

White^{and}Blue Review

Spring 2017 🐾 *Education... That's the Point*

POINTER PHOTO ROUNDUP



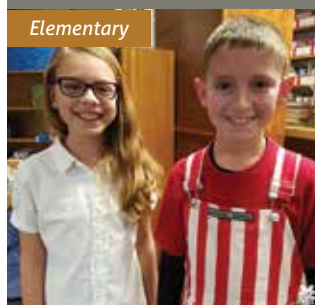
Mineral Point 4th graders have been busy speaking to local lawmakers about their idea to make cheese the official state dairy symbol. Their bill received a unanimous yes vote to become law. Congratulations!



Junior



Middle



Elementary

Mineral Point Elementary and Middle Schools crowned their top spellers. Congrats to the following:

Junior Spelling Bee: Josie Dunn, 1st place and Faye Schuette, 2nd place.

Elementary Spelling Bee: Libby Dunn, 1st place and Matthew Goninen, 2nd place.

Middle Spelling Bee: Chloe Oberhauser, 1st place; Dominik McVay, 2nd place; and Allison Chitwood, alternate.



On March 8th, the Mineral Point FFA attended the Sectional FFA Speaking Contest at Argyle. There were seven participants from Mineral Point competing.

In the prepared speaking contest, Tommie Loken placed 1st and will be moving on to State Competition at the State FFA Convention in June.



Darlington graduate, and former football standout for Wisconsin, and current player for the Cincinnati Bengals, Alex Erickson visited Mineral Point Elementary to talk with students about character and perseverance in pursuing their dreams.

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



From 1999's *Chicken Soup for the Couple's Soul*:

Thomas Wheeler, CEO of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, and his wife were driving along an interstate highway when he noticed that their car was low on gas. Wheeler got off the highway at the next exit and soon found a rundown gas station with just one gas pump. He asked the lone attendant to fill the tank and check the oil, then went for a little walk around the station to stretch his legs.

As he was returning to the car, he noticed that the attendant and his wife were engaged in an animated conversation. The conversation stopped as he paid the attendant. But as he was getting back into the car, he saw the attendant wave and heard him say, "It was great talking to you."

As they drove out of the station, Wheeler asked his wife if she knew the man. She readily admitted she did. They had gone to high school together and had dated steadily for about a year.

"Boy, were you lucky that I came along," bragged Wheeler. "If you had married him, you'd be the wife of a gas station attendant instead of the wife of a chief executive officer."

"My dear," replied his wife, "if I had married him, he'd be the chief executive officer and you'd be the gas station attendant."

From this joke, one might infer that behind every great man is a great woman. In my case, this is true as my spouse

Tiffany helps to ensure my success. Tiffany, however, is also an ambitious woman with her professional career and aspirations to be great in her job all-the-while raising a family of four. I hope I complement her success just as she complements mine. However, the larger parallel I wish to make has nothing to do with spouses.

Instead, I share with you that behind every great teaching staff is a great support staff. I am referencing the bus drivers that get up early every morning to transport students. The cooks that prepare food and nourishment throughout the school day. The instructional staff that works with children one-on-one displaying care and compassion for student well-being. Custodians that arrive first to open doors and last to leave by shutting off the lights. Clerical teams that support principals' efforts to advance a school's improvement plans. The staff that is trained to serve students with hearing impairments, speech and language impediments, and in need of occupational therapy, physical therapy, or nursing services. All support staff named and not directly referenced have my greatest admiration for contributions made toward making Mineral Point a distinguished five-star district.

So my sincere thanks and praise to the staff that support our teachers and schools. Without your loyalty, longevity, and devotion to students, Mineral Point Schools might as well be a gas station. And I the gas station attendant. 🐾

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

Message from Mitch Wainwright

Principal, Mineral Point High School
& District Assessment Coordinator



"I'm Bored!" "There's never anything to do!" If I asked my own mother I'm sure she would say that these are phrases that I had used when growing up. Most students say something like this during the end of the summer when recreation programs have ended and school has not started yet. Occasionally, students will say that while

they are in school. As we start the registration process for next school year, I would like to offer up some suggestions.

