

2019-2020



**All coaching and
Team records can be
found on the Gopher
Conference website
under the
Team/Coaching
Records tab.**



2019 GOPHER CONFERENCE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY



FOR RELEASE.....

The Gopher Conference is proud to announce the 2019 Boys Cross Country award winners.

Team:

Boys

Medford goes Back to Back. After winning their 1st Conference championship in Cross Country, Medford repeats as Conference Champion. Medford had 5 runners in the top 17, showing their depth. Maple River and WEM/JWP battled for the runner up spot, with the Eagles edging ahead by 1 point.

Team results: Medford – 45, Maple River – 57, WEM/JWP – 58, Blooming Prairie – 93, NRHEG – 102, Hayfield - 158

All-Conference

Conference Champion

Cole Stencil	Maple River	17:50.7
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1st Team

Daniel Nydegger	NRHEG	18:15.6
Tyler Stursa	Medford	18:21.3
Landon Dimler	WEM/JWP	18:34.3
Cohen Stursa	Medford	18:36.0
Kole Wenner	Maple River	18:41.5

2nd Team

Isaac Ille	Blooming Prairie	18:44.2
Pablo Sacristan	WEM/JWP	18:52.8
Garrett Fitzgerald	Medford	19:16.8
Tylar Malakowsky	NRHEG	19:20.4
Casey Chambers	Medford	19:28.3
Hosea Baker	Blooming Prairie	19:31.5

Honorable Mention

Brennan Hoehn	WEM/JWP	19:32.5
Dylan Passmore	Maple River	19:3.6
Joshua Bengtson	WEM/JWP	19:34.1
Dakota Moske	Maple River	19:36.1
Austin Erickson	Medford	19:37.5
Tucker Rients	WEM/JWP	19:47.0
Caden Riewer	NRHEG	19:50.4



2019 GOPHER CONFERENCE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY



Sportsmanship Recipients

Joe Pirkel	Blooming Prairie
Nathan Grav	Hayfield
Owen Nelson	Maple River
Casey Chambers	Medford
Daniel Nydegger	NRHEG
Brennan Hoehn	WEM/JWP
Ethan Brandt	USC/AC

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AWARD WINNERS!!!!



2019 GOPHER CONFERENCE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY



FOR RELEASE on

The Gopher Conference is proud to announce the 2019 Girls Cross Country award winners.

Team:

Girls WEM/JWP Grizzlies won the Girls Cross Country Conference Championship. The Grizzlies go Back to Back with Gopher Conference Championships. The Grizzlies dominated the meet posting a perfect score of 15. The future looks bright for the Grizzlies as they placed 9 in the top 20 runners. Addison Reed repeated as the individual Champion.

Team results: WEM/JWP – 15, NRHEG – 71, USC/AC – 85, Blooming Prairie – 97, Maple River – 106
Hayfield – INC, Medford - INC

All-Conference

Conference Champion

Addison Peed	WEM/JWP	20:37.9
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1st Team

Lauren Dimler	WEM/JWP	20:45.7
Madison Zimbrich	WEM/JWP	21:21.6
Ashlin Keyes	WEM/JWP	21:34.7
Emma Johnson	WEM/JWP	21:54.5
Briyanna Burkhardt	Maple River	21:58.0

2nd Team

Micaela Vaale	NRHEG	22:15.6
Lexie Dahlberg	WEM/JWP	22:41.5
Torri Vaale	NRHEG	23:11.3
Madison Kunst	WEM/JWP	23:15.9
Annabelle Petsinger	NRHEG	23:35.3
Abby Smith	Blooming Prairie	24:40.9

Honorable Mention

Natalie Wenner	Maple River	24:14.9
Lauren Thunstedt	USC/AC	24:21.3
Jenny Mulholland	USC/AC	24:34.2
Alivia Kappes	Medford	24:42.6
Grace Walker	Hayfield	25:03.7
Emily Anderson	Blooming Prairie	25:11.2
Lindsay Thunstedt	USC/AC	25:25.9

Sportsmanship Recipients

Reese Millam	Blooming Prairie
Grace Becker	Hayfield
Isabel Wisch	Maple River
Abby Fitzgerald	Medford
Mia Williams	NRHEG
Emma Johnson	WEM/JWP
Abbey Redman	USC/AC

