



PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS

District No. 2689

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School Board Report/MSHS Principal

Date: April 2025

Subject: Favorite Educator Banquet, 2025–2026 Program Updates, and Literacy Progress

Favorite Educator Banquet

On April 16th, we hosted the annual Favorite Educator Banquet—an event that continues to be one of the most meaningful celebrations of the year. This banquet was once again made possible through the dedication and organization of Dawn Schneider, who coordinated all aspects of the evening. Her hard work and commitment are greatly appreciated.

The event featured student-written essays recognizing educators who have made a significant impact in their lives. Hearing these personal stories reminded all in attendance of the profound influence our staff has on students, not only academically but personally. It was an inspiring evening and a testament to the positive relationships built within our school community.

2025–2026 Program and Schedule Changes

As we look ahead to the upcoming school year, several program and scheduling enhancements have been made to better support student learning, engagement, and career readiness. These include:

- **Expansion of Work-Based Learning:** Work-Based Learning will now be offered as a full-year course instead of a single semester, allowing students more time to develop real-world skills and gain valuable experience.
- **New Electives:** We are excited to offer **Yoga and Strength Training**, which will promote student wellness, and **History Through Film**, providing an alternative medium for students to explore historical topics beyond traditional texts.
- **Peer Mentoring Initiative:** High school students may now participate in a daily mentoring program that pairs them with elementary classrooms. This initiative is designed to foster cross-grade relationships and provide leadership opportunities for older students while supporting younger learners.
- **Consumer Math Offering:** In response to student needs, we will be offering **Consumer Math** as an alternative math course for students who find traditional mathematics challenging. This course will focus on practical applications and financial literacy to better prepare students for life beyond high school.

Literacy Improvement at the Sixth Grade Level

We are pleased to report significant progress in literacy at the sixth-grade level. Recent assessments and program benchmarks indicate that students are making measurable gains in reading comprehension and engagement. A recent highlight of this progress was the latest **Reading Plus challenge**, which was won by **Mrs. Hess' class**. To celebrate their achievement, **Mrs. Ortman sponsored a pizza party** for the class. Moments like these highlight the importance of fostering a love for reading through both academic effort and positive reinforcement.

“Inspire life-long learners. Build Character. Prepare them for their future.”