

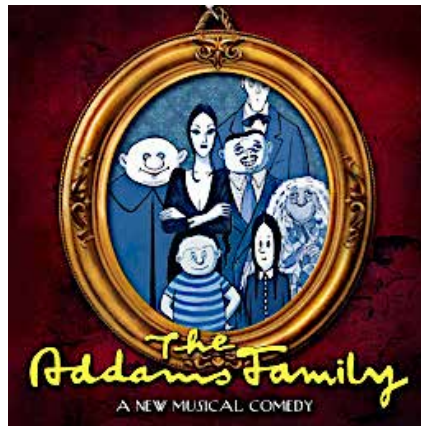
MINERAL POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Scoop

Winter 2017 🐾 Education... That's the Point.

Don't Miss The Addams Family!

In the kooky, upside-down world of the Addams Family, to be sad is to be happy, to feel pain is to feel joy, and death and suffering are the stuff of their dreams. Nonetheless, this quirky family still has to deal with many of the same challenges faced by any other family, and the spookiest nightmare faced by every family: the Addams kids are growing up! The Addams' have lived by their unique values for hundreds of years and Gomez and Morticia, the patriarch and matriarch of the clan, would be only too happy to continue living that way. Their dark, beloved daughter Wednesday, however, is now an eighteen-year-old woman who is ready for a life of her own. She has fallen in love with Lucas Beineke, a sweet, smart boy from a normal, respectable Ohio family—the most un-Addams sounding person one could be! And to make matters worse, she has invited the Beinekes home for dinner. In one fateful, hilarious night, secrets are disclosed, relationships are tested, and the Addams family must face up to the one horrible thing they've managed to avoid for generations: CHANGE.



Abel Logueflower (Pugsley) & **Gena Byrnes** (Cousin It and Vocal Ensemble) will be representing the Middle School in this production, and have been working hard since early December. This HS Musical Theatre show will be performed for the Middle School Student Body on Thursday, April 27th!

If you have props that we can borrow for this show, let Miss McHugh know! The list can be found at MineralPointHSMT.weebly.com



SWAL Honors Choir Concert

SWAL Honors Choir Concert is Saturday, January 28th at 4:30 p.m., Fennimore High School! Public admission is \$3 at the door. The Middle Schoolers who are participating include: Alexis Berget, Gena Byrnes, Brock Ellingson, Ella Fox, Haylee Kearns, Abel Logueflower, Haydn Marr, Callie Pierce, Alyssa Roelli, and Megan Toay.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 2

M.S. GBB vs. Platteville, home, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, February 6

M.S. Wrestling @ Lancaster High School, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7

M.S. GBB vs. Lancaster, home, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 9

M.S. Wrestling @ Darlington High School, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 9

M.S. GBB @ Dodgeville Middle School, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, February 13

M.S. Wrestling @ Prairie du Chien (Bluff View M.S.), 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14

M.S. Wrestling @ Black Hawk High School, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14

M.S. GBB vs. Cuba City, home, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14

Makers Club, IMC, 3:45-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 16

M.S. Wrestling @ Dodgeville, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21

M.S. Wrestling @ Iowa-Grant Middle School, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21

M.S. GBB vs. Iowa-Grant, home, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 23

M.S. GBB @ Southwestern Middle School, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, February 24

Teacher Prof. Development – No classes

Tuesday, February 28

Makers Club, IMC, 3:45-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 11

District Solo and Ensemble contest @ Southwestern Elem. School

Tuesday, March 14

Makers Club, IMC, 3:45-5:00 p.m.

