

# White & Blue Review

**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.



## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ✓ Business Honor Roll
- ✓ Elementary Construction Completion
- ✓ Honors & Accolades
- ✓ Student Holiday Greetings



PAGE 9



PAGE 17



PAGE 8



PAGE 16



PAGE 16



PAGE 17



PAGE 20



PAGE 12



PAGE 12

## Superintendent's Corner

Mitch Wainwright, District Administrator



If you are around my age, you have probably heard the phrase “many hands make light work.” It is often considered a proverb, or idiom, and has been used in many ways. The saying refers to the number of hands and people involved in helping accomplish a task. While looking at a large problem as an individual, a person may think there is no way to get through all of the work that lies ahead.

However, if there are more people working together, the task seems less overwhelming. When more people pitch in to help, the job does not appear to be as big and can be completed in a shorter time span.

Many times I refer to the “community” that is Mineral Point and I am reminded of this saying. When a tragedy falls on an individual, or family, Pointers rally together to help those impacted the most. You do not need to look very far to find many instances where friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and even strangers offer whatever support they can to help make the work light. Any tragedy, no matter how big or small, generates the same response from this “community.” The benefit of reaching out in a supportive manner has far-reaching effects. One of the biggest is an opportunity to take a step back and find a new level of appreciation for what we have right in front of our own eyes.

Currently in our “community,” there are many families dealing with very serious issues. Families dealing with the loss of a loved one, some dealing with a family member battling cancer or another health condition. My struggles do not seem to be so big when I put them in perspective to what is happening in this community. Again, we can rally around these families and offer whatever support we can.

The same is true when I look closer to home within the school buildings. Students are facing personal issues you would never wish on an enemy. Staff members are also fighting their own individual battles. The school and community continue to offer whatever support they can. No one ever wants to face difficult times on their own because “many hands make light work.” Our own individual problems seem to be much smaller when we can offer help to those who are in more need. That is just another reason our “community” can come back together and support each other. We are #PointerNation. 🗨️

Mitch.Wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0740

## Principal's Post

Matt Renwick, Elementary Principal

### School Design Matters



One of the highlights of the current school year is our renovated elementary building. What each person appreciates when asked about the addition and upgrade is personal. For example, the students have commented about how much they enjoy the new gymnasium and library media center. (Our physical education teachers and library staff agree!) Teachers and staff

have noticed the improved air quality and temperature controls, the windows and the flooring in the cafeteria, and the increased space in our classrooms.

This project was needed from a physical standpoint. What about from a teaching and learning perspective? Studies have found that a more modern school design can translate into improved academic outcomes.

As an example, Prakash Nair, author of “Blueprint for Tomorrow: Redesigning Schools for Student-Centered Learning,” notes that increasing classroom spaces allows for more learning resources and less clutter. Subsequently, a more accessible and tidier environment can increase students’ attention to instruction and better support perception, memory, and reasoning. (p. 40)

Improving school facilities also has a positive impact on the physical health of students and staff. For instance, the authors of “The Third Teacher: 79 Ways You Can Use Design to Transform Teaching & Learning” point to research that found improved indoor air quality led to a 38.5% reduction of people experiencing asthmatic symptoms. (p. 26)

There are a lot more studies that support the many benefits of improved school facilities. I wanted to point a few of them out for you here for the simple reason that this building project was more than just a physical improvement. There are direct benefits for the teaching and learning that occur in our school. It is an investment not just in the facilities, but also in creating better opportunities for kids.

With this in mind, I want to say thank you for supporting the referendum. I believe the renovation and addition will have a positive influence on all learners, this year and beyond. 🗨️

Matt.Renwick@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0710



# Options in Education Update

Amanda Heisner, OIE Coordinator/Teacher



## A Student Perspective



“One of the best parts of my job is sharing what I do with others.” said Options in Education Coordinator Amanda Heisner. “The program that we have created allows students an alternative way to complete their academic work and reach graduation. It’s about more than just the curriculum, and it’s always great when students are willing to share their experiences with others. The following was written by a

student who was new to the program this school year. I think their experience is similar to many students and families who experience Options for the first time.”

The Options in Education program is a lot different than you think! When people think of Options they might think bad things but that isn’t the case at all. At first I was a little nervous and I thought the same thing other people think. It is nothing like that at all! When I think of Options I think of a very helpful workspace. I go out there to get my work done, and if I need any help there are teachers I can get it from. You can have your own little area to work on things and you don’t

have to talk to anyone if you don’t want to, but the people out here are very nice and welcoming. It is very nice inside, there are places to sit everywhere and there is a kitchen where you can make your lunch and breakfast. There is also a room to exercise and a room to work on whatever you want like painting, using the Cricut, and wood work. I really like the big bean bag chairs, so I sit in them everyday. It feels like sitting at home and working on your work with a little help from the teachers. The teachers push you to get your work done but you also have a lot of freedom. You can take breaks throughout the day, which is really nice. Every Friday if it’s nice outside we go down to the park and eat our lunch. I asked some of the students what they liked about Options and they said, “We love everything about it.” Another student said, “It’s a very comfortable and an easy space to work in.” All the students really enjoy it at Options, and it provides a great learning opportunity in a comfortable setting. 🗨️

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the Options in Education program to [Amanda.Heisner@mp.k12.wi.us](mailto:Amanda.Heisner@mp.k12.wi.us) | 608.520.0835

## WASB Business Honor Roll

The Mineral Point School Board is proud to recognize four businesses as part of this year’s Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Business Honor Roll. Thanks for your support of #PointerNation! Only 16 school districts in the entire state had successful nominations this year.



