



# Waterville-Elysian-Morristown

## ISD #2143

Greetings School Board Members,

Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- **Thank You Crisis Response Team:** With the recent tragic loss of 7th grader Brady Kessler, our school community has been mourning together while supporting one another through this difficult time. We are deeply grateful to the South Central Service Cooperative for providing a Crisis Response Team to guide and support our students and staff through this unthinkable tragedy. The team included dedicated counselors and professionals from Le Sueur County, LCWM, Madelia, and Jordan. Our thoughts and hearts remain with the Kessler and Pumper families as we continue to grieve this loss together.
- **One Site Planning:** As we plan the transition to a single site next year, our teachers and administrators have done an exceptional job working collaboratively to develop a strong and thoughtful plan for next year's course offerings. Staff have shown remarkable flexibility as we navigate course adjustments and new teaching assignments, always keeping students at the center of the conversation. It has been both refreshing and rewarding to work alongside such a dedicated team, united in our efforts to make next year's middle school experience the very best it can be for our students.
- **Positive Student Behavior:** We have been incredibly proud of how our students have returned from break, demonstrating resilience, knowing their limits, and supporting one another while continuing to show strong BUCS Pride. Their ability to adjust and re-engage has been impressive. Throughout the months of January and February, we will be intentionally reteaching BUCS Pride expectations through targeted lessons and activities to reinforce positive behaviors and ensure the second half of the school year is the best it can possibly be for all students.

Thank you,  
Myles Knutson



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Greetings School Board Members,

Here are a few updates from the Elementary School:

- **Elementary PBIS Update:** Our elementary PBIS team has truly impressed me this year through their creativity, dedication, and commitment to students. The engaging events they have organized such as assemblies, Frosty Bingo, and themed dress up days have brought joy, connection, and a strong sense of community to our school. Beyond these celebrations, the team meets regularly to review behavior data and thoughtfully plan supports for students who need them most. This team is among the most important in our school, as their work is foundational to the positive climate and culture we strive to build and sustain year after year.
- **Catalyst Approach:** All three sites are excited to partner once again with The Catalyst Approach to provide professional development focused on classroom management and effective behavioral strategies. We are especially looking forward to our elementary teachers working closely with our trainer, Nicole, and to a small group of staff visiting another school to observe these strategies being successfully implemented in classrooms across other districts.
- **The Buzz of Learning:** I continue to be impressed by the fun, interactive learning experiences taking place across our school. From students heading to the wrestling room to play Gaga Ball or bowling during physical education, to Reader's Theater performances that build confidence and fluency, learning is active and engaging. Our phonics lessons are both interactive and intentional, strengthened by the READ Act training our staff has been completing. Add to that the countless art projects and hands on science lessons, and it is clear that students are learning by doing. If you take a walk through our halls at any time of the day, you will hear the buzz of learning and see students engaged in experiences that truly bring a smile to your face.

Thank you,  
Myles Knutson