Join a club. You do not need to be athletic to be a member of a club. We have Key Club, a service organization that is connected with the Kiwanis organization. There is an outstanding FFA program that supports more than just farming by giving students multiple opportunities to practice skills needed in the "real world." Our Skills USA provides students with technology skills a place to compete, but also addresses many community projects. FBLA, or Future Business Leaders of America, provides students with opportunities to compete or demonstrate their business skills. Art Club provides students opportunities to develop their artistic skills and display their individual works in a variety of locations—they even have an opportunity to sell a work of art. All of these clubs offer students a chance to grow and develop skills that apply to any job, and if college is in a student's future, they even offer scholarships to help offset the cost. The National Honor Society is a group that requires specific grade point average, an application and an induction ceremony for new members. As the name indicates, it is a nationally recognized organization with ties to the college community and potential scholarships for members. We also offer a Science Club, very successful math and Forensics teams. We have musicals, band and choir concerts and contests, a student council and of course a wide range of athletic teams as well.

Most if not all students that are members of any of these clubs or organizations make life-long connections and friends. Students that never saw themselves taking part in a musical, or even singing in front of people, leave wondering why they never did it before. Forensic students speak in front of strangers and start off terrified, then develop into confident public speakers, a skill that every person needs.

I am sure that I missed one or two more clubs or organizations that students can take part in, so the next time your student says they are bored or that there is never anything to do, suggest they join a club, organization, or team at school. They just might be surprised at how much fun they have.

On behalf of Mineral Point Schools, thank you. 🐾

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

From the Desk of Matt Renwick

Mineral Point Elementary Principal



If a parent or community member were to ask me what my number one priority is as a building principal, I would respond with safety. Yes, student learning is our mission. It is the reason schools exist. Yet staff and students cannot teach and learn if they do not feel safe or the building is not prepared to reduce hazards and risks.

Finding a balance between ensuring staff and student safety and being a welcoming school can be a challenge. That is why we have created a district safety committee. Various community members, parents, educators, and a Mineral Point high school student are engaging in conversations around how to best ensure the safety and well-being of every person in our schools. Members of the committee bring a wide variety of experience and background, which will help ensure high quality of our work.

At our first meeting, we shared our questions about this topic and process. Questions included, "How do we define 'school safety'?", "What is the scope of our committee's focus?", and "How can we assess our level of safety in our buildings and grounds?". These questions will drive our work. We drafted goals and objectives based on our inquiries and started exploring information about school safety. Next steps include making site visits to other districts and exploring ways to assess our own facilities, policies and practices.

We hope to have specific recommendations to the Mineral Point Board of Education as early as May. Our committee will be cognizant of costs and available resources as we draft our summary and proposal. The district is grateful for the willingness of our committee members to donate their time, energies, and expertise to this important work. 🐾

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

STAY INFORMED

Visit the News tab on the District website, www.mineralpointschools.org, regularly for school board reports, feature articles, and more.

LIKE the District's Facebook page to get news as it happens, honors, recognition, pictures and more.

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



CONGRATULATIONS to newly elected School Board members Jeff Basting and Kelly Gundlach. Thank you also to Mike Thousand and Glenn Kinch for their willingness to run for the Board.



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Helpful Homework Strategies

Dixie Dempsey, Director of Pupil Services/School Psychologist



I have to admit that I procrastinated with writing this article. I kept getting reminders from our wonderful Communications Director, Joëlle, to get our articles for the newsletter in before the deadline date and I kept putting it off. In my job, I am frequently a participant in parent or teacher meetings involving students of concern. I can not count the amount of times I have heard from a teacher, “She does not complete required homework” or from a parent “He says he has no homework to do” or “Getting him to do homework is such a struggle.” Today, I related to what some students experience when doing homework. Now, I had a choice. I could choose not to write this newsletter article because it is not fun or I could buckle down, get it done and move on. I obviously chose the latter of the two. However, kids sometimes do not think that way. Some require motivation. So, this section is devoted to strategies parents can employ to get their son or daughter to complete homework.

Elementary School Level

Establishing effective and positive work habits should start young. Even in pre-kindergarten, practicing what was taught during the day is essential for reinforcing basic skills.

When setting up a homework routine, consider the following:

Environment:

- ❑ Make sure your child has a quiet and well lit place to do homework
- ❑ Reduce distractions (turn off radio and/or T.V., have people talk quietly, reduce visual distractions, put away toys)

Consistency:

- ❑ Have homework time and location be at the same each night. If possible, have student begin homework as soon as he/she gets home from school in order to prevent procrastination or allow a quick brain-break so they can recharge from the day’s activities and power through.

Motivate:

- ❑ Reward your child for completed homework. Possible rewards include verbal praise, having a friend over to play, staying up late, computer time, watching a favorite TV program, playing a game with a parent, stars to be cashed in for money or treats. Make sure you hold up your end of the deal but also that you hold the child responsible.
- ❑ Use a contract. For example, I, Sam, will complete my homework for three days in a row. When I accomplish this, I can stay up an hour later on Friday night. The child and parent(s) should both sign. Place the contract somewhere that is easily visible such as a refrigerator or bulletin board.
- ❑ Present homework in an interesting way. For instance, spelling words could be practiced by having them write the word in shaving cream on the table. Have the child act as a tutor to younger brother/sister or a younger friend. Post spelling words in different locations throughout the home to give them constant exposure. If the child likes computer time have them practice typing the words on the computer. Math facts/homework can be practiced using manipulatives

and/or visuals (e.g marshmallows, pencils, etc.). Have math races to strengthen math fluency skills. Make learning fun and unique.

Support/Model:

- ❑ Break your child’s assignments into shorter tasks. Tell him/her to do the first 5 math problems. Have everything else put away so they just have to concentrate on those specific problems. Once done allow them a quick break to get a snack or something to drink. Assign 5 more and continue to do this until work is completed.
- ❑ Work the first few problems with your child to help your child get started.
- ❑ Work on projects of your own as your child does homework (e.g. balance your checkbook, read, pay bills, etc.)

Middle School/High School Level

Environment:

- ❑ Make sure your child has a quiet and well lighted place to do homework. Keep in mind that a child’s room is not always the most productive location to do homework.
- ❑ Reduce distractions (turn off radio and/or tv, have people talk quietly, reduce visual distractions)

Motivate:

- ❑ Use a contract. For example, I, Sam, will complete my homework for three days in a row. When I accomplish this, I can get out of doing a chore or have the car to go to a movie. The child and parent(s) should both sign. Place the contract somewhere that is easily visible such as a refrigerator or bulletin board.
 - ❑ Allow natural consequences to occur if homework does not get completed (e.g. wake up early to complete homework, access to computer denied or keys to car taken away).
- Verify:**
- ❑ If a student tells you he/she does not have homework, be cautious. A student who struggles with homework completion will more likely than not ALWAYS have homework.

The school PIV system can be utilized to check on missing assignments and student grades. Parents should have access codes to use the PIV system. Contact the middle or high school offices to get those codes, if needed.

- ❑ Homework should be a form of “practice” for what you child has already been taught in school. A parent should not have to reteach concepts. If the student does not understand a parent could:
 - reinforce the need to ask for help from a teacher or peer if the concepts are not understood
 - call a peer who can help answer questions and explain directions
 - reinforce the importance for the student to pay attention during instruction/directions

Support:

- ❑ Help your child study for tests, quizzes.
- ❑ Make school work a priority and not make it secondary to sports, extra-curricular and work schedules.
- ❑ Reinforce the importance of an education. Be a partner with the school. Convey a positive message that your child’s education is important and valuable by attending parent/teacher conferences, review together the PIV system weekly to discuss grades and assignments, have open communication with teachers to discuss progress and recommendations.
- ❑ Make it a family activity. When a student needs to read, everyone can pick up a book and read. Perhaps you as a parent can pay bills or do work from home at the same time so everyone is doing similar activities. 🐾

Academic Honors

Jalissa Weier has been named Valedictorian of the Mineral Point High School Class of 2017.

Jalissa has lived in Mineral Point her whole life with her parents Bob and Desiree, and her two older brothers, Jared and Blake.

Jalissa is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, The Mineral Point Youth Group, Forensics, Blue Crew, a public relations officer of FBLA, a Section Editor for Yearbook, as well as a member of both the volleyball and track and field teams for all four years of her high school career.

This past summer, Jalissa worked at Lands’ End three to four days of the week, averaging about 30 hours per week and will work there again this summer. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and playing sports.

Jalissa is attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in the fall of 2017 and will major in chemistry to pursue a career as a pharmacist.



Haley Chubb has been named Salutatorian of the Mineral Point High School Class of 2017.

Haley grew up in Mineral Point with her parents Margaret and Bill Chubb, and siblings Katie, Robby, and Natalie.

Haley is a member of the National Honor Society, plays basketball and volleyball, dances at Betty Hayes and Halftime Entertainment, participates in Key Club, and went to Cornwall this spring. She also volunteers at her church as a Sunday School teacher and volunteers at the Dodgeville Free Clinic.

Haley is a lifeguard at the Mineral Point Pool. She has been a lifeguard since she was sixteen and worked there the past two summers. She enjoys teaching swim lessons every summer to preschoolers. Working at the pool inspired her to pursue a career that involves working with children.

