



Martin County West

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

Dear Maverick Families,

February is School Board appreciation month in Minnesota. This month is designed to recognize the contributions that school board members make to their communities across the state. We at Martin County West Schools join school districts throughout Minnesota in saluting our local education leaders this month. .

As a community, we elect school board members to govern our public education system. In these roles, they oversee multimillion dollar budgets which fund our school programs for more than 893,000 students in approximately 2,000 schools. Their personnel decisions affect more than 58,000 teachers and thousands of administrators and support workers. Locally, our MCW school board members have responsibility for a budget of over \$10 million dollars collected from taxpayers for the education of around 700 students in preschool to grade 12 by approximately 130 employees.

School board members are volunteer leaders responsible for adopting school district policy, approving curriculum, maintaining school facilities, and adhering to state and federal education law. Legal concerns and the complexities of school

finance, including budgeting and taxation, require them to spend many hours in board training programs and personal study to enhance their understanding of these issues.

As a staff person and parent, I have deep appreciation for the dedicated men and women who serve on our MCW school board. They have important decisions to make where the answers are not easy. Their willingness to wrestle with the issues before them and make the choices that are best for our students, staff, and community is a benefit to all of us.

We salute the public servants of the Martin County West School Board whose commitment and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible:

Laura Borchardt, Clerk
Sarah Rohman, Chairperson
Jeff Scholl, Vice Chairperson
Darren Thate, Director
Nathan Vrieze, Director
Mark Wohlhuter, Treasurer
Danielle Wilmes, Director

In partnership for education,
Cori Reynolds

Important Dates:

- > February 19—Presidents Day, No School
- > February 22—K-12 Conferences 4-8pm
- > February 23—Midquarter
- > March 27—End of 3rd Quarter
- > March 28-April 2—Spring Break
- > April 30—Midquarter

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MCW JR/SR High School February Newsletter

February Dates to Remember

- February 5 - 9 School Counselor Appreciation Week **Thank You Mr. Neduzak!**
- No School on Presidents Day Feb 19
- K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences in All Buildings from 4p-8p on Feb. 22nd (Come and Go Style)
- Mid Quarter of 3rd Quarter on Feb. 23rd
- February 28 School Bus Driver Appreciation Day **Thank You Bus Drivers!**

2023-2024

No School Days

- 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,

January is in the books! As we move into the end of winter sports it is always a good thing to remember to be a Good Fan in the Stands. A simple way to be a Good Fan in the Stands is to always focus on our MCW teams. Words that are shared outloud should be positive and encouraging. Always remember that our athletes and referees are doing the best they can and that they are human too! We hope to see you at our winter sports activities being a **GOOD FAN IN THE STANDS!** Happy February and **GO MAVERICKS!** ~Autumn Welcome.

K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences - Teachers will be available for parent/teacher conferences during the evening of Thursday, February 22nd from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. If you would like a conference time reserved, please call the office or contact the teacher directly to arrange a time.

Senior Class Trip Meeting - Mr. Wille is planning to have a meeting on the evening of Parent-Teacher Conferences (Feb. 22nd) with parents to finalize itinerary and expectations for the senior class trip. He will also host a **MANDATORY** meeting for chaperones.

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 assignments (via Google Classroom) for excused attendance for each period. Assignments are due no later than 2 school days following an eLearning day.
3. Students unable to connect due to device or connection issues must have guardians email or call the office, preferably during the eLearning day or the absence will be 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, please follow directions on #2 & #3 above.

AAA and ExCel Awards

We congratulate the following students for being selected to represent MCW. They will be recognized at a winter sporting event during the month of February.

Katie Hartke	AAA daughter of Doug and Lisa Hartke
Gabriel Striemer	AAA son of Jay and Sarah Striemer
Emily Anderson	ExCel daughter of Cliff and Marla Anderson

Message from Mr. Neduzak, Academic Dean

- Seniors, continue to work on Dollars for Scholars applications. The deadline to apply is March 15th. To access Dollars for Scholars, go to the MCW Dollars for Scholars [LINK](https://mcw.dollarsforscholars.org/index.php?section=chapterWebsite&action=student_parent&fwID=906). https://mcw.dollarsforscholars.org/index.php?section=chapterWebsite&action=student_parent&fwID=906
- Seeking ACT prep materials, consult with Mr. Neduzak. MCW has access to On To College, a program designed to prepare students for the ACT. The ACT will be offered to junior students on April 9th, alternative tests for juniors will be the ASVAB and Accuplacer. Questions? Please reach out to Mr. Neduzak to determine the right test for your student.
- The registration process for students entering grades 9-12 next fall has begun. Staff advisors are currently working with the students on their course choices. Student course choices for next year will be entered into software that will help build next year's schedule. To view the updated MCW Course Catalog click [HERE](#) or find it on the Jr/Sr High School's website.

