

# White and Blue Review

Spring 2016 🐾 Education... That's the Point

## POINTER PHOTO ROUNDUP



Fourth graders had a great field trip to the Wisconsin State Capitol and met with local lawmakers.



March was Youth Art Month and students Lucas Sullivan, Jadya Schultz, and Wyatt Hamilton had their work selected for display at the Iowa County Courthouse in Dodgeville.



Girls basketball standout Jessica Schultz signed her National Letter of Intent to play for Division 2 Northern Michigan next year, surrounded by her coach, Mitch Wainwright, and parents, Amanda and Don.



Digital Learning Day is an annual, global event designed to spotlight all of the creative uses of technology in schools. Pointers in all three schools proudly participated in this effort.



Members of the 5th grade class performed their annual musical, this year entitled "Dig It!" which took audience members on a fun trip through ancient civilizations.



The High School Key Club has again kept busy with many community service projects, including helping with the Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt at Atrium Post Acute Care. The group will be holding its Red Cross Blood Drive April 27 and Day of Service May 11. At the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District Convention in Green Bay, the Pointers won first place for the club's t-shirt design.



Pointer students enjoy thinking of others, especially on Random Acts of Kindness Day, leaving friendly notes on vehicles downtown.

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

# Superintendent's Corner

Luke Francois, Mineral Point District Administrator



There is a proverb that states if it ain't broke don't fix it.

The origin of the phrase is not as old as one might think. Bert Lance, The Director of the Office of Management and Budget in Jimmy Carter's 1977 administration, "believed he could save Uncle Sam billions if he could get the government to adopt a simple motto: 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' He explains, 'That's the trouble with government: Fixing things that aren't broken and not fixing things that are broken.'" ([www.phrases.org](http://www.phrases.org))

Mineral Point Schools fixed many things that were broken over the past five years. A referendum was passed to fix a structural deficit. Outdated resources in language arts, mathematics, and social studies were replaced. Technology was made robust to enhance learning. Administrative duties were separated to give more focus to fewer tasks. Teachers were added to protect small class sizes. Leading educational authorities across the country led professional development for staff. During this entire time Mineral Point Schools remained fiscally responsible by staying under the state's revenue limit.

A result of repurposing existing funds resulted in Mineral Point Schools rocketing from the academic bottom five years ago (when compared to school districts in Southwestern WI) to leading the same school districts this school year. Give credit to instructional leaders, teachers, and support staff for making shifts in how education was delivered resulting in much higher scores on the state assessments. Mineral Point's current funding levels are consistent with 2012 funding levels. In reviewing the financial forecast, dark clouds are looming and a storm is coming.

This storm is a result of a broken state funding formula that finds revenues not keeping pace with existing expenditures. Next year the district will receive a \$0 increase in revenue limit authority while insurance, transportation, food service, instructional materials, and benefits will most certainly cost more.

When budgets become tight, temptation to cut positions or consolidate budgets often follows. A budget that freezes salaries, defers purchases and maintenance, delays professional development, increases class sizes, and combines administrative positions is similar to the budget I inherited when I arrived at Mineral Point Schools five years ago.

Just as a coach doesn't change the lineup of a winning team so too should schools not shake up continuous academic growth outpacing comparable schools in recent past. This does not mean we should stop looking for ways to improve or cut costs when appropriate, but Mineral Point has great schools and if it ain't broke, don't fix it. 🐾

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# Message from Mitch Wainwright

Principal, Mineral Point High School  
& District Assessment Coordinator



"What difference does it make what I do?" This might be a question many of our students ask themselves. After all, I just go to a small school in a small town and nobody ever pays attention to what I do.

After the completion of our schools' winter sports season it should be very obvious to many people that what you do reaches out far and wide. More importantly, it reaches down—down to our own students that attend the elementary school. High school students are role models for many people from grandparents to preschool students. Students from the high school work with different grade school classrooms in the oak savanna, playground buddies, and many other projects. They show young students what it means to give back to somebody else.

Two recent events come to mind that I think are extra special. The first involves Scott Pittz, a senior at Mineral Point High School. He is a successful student, a member of the FFA, a football player and wrestler. Scott also is one of the kindest people a person would have the privilege to get to know. He will be participating in the Shrine Bowl this spring. This is an annual All-Star game for senior football players and an individual is selected from a large number of people. What sets Scott apart is how he reacted after what many believe to be a shocking loss at the state individual wrestling tournament.

Everyone that knows Pointer wrestling just knew that Scott was going to be our next state champ! Unfortunately, he was beat in overtime. Many athletes would be angry that they were denied an opportunity to win it all. How did Scott react? The very next day, after the tournament was over, he was down in the wrestling room working with the next crop of young wrestlers. He was giving back to a program and family that he had the benefit of being a part of.

