

December Board Updates

Hawks Nest: Kelly Snell

Community Education Fall programs for youth were well attended. Youth basketball and wrestling are geared up with mini-camps before the winter season gets into full swing. Taekwondo and Indoor Soccer are consistently popular recreation activities, and STEM, Culinary Craft, and Squishmallow Squad were two new enrichment programs offered this Fall. We partnered with the Montevideo Snowdrifters to help them provide the required Snowmobile Safety Field Course for ages 11-17. Adult offerings include Bachata, Weight Training for Women, Taekwondo, and Pickleball. Online adult enrichment courses are offered through the end of the year. The Winter/Spring brochure is currently at the printer and will be available to community members early in December.

ECFE hosted its annual Cookies with Santa event on December 1 with approximately 220 people in attendance. This is a family favorite with crafts, cookies, stories, and of course, Santa. Each student was also gifted a special book to promote early literacy.



Little Thunder Hawk Care successfully completed the DHS licensing audit with zero findings. Alexis Mulder, LTH Coordinator, is to be credited for her excellent work in assuring the program meets the extensive licensing requirements for staff ratio, training, facility, and supplies. The infant/toddler lead position remains unfilled at the Hawks Nest with no qualified applicants. Due to these staff shortages, we are not at the full capacity of children in our license. We will pull from our waitlist again when we have filled the open positions.

Small World and ECSE teachers held conferences in November. These are an important tool in connecting with parents to discuss age-appropriate development and kindergarten readiness. The LTH preschool classrooms will be conducting similar conferences in December.

As you can see, we are a busy building. It's a privilege to connect with our community and engage with families through Community Education.

MES: Heidi Sachariason

MES FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

MES Hawk News

MES provides families with weekly newsletters. This is a strategy we use at the elementary level to keep families informed. Below are the newsletters we have had for families so far this year. Staff also receive a newsletter each week.

- [November 7th MES News for Families](#)
- [November 14th MES News for Families](#)
- [November 21st MES News for Families](#)
- [November 28th MES News for Families](#)

MES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences were scheduled for **November 24th (4:00 PM–8:00 PM)** and **November 25th (8:00 AM–8:00 PM)**. The day turned out to be a bit snowy. We had very good attendance from families; however, due to the weather, we are in the process of making up conferences that were rescheduled.

Winter Program

The Elementary Winter Program is scheduled for December 8th, the same night as the board meeting. Ramsey will begin at 6 pm, and Sanford will follow at 7:15 pm.

National Anthem

Students in grades 1-4 will be singing the National Anthem at the boys' basketball game at 7:15 pm on January 29th.

MES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Assessment

This year, we have transitioned to 3 benchmarking or testing periods rather than four times or quarterly. So our next assessment window will be January 12-16. We are looking forward to seeing our students' growth. I will be able to share that with you at the February Meeting.

Reading Curriculum

In January, the elementary learning level will have a board presentation. I am looking forward to sharing more about the implementation of our reading curriculum this fall, CKLA for grades K-4.

MMS: Shawn Huntley

Greetings, Montevideo School Board

I would like to start by recognizing all of our staff, students, parents, and community members for all of their efforts and hard work. I am happy to share that MMS received an award from U.S. News and World Report as a top-performing middle school in Minnesota, ranking 116 out of 445 middle schools. Here is the link for our information:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/minnesota/montevideo-middle-276051>

We received this award last year, and in 2022, as well.

We are running some advisory challenges through our HAWK Pride team. Each challenge runs for half of a quarter, and the top advisories receive an incentive. We recently sent 100 to see the movie Zootopia 2 because 7 advisories had zero tardies to school or class! Currently, for the first half of quarter 2, advisories with no office discipline referrals will receive a field trip to the new trampoline park opening in Burnsville this spring. You may be asking, "How do you know if the incentives are working?" Well, let's look at the data! With two days remaining for the discipline referral challenge, we have 70 total office discipline referrals. Comparing those same dates to last year's office discipline referrals, we had 132 referrals. This is almost a 50% reduction in office discipline referrals! I would say this is extremely effective! Group contingencies can be an effective tool to motivate students, hence the advisory challenges.