MCW Fan Gear - Help fund the Jr/Sr prom from <https://dstrophiesmn.com/mcw-schools/>

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

February, 2024

Dates to Remember:



Feb. 19 Presidents' Day
(No School)

Feb. 22 Parent Teacher
Conferences 4-8 p.m.

Feb. 23 Mid quarter

March 27 Early Dismissal

March 28 - April 2
Spring Break (No School)

Trimont Elementary
School Office
Hours 7:30am - 4:00pm.

507-639-2081



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

Michele Baker
Trimont Elementary
Principal
michelebaker@mcwmavericks.org

February's Monthly Theme: Our *Character Strong* curriculum in February will focus on **Honesty**. Honesty is "being truthful in what you say and do." Practicing Honesty helps strengthen our relationships and reduce stress.



Maverick Minds: Math, Science and Success will begin Monday, January 29 at Trimont Elementary and run 3:15-4:45 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays through the month of April. **Mav Minds** consists of a structured after-school study time and an academic session in *math* and *science*. These after school sessions include time to work on math homework with MCW teachers, use of the IXL personalized digital learning platform as well as social emotional learning, study skills and organization. Call the Trimont office if you are interested in signing your 3-6th grade student up for this program.

Spring MCA Assessments – The testing calendar is posted to the District website under "Parent Links".

Grade 4 Reading – March 19-20

Grade 5 Reading – March 21-22

Grade 6 Reading – March 25-26

Grade 3 Reading – April 4-5

Grade 5 Science - May 1-2

Grade 4 Math – April 9-10

Grade 5 Math – April 16-17

Grade 6 Math – April 18-19

Grade 3 Math – April 23-24

Swimming – All 3-6 students will have the opportunity to swim for Physical Education classes on Fridays in February. Be sure to send swimsuits and towels with students each week. We will bus students to the Sherburn pool and back February 2, 9, 16 and 23.

War of the Currents Lyceum – We have an opportunity to bring The Bakken Museum's Outreach Program to Trimont Elementary on March 1st beginning at 1:00 p.m. This program will be presented in the gymnasium for the entire 3-6 student body. Federated Rural Electric Company and Great River Energy have offered to pay the cost for this assembly program for Trimont Elementary School. *"The War of the Currents assembly show is a fast and fun introduction to the subject of electricity and electricity generation. Set against the backdrop of Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla's battle to control the electrical future of the United States, the show tells the story of these scientists using demonstrations, experiments, and games and also addresses the basics of electricity and the broader fields of science and engineering. The show is highly interactive, allowing students to participate from their seats or volunteer to help with a demonstration on stage. As the story's tension and scientific content build on one another, so does the excitement, culminating in a demonstration of one Tesla's most striking inventions—a 5-foot-tall Tesla Coil which sends lightning-like sparks snaking through the air."*

Sherburn Elementary

TIME FLIES!

JANUARY IS WHIZZING BY AND HERE WE ARE EXPECTING FEBRUARY. IT IS STILL COLD, SO KEEP SENDING THOSE WARM ITEMS FOR STUDENTS' BUS AND OUTSIDE RECESS TIMES. AS WE SETTLE IN FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR IT IS EASY TO LOOSEN UP ON THINGS AT HOME IN THE EVENINGS THAT HELP KEEP OUR STUDENTS ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS FOR LEARNING. KEEP THOSE BEDTIMES IN PLACE, LIMIT ELECTRONICS TIME AND KEEP STUDENTS READING BOOKS.



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD IN ALL THREE MCW BUILDINGS FROM 4:00-8:00PM. PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN THE SHERBURN ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS SHOULD SCHEDULE A TIME WITH THEIR STUDENT'S TEACHER. PLEASE WATCH FOR INFORMATION FROM TEACHERS ABOUT CONFERENCES.



