

White^{and}Blue Review

Fall 2016 🐾 *Education... That's the Point*

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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



Woot Woot! The start of a new school year is upon us and I find myself excited. Excited to celebrate the district's growth in communication and transparency. Excited to report the number of students open enrolling into Mineral Point Schools continues to expand and the number of students open enrolling out is diminishing. Excited to share (although the state has yet to release publicly) the academic performance of Mineral Point students is exceedingly outpacing state averages.

The recent successes celebrated by Mineral Point staff and community are not by chance. Student learning is a focus in schools and collaboration is the new normal. Results drive daily decisions made in the classroom and annual building goals. Principals and Directors hire for talent and secure the most qualified candidates available. All staff develop in their profession throughout the year to improve practices and share what was learned with colleagues.

Professional learning was most evident this summer evidenced by 22 teachers and administrators (Matt Austin, Bridget Beinborn, Judy Benish, Lifka Bennett, McKenzy Brown, Morgan Burris, Laura Busch, Vickie Dahl, Dixie Dempsey, Livia Doyle, Paige Grimm, Laurie Heimsoth, Helen Klaas, Jill McGuire, Cynthia Nothem, Bethany Payne, Matt Renwick, Lynn Ross, Rachael Schroeder, Danielle Swenson, Mitch Wainwright, and myself) attending the Professional Learning Community Institute in Milwaukee, WI. Professional Learning Communities are recognized as the most powerful strategy for sustained, practical school improvement. Feedback shared from the three-day institute stated, "I feel like we are really moving in the right direction in our district." Another said, "The importance of working with teams, and our need to rethink our grading practices." And a summarizing thought another attendee stated, "I am very glad that I decided to attend...It was the perfect way to kick off the school year. There is nothing better than being surrounded by educators who are so passionate about students and their learning! Bring on 2016-2017!"

Additionally, several other professional learning opportunities were voluntarily attended by staff this summer. Seven (McKenzy Brown, Callie Gundlach, Laurie Heimsoth, Bethany Payne, Michelle Rielly, Benita Schmitz, and Molly Uppena) attended Co-Teaching Training, a simple framework pairing Special Education and Regular Education Teachers in ways that support student learning. Three additional teachers (Kimberly Diefenbach, Jill McGuire, and Penny Wiegel) attended Teachers College at Columbia University in New York to learn about and put into action a workshop approach to writing instruction in ways that accelerate Mineral Point students' progress towards meeting ambitious new writing standards. Lastly, Mineral Point's Communications Director, Joelle Doye, attended the National School Public Relations Seminar in Chicago, IL. Joelle writes in her blog, "Probably the number one takeaway was the reaffirmation of the importance of face-to-face interactions as a key component to relationship building and authentic engagement."

Upon return to school, building level training took place at the Lind Pavilion for elementary staff on Responsive Classroom, a research-based approach to K-5 teaching that focuses on the strong link between academic success and social-emotional learning. Middle and High School staff learned about APEX Learning, a leading provider of blended (face to face and online computer) and virtual learning solutions. Following the building specific training, district teaching staff received two days of training from an assessment expert, Dr. Chris Jakicic, who worked closely with Mineral Point Schools on using the power of formative assessments to increase learning for all students.

The collective knowledge gained over the summer months and during in-service demonstrates the commitment to continuous improvement through ongoing and embedded professional learning. The dedication of staff to attend professional learning opportunities is at the core of what makes Mineral Point a great place, not only to teach, but also to lead. It is my pleasure to serve and lead Mineral Point Schools. 🐾

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

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Message from Mitch Wainwright

Principal, Mineral Point High School
& District Assessment Coordinator



When the calendar turns to September it's a time when the young, and the not so young, look forward to the start of a new school year. Coming back to school is always a time of change. Students pick up different school supplies as a sign of getting older, new clothes are purchased due to a growth spurt, and new or different teachers are waiting and eager to work with children. On rare occasions, parents are happy to send their children somewhere as all other activities have ended and children are looking for something else "to do."

