



✿ April 2024

Newsletter

# MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT PETERSON



Paul Peterson, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent

Happy Spring! Even though our unseasonable winter disappointed those who look forward to the occasional 'snow day', the weather helped us string together several weeks of high-quality student learning across Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS). As we head into the final stretch of the 2023-2024 school year, the MAPS staff is focused on a strong finish this June and has started planning for the future of our schools.

What does it mean to be a 'future-focused' school district? This question is at the heart of the strategic planning process that MAPS has embarked on over the last 18 months. Students, staff, families, and community leaders provided input about what students need in their daily experiences at school as we prepare them for their future.

The planning process we've embarked on is called Classroom to Boardroom, and that title appropriately positions our focus on what happens at the classroom level every day. By far, the most important influence on student learning in school is teacher effectiveness. Of course, several factors impact student learning, including physical, social and emotional well-being, curriculum, and interpersonal relationships, but none of these compare to having high-quality teachers working with students daily. MAPS is fortunate and extremely proud to have a teaching staff that is among the best in the state.

By centering the student experience at the classroom level, and then engaging with staff and families to collect their input about how to improve the system, school leaders have built theories of action that, when implemented, will result in meeting the expectations of our public school stakeholders. Throughout the Classroom to Boardroom process, district leaders and school board members have learned a lot about the hopes and dreams of our kids, staff and parents. The perspectives shared with us have made it clear that the MAPS system needs to respond more rapidly to the changing needs of those we serve.

Soon, the MAPS School Board will be sharing revisions to the school district's strategic roadmap which includes the vision, mission, core commitments and strategic priorities that will guide MAPS' work over the next several years. When you see or hear about what is being proposed, please share your feedback. We value your input and look forward to our work together on behalf of our greatest community asset—our kids!

Have a great spring and thank you for your continued support of public education in the Mankato area.

## 2024 GRADUATION



🕒 5:00pm  
📅 Wednesday, June 5, 2024  
📍 Lincoln Community School Auditorium  
110 Fulton Street, Mankato



🕒 5:30pm  
📅 Thursday, June 6, 2024  
📍 Mayo Health Systems Event Center  
1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato MN 56001



🕒 8:00pm  
📅 Thursday, June 6, 2024  
📍 Mayo Health Systems Event Center  
1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato MN 56001



MAYO CLINIC  
HEALTH SYSTEM  
EVENT CENTER

A streaming link for graduations held at Mayo Health System Event Center will be shared at a later date.

### THIS ISSUE:

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- ✿ SCHOOL BOARD STAFF & STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Find Calendars Here



### CALENDAR REMINDERS:

- April 10th - No School K-12 Eid
- April 17th - 2 hr Early Out
- May 15th - 2 hr Early Out
- May 27th - No School K-12 Memorial Day
- June 6th - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

[www.isd77.org](http://www.isd77.org)

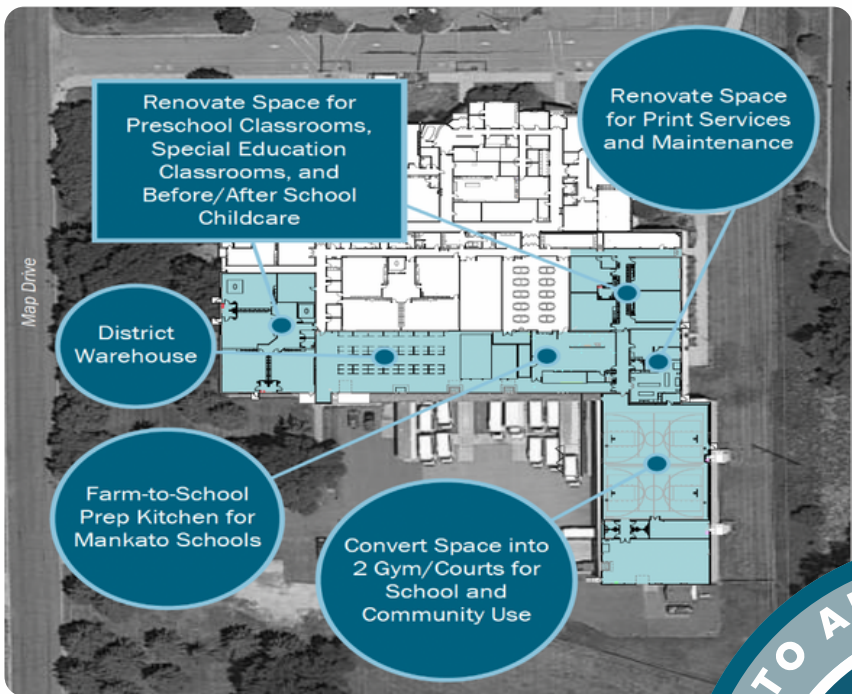
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# BOND REFERENDUM PROJECTS IN MOTION



