
November 19, 2025 Student Representative Reports

Jen Behnke

Hastings Middle School

- On November 3rd, many students and staff members received Level Up Awards for demonstrating growth and modeling our Raider Way. Staff are recognized for going above and beyond, while students are recognized for hard work and achievement. Congratulations to these award winners!



- November 6th and 7th, the theater department presented Annie Jr., which I hear was amazing!! Maybe even better than Our Town...
- The 7th & 8th grade dance was on the 14th and my sources tell me the students had a blast!



- The MS was lucky to send 2 swimmers to sections: 8th graders Jenna Arneson and Emilia Krause competed with the high school swim team at sections. Jenna made it to finals!!



- Students engaged in a Penny War November 10th-14th. Students collected spare change to bring in for the Penny War, helping their grade level towards winning along with grade-level trivia at lunch! The proceeds from Penny Wars will support the Animal Arc, and they raised hundreds of dollars!

Kennedy Elementary

- Students honored those who served during Veterans Day
 - 3rd graders welcomed Veterans into their classrooms
 - Heard valuable stories and experiences
 - Other grades wrote letters, created artwork, and participated in discussions



- First graders visited the Minnesota Zoo



- Three teachers received \$1,000 Adopt-A-Classroom grants from Ruth and George Doffing
 - Riley Bafaro, 3rd Grade
 - Samantha Beaver, 3rd Grade
 - Amanda Pommerening, Resource



Tilden

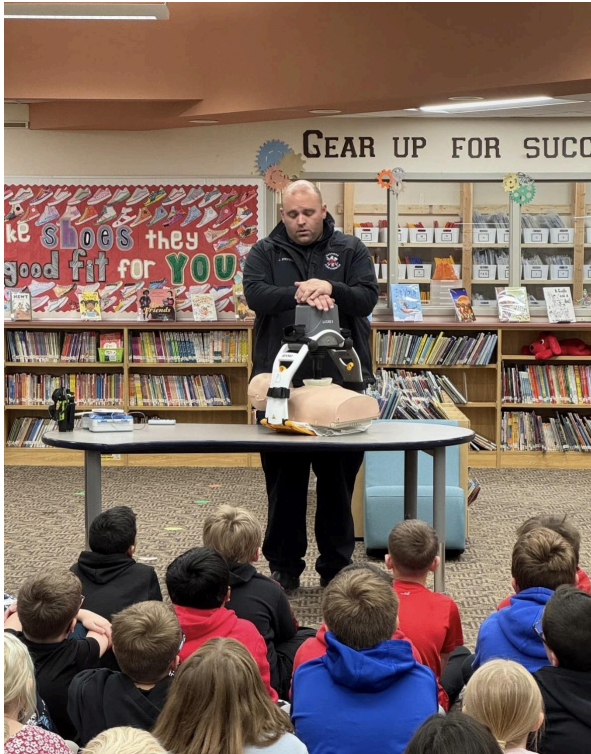
- Preschoolers visited the senior center during Veterans Day
 - Sang songs to honor those who served
 - Showed the art they made for Veterans Day



Avery Durfee

McAuliffe Elementary

- **November 14th:** The 4th graders were visited by a very special guest from the Hastings Fire Department, Jamie Stevens, who taught the 4th graders about CPR, the circulatory system, the AED, and the Lucas 3 device. They also took part in the Kids Heart Challenge.



- **November 19th-21st:** The 2nd and 4th graders are completing the standardized CogAT testing this week, and Carpenters Nature Center is coming to visit the first graders with a few animal friends!
- **November 27th-Dec. 1st:** Following a fun and busy week, the students and staff will be off for a well-deserved break. Happy Thanksgiving!

Pinecrest Elementary

- **November 6th:** To kick off the month of November, the 1st graders took a very fun field trip to the Stages Theatre Company!
- **November 6th and 7th:** Then, over the 6th and 7th, the 4th graders took a field trip to Carpenter Nature Center to see the wildlife.
- **November 7th:** Later in the evening on the 7th, Pinecrest held a much-loved Family Movie Night where parents and students got to get some snacks and bundle up in a blanket to enjoy!



