinski

Our mission is to provide a place where children can explore their passions and gain a strong educational foundation through project-based learning in a collaborative community.



# GOVERNANCE COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS

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Megan Sanders, President

Joined August 2017

Background in Project-Based, S.T.E.M. Education 9-12

Sara Rogers, Vice President

Joined September 2017

Background in Architecture

Sara Zoeller, Treasurer

Joined June 2019

Small Business Owner

Becky Lange, Secretary

Founding Member

Background in Environmental Education

Mary Kaye Ristow, Member

Joined June 2020

Founding Member and Environmental Education

Matt Kolinski, Member

Joined June 2020

Background in Medical Software and Suzuki

Autumn Beese, Member

Joined June 2020

Small Business Owner

Sandy Robinson, New Member

Joined May 2021

Background in Finance and Former School Board Member

**Our mission is to uphold the mission and vision while developing partnerships within our community to increase student success.**

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS



# 1,983

Service hours for the 2020-2021 school year total 792 hours. Service included: raking on campus, wood chipping on campus, trail maintenance, garden community plot measurement, planting, and harvesting, building and painting birdhouses, holiday cards for area nursing home residents, Treat the Needy, December Donation Drive, valentines for Bethany Home residents, stringing garland for downtown Christmas tree and assemble library kits.

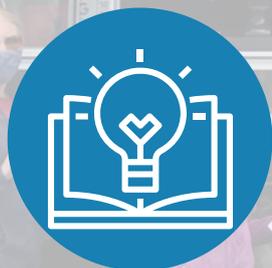
## GRANT AWARDS AND FUNDRAISERS



# 14,733

Grants: Rotary Youth Grant, Ag in the Classroom, Aldo Leopold Grant, Fuel Up.  
Fundraisers: BoxTops, HuTerra, Racine Kringle, Little Caesar's, Bonfire, Scrip and our annual Golf Classic.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



# 110

Professional Development total includes all hours completed by Administrator, Advisors and Governance Council. This year our advisors participated in PBL training from the Buck Institute, the gold standard for PBL.

# ENROLLMENT

WiseDash	CEC Enrollment: 134	WLC Enrollment: 685	WMS Enrollment: 589
Attendance	96.7%	95.7%	95.8%
Economically Disadvantaged	41 students 30.6%	301 students 43.9%	223 students 37.9%
Ethnicity	9 students 7%	74 students 10.8%	51 students 8.7%
SwD	17 students 12.7%	138 students 20.1%	71 students 12%
EL	0	8 students 1.2%	0
Economically Disadvantaged + Ethnicity	7 students 5%	45 students 6.6%	31 students 5.2%
Economically Disadvantaged + SwD	3 students 2%	87 students 12.7%	40 students 6.8%
Ethnicity + SwD	1 student Less than 1%	22 students 3.2%	7 students 1.2%
Economically Disadvantaged + Ethnicity + SwD	1 student Less than 1%	16 students 2.3%	7 students 1.2%

## 85%

RETENTION RATE

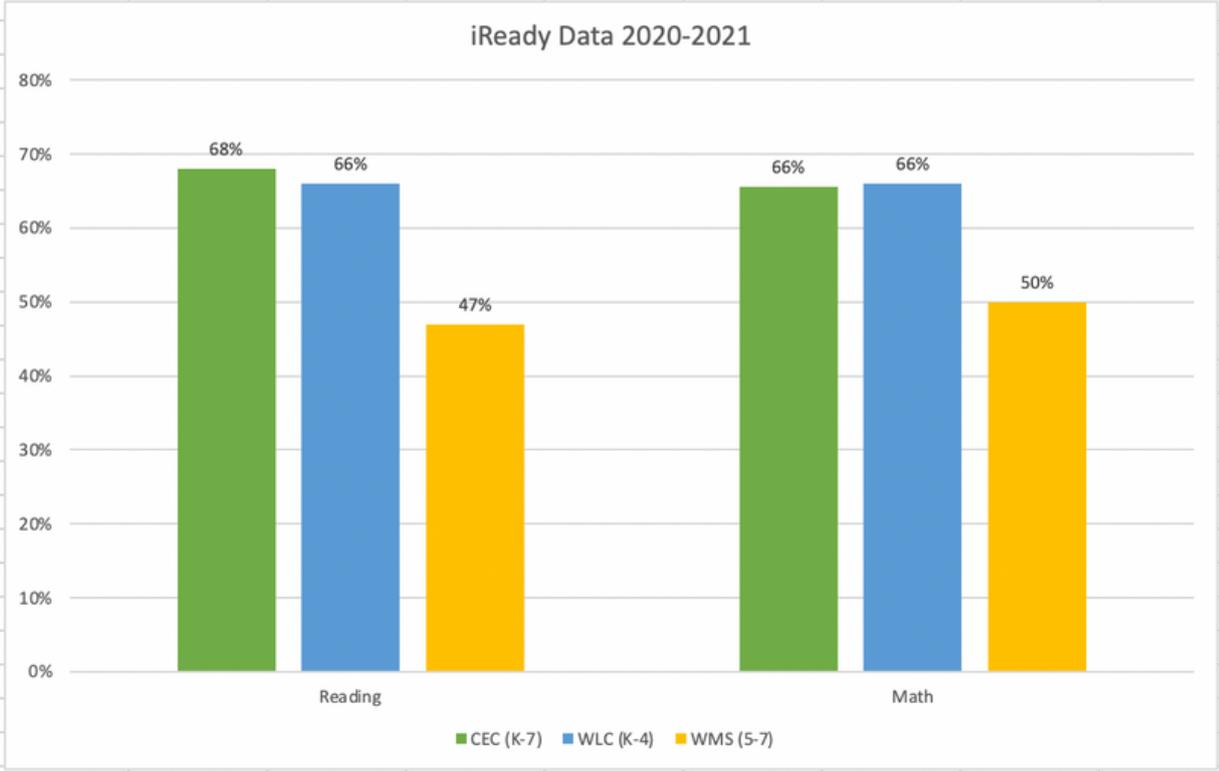
## 44%

ENROLLEES ARE SIBLINGS

Total enrollment in our third year ended with 128 students. 22 students are transferring to WLC or WMS and 6 are moving out of the district. We welcome 35 new students, including 4k for the 2021-2022 school year. 12 students remain on the waiting list for K-3.