**PHASE 1**

Mankato Area Public Schools has commenced the referendum projects at Center for Learning, Dakota Meadows Middle School, Bridges Community School, and Roosevelt Elementary School. The initiation of these projects marks a significant step towards enhancing educational facilities within the district. With projects underway at Center for Learning since mid-March, progress is already evident in improving educational infrastructure. Groundbreaking ceremonies are scheduled between April and May for the remaining three sites, indicating a phased approach to construction and development. The community eagerly anticipates the completion of these projects, which promise to provide students with modernized and conducive learning environments.



**Center for Learning**



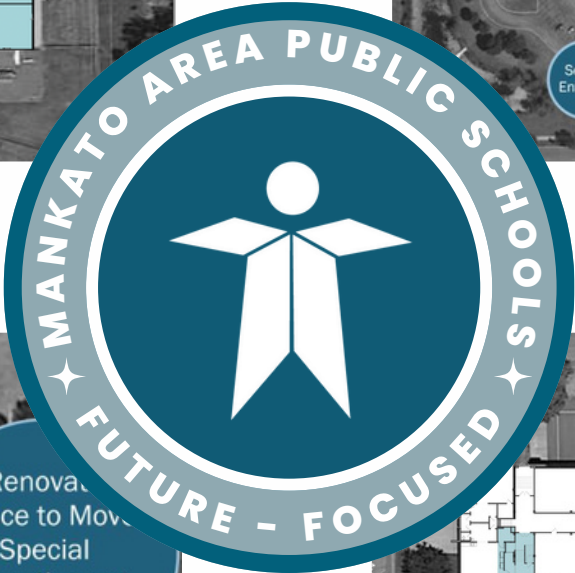
**Dakota Meadows Middle School**



**Bridges Community School**



**Roosevelt Elementary School**





Register Now!

# FORE EDUCARE

Golf Tournament

Monday, June 24th, 2024  
North Links Golf Course

Enjoy an afternoon on the greens and a social that includes our silent auction and punch wall. Not a golfer? Grab a social ticket and join us for dinner and social after golf.

## Fore Educare Tickets:

\$25 (dinner & social)  
\$500 (team of 4, 18-hole scramble)

Please consider a hole sponsorship. Your business name and logo will be placed on a hole during the tournament. Social media recognition is also included.

## Hole Sponsor:

\$150



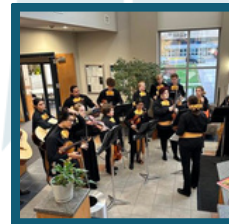
Scan the QR code or go to:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fore-educare-tickets-845972545657?aff=oddtcreator>  
to register online!

# MAPS AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Mankato Area Public Schools will have an exciting new program in the Fall of 2024. The MAPS Ambassadors Program is designed to provide a behind the scenes look at the operations of a district with over 8,000 students.

COMING SOON

The MAPS Ambassador Program is a seven-session look at Mankato Area Public Schools. This program is open to residents in the MAPS boundaries who would like to learn more about our schools and what we do. Topics include finances, operations, teaching and learning, and student services.



## SPRING ACTIVITIES



Check out your high schools' activity page.  
Scroll down and click on "Conference Schedule" to see a full list of activities.



[ehs.isd77.org/get-involved/athletics](https://ehs.isd77.org/get-involved/athletics)

[whs.isd77.org/get-involved/athletics](https://whs.isd77.org/get-involved/athletics)

## Register Online Today!

- 1 Go to: [www.isd77.org](https://www.isd77.org)
- 2 Click ENROLL (top right on the main page)
- 3 Select "Enroll in Kindergarten - Grade 12"
- 4 Click "Start New Registration" link to start the application process
- 5 Select 24-25 (Next Year) Registration
- 6 Have a valid email address ready, as a link will be sent to the email provided to complete the application

### Fast Facts:

- Birth certificate, proof of address (i.e. utility bill or home lease agreement), and immunization record can be uploaded to Infinite Campus or emailed to: [centralregistration@isd77.org](mailto:centralregistration@isd77.org)
- No computer or internet? Register at our office: 10 Civic Center Plaza
- All students entering kindergarten need to complete an Early Childhood Screening. Learn more by visiting: [www.isd77.org/schools-programs/early-learning](https://www.isd77.org/schools-programs/early-learning)



## Kindergarten Connection\*

\*Formally Kindergarten Roundup

### Wednesday, April 17th



Jefferson 4:00 - 6:00

### Thursday, April 18th



Bridges\* 5:00 - