

### March 2023

## **Martin County West**

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

### Dear Maverick Families,

I heard Jr/Sr High School Principal Autumn Welcome summarize this time of year so well the other day when she said that at this time of year, school administrators have one foot in this school year and the other foot in next school year. The principals, directors, and I are all focused on finishing this year strong. At the same time, we're thinking about and planning for next year's budget, programs, and staffing.

One of our most important tasks this spring is to find teachers to fill vacancies we know we have for next year. We got a jumpstart on this as early as January by posting what we knew we would have open next year, including a few positions we weren't able to fill this year in areas like elementary reading, Special Education, and high school math. We're advertising our openings everywhere we can think of: on the radio, on job boards in newspapers in three different states, at job fairs, with the teacher preparation programs at colleges, on our website and social media, and by word of mouth.

The widespread reports on the teacher shortage are real. There are not enough new teachers entering the field to fill all the vacancies there are. Thankfully, the Minnesota Department of Education gives us the ability, when we can't find a licensed teacher, to hire people with a bachelor's degree who want to teach and to provide training and mentorship to help them be successful in the classroom. This

is a great option for people looking to share their professional expertise in a new way or to make a career change. We will also be exploring the possibility of exchange programs that place teachers from other countries in our schools.

It will take all of us working together to recruit and retain a staff that achieves the school district's mission to provide an engaging education that nurtures learners who are confident critical thinkers prepared to contribute to an ever-changing world. You assist us in this important task every time you share a Facebook post or talk to a friend, neighbor, or family member about our openings. We are so grateful for your partnership and support in finding the people we want to be working in our schools.

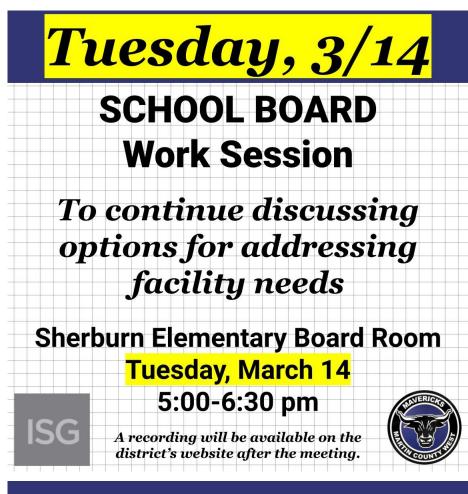
The hard part of teacher recruitment is that we're competing with so many other districts. The easiest part of recruiting is talking about all the ways in which MCW is a great place to work. Our students are amazing, our faculty are passionate and skilled, our support staff are dedicated, and our community is awesome. The list of openings is substantial but I eagerly anticipate introducing the people we find to the pride and joy that comes with being a Maverick!

In partnership for education, Cori Reynolds Superintendent

### Important Dates:

- > March 15 Early Dismissal
- March 20 Community
   Meeting 6pm @
   Welcome Legion
- > March 22 End of 3rd Quarter
- March 23 Community
   Meeting 6pm @
   Sherburn Legion
- March 28 Community
   Meeting 6pm @
   Triumph Hall in Trimont
- > April 7-10 Spring Break

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# **Community Meetings**

Martin County West Schools All are invited to hear the options for addressing facility needs and share input.

March 20, 6pm @ Welcome Legion
March 23, 6pm @ Sherburn Legion
March 28, 6pm @ Trimont Triumph Hall

Information shared at the meetings will be available for review at martin.k12.mn.us.



**ISG** 



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### MCW JR/SR High School March Newsletter





**Dates to Remember** 

### March 3/6 - 3/10 - School Social Worker Week

3/9/23 - 8th grade Courage Retreat

3/15/23 - Early Dismissal

3/22/23 - End of 3rd Quarter

3/31/23 - Report Cards Sent Home

April 4/6 - SCHOOL DAY

4/7 - 4/10 - Spring Break (Designated Snow Day Makeup Day 4/10)

4/24 - 4/30 -Administrative **Professionals Week** 

4/27/23 - Mid Quarter of 4th quarter

May 5/1 - 5/5 - Teacher Appreciation Week

5/5/23 - Teacher Workshop (No School for Students)

5/5/23 - School Lunch Providers Appreciation Day Hello MCW Families.

