

Principal's Report
August School Board Meeting
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
Grades K-12



All District

New teaching staff had their introductory day to WEM on Thursday, August 25. New teachers were introduced to clerical staff, received technology and HR tutorials and did a meet and greet lunch with members of the Waterville Chamber of Commerce. In total we have 9 new staff members.

All staff will begin workshop week as a whole on Monday, August 29. Consecutive days will be for certified staff only including a meet and greet for each building's teaching staff to meet Superintendent Jensen.

Principals Bastian and Wilson attended the Minnesota Summit for Leading and Learning with Superintendent Jensen. The work and professional development was exceptional.

All students will receive a green carpet welcome on the first day of school. Students will be greeted by staff and all board members are invited to attend and join in the welcome at either of the three main entries into the building starting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6 for students in grades 5-12 and Wednesday, September 7 for our elementary students.

PreK-6 Report

Entrance conferences for students entering Kindergarten through fourth grade will take place Sept. 6 throughout the school day. Back to school orientation for fifth and sixth grade students will take place the evening of Sept. 1. Both are an excellent opportunity for students and their parents to meet teachers and teachers to get to know students and their families.

The first day of classes for fifth and sixth grade students will be Sept. 6 and the first day of classes for K-4th grade students will be Sept. 7.

7-12 Report

Back to School Open House will be held on Wednesday, August 31 for all 9-12 high school students and Thursday, September 1 for all 5-8 middle school students. Similar to last year the 7th and 8th grade students will have an interactive open house with a scavenger hunt and meet and greet opportunities. The high school will have a traditional open house, however we will be transitioning back to a freshmen orientation where freshmen and their parents will be able to be in the building and go through a typical schedule and have a presentation with our administration and counselor.

The first day of school for our 7-12th grade students is Tuesday, September 6.

Different from years past, the high school schedule has been modified to accommodate every day homeroom. Dr. Wilson brought the idea to the leadership team after the YEA Data Summit through the A&I grant in Northfield. The idea was presented by the WEM student leaders that attended. The leadership team agreed that there is a need for advisee/student connections, a time to do grade checks, students to have carved in time to organize their tasks and to connect in a holistic/academic way. Advisors and homerooms traditionally loop throughout a high school career to establish routine and consistency. We believe having an increased routine and built in support time with homeroom advisors and the small group advisory will decrease the daily stress load students feel. Being that this is a student driven suggestion we also believe that voices of our students are being heard and we are making adjustments to provide a meaningful high school experience that tailor to the needs of our population.