# White Blue Review

## Dear Family and Friends of the Mineral Point School District,



 $\mathbf{I}^{\mathrm{n}}$  Jim Collins book *Good to Great* (2001) Jim talks about the flywheel effect.

"Now picture a huge, heavy flywheel. It's a massive, metal disk mounted horizontally on an axle. It's about 100 feet in diameter, 10 feet thick, and it weighs about 25 tons. That flywheel is your school. Your job is to get that flywheel to move as fast as possible, because momentum—mass times velocity—is what will generate superior

learning results over time.

Right now, the flywheel is at a standstill. To get it moving, you make a tremendous effort. You push with all your might, and finally you get the flywheel to inch forward. After two or three days of sustained effort, you get the flywheel to complete one entire turn. You keep pushing, and the flywheel begins to move a bit faster. It takes a lot of work, but at last the flywheel makes a second rotation. You keep pushing steadily. It makes three turns, four turns, five, six. With each turn, it moves faster, and then—at some point, you can't say exactly when—you break through. The momentum of the heavy wheel kicks in your favor. It spins faster and faster, with its own weight propelling it. You aren't pushing any harder, but the flywheel is accelerating, its momentum building, its speed increasing.

This is the Flywheel Effect. It's what it feels like when you're inside a school that makes the transition from good to great. Why does the Flywheel Effect work? Because more than anything else, real people in real schools want to be part of a winning team. They want to contribute to producing real results. They want to feel the excitement and the satisfaction of being part of something that just flat-out works. When people begin to feel the magic of momentum—when they begin to see tangible results and can feel the flywheel start to build speed—that's when they line up, throw their shoulders to the wheel, and push."

Over the past ten years the district has experienced declining enrollment, growing poverty, staff shortages, higher transportation costs, and an increasing number of English Language Learners. Small schools have less economy of scale making infrastructure and technology investments more expensive (fewer students to absorb fixed costs) with fewer support staff and administrators to implement state and federal initiatives.

But despite these challenges, Mineral Point exceeds expectations as measured by the state report cards at every school in the district. Academic performance continues to rise to new heights as Mineral Point strives to achieve its mission to outperform all other schools in Southwestern Wisconsin. As the flywheel continues to spin faster with each year, so does my excitement to be part of Mineral Point Schools. 🗳

Kindest Regards, Luke Francois Luke.Francois@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0740

## HOMECOMING COURT 2014



# **Message from Mitch Wainwright**

Principal, Mineral Point High School & District Assessment Coordinator



n ecently the State of Wisconsin **T**released the school Report Card for all the school districts in the state. Mineral Point's score is represented by an "Exceeds Expectations". This is an improvement from last year and as a district and we can thank the hard working students and

staff for this achievement. The Report Card reflects test scores compiled from the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE). There are a few other items such as growth in student performance, graduation rates, attendance and others that are also factored into our final score.

Wisconsin has now added a couple of new tests to our schedule. The Smarter Balanced assessment will test third through eighth graders in reading, math and English Language Arts in the spring of the year. Freshmen will take the ACT Aspire test (math, reading, writing, English and science) in October and then all freshmen and sophomores will take the ACT Aspire in the spring. All juniors, in the state, will take the ACT exam and WorkKeys exam in March on back to back days. The fourth, eighth and tenth grade students will also take the WKCE test for science and social studies during a two week window at the end of October and the beginning of November. One of the most important actions our students can take to be as well prepared as possible is to attend school. We cannot teach and students cannot learn if they are not here every day taking part in the educational system.

There is an increased effort to make sure all of our students are career and college ready. These exams play an important part in determining if the Mineral Point students are meeting the standards set forth by the state. Our efforts have never changed in education and that is especially true for the staff at Mineral Point. We want to provide the best education for our students and allow them an opportunity to pursue their dreams. It is a pleasure to work with all the dedicated people and motivated students in Mineral Point and your continued support of our efforts is greatly appreciated.