Thank you all for your time and support as we work together for our students, families, and our community!

MHS: Tanya Maethner

November was a whirlwind, as all months seem to be! We concluded a successful round of parent-teacher conferences. Char, Gabby, and I attended conferences for students flagged for significant concerns regarding attendance, grades, and/or behavior issues. The focus of these meetings was to ensure clear communication of expectations and to ensure all students remain on a path toward academic success and graduation.

Our staff continues to prioritize work on horizontal alignment of standards across all grade levels and content areas. This commitment to continuous improvement reinforces the foundation of our instructional program through our MTSS systemic approach.

The annual Fall Play was a success and had great attendance from the community. The students delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing their dedication, talent, and commitment. We extend our sincere gratitude to the directors and production staff for their tireless efforts and hard work in mentoring our students and bringing such a high-quality production to the stage.

The official push toward graduation for our senior class has begun. On December 3, we presented the Montevideo Scholarship Program to all seniors, and the application portal opened that afternoon. This marks a critical time when seniors often struggle with the psychological shift of dividing their focus between finishing their current coursework and planning for their futures.

As we approach the holiday season, we are observing the expected increase in student anxiety, which often manifests as escalated behaviors. Navigating this period requires a delicate balancing act for our staff: holding students accountable for their actions while simultaneously being sensitive and compassionate toward the underlying stressors and situations they may be facing at home or in their personal lives. We are committed to employing restorative practices and providing emotional support alongside consistent application of behavioral expectations.

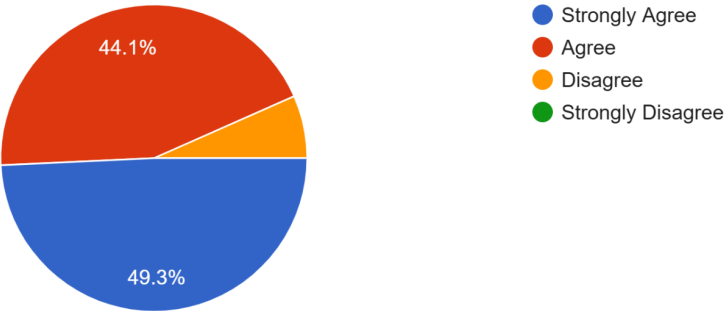
Finally, the push to the referendum is a priority, as the High School building continues to present some facilities challenges. We are grateful to our custodial staff, under the leadership of Jody Gatchell, for the hard work they put in daily to keep us up and running.

Thank you to the Montevideo School Board for your dedication to our District! Happy Holidays and cheers to health and happiness in 2026!

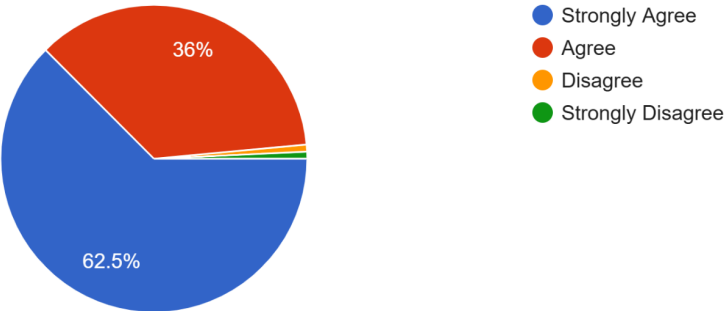
Activities: Michael Trewick

Here are a couple of samples of our student evaluation responses that we got from our fall activities participants survey. The survey was sent to 226 athletes ranging from 7th grade through 12th grade. Responses were anonymous and we have gotten about 140 responses back. We asked 21 questions in total including grade, level you participated at, sport you played, and do you plan on playing next year. We will share and discuss responses with each of the coaches. This should be great information to help all the coaches and better serve our Montevideo students. I think it also shows that we are doing a pretty good job of mentoring our students. If you are interested in the survey I can share with you just let me know.

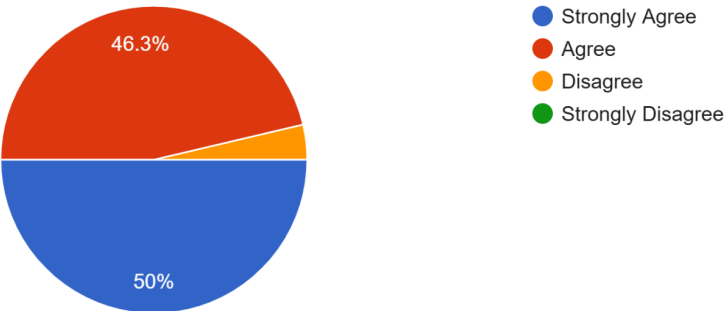
My coach provides leadership opportunities.
136 responses



My coach emphasizes the importance of teamwork.
136 responses

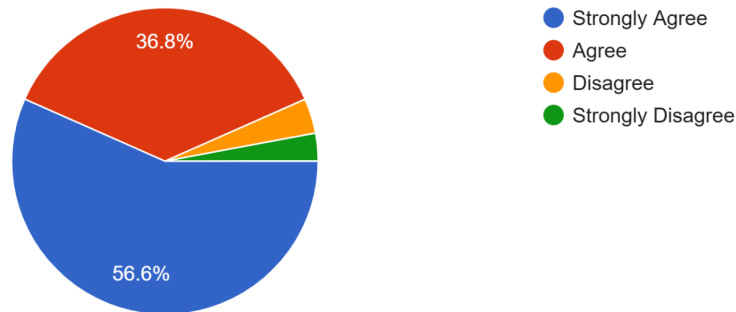


My coach exhibits confidence in his/her work and in others.
136 responses



I feel free to approach my coach with questions, concerns, and ideas.

136 responses



MTSS: Heidi Huseby

Hello School Board Members!

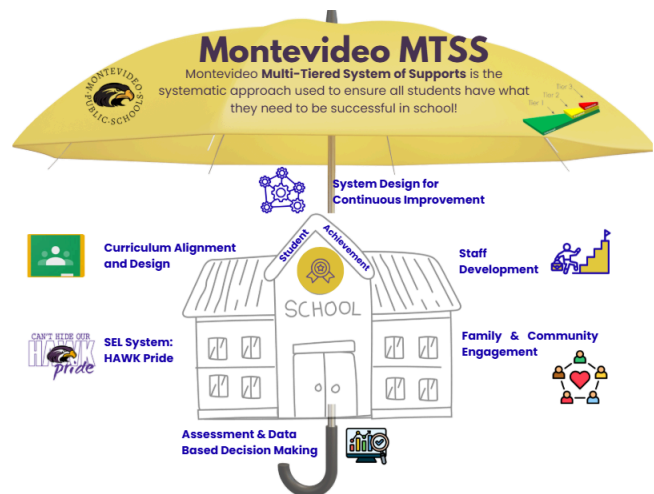


Curriculum Alignment and Design: Tier 1 Standard Alignment:

In October's board report I updated that teachers will be focusing largely on Tier 1 alignment of **Proficiency**

Standards. The first step is to come to a common horizontal alignment, which means teachers of the same grade level/content will collaborate to have common prioritized standards.

Teachers are continuing this work as work through a process called REAL-T. Teachers are in the phase of leverage, this means a skill will be rated higher if the skill is needed or used in different content areas.



Assessment & Data Based Decision Making:

Our Students, PreK-8 are assessed 3 times a year Fall, Winter and Spring. The Winter testing window opens Dec. 12th and goes until January 16th.

What's new in the world of assessment this year?

In the MN READ Act, we are required to give a reading test to all 4th-12 grade students not reading at or above grade level as a diagnostic for interventions. This will be most beneficial in our MTSS process for data based decision making and Intervention matching for the upper grades!