**Chambers Masonry:** Chambers Masonry has donated its time to all of the stonework at the north entrance of the new Mineral Point Elementary School addition. There are four pillars covered with stone and a wainscoting at the same entrance. Chambers’ work gives visitors a great first impression of Mineral Point’s new learning spaces. Chambers Masonry is a Mineral Point business and Nathan Chambers is a former School Board president who currently has children in the district.

**Mineral Point Excellence in Education Endowment Fund:** The Mineral Point Excellence in Education Endowment Fund has distributed thousands of dollars in grant monies from donations to school staff members looking to enrich educational experiences, above and beyond what the traditional school budget allows. Last year, the EIE held a Pointer Praise campaign for staff members in appreciation for all they have done during the pandemic. Community members were asked to send notes of thanks, which were organized and distributed by the EIE. Over 500 submissions were received.

**Pointer Pantry:** Pointer Pantry is essential to the success of Mineral Point’s students and was a collaboration started by former school board members, Mo May-Grimm and Jeff Basting, to ensure students do not go hungry on weekends or during school breaks. The group works collaboratively and confidentially with school staff members to ensure grocery store gift certificates make it into the hands of the families who are in need on a weekly basis. Donations and fundraisers help ensure children in #PointerNation are not trying to learn on empty stomachs.

**Webbs at Work:** Bill Webb of Webbs at Work in Mineral Point has saved the district thousands of dollars by hosting the school website locally for approximately the past decade. While school staff takes care of the regular content posted on the site, Bill is available, knowledgeable and responsive for the more technical and intricate items that need attention. He also makes sure the site is running properly and applies updates as needed. A father of three in the district, Bill is committed to making sure the Mineral Point School District’s digital footprint has a solid home. 🗨️

## Middle School Mentions

Vickie Dahl, Middle School Principal and Middle/High School Athletic Director, CAA

### Celebrating Success



The definition of success is the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. After the past year and a half, it is important to celebrate our success in education. This is why I must give credit to our middle school staff and students for our academic success.

Achieving an overall score of Significantly Exceeds Expectations on the DPI School Report Card is always a cause for celebration. This score means more this year than in years past. Considering what the education environment has been like since March of 2020, this is a remarkable achievement.

This is the fifth year that Mineral Point Middle School has achieved a score of Significantly Exceeds Expectations. This accomplishment was made possible because of a dedicated staff that takes pride in our academics and students who work hard to achieve their academic goals. Our goal as a Middle School is to achieve this score every school year. This may not always happen so it is important to celebrate our success, but also remain humble while doing so.

Congratulations Mineral Point Middle School on a job well done! 🎉

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

The Mineral Point Unified School District, in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and other Federal and State regulations, hereby declares that it is committed to the principle of equal education and employment opportunity and, accordingly, does not discriminate as to sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Any inquiries or complaints alleging non-compliance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 or other Federal and State civil rights or nondiscrimination regulations shall be referred to the Title IX Coordinator of the Mineral Point Unified School District.

## Director's Discussion

Angela Klein, Director of Special Education & Pupil Services

### Relationships Create Happiness



I recently watched an episode of "Ted: Ideas Worth Spreading" entitled "Robert Waldinger: What Makes a Good Life? Lessons From the Longest Study on Happiness" and was reminded of the importance that relationships have in our lives. At the time of this Ted Talk, Robert Waldinger was the Director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, an ongoing 75 year study that tracked the

lives of 724 men. The results of this study reinforced that good relationships keep us happy and healthier; that the quality of our relationships matter, not the quantity; and that good relationships protect both our bodies and our brains.

During this ongoing covid pandemic, the importance of relationships has been reinforced to both students and adults. Our staff places an emphasis on building relationships with our students, but the relationships with parents and community members are just as important. Our school and community fosters all kinds of relationships and is commonly discussed as a source of pride when new families move into the area. So thank you for helping us build a better community by supporting activities that develop relationships between students, families, businesses, service organizations, and any other aspect of our community that benefits from a shared relationship.

