

White and Blue Review

Spring 2013  Education... That's the Point

Dear Family and Friends of the Mineral Point School District,

A new community-wide discussion, designed to increase student success, and, ultimately, improve the quality of life of everyone in the community, whether or not they have kids in school has begun. In the coming weeks and months, parent volunteers will share something important about our students and schools and how they relate to you and the future of our community. The school board will ask you about what you think as the board moves forward with developing a strategic plan. There is a great conversation that is beginning to take shape.

The conversation is happening now because a fundamental transformation is taking place in America, and no one is exempt. The future of everyone in the community is tied to the quality of our school as never before. The industrial age we grew up in is fading. The knowledge age is taking its place. No one can accurately predict what jobs will be created in the next twenty years – too much is happening much too fast – but it's clear the success of the American economy depends less on making and moving things, and more on generating and sharing knowledge. This shift has triggered a dramatic increase in what our students need to know when they graduate. What was considered an adequate education just thirty years ago is no longer sufficient.

In the past, these kids entered fields or factories, mills or mines, or a million small shops; they were part of the great mass of unskilled or semi-skilled workers who held jobs that paid them a decent wage their entire lives. They didn't need a high-quality education to get these jobs. Not too long ago, they didn't even need a diploma. They needed to show up on time, work hard, and do what they were told. Seventy-seven percent of the American labor force fit this description as late as the 1970's. Now, low skilled workers account for less than twelve percent of the jobs paying a decent wage, and that number is failing rapidly. Gone are the days when a marginally educated kid could leave school with a strong back and a willingness to work and catch the American Dream.



To make it in the work place today, entry level workers must have the skills to constantly learn new things, and they must be able to apply what they have learned to a continuously changing stream of occupational problems and personal challenges. For the first time in American history, every student needs a high-quality education, not just the kids at the top of the class.

Our quality of life is affected by these kids, whether we know them or not. Crime rates, health services, tax revenues, civic participation, the strength of the local economy, and quality of our local government will all improve with higher levels of student success. We can't force someone else's child to learn, but it's in everyone's interest to come together to encourage success and remove the barriers to achievement. It's not only the right thing to do, it's practical. 

Statistics and narrative credited to Jamie Vollmer,
Schools Cannot Do It Alone

Kindest Regards,

Luke Francois

Luke.Francois@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0740

It is truly an honor to be Mineral Point's superintendent.

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District Mission: Our mission is to offer a high quality education that empowers all students with the knowledge and skills to become responsible citizens.

From the Desk of Anne Palzkill

Mineral Point Elementary Principal
& Director of Pupil Services

This is the last, and most exciting, quarter of the school year here at Mineral Point Elementary. Over the course of the school year, the elementary staff has worked hard to bring a number of deep instructional changes to our building including: common grade level planning time; a new reading series; the integration of the language arts and math common core standards; data-based intervention; a dedicated intervention block for all students; and a new teacher effectiveness evaluation model. Each of these powerful initiatives will serve to improve student instruction and, therefore, standardized test scores like the WKCE or, in the future, the ACT.

Standardized test scores are not the only measure of your child's success. Though, they are the measure and tool that the state is presently mandating. We work hard to develop all aspects of your child's development and take pride in being a partner, along with our parents and our community, in developing caring people and productive citizens. This partnership is the key to our school's continued success and growth.

With all the state-mandated changes being implemented, I do not want to lose sight of this unique partnership we have developed here in this beautiful community we call home. As the year progresses, please take time to participate in an open forum, call with questions, to stop by to chat with me, or to visit a classroom. The students consider Mineral Point Elementary their home away from home and we would like you, our parents and community, to feel the same. Stop by, we welcome your visit to Mineral Point Elementary. 

Anne Palzkill
Anne.Palzkill@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0710

Message from Mitch Wainwright

Principal, Mineral Point Middle/High School

Exciting events are taking place in the high school as we end the third quarter and begin the fourth.



Seussical The Musical was such a huge success, when many fine actors did indeed really impress. The people in the audience were treated to a surprise, by all the fine talent that appeared before their eyes. The Grinch, Gertrude, Kangaroo and Mayzie did well to steal the show, but Horton and the Cat in the Hat were almost professional you know. Each performer rose to the occasion time and again, to teach us a lesson we learned at the end. Big or small we all have some talent and can pitch in to help, even if it's nothing more than one little Yelp! Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in the musical.

