

FOCUS



August 2019
Volume 19, Issue 1

Greetings from Mankato Area Public Schools and welcome to the 2019-2020 school year!

It is a great honor to be your superintendent and to continue the critical work of assuring learning excellence and readiness for all students. The start of the school year is upon us, and our entire school district stands ready and eager to challenge, support, nurture and motivate each and every learner that will enter our doors in the coming days.

Parent and community support in Mankato, North Mankato, Eagle Lake and Madison Lake is critical to the success of our students. We thank you for your ongoing commitment to public education in our communities and look forward to partnering with you throughout another exciting year of learning.



Communication with our families is a priority. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or suggestions on how we can continue to work together for the benefit of all students. Contact us anytime through the district's website at isd77.org, by email at maps@isd77.org or by telephone at 507-387-1868. Let's get started!

Please contact me if I can be of service.

Sincerely,

Paul Peterson, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Intergovernmental Center
10 Civic Center Plaza
Mankato, MN 56001
507-387-1868
ppeter1@isd77.org

Leadership

Mankato Area Public Schools makes great efforts to select leaders who strive for high-performance results. Shifts in leadership provide opportunities to benefit the overall district team. Throughout the organization, people are the most important asset.



Jason Grovom, Principal of Eagle Lake Elementary School

Jason Grovom serves as principal at Eagle Lake Elementary School. Previously, he was principal at Kennedy Elementary School. Grovom has served as an assistant elementary school principal in Worthington, Minn. He also taught elementary education for eight years in Jordan, Minn. and for two years in Boulder, Mont.

Grovom's master's degree is from the University of Minnesota and his administrative licensure from St. Mary's University. Grovom can be reached at jgrovo1@isd77.org or 507-257-3530.



Brian Hansen, Principal of Central High and Freedom schools

Brian Hansen is the new principal at Mankato Area Public Schools' Central High and Freedom schools. Hansen previously served as assistant principal at West High School, assistant to the principal at Dakota Meadows Middle School and a continuous improvement coach at East Junior High School. He was a principal at Lake Crystal Welcome Memorial High School. His teaching experiences include high school and middle school social studies.

Hansen earned his bachelor, master and specialist degrees from Minnesota State University Mankato. Hansen can be reached at bhanse1@isd77.org or 507-387-3047.



Aaron Hyer, Assistant Principal of Prairie Winds Middle School

Aaron Hyer, is the new Assistant Principal of Prairie Winds Middle School. Most recently, he served as a dean of students for Prairie Winds Middle School. He's taught at Burnsville-Eagan-Savage and Rochester public schools.

Hyer has bachelor and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota. He earned his administrative licensure from Minnesota State University Mankato. Hyer can be reached at ahyer1@isd77.org or 507-345-6625.



Andy Krause, Assistant Principal of West High School

Andy Krause is an Assistant Principal at West High School. Krause recently served as Principal in the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school district. He has been a continuous improvement coach and math teacher at East High School, and also taught math in Waseca.

Krause has a bachelor's degree from University of Minnesota Duluth, a master's degree from Concordia University, St. Paul and a specialist degree from Minnesota State University Mankato. Krause can be reached at akraus1@isd77.org or 507-387-3461.



Christina Mattson, Assistant Principal of East High School

Christina Mattson is Assistant Principal at East High School. Her recent experiences in education include teaching in special education and residential treatment facilities and serving as a learning support specialist in Norway.

Mattson has a bachelor's degree from University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, an autism specialist certificate from University of Minnesota Duluth, a master's degree from Bethel University, St. Paul and principal licensure from Hamline University, St. Paul. Mattson can be reached at cmatts1@isd77.org or 507-387-5671.



Steve Rustad, Principal of Kennedy Elementary School

Steve Rustad is principal of Kennedy Elementary School. He served as principal of Prairie Winds Middle School since it opened and prior to that was principal at East Junior High School.

Rustad earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota and his certificate in educational administration from St. Cloud State University. Rustad can be reached at srusta1@isd77.org or 507-387-2122.



Monde Schwartz, Principal of Prairie Winds Middle School

Monde Schwartz serves as principal at Prairie Winds Middle School. For the past three years she was assistant principal at Prairie Winds Middle School. She supported students and staff at Franklin Elementary School for the fall 2016 transition of sixth grade to Prairie Winds Middle School.

Schwartz has specialist and master degrees from Minnesota State University Mankato; and a bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Schwartz can be reached at mschwa1@isd77.org or 507-345-6625.

For more information about leadership positions and staffing, contact Mankato Area Public Schools' staff at maps@isd77.org or 507-387-1868.