In his *Ted Talk*, Robert Waldinger said, "The good life is built with good relationships," and I am fortunate to live and work in a community that provides me with the opportunity to live a good life because of the relationships developed in our school and community. 🎉

angela.klein@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0712

## #PointerNation welcomes the following new staff members for the 2021-22 school year!



**Erika Brunson,**  
Middle/High School  
Counselor



**Kimmy Cleary,**  
Taher Food Service  
Director



**Courtney Miess,**  
2nd Grade Teacher



**Dani Robb,**  
Social/Emotional  
Learning Coach



**Reagan Roelli,**  
High School  
Instructional  
Assistant

# From the Principal's Pen

Matt Austin, High School Principal

## A World of Opportunities



"Today is the opportunity to build the tomorrow you want." - Ken Poirot

The word opportunity can be defined as a chance for advancement or success. As we continue along the path of the 2021-22 school year, one of the major focuses at the high school level is to provide students with opportunities to grow, learn, be leaders, explore, prepare for the future, and find success in the classroom, within

clubs/organizations, and on the field of competition.

Looking back, our students have taken advantage of many of the different opportunities to this point in the year. Within the classroom, students have had the opportunity to learn and practice skills that will help better serve them in the future. To name a few, students have completed introduction speeches, read books about leadership, created videos, presented to classmates, written papers, filmed and produced daily announcements (which can be found at [pointermedia.org](http://pointermedia.org)), written stories, learned about creating and running a business, about live streaming and announcing, how to use the laser engraver, attended the UW-Platteville Women in Engineering Expo, attended the World Dairy Expo, created t-shirts and hats, and the list goes on. Students have also participated in various enrichments during advisory time at the end of the school day.

Within the various clubs and organizations, students have found success in putting on the musical "Chicago," on the Math Team placing 2nd at the UW-Platteville competition,

at the National FFA Convention in the livestock judging competition, and helped give back to the community through the National Honor Society by helping out at Shake Rag Alley and Ruby's Pantry.

On the field of competition, the Volleyball, Football, and Cross Country teams all found success and took advantage of the opportunities to compete, highlighted with the Girls' Cross Country Team placing 1st at the state meet.

As we look toward the future, we are excited for what could unfold inside and outside of the classroom. We are thrilled to be hosting the first ever Business Connection Night to create a positive relationship with area businesses and explore youth apprenticeship, work experience, and job shadow opportunities. In addition, students will be beginning to work on Mock Trial and Forensics pieces to prep for their competitions. Our clubs -- SkillsUSA, Future Business Leaders of America, and Future Farmers of America -- will all be working toward their goals of competing at various venues in the spring. Key Club will be working on setting up their annual "Spring Clean-Up" (contact Advisor Erin Sincox [erin.sincox@mp.k12.wi.us](mailto:erin.sincox@mp.k12.wi.us) if you would like to be put on the list). The Student Government is planning to host a Social Emotional Day and Career Day for the student body. And finally, our winter athletic teams look to continue to find success.

In all, we are extremely thankful for the moments that we have been able to take advantage of up to this point and look forward to what the future holds yet this school year. 🗨️

[Matt.Austin@mp.k12.wi.us](mailto:Matt.Austin@mp.k12.wi.us) | 987.0730

# HIGH BARRE

YOGA ^ TAI CHI ^ ZUMBA ^ BARRE

WWW.THEHIGHBARRE.NET 26 HIGH ST, MINERAL POINT

## Dunn WASB Award



Congratulations to School Board President Aaron Dunn for achieving Level 1 in the Wisconsin Association of School Boards' Member recognition Program. The WASB

recognizes board members for their efforts in leadership and board development through this program. Points are awarded to school board members for their attendance at/or involvement in various WASB and National School Boards Association programs and events. 🗨️



# Psychologist's Thoughts

Katelyn Oellerich, Ed.S., NCSP School Psychologist

## F.A.S.T.



As a way to build community, a connection, and the family unit our school has invested in being a Families and Schools Together (FAST) Site. This past fall, we had seven elementary school families participate in FAST for eight weeks. Throughout our time together we followed a routine. Each FAST evening starts with a meal. The first week the meal is planned by the FAST team, but then each week after it is planned and occasionally cooked by one of the families in the group. We had everything from barbeque with mac and cheese to taco dogs, and some amazing s'mores cookies! There's something magical about sharing a meal and seeing families in more of their natural environment together.

Once families finish eating they participate in a drawing activity and then a game of charades with emotions flash cards. We then all get together to share in a chant for FAST and break up into a parent group and a child group. After parents and children have their separate time, one parent has special play with one of their children for 15 minutes. During this time, the parent is encouraged to let the child lead the play and not take over (which as adults, we know can be a challenge!). This is often the kids' favorite time of the evening. The evening commences with a new family winning a prize basket (with items specifically chosen for their family), special announcements shared by parents (children are encouraged to tell their parents so that the adult is the one sharing out), and a special chant we refer to as Rain.

