

SHOWING HOW MUCH THEY CARE

• SCHOOL COMMITS TO STUDENTS WITH CARE CLASSROOM

Newell School District put action behind their commitment to caring for students when they created and staffed a classroom for severe needs students this year.

“We call it the ‘CARE’ room,” Newell Superintendent Joel Hovland said. “When we started planning this program someone said, ‘We need to do this because we CARE about our kids and want them under our family roof.’”

In past years, special education students with more severe disabilities traveled to a facility in a neighboring town for services. In some cases, those students spent several hours on a bus.

Hovland and staff members discussed the programs offered to special education students with severe disabilities and concluded they could offer the services needed within the district.

“We as a staff met and decided that we want our kids under our roof and set about making that happen,” Hovland said.

The CARE classroom serves five students with a Certified SPED teacher, three full-time paraprofessionals and a nurse to



address any medical issues. Physical needs such as tube feeding and hygienic care are handled by the in-room staff.

CARE classroom students have academic goals based on their individualized education plan and spend time in the mainstream classrooms – accompanied by an aide in most cases – for various activities and classes throughout the day.

Hovland said Newell students and teachers ensure the CARE students can participate in classroom activities.

“It was felt that all our students could benefit from having contact with these wonderful, special students and they with the home town kids,” Hovland said. “The staff and students have welcomed these kids back to our home turf. I see lots of ‘high fives’ from other kids to our special ones.”

Entering the second half of the school year with the “CARE” program in place, Hovland said the district is “ecstatic” about the growth shown and success had by students in the program.

“Having them here generates smiles and a good feeling from everyone,” Hovland said. “It was most definitely the right thing to do.”

