

# PROCLAMATION



## Office of the Mayor

**WHEREAS**, International Literacy Day, first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1967, reminds us that literacy is a basic human right and the foundation for education, participation, and equality; and

**WHEREAS**, despite progress, nearly 739 million people worldwide still lack basic literacy skills, and many children are not achieving reading proficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 theme, "*Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era*," highlights the need for digital skills that allow people to access, understand, and use information responsibly in today's connected world; and

**WHEREAS**, literacy helps individuals think critically, engage safely online, and avoid digital exclusion and misinformation; and

**WHEREAS**, this day calls on communities, governments, schools, and organizations to advance inclusive literacy initiatives that empower all people and build stronger, more just societies;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacob A. Woodford**, Mayor of the city of Appleton, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim the second week of September as

## Literacy Week

In Appleton and encourage all residents to celebrate the power of literacy and support efforts to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn, thrive, and fully participate in our shared future.

Signed and sealed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 2025.

**Jacob A. Woodford**

Mayor of Appleton

