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C-FC School District Attn: Newsletter S2770 State Road 35 Fountain City, WI 54629

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Issue 3, 2021-22

# COCHRANE-FOUNTAIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER Home of the Pirates February 2022

As every good Pirate knows, a map shows the road to your destination.

At C-FC our map is the District's 2021-24 Strategic Plan. We are using this plan to help guide and focus the work of moving the District forward to achieve our vision: C-FC empowers all students to discover their passions, develop their talents, and be responsible, impactful citizens.

Last spring, a group of teacher leaders, the District's administrative team, and a School Board representative worked to identify opportunities for growth within the district. The team focused on five areas:

- Student Achievement
- School Culture
- Staff & Personnel
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Communication & Community Engagement

Last summer, the District hosted community visioning meetings which included students, parents, retired teachers, and community members. The meetings focused on identifying the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for growth within the district. Input and ideas from the community workshops as well as a community survey were integrated into the final draft of the Strategic Plan

Within each of the 5 focus areas, the team developed goals, objectives, and actions to achieve the goals. In an effort to help move the strategic plan forward, each teacher in the district is part of an action team. Each team is developing a solution to make their goal and objective a reality for the district.

The whole crew is rowing together to create the best possible experience for the students in the District.

Please look over the Strategic Plan summary as we sail forward, together.



# **Cochrane-Fountain City School District**

The Pirate Code: Respectful, Responsible, Ready to Learn

# Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024

In July 2021, the Board of Education approved the Strategic Plan of the C-FC School District. The plan includes five focus areas.

# **Student Academic Achievement and Success**

- Average ACT exam score will be at or above the state average for 11th graders
- All students will be college, career and community ready
- Every student in grades 1-8 will achieve or exceed 1 or more years of academic growth in Math and English Language Arts annually.
- Improve average Forward exam scores in both Math & English Language Arts to above the state average
- Explore ways to increase elective classes and program offerings

# **School Culture**

- Ensure a safe physical environment
- Create a safe social & emotional environment
- Teach and support positive behavior

### Staff & Personnel

- Create a comprehensive staffing/HR process
- Develop a strategy to increase staff development for all employee groups
- Continue to develop/improve compensation model to remain competitive with local market

# **Fiscal Responsibility**

- Increase communication regarding the financial state of the district
- Maintain a balanced budget
- Review & update compensation scales to be competitive

# **Communication and Community Engagement**

- Increase mutually beneficial relationships in the community
- Increase purposeful engagement of key stakeholder groups
- Develop a clear, positive communication strategy for internal and external stakeholders
- Develop a comprehensive C-FC brand and positive marketing strategy

# <u>Vision</u>

C-FC empowers all students to discover their passions, develop their talents, and be responsible, impactful citizens.

# Mission

In partnership with families and community, C-FC provides a safe and supportive environment for all students. By providing a high-quality education that promotes academic and emotional growth, we empower students to be life-long learners and productive, responsible community. citizens.

#cfcpiratepride

www.cfc.k12.wi.us

# True Story: At a different school district during a Board meeting, the question was asked, "As parents, how can we help the school right now"?"

#### These are the answers:

- We need allies
- We need our community to first assume the best in us
- We need people to speak positively about us
- We need our community to publicly celebrate the good things we are doing

 We need our community to be patient with us and still believe in the work we do, even when it's not perfect
We need parents and community members to help us lift up our staff right now, do whatever you can to make them feel valued, something to make them feel respected, something to make them feel like the work they do matters

- We need community members to let the small frustrating things go and refrain from sending the angry email, leaving the aggressive voicemail, or posting negatively on Facebook.

#### This is the list of tangible actions that they developed:

- Drop off snacks
- Drop off coffee pods, tea, sodas
- Become a PTO member
- Fill up their email inbox with appreciation and messages of support
- Take a minute to thank the front office staff for their work
- Prepare your child for the possibility of a late bus, or change in lunch options
- Tell your student to help pick up trash on the floor and offer to help clean the cafeteria
- Have your student ask their teacher if they can help with anything they need done throughout the day
- Tell your student to take a minute to thank the substitute teacher for coming in today while their teacher is out
- Take a moment and say thank you to the staff on duty working the parent pick up line

#### Counseling Corner from Mr. Williams

#### **Seniors!**

Scholarship applications are becoming available! Please visit https://www.cfc.k12.wi.us/families-students/scholarships.cfm for more information on the C-FC website. That's under the Families and Students tab on the front page.

