

White^{and}Blue Review

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

POINTER PHOTO ROUNDUP



Middle school English students were treated to an acting workshop from American Players Theatre before their field trip there.



Students from Mineral Point High School participated in UW-Platteville's Choral Festival. Congratulations to Evelyn Hendrick, Justice Hendrick, Stephanie Wilson, Brianna Wedig, Megan Berg, Michaela Acherman, Ashley Reeves, and David Kelm (not pictured).



Iowa County Judge Bill Dyke continued his tradition of coming to the elementary school to read to students.



5th graders went to the 18th annual Platteville Historic Re-enactment. It was a wonderful opportunity to step back in time while watching re-enactors portray a part of history.



6th grade students went to Bloomfield Farm in Dodgeville to partake in the Iowa County Youth Conservation Field Days. Along with MP were classes from Highland, Iowa Grant, and Barneveld. Presenters were from the Wisconsin DNR, UW-Extension, UW-Arboretum, and Driftless Area Land Conservancy to name a few.



Project Lead the Way is going strong at the elementary school as students are frequently working on their STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills to collaborate on projects.



Pine-Valley Farm donated the Jersey bull calf for the students to learn from and take care of.



Mineral Point veterans Don Powell, Ray Paynter, Ralph Schaaf, and Joe Van Matre took the Badger Honor Flight to Washington D.C. in October. Lijka Bennett's fifth grade social studies classes wrote over 80 personal letters of "congratulations" to them for their service and dedication to our country.

Superintendent's Corner

Luke Francois, Mineral Point District Administrator

As required by state statute on October 15 of each year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is providing the certified amount each school district will receive from the general state aid appropriation, which is \$4.476 billion for the 2015-16 school year.



The amount of general state aid available for school districts was unchanged from last year. Across the state, 186 school districts saw an increase in state aid, 236 saw a decrease, and two saw zero change.

Mineral Point is down 7.7%, or \$373,248, in state aid from the 2014-15 school year compared to the 2015-16 year.

Certified general aid amounts may differ from July 1 aid estimates because they are based on audited school district data from the previous school year. The audited numbers include membership, property value, and eligible expenditures. School membership, which is not the same as enrollment, decreased by more than 2,500 full-time equivalent (FTE) students and totaled 854,419 FTE. Overall statewide property valuations increased for the first time in six years and range across school districts from \$8.2 million per pupil to \$172,100 per pupil, a ratio of 49:1 between the most and least property wealthy districts in the state.

Mineral Point's October 15 aid certification contains two key issues impacting Mineral Point Schools: membership and shared costs. Membership decreased by 32 full time equivalent students from last year to this year. The statewide average was relatively flat. The difference makes Mineral Point look more wealthy on a value per member basis when compared to the state.

Shared cost is the cost used as the basis for computing state general aid. The cost is funded by a combination of property taxes and state general aid and includes the net cost of the general fund plus the net cost of the debt service fund. Shared cost is computed on a three tier system that measures one district's cost per pupil and equalized value per pupil against an amount specified by the state. Shared costs this year decreased by \$535,000 over the previous year.

The general operations fund, Fund 10, and the referendum approved debt, Fund 39, were \$311,000 and \$224,000 less, respectively, than the previous year. Last year a presentation was made to the Board of Education in November by Scott Gralla of PMA Financial that correctly projected a decrease of \$314,000 in aid. The projection at the time was based on the prior year's budget. Actual shared costs (actual previous year's spending) were \$197,000 less than projected, which resulted in an additional loss in aid of approximately \$59,000. Combining the \$314,000 anticipated decrease with the \$59,000 decrease due to under spending, resulted in the \$374,000 decrease in aid when compared to the year prior.

A good revenue limit example and explanation can be found on the DPI's website at the link: http://sfs.dpi.wi.gov/sfs_revlimex

SWAL Conference and nearby school district comparisons for state aid: Pecatonica + 8.71%; Cuba City + 7.95%; Dodgeville + 5.46%; Iowa-Grant + 4.15%; Barneveld + 4.08%; Fennimore + 3.53%; Riverdale + 3.15%; Boscobel + 1.42%; Darlington + 1.23%; Southwestern + 0.65%; Highland -1.98%; Belmont -2.40%; Platteville -3.71%; Mineral Point -7.70%.

