

# White<sup>and</sup>Blue Review

Summer 2015 🐾 *Education... That's the Point*

## POINTER PHOTO ROUNDUP



Dylan MacGivra and Elizabeth Moellers were Mineral Point High School's selections to attend Badger Boys State and Badger Girls State this June to learn more about government and patriotism. Badger Boys State was held in Ripon and Girls State in Oshkosh.



The annual Elementary School Fair once again was a fun way to wrap up the school year. Highlights included activities involved with Camp Out With a Good Book and the 5th grade musical concert. Thanks to everyone who helped make it successful and congrats to all the students!



With help from high schoolers, the 4th graders were busy trying various instruments to pick the one that's right for them as they look to begin band in the fall as 5th graders.



As part of continued efforts to promote eMPathy and fight bullying, the elementary students held their last "mix it up lunch" before school ended where the tables are rearranged and students are encouraged to sit with kids they normally might not.



Key Club members Jane Dickler and Winnie Darrow were invited to be guests at the Kiwanis club's meeting with Craig Culver, Culver's CEO, as the guest speaker. The Kiwanis is the parent organization to the Key Club.



1st graders learned about nature and wildlife at their year-end trip to Bethel Horizons in Dodgeville.



To honor Earth Day, 1st graders held an environmental concert with songs and messages about the importance of taking care of our planet.



Kindergartners enjoyed their year end field trip to the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison.



Cummins conducted a safety poster contest at the elementary and announced Belle Watters, Emma Knutson, and Morgan Palzkill as the winners.

### Communication **SURVEY** page 7

Please assist the Mineral Point Unified School District with its communication efforts by completing this survey.



# Superintendent's Corner

Luke Francois, Mineral Point District Administrator

In our household we have a family of six. Tiffany works part time as an English teacher and our four children; Kennedy, Lucas, Jacob, and Matthew keep us moving from one activity to another during the summer months. As a result, there are checks written for registration fees for baseball, tennis shoes to replace the old shoes with holes, and piano lessons. The credit card is used to fill the car up with gas to transport kids to activities and occasionally take a family camping trip. Families that pay the rent or a mortgage put a plan in place for monthly bills and expenses. When employed, one looks to the next possible raise to help ease the financial burden of the continuous incoming expenses. When a raise does not happen, a family is forced to buckle down and live within their existing means for another year.

The Mineral Point School District worked hard this past year and was successful by many measures, but unfortunately, the District did not receive a raise this year from the state to operate schools. As a result of an unfavorable budget for school funding, Mineral Point Schools are forced to buckle down and live within their existing means for another year.

However, living within last year's means should not mean limiting the District's ability to grow, raise expectations, or create new offerings. For next school year, the District carefully reprioritized existing funds to best meet the needs for most of our students next year.

### Reductions Made:

- Staffing
- Benefits were held to a .95% increase (originally projected to increase 6%)
- Purchased Services reduced 1.57%
- Capital Objects reduced 28.37%
- Technology reduced 32.1%
- Special Education reduced 15.15%
- Non-Captial Objects reduced 3.21%

### Additions Made:

#### Elementary

- Board approved math curriculum.
- Workbooks for math and language arts with no family fees
- Instructional Assistant for new student with special needs
- Office furniture replacement

#### Middle School

- 6th Grade Teacher

#### High School

- BOOST consortium distance learning room upgrade (grant funded)
- Graphics Design Art Class and Computers
- Replacement wrestling mat

#### District

- Increase from half time to full time Communications Director
- Replacing wiring from main core to switches from Cat 5 to fiber (erate funded)
- Replacing closet switches (erate funded)
- Retire debt early for energy efficiency project using savings from energy conservation efforts.

A result of reprioritizing existing funds finds the district accomplishing all of the above while reducing overall expenditures by more than \$60,000 over last year. Although many priorities are pending a funding source for next year, the district has done well given the current financial situation. 🐾

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

# Message from Mitch Wainwright

Principal, Mineral Point High School  
& District Assessment Coordinator



Summer vacation! This is what we have been waiting for. This is the time to sit back and relax and enjoy some time away from work, maybe take a little trip or recharge the batteries and get at the little jobs that have been put on hold. I want to let you in on a little secret.

Summer vacation, for the students, is the time when more work gets done at school. The maintenance staff gets at cleaning and waxing classrooms and hallways to get the school ready for next year. Classrooms may move so all of the items get boxed up, moved to a new location and unboxed. Some areas get new coats of paint so that when the students and families come back in the fall, everything looks new again.

With staff leaving, there is interviewing that takes place hiring the best possible replacement. Items get moved in to rooms and out of rooms with the changes. Tests scores are reported out from the state so results are analyzed and program changes are considered. Reports are filed with the Department of Public Instruction on classes offered, student progress through the school. Budgets are finalized and items are being ordered for the next year. Changes are made to handbooks and policies so updates are incorporated into new documents.

Students are in and out for classes like Driver's Education, sport camps, weight-lifting and summer school classes. If you thought a school building was a quiet place over the summer, you would be mistaken. The buildings are always busy with activity. Many days it is very difficult to get work done with so many people in and out of the building.

The one item that gets overlooked year after year is to say Thank You! Thank you to all of the staff that help get the buildings ready every summer. The buildings look so wonderful each year that we forget how much work it takes to get them that way. Thank you to the secretaries and bookkeepers for handling all of the day to day operations from purchases to reports to payroll and beyond. All of the things you do behind the scenes that have the teachers and administrators ready for the new school year are greatly appreciated!

So much for a summer vacation!?

