

Principal's Report  
September School Board Meeting  
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown  
PreK-12th Grade



PreK-6 Grade

Students are back and we couldn't be happier!

Prek-6 students have been in school daily since September 14. Things have been running relatively smoothly. Students are doing a great job of social distancing and wearing their masks! We've worked out some bugs and have hit our stride.

Pre K-4 classrooms are finished! They look amazing! Students and teachers alike are enjoying their new accommodations! We anxiously await the completion of the addition for new classrooms, our new entrance and our new office.

5-6 grade students are enjoying the many improvements in Morristown!

Preschool screening took place Sept., 11th & 16th

School photos will take place Oct. 2 for Prek-4 students and Morristown will do photos on

Prek-4 Leadership team is meeting Oct. 1, focus of discussion will be on how daily school operations are going and areas of improvement as well as professional development needs to maintain.

All staff have worked incredibly hard to get us to this point. A huge thank you to all for the positive attitudes and flexibility! We are all in this together!

A warm welcome to new elementary staff Sarah Westad, long term sub in fourth grade, Sara Gorski our new music teacher, Brooke Nattress 5th, 6th and adaptive PE teacher and Patty Salmon 5th & 6th Art! All have already made a great impression on students, staff and families! So happy to have them on board!

## **7-12 Grade**

We are so excited and happy to have students and staff back in our buildings!

We are underway with the 2020-2021 school year! The first days had a few glitches in them, but all were minor and we are off to a great start!

The Morristown building is beautiful. There are still updates that need to happen, but the JH side of the building is striking, modern and warm. Thank you to the community for supporting the effort! We are excited to see the difference in the HS a year from now.

Southern MN Counseling Services is beginning a series of videos on mental health and links to mental health. September's video was focused on school staff and students of trauma related to the pandemic, civil unrest, school disruption. In the recent past we have welcomed counseling services into the district to lead professional development around mental health. Three therapists from Southern MN Counseling Services also offer sessions to students K-12.

JH and HS leadership teams met during the week of September 14. Topics of discussion were centered around what is working, what needs tweaking and how can we best communicate what is/isn't to staff so that we can operate fluidly.

JH and HS staff meet in PLCs. We are dedicating our next several PLC meetings to collaboration and shared practices of how to meet, juggle and address instruction to the highest possible level while service students in and out of the building.

Hybrid has posed a few challenges with room size. To make it work a few teachers have been relocated for various hours of the day in order to make student capacities work. During Hybrid it isn't the 6 ft. social distancing that is the problem it is the 50% capacity after the 6 ft. social distance that has caused some relocation of classes. All in all staff has been willing to be flexible when this has come up.

It took an army of staff to make Day 1 possible. From the administration side we appreciate everyone's hard work, willingness to do what is needed and continued flexibility as we go.

Our newest staff members: Ms. Nattress, Mr. Gavin, Patty Salmon and Mr. Boran have been great additions to the staff. Positive observations, feedback from colleagues and students. All four have made a mark on building relationships with students and making a home here at WEM.

With all fall sports back in action we have started the initial planning of homecoming. While this year's homecoming will look different from previous years the student council is dedicated to providing opportunities for students and the community to celebrate and join in on the school spirit. We will celebrate homecoming on October 9, the first home football game. Other activities will include a coronation and dress-up days.

Paul Moe from Josten's was here for Group A and will be back tomorrow for Group B students. He is selling class rings to the sophomore class. Paul will be back in a few weeks to meet with seniors as well.