#### **Junior Parents!**

You are invited to set up a meeting with Mr. Williams to plan ahead for your student's last year of high school and beyond! We will check to make sure the student is on track to graduate and look at important dates and information for those attending two- and four-year colleges. We can also explore career options and the military. Email Mr. Williams at dwilliams@cfc.k12.wi.us or call to 608-687-4391.

#### **8th-grade Parents!**

I'd love to meet with you as well to look at planning ahead for high school! Look for a letter to come out this spring, but feel free to reach out at any time! In December, all students returned to the cafeteria for breakfast and lunch. The kitchen staff has enjoyed seeing so many smiling faces

**Pirate Kitchen Update** 

Breakfast and lunches will continue to be free through the end of the 2021-2022 school

year. Once again, this does not apply to extra milk taken with cold lunch, ala carte items, or second entrees, which are charged to the

everyday!



student's account. A student must have a positive balance to continue to utilize ala carte and second entrees. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Hund at ahund@cfc.k12.wi.us or 608.687.8866. I am so proud of the people and the students of Cochrane-Fountain City School District. These people have dealt with so much adversity this year. Nobody likes COVID and I sure hope that we are near the end. Thank you to the students and staff who followed the COVID protocols that have been implemented and exhusted.

We had a rise in the number of COVID absences in early January. We made the decision to do everything we could to keep students in school. Teachers covered other teacher's classes during their preps, and substitute teachers helped administrators cover several classes in the auditorium. The teachers who were out still worked remotely, putting assignments in google classroom for the students. The students were excellent. Most wanted to be here at school, they wanted to keep co-curricular activities going and finish projects in many of our hands-on classes. We did it! We were able to keep school open, classes operating, school meals, and allow students to be with classmates during this time.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit our school for co-curricular events, please come and see us. We are open and the students would appreciate fans or a large audience at their events. Robotics will be competing soon both at the Junior High and High School levels. The drama department has a performance of 100 Dresses coming up. Music students will be back performing at group and solo competitions. Plus sports; we have students in basketball, wrestling, hockey and gymnastics.

C-FC is a great school. Our students perform well in the classroom and beyond school. We consistently have students who earn high recognitions and many scholarships. We also have students who go right into the world of work and make a positive contribution to our community. I take great pleasure in telling everyone, "It is a great day to be a Pirate!"

- Principal Steve Stoppelmoor

**No School** February: 18th & 21st March: 25th April: 15th, 18th & 19th



Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences are going to be held on 3/29 & 3/31. Conferences will be held after school. Details will be posted on the website.

#### **Spring Sports Start Dates**

Track: March 7 Softball: March 14 Baseball: March 21 Trap: March 27 Boys Golf: March 28

#### JH Spring Sports Start Dates (Grades 6-8)

Trap: March 27 Boys & Girls Golf: April 4 Track: April 4

# Last Day: May 27th Graduation: May 28th

# EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM

Did you know there are five different ways a C-FC student can earn college credit while in high school? Let's take a look!

**Early College Credit Program (ECCP)** - This program allows students in grades 9-12 to take college courses through any 4-year Wisconsin public or private university and in most cases have the cost of tuition covered! Interested students need to turn in a registration form to the Counseling Office by March 1st for courses in the fall of 2022 and Oct. 1st for courses beginning in the spring semester of 2023. Classes can be taken in-person (student is responsible for transportation) or online subject to availability. Please note that individual colleges have their own criteria for admitting high school students and for class availability.

If interested please contact Mr. Williams in the Counseling Office!

**Start College Now** - This program is similar to the ECCP (above) but is specific to Wisconsin technical colleges and is only open to juniors and seniors. The same deadlines apply: March 1st for fall semester of '22 and October 1st for spring semester of '23. Western Technical College offers a number of different online courses available to interested high school students! Please see Mr. Williams in the Counseling Office for more info!