What will high school students experience this year that may be new? For our new freshmen students, there will be clubs and sports to try. They will start to have classes with other students and not be always locked into the same group of students moving from period to period. Because they can select an art, music, agriculture, and tech ed course, their classes shift around more. Freshmen will also be taking the ACT Aspire exam in the spring of the year. This test is similar to the ACT exam and will report out if students are on track or need some support in their education. The other change that freshmen students will experience is a ChromeBook to use for the next four years. They will experience more online opportunities for learning, sharing, and creating than they have in previous years at school.

Education has changed for the other students in our school as well. Students have an opportunity to earn college credit without leaving the building. The high school is in a consortium with four other districts that can provide optional courses that may fill gaps in an individual schedule. This BOOST consortium can provide courses that come from UW-Platteville or one of the other districts. Imagine the possibilities if your child can earn several college credits at MPHS, test out of additional classes due to the programs we offer and leave college with a much smaller debt. We continue to try and find opportunities that benefit all of Mineral Point's students, and with the current staff, we are very confident that your child, our students, have the best opportunity to be successful when they are ready to leave us.

Great teachers plus great families will always equal a great school district! This is why I am proud to be a Pointer. 🐾

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

From the Desk of Matt Renwick

Matt Renwick, Mineral Point Elementary Principal,



What will we be doing this year?

This is a question that was posed to each administrator for this fall. As a new addition to the school community, I was not certain how to respond. However, the goals of the district are clear, so I think I can make a few assumptions.

More of a focus on classroom assessments

Every faculty member is getting trained in how to create common formative assessments. These are strategies and tools to gauge whether or not a student learned the content, skill or strategy of the lesson. Examples of formative assessments include short quizzes, written responses, and student self-assessments. What makes them common is that every teacher in their respective grade level or department will be using the same assessment. This helps ensure a viable curriculum for all kids.

Opportunities for co-teaching

Co-teaching is when two teachers join forces to prepare instruction for unique classroom arrangements. For example, a regular classroom teacher and a special education teacher are teaming up for reading instruction. This will allow the special education students to experience more instruction in the regular classroom (referred to as "inclusion") while still receiving specific accommodations for their needs.

An increase in writing instruction

For the first time, Mineral Point Elementary School will have a fall, winter and spring writing assessment. By starting with assessments, we place more value on writing instruction and the writing process itself. This focus will also lead to more conversations around the reading-writing connection and how the two disciplines are interdependent of each other. Time will be needed for the faculty to observe more literacy instruction in action. With the community's support for allocating professional learning time on Wednesday afternoons, the time and resources are readily available.

Personalized learning

This concept, which includes providing more choice and voice for students and integrating digital tools within instruction, will continue to be an initiative we address as a staff. For example, several Google Chromebooks were acquired for intermediate students. This increase in access will give kids more opportunities to write in online spaces, tap into web-based resources, and create digital content that can be shared with a wider audience. Virtual field trips and video conferencing with classrooms in other locations, both local and global, are just a few ways classrooms will be able to broaden student perspectives and model digital citizenship.

I hope you are as excited as I am about the possibilities for the coming school year. Please connect with me to find out more about our initiatives. 🐾

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

A Homegrown Perspective

Vickie Dahl, Middle School Principal, Athletic Director



As I am about to embark on my 28th year working for the Mineral Point School District, I was reflecting on what makes our school and community so great. As a 1979 MPHS graduate, I was fortunate to grow up in a community with small town values and have teachers and coaches who believed building character was important. This character building is continued today with a caring and dedicated staff who believe character is important, and our schools and community can help shape a child's character.

Character is a pattern of behavior, thoughts and feelings based on universal principles, moral strength and integrity, plus the guts to live by those principles everyday. Character is the most valuable thing you have, and nobody can ever take it away. When Martin Luther King said he looked forward to the day when all Americans would be judged solely "by the content of their character," he was talking about a person's essential qualities. These essential qualities are composed of six ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Why is character so important? When you cheat, your success is false. When you break a promise, you are showing that your word is meaningless. When you lie, you deceive others and lose their respect. All of those examples break the trust others have in you. Character in life is what makes people believe in you and is essential both for individual success and to function successfully in our society.

Schools play a major role in the life success of students and their communities. Schools are a community's most precious institution. Our students are at the center of everything we do at #PointerNation!

Vickie.Dahl@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0720 🐾



Game of the Week

Thanks to NBC 15 for coming out and making the Darlington football game their Game of the Week! Here is Sports Director Mike "Jocko" Jacques shown with cheerleaders Katie Wilson and Peyton Ross.