BOOK FAIR

February 20-23 in the Library

Open late on Feb 22 during

Conferences



Sherburn Elementary

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL WILL HAPPEN IN THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY SOMETIME DEPENDING ON SNOWDAYS! WE WILL CELEBRATE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INFORMATION FROM YOUR CLASSROOM TEACHER.



I LOVE TO READ MONTH

"FALL IN LOVE WITH READING"!

SOME FUN THINGS WE DO
FOR I LOVE TO READ MONTH INCLUDE:

- BOOKMARK EXCHANGE
- LOCKER CRAFT
- FRIENDSHIP TRAILMIX
- 100 MINUTES OF READING
- "WEARABLE WORDS DAY"
- "WARM UP WITH A GOOD BOOK" DAY



DATES TO REMEMBER

February 19 - President's Day - NO SCHOOL

February 22 - Conferences 4-8PM

February 22 - Bus Driver Appreciation Day

Sherburn Elementary

FEBRUARY

HONESTY

is being truthful in
what you say and do



OVERVIEW

This month's focus is Honesty. One way to think about Honesty is "being truthful in what you say and do." Practicing Honesty helps strengthen our relationships and reduce stress.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Can you share or show me what Honesty means?

When you are Honest, how does it make you feel? Why?



STAY INFORMED

THE DISTRICT WEBPAGE, [HTTPS://WWW.MARTIN.K12.MN.US/](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](https://www.facebook.com/sherburnelementary) LIKE US!

~The Reading Review~

February Issue

Why do we test? What does it mean?

We are now at our mid-year testing mark in Sherburn and Trimont Elementary. You might wonder why we FastBridge test students three times a year? This data helps us know where kids start the year, how they are progressing, and where they end the year. Thankfully these tests don't take a long time to complete.

This data is also very important for our intervention groups. The data tells us exactly what students need to work on in small groups and how to monitor to make sure students make progress to be ready for their next grade!

In Trimont, we take three tests. One test measures fluency, one measures comprehension, and one measures the overall reading skills.

In Sherburn, we take two tests but we get more detailed information. Information can be broken down into these categories: fluency, letter sounds, letter names, nonsense words, segmenting words, concept of print, beginning sounds, sight words and sentence reading.

Recommended Books!

February Picks:

"Henry's Freedom Box" By Ellen Levine

"Snowy Valentine" By David Petersen

"Open Wide: Tooth School Inside" By Laurie Keller

Character Strong: Honesty

"The Empty Pot" By: Demi

"Touchdown Trouble" by: Fred Bowen

Questions or
Comments?

Email Me:
kaylaze@mcwmavericks.org

Community Education & Recreation

Nickole Bowie, Director • nickolebowie@mcwmavericks.org • 507-764-2336



Spring VEX IQ Robotics Program

3rd and 4th grade students are invited to participate in the Spring VEX IQ Robotics program. Teams of students will work together to create a robot using VEX IQ components. These kits are provided through grants and donations to Martin County Know How. Registration is limited and building times will be announced once participation numbers are completed. Builds will be after school at Trimont Elementary. Competition will take place on April 13 at Trimont Elementary. This is a **FREE PROGRAM**. Space is limited, so register as soon as possible. Check out www.mcknow.how for more information on our area robotics programs.



According Mayo Clinic (mayoclinic.org) the benefits of walking for fitness is a simple task to jumpstart your health and wellness goals. The benefits of walking, especially if you walk at a brisk pace, can help you live a healthier life.

- Improve cardiovascular fitness
- Strengthen bones and muscles
- Increase energy levels
- Improve your mood, cognition, memory and sleep
- Reduce stress and tension
- Maintain a healthy weight and lose body fat

These are just some of the benefits of simply walking. The faster, farther and more frequent you walk, increase the benefits of your walking. You can start out slow and short walks. One lap around our school is a good place to start. Then move on to walking your lap faster, perhaps you need a period of strolling in your lap. That's okay too! Practice your walking posture and purposeful movements. There are things you can do to help you stay motivated in your walking. Ask a friend to join you. Start with a simple goal, like "I will walk for 10 minutes." Then work on increasing that goal. Maybe listen to music and walk to the beat. Vary your routine; walk fast for a few minutes then slow down. Walking is free when school is in session at Sherburn Elementary and High School and Trimont Elementary.

Understanding Trusts

Join MCW CER and Ford & Lustfield Law Office to discuss the in's and out's of Trusts. This is a "NO COST" program available to all community members.