Thank you for another great year in Mineral Point Schools. 🐾

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

# From the Desk of Brad Brogley

Mineral Point Elementary Principal,  
Curriculum and Instruction



I hope everyone is having a great summer vacation. There are still a few camping trips, campfires and s'mores to enjoy before Tuesday, September 1st is here. I wanted to take a few moments to share one of my trips that I took this summer.

A few weeks ago, a group of educators from the Mineral Point School District had the opportunity to attend a PLC (Professional Learning Community) Institute in Minneapolis, MN. Those staff members were: Paige Grimm, Lynn Ross, Livia Doyle, Benita Schmitz, Carla Rand and myself. There were keynote presentations on each day of the three day conference, as well as multiple breakout sessions to attend. The institute had over 2,100 attendees from 30 different states. Richard and Rebecca DuFour, as well as Mike Mattos, provided the keynote addresses. You could not help but feel the energy in the room. I left with a greater understanding of the PLC process; however there is still a great deal of work in our future.

One of the highlights of the institute occurred during a team planning period on the second day. As teams were meeting, the presenters were available to answer questions. Our group was discussing how RtI (Response to Intervention) and the PLC process work together. We listed several questions that we didn't know how to answer and then raised our hands to see if one person could stop by to help the Mineral Point table. Much to our surprise, Mike Mattos and Richard DuFour sat at our table and answered our questions. It was awesome! These are the foremost experts in the world on PLC and RtI, and they were sitting at our table helping us.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will be discussing PLCs in greater depth. I may be kind of strange, but this was one of the coolest trips that I have ever been on.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and be sure to have a s'more for me. See you soon! 🐾

Brad.Brogley@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0711



## Forensic Team Makes a STATEment

The competitive public speaking season wrapped up April 17 with students venturing to UW-Madison for state forensics competition.

Earning bronze (23 points and below) medals were: McKenzie Schmitz, Moments in History; Valya MacGilvra, Farrago; and Trevor Ross, Four Minute Speech.

Silver (23-24 points): Fran Hagen, Poetry; Hannah Owens, Farrago; Danielle Blum, Farrago; Tommie Loken, Oratory; Abby Dunbar, Four Minute Speech; Morgan Fitzsimmons, Poetry; Haley Chubb and Natalie Chubb, Play Acting.

Gold (25 points): Madison Bowers, Solo Acting; Lizzy Moellers, Solo Acting; Matt Neal, Solo Acting; Addison Dailey, Jaynie Gorgen, Destinee Kruser, Grant Rose, Sydney Staver, Group Interpretive Reading; Matt Doney, Joey Gorgen, Turner Poad, Alec Schmitz, Sy Staver, Group Interpretive Reading.

The group of Doney, Gorgen, Poad, Schmitz, and Staver earned their fourth straight state gold medal, which is an extremely difficult task to achieve. Only 22 students in the entire state accomplished this milestone last year.

Congratulations to all team members and coaches on another fine season! 🐾



## State Solo/Ensemble

UW-Platteville hosted State Solo/Ensemble with the top musicians from the area performing. Results for the Pointers were: Gold: Kaylee Sparks, tenor sax solo.

Silver: Woodwind Choir (Hannah Owens, Grant Rose, Tori Palzkill, Alayna McCarville, Sierra Evans, Sarah Knapp, Fulton Flanary, Tucker Cabezas, Caleb Mitchell, Addy Chambers, Tess Oberhauser, Ireln King, Kaylee Sparks, Logan Bidlingmaier, Bryce Fitzsimons, Kyla Sprain, Ariana Haase, Danielle Blum, Justice Hendrick, Abi Callaway, Jordyn Abbott, Mariah Sprain, Brianna Wedig); Bryce Fitzsimons, baritone saxophone solo; Alexa Sparks, French horn solo. 🐾



Award Ceremonies



The high school held its awards ceremony and honored many students, including the following with major awards: Senior departmental awards: Tech Ed: Joey Gorgen, Turner Poad; Business: Matt Baker; Art: Jamie Ripp; Social Studies: Blake Chambers; Spanish: Hannah Owens; English: Sy Staver; Science: Ross Siegenthaler; Math: Richie Haase; Phy Ed: Tarek Oellerich. Best all-around students: Freshmen: Madison Bowers and Haakon Schriefer; Sophomores: Morgan Fitzsimmons and Valya MacGilvra; Juniors: Elizabeth Moellers and Nettie Potter; Seniors: Blake Chambers and Alec Schmitz.



8th graders who earned the President's Education Award for outstanding academic achievement received a large ovation from their classmates at the middle school awards ceremony where a letter from the White House was read celebrating their accomplishments. Congrats to Karsten Bakken, Madisen Faull, Zoe Hay, Brady Palzkill, Abigail Shannon, and Sarah Toay.



The following students were recognized for having Perfect Attendance this school year. Congrats to them for their dedication and understanding that school attendance is an important factor in overall academic success.  
**Elementary (shown above):** Allyson Baehler, Jenna Dailey, Grace Engels, Derek Hottenstein, Morgan Lee, Madison Logan, Ashton Martin, Hayden Meboe, Lillian Murn, Callie Pierce, Faith Pilling, Brett Roberts, Emma Steffes, Jayda Sudmeier, Quentin Walter.  
**Middle:** Karissa Deutsch, Grant Lee, Miranda Oellerich, Cody Pierce, Jenna Wedig, Annie Wilbanks, Lily Wong.  
**High:** Brady Roberts.

State Aid Update

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction released its preliminary state aid estimates for 2015-16 Wednesday, July 1.

The Mineral Point Unified School District is projected to see a state aid decrease of 6.84%, or \$331,411 compared to general aid last year.