The second event came at the end of the girls' basketball season. One of the athletes, Cassie Bossert, has had a far reaching impact on hearing impaired students. Cassie never set out to be the center of attention, but the newspapers and television stations picked up on her story and how her teammates can communicate with her. Since the stories have run in the media, Cassie has been contacted by the young and old and how impressed they are with her, people sharing how their children want to be just like Cassie when they grow up. She has become an inspiration

...continued bottom of page 3

## From the Desk of Brad Brogley

Mineral Point Elementary Principal,  
Curriculum and Instruction



Moving forward...

Later this school year, Wisconsin students in grades 3-8 will take an online assessment called the Wisconsin Forward Exam. The Forward Exam will replace the Badger Exam and will be the third different summative assessment over the past three years. If you will recall the Badger Exam replaced the

WKCE a year ago. Many of the lessons that we learned last year when providing the Badger Exam, which was online as well, will be used as we prepare for the Forward Exam.

There is a testing window that provides school districts flexibility in providing this assessment. The test window opens on March 28 and closes on May 20. This new assessment will be administered in English language arts and mathematics in grades 3 through 8, in science in grades 4 and 8, and in social studies in 4, 8, and 10. High school students in grades 9 through 11 will continue to take the ACT suite of exams.

There are many resources on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website. Here is a specific link to the Wisconsin Forward Exam information: <http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward> 🐾

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*Wainwright continued...*

for people to face any obstacle and overcome the challenges they face.

These are just two small examples of what our students have done. Cassie and Scott represent a much larger group of quality people that make our schools a special place. The students that attend Mineral Point Schools do make a difference every day. They represent all that is good about a city like Mineral Point and make all of our jobs easier. We are fortunate to be able to work with the wonderful students that walk through our halls.

Mineral Point Schools, a great place to be! 🐾

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

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## News from Vickie Dahl

Vickie Dahl, Middle School Principal, Athletic Director



A new online curriculum has brought changes to our 8th grade math curriculum. Previously students coming into 8th grade would be assigned to either Pre-Algebra or Algebra. The assignment was based on standardized test scores, STAR test results and the level of success in Math 7. A student's emotional readiness to

handle the rigor of Algebra in a high school setting was also considered. Students who qualified for Algebra would then skip Pre-Algebra for the 8th grade curriculum and continue with Geometry in 9th grade.

Although this model was successful for many of our students, there were areas of concern. For example, areas of weakness identified on standardized tests were directly related to the content missed by skipping 8th grade math. The online curriculum has been very helpful in addressing these area weaknesses.

During the 2014-2015 school year the pilot of the online math curriculum was very successful. As a result of this success, the curriculum has been implemented for the 2015-2016 school year. The curriculum includes both Math 8 and Algebra. The class starts with Math 8 and the students are given a timeline for when the material must be completed. Students who complete the requirements before the deadline continue to work on Algebra. Students are also given "Algebra" work days. Students completing the Algebra curriculum are also required to take the semester exam administered at the high school level.

The goal of the online math curriculum is to ensure all students are prepared for high-stakes exams but it also provides targeted intervention and remediation which enhances the initial instruction. The tutorials help educators personalize instruction so all students excel beyond expectations.

Vickie.Dahl@mp.k12.wi.us and 987.0720 🐾

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## SWAL Gold

The Mineral Point Middle and High School Math Teams had a stellar SWAL Conference Meet on Wednesday, March 9 in Darlington.

For the high school, one gold, silver, and bronze are awarded in each division (unless there is a tie). Mineral Point had the top score and gold medal in Division 2 with a tie between Brady Palzkill and Abby Shannon. David Kelm earned the top score and gold in Division 4.

Bronze medals were earned by Elizabeth Moellers (Division 4), Noah Stanton (Division 2), Jacob Wedig (Division 3), and Haakon Schriefer (Division 4).

In the team categories, Mineral Point finished first in Division 2, tied for first in Division 3 and took 2nd in Division 4.

For the middle school, multiple gold, silver, and bronze medals can be won. Gold medals went to Cameron Wiegman, Grant Bossert, Nick DuBois, Owen Stephenson, Wes Berget, Will Straka, Morgan Vondra, and Lily Wong. Earning silver medals were Rita Wilson and Brayden Dailey. 🐾



High School Math Team: (front row, left to right) Harlie Voseberg, Justice Perez, Mrs. Nothem, Tess Oberhauser, Alayna McCarville, and Miranda Oellerich. Middle: Elizabeth Moellers, Noah Stanton, Jacob Wedig, Mitchell Schaaf, Karsten Bakken, Austin Gough, Sydney Owens, Madisen Faull, and Abby Shannon. Back: Mr. McWilliams, Brady Palzkill, Jacob Moellers, Haakon Schriefer, David Kelm, Ethan Dickler, and Kevin Eisenzimmer.

