

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

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DPI-NR 2013-115

### Five public schools earn national Blue Ribbon honors

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers congratulated five Wisconsin public schools that were named 2013 Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education for their success at improving student achievement.

The schools, among 286 named nationwide, are

- **Country Meadows Elementary School** in the Muskego-Norway School District;
- **Grafton Elementary School** in the Grafton School District;
- **Kohler High School** in the Kohler School District;
- **Ridgeway Elementary School** in the Dodgeville School District; and
- **Suamico Elementary School** in the Howard-Suamico School District.

“These schools are among the select few nationwide that receive Blue Ribbon honors each year,” Evers said. “This award recognizes the collaboration among teachers, administrators, and other school staff members along with parents and the community to help all students achieve so they are prepared to graduate from high school ready for college and career.”

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program began in 1982 to recognize schools striving to achieve excellence. Nearly 7,500 of America’s schools have received the Blue Ribbon honor during the program’s history. Characteristics of Blue Ribbon Schools include leaders who articulate a vision of excellence and stay involved in day-to-day teaching and learning; high standards for teachers, students, and administrators; diligent use of data to adapt teaching and learning to support every student; and a school culture of mutual respect and trust. Evers nominated the award winning public schools last fall. Each school completed an extensive application and provided evidence of student academic achievement.

Schools earning the award receive a plaque and flag signifying their status as a Blue Ribbon School. A principal and teacher also will be invited to attend a Nov. 18-19 recognition ceremony in Washington, D.C.

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