Haley plans on attending UW-Oshkosh and wants to become a nurse practitioner. 🐾



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.

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NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



Mineral Point High School's National Honor Society chapter held its annual induction ceremony April 5. MPHS graduate Dr. Dave Thomas, a recent retiree as a UW-Madison agriculture professor, was the guest speaker.

First year members, left to right, front row: Madison Bowers, Amanda Murphy, Madelyn Siegenthaler, Sydney Owens, Martina Steffes, Sierra Evans, Evelynn Hendrick, and Samantha Schultz. Back: Alayna McCarville, Danielle Blum, Abigail Callaway, Jacob Moellers, Jacob Wedig, Billy Carrington, Haakon Schriefer, Brady Roberts, and Hans Miller.



Second year members, left to right, front row: Cassandra Bossert, Jaycie Runde, Morgan Fitzsimmons, Tommie Loken, Hannah Parkinson, Haley Chubb, Jaynie Gorgen, Sydney Staver, and Jalissa Weier. Back: Grant Rose, Bailey Riley, Jake Gorgen, Addyson Chambers, Destinee Kruser, Elise Ames, Rebekah Ottoway, Chad Yeager, Boone Schmitz, Fulton Flanary, Valya MacGivra, and Caleb Kennedy. 🐾



McCoy Named to WEMTA Board

The Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association has named Kris McCoy, Mineral Point Middle/High School Instructional Technology and Information Specialist, to its Board of Directors.

"I am excited to serve on the WEMTA Board so I can represent small, rural schools that are trying to do big things to prepare their students for their futures in an ever changing world. I strongly believe in the power of collaboration to integrate 21st century skills in teaching and learning and feel that WEMTA is a leader in making this happen in Wisconsin schools," McCoy added.

The purpose of WEMTA is to empower educators to provide learning experiences that prepare students to flourish in an information-rich world.

The organization now known as WEMTA (formerly known as WDAVI, WAVA, and WEMA) began its life in 1948. 🐾

CESA 3 Supports Co-Teaching

By Maggie May, CESA 3 Peer Review Mentoring

Two heads really are better than one, especially when teaching to the diverse needs in our classrooms today. Believing this to be true, CESA 3 staff secured a grant for the 2016-17 school year to support local districts as they transition to co-taught classrooms. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction defines co-teaching as "Utilizing two or more professionals with equivalent licensure that share instructional responsibility and accountability for a single group of students for whom they both have ownership." Schools participating in the grant are utilizing both a special education teacher and a general education teacher to share responsibility for instruction in their co-taught classes.


Co-teaching allows for flexibility in delivering instruction to small groups and individuals within the classroom. It also helps close achievement gaps by supporting the inclusion of special education students in the general curriculum. A number of studies point to the positive impact of co-teaching on the achievement of all students, not only those with special education needs.

The three districts participating in the co-teaching grant include Mineral Point, Pecatonica, and Weston. Administrators and participating teachers received training over the summer in co-teaching philosophy and practices delivered by Peggy Black. In addition, teaching teams have been receiving

monthly coaching by Maggie May of CESA 3 to provide support and re-sources for their co-teaching.


A recent mid-year survey of participating administrators, teachers, and students suggests positive results. When staff were asked how co-teaching has impacted achievement for students with special education needs, 100% of respondents indicated that achievement has improved. When asked how co-teaching has impacted achievement for students without special education needs, 17% of respondents stated that achievement has greatly improved, 75% stated that achievement has improved, and 8% indicated that achievement has remained the same.

Teachers identified sharing ideas and strategies that can be used across classes, feeling like they have time to address the needs of all students during class, developing a working relationship with another professional, and having smaller more fluid groups during instruction as benefits. One respondent described, "Seeing the growth in all students and the [co-taught] classes coming together, almost as families!" Many students seem to be enjoying their co-taught classes as well. As one middle school student put it, "I like having co-teachers because then you can get double the help and have more one-on-one teacher help." Teachers point to feeling limited in their time to co-plan as being the main challenge to co-teaching. 🐾



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Nevers Receives Kohl Teacher Fellowship

The selection committee for the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Scholarship, Fellowship, and Leadership Program announced Wednesday, March 15 the recipients of the 2017 Herb Kohl Foundation awards for students, teachers, and principals. Awards in the amount of \$3,000 are being made to 100 teachers, 16 principals, and their schools, and \$5,000 scholarships will be given to 207 graduating high school students.

