

**The School District of Black River Falls would like to CONGRATULATE two outstanding staff members on a phenomenal accomplishment...**

**Christy Roush**, a 5th Grade Virtual Teacher and Instructional Coach at Red Creek Elementary, and **Vicki Kramer**, a District Reading Specialist for the School District of Black River Falls, recently **achieved National Board Certification**. National Board Certification is one of the highest honors to be attained in education and those that reach this have to demonstrate supreme excellence in teaching ability through an incredibly rigorous process. As a district, we are so proud of these individuals for engaging in this process and reaching this achievement.



National Board Certification is given by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), an independent, non-profit organization that advances the quality of teaching and learning by developing professional standards for accomplished teaching. The National Board Certification process is a multi-year process where teachers engage in a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward accomplished teachers. While state licensing systems set basic requirements to teach in each state, teachers with the national certification have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills, and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete.

As part of the process, teachers build a portfolio that includes student work samples, assignments, video recording, and a thorough analysis of their classroom teaching. Additionally, teachers are assessed on their knowledge of the subjects they teach. These ladies completed their assessment in July and it is so comprehensive that it takes months to score, resulting in the final scores just being shared now.

According to the organization, academic research has shown that teachers with the certification provide their students with quality learning. Like board certification in medicine and accounting, National Board Certification is teaching's highest professional credential. "National Board Certification is a sound investment—a proven education reform movement that has taken the culture of teaching to a higher level," said NBPTS president Joseph A. Aguerrebere.

Vicki Kramer is currently in her 28th year of teaching. Christy Roush is currently in her 21st year of teaching. Their dedication to serving students and teaching at the highest level is truly inspiring!

We are thrilled these ladies decided to go after this accomplishment and that we have their distinguished abilities right here in Black River Falls! They join two other educators in our system that have also earned this outstanding credential of National Board Certification: Nichole Sullivan (Instructional Coach at the Middle School) and Megan Finch (Teacher and Instructional Coach at the High School). Our district is proud to have this incredible expertise on our Instructional Coaching Team, directly supporting teachers and impacting increased student achievement and learning across our system.

Hats off, Vicki and Christy, for your hard work and dedication to teaching and learning! Such a well-deserved honor and achievement!