When comparing Mineral Point to its surrounding districts, and those in Iowa County, the following numbers are available:

- Barneveld: Up 2.77%, or \$70,282 Highland: Down 2.31%, or \$53,498
- Belmont: Down 3.05%, or \$67,493 Iowa-Grant: Up 3%, or \$166,741
- Dodgeville: Up 5.86%, or \$376,950 Pecatonica: Up 8.67%, or \$202,193

More than half of the state’s public school districts are in the same boat as Mineral Point and will receive less general funding, according to these estimates.

Of the states 424 districts, 55% will receive less money.

Even though the state budget is not finalized, the DPI is required by law to issue these preliminary numbers July 1.

Using the most recent estimates, the biennial budget maintains the same level of general school aid (\$4.476 billion) as was appropriated in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Actual aid payments are estimated at \$4.346 billion because of statutory reductions for the Milwaukee voucher program and for independent 2R charter schools.

With school aid being held at the same level as the prior year, other factors such as property valuation, enrollment, and shared costs in the general equalization aid formula impact whether the aid estimate for a district increases or decreases.

State wide, the district that is set to see the largest decrease in funding is Spooner, dropping 29.49%, or \$240,985.

The largest increase belongs to the Turtle Lake district at 71.17%, or \$255,859.

“Less state aid simply transfers the burden to local property taxpayers forcing their hand to pay for the states shortfall,” said Mineral Point Superintendent Dr. Luke Francois. “To compound the matter, none of the increases to property taxes is passed on to schools because, for the first time in history, the school district receives zero dollars in new revenue to operate schools. With everything costing more this year than last year for property owners and schools, this is truly a lose-lose state budget for the Mineral Point community.”

On October 15, the DPI will certify general state aid amounts for 2015-16 based on audited 2014-15 data. Estimated general aid to districts may change, although Francois doesnt expect much change in Mineral Point by the time the School Board certifies the levy in the fall.

It is important to note the July 1 estimates do not include per pupil categorical aid, which will be based on student membership from a three year rolling average of the 2015-16, 2014-15, and 2013-14 school years and their third Friday in September count. This aid will be paid in March 2016. The current budget appropriates \$127 million for that aid, which is \$150 per pupil, the same amount as last year.

The Mineral Point School Board passed a preliminary budget at its June 8 meeting and Francois said these July 1 estimates are in line with the projections from that meeting. 🐾

White and Blue Review articles and photography credit to Joelle Doye, MPSD Communications Director, unless otherwise noted.

Music and Culture Class Offered

Mineral Point High School juniors and seniors with a minimum 3.25 grade point average were presented with a new opportunity this year to earn college credits.

Music instructor Matt Nevers taught a class entitled “Music and Culture” which served as a chance for students to obtain dual credit on their transcripts at both Mineral Point High School and UW-Oshkosh. The UWO credits can then transfer to nearly any college of the students' choosing.

“Dr. Francois approached me last year about this opportunity, which is a rare one as the teachers who are accepted into this program need to have a Master's degree in their specific teaching field, which I have,” said Nevers.

His syllabus and curriculum must be approved by the university in order for the class to qualify.

Nevers is then a paid adjunct professor through UW-Oshkosh and this program is run through the state's Course Options system, which allows students to take up to two college courses without cost to the student.

The difference between this college credit offering and that of an Advanced Placement course is the AP college credit is not automatically guaranteed upon earning a passing grade in the course, as is the case here. In AP, a student must take a national exam and score a 3 or better (on a 5 point scale) to earn college credit. There is no such exam for Nevers' class.

This coming school year, the Mineral Point District will be part of the BOOST Telepresence Consortium with Pecatonica, Highland, Kickapoo, and Riverdale school districts. It is thought this Music and Culture course will be one of the offerings, allowing this opportunity to be available to students in four other districts as well.

Not only does telepresence allow other schools to get in on the action, but it enables our own students right here in Mineral Point the ability to take the course, because as of right now, there are not enough Pointer students signed up to run the course next school year as a standalone without telepresence.

Nevers wants to stress this class is not just for band or choir students. Most students in college are required to take a Music Appreciation course in order to fulfill a graduation requirement, therefore, students now have the option to get that out of the way while still in high school and save valuable tuition money while doing it.

Caleb Mitchell and Kaylee Sparks are the two juniors who completed the class this spring.

Both students said the course was an adjustment for them as it was quite intensive with listening exams, tests, and writing.

Some topics covered included: North American Indian Music, Early Folk Music, American Opera, Musical Theatre, Ragtime, Jazz, Blues, Swing, Latin-Caribbean, Country, Rock and Roll, Gospel, Disco, Punk, Hip Hop, Pop, and other varieties.



Mitchell stated his favorite was the Early American Music with Sparks liking the Jazz and Rock and Roll.

One of the big projects of the class was a research paper that could focus on any American classical, jazz, or Broadway composer.

“It's my opinion that students can never write enough when preparing for college,” said Nevers. “This is a great experience to become college ready.”

Sparks and Mitchell both agreed their grades improved over time in the course, once they became accustomed to the more rigorous standards.

“I learned quickly that it was much better to study as I went instead of trying to cram for an exam,” said Sparks.

The students were rewarded for their hard work with a trip to see the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a stop at Gino's East Pizzeria.

Mitchell enjoyed the class so much he is planning on re-taking the course next year as Nevers has indicated the subject matter will vary.

Sparks and Mitchell both encourage others to take advantage of the chance to earn college credit.

“It really is a different and fun opportunity,” Mitchell said. 🐾



Lights! Camera! Action!

Wisconsin Public Television filming crews returned to the oak savanna to film high school agriculture students planting with 3rd graders. Stay tuned for when the Pointers will air on the show Wisconsin Life!



# Bennett Honored as Teacher of the Month



Mineral Point Elementary 5th grade teacher, Lifka Bennett, has been honored by Ubersox of Iowa County and WOLX 94.9 FM as the July Teacher of the Month.

Bennett can be seen driving a Chrysler 200 during the month of July displaying her honor. Also, she will receive a \$200 donation for her classroom. Tune in and listen for her radio spot as she was interviewed Monday, June 29.

She was nominated for the award by Emily Graber. Her mother, Beth, assisted her with the application process and noted the following about Lifka: "Lifka would send daily pictures of the students and their activities to parents in emails. Most caring and compassionate teacher. Goes above and beyond the call of duty as a teacher by setting up grounds cleanup at Shake Rag Alley, heading up Helping Hands letters to the Wisconsin State Journal, and organizing a Victorian Christmas for the students. Taking time to work with the students individually when they are struggling. Always there for them to address questions and concerns. Please choose Lifka because she is a very deserving, dedicated teacher." 🐾

# Skills USA State Qualifiers



Congratulations to our State Skills USA qualifiers. Emma Baker, Zach Cummings, Alex Delaney, Austin Gough, Skyler Horn, Jordan Kittleson, Dathan Paradis, Grant Rose, Riley Workman--Team Problem Solving; Addison Dailey and Alec Schmitz, Video Production; Joey Gorgen, Woodworking; Tarek Oellerich, Related Technical Math; Hunter Paradis, CO2 Dragster; Turner Poad, Electrical Construction Wiring; and Elise Powers and Lydia Sanchez, Criminal Justice. 🐾

# Middle School Staff Changes

Vickie Dahl, District Athletic Director | Middle School Principal

There will be few changes at the Middle School for the upcoming school year. McKenzie Brown will be leaving her special ed position to become one of our 6th grade classroom teachers. Mrs. Brown spent the last four years as a member of our special ed department. Her duties will include Reading, ELA, Math, and Science. I know Mrs. Brown is excited to take on her new responsibility and we are excited that she will be one of our 6th grade teachers. 6th grade orientation will be on Thursday, August 6. Parents and students will be able to meet Mrs. Brown at this time.

Mineral Point Middle School would also like to welcome Brittany Payne, who will be teaching Middle School Special Education. She has experience in the Special Education field. Please take the opportunity to stop by our open house on Thursday, August 27 and welcome Brittany to the Mineral Point School District. 🐾

## Kindergarten Car Show

Friends and family of kindergarteners filled the bleachers at the football field for the annual car show. Kindergarten students, along with their 3rd grade buddies, showed off their cars--many of which could go a million miles pear hour and were going to travel to such places as Germany, Connecticut, and Mexican jungles, just to name a few. 🐾



# MPSD Communication Survey

Please assist the Mineral Point Unified School District with its communication efforts by completing this survey. Electronic responses are encouraged. The same survey can be accessed online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPCommunication15>

If completing by paper, please mail your copy to Joelle Doye, Communications Director, Mineral Point School District, 705 Ross Street, Mineral Point, WI 53565, or drop off at the District Office, 705 Ross Street. Thank you!

**1. Select all that apply regarding your household: (If you selected 'No Children,' skip to #3)**

☐ No children

☐ Children aren't yet school age

☐ Children attend school in MP

☐ Children attend school elsewhere

☐ Children have graduated high school

☐ One or more is a senior citizen (50 or older)

☐ Grandchildren attend school in MP

☐ Grandchildren attend school elsewhere

**2. Your children/grandchildren attend what school in MP (check all that apply):**

☐ Elementary School

☐ Middle School

☐ High School

**3. Do you have internet access? (If you selected 'No,' skip to #8)**

☐ Yes, at home

☐ Yes, at work

☐ Yes, at both

☐ No

**4. To obtain online information about the district, do you primarily use a computer or phone?**

☐ Computer

☐ Phone

☐ Both equally

**5. How often do you visit the district website (mineralpointschools.org)?**

☐ Every day

☐ Every week

☐ Once a month

☐ Once a year

☐ Never

**6. I find the website mineralpointschools.org easy to use.**

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neutral

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

**7. When visiting the district website, what information are you looking for? Check all that apply.**

☐ News articles

☐ Calendar information

☐ Board meeting information

☐ Budget information

☐ Employment

☐ Staff contact information

☐ Extra/Co-Curriculars

☐ Skyward Family Access

☐ Lunch menus

☐ Handbooks and policies

**8. How do you receive most of your information about the district? Check your top three sources.**

☐ District website

☐ District Facebook

☐ District print newsletter *White and Blue Review*

☐ Newspaper

☐ Radio

☐ Television

☐ Other online source

☐ Email notifications from district

☐ Phone notifications from district

☐ Text notifications from district

☐ Twitter

☐ Word of mouth

**9. What information are you most interested in receiving? (Choose up to five)**

☐ Rationale for decisions made by the district

☐ Budget/tax/referendum updates

☐ Information about school maintenance

☐ Information how the district compares to other districts

☐ Volunteer opportunities

☐ Awards and recognitions

☐ Calendar of events

☐ Extra/Co-Curricular groups

☐ Academic achievement

☐ Curriculum/educational program options

☐ School closings and other time-sensitive information

☐ Other (please specify)

**10. What is your preferred method of communication from the district directly?**

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Facebook

☐ Twitter

☐ US Mail

☐ Materials sent home with child

**11. I believe that communication I receive from MPSD is timely and accurate.**

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neutral

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

**12. Are you satisfied with communication from the district?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**13. I believe the district is approachable and willing to listen to my concerns and feedback.**