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

What's Alternative about Alternative Education?

Schedule

Alternative Education recognizes that not all students perform best from 8 am – 3:30 pm. School hours are set based on the unique needs of each student. Wisconsin State Law requires students in Alternative Education to attend 15 hours per week. Students are working independently, with teacher guidance so they do not fall behind the class like they might in a traditional high school setting.

Coursework

Students must still meet local and state graduation requirements. In alternative education settings, the courses students complete can be tailored to meet their transition needs. Alternative education offers flexibility to prepare students for school and career after high school. Courses are delivered online, as well as through PASS packets, iTextbooks on iPads, Video Courses and more.

Community-based Education

Alternative Education allows the classroom to extend into the community. Community service, accessing community resources, and collaborating with professionals in the community are all ways students in alternative education are connected to their community.

Work Experience

Work experience is recognized as a key component of alternative education. Students gain valuable employability skills as well as earn credit toward high school graduation. Similar to high school work experiences, students can earn 1/2 credit for 90 hours of work experience. 🐾



For additional information, or to set up a time to come and see our program located at 706 Ridge Street, please contact Amanda Heisner at amanda.heisner@mineralpointschools.org or 608.520.0835.

Mineral Point Excellence in Education Endowment



There are exciting times happening in the world of philanthropy as it pertains to the Mineral Point School District.

A recently formed Mineral Point Community Foundation houses a component called the Mineral Point Excellence in Education Endowment.

Mineral Point is excited to follow other area school districts with similar foundations to help offer educational opportunities to students that would not otherwise be available within the general operating budget of the school.

Mission

The mission of the Mineral Point Community Foundation is to invest resources in Mineral Point and in its schools to meet changing charitable, educational, civic, historical, and cultural needs. For good. For ever.

The Mineral Point Excellence in Education (EIE) Endowment is an endowment fund established in 2016 that provides private resources for the support of the Mineral Point School District.

Grants from the Mineral Point EIE to the Mineral Point School District will support educational programming outside of the boundaries of the school district budget.

The Mineral Point EIE Endowment is led by an advisory board of local community volunteers who operate independently of the school district, and also advises the **Mineral Point Community Endowment**. The advisory board leads fundraising efforts and will determine the annual grant and scholarship awards. Board members include: Kristin Mitchell (chair), Lori Pittz (secretary), Monica Dunn, Sarah Fox, Nancy Harker, Lisa Hay, Jim Kackley, Mike Wagner, and Lowry White. Ex-officios are Joelle Doye and Luke Francois.

To Donate

Donations to the Mineral Point EIE Endowment are welcome at any time of the year. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Give now online or mail a check to the following:

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Stay tuned for more information as the endowment continues to grow! 🐾



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Mike Murphy Inducted Into Gridiron Hall of Fame

Mike Murphy, MPHS Class of 1989, was inducted into the Gridiron Hall of Fame during halftime of the football game vs. Dodgeville Friday, August 26.

Mike was the starting quarterback for the Mineral Point High School football team in 1987 and 1988. He is the son of long-time coach Ron Murphy and his wife Linda. Mike played with his older brother Pat while his younger brother Brian “Moose” served as a ball boy for the team. Much of Mike’s credit goes to offensive coordinator Ted Evans who brought a “pass happy” playbook to the program in 1988. That year Mineral Point made the playoffs for the first time in school history beating De Soto in round 1.

Mike was voted Most Valuable Player of the Conference and All District his Senior year. He was first team All-Conference his Junior and Senior years. For the Dodgeville Chronicle area, Mike was also first team quarterback his Junior and Senior years earning Most Valuable Player honor his Senior year.

For his career Mike attempted 747 passes completing 365 of them for 4,115 yards and 33 touchdowns. Mike set the foundation for future star quarterbacks at Mineral Point such as Matt Lindsey, Mike James, and Andy Palzkill who each helped build Mineral Point into one of the most prolific



passing schools in the state. Coach Murphy and Coach Evans deserve a lot of credit for the success as well.

