



MAHTOMEDI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent Update

November 12, 2024

Experience Excellence





Congratulations to the Mahtomedi High School
Academic Achievement Letter winners!

Overview

- **Around the District**
- **Awards & Noteworthy News**
- **Upcoming Events**



Around the District

OHA Veterans Event

OHA students invited family members, neighbors, and community members who are Veterans to be honored at the celebration. We had over 30 Veterans join the celebration!

Students and staff also heard from this year's keynote speaker, Veteran and Wildwood Principal Scott Briske. Mr. Briske shared his military experience with students and staff. He said that one of the most memorable experiences he had in the military was when he returned from Iraq and was welcomed home by Veterans. He shared that being in the military helped him build skills to be flexible and work hard.



Around the District

Board Walks

Over the past month, our schools have welcomed Board members to visit with our staff and students and see our learning in action, visits have included:

- OHA: Wit & Wisdom
- MMS: Middle School Success, Geography, English Language Arts, and Literacy
- MHS: AVID, Psychology, Math, Business, Biology, and Fab Lab



Around the District

Student Cabinet

The Superintendent's Student Cabinet met November 6 and discussed the strengths and areas of growth for culture in academics, personal belonging, and spirit/pride.

The Cabinet will be reviewing the comments shared and work collaboratively with administrators on action steps.



Around the District

The Globe Newsletter

The Globe Newsletter is a print piece mailed to all district residents, staff, and families. The latest issue was recently mailed to stakeholders.

An electronic version of the Globe is available on the [Communications Department web page](#) under Globe newsletter or [directly via this link](#).



Around the District

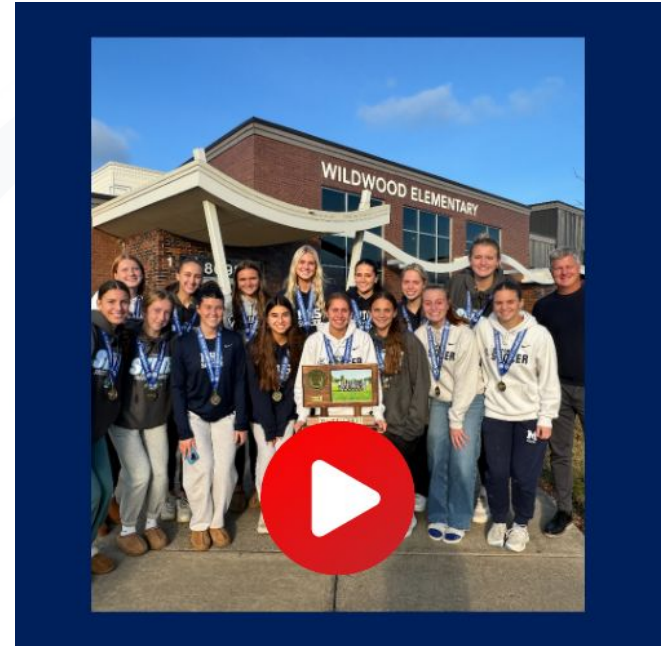
State

Congratulations to our team and individual athletes who have advanced to State competition!

Girls Soccer: Congratulations to the Girls Soccer team for winning their 11th State title, which is a state record!

Volleyball: The team finished in fifth place at the State Tournament.

Swimming: 11 athletes will head to the State swim meet this week.



Our State Champions recently visited our elementary schools. [Watch the recap video.](#)



Around the District

Zephyr Service Project: November 1-30

District-wide service project that provides gift assistance for students in need at Mahtomedi Public Schools.

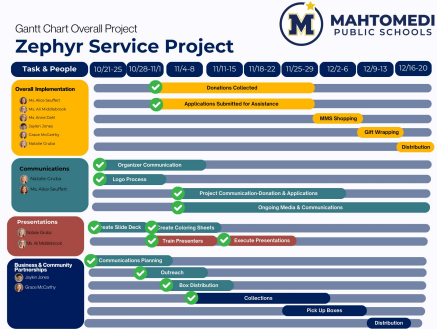


- **Early Childhood, Preschool, and Wildwood Elementary School Students and Staff:** New Children's and Young Adult Books
- **O.H. Anderson Elementary School Students and Staff:** Toys and Puzzles
- **Mahtomedi Middle School Students and Staff:** Financial Donations (students can bring cash or checks to their Middle School Success class; checks should be made out to Mahtomedi Middle School) MMS students will be shopping for clothes, pajamas, blankets, and non-toy needs.
- **Mahtomedi High School and Passages Students and Staff:** Gift Cards for Young Adults
- **District-Wide Staff:** Gift Wrap and Gift Bags (Drop off at DEC)