Statewide, the largest increase belonged to Lac du Flambeau at 95.02% and the largest decrease was Spooner at 29.48%. 🐾

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Message from Mitch Wainwright

Principal, Mineral Point High School
& District Assessment Coordinator



Change is difficult for many of us. Whether it comes by choice or circumstance it does not always come easy. For me, I think this is why I became a history teacher.

I liked to study the past to help understand where we are today. As I travel around I find myself wondering what this place was like fifty or hundred years ago. As a society, we tend to look at the world around us and try to make it better.

Schools are the one place where many people want it to be "like it was." Imagine if our children went to schools like their grandparents did. Some would be attending school in a one-room building. Now, this may bring back some nostalgic feelings for a more simple time, but it would not prepare our children for the world in which they live. Even back when I was in school parents could decide to take their children out of school after eighth grade. For many students, the one room school house, or leaving after eighth grade, provided enough education for them to earn a living wage. Now, times are very different.

As much as we would like to go back to a time when life was simple, the world has changed in such a way that makes it impossible. The school, as we once remember it, no longer exists. There are still pieces that can be seen, but what we are now responsible for is completely different. We now must educate students for jobs that have not been created. We must prepare them for college because there are so few jobs available that provide a living wage for just a high school graduate. We are asked to test students more often, and report to the state how they did so we can be graded. More and more students go to college making it harder to get admitted. Earning a degree costs more each passing year placing students further in debt before they can even start receiving a paycheck. When I went to school there were no computers in the high school. Today, almost every student and

...continued bottom of page 3

From the Desk of Brad Brogley

Mineral Point Elementary Principal,
Curriculum and Instruction



Our teachers in third, fourth and fifth grades are connecting their classrooms with the world by reading a book. The premise is simple, the teachers that participate read the same book aloud to their classes during the time frame of October 5 to November 13. Then the classes share the projects that they create or written responses with the rest of the participants. The third graders are reading "The Year of Billy Miller" by Kevin Henkes and the fourth and fifth graders are reading "A Fish In A Tree" by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.

This project was created in 2010 with the goal of using a book to connect the world. Now it its fifth year there are more than 500,000 connections in 60 different countries. This year, Mineral Point Elementary joined this project. Please go to this link <https://goo.gl/EnLA1I> to see the schools that are participating. If you zoom in far enough, you will see a marker for Mineral Point Elementary.

Who created this project? The origin of this idea was founded by Pernille Ripp who is a Wisconsin teacher. For more information about the Global Read Aloud, please use this link: <http://theglobalreadaloud.com/>

The students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are now blogging with other students who are reading the same book. Students are not only able to share their thoughts and conclusions; they are able to read how other students responded after have the same book read to their classroom.

I appreciate how Mrs. Kari Kabat has provided the catalyst for this project and how the teachers are supporting the Global Read Aloud. 🐾

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Wainwright continued...

adult carries a cell phone, a small computer, with them every day. Even if we wanted to, we cannot go back.

Students at Mineral Point are very lucky. Because of the support they get from the community our students have more exposure to the technology they will use when they leave our school. The teachers are using tools that help prepare our students for whatever challenge they may encounter. We continue to learn and grow so that we can help provide the best possible education for every child. On behalf of the staff and students at Mineral Point, I would like to say "thank you" for all the continued support we receive from our great community.

Mineral Point Schools, a great place to be! 🐾

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School Year Begins With Many Expectations

Vickie Dahl, Middle School Principal, Athletic Director



The opportunity to participate in sports and activities as part of a student's overall educational experience is a privilege. Education-based athletics/activities provide learning opportunities in the classroom and on the playing field/court. Playing sports and participating in activities is a privilege that students earn by maintaining good grades and good conduct in the classroom and outside the sport or activity. Disciplined behavior is an important part of high school sports and activities. It is also an important part of life!

"The Case for High School Activities," listed the following educational benefits for participants in athletics/activities.

- Learn sportsmanship to win humbly and graciously and to lose with dignity.
- Model integrity by playing by the rules.
- Use teamwork in order to contribute to a greater goal in which the athlete places the team's success or recognition before that of an individual.
- Reach out to assist teammates, which translates into helping others around them in life and contributing to the community.
- Develop perseverance and the ability to bounce back from defeats.
- Incorporate goal-setting learned through athletics into their approach to life.
- Develop a solid work ethic that emphasizes preparation and effort.

