

Report to the School Board

August 11, 2025

By Elementary School Principal Dave Riebel

Strategic Priority 1: Student Success

- Successful Summer School

Elementary School students and summer school staff traveled through a “National Parks” theme while boosting their reading and math skills prior to the start of the new school year. A big thanks to Ms. Ostrander for her coordination and planning of the weeks and theme! Thanks to Ms. Mehling, Ms. Gasca, Ms. Heftman, Mr. Weninger and Ms. Ostrander for teaching summer school this year.

Strategic Priority 2: Effective Staffing

- Welcome to the Elementary School family!

We welcome the following staff members for the 2025-2026 school year: Derek Ihrke – Third grade classroom teacher, Stephanie Kendall - special education teacher, Ben Oevering – paraprofessional and Haley Mathew – Elementary office and transportation secretary.

- Elementary School Homerooms

We begin the 2025-2026 school year with a couple of changes to our classroom teaching staff. Natalie Mehling moves from reading and math intervention to first grade. Mr. Ihrke joins third grade and Mr. Buringa returns to fourth grade. The following table highlights the homeroom classroom teachers:

Preschool	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Courtney Fricke	Marcia O’Duggan	Ginny Reszka	Kate Falkowski	Derek Ihrke	Mike Buringa	Kiley Puetz
Tina Sand	Suzanne Pilger	Natalie Mehling	Deb Heftman	Scott Schmaltz	Liza Kennedy	

Strategic Priority 3: Finance

No report this month.

Strategic Priority 4: Facilities

- Elementary rooftop solar panels



The installation of the rooftop solar panels was recently completed. The profile of the panels is low enough that they are not visible from the ground. Other than the initial water leak, the remainder of the installation went smoothly. The building was closed for two days to allow for Mi Energy to connect transformers to the new system. We look forward to the savings to begin in the coming weeks.



- Summer Cleaning

A huge shout out of thanks to the Dashir custodial crew for their efforts in cleaning and refurbishing our building and grounds. The entire building underwent a cleaning process prior to the start of summer school and we are ready for the new school year.

Strategic Priority 5: Community Engagement

- School Community Evening at the Crossings Center

We look forward to celebrating the start of a great school year with all staff, students and families at the Crossings Center on Wednesday, August 20.

- Annual Meet and Greet Conferences

Similar to previous years, Elementary School families will utilize the first two days of school to participate in a scheduled Family and Teacher conference. Families will be able to meet teachers, drop off school supplies, fill out paperwork, set up accounts and build on the excitement of the new school year. These days are scheduled for Aug. 25-26, with the first day of in-person school for PK-5 on Aug. 27th.