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2019

Section 1A Standings (Coaches Vote)

QRF Rank	Seed	Team (QRF)	Section	Overall	For	Agst	Streak
No. 2	1	Blooming Prairie (72.3)	7-0	13-0	48.2	9.2	Won 13
No. 22	2	Rushford-Peterson (41.3)	5-2	7-3	30.7	19.9	Lost 1
No. 11	3	Goodhue (50.6)	5-3	8-3	19.5	15.0	Lost 1
No. 20	4	Randolph (44.3)	3-3	7-3	27.4	22.4	Lost 1
No. 40	5	Fillmore Central (25.0)	2-3	3-6	18.0	23.0	Lost 1
No. 43	6	Hayfield (22.3)	1-5	3-6	21.4	27.2	Lost 4
No. 49	7	Wabasha-Kellogg (17.0)	0-7	1-8	8.9	31.3	Lost 2

Section 2A Standings (QRF Seeded - FINAL)

QRF Rank	Seed	Team (QRF)	Section	Overall	For	Agst	Streak
No. 8	1	United South Central (53.8)	5-1	10-1	34.7	14.1	Lost 1
No. 10	2	Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop (52.6)	3-0	9-3	44.5	19.0	Lost 1
No. 27	3	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (39.1)	3-2	6-4	27.7	19.6	Lost 1
No. 35	4	Bethlehem Academy (29.0)	1-1	3-7	20.5	28.2	Lost 1
No. 48	5	New Ulm Cathedral (18.0)	1-1	2-7	15.6	23.0	Lost 2
No. 46	6	Minnesota Valley Lutheran (19.0)	0-2	2-7	14.6	26.2	Lost 1
No. 52	7	Cleveland (15.5)	1-3	1-8	6.7	36.6	Lost 3
No. 58	8	Alden-Conger/G-E (11.7)	0-4	0-9	7.9	37.9	Lost 9

Section 2AA Standings (QRF Seeded - FINAL)

QRF Rank	Seed	Team (QRF)	Section	Overall	For	Agst	Streak
No. 9	1	Blue Earth Area (65.7)	5-0	9-3	37.9	16.1	Lost 1
No. 12	2	Maple River (59.4)	3-2	7-3	27.9	19.2	Lost 1
No. 40	3	St. Clair/Loyola (28.9)	1-2	4-5	19.2	15.1	Lost 1
No. 38	4	Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (30.3)	1-2	5-5	17.5	18.3	Lost 1
No. 35	5	New Richland-H-E-G (30.9)	1-3	3-6	15.9	28.1	Lost 2
No. 29	6	Medford (40.0)	3-1	5-6	22.5	23.3	Lost 1
No. 48	7	LeSueur-Henderson (19.6)	1-3	1-8	12.9	39.3	Lost 8
No. 45	8	Norwood-Young America (23.2)	0-2	1-8	9.1	31.2	Lost 1



2019 GOPHER CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL



FOR RELEASE on

The Gopher Conference is proud to announce the 2019 Volleyball award winners.

Team:

Standings:

WEM:	7-0
Medford:	6-1
Hayfield:	5-2
FBA:	4-3
BLP :	3-4
NRHEG:	2-5
Maple River:	1-6
USC:	0-7

Conference Champion:

The WEM Buccaneer Volleyball Team captured their third ever and second consecutive Gopher Conference Championship! WEM's other volleyball conference championships came in 2018 and 1998. This season WEM amassed an overall season record of 34-3 and a perfect 7-0 Gopher Conference record. WEM did not drop a set in Gopher Conference play. The Bucs qualified for the MN Class A State Tournament by beating Mayer Lutheran in the Section 2A championship in a five set thriller. Mayer Lutheran and WEM were rated #1 and #2 in state at the time. In the state tournament WEM beat Henning in the state quarterfinals. This advanced them to a semi-final Gopher Conference battle between conference foes WEM and Medford. WEM won a hard-fought match 3-0 to advance to the championship. In the championship match WEM was defeated by Minneota 0-3 to finish the season as the Class A State Runner-ups. WEM finished their season 34-3.

Head Coach: Crystal Lamont

Assistants: Ken Trnka, Danielle Wold and Kelsey Bauer.

