

Douglas MacArthur Elementary School



JON L. HENDRICKS, THE TIMES

MacArthur Elementary School students line up for a group photo outside the school in Cedar Lake. The school has been awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award by the U.S. Department of Education.

Two NWI schools hailed

Valpo's Northview, Cedar Lake's MacArthur, among six state schools lauded

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Two local schools are among a few hundred schools across the country that have been named 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools.

MacArthur Elementary School in the Crown Point Community School Corp. and Northview Elementary School in the Valparaiso Community Schools both received the designation.

The U.S. Department of Education honors schools that demonstrate student achievement gain or score high on state assessments.

MacArthur Principal Marian Buchko,

who is in her 17th year as school principal, said they were thrilled last year when the school was recognized as a Four Star School by the state.

"I am blessed to work with an amazing team, amazing parents and a supportive school corporation," she said.

Crown Point Superintendent Teresa Eineman complimented the staff.

"The faculty here represents everything good about teaching and learning," she said.

Northview Principal Loren Hershberger said the school has a "hardworking group of staff who care about its students."

Valparaiso Superintendent Mike Berta

called the National Blue Ribbon a special award given to schools that demonstrate two things — high academic achievement and an ability to close achievement gaps among disadvantaged students and minority students.

"When a school is awarded that distinction, they are identified as a model school and being a model school comes with additional responsibilities," Berta said. "There is the expectation of teaching others so they can emulate the process."

Six other schools in Indiana also were named Blue Ribbon Schools. Representatives from all of the schools will be honored at an awards ceremony in November in Washington, D.C.