



BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Hastings Public Schools

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October 21, 2025 Student Representative Reports

Aidan Suarez Garcia

Hastings High School

Transitioning into the school year the High School kicked it off with homecoming. The Raiders faced Two Rivers in our homecoming game, with the raiders taking “home” the win with a score of 29-19. The game was not the only event with the crowning of our king and queen, Matthew Jelks and Maddie Elliot. Over the MEA break there was a trip to Boston and New York. On this trip students visited historical landmarks and tourist spots. In Boston they visited the Freedom Trail, Lexington and Concord, and the Luisa May Alcott house. In New York, they visited the Statue of Liberty, Broadway, Ellis Island, an observatory called the Edge which is at 11,000 ft from the ground, Wall Street, and the 9/11 memorial. But for upcoming events, there is a Student School Board Representative Event where other student representatives can collaborate with our peers and learn how to better use our student voice. Last year, this was a very eye opening event that helped me understand the issues that come without a second perspective from the students.









ALC

Hastings Alternative High School has seen a significant enrollment increase from about 32 to 50 students this year. To accommodate this growth, Ms. Butler joined as a full-time teacher, Mr. Waage's teaching time expanded to cover 3rd and 4th periods, and Mr. Pottinger was added part-time for 1st and 2nd periods. With these staffing changes, the school now offers three different courses each period.

The first quarter ends on October 31. Mr. Waage's Physics class will finish the term with a student-built rocket launch. The annual fall photo contest winners are Nataly Alvarez Marroquin, Brady Williams, and Lillie Schnaith; their photos will be displayed on canvas at HAHS.

Jen Behnke

Hastings Middle School

Hastings Middle has had a very eventful start to their year! Let's catch up on what they've been up to:

October's Theme: Safety

Fall Musical!

- The fall musical this year is Annie!
- Rehearsal is underway and we are excited for the show!

5/6th Grade Halloween Dance

- A Halloween dance party was held on October 9th!!
- Students were encouraged to wear costumes to add to the atmosphere.

Sports

- HMS fall sports (Volleyball, Soccer, XC, Girls Tennis) have all wrapped up this month with many successes!

November Upcoming:

Depression Awareness & Suicide Prevention Program for 6th Grade Students - Hastings Middle School will partner with UWRF Psychology students to hear about the SOS (Signs of Suicide) Program!

- The program will help students to:
 - Understand depression
 - Recognize warning signs
 - Learn how to seek help
- Students will view videos, discuss with staff, and undergo screenings

Coffee With the Counselors

- The Counseling team is hosting a coffee and chat event to discuss mental health with students

Shyla Henson

Kennedy Elementary

- Students eagerly participated in the annual PTA Fun Run
 - Students K-4 ran alongside the Cougar mascot
 - Encouraged teamwork and team support



- Students participated in the annual Bus Safety lesson
 - Learned expectations for bus riding and how to respond in an emergency situation





- Students learned about nature during an activity outside in STEM class
 - Students make connections between nature and science



Tilden

- Preschool is off to a very exciting start with fun activities
 - Balancing and stacking owls- teamwork skills



- Self-portraits - connecting art to a real-life figure, noticing details about themselves



- Learning about music through tempo and rhythm



- Hastings Fire Department, along with a fire truck, visited the preschoolers



Avery Durfee

McAuliffe Elementary

McAuliffe Elementary has had a super fun jam packed October for both students and teachers.

- October 1st and 2nd: To kick off the spooky season, members of the Hastings *Climb Theatre* visited students in K-4th grade to teach them the importance of empathy, whilst also making the lesson fun and engaging!
- October 6th and 7th: The following week, the Firefighters of the Hastings Fire Department came to give a very important and very necessary briefing on fire safety to all of the students at McAuliffe. Big thank you to the Hastings Fire Department!
- October 8th: Although the weather was that of a true MN fall day, the Kindergarteners braved the chill and took a very exciting, well-worth-it field trip up to Carpenter Nature Center.
- October 13th, 14th, and 15th: Even though the students did not have class on the 15th due to morning conferences, the Scholastic book fair ran all 3 days during evening conferences.

Coming up in October:

- October 31st: The 3rd graders get to have fun during their afternoon Halloween Celebration. Lucky Ducks!

Pinecrest Elementary

- September 26th - October 6th: The Pinecrest PTA kicked off the month with their successful yearly Read-a-Thon in an effort to raise money for upcoming student field trips. They raised over \$9,000!



- October 1st: Pinecrest also had its K-4th grade fire safety lessons with the Hastings Fire Department.

- October 3rd: Later that week, local author Zora Zee kindly visited Pinecrest to read her newly published children's book, *Lino the Lizard*, to all grades!



- October 8th & 9th: The 2nd graders got to take a walk down to and tour the Hastings Fire Department, they also got to see a video on fire safety, see a fire boat, see what the firefighters wear, and walk through the cab of a firetruck! Another big thank you to the HFD.



- October 13th-15th: Pinecrest held their Scholastic Bookfair during teacher conferences, which is always a student favorite.
- October 20th: The kindergarteners took a very fun field trip to Afton Apple Orchard just this past Monday!
- October 22: Today was Picture Makeup Day for all students.