WEM has 3 seniors on their team; Delaney Donahue (MH/MB), Trista Hering (MH), and Megan Schmitz (student manager).

2019 Player of the Year:

Name	Grade	School
Delaney Donahue	12	WEM

Delaney Donahue is a senior, middle hitter for WEM. Delaney was named to the 2019 MNVBCA Class A All-State first team and the Wells Fargo Class A State All-Tournament Team. She was named to the Gopher All-Conference volleyball team in 2016, 2017, and 2019. Delaney has accumulated over 1,000 digs, 880 kills, and 150 ace serves in her career. This season Delaney accumulated 308 kills with a .316 hitting percentage, 330 digs, 56 ace serves, and passed at a 2.19 serve receive rating.

1st Team All-Conference

Name	Grade	School
Maryx Young	11	Hayfield
Jenna Jacobsen	11	Hayfield
Toryn Richards	11	WEM
Kylie Pittman	11	WEM
Kiley Nihart	12	Medford
Emma Kniefel	12	Medford



2019 GOPHER CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL



2nd Team All-Conference

Name	Grade	School
Sophie Stork	10	NRHEG
Lexi Boyd	12	BA
Julia Worke	12	BP
Morgan Langeslag	12	Medford
Kinsey Cronin	11	Medford
Cela Carney	12	Hayfield
Ellie Ready	11	WEM

Honorable Mention

Name	Grade	School
Josie Schumann	11	USC
Halie MacGregor	11	MR
Micalyn Trihus	11	BP
Haley Lang	12	BA
Trista Hering	12	WEM
Izzy Reuvers	12	Medford
Rachel Pack	12	Hayfield
Grace Tufte	11	NRHEG

Sportsmanship Recipients

Name	Grade	School
Madi Lubbert	12	Hayfield
Ally Bruegger	12	MR
Grace Ashley	12	BA
Megan Oswald	11	BP
Clara Kniefel	10	Medford
Autumn Taylor	11	WEM
Lexi Roberts	12	USC
Cambria Nissen	11	NRHEG

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2020 GOPHER CONFERENCE GIRLS BASKETBALL

FOR RELEASE on

The Gopher Conference is proud to announce the 2019 Girls Basketball award winners.

Team:

Standings:

Medford	12-2
WEM	12-2
BP	10-4
Maple River	8-6
NRHEG	7-7
Hayfield	5-9
BA	1-13
USC	1-13

Conference Co - Champion: Medford Tigers

The Medford Girls Basketball team won the Gopher Conference this year with a 12-2 record. This was the fourth conference championship for the Tigers and the second in a row.. The Tigers were led by conference player of the year Emma Kniefel along with fellow seniors Kiley Nihart, Izzy Reuvers and Alorah Weise.. The Medford Tigers were coached by Head Coach Mark Kubat and Assistants Pat Heger & Jay Reuvers.

Conference Co - Champion: WEM BUCS

The Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Girls Basketball team tied for the Gopher Conference title this year with a 12-2 record. This was our third overall conference championship, joining the 2015-2016 and 2005-2006 seasons. The Bucs were led by captains Trista Hering and Toryn Richards and all-conference players Richards (1st Team), Brielle Bartelt (2nd), Ellie Ready (2nd) and Kylie Pittmann (HM). This year the Bucs were coached by Head Coach Tyler Kaus, and assistants Dan Lemcke, Lois Masberg, and Jared LaFrance.

2019 Player of the Year:

Name	Grade	School
Emma Kniefel	12	Medford

Summary:

Senior

Earned 5th Varsity letter this season

In conference play:

193 points-16 average

5.8 rebounds, 4.75 assists, and 3 steals per game

1stst Team All-Conference

Name	Grade	School
Ally Bruegger	12	Maple River
Toryn Richards	11	WEM
Sophie Stork	10	NRHEG
Megan Oswald	11	Blooming Prairie
Kiley Nihart	12	Medford



2020 GOPHER CONFERENCE GIRLS BASKETBALL

2nd Team All-Conference

Name	Grade	School
Izzy Reuvers	12	Medford
Sidney Schultz	9	NRHEG
Ellie Ready	11	WEM
Brielle Bartelt	12	WEM
Bobbie Bruns	10	Blooming Prairie
Rachel Pack	12	Hayfield