**PSEO** - This program allows students in grades 10-12 to take courses through Minnesota State College - Southeast in Winona. Again, both online and in-person courses are available. Visit the Counseling Office for more information!

**Transcripted Credit** - These are courses taught here at C-FC by our teachers. These courses offer a chance to earn credits through Western Technical College. Examples include Animal Science, Welding, CAD, and Woodworking.

**AP Courses/Exams** - C-FC offers AP courses in U.S. History, Calculus, and Statistics. Online AP course options are also available! By taking the AP exam in the spring, students have the opportunity to earn college credits. You can also take an AP exam without taking the corresponding course, though this significantly lowers the chance for success. Please note there is a fee for taking the AP exam.

#### If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mr. Williams: dwilliams@cfc.k12.wi.us or 608-687-4391.

# Wisconsin Open Enrollment

#### Open Enrollment Applications for 2022-2023 School Year February 7, 2022 - April 29, 2022

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school in a district other than the one in which they reside.

Students in 5-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Open enrollment for 4-year-old kindergarten, early childhood education and special education is limited. Parents should call their resident school district to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

Both the nonresident and resident school districts may deny an application for reasons specified in state law. If an application is denied by either the resident or nonresident school district, the parent may file an appeal with the DPI within 30 days. The DPI is required to affirm the school district's decision unless the DPI determines that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable.

Parents are responsible to provide transportation to and from school in the nonresident school district, except that transportation required in a child's IEP must be provided by the nonresident school district. A nonresident or resident school district is permitted (but not required) to provide transportation to open enrolled pupils; however the nonresident school district is prohibited from picking up or dropping off a pupil within the boundaries of the pupil's resident school district unless the resident school district agrees. Low-income parents may apply to the DPI for reimbursement of a portion of their transportation costs.

Once a student is accepted into a nonresident school district, the pupil may continue to attend that district without reapplication unless that student has become habitually truant in the nonresident district and was returned to the resident district.

The open enrollment application period for the 2022-23 school year is from **February 7 - April 29, 2022.** 

A brochure explaining the program is available on our website under Families/Students.

Any additional questions contact either Steve Stoppelmoor at sstoppelmoor@cfc.k12.wi.us or Jen Demrow at jennifer.demrow@dpi.wi.gov

# **Assessment & ACP News**

## **Upcoming Events**

March 9..... ACT for all Grade 11 students.

- This is a state-required assessment and provides information about your student's readiness for more education after high school and/or entry into a career.
- Must be taken in-person at C-FC school on March 9.
- ALL Juniors should be in-person on this day.

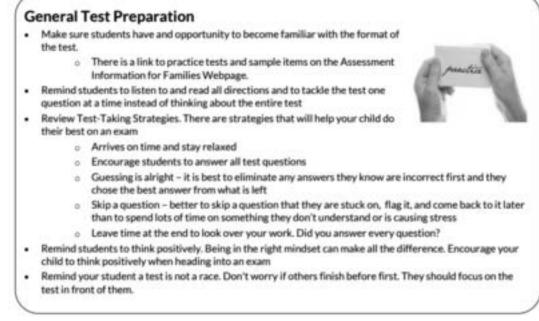
March 21-April 29.. Forward Exam

- State-required assessment for grades 3-8, 10
- Along with local measures such as report cards, school-wide assessments, and other information about your child's progress in school, the results from the Forward Exam provide insight into how well your child is doing on a broad measure of achievement.
- Must be taken in-person at C-FC school

April 6..... ACT Aspire Assessment for Grades 9 and 10

- Assesses student readiness in English, math, reading, science, and writing
- Must be taken in-person at C-FC school.

Assessments are an important indicator of student progress and future readiness for future education and career opportunities. To help your child do their best...



For more information about Assessment in Wisconsin, visit <u>https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/parent-info</u>

Any questions, contact Mrs. McKay, Assistant Principal/Assessment Coordinator 608-687-4391 x106 or Mr. Williams, Guidance Counselor 608-687-4321 x250



# Child Development Day Friday, February 11th 2022 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Parents in the Cochrane-Fountain City School District will have an opportunity to learn more about their child's development and services that are available to young children and their families at Child Development Day on February 11th. This event is hosted by the Cochrane-Fountain City School District in cooperation with area service providers.

