Mustang Messenger

Volume 15 Issue 2

February 2024

Looking Towards the Future

Deanna Wiatt, Superintendent

Greetings Melrose-Mindoro Community,

As we embark on the journey into 2024, many of us have been reflecting on the previous year and setting new resolutions for the upcoming one. This rings true throughout our school district, too.

Over the past several months, our dedicated team has been hard at work crafting a comprehensive 5-Year Strategic Plan. This plan outlines our vision, goals, and initiatives that will guide our district towards excellence, ensuring that every student receives the best possible instruction to achieve at high levels.

The strategic goal in the area of **Teaching and Learning** is to place our district and schools in the category of "Exceeding Expectations" or "Significantly Exceeding Expectations" on the state report card. We know we will be able to achieve this as we align all of our work in the same direction with our high academic and growth for all of our students.

Melrose-Mindoro School District takes pride in hiring an outstanding workforce. To retain our talented workforce, we have set a goal around **Employment Engagement**. As a district we are committed to implementing the best possible strategies to hire, retain, engage, and develop dedicated employees to live out our mission of "KIDS Come First"!

Community Connections are essential, and we understand that it involves our district enhancing, developing, and implementing more effective communication strategies to connect with our entire community. We want to build strong partnerships that will enrich the overall educational experience for our students. Our students need our community's support to succeed both in school and as they venture into the world after graduation.

Finally, safe facilities and high-quality programming and services are crucial for the success of our students. The goal of **Business Operations** is to support all that we do for our students. We strive to be fiscally responsible with the funding we receive and take pride in offering our students opportunities similar to those larger school districts provide. Looking ahead, the district's financial stability will be a challenge in the area of Business Operations with our declining enrollment and ESSER federal funding stopping at the end of this school year.

While the new year is an excellent time for looking ahead and planning for success, it is also a perfect time to genuinely appreciate all that we have. Our district is truly an amazing place for our students. We have a dedicated workforce serving our children in modern facilities on our campus, surrounded by our wonderful communities. Thank you for your partnership along this journey and for working together as we live out our mission of "KIDS Come First"!

Warm regards, Deanna Wiatt Superintendent

New to the District or Have a New Family Member?

Have you recently moved into the district or have a new addition to your family? Please complete the **Census Data Collection** form at the back of this newsletter and return to the school. You may also email your information to mur-raym@mel-min.k12.wi.us. By doing so, you'll receive notices about upcoming early childhood screening and 4K registration dates, along with other important events.

Job Opportunities at the Pool

Enjoy being outdoors and having fun in the sun? Working at the Melrose Pool is the job for you! Lifeguards and water safety instructors are needed and training is provided. Please contact Clark Anderson by **April 1, 2024** at **Village of Melrose, PO BOX 117, Melrose, WI 54642.**

Regular Open Enrollment: February 5-April 30, 2024

The open enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year is February 5 - April 30, 2024 at 4:00p.m.

What is Open Enrollment? The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.

Who can apply? Any Wisconsin resident in 4K to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the open enrollment program. However, a child may transfer to a nonresident school district for early childhood education or 4K only if the child's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the child is eligible for that program in the resident school district.

When can parents apply? The regular open enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 5, 2024, and ends at 4:00 pm on April 30, 2024. The best way to apply is online. Additional information on the regular open enrollment application season can be found at https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications. An alternative application procedure allows pupils to apply for open enrollment at any time during a school year if certain criteria are met. For additional information, please visit https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications/alternative.

Can applications be denied? Both the nonresident and resident school districts may deny an application for reasons specified in state law. If an application is denied by either the resident or nonresident school district, the parent may file an appeal with the DPI within 30 days. The DPI is required to affirm the school district's decision unless the DPI determines that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable. For more information regarding appealing a denial, visit https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/appeals.

How do students get to school? Parents are responsible to provide transportation to and from school in the non-resident school district, except that transportation required in a child's IEP must be provided by the nonresident school district. A nonresident or resident school district is permitted (but not required) to provide transportation to open enrolled pupils, however the nonresident school district is prohibited from picking up or dropping off a pupil within the boundaries of the pupil's resident school district unless the resident school district agrees. Low-income parents may apply to the DPI for reimbursement of a portion of their transportation costs. For more information on transportation, visit https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications/transportation.

4th Grade will host the annual WI Fair this spring. Please watch the district Facebook page for more information and updates.





The Melrose-Mindoro Drama Department presents the musical, 'Back to the 80's'.

Back to the 80's tells the story of the senior class of William Ocean High School, as remembered through the eyes of now

thirty-something Corey Palmer. Seventeen-year-old Corey is madly in love with his next-door neighbor, Tiffany Houston, one of the coolest girls in the school, but she is too busy mooning over Michael Feldman, the hottest guy around. Michael and his friends are athletic and good looking — the kind of guys that Corey and his two best friends dream of being. However, while they may not be the coolest guys in school, they are still one up on Feargal McFerrin, III, whose best friend is his computer and who believes the crazy notion that one day, CDs will replace cassette tapes.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, March 22 at 7p.m. and two performances on Saturday, March 23 at 2:00 p.m. and 7 p.m.

District Nursing News

Tara Tjerstad, RN BSN

tjerstadt@mel-min.k12.wi.us (608) 488-2201 ext. 1128/2128

It's Cold Outside! Winter gear is necessary for warm, happy, healthy students. We have a supply of donated coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and snow pants. If your child is in need of warm clothing, please let a staff person know. If we do not have what your child needs, we will help find it. Students will have outside recess unless air or wind chill temperatures are zero or below as posted on the National Weather Service. This is monitored closely during the cold winter days.

CRITERIA FOR KEEPING A STUDENT HOME FROM SCHOOL

Temperature over 100*F by mouth/ear. Please do not send the student back to school until the temperature is normal for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medication.

Severe cold with headache, chills, fever and stuffy or runny nose.

Vomiting in the past 24 hours.

A red sore throat with white spots, lasting more than 12 hours.

An undiagnosed rash.

Red blood streaked eyes that are matted shut, itch, are swollen and hurt.

Diarrhea in the past 24 hours.

Live head lice – may come after treated.

COVID positive-fever free for 24 hours.

If your student is not going to be attending school, please call (608) 488- 2201 or email the secretary at attendance@mel-min.k12.wi.us to let them know of the absence and the reason. Please also let your bus driver know.

HEAD LICE: If you have a concern about your child, let the nurse know and she will discreetly check them. They do not jump or fly and do not like to leave the head they are on – unless they can move directly to another. If your child has long hair, please **style it pulled back or up.** When the children put their heads together working on projects, telling secrets, etc., the lice have the opportunity to move to another head.

Occasionally check your child after their bath or shower. If you have found head lice at home, please let the nurse know, along with any other students that your child is in close contact with. This is kept confidential. You can find our complete head lice policy and treatment information on the school website.

HEALTH SCREENINGS: Vision: The Mindoro Lions Club partnered with La Crosse Lions to conduct the screening using a photoscreening digital device called a SPOT. It is like a large camera and takes a picture of your child's eyes. It has technology to detect a number of potential eye problems. Mid October, Early Childhood through 6th grades completed the screening. Letters have been sent home for children who need further evaluation. I can continue to vision screen students at parent or staff's request. **Hearing**: Our school district has an Audio Pilot screener that can be used to screen the hearing of any child that parents or staff have a concern about.

MEDICATION: Any medication at school requires a **School Medication Form** signed by the parent and be in the original container (no baggies). For prescription medication, the form must also be signed by the physician. Please contact me if you have questions or need assistance. Students are NOT allowed to carry or keep medication with them unless authorized by his/her physician.

MORE INFORMATION: Occasionally, information will be posted on the district website. You can find contact information under the "Families" tab at "Heath Information". Dr. Stephanie Bantell from Krohn Clinic is our district's Medical Advisor.

