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NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT

Northland Pines School District is proud to be carrying the educational torch in to the 21st century. Technology has exploded in the last ten years and Northland Pines has excelled in its efforts to prepare students for an exciting and unknown future. A district-wide website at familyeducation.com/WI/Northland_Pines provides up-to-date information for parents, students and community.

A little background on the district.....

The Northland Pines School District has seen many changes over the years. At one time there were two high schools, one in Eagle River and the other for Grades 9-12 in Plum Lake. The Plum Lake High School was closed in 1942 and those students then attended the Eagle River Union Free High School.

In the 1930's, our district was dotted with many one-room neighborhood state graded schools to which all the children walked, as there was no bus transportation. At one time, in just the township of Conover, there were five one-room state graded schools. With the advent of bus transportation in the 30's, many of these small schools began to consolidate and close. The last of the one-room schools closed in the mid-1950's. The 40 years between the early 30's and early 70's saw most of the schools being added onto. It wasn't until 1972-73 that a new school was built at Conover.

Consolidation....

The area schools saw a major change in 1973 when the people of the area voted to abolish the five area K-8 school districts and the Eagle River Union Free School District. A new seven-person school board was established ensuring representation from each of the former districts as well as two at-large members.

The Plum Lake State Graded School was closed in 1976 and those pupils began attending the St. Germain Elementary School. Since the beginning of our K-12 district in 1973, we have had four district administrators; Mr. Win Abney, Mr. Robert Sutter, Mr. Jann Peterson, and Mrs. Linda Kunelius.

One year after the district was reorganized into a K-12 unit, the voters, on the third attempt, approved the construction of a new high school for over \$4

million. The doors were opened to students in the fall of 1976. This same fall also saw all district pupils in Grades 6-8 attending middle school in the building vacated by the high school. Students (K-5) in Conover and Land O'Lakes also experienced a change with students in Grades K-2 from both communities attending school in Land O'Lakes and Grades 3-5 being at the Conover School. Amidst all these changes, it was the desire of the school board to have a new name for the newly formed district. Possible names were solicited from the student body and the selections narrowed to approximately a half dozen. An election was held among the entire student population and "Northland Pines" became the official district name in May of 1976. At the May board meeting, a second grade student from Eagle River named Stephanie Adraktas was recognized for her submission of the chosen name.

K-8 building dedicated Sunday, October 16, 1994.....

The history of the new Northland Pines K-8 building actually dates back to September 1988, when the school board began to seriously study enrollment figures to relieve overcrowding in the Eagle River Elementary School. More than a year later, in November of 1989, a Building and Facilities Committee comprised of community members was formed to work on a five-year building plan for the school district. A month later, the committee recommended that a new building to replace the middle school and Eagle River Elementary School be ready for occupancy in two years. The school board's desire to keep the outlying schools intact was evident in September of 1990, when the board went on record stressing the necessity of retaining schools in outlying areas and specifically noted the economics of the towns were dependent on the schools.

The school board went for a \$10.5 million K-8 school building referendum in August 1992 and voters went to the polls. School officials were stunned by the margin of victory, 69% to 31%, and the building referendum was approved in every town across the school district. This was great news as the previous two referendums for this building had been defeated. Once the new building was designed by Bray & Associates, Sheboygan, literally dozens of workers began the task of raising the school through Westra Construction of Waupun, the lead contractor. The finishing touches were completed in the spring of 1994 and the move from the old schools was made throughout the summer. Work on the grounds was completed by Labor Day. Everything came together September 6, 1994, when students walked into a state of the art K-8 learning center that would adequately prepare our children for the future.

K-5 Buildings in communities of Land O'Lakes & St. Germain dedicated on Sunday, October 26, 1997....

Voters in the Northland Pines School District approved a \$7.9 million building project in October 1995 allowing the school district to construct the two

elementary schools (located at 6485 Town Hall Road, Land O'Lakes and 8234 Hwy 70 West, St. Germain). The referendum passed in five of the nine municipalities in the district. The \$7.9 million figure brought two 48,000 square foot "two-track" elementary schools, providing two classrooms for each grade, as well as space for special education, early childhood and Head Start programming. The figure also included \$258,000 for a new heating and ventilating fans at the high school, as well as \$158,000 for restrooms and a concession stand for the athletic fields behind the high school.

Following the referendum, the school board met with the architect, Bray & Associates, Sheboygan, and established a timetable. A festive ground breaking ceremony was held at both properties on May 30, 1996, and construction crews, led by Westra Construction, Inc. Of Waupun went to work. Both buildings were enclosed by the time snow fell, allowing crews to work inside during the winter months. Most of the interior work was completed before summer and landscaping was finished over the summer. The buildings were occupied by students for the first time August 25, 1997.

Changes from a century of progress....

Education has seen many changes over the years - from a pot-bellied stove to computerized heating; a school year of 140 days to 180 days; a monthly teacher salary of \$45 plus \$5 for janitor work to an average of \$2,500 plus benefits; quill pens to computers; walking to school to bus transportation; and one-room buildings without plumbing to modern multi-track facilities (with indoor plumbing) complete with distance learning and computer labs.

In the early 1970's it was estimated that approximately 50% of all handicapped children didn't attend school and co-curricular options for female students were non-existent. Two laws, Title IX and IDEA, enacted in the early 1970's, had significant impact on our school district. These two laws ensured that no person could be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil service, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap.

As a result, both boys and girls now have co-curricular opportunities and classes have been added to provide appropriate education for all handicapped students.

***“And what could be as important as Knowledge?”
Asked the Mind.....***

“Taking Care of the Heart.” Answered the Soul.

I cannot remember where I heard this, but what a lesson in these few words for all of us. We must teach our children so much more than knowledge. Love is learned by example and sometimes that means giving more of ourselves and our time to our children. Children need to know they are incredibly important and that someone will always be there for them. We ask that parents continue to partner with the educators of their schools to lay the foundation of knowledge at school and love at home. Together we will work towards a safe, progressive, loving, learning environment for all children. We owe this to every child in our district.

In conclusion....

Pride in our history and pride in our future go hand-in-hand in the Northland Pines School District. It is time to look to the future and climb our next mountain. This century has been about preparing our next generation academically, technologically, wholeheartedly, to excel in the millennium. The Northland Pines School District is dedicated to the success of every student by fostering a community commitment to educational excellence, respect, honesty and integrity.

The students of our district are the torchbearers of the future. They are excelling academically and emerging as thoughtful, caring individuals who have been well prepared to embrace their future. We, the educators, parents, and all community members, need to continue our tradition of support for educational excellence.