All children ages 2.5 to 5 years of age who have not been previously screened and who live in the Cochrane-Fountain City School District are invited and encouraged to attend. This free-of-charge event is scheduled for Friday, February 11 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Cochrane-Fountain City School.

Children attending will have an opportunity to participate in a play-based developmental screening. Letters with registration information were sent to parents of age-eligible children. If you did not receive a letter or would like more information, call the school at 608.687.4391 to schedule an appointment.

If the event is canceled February 11, it will be held on February 25.

### **Registration for the 2022-2023 School Year**

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is an optional school program offered to parents with children who are four-years of age by September 1 of that school year. The 4K community approach enables young children to attend school in a familar facility with consistent rules, routines and expectations and makes the transition to five-year-old kindergarten easier. C-FC's 4K program runs full days Monday through Thursday.

4-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration will be Friday, April 22, 2022

Invites will be sent out in mid-March to those who have sent in a Census form.

Call 608.687.4391 if you have questions or to make an appointment.



# C-FC Pre-School Program for 3-Year-Old Children

The purpose of the C-FC Preschool Program is to provide an educational-based program for children not yet enrolled in school. The goal of this program is to provide opportunities for children to develop basic social skills, direct them in basic social and emotional skills, develop fine and gross motor skills, and introduce them to the alphabet, counting, sorting, eye-hand coordination, and thinking skills.

Children attend school from 8:00-11:00 two days per week, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Parents provide transportation. Participation is \$350.00 per semester.

Registration opens following Child Development Day. Parents who bring their child in to be screened on that day may fill out a registration form to hold a spot in the class. Formal registration materials are mailed in June.

For more information, contact the schools main office at 608.687.4391.



### Treasure Trove Giving Circle awards over \$7,000 in grants to C-FC Schools

Over the past several months, the Board of Directors of the Treasure Trove Giving Circle approved grant awards of over \$7,000 to the Cochrane-Fountain City School District. The grants, which support educational enhancements or enrichments that are not otherwise funded through normal funding sources, included the following:

1. **Small Engines Training Kit:** Funding of \$3,870 containing 10 identical brand-new engines and parts, special tools and resource manuals to cover everything from engine theory and operation to troubleshooting. The kits will enable students to receive high quality, science-based and hands-on instruction which will, in turn, encourage them to explore high paying, high demand careers in the outdoor power equipment industry.

2. **Back to School Picnic Event:** Funding of \$1,020 for signs, decorations and prizes for the Back-to-School Picnic event held on August 25, 2021. The event was well-attended and kicked off the new school year in a warm and welcoming way!

3. New Teacher/Staff Swag: Funding of \$750 for C-FC Pirate-themed hats, bags and cups to provide a hearty welcome to new staff and allow them to show their Pirate Pride.

4. New State Champions Sign: Funding of \$1,080 to replace the weathered State Champion Cross Country sign with an updated state champions sign. The sign was designed to accommodate state championship information for athletics and other school-sponsored activities.

5. Sensory Space Kit: Funding of \$331 to provide sensory items for a K-3 special education classroom to provide for students' sensory needs so they are better able to focus, regulate their emotions and learn. Items purchased included such items as a wobble chair, sensory sand, weighted blanket, and therapy putty.

6. Voter Education and Registration: Funding of \$175 to provide refreshments for a voter education and registration event for C-FC Seniors by the League of Women Voters.

Funding for the grants was provided by the Treasure Trove Fund, a donor-advised fund held at the Winona Community Foundation which was created in 2020 for the exclusive benefit of C-FC Schools. Anyone can become a part of the Treasure Trove Giving Circle by making a donation to the Treasure Trove Fund. Donations are accepted year round and may be made online at the Winona Community Foundation web-page at *www.winonacf.org* or by mail using the donation form available on the Treasure Trove Giving Circle website: *www.treasuretrovegiv-ingcircle.com*.