Monday, March 21

FFA Banquet, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 24

End of 3rd Quarter

Monday, March 27 – Friday, March 31

Spring Break – No Classes

Optical Illusion

Mrs. Macaulay

This year in art class my 6th grade students are learning all about optical illusions. An optical illusion is something that deceives the eye by appearing to be other than it is. In this project we used shading and different sized patterns to create a sense of depth in space. Then, the students came up with the idea of them falling through a portal in time. We had a blast creating these projects. 🐾



A Note From Ms. Swanson

Ms. Nicole Swanson

Hello Pointers! Since the beginning of the school year, I have been a student teacher in the Mineral Point school district. I worked alongside of Mr. Chambers in his 7th and 8th grade math classroom during the first quarter and Mrs. Nothem in her high school Geometry, Advanced Algebra, and Algebra Strategies classes during the second quarter.

After graduating from UW-Platteville in December and finishing my student teaching at the end of the semester, I have started my teaching career as Mrs. Brown's long term substitute teacher while she is away from school on her maternity leave. As Mrs. Brown's substitute teacher, I will be teaching her 6th grade science classes, a math strategies class, and co-teaching a couple of reading and language arts classes with Mrs. Payne.

I feel so fortunate to be able to continue working at Mineral Point after my student teaching experience. The students and staff are very welcoming and supportive! It is truly a joy to see all of my former and new students' bright smiles in the hallway each and every day! I am thrilled to be a Pointer until Mrs. Brown returns from her maternity leave in April. 🐾



Accelerated Reader Goals Reached

Did you know that 20 minutes of reading per day adds up to over a million words per year? It can't help but increase background knowledge which leads to greater success in other school subjects and life in general. For more information on this, check out Kelly Gallagher's *Why Read* infographic at <https://goo.gl/7IP1QU>.

Congrats to the following students who met their second quarter Accelerated Reader goals in both comprehension and points! As a group, our middle school students have read an impressive 64,813,613 words since the beginning of the school year. Read on! – Mrs. McCoy

6th Grade

Allison Chitwood 6x
Alana Dubois 4x
Cole Ferrell 3x
Graham Fitzsimmons
Bryson Gilmeister
Brody Lee 2x
Olivia Poad
Tarrin Riley
Mackenzie Ripp
A J Rury
Ryan Schubert
Lucas Sullivan
Kennedy Wenger
Ava Burnham
Jackson Busch
Genevieve Byrnes
Katelyn Cox
Brianna Wesley 2x
Maddix Jackson
Carson Kroll
Cooper Palzkill
Joey Robinson 3x
Kylie Rule
Sophia Stephenson 2x
Regan Suddeth 2x
Jimmy Tibbits
Oliver Benson
Emma Federman 2x
Jaiden Galle
Quenten Gunderson
Kendall Kilpatrick
Abel Logue
Hayden Meboe
Max Murphy
William Schuette 4x
Brianna Wesley

7th Grade

Bryce Acherman
Hayden Bakken
Ashlie Baumgartner
Eloise Chambers
Lane Edge
Grace Engels 5x
Makenna Ferrell 2x
Ella Fox

Emily Graber
Estelle Janetka
Haylee Kearns
Haydn Marr
Callie Pierce
Alyssa Roelli 2x
Emma Steffes
Malachi Strompolis-Salama
Chloe Thomas
Kelsie Toay 2x
Kyler Walker
Jared Wedig
Hope Wilson
Kelsie Wilson 2x
Leyton Bowers
Tanner Gonninen
Bo Hanson
Drew Hottenstein 3x
Mallory Lindsey
Ollie Mitchell
Faith Pilling
Blake Radtke
Ryan Reichling
Brett Roberts
Kennedy Smith
Jayda Sudmeier
Rylee Thompson 6x
Colbi Carey
Joah Filardo
Lexi Kinch
Ross Lindsey
Dominik McVay
Trapper Nafzger 2x
Carter Nelson
Delaney Ross
Jadyn Thompson 10x
Kaylee Weber
Keigan Yager