Mankato Area Public School Board -- how to reach



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Chair



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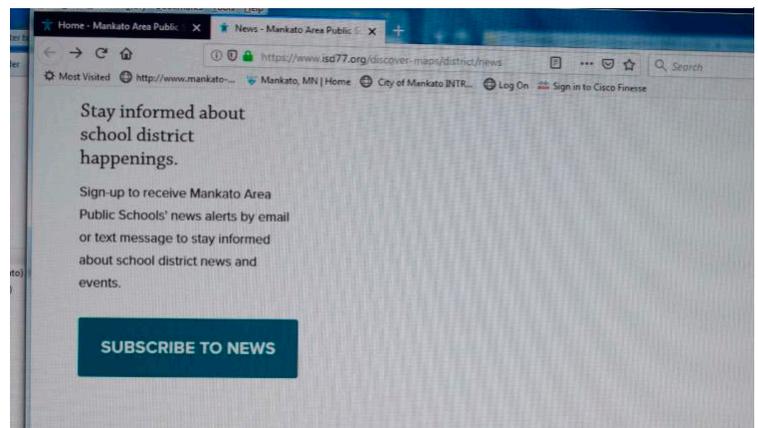
Stay informed – subscribe to district news and events

Be one of the first to know about Mankato Area Public Schools' news and events. Subscribe to receive district email or text alerts at: isd77.org (click on news and scroll to the bottom of the page and select "subscribe to news"). Another option is go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yxtc6vsf>

Subscribers are informed about district happenings:

- emergency information
- two-hour late starts
- school closings
- musicals
- plays
- performances
- events
- general reminders

For more information about subscribing to district email or text messages, contact public information staff at 507-387- 8692.



Stay informed about district happenings – sign up for Mankato Area Public Schools' news and alerts online:
<https://tinyurl.com/yxtc6vsf>

Educare awards \$57,124 in Educator Initiative Grants to Mankato Area Public Schools

The Educare Foundation awarded \$57,124 in educator initiative grants to support innovative learning across Mankato Area Public Schools.

Grant awards for the current school year include:

- Telepresence robots by OhmiLabs for all K-12 schools, \$10,775--robots provide a unique communication experience through a combination of video cameras, video screens and remote physical operation.
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) kits and buddies for Jefferson Elementary School, \$11,599--STEM kits provide hands-on examples, puzzles and challenges related to core STEM subjects.
- Mariachi ensemble for East High School - \$6,607—to add depth to musical ensembles.
- Multi-process welders for East and West high schools, \$11,529--More than 300 students taking welding courses at Mankato Area Public Schools, including students involved in welding internship and manufacturing apprenticeship programs. Construction pathway expansion for Central, East and West high schools, \$16,614--funds will help expand construction trades through equipment purchases and upgrades.



Educare
FOUNDATION for
Mankato Area Public Schools

Support the wonder of learning

The Educare Foundation has provided more than \$1.2 million in financial support to Mankato Area Public Schools to fund programs and activities that go beyond the normal operating budget. Through this funding, teachers are enabled to enhance educational opportunities for all students, explore new ways of learning and provide a vital link between the community and the classroom.

For more information about the Educare Foundation, call 507-387-1868 or visit www.educarefoundation.org.
We appreciate your generous support of Educare.

DIAMOND SPONSORS (\$7,500+)
Lowell and Nadine Andreas Foundation
CHANKASKA CREEK RANCH & WINERY
THE GLEN A. TAYLOR FOUNDATION
Mankato Clinic
Consolidated communications

PLATINUM SPONSORS (\$5,000 - \$7,499)
Mayo Clinic Health System

GOLD SPONSORS (\$2,500 - \$4,999)
ISG
Jones Page Jacobson Family Foundation
MEI - Total Elevator Solutions
Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic
Schwickert's Tecta America
WEB Construction

Support is also provided by Educare through Ed Waltman Mini Grants. Generally, up to \$24,000 are awarded annually in mini-grants.

A non-profit public entity, the Educare Foundation provides financial support to Mankato Area Public Schools beyond the normal operating budget. Since it's 1995 beginning, Educare has funded more than \$1.2 million grants.

Educare supports programs and activities that enhance educational opportunities for all students and encourages teachers to explore new ways of learning and provides a vital link between the community and the classroom. Learn more about Educare at www.educarefoundation.org.

Mankato Area Public Schools offers quality nutrition to optimize learning

By Shelly Miller

Studies show that quality nutrition optimizes student learning. Therefore, Mankato Area Public Schools strives to provide students with healthy food that tastes good.

"We believe an environment that fosters healthy eating habits creates better learners," said Darcy Stueber, food services director at Mankato Area Public Schools. "We empower students to take health and wellness into their own hands by offering quality food options and encouraging them to take them."

For each meal, five healthy items are offered including milk, meat or meat alternative, fruit, vegetable and whole grain-rich items. Students are encouraged to take three which must include a half-cup serving of fruits or vegetables. Stueber says offering convenient packaged fruits and vegetables at checkout like raisins and carrots helps students reach that goal.

