

Big Woods Elementary School

October Newsletter

Message from the Principal

We had an incredible start to the school year. I have witnessed students helping each other and serving others all around the school building. Students hear a message each morning on how we can serve other people and make others feel Valued. We want to constantly instill in our students how to grow academically and to be a kind student.

Thank you for your constant support. As a reminder, parents are welcome and allowed to join their child for lunch on occasion. Please check into the office a few minutes before your child's lunch period. You can sit and wait at our family tables until they arrive inside from recess. I hope to see you sometime this school year.



Students of the Month

Jacinta H., Charlotte M.,
Jackson R., Alanna B., Noah L.,
Elsa L., Sawyer M., Karina S.



CBG's (Caught Being Good)



CBG's (Caught Being Good)



STMA High School Football Readers Joined the BUZZ

These five incredible athletes and students were graduates of Big Woods Elementary School.



STMA High School Football Readers

What an exciting morning at Big Woods.



Big Woods Students

Ready to cheer for the STMA Knights at the Homecoming game. Go Knights!

October Events

October 12 - Grade 2 Field Trip to Stages Theater

October 14 - "Fun Run"

October 20 - No School All

October 21 - No School All

October 24-27 - Grandparents and Guests Lunch

October 28 - Grade 1-3 Harvest Party

October 31 - Grade 4 Bowling to River City

Big Woods Invites Grandparents and Guests

Join us for lunch in the Big Woods Cafeteria October 24th-27th for our annual Grandparents/Guests Lunch. All guests must RSVP. Please see the schedule on the invitation form that went home to families this past week.

RSVP due Wednesday, October 19th.



Boosterthon Fun Run - HERE COMES THE FUN!

So far we have raised \$24,354. We are almost there! We will celebrate with the FUN RUN on October 14th. Our goal is \$40,000 as a school. Together, we can reach our goal. Thank you families and our PTO for all your support.

Friday, October 14th

Grade 2: 8:00

Grade 1: 8:50

Grade 4: 9:40

Grade 3: 10:35



Message from our PTO

Anyone who would like to be notified of volunteer opportunities (fun run, grandparents lunch, garage sale, etc) can send us an email at bigwoodsptovolunteers@gmail.com

We are so grateful for those that have supported Big Woods this school year. Please reach out if you are interested.

Sincerely,

Big Woods PTO Team

Operating Levy Important Information

On November 8, 2022, STMA will ask taxpayers to consider an operating levy. This is a predictable and sustainable source of local revenue that focuses on students and the classroom.

While STMA schools are a big point of pride in our community, our district faces pressing financial challenges due to forces largely out of our control. Low state funding and stabilizing enrollment, exacerbated by the pandemic, have created an unforeseeable combination of multiple short-term and long-term impacts to our budget. Over the last few months, we listened to stakeholders and adjusted. Our needs remain, and we are asking for considerably less than requested in November, 2021.

Please visit the [levy webpage](#) or attend an informational session to get factual information.

- Wednesday, October 12 7:00 a.m. MW Auditorium
- Thursday, October 13 7:00 p.m. HS PAC
- Monday, October 17 9:00 a.m. MW Auditorium Coffee & Conversation

Please remember to vote! You can vote on November 8 or you can vote early as MN allows voters to cast ballots early for any reason. Early voting started Friday, September 23. Early

voting forms can be found in all school offices and on the [levy webpage](#).



Message from our District Teaching and Learning Department

October 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of STMA K-5th Grade Students,

