Gothenburg is one of three schools in the state to be honored for sportsmanship for the fourth consecutive year by the Nebraska School Activities Association.

Gothenburg, Lincoln Lutheran and Norfolk Catholic were named winners of the Farmers School Sportsmanship Award for the fourth straight year.

That speaks highly of athletic director Seth Ryker, who puts the program together, as well as the rest of the staff and students, superintendent Mike Teahon said as he informed the board of education about the honor at the regular monthly meeting Monday.

Sportsmanship became a focus of our staff several years ago and we've made quite a lot of progress, Dr. Teahon said.

The annual awards program is designed to recognize NSAA member high schools that establish and follow a quality sportsmanship program within their athletic activities.

Other schools also honored for sportsmanship during the 2012-13 school year include Bancroft-Rosalie and Valentine, who are both three-time recipients.

"The Nebraska School Activities Association is proud to have Bancroft-Rosalie, Gothenburg, Lincoln Lutheran, Norfolk Catholic, and Valentine high schools earn the Farmers School Sportsmanship Award for the 2012-13 school year by working to provide a competitive environment during their interscholastic activities which emphasizes positive actions and fairness for everyone," said Rhonda Blanford-Green, Executive Director of the NSAA. "These schools should be commended for their commitment to promoting sportsmanship within their communities."

The honored NSAA member schools have received the Farmers School Sportsmanship banner to hang in their schools. A Farmers representative will present the sportsmanship award at an all-school event next school year