After graduating from Mineral Point, Mike attended UW-Platteville and earned a degree in Business Administration. Currently Mike is employed at Spectrum Brands in Middleton and he and his wife Tere reside in Mt. Horeb with their three beautiful children – Gabi (11), Chloe (8), and Cade (6). 🐾

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2016 HOMECOMING
POINT IS THE WORD

Mineral Point High School is anxiously anticipating celebrating its Homecoming September 26-October 1.

This year’s theme is “POINT is the Word.”

This year’s Homecoming Parade will be Thursday, September 29th at 6:15 pm. Anyone may enter a unit in the parade by calling Matt Nevers at 987-0730 ext. 472. You can also email Mr. Nevers at matt.nevers@mp.k12.wi.us. Entries should be in no later than Wednesday, September 28th to allow enough time to distribute the parade line-up to all involved. Floats may be pulled by car or truck, and the driver must have a valid WI driver’s license. Written permission from the owner must be registered with Mr. Nevers. No three or four wheelers will be allowed in the parade and we ask that you refrain from throwing candy as it creates a hazardous situation for youngsters. Line-up will begin between 5:30 and 6:00 pm in front of the Mineral Point Care Center. Please look for the person in the bright florescent vest to help you. At 6:15 pm the parade will proceed down High Street. The theme this year is “POINT is the Word” and the Cuba City Cubans will be the opposing team. The Spirit Rally and crowning of the Queen at the football field will begin immediately following the parade.



Court members are, left to right, front row: Senior Representative Rebekah Ottoway, Senior Queen Candidates Valya MacGilvra, Sydney Staver, Jaycie Runde, and Senior Representative Jalissa Weier. **Second row:** Senior football player Brant James, Freshman Representatives McKenna Bowers and Tessa Hanson, Sophomore Representatives Kaitlyn Kinch and Michaela Acherman, Junior Representatives Amanda Murphy and Malorie Johnson, and Senior football player Jake Gorgen. **Third row:** Senior football players Kyle Juedes and Dathan Paradis, Senior soccer players Caleb Kennedy, Max Palzkill, Cole Howard, Ethan Dickler, and Jack Neal, Senior football players George Wallace and Sawyer Wallace. **Back row:** Senior football players Lucas Sanchez, Lance Steffes, Austin Olson, Garrett Faull, Grant Rose, Joe Ripp, Jacob Sullivan, Bailey Riley, and Boone Schmitz.

The football game vs. Cuba City will kick off at 7 pm on Friday, September 30th. On Saturday, October 1st, the dance will be from 8 pm-12 am in the gym with Grand March at 8:30 pm. A special invitation is extended to all Pointer Alumni to join in the festivities. Pointer Pride never dies. Go Blue! Make it a great Homecoming week! 🐾

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| <p>Thursday 9/29 Parade down High Street 6:15 pm</p> | <p>Thursday 9/29 Spirit Rally <i>Immediately following the parade at the Football Field</i></p> | <p>Friday 9/30 Football Game Kickoff 7 pm</p> | <p>Saturday 10/1 Dance 8 pm – 12 am Grand March 8:30 pm</p> |
|---|--|--|--|

The Changing Face of Libraries

By Kari Kabat and Kris McCoy, Information & Instructional Technology Specialists

Chances are the libraries at Mineral Point Schools are not the libraries you remember from your days in school. No longer are they only used for getting books, quiet research work, and homework; they are active learning spaces. The philosophy here is that libraries should be places where students and staff have opportunities to read, study, think, relax, create, socialize, and more. They are places where students have equal access to resources, both print and electronic, and equipment that support their learning at school and help them pursue personal interests. They are also places where students and staff can regroup and recharge to bring new energy to their classroom learning.

At the elementary level, students come to the library on a weekly basis to check out books and learn information and technology skills through a variety of learning centers. These learning centers include activities such as coding, engineering tasks, green screen filming, electric circuit building, puzzles, reader's theater, ebooks, buddy reading and more! In addition, Mrs. Kari Kabat goes to each classroom once a week to co-teach integrated 21st Century skills with the classroom teacher. Students have had many experiences including collaborating with Google Docs, Internet safety, programming robots, keyboarding, research projects, and animation. Application of technology and information skills within real classroom lessons is the best way to provide meaningful learning that students and teachers will use and apply again in real world situations.

