

October Board Updates

Hawks Nest: Kelly Snell

The Hawks Nest was excited to be included in the Homecoming festivities this year with their very own mini-pepfest complete with an obstacle course coordinated by staff and high school visitors. In addition to the pepfest our students had a coloring contest, searched daily for “Harry the Hawk” and participated in dress up days. It was a fun week at the Hawks Nest.



Students are also participating in Fire Prevention Week in October with fire drills, field trips to the fire hall and in class education. We're grateful to our volunteer firefighters for taking time to show the children their equipment and talking to them about fire safety.

[ECFE classes](#) have had a very slow start this year, having most cancelled due to low enrollment. This is unusual as in years past these same classes have filled to capacity. It is unclear why this has occurred. Increased communications have been generated with home childcares and local childcare centers with requests to promote ECFE with their families.

Early Childhood Screening resulted in 7 full referrals for special education evaluations. Several of the recently screened families have now registered for Small World Preschool bringing our total Small World registration across 3 classrooms to 79 students.

Montevideo Community Education was the recipient of a \$1000 Chippewa CARE Collaborative grant to be used to offer [Heroes in Action](#) scholarships for recreation, enrichment, and ECFE courses. These scholarships are awarded based on the application for educational benefits and eligible youth receive either 25% or 50% discount on registration. Drivers Education is not eligible for Heroes in Action scholarships at this time.

[NFL Flag Football](#) wraps up on Saturday, Oct 10. 37 youth grades 1-6 participated in this first year offering. [EMP Wingman Fall VB Camp](#) with Daynica Brown, championship coach and multiple-time Minnesota State Class A Coach of the Year, has been recently added with a start date in October.

Work has begun on a campaign for National Community Education Day, November 12 and also the next catalog of course offerings which will include January - May 2027.

MES: Heidi Sachariason

MES FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

MES Hawk News

MES provides families with weekly newsletters. This is a strategy we use at the elementary level to keep families informed. Below are the newsletters we have had for families so far this year. Staff also receive a newsletter each week.

- [September 11th MES News for Families](#)
- [September 18th MES News For Families](#)
- [September 25th MES News for Families](#)
- [October 2nd MES News for Families](#)

MES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Homecoming

A big thank you to the HS Student Council and staff for the planning for homecoming week. Students came to the elementaries to give students a pepfest in their own gyms rather than coming to the high school this year.

Fire Safety Week

During the week of October 5th we learn about Fire Safety Week. We were grateful for the help of the Montevideo Fire Department in teaching our

students about Fire Safety. Mr. Raymo and the fire department do an excellent job with our students and planning activities for students to teach fire safety.

MES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: CLASS SIZE ANALYSIS

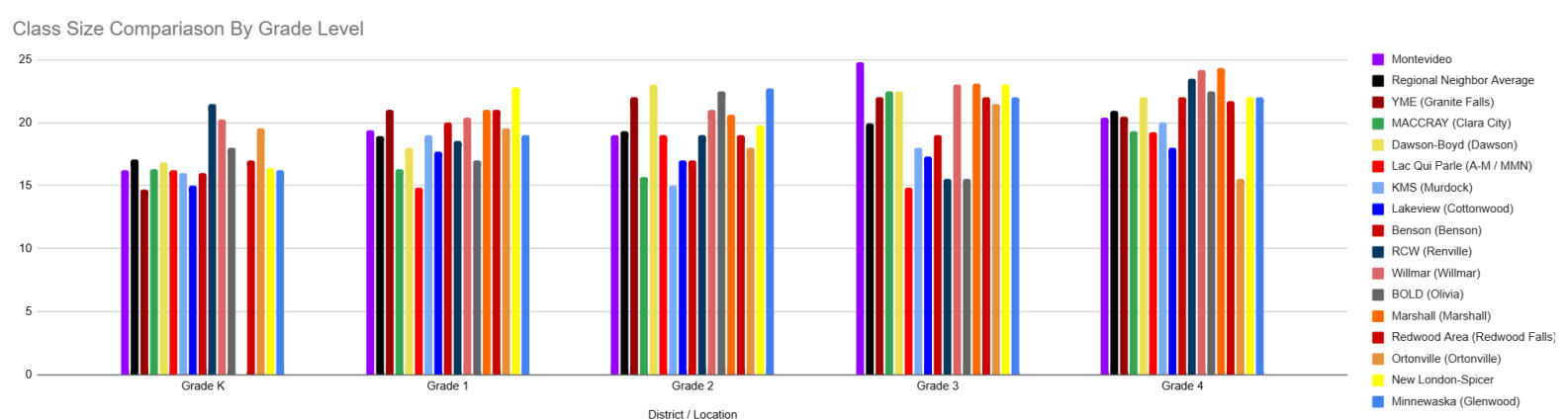
Last school year, cutting a teaching position led to increased class sizes. Below is a summary of state guidelines, regional comparisons, and teacher survey findings regarding elementary class sizes.

State Guidance: Districts must reserve state revenue to hire K–3 classroom teachers to achieve a 17:1 average ratio ([MN Statute 126C.12](#)).

Regional Comparisons (50-Mile Radius):

	Montevideo			Regional Average (50 Mile radius)	Comparison Between Montevideo and Regional Average
Grade Level	Student Count	Sections	Average Class Size		
Kindergarten	81	5	16.2	17.1	Montevideo is slightly below the regional average
Grade 1	97	5	19.4	18.9	Montevideo aligns with regional averages
Grade 2	95	5	19.0	19.3	
Grade 3	99	4	24.8	19.9	Montevideo is the highest in the comparison group
Grade 4	102	5	20.4	21.7	Montevideo is slightly below the regional average

Teacher Survey Results: 21 teachers (87.5% of staff) responded to a survey on class size impact.