## **FBLA Update**

With the holidays over, preparation for this year's competition is ensuing for the members of the Cochrane-Fountain City FBLA chapter. We also participated in opportunities to help out in our community by assisting vendors with clean-up at the annual PTO Craft Fair this past December. We promoted our chapter to our incoming middle schoolers, the 6th graders, by going to their classrooms and participating in some fun holiday activities such as cutout cookie decorating, some Christmas music trivia, and we gave them a challenge in trying to open a surprise that was enclosed in wrapping that provided a challenge to open. Compared to the last couple months January has been pretty uneventful with everyone vigorously preparing for their respective competitive events. We will compete at our first in person conference in over a year when our members attend our Regional Leadership Conference at La Crosse Central High School February 5, 2022. This is an exciting event that we all cannot wait for and are counting down the days until competition.



# What C-FC FFA Is Up To

C-FC FFA is now entering our busiest time of the year, spring. Spring is filled with conferences, workshops, contests, and community service opportunities. Starting off the array of activities was the Mission and Impact Conference. It took place in November in Stevens Point. Maya Stanton, Ana Knecht, Madi Hund, Eyan Knecht, Donniejo Dittrich, Ella Arneson, and Cadence Wenger were the C-FC FFA members that attended. It focused on leadership and finding your-

self. Members participated in leadership activities and were given a notebook to write down things they learned throughout the conference.

Lauren Abramson was the only C-FC FFA member that attended the Halftime Conference on January 14th and 15th. The theme of Halftime was Assemble and it focused on helping FFA members with the college admissions process. Attendees were given advice on how to get recommendation letters, apply for scholarships, and how to enter the workforce.

On Saturday, January 29th Buffalo City's annual Ice Fishing Contest took place. C-FC FFA was asked to help set up. Members were asked to move boxes of supplies into the food tent. They helped move barrels, tables, supplies, and garbage cans. Also, they helped set up the winners podium. This is where the winning fish were set to show.

As C-FC FFA approaches February, activities are in full swing. Regional Leadership Development Events, or LDE's, are coming up on February 9th. The participants have been working hard to prepare for regionals. Seniors who have the qualifications to apply for their State FFA Degree have been vigorously filling out their applications. Career Development Event, or CDE, teams have been meeting and practicing for their competitions in late February to early March. Finally, at the end of February is National FFA Week. The officer team is planning an array of activities for FFA members to enjoy. One of those activities is the annual C-FC FFA Lock In. Members will attend workshops, eat good food, and participate in the dodgeball tournament.

Any questions email C-FC FFA Advisor Deanna Wiersgalla at dwiersgalla@cfc.k12.wi.us.

# C-FC Prom

Date: April 30 Theme: Las Vegas Grades: 9 - 12 Time: 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM



#### **Upcoming Concerts**

Band Pops Concert Monday, Feb 21 7:00 PM (7-12 grade) Choir Pops Concert Monday, Feb 28 7:00 PM (7-12 grade) Spring Band Concert Monday, May 2 7:00 PM (5-12)

# **Head Start**

Since 1966, Western Dairyland Head Start program has been preparing young children to succeed in school and beyond. Western Dairyland Head Start and Early Head Start are provides at NO COST to eligible families and their children in Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson, and Trempealeau County.

### The C-FC Head Start Center provides:

Free preschool education for children ages 3 to 5 in a public-school setting Full day Monday-Thursday 4K services provided in collaboration with the C-FC School District Full day Monday-Thursday 3-year-old classroom Potty training is not required. We provide diapers. Free nutritious meals and snacks. Transportation provided by C-FC buses.

# The C-FC Early Head Start Program provides:

Education and support for pregnant women and children from birth to age 3. Weekly home visits for infants and toddlers under the age of 3. Socialization twice per month at the C-FC Head Start Center, located within the C-FC Elementary School in Fountain City.

We are taking applications for the 2022-2023 school year. You may apply online at wdHeadStart.org or call Janell Gibson at 608.687.4171, ext. 114.

### It's all heart at 4-H Afterschool

4-H Afterschool members are working to show off their big hearts! At Cochrane-Fountain City 4-H Afterschool, students make connections to their academic curriculums while participating in experimental, or hands-on, learning activities that promote mastery, independence, belonging, and generosity. One of their most recent educational experiences threaded all of these essential elements of youth development. Students created heart canvases using art and math principles to showcase at the upcoming Buffalo and Pepin County 4-H Festival of Arts. High School and College student employees worked with 4-H members in grades K-5 to help them design one of three heart art projects just in time to celebrate Valentine's Day. Students will wrap up this project by sharing words of kindness with those they care about this month.