Experiencing FAST for the first time this fall was a heartwarming experience. We had community leaders that have led this program many years in a row, taking myself and another new to FAST teacher under their wing. We also had past staff members come back and mentor us to support the transition process to ensure FAST runs smoothly. In addition to the FAST team, the families were incredibly understanding and flexible in their thinking when we had to pivot to deliver meals and zoom check-ins while most families were in quarantine. We also developed comradery as we all laughed together in an attempt to sing the "FAST Song" which challenged all of our vocal chords (we soon altered this plan to a FAST chant instead). This program not only creates memories but also bridges connections, resources, and friendships.

MPES families can watch for more information next fall to learn if this program might be a fit for your family. 🗨️

katelyn.oellerich@mp.k12.wi.us |  
987.0739 ext. 137

# Chronicle Best of...

A big shout out to 6th Grade Teacher McKenzie Brown (1st Place Teacher) and Cross Country & Track and Field Coach Denny McGraw (1st Place Coach) for their recognition in The Dodgeville Chronicle's annual "Best Of" awards this fall! Thank you for all you do for our young people! 🗨️



## MS Ranked #14

A big congrats to our #PointerNation Middle School, ranked #14 in the whole state by US News & World Report! The middle school is also #1 in CESA 3 and #1 in Iowa County. We are lucky to have such a fantastic school and staff for our students during these important years of their lives. 🗨️

## 2021 Report Card Release

After a two year hiatus, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has released state report cards, based on 2020-21 school data.

The Mineral Point Unified School District has scored an 82.8, which places it into the Exceeds Expectations category, a four star ranking.

This score places the District in the top ten percent of school districts in the state.



"After a chaotic school year, I think the report card scores demonstrate the quality of education that all of our students receive. Even though it is just a snapshot, this is wonderful for all of our staff and students to continue scoring at this level," said Superintendent Mitch Wainwright.

Breaking down the District by building, the following scores were achieved:



Elementary: 86.4, Significantly Exceeds Expectations



Middle: 83.8, Significantly Exceeds Expectations



High: 76.9, Exceeds Expectations

Report cards are issued on four priority areas:

- ✓ Achievement
- ✓ Growth
- ✓ Target Group Outcomes
- ✓ On-track to Graduation

Scoring categories are: Significantly Exceeds Expectations (five stars) 83-100; Exceeds Expectations (four stars) 70-82.9, Meets Expectations (three stars) 58-69.9, Meets Few Expectations (two stars) 48-57.9, Fails to Meet Expectations (one star) 0-47.9.

Any report card for any school in the state can be downloaded here: <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>

## 1829 "PROUD OF OUR PAST. FOCUSED ON OUR FUTURE."

All staff and students received this year's A-shirt design, which pays homage to our history as one of the oldest schools in the State of Wisconsin. See the excerpt from "History of Iowa County" published 1881: "The first school in the county was taught at Mineral Point in 1829 by Mrs. Harker and Beulah Lamb. The attendance numbered eight pupils, whose facilities for mastering the simple rudiments of the English language were plain beyond description. The schoolhouse was a wretched log cabin, with rough-hewn timber walls. The seats were made by inserting four wooden pegs in slabs of timber. The floor was composed of rough, puncheons, and pens and ink were novelties beyond the flightiest imagination. With the institution of a school, the highway was paved for the reception of the arts and sciences." 🗨





## District Earns State Communication Awards

The Mineral Point Unified School District was honored by the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association (WSPRA) with two awards for its work in school communications between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

#PointerNation has now earned 18 WSPRA Awards since the fall of 2015.

WSPRA showcased the Spectrum Awards at its annual fall conference November 4 in Sheboygan. Over 40 districts were honored with awards.

This year's conference theme was "Nothin' But a Good Time: A Conference for School PR Rockstars."

Spectrum Awards honor high-quality public relations efforts produced by, or on behalf of, Wisconsin school districts.

Mineral Point earned two Spectrum Awards which were received by Communications Director, and WSPRA President-Elect, Joelle Doye:

### Award of Excellence

🏆 Mental Health Matters Week Special Purpose Publication/Project

### Award of Merit

🏆 Points of Pride Marketing Campaign



"The work submitted by the Spectrum Award winners is a testament to the importance of school communications and community engagement," said WSPRA President Tracy Habisch-Ahlin of the Hudson School District. "Projects submitted were a result of work completed during the 2020-21 school year, which was challenging due to COVID. The award winners demonstrated the critical role communication professionals play in education."

WSPRA's Spectrum Awards were judged by members of other school public relations associations in 15 different states, from New York to California. All entries were judged on a 30-point scale in six areas: goals and objectives, research and planning, execution and evaluation, results, language, and design.

WSPRA was chartered in 1967 and is a state affiliate of the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA). The mission of WSPRA is to expand the capacity of its members to provide effective communication management for the purpose of strengthening educational opportunities for all students. Doye will assume the WSPRA Presidency July 1, 2022 and will hold the position until June 30, 2024. 📧

[joelle.doye@mp.k12.wi.us](mailto:joelle.doye@mp.k12.wi.us) | 987.0723

## Chicago Musical

Congratulations to all involved in an outstanding production of "Chicago: High School Edition" held at the Mineral Point Opera House!





