



**Westview
Elementary**

The Bulldog Bulletin

Editor: Nicole Gorman; nj.gorman12@gmail.com

May 2021

Principal's Corner

Dear Westview Families,

Ten years ago on Friday, May 27, 2011, I received a phone call that changed a direction in my life. I was home on a personal day for my stepdaughter's wedding. My kitchen was full with her, her best friend, my two other girls and husband. We were having breakfast, going over the list of things to finish, gathering buckets for the flowers we were picking up in St. Paul and settling some nerves. My phone rang and seeing it was the superintendent, I stepped onto the deck for privacy and quiet. After some clarification and small talk about being at home and events of the day, I was asked, "Would you like to be the next principal at Westview Elementary?" While I was hoping for this outcome, I was not expecting it, already had a range of emotions playing out around the wedding and am not always a fast processor with big decisions. I trusted all my previous thoughts about this opportunity and answered a positive, "yes!" I was told that I would be introduced to the Westview staff before the school day on Tuesday and that someone would announce to the Glacier Hills staff at the same time that I was accepting a new role. I remember thinking about what to wear, who was on the hiring committee from the school and other connections I could make or what I might say. I entered the building a bit shaky, doubting if I was ready for this next step, worried about change to a new community, leaving a place where I felt safe and successful and feeling vulnerable yet excited. As I reflect over the past decade, I am so grateful to be in place where students are genuinely cared for as a whole person by a dedicated staff. I appreciate the faith, trust and partnership with our parents. Especially, leading and learning together



during this year has solidified that saying yes to Westview has deeply impacted me forever. I look forward to more time together on the journey as we continue to build a safe, rigorous, relevant learning environment with relationships at the core.

With gratitude,
Tami

MoveMindfully Family Night

Thursday, May 13; 6-7 p.m. via Zoom

Join us to explore fun and practical mindfulness strategies the Bulldogs are using throughout the building when they practice how to BREATHE-MOVE-REST together. Create a toolkit of simple techniques/routines to use intentionally throughout the day so you can enjoy spending time together and shift from chaos to connected.

Many of our classrooms are currently participating in a residency with a trainer helping to facilitate these moments and methods at school. This is part of our ongoing partnership with MoveMindfully to develop independence for self-regulation and awareness. Please see an email sent from Westview on Friday, April 9 with a link to register. We will send out another one prior to the event. Hope you can join us. This event is possible from a Wellness Grant from Dakota County that we applied for and received this fall.



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Bulldog S.T.R.O.N.G.

Self-control, Teamwork, Respect, Ownership, Noble Actions & Gratitude

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Reminders & Information



MCA Testing Schedule

Here is the Westview testing schedule for the Spring 2021 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA):

Grade 5 Math

May 3-7; 1:15-3 p.m.

These dates are also on the Westview testing calendar of our homepage.

Mental Health Highlight

Associated Clinic of Psychology has partnered with ISD 196 for over a decade to provide school-based mental health services. Services at Westview are provided by licensed clinician Sarah Najafalipour, who has worked with many Westview families over the past five school years she has been with Westview. Sarah is currently able to meet with students in-person or virtually! Please feel free to reach out to Westview Social Worker, Patsy Ryan (952-431-8386) for questions regarding the program or to discuss a referral, or visit <https://acp-mn.com/community-school-based/> and fill out the online referral form. Let us help!



District 196 Yard Sign

Reserve Your Free ISD 196 Yard Sign!

Reserve your yard sign here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd7NhPf3ojH1E1A6w-jXUR4_DRHZgrbamtzRdwyvaxMF2REA/viewform

If you have been looking for a way to show support to our hard-working teachers and staff, now is your chance! Please join The District 196 Foundation in spreading gratitude throughout the district by displaying a (free!) yard sign.

You will receive a follow-up email with information on where and when to pick up your sign. Sign quantity is limited; signs will be distributed according to order of response.

Thank you for helping us recognize teachers and staff this spring!

About District 196 Foundation

District 196 Foundation is dedicated to eliminating barriers to learning across ISD 196. We're an all-volunteer organization that focuses on ensuring students have consistent access to food, providing books to keep kids



reading during the summer months, and restoring used instruments so more students can participate in band. In response to Covid-19, we shifted our priorities to better address rising food insecurity, technology needs, and personal protective equipment for District 196 teachers and staff.

1st Day School Supplies

Westview will be offering school supply kits for all our students again this coming year 2021/2022.



The kits include everything needed in the classroom as requested by the teachers. These kits contain trusted brands like Crayola, Mead and Avery. Below is the link to open to order your kit today. Make sure to click on the grade your child will be in next year for the 2021/2022 school year.

<https://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/kits.php?sid=57356>



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Special Thanks



The Westview Elementary PTO would like to give special thanks to the following people for their contributions this year. We could not do what we do without YOU!

Below is a snapshot of just some of our amazing helpers. Our apologies if we've missed anyone; please know all helping hands are appreciated!