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neutral

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

**14. If I have expressed concerns, my problem or concern was addressed satisfactorily.**

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neutral

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

**15. Do you subscribe or regularly read the following (check all that apply)**

☐ *The Democrat Tribune*

☐ *The Times of Mineral Point*

☐ *The Dodgeville Chronicle*

☐ High Street Beat

☐ *The Wisconsin State Journal*

☐ *Voice of the River Valley*

☐ Other (please specify)

**16. I would be interested in a district app for my smart phone that would have website, Facebook, Twitter, Skyward and other features all in one spot.**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**17. If the district began streaming/recording school board meetings, would you watch them?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**18. I enjoy receiving the quarterly print newsletter White and Blue Review in the mail.**

☐ Strongly Agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neutral

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly Disagree

☐ I don't receive it

**19. Compared to this time last year, I feel more informed about the district as a whole.**

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neutral

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

**20. What should the district start doing communications wise?**

**21. What should the district stop doing communications wise?**

**22. What is one aspect of district communications that should never change?**



FOLD HERE

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

Mineral Point Unified School District  
% Joelle Doye  
705 Ross Street  
Mineral Point, WI 53565

FOLD HERE

# THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY

The same survey can be accessed online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPCommunication15>

## State FFA Convention

The State FFA Convention was held June 15-18 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. Over 3,500 FFA members from the state were in attendance for the convention, of which Mineral Point FFA had several members in attendance to receive awards, participate in speaking contests, vote on important issues, and take part in leadership activities. The State FFA Convention allows FFA members to meet new people, develop leadership skills and receive recognition for the hard work they do throughout the year.

Representing Mineral Point as official delegates for the convention were **Morgan Fitzsimmons** and **Jake Steffes**. These members voted on important issues, attended workshops, developed leadership skills and voted on the next state officer for our section.

**Elizabeth Moellers** placed 3rd Gold and received a Gold rating in Diversified Horticulture. Elizabeth was also the sectional winner. Elizabeth's SAE is based on her work tending the family garden and landscape. Elizabeth plants, harvests, processes, and preserves a variety of fruits and vegetables raised at home. She is responsible for the landscape and garden maintenance at her home. Elizabeth has a true passion for her work and enjoys working outside in all seasons.

**Eric Heisner** placed 6th Gold at the state level and received a rating of Gold in Vegetable Production. Eric was also the sectional winner. Eric grows his own vegetable garden that he raises produce in to sell to others. Eric has many duties with his garden including planting, weeding, harvesting and selling the produce. Eric is looking to expand his garden and is always looking for new customers.

**Morgan Fitzsimmons** placed 11th Gold at the state level and received a rating of Gold in Diversified Livestock Production. Morgan works for her family farm performing a variety of duties. Some of Morgan's work includes: milking cows, feeding cattle, working hogs and making hay. Morgan puts in many hours throughout the summer and school year.

**Katie Fitzsimmons** placed 9th Gold at the state level and received a rating of Gold in Swine Production. Katie was also the sectional winner. Katie's SAE is based on showing pigs. Katie shows hogs at county fair and state fair. Katie has developed a real interest for the swine industry and agriculture through her SAE.

**Tea Bossert** placed 6th at the state level and received a Gold rating in Beef Production. Tea's SAE is based on showing and raising beef cattle. Tea shows at several shows as well as at county fair. Tea has her own herd of beef cows that she makes daily management decisions with and puts in a lot of hard work caring for them.

**Helen Linebreger** placed 11th at the state level and received a Gold rating in Equine Science Production. Helen's SAE is based on training horses and giving lessons to young riders. Helen does most of her work at the Cowboy Church. She instructs young riders in how to handle and care for the horses they are using. Helen also works with the horses to make sure they are safe for her riders.



**Kate Fitzsimmons** participated in FFA Creed speaking competition at the state level. Katie made the finals of FFA Creed and placed 4th in the state. The Creed competition involves reciting the FFA Creed from memory and answering three questions related to the FFA Creed.

**Scott Pittz** qualified for state in the Extemporaneous speaking contest at the state level. Scott missed making the finals, which leaves him as one of the top ten extemporaneous speakers in the state. Extemporaneous speaking involves selecting an agricultural topic and preparing a 4-6 minute speech on that topic in a 30 minute time period at the competition and he is then asked questions about his speech.

**Elizabeth Moellers** participated in State FFA Band during the week. The bands perform at many of the sessions at state convention and also at the Wisconsin State Fair. Elizabeth is a member of the percussion section.

Mineral Point FFA was very well represented at the State FFA Convention. Members and the community can feel very proud of the FFA's success at the state level. Congratulations to all of our competitors on a job well done representing Mineral Point FFA. 🐾





## Mineral Point Trap Team

In its first season, the Mineral Point Trap Team had a very successful year and showed there is great interest, and talent, in the sport among the Pointer student population.

The Pointers earned the Conference Championship for Conference 1 in the Wisconsin State High School Clay Target League. Senior Gabe Ottoway was the male individual conference champion with Chris Ley finishing fifth. Martina Steffes took third in the conference in the female division.

Mineral Point defeated second place Wolf River Lutheran 424-361 to earn the championship. Other teams in their conference included Oconto Falls, Turtle Lake, and Rio.

The other team conference champions around the state included Grantsburg, Potosi, Unity, and Boscobel.

The Pointers also had a successful showing at state, placing fifth as a team. Boscobel won the title.

The Wisconsin State High School Clay Target League stated 255 registered student athletes participated in the 2015 State Tournament on June 6th at the WTA Shooting Complex in Rome.

Student-athletes representing 22 Wisconsin high school teams competed for overall team and individual achievements in Novice, Junior Varsity and Varsity classifications.