Middle School Math Team: (front row, left to right) Cody Pierce (alternate), Cameron Wiegman, Grant Bossert, Nick DuBois, and Rita Wilson. Back: Owen Stephenson, Brayden Dailey, Wes Berget, Will Straka, Lily Wong, and Morgan Vondra. Missing: Ian Keyes (alternate) and coaches Mrs. Soper and Mr. Chambers.

## Reading Achievement Growth Recognized

Dixie Dempsey, Director of Pupil Services/School Psychologist



In December of this school year, Mineral Point Elementary School was identified by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as a school that has demonstrated high reading achievement growth for students with disabilities. DPI conducted a rigorous review of data, based on numerous statistical, geographic and demographic factors to make the identification. Mineral Point was one of 13 schools statewide to receive this honorable recognition.

Selected Mineral Point Elementary School educators were asked to participate on the Promising Practices project facilitated and funded by DPI. These Mineral Point educators will represent and share the great things Mineral Point Elementary School is doing to foster reading achievement growth for special education students as well as for general education student reading growth.

Please join in celebrating and congratulating all the staff at Mineral Point Elementary for their commitment and hard work to support reading achievement growth for students with disabilities. 🐾



Friday evening, January 8, prior to the wrestling match vs. Darlington/Black Hawk, Nick Lawinger was inducted into the Al Bauman Hall of Fame. Nick's resume includes the following accolades:

*Mineral Point Invitational Champion 1973*

*Milwaukee Riverside Champion 1973*

*Iowa-Grant Invitational Champion 1974*

*Southern Eight Conference Champion 1975*

*WIAA Regional Champion 1975*

*WIAA Sectional Champion 1975*

*WIAA State Runner-up 1975*

*Most Valuable Wrestler 1975*

*Captain 1975*

*Career High School Record of 47-2*

# National Honor Society Inductees

Mineral Point High School honored its top all-around students with the annual National Honor Society ceremony Wednesday, March 30, sponsored by the Mineral Point Kiwanis.

There are four pillars of the National Honor Society including: Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service.

The evening's keynote speech came from Mineral Point High School alumna, Carol Stephenson, most notable for her 27 years as an oboist in the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C. Serving as an inspirational message, the speech told her story of determination and how coming from a small town helped make her into the successful person she is today.

"It doesn't make a difference if you are from a small town," Stephenson said. "As a matter of fact, you're probably better equipped because you have been grounded with family values, community support, and knowing what it means to put in a hard day's work."

"The students being honored tonight have truly gone beyond simply being book smart. They get the importance of giving back to their school, their community, and their world. They are leaders. They understand that all choices have consequences, and that attitude equals altitude," said NHS Advisor, Kristin Staver. 🐾



2nd year Senior members, left to right, front row: Tess Oberhauser, Kaylee Sparks, Abby Dunbar, Clara Chambers, McKenzie Schmitz, Alexa Sparks, Jessica Schultz, and Elizabeth Moellers. Back: Brandon Forseth, Dylan MacGilvra, Austin Gough, Trevor Ross, Scott Pittz, and David Kelm. Not pictured: Sarah Knapp.



1st year Junior and Senior members, left to right, front row: Valya MacGilvra, Hannah Parkinson, Morgan Fitzsimmons, Savannah Lawinger, Carlie Qualley, Bailey Hermanson, Karissa White, Caleb Mitchell, Fulton Flanary, and Boone Schmitz. Back: Tommie Loken, Jake Gorgen, Grant Rose, Addyson Chambers, Cassandra Bossert, Sydney Staver, Destinee Kruser, Jaynie Gorgen, Jalissa Weier, Haley Chubb, Jaycie Runde, Rebekah Ottoway, Elise Ames, Bailey Riley, and Caleb Kennedy.



Speaker  
Carol Stephenson

**"It doesn't make a difference if you are from a small town, as a matter of fact, you're probably better equipped..."**

## Students of the Month

- October: Elizabeth Moellers and Jessica Schultz
- November: McKenzie Schmitz and Megan Walrack
- December: Austin Gough and Kaylee Sparks
- January: David Kelm and Dylan MacGilvra
- February: Tess Oberhauser and Alexa Sparks
- March: Caleb Mitchell and Scott Pittz
- April: Brandon Forseth and Bailey Hermanson
- May: Carlie Qualley and Trevor Ross



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# Cooking Club Has the Recipe for Success



The Middle School Cooking Club, which got off the ground running last year, has taken its success to new heights.

Students Natalie Chitwood, Laney Finkelmeyer, Jaden Kieler, and Florencio Torres, along with coach Julie Pompos, met after school bi-weekly since mid-January and their hard work paid off. Their team name is RSVP.

March 22, the group was notified from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction that it had been selected for the finals of the fourth annual Whipping Up Wisconsin Wellness Student Chef Competition Cook-Off.

