



Menahga Principal's Board Report

Lisa Parrish, Michelle Koch, John Hedstrom
September, 2025

CELEBRATIONS:

We are grateful to the Menahga School Board for their time, dedication, and thoughtful leadership. Your commitment ensures that our students, staff, and community continue to grow and thrive. Thank you for your service during School Board Recognition Month and throughout the year!

We are off to a wonderful start to the school year, thanks to the dedication of so many caring hands across our district.

Our custodial staff worked tirelessly over the summer to prepare welcoming spaces, our kitchen staff to ensure every student is nourished, and our transportation team to safely support the travel of each and every child.

In our offices, our secretarial staff have gone above and beyond to make sure registrations run smoothly and families feel supported, and in our classrooms and hallways, our certified and non-certified teaching staff greet students each day with warm smiles, strong relationships, and opportunities for learning. Our admin team is thankful for the commitment and heart that make Menahga such a special place for kids!

Elementary Update:

The Elementary has had an excellent start to the school year! A special thanks to our classroom teachers, paraprofessionals and bus drivers for ensuring we got our young learners to all of the correct places for arrival to school and departure to home. This is a huge task that happens daily, and allows no room for error.

Our Elementary students are in the process of, or have completed their Fastbridge assessments that will serve to help ensure we provide intervention resources to students needing extra support. A huge shout out to Andria Bristow in her new role of Teaching and Learning Coordinator as she has worked to ensure all students are correctly enrolled, and set up in our year long digital learning platforms. This is a huge undertaking that we are working as a district to streamline in the future in an effort to better support staff and students.

Lastly, a big thank you to Christina Albin for organizing and supporting all of our Elementary Students in "Safety Around the School", providing bicycle, pedestrian, bus, and automobile safety for all students. An additional thank you to other key supporters which include local law enforcement, transportation staff and volunteers for working to pull off this experience for all students in just two days.



Bridges Math in K

Familiar faces at Lunch

Fifth Grade focused and Assessing

High School Update:

We are off to a great start this school year at Menahga High School. A special thanks to Larry, Ashley, Baileigh and Ali for giving the Office extra support in finalizing schedules.

Our 7th and 8th graders are diving into AVID, developing their binders, and practicing strategies to work collaboratively with their peers. For grades 9–12, students are engaging in courses they specifically requested, which are aligned with our Career Pathways program to help them explore and prepare for future opportunities.

We have also taken time during the first weeks of school to review expectations with students. This includes reinforcing our phone and hat policies, as well as working with the English department to ensure all students understand the student handbook. Additionally, students in our 2nd lunch period have taken on the responsibility of assisting with commons clean-up every Friday, which has been a positive contribution to our school environment.

We are looking forward to Homecoming Week, which is being planned in collaboration with Mrs. Peterson and SWAT, along with Mrs. Baumgart and Mrs. Kinyoun, our 7–12 Student Council Advisors. 9–19 2:00 pm Pep Fest, 9–22 9:00 am Coronation, 9–26 10:00 am Parade; Powerpump Volleyball at 1:30, Powerpuff Football at 2:15. More events to be scheduled!



2025 King and Queen Candidates: Drew Aho, Maija Aho, Liam Day, Grace Bakke, Fordyce Johnson, Jana Skoog, Nolan McGowen, Violette Anderson, Izaiah Aho, Laynee Shepersky, Dean Torma and Roman Howard



7th Grade: Jace Brown and Mikeanlea Knudsen **8th Grade:** Haydin Tinker and Annabelle Myllykangas
9th Grade: Lucas Litzau and Johanna Maki **10th Grade:** Isabelle Brockpahler and Obed Guevara
11th Grade: Lorelei Schermeister and Gavin Schrieber

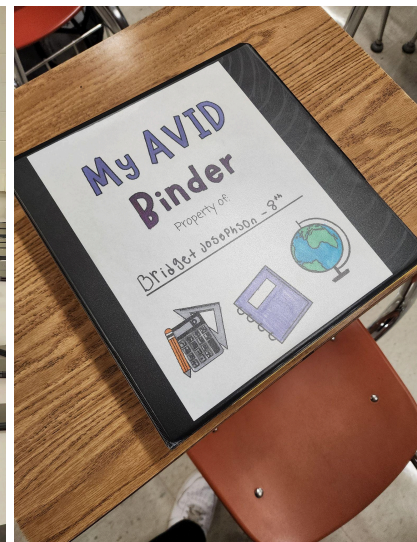
Overall, it has been a smooth and successful beginning, with students and staff working together to set a positive tone for the year.



Mr. Weston's Small Engine Class



AVID focus on Teamwork in



AVID Binder

- Important Dates:
 - a. Sept. 24th -Unified Soccer Game in HS -10:00-12:00
 - b. Sept. 22-26th -Homecoming week
*Pepfest Friday the 19th. Coronation on Monday the 22nd. Parade on Friday the 26th
 - c. Oct. 1st - Picture day
 - d. Oct 2nd - Custodian Appreciation Day
 - e. Oct. 16th-20th- No School, MEA and Staff Development
 - f. October 24th -Global Cardboard Challenge 5th grade

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.

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.

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.

Menahga School District Enrollment

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

***Pre K numbers not included in total**