Mineral Point Schools, a great place to be! Mitch Wainwright Mitch.Wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0730

From the Desk of Brad Brogley

Mineral Point Elementary Principal, Curriculum and Instruction



**T**t has been a whirlwind since getting started as Lan administrator for the Mineral Point School District, officially on July 1st, and after the first month of the school year, I'm happy to report that we are off to a great start. Our new staff hires are fitting nicely into the Mineral Point Elementary and are making excellent connections with our students and staff. The new lunch service provides

excellent, nutritional food choices. As with anything new, we had to work through some slow downs in the lunch line, but that's improving as well. Over the first month, we have taken time to practice our emergency drills such as a fire evacuation drill, missing student drill and classroom lockdown procedures if an intruder is in the building just to be sure we are ready.

The staff at Mineral Point Elementary continues to amaze me. They continue to provide instruction that is aligned to the academic standards that will provide your child(ren) with the best opportunity to be college and career ready upon graduation from high school. In addition, they are always looking to improve their craft.

Our staff is in the second year of implementation of Project Lead the Way which provides additional experiences in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The lower elementary grades are reviewing new writing strategies to implement with their students and the upper elementary grades are piloting a new math textbook series. All of this is taking place as teachers continue to complete all of the items already on their plate while keeping one eye on the new test (Smarter Balanced Assessment) that will arrive in the spring of 2015 for grades 3 to 5.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a building administrator in the Mineral Point School District. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call (608-987-0710) or email (brad. brogley@mp.k12.wi.us). 📽

Yours in education. **Brad Brogley** Mineral Point Elementary Principal



## **Extraordinary Educators**

The Mineral Point Accelerated Reader program was featured in Renaissance Learning October 2014 newsletter, which celebrates Extraordinary Educators.

# **School Year Begins With Many Expectations**

Vickie Dahl: Middle School Principal, Athletic Director



When people ask me how the start of the school year is going, my response has been: "I feel like we started the school year in a dead sprint and we are still sprinting!" Our students have been busy in the classroom and out of the classroom. In September, the 7th and 8th graders attended Shakespeare's Romeo

and Juliet at the American Players Theatre. The 6th graders attended a conservation field trip at Bloomfield Manor and will also be traveling to Lodi October 22 to the Corn Maze and a ride on the Merrimac Ferry.

On the first day of school, we talked about expectations. These expectations include: succeeding academically, being respectful, behaving responsibly, displaying a positive attitude and attending school on a regular basis. We realize these expectations will put added pressure on our students, but it will also help in maintaining our academic goals for the 2014-15 school year. These expectations will also create a challenging and rigorous academic environment at our Middle School!

I would also like to remind our Middle School parents about our monthly newsletter that will be starting in October. Please make sure the Middle School office has your current email address. If you do not have an email address, please call the Middle School office (987-0720) and we will be happy to mail you a copy of the newsletter. 📽

## Mineral Point FFA Attends **Sectional Leadership Workshop**



The following FFA members attended: Katie Fitzsimmons, Jake Steffes, Megan Blume, Tea Bossert, Morgan Fitzsimmons, Scott Pittz, Hannah Parkinson, Tommie Loken, Elizabeth Moellers, Steven Blume, McKenna Reichling, Brady Palzkill, Caden Carey, Abby Shannon, Jackie Carpentar, Uriah Ottoway, Riese Federmann, Samantha Socha, Garrett Wendhausen, Danny Pittz 🐕

## **Homecoming 2014**

**11** Dointers save the day!" Homecoming 2014 brought **I** a superhero feel to Mineral Point High School the week of September 22nd- 27th. The week was filled with activities enjoyed by the school and community alike. Dress up days included Fanatic Fan Day, Decade Day, Superhero Day, Class Colors Day, and Spirit Day. Thursday evening was an event enjoyed by the whole community with the parade and the bon fire pep rally. The 2014 Homecoming Queen, Natalie Chubb was crowned by the senior football players followed by the introduction of fall teams and an entertaining senior parent skit. As usual, the night was accented perfectly by the music of the MPHS Pep Band.