At the middle and high school building, students saw changes at the library when they returned to school this fall. The print collection was both weeded down and beefed up to better support the reading and educational interests of the students. Book shelves were put on wheels to allow for easy reconfiguration of learning spaces. A maker space area has been created and materials purchased and donated to give students opportunities to continue their learning and express creativity. So far we have Snap Circuit kits, LittleBits electronic building blocks, cardboard projects, Ozobots mini-robot programming sets, duct tape projects, virtual reality viewers, green screen tools, and an ever-evolving offering in various crafts.

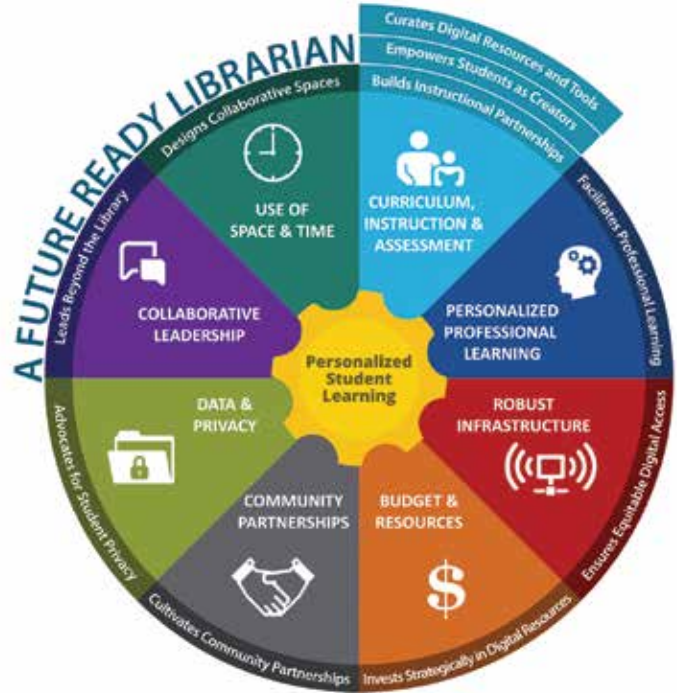
Instruction from Mrs. Kris McCoy at the beginning of the year focuses on Chromebook and resource use at the middle school level and getting new students at both levels up to speed on our technology expectations and digital citizenship requirements. Soon our ninth grade students will begin our InfoLit course which prepares our students to write, cite, gather information, and do academic research. These skills set our students up for success in high school, college, and work. InfoLit is part of a collaborative teaching project taught by Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Kristin Staver as part of English 9

and includes projects that apply the new learning in Physical Science with Mr. Tom Steger and Mr. Matt Austin and U.S. History with Mr. Dan Burrenson.

While we continue to evolve as learning centers, reading remains a strong focus of our school library programs. Last school year 19,969 items were checked out of the elementary library, our middle school students read 144,020,532 words as measured by Accelerated Reader, and reading days at the middle and high school library are an honored tradition that continues on today.

For more information on the future of school libraries watch the TED talk below and take a look at the infographic for a Future Ready Librarian.

For more information about the NEW library of today, check out the TED talk at <https://goo.gl/EqJYNo> 🐾



What's in a Hashtag?

By Joelle Doye, Communications Director



What's in a hashtag? (No, I'm not talking about a pound sign, or the tic tac toe symbol.)

They're everywhere on social media, but why?

Hashtags are only useful if they help tell a story and/or invoke emotion.

Lucky for us, #PointerNation does just that. It's strange that only two words, when combined, can mean so much.

To me, just reading it makes me proud. Makes me feel a part of something, not just our school district, but of the entire community. I hope it does the same for you.

In all truth, we've been using the term Pointer Nation for some time around these parts, which then made the choice of an official school hashtag pretty easy.

You've probably started seeing it on many of our communication channels, on tshirts, etc. Please embrace it and use it frequently. It's part of our story. It's part of us. 🐾



The 5th graders watched history come to life at the annual Platteville Historical Encampment September 9.



Liaison officer Bill Ottoway spoke to the Kiwanis Club September 6 about the various duties that encompass his time in the school district. The membership learned many things about the position and left most grateful for the work Officer Ottoway does daily.

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Mineral Point Welcomes New Staff Members



Left to right, Ashley McHugh, Amanda Heisner, Jodi Renwick, Heidi Lawton, Matt Renwick, Julie Witmer, Michelle Rielly, and Callie Gundlach.

