

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



District

Plans for our 2-hour late start in October are completed. We will be reviewing district assessment data and developing work around our student achievement so that we can build-up learning capacity post-COVID's distance and hybrid learning.

PreK-6 Grade

The school year is off to a great start! We are so happy to have students and staff back in the buildings. September has flown by and there has been much action!

Staff have been immersed in teaching routines, classroom expectations and diving into curriculum!

Sep. 14 WEM 5th graders attended the Farm and Home Safety Day at Farm America sponsored by the WasecaFarm Bureau. Students received information about Electrical Safety, Chemical Safety, Lawn Mower/Chainsaw Safety, ATV/Snowmobile/Boat, Safety, Tractor/PTO Safety, Animal Safety.

This week WEM Kindergarteners will be visiting the Montgomery Apple Orchard in to learn about the life cycle of an apple!

K-4 students had their first All School Bucs Pride Assembly. Students reviewed some Bucs Pride Expectations and were introduced to some of our kindness initiative activities as well as celebrating students' demonstration of Bucs Pride!

Oct. 4 we will begin the after school program known as "Choices". Information and sign up information went home last week to students 3rd-8th grade. The purpose of the program is to support student learning through activities that reteach and/or enrich curriculum.

Oct. 7 WEM 6th graders will be attending History Fest at Jack McGowan's Farm in Mankato. Students will have the opportunity to get hands-on learning experiences with periods in history. Students will experience a variety of entertainment and activities ranging from Historical Interpreters of 17th century Scotland and the Old West to launching a catapult, cider making, cannon shooting and so much more.

Teachers in both buildings have worked in their grade level teams to review the PLC process and goals of a PLC.

Sept. 27- Oct. 1 Elementary students will participate in some Homecoming activities including dress up days and parade/pep fest fun.

We are hosting student teachers this year in the elementary. Currently Karen Marzahn and Julie Hayford each have a student. They are both in their first block, so here part time and in classes at MSU part-time. Second semester they will be in the building daily working up to their full time student teaching experience.

Formal observations of new teachers will begin soon!

7-12 Grade

We are excited and happy to have students and staff back in our buildings and we are off to a more traditional start to the year! While it has been a whirlwind September, our leadership, staff, PBIS and PLC groups have all met at least once this month for planning and to grow as a staff.

Southern MN Counseling Services continues to serve our students. A therapist that has long served our Waterville students is out on maternity leave, but the therapist in Morristown is filling in and helping out. The transition has been seamless.

Formal observations for our new staff are underway. All secondary staff newly hired will have a formal observation by the end of the week. All non-tenured staff will have a formal observation before the end of October. All non-tenured staff will receive three formal observations, while tenured staff will be on a rotation. Informal observations will continue. Due to the decrease in restrictions and room capacities observations can be conducted throughout the district with an increase in intensity compared to 2020-2021.

Thank you to our SRO, Officer Petrasek for assisting with activity in the building over the last week. I appreciate his insight, rational problem solving and continuous positive presence in the district.

Homecoming is this week, thank you to Mrs. Butzer (HS student council advisor) and Pam Heinze (JH student council advisor) along with our senior class advisors who have helped lead the planning for the week with our student council. The week is looking to be very active, but also engaging. We are very excited to welcome back traditional events such as our annual Homecoming Parade and PepFest! Go Bucs!

Paul Moe from Josten's will be coming into the high school in the next few weeks to meet with sophomores (class rings) and seniors (graduation materials). This is a fun time for both our sophomore and seniors as they begin the ordering process.

October is College and Career month. High school counselor Bridgette Reuvers has a number of fun things planned for the month for students, including college representatives coming in to host informational meetings.

County truancy offices have increased their communication already this year. While Waseca County's truancy office was fully operational throughout the 2020-2021 school year, other counties in our area took different approaches to truancy. Through the process it appears that new systems are being adapted and I believe more user friendly/streamlined. While it was frustrating last year to work through truancy cases with some counties, I believe we are back to partnering and for the better to support kids in our building if truancy becomes an issue.

Mrs. Reuvers and I have been working with families and students as a proactive measure on credit checks. We are dedicated to being transparent and helpful in credit needs for our students, seniors in particular, so assure on-time graduation.

The high school will host a level 3 teacher candidate from MNSU this fall. The candidate will be working with Mr. Hauer and Mr. Smith in social studies. The placement includes less than 40 hours of work. We have also been asked by the service coop to host special education teacher candidates, which we have interest in from the Morristown building.