Winter sports seasons have been completed and award banquets have honored many fine young women and men for their outstanding efforts. The Forensics team is successfully competing and hopes to send many of our students to the State competition on April 19th. FBLA students also have competed and several students advanced to the next level at the state. The FFA organization held its annual banquet, recognized many, many students for outstanding accomplishments and handed out several thousands of dollars in scholarship money. They also continue to compete in many different areas and advance on to State level meets. The Math Team recently competed at Southwestern and successfully represented the school, returning with 4 medal winners. SKILLS USA is competing in Wisconsin Dells in different areas showing off for small town Mineral Point.

Seniors are still filling out scholarship applications, hearing from colleges on acceptance for next fall and planning on graduation parties so they conflict with the fewest other parties. Teaching and learning is still taking place. Honor Rolls are becoming more populated with successful students and struggling learners are getting extra help. As you can see our students are busy with so many activities yet maintain solid academic progress.

My thanks go out to the parents, community and all the staff at school for the continued support on behalf of our students!

Driver's Education.

On behalf of the Mineral Point community, I would like to say Thank You to Mr. Ron Murphy for all the work he has done teaching our students. At the end of this school year, Mr. Murphy's teaching license expires and he will be "officially" retiring.

What does this mean for the future drivers in Mineral Point? The program will be run by Southwest Technical College, but we will continue to offer the class here at school with a new instructor, Mr. Quinn Schultz. More information will be sent out to the families that will be impacted by this change.

If you see Mr. Murphy, be sure to thank him again for his time and services for all our children! 

Mitch Wainwright
Mitch.Wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us 987.0730

Adventures within the Business, Marketing, and Information Technology Department

As we approach April, it seems like the year has flown by. The Sports, Hospitality, and Entertainment Marketing class thrilled the crowds during five home basketball games this season with their halftime contests. The students, with the knowledge and skills learned in class, gained sponsorships, created effective advertisements, and excited the crowd.

In April, the Personal Finance, Accounting, and Advanced Accounting classes will be heading to Southwest Wisconsin Technical College to attend a learning lab focused on financial decision making. SouthWest Interactive Financial Literacy Event (SWIFLE) will give students a "real" life experience receiving income, paying taxes, a mortgage, rent, childcare, and groceries for a one month simulation. In previous years, students have reflected positively on their experience at this event and the "reality" of the costs that come when living on your own. Several Mineral Point community members are serving as volunteers to help the students make the right financial decisions.

Also in April, seventeen students who qualified for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) state conference will compete in Wisconsin Dells. Students are competing in a variety of challenging topics including business calculations, management information systems, hospitality management, and entrepreneurship. These competitions allow the students to apply their knowledge learned in class and compete against other students around the state. During this conference, students will also have the chance to tour businesses in Wisconsin Dells and network with other students and business professionals. 

A Sweet Lesson

Ms. Dalton's HS Community Living class created a business plan to develop and sell candy bouquets as gifts. The class presented their concept to the Mineral Point Kiwanis Club and through a grant received start up funding. Ms. Dalton and staff will work closely with students to take an empty container and turn it into a full complete candy bouquet! The funds that are generated from this business will be used for class field trips, class activities, and replenishing the production supplies. The skills that students acquire include: business transaction skills, positive peer interactions, and enhanced skills for future employment opportunities. 



Counselor's Corner

School Counselor (7 thru 12)

Even though the weather is still winter-like, there is no mistaking the season in the school counselor's office. As March leads into April, scholarship season is in full swing! Also, career/post-secondary meetings are happening across grade levels as we speak. This type of activity is a sure sign of spring in my world!

Our seniors are being encouraged to apply for a variety of scholarships from the institutional, regional, national, and local levels. The best advice is

to apply for any and all scholarships that you are eligible to receive. It is most certainly true that you will not receive any scholarships if you do not apply for them! Contact me with any questions about our scholarship program or have your son or daughter stop in my office.

Wisconsin Career Pathways is a new website provided by the State of Wisconsin free of charge. The main objective of this website is to give access to career and post-secondary information to all Wisconsin students without any cost to the school district or student. Student's can create an account and have a space called "MiLOCKER" on the homepage. This is an area that helps students organize potential career and college information and have the ability to refer to this information at their leisure. Another nice feature is that I have the ability to look into this information which helps me prepare for our individual meetings.

Currently, we are in the process of having all grades 7-10 students establish this account. Our juniors are meeting with me right now and we are putting together their application plans for next fall while looking into specific college websites that are of interest to them and have the correct undergraduate programs to lead them into their future career areas.

The guidance office website is still in the process of being built and finalized. However, it is functional with a variety of links for our students to use. You can access this website at <http://mpguidance.wikispaces.com>.

Please contact me if you have questions about scholarships, careers, colleges, or need information of any kind. I am happy to be a resource for our students, parents, and community. Thank you! 