The recipe, which the group spent hours upon hours to perfect, is called Galumpkis: Savory Cabbage Rolls, a Polish treat.

The group also enlisted the assistance of local chef, Charlie Socher, a former economics professor who has always had a passion for cooking and became a French trained chef. He has been in the restaurant business for more than 30 years, owning several restaurants in Chicago, namely Cafe Matou and most recently, the Mineral Point Dining Company.

“Charlie was an invaluable resource,” said Pompos. “He was patient and pleasant to work with.”

“Your recipe not only met the required recipe standards but demonstrated creativity and showcased a Wisconsin grown food. I applaud you for developing such a wonderful recipe and look forward to tasting it!” said Wisconsin State Superintendent Tony Evers.

There was a great deal of trial and error, finding just the right amount of each ingredient to reach the desired taste.

In addition to the obvious culinary skills required for success in this endeavor, the students also honed their math skills, as the recipe calls for expertise in the units of measurement,



Laney Finkelmeyer, Jaden Kieler, Florencio Torres, Natalie Chitwood

as well as determining how many grams of saturated fat and milligrams of sodium are in the dish, of which there were tight parameters to comply with.

Collaboration and teamwork skills were also developed during this cooperative effort.

The cook-off will be held Thursday, May 19 at Babcock Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Student teams will be expected to prepare and serve their recipe of six plated servings. The dishes will be evaluated based on taste, appearance/presentation, originality, and student appeal.

In addition, the recipe must be doable for a serving of 50 to be prepared at school in a taste test with students prior to the May 19 event.

“We’re just a rag tag group of after schoolers, competing against large schools with established culinary arts programs,” added Pompos. “I couldn’t be prouder of these kids.” 🐾

## Honors Band

Musicians have been busy with many honors band opportunities this winter. SWAL Honors Band was held at Boscobel. For the middle school, participants included Tatum Novak, Bode Logueflower, Matthew Nordstrom, Jenna Wedig, Owen Stephenson, Grant Lee, Daniel Nordstrom, Cody Pierce, and Sadie Owens. The high school had Alexa Sparks, Caleb Mitchell, Kaylee Sparks, Tess Oberhauser, Fulton Flanary, Caleb Kennedy, Cole Howard, Haakon Schriefer, and Elizabeth Moellers.

Tri-State Honors Band was held at UW-Platteville with David Kelm, Alexa Sparks, Kaylee Sparks, Caleb Mitchell, and Haakon Schriefer participating.

National Band Association-Wisconsin Chapter All-State Band was held at Appleton with Alexa Sparks, Kaylee Sparks, and Caleb Mitchell participating.



# Global Youth Summit

A group of high school students attended the Wisconsin Global Youth Summit held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, put on by the Center for International Education.

The summit explored what it means to be a part of a global society through small group learning activities, interactive simulations, and facilitated discussions with speakers.

Attending from Mineral Point were Zula Flanary, Zoe Hay, Max Palzkill, and Haakon Schriefer.

“The purpose of the day, in my opinion, was to gather awareness of issues around the world and to learn about other cultures,” said Palzkill.

Each student had different favorite parts of the day.

“My favorite part was learning bits and pieces of new languages and about the cultures of other countries,” said Hay.

“Meeting the guy from Tanzania was my favorite part because, even though he was from a cultural background very different from mine, we still had a lot of things in common,” said Schriefer.

It was a great opportunity for high school students to develop global engagement and understanding, build skills in cross-cultural communication, strengthen leadership abilities, and connect with other students and young adults across Wisconsin and beyond.



“I learned that all people have different values, and part of being a good global citizen is supporting them,” commented Flanary.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction offers a Global Education Achievement Certificate to schools and students who demonstrate global educational and extra-curricular opportunities.

Students attending the summit agreed Mineral Point might wish to consider such a track in the future.

“These courses would add well-needed diversity to the school,” said Palzkill.

Flanary added, “It is important that others are aware of all cultures and this would also help some people to be more accepting.” 🐾



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# Odyssey of the Mind Places Second at State

This spring, Mineral Point Odyssey of the Mind (OM) placed 2nd in the Wisconsin State Tournament in Madison. Students started building skills in December with the team forming in February.

How is creative problem solving measured? Scoring takes ideas, teamwork, and “thinking outside the box” very seriously. The team chooses a long term problem to address and presents their solution in an eight minute skit. The team is also presented with a problem they have never seen and are evaluated on how they work together to create a solution.

This year’s long term solution involved changing toxic waste into good cheap coffee and generating free energy in the process. The spontaneous problem had them creating an advertisement to sell water. “Buy the water – the bottle is free.”

Students started meeting to work on spontaneous problems in January. Early release days made a convenient time slot. Many kids stopped in and enjoyed building towers and buildings out of odd materials, doing skits, and creating stories in groups. The hardest part was finding the time and commitment necessary for a team. As the tournament neared, much needed to be done to compete successfully. If you want to see creative, ask these kids how their schedules work!