8th Grade

Macy Aschliman
Donavin Botsford 2x
Bryann Cody 2x
Brayden Dailey
Henry Dailey
Natalie Finley 7x
Gunnar Gorgen
Mason Hughes
Sira James
Ian Keyes
Ivy Lawinger
Trenton Lewis 4x
Skylar Martin
Haily Murphy 4x
Tatum Novak 4x
Olivia Olson
Cloe Rule
Keira Schrank 3x
Gabriel Sporle
Cecilia Stanton
William Straka
Cameron Wiegman
Rita Wilson
Alexis Berget
Emily Cody
Kane Gunderson
Mason Horn
Andrea Kieler
Daniel Nordstrom
Chloe Oberhauser
Sadie Owens
Jaxon Ross
Nolan Springer
Carson Thomas
Megan Toay 3x

(number)X = how many times a student exceeded their goal

Student Stories

Dan Van Galen

By Will Straka

Dan Van Galen, known as Mr. VG to his many students and fans, is a humorous and brainy middle school science teacher. Mr. VG has an uncanny ability to make students listen and learn, using methods such as smart notes, jumpstart questions, and “a Little Fact or Crap Friday.” The last two years he has made both my peers and myself have a enjoyable science class without any chaos. Mr. VG is a favorite teacher to many students, for he is always teaching with flair.

Walking down the hall or in his classroom, I see Mr. VG repping his signature look: a Notre Dame long sleeve T-shirt and jeans. I smell his crisp cologne, musky with a oaky finish, and it reminds me of a lawyer cowboy. His balding head is surely the result of numerous years of dealing with misbehaving teenagers. Rectangular glasses sit on his sculpted nose. Mr. VG’s bushy, manly goatee rests below his energetic but witty, mouth. Reliable work boots comfort his feet whether he’s at school, sitting in his treestand patiently waiting for his trophy turkey, or when he runs to the grocery store to pick up some chips and salsa for Día de Los Muertos.

The joke book that sits on Mr. VG’s desk is the perfect representation of his character. On Mondays, he cracks a few jokes out of his book. One out of every five is a knee-slapper. The rest are corny, but we usually laugh because Mr. VG makes it funny. Mr. VG, the funniest teacher I’ve ever had, is also a great instructor. We learn a lot while having the most fun out of any class. He prepares students where they need to be for high school science with Mr. Steger and Mr. Austin. The sweet taste of dum-dums remind us of how kind Mr. VG is,

for he hands out suckers on Fridays. His voice is a booming loudspeaker that can be heard across the school. In study hall, I can hear him teaching life science all the way from Mr. McGraw’s room. Being loud isn’t necessarily a bad thing, for we never have to ask him to repeat anything, and we’re always paying attention.

Mr. VG has told us many moral stories and lessons. The most memorable moments in science class are when Mr. VG teaches us life lessons in a five minute duration. These lessons inspire us to be better people. Before we leave everyday, he also says, “Make good choices,” and we can feel his encouragement. A few days ago, we had a Would you Rather Wednesday, and the question was “Would you rather be liked by all, or loved by half and hated by half?” There was no majority on either side, as it was about even. “Now, that right there, is modern society. People don’t care if they are hated until you need the people who hate you. Say a person who hates you is the only person who can give you the right surgery!” exclaimed Mr. VG. Only a few sentences and a five minute discussion on a subject can change a person’s view on life, and that’s what separates him from every other teacher.

From watching Mr. VG, I’ve learned to be kind to all, have fun while learning, and set an example for your peers and people who look up to you. Mr. VG has inspired me to consider becoming a teacher when I grow up. If I were ever to become a teacher, I would take many ideas from Mr. VG and try to replicate his class. 🐾



Dominik McVay, Chloe Oberhauser, and Allison Chitwood.

Spelling Bee

On Monday, January 23, 2017, classroom spelling bees were held in middle school language arts classes. The top two winners from each class went on to participate in the middle school spelling bee.

The classroom winners that participated were sixth graders Maddix Jackson, Teona Hanson, Allison Chitwood, Lucas Sullivan, Lexi Pautz, and Jenna Dailey. Seventh graders who participated were Brynn Pryce-Ingwell, Brett Roberts, Dominik McVay, Trapper Nafzger, Malachi Strompolis-Salama, and Emma Steffes. And eighth grade participants were Ian Keyes, Gabe Sporle, Mason Horn, and Chloe Oberhauser.

Of the sixteen students who participated, the top speller, eighth-grader Chloe Oberhauser, will join the elementary winner and compete at the next level February 6 at Darlington. Congrats to all! 🐾

Student Stories

Tumbling of the Tree

By Rita Wilson

In my short life, I have learned many things, just not by experience. Most of my lessons come from reading books, watching movies, and observing my sisters, Hope, Ella, and Stephenie. In the middle of December three years ago was when this specific incident occurred. Unlike most of my life knowledge, this tidbit came from experience. The snow had begun to fall, coating the world in a blanket of white. It had been one of those days when it was too cold to go outside due to the frigid air. The wind whipped the snow into drifts and hammered on the windows. My sisters and I had little to occupy our time and quickly grew bored. Eventually, after Ella begged us, we started a game of hide and seek. After a few rounds, all the good hiding places had been used. I was searching for a new one when I wandered past the Christmas tree. With time running out, I scurried behind its prickly branches being careful not to disturb its position. This particular tree had a very thin stump that barely fit in the tree base, and it was already slightly imbalanced. As I secured my position, I kept glancing at the tree to ensure it was steady. I had just finished replacing the presents to their original positions when I heard Hope yell, "Ready or not here I come!"

Crouching behind the tree, I gazed through its green branches to monitor Hope's progress. I scrutinized her from my vantage point as she searched for me. The lights glinted off the decorative bulbs like fire, sending a ballet of colors dancing across my face. The sharp fragrance of pine filled my nose blocking out all other scents as I knelt behind the thick branches. Hope, curly hair bouncing, brown eyes glinting, a maleficent smile gracing her lips, advanced toward my hide-out. I listened frozen as her footsteps mingled with the Christmas carols blaring from the stereo. I was giddy with nerves as she passed me.

Then she saw me and shouted smugly, "I found you, Rita!" With a sigh, I rose and tried to slip out from behind the tree, but the small bit of pressure that was applied to the already unsteady tree proved to be too much.

Just as I freed myself from its prickly embrace, I felt it begin to tip. My face went white as a sheet and fear gripped my stomach as my hand shot out to steady the tree. But it was already too far gone. Branches swaying, the tree rushed towards the ground. I was lucky enough grab the trunk. Unfortunately, it was already halfway to the ground. Although nothing breakable fell off the tree, its descent caused enough clatter to draw my mother's attention from the other room. A mixture of relief and guilt filled me as she entered.

I knew I shouldn't have been in this situation in the first place but was happy to see it had caused minimal damage. After attempting to reposition the tree by ourselves a few times, we sent Ella out to get my dad. When he came inside he asked, "Now what happened here?" My cheeks flushed as I explained the incident. After about twenty minutes of trying to steady the tree, we finally got it to balance, though the movement caused a carpet of fallen needles to spread across the floor. When we were done fixing my mistake, Mom asked me what I'd been thinking. I knew from the look on her face that she was unhappy; although, I also picked up that she wasn't too upset. As punishment goes, mine was minimal. I only had to sweep up the needles and replace the few ornaments that fell. As the day came to a close, I felt thankful that it had not ended in a different way, and I went to bed reasonably happy. Although nothing like this has happened since, I have grown considerably more thoughtful of my actions and considerate of my surroundings. 🐾

From the Desk of Ms. Dahl, Middle School Principal



Attending school every day helps students get the most out of middle school. Encourage good attendance with these ideas:

- Point out there is no substitute for being in class. Your child needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in group projects and class discussions, and to ask questions.
- Schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments for before or after school hours whenever possible.