For elementary students, breakfast costs \$1 and lunch is \$2.35. For secondary students, breakfast is \$1.05 and lunch is \$2.65. Meals are provided at free or reduced cost for students who qualify. Families must reapply every year and may do so at any time by calling 507-388-7442 or emailing foodservice@isd77.org.



Darcy Stueber, director of food services at Mankato Area Public Schools, encourages students to take three healthy food items.

Private vs. public information—important to know

Information...what is private? What is public? The following information is provided to raise awareness about data privacy practices regarding student information.

Privacy rights

Education records are classified as private data on individuals by state law and are accessible only to the student's parent/guardian or a student who is at least 18 years old. The school district may not disclose private records or their contents except as summary data without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian or the eligible student. In some cases, private records may not be accessible to parents/guardians. State law provides that certain information in a student's education records be accessible only to that student and to the parent/guardian under special circumstances, if at all.

Directory information

What is directory information?

Directory information includes the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, attendance dates, grade level, enrollment status, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of athletic team members, degrees, honors and awards received, the most recent educational agency or institution attended by the student, photographs of students taking part in officially recognized activities, sports and academic or nonacademic classes or programs and other similar information.

Note: Directory information does not include information about a student's religion, race, color, disability, social position or nationality.

Is directory information public?

Yes. A school district may disclose this information from a student's education records. However, if a parent/guardian or student chooses, the information will not be released without prior written consent except to school officials as provided under federal law.

Disclosure of data to military recruitment officers

The school district will release names, addresses and home telephone numbers of secondary students to military recruiting officers within 60 days after the request date unless a parent/guardian or eligible student has refused in writing the release of this data to military recruiters. Data released under this provision may be used only to provide student information about military service, state and federal veterans' education benefits and other career and educational opportunities the military provides.

Do I have to release data to military recruitment officers?

A parent/guardian or eligible student has the right to refuse the release of directory information to military recruiting officers and must notify the Mankato Area Public Schools' director of human resources in writing by September 15 of each year. The written notification must include the names of the student and parent/guardian, home address, grade level, school, parent's legal relationship to student and the information that should not be released to military recruiters without prior consent. Keep in mind that refusal to release the information does not affect the school district's release of directory information to the rest of the public, including military recruiting officers. To make any directory information about a student private, follow the procedures under "How do I make directory information private?"

How do I make directory information private?

A parent/guardian or eligible student must submit a written request that includes the student's name, home address, school, parent's legal relationship and specific category or categories of directory information that should remain private to the building principal within 30 days after the date of the last publication notice. If parents/guardians do not want their child's or eligible student's directory information released to military recruiting officers, the school district must be notified that the directory information should not be released to any member of the public, including military recruiting officers.

How do I obtain nondisclosures of directory information?

A written notice from the parent/guardian or eligible student should be sent to the district's director of human resources and must include the student's name, home address, school presently attended by student, parent's legal relationship to student (if applicable), specific categories of directory information not to be made public without prior written consent, which shall be applicable for that school year.

For more information about public information guidelines, contact Eric Hudspith, director of human resources and organizational development at Mankato Area Public Schools, at 507-387-3017 or ehudsp1@isd77.org. Written correspondence may be sent to Hudspith at 10 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001.

School safety is a priority

By Edell Fiedler, public information

Minimizing risk

In compliance with the Parents Right to Know Act of 2000, Mankato Area Public Schools has an integrated pest management plan designed to minimize the risk to human health and the environment as well as reduce use of chemical pesticides.

Mankato Area Public Schools does not apply pesticides on school property unless all other measures have not worked. If insect control sprays and dusts need to be applied, it is done when students are not in the area during application and until product has dissipated.

For questions, more information, or if there's interest in being notified prior to an application, contact Scott Hogen, director of facilities, at 507-345-5311 or shogen1@isd77.org.

Asbestos lookout

Mankato Area Public Schools, in accordance with the Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), has a stringent inspection and management program for all building materials containing asbestos.

The district strives to maintain a safe and healthful environment for students and staff. Every three years, all buildings owned and leased by the district are re-inspected by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) accredited inspector for asbestos content. All materials containing asbestos are surveyed every six months along with visual inspections to ensure a minimal level of health risks.

Any materials needing repair or removal are done safely responsibly under the district's asbestos operation and maintenance program.

Mankato Area Public Schools has a list of locations and types of asbestos-containing materials found in its buildings. A copy of the asbestos management plan is available for review in the district's facility office, 10 Civic Center Plaza.

Indoor air quality

Mankato Area Public Schools is committed to providing and maintaining good air quality. Schools follow EPA guidelines to improve Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) by being proactive. Throughout the year, air quality is regularly monitored and air handling systems are maintained to ensure good quality.

District health and safety department staff follow-up on any reported items. Mankato Area Public Schools has agreed to administer an IAQ Management Plan, which includes taking a team leadership role, coordinating emergency response and serving as an information resource.

Water testing for safety

Mankato Area Public Schools diligently tests for lead in water and radon. Buildings are placed on a five-year rotation and follow Minnesota statutes about lead in water (121A.335) and radon guidelines and protocols (123B.571). For more information and testing schedules, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yyb6k2po> or contact staff at 507-345-5311 or shogen1@isd77.org



For questions or more information, contact Scott Hogen (pictured), director of facilities, at 507-345-5311 or shogen1@isd77.org

Follow Mankato Area Public Schools on social media



Whether its photos of Vex Robotics teams competition results, Math League teams, kindergarten classrooms or weather-related announcements, a variety of recognitions and information can be found on Mankato Area Public Schools' social media feeds. The district uses its social media presence to share about the great things happening in its schools, including information about no school days and late starts, to name a few.

Accountability is important to school officials and social media provides another great communication medium for sharing information and engaging with public school stakeholders. Follow Mankato Area Public Schools on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

For more information contact Mankato Area Public Schools at 507-387-1868 or maps@isd77.org.



MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS • INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #77

2019 - 2020 Student Calendar

JULY 2019							AUGUST 2019							SEPTEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

OCTOBER 2019							NOVEMBER 2019							DECEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

JANUARY 2020							FEBRUARY 2020							MARCH 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4						1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31				

APRIL 2020							MAY 2020							JUNE 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 10 Civic Center Plaza, Suite Two
 P.O. Box 8741
 Mankato, MN 56002-8741
 www.isd77.org

Adopted 3/19/18

- ☆ Classes Begin for Grades 9-12/
End for Grades K-12
 - ★ Classes Begin for Grades K-8
 - △ Two-Hour Late Start
 - ◆ No School K-5
 - No School K-8
 - No School K-12
- Bold Date** End of Quarter 11/7, 1/24, 3/26, 6/4



Recognitions

Mankato Area Public Schools recognizes the following employees for their years of service and dedication to students.

40-year awards

Margaret Beaty – Jefferson Elementary School
Linda O’Meara – Roosevelt Elementary School
Helen Wels – Washington Elementary School

35-year awards

Steve George – West High School
Anne Richardson – Lincoln Community Center

30-year awards

John Bigham – East High School
Robin Courier – Bridges Community School
Lee Ann Johnson – Eagle Lake Elementary School
Barb Kluender – Franklin Elementary School
Mary Ann Rathman – Washington Elementary School

25-year awards

Fred Berg – East High School/Prairie Winds Middle School
Jeffery Bjork – Monroe Elementary School
Thomas Boone – West High School
Tracy Brovold – Intergovernmental Center
Brent Brown – East High School/Central High School
Shipra Chowdhury – Family Learning Center
Kelly Dinsmore – Washington Elementary School
Cindy Dutcher – Monroe Elementary School
Ron Flynn – West High School
Denise Geistfeld – Rosa Parks Elementary School
Tim Hatlestad – Bridges Community School
Cynthia Lyons – Rosa Parks Elementary School
Barbara Neilsen – Roosevelt Elementary School
Greg Schlingmann – East High School
Christopher Schlueter – East High School
Ann Schwartz – Hoover Elementary School
Monde Schwartz – Prairie Winds Middle School
Ann Weber – Franklin Elementary School
Denise Winter – East High School
Karen Wolters – Lincoln Community Center

Experience middle school after school

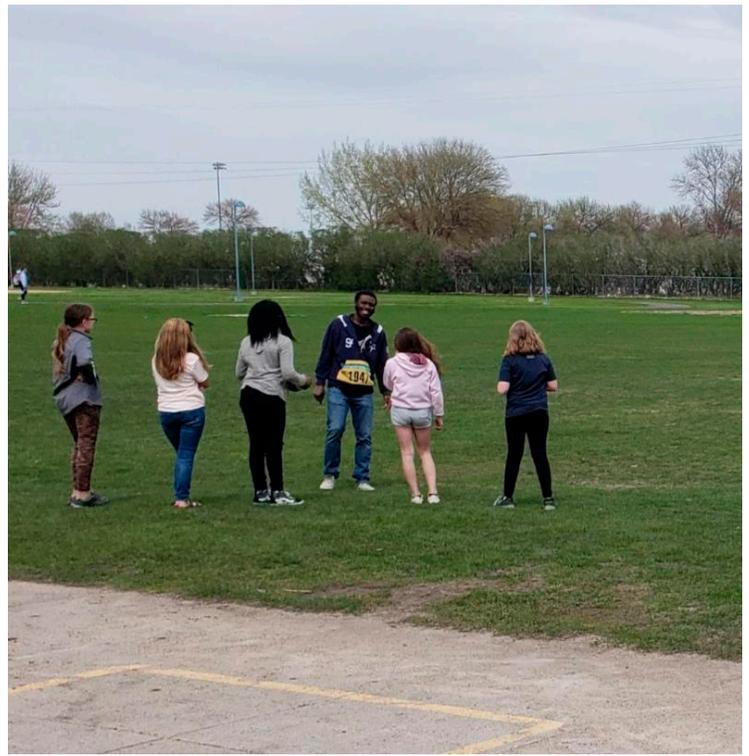
By Shelly Miller

Dakota Meadows and Prairie Winds middle schools now offer an after-school program called Middle School After School for sixth through eighth grade students that allows them to join club activities that match their interests. The program offers a variety of opportunities including cooking, art, sports, leadership and coding. The clubs rotate quarterly based on popularity and student surveys.

“Middle school is a time to explore interests and get involved in school life before hitting high school,” said Michelle Sorenson, recreation specialist at Mankato Area Public Schools’ Community Education and Recreation. “Our goal is to have all students involved in some activity so when they enter high school, they know what they would like to pursue.”

The experience mimics the college atmosphere and hanging out at a student union with time to snack, study and socialize before club activities. Each club is led by an advisor and has goals including games, contests, showcase events, performances or service projects.

For more information and to register, call Community Education and Recreation at 507-387-5501 or visit www.mankatocer.com.



Community Education and Recreation intern Ben Ojika plays a group leadership game with students in the after-school program at Dakota Meadows Middle School.

How to find Mankato Area Public Schools' attendance areas

Finding school attendance areas and busing eligibility is as easy as 1, 2, 3. Simply visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxn25e94> and click on “Determine eligibility for busing, then:

1. Select student’s grade.
2. Enter address.
3. Click Find School/Transportation Information button to start the search.

Benefits of this online search tool includes 24/7 access and convenience because it can be accessed from anywhere there’s internet access.

Not riding the bus? Go online to <https://tinyurl.com/y5p5rnx4> 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 507-387-2125 or centralregistration@isd77.org.

Search School/Transportation

School/Transportation Search

Simple School/Transportation Search

Step 1: Select a grade
Select a grade from the drop down below. This will be used to determine school and transportation information.

Step 2: Enter address information
Minimally, a valid house number and street is required to obtain information. Zip/postal code may be required for certain addresses.

House #: Street: Zip:

Step 3: Start the search
Click the "Find School/Transportation Info" button below. Versatrans e-Link will retrieve pertinent transportation information for you.

Students use creations and coffee to get leg up on careers

By Shelly Miller



A newly-offered course called Career Creations and Coffee at West High School is giving students the opportunity to get a feel for what they might want to be "when they grow up."

Career Creations and Coffee focuses on business management and product production. Students create items such as lanyards, bracelets and key chains, as well as sell coffee to staff. It gives them entrepreneurial experience as well as the soft and technical skills necessary to be college and career-ready.

"Students have started this business from the ground up and worked hard to create a business that will continue throughout the years," said Heather Sellner, transition work experience coordinator at Mankato Area Public Schools. "They gain a hands-on understanding of everyday business management skills and work together to problem solve, budget and market their products."

At the end of the course, students determine their cost return on investment and donate funds to a local charity. Sellner said the opportunity allows students to be engaged and excited about their learning.

West High School students Audry Johnston, Hannah Fenske and Jade Kester fill a coffee order purchased by Math Teacher Crissy Makela.

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 upon meeting criteria and space 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 507-387-2125 or email staff at centralregistration@isd77.org for assistance.

Education for life

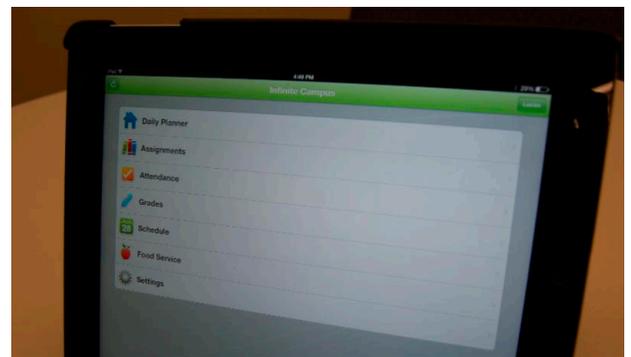
If you know someone who wants their children to attend Mankato Area Public Schools, they can enroll by calling 507-387-2125. Detailed information about Mankato Area Public Schools is available at isd77.org and by telephoning 507-387-8516.

Check your student's progress in real time

A tool to help students be successful is one where parents are able to check on student information using the Infinite Campus® Parent Portal—an online resource that's available by app too, so it can be used on a smartphone or tablet. At the elementary level, parents view basic demographic information, food service balance and attendance; at the secondary level, parents can also check grades, schedules and grade book assignments 24/7. Students like the online grade book too, because it helps them keep tabs on how they're doing.

To learn more about the Infinite Campus parent portal, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxzkby25> or Central Registration at <https://tinyurl.com/y2xoggzd>. To get started, visit one of your children's schools or Central Registration, 10 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, to pick up a GUID number that will allow you to register online.

For questions or more information contact district media and technology staff at 507-387-7698.



Scott Hare receives Special Education Administrator of the Year Award

The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) named Scott Hare, Director of Student Support Services of Mankato Area Public Schools, Special Education Administrator of the Year. Hare received this award for his dedication to students with disabilities and their families, and his active involvement in professional and community affairs.



"I have known Scott for over twenty years and during that time I have seen him evolve from a high school principal into one of the most respected veteran special education leaders in Minnesota," said Darren Kermes, Superintendent of the SouthWest Metro Intermediate District. "Scott has mentored numerous aspiring special education directors and it is time to acknowledge all that he has done for the field of special education in our state."

Hare has served as the Director of Student Support Services for the Mankato Area Public Schools since 2017. Prior to serving in Mankato, he was the Director of Special Services and then the Executive Director of Administrative Services for Shakopee Public Schools. Hare has worked in several administrative capacities at the Belle Plaine and Jordan Public Schools, Goodhue County Education District, Melrose Area Public Schools and Robbinsdale Public Schools.

Hare joined the Mankato Area Public Schools team and brought with him multiple levels of teaching and leadership experiences. During his time with Mankato, Hare participated in leading the restructuring of their special education programming to a strengths based case load, completed an intervention audit in partnership with the Director of Teaching and Learning, and continued the district's work on merging their Early Childhood Family Education and Early Childhood Special Education with Community Education and Special Education. Hare is a continuous learner and makes decisions based on student group data and best practices. He excels in building relationships with all employees and understands that diverse perspectives are needed in making decisions.

Hare received his bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and he earned a master's degree in Special Education from the University of St. Thomas.

Special education services helping students be successful

Mankato Area Public Schools serves students with disabilities from birth through age 21. Federal and state laws guide the school district in identifying, evaluating and serving students with disabilities. A team of special educators, general educators and families work together to develop an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) for students who meet the criteria for services. The team considers the student's present level of performance, identifies educational needs and develops goals to meet those needs in the least restrictive setting.

Mankato Area Public Schools provides a continuum of services for students with disabilities. Special instruction and services are provided in: autism spectrum disorders, blind-visually impaired, deaf-blind, deaf and hard of hearing, developmental cognitive disabilities, developmental delay, emotional or behavioral disorders, other health disabilities, physically impaired, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairments and traumatic brain injury.

Prior to age six, a child who needs special instruction and services because of a substantial delay or identifiable physical or mental condition that hinders normal development is considered a child with a disability. Most students receive special education in their neighborhood school. The district also has specialized programs for students who need more support.

For more information on identifying, evaluating and providing service to students with disabilities, contact your child's school principal or student support services at 507-387-1818.

Bus rules put safety first



MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
transportation
rules and regulations

Safety is the primary concern in transporting students. Safety on school buses is the shared responsibility of students, parents, school staff, bus contractors and bus drivers. Parents/guardians should read and explain these rules to their children. We ask your cooperation in helping us provide a safe and pleasant ride for all students by impressing upon your child(ren) the importance of bus safety and courtesy at the bus stop and on the bus.

ride the bus with us

Rules on the Bus
for a safe and pleasant ride

1. Immediately follow directions of the driver, do not delay loading/unloading procedures.
2. Always sit, face forward and do not move around.
3. Talk quietly, be courteous and use appropriate language.
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
5. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
6. No fighting, harassing, intimidating or horseplay.
7. Do not throw any objects in or out of the bus or damage the bus.
8. No eating, drinking, matches, lighters or use of tobacco.
9. At railroad tracks be absolutely silent.
10. No verbal and/or physical sexual harassment.

BREAKING THE RULES

1. Student will be verbally warned.
2. Student will be issued a pink slip.
3. School Bus Incident Report will be issued and transportation denied.

NOTE: Dangerous or destructive offenses will result in the IMMEDIATE suspension of busing privileges with NO warning given.

MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
507-387-5949

Mankato Area Public Schools provides transportation services for public and non-public students in the district. Non-public students in each service area are transported to and from their respective schools. To be eligible for transportation, students in grades K-5 must reside one mile or more from their school of attendance and students in grades 6-12 must reside two miles or more from their school of attendance, and all students must live within the attendance boundary of the school they attend. Students outside of the busing boundaries may contact the bus operator that serves their area to inquire about purchasing transportation services.

Students being transported on a regular bus (not a mini bus) must have a bus pass to be eligible to ride a bus to and from school. Students must register each year for a pass by completing a transportation registration form at their school of attendance. A fee

of \$5 (payable to the bus operator) is charged to replace lost passes. Access more information about bus rules for a safe and pleasant ride online at isd77.org.

Palmer Bus Company

507-386-0210

Service area

- Rural Nicollet County
- Upper/Lower North Mankato
- North Highway 169 to district border
- North of Main Street to Highway 22 and north of old Highway 14 to district border
- East from Minnesota River to district border beyond Madison Lake
- K-12 students in Eagle Lake north of old Highway 14
- K-8 students in Eagle Lake south of old Highway 14
- East of Agency Street in Eagle Lake to district border

Schools

- Bridges Community School
- Central High/Freedom Schools
- Dakota Meadows Middle School
- Eagle Lake Elementary School
- East High School
- Franklin Elementary School
- Hoover Elementary School
- Monroe Elementary School
- Prairie Winds Middle School
- Washington Elementary School
- West High School

Yaeger Bus Service

507-345-5470

Service area

- South of Main Street to Highway 22 and south of old Highway 14 to district border
- Grades 9-12 in Eagle Lake south of old Highway 14
- West edge of district, south of Minnesota River
- Minneopa State Park area and South Bend

Schools

- Bridges Community School
- Central High/Freedom Schools
- Dakota Meadows Middle School
- Eagle Lake Elementary School
- East High School
- Jefferson Elementary School
- Kennedy Elementary School
- Prairie Winds Middle School
- Roosevelt Elementary School
- Rosa Parks Elementary School
- Washington Elementary School

For more information, contact Tricia Baumgard in Mankato Area Public Schools' transportation office at 507-387-5949 or tbaumg1@isd77.org.

Volunteer Barb Lindholm and sidekick Nikko make a difference to readers

By Shelly Miller

As a volunteer at Roosevelt Elementary School for 16 years, Barb Lindholm says there is no place she would rather be. For her first eight years, she served as a weekly classroom volunteer in Jeanne Fitterer's first grade class. For the past eight years, Lindholm has spent additional time with her canine reading buddy Nikko, who is a certified therapy dog, helping students develop confidence and reading skills in a unique and engaging way.

"Nikko and I bring a fun aspect to reading through the Canine Reading Buddy program that makes kids feel special," said Lindholm. "I see them come out of their shell while they read to us."

Lindholm says volunteering is rewarding and helps keep her young and broad-minded. For a retired nurse who once considered teaching, the opportunity was a great fit.

"I spent my professional life working with the elderly so after retirement I knew I'd like to work with the young," she said. Lindholm was one recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Award this year in the schools. If you are interested in volunteering, call 507-387-5501 or email volunteer@isd77.org.



Barb Lindholm and canine reading buddy Nikko read with Roosevelt student Wyatt Hornemann.

Health services helps start the year off right

Immunizations

For the health and safety of all children in the schools, immunizations must be current to begin the school year. Children who cannot be immunized for medical reasons or whose parents are opposed to immunizations need to provide proof of legal exemption. The following immunizations are required to begin the school year.

Preschool

- *1 Varicella (chicken pox) or documentation of disease
- *1 Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- 4 Diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP)
- 3 Polio
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Haemophilus B (Hib)
- 2 Hepatitis A

Kindergarten

- *2 Varicella (chicken pox) or documentation of disease
- *2 MMR
- **5 DTaP
- 4 Polio
- 3 Hepatitis B

Seventh grade

- *2 Varicella (chicken pox) or documentation of disease
- *2 MMR
- 3DTaP
- 1Tdap booster after age 11
- 4 Polio
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Meningococcal

*Minimum age: on or after first birthday. **Final dose: on or before age four.

(Continued on page 16)

Health census form

Please complete an annual health census form indicating any life-threatening allergies or chronic health conditions, or if your child has a shunt or implant device.

Consent for administration of medication during the school day

A medication consent form called "Consent Form for Administration of Medication During the School Day," must be completed and on file with Mankato Area Public Schools' Health Services before a student takes medications or uses an inhaler, insulin or EpiPen at school. Medication consent forms are provided by health services, area medical clinics or online at isd77.org. A parent/guardian must provide and bring all medications in their original containers to the school.

Children should stay home if they have a fever of 100 degrees or more. They should remain at home until they are fever-free without the use of medications for 24 hours. If a child is vomiting or has diarrhea, he or she should remain at home 24 hours after the last episode. If a child has a rash or skin condition of unknown cause, it is important to check with a health care provider before sending him or her to school. If a child is ill, please call the school each day the child is absent.

For more information contact Mankato Area Public Schools' Health Services: East High School at 507-207-3730, or West High School at 507-387-3488. Information is available at isd77.org.

Education for all

Mankato Area Public Schools' staff and faculty are committed to helping everyone succeed. Discrimination is prohibited in policies and practices regarding district personnel and students under section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. Discrimination against anyone with a disability* will not knowingly be permitted in any school programs or practices.

Staff and faculty work to effectively communicate with those who have disabilities to ensure they are given educational opportunities they have the right to receive. Staff and faculty will help eligible students by identifying, evaluating and providing access to needed educational services.

Parents/guardians who disagree with the district's staff determination have a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act provides parents/guardians rights related to educational records by allowing them to:

1. Inspect and review their child's educational records.
2. Make copies of these records.
3. Receive a list of all individuals sharing access to these records.
4. Ask for an explanation of any item in the records.
5. Ask for an amendment to any report if it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the child's rights.
6. Receive a hearing if the school refuses to make the amendment.

*Qualified disability: Mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

For more information, contact student support services at 507-387-1818.

Right to know

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student who attends Mankato Area Public Schools have a right to know about the professional qualifications of the teachers who instruct their child(ren). The Every Student Succeeds Act provides the right to ask for the following information about each child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the State of Minnesota has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status by which state licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any instructional aide or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

To receive any of the above information, contact Eric Hudspith, director of human resources, at 507-387-3017.

Accident insurance option available

Parents/guardians have an option to purchase accident insurance for their children through Student Assurance Services, Inc. of Stillwater, Minnesota. This plan will provide benefits for medical expenses incurred because of an accident.

For more information, contact Mankato Area Public Schools' administrative offices at 507-387-3167 or maps@isd77.org.

Mankato Area Public Schools does not provide health or accident insurance for injuries children incur at school.

Mankato Area Public Schools'

24-hour school help and information line

507-386-4777

The Public Information Office publishes Mankato Area Public Schools' Focus newsletter annually to share school news with parents and guardians.

Senior Editor:

Shelly Schulz

Director of public information and communication

507-387-8516

Editor:

Edell Fiedler

Communications and engagement coordinator

507-387-8692

Mankato Area Public Schools
Public Information Office
10 Civic Center Plaza
Mankato, MN 56001

isd77.org

Mankato Area Public Schools

School	Grade(s)	Times	Contact	Phone
Bridges Community School 320 Garfield Avenue North Mankato	K-5	8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Robin Courrier	507-387-2800
Central Freedom School 110 Fulton Street Mankato	9-12	8 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Brian Hansen	507-387-3047
Central High School 110 Fulton Street Mankato	9-12	8:10 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Brian Hansen	507-387-3047
Dakota Meadows Middle School 1900 Howard Drive North Mankato	6-8	8:10 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.	Carmen Strahan	507-387-5077
Eagle Lake Elementary School 500 Le Sueur Avenue Eagle Lake	K-5	8:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Jason Grovom	507-257-3530
East High School 2600 Hoffman Road Mankato	9-12	8:15 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.	Jeff Dahline	507-387-5671
Futures 1610 Commerce Drive North Mankato	K-12	8:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Sara McMonagle	507-387-1455
Franklin Elementary School 1000 North Broad Street Mankato	K-5	8:10 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Travis Olson	507-345-4287
Hoover Elementary School 1524 Hoover Drive North Mankato	K-5	8:10 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Dan Kamphoff	507-388-5202
Jefferson Elementary School 100 James Avenue Mankato	K-5	8:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Scot Johnson	507-388-5480
Kennedy Elementary School 2600 East Main Street Mankato	K-5	8:05 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.	Steve Rustad	507-387-2122

Mankato Area Public Schools

School	Grade(s)	Times	Contact	Phone
Monroe Elementary School 441 Monroe Avenue North Mankato	K-5	8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Steve Johanson	507-387-7889
Prairie Winds Middle School 1200 Prairie Winds Drive Mankato	6-8	8:10 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.	Monde Schwartz	507-345-6625
Roosevelt Elementary School 300 West Sixth Street Mankato	K-5	8:05 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.	Ann Haggerty	507-345-4285
Rosa Parks Elementary School 1001 Heron Drive Mankato	K-5	8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Michelle Kruize	507-387-7672
Washington Elementary School 1100 Anderson Drive Mankato	K-5	8:05 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.	Shane Baier	507-345-3059
West High School 1351 South Riverfront Drive Mankato	9-12	8:15 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.	Sherri Blasing	507-387-3461

DISCOVER MAPS

ACADEMICS

SCHOOLS

CONNECT



MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 8741
Mankato, MN 56002-8741
maps@isd77.org
(507) 387-1868

*Assuring learning excellence and readiness for
a changing world*