The Pointers brought home an exciting Homecoming victory Friday night against the Iowa Grant Panthers which ushered in a perfect celebration dance Saturday night complete with the court coronation. This year's court members included freshman representatives Madison Bowers escorted by senior soccer players Josh Berg and Tucker Cabezas, and Lauren May escorted by senior soccer players Matt Neal and Micah Sprain; sophomore representatives Elise Ames escorted by senior football and soccer player Blake Chambers and Richie Haase, and Valya MacGilvra escorted by senior football players Jordan Kittleson and Hunter Paradis; junior representatives Tyra Leonard escorted by senior football players Joey Gorgen and Ross Siegenthaler, and Alexa Sparks escorted by senior football players Frank Baker and Nate Cody; senior queen candidates Heather Bennett escorted by senior football player Sy Staver, Elise Powers escorted by senior football player Turner Poad and Lydia Sanchez escorted by senior football player Tarek Oellerich. The Homecoming Queen Natalie Chubb was escorted by senior football player Alec Schmitz. 🏖





## A Quick HELLO From Our New Staff

#### Angela Schubert, Assistant to the Superintendent



Twas excited to join the Mineral Point School **■** District in July 2014 as the District Administrative Assistant. I grew up on a dairy/beef farm outside of Montfort and graduated from Iowa Grant School District. I received my Bachelors of Science from UW-Platteville in Business Administration with a Finance emphasis. During college and for a total of

22 years, I worked for a farm service & supply company (FS). In 2010, I decided to leave FS to focus on raising our four young children and assist my husband with our grain farm operation. Mike and I, along with Maggie, Ryan, Luke & Jessica live outside of Mineral Point. We operate ~4,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat & alfalfa. We are members of Hope Lutheran Church here in Mineral Point where I serve as Treasurer. We are very active in the Jonesdale Jays 4H Club and enjoy showing pigs at the various Community, County and State Fairs. Every August, we host a neighborhood hayride. It's a fun time for all...great food and conversations. This past year, we also hosted the Iowa County Cattlemen's Annual Steak Feed which served over 1300 people. My sport of choice has always been volleyball, however, the kids are more focused on BASKETBALL #1, softball, baseball, football and wrestling...which I love! We are ALL avid Wisconsin Badger fans! however, our home is split as Packer/Bears and Brewers/Cubs fans. I can't win them all!

### Brad Brogley, Elementary Principal



Hello Pointer Families! My name is Brad Brogley and I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of the Mineral Point School District as I am serving as the Mineral Point Elementary Principal. There are many challenges facing public education and with my 23 years of experience both as a teacher and education consultant, I feel that I am prepared to

lead the elementary building. The school year is off to a great start!

I grew up west of Platteville on a dairy farm and attended UW-Platteville where I received my undergraduate degree. During my education career, I attended Marian University in Fond du Lac, WI where I received my master's degree in educational leadership as well as principal, director of curriculum and instruction and director of pupil services certifications.

My wife, Jessica and I, currently live in Platteville with our children, Jenna (age 9) and Matthew (age 6) along with two dogs and a cat. My wife is employed at UW-Platteville as a lecturer in the School of Education. We met while teaching together in the Seymour Community School District. As a family we enjoy camping, going to auctions, campfires and spending time with family/friends.

As the elementary principal, I want to provide a safe learning environment for all students and staff members. Although there is plenty of hard work going on, I feel it's important to enjoy each and every day. I also want to support the students and staff members to be as successful as possible.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 608-987-0710 or brad.brogley@mp.k12.wi.us.

### Bridget Beinborn, Kindergarten Teacher



Hello! My name is Bridget Beinborn and I am very excited to be teaching kindergarten in Mineral Point! I feel privileged to have this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and how excited I am for a funfilled year in Mineral Point. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education

from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. I taught kindergarten in Black River Falls the last two years and I am excited to share my love for kindergarten with the students of Mineral Point!

I grew up in Cuba City and I am thrilled to be back in southwest Wisconsin. I am a HUGE fan of the Green Bay Packers and I love all Wisconsin sports! When I am not teaching I enjoy attending sporting events and spending time with family and friends.

I feel honored to be teaching in a district with such high performing schools and incredible community involvement. I would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and I am truly blessed to be a part of such a close-knit community. Go Big Blue!

### Erin Vale, Speech and Language Teacher



My name is Erin Vale and I am a new speech-language pathologist in the Mineral Point School District. I will be working with students in elementary, middle, and high school. I am very excited to have the opportunity to begin my career as a speechlanguage pathologist in Mineral Point!