In the Varsity category, Ottoway shot a 92 and Ley 81. In the Junior Varsity field, Joe Ripp fired a 95, Ryan Welsh 81, and Jacob Moellers 75. In the Novice section, Garrett Faull scored 85, Brady Roberts 71, Steffes 71, and Milo Wong 67.

Ripp won the state title by placing first in the Junior Varsity Male category. Faull was second in the state in the Novice Male category. Steffes tied for fourth in the Novice Female category. Ottoway was fifth in the Varsity Male group.

Ripp was also honored for shooting 25 targets in a row at the state tournament and received a special patch.

The MP team used the Jonesdale Sportsman's Club as its home site and were guided under the leadership of volunteer coaches Bob Ley, Randy Ley, and Don Dobson.

Ottoway was the senior leader of the team and says shooting competition trap takes "a lot more skill than a normal person would think."

Prior to this season, the only trap he ever shot was with friends in the backyard. But Ottoway loves hunting and thought it would be fun to try since it involves shooting.



Adding to the special feeling of this season was the fact he used his Grandpa Ottoway's Winchester Model 12 he purchased in 1945. "The gun may not be a trap gun, but I sure shot it very well," he said.

As for the team as a whole, "The team did do really well. We got seven trophies up at the state tournament and I thought that was very good for how small the team we had was and for it being our first year."

Ottoway is also excited he has found a life-long sport. "Being on the trap team has started my whole career of trapshooting. Right now I am in the spring league down in Jonesdale and I plan on doing the fall league and to keep on shooting for years to come."

He also hopes the sport will pick up even more momentum among his fellow Pointers.

"For people wanting to try it, I would highly suggest it. I wish we offered it all the years I was in school."

"At the first State Tournament last year, 66 student athletes participated in this tournament," said Jim Sable, Executive Director of the WSHSCTL. "With the phenomenal growth of the number of teams and athletes in the League this spring, the future of shooting sports in Wisconsin is brighter than ever."

The USA High School Clay Target League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and operates the Wisconsin State High School Clay Target League as the independent provider of shooting sports as an extra curricular co-ed and adapted activity for high schools and students in grades six through 12 who have earned their hunter education certification. The organization's priorities are safety, fun and marksmanship - in that order. 🐾



## Day of Service

The annual Day of Service, organized by the Key Club, was held at the high school with students completing various community projects around town including at the Chamber of Commerce, Gundry House, Sandstone Nursery, high school, DNR, Hodan Center, oak savanna, highway clean up, Care Center, American Legion, Shake Rag Alley, Sienna Crest, Pendarvis, and various city parks. Thanks to all who donated their time to help beautify the city! 🐾

## Spring Sports Update

### Track and Field

The Dodge-Point boys and girls track teams both had outstanding seasons.

The girls claimed the WIAA Division 2 state team title in thrilling fashion at UW-La Crosse.

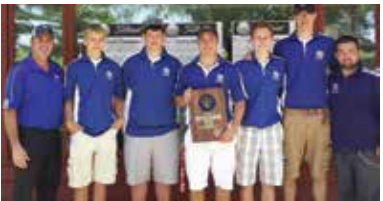


On the road to state, both boys and girls teams earned SWC Conference and WIAA Regional titles. The girls also claimed the WIAA Sectional team championship.

Individually at state, Pointers achieved the following results: Sydney Staver: 1st in 4x400, 5th in 4x100, 6th in long jump; Hannah Owens: 6th in 3200; Jalissa Weier: 5th in 4x100; Jaynie Gorgen: 5th in 4x100; and Steven Blume: 7th in 4x800 and 12th in 800. Alternates for state were Jaycie Runde and Nate Eisenzimmer.

### Golf

The Pointer golf team rolled through the regular season and claimed the SWAL title and the WIAA Sectional Championship.



The team of Taylor Ryman, Jordan Kittleson, Tyler Hoke, Dane Pfaff, and Kaleb Pilling participated at the WIAA state meet held at University Ridge in Madison where Ryman was crowned the Division 3 individual state champion. Riley

Workman helped the team qualify for state, but was unable to compete due to a family vacation. Madison Bowers was the alternate.

Ryman earned third team all-state honors from the Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin. He was also the SWAL Conference MVP and a first team selection. Hoke, Kittleson, and Pfaff were second team selections.

### Baseball

The diamondmen competed in a very tough SWAL this year with four teams being state ranked at some point or another during the season.

Tarek Oellerich and Sy Staver were named to the first team all-SWAL list with Gabe Ottoway, Turner Poad, and Alec Schmitz earning honorable mention.

Staver also was a first team all-district and first team all-state academic honors recipient from the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association.

### Softball

The queens of the diamond had another good year, including a thrilling WIAA regional win over Prairie du Chien before ending their season at Cuba City, who wouldn't lose in the postseason until one game before the state tournament.

Clara Chambers and Kayla Lindholm earned first team SWAL honors with Jena Pilling and Megan Blume named honorable mention. 🐾

## Students Attend STEMposium

On Thursday evening, April 23, fourth grade students Oliver Benson, Kennedy Wenger, Brody Lee, and fifth grade students Ella Fox, Blake Radtke, and Emma Steffes had the opportunity to attend UW-Platteville's STEMposium at Ullsvik Hall on UWP's campus. This public event is an annual exhibit of Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) projects constructed by students in southwest Wisconsin PLTW high, middle, and elementary schools. Mineral Point Elementary was the only elementary representative to showcase their talents and learning through PLTW.

MPES students shared their knowledge on fourth grade Energy and Collisions, as well as fifth grade Robotics and Automation. Additionally, photos of kindergarten through third grade students participating in PLTW were on display. The biggest highlight of the event was the fifth grade robots and iPads. Public attendees and students from around the area were drawn to the excitement of MPES students as they




maneuvered and shared how they constructed the robots using VEX IQ kits.