Some of the above principles can be learned simply through participating in athletics and activities, others require the focus of coaches, administrators and other school leaders. Learning the concepts about sportsmanship, playing by the rules, teamwork and perseverance will pay huge dividends throughout these students' lives.

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Cummins Award

The Mineral Point School Board opened its October meeting with a formal recognition of Cummins Emission Solutions. The school board recently nominated them for the Wisconsin Association of School Board's Business Honor Roll and the nomination was successful.

Timothy Buchanan and Amanda Tollefson of Cummins were on hand to receive the award.

In the Mineral Point Unified School District, Cummins has been essential in implementing and supporting the district's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program. Mineral Point Elementary School was one of only 24 schools in the nation selected to pilot a PLTW robotics program. The company helped support the pilot program with a large grant.

"This would not have been possible without the support of Cummins," said Superintendent Luke Francois. "Our students are benefiting from hands-on project based learning in STEM areas because of Cummins."

In addition to financial support, the company also has a presence in the district's elementary and high schools. Employees visit classrooms and work with students to enrich their STEM curriculum.

Additionally, Cummins, which is a global company with employees from across the world, helps teach global literacy. Employees teach elementary students about the history and customs of their home countries.

"Students and staff continue to invite Cummins into the classroom to share in the learning experience," Francois said. 🐾

WHITE AND BLUE EXCLUSIVE Technology: Educating and Inspiring Our Students for a Bright Future in a Big World

Technology in the Mineral Point Unified School District has really ramped up this year with exciting changes for students and staff alike.

If one hasn't been in a classroom for a few years, there are likely some major differences. Terms such as Safari Montage, Quizlet, Grammarly, WeVideo, and many more are commonplace.

In addition, telepresence is being utilized to allow students to take classes in other districts while staying right here in Mineral Point, and virtual classes are also an option.

This past summer, Chromebooks were purchased for all freshmen and sophomores, but the response was so positive that in October, Chromebooks arrived for all juniors and seniors as well. A Chromebook is a portable computer in which there isn't internal storage. Rather, documents are stored to Google Drive.

"Having each student have access to a Chromebook on a daily basis has completely revolutionized my classroom!," said high school English teacher Kristin Staver. "I am able to push my students to a higher level of learning, communication, and life skills. I love Google Classroom! It gives my students 24 hour access to my lessons and my material."

Fellow high school English teacher Molly Uppena piggybacked off Staver's comments adding, "Certain formative assessments can be taken online which provide instant feedback for students to see their own strengths and areas for growth as well as providing the teacher with the data to analyze whether a topic needs to be retaught or revisited."



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"In the past, students had to travel back and forth to school and home with a flash drive to work on documents, but Google Drive eliminates that hassle," added Amy Flannery, middle school English teacher.

"Google Classroom allows me to stay in contact with students who have missed school. Overall, my classroom has become more interactive and interesting, and students have responded very positively about how they have improved their ability to learn," remarked high school science teacher Tom Steger.

The District has moved to a Google environment and teachers are required to complete a minimum number of hours becoming proficient in the many educational applications offered by Google.

Kris McCoy and Kari Kabat have been instrumental in assisting students and staff with a smooth implementation of many of these advancements. They are both Instructional Technology and Information Specialists at the middle/high and elementary, respectively.

"An important part of our role is finding resources for students and teachers that integrate technology into the classroom to increase productivity and student learning," said McCoy. "One

of the best parts of the job is sharing these tools with students and teachers and then watching them become the experts on how to use them to meet their needs. We try to reassure people that we all start at different places with different skill levels and that is ok. You just have to be willing to dive in and learn as you go."

High school math teacher Cynthia Nothem said, "It has been really exciting to have access to an app called Desmos, which has allowed my students to utilize many of the features of a graphing calculator, but it is completely free, compared to over \$100 for a graphic calculator."

Social Studies instructors Terry Cool and Bret McGraw both use Smart Response devices regularly. In addition, McGraw's middle school students recently completed a government group project where they were asked to create a scene, adver-

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tisement, or newscast explaining aspects of their newly created country.