Our calendar is turning the corner into the spring months! As the days start to get longer and the sun begins to break out more regularly, don't forget that there are still three months of school left. In a school, March Madness does not solely refer to basketball brackets and tournaments but instead, to a phenomenon where students have a hard time with attendance and focus. For parents, this can be frustrating because it is easy to feel sympathetic to our students who "just want a break" because adults feel it too! As easy as it is to give in and allow them a day off here or there, it is critical to keep our eyes on the prize! Attendance has a direct correlation on students' academic successes. With a little bit of extra attention and creative thinking, you can be proactive in helping your child during these difficult last weeks of school.

Continue to limit cell phones and gaming at night! Bedtime is so important, even to high school • students. They don't like it, but having students turn in electronic devices by 10pm allow them time to wind down and get to sleep. •

- Start a countdown for the next break which comes the 1st week of April.
- Reward students if they make it to milestones that are a struggle.

Be a good role model by getting up with your students to see them out the door and always talk positively about school and its long term benefits.

Happy March and GO MAVERICKS! ~Autumn Welcome

MCA Testing Schedule - MCA's are MN state mandated tests for students. It is important that students take tests seriously and show learning growth from their past years' scores. March 8-10 MCA Math Grade 11 March 21-22 MCA Reading Grade 7 March 23-24 MCA Reading Grade 8 March 28-29 MCA Math Grade 7 March 30-31 MCA Math Grade 8 April 11-12 MCA Science Grade 8 April 18-19 MCA Reading Grade 10 May 9-10 MCA Science Grade 10

8th Grade Courage Retreat - On March 9th, our 8th grade students will participate in a Youth Frontiers Courage Retreat. There are three takeaway goals for the 8th graders after attending the Courage Retreat:

- Be able to identify personal fears and understand that everyone has them. ٠
  - Be able to commit to act with courage and make school a better place.
  - Be able to deepen relationships with classmates by breaking through social barriers.

The courage retreat is designed for students to take away big ideas but in a fun way. Students should prepare for a day infused with music, high-energy facilitators and student leaders that will encourage all to laugh and make connections with each other.

Early Dismissal - March 15th is an early dismissal for students. Students will be dismissed at 12:15 for shuttle buses and 12:30 for route buses.

End of Quarter 3 - We will finalize 3/4ths of the school year on March 22nd! Encourage students to keep working hard until the last day of school.

Course Registration for 2023-2024 - Students have submitted course choices for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Welcome and Ms. Hornick will use these choices to build next years' schedule.

New 9th - 12th Grade English Teacher - We welcome Ms. Lange to the English Department this month. Ms. Lange is very familiar with the Martin County Area and graduated from MCW in 2018. This past year she has been subbing as an Educational Support Professional and as a teacher. We are excited to have Ms. Lange join the Jr/Sr High School Team!



### MCW JR/SR High School March Newsletter



5/10/23 - School Nurse Appreciation Day June 6/2/23 - LAST STUDENT SCHOOL DAY (pending no more additional snow days) 6/5/23 - Half Day **Teacher Inservice** (pending no more additional snow days) chromosomes when stained look like a striped pair of socks. SOCKS on March 21st! **Spring Sports Start Dates** March 20th. Reminders •

School Social Worker Week - We honor our school social worker, Ms. Winter, in light of National School Social Worker week, March 6th - 10th. Ms. Winter is a light for many of our staff, students and families that need some extra help to get through tough times. Ms. Winter is not new to the area but is new to MCW as a staff member. Mrs. Winter has been a wonderful asset to the Jr/Sr High School and we are happy to have her on our team.

