



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dixon Public Schools #170

August 2026

Reagan Middle School to Celebrate Opening of New Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation STEM Center

DIXON, IL – Reagan Middle School is proud to announce the opening of its new Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation STEM Center, made possible through a generous grant from ComEd and its parent company, Exelon Corporation. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, August 14, 2026, at Reagan Middle School to officially celebrate this exciting addition. Members of the media and community are invited to attend.

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation is dedicated to its mission of “Transform Communities. Change Kids' Lives.” Through this partnership, Reagan Middle School students will gain access to a state-of-the-art STEM learning environment designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, and innovation while preparing students for future careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The new STEM Center includes coding platforms, robotics, drones, electronics, engineering kits, and 3D printing technology. Teachers have already completed professional development on the equipment, allowing students to begin utilizing these exciting learning opportunities immediately as the school year begins.

Chris Bishop, Technology Teacher at Reagan Middle School, shared, "This donation gives our students access to tools and experiences that truly bring STEM learning to life. The equipment will provide meaningful hands-on learning opportunities while inspiring the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and leaders. We are deeply grateful to the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, ComEd, and Exelon Corporation for investing in the future of Reagan Middle School students and creating opportunities that will positively impact them for years to come."

Reagan Middle School Principal Matthew Magnafici added, "One of our greatest responsibilities as educators is preparing students for a future that continues to evolve in remarkable ways. The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation STEM Center provides our students with authentic, hands-on

experiences that build critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and perseverance skills that extend far beyond the classroom. We are incredibly grateful to the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, ComEd, and Exelon Corporation for believing in our students and investing in opportunities that will inspire them to explore, create, and discover new possibilities. This is more than a STEM Center; it is an investment in the future of our students and our community."

The addition of the STEM Center aligns with Dixon Public Schools' ongoing commitment to providing innovative learning experiences that prepare students for success in college, careers, and life. By engaging students in real world problem solving and emerging technologies, Reagan Middle School continues to expand opportunities that foster curiosity, innovation, and lifelong learning.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will officially recognize the partnerships that made this project possible and celebrate the exciting opportunities now available for Reagan Middle School students.

For additional information:

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