Mineral Point’s new staff members are off and running and excited to begin a new school year and their time in Mineral Point.

We welcome our new staff members:

Callie Gundlach, high school special education teacher: Callie is from Mt. Horeb where she graduated from Mt. Horeb High School. She attended UW-Milwaukee and earned her Bachelors Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and then went on to achieve her Masters in Education with a focus on adult and special education. Before coming to Mineral Point, she was employed at Mt. Horeb High School. She currently resides in Mt. Horeb and has a fiancé, Ed Moen, and a dog Ray. In her free time, she enjoys biking, walking, boating, spending time with family and friends, traveling, and making Do It Yourself cards. She was attracted to Mineral Point due to its quaintness and being a progressive, open community. Her initial first impressions include, “Wow! Seems like a very welcoming district. Starting from my interview up to today and probably beyond, everyone has been so supportive. Thanks!” Her goals for this year are to serve the students as best as she can so they can succeed in school and beyond.

Amanda Heisner, alternative program teacher and coordinator: Amanda is from Mineral Point and graduated from Monticello High School. She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for her Bachelors in Agriculture, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for her Masters in Special Education/Cross Categorical Special Education, and then went to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for her Director of Special Education and Pupil Services training. Before coming to Mineral Point, she was employed for eight years with the Dodgeville School District. She currently resides in Mineral Point with her husband, Adam, and sons Austin and Andrew. In her free time, she enjoys photography and traveling. She was attracted to Mineral Point because of the collabora-

tion throughout the district, implementation of Professional Learning Communities, and use of common formative assessments. “Everyone has been so welcoming and positive,” she stated. She is excited to help develop and expand the alternative learning options for students in southwestern Wisconsin.

Heidi Lawton, 7-8 grade reading teacher: Heidi is from Ridgeway and graduated from Dodgeville High School. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for her undergraduate and Masters, studying Pre K-6 education, early childhood, special education inclusion, reading, and cross categorical special education. She also attended the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and worked on curriculum and instruction, as well as Madison College for group fitness. She has been employed previously at Holy Cross, Personal Training, Sharon Community Schools, Richland Schools, and Dodgeville Schools. She currently resides in Ridgeway with her husband, Patrick, and children Grant (15), Gehrig (13), Grady (9), and Gabby (6). In her free time, she enjoys running, triathlons, baseball, and fitness. She was attracted to Mineral Point due to the unique opportunity to teach in a half-time capacity. “I am very impressed with everything so far,” she said about Mineral Point Schools. “The team has gone above and beyond with having the District Administrator lead our new teacher orientation, as well as the opportunity to meet the school board and tour of the town.” She added, “I’m excited to get back into the world of teaching and reach as many students as I can.”

Ashley McHugh, 6-12 choir and grade 6 general music: Ashley is originally from Roscoe, IL and graduated from Boylan Catholic High School in Rockford, IL. She attended Eastern Illinois University for her Bachelors in Music Education, as well as her Masters in Vocal Performance. She then went on to New York University for her Masters of Music in Classical Voice with an Advanced Certification in Vocal Pedagogy. Before coming to Mineral Point, she was employed by NYU Steinhardt. Currently residing in Verona, she enjoys reading,

dancing, board games, zumba, and photography. She was attracted to Mineral Point by the strong music program and is finding everyone to be friendly, caring, community-oriented, BLUE, and wanting to provide for students a well-rounded education. She is looking forward to building the choral program, helping students find personal success and passion for music, and maintaining a community relationship.

Jodi Renwick, elementary instructional assistant: Jodi is from Wisconsin Rapids and graduated from Lincoln High School. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and earned a degree in Elementary Education. Before coming to Mineral Point, she was employed by Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools.

Matt Renwick, elementary principal: Matt graduated from Pioneer Westfield High School and attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for his Bachelors in Elementary/Middle Level Education. He earned his Masters from the University of Wisconsin-Superior in Educational Administration, and obtained his licensure as a Director of Instruction. Before coming to Mineral Point, he was the principal of Howe Elementary in Wisconsin Rapids. He resides in Mineral Point with his wife, Jodi, and their children Finn and Violet. He enjoys gardening, writing about education, watching baseball, and also recently earned his black belt in tae kwon do. He was drawn to Mineral Point in part because of the high praise the district has received from other educators, high quality instruction is a priority, Mineral Point leaders support education, the smaller town feel can allow for closer community connections and unique partnerships, and small class sizes and a focus on innovation are valued. “Our family is excited to be part of Mineral Point. The progressive approach the district has embraced regarding learning as a lifelong endeavor was a major reason why I applied for this position. I look forward to partnering with the students, staff, families, and community to provide the best educational opportunities available,” he stated.