## Balloons Over MP

Instead of “Balloons Over Broadway” it was “Balloons over Mineral Point!” 3rd graders read the book by Melissa Sweet and were inspired to have their own parade, just like Macy’s! They are also using the library green screen to place themselves right in the heart of New York City. 📺



## Middle School Moments



**6th graders** learned all about cells! They made models of a cell, studied the different parts that make up a cell, and even completed an escape room with the new knowledge learned!



**7th graders** completed their Empathy Literary Circles, even enjoying some time outside!



**8th graders** competed in “The Outsiders” Escape Room. “Do it for Johnny!” 📺

## #PointerNation News

Did you know #PointerNation has a weekly newsletter emailed directly to families and staff? Even if you aren't part of those two groups, you can check out each issue on Mondays here: <https://mineralpointschools.org/pointernation-news/>



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Email: [WagnerM@FirstWeber.com](mailto:WagnerM@FirstWeber.com)

Web: [www.mikewagner.firstweber.com](http://www.mikewagner.firstweber.com)

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# Elementary School Trans

The District would like to thank you for your support of the project and our students.



Before



After

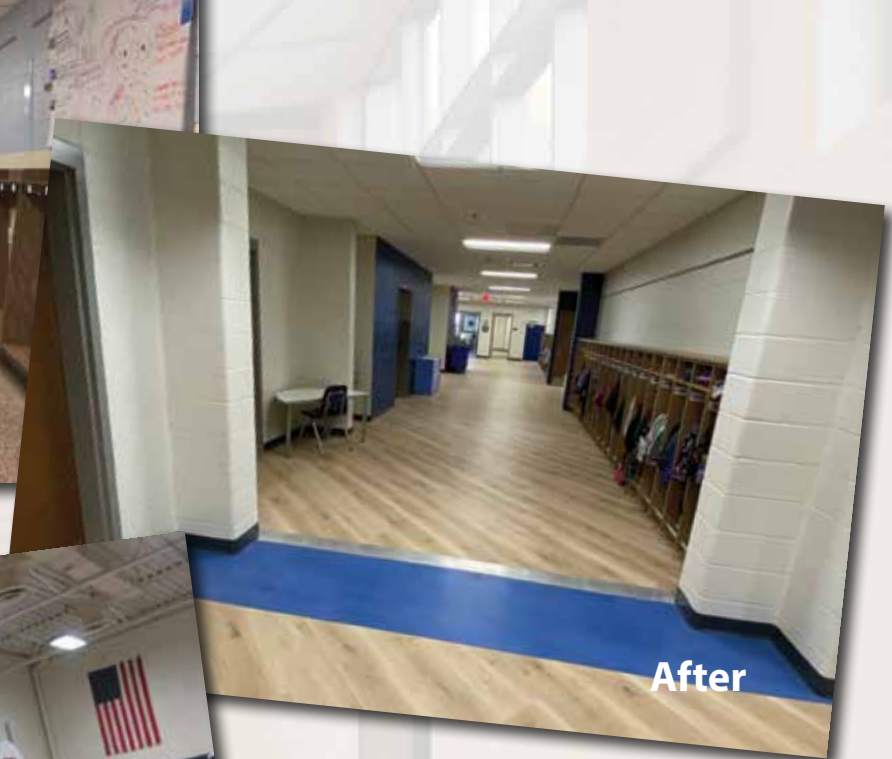




# Information is Complete



Before



After



Before



After

HSR Associates and Kraemer Brothers were proud to partner with the District on this project.



## Leadership Class

We are very grateful to have our high school leadership class making regular visits with our young Pointers and serving as fantastic role models! 🐾



## Mineral Point Excellence in Education Foundation Recognizes Named Family Funds

The Mineral Point Excellence in Education Foundation, a component of Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, recently celebrated their appreciation for two named family funds by presenting the donors with recognition plaques created by FripperiesMP.

Geralyn and Tim Hawkins, the children of Donald M. Hawkins, started The Don Hawkins Community Oak Savanna Endowment Fund in 2017.

The Fund provides grants for projects in the Mineral Point Unified School District, which encourage students and community members to “spend time in the savannas experiencing nature, what Mr. Hawkins called ‘Vitamin N,’ emphasizing the importance of conservation and responsible land stewardship.”



Hawkins (l-r): EIE Board Members, Wayne Banaszak, Joni Martin, Kristin Mitchell, Mary Jean James, Tracie Stracka and Mitch Wainwright present Geralyn Hawkins with a plaque in honor of the Don Hawkins Oak Savanna Endowment Fund.

The sons of Roger and Mary Ivey, Bob (JoAnn) of Lake Somerset, IL; Dick (Betty) and Bruce (Deb) of Mineral Point, WI started the Roger and Mary Ivey Excellence in Education Endowment Fund in 2019.

