

Principal: Jesse Peterson
jessep@mystma.org



**ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE
SCHOOLS**

Dean of Students: Nicole Miller
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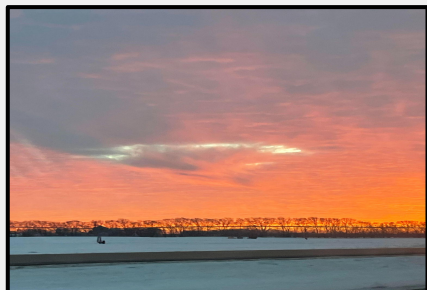
**Newsletter
February
2022**

Big Woods Elementary School

St. Michael-Albertville #885
Excellence is our Tradition

Principal Message

I had to pull over last week on my drive to work to enjoy this breathtaking experience. My first 3 minutes of the drive included an anxious spirit, a little stress, and certainly not much peace. I guess the view changed all that. I needed to be reminded that my problems were not quite as large as they seemed. I needed to view them from 10,000 feet. I certainly know that we all have our burdens. Every once in a while, we need to be reminded of the gifts we've received including the children we are privileged to see and teach each day.



Parent Drop Off

As a reminder, doors open at 7:20 AM at Door D. The buses drop off at 7:18 AM, so you may see students in the building. It is very important to wait until 7:20 AM when allowing your child to exit your car as staff will not be at Door D until that time. Thank you for your cooperation.

Also, please make sure you always travel around Middle School East to our one-way entry for parent drop off from Naber Ave. NE. Even if you are in a rush, please do not enter our parking lot from 50th Street.

Upcoming Events

**Talent Expo Projects Due
February 22**

**Spring Pictures
March 1**

**Trimester 2 Ends
March 3**

**Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 1 and 3**

Upcoming Events

**No School/Workshop
March 4**

**Spring Break
March 7-11**

**School Board and PTO
March 14**

**Yearbook orders Due
March 18**

**Food Drive
March 21-25**

Upcoming Events

3rd Grade Music Concerts

**Middle School West
Auditorium: February 21st**

**6:00 PM - Ms. Springer, Mrs.
Hinkemeyer, and Mrs.
Tibbetts**

**7:00 PM - Mrs. Baker and
Mrs. Mashek**

Arrive 15 minutes before your start time.

Big Woods Volunteers (4th Grade)

Calling All Volunteers!

We are in need of volunteers daily from 10:00-11:00 or 1:00-2:00 to complete one on one reading interventions with our 4th Grade students. The benefit our students receive from this quick intervention is significant.

Better fluency leads to greater comprehension. Please consider volunteering with our 4th Grade students. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Books and Breakfast, 333 guests joined us for some reading!



100th Day of School



Big Woods Caught Being Good and Students of the Month



Celebrating Lukas D's artwork at the School Board Meeting, 2nd grade science experiment, and friendship



PTO Family Bingo Night



Wright County School Announcement

***“Foster care is an opportunity for you to make
a positive difference in a child’s life.”***

There is an average of 140 children within Wright County who are in out of home placement nightly. We currently have a pressing need for foster parents especially for teens, sibling groups, and emergency on call providers.

We have an amazing team that supports our children in placement and foster parents who are caring for our Wright County children. But we need our communities to help as children in foster care are not someone else’s children, they are our community’s children.

Are you interested in more information?

- ♥ Contact Marisa Ferguson at (763)682-7484 or email her at Marisa.Ferguson@co.wright.mn.us
- ♥ You are invited to attend the upcoming orientation on Monday, April 4th, and May 2nd from 6-9pm. The meeting will be held at Wright County Government Center located at 3650 Braddock Ave NE, Buffalo, Minnesota.

Resources and More: “Big Feelings” at Big Woods

Throughout the school year, there may be situations at Big Woods that bring some “big” emotions/feelings to students. “Big emotions” is a term we use to describe students who express anger, sadness, disgust, or frustration in a “big” way. We share with students that everyone has feelings and all feelings are okay and important. It’s helpful for kids to know that feelings are natural, feelings can change, and everyone can learn skills for managing their feelings. Some people are “big feelers” and their feelings might come on strong and may feel overwhelming. At Big Woods, we can help kids learn ways to manage their feelings so they can learn.