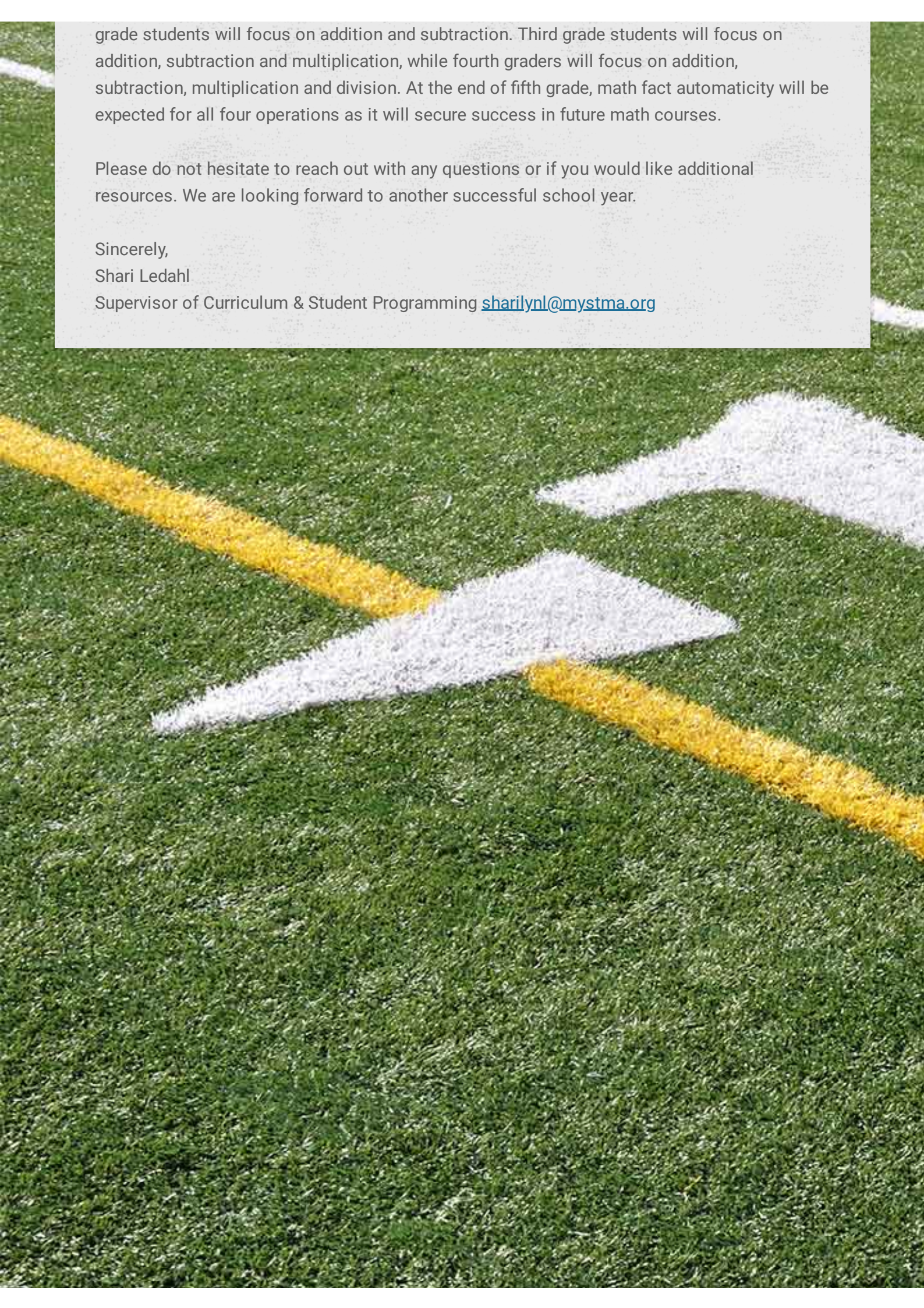
St. Michael-Albertville Schools are excited to welcome back our mathematicians as we begin the 2022-2023 school year. The core of mathematics is reasoning- thinking through why methods make sense and talking about reasons for the use of different methods. Throughout the school year, students will continue to build reasoning skills and gain understanding of more complex functions by deepening their understanding of numerical principles and number flexibility.

When students build a strong foundation in number sense, they have a better conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts. They can perform at high levels, allowing them to be automatic and accurate, which we refer to as automaticity. It is the goal of STMA to provide instructional strategies that promote number sense, but with additional time and support at home, students will surely shift their mathematical thinking from visual representations to methods that are more timely and efficient.

We encourage you to provide opportunities for your child to practice number fluency in the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. There are several ways a child can build number sense that leads to automaticity, including the use of flashcards. The following links are great resource for your child:

<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-skills/math-facts> <http://www.mathfactcafe.com/>
<https://home.xtramath.org/> (sign-up for a free account) <http://www.funbrain.com/math/>
<http://www.kidzone.ws/math/> <http://www.aaamath.com/>
<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/> <http://www.aplusmath.com/Flashcards/index.html>

As your child progresses through Kindergarten-fifth grade, they will be assessed for automaticity of basic math facts. First grade students will primarily focus on addition. Second



grade students will focus on addition and subtraction. Third grade students will focus on addition, subtraction and multiplication, while fourth graders will focus on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. At the end of fifth grade, math fact automaticity will be expected for all four operations as it will secure success in future math courses.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or if you would like additional resources. We are looking forward to another successful school year.

Sincerely,

Shari Ledahl

Supervisor of Curriculum & Student Programming sharilynl@mystma.org