- It will be easier for your child to get up on time for school if he or she has a 8-9 hours of sleep. Set a reasonable bedtime, and make sure all electronic devices are turned off and put away so there will not be a temptation to stay awake to read messages or play games. Insist devices are turned off at bedtime. Children could stay up for hours playing games or watching videos. They can also be awakened by texts or sleep lightly in anticipation of them.

If you have questions about the middle school attendance policy please contact the middle school office. The attendance policy is also contained in the assignment notebooks. 🐾

Vickie.Dahl@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0720

Just for fun:

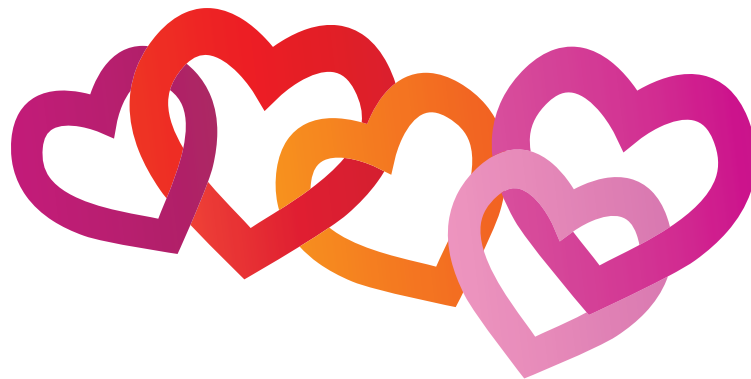
Q: When does Friday come before Thursday?

A: In the dictionary!

Worth quoting:

"The time is always right to do what is right."

Martin Luther King



Songs of Love Choir Concert

Monday, February 27th, 7 p.m.

at the Mineral Point Opera House!

*Free public admission, donations requested
for the HS Chicago trip in June.*

The Middle School Choir, High School Chorus,
and Men's Group will be performing!



Parents Make A Difference!

Teens and Bullying Behavior



If I asked you to think of a time when you may have been bullied, what might you remember? Perhaps somebody said something mean to you or gossiped about you. Maybe somebody or a group of people punched or kicked you or did something that made you feel badly about yourself.

In the 2015 Department of Public Instruction Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 5,309 youth in grades 7 through 12 in Southwest Wisconsin showed that 27% of 9th-12th graders reported they had been bullied on school property in the past year. 48% of 7th-8th graders reported they had been bullied at some time.

These statistics mirror a study from the 2010–2011 School Crime Supplement (National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics) that indicates that, nationwide, 28 percent of students in grades 6 to 12 experienced bullying.

Bullying behavior has probably existed since the beginning of human interaction, but it is not a normal, acceptable part of growing up. According to Dan Olweus, Swedish psychologist, bullying consists of 3 components including:

- 1) Unwanted, intentional physical or verbal **aggression** on the part of one or more persons toward another. This might include physically overpowering or hurting someone or repeatedly making threatening or humiliating remarks
- 2) A consistent pattern of behavior that is **repeated** over time. While a single incident can be harmful, one incident is not bullying behavior.
- 3) An **imbalance** of power or strength such as an older youth versus a younger one or someone stronger against a weaker one.

What is NOT bullying? Some bad behavior can be defined as "drama". Drama is... the everyday difficulties that all teenagers experience, including relationship rifts with friends or people teens are dating, onetime instances of classmates being jerks, and conflicts that eventually blow over.

Forty percent (40%) of 7th-12th graders in the YRBS survey agreed or strongly agreed that harassment and bullying is a problem at their school; 46% of females reported that, whereas only 34% of males reported that. However, 82% of the 7th-12th graders reported that they feel safe and secure at school

YRBS SURVEY says:

27%

of 9th – 12th graders report they have been bullied on school property in the last 12 months.

48%

of 7th and 8th graders report they have been bullied at some time.

40%

of 7th - 12th graders agree or strongly agree that bullying and harassment by other students is a problem in their school. 46% of females report this and 34% of males.