Honorable Mention

Name	Grade	School
Mercedes Huerta	10	Bethlehem Academy
Julia Worke	12	Blooming Prairie
Cela Carney	12	Hayfield
Isabella Nelsonr	11	Maple River
Katie Dylla	11	Medford
Kylie Pittmann	12	WEM

Sportsmanship Recipients

Name	Grade	School
Grace Ashley	12	Bethlehem Academy
Maren Forystek	11	Blooming Prairie
Lila Gronseth	12	Hayfield
Abby Bruegger	12	Maple River
Aloriah Wiese	12	Medford
Jayna Domeier	12	NRHEG
Taige Suhr	12	USC
Trista Herig	12	WEM

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2020 GOPHER CONFERENCE BOYS BASKETBALL

FOR RELEASE on

The Gopher Conference is proud to announce the 2020 Boys Basketball award winners.

Team:

Standings:

WEM	14-0
BP	12-2
Hayfield	10-4
Maple River	8-6
USC	5-9
Medford	5-9
NRHEG	2-12
BA	0-14

Conference Champion: WEM

The Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Boys Basketball team just completed a 26 and 3 season.

They reached the sub-section 2A finals eventually losing to Springfield. This team won the 14th boys basketball conference championship in 30 WEM seasons, with a 14-0 record. This year team was led by seven seniors who all played major roles in achieving and creating a successful season. Seniors Zack Sticken, Dylan Androli, Nick Lemieux, Gabe Lemcke, Grant McBroom, and Cole Kokoschke were the heart of the team and will be greatly missed. They led a conference championship season was ranked in the top 10 of A basketball all year. Their 26 - 3 record will go down as one of the very best in school history.

2020 Player of the Year: Grant McBroom

Name	Grade	School
Grant McBroom	12	WEM

25 ppg, 10 rbg, 2 steals per game, and 2 assists per game

Summary: Grant led WEM in scoring and rebounding for the third year in a row. He is a very versatile scorer who shot over 45 percent from the arc. He could also get to the rim and finish with either hand. Grant set a single season scoring record for WEM with 730 total points. He also set our single season defensive rebounding record with 224 defensive rebounds. In conference, Grant averaged 27 points and 9 rebounds per contest. He was a first team all-conference pick as a junior. Grant had his best games in our biggest games despite defenses concentrating on him.

1st Team All-Conference

Name	Grade	School
Kaden Thomas	11	Blooming Prairie
Domanik Paulson	10	WEM
AJ Kloos	12	USC
Gabe Hagen	12	Blooming Prairie
Ethan Slaathaug	11	Hayfield



2020 GOPHER CONFERENCE BOYS BASKETBALL

2nd Team All-Conference

Name	Grade	School
Luke Dudycha	11	Hayfield
AJ Vandereide	11	Medford
Lonnie Wilson	12	NRHEG
Patrick Towey	12	Hayfield
Cole Kokoschke	12	WEM
Riley Staloch	11	USC

Honorable Mention

Name	Grade	School
Kade Robbl	11	Bethlehem Academy
Karson Vigeland	12	Blooming Prairie
Ethan Fritcher	10	Hayfield
Mason Schirmer	9	Maple River
Lucas Doering	10	Maple River
Kael Hermanstorfer	11	Medford
Porter Peterson	10	NRHEG
Zack Sticken	12	WEM

Sportsmanship Recipients

Name	Grade	School
Kade Robbl	12	Bethlehem Academy
Zach Archer	12	Blooming Prairie
James Watson	12	Hayfield
Ben Trio	12	Maple River
Zach Finholdt	12	Medford
Tory Christenson	11	NRHEG
Adam Stenzel	12	USC
Matthew VanHoudt	12	WEM

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AWARD WINNERS!!!!



2020 GOPHER CONFERENCE WRESTLING

FOR RELEASE on

The Gopher Conference is proud to announce the 2020 Boys Wrestling award winners.

