



Waterville-Elysian-Morristown

ISD #2143

Greetings School Board Members,

I am pleased to be writing my first principal report as the new building principal of our 5-8 Middle School in Morristown. It has been a busy summer of road construction, putting together a new building schedule, and learning all of the inner workings of our district and school.

Superintendent Regan and Dr. Wilson told me once August 1st rolls around, it will start to get real busy and boy were they right. I can't thank both of them enough for their guidance and support this summer as we prepare for the 2024-25 school year. Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- **Staff Meet and Greet:** About 10 staff members volunteered their time to come in and meet with me to get to know one another and talk about what makes our school such a special place to be. There was a common theme amongst everyone I visited with, which was "We are a family". Some other comments from staff members that stood out to me were, "Proud of our PBIS Program", "Everyone goes to bat for one another", "The smiles of students", "We care about the kids", "We all genuinely want to be here", and "We are a team, We are a family". These common themes make me extremely excited and grateful to be part of the W-E-M community!
- **Building Schedule:** A team of teachers have been hard at work creating schedules and placing students the past three weeks. There have been quite a few obstacles in the way and I applaud all of their hard work as well as the flexibility of the teaching staff for being open to changes in schedules this close to the start of the school year.
- **PBIS Exemplar School:** Our middle school building was one of 76 schools recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education as a PBIS Exemplar school! I look forward to meeting with the PBIS team at our building this week and learning about all of the extraordinary things they have in place to promote positive behavior and interventions. There was a brief article in the *The Free Press* last week recognizing us and a few other area schools for this accomplishment.
- **Open House:** Plans are in place to host open house on August 28th from 4:00 p.m - 7:30 p.m. We will be giving families the option of attending two different open house times. Option 1 is from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and will be an unstructured open house where families will visit the building at their own pace. Option 2 will be from 5:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. During this structured open house families will follow their student's bell schedule and visit each classroom they have on their schedule. We look forward to meeting all of the students and families next week!

Thank you,
Myles Knutson