Staff Appreciation

October 2020: Sara Dziuk

November 2020: Erica Eggers

January: Michelle Doepke

February: Jackie Seidel

March: Katherine Quaschnick,

Devyne Schmidt, Emily Herman

April: Michelle Doepke

May: Michelle Dreckmann

Art Adventure Initiative

Monica Sandoval, Jackie Seidel

Yearbook

Lori Gartner, Phoebe Hanna



Student Directory

Emily Herman

Westview Community Garden

Lori Gartner

Student Scholarship Updates

Sarah Najafalipour

Spirit Wear

Ashley Robb

District 196 Parent Leader

Kendrea Pittman

Panera Donation Pickup & Delivery

Mary Rowan (Coordinating Program),

Heidi Smith (March), Rosie Palubicki

(April), Brian Eggers (May)

Butter Braids Fundraiser

Mary Rowan

1st Day School Supplies Offering

Mary Rowan

Distance Learning Video for Teachers

Renee Kothe

Bulldog Bulletin

Nicole Gorman

Box Tops for Education

Nicole Gorman

Scholastic Book Fair

Becky Sandahl, Media Specialists

Social Media

Melissa Wikstrom

Glitter & Glow Holiday Lights, Chalk the Walk

Melissa Wikstrom

Recycling Program

Melissa Wikstrom

PTO Executive Committee

Michelle Doepke—President

Sara Dziuk—Vice President

Erica Eggers—Treasurer

Jackie Seidel—Secretary

Revised 2020-21 School Year Calendar

- **May 31**
Memorial Day, No School
- **June 8**
End of Trimester 3 (grades K-5)



Reminders & FYI

Tutor Opportunity

My name is Gabriella, and I am the director of outreach for Geniusprep. I am a Sophomore student attending Jefferson High School. Geniusprep is a summer free tutoring service for students in grades K-6; we tutor in math and english. Our program runs from June 11 to August 27. While Geniusprep was originally created to help students during the coronavirus pandemic, it has grown into an organization dedicated to helping students enjoy learning. Our program is distinctive in that we place a special emphasis on the student building a unique bond with their high school tutor. I've emailed you to ask if there was any way we could raise awareness about our program to your students. If your school has any social media groups or communal places, we would love to spread our message through those platforms. Below you will find our website and most recent media interviews. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out!

Website:

<https://www.geniusprep.org>

KSTP interview: <https://kstp.com/technology/tanisha-kota-online-tutoring-service/5807627/>

Startribune article: <https://www.startribune.com/industrious-minnesota-students-create-virtual-tutoring-services-to-give-back-in-the-pandemic/572321132/>

WV Lost & Found

The Westview Lost & Found has many great items left behind. If your child is missing something, ask them to take some time to look through it. I will set it out soon for students to easily identify their things. On one of these nice spring days, all things will be moved outside for parents to look through. An email will be sent when we know the dates. Anything left will be repurposed for other students.

Water Bottles

Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school daily. Please label it with their name and grade. Our drinking fountains are only for refilling bottles; hydrated kids are better learners.

Summer Reading Program

Due to building renovations there will be no summer reading program offered in 2021. Hoping to have a second annual program summer of 2022.

PTO Notes & News

PTO Meeting—Save the date:

- Final PTO meeting of the school year: May 10; 6-7 p.m. Hear a "year-end review" of all the amazing things our PTO did this year, and a look ahead to what next year may look like.

Meetings may be in-person or via Zoom. Make sure to check Facebook and email for updates.

Volunteers Needed

The PTO is seeking volunteers for the following positions:

Treasurer—In search of a Treasurer for next school year. Current treasurer can assist in the transition. Reach out to erica.eggert@gmail.com with any interest.

District Parent Liaison—In search of a District Parent Liaison to attend monthly district meeting representing our students and staff, bringing information and issues back to the PTO. Time commitment 1-2 hours per month. Reach out to mruckmar@yahoo.com with any interest.



Specialists Space

Important Updates from Westview's Specialists

A Word from Patsy Ryan, WV Social Worker



It is with mixed emotions that I write this message. I have reached a milestone in my life. After twenty years as the Westview School Social Worker, I have decided to retire. I have loved my time working with children, staff and families at Westview. During my years here I have seen huge changes, and not only in the mirror.

Technology and learning looks so different today from when I started this career. The pandemic has been difficult, but we persisted. The staff here works as a fine tuned machine. Even the best of equipment needs a replacement part now and then.

I have taught many lessons, but I have learned even more. I will cherish my memories of all of the wonderful children who have been in front of me. I want to thank you all for trusting us at Westview. This staff is amazing; returning staff and the new social worker will continue to make this a safe place to learn and grow. Tami only hires the best, so I know all my Bulldogs will be in good hands.

Ms. Meyers, Band Instructor



Fourth Grade Students: Ms. Meyers visited all of the 4th grade classrooms to talk about joining Band. All 4th grade students, be sure to join the Westview's Let's Go Band page on Seesaw to get important news and updates. She is excited to meet with all of you right away in the fall to select your instrument! Let's GLOW Band!

Band in Middle School: I encourage each of our fifth-grade students to take advantage of the wonderful instrumental music programs at the District 196 middle schools.

Also, if you need assistance ensuring your child is registered for 6th grade band, please email me. I can ensure this happens very easily, even if they are currently not registered for band. An important item to note this year is that, due to the pandemic, 5th grade band is NOT a prerequisite for 6th grade band. Let me know if I can help or answer questions: mariah.meyers@district196.org

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?=co7ViX-QfT8>



Mrs. Theirl, Library

**All Library books/materials
are due by Wednesday,
May 26th**