Andy Palzkill
7-12 School Counselor

Forensics Team

The Mineral Point Forensics Team has been off and running since early December! Once again, the school is carrying a full team complete with alternates and student assistants - thirty-eight MPHS members. Forensics is a premier co-curricular activity because it provides a foundation for the development of public speaking and performance. It provides multiple opportunities for students to practice and share their skill development. Students not only grow through vocal delivery but also develop skills in writing, editing, and interacting. Forensics offers fifteen different speaking and performing/acting categories. This year the entire team has advanced through the Sub-District and District level, which now moves



Athletic Department News

NUMBER 50!



Robby Chubb became the 50th Individual State Wrestling Champion for the Mineral Point High School Wrestling program. Robby won the 195# title in Division 3 at the WIAA State Individual Wrestling Championships held at the Kohl Center in Madison on February 21, 22, and 23.

Other state wrestling participants include Reid Suddeth at 113, Tucker Pickel at 152 and Brian Steffes at 285.

Mineral Point finished the season with a 21-4 overall record. The Pointers won the SWAL Conference Championship with 6-0 dual record. Congratulations to Coach Schmitz and the Pointer wrestling team!

Basketball Teams Complete Their Seasons

The Girls Basketball Team finished their season with an overall record of 15-7. In SWAL Conference play the Pointers finished at 11-3 and placed second. SWAL All Conference first team selections were Emily Mitchell (Sr.) and Jessica Schultz (Fr.). Clara Chambers (Fr.) was an Honorable Mention selection.

them on to the State Level at UW-Madison in April. For the third year in a row, the team has finish 2nd to the defending State Champions, Darlington, in the SWAL tournament. Each year MPHS has closed the gap on the reigning champions! MPHS walked away with fifteen of the individual conference placements. The forensics season runs from December to April.

[Beth Wood](#) – Demonstration

[Melissa Wood](#) – Moments in History

[Ian Ewers & Chanler Leonard](#) – Radio Speaking

[Debbie Heth & AJ Bandyk](#) – Extemporaneous

[Mikalah Enright & Anna Eisenzimmer](#) – Oratory

[Paula Pittz & Tessa Wainwright](#) – Special Occasion

[Halie Schmitz](#) – 4 Minute Speech

[Dakota James](#) – Public Address

[Katie Kelm & Cora Cabezas](#) – Storytelling

[Alyssa Kenyon & Rachel McCoy](#) – Farrago

[Lizzy Moellers & Stephanie Walrack](#) – Poetry Reading

[Stephanie Prochaska & Jesse Hodgson](#) – Prose Reading

[Jacob Heimsoth, Kane Poad, Blake Weier, Brandon Lindholm, Collin Steffes](#) – Group Interpretation

[Sarah Galle, Hannah Owens, Gabe Palzkill](#) – Play Acting

[Sy Staver, Matt Doney, Alec Schmitz, Turner Poad, Joey Gorgen](#) – Group Interpretation

Coaches: [Kristin Staver & Kris McCoy](#)

Student Assistant: [Andrew James](#)

Wellness Survey Collects Student Input

On three consecutive days in January during lunch periods Middle and High School students had the opportunity to let their voices be heard by participating in an online Wellness Survey. Input was voluntary and anonymous. The questions were developed and pretested by a sub-group representing the Wellness Committee. A total of 183 students logged onto the survey, this is considered a rather impressive number of students that took the time to provide input. Students that participated in the survey were asked questions such as; "On a scale of 1-5, how healthy are your eating habits?" "Choose up to 3 ways you would like to receive health and wellness information?" For this type of question several choices were offered as well as an option to write in answers. "Select activi-

ties in which you would be likely to participate (check all that apply)." Examples of options that were available for this question were: Attend a nutrition or single session fitness seminar; Help plan or promote nutrition or fitness activities at school; Participate in a challenge or incentive program on a team; Check out a health/fitness video to watch at home. There were seventeen questions on the survey. It was obvious by watching the students answer the questions that they were actually seriously thinking about their answers.

The data rich results of the survey were presented to the Wellness Committee for the development of action items. Specific topics have been identified as areas of student interest and are under consideration as recommendations. The top recommendations are: Plan and organize after school activities, either on-site or off-site with facilitators that would present activities not already offered. Examples of this would be a Zumba class, kickboxing class, healthy food shopping and cooking class and strength/tone training classes.

If you would like additional information as it relates to this survey, outcomes or action plans, you may contact Luke Francois, Superintendent or Julie Pompos, District Nurse.

The Garden Project

In spite of the current weather, plans are warming up for the initial phase of The Garden Project. A little more than one month ago, a group of enthusiastic parent volunteers, teachers and administrators gathered for the first meeting unveiling the proposed garden project for Mineral Point Elementary School. Detailed architectural and landscape diagrams were conceptualized and presented to the group by Ryan Fox (parent volunteer). During the first meeting, the enthusiasm was palpable. The proposed plans were accepted and then the members of the group began discussing how each person could use their strengths and talents to contribute. The gorgeous logo representing this project was designed by Janet Lawinger (staff member and parent volunteer). Actually, she drafted six logo options and a vote was taken to determine the logo to represent the project. Rink and Jenny DaVee (parent volunteers) are providing planting material and seeds to be used as a coordinated science and agricultural course for Mrs. Busch and Mrs. Doyle's classes. The seed planting will occur in school and then the seedlings will be transferred to the garden as start up plants.

Ground breaking is proposed for the second week of April, weather permitting. With this date only three weeks away there is still much work to be completed. At this time, donations are being solicited and accepted either in the form of cash or in-kind donations. A generous stipend for start up money for the project has been donated by the Wellness Committee that represents the school district. The money initially came from the sales of Dr. Sarah Fox and Julie Stephenson's recipe book: *Super Snacks for Super Kids*.

This truly is a community grassroots effort and all intent is to keep the requests for donations local and within the Mineral Point community. If you would like further information or would like to make a donation of any type please contact Julie Pompos, Chairperson or Ryan Fox, Lead Project Builder.



PEP Update

Have you ever offered to help out in your child's classroom but never done it? Thought about donating an hour a month to a worthy cause but not taken the time to look for one? Considered who does a lot of behind the scenes planning to make successful events at school and wanted to contribute?

PEP (our version of a parent teacher organization) can help! The Pointer Education Partnership is always striving to enhance the education of our young Pointers, support their parents, incorporate the community and welcome volunteers, in whatever capacity they have to offer. If you want to support the schools by donating one hour of your time, consider a PEP activity. Even if attending the monthly meeting (held prior to the regular monthly school board meeting at 6 p.m. in the high school library) doesn't appeal to you, perhaps some of these one hour activities would: School Kit distribution, working at a food sale table during elementary events, attending a parenting speaker event, organizing fliers, setting up a display case, making food for an event or helping out with the last day of school festivities. Donating one hour to any of these tasks benefits our schools.

PEP is always looking for ways to unite parents, families and community members with the school. We would like to be a resource and not just a fundraising group. It is fantastic to have our schools benefit financially when we fundraise, but our organization has more to offer. If you would like to learn more, be kept current on activities or donate an hour of your time, please contact PEP at PointerPEP@gmail.com.

84th Annual FFA Awards

The Mineral Point FFA held its 84th annual FFA Awards Banquet on March 19th. Several awards were handed out and a delicious meal was had by all. A few of the awards handed out included:

The FFA Discovery Degree: Emma Baker, Lane Eggers, Morgan Fitzsimmons, Brant James, Tommie Loken, Austin Olson, Rebekah Ottoway, Dathan Paradis, Hannah Parkinson, Kaleb Pilling, Joe Ripp, David Schaaf, Boone Schmitz, Jake Steffes and Amanda Torres.

The Greenhand Degree: Colton Kenyon, Caiti McGuire, Myah Aschliman, Megan Blume, Steven Blume, Zach Cummings, Nathan Eisenzimmer, Brandon Forseth, Caitlyn Goodweiler, Franny Hagan, Savannah Lawinger, Tyra Leonard, Kayla Lindholm, Elizabeth Moellers, Tess Oberhauser, Tori Palzkill, Scott Pittz, Mckenzie Schmitz, Carly Tibbits and Karissa White.

The Chapter FFA Degree: Jacob Edge, Adrianna Mach, Emily Wood, Frank Baker, Nate Cody, John Colin, Alex Delaney, Jane Dickler, Bailey Dolphin, Matt Doney, Dylan Kroll, Jaylene McConnell, Gabe Ottoway, Hunter Paradis, Turner Poad, Jamie Ripp, Lydia Sanchez and Ross Siegenthaler

The Blue and Gold Award: Jordan Dolphin, Kimmy Cleary, Alyssa Cody, Kayla Eggers, Debbie Heth, Jessie Hodgson, Dakota James, Lexie Leonard, Clarisa Lindholm, Rachel McCoy, Tommy Olson, Paula Pittz, Kane Poad, Halie Schmitz, Lee Stephenson, Reid Suddeth, Savannah Wallace, Trevor Wendhausen, Kyle White, and Hayden Yager.

