

3. RECOGNITION

A. SUBJECT

The administration recommends Board of Education recognition for the following individuals.

B. INFORMATION

3.1 Middle School Wrestling – IESA State Qualifiers

Congratulations to Creekside Middle School athletes Ben Bertelsman (8th grade) and Chase Weger (8th grade) and Northwood Middle School athlete Drake Zimmerman (7th grade), who qualified for the 2026 IESA Boys State Wrestling Tournament. The state tournament was held March 13 - 14, 2026 at Northern Illinois University Convocation Center in Dekalb.

- **Benjamin Bertelsman** qualified for the IESA 2026 State Tournament in the 119lb weight class; and finished the season with a 25-8 record. Highlighting his season were also 9 notable dual meet victories, a 3rd place finish in the Johnsburg Tournament, and a 2nd place finish at the Genoa-Kingston tournament. He also was regional champion, and finished 2nd at sectionals, falling in that match to the eventual state runner-up. He battled deep into the state tournament, and earned himself a 6th place medal throughout it all.
- **Chase Weger** qualified for the IESA 2026 State Tournament in the 155lb weight class; he finished the season with a 14-8 record. Highlighting his season were 9 notable dual meet victories, a 2nd place finish at the Genoa-Kingston tournament, 2nd place at regionals, and 4th place at sectionals. His first state match was against the eventual state champion, and he battled longer than most opponents in that tournament. He finished in the top 16 wrestlers in the state.
- **Drake Zimmerman** placed 3rd at the IESA 2026 State Tournament in the 95lb weight class. He had a great season finishing with an overall record of 28-6. He took 2nd at the Johnsburg Tournament and 1st at the Genoa-Kingston Tournament. He started the state series by becoming Regional Champion and carrying that momentum into sectionals where he took 2nd which qualified him to represent NMS at the state tournament.

3.2 High School Boys Wrestling - IHSA Boys State Qualifier

Congratulations to Woodstock High School athlete Taqi Baker (12th grade) who qualified for the 2026 IHSA Boys Individual State Wrestling Tournament. The state tournament was held February 19 - 21, 2026 at State Farm Center in Champaign.

3.3 High School Girls Wrestling – IHSA Girls State Qualifiers

Congratulations to Woodstock High School athlete Brianna Crown (12th grade) and Woodstock North High School athlete Eva Hermansson (12th grade) who qualified for the 2026 IHSA Girls Individual State Wrestling Tournament. The state tournament was held February 27 - 28, 2026 at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. Eva and Brianna are both captains and original, founding members of the girls wrestling

program. They are the first two female wrestlers to qualify for the IHSA state tournament in D200 history.

- **Brianna Crown** finished the season with a record of 41-12, and was named the 2026 Kishwaukee River Conference female wrestler of the year.
- **Eva Hermansson** finished this season with a record of 40-9, compiling over 100 career wins for District 200 girls wrestling. Eva has the most takedowns, team points, and career wins in D200 history, and was named the 2025 Kishwaukee River Conference female wrestler of the year.

3.4 **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization App Development Competition**

Congratulations to Krishna Patel and Eshaan Virani for achieving global recognition by securing first place in a prestigious app development competition hosted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture organization. The team of four comprising of two senior Woodstock High School students, Krishna and Eshaan, along with two others competed with 8 finalist teams among more than 100 who applied from all over the world. The team developed their winning app solution during the virtual weeklong competition from February 12 - 20, 2026. The team pitched their innovation to an international panel of judges at 4:30 AM CST on Friday, February 19 and were officially selected as the winners later that same day. Their win opens doors to significant opportunities, including pitching their innovation at other global events and exploring potential career pathways within the UN system. Further details on these opportunities are expected to be announced in April.

C. RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends Board of Education recognition for these individuals.

D. SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to introduce the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 wishes to recognize the contributions of these individuals, and WHEREAS, District 200 has benefited as a result of these accomplishments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 hereby bestows special recognition and a certificate of achievement on behalf of the citizens of the District.