



Menahga Principal's Board Report

Lisa Parrish, Michelle Koch, John Hedstrom
October, 2025

CELEBRATIONS:



The weather has been beautiful as we have started off the school year. We are thankful for a September and October of mostly sunshine that allowed us the chance to get outside and enjoy the fresh air, exercise our bodies, and play with new friends!

We are grateful for our Elementary partnership with local fire departments! We were thrilled to be able to have the Menahga and Wolf Lake Fire Departments into the school on October 10th to teach our Preschool- second grade students about fire safety. Students met for an informational presentation and then were treated to rides on the fire truck.

Elementary Update:

October has been a busy and exciting month at Menahga Elementary!

We've been lucky to have beautiful fall weather, making recess and outdoor learning even better. Classes have started heading out on field trips, giving students some great hands-on learning experiences.

We've also completed our fall data collection for math and reading. Families of students performing below grade level received letters outlining our plan for targeted academic support. These intervention cycles are now up and running and are built into our Power Half Hour model, which provides dedicated time each day for focused skill-building and support. It's been a full month of learning, activities, and positive energy throughout the building!

October also brought our first recognition of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) in the elementary! We kicked off the program by celebrating classrooms that are modeling positive behaviors throughout the building. The Golden Tray award recognizes classes that keep their lunch spaces neat and clean up after themselves in the cafeteria. The Golden Broom goes to classrooms that take pride in maintaining tidy and organized learning spaces, and the Golden Book celebrates classes that show responsibility by returning library books and demonstrating positive behavior in the media center. These awards are presented by our custodian, kitchen supervisor, and media staff in partnership with Mr. Hedstrom and myself, and we're proud of how our students are showing respect and responsibility across the school!



School spirit at its finest- everyone had a blast taking part in the Spirit Days!

High School Update:

Menahga High School had a wonderful Homecoming Week filled with school spirit, positive energy, and strong participation from both students and staff. The excitement throughout the week reflected our students' pride in being Braves and the teamwork of our staff in making it all come together successfully.

We have now completed FastBridge testing, and teachers are reviewing data to identify trends and individual student needs. Based on this data, interventions are being scheduled to ensure we continue to provide support where it's needed most.

On Monday, October 14, we will hold our first Advisory Hour of the year (during 2nd hour). Teachers will use this time to review school-wide expectations, guide students through SchoolLinks activities, and introduce Brave Connections – a new program designed to support student well-being and strengthen emotional intelligence skills.

It's been a productive and positive start to the year, and we're excited to continue building momentum as we continue to move into fall.



2025 Homecoming Court



2025 SOMN Unified Soccer!

- Important Dates:
 - a. Oct. 16th-20th- No School, MEA and Staff Development
 - b. Oct. 20th- District-wide Staff Development
 - c. Oct. 21st- Leadership Conference with Special Olympics
 - d. Oct. 24th -Global Cardboard Challenge 5th grade
 - e. Oct. 31st- Pumpkin Party from 5-7PM
 - f. Nov. 11th- Veteran's Day Program
 - g. Nov. 13th- No School- Parent Teacher Conferences
 - h. Nov. 13th- World Kindness Day
 - i. Nov. 14th- 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.

- **K-12 Students completed academic screening to identify students who may need additional academic support.**
- **Six interventionists are in place and servicing the district at this time. Power Half Hour is happening in the Elementary with classroom teachers in partnership with Interventionists and Special Education serving all students for specialized services- intervention through extension.**

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**

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*
- *New staff taking part in Mentorship with Kerry White*
- *October 20th District-wide Staff Development Opportunity*
- *Data meetings and coaching cycles being implemented with Teaching and Learning Coordinator*

Menahga School District Enrollment

Grade Level	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	March	April	May	
PreK	41	41							
K	85	85							
1	62	61							
2	73	73							
3	74	73							
4	82	81							
5	67	65							
6	76	75							
7	77	75							
8	80	79							
9	76	76							
10	93	92							
11	70	65							
12	73	72							
Total	1029	1013							

*Pre K numbers not included in total

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Parrish and Michelle Koch