- **Instructional Impact:** 47.6% of surveyed teachers report that class size prevents reaching every student daily (14.3% weekly).
- **20-Student Threshold:** Class sizes under 20 allow quiet environments and frequent 1-on-1 check-ins. Class sizes of 21+ lead to increased noise, crowding, and management challenges.
- **Workload Strain:** Without classroom TAs, larger class sizes add hours of weekly prep, grading, and parent communication.

Montevideo Teacher-Recommended Class Size Targets

Grade Span	Recommended Range	Rationale
Kindergarten	16-18	Essential for foundational skills and intensive 1-1 assistance.
Grade 1-2	18-20	Critical window for early intervention before academic gaps widen.
Grades 3-4	18-22	Accommodates small-group differentiation and physical room square-footage.

MMS: Shawn Huntley

October School Board Report for MMS

The Montevideo Middle School Student Advisory Team has started!

Purpose of the Team:

The Principal/Student Advisory Team provides a direct platform for students to voice their suggestions for school improvement, discuss areas of concern regarding student life and school culture, and work collaboratively with school administration to brainstorm solutions. As a member, you will serve as a representative of your peers, helping to ensure that student perspectives guide our school leadership decisions.

Team Member Commitments:

- Attend scheduled advisory meetings during the school day with the Principal.
- Actively participate in respectful discussions and group brainstorming sessions.
- Gather feedback and listen to ideas from classmates and peers.
- Demonstrate a commitment to improving our school community for everyone.

Team Updates:

- The Student Advisory Team currently has eight students from grades 7 and 8.
- We have met 3 times.
- We have developed a Google Form survey for students to gather interest in attending an after-school activity/club. Some ideas include an E-Sports Club, Board Game Club, Cooking/Baking Club, Book Club, Theatre/Drama Club, and several others.
- We will send the survey to all students in grades 5-8 this week to gauge interest.
- We will then select which clubs have enough interest to start up.
- Each club will need an adult supervisor. We currently have 2 community members willing to supervise/sponsor a club. One of these includes the owner of the game store downtown.
- Finally, we have created a list of ideas on how to improve the student experience at MMS. A few ideas include increasing students' sense of belonging and acceptance of all persons, elective class options, and allowing gum, bubble gum, and cell phones (during lunch).

I will be attending South View Middle School in Edina, MN on October 28th. I attended sessions held by South View at the MASSP Conference last winter. They are one of the highest-performing middle schools in the state and have robust advisory, flex, and intervention programs that I am interested in seeing in action.

MHS: Christine Udarbe

October School Board Report for MHS

Montevideo High School has updated its attendance and tardy procedures, shifting to a proactive, restorative approach focused on early support. Rather than relying solely on consequences when a student misses class or school, our staff now works directly with families to identify and solve the root causes of attendance issues, such as transportation hurdles, medical concerns, or personal obligations. While clear accountability measures like detention, which focuses on homework help and completion, remain in place for repeated unexcused absences, every step in the process now prioritizes partnership, flexible scheduling, and practical support over simple discipline.

This restorative shift is already producing positive results. Our current regular attendance rate is 96%, which is 1% higher than our school goal of 95% and 10% higher than last year's 86% annual rate. Equally encouraging is the positive feedback from our school community. Parents have frequently expressed their gratitude for our academic success coordinator for her efforts to listen and understand their family's specific circumstances, offering helpful resources to keep their students on track rather than immediately issuing a consequence. We are proud of this

momentum and look forward to continuing this supportive approach to help every student succeed.

MTSS: Heidi Huseby

Presenting at Meeting

Activities: Michael Trewick

Hall of Fame: We inducted our first Hall of Fame class since 2017. Several new members attended and were introduced to our student body at our Homecoming pepfest. They all attended our Homecoming Football game and were introduced at half time. On Saturday we held a banquet at the Legion that 135 people attended. Our next class will be inducted in 2 years and hopefully that will be in the new PAC.

Fall Play: They are right in the middle of their preparation for a November 13th at 7pm and November 14th at 7pm production of “Radium Girls” at the Hollywood Theatre.

Student Council: The students and advisors did an awesome job with Homecoming week. Everything from individual school pepfests to the parade. Weeks like this is what makes Montevideo a special place.

Cross Country: We hosted our home meet at the golf course yesterday and it was so well done and planned by coach Dave. We have almost 50 students signed up for cross country this year. Both the boys and girls team have been competitive in every meet this year.

Football: The varsity continues to make strides each and every week. It may not show in the scoreboard but they are getting better. We got placed in an incredibly good district. The c-squad will play 7 games this year.. They have been competitive in every game they have played either winning or losing the game in the last couple of minutes. Our numbers and competitiveness at the JH level has been very good. Our Elementary Flag Football league is thriving with young future Thunder Hawks

Girl's Swim and Dive: The swim team has been very competitive this year. They are doing some things that they have not done for years. The girls are doing a great job adjusting to a new Head Coach and a new JV coach.

Girl's Tennis: They have lost very few matches this year. matches this year. They got the number 2 seed in the section. They will start Section Tennis with a home meet next week.. We have already beat all the section teams except Morris Area this year (lost a tight 4-3 match)

Volleyball: It has been an up and down year for this team. They won the first conference match in their last 18 games last Thursday. They will head to a weekend tournament in Marshall Friday. They could be a team that could upset some teams in the section. Our JH program has had a great year and had enough numbers for 3 teams.