



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

November 10, 2025

Greetings, Wisconsin educators, staff, and students!

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are having a great fall. I am writing to you today because we are getting ready to decorate for the holiday season here at the Wisconsin State Capitol, and we can't do it without your help!

Each year, we fill the Capitol's holiday tree with handmade ornaments from kids, students, and families from every corner of Wisconsin, transforming the Capitol Rotunda into the centerpiece of our holiday celebrations. Well, it's about that time of year, and we are once again counting on your creativity and imagination to help bring the holiday spirit to life!

Before I was your governor, I was a science teacher, a principal, a superintendent, and state superintendent, and I've always believed that what's best for our kids is what's best for our state. That's why I declared 2025 the Year of the Kid in Wisconsin, and I can't think of a better way to wrap up the Year of the Kid and celebrate this holiday season than by giving thanks to all those who are on the frontlines of doing what's best for our kids. So, I am excited to announce that the theme of the 2025 Wisconsin State Capitol Holiday Tree is The Learning Tree to honor our educators, administrators, custodians, school bus drivers, lunch staff, and so many others who play a critical role in helping ensure our kids can bring their best and fullest selves to the classroom to learn each and every day.

To engage with this theme, I encourage students to think about what learning means to them, as well as everyone who helps make it possible and fun. Is it the school bus driver who safely gets you to and from school every day? Or maybe it's your school librarian who helped you find your new favorite books, your school nurse who makes sure you're taken care of when you get hurt, or the lunch staff who makes your favorite meal. It could be the janitor who stays late to make sure your classrooms are clean and ready for learning, or your teacher who helped you learn something you really didn't think you could learn.

There are so many ways that each of you can apply your creativity to make an ornament that shows the true value of those who have helped you get to where you are today. I can't wait to see what you come up with, because however you imagine it, this year's tree will serve as a reflection of the extraordinary Wisconsinites who help our kids grow and learn. Teaching and inspiring our future leaders is no small feat, and both Kathy and I are excited to see how this year's ornaments reflect the talent and care shown by Wisconsin's dedicated educational professionals and school support staff.

We ask that students make ornaments from non-breakable material. They must be strong enough to hold up during shipping and to be handled while the tree is being decorated. For these reasons, we recommend that students do not use fragile items or paper cutouts that may tear easily. We suggest ornaments that are 4-6 inches in size and made from a color that contrasts with the color of the tree so they can easily be seen and enjoyed by all visitors. Please attach a ten-inch loop of ribbon or string from which each ornament will hang.

We hope your school will share your classroom's experience making the ornaments with pictures and stories through Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, and X using #WICapitolTree.

Please send your ornaments to the address below by **November 21, 2025**. Also, please include the teacher's name and grade, school name, and address so that we may acknowledge your contribution.

Emily Gorman
Wisconsin Department of Administration
Division of Facilities and Transportation Services
17 West Main Street, Suite 119
Madison, WI 53703

If you have any questions about an ornament, please contact the Facilities Management Information Center at (608) 266-1485. Please note that ornaments will not be returned.

Students are also invited to attend the Capitol Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on **Thursday, December 4, 2025, at noon at the Wisconsin State Capitol** to see their ornaments in action. The Capitol Holiday Tree will be on display through the end of the year, and students and their families are encouraged to visit the Capitol to share in the holiday spirit. Capitol hours and information are available [here](https://legis.wisconsin.gov/about/visit) (<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/about/visit>).

We will gratefully accept any ornaments your school provides for the Capitol Holiday Tree. If there are extras, they will be shared with nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and veterans homes to share the holiday cheer with others.

Thank you for helping to make the Wisconsin State Capitol beautiful and festive this holiday season.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Tony Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" and last name "Evers" clearly distinguishable.

Tony Evers
Governor