



Logan High School Junior Taityana Austin, right, works on multiplication and division skills with (from left) Avin Smith, Lauren Rendler and Ashauna Broadnax.

## AVID students mentor 5th-graders to make school 'a better place'

Nhia Thao knows the challenge of tackling vocabulary and math assignments in Tom Sullivan's 5th-grade classroom. Now, as a junior at Logan High School, he's back in Mr. Sullivan's classroom, but this time he's helping deliver the lessons.

Logan High AVID students are mentoring 5th-grade students at Northside Elementary. It is part of the AVID 11 curriculum theme to SOAR: Service, Organize, Advance and Relate, says Logan AVID teacher Ann Koth. AVID is a college-readiness program in its second year at Logan and Central high schools. About \$225,000 in start-up funding over three years is being raised by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.



**Nhia Thao**

For Nhia, who had Mr. Sullivan at Franklin Elementary, it's a lesson in learning to communicate better — to listen, not just to talk. "It's a unique experience. In elementary school, you rarely see high schoolers," says Nhia. "We have a chance to help make it a better place."

Mr. Sullivan says his students get the benefit of seeing older students "who come from the same schools they did, who have aspirations. They can see kids getting ready to go to college."

For 5th-grader Justis Atwell, the experience has been "just awesome." Says Justis: "It's kind of fun. I got someone to help me do my homework!"



La Crosse Design Institute students Anna Stoll, Kacy Eckhardt and Aubrey Strittmater use an iPad microscope provided through an LPEF grant. Details on Page 2.

### In This Issue

- Grants connect students, teachers to new technology
- LPEF Partner: Big Brothers Big Sisters changing lives
- Free clinic opens

### Support AVID

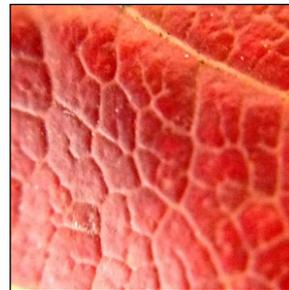
Help Logan and Central students pursue college dreams. Give now to our AVID fundraising campaign. More details: [www.LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/AVID](http://www.LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/AVID)

# LPEF grants connect students and teachers to new technology

Technology is engaging La Crosse school students in new ways, thanks to grants from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

La Crosse Design Institute students are using iPad microscopes to move the lab outside. "It allows them to look at life in different ways — it catches their interest vs. looking at a slide (under a traditional microscope)," says Katy Gallenberg, a teacher in the LDI program at Longfellow Middle School. "Technology may help girls be more interested in science."

"I'm realizing a little bit more the amount of detail in things," says Lily Brekke, a 7th-grade student. Adds Eden Winga: "I'm seeing a different perspective on things in the world." Both said viewing images through the iPad was easier and more interesting than peering through a tiny lens. The \$1,953 grant was underwritten by Festival Foods.



LDI 7th-graders Eden Winga, above left, and Lily Brekke use a microscope attached to an iPad to examine specimens in the field. The iPad provides an easy way to view details — such as in the red leaf at left — without peering into a narrow lens. Microscopes were purchased with an LPEF grant for \$1,953.



At Hamilton Elementary/SOTA I, Physical Education Teacher Tyler Hamby is teaching his students lifelong health lessons with the help of heart monitors worn like a wrist-watch. Students engage in different levels of activity and then track how heart rates changed. Students in 5th-grade can log and track results on their iPads, seeing how long they kept rates in the target zone.

For Hamby, the monitors help him see students differently. A heavysset student who to the naked eye did not seem to be trying hard actually had one of the highest heart rates. "She was working harder" than a boy in the class who is a natural athlete, but whose heart rate never reached the health-enhancing zone of 110 beats per minute, Hamby says.



Far left, Hamilton 5th-graders Harper Rees and Nick Stach practice soccer skills while wearing heart rate monitors provided through a \$1,959 LPEF grant. The grant was written by Tyler Hamby, Hamilton's physical education teacher, shown here helping Harper set her monitor.

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**Big Sister Shelly shares some fun with Little Sister Tallula through a school-based program once each week.**

## Change lives in an hour a week

For one hour a week during the school year, Tallula and her Big Sister Shelly work on a school project, play outside, read or participate in an activity they both enjoy.

Volunteer mentors like Shelly serve as a positive role model at School District of La Crosse elementary schools through a site-based program offered through Big Brothers Big Sisters of the 7 Rivers Region (BBBS). The program provides children with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationship that change their lives for the better, forever. Children matched in BBBS's youth mentoring programs are more likely to do well in school and less likely to engage in risky behaviors (smoking, drugs, truancy, fighting).

Shelly has been matched with Tallula for three years. Over the years Tallula has had a somewhat unpredictable home life, but one thing that has stayed constant is her Big Sister, Shelly, a Trane employee. Shelly comes to Tallula's school during lunch and recess to talk and spend time together. This hour each week is something Shelly feels is important enough to make a priority. Tallula looks forward to it each week as she once told Shelly, "I'm not sure why my mom signed me up for Big Brothers Big Sisters, but I'm glad she did." Over their time together, Shelly has seen Tallula mature and develop friends that she cares about.

To learn more about BBBS, please visit their website at [www.7riversbbbs.org](http://www.7riversbbbs.org)

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**La Crosse Public Education Foundation**  
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## Free clinic opens at Northside



Local businesses are stepping up to support a free clinic to provide basic medical services for students at Northside Elementary School.

Your Northside Neighborhood Clinic is open for limited hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30 to

5:30 p.m. The clinic entrance can be found on the southeast side of the playground. Clinic services include: wellness checks, upper respiratory, triage, and referrals. These free services are being provided by the Neighborhood Family Clinics and Dr. Ted Thompson. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please email: [yournnc@gmail.org](mailto:yournnc@gmail.org).

While YNNC is awaiting its tax-exempt status, the La Crosse Public Education Foundation is its fiscal agent, allowing gifts to be fully tax-deductible. Money is needed to cover basic medical and office supplies, insurance, bus tokens and other expenses. Send donations to LPEF at PO Box 1811, La Crosse, WI 54602.

### Strategic plan adopted by LPEF Board

With input from parents, teachers, administrators and the community, LPEF's Board has adopted a new strategic plan to increase our impact on schools. For details, go to: [LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/who-we-are/strategic-plan/](http://LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/who-we-are/strategic-plan/)

## Contact Us

For information about our programs, volunteer opportunities or donations:

### La Crosse Public Education Foundation

P.O. Box 1811  
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