We want our students to be healthy, in school, and ready to learn!

Mustang Messenger



Schoolwide Title 1

Literacy and Math Family Night

4K-6th grade

When: Thursday, February 15th, 2024 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: Melrose-Mindoro Elementary Cafeteria

What: Annual Schoolwide Title I meeting, various activities and meal (hotdogs, chips, cookies, hot chocolate and water). Sponsored by Title I Interventionists.



Stop in the library from 6-7pm and meet our celebrities! Marvin the Mustang, athletes from high school wrestling, girls and boys basketball teams will be reading a variety of stories.

2023-2028 Strategic Plan Unveiled

We are excited to present the Melrose-Mindoro School District Five-Year Strategic Plan. This plan serves as a blueprint to navigate our school district toward a future of continuous improvement. It offers a collective vision and assists us in determining the district's priorities, improving operations, and creating a set of common goals to move towards the overall success of our students and the productivity of our operations.

As your superintendent, I am deeply committed to fostering an environment that nurtures the potential of every individual, whether they are students, staff, or community members. Our Five-Year Strategic Plan is a testament to our dedication to providing an exceptional educational experience for our students while preparing them for the challenges and opportunities they will face in their future.

Addressing these priorities will take a commitment from everyone as we aim to create a thriving community and strive towards high levels of learning and excellence for all. I appreciate your partnership along this journey and look forward to working together as we live out our mission of KIDS Come First!

Our goals for each leg of our strategic plan are outlined here. For the full plan, please visit our district website: https://www.mel-min.k12.wi.us/cms_files/resources/DOC.pdf

Teaching & Learning: The Melrose-Mindoro School District will improve student achievement as evidenced by reaching the level of 'Exceeds' or 'Significantly Exceeds Expectations' in all report cards as measured by the annual Wisconsin State Report Card.

Employee Engagement: The Melrose-Mindoro School District will implement the best possible strategies to hire, retain, engage, and develop an outstanding workforce dedicated to our mission of **KIDS Come First!**

Community Connections: The Melrose-Mindoro School District will enhance, develop and implement more effective communication strategies to connect with all parents, staff, and community members.

Business Operations: The Melrose-Mindoro School District will provide safe, healthy, and efficient facilities, programs and services to ensure success for all students and accountability to all stakeholders.







Hello to the New Additions to our Mustang Family!



Top row: L to R: Paraprofessional Isabelle Eichelt, Elementary Special Education teacher Haylee Gilster, Paraprofessional Stacie Hadley, Custodian Randy Johnson, High School English teacher Chloe Ohlfs, 4th Grade teacher Tessa Severson. Bottom Row: High School Social Studies teacher Zach Severson, High School Math teacher Mya Tepp, 4K teacher Whitney Tollefson, Superintendent Deanna Wiatt, Custodian Devon Windsor and Elementary PE teacher Nick Yanske. Missing from photos: Van Driver Aaron Byom, Custodian Robert Grignon, Food Service Tallie Kurlinkus and Paraprofessionals Rebecca Heidel, Lauren Koss, Calette Lockington and Amber Williams.

...While Some of our Mustang Family Says Goodbye



Bridging Brighter Smiles Bridging Brighter Smiles is in our district and provides basic dental care for students. This program is open to all students in the district 4K-12th grade. Visits are held throughout the school year and services include oral screenings, cleanings, fluoride varnish applications, dental sealants, dental health education and referral assistance.

To enroll your children, go to enrollment.bbsmiles.org to complete an enrollment form right online! Bridging Brighter Smiles accepts Forward Health (BadgerCare). They do not bill or accept other private dental insurances. Questions? Call 262-896-9891 or visit them on the web at www.bbsmiles.org

Scholarship Opportunities

Thanks to the generosity of many people, local groups sponsor a variety of scholarship programs. Individuals, clubs, and businesses provide funds that students from Melrose-Mindoro receive every year, and some of the groups make multiple awards. Most of these scholarships do require an application. Seniors should check in the guidance office to obtain more information. They will receive a list of local scholarships, and most of the application forms are available on our school computer network.

Most local scholarship applications are due in early April, but some deadlines are earlier.

Help is also available for students researching state and national scholarships. Applicants should be aware that the deadlines for these programs vary widely. For most students, focusing their effort on local scholarships is more productive than participating in nation-wide competitions.

Our local donors may change every year. Anyone interested in starting a new scholarship is encouraged to contact the high school. All eligible students are encouraged to apply for these awards.

Consider Becoming a Host Family



Consider opening your home to a high school foreign exchange student in the 2024-2025 school year. Contact JH/HS Principal Rick Dobbs for information.

Check out our Website & Like us on Facebook

Get the most current information and learn about the latest changes to the academic or sports schedule by visiting our website: www.melmin.k12.wi.us or search & like Melrose-Mindoro School District on Facebook.

In the Spring of 2023, Mrs. Heidi Kleinsmith and Mrs. Lisa Johnson, District Speech/Language Pathologists, were awarded a \$500 grant from the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation to purchase a communication sign for the playground. The sign template was purchased through Communication is Key in Michigan and the sign was made by Signarama in West Salem. The sign was completed in November and installed by the custodial staff at Melrose-Mindoro on the big playground.





Holocaust Presentation at Viterbo University

Mrs. Becky Blaken and Mrs. Janet Woodward will be attending the 2024 Holocaust Educational Workshop April 3-5 at Viterbo. The workshop provides experts in not only Holocaust information, but teaching practices, strategies, and resources across curriculum areas. This year's keynote speaker is Samuel R. Harris, a Holocaust survivor. "Samuel R. Harris is one of the youngest Holocaust survivors. He was four-years-old when WWII broke out and Nazi soldiers invaded his village in Poland, killing his parents and most of his family. He played an instrumental role in the opening of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center of which is president emeritus. Harris is a proud recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor." Because of Mrs. Blaken's and Mrs. Woodward's participation in the workshop, the sixth grade students of Melrose-Mindoro will get to hear Mr. Harris speak by attending his presentation.

Mr. Harris will give two presentations. The first is a keynote presentation on Wednesday, **April 3 at 7 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center, Viterbo University.** This presentation is **open to the public** and no registration nor ticket is required. All are welcome. This tends to fill to capacity very quickly so if you are interested in attending, it is suggested that you arrive quite early. Mr. Harris's second presentation is a school presentation. The student presentation will take place Thursday, April 4 at 10 a.m. For more information go to https://www.viterbo.edu/db-reinhart-institute-ethics-leadership/holocaust-workshop-and-teaching-resources.

ANNUAL NOTICE

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as:

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- living in emergency or transitional shelters
- abandoned in hospitals
- living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.

If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children or youth who may qualify according to the above criteria, the Melrose-Mindoro School District provides the following assurances to parents and guardians of homeless children and youth and unaccompanied homeless youth:

- The child or youth shall be immediately enrolled and allowed to fully participate in school, even if unable to produce records normally required for enrollment (e.g., academic records, immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation) or has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness
- Homeless children and youth are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and have full
 and equal educational and related opportunities.
- Meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children including special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and access to student records.
- Immediate enrollment and transportation to the school of origin. "School of origin" means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool.
- Written explanation of any decisions related to school selection or enrollment made by the school, the local educational agency, or the State educational agency involved, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to appeal and receive prompt resolution of such decisions.

Please contact Tammy Leis, Homeless Liaison for the Melrose-Mindoro School District, at (608) 488-2201 ext. 1127 or email leistammy@mel-min.k12.wi.us for additional information about the rights and services described above.

PROGRAMMING CHANGES COMING TO SUMMER SCHOOLI

New name, new format! Summer school (formerly known as GEO) classes will be held for three weeks starting June 10-June 28, 2024 from 8:00-3:30 p.m.

Academic & enrichment classes will be held throughout the day with the exception of those students who will be in Kindergarten or 1st Grade this fall, they will be with the same teacher for the day. All students will have the opportunity to eat breakfast & lunch. Watch for more information and details coming soon.



Early Dismissal & School Closing Procedure

If school will be starting late, closed, or dismissing early due to inclement weather, an announcement will be broadcast on the radio & TV stations listed below.

Signal Si

To receive information on your mobile device, visit the app store & download your favorite station's weather app or check their websites for up-to-date information.

Emergency Messenger through Infinite Campus may also be used to notify parents for early dismissals and closings.

Magnum Media: Kicks 106.3, Magic 97.9, WKBH

102.7, Alt 107.1, Mix 96.1, 94.5 WTMB

WWIS-Black River Falls: WWIS FM 99.7

WHTL-Whitehall: WHTL-102.3 FM

WCOW-Sparta: Cow 97.1

Midwest Family Broadcasting-La Crosse: WIZM 410 AM, WKTY 580 AM, WIZM-FM Z-93.3, WRQT 95.7/The

Rock, KQYB 98.3 FM, KCLH 94.7 FM

Midwest Family Broadcasting-Eau Claire: WAXX 104.5 FM, WAYY 790 AM or 105.1 FM, I-94 94.1 FM

TV Stations

WKBT-8 (www.news8000.com), WXOW-19 (www.wxow.com) WEAU-13 (www.weau.com), FOX 25/48 (www.wiproud.com)





Ketchup, Mustard and Relish

No, it's not part of a food order! As an incentive for the sixth graders to model the Mustang 3: Respect, Responsible and Safe. Ketchup, Mustard and Relish was invented and implemented by the sixth grade team. Students who complete their work with quality and on time as well as following the positive behaviors expected earn, "Relish" time. Relish time is 25 minutes of extra recess every Friday. Students who may have missed an assignment's due date or had a minor behavior problem, but fixed either or both before Friday go to "Mustard." Mustard is serving 10 minutes to make a Fix-It plan or be accountable, then participate in recess for 15 minutes. The students mustered the energy to correct their mistakes. Those students who are missing work or have behavior problems within the week go to "Ketchup." In Ketchup, students catch up on missing assignments and/or process a more in depth Fix-It plan to move forward. Each week is a fresh start for all the students. This is the sixth grade's customized PBIS system. Students seem to be responding to the expectations and set goals to reach Relish weekly.



Left: Children predicting, observing and making conclusions in 'holiday science' in 4K.

Above: 4K students 'sky-writing' the letter M before practicing on their 'Fundations' tracing paper.

Career & Technical Education

Building Student Futures....

Careers in the skilled trades are in greater demand than ever. The construction industry offers many high paying and rewarding careers where students can make a difference in their communities. Students enrolled in the Carpentry class participated in the first ever "Build My Future" event last April at the Onalaska Omni Center. The event was sponsored by the assistance of the La Crosse Area Builder's Association along with many area professionals.

Build My Future is a hands-on career day/industry showcase that connects employers and technical colleges with workforce candidates who are interested in exploring the trades. Build My Future gives students the opportunity to spend a day in the skilled trades and similar industries through a hands-on interactive showcase. Students experience activities provided by industry partners, and include educational displays, equipment operations, and learning labs. This event is scheduled this year for April 24 and presently has over 20 students signed up to attend. The event promises to grow more each year.



Taking Care of Business...

The business education department has been finding new ways to allow students the opportunity to apply their learning in unique and memorable ways. This fall, in Business Principles, students learned about the seven management functions, and then practiced these functions by planning, implementing, and managing a grilled cheese party. All student had a chance to enjoy their cheesy creations at the end of class. In Accounting, students learned about how to record business transactions in a journal and ledger, then practiced using these skills by recording all of the transactions that happened as they played the game of Monopoly.

Marketing and Business Principles also had the chance to apply their learning by working in the school store, the Mustang Corral. Marketing students took this one step further to do several projects related to the Mustang Corral including making social media posts and planning promotions for the store.



Family Focused, Community Minded...

The Family & Consumer Sciences Department has been showcasing practical skills and knowledge students can apply to their daily lives this year. Examples The Child Development classes have had the special opportunity to plan and implement curriculum lessons to our 4K and Kindergarten classes. This has given high school students a chance to experience education from a new perspective.

Foods courses enjoyed pork week, a week devoted to learning culinary skills preparing various cuts of pork. This was in-part thanks to our partners the La Crosse County Pork Producers.

Lastly the Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl will take place in February on the Western Technical College campus. This is a quiz bowl competition where students compete academically through topic such as economics and personal finance.



And thank you.....

The Career and Technical Education departments would like to thank the students and community members for their continued support. We welcome you to visit our facilities and meet with the instructors.

Spring Election, April 2, 2024

Area 3 registered candidates are Emily Stanton & Nikki Gilbertson. Area 3 covers the Village of Melrose.

Area 6 registered candidate: Becky Whalen (I). Area 6 covers the area located west of County Road M in La Crosse County.

To be considered as a write in candidate, you must file your registration statement with the school district no later than noon on the Friday before election day. However, there is no school on Friday, March 29, due to it being Good Friday. Registration should be turned in to the administrative office of the school district by noon on Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Child Development Day



Do you have a child who is between the ages of Birth and 5? The Melrose-Mindoro School District is offering free Child Developmental screenings for your child. Help your child get ready for school with a start at our screening days. You will be able to meet some

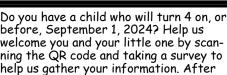
community resources and along with the developmental screenings, your child can also have hearing and vision screenings.

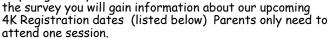
Help us welcome you and your little one! Scan the QR code to take the survey. This will allow the district to gather information and allow you to select a time for the screening that works best for you and your child. Although this survey method is preferred, you may also call the school to set up an appointment.

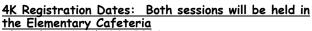
Child Development Day Information: Both sessions will be held in the Early Childhood classroom (yellow hallway) March 14, 2024: 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. OR March 15, 2024 - 8:00 a.m. to Noon



4K Registration 2024







Thursday, March 14, 2024: 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 15, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

Please join us for an informational presentation regarding your child's start in 4K, gather enrollment information, view our short "Take a Peek into 4K" presentation, and enjoy a tour of our 4K classrooms. We look forward to seeing you there!





Melrose-Mindoro School District Census Data Collection

(February 2024)

The Melrose-Mindoro School District is collecting census data for children 20 years of age (as of June 30, 2024) and younger. Please complete this form only if you have a new addition to the family or are new to the district, even if your child(ren) do not attend Melrose-Mindoro Schools.

if your child(ren) do not attend	Melrose-Mindoro Schools.				
Will your children attend school i	n the Melrose-Mindoro School [District? () Yes	() N	0	
If no, where will they attend scho	ool?				
Please list children age 0-20 year	rs old as of June 30 this year <u>re</u>	esiding in your home.	. Use legal r	names of chil	dren.
Child's	Child's		Gender	Current Grade	
First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	(M/F)	Level	
	Parent(s) or Guard	dian(s)			
	(List only those living in the	• •			
Father's Full Name					
Mother's Full Name					
Other people living in home (not	already listed) Full Names				
					
Address (street, city)					
City, Village, or Township you liv	e in				

Please send this form to: Melrose-Mindoro High School ATTN: Michelle Murray N181 ST RD 108 Melrose, WI 54642

Home Phone # ______

Cell # _____

Or e-mail to: murraym@mel-min.k12.wi.us

Melrose-Mindoro School District

N181 State Highway 108

Melrose, WI 54642