

HISTORY OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WONEWOC AND UNION CENTER

The School District of Wonewoc and Union Center is a public school located in Wonewoc, Wisconsin, at the midpoint of the 400 State Trail in southwestern Juneau County. This 22 mile trail is between Reedsburg and Elroy where it joins the Elroy-Sparta Trail. The only interpretive nature trail on the 400 Trail is located in Wonewoc. In addition, a 100-acre nature site is located in the Three Castle area immediately outside of Wonewoc. The Wonewoc-Center School District owns these nature sites and our conservation students are instrumental in their upkeep.

The name of our village is of Indian origin and while some say it means “One-Day-Walk” from Baraboo, a missionary who worked for many years among the Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and Minnesota claimed the name was of Chippewa origin. The word Wonewoc as it is used today is a form of the Chippewa word “Wa-No-Waug” meaning “They Howl” and referring no doubt to wolves.

Our first school was opened in 1853 in George Willard’s Granary near Rock House in the area the village calls “Little Canada.” Since that time there has been many changes. The communities of Wonewoc and Union Center united to form what now is called the School District of Wonewoc and Union Center and built a high school in 1960. In 1968 a junior high wing was added on to the present high school. Subsequently, the decision was made to attach a new grade school to the existing junior high and high school. This was completed in 1982. After a \$600,000 donation came to the District from a former graduate, a \$1.2 million state-of-the-art gymnasium was built and dedicated on April 30, 1995.

The school district is overseen by a seven member Board of Education elected by the taxpayers of the school district to serve a three-year term. The day-to-day operations are run by a district administrator, principal, teachers and support staff personnel. We presently educate students ranging from a 4-year old preschool program to twelfth grade.

