



Martin County West

Connected to the Past, Celebrating the Present, Cultivating the Future

Dear Maverick Families,

We are now officially in that magical season when people all over the world celebrate a beautiful variety of winter holidays. I love this season in our schools. From the creatively decorated turkeys to the messages of gratitude to the concerts, it's one big celebration of our family - at school and at home. There's a very good reason we have a song devoted to this "most wonderful time of the year."

Over the last several months, we have had a number of meetings to discuss important topics. I have really appreciated all the people who have attended and asked good questions. There will be more of those in the future. For now, I want to invite each and every member of our community to come into our schools during the festive season to enjoy the exciting activities our students are doing.

For the next few months, there will be many opportunities to cheer on our Mavericks basketball players, our Martin County Magic gymnasts, and our MCW/Fairmont Red Bulls wrestlers. You don't need to know any of the students on the team in order to come and cheer them

on. Have some popcorn and enjoy the excitement of competition.

I hope everyone got a chance to see our students' fabulous production of *The Little Mermaid* in November. If you did, you know we have some very gifted singers and performers. If you didn't, you can still treat your ears. Either way, there are more chances to enjoy the talents of our MCW musicians this month. On December 7, the high school will hold their winter band and choir concert. On December 18, our upper elementary students at Trimont will hold their winter concert. Both are guaranteed to get you in the holiday spirit.

It has been a busy fall, full of very serious and weighty matters. We are still working through those things. However, this cheery time of year invites us all to participate in the wonder of the season with our friends, neighbors, and family. I welcome you to join us in celebrating what fun it is to be a Maverick at this time of year!

In partnership for education,
Cori Reynolds, Superintendent

Important Dates:

- > December 8—Midquarter
- > December 18—School Board Meeting
- > December 25-29—Winter Break
- > January 2—School Resumes
- > January 19—End of 2nd Quarter

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MCW JR/SR High School December Newsletter

December Dates to Remember

- MidQuarter of Quarter 2 - Dec 8
- Winter Break - Dec 23 - Jan 1
- School Resumes Jan 2

2023-2024

No School Days

- Winter Break - Dec 23 - Jan 1
- Early Dismissal - Jan 19
- Staff Workshop - Jan 22
- Presidents Day - Feb 19
- Early Dismissal - Mar 27
- Spring Break - Mar 28 - Apr 2
- Memorial Day - May 27
- Teacher Inservice - May 31

Hello MCW Families, We've made it to the months of winter and so far, good weather! The next few months can always be full of surprises when it comes to that. To be ready for what is to come, be sure to remind your student drivers to take their time if they drive to school and leave early if the roads are not in top condition. Also, if you have had a change in phone number, be sure to let the office know so that contact information can be updated. Student guardian contact numbers are what are used to send weather alerts if school will start late or close. Also, be aware that the school will continue to rely on eLearning days this school year; below you will find information about eLearning days. On behalf of the MCW staff, I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! GO MAVERICKS! ~Autumn Welcome

E Learning Days - What You Need to Know for 7-12 Students

1. Students must join Advisory on Google Classroom at 10am to be counted present for Advisory period. This is a short time to ask questions in order to be prepared for the day.
2. Students must complete assigned assignments (provided via Google Classroom) for excused attendance for each class period. Assignments are due no later than 2 school days following an eLearning day. After day two, student attendance will be finalized.
3. Students unable to connect due to device or connection issues must have guardians email or call the office, preferably during the day of the eLearning event. Without guardian notification, the student's absence will be considered unexcused.
4. If and when possible, devices will be made available for students to check out (and return) prior to an eLearning day. Unfortunately, not all events are predictable. If your student is unable to connect and complete work due to a device issue on an eLearning day, please follow directions on #2 & #3 above.

Jr/Sr High School Band & Choir Concert - On Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:00pm there will be a band and choir concert held at the Jr/Sr High School gym. Families and the community are welcome to attend this event. Mr. Haug (Band) and Mr. Anderson (Choir) have been working hard with students to learn and practice festive holiday songs to share with families and the community.

Maverick Christmas - Every year, the district helps families provide gifts to children that would otherwise be financially difficult. There are over 100 MCW students and student siblings signed up, 39 families this year. If you are interested in sponsoring one or more of these kids, please contact Jana Brackey at janabrackey@mcwmavericks.org or call either elementary office **NO LATER THAN 11/22/23.**

Winter Activities - Winter activities are in full swing now. Remember to use our district activities calendar on the school website to keep up to date on events and changes.