- **November 11th:** Students honored our veterans on Veterans Day by creating some lovely mini posters to thank all of the veterans for their service.
- **November 13th:** Students and staff celebrated World Kindness Day by wearing some fun bright colors and playing kindness bingo in classrooms! Three staff members were also recognized as 2025 World Kindness Day Winners, Mrs. Matzek, Mrs. Poncelet, and Mrs. Braun, for spreading kindness throughout the school!



-
- **November 26:** This next Wednesday the students will participate in the much anticipated all school Turkey Bingo where they'll gobble up as many prizes as they can going into the Thanksgiving holiday break!
 - **November 29:** Finally, the Pinecrest Choir will be closing out the month with a bang by performing the Holiday Hoopla at Hastings downtown Pavilion!

Hastings High School

This month the High School had the career fair, which was very informative to all student grades 9 through 12. A highlight from the fair was the different paths that students were introduced to instead of the college route. Another big highlight was the new pet therapy program that is used with the students receiving special services. This program is great to help students reduce stress and the overall well-being of students, and the hope is to expand this program to more students.

As many people around the school must know, we have a foreign exchange student from Italy, named Tommaso and he helped create a dish to share with the entire school. The dish was a baked pasta with a side of roasted cauliflower.



Sports

Some great athletic achievements were made for Hastings High School this month. Our Boys cross country team took 2nd at the MEC conference, competed at NXR, and sent Parker Stoltz to state. Our Girls cross country won the conference, and sent Linnea Ronning to state for the 4th time. Senior Brooke and Resse Keller competed in their 4th consecutive state tennis tournament for doubles. Sophomore Nolan St. Sauver's Dakota United Hawks won the adapted soccer state title. Junior Zach Shatek broke the school record in rushing yards in a single game and season. And the most outstanding from the month is from our girls swim and dive team. Firstly, junior Greta Larson was the first athlete in school history to qualify for the state meet in swimming and diving. Lastly, junior Chloe Aarness took 1st place at state for diving and broke the school record by resetting her one record.



Arts

The arts have also had some concerts which include the orchestra concert and the play. I was able to attend the orchestra concert and it sounded amazing. Focusing on the play, our theater department had a play of "Our Town". The play "Our Town" is about 2 kids in Grovers Corners, New Hampshire in 1901. It's a story of 2 kids experiencing life together, where they end up getting married. Its central message is that people often overlook the beauty of everyday moments until it is too late.





Upcoming Event

Next week, students will participate in a **DCTC tour**. This event is designed to help them explore the next steps in life, whether through college or other career pathways. It provides a valuable opportunity to gain real-life expectations of college. The tour traditionally has high attendance, with some students already having applied and even been accepted.

Quarter 1 Reflection

Quarter 1 has officially concluded, marking the first quarter with an increased number of students. Overall, things went very well despite the adjustments required to accommodate the larger group. Staff and students have adapted successfully, and improvements will continue throughout the year.

Highlight in Physics

Mr. Waage's Physics course wrapped up with a hands-on project: students launched rockets they had built. The majority of the rockets functioned as intended, making the project both exciting and educational.

Student School Board Representative Event

It was a great opportunity to attend this event for the second time. I think that reflecting on last year's event and this year's, it is great to note that the topics were similar but also different. It allows for a repetition of great themes, but also new and refreshing ideas on how to be effective while in this role.

What I gained specifically from this event was identifying what a "board issue" truly is and what can I do about it. Speaking on the question posed "What can I do about it?", as a group with my fellow student representatives we found some ideas to help us gain student voice better than before. We are planning on creating a "drop box" where students can leave an issue that they want heard or even just to be able to speak with us. And I was hoping that we could even put one in the ALP as well.