The Mineral Point Unified School District is proud to report that Matt Nevers, 5th-12th grade instrumental music teacher, has been named a winner of the Teacher Fellowship. Fellowship recipients are educators who have been chosen for their superior ability to inspire a love of learning in their students, their ability to motivate others, and their leadership and service within and outside the classroom.

Excellence Scholarship, Fellowship and Leadership Award recipients are selected by a statewide committee composed of civic leaders, representatives of education-related associations, and the program's co-sponsors: the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS), regional Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESA), and the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators.

The Kohl Foundation Scholarship and Fellowship program was established by Herb Kohl, philanthropist and businessman, in 1990. To date the foundation has awarded \$11.5 million to Wisconsin educators, principals, students, and schools.



"Education is the key to the future of Wisconsin and our nation. I am very proud of the accomplishments of these students, teachers, and principals and look forward to the great contributions they will make in the future," Kohl said.

"I am elated for Mr. Nevers upon his honor for being named a recipient of the Kohl Teaching Fellowship," said Mineral Point Superintendent Luke Francois. "The Kohl Fellowship is recognized as a prestigious award bestowed upon few teachers across the state of Wisconsin. The entire Pointer Family congratulates Matt on his Kohl Fellowship recognition."

Nevers will receive his award at a ceremony at Middleton High School Saturday, April 29. He is only the second teacher from Mineral Point to be honored. Retired art teacher, Bonnie Laverty, also received the honor in 1997. 🐾



Solo/Ensemble Contest

Mineral Point Middle and High School musicians competed at the Wisconsin School Music Association's District Solo/Ensemble Contest held at Southwestern Saturday, March 11.

The following received a Starred First rating in Class A and have advanced to the State competition at UW-Platteville to be held Saturday, April 29.

- Michaela Acherman, Soprano Vocal Solo
- Megan Berg, Soprano Vocal Solo
- Danielle Blum, Soprano Vocal Solo
- Ethan Dickler, Tenor Vocal Solo
- Sierra Evans, Musical Theatre Solo
- Evelynn Hendrick, Soprano Vocal Solo
- Daniel Nordstrom, Trombone Solo
- Haakon Schriefer, Baritone Vocal Solo
- Haakon Schriefer, Trombone Solo
- Owen Stephenson, French Horn Solo
- Trombone Quartet: Haakon Schriefer, Brady Palzkill, Cole Howard, and Cody Pierce



5th Grade Musical



5th graders presented their annual musical March 23. Photos by Lifka Bennett.



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ODYSSEY OF THE MIND



You may have noticed the bright red trophy in the Middle School office, which is evidence that the Odyssey of the Mind team has been very busy once more.

On March 18 the team competed in the state tournament at Madison College and took home 2nd place.

The trophies are piling up with this being the 3rd in three years. While frustrated because they wanted to advance to World competition, they had fun putting together a hilarious skit. This year's problem involved art history, time travel, and a bit of sarcasm.

Keira Schrank, Caleb Wersal, Brock Ellingson, AJ Rury, Rita Wilson, Hope Wilson, and Ella Wilson pushed creative problem solving to a new place! Keep up the good work! The team is coached by Carrie Wilson. 🐾

FFA Banquet

The Mineral Point FFA held its annual banquet March 21 and installed its new officers while thanking the outgoing officers for all their hard work and dedication. 🐾



2016-17 officers: Morgan Fitzsimmons, vice president; Tommie Loken, president; Katie Fitzsimmons, Secretary; Tea Bossert, Reporter; Boone Schmitz, Sentinel; Eric Heisner, treasurer.



2017-18 officers: Lauren May, treasurer; Morgan Vondra, secretary; Katie Fitzsimmons, vice president; Danny Pittz, sentinel; Eric Heisner, president; Carver Wallace, reporter.

MPMS/HS Named 2016 Bronze Wisconsin School Health Award Winner

Mineral Point Middle/High School has been named a 2016 Bronze Wisconsin School Health Award winner from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. This is the second year in a row the district has received this honor.

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 sup-

portive 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. 🐾

Delta Kappa Gamma Literary Competition

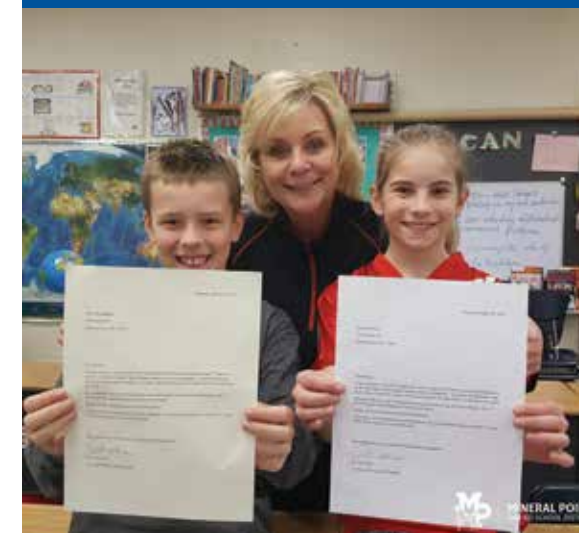
The annual Delta Kappa Gamma literary competition once again features State qualifiers from Mineral Point Elementary.

