



MAHTOMEDI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent Update

February 23, 2026

Experience Excellence





*Wildwood Olympic Torch Walk Honors
Students Being Kind, Helpful, and Safe*

[Click here to see it in action](#)

Overview

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

Around the District

Kindness Challenge at OHA

This month, O.H. Anderson (OHA) Elementary students are putting kindness into action through hands-on service projects.

On February 12, students also shared Valentines, friendship notes, and small packaged treats to share with their class.

During lunch, students volunteered at **Kindness Service Stations** that helped spread kindness beyond OHA, including:

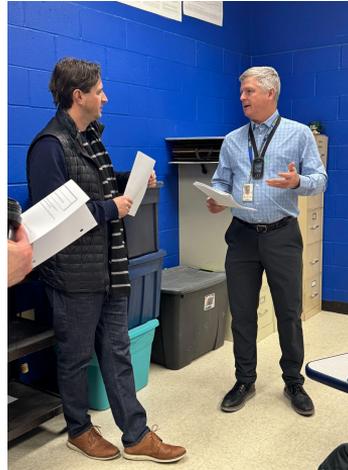
- Creating Kindness pins and cards for the Wildwood Tavern and the Wild Bean
- Making artwork for residents at St. Andrew's Village
- Designing placemats for Meals on Wheels
- Preparing treat bags to thank guest bus drivers and substitute teachers
- Cutting fabric hearts for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Hennepin Healthcare
- Writing cards for first responders



Around the District

Board Walks

In January and February, School Board members visited all four schools and saw several academic initiatives in action. The visits included elementary literacy, math, science, and art lessons as well as secondary science, English, reading intervention, math, DECA, AVID, and Spanish.



About Board Walks

The Mahtomedi School Board stays connected to the district's academic priorities by seeing them in action through Board Walks. These regular visits to schools give Board members a firsthand look at students and educators at work and how district initiatives support learning each day



Around the District

Facilities Update

This month, the facilities task forces have been working on design criteria for the Weight Room and Innovation Hub.

These task forces also spent time visiting other schools to understand use and best practices for the spaces.



Riley Parizek (Class of 2028), Charlotte Bishman (Class of 2028), Jessica Kuchar (Class of 2027), and Wesley Hoadley (Class of 2028) serve on the Innovation Hub task force.



Around the District

AI Dessert & Dialogue

On April 14, 2026, from 5-7 pm we will host a Dessert & Dialogue session with professionals whose AI use is integral to their work.

We will use the conversation to help us better understand what AI skills make students competitive and how it is used in workplaces.

The outcome of the conversation will inform our guidance for teachers to prepare students for success and the advancement of our Portrait of a Graduate work.



Around the District

Community Education News

- [Summer Community Education Registration](#) opens on March 17.
- **New** [Cornhole Tournament](#) for ages 14+ will be held on Saturday, March 21.
- **[Middle School Youth Night](#)**: Event is on March 27 (after school) with a registration deadline of March 26.

Outdoor Skate Party

Families and friends recently gathered for our annual Outdoor Skate Party hosted by Mahtomedi Community Education, the Mahtomedi Parks Commission, and Mahtomedi Youth Hockey Association. [Click here for a behind-the-scenes look!](#)



Awards & Noteworthy News

Almost 50 Mahtomedi Students Advance to State

Mahtomedi High School DECA students, under the leadership of Ms. Annie Dahl, MHS DECA teacher and advisor, recently competed in the District 2 Regional DECA Competition. Congratulations to our almost 50 students who have now advanced to the State DECA!

Students competed in categories that included business management and administration, entrepreneurship, finance, hospitality and tourism, marketing, and financial literacy. **The competition includes a rigorous, 100-question, industry-validated business exam aligned with National Curriculum Standards, as well as role-play and case-study demonstrations aligned with the competition area.**



Awards & Noteworthy News

Mahtomedi Students Place in State Top 30 on Neuroscience Exam

Congratulations to **Eleanor Halsten (Class of 2026)**, **Molly Roettger (Class of 2027)**, **Coen Chavarria (Class of 2027)**, and **Norah Jansen (Class of 2028)** from Mahtomedi High School (MHS) who competed in the Minnesota Brain Bee held at the University of Minnesota recently.

