

Principal's Report
November School Board Meeting
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
Grades K-12



All District

On November 4 we had our first early release day. Staff appreciated the additional time to devote to end of quarter grades and conference reports in addition to team planning. We had our second early release on Wednesday, November 23 for all students and staff. The feedback on early releases vs. late starts has been positive.

PreK-6 Report

PreK-4th grade Conferences were held Nov. 17 & 22, 3:30-7:30. Attendance was very good. Great to see families in the building.

Kindergarten and Third grade students participated in the Veteran's Day program in the Waterville building. Kindergarten students led the Pledge of Allegiance and Third grade students shared their musical talent by singing America the Beautiful.

Fifth & Sixth Grade students attended the Veteran's Day program at Morristown.

7-12 Report

On November 3 WEM Juniors took the ASVAB Test. The ASVAB test stands for Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. A test that helps predict academic and career potential in the military. It is an optional exam, but the results help students navigate their strengths not just related to the military but post-secondary skills in general. More than 90% of our juniors took the ASVAB this year.

Senior high students went on a multiple stop field trip to explore colleges and potential career options. Students made visits at Gustavus Adolphus College, Bethany Lutheran

College and South Central Technical-Mankato earlier this month. In addition we've had a number of college reps visit WEM this month including both 2 and 4 year schools. Some highlights of the trip were crossing paths with current seniors taking PSEO on-campus classes and recently graduated WEM students.

Mr. Cooley and a group of FFA members went to South Central College on Friday, November 18th for the Soil, Poultry and Milk Quality Contest. 20 WEM students represented the local FFA chapter. The soil team placed 8th as did the milk quality team.

Veterans Day programs were held at the high school and in Morristown on Friday, November 11. The program at the high school was well attended with the Elysian American Legion Color Guard and many members of the community present. The guest speaker was Staff Sergeant Zachary B. Allen. Staff Sergeant Allen has been in the United States Army for nine years and has been newly assigned to the Mankato area as a recruiter. He has done tours in Korea and Morocco. Seniors Daelyn Judd and Emma Woratschka were our student masters of ceremony. The high school band and choir presented along with a song from the third graders. Our kindergarten students led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Morristown program had members of the Morristown American Legion to present the colors. Grace Bartz and Dawson Slechta were our student readers. WEM wishes to thank our local American Legions for providing patriotic presence and honors for our programs.

One goal the high school had for the 2022-2023 was to cut down on the amount of unexcused tardies. Last year, at this point in the school year, we had 695 unexcused tardies amongst our high school student body. To date, this year, we have 321 unexcused tardies (numbers as of 11/22/2022). This is a decrease by 54%. Accredited to this decrease are the changes we made to our schedule with 5 minute passing between classes, detention consequences for more than 3 tardies per quarter and an added mid-day break from core instruction with every day advisory to increase relationships with students.