



***For release the week of: March 11, 2019 (or as soon as practical)
For questions, please contact: Tammy Woller, 715-536-4581, ext. 10002***

Superintendent's Corner...

2019 Great Speaker Announcement

I am pleased to announce that our students on the Great Speaker Committee have chosen youth speaker Terrence Tally as the 2019 Great Speaker. Terrence shares stories from other students around the country to let students know they are not alone in their struggles. With a heavy focus on bullying and self-worth, students are taken on a journey that reveals the true heroes the student needs is right there in a classroom with them.

His mission for every school assembly is to give every student hope and empower them to give hope to others. He believes what happens to a student today will affect your community tomorrow. As Terrence states, "Today, students face an uphill battle against bullying, peer pressure, family hurts and life altering choices. If we can help bring students together, give another option, heal some hurts and help realize positive life choices; we would have better students and a positive school atmosphere. This is where I can help assist you with this school assembly presentation. My hope is that students will know 'that you matter and because you matter, you can make a difference.' With the battle students face, they have to know there's hope."

Since the program began in 1978, the committee has selected a high-quality speaker for our students at the middle and high school levels (including parochial). They have also raised the necessary funds to cover the expenses for the speaker each year.

Special thanks to the members of the Great Speaker Committee!

Staff - Kasie Holt, Ryan Martinovici, Nathan Grams, Shannon Murray and Tammy Woller

Students - Aimee Black, Evelyn Blennert, Dawson Dengel, Ben Freyer, Logan Seeger, Ahna Meyer and Joshua Watzka

Community Members - Renea Frederick, Sarah Smith, Lynne Reindl and Jay Tlusty

On behalf of the Great Speaker Committee, thank you for your generous support of this program! This annual event would not be possible without the generous support of our community. Here are this year's donors:

Social Topics Club
Prairie River Properties, LLC
Dr. Ronald J. Piffel Optometrist LLC
Gerald & Charmaine Whitburn
PRMS Student Council
Eagles Ladies Auxiliary #585
Hugo's Pizza
OakPark Dental
VFW Auxiliary 1638

Kiwanis Club of Greater Merrill
Riverside Athletic Club, Inc.
Merrill Tool and Waterjet
CoVantage Credit Union - Antigo
Merrill Teachers Association
Gress Chiropractic Clinic
Park City Credit Union
Eagles Aerie 584
Gleason Lions Club

The Great Speaker event will be held April 24, 2019, at the Merrill High School Fieldhouse at 1:00 p.m. The community is invited to this event as well!

John Sample
Proud Superintendent