"The project was a good lesson in technology where students gained information about the process of using technology to enhance their learning while working in a collaborative way on a common goal," said McGraw.

A project that has fueled a great deal of excitement has been the video Spanish 4/5 students made during Homecoming week that will be available soon. The project was designed as a way to inform Mexican students of former MPHS Spanish teacher Dianna Rogers of what an American High School Homecoming is all about. In return, the Mexican students will be sending MPHS a video detailing the customs and traditions of Day of the Dead.

"Creating this video helped me learn by opening me up to different technology," said Junior McKenzie Schmitz. "I truly believe this has helped me learn in ways I have never learned before."

"During access time, I have 6th grade students who struggle in reading use an independent computer program to practice reading skills, which is great to work at their own pace," said middle school special education teacher Bethany Payne. "Also, my Smart Board is a great way for students to be actively engaged and get out of their desks."



"My Life Skills/Health class takes full advantage of the Brain Pop Health series, which is a wonderful tool for students needing alternate ways to understand the many different facets of health. The Smart Board has been very beneficial to maximizing their learning and keeping their interest. Thanks to the District for taking advantage of these resources and providing such wonderful technology!," commented middle school special education teacher Janis Needham.

"I have a student that is inventing things on a weekly basis and printing them out with the 3D printer to see if they work. Wow!," said technical education teacher Kyle Carey.

"In the school counselor's office, we use a Smart Board and Chromebooks to access career and post-secondary information to log into each students' Wisconsin Career Pathways

account and college websites," said middle/high school guidance counselor Andy Palzkill. "It is important to me that our students learn how to use technology for the purposes of being informed. Students can be spending their time looking into opportunities for their future just as easily as using social media, watching YouTube, or playing games."

But it's not just in the middle and high schools where technology takes center stage in improving student learning—the elementary is thriving as well.

"Having me able to co-teach technology skills with the classroom teachers has really been beneficial on both sides," commented Kabat. "For the teachers, it helps them feel more comfortable developing projects that require technology because they know they will be supported. For the students, it is a win because they are able to demonstrate their learning in new ways."

Global Read Aloud is one of the largest scale projects being worked on this fall with 4th and 5th graders.

"Each week students log on to a secure student blog site called writeabout.com where they respond to other students all over the world who are hearing the same story," said

4th grade teacher Paige Grimm. "They are making connections, asking questions, and learning about different points of view through the use of technology."

"Not only has this been enjoyable, but as they start getting more comments on their work, it has become contagious," added 5th grade teacher Laurie Heimsoth.

"This has been the project I have been most excited about this year," said Kabat. "The books they are reading are phenomenal and thought provoking while the opportunity to connect with others outside our small community is a powerful experience that will benefit our students going forward."

"Technology makes learning easier and faster," said 5th grader Brody Lee. "You can have fun learning a lot of stuff."

His classmate, Allison Chitwood, added, "Learning is more fun on computers. I really like blogging and it's fun to talk with kids anywhere in the world."

1st graders use Smart Boards and iPads on a regular basis and comment they enjoy the pictures, which help to make learning more fun. They also said learning things is faster with technology, and getting up moving to use the Smart Board is a fun, different way to learn, which assists in their understanding.

"Kindergarten has created an alphabet slideshow, and one of our favorite apps is a drawing one by Cambrey Carey," said teacher Jill McGuire. "We will next work on a video using the green screen that will be shown at the elementary Veterans' Day program."

"One of the biggest game changers I see is student engagement," said Kabat. "They are so excited to learn and develop new technology skills. It is also a great opportunity to have students take on teaching roles. Students that are already tech savvy now have a role to help others when they need it. It really builds a collaborative culture."

One of those students is 3rd grader Matthew Goninen.

"I've built a class website for my teacher Mrs. Niehaus using Weebly, which is a drag and drop editor," he said. "I've always had an interest in technology and I'm enjoying learning how to code."

"This investment is making it possible for us to meet the goals set in both the district technology and strategic plans," said McCoy. "Along with that, it is making it possible for us to provide opportunities for our students that match what State Superintendent Tony Evers stated in his State of Education address, 'Our graduates must be critical thinkers, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and use creativity to solve real world problems.'"