Many thanks to kids and families for time and energy. Team members are making noise about wanting to go to Worlds. 2017 World Finals will be in Michigan, with Michigan State University the probable site. This year’s Odyssey of the Mind team was coached by Carrie Wilson and Matt Wersal. Team members were Emily Graber, Keira Schrank, Caleb Wersal, Ella Wilson, Hope Wilson, and Rita Wilson. The team took ownership of the workload. They pulled together especially well when life became a series of spontaneous problems. 🐾

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## Spelling Bee

The classroom winners that participated in the middle school spelling bee were sixth graders [Cale Dolphin](#), [Mackenna Ferrell](#), [Ellie Janetka](#), [Trapper Nafzger](#), [Tucker Ray](#), and [Brett Roberts](#). Seventh grade participants were [Katie Jerrett](#), [Ian Keyes](#), [Grant Lee](#), and [Gabe Sporle](#). Eighth grade participants were [Larry Steffes](#), [Jenna Wedig](#), [Annie Wilbanks](#), and [Lily Wong](#).

The winner that advanced is seventh grader, Ian Keyes. Seventh grade speller Grant Lee was the alternate.

**The top 25 elementary school spelling bee participants were:**

Fifth Grade: [Gena Byrnes](#), [Alana Dubois](#), [Allison Chitwood](#), [Joey Robinson](#), [Teona Hanson](#); Fourth Grade: [Ellie Webb](#), [Derek Hottenstein](#), [Abby Webb](#), [Regan Schuette](#), [Mady Chitwood](#); Third Grade: [Olivia Wilson](#), [Haley Brant](#), [Jadyn Swinehart](#), [Jaxson Wendhausen](#), [Matthew Goninen](#); Second Grade: [Alyssa Jones](#), [Brett Bossert](#), [Riley Scott](#), [Ethan Farrell](#), [Emma Dailey](#); First Grade: [Josephine Dunn](#), [Ryan Roelli](#), [Emily Heisner](#), [Lilly Houtakker](#) and [Landon Wood](#)

**Junior Bee Top Finishers**

1. [Josie Dunn](#), 2. [Alyssa Jones](#), 3. [Riley Scott](#)

**Scripps Bee Top Finishers**

1. [Olivia Wilson](#), 2. [Abby Webb](#), 3. [Derek Hottenstein](#) 🐾



# What makes MP Schools great?

**"The sense of community**

that students in a small school have is amazing."

– McKenzie Schmitz

"MP Schools are **exceptional**

because everyone is very friendly and nice to each other."

– Valya MacGilvra

"I like how everyone is so close and we all take care of **each other.**"

– Madison Bowers

"We have students that have **a lot of talent.**"

– Alexa Sparks

**"Everyone cares**

about each other and is respectful."

– Amelia Mitchell

"Mineral Point Schools are exceptional. I like the academic opportunities available. They have many classes that you can choose from. There are teachers that help you with your schoolwork and

**want you to succeed."**

– Jordyn Abbott

"The support in any activity is **unrivaled** by any other school."

– Dylan MacGilvra

"Mineral Point Schools are exceptional because of the teaching staff. All of the teachers know a lot about what they are teaching and the best way to teach it. They also care greatly about each and every student

**individually."**

– Alayna McCarville

"Mineral Point excels in education because we **offer challenging classes** and have motivated and passionate teachers and instructors."

– Hannah Parkinson

**"The teachers are top notch."**

– Caleb Mitchell

"Mineral Point Schools provide a friendly and safe atmosphere for **learning."**

– Katie Fitzsimmons

"I think MP is exceptional because our students work the hardest at everything we do from sports to arts.

**We excel in everything."**

– Haley Chubb

"I think MP Schools are exceptional because of the way the community comes together to support the students. Not only do we excel in sports, but in the arts, music, and clubs. We are a very **well-rounded school."**

– Lauren May

"Mineral Point Schools push their students to always do better. It's a fun place to learn and a **great place to be."**

– Martina Steffes

"There is just something about Mineral Point. The hard work and effort students put in is shown everyday. It amazes me the way students and teachers/coaches work together to

**accomplish goals."**

– Morgan Fitzsimmons

**"I love the pride**

that Mineral Point takes in sports and sportsmanship."

– Sheylenn Pickel

"I like MP because it's a small community, and everyone is like **one big family."**

– Jack Warrick

## STAFF COMMENTS

"I love working in Mineral Point because the colleagues I get to work with every day are some of the best in the business. We share a special camaraderie that other schools may not get to experience. In addition, the students in Mineral Point are so respectful, kind-hearted, and make me laugh! These exceptional young adults make this job so worthwhile."

– Kelli Ritchie

"It's the people who work, learn, and live here that make Mineral Point Schools great!"

