

Principal's Report
June School Board Meeting
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
PreK-12th Grade



Hires

Sarah Gorski had a great interview. She is a U of W Eau Claire graduate with an emphasis in general music and percussion. She is a 2019 graduate and recently had a long-term position in the metro area. Sarah is energetic, has great ideas on how to get our youngest population engaged in music. We are confident in her ability to plan and deliver student performances and large programs.

Hannah Kuhnley has accepted our offer to join our team as our early learning coordinator and preschool teacher. She graduated from the University of St. Mary in North Dakota with a degree in elementary and early childhood education and a minor in special education. She comes to us with 3 years of elementary teaching experience. She has great ideas for our preschool program and is eager to get going! We are excited to welcome her to the WEM Team!

Austin Nagel has accepted an offer to increase his Physical Education teaching assignment to 1.0 FTE. Austin was hired last summer as a .5 Physical Education teacher. He taught elementary and high school Physical Education classes for the 2019-2020 school year.

Blake Boran has accepted an offer to teach PE/Health and AVID. He comes to WEM from having taught in the upper elementary level as well as being an activities director for the last year. Blake is not new to WEM as he was a graduate. Blake will join the WEM staff with high regards and compliments from those on the interview team. He has coaching experience as well and quite possibly could be coaching at WEM as well.

Mary White has accepted an offer to increase her Family and Consumer Science teaching assignment to 1.0 FTE. Mary has taught Family and Consumer Science and a section of AVID for the past two years as a .50 in Morristown. She will increase her time to include the High School Family and Consumer Science position. Mary is an

excellent instructor, has natural ability to connect and work with students and places emphasis on developing relationships. We are excited to have Mary in a full-time role at WEM.

PreK-6 Grade

Summer School planning has been in full swing. Summer school begins July 6 and runs Monday thru Thursdays. We will conclude on July 30. We are planning for approximately 40 students to attend. We will be utilizing a blended approach with students attending two days in person and two days distant learning. We are following MDE guidelines to provide a safe learning environment for our students.

Construction continues in the elementary. New walls are up, and painting is beginning! The addition is beginning to take shape. Lots of exciting changes each day!

Eight district staff members representing all three campuses attended the “Multi-tiered Systems of Support” Summer Institute June 15-17. The focus of the summer institute was to “Walk the Talk.” This team was engaged in conversations around multi-tiered systems of support. Analyzing where we are and where we want to be. They will be instrumental in implementing a multi-tiered system of support with fidelity! The keys to a multi-tiered system of support is providing high quality instruction for all students across PreK-12 landscapes. It utilizes our RTI and PBIS systems. MTSS will enhance systems already in place.

7-12 Grade

As mentioned in the PreK-6 report, staff members attended the virtual MTSS conference. Those attending from 7-12 include Stacy Gustafson, Aaron Brown, Michelle Roethler and Ruth Ann Olson. The information pairs nicely with PBIS in some respects. To continue increasing the fidelity of MTSS student achievement and behavior data will continue to be collected and reviewed.

Graduation was completed and carried out with great success. A large thanks to our local leaders: Brad Potter, Adam Uittenbogaard, Lorri Kopischke, Don Kelley, Teresa Hill, Chief Meskan, Officer Petrsek, Chief Manning, Ryan Landrum, Deputy Greenig, Sheriff Dunn and Sheriff Mason for working with the district to accomplish a well routed and safe parade. We received many thanks and notes of applause, which was shared out by Margo Kulseth as well as received in the mail. Thank you to KRUE Radio for the airtime, sponsors of the airtime and many others that offered up support and planning time.

ACT was cancelled for June. This was a decision made mid-May by Gov. Walz and MDE. I am working with Danielle Wold for a fall date and the best administration for it. With COVID-19 planning is continuing to evolve at the state level.

Looking ahead to workshop week in August Bobbie and I have confirmed a speaker. We will have Kevin Brennan from Top 20 speak to district staff. The message will be "Above the Line." Components and focus of Mr. Brennan's seminar will be on social-emotional learning. At this time we are dedicated to assuring our student's health, safety and welfare and in our current dynamics we know that the resources and training will be 'take and use' for staff.

Last week MDE started receiving survey responses for distance learning from parents/students/staff/etc. One of the last questions referred to the comfort level of having students return to schools in the fall. Following up from our work-session conversation we will continue to plan for a non-traditional or alternative start to the 2020-2021 school year, but we will also be mindful that survey results could surely sway the start to the year and how the school year in its entirety plays out with student to teacher contact. Planning for the potential of a blended or e-start to the school year will take in account the feedback we received from our post-distance learning survey. From the most recent MDE announcement we will likely know more over the course of the next month.