Team Standings:

Maple River	5-0
Medford	3-2
NRHEG	3-2
Westfield	3-2
WEM/JWP	1-4
USC	1-4

Conference Champion: Maple River

Maple River won its 5th consecutive Conference Championship in a row and its 6th in the last 7 years since joining the conference. The Eagles were a perfect 5-0

2019 Player of the Year: Colton Krell

Name	Grade	School	WT
Colton Krell	12	Westfield	220

Summary: Colton Krell finished the season 33-3, with 15 falls, 7 technical falls, and 2 majors. After 3 early season losses, 1 up at 220 and 2 losses to AAA ranked kids in the Christmas tournament, Colton went on to finish with 28 straight wins, not giving up a single offensive point to his opponents, including the state tournament. Colton finished his career as a four time state entrant, placing 4th in 2017, 2nd in 2018, 3rd in 2019, and a state champion in 2020. Over his 6 year career Colton finished with a record of 181 wins and 34 losses

All-Conference

Name	Grade	School	WT
Dylan Nirk	12	Westfield	285
Micah Hamson	11	USC	145
Jacob Billings	12	USC	182
Nikolas Petsinger	10	NRHEG	120
Charley Elwood	9	Medford	132
Tate Hermes	9	Medford	145
Boden Simon	10	Maple River	120
Trevor Pearson	12	Maple River	126
Ethan Evenson	10	Maple River	132
Caden Ochsendorf	12	Maple River	152
Wyatt Simon	12	Maple River	170
Nathan Trio	12	Maple River	182
Ethan Rider	11	WEM/JWP	



2020 GOPHER CONFERENCE WRESTLING



Honorable Mention

Name	Grade	School	WT
Cooper Ochsendorf	9	Maple River	138
Tucker Rients	12	WEM/JWP	138
Bryce Sonnek	11	USC	113
Ethan Elvebak	10	USC	126
Lane Lembke	11	Westfield	120
Josiah Hedenstein	11	Medford	160

Sportsmanship Recipients

Name	Grade	School
Nathan Trio	12	Maple River
Zach Wetmore	12	Medford
Agro Gushwa	12	NRHEG
Micah Hamson	11	USC
Ted Carlson	11	WEM/JWP
Matthew Pryor	??	Westfield

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2020 Gopher Conference Honor Music 2nd annual



Friday, February 7th and Saturday, February 8th Bethlehem Academy hosted the 2nd Annual Gopher Conference Honors Band, Choir and Fine Arts Exhibition. Students from BA, WEM, Blooming Prairie, Medford, Hayfield, Maple River, NRHEG, and United South Central rehearsed all day Friday at BA, with morning rehearsals Saturday followed by a final performance at 1:30pm. Vicki Peters, co-founder of the Vox Nova Chorale, was this year's guest director for the Honors Choir, with Peter Guenther of Owatonna High School leading the Honors Band. Congrats to all participants. What an amazing day of art, song, and music! Bravo to all involved!

Honors Choir Participants:

Bethlehem Academy:

Amelia Pemrick
Malia Hunt
Rosemary Azelton
Greta Hillesheim
Heidi Hutton
Aizlynn Gourhan
Justin Delesha

Blooming Prairie:

Melanie Winzenburg
Madison Lea
Cortney Espe
Adrianna Bermea
Samuel Skillestad

Hayfield:

Payton O'Malley
Madison Lubbert
Aubrie Strain
Carly Hauschild
Vanessa Louks
Caitlyn Lundquist
Nathan Grav
Jake Risius
Lucas Brown
Brady Nelson

Samuel Tempel

Maple River:

Electra Knutson
Hannah Hodgman
Debbie Boeck
Charles (Ivy) Benson
Abbi Kutz
Kayla Berg
Savannah Ruiz
Sam Langworthy
Tanner Wooldridge
Zachary Strehlo
Ryan Musser
Riley Schock
Josh Berndt

Medford:

Lily Roehrick
Rileigh Turner
Ruby Nellis
Madison Klein
Lanaya Wacek
Roberta Domstrand
Carson Sobrack
Reilly List

NRHEG:

Alexandra Combs
Dylan Loken

USC:

Taylor Jacobson
Elizabeth Romano
Lily Kimble
Amber Hassing
Ashley Hassing
Liz Stern

WEM:

Megan Schmitz
Grace Petersen
Akalie Molitor
Aviana Swanson
Ella Michael
Grace Peach
Kelsey Kuball
Mc Kenzee Eastwood
Austin Henson
Timmy Jaspersen
Max Gibson
Troy McBroom