– Kris McCoy

"It is rewarding to see that our staff and students share the same vision and goals. This is evident in the success we are having in the classroom and in co-curricular activities. Working with outstanding people everyday is why I love working in the Mineral Point School District!"

– Andy Palzkill

# Raising the Bar

Joelle Doye, Communications Director



Much has been made of our recent success on the state examinations. We have gone from the cellar of CESA #3 to the top in just a few years and we are spreading the word far and wide.

All of the celebrations and pride students and staff are feeling are well deserved. It was not an easy path to achieve these results, and anyone vested in the behind-the-scenes efforts can vouch for that fact.

However, I believe we are at a crossroads for our school system. We can choose to either be content and complacent with our improvements over the last few years, or we can continue to keep the throttle down, pushing the needle higher. The choice is our own as we choose what we invest in and prioritize.

Sometimes when we are too close to a situation, it's hard to step back and get the truer, bigger picture and I'm not sure we all understand how much others are looking to us as a model district.

I smile each time I attend a conference and someone, usually who I don't know, comes up to me and says, "I read \_\_\_ about Mineral Point" or "I heard about \_\_\_ that you're really doing well." And believe me when I say conversations are happen-

ing more and more regularly all over the state regarding our school system.

I could re-list here all the awards we've won as of late on a local, state, and even national level, but I won't. I could list all of the schools that have visited our buildings to learn best practices, but I won't. I could cite correspondence I, and my colleagues, have received inquiring about our techniques, but I won't. But the bottom line is educators don't waste their time following schools that they can't learn and better themselves from so I know we are doing something right.

I want people outside of Mineral Point to almost get to the place where they are sick of hearing about all of our success. Is that arrogant? Maybe. But that's how much faith I have and potential I see in the great work being done in our school system.

So fly the Pointer banner high but be motivated to take it even higher.

I challenge our entire community to come together at unprecedented levels of collaboration to grow student achievement. Think of how you, personally, can impact even just one kid. Students who feel supported, celebrated, and cared for are known to achieve at higher levels than those that don't. A true group effort is what will take us to the next level. 🐾



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## Boys Basketball



Pointer basketball finished middle of the pack in the SWAL Conference standings with a 6-8 league record.

The boys won their opening round WIAA Regional game against Palmyra-Eagle, but fell in the regional semifinal at Deerfield, testing the Demons every step of the way.

Earning SWAL All-Conference honors were: Jack Warrick and Chance Wendhausen, first team; and Dylan MacGilvra, honorable mention. This trio also earned *Dodgeville Chronicle* All-Area recognition. The *Dubuque Telegraph Herald* announced its All-Area teams with Chance and Jack named honorable mention.

## Girls Basketball

The Pointer girls basketball team etched its place in the school history books with a very memorable season.

The girls earned an undefeated SWAL Conference championship and ended Cuba City's 61 game winning streak on January 15.

The road to state included victories over Waterloo and Lancaster in the Regionals, as well as Cuba City and Wisconsin Heights in the Sectionals.

Just making it to State was a first in program history, but the girls put on impressive performances at the Resch Center in Green Bay to defeat Eau Claire Regis and Kenosha St. Joseph each by double digits to bring the gold ball back to Mineral Point.

SWAL first team honors went to Clara Chambers, Jessica Schultz, and Sydney Staver. Honorable mention were Destinee Kruser and McKenna Reichling. Mitch Wainwright was Coach of the Year.

Jessica was named first team D4 All-State by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association with Clara earning honorable mention notice.

Jessica earned honorable mention All-State honors from the Associated Press.

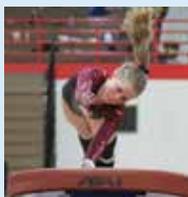
Jessica and Sydney were named to the Wissports.net All-Tournament Team for their performances at State.



Clara and Jessica were named first team *Dubuque Telegraph Herald* All-Area, Sydney was third team, and Destinee and McKenna were honorable mention. Mitch was Coach of the Year. The *Wisconsin State Journal* announced its All-Area teams with Jessica first team, Clara second, and Sydney honorable mention.

Clara and Jessica both surpassed the 1,000 point mark in their career as well and have been selected to play in the WBCA Senior All-Star game in Wisconsin Dells in June. Clara finished second in program history in career points (1,189) and assists (331); First in school history in career (75.5) and season (83.5) free-throw percentage. Jessica finished third in program history in career points (1,134), first in rebounds (789) and second in blocks (308).

## Gymnastics



The Dodge-Point gymnastics team had a history making season, earning a trip to the WIAA State meet as a team for the first time in program history.

Pointer sophomore Lauren May also qualified for the State meet as an individual and competed in the all-around on day two in Wisconsin Rapids.