State FFA Degree (the highest degree our state association can bestow): Bailey Berget.

American FFA Degree (the highest degree of FFA membership): Jessica James and Morgan Pittz.

State Proficiency Awards

Bailey Berget – gold in Diversified Agriculture; Clarisa Lindholm – bronze in Sheep Production; Halie Schmitz – silver in Swine Production; Rachel McCoy – silver in Sheep Production and silver Diversified Livestock Production Placement; Scott Pittz – silver in Swine Production; Paula Pittz – silver in Swine Production; Morgan Pittz – silver in Swine Production; Nate Cody – gold in Diversified Agricultural Production; Gabe Ottoway – bronze in Diversified Agricultural Production; Frank Baker – silver in Poultry Production; Reid Suddeth – gold in Sheep Production and gold in Beef Production Placement.

For each grade level the FFA gives out a star award for the FFA member most involved in that grade. This year the top honors for their grade level in Mineral Point FFA went to:

Star Discovery (8th grade) – Morgan Fitzsimmons

Star Greenhand (9th grade) – Elizabeth Moellers and Scott Pittz

Star Chapter (10th grade) – Gabe Ottoway

Star Blue and Gold (11th grade) – Rachel McCoy and Paula Pittz

Star Dekalb (12th grade) – Bailey Berget

Scholarships

FFA Scholarship: Bailey Berget (\$1000) and Andrew James (\$800)

FFA Alumni Scholarship: Brian Steffes and Jacob Heimsoth (\$500 each)

James J. Palzkill Memorial Scholarship: Andrew James (\$500)



For events and yearly school calendar info:
www.mp.k12.wi.us

Reminder: The FFA Spring Plant Sale will be held May 2nd



BUILT BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

A fundraising effort is underway to relocate the Mineral Point Stadium from its location at the elementary school to the high school. The plan to move the stadium has been abandoned over 15 years due to funding obstacles. After reviewing proposals for upgrades at the elementary and high school sites, the school board approved a fundraising effort to move the football stadium to the high school through the use of private donations.

Conditions at the old stadium have deteriorated to the point of either a complete renovation or a relocation of the stadium to the high school. The issues with the current field are numerous and include: no locker rooms and showers, the field is not regulation (too short), the distance from the high school – both teams currently have to be bussed, no restrooms, the inability to hold playoff games, the track is unsafe, limited seating for home and visitor, and not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible.

The old stadium has been and always will be a place of memories for generations of Pointers, but the time has come to place safety above nostalgia. The total cost of the project is \$594,500 with the possibility of in-kind donations reducing the project total. The project total includes: football field renovation, site work, football field lighting, bleachers, press box, engineering and geotechnical services.

The stadium would complement the strong academic programs the district currently has in place. The likelihood for WIAA tournament assignments to be held at the stadium

would have a positive economic impact on local businesses as well as the opportunity to further showcase the Mineral Point School District. The stadium adds another reason for families to relocate to Mineral Point to become part of the community and the school district. The project would serve as a welcome addition for the school and community to be used in many different ways." said Ted Evans from the steering committee.

Fundraising efforts have begun – sponsorship, naming, and engraved seat opportunities are available. Upcoming fundraising events include a golf outing in June, an NFL raffle this summer, and a Mardi Gras event in the spring of 2014. Informational brochures, a Facebook page and a website: www.mpstadium.com have been created to educate the community about the project. Tax deductible donations can be made via check payable to the Mineral Point School District (write stadium fund in the memo) and mailed to the school. Please consider donating your time and talents to this effort.

"From my perspective, moving the football stadium to the high school location would be ideal. The access to locker rooms, bathrooms, and not having to take a bus to home games would be very convenient. Most importantly, having a facility capable of hosting WIAA playoff games is a priority of mine and will be a wonderful opportunity for our community in the future."

– Andy Palzkill, Head Football Coach

For more information contact Ted Evans by phone at 608.574.2534 or by email at info@mpstadium.com.

Student Wins Literary Competition

Mineral Point Elementary 5th grade student, Lily Wong won first place M for Literary and Illustration for her entry The Carrot Contest in the Mu Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Literary Competition. Lily's book has been sent to the Sigma State competition. Winners will be announced at the State DKG convention in late April. Lily along with her parents and teacher (Mrs. Lifka Bennett), are invited to an awards dinner on Monday, May 6 where she will receive her award. Lily also had a poem Penelope published in the fall by Creative Communications. Her poem was connected to a story in the 5th grade Journey's series. Congratulations Lily!



Mineral Point Unified
School District
705 Ross Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565
Phone: (608) 987.0740
Fax: (608) 987.3766

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