Around the District

Zephyr Service Project: NEW DECA Involvement



Student-created logo



Service Learning Presentations at OHA and MMS and Poster Making at Wildwood



Business Partnerships-Filling need for hats, gloves, and socks and opportunity for community members to get involved
Drop Off Locations: 350 Degrees, The Wild Bean, State Farm (Ty Haschig Office), and Curio Dance in Stillwater

Project Management Support & Gantt Charts



Around the District

Community Education:

MahtoREADi

V. V. Ganeshanathan was the guest author of this year's MahtoREADi. MahtoREADi is supported by Washington County Library Wildwood Library, Mahtomedi Community Education, the volunteer Mahtomedi Committee, and Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

New Opportunity for Community: Women Who Walk Free, 9-10am on Thursdays

Meet at the front entrance of the Mahtomedi District Education Center. Walkers take a mostly-paved portion of the Lake Links trail, approximately 2 miles round trip. Routes may vary based on group preference and weather. Friendly dogs are welcome!



Awards & Noteworthy News

Academic Awards

Congratulations to the Mahtomedi High School Academic Achievement Letter winners!

The Academic Awards at Mahtomedi High School recognizes a student's past year's academic achievement (2023-24 school year). At school, we held a recognition celebration with families and presented students with their Mahtomedi Letter (if it was their first Letter) and a certificate.

In the Academic Awards programs, you'll see that we asked all of our Academic Award recipients, "What class or learning experience at Mahtomedi High School has shaped your academic growth or passions?"

[Class of 2025 Academic Awards program](#)

[Class of 2026 Academic Awards program](#)

[Class of 2027 Academic Awards program](#)



Awards & Noteworthy News

Ada Thompson

Congratulations to **Ada Thompson (Class of 2026)**, who was recently **selected for the American Choral Directors' Association (ACDA) Mixed Honor Choir**. Out of more than 5,000 students who auditioned, Ada is one of only 300 students chosen for this prestigious ensemble.

“Ada’s selection for the National Honor Choir is a remarkable achievement that highlights her dedication and talent,” said Chad Garrels Director of Choral Activities at Mahtomedi High School. “We are incredibly proud of her and look forward to seeing her shine on this national stage.”



Awards & Noteworthy News

Laken Decker & Addison Briske, 916 Students of the Month

Each month, 916 celebrates and honors one student from each of their 20 programs as a Student of the Month. A Student of the Month is characterized by the professional skills of Leadership, Problem Solving, Teamwork, Engagement, and Communication.



Laken Decker (Class of 2025), Construction Occupations-Student Built Home

“Laken has been an outstanding student during this year. He comes prepared for class every day with a great attitude. His willingness to learn and help others creates a positive environment in our class. I also want to commend Laken on his professionalism, safety, and participation. Keep up the good work!!”



Addison Briske (Class of 2025), Dental Careers

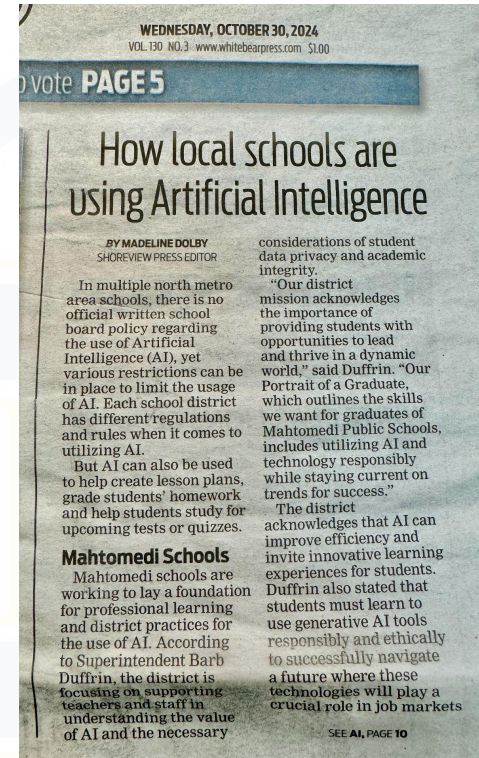
“Addison is kind and approachable to all her classmates. Her presence in class is enjoyable, and she brings a great energy that everyone needs in a first time block.”



Awards & Noteworthy News

Our district was featured in article about Artificial Intelligence in the [October 30 issue of the *White Bear Press*](#).

“Our district mission acknowledges the importance of providing students with opportunities to lead and thrive in a dynamic world,” said Duffrin. “Our Portrait of a Graduate, which outlines the skills we want for graduates of Mahtomedi Public Schools, includes utilizing AI and technology responsibly while staying current on trends for success.”



Upcoming Events

- Now – November 21: [MAEF Fall Fund Drive](#)
- November 1-30: Zephyr Service Project
- November 14: National Community Education Day
- November 15th and 16th at 7pm and November 17th at 2pm: Mahtomedi Theatre [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#)
- November 27-29, December 2: No School (Thanksgiving and Professional Development)