These students placed in the top 30 in a statewide exam measuring their knowledge of neuroscience to be eligible for the event. At the competition, the students participated in a verbal round to demonstrate how much they've learned about everything related to neuroscience.

The opportunity was through the MHS Neuroscience Club, advised by MHS social studies teacher Emily Larson.



Awards & Noteworthy News

Athletes Headed to State



Wrestling (Feb. 25-28)
Elizabeth Carlson (2028), Aidan Boex (2028), and Class of 2026 students Aidan Carlson, Owen Eigen, and Sam White.



Gymnastics
Margo Bruner (2028), Addi Eitel (2026), Cassia Hartman (2028) and Lucy Otto (2026) recently completed their State competition (Feb 20-21).



Adapted Hockey (Feb. 27-28)
Anabelle Zawislak (2028), Maddie Erickson (2028) and Nicholas Manz (2026)



Awards & Noteworthy News

Alum Competes in Second Olympics

Congratulations to **Giorgia Birkeland (Class of 2020)**, who competed with Team USA at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milano Cortina.

She competed for the USA Long Track Team in Team Pursuit Skating. The team finished fourth.



Photo Credit: Team USA and
Giorgia Birkeland



Awards & Noteworthy News

Alum Competes in Paralympics

Congratulations to **Max Nelson (Class of 2022)**, who will compete in Nordic Skiing with Team USA at the 2026 Winter Paralympics in Milano Cortina.

Max represented Team USA in Nordic Skiing at the Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2022 and represented Team USA in Italy this year for the Para Biathlon World Cup and the FIS Para Cross-Country World Cup competition.

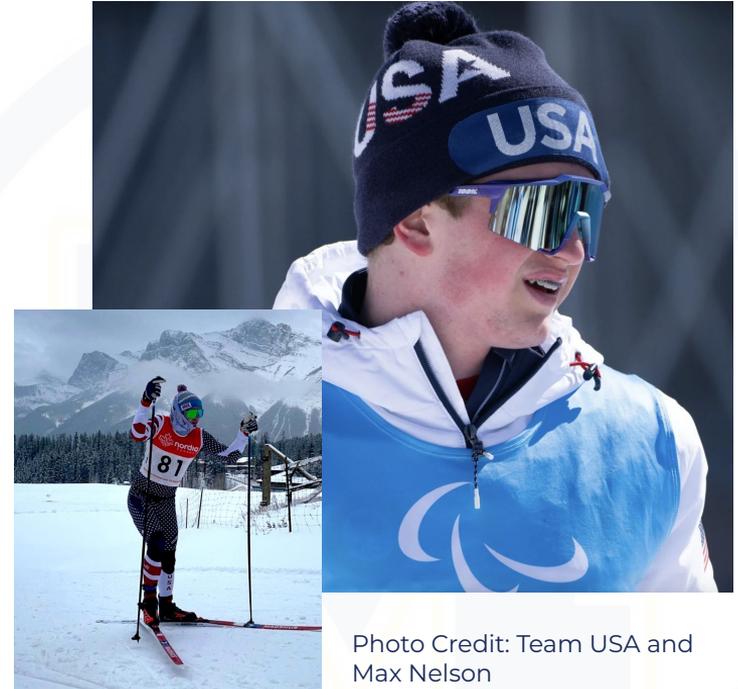


Photo Credit: Team USA and Max Nelson



Upcoming Events

March 9-13: Spring Break (No School)

March 17: Summer Community Education
Registration Opens

March 23: Zephyr Learning Showcase (6-6:15
pm, DEC)

March 26: Conferences/Family Outreach
Evening (Grades 9-12)

April 2-10: Zephyr Gala Online Auction open

April 2: Family Outreach Evening (Grades 9-12)

April 3: Teacher Professional Day (No School)