# IREADY & PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Data represents students at or above grade level.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

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## MATT KOLINSKI, COUNCIL MEMBER & COMMITTEE CHAIR

The newly created Academic Excellence Committee has been working with Ms. Naparalla to clearly define goals and expectations for the CEC in regards to students, staff, parents, school district and federal grants. Teachers and staff are attending Project-Based Learning courses from the Buck Institute, and will be combining the district-wide standards with four core projects each year. As the school has grown, adjustments to the curriculum have been worked through to keep with the vision of the charter. Meaningful service learning, new electives, and better parent-teacher/school communication are also being developed for the upcoming school year.

### 2020-2021 FOCUS:

- Delivery of Project Based Learning
- Defining Meaningful Service Learning
- Evaluate Personalized Learning Plans
- Elective Choice and Structure



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

# FUNDRAISING & FINANCE COMMITTEE

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## MEGAN SANDERS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT & COMMITTEE CHAIR

Fundraising & Finance Committee worked to define and create goals for ongoing and sustaining costs to support our vision and mission at CEC. This year we continued outreach efforts through our Annual CEC Golf Classic. We had many celebrations with over twenty hole sponsorships, free advertising on two local radio stations, seventeen donations of raffle baskets, twenty-four rounds of golf from connections throughout the state, increased volunteer time and a wider base of golfers. The event generated funds for our sustaining projects and those still in the dream state. This was a great opportunity to educate many in our local community about our school and the work that our staff is engaged in. We thank all those who participated or donated time and look forward to future growth.

# FUNDRAISING PARTNER, PTG

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## AUTUMN BEESE, PTG PRESIDENT & COUNCIL MEMBER

We thank the Parent Teacher Group (PTG) for the continuing efforts to support and fundraise for our students and staff. This work supports and encourages all our students and staff to dream about the possibilities. PTG held several fundraisers to support the playground renovation, purchased two GaGa Ball Pits and hosted Staff Appreciation Week. Fundraising efforts totaled \$4,711 this year.

FUNDRAISING & FINANCE

# FINANCIALS

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## \$650,625 Federal Sub-Grant awarded to the Governance Council over a 5 year period.

### 2020-2021 GRANT AWARDED FUNDS

ORGANIZATION	MATERIALS PURCHASED	AWARD AMOUNT
Fuel Up to Play 60		\$950.00
Ag in the Classroom	Hungry Planet book series and trainings.	\$650.00
Waupaca Rotary Club		\$362.84
Aldo Leopold Audubon Society Grant	Various pollinators for planter boxes.	\$141.04
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,103.88</b>

### 2020-2021 DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISERS

FUNDRAISER	AMOUNT
Cash Donations	\$1950.00
ShopWithScrip	\$496.00
Various Fundraisers	\$4775.06
2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual CEC Classic	\$5408.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,629.06</b>



# FINANCIALS

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## DISTRICT FUND 10 BUDGET VS. ACTUAL

Object	Item	Budget	Actual
*300's	Personal Services	\$85,346.00	\$91,404.39
400's	General Supplies	\$15,586.00	\$8,698.07
900's	Dues and Fees	\$0.00	\$1,299.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$100,932.00</b>	<b>\$101,406.46</b>

\*Actual includes Suzuki, Audit and Heid Music credit of \$29.97

## FEDERAL SUB-GRANT BUDGET VS. ACTUAL

Object	Item	Budget	Actual
*300's	Personal Services	\$6,068.00	\$19,950.00
400's	Non-Capital Equipment & Technology	\$140,539.00	\$122,367.64
900's	Dues and Fees	\$0.00	\$1,308.99
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$146,607.00</b>	<b>\$143,626.63</b>
<b>Allowable Carryover</b>			<b>\$2,980.37</b>

\*Actual includes training with Buck Institute, Audit & Board on Track



# COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

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## MARY KAYE RISTOW, COUNCIL MEMBER & COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Governance Council officially adopted the Community Garden this year in an open meeting on April 9, 2021. The overwhelming support from the community and the alignment with the vision and mission made this an easy decision. The Garden Committee began work in February 2021 to plan and organize the 2021 growing season. Committee members included staff, council members and a few community members. We are grateful for our many donations from Turners Farm Market, Garmons Produce and many community members. Donations totaled over \$2,700.00. Each year we try to increase output to our local donation sites, track production, increase partnerships and increase educational opportunities for all students. Celebrations for this growing season includes two sections of summer school open to all students, a new partnership with Tomorrow's Children, increased community plots and new experimental growing practices led by our advisors.



COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

# CHAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN

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## COMMUNITY & STUDENT GROWTH

- Food Pantry, Foundations for Living, Bread Basket, Community Neighbors, Senior Nutritions sites
- Student involvement in all aspects from planning to delivering produce
- Increased community plot interest and growth based on survey results.

# 8,000

## POUNDS OF PRODUCE

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Students celebrated with our first CEC Corn Roast



Greenhouse purchased with Rotary Youth Grant Funds