World Down Syndrome Day - March 21, 2023 is the 18th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day. The date of this day is symbolic, it is the 21st day of the 3rd month which signifies the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome. To bring awareness to this day, it is encouraged to wear and show off your colorful and mismatched socks! Why socks? When looking at chromosomes under a microscope, a pair of



Another reason for wearing mismatched socks is to promote the celebration of differences. And lastly, by wearing mismatched, colorful socks is to get attention! When someone notices and asks,

why the socks? It allows for a conversation about Down Syndrome. So, please ROCK YOUR

- Jr High Softball will start March 6th.
- High School Softball, Junior High and High School Track will start on March 13th.
- Junior High and High School Baseball and Junior High and High School Golf starts on
- Spring Trap Shoot (Clay Target) starts date TBD
- Please call the school to update contact phone numbers if they change.
- If your student is absent, please call or email Molly or Lisa in the office ASAP
- If a student is sick, they must be FEVER FREE for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Have a concern? Please notify the teacher first, if not resolved then notify the principal.

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/mcwJHSHschool LIKE US!

# Trimont Elementary

### Dates to Remember:



March 9 Parent Teacher Conferences (rescheduled from February)

March 15 Early Dismissal

March 22 End of Quarter 3



Glance ahead .... **Trimont Elementary Music** Concert is scheduled for May 4.

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

507-639-2081



Michele Baker **Trimont Elementary** Principal michelebaker@mcwmavericks.org March's Monthly Theme - Our Character Strong curriculum in March will focus on Cooperation. One way to think about Cooperation is "working together to reach shared goals." Cooperation is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students BE KIND. Throughout the school, students will be developing skills like perspective-taking, conflict resolution and leadership. Review Cooperation as a family! Search through your cupboards for some board games your family has not played in a while, or grab a deck of cards for a simple game of Go Fish. Pop some popcorn and have fun playing together! Look for moments of Cooperation that you can point out. For example: • Choosing which game to play . Choosing who gets to go first . Handling wins and losses • Working together to solve a problem



March, 2023



MATH Madness Month – Since we had so much fun celebrating reading in February, we didn't want to leave the content area of math "out in the cold". So staff have planned for Math Madness this March! Stay tuned for details from your classroom teachers.

<u>Some of our students are beginning to explore new forms of</u> communication through technology apps such as Snap Chat, TikTok and other gaming platforms. This can present many risks and challenges for students. Be aware of the age restrictions on these popular apps. One podcast that has been a good resource for parents is "Smart Social: Keeping students safe so they can Shine Online." Remember, you don't have to be a tech expert to talk to your

children about technology. The conversation should be about your expectations when they're online. More information regarding secure family support can be found at AT&T and Verizon websites.

**Spring MCA Assessments** – The testing calendar is posted to the District website under "Parent Links". MCA testing will begin in March.

Parent-Teacher Conferences Rescheduled – Due to the recent weather related school closings we have rescheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences for the evening of March 9. Since this time is limited to one evening teachers will be meeting with a select group of students. If you have not been



March Newsletter Nickole Bowie, Sherburn Elementary Principal <u>nickolebowie@mcwmavericks.org</u>

Hello MCW families,

Reading is the theme for Sherburn Elementary in March! We will be celebrating "I Love to Read" month as we "Lasso a Good Book". Students will be doing many fun activities to continue building a foundation and passion for reading. We are also excited that March 20 is the first day of Spring. We are all so happy to get on the warm side of winter. Know that our staff here at MCW schools are grateful for your families and all that you do to support your students and our schools. You mean the world to us! Go Mavs! –Nickole Bowie

### Early Dismissal

March 15th is an early dismissal for our staff. Students will be dismissed at 12:15.

### End of 3rd Quarter

March 22 is the end of the 3rd quarter.

### March's Monthly Character Education Theme - Cooperation

Our Character Strong curriculum theme for March is Cooperation. One way to think about Cooperation is "working together to reach shared goals." Cooperation is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students Be Kind. Throughout the school, students will be developing skills like perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and leadership.