<https://www.martin.k12.mn.us/page/2#calendar1/20221118/month>

Winter Break - School will NOT be in session from December 23, 2022 through January 1, 2023. School will be open and ready for students on January 2, 2023. We wish everyone happy holidays and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

MCW Dollars for Scholars - Deadline to apply is March 15, 2024, but it is never a bad idea to get a head start on the application process. Seniors should begin the process of creating or updating their student profile to be eligible for scholarships next spring at the May banquet or find other affiliate scholarships on the MCW Dollars for Scholars Website: https://mcw.dollarsforscholars.org/index.php?section=chapterWebsite&action=student_parent&fwID=906

Student Sick? Know When to Stay Home and When to Come to School?

- Stay home for fevers >100.3, diarrhea, vomiting, & coughs that disrupt breathing/activities.
- Come to school if naturally fever free, no diarrhea, & no vomiting for 24 hours.
- If your student stays home for illness (or any reason), please notify the school ASAP.

Stay Informed - Visit the **District webpage** at www.martin.k12.mn.us/ Please check in regularly for updates. And, LIKE US on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mcwJHSHschool>

Trimont Elementary

December, 2023

Dates to Remember:

Grades 3-6 Christmas Concert – Dec. 18

Winter Break Dec. 25 - Jan 1

Early Dismissal – Jan. 19

Staff Workshop – Jan 22 (No School)

Presidents Day – Feb. 19 (No School)

FASTBRIDGE testing – Jan. 17-Feb. 7

Early Dismissal – Mar. 27

Spring Break – March 28 - April 2



Martin County West
Elementary School
Trimont

Office Hours 7:30am -
4:00pm.



Follow us on Facebook
at [MCW Trimont Elementary | Facebook](#)

Christmas Concert, Grades 3-6th

Students in grades 3-6 will be performing a Christmas Concert for friends and family at the Trimont Elementary School. The concert will be located in the Trimont school gymnasium on **Monday, December 18th beginning at 7:30 p.m.** Details on student arrival times will be emailed to parents.

Lunch Visitors – Parents/guardians and other family members are welcome to join their students for lunch. We ask that you call ahead and make arrangements with the building principal. Adult meals are \$4.95 and can be paid through the office. Be sure to check into the office first to sign in and receive a visitor pass.

eLearning Days – In the event of severe weather that prevents us from getting safely to school, we will be utilizing eLearning days again this year. This year we will include an opportunity for students to meet with their teachers via a google meet link shared through email.

The schedule for class meetings will be as follows:

- 8:30 am - Kindergarten
- 9:00 am - 1st grade and 5th grade
- 9:30 am - 2nd grade and 6th grade
- 10:00 am - 3rd grade
- 10:30 am - 4th grade

Interventions "WIN TIME" – You may be hearing your students talking about "interventions" or "WIN time" this year! This small group reading instruction is part of all general education classrooms 3-6th, but is more targeted and specific. During this 30-minute period, all students at a grade level break out into smaller groups to receive more individual reading instruction at their level. Groups are adjusted at regular 6-week intervals using assessments such as the FASTBRIDGE assessment and teacher assessment. We will also take time in January to reassess our reading progress to make sure all of our students are making the growth we believe they are capable of this year.

Winter Break – The last student day before holiday break will be Friday, December 22nd. Students will return to school on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.

Connected to the Past, Celebrating the Present, Cultivating the Future



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

SHERBURN ELEMENTARY

EMPATHY

We all experience conflict in life. Whether we are frustrated with a friend or in an argument with a family member, we need tools to help us navigate conflict successfully and keep our relationships healthy. This month's focus for is on practicing Empathy with the help of listening.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

CAN YOU SHARE OR SHOW WHAT STRONG LISTENING MEANS?

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO USE STRONG LISTENING WHEN PRACTICING EMPATHY?



EMPATHY

is understanding and connecting to other people's feelings

BRIDGES FULL
People





DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

SHERBURN ELEMENTARY

MAVERICK CHRISTMAS

Every year, the district helps families provide gifts to children that would otherwise be financially difficult. There are over 100 MCW students and student siblings signed up, 39 families this year. If you are interested in sponsoring one or more of these kids, please contact Jana

Brackey at
janabrackey@mcwmavericks.org or call
either elementary office
NO LATER THAN 11/22/23.

E-LEARNING

Your child is required to complete the grid that your teacher will give them. Your child should return the assignments and the e-learning grid to school within 3 school days. They will have 7 activities to complete.

Your child will need to join their grade level google meets. The times that each grade level is meeting is listed below. The specific Google Meet login information will be given to you by their teacher.

- 8:30 am - Kindergarten
- 9:00 am - 1st grade
- 9:30 am - 2nd grade

STUDENT SICK?

Know When to Stay Home and When to Come to School?

- Stay home for fevers >100.3 , diarrhea, vomiting, & coughs that disrupt breathing/activities.
- Come to school if naturally fever free, no diarrhea, & no vomiting for 24 hours.
- If your student stays home for illness (or any reason), please notify the school ASAP.



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

SHERBURN ELEMENTARY

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thank you to all parents that were able to participate in conferences at the Sherburn Elementary. Parent support at home is one of many factors which contribute to a child's success in the classroom and teachers greatly appreciate the support on the homefront. Email, Facebook, the webpage, phone calls and letters home are good ways to get information out, but conferences are always the most productive ways of ensuring we are all on the same page. We appreciate the time you set aside to make these meetings take place.

WINTER BREAK

Students are scheduled to be off of school during our winter break. School will not be in session from December 25th, 2023 through January 1, 2024. School will be open and ready for students on January 2, 2024. We wish everyone happy holidays and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

DECEMBER EVENTS

December is an exciting month! To celebrate together before winter break, a few fun activities will take place in the building. Students will enjoy classroom festivities and holiday parties, teachers always do such a great job giving students a memorable time shared as a classroom family.

STAY INFORMED

The District webpage, <https://www.martin.k12.mn.us/> will serve as a hub for all things related to returning to school and changes in plans throughout the school year, please check in regularly for updates. Another informative connection point is our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sherburnelementary> LIKE US!

~THE READING REVIEW~

December Newsletter

What is Decoding?

Did you know that decoding is actually a much harder skill for kids to grasp than people think? Decoding is being able to take the word, break it into the letter sounds.

When students don't know a word in a book or struggle with reading, this is the skill they need!

Contact Me

If you have any questions about your child, please feel free to reach out to me. My contact information is below:

kaylazeahms@mcwmavericks.org

How to read big words!

1. Look for a Prefix
2. Look for a Suffix
3. Look for a Spelling Pattern or a Vowel Team in the middle.
4. Sound out each part then blend the sounds together.
5. Say the word FAST!
6. Read the word in the sentence!

Check out these Titles!

Holiday Favorites!

- "Snowmen at Christmas" by Caralyn Buehner
- "The Polar Express" by Alec Greven
- "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss
- "The Mitten" by Jan Brett

Character Education Focus:

Empathy

- "Mr. Quigley's Keys" by Barbara Gruener
- "The Potato Chip Champ: Discovering Why Kindness Counts" by Maria Dismondy

Martin County West

Community Ed & Rec

December 2023

ECFE Holiday Event

Martin County West Early Learning is "Falling Into ECCE" this month. Classes meet in the Preschool room at Trimont Elementary School with Miss Jennifer. Time is spent learning large and fine motor skills, colors, numbers and social skills. Families are encouraged to attend as many class sessions as you would like. Programming is designed for families to attend together and take time to play and learn.

Classes meet on Tuesday evenings at 5:45 and Wednesday mornings at 9:00.
Register on SchoolPay!



Blanket Making Day

7th and 8th Grade students are invited to join MCW CER in creating a tie blanket on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at the High School Cafeteria from 3:15 to 5:00. A selection of fabrics will be available to choose from. Program fee is \$25 and registration is to be completed in SchoolPay.

Soar into 4-H

LEARN ABOUT ENGINEERING THROUGH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES!

ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING DESIGN, ELECTRICITY, AND MORE

WHO: GRADES 1-3

WHEN: 3:30 - 5:15 P.M. ON NOV. 27, DEC. 18, JAN. 25, FEB. 29, MARCH 21

WHERE: MCW BOARD ROOM (SHERBURN)

REGISTER

z.umn.edu/MCProgramming



Register for one, some, or all dates. A minimum of 8 participants are needed to hold each event. There is a maximum of 20 participants per date. Preference is given to students signed up 10 days prior to each session.

A small snack will be provided.

Transportation from/to Trimont is available



QUESTIONS?

[Hannah Neil hneil@umn.edu](mailto:Hannah_Neil_hneil@umn.edu)

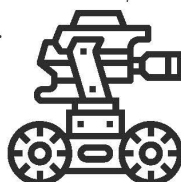
What's going on?

Conscious Kids and Art programming provides a space and time for kids to create, explore, and play through the Arts. Kindergarten-6th grade students choose to create paintings, ceramics, or ornaments while tapping into their 5 senses. By exploring their senses students bring awareness back into their bodies and feel more grounded in the moment. The focus of this program is to allow kids to gain their identity with the arts in hopes to cultivate balanced kids and nurture emotional wellbeing. Mrs. Brolsma led students through 3 projects last month. Ceramic bowls, Canvas paintings and Holiday plate art. One more program will be offered in December making holiday ornaments. A few spots remain open at the Trimont class on December 7th at 3:20. Register on SchoolPay.



