

Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Gilder Lehrman Institute Selects Alisha Neinfeldt as 2025 Wisconsin History Teacher of the Year

Alisha Neinfeldt, a teacher at Chippewa Falls Middle School in Chippewa Falls, has been named the 2025 Wisconsin History Teacher of the Year by the [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#). Since 2004, this distinguished award has recognized exceptional K–12 educators for their remarkable work in teaching American history.

"History teachers play an essential role in helping students understand the past, build critical thinking skills, and develop a deeper appreciation for the people and events that shaped our nation," says James G. Basker, president and CEO of the Gilder Lehrman Institute. "We are proud to recognize educators who go above and beyond to make history engaging, meaningful, and relevant in their classrooms."

The annual recognition program, presented by the Gilder Lehrman Institute—the nation's leading nonprofit for K–12 American history education—celebrates one outstanding teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools, and U.S. Territories. It recognizes educators for their dedication, creativity, and effective use of primary sources. Nominees are recommended by students, colleagues, or school leaders and selected by state committees of historians and educators.

This is Neinfeldt's 15th year in education and fourth year at CFMS where she teaches 8th grade Social Studies on the Eagle Team. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and serves as the treasurer for the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies. Originally from Wisconsin Rapids, Alisha now calls Chippewa Falls home. Traveling is one of her passions, and she is the organizer and leader of the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip at CFMS! Outside of school, she enjoys golf and spending time with family and friends.

According to Jeff Holmes, Superintendent, "The Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District is incredibly proud to celebrate Alisha Neinfeldt's selection as the 2025 Wisconsin History Teacher of the Year by the prestigious Gilder Lehrman Institute. This honor reflects Ali's exceptional dedication to bringing American history to life for our 8th grade students through her creative use of primary sources and hands-on learning experiences, including her leadership of our Washington, D.C. trip. As a former social studies teacher myself, I deeply appreciate the efforts

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of a good teacher teaching good lessons, and Ali exemplifies excellence in both. Her National Board Certification and active role as treasurer for the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies demonstrate her commitment to continuous improvement and professional leadership. We are fortunate to have such a passionate educator on our Eagle Team, inspiring the next generation to understand and appreciate the people and events that shaped our nation. The entire CFAUSD community congratulates Ali on this well-deserved recognition and wishes her the best as she competes for the national title."

As the 2025 Wisconsin History Teacher of the Year, Neinfeldt will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, a curated collection of American history books and educational materials from the Gilder Lehrman Institute, and recognition at a local ceremony. She will also join 52 other honorees as a finalist for the 2025 National History Teacher of the Year Award.

The national winner will be announced this fall at a special ceremony at the Harvard Club of New York City and will receive a \$10,000 grand prize. To view the full list of 2025 state honorees, please visit [Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year](#).

About The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

Founded in 1994 by Richard Gilder and Lewis E. Lehrman, visionaries and lifelong supporters of American history education, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to K–12 history education while also serving the general public. The Institute's mission is to promote the knowledge and understanding of American history through educational programs and resources. Learn more at gilderlehrman.org.

