



*In the pursuit of excellence...*

# Caledonia Community Schools

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## Caledonia Elementary Earns Prestigious Title of 2023 National Blue Ribbon School

**Caledonia, Mich.** – Caledonia Elementary School has received the remarkable distinction as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School, an honor bestowed by the U.S. Department of Education in recognition of its exceptional commitment to academic excellence and student success. Caledonia Elementary's dedication to fostering a culture of connection and belonging, engagement, and high expectations for every student has set it apart as a shining example of educational excellence.

"Our entire Caledonia Elementary family, from our dedicated staff to our students and their families, has shown incredible dedication and perseverance," expressed Principal Brent Huck. "We are elated to be named a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School, and this achievement reaffirms our unwavering belief that all students can achieve their personal best."

Caledonia Elementary's journey towards excellence begins with building strong connections. Each morning, students are warmly greeted, provided opportunities to share about their lives beyond the school walls, and offered frequent and consistent positive encouragement. The result is an environment where students feel a deep sense of belonging and connection within their classroom community.

Teachers at Caledonia Elementary understand the art of teaching, placing student engagement at the forefront of their planning and reflection. Engaged students learn more effectively and collaborate more seamlessly, ensuring that no one is left behind in their educational journey.

Additionally, Caledonia Elementary maintains high expectations for all learners, firmly believing in each student's potential to achieve their personal best. The school's Tier 1 instructional practices, data review process, intervention model, and special education instruction all contribute to this culture of excellence.

Caledonia Community Schools Superintendent, Mr. Dirk Weeldreyer, shared his pride, stating, "Caledonia Elementary exemplifies the spirit of our district – a commitment to nurturing agile learners who make a positive difference in our community. This National Blue Ribbon recognition is a testament to our school's dedication and the outstanding support from our staff, parents, and community."

This accolade positions Caledonia Elementary School among a select group of educational institutions recognized for their commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, under the guidance of U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, identifies schools that excel in promoting school excellence, achieving remarkable turnarounds, and closing student achievement gaps. Caledonia Elementary is the second district school to achieve this recognition in the last three years, joining Dutton Elementary that received National Blue Ribbon School recognition in 2021. This is the second time Caledonia Elementary has received this honor, previously winning the award in 1988.

As a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School, Caledonia Elementary stands as a beacon of educational excellence, a testament to its commitment to connection, belonging, student engagement, and the highest of expectations for every student.

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