Mineral Point High School was also in attendance at this event. Students from Kyle Carey's class that attended included William Carrington, Joey Gorgen, Austin Gough, David Kelm, Bobby King, Chris Ley, Jacob Wedig, Milo Wong, and Riley Workman. 🐾




# POINTER TRACKS




.....  **Seven coders from the Exploring Computer Science class went to a state wide coding contest at Marquette University in Milwaukee.** Students competed with over 130 students from 18 schools across the state of Wisconsin. Mineral Point coders were on three teams in the “Open Scratch Division.” The trip was sponsored by Mineral Point T.A.G. program. In addition to competing in the coding contest, participants also heard from Marquette computer science majors and representatives from the industry.




.....  **Departing staff members were honored at the school board meetings in June and July.** Their dedication to the students of MP will be greatly missed. Left to right: Shirley LaDow, Food Service; Dianna Rogers, Spanish; Dan Rhode, Special Education; Dick Austin, School Board Member; and Jeanette Galle, Special Education. Not pictured: Bob Oberhauser, School Board Member; Claude Tucker, Custodian; Judy Bennett, High School English; and Cinda Walker, Instructional Assistant.




.....  Fun was had by all as five 4th grade students competed in this year’s annual **Mississippi River Ecology Meet** located at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque, IA on Friday, May 8th. This event was organized and sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 4th grade participants included: Alana DuBois, Mackenzie Ripp, William Jewell, Olivia Wendhausen, Kylie Rule, and chaperone Mrs. Doyle. The topics for this year’s event were Mississippi River and Its Uses, Fish of the Mississippi, Prairies of the Midwest, and Water Safety.




.....  Student-athletes helped the Mineral Point veterans set up the **Avenue of Flags** in three cemeteries for Memorial Day. These flags are donated by the families of the deceased veterans and are displayed on the Memorial Day and Fourth of July weekends.




.....  3rd graders had a blast performing their **Grandparents’ Day program** with the songs “Rock and Roll Is Here to Stay,” “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Tutti Frutti,” “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” and “Rock and Roll Forever.”



.....  A year of hard work and dedication by the **high school musicians** was celebrated at the Opera House with a concert and awards ceremony. The prominent senior awards went to: Elise Powers, Musical Award; Bryce Fitzsimons, Louis Armstrong Jazz Award; Jane Dickler, National School Choral Award; Blake Chambers, John Philip Sousa Award; and Matt Neal, Music Boosters Award.


## Alumni News


- Congratulations to **Scott McKernan** and **Tom Poad** who will be inducted into the Football Hall of Fame during halftime of the game vs. Necedah Friday, August 21.
- The boys basketball alumni tournament will take place Saturday, November 28.


 The **Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association's (WIAA) Board of Control** has been in existence since 1897 and is the governing body for high school athletics in the state.


The latest member of this prestigious Board is Mineral Point Unified School District Superintendent, Luke Francois, who was elected in April over Portage District Administrator Charles Poches to a three year term as the District 5 representative.

Only two other administrators from Mineral Point have served on the Board in the past including Superintendent David Morgan (1934-45) and Principal Ted Evans (2009-11).

 Congratulations to our **5th grade DARE graduates** who pledged to stay drug free! A special congrats to the essay winners Alyssa Roelli, Ashley Birchall, Bobby Skaden-Stellner, Kennedy Smith, Haylee Kearns, Blake Radtke, Jared Wedig, Malachi Strompolis, and Mallory Lindsey, along with Kelsie Wilson, the winner of the Stephanie Wallace DARE memorial. Thanks to MP police officer and DARE instructor, Denise Schmitz, as well as the high school role models Josh Berg, Elise Powers, and Alec Schmitz.

 On the last day of school, elementary students were treated to a fresh produce **taste testing in the school garden**. A big thanks to Jenny Bonde, Rink DaVee, Ryan and Sarah Fox, and Julie Pompos for organizing.

 **Iowa County Government Day** was held at the County Courthouse in Dodgeville with Judge Bill Dyke. Representing MPHS were mock trial members and students Josh Berg, Blake Chambers, Matt Baker, Richie Haase, Logan Bidlingmaier, Tyler Hatlevig, Lizzy Moellers, Tess Oberhauser, Jacob Moellers, Stephanie Wilson, Bobby King, David Kelm, and teacher Terry Cool.

 The annual **National Honor Society** ceremony was held with MPHS alumnus and Harvard graduate, Dr. Josh Lindsey, giving the keynote address. Students honored included: Second year NHS members: Josh Berg, Blake Chambers, Winnie Darrow, Hannah Owens, Alec Schmitz, Ross Siegenthaler, Sy Staver, Tammi Williams. First year NHS members: Jordan Kittleson, Steven Blume, Clara Chambers, Abby Dunbar, Brandon Forseth, Austin Gough, David Kelm, Sarah Knapp, Dylan MacGilvra, Elizabeth Moellers, Tess Oberhauser, Scott Pittz, Nettie Potter, Trevor Ross, McKenzie Schmitz, Jessica Schultz, Alexa Sparks, Kaylee Sparks.

## Mark Your Calendars

- Student Registration:** Aug. 6 and 18
- Open House:** Aug. 27
- First Day of School:** Sept. 1
- Homecoming:** Parade, Oct. 8; Game, Oct. 9; Dance, Oct. 10
- Stay tuned for more information!*





Jeanette Galle

Jeanette Galle is proof life can take some pretty great unexpected turns when you’re least expecting them.

“I didn’t have a plan — I just wanted to learn as much as I could,” is a statement of Jeanette’s that has served her well.