The Fund memorializes both Roger and Mary, providing grants for K-12 teachers in the Mineral Point Unified School District to use for programs and projects focusing on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math.)

Each spring, the Mineral Point Excellence in Education Foundation Advisory Board reviews grant requests from educators to award a portion of the fund's earnings provide funding to enrich the educational experience in the Mineral Point Unified School District. The generous gifts from both families have created endowment funds each totaling more than \$20,000 that will give back to the students and educators in the district in perpetuity! 🐾



Ivey: (l-r) Bruce and Deb Ivey, Bob and JoAnn and Dick and Betty Ivey with a plaque honoring their parents named fund.



## New Therapy Dog Blue

Sleepy Valley Kennels, LLC had the pleasure to meet up with School Liaison Officer Bill Ottoway to present him with Blue.

Blue is a Golden Retriever and will become a certified therapy dog like Cooper, the yellow lab, in the elementary school. Officer Ottoway plans to have Blue in the middle/high school.

Blue will be in the care of the Ottoway family and will accompany Officer Ottoway while at school.

Sleepy Valley Kennels is pleased to donate this Golden Retriever to #PointerNation! We hope he brings much joy, happiness, calmness, and smiles to everyone he encounters. 🐾



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or Toll-Free (888) 443.3226  
[www.farmerssavings.com](http://www.farmerssavings.com)



## Awarded Grants

Congratulations to those who have been recipients of grants this school year!



- 🏆 Pointer Media grant from Compeer Financial to expand opportunities to better meet the production and programming needs of students, staff, and community.
- 🏆 Mental Health grant from Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction used to offset staffing costs for the Social & Emotional Learning Coach, as well as cover the cost for a Universal Screening Tool.
- 🏆 Library grant from the American Library Association for the Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries initiative to support a community-wide read.
- 🏆 2nd Grade Teacher Keri Radtke, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom grant from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau for timely access to literature about agricultural topics using books.
- 🏆 4th Grade Teacher Livia Doyle, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom grant from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau for preparing, and cooking simple foods by using basic ingredients and seasonal produce. 🐾



## FFA Livestock Judging

Congratulations to our FFA Livestock Judging Team! The group was silver rated at the National Convention in Indianapolis this fall, which puts them between 13th and 29th in the nation. Great job Payton Heins, Annie Robinson, Joey Robinson, and Jimmy Tibbits. 🐾

# Social-Emotional Learning

Dani Robb, Social/Emotional Learning Coach



I want to introduce myself to the Mineral Point Community. I am the Social-Emotional Learning Coach/School Social Worker at Mineral Point High School and Middle School. This is the first year that the Mineral Point Unified School District has had the opportunity to have this position. I work very closely with our District Pupil Services Team which includes our two School Counselors, Erika

Brunson and Alex Welsh, and our School Psychologist, Katelyn Oellerich. You may be wondering “Why is social-emotional learning important?”

According to CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning), “When students have supportive relationships and opportunities to develop and practice social, emotional, and cognitive skills across many different contexts, academic learning accelerates (<https://casel.org/>).” Social-emotional learning encompasses skills that help students be successful as they become college and career ready.

There are five key skills to social emotional learning:

- ♥ Self-Awareness (understanding one’s own emotions, personal goals, and values)
- ♥ Self-Management (skills and attitudes that facilitate the ability to regulate one’s own emotions and behaviors)
- ♥ Responsible Decision Making (learning how to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions across diverse settings)
- ♥ Social Awareness (ability to understand, empathize, and feel compassion for those with different backgrounds or cultures)
- ♥ Relationship Skills (establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships)

These skills are important for many areas of life that will serve students well beyond school, helping them succeed as adults. To help put a focus on mental health and social-emotional learning, the Mineral Point Unified School District applied for, and received, a Mental Health Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction focused mainly at the middle school level. The goals of the grant over the next two years include:

- ♥ Decrease the number of students in grades 6-8 who identify they rarely or never get help when they need it.
- ♥ Decrease the number of students in grades 6-8 who report experiencing symptoms of either anxiety, depression, or self-harm and decrease the number of students who report they do not have a teacher they can confide in or a person they could go to in order to talk about a problem.



Some of the work that our middle and high school pupil services team has done this year includes: conducted social-emotional screening for 6th grade students, relationship mapping, implemented classroom SEL lessons in 6th grade, created a SEL committee at the middle school, developed a referral pathway for staff to refer students when staff are concerned about a student around academic, social-emotional, or behavioral needs, conducted individual student meetings, worked with families and collaborated with mental health providers. We still have much more to do this year to support social-emotional learning and look forward to a great school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the grant or social-emotional learning. 🗨️

dani.rob主@mp.k12.wi.us | 608.987.0739 ext. 614

## School Board Candidates

In the April 5, 2022 election, two Mineral Point School Board seats will be up. The top two vote getters will each receive a three year term. Those needing to run for their seats, if interested, will be incumbents Gary Sullivan and Sarah Syvrud. If they choose not to run, non-candidacy needs to be filed by Friday, December 24 at 5 pm. Any candidates, including incumbents, wishing to have their name appear on the April ballot need to file by Tuesday, January 4 at 5 pm in the District Office, 705 Ross Street. Please reach out to [angie.schubert@mp.k12.wi.us](mailto:angie.schubert@mp.k12.wi.us) with any questions or call 608-987-0740. 🗨️



## Burreson Hall of Fame

Congrats to Mineral Point High School Boys Basketball Coach Dan Burreson who was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Wisconsin Dells! He is pictured here with Bob Buck, his high school coach.