4K just had their Teddy Bear Picnic day. Mrs. Prenot and Ms. Puetz concluded their Bear Unit with a Teddy Bear Picnic! The kids took their bears with them everywhere. They had fun "Going on a Bear Hunt", picnic playtime, and doing lots of fun activities.

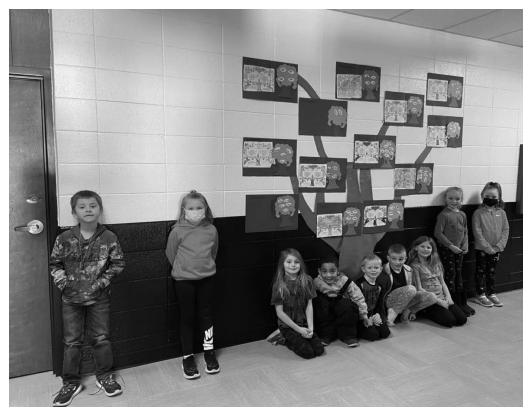


In the third grade class, they are currently learning about electric forces. Ms. Glander's 3rd grade students became snake charmers using static electricity! They used plastic rulers and rubbed them on a variety of surfaces to test different theories. We found that when we rubbed the ruler on some surfaces it created an electrical charge that could lift up our snake. After further experimenting, we discovered that not all surfaces have this special ability.





Several second graders made their families and teachers proud this quarter by reading 1,000 or more minutes. Their goal was to read for 15 minutes every night. Several children far exceeded this goal. Congratulations to the above second graders for making the THOUSAND MINUTE READER'S CLUB. Each child was rewarded with a special certificate and a C-FC 1,000 Minute Reader Pin. Congratulations to the above students!



The First Graders in Mrs. Slaby's room completed their family unit with a project. The children made their own family trees. We put them together to make one giant family tree.

5th graders have been learning about Earth's water and how only a very small percentage is freshwater. After discussing how groundwater gets filtered naturally as it moves through the soil, sand, and rocks, we designed our own water filtration device and tested its effectiveness.

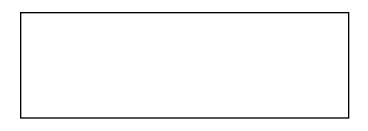


#### **Olympic Year In Sixth Grade**

The sixth graders recently held Opening Ceremonies for their own Olympics. All students will be participating in individual as well as team events to earn points for their team. Point totals will be cumulative over the weeks of February 7-17, earning each team a gold, silver, or bronze medal on February 17. Teams will be part of a hockey and basketball team event, with many individual events for each Olympian to participate in. Final team standings will be published in the spring newsletter! SCHOOL NEWSLETTER February 2022 ISSUE COCHRANE-FOUNTAIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

#### CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

#### NON-PROFIT ECRWSS U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NUMBER 14 FOUNTAIN CITY, WI 54629



The School District of Cochrane-Fountain City does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap as contained in the American Disabilities Act. Federal law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or handicap as contained in the American Disabilities Act.

The district encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. If any person believes that the C-FC School District or any part of the school organization has failed to follow the law and rules of s.118.13, Wisconsin Stats, and PI 9, Wis. Admin. Code, or in some way discriminates against pupils on the bases listed above, he/she may bring or send a complaint to the District Administrator, C-FC Schools, S2770 State Highway 35, Fountain City, WI 54629, 608-687-7771.

#### A message from Bridging Brighter Smiles

February is National Children's Dental Health Month!

It is our honor to serve the students at your school and provide them with the preventative dental care they need. As we celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month, we ask you to check out the link provided so that we can make sure that all who are in need of our services are aware of them and how to register. By starting children now with good dental habits, it sets them up for a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

We appreciate your help in reaching out to families. We could not do our work without you.

https://bridgingbrightersmiles.org/child-dental-health-month/