The team placed second at the SWC Conference meet held at Dodgeville Middle School. Pointer senior leader Tori Palzkill suffered a season-ending injury at the meet, but the team rallied around her spirit and qualified for the State meet the following Friday at the Baraboo Sectional by placing second. Lauren won the SWC uneven bars title for the second year in a row.

SWC All-Conference honors were as follows for the Pointers: First Team: Lauren May: All-Around, Vault, Floor, Beam, and Bars; Tori Palzkill: All-Around, Vault, Floor, and Bars. Second Team: Tori Palzkill: Beam.

Lauren earned *Wisconsin State Journal* All-Area recognition, placing on the Honorable Mention lists for the all-around, bars, beam, floor, and vault.

## Wrestling



Pointer Nation had another successful season on the mat, sending seven to the State meet at the Kohl Center.

Earning trips to Madison were Danny Pittz 106 lbs., Logan Schmitz 126 lbs., Brandon Forseth 138 lbs., Boone Schmitz 145 lbs., Riley Workman 160 lbs., Scott Pittz 170 lbs., and Kyle Juedes 195 lbs. Scott placed 3rd, Brandon 4th, Logan 5th, and Danny 6th.

At the WIAA Regional held at Riverdale, Danny, Scott, and Boone all claimed titles. Scott also won the WIAA Sectional crown as well as the SWC/SWAL CLASH Conference title.

Crossface released its list for the Scholar Athlete of the Year All-State Team and the list honored two Pointers. Boone Schmitz and Scott Pittz both placed 4th in their respective weight classes.

Named to the *Wisconsin State Journal* All-Area team were Scott Pittz, second team; and Logan Schmitz and Brandon Forseth, honorable mention. 🐾

# Honor Roll

## **🐾 Cummins and Kiwanis**

The District nominated Cummins and Kiwanis for the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators' Child Advocacy Award and each group received a certificate of appreciation for their efforts to support Mineral Point students.

## **🐾 Judy Benish and Laurie Heimsoth, Fifth Grade Teachers**

### **Brad Brogley, Elementary Principal**

This trio was selected to present about the elementary's success with the Project Lead the Way Program at the annual School Leaders Advancing Technology in Education convention at Wisconsin Dells.

## **🐾 Kimberly Diefenbach and Penny Wiegel, First Grade Teachers**

Kimberly and Penny were selected by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as representation of best practices and will help show new and aspiring teachers what accomplished practitioners must know and be able to do to advance student learning.

## **🐾 Joelle Doye, Communications Director**

Joelle was named the national recipient of the Foundation Seminar Scholarship to attend the National School Public Relations Association convention in Chicago in July. She also earned the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association's award for the top up and coming School PR person in the state, as well as an Award of Merit for the District's Facebook page.



*Sixth graders had a great visit from WISC-TV / Channel 3000 meteorologist Haddie McLean who helped enhance the students' weather unit.*

## **🐾 Luke Francois, Superintendent**

Luke was elected to the Wisconsin School Music Association's Board of Directors and began service in December.

## **🐾 Susan Kelm, Second Grade Teacher**

Susan had her Herb Kohl Teaching Fellowship application named as one of the finalists in CESA #3 and was forwarded to the state level for consideration.

## **🐾 Kris McCoy, Middle/High School Information & Technology Specialist**

Kris was selected for participation in the Department of Public Instruction's Library Media Specialist Content Guidelines Workgroup to help develop new state standards.

## **🐾 Jill McGuire, Kindergarten Teacher**

Jill earned the Pre-Service Educator Award from the Wisconsin Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in March. She has serviced 22 student teachers during her career.

## **🐾 Matt Nevers, High School Band Teacher**

Matt learned in March he is a finalist for the Wisconsin Area Music Industry's Teacher of the Year Award and will be honored at the awards show in Appleton April 17. 🐾



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## Important Dates

Check the Calendar tab on the District website, [www.mineralpointschools.org](http://www.mineralpointschools.org), for updates.

- 5/3: 5-12th Grade Choir Concert
- 5/5: 5-12th Grade Band Concert
- 5/8: High School Music Awards
- 5/19: Elementary All-School Reading Night
- 5/19: Senior Scholarship Night
- 5/25: High School Awards
- 5/27: 12th Grade Graduation
- 5/31: 5th Grade Graduation
- 5/31: Middle School Awards and 8th Grade Graduation
- 6/1: Last Day of School

School board meetings are now being videoed and posted to the District's YouTube channel the day following the meeting.

Visit the News tab on the District website, [www.mineralpointschools.org](http://www.mineralpointschools.org), regularly for school board reports, feature articles, and more.

Join the more than 1,600 people who have liked the District's Facebook page. The site is updated multiple times daily with news as it happens, honors, recognition, pictures and more.



*Dylan MacGilvra and Scott Pittz have been selected to participate in the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Senior All-Star Game this summer. The duo will be members of the South Squad with MacGilvra playing at Offensive Tackle and Pittz at Quarterback. The game will be held July 16 at UW-Oshkosh. Justin Leonard will serve as an assistant coach as well.*



## PROJECT UPDATE:

### Project Goals:

- Create a safe community space for activities.
- Ensure access to events for those with disabilities.
- Build a facility that will benefit generations of students and community members.
- Have a facility capable of hosting post-season games.

### Project Funding

The project cost currently being fundraised for is \$835,000. This cost does not include the concession building, which has anticipated funding through in-kind donations. The project has the support of the Mineral Point Alumni Foundation, Mineral Point Gridiron Club, school administration and a dedicated steering committee. As of February 2016, the project is just under 50% funded.

### Project Progress

COMPLETED as of February 1, 2016: electrical transformer and service connections, light pole bases, scoreboard, blasting for sewer



*At the March School Board meeting, Susan James and Randy Olson, representing the Gridiron Club, presented a donation in the amount of \$12,000 to be used for the new football stadium. These proceeds were generated via various fundraisers. Accepting the donation was Board President, Larry Steffes.*

and water lines, plumbing, irrigation, goal posts, flagpole, bleacher footings, paving parking lot and under bleachers, site work – concrete curb, sidewalk, walls, stairs, and grading of field, survey and engineer design.

UPCOMING: Bleachers, press box, lights, concession building.

**For more information or to learn how to get involved visit [www.mpstadium.com](http://www.mpstadium.com).**

## 2016 Top Scholars

Mineral Point High School is proud to announce its top scholars for the Class of 2016.

Elizabeth Moellers has been named Valedictorian with Tess Oberhauser honored as Salutatorian.

The two were recognized at the SWAL Academic Banquet April 13 in Cuba City.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Ted and Audrey Moellers and plans to attend either Marquette University or the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall to major in criminal justice and/or scientific research.

Tess is the daughter of Bob and Julie Oberhauser and plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall and pursue a major in biochemistry. 🐾



Valedictorian Elizabeth Moellers



Salutatorian Tess Oberhauser



Mineral Point High School is proud to announce it has received the WIAA/Rural Mutual Sportsmanship Award for its participation in the Girls Basketball State Tournament.

This is the second year in a row, and third time overall, Pointer Nation has received the award. The honor came last year in Boys Basketball and also in 2011 for Wrestling.

Thank you to everyone who cheered loud and proud for our Pointers and showed the state how special it is to be from Mineral Point! 🐾

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# FFA Awards Banquet



A. Top 8th Grader: Morgan Vondra; B. Top First Year Members: Danny Pittz and McKenna Reichling; C. Top Second Year Members: Katie Fitzsimmons and Eric Heisner; D. Top Third Year Members: Morgan Fitzsimmons and Tommie Loken; E. Top Fourth Year Member: Scott Pittz; F. Honorary FFA Degree: Kyle Carey; G. 2015-16 Officers: Katie Fitzsimmons, Treasurer; Morgan Fitzsimmons; Secretary; Tommie Loken, President; Eric Heisner, Reporter and Jake Steffes, Sentinel.

## Delta Kappa Gamma Literary Competition

Another strength of Mineral Point students is a consistently strong showing in the Delta Kappa Gamma Literary Competition and this year was no exception.

At the middle school level, 7th grader Rita Wilson won first place in Illustrations for her entry "Shine" while 6th grader Bryce Acherman also won first place in Illustrations for his entry "Maximus & the Portal to the Past."

At the elementary, 5th grader Brianna Wesley won first place in Literary for her entry "Cinnamon's Journey Through the Snowstorm," 4th grader Elizabeth Dunn won first place in Literary and Illustrations for her entry "New Dog," 3rd grader Claire Steffes won first place in Literary and Illustrations for her entry "Bella's New Glasses," and 3rd grader Gavin Houtakker won first place in Literary and Illustrations for his entry "An Adventure in the Wild."

This group will be honored by the Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma encompassing Grant, Lafayette, and Iowa counties May 2 at a banquet and will find out at that time if any of their entries are state winners. 🐾



For events and yearly school calendar info:  
[www.mineralpointschools.org](http://www.mineralpointschools.org)

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**For events and yearly school calendar info:** [www.mineralpointschools.org](http://www.mineralpointschools.org)



*The 100th day of school is a big milestone at the elementary and these kindergarten students sure seem excited to celebrate.*



*The top vocalists in the SWAL gathered at Cuba City to participate in the conference honors choir. Madison Bowers, Danielle Blum, Justice Hendrick, Sam Schultz, and Ireln King represented MPHS. The choir was also busy this winter/spring with a trip to New York City and hosting a pops concert at the Opera House.*



*Our fourth graders made fleece blankets before the holiday break to give to children in need at area hospitals. We are so proud when our Pointers put others ahead of themselves.*