Dan Burreson, the son of Clare and Anne Burreson, is the seventh of eight children. He graduated from Dodgeville High School in 1979. At Dodgeville, Dan participated in football, basketball, and American Legion baseball. His 1977-78 Dodgeville basketball team won the Southern 8 Conference title under Hall of Fame Coach Bob Buck. He was captain of the 1978-79 Dodgers. Dan later attended UW-Platteville where he received his undergraduate degree in 1987. Later, he would earn his Master's at Morningside in 2011.



He began his basketball coaching career in the Dodgeville School District coaching at the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade levels in the fall of 1983 with the encouragement of Coach Buck. He would then coach for four years at UW-Platteville under the legendary Bo Ryan, including the first conference title under Ryan in 1987-88 and the National Championship team in 1990-91. In the fall of 1990, he began teaching at Mineral Point High School where he has remained ever since. He would join the Mineral Point boys' basketball coaching staff under Jim Bennett, an outstanding high school coach.

In 1995, Dan began his journey as the head boys' basketball coach at Mineral Point where he has remained for the past 26 years. During that time, his teams have earned six conference titles and five regional championships. His 2015 team brought home the state silver ball in Division 4. For twenty years he was also the baseball coach at Mineral Point. His baseball teams won three conference titles and six regional titles, reaching the sectional final three times.

Dan has been an active member of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches' Association. He has been on the Executive Board for over twenty years, has served as WBCA President from 2015 to 2017, Boys' All-Star Chairman for ten years, and is currently the Hall of Fame Selection Chairperson. In 2013, he was honored with the WBCA Tribute Award and in 2019 was the first recipient of the WBCA Legacy Award.

Coach Burreson would like to thank his assistant coaches, his athletic director for the past 26 years Vickie Dahl, the Mineral Point community, but mostly his players for making this all possible. For 26 years he has been able to coach not only outstanding players, but outstanding individuals as well.

Finally, Dan would like to thank the WBCA for this honor and for their commitment to the game of basketball in the state of Wisconsin. 🗨️



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## Fire Safety

Our elementary students were so fortunate to have the Mineral Point Fire Department stop by for a safety presentation! A sincere thank you for all you do for the community.



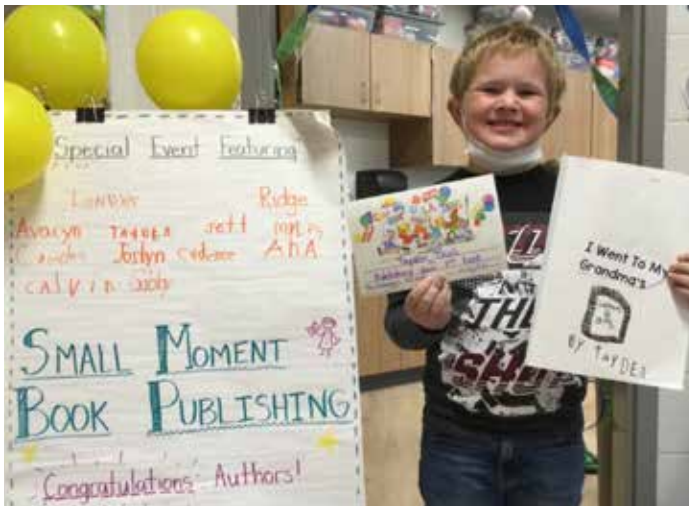
## Veterans Day

We were proud to have our middle/high school once again host a Veterans Day Program this year. It was a fabulous event! Thanks to all the speakers, vocalists, musicians, and most importantly, veterans. We are forever indebted to you.



## 1st Grade Authors

A big congratulations to our 1st graders who are now published authors! They crafted books about small moments. Enjoy a few photos from these proud students!



## Cooper

Cooper, our Therapy Dog at the Elementary, has been busy again this school year, keeping students company while reading, offering support, and making smiles.



## High School Enrichment

Each afternoon for 20 minutes (except Wednesdays), high school students are able to select an enrichment opportunity of their choosing. One recent example is learning the life skills of ironing and button sewing!



# Fall Sports

The Mineral Point and Dodge-Point fall sports teams had another outstanding season, highlighted by the Girls Cross Country Team capturing the WIAA Division 2 State Team Title with a thrilling one point victory over Shorewood! Congrats to our Pointers who earned all-conference honors listed below:

## GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

WIAA State Champion

WIAA Sectional Champion

SWC Conference Champion

First Team All-Conference:

Haylee Kearns, Annie Robinson, and Ellie Robinson.

Second Team All-Conference:

Regan Schuette and Grace Wersal.

## BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

WIAA Sectional Champion

SWC Conference Champion

Second Team All-Conference: Joey Robinson

## BOYS SOCCER

SWC Conference Champion

First Team All-Conference:

Drew Hottenstein and Jared Wedig

Second Team All-Conference: Hayden Bakken

Honorable Mention All-Conference: Miles Houtakker

Co-Coach of the Year: Kyle Glynn

## FOOTBALL

WIAA Playoff Qualifier

First Team All-Conference Offense:

Bo Hanson and Dominik McVay.

First Team All-Conference Defense:

Bo Hanson and Owen Ward.

Second Team All-Conference Offense:

Leyten Bowers and Owen Ward.

Second Team All-Conference Defense: Bodie Bossert,

Brendan Lynch, Dominik McVay, and Will Schute.

Second Team All-Conference Specialist: Dominik McVay.

Honorable Mention All-Conference Offense: Will Schute.

Honorable Mention All-Conference Specialist:

Leyten Bowers and Bo Hanson.

## VOLLEYBALL

First Team All-Conference: Kennedy Kabat, Mallory Lindsey,

Blair Watters, and Kennedy Wenger.

Honorable Mention All-Conference: Ella Chambers.



Pictured, left to right, Addison Christopher (MP), Annie Robinson (MP), Haylee Kearns (MP), Grace Wersal (MP), Abbey Ludwig (DV), Regan Schuette (MP), Ellie Robinson (MP), and on the phone from Hawaii, Julia Thompson (DV).



## Hall of Fame

Congratulations to our #PointerNation Hall of Fame inductees this year!

### 2020-21 Basketball

(honored December 4)

Chuck Bennett

Mike Douglas

Jamie Sporle

Jessi Sporle

1974 Boys Basketball Team

### 2020-21 Wrestling

(honored December 10)

Greg & Mary Kay Sullivan

Donald & Carole Wasley

Kevin Wasley

### 2020-21 Wrestling

(honored December 17)

Mike Lawinger

Dylan Schroeder

### 2020-21 Basketball

(to be honored January 8)

Vickie Dahl

Jerry Fitzgerald

Jessica Henke

Frank McGettigan

Mike Mitchell



THE MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAYS NEVER ENDS, AND THE GREATEST GIFTS ARE FAMILY AND FRIENDS. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



GENTRY D. KINDERGARTEN



ELLIE P. 1ST GRADE



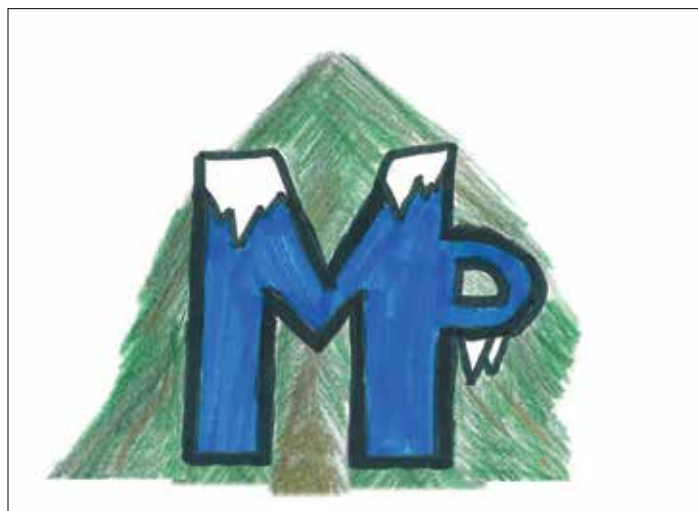
WYNN C. 2ND GRADE



NORA W. 3RD GRADE



BROCK S. 4TH GRADE



RACHEL H. 5TH GRADE

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

The White and Blue Review  
is published by the Mineral Point  
Schools. Available in alternative  
formats by request.

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

## MPHS Math Team

Congrats to our MPHS Math Team on a great showing at the annual UW-Platteville Math Contest!

Individual award winners are selected based on their score on the individual test. This year, both Anthony Luu and Bobby Allbright received this honor and were given medals and t-shirts from UW-Platteville.

The team scores are a sum of all team members' individual scores at both levels and the scores on the team test at both levels. Our Mineral Point Team Blue tied for second

place in our division! Members include: Matthew Goninen, Julianna Cool, Anthony Buleje Cadena, Regan Schuette, Malea Aschliman, Abigail Webb, Derek Hottenstein, Tyler Nordstrom, Cole Ferrell, Griffin Albaugh, Joey Robinson, Jared Wedig, Drew Hottenstein, and Callie Pierce. 🗨