VEX IQ ROBOTICS

Martin County West students in 5th and 6th grade have been working in teams to create a robot using VEX IQ components. Kits have been provided through grants and donations from Martin County Know How. The robots will be used to complete certain tasks when driven by students at a competition on December 9, 2023 at the Truman Public School. You can check out what an event looks like at www.mcknow.how or on Facebook at Martin County Know How!



PreK-6th Grade Wrestling

Red Bull Wrestling is underway, but there is still time to sign up! Wrestling practice will be held at Sherburn Elementary School and Fairmont High School on Monday and Thursday evenings. Practice continues through February 22nd. Registration is still available. Check out the SchoolPay app for more information and to get your PreK through 6th grader signed up.

The Red Bull Wrestling program offers a supportive, constructive and energetic environment to learn wrestling and great life skills.



the best gifts are handmade

Join on December 5th and December 7th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM to create a pair of Holiday Pajama Pants! Classes to be held at the Jr/Sr HS Foods Room.

You will need: Basic pattern for the size you wish to make (Sew Simple, One Hour), The amount of fabric as specified on the pattern, Thread to match 3/4-1 inch elastic (non-roll is most comfortable) Sewing pins and scissors, and your sewing machine.

The program fee is \$35.00 and you can register on SchoolPay.



What's going on?

 MCW CER & LEARNING UNLIMITED

**OFFERS
FREE WINTER
SWIMMING
FOR PEOPLE WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS**

DECEMBER 1
TO
MARCH 31



**6:30-7:30 PM
Every Wednesday**
Staff/Companion swim FREE



MCW CER HOSTS A
*Christmas Cookie
Exchange*


COME FILL UP YOUR COOKIE JAR!

 December 9th, 2:00pm - 5:00pm
 MCW High School Cafeteria
 \$10.00 Program fee
 Register on SchoolPay









**Top 10
Estate
Planning
Lecture**

Where: Sherburn Elementary School Board room
105 E 5th St, Sherburn MN
Date: January 25, 2024
Time: 6:30-7:30PM
No cost

Registration - <https://schoolpay.com/qay/for/Top-10-Estate-Planning-Lecture/SfyoRy>



**ADULT
RECREATIONAL
BASKETBALL**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
7:00-9PM
STARTING 11/8/23
TRIMONT SCHOOL GYM



MCW FFA and Ag Department

FFA Jackets

If you are interested in purchasing an FFA jacket and scarf/tie for your child, please have them turn in an order form to Mrs. Wohlhuter by Friday, December 8th. Although an FFA jacket and scarf/tie costs about \$75, the FFA chapter is subsidizing the cost to make it more affordable to members. There are order forms on the bulletin board by Mrs. Wohlhuter's room. The cost to purchase both is \$60 to members. Please make checks out to MCW FFA.

Notes about official dress: All students attending official FFA activities, including Region CDE's, the chapter banquet and State FFA Convention will wear Official FFA dress. Official dress includes:

- FFA jacket,
- FFA scarf or tie,
- White button-up, collared dress shirt (no white t-shirts will be allowed),
- Black dress pants or black, knee-length skirt.
 - Skirts must be knee length!
 - No black capris, yoga pants, leggings, etc are allowed.
- Black dress shoes or all black tennis shoes.
- Black socks or off-black nylons.
- Students are not allowed on stage with incorrect official dress.

State FFA Degrees

MCW FFA seniors can apply for the State FFA Degree. They should start their application with an ag teacher before the holiday break. It is given to the top members of a State FFA Association, to receive a State FFA Degree members must meet the requirements:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active FFA member for at least 2 years (24 months).
3. While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$ 2,000 or worked at least 600 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof in a supervised agricultural experience.
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
 - Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
 - Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
 - Serving as an officer and/or committee chairperson of a participating member of a chapter committee.
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the agriculture instructor, principal or superintendent.
7. Have Participated in the planning and completion of chapter program of activities.
8. Have Participated in 10 different FFA activities above the chapter level.
9. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service, within at least 2 different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

Upcoming Events

November 27th - FFA Fruit comes in! All orders must be picked up and delivered that day.

December 8th - High School FFA members shop for Maverick Christmas @ Walmart, Meet at 6

December 11th - 7-12 FFA members (parents are invited as well) wrap gifts for Maverick Christmas

December 12th - Region FFA LDE's in Windom - Parliamentary procedure, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Public Speaking, Creed Speaking, Extemp Speaking