"Technology helps us learn better. We don't know what the future holds, so we need to be prepared. It's good for the school to stay updated so we can keep learning things in an easy fashion," said Goninen.

"Student engagement increases whenever technology is incorporated into learning. I enjoying using technology, not only because of student engagement, but also because students are using skills that are crucial to them and their future," remarked 6th grade teacher McKenzie Brown.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you! We are so fortunate to live in a community with such great support for our schools," Kabat said. "The kind of higher level learning that we are able to provide by using technology is critically important for our students' success in our rapidly changing world. The investment in technology is so important as we move from a culture of learning facts to being a culture of accessing information at our fingertips. You are investing in our children's futures where they will be required to be technology literate." 🐾



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Marching Band

By Kaylee Sparks, Senior



This year, the Mineral Point Marching Band began its practices during the month of August for four days. The band learned different band commands and techniques dealt with marching. The band was split in two groups: woodwinds/percussion and brass/color guard. While one group was working on the techniques outside with the middle school choir/band director Mr. Cooley, the other group was with high school band director Mr. Nevers working on the music we performed for half-time. The theme was Fantasia 2000, and the pieces we played were Beethoven's Symphony No.5 and Firebird Suite by Igor Stravinsky. Soloist this year include Alexa Sparks on mellophone, Caleb Kennedy on trumpet, and myself on flag. The color guard this year had a lot to work on. As the color guard captain this year, I was proud of the girls' performance and how fast they learned the moves with the flags and on the field in just two months. What I enjoyed the most this year is how quick all the band members learned the moves on the field and how we sounded and looked as a whole. Everyone worked hard knowing that the band's size this year was smaller than it has been for a while. Being this was my last year in band, I believe this has been the best half-time show that I have been apart of. I am going to miss being a part of the Mineral Point Music Program. Because I have been a part of the band for seven years now, I consider the band and its members my family. 🐾

By Caleb Mitchell, Senior



A new sound could be heard from the football field this year. The Mineral Point High School Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. Matt Nevers, has revived its marching program. In order to perfect the marching drills, we held a summer marching band camp for one week in August. While at camp, we learned marching fundamentals from Mr. Kevin Cooley, the middle school band director. Some drills were pretty familiar, but a lot of them were new. At the same time, Mr. Nevers worked with us on the music for the halftime show, entitled "Fantasia 2000," which included "Symphony No. 5" by Ludwig van Beethoven and "Firebird Suite" by Igor Stravinsky. We made a great deal of progress throughout the week on both marching and playing. Once school started, we continued to practice the music, to make sure we could get all of the tempo changes and challenging rhythms. After that, all that was left was learning the marching drill (moves)! We went outside everyday during band to learn new movements. We finished learning the whole show approximately one week before homecoming, just in time to perform it. On Friday of homecoming, we put on our uniforms for the last time and marched on to the field. We put on a great show, better than we all had expected. We were all very proud of what we had accomplished! 🐾

Health Award

Mineral Point Middle/High School has been named a Bronze Wisconsin School Health Award winner from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Receiving this award signifies Mineral Point Middle/High School's commitment to providing students with the knowledge and skills to make healthy decisions in a supportive school environment that will positively contribute to their academic success.



The middle/high schools are commended for having school health and safety policies and environments, health education, physical education and other physical activity programs, nutrition services, health promotion for staff, and family and community involvement.

"Congratulations on your achievement!," said State Superintendent Tony Evers. "I encourage you to join us and share your knowledge and story with other schools across the state. Supporting this initiative ensures more schools create an environment that enables students to achieve their full academic potential as well as support them in developing healthful behaviors to last throughout their lives."

Healthy schools create an environment where students can become fit, healthy, and ready to learn. These schools help students achieve their full academic potential as well as supporting them in developing lifelong healthy behaviors. A healthy school provides clear and consistent health messages, accurate health information, and ample opportunity to use it. They recognize that what happens in the classroom, gymnasium, cafeteria, at school events, at home, and in the community are interrelated and can reinforce healthy behaviors. Across Wisconsin, families, teachers, school administrators, students, and community members are joining forces to promote healthy schools to improve health and academic outcomes.