Honors Band Participants:

Bethlehem Academy:

Madelyn Bauer
Nathan Smisek
Katherine Jasinski
Sophy Smith
Grace Ashley
Ben Cohen
Maria Fuentes
Verity Wray-Raabolle
Mikayla Bohner
Avery Han

Hayfield:

Diego Galdamez
Brady Kylo
Corryn Bjornson
Alex Tapp
Cameron Thoe
Kayla Rehnelt
Luke Dudycha
Kylie Zubke

Maple River:

Caleb Grunzke
Aiyana Passmore

Karlie Beck
Annabelle Birr
Ethan Volsen
Leah Proehl
Tobias Conover
Dylan Passmore
Michael Proehl
Thayne Decker
Anthony Kunkel

Medford:

Jesse Phillips
Brendan Rahn
Alex Oatway
Mason Nagel
Braden Barbeau

NRHEG:

Oliva Kofstad
Maggie Maloney
Cora Harpel
Micaela Vaale
Grace Wilkenson
Anton Domeier
Jayna Domeier

Aubrey Fischer
Eva Wayne

USC:

Lillian Holl
Eleanor Kayser
Ariana Larson
Nathaniel Clore
Grace Niebuhr
Andrew Heggen
Jacob Billings
Collin Van Cleave
Lydia Niebuhr
Trinity Seedorf

WEM:

Emma McGraw
Jordyn Frechette
Avery Pratt
Madison Tawney
Jason Bauer
Jacob Karsten
Cricket Rosett





2020 Gopher Conference One-Act Play Festival:

Blooming Prairie - "Exposed" by Dennis Bush. Directed by Ross Reishus.

***All-Conference - Cortney Espe & Asha Lighthizer
Honorable Mention - Madison Thurnau
Craftsmanship - Viridiana Villarreal***

Maple River - "Lockdown" by Douglas Craven, produced with special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
Directed by Stephen Conover.

***All-Conference - Debbie Boeck & Payton Conover
Honorable mention - Tyler Garlow
Craftsmanship - Josh Berndt***

Medford - "Badger"
Directed by Randy Domstrand

***All-Conference - Irene Charro Vico & Emily Cloutier
Honorable Mention - Billy Chester
Craftsmanship - Brandan Rahn for Technical Expertise***

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva - "Walkin' Home" by Steven Orth.
Co-directed by Amanda Inouye and Deb Bently.

***All-Conference - Mia Williams & Lexi Combs
Honorable Mention - Madie Denherder
Craftsmanship - Sydney Koziolek.***

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown " Bad Auditions By Bad Actors" by Ian McWethy, produced with special arrangement with Playscripts Inc. Directed by Andrew Velishek

***All-Conference - Max Gibson & Megan Schmitz
Honorable Mention - Hunter Russell
Craftsmanship - Alex Heuss***





2019 GOPHER CONFERENCE SPEECH



FOR RELEASE on

The Gopher Conference is proud to announce the 2020 Speech award winners.

Gopher Conference Speech Awards 2020

Category	Name	School
Creative Expression	Aviana Swanson	WEM
Discussion	Emma Corbin	Medford
Dramatic Interpretation	Moriah Lippert	Maple River
Duo Interpretation	Kiri Kerkes & Paige Atherton	WEM
Extemporaneous Reading	Noah Lippert	Maple River
Extemporaneous Speaking	Abbigal Kutz	Maple River
Great Speeches	Alex Heuss	WEM
Humorous Interpretation	Tanner Wooldridge	Medford
Informative Speaking	Megan Schmitz	WEM
Original Oratory	Isabel Miller	Medford
Poetry Reading	Mackenzie Paulson	Medford
Prose Reading	None	None
Storytelling	Bryce Ertman	Maple River

Team Placing

1st	WEM
2nd	Maple River
3rd	Medford

Craftsmanship winners:

Blooming Prairie - Kisha Aquino

Maple River – Martha Price

Medford – Mackenzie Paulson

WEM - Megan Schmitz

**2020 Spring
activities were not
held as the State of
MN shut down all
schools and activities
due to the
Coronavirus**