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor's degree in communicative disorders and a certificate in German. I also did a summer study abroad course at the University of Bonn in Germany. Between undergraduate and graduate school, I spent a year working for the Wisconsin Early Autism Project. I attended graduate school at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, and in May I received my master's degree in communication disorders. During my last semester of graduate school, I completed internships at Mercy Hospital in Janesville and Monroe Middle School.

I grew up in Monroe, WI and have two younger brothers, Dan and Eric. I spent many years swimming competitively and still enjoy swimming and being on the water. I also enjoy running and participating in 5Ks, watching basketball and football, and music of all kinds. I am looking forward to being a part of the Mineral Point School District and community!

### Dixie Dempsey, Director of Pupil Services



My name is Dixie Dempsey, School Psychologist/ Director of Pupil Services, and I'm new to the Mineral Point School District but not new to the area or to my profession. I am a Fennimore High School alumnus so I'm very familiar with Mineral Point Schools and the excellent academic and athletic programs it supports. I cur-

rently reside in Darlington with my three wonderful boys: Aiden, 2nd grade, Kaden, 2nd grade and Peyton, Kindergarten.

I received my undergraduate degrees from UW-Platteville and my Master degrees from UW-Whitewater and UW-Eau Claire. I am starting my twelfth year as a School Psychologist and my fourth year as a Director of Pupil Services.

I am super excited to be a part of Mineral Point and the School District. I have already received such a warm and supportive welcome both within the school district and when I have been out and about in the community. I feel that I have hit the ground running with my job responsibilities and I attribute that to the support and assistance I have received from the staff and administration.

I look forward to this school year and the years to come and I feel very blessed to be a part of such a respected and innovative team.

## Heather Dampf, Assistant to the Elementary Principal



Hello! My name is Heather Dampf and I am the new Administrative Assistant at Mineral Point Elementary School. I am excited to be working at MPES after taking time off to be home with my children. My two children are both students in the Dodgeville School District. Calvin is a 5th grader at Ridgeway Elementary and Zoey is in

3rd grade at Dodgeville Elementary. My husband, Mike, and I were married in 1993 and have lived in Dodgeville for 10 years.

My educational background includes a Bachelor of Social Work from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and a Master in Education for School Counseling from Seattle University. I have been a School Counselor in both Washington and Wisconsin and for the past 8 years have worked part-time as the Administrative Assistant at Plymouth United Church of Christ while keeping my School Counselor license current. In addition, I have been a volunteer and substitute teacher at Dodgeville Elementary for the past several years. Away from work, I enjoy time with my family and I am active in Colorectal Cancer & Lynch Syndrome Advocacy to bring awareness to the importance of appropriate screening.

#### Kipalee Bakken, Business Education Teacher



Hello Pointer Families! My name is Kipalee Bakken. I would like to take this opportunity to say I am honored and very excited to be the new Business Education teacher here in the Mineral Point School District at both the middle and high school. This fall, I will be teaching Personal Finance, Accounting, Business Communication,

Computer Literacy 6, Computer Literacy 7, and Careers 8. I am also advisor for Future Business Leaders of America.

I graduated from University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a Bachelor of Science-Social Studies Comprehensive Degree with grades 6-12 certification. I was blessed to stay at home with my children until they began attending school here in Mineral Point. I have spent the past six years as a substitute teacher serving in both long and short term teaching positions here at Mineral Point as well as neighboring Dodgeville and Barneveld School Districts. I served as the long term substitute teacher in Business Education here at Mineral Point during quarters 2, 3, and 4 of last school year. I am currently enrolled at University of Wisconsin-Stout to complete Business and Marketing certification.

My husband Erik and I have lived in rural Mineral Point for the past ten years. We have two sons, Karsten, eighth grade and Hayden, fifth grade. My husband and I enjoy volunteering with and attending the activities and athletic events our boys partici-

It is my goal to provide all students with an educationally challenging, yet fun, experience in my classroom. I am committed to keeping the lines of communication open with you to ensure that our children achieve their full potential. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 608-987-0739 ext. 215 or kipalee.bakken@ mp.k12. wi.us if you have questions or concerns.