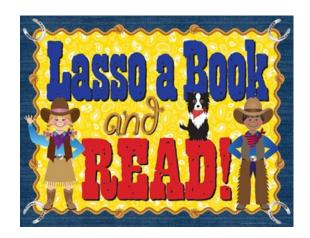






### I Love To Read Month - Sherburn Elementary

March is "I Love to Read" month at Sherburn Elementary. The theme is Lasso a Good Book! During the month of March many fun activities will take place to encourage reading at home and at school. Get ready to read, March is almost here!



### Kindergarten Round-Up

Who's going to Kindergarten next year? Come and join us for Kindergarten Round Up on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 5:30PM at Sherburn Elementary School. ARRIVE at 5:15pm to turn in paperwork you will receive by mail! This will be a chance to meet the administration, Kindergarten teachers and elementary staff and tour the building. Supper will be provided! To RSVP or receive mailed paperwork, reach out to Carolyn at the Sherburn elementary office at 507–764–4461 or via email at carolynficken@mcwmavericks.org





### Try Day Fri-Day!

This is an initiative to introduce a variety of healthy fruits and vegetables to our younger students. Studies have shown that eating patterns begin early. It is important that students get an opportunity to learn about nutritious food with both education and hands on learning. In the month of March, students will get to try one new fruit/vegetable a week on Friday. This year they will get to try pitted cherries, roasted sweet potatoes, pineapple, okra, grapefruit, and fig. Mrs Morgan has done a great job putting a rainbow of fruit/vegetables together for our students at the Sherburn Elementary to try! March is also National Nutrition Month so what a great time to do Try Day Fri-Day! Thank you to the Sherburn Lions Club for supporting this initiative!

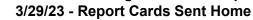
### Stay Informed

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 <u>https://www.facebook.com/sherburnelementary</u> LIKE US!



### **Upcoming Events**

- 3/15/23 Early Dismissal/Staff Workshop
- 3/20/23 Start of Spring
  - 3/22/23 End of 3rd Quarter
  - 3/30/23 Kindergarten Round Up 5:30PM at Sherburn Elementary School







# Early Childhood Screening Early childhood screening helps a school district identify children who may benefit from district and community resources available to help in their development. MCW provides this service free of charge, with a goal to screen every child before she/he turns four years old. Appointment Dates/Details: Wednesday – April 5, 2023 (All day) MCW, Sherburn Elementary Screening appointments take approximately 1 ½-2 hours to complete. We're using SignUp (the leading online signup and reminder tool) to organize our upcoming activity. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps: 1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on SignUp: <a href="https://signup.com/go/ElGikdm">https://signup.com/go/ElGikdm</a> 2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp) 3. Sign up! Choose your spots - SignUp will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

# **Game Club**

### HAVE A SNACK + PLAY SOME

### GAMES

- 3rd Monday of every month through May
- 3:15-4:30 PM
- Sherburn
   Elementary
   School Library



- Open to K-3rd Grade
- Max of 10 kids
- Class Instructor: Cori Reynolds
- \$5.00 per student per month

### Yoga Class

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:15 pm in the Sherburn Elementary Music Room. 1-hour class for all levels (modifications will be given throughout). Yoga is a full-body practice that can improve strength, flexibility, balance, mindfulness, and more. \$5 per class. Please bring your own mat and water. You may also want to bring (optional) a blanket, blocks, and strap if you have them and wish to use them.

MCW Community Education & Recreation Nickole Bowie, Director 
nickolebowie@mcwmavericks.org
507-764-2336



MARTIN COUNTY WEST

# COMING SOON: Preschool Open House

Our experienced teachers and engaging curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment.



MCW Community Education & Recreation
Nickole Bowie, Director 
nickolebowie@mcwmavericks.org
507-764-2336

Play-based learning

Martin County West offers a six lane heated indoor pool with an easy accessibility ramp.