10 %

of 9th – 12th graders report they bullied someone else at school in the last 12 months

82%

of 7th-12th graders report they most of the time or always feel safe and secure at school.

WHAT DOES A BYSTANDER DO?

A bystander just stands by, watching bullying behavior, and taking no real action. What are some ways bystanders can support someone who they see being bullied?

◇ Spend time with those who are being bullied at school, such as: talk to them, sit with them at lunch, and invite them to play sports or other games during free time.

◇ Listen to the person being bullied and let him or her talk about the event and his or her feelings about the situation.

◇ Tell the person being bullied that you don't like the bullying and ask if you can do anything to help.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

All teens are affected by bullying behavior. Here are suggestions for parents from Becky Mather, UW-Extension.

√ Set a Good Example for Your Teen

- Be tolerant and inclusive of a variety of people and personalities.
- Help your teen to be more inclusive and understanding. Encourage your teen to think of other's, particularly when someone is acting inappropriately or annoyingly.
- Don't allow your child to call others "gay," "retard," or any other slurs, even when he or she tells you "it's no big deal."

√ Help to create an environment that addresses bullying before it happens

- Teach your teen to be an ally, not a bystander. Help your teen learn how to

address bullying behavior when possible and to speak up for those who are at risk for bullying.

- Encourage your child to socialize with a diverse variety of friends.
- Be conscious that adults who interact with your teen and his or her peers are not always as aware as they should be of how their actions contribute to or prevent bullying.

√ Monitor technology in an effort to be aware if your child is heading for trouble

- Check to see if your teen is continuing to engage and view media, *even when they are experiencing cyberbullying*
- Discuss with your teen that he or she might be better off turning off the cell phone or e-mail.

√ Don't overreact or underreact

- Listen and stay calm
- Watch for non-verbal signs that your teen is struggling such as headaches or stomachaches, not wanting to be a part of activities he/she previously enjoyed, unexplained injuries or bruises, avoidance of school, a rapid drop in grades, or, even, suicidal thoughts or actions.
- Provide appropriate support. If it is bullying, your teen needs you and/or someone else in power to intercede and make a change in the relationship.
- Strategize and roleplay with your teen how to deal with the situation.

REMEMBER – PARENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Bullying is a serious threat to the well-being of your teen. It is very difficult as a parent to watch your teen get hurt. Just remember there are others out there who are experiencing similar issues and there are resources available. Your love and support makes a tremendous difference to your teen. (Myparenthetical.com)

Teens and Bullying Resources:

NoBullying.com has useful articles for teens, parents, teachers, and health professionals.

"A WORLD WITHOUT BULLYING: BRIGITTE'S STORY" <http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/stop-bullying.html?WT.ac=k-ra#>

BULLYING: WHAT CAN PARENTS DO? <http://myparenthetical.com/>

Bullying Special Edition, <http://www.education.com/topic/school-bullying-teasing/>

"Parents Make a Difference" is a product of the Southwest Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), a program of the Department of Public Instruction, University of Wisconsin-Extension and local school districts. This newsletter is adapted from the UW-Extension newsletters "Whose Kids?...Our Kids!" This issue of "Parents Make a Difference" was written by Deb Ivey, UW-Extension Iowa County. This issue was reviewed by Bev Doll, UW-Extension Grant County; Amy Mitchell, UW-Extension Crawford County; Lori Berget, UW-Extension Lafayette County; Chelsea Wunnicke, UW-Extension Richland County; and Ruth Schriefer, UW-Extension Iowa County. Thanks are extended to the 5,309 7th to 12th graders from Southwest Wisconsin who participated in the 2015 YRBS survey. Contact UW-Extension for further information: Grant County (608) 723-2125; Lafayette County (608) 776-4820; Crawford County (608) 326-0223; Iowa County (608) 930-9850; or Richland County (608) 647-6148. Or visit our website at <http://www.cesa3.org/yrebs.html>

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