



Menahga Principal's Board Report

Lisa Parrish and Michelle Koch
December, 2025

CELEBRATIONS:

November was an engaging and action-packed month, highlighting the College and Career Pathway learning taking place at both the High School and Elementary School. In addition to participating in High School-themed dress-up activities, Elementary students were invited to engage in a week-long series of special events designed to showcase the pathways. The schedule of activities was as follows:

- Monday, November 17 - College and Military Day: Students dressed as their dream career.
- Tuesday, November 18 - Engineering, Arts, and Trades: Elementary students participated in the Engineering Paper Airplane Challenge.
- Wednesday, November 19 - Healthcare Day: Activities included the Germ Lab at handwashing stations, visits from community helpers, and the Rainbow Nutrition activity.
- Thursday, November 20 - Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources: Students engaged in Chomp Saws (woodworking simulations) and 3D Pen welding activities.
- Friday, November 21 - Business and Technology: Activities included Mall of Menahga and a Shark Tank simulation.

These events provided students with hands-on, interactive experiences designed to foster awareness, curiosity, and engagement in potential career pathways.



Volunteers from AgCentric helping out



Dressing for careers



Mall of Menahga is open for business



Pictured: Some of our sixth grade Shark Tank winners

Elementary Update:

November was a busy month filled with engaging learning experiences across all grade levels, and December continues to be equally active! One highlight is the ongoing implementation of our new Bridges math curriculum, which is progressing very well. Classrooms are buzzing with interactive learning as students explore mathematical concepts through hands-on manipulatives and visual supports, fostering a deeper understanding of number sense and problem-solving strategies.

A key component of the new curriculum this year is Number Corner, which provides daily opportunities for students to build skills and concepts aligned with critical areas of study. Some highlights of this programming include:

- *Daily Workouts:* Short, targeted exercises that introduce, reinforce, and extend skills. Each day, new pieces are added to the display to prompt discussion, problem solving, and written practice.
- *Calendar Grid:* Patterns that introduce and reinforce number and geometry skills.
- *Calendar Collector:* Activities that deepen understanding of estimation, counting, place value, measurement, and data.
- *Computational Fluency:* Games and practice pages designed to develop and maintain computational fluency.
- *Number Line & Number Path:* Counting and number sense activities (Grades K-3 and K-1, respectively).
- *Days in School:* Routines that utilize the number of days in school to reinforce math concepts (Grades K-1).
- *Daily Rectangle:* Yearlong exploration of rectangular arrays and equations (Grade 2).
- *Problem Strings:* Closely related equations that target specific strategies (Grades 4-5).
- *Solving Problems:* Challenges aimed at refining problem-solving skills and mathematical communication (Grades 3-5).

In addition to curriculum implementation, the district is preparing for a winter assessment cycle in PreK-6, evaluating both reading and math to monitor student growth and guide instruction for the remainder of the year.

These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to engaging, hands-on, and meaningful learning experiences for all students.

High School Update:

Second Semester Planning

We are actively working on getting the 2nd semester ready to roll. This process includes reviewing student interest inventories, SchoolLinks data, and staff surveys to ensure we are aligning student needs and preferences with our strategic plan and our CTE goals. Our aim is to build a schedule that supports meaningful pathways, meets student demand, and strengthens our overall academic program.

AVID Goal Reflection: Organizational and Study Skills

Our AVID team met with Susan from Sourcewell to review our current goal on strengthening organizational and study skills for our 7th- and 8th-grade and 9-12th AVID Elective students. By using binders, focused note-taking strategies, and calendars, we are working to help students develop habits that support their academic success across all classes.

The intended student outcome is for students to become more independent, organized, and confident in managing their schoolwork. We want them to not only keep track of assignments and materials, but also to understand *how* to study and engage with learning in a more purposeful way.

We are working on collecting data through surveys and work samples.

Advisory Hour

On Tuesday, November 25, we held our second [Advisory Hour](#) (during 3rd hour). Teachers used this time to review school-wide expectations, guide students through SchoolLinks activities, and continue with Brave Connections – our program designed to support student well-being and strengthen emotional intelligence skills. On December 12th, Sourcewell will be joining Hope and me to meet with all grade levels and support students as they work through their SchoolLinks overdue tasks.

The Winter Storm Season

Looking ahead, I surveyed the HS staff to request feedback on a shortened day or a [skinny schedule](#) for an early dismissal and/or later start. We are all set with both!

- **Important Dates:**

- a. Dec. 16th- High School Band/ Choir Concert, 6:30PM High School Gym
- b. Dec. 18th- Elementary Christmas Concert, 6:00PM High School Gym
- c. Dec. 23rd- Early Release at 12:30PM
- d. Dec. 24th-Jan. 2nd- Winter Break
- e. Jan. 19th- Staff Development, No School

Menahga Principal Goals for 2025-2026

In alignment with the District Strategic Plan, we would like to collectively propose the following goals for the 2025-2026 school year.

Goal 1: Strengthen Literacy and Academic Achievement

Ensure all students achieve at high levels by implementing evidence-based reading instruction aligned with the Minnesota READ Act, closing racial and economic achievement gaps, and building staff capacity in differentiated instruction to support the diverse needs of learners.

- Academic interventions currently happening in K-12
- Walk throughs happening in all classrooms
- Lisa Parrish and Andria Bristow are attending monthly Literacy Meetings at Sourcewell and communication updates to shape future planning for Menahga Public Schools
- Capti Training is scheduled for literacy teachers in 4th-12th grade on January 19th, 2026
- Three hours of Bridges curriculum development time scheduled for January 19th, 2026
- First round of observations for all probationary staff are complete
- Second round of observations for probationary staff are beginning

Goal 2: Expand Career Pathways and Authentic Learning Opportunities

Increase student engagement and readiness for college, career, and life by developing cross-curricular, career-connected learning experiences; expanding community and business partnerships; and providing authentic, hands-on opportunities such as senior capstone projects and internships.

- The Committee met and planned accordingly for further advancement
- Expansion through “Career Play” in Kindergarten
- Expansion of Entrepreneurship in 5th Grade- Coffee Shop
- Career Pathways Week in November, including Elementary
- 2025-2026 Career Pathways Committee Training scheduled with Sourcewell

Goal 3: Support the Whole Child and Invest in Staff Development

Provide comprehensive supports that meet the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students, while ensuring every student has a positive connection with a caring adult. Strengthen staff recruitment, professional development, and training—including emerging tools such as AI—to sustain a future-focused and supportive learning environment.

- New staff taking part in Sourcewell’s New Teacher Academy, moved to MPS
- New staff taking part in Mentorship with Kerry White
- AI Training for PreK-12 certified staff on November 14th
- Capti Training is scheduled for literacy teachers in 4th-12th grade on January 19th, 2026
- Data meetings and coaching cycles being implemented with Teaching and Learning Coordinator
- Monitoring of ADSIS interventions in K-12

- ACT testing coordination in process for grades 11 and 12

Menahga School District Enrollment

Grade Level	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	March	April	May	
PreK	41	41	39	39					
K	85	85	84	84					
1	62	61	60	61					
2	73	73	73	72					
3	74	73	73	74					
4	82	81	81	80					
5	67	65	65	66					
6	76	75	75	75					
7	77	75	74	73					
8	80	79	79	80					
9	76	76	75	75					
10	93	92	92	92					
11	70	65	65	64					
12	73	72	72	73					
Total	1029	1013	1007	1008					
OpenEd			131	129					
Total			1138	1,137					

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Parrish and Michelle Koch