Gavin Houtakker's 4th Grade entry received 1st place in Illustrations and 2nd place in Literary.

Regan Schuette's 5th Grade entry received a tie for 1st place in Literary and Illustrations.

This duo will be honored by the Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma encompassing Grant, Lafayette, and Iowa counties May 1 at a banquet and will find out at that time if any of their entries are State winners.

Lifka Bennett is the group's advisor. 🐾



Mineral Point Future Business Leaders of America Compete at the Regional Leadership Conference

Mineral Point Future Business Leaders of America competed successfully at the Regional Leadership Conference.

There are over 70 business events with everything from Agribusiness to Word Processing to choose from, and competition formats from online and in-person objective tests to presentation events, to fit members' interests and schedules.

The eleven members pictured traveled to Cochrane-Fountain City High School Saturday February 4th to compete in their in-person business events. The online event competition for our Region 4 took place on January 12th.

The following FBLA members will advance to the State Leadership Conference held in Appleton on April 3rd and 4th: **Lily Wong** earned 1st place in FBLA Principles and Procedures; **Ethan Dickler** earned 2nd place in Business Law; **Mitchell Schaaf** and **Cole Wilson** earned 2nd place in Publication Design team event; **Max Palzkill** earned



3rd place in Job Interview; **Sean Wahlin** earned 3rd place in Cyber Security; and **Caden Jackson** earned 3rd place in Networking Concepts. 🐾



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Mineral Point Shows Academic Growth at a Record Pace

The Mineral Point Unified School District received more outstanding academic news recently, this time from the Cooperative Educational Service Agency #6 in Oshkosh.

CESA 6 is currently engaged in a study of its Effectiveness Project districts who have seen exemplary academic growth from the 2012-13 to 2015-16 school years.

Of districts participating in the Effectiveness Project, Mineral Point saw unmatched academic growth.

CESA 6 has been a leader in educator effectiveness across the state. Their team of professionals partnered with Wisconsin educators to design the CESA 6 Effectiveness Project, a multi-tiered professional evaluation system for teachers, educational specialists, school administrators, central office administrators, and district administrators/superintendents.

The CESA 6 Effectiveness Project has been certified as a Department of Public Instruction equivalent model of the Wisconsin Educator Effectiveness System since 2013. This means school districts may use this system with full confidence that it has met and exceeded the rigorous equivalency standards set by the state for a system to evaluate teachers and building administrators.

CESA 6 is reaching out to the top 15 districts to learn more about factors that may have attributed to this outstanding achievement.

Superintendent Luke Francois surveyed staff members to find out their thoughts.

Mineral Point staff members cited the following reasons they feel academic growth has taken place at a record pace in the district:

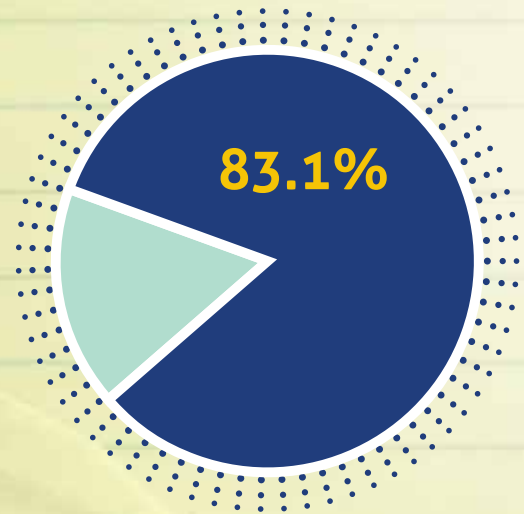
- ▶ Professional Learning Communities, which provide protected time on Wednesday afternoons for staff to focus on results and growth
- ▶ Changed grading practices and better benchmark assessments
- ▶ Dedicated daily time for small group interventions and enrichment
- ▶ Dr. Anthony Muhammad's teachings on transforming school culture
- ▶ A more inclusive special education environment, including co-teaching
- ▶ Low turnover of staff allowing for continuity

While there are certainly other factors contributing to academic growth, these were the ones most commonly mentioned by staff when asked.