April 11, 2024 at the MCW JH/HS Foods Room at 6:30 PM. Registration on SchoolPay is appreciated.



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Community Education & Recreation

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WADDLE ON OVER TO ECFE

**CLASSES START JANUARY 16, 2024
THROUGH MARCH 6, 2024
TUESDAYS 5:45 TO 7:15 PM AND
WEDNESDAYS FROM 9:00 TO 10:30 AM
ALL CLASSES ARE AT MCW - TRIMONT**

Register on SchoolPay
\$30.00 for the 8 week session



What is Early Childhood Family Education?

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a program for all Minnesota families with children between the ages of birth and Kindergarten enrollment. It recognizes that families provide children's first and most important learning environments and parents are children's first and most significant teachers. It is the mission of Early Childhood Family Education to strengthen families and support the ability of all parents to provide the best possible environment for the healthy growth and development of children.

Who participates?

All children ages birth to Kindergarten enrollment and their parents in the Martin County West School District are eligible to participate. This program is not only for income eligible families, but for everyone.

District 2448 Early Childhood Screening at Sherburn Elementary March 1, 2024

Minnesota state law requires that every child has a developmental screening before entering kindergarten. Screening is done for children between the ages of 3 years 8 months through kindergarten entrance.

THIS SCREENING IS FREE OF CHARGE

Areas in which your child will be screened include: vision, hearing, growth, immunization status and skills in thinking, communication, motor skills and social/emotional development.

If you know of a new family to our district that has not been in contact with MCW CER about Early Childhood Screening, please share this information with them.

Spring Screening is scheduled for March 1, 2024. Contact Martin County West Community Education for more information at 507-764-2336.

MCW Preschool 2024-25

Martin County West Community Education & Recreation is starting to think about Preschool.

We are proud to be recognized as a 4-Star Parent Aware Program. This program's mission is to help families and educators to provide quality education children need to succeed in school and life. The educational experiences a child has in the first 5

years will shape the adults they become. Stay tuned for more information on Spring Registration for 2024-2025 Preschool classes offered in Trimont and Sherburn.



Tie Blankets

5th through 8th grade students are invited to join CER staff in making a tie blanket. February 13 from 3:30 to 4:45 PM at Sherburn Elementary—

Board Room. Program fee is \$25.00 and this

includes your choice of selected fabrics. Scholarships are available by contacting the CER office. Registration can be found on SchoolPay or simply scan the code.



Community Education & Recreation

Nickole Bowie, Director • nickolebowie@mcwmavericks.org • 507-764-2336

Volunteers Needed

Martin County West CER programs depend on the support of our community. Volunteers are ALWAYS needed to give the gift of their time to help build experiences for the members of community, especially the youth. Nearly 40 children, 1st through 3rd grade, signed up for our FUNdamental Basketball Program! We were able to run this program because of volunteers. We need more of this kind of dedication to offer programming to our young people. Open gym requires someone to open the building, ensure the equipment is functional and ready for use, and supervise the days activities, then put it all



away and ensure the facility is returned to proper order for the next event or school day.

Last year, over 150 young people in our community signed up to play summer ball. Over 150 kids spent time outdoors, learning skills like how their bodies move, teamwork, leadership, and responsibility. These kids spent time with their friends, talking to each other. They built relationships with others they had the opportunity to spend time with. These things cannot happen without volunteers.

MCW also has a few paid positions. The Summer Ball Coordinator earns a stipend of nearly \$4000. Planning starts soon for Summer Ball and we need someone to fill this position. What happens if no one accepts this role? Will we have enough help to safely provide these programs to our community members, of all ages. MCW CER is looking for Certified Lifeguards, Yoga Instructor, Water Safety Instructors, Summer Ball Coordinators. These are paid positions. There are many opportunities to volunteer. If you have a hobby or skill you would like to share, let us know. Contact MCW Community Education & Recreation for more information at 507-764-2336 or nickolebowie@mcwmavericks.org



Community Education & Recreation

Nickole Bowie, Director • nickolebowie@mcwmavericks.org • 507-764-2336

Learning Unlimited—Adults with Disabilities

Learning Unlimited is a program that provides services, both activities and recreation to adults with disabilities. We are lucky to be a consortium to receive State Aid and Local Levy to support this adult population. There are very few places across the state that are lucky enough to be part of this program. St. James, is the fiscal host that serves these area school districts: Butterfield, Madelia, Martin County West, St. James and Truman. The program is delivered through Community Education and hopes to once again be able to provide services to our adults with disabilities population. If you know of someone who would be interested in participating in this program or volunteer for the program please contact Glenda Becthod at gbetcthold@isd840.org or one of our participating schools Community Education office (MCW, 507-764-2336).