Gold award winners include schools from the Appleton, Chequamegon, Fond du Lac, Hayward, Neenah, and Oregon School Districts. Silver went to schools in the Appleton, Chippewa Falls, Howard-Suamico, New London, and Oregon School Districts. Joining Mineral Point in the Bronze category were Appleton, Chequamegon, Chippewa Falls, Kiel, Neenah and Wausau School Districts.

The Wisconsin School Health Award ceremony was held October 28 at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. School Nurse Julie Pompos and Superintendent Luke Francois attended to accept the honor. 🐾

Football

By Dylan MacGilvra, Senior Captain



This football season has been a great one thus far! We are currently sitting at 6-2 overall, and 4-2 in conference play with one game to go at Southwestern. Where we stand right now, we are in position to finish third in the conference, and get a good seed for the postseason! A high seed in the postseason would give us a great opportunity to make a deep playoff run! The highlight of the season so far has to be the comeback win over Iowa-Grant when we scored 36 unanswered points in the second half! Our team has played solid all season, with our only two losses coming at the hands of two very good teams in Darlington and Cuba City. We've shown steady improvement over the duration of the season, and we are hitting our stride just in time for the playoffs! Steven Blume, one of our biggest weapons offensively and defensively, has battled back from injury and figures to give us a boost in time for the postseason. We have gotten great quarterback play as expected from Scott Pittz, who has been dealing with some injuries of his own. The offense has shown good balance all year, passing the ball almost as much as we run it. Defensively we have gotten better every week, and have shown that we can shut teams down when we are playing our best. The offensive and defensive lines are much improved from last season, with some key contributions from underclassmen like Grant Sporle, Eric Heisner, Joey Dolphin and veterans such as Jacob Parks, Zach Cummings, Brant James, Joe Ripp, Lance Steffes, Kyle Juedes, Sawyer Wallace. The skill positions have been solid all year, giving us the big plays we need to win close games. Lucas Sanchez and Logan Bidlingmaier have ran the ball well all year for us, getting us big gains when we need them the most. Dane Pfaff, Steven Blume, Lance Steffes, Brandon Forseth, Bailey Riley, and Jake Gorgen have all caught the ball well in the passing game. The guys on the sidelines have had energy all year and give us a nice boost that most teams don't have. Along with them, we have the best student section around and they bring the intensity with them everywhere we go. Our goal for the end of this season is a deep run into the playoffs. We are very close to where we need to be to reach our goal, and just need to continue improving through the last couple games to get there! 🐾

Volleyball

By Clara Chambers, Senior



The 2015 volleyball season got off to an exceptional start. We are heading into our last week of regular season conference play. With playoffs starting next week, we are sitting third in conference with a 6-4 record. Our four conference losses have come from the Co-Conference champions, Cuba City and Southwestern. We battled extremely hard against these two teams and came up just short! Taking Cuba City in five matches took a lot of teams by surprise and will definitely be a huge motivation for tournament play. As we head into postseason the team is working extremely hard each and every night. Our goals for the postseason are very much alive! To accomplish these goals the team pushes each other each night in practice to make us an all around better team. As a team, we are excited to see where the rest of the season takes us! We hope that our fan base and community are just as excited as we are for the rest of the season. Pointer volleyball has a bright future ahead of us and I can't wait to be apart of it. 🐾

Soccer

By Jack Neal, Junior



The Dodge-Point 2015 soccer team has had another very good year. Our varsity team is second in the conference and our junior varsity team has been winning many games. The varsity record is 11-5-2. At the moment we are finishing up our season and heading to postseason. Playoffs are looking good for us, and in postseason, we usually have difficulty getting by Mt. Horeb, but this year we are hoping it will be different. Our leading scorer is Zach Nelson, a senior from Dodgeville with 18 goals. Myself, a junior from Mineral Point is second with seven goals and Gerrit Bakker, a sophomore from Dodgeville, has six goals. Mineral Point has 13 boys out for soccer this year and we have seen the numbers grow every year. In total, there are over 40 boys out for soccer between the two schools and we enjoy playing and being a team with one another. There will be nine seniors graduating this year and we always miss them when they are gone. We have been able to add a third coach this year with Christian Flores. He played for UW-Platteville as their goalie and has helped out as a goalie coach for us. We also have Kyle Glynn and Erik Bakken for varsity and junior varsity coaches. 🐾

Cross Country

The Dodge-Point Cross Country team has no participants from Mineral Point this fall, but the team finished second at the SWC Conference meet October 15 at Richland Center and ran at the WIAA Sectional at Monroe. 🐾



2015 Homecoming Court. Back row, left to right: Jacob Parks, Nate Eisenzimmer, Dane Pfaff, Scott Pittz, Dylan MacGilvra, Logan Bidlingmaier, Brandon Forseth. Middle row left to right: Miranda Oellerich, Amelia Mitchell, Haley Chubb, Tess Oberhauser, Clara Chambers, Maya Aschliman, Savannah Lawinger, Addy Chambers, Danielle Blum, Mara Aschliman. Front: Steven Blume and queen Carly Tibbits.

Homecoming 2015



2015 Parade Marshals, Bob and Helen Regan.



Homecoming By Carly Tibbits, Queen



Homecoming week is where I've made a lot of my fondest high school memories. Mineral Point celebrates it very uniquely and we get the opportunity to participate in so many fun events throughout the week such as queen speeches, float building, parade, bonfire, powderpuff, pep rally, football game, dance

and everything in between. It's always the best week of the school year! For me, my senior year was my most memorable as I was crowned the 2015 Homecoming Queen! Being a queen candidate was thrilling enough but getting queen was unimaginable! I was born and raised here so representing Mineral Point in any capacity is truly a gift. I'm very grateful for this honor and the privilege to represent our wonderful school and community and I thank everyone who made the week unforgettable! 🐾



Student Council and Class Officers

Congrats to those elected to the Middle School Student Council! 6th grade: Ella Chambers and Trapper Nafzger; 7th grade: Ian Keyes and Will Straka; 8th Grade: Morgan Vondra, McKenna Bowers, and Isaac Lindsey.

Freshmen: Zoe Hay, President; Brady Palzkill, Vice President; Abby Shannon, Secretary/Treasurer; Karsten Bakken and Madisen Faull, Student Council.

Sophomores: Danielle Blum, President; Carver Wallace, Vice President; Sam Schultz, Secretary/Treasurer; Amelia Mitchell and Amanda Murphy, Student Council.

Juniors: Hannah Parkinson, President; Jaycie Runde, Vice President; Jalissa Weier, Secretary/Treasurer; Destinee Kruser and Sydney Staver, Student Council.

Seniors: Nate Eisenzimmer, President; Brandon Forseth and Trevor Ross, Officer Team; Logan Bidlingmaier and Steven Blume, Student Council. 🐾

Fire Prevention Week

The Mineral Point Fire Department visited elementary students in October to teach about fire prevention and what to do if ever faced with a fire. The interactive demonstrations were a big success. Many thanks to our volunteers who help keep us safe! 🐾



Mineral Point FFA

The Mineral Point FFA has been very busy this fall.

Members attended the River Ridge Livestock Judging Contest on September 11 and came away with a win in the senior division. The Senior team made up of Scott Pittz, Jake Steffes, Boone Schmitz and Morgan Fitzsimmons placed first as a team with Boone placing 1st overall, and Morgan 3rd overall, as individuals. The Junior team of Cade Steffes, Martina Steffes, Eric Heisner, Joey Dolphin, Brady Palzkill and Danny Pittz placed 4th and 5th in the Junior division as teams. The contest had 400 FFA members competing from Southwest Wisconsin.

Scott Pittz, Tea Bossert, Steven Blume, Tommie Loken, Eric Heisner, Morgan Fitzsimmons, Jake Steffes, Katie Fitzsimmons, and Elizabeth Moellers attended the Sectional Leadership Workshop Thursday, October 1 at River Ridge High School in Patch Grove. The Wisconsin FFA Sectional Leadership Workshop is designed to prepare local FFA chapter officers and members, both in high school and middle school, for leadership roles in their school district for the upcoming year. It also informs each chapter of the new programs available to all FFA members and allows the officers to exchange ideas with other FFA chapters in their area.

The FFA also held a successful pancake breakfast and donation auction at the fairgrounds, as well as completed its fruit sale orders. These two endeavors are the largest fundraisers of the year for the FFA.

Tommie Loken, Tea Bossert, Sheylynn Pickel, Katie Fitzsimmons, Martina Steffes, and Bailey Hermanson are off to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY Halloween weekend.

"If it wasn't for the community's support, we certainly wouldn't be the FFA chapter that we are," said Morgan Fitzsimmons, FFA Reporter. 🐾



Winter weather is on the way! Listen for school delays, closings, and early dismissal notices on the following channels:

Television: WISC, WMTV, WKOW

Radio: WDMP 99.3, WPVL 107.1

District Facebook Page and Website

Student families will receive emails and phone calls from Skyward.

2015-2016 NEW STAFF



Tim Bauman, Orientation and Mobility Specialist



Tom Behrens, High School Special Education



Melissa Callaway, Custodian



Tami Krueger-Chappell, Instructional Assistant



Dan Graber, Custodian



Blair Ling, Instructional Assistant



Bethany Payne, Middle School Special Education



Lyndsey Reed, Instructional Assistant



Ginnie Richardson, Taher Head Chef



Molly Uppena, High School Language Arts



Jennifer Wahlin, Spanish



Tracy Wiegel, Instructional Assistant

Important Dates

Check the Calendar tab on the District website, www.mineralpointschools.org, for updates.

November 20-22: High School Musical at Opera House

November 26-27: No School (Thanksgiving Break)

December 7: Middle/High Winter Concert 7 pm

December 15: Elementary Winter Concert 1 pm

December 24: Winter Break begins

January 4: Classes resume

January 18: No School for Students (Professional Dev.)

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, regularly for school board reports, feature articles, and more.

Join the more than 1,100 people who have liked the District's Facebook page (We had 69,000 clicks during Homecoming week). The site is updated multiple times daily with news as it happens, honors, recognition, pictures and more.



The district is always looking for substitutes. If interested, please contact Angie Schubert in the District Office at 987-0740.

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Savanna Salute

It's been another busy fall in the oak savanna with students in many classes from the high and elementary schools spending time learning in the beautiful space. In addition, retired MPHS agriculture teacher, Don Hawkins, was honored at the Monona Terrace in Madison as the recipient of the Rod Nilsestuen Award for Working Lands Preservation for his dedication to conservation. He is pictured here with MP teachers Mike Robinson and Deb Molle who attended the celebration. 🐾



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2015 Hall of Fame Inductees

Scott McKernan (Class of 1984) and Tom Poad (Class of 1975) were inducted into the Gridiron Hall of Fame at halftime of the Necedah game by former coach Ron Murphy.



Mexican Independence Day

Students in Jennifer Wahlin's Spanish classes celebrated Mexican Independence Day by preparing a fiesta of their own while learning about traditional Mexican meals and food.



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Computer Builders

The idea of a traditional study hall has gone out the window for a few Mineral Point High School students.

Devon Manning and Justin Toay have taken it upon themselves to go above and beyond by using their study hall during fourth hour as a time to work on their passion of computers.

After having a class in computer science last year, it helped to really fuel their interest in taking apart computers and putting them back together.

"After we started taking the computers apart, we thought it was a pretty cool idea to make a 'super computer,'" said Toay.

Kris McCoy, middle/high school Instructional Technology and Information Specialist, has worked with MP Tech/Dependable Solutions, who provides technology support to the district, and the company has been generous to allow the students to work on older model computers.

"We stripped the parts from all the computers and put the best parts into two of them," said Toay.

Manning mentioned the 'super computer' idea has taken a detour as the computers were running Windows XP, which is too slow of a processor to make a true 'super computer.'

But that hasn't stopped the duo.

"We are updating all the software," Manning said, who is purchasing parts with his own money to make this goal a reality.

For young people who have computer and coding skills, the world is their oyster with career opportunities galore.

"I have always found electronics interesting when it comes to how they work and what the process is to make them," said Toay. "I plan on going to college for Computer Programming next year and hopefully will be doing projects like this and more. I think doing this is a good first step in the direction I plan to go."

"I don't have any plans for the future yet, but if I could, I would like to work for Microsoft," said Manning. 🐾

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For events and yearly school calendar info: www.mineralpointschools.org



Mineral Point Elementary and Middle School students were proud to wear orange with their eMPathy shirts to help NBC 15's campaign to donate meals to Second Harvest Foodbank. In addition, the orange shirts have made an appearance on Wednesdays in October as it's bully prevention month.