Michelle Rielly, 7-8 grade language arts teacher: Michelle is a native of Lancaster and graduated from Lancaster High School. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for her Bachelors in English with an Education Emphasis, as well as her Masters in Education with a certification in Educational Administration. Before coming to Mineral Point, she was

employed with Belmont Schools. She resides in Belmont with her husband, Nathan and children William (2) and Leo (5 months). She enjoys reading, going to concerts, and spending time with her family. “Mineral Point Schools are impressive, both academically and athletically. I can’t wait for my boys to attend school here in the future!” she stated. “Everyone has been extremely helpful and friendly and I look forward to helping guide the middle school students to become even better writers.”

Julie Witmer, speech and language pathologist: Julie is a native of Cassville and graduated from Cassville High School. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh for her Bachelors and Masters in Communication Disorders. Before coming to Mineral Point, she was employed at Barneveld Schools. She resides in Blue Mounds with her husband, Joe. She has five children and four grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, reading, and playing flute and piano. She was attracted to Mineral Point Schools because, since her husband works in Mineral Point at Farmers Savings Bank, she is interested in living and working in the community. “Mineral Point Schools are very focused on student growth and success,” she stated. “I look forward to getting to know the students and staff.”


New staff members completed orientation Tuesday, August 23. Besides learning necessary policies and procedures, the group was also treated to a guided tour around Mineral Point by former school board member and retired teacher, Dick Austin and lunch with current school board members Jeff Basting, Larry Dolphin, Lisa Hay, Julie Stephenson, and Larry Steffes.

In addition to new staff members, there have been a few internal staffing shifts as well.

Pam Anderson headed to first grade from kindergarten due to class size numbers.


Kimberly Diefenbach has moved from a first grade teaching position to an instructional coach and interventionist for the district to provide additional supports to students and staff.

Lyndsey Reed moved to the position of elementary administrative assistant after serving as an elementary instructional assistant this past year. 🐾

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Fostering Independence

Dixie Dempsey, Director of Pupil Services/School Psychologist



Independence is often an expectation we hear at the high school level. Independence is often associated with those students heading off into the world to fend for themselves. However, we can support and teach independence for children far before students are ready to get their driver's license--even before they are needing to carry a backpack to school.

Whether you're a parent, step-parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, older sibling, teacher or daycare provider, you can help foster independence in a child that will lead to a self-confident, resourceful and responsible community participant.

Here are just a few ways to foster independence at any age.

- Allow your child to try to do things on their own even if they don't have the skills to master the task or their attempt may end up a disaster. I have been guilty of doing the opposite of this many times over the course of my years of parenting, especially when I was notoriously running late out the door. I would tie, button, zip, carry everything for my children. This exhausting method that was initially done when we were late became a daily routine that was hard to break.
- Allow your child to make mistakes and struggle. We learn by making mistakes and we learn even more when things take hard work. Working through adversity and dealing with complications is a pivotal life skill. Try not to be so quick to jump in and give your child the right answers or save them by correcting their mistakes.
- Allow your child to problem solve various issues that pop up in their daily life. Again, problem-solving is an essential life skill. Help them develop options, weigh possible outcomes, develop and follow through on a plan, then assess whether

the problem was resolved or needs more work. This can be used to help a child deal with friendship issues or conflicts with a sibling.

- Allow your child to make decisions. I know I have frequently made decisions for my children that could have easily been a decision they could have made themselves. From the clothes they wear each day, to the school shoes and supplies that are bought, to how they should complete a school project, even the sport they should play and the friends they should have, I seemed to provide my input that weighed heavily in these decisions. Allow your child to make these decisions and support them no matter what. Allow them to be their own individual even if it means the decision they make is not one that you would have chosen.

