

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



PreK-6 Grade

With the absences of our annual Veteran's Day program, Sara Gorski, our music teacher, produced a video to thank veterans. Third grade student artwork was featured with their desk drumming showcased as background music! Their special tribute can be found on the WEM website.

Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences were held Thursday Nov. 19 and will continue tomorrow. All teachers conducted their conferences using Zoom or by phone. Thank you to the parent volunteers who supplied dinner for staff!

All staff have been working to prepare for the pivot to distance learning on Nov. 30. Much time has been used to ensure students have the skills and materials necessary to successfully join their teachers virtually. I would like to express my appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication to our students. This is a year like no other and our WEM staff have risen to every challenge with grit and grace!

7-12 Grade

Parent/Teacher conferences were held last Thursday (November 19) and again tomorrow (November 24). Conferences are virtual or teleconference pending parental preference. While this is a change from the past the ability to be safe and meet the needs of our families is being done to the best of our ability. While most conferences are being done with the parent and their student's advisor, we have also pulled teams together as well as IEP meetings.

We had a number of parents provide food to our staff during conferences. Thank you to all that donated, took time to provide a meal to our staff. It is greatly appreciated.

Until further notice, all district IEP meetings will be conducted virtually. This decision is out of the safety for all staff, students and parents.

Friday, November 20 and Wednesday, November 25 staff are using no-student days to prepare for distance learning which will begin on Monday, November 30. While there are concerns with student mental health, SPED programming and service of students with 504s as we transition to distance learning I believe we have guidance and plans in place to serve all our students virtually.

Recent guidance from public health indicates that it will likely become unsafe for students to be in the building (in relation to case counts). We will continue to monitor and make entry into the building for instruction on a case by case basis. The priority will be on our most vulnerable students, students who are not able to learn effectively due to a disability followed by instruction that isn't able to be done from home. A survey went out to our teachers in effort to gain information on any professional development that is needed for the transition to distance learning. Dan Lemcke provided technology sessions for various platforms based on the survey results in Morristown as well as Waterville on Friday, November 20. He will offer additional sessions on Wednesday, November 25. Dan is also monitoring the technology situation with devices and hot spots. Distribution of hot spots is at full capacity, Dan has ordered additional hot spots so we can continue to serve students throughout distance learning.

Counseling Services of Southern Minnesota delivered CARE packages for our teachers. Packages were distributed throughout all district campuses. A second distribution will occur mid-December. Counseling services is continuing to offer a Teacher Connection support group. This group is hosted virtually for WEM teachers on Tuesday afternoons.

Mrs. Wold, high school counselor, is working with students to complete/make changes to their semester II schedule. We will be adding a new course, street percussion, to our schedule. Mrs. Sara Gorski will be providing the instruction for it.

I would like to thank the JH and HS staff for all their work throughout hybrid as well as the transition to distance learning. The work over the last few weeks has been quite challenging and we are continuing to make way with positivity. I'm proud of our staff! I would also like to thank our families and students for their patience, understanding and willingness to work together. This transition to distance learning and restrictions we are experiencing in Minnesota will continue to take a toll on many of us. I

appreciate each and every person's role they are playing and taking on during this time.