Fitness swims: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 6:00-8:00 AM & 5:30-6:30 PM Saturday 12:00 -1:00 PM. Self directed swim laps or exercise, including water aerobics. Open swim: Saturday & Sunday 1:00-4:00 PM Open for all to swim and play! Special needs swim: Wednesday 6:30-7:30 PM Anyone with physical, mental or emotional disabilities are welcome.

If you are interested in Private Swimming Lessons, give us a call, arrangements can be made!

The pool is available for rental time to host a fun birthday party, company bounding, youth activity, or family event! Call 507-764-2336



### Learning Unlimited

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 Becthold at gbecthold@isd840.org or one of our participating schools Community Education office (MCW, 507-764-2336).

### MCW Community Education & Recreation ♦ Nickole Bowie, Director ♦ nickolébowie@mcwmavericks.org ♦ 507-764-2336





MORE INFORMATION IS COMING SOON! PLANNING HAS STARTED FOR YOUTH SOFTBALL AND YOUTH BASEBALL





BE WATCHING FOR SOFTBALL FUNDAMENTALS CAMP AND BASEBALL OPEN GYM

### Martin County West Community Education & Recreation

Information and helpful tips:

Check out <u>www.martin.k12.mn.us</u> under the Community Education tab for program updates.

Use "School Pay" to submit payments for CER programs, school lunches, and many other school programs.

Pool Hours are posted on the website; you can schedule Pool Parties with the CER office.

Are you interested in learning something? Let us know what your interests are!

## <u>News & Upcoming</u> <u>Programs</u>



- Preschool Open House is coming soon!
- Early Childhood Screening
- Are you thinking about summer ball?
  - Follow us on:

MCW Community Education & Recreation ♦ Nickole Bowie, Director ♦ nickolebowie@mcwmavericks,org ♦ 507-764-2336♦



Chapter FFA Banquet

The FFA banquet will be held on Sunday, March 12th. The banquet will start promptly at 5:00, with a social time at 4:30 pm. RSVP's for the event are due to Mrs. Wohlhuter by March 3rd.

### **State FFA Convention**

The State FFA Convention will be held at the University of Minnesota from April 23rd-25th. All FFA members that have qualified for the State Convention will meet with advisors in early April to get a schedule, hotel information and permission slips.

Notes about official dress: All students attending the convention will wear Official FFA dress at all times while at the convention. Official dress for an FFA member includes:

- An official FFA jacket zipped to the top
- Black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons
- White collared blouse or white collared shirt
- Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf
- Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe

Special notes:

- Official garb of recognized religions may be worn with Official Dress
- No white t-shirts will be allowed
- If skirts are worn, they must be of knee length at a minimum
- No black capris, yoga pants, leggings, athletic pants, etc are allowed.
- Students are not allowed on stage with incorrect official dress.
- Students that do not have Official Dress that meets the standards outlined above will have to purchase the correct official dress at their own expense before being allowed to attend/compete in events.
- If you have any questions about Official Dress, please contact an FFA advisor.

### **Upcoming Events**

March 7th - FBM, Ag Sales, Crops, Job Interview, Ag Mechanics March 12th - Chapter FFA banquet March 31th - Little International @ SDSU, Brookings, SD April 5th - Region Floriculture & Nursery Landscape CDE



### MCW WILL BE OFFERING A FREE SCREENING OF "MY ASCENSION" DOCUMENTARY TO 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

The FFA and MCW social services department have partnered together to bring a showing of the documentary, My Ascension, to MCW students on March 17. My Ascension is a documentary about sixteen-year-old Emma Benoit's attempted suicide, how she survived and how it propelled her on a mission to use her experience to help others find hope and stay alive. The film also highlights the stories of two other young people who, tragically, did not survive their attempts and the devastating effects suicide can have on families and communities.

Our hope is that the film and discussion afterwards will help bring awareness to students, staff, and families, and support mental health in our community. If you have questions about the event, please contact either of our school social workers.

