



Menahga Principal's Board Report

Lisa Parrish and Michelle Koch

March, 2026

CELEBRATIONS:

February was truly a month to celebrate at Menahga Elementary!. From the very first week, our buildings were buzzing with energy, creativity, and connection. It was one of those months that was packed from start to finish!

"I Love to Read" Month brought literacy to life for our students. Classrooms were filled with reading challenges and themed dress-up days. The excitement was contagious, and it was inspiring to see students lining the halls and reading together.

We also celebrated the 100th Day of School – a milestone that brought both reflection and fun. Students marked the occasion with creative projects, 100-item collections, math activities, and plenty of smiles. It was a great reminder of just how much growth and learning has taken place in just 100 days.

Our annual "Jump Rope for Heart" fundraiser was another highlight. Our second and third grade students jumped, cheered, and supported a wonderful cause, demonstrating not only physical fitness but generosity and heart. Thanks to the incredible support of our students, families, and staff, our 2026 total raised was an impressive \$14,085.62. The enthusiasm in the gym was electric, and we are so proud of the way our students rallied together to make a positive impact. A huge thank you to our second and third grade teachers as well as Ms. White and Mrs. Smith for continued support of this great event.

Of course, February wouldn't be complete without Valentine celebrations. Classrooms were filled with kindness, friendship, and thoughtful notes shared among students. February was packed with excitement and memory-making moments. It was a month that reflected strong relationships, school spirit, and a vibrant learning community. We are grateful to our staff, students, and families for making it such a meaningful and successful month!



Spelling Bee Champions



Red, White and Pink



Jump Rope for Heart



Snuggle Up and Read- Hot chocolate and pajamas

Elementary Updates

Our elementary team continues to work diligently each day to support student learning and growth. As we implement the new Bridges math curriculum, we are encouraged by the strong academic progress demonstrated from fall to winter assessments. The growth we are seeing reflects the dedication of both our students and staff in embracing this new instructional approach.

Staff members remain committed to continuous improvement, using each staff development day to deepen their learning and refine instructional practices to best meet student needs.

As we move into the second half of the school year, our focus is twofold: finishing the current year strong while also beginning thoughtful preparations to ensure a successful start to the 2026-2027 school year.

- *Important Dates:*

- a. March 17th- Local Literacy Lead meeting at Sourcewell
- b. March 23rd -Staff Development-No School
- c. March 24th -25th -Science MCA's
- d. March 26th -5th Grade Interest Fair
- e. March 26th -4th grade to Frazee Ag in the classroom
- f. March 30th Polar Plunge 1:30-2:00
- g. March 30th -4:00-5:30 Kindergarten Roundup
- h. April 1st -Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
- i. April 1st -Career Expo
- j. April 2nd -Early Release
- k. April 3rd and 6th -No School
- l. April 7th -Staff Development/No School
- m. April 4th -School Librarian Appreciation Day
- n. April 6-10th - Assistant Principal Week
- o. April 15th -16th -Reading MCA's
- p. April 2 th -Goodies with Grown Ups @2:05
- q. April 21st -22nd -Math MCA's
- r. April 21st -6th Gr League of Women's Voters @12:30
- s. April 22nd -Administrative Professionals' Day
- t. April 30th -HS Band Concert @7:00 in HSG

High School Update:

Menahga School Board Student Representative

Pending Board Approval: Aliah Haataja will be joining us as the Menahga School Board Student Representative, beginning with the April meeting. Aliah is a sophomore at Menahga High School and the daughter of Kara Haataja. We are excited to welcome her voice and perspective as she helps represent the experiences, ideas, and interests of our student body. Student representation is an important way for our board to stay connected to the day-to-day experiences of our students, and we look forward to Aliah's contributions in the months ahead.

Celebrating MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS Month!

Our 6th-8th grade choir and 7th-8th grade band students put on a FANTASTIC concert for our PreK-5th grade students and community members yesterday in the Elementary Gym.

The performers shared a variety of entertaining pieces including one from "Bluey" that had the students smiling, clapping, and singing along. It was a great opportunity for our younger students to experience live music and see what they can look forward to as they grow in our school music programs.



March marks a busy time in the school year as we move to nearly the halfway point of the second semester. Classrooms continue to be focused on strong instruction, student engagement, and supporting students as they work toward their academic goals for the year.

Testing Updates:

State testing is underway at Menahga High School as we move through our spring assessment window. The ACT was administered on Tuesday, March 10th in the Elementary Sensory Room.

