

## Hands-on learning with a career-based focus

### Educare Foundation grant benefits construction and woodworking students

By Edell Fiedler, public information

Construction and woodworking students at Mankato Area Public Schools' Central High School designed and built a newly renovated lab thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Educare Foundation. The grant funds new tools and equipment. Local businesses Lloyd Lumber, Independent Paint and Flooring and The Home Depot donated project materials.

"Students gain hands-on experience through the lab project," says Caleb Watson, technology education teacher. "They also practice important workplace skills that include team and communications to help finish this project."



Haley Roberts uses new drill press on her project.

Students learn how to frame residential floors and walls, install sub-flooring, residential wiring and drywall. In addition, they place ceramic tiling, hardwood, vinyl and laminate flooring and design and install a tiled backsplash. This construction and woodworking course is one example of a learning choice that has a career-based focus. Opportunities like this help students practice and develop skillsets to help them now and in the future.



A student practices floor installation.

"Central High School is an important learning option available to students," says Director Kathy Johnson. "Staff help students develop individualized learning plans with accountability. Our goal is to prepare students for life."

For more information about Central High School, contact director Kathy Johnson at 507-387-3047 or [kjohns2@isd77.org](mailto:kjohns2@isd77.org).

## Focus on safety at Mankato Area Public Schools

By Edell Fiedler, public information

Mankato Area Public Schools keeps safety initiatives at the forefront. School entrance surveillance cameras help enhance safety and a communication device allows staff to talk with visitors to determine who they are prior to them entering the school. Once in the building, visitors sign in and are given a badge with their identification.

"All sites are equipped with security cameras that help monitor entrances and areas of the building," says Scott Hogen, director of facilities. "There's also a mobile safety platform that gives school officials immediate access to safety plan information when it's most needed."

Throughout the day, security staff along with the school resource officers, help monitor more than 600 cameras throughout the school district, check-in areas and the buildings. School resource officers placed within schools are also a

benefit. Mankato Area Public Schools' staff collaborates with area public safety professionals by conducting tabletop safety and emergency preparedness exercises.

Efforts help monitor, identify and address ideas to keep learning environments safe and productive for all.

For more information, contact Scott Hogen, director of facilities, at 507-345-5311 or [shogen1@isd77.org](mailto:shogen1@isd77.org).



A security camera at entrance of a Mankato Area Public School building.

## Mankato Area Public Schools' attendance areas online

By Edell Fiedler, public information

Find school attendance areas and busing eligibility by visiting [isd77.org](http://isd77.org).

An online search tool includes 24/7 access and convenience because it can be accessed from anywhere there's internet availability.

Not riding the bus? Go to [isd77.org](http://isd77.org) to determine school attendance area and eligibility for busing and see Safe Routes to School for Franklin, Jefferson, Kennedy, Roosevelt, Rosa Parks and Washington elementary schools.

Still have questions or need assistance? Mankato Area Public Schools' Central Registration office is another resource to help. Staff can assist with registration, attendance area and busing questions.

For more information, contact staff at 507-207-4037, 507-207-4038, [msolom1@isd77.org](mailto:msolom1@isd77.org) or [rhaycr1@isd77.org](mailto:rhaycr1@isd77.org).

## Answers to frequently asked questions about attendance exceptions and open enrollment

### Enrollment options

#### Q: What is open enrollment?

A: Open enrollment creates opportunities for those who live outside of district boundaries to attend Mankato Area Public Schools. Kindergarten through 12th grade students may apply to attend a school outside of their district. For example, if a family that lives in another community wants their children to attend Mankato Area Public Schools, they fill out an application to do so.

Open enrollment applications must be submitted by January 15 for fall enrollment. Students who are accepted agree to attend Mankato Area Public Schools for the upcoming school year.

### Attendance exceptions

#### Q: What are attendance exceptions?

A: Attendance exceptions are designed for those who live inside district boundaries and want their children to attend another school building outside of their neighborhood. To be eligible for an attendance exception, families must meet one of three criteria:

- ♦ childcare;
- ♦ legal matters;
- ♦ residential (family moves during the year and they apply to finish the school year at their respective school).

Kindergarten through 12th grade students may apply to attend another Mankato Area Public School building. Attendance exception applications are due by April 1 and need to be done annually. Exceptions depend on meeting criteria, space and availability. Families authorized for an attendance exception provide their own transportation to the school they've been approved to attend.

#### Q: Why are there criteria for open enrollment and attendance options?

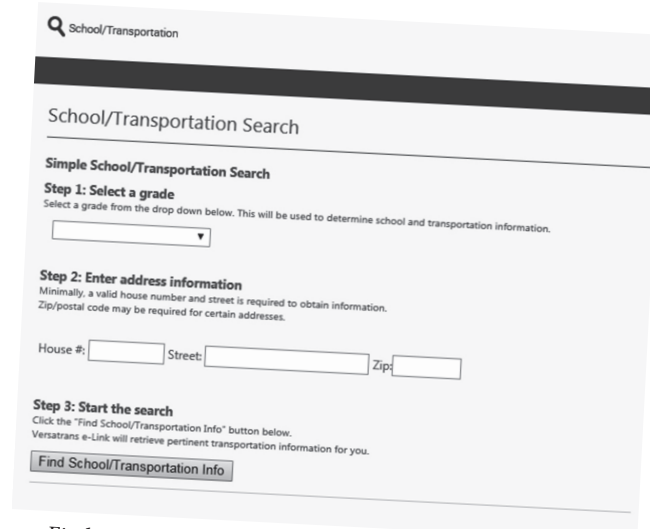
A: Mankato Area Public Schools strives to provide a quality, well-rounded education to students at all 16 schools within the district. In fact, more than 95 percent of students go on to college, technical and trade schools, full-time employment or military service. When considering open enrollment and attendance exception options, it's important to balance family and district needs. The district works to avoid overcrowding at schools. Other considerations are expected growth within the schools and how to best meet needs across the district. Criteria encourage consistency and equity with quality education as the goal.

#### Q: How do I learn more about open enrollment or attendance exceptions?

A: Call the Mankato Area Public Schools' Central Registration office at 507-207-4037 or email staff at [maps@isd77.org](mailto:maps@isd77.org) for assistance.

### Education for life

If you know someone who wants their children to attend Mankato Area Public Schools, they can enroll by calling 507-207-4037. Detailed information about Mankato Area Public Schools is available at [isd77.org](http://isd77.org) and by telephoning 507-387-8516.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "School/Transportation Search". It includes three steps: Step 1: Select a grade (a dropdown menu), Step 2: Enter address information (fields for House #, Street, and Zip), and Step 3: Start the search (a button labeled "Find School/Transportation Info").

Find school attendance areas and busing eligibility online—  
**[isd77.org](http://isd77.org)**.