In November 2016, the Mineral Point School District received the highest rating possible, a Five Star Rating, from the Department of Public Instruction on its State Report Card. 🐾

Learn more below!

Mineral Point Receives Five Star Rating



After a one year hiatus, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has released state report cards, based on 2015-16 school data.

The Mineral Point Unified School District has scored an 83.1, which places it into the Significantly Exceeds Expectations category, a five star rating.

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

Elementary: 78.7, Exceeds Expectations (four stars)

Middle: 88.0, Significantly Exceeds Expectations (five stars)

High: 76.4, Exceeds Expectations (four stars)

Report cards are issued on four priority areas: student achievement in English language arts and mathematics, student growth, closing gaps between student populations, and measures of readiness for graduation and postsecondary success. 🐾

Wrestling Honors



Mike Dolphin and Todd Schaaf were inducted into the Mineral Point High School Al Bauman Wrestling Hall of Fame.



Scott Schmitz was inducted into the Wisconsin Wrestling Coaches Association George Martin Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Green Bay.

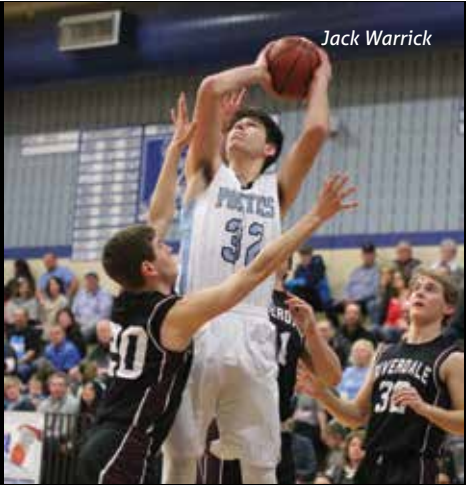


A life that touches others goes on forever.

REMEMBERING DON HAWKINS | Superintendent Luke Francois shares about his final visit with Don Hawkins

"He shared letters from students, a picture book of the oak savanna, and family photos. We talked at length about his love for the Pointer community, protecting the oak savanna, and serving Mineral Point Schools."

WINTER SPORTS RECAP



BOYS BASKETBALL

The Pointer boys basketball squad had another great season, finishing in 2nd place in the SWAL Conference behind undefeated Darlington.

SWAL Boys Basketball honors: First Team Isaac Lindsey and Chance Wendhausen. Honorable Mention Jack Warrick



GIRLS BASKETBALL

For the third time in four years, the Pointer girls claimed a WIAA Regional Title.

For the second year in a row, the girls claimed the SWAL Conference Title.

Sydney Staver surpassed the 1,000 point mark for her career and was named the SWAL MVP, as well as First Team.

Joining her on the First Team was Destinee Kruser and Mitch Wainwright was named Co-Coach of the Year.

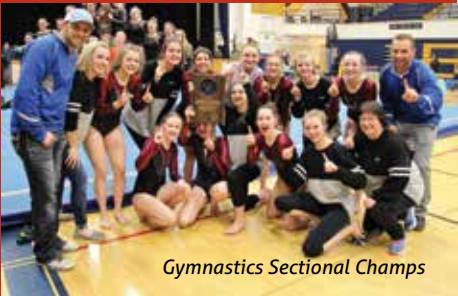
Honorable Mention honors went to Mara Aschliman, Cassie Bossert, and McKenna Reichling.

GYMNASTICS

Although no Mineral Point students competed in Dodge-Point gymnastics this winter, Pointer Martina Steffes was the manager for the squad.

The girls won both the SWC Conference title, as well as the WIAA Division 2 Sectional crown, for the first time in program history.

At the WIAA State Meet in Wisconsin Rapids, the team placed 7th overall, improving on last year's 10th place finish. Individually, freshman Miah Lemanski reached the podium three times, placing 4th on Vault, 5th in the All-Around, and 6th on Balance Beam.



WRESTLING

Caden Carey placed 5th at the WIAA State Meet at the Kohl Center and earned a spot on the podium at 113 lbs.

Danny Pittz (106) and Riley Workman (160) were Mineral Point's other State qualifiers who lost their opening round matches.

Pittz, Carey, and Workman all placed 2nd at Sectionals held in Mineral Point and advanced to the State meet.

Pittz and Kyle Juedes placed 1st at Regionals held in Riverdale. Carey, Workman, and Logan Schmitz placed 2nd and advanced to Sectionals.

Pittz and Workman both claimed SWC/SWAL CLASH Conference titles at Richland Center with Workman also being named Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament.

As a team, the Pointers placed second in the SWAL behind undefeated Fennimore.

Math Team is > the Competition

The Mineral Point Middle and High School Math Teams had another stellar SWAL Conference Meet on Thursday, March 9 in Fennimore.

For the high school, one gold, silver, and bronze are awarded in each division (unless there is a tie).

Mineral Point tied for the top score in the Pre-Calculus Division with **Abby Shannon** bringing home the gold.

Silver medals were earned by: **Nick DuBois**, Advanced Algebra; **Josie Lindholm**, Geometry; **Hans Miller**, Pre-Calculus; **Colton Wilson**, Geometry.

Bronze went to: **Cody Pierce**, Algebra 1; **Haakon Schriefer**, Calculus; **Morgan Vondra**, Algebra 1.

For the middle school, multiple gold, silver, and bronze medals can be won.

Golds went to: **Drew Hottenstein** (2nd overall and one point behind 1st place); **Will Straka** (Tied for 3rd overall); **Rita Wilson** (5th overall); **Emma Steffes** (6th overall); **Ella Chambers** (7th overall); **Brayden Dailey** (9th overall); **Ian Keyes** and **Cameron Wiegman**.

Silver: **Jared Wedig**.

Bronze: **Ella Fox**. 🐾



In the middle school photo, pictured left to right, are: Front row: Jared Wedig, Ella Chambers, Emma Steffes, Ella Fox, and Rita Wilson. Back: Will Straka, Brayden Dailey, Cameron Wiegman, Ian Keyes, and Drew Hottenstein. Not pictured: Mrs. Deb Soper and Mr. Mike Chambers, along with alternates Carson Thomas and Bo Hanson.



In the high school photo, pictured left to right, are: Front row: Nick DuBois, Abby Shannon, Mrs. Cindi Nothem, Hans Miller, and Cody Pierce. Middle rows: Josie Lindholm, Sara Heisner, Kylie Sullivan, Morgan Vondra, Hannah Ryser, Lily Wong, Mitchell Schaaf, Karsten Bakken, Matthew Berg, Ethan Dickler, Chad Yeager, and Skyler Horn. Back row: Mr. Ben McWilliams, Fulton Flanary, Haakon Schriefer, Brady Palzkill, Cole Wilson, Brandon Dolphin, Sean Wahlin, Jacob Wedig, and Owen Stephenson.

Mark Your Calendars

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

Musical Performance Dates

- 4/28: Addams Family Musical 7 pm at Opera House
- 4/29: State Solo/Ensemble at UW-Platteville
- 4/29: Addams Family Musical 7 pm at Opera House
- 4/30: Addams Family Musical 2 pm at Opera House
- 5/2: 4th grade Heritage Night 6 pm
- 5/4: Spring Band Concert 7 pm
- 5/11: Spring Choir Concert 7 pm
- 5/12: 3rd grade Grandparents' Day 1:30 pm
- 5/14: Music Awards at Opera House 7 pm
- 5/29: Memorial Day Parade

Academic Dates

- 5/25: Elementary All-School Reading Night
- 5/26: High School Graduation
- 5/29: No classes (Memorial Day)
- 6/1: 5th Grade Graduation
- 8th Grade Graduation
- 6/2: Last day of classes

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School District** on Facebook.



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Search Mineral Point School District
on **YouTube**

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

Cornwall Student Exchange



The latest Redruth, Cornwall/Mineral Point Student Exchange group ventured across the pond in March. Students attending included: Ireln King, Amelia Mitchell, Sydney Owens, Max Palzkill, Fulton Flanary, Addison Dailey, Haley Chubb, Cole Howard, Ethan Dickler, and Jack Neal. Chaperones were Matt Nevers and Bridget Dickler.

Seniors Honored

Students of the Month are members of the Senior Class. This award is voted on by staff, and the students are then honored by the Kiwanis Club.

October:

Sydney Staver and Jalissa Weier

November:

Grant Rose and Boone Schmitz

December:

Cassie Bossert and Rebekah Ottoway

January: Haley Chubb and Bailey Riley

February:

Hannah Parkinson and Chad Yeager

March:

Addy Chambers and Jaycie Runde

April: Fulton Flanary and Caleb Kennedy

May: Morgan Fitzsimmons and Destinee Kruser