From backpacking through Portugal, to living in Israel for a short time, she has always taken full advantage of life’s opportunities as they’ve presented themselves.

Growing up in the small mining town of Crumlin in South Wales in the United Kingdom, it was likely Jeanette Roach never envisioned she would be retiring as Jeanette Galle, a special education teacher in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, United States of America.

“When I told my family I was coming to Darlington, Wisconsin, we couldn’t even find it on the map. My brother had to go to the library. This was pre-internet you know,” she laughed.

Always valuing education, she earned her degree in history, geography, and social studies from the University of London.

Working as an Assistant Head of House, which resembles a guidance counselor here in the United States, in a huge downtown London 6th-12th grade school, she applied for the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program and was accepted.

“I wanted to come to the United States to see what the education system was like,” she said.

She was one of only seven from Britain accepted in 1982. While the other six went to much larger cities, Jeanette learned her new home would be in rural Darlington, Wisconsin as one of their social studies teachers, Jeanne Tierney, was accepted as well. The two would trade places.

After her three months as a Redbird, she returned to the UK, but maintained close ties with her new friends, including the Galle family.

Joe and Margaret both worked at the school and she would come back to visit, eventually meeting Joe’s brother, Gary, getting to know each other over spaghetti dinners.

In 1985, she returned permanently and the two were married.

Her United States teaching career began at Platteville middle and high schools as a history and world cultures teacher. She also went back to school to obtain her Master’s in emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities.

While raising two young daughters, Katie and Mari, who would both go on to graduate from MPHS, she taught at Highland for five years in history and special education and then made her way to Mineral Point in 1996. Minus one year where she taught in Dodgeville, she has been a Pointer ever since.

“Only the best is good enough for every child.”

Over her career, she has seen many changes to special education.

“Services in special education have evolved since the 1980s when laws were enacted to protect students with special needs and inclusion began,” she said. “When I started, kids were bused to other districts that had programs if their home school didn’t. Now, most everyone is educated in their home district.”

Jeanette credits her husband, Gary, retired guidance counselor at Mineral Point, for helping to make great advances for the special education population, as well as the former administrative team of Ted Evans and Jeff Gruber.

“They did so much for special ed people,” she said. “However, they did it quietly. They made sure special ed students were fully included, including with the design plans for this building, and really set the tone for acceptance.”

Ironically, Jeanette’s current classroom was Gary’s office when he retired just a few years ago.

Jeanette is very active with the Redruth, Cornwall student exchange program. Her efforts with this group helped to earn her the recognition of Cousin Jenny of the Year by the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society. She also works very hard with the Mineral Point Community Chest for over 20 years.

She has big aspirations for the future of special education in Mineral Point.

“I hope the programs will remain strong — with all the changes of staff, I hope everyone will be provided with the resources they need to be successful.”

She is viewed as a veteran leader by many fellow staff members, but recognizes she couldn’t have achieved success alone.

“It takes a team — everyone has to be a part of the team,” she said. “The learning supporters (assistants) are trained and perform tasks that are not easy. We’ve had good support from administration. We’ve been fortunate to have stability--people have stayed; they know the children for years. Our students’ parents have also been wonderful. They come to meetings and want only the best for their children. All of this only works if you have everyone working together.”

“Only the best is good enough for every child,” she added. “We worked to raise the bar with the goal for every student to work or go to college after graduation. This made me most proud.”

Her Welsh accent will surely be missed by many in the hallways, and she will miss teaching as well.

“Every day I came to school was a gift.” 🐾



Several Pointers participated in the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association All-Star weekend in June. Tarek Oellerich scored 16 points and teammate Sy Staver had 14 points to lead the South to a 95-82 victory over the North in D4. Turner Poad added three points. Mitch Wainwright was an assistant coach for the D5 girls who were victorious 86-72. Alec Schmitz was recognized at the banquet as part of the academic all-state team. Sy Staver also participated in the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Star game in July.

The Pointer boys basketball team has been honored by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association for its performance in the classroom. The team finished second in the state for D4 boys in team grade point average. Auburndale had the top team gpa of 3.612, followed by MP with 3.505, and Cuba City with 3.469.

All-Academic Wrestlers

Crossface Wrestling Magazine has announced the All-Academic teams for this past season with several Mineral Point athletes named. The teams were named not only on grade point average, but wins overall and wins at state giving them total points.

First team for juniors and seniors has Ross Siegenthaler named with a 3.97 GPA. Second team honors went to Scott Pittz with a 3.71 GPA. Frank Baker was named third team with a 3.91 GPA as was Brandon Forseth with a 3.87. In the freshman/sophomore list, Boone Schmitz was named second team with a 4.0.



3rd graders presented the short play "Peter Rabbit" several times to parents, grandparents, and fellow students at the end of the school year.

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School District  
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Mineral Point, WI 53565  
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Mineral Point is very proud of the Class of 2015! Graduation was held May 22. Shown above are Jane Dickler and Bryce Fitzsimons



The middle school band had a great year that was highlighted with a trip to Six Flags Great America at the end of the school year with a performance in the park's Trills and Thrills program.



The banner from the WIAA for the best sportsmanship at the boys state basketball tournament was unveiled at the high school awards ceremony to end the school year.



Scott Pittz and Clara Chambers reigned as royalty over Prom 2015.



This is the latest edition of your Pointer School Board, which held its first official meeting in April. Left to right, front row: Glenn Kinch, treasurer; Larry Dolph, clerk; Julie Stephenson, vice president; Larry Steffes, president. Back: Members Matt Lindsey, Lisa Hay, Jeff Basting. Steffes' and Lindsey's seats will be the ones up for election in April 2016. Dick Austin and Bob Oberhauser did not seek another term on the board.