Free Swim through March 31, 2024

Every Wednesday through March 31, MCW Swimming Pool will be hosting Free Swimming to all with special abilities. Join us from 6:30 to 7:30 PM each Wednesday. One companion swims free as well.

Martin County West Indoor Swimming Pool

105 E 5th Street

Sherburn, MN 56171

507-764-3651 - during pool hours

507-764-2336 - CER Office

MCW Pool is a six-lane, heated, indoor swimming pool with a ramp for easy accessibility. Several types of exercises and recreational equipment are available for use and a diving board.

Notice of Schedule Changes and Pool Updates via Email

If you would like to be on the email list for schedule changes and pool updates, please contact the Community Education Office - (507)764-2336.

Open Swim

Summer Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 2:00 - 5:00 PM and Saturday & Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Fitness Swim

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 6:00-8:00am and 5:30-6:30pm and Saturdays, 12:00-1:00pm

Water Aerobics

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 7:00-8:00am

Special Needs Swim

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm Anyone with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities is welcome.

Rental

The pool is available for private rental for birthday parties, church groups, youth groups, any group large or small, starting at \$75. \$25.00 for each additional hour. A \$25.00 deposit paid via SchoolPay will be required at the time of rental request. Refunds for the deposit will be made if MCW CER is unable to meet the needs of the rental request.

1 lifeguard is able to guard up to 25 swimmers. There is an additional \$25.00 fee for each additional lifeguard.

Check the MCW webpage for Rental Request Form to complete online.



MCW FFA and Ag Department

National FFA Week

February 17th-24th is National FFA Week. National FFA Week is an opportunity for members, alumni and sponsors to advocate for agricultural education and FFA. It is a time to share with local, state and national audiences what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day. MCW FFA will be celebrating the week by hosting a pancake breakfast on Thursday, February 22nd from 6-8 am in the Jr/Sr High School shop. The pancake breakfast is for FFA members, their parents, school staff, and invited businesses/farmers/sponsors. There is no charge and we do not ask for any donations. Other events planned include dress-up days and Ag Olympics.

Upcoming Events

February 2 - SMSU Ag Bowl - Marshall
February 9 - Chapter officer applications are due
February 13 - State FFA Degree & Proficiency Interviews
February 15 - Region Small Animal and Fish & Wildlife CDEs
February 20 - Ag Olympics (during meeting period)
February 22 - Pancake breakfast (6-8 am, ag shop)
February 22 - Officer interviews (4-7 pm)



NATIONAL

FFA WEEK

We Want to Help You Keep Your Health Insurance

Like all states, Minnesota maintained health care coverage for its Medicaid (called “Medical Assistance” in Minnesota) enrollees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, members stayed enrolled regardless of most life changes that previously would have affected their coverage.

In spring 2023, states returned to standard eligibility procedures. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has resumed the renewal process for the 1.5 million Minnesotans enrolled in public health care programs.

DHS is working to make sure all eligible Minnesotans keep their health insurance. If you have Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare, here’s what you can do:



Watch for the circle in blue when it’s time to renew

Watch for an envelope marked “Important information enclosed” with your renewal paperwork. Make sure you return it on time. mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage/next-steps



Report address and phone number changes

If you have moved in the past three years, call your county or tribal agency to make updates to your contact information so we can reach you.



Look up when your renewal takes place

Know when to watch your mailbox for your renewal information using the renewal lookup tool at mnrenewallookup.com



Get text messages when you need to take action

DHS is sending one-way text messages from 28343 for those enrolled in Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare, the Minnesota Family Planning Program and Medicare Savings Programs.



Upload your completed renewal documents online

You can now submit your renewal application by uploading scans or photos of your paperwork. Detailed instructions are available at mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage/uploads/



Learn more and get help if you need it

Visit mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage for more information, and call DHS Health Care Consumer Support at 651-297-3862 or 800-657-3672 if you have questions.

MOST MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE IN HMONG, RUSSIAN, SOMALI, SPANISH AND VIETNAMESE