Jana Brackey, LSW K-6 School Social Worker janabrackey@mcwmavericks.org Heather Winter, LSW 7-12 School Social Worker heatherwinter@mcwmavericks.org

Parents can also view the trailer and find more information on the My Ascension website:

https://www.myascension.us/

BREAKFAST

### **MARCH 2023**

Martin County West Schools

Menu is subject to change without notice. Sorry for any inconveniences.

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Ð		Eggs/Toast Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Breakfast Burrito Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Apple/BB Frudel Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk
3	Cereal/Toast Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Breakfast Pizza Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Biscuits/Gravy Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Assorted Rolls Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Banana Bread Squares O Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk
	Cereal Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Breakfast Sandwich 14 Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Pancakes Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Bagels Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	French Toast Sticks 17 Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk
	Cereal Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Assorted Muffins 21 Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Pancake Wrap Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Egg Taco Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Yogurt Parfait 24 Granola/Graham Cracker Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk
	Cereal Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Breakfast Pizza Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Pancakes Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Assorted Rolls Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk	Cook's Choice Fruit Choice Juice Choice Milk

Breakfast include choice of fruits/veggies, meat/ meat alternates, grain, & milk. Grains are at least 51% whole grain. Milk is low-fat or fat free plain or fat free flavored. Must choose 3 items, one being fruit or veggie, to count as a complete breakfast.

Fresh and canned fruits and 100% fruit juices are offered every day.

Cold cereal is a sub option offered every day



### LUNCH



### MARCH 2023 Martin County West School

Menu is subject to change without notice. Sorry for any inconvenience

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Elementary	Hotdog Baked Beans Broccoli Salad Sun Chip Fruit Choice	Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Gravy Corn Dinner Roll Fruit Choice	Italian Dunkers Dipping Sauce Steamed Peas Carrot Sticks Fruit Choice
Crange Chicken Fried Rice Steamed Veggies Mandarin Oranges	Sloppy Joe/Bun 7 SP Fries Baked Beans Fruit Choice	Taco Salad *Walking Taco8Tortilla Chips Assorted Toppings **Spanish Rice Fiesta Beans Rosy Applesauce8	Pulled Pork WG Bun Cole Slaw Cooked Carrots Fruit Choice	Cheese Omelet Hash Browns Cinnamon Roll Fruit Choice Red Pepper Strips
Spaghetti Meat Sauce Steamed Broccoli Fruit Choice Garlic Bread	Soup Choice & Deli Sandwich Seasoned Corn Fruit Choice	Corn Dog Sun Chip Baked Beans Fruit Choice Early Out	Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Corn Gravy Fruit Choice **Dinner Roll/*Goldfish	Pizza Green Beans Carrot Sticks Fruit Choice
Nacho's Assorted Toppings Seasoned Meat Ranchero Beans Fruit Choice	Chicken Fajitas Tortilla Shells Rice Pilaf Red/Green Pepper Steamed Broccoli Fruit Choice	Meatballs Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Gravy Fruit Choice Dinner Roll	Chicken Gravy over 23 BP Biscuits Cooked Carrots Cole Slaw Fruit Choice	Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Seasoned Corn Fruit Choice **Cheese Stick
Chicken Alfredo Rotini Steamed Broccoli Garlic Bread Fruit Cheese Stick	Hamburger/Bun 28 Tomatoes, Onion, Cheese, Lettuce Oven Fries Steamed Veggies Fruit Choice	Orange Chicken 29 Fried Rice Stir Fry Veggies Mandarin Oranges	Scalloped Potatoes Diced Ham Corn Fruit Choice Dinner Roll	Quesadilla Refried Beans Cooked Carrots Fruit Choice

Lunch Notes: All breads are a minimum of 51% whole grain. Salad dressings are all fat free or light. Milks are low fat or fat free. Fresh and canned fruits are available every day. A complete meal consists ½ C of fruit or veggie plus 2 more full meal components. If not taking a complete meal you will be charged ala carte prices. Menu subject to change without notice. Sorry for any inconvenience. MCW is now accepting credit or debit cards for school lunch payments. https://www.schoolpay.com/login