The Cochrane-Fountain City Chapter of the **National Honor Society (NHS)** proudly welcomed eight new members during the recent induction ceremony. These outstanding students join six returning seniors in an organization that recognizes high school students for excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character.Congratulations to our newest inductees!

- Kendra Abts
- MacKenna Aspenson
- Gwendolyn Bork
- Kaden Busser
- Ava Goetting
- Morgyn Mueller-Frisch
- Jack Wilson
- Grant Yapp



8th graders are getting creative as they prepare to create their very own graphic novels! Before putting their stories on paper, students explored the unique features of graphic novels, picture books, and traditional novels. They compared how each format uses text, layout, illustrations, and graphic elements to tell a story. Then, students took their learning a step further by experimenting with turning words into graphics!











Intro to Nutrition students are learning that making healthier food choices doesn't have to mean spending hours in the kitchen or using fancy ingredients! After exploring meal planning and ways to turn everyday meals into more nutritious options, students put their knowledge to the test in the lab. Their challenge? Take a familiar, quick-and-easy favorite, ramen, and give it a healthy makeover! With time restrictions and standard kitchen ingredients and equipment in mind, students got creative, finding ways to add nutrition to a meal that works for people with busy schedules.







C-FC girls take on State XC

Duellman, Arneson place in top 20

by Beth Kraft

Two girls runners from Cochrane-Fountain City represented the team at the 2026 WIAA Division 3 State Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Junior Paxtyn Duellman and sophomore Kinley Arneson ran for the Lady Pirates at State, placing in the top 20 out of 145 runners at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

Duellman took second place in the D3 girls' race with a time of 18:54.8 while Arneson finished in 17th place with a time of 19:43.2 in her state meet debut.

Duellman finished just five seconds behind the winner, Southwestern sophomore Mackenzie Kinckey. She was in third place at the two-mile mark, but moved ahead of Boyceville's Jaycie Oberle in the latter stages of the race. Duellman beat Oberle to the finish line by about two seconds.

The runner-up finish by Duellman marked a major improvement from her effort at State in 2025 where she finished ninth with a time of 19:30.6. Duellman cut over 30 seconds off her time compared to last year's state meet to earn her first state cross country medal.



C-FC's Kinley Arneson (left) and Paxtyn Duellman represented the Pirates at the 2026 WIAA Division 3 State Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Oct. 31, with both placing in the top 20.



Wearing her second place medal, junior Paxtyn Duellman is pictured with her mom, coach Ashley Duellman.



Sophomore Kinley Arneson works her way through the state meet course lined with spectators.



Junior Paxtyn Duellman runs with the lead pack in the State D3 girls race.

-Contributed photos

FFA is Making a Difference! FFA members rolled up their sleeves and hit the road for a highway cleanup!



Emmy Lacey signed on as a carpenter apprentice with the Carpenters Local 1601, obtained through the Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters. Throughout her youth apprenticeship with Miron Construction, Emmy has worked on the Cochrane- Fountain City High School project and will continue to do so after she graduates early in December. Emmy will begin building her legacy within the trades as a registered apprentice. Students like Emmy continue to choose the trades for the importance of the work they provide for all of society, for the rewarding profession it offers, and for the opportunity to learn and build a career.



2026 Veterans Day


















Administrator's Report to the Board – November 4, 2026

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. On behalf of CESA 4, we would like to congratulate Dr. Aaron Engel on receiving the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA) Superintendent of the Year award. Dr. Engel has served as the Superintendent of the La Crosse School District since 2020. He has been a strong supporter and partner of CESA 4, offering incredible knowledge and insight to his peers through our monthly PAC meetings, and has also provided great input when it comes to scheduling our monthly presenters for those meetings. Dr. Engel will receive his award at the General Session on Wednesday at the State Convention in Milwaukee. He will also be the featured speaker at the WASDA luncheon on Thursday, January 21st. Congratulations Dr. Engel!

2. The Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance annual conference recently took place in Stevens Point. There were several great sessions as well as keynote speakers that helped make the conference a success. One particular session that I found to be informative was delivered by Anne Chapman from the Wisconsin Association of Business Officials. Her session focused on "Navigating Declining Enrollment: How Districts can adjust to the fiscal impacts and the state's role in setting them up for success." She set the stage by highlighting that 68 out of the 72 counties in Wisconsin saw a decline in public school students. Dane County (Madison area), Richland County, Florence County, and Burnett county were the only counties not experiencing declining enrollment. As a direct result of declining enrollment, four districts (Winter, Siren, Dodgeville, and Gillett), are facing the possibility of dissolving if their operational referendum did not pass. Dodgeville and Winter managed to pass their referendums.

   One of the most telling pieces of information shared was regarding projected enrollment changes by 2029-30. They are projecting another 6% decline in enrollment, a 6% decline in economically disadvantaged students, a 6% increase in students with disabilities, and a 10% increase in English language learners. These statistics indicate that a growing share of district budgets will be allocated to serving the highest need students. The purpose of the data presented was to reinforce the need for Wisconsin to revamp their school funding system. This means having revenue limits adjusted for inflation, a more robust special education reimbursement rate that exceeds 60%. (The current reimbursement rate for special needs voucher students is 90-100%). The presentation went on to highlight the fact that the school finance formula is designed well for rising enrollment, but does not build in protections for declining enrollment. There is some great in-depth analysis from her presentation that I will share with the board in an email.

3. This is the time of year when school districts start planning for the upcoming spring elections. WASB recently released the "Guide for Candidates" handbook. This was mailed to all school districts that are WASB members. The guidebook is designed to be used as a resource tool for school board candidates that are seeking election in the spring. There are important dates that are coming up in regards to the spring election. The first is November 24th, which is the deadline for newspaper publication of a type A Notice of Election. December 28th is an important deadline for incumbents if they do not intend to run for re-election, as that is the due date to file notice of non-candidacy. The deadline for all candidates to have all ballot access

documents turned in is January 5, 2027. The spring election will take place on Tuesday, April 6, 2027.

State News

1. The State Education Conference is scheduled for January 20-22, 2027. Registration for the conference opened on Monday, November 2, 2026. Hotel reservations open on Monday, November 9, 2026, but in order to reserve your room, you must have registered for the conference. The CESA Statewide Network will once again be hosting a Board of Control appreciation breakfast on Wednesday, January 20th at the Hilton Hotel. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. Also, it is important to note that your attendance is not required. There are sessions happening at that time and if you would rather attend the session and not attend the breakfast, that is perfectly fine!