### Kari Kabat, Instructional Technology



Hello! My name is Kari Kabat and I am the new Instructional Technology & Information Specialist at Mineral Point Elementary. I am returning to Mineral Point and could not be more thrilled to be back in such a wonderful district. My two bachelor's degrees are in Industrial Engineering and Education. I am cur-

rently in a Master's program for Library Media Science through the UW System School Library Education Consortium. Previously, I worked at Mineral Point as the Technology Coordinator and Middle School Computer Applications teacher, before I moved on to work in adult education at Southwest Tech and most recently as an Instructional Technology Coach at CESA 3. This was a great experience for me, but I truly missed working with kids, so I am happy to be back in Mineral Point and working with K5 students with their technology skills. I am also excited to be working with the awesome staff at Mineral Point and providing instructional technology support to teachers. I am a Google Educator, and am excited about the new Google Apps for Education initiative at the Mineral Point Schools. I think this is something that is necessary for us to teach our kids to be competitive in today's global workforce. Having access to files and technology and collaborating from wherever you are in the world is a critical skill that we will be providing our students.

On a personal note, my husband and I live in Montfort with our three amazing kids: Kennedy (9), Maddy (7), and Liam (4). They keep us busy with their many activities. My husband is a seed corn salesman and Sales Manager for a dairy specialized company called Prairie Estates Genetics out of Middleton, WI. He is also on the Montfort Volunteer Fire Department. Kennedy and Maddy are both in dance at Dance Elite in Fennimore, so we are always on the go. We enjoy camping, golf and going to the kids ball games in the summer. We are busy with dance, bowling, and honeydo lists in the fall and winter! I have always been an avid reader, and am excited to pass the reading excitement on to children at Mineral Point Elementary.

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## What are District and School Report Cards?

**\( \)** s part of the new state accountability system the ADepartment of Public Instruction (DPI) has produced report cards for every district and school in Wisconsin. This reporting period marks the first time that all three Mineral Point Schools, as well as the District, exceeded expectations. "I am very pleased with our performance to date," stated Superintendent Dr. Luke Francois. "The report cards represent collective efforts of students, teachers, and support staff with a focus on student learning."

Mineral Point's District Report Card Score was tied with Darlington for third highest in CESA 3 (Southwest Wisconsin) with a score of 75.6, behind River Valley's 76.8, and Platteville's

#### Report Cards provide data on multiple indicators for four **Priority Areas:**

- Student Achievement performance on the WKCE and WAA-SwD in reading and mathematics
- Student Growth improvement over time on the WKCE in reading and mathematics
- Closing Gaps progress of student subgroups in closing gaps in reading and mathematics performance and/or graduation rates

• On-track and Postsecondary Readiness – performance on key indicators of readiness for graduation and postsecondary pursuits, whether college or career

Performance on three Student Engagement Indicators is also reported. These three indicators affect student success and school effectiveness.

- Test Participation Rate, with a goal of 95 percent test participation for all students and each subgroup.
- Absenteeism Rate, with a goal of 13 percent or less.
- Dropout Rate, with a goal of six percent or less.

A district's or school's Overall Accountability Score places the district or school into one of five Overall Accountability Ratings:

- Significantly Exceeds Expectations
- Exceeds Expectations
- Meets Expectations
- Meets Few Expectations
- Fails to Meet Expectations 🕏



### **Overall Accountability Ratings**

Significantly exceeds expectations: 83-100

Exceeds expectations: 73-82.9

Meets expectations: 63-72.9

Meets few expectations: 53-62.9

Fails to meet expectations: 0-52.9

District Mission: Grounded by our history, as one of the oldest publicly supported schools in Wisconsin, MPSD is the heart of a small community that educates and inspires our students for a bright future in a big world.

