Greetings School Board Members,

Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- **Eagle Bluff:** 5th grade took their annual field trip to Eagle Bluff during the first week of February and enjoyed the long days and nights exploring and learning with one another. I was even able to head down there for a day to see some rock climbing, survival skills, archery, and students navigating through the ropes course. I will never forget seeing students overcome their fears and try new things with the encouragement of their friends, parent volunteers, and teachers as they climbed high, built a fire, or traversed way up in the air on the ropes course. It was something special to see first hand. A huge thank you goes out to Mrs. Landru, Mr. Svendsen, and Mrs. Heinz, and all the parent volunteers for organizing this extremely meaningful field trip!
- **Novel Studies:** Our ELA department has been doing a phenomenal job teaching standards through engaging novel studies over the past few months. I am impressed with our teachers and their ability to take a rich novel and utilize it to develop student vocabulary and knowledge of literacy concepts. Teaching through the novels has helped improve student stamina, love for reading, and reading comprehension. Students are excited about reading and I love stopping by to hear their conversations centered around the novel they are diving into together as a class.
- **PBIS Response to Data:** Data informed decisions is something we emphasize in all we do. Recently, our PBIS team saw an opportunity for growth while reviewing Quarter two behavioral data. In response to an uptick in hallway behavior, the team put together some resources and lessons to reteach our existing hallway expectations and also gather student input on what our hallways should look like, sound like, and feel like. 5th and 6th grade classrooms created some anchor charts together and hung them in our hallways to remind us all that we have collective agreements on how we want our hallways to operate.

Thank you,
Myles Knutson