Students will also be completing their Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) over the next few weeks. The Reading MCA will take place Wednesday-Thursday, March 15-16, followed by the Math MCA on Tuesday-Wednesday, March 21-22. Students will complete the Science MCA on Tuesday-Wednesday, March 24-25.

The week of March 27th will be used for MCA make-up testing for students who were absent during the scheduled testing days.

We appreciate the efforts of our staff and students as we work through the testing schedule while continuing to focus on strong instruction and learning in our classrooms. Lisa and I want to give a big thank you to Andria Bristow and all her hard work with our testing. I personally would ask that as we move forward, I would love to ask the board to help us encourage our students to take the MCA opportunities!

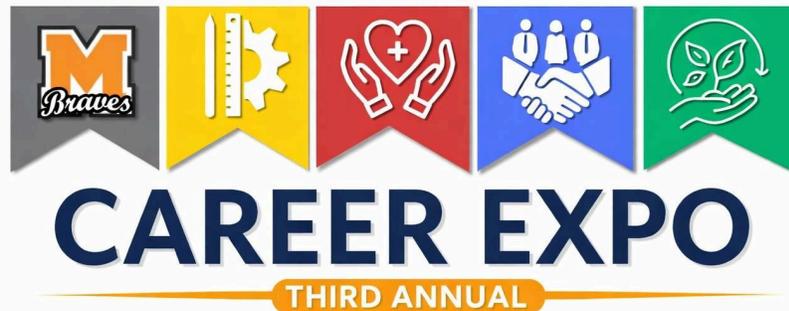
Looking Ahead!

We have also begun the registration process for the 2026-2027 school year. Our 8th grade students recently met with Hope and the team from Sourcewell to begin thinking about their next steps as they transition into high school. This group of 8th graders is especially exciting, as they will be the first class fully entering high school under our Career Pathways model.

In the coming weeks, we will also begin the registration process for our current 9th-11th grade students. During this time, teachers are reviewing course standards, student interest data, and information gathered through SchoolLinks to help shape course offerings and opportunities for the fall. Our goal is to continue building meaningful classes that align with student interests and our established pathways.

Additionally, Hope and I will begin working closely on graduation planning. We will be reviewing transcripts and student progress to ensure that all seniors remain on track to meet graduation requirements and are prepared for their next steps after high school.

Spring is an exciting and busy time, and we look forward to continuing this important work with our students and staff.



At the **Menahga High School** for grades 7-12
 Wednesday, April 1, 2026 • 10:30am-2:30pm

PLEASE CONTACT:

Hope McAdow hmcadow@menahga.k12.mn.us

Randy Thompson rthompson@menahga.k12.mn.us

218-564-4141 If interested in having a booth at this year's fair!



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
- Paraprofessional READ Act training taking place on March Staff Development Day
- Three hours of Bridges curriculum development time scheduled for March Staff Development Day
- Second round of observations for all probationary staff are complete

- Third round of observations for probationary staff are beginning
- Tenured staff cycle 3 observations are occurring
- High School READ Act Phase Two Training selected
- ADSIS year two grant work for interventionist positions in process

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 3rd Grade- Health and Human Services Focus
- Expansion of 4th Grade- Engineering, Arts and Trades Focus
- Expansion of 5th Grade- Business and Technology Focus
- Expansion of 6th Grade- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Focus
- 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 in November
- Capti Training scheduled for literacy teachers in 4th-12th grade in January
- 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 | 38 | 38 | | | |
| K | 85 | 85 | 84 | 84 | 82 | 81 | | | |
| 1 | 62 | 61 | 60 | 61 | 61 | 62 | | | |
| 2 | 73 | 73 | 73 | 72 | 72 | 75 | | | |
| 3 | 74 | 73 | 73 | 74 | 73 | 73 | | | |
| 4 | 82 | 81 | 81 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|--|--|--|
| 5 | 67 | 65 | 65 | 66 | 66 | 66 | | | |
| 6 | 76 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | | | |
| 7 | 77 | 75 | 74 | 73 | 78 | 73 | | | |
| 8 | 80 | 79 | 79 | 80 | 84 | 74 | | | |
| 9 | 76 | 76 | 75 | 75 | 74 | 73 | | | |
| 10 | 93 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 90 | 89 | | | |
| 11 | 70 | 65 | 65 | 64 | 63 | 61 | | | |
| 12 | 73 | 72 | 72 | 73 | 73 | 73 | | | |
| Total | 1029 | 1013 | 1007 | 1008 | 1009 | 993 | | | |
| OpenEd | | | 131 | 129 | 129 | 153 | | | |
| Total | | | 1138 | 1,137 | 1,138 | 1146 | | | |

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Parrish and Michelle Koch