## **FALL SPORTS UPDATE**

The Dodge-Point girls and boys cross country teams are really having a great run this season, literally! As October begins, the month that really matters, the teams are about halfway in to their seasons. The Mineral Point runners for Dodge-Point include Hannah Owens, Jaynie Gorgen, Brandon Forseth, Nate Eisenzimmer and Trevor Ross. The girls have won 3 of 4 invitationals so far this season, including the Midwest Invitational on September 27th. This invitational has about 1,000 girls racing as well as a 1,000 boys. The DP girls have never won this all division meet before, so it was very exciting. The boys are having an outstanding season as well! The highest place for the boys is 2nd at the Belleville Invitational, where Division 1 Baraboo won the title. After dealing with a lot of injuries and illness last season, DPCC is looking to make great things happen this year. So far it is looking good. Dodge-Point will run at the Platteville Invitational on Saturday, October 4 at the Platteville Country Club. The conference meet will on October 16 at Prairie du Chien starting at 5:00 pm. The WIAA sectional meet is at Platteville on October 25 beginning at 3:00 pm. By Hannah Owens, Senior

Dodge-Point soccer has started off like any other year. The players were nervous and anxious. We lost 9 seniors from the 2013 team and all of us knew we needed to step it up. Even though we lost many good players, our season has been a memorable one so far. We have had some ups and downs, but it has been a great experience. With the WIAA playoffs coming up soon, we are looking forward to the challenge. By Matt Neal, Senior



The 2014 varsity volleyball season is going very well. We are halfway through the season and have a winning record. The season started off great and is only going to get better. At the beginning of the season, we were put in a difficult situation, but with the current coaching staff we were able to make everything work. People stepped up to take certain positions that are challenging and they are doing a tremendous job! The group of girls who are currently in the program are working hard and having fun. It has been an awesome experience. People should be looking forward to the rest of the season and the future is bright for the Pointers! By Natalie Chubb, Senior

The varsity football season did not get off to the ideal start we were hoping for! We left a lot of plays to be made on the field but we bounced back extremely well to handle Rio. The games following the Dodgeville game seemed to have the Pointers making plays and winning games! We suffered a tough loss to Cuba City in week 5. I think the Cuba game has motivated all of us even more! We proved to ourselves that we can play with anyone we play against. The team showed this at our homecoming game by bouncing back in a big way beating IG 18-12. Looking ahead, all the goals we set at the beginning of the season are still on the table: win conference, make the playoffs and make a statement every game! We hope our students, staff and fan base are as excited for the rest of the season as we are! By Sy Staver, Senior 🕏

## Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP)

The Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP) was established ■ by the Mineral Point School District in 2014 to increase volunteering of senior citizens in the schools. Qualifying senior citizens will receive a small stipend to be used to help reduce their property tax bill. The emphasis of the STEP volunteer program is to provide direct help in the instructional areas of reading and math, although other opportunities exist for volunteering. As a STEP volunteer you will belong to a community, not only of the school in which you volunteer, but also within the community of other STEP volunteers.

#### Eligibility

- 1. Age 55 or older.
- 2. Primary residence in the Mineral Point School District and pays property taxes to the district.
- 3. Annual family income as defined by last years Federal Income Tax Form 1040A, Line 21, of less than \$70,000.

#### Reimbursement

- 1. Payment of \$6.50 per hour.
- 2. Maximum of 66 hours per calendar year.
- 3. Payment of \$6.50 per hour times 66 hours will be \$429.00,

- which is the largest amount an individual can make before being subject to Social Security taxes. Please note that any amount you earn is still considered taxable income.
- 4. Compensation is a two-party check to the individual and the municipality they live in.
- 5. Before payment, a minimum of 20 volunteer hours is required.
- 6. Reimbursement will occur the last week of December for all work completed in the calendar year that is 20 hours or more.

#### **Procedures**

- 1. STEP volunteers will be recruited via news releases, notices, and word of mouth starting November 1.
- 2. Interested senior citizens will fill out an application available in the District Office.
- 3. An interview will be conducted by an administrator.
- 4. If a match is made the STEP volunteer and principal, or designated staff, determine when the STEP volunteer will begin work.
- 5. Each year all existing STEP volunteers and new volunteers must be interviewed.
- 6. Each year all new STEP volunteers will receive training at the beginning of the school year. 🕏

Mineral Point Unified School District 705 Ross Street Mineral Point, WI 53565

Phone: (608) 987.0740 Fax: (608) 987.3766

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