When big feelings occur at school, our first priority is to make sure all students are safe. We support the student(s) with “big feelings”, as well as other students. We help answer questions, and process with individual students, classrooms and/or families, as appropriate. Our school social worker, Mrs. Thomas, and school counselor, Mrs. Snodgrass, work with students and classrooms each day. Both have websites with information about calming and other social emotional skills.

Here's a [link to the Dealing with Feelings section of Mrs. Thomas' website.](#) Here's [a link to Mrs. Snodgrass' website.](#)

Thank you for your continued support of Big Woods Elementary School.

Student Placement Process

The Big Woods staff will begin planning for student placement for 2022-2023. Tremendous time and effort are given to designing well-balanced learning groups, or classrooms. During this process, the following factors are considered:

- ~ boy/girl ratio
- ~ maturity and self control
- ~ independence level
- ~ behavior and academics
- ~ consistent class size
- ~ special needs
- ~ peer relationships

Since student placement is determined by the criteria mentioned, parents are asked not to request a specific teacher. Be assured that our staff will review the needs of students and carefully select an appropriate learning group.

While teachers are responsible for placing students in learning groups, I am responsible for assigning teachers to each learning group.

Parents who would like a Placement Consideration form may request one by calling 763.497.8025. The deadline to return the form is Friday, March 18th.

Upcoming MCA Tests

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA's) are scheduled for 3rd and 4th grade students in April. Your child's teacher will send the specific dates in the student's planner. Despite the unique learning year, teachers have done their best to prepare the students. Currently, teachers are exposing students to practice tests to help them become comfortable with the test formats and testing conditions. *The Big Woods goal is for 100% of the students to take the MCA's on the scheduled day and time.* Please make every effort to have your child in school and prepared for the MCA's. Please have your child get a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast on each day of testing. It is very important that every student does their very best on these tests!

Thanks for your help and support!

Substitute Staff Needed

Substitute Teachers and Paras Wanted

St. Michael-Albertville School District has substitute teaching and paraprofessional positions available. This would be a great way to help out the district and make some extra cash! If you have a Bachelor's degree, you may be eligible to apply for a Short-Call Substitute license. You can apply for any of our open positions at <https://stma.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>. We hope to see you in our building soon!

Has your contact info changed?

If so, please login to ParentVue and update your info. Pick up login directions for ParentVue in the Big Woods office. This expedites school personnel in contacting you in a quick and efficient manner. Please call the office if you have any questions or need assistance.

Bus Transportation Mask Mandate

The school district is asking for your assistance regarding wearing masks while riding the bus. You may be aware that this is a Federal mandate that the district must follow. Please speak to your child about this requirement and provide a mask for him/her to wear while riding the bus.

Each bus will have masks available for students but we are going through them at an alarming rate and need your help to minimize this expense.

Attendance Procedures

Please call Big Woods 24-hour attendance line number 763-497-8025, Ext. 1 if your child will be absent due to an emergency, illness or any other reason. If you know your child is going to be absent for an extended period of time, please call the attendance line in advance. It is extremely important to contact school before 7:45 AM each day your child is absent. If we don't receive a call from you by the end of the school day, the absence will be considered "unexcused". If a student has excessive absences, we will contact you in order to both inform and offer assistance in improving your child's attendance. State law requires all school age children must attend school every day that school is in session and our district attendance policy provides us with truancy guidelines and procedures. Thank you in advance for your diligence regarding your child's school attendance.

Big Woods Elementary

www.stma.k12.mn.us

Grades 1-4

Enrollment 656



School Hours:
7:45-2:15 PM

13470 Frankfort Parkway NW
St. Michael, MN 55376
Phone: 763.497.8025
Fax: 763.497.6563

Big Woods PTO



Find PTO on Facebook at Big Woods PTO and "like" them for updates.

Contact PTO at bigwoodspto@gmail.com

Volunteers at bigwoodsptovolunteers@gmail.com

Thank you for all your support Big Woods PTO!

PTO Meetings

March 14th - 6:00 PM @ Big Woods Media Center