- Give them responsibilities. This can be done by giving them chores to complete, look after a younger sibling, take care of a pet, newspaper route or mowing or shoveling neighbors' sidewalks. Tasks that put them in the position to commit to a decision and require them to follow through are great ways to build confidence in their own ability and put them in a position to establish pride for their hard work.

- Provide encouraging and supportive words. Tell your child that it is OK to make mistakes. It's OK for things to require hard work. Be a resource for them to talk through the process of solving problems, making decisions and fixing mistakes without giving them the answers or solving their problems or fixing their mistakes. Stay positive without judgement or an "I told you so" tone of voice.

Kids desire to be independent at a very young age. We can all support the development of those life long independent skills to help them be confident in their future endeavors.

Best wishes to all those individuals that contribute to the success of all the students at Mineral Point Schools! 🐾

eNews

If you are interested in receiving a monthly eNews email from the District, please visit www.mineralpointschools.org and sign up under About, Communications, E-News. Please note that families who are already in our Skyward system do not need to sign up for this as you already receive it. 🐾

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

Fundraising Fun

Gridiron Club Fundraiser

Saturday, October 1

Breakfast 9 am, 10 am start at Dodge-Point

Four person scramble. 18 holes. Prizes!

\$55 per person

Visit www.mpstadium.com for forms to sign up.

Email info@mpstadium.com for sponsorship information.

FFA Auction/Breakfast/Fruit Sale

Sunday, October 9

It's a busy time of year for the Mineral Point High School FFA! Join the group for its Donation Auction starting at 10 am at the Fairgrounds. Come early for the FFA Alumni Pancake Breakfast from 8-11 am. Watch for more details coming soon regarding the annual fruit sale that will run from October 6th-27th.



Alumni

We have begun to collect a database of alumni as we look to target communications specifically for this group moving forward. If you are interested in providing your class year and name information, there is a form on the website www.mineralpointschools.org under Schools, Mineral Point High School, Alumni, or feel free to email Communications Director Joelle Doye at joelle.doye@mp.k12.wi.us or call 987-0723. 🐾

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atriumhsl.com



Hunger Action Month

The elementary and middle schools participated in Hunger Action Month by wearing orange on September 8. Non-perishable food donations were collected, as well as monetary donations for Pointer Pantry.



Android Phones Wanted

Help bring the world to Mineral Point students through virtual reality viewers!

- Samsung Galaxy S4-S6
- LG G3-G4
- Samsung Galaxy Note 4
- HTC One
- Motorola Moto X (2014)
- Nexus 5-6
- Motorola Droid Turbo

Phones must be in cleared, working condition. Please drop off at school offices.

Thank you!



Music Dates

10/24: 5-12th Grade Fall Choir Concert 7 pm

11/11: Veterans' Day Programs (MS/HS 10 am; ES 2:30 pm)

12/5: Middle/High Winter Concert 7 pm

12/20: Elementary Winter Concert 1:30 pm



5th graders have been busy making posters to promote the annual Community Chest giving campaign. Look for these around town and please consider donating to this wonderful group to help those right here in Mineral Point!

Academic Calendar Dates

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

10/28: No Classes (Professional Development)

11/4: End of First Quarter

11/9: Middle/High Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/10: Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/17: Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/23-11/25: No Classes (Thanksgiving Break)

12/23-1/2: No Classes (Winter Break)

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 1,800 people who have liked the District's Facebook page. The site is updated multiple times daily with news as it happens, honors, recognition, pictures and more.



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

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Schools. Available in alternative
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School District** on Facebook.



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on **YouTube**

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



Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and Rural Mutual Insurance Company representatives were on hand at the football game August 26 to present us with our State Girls Basketball Sportsmanship Award. This honor is a true testament of what #PointerNation is all about--the entire community should be proud and we couldn't have won this honor without you! Left to right, Vickie Dahl, MP Athletic Director; Todd Clark, WIAA Communications Director; Luke Francois, MP Superintendent and WIAA Board of Control member; Debra Young, Rural Mutual Insurance representative; Sydney Staver; Delaney Smith; Mitch Wainwright, MP Head Girls Basketball Coach and high school principal; Cassie Bossert; Mara Aschliman; Destinee Kruser; Haley Chubb; McKenzie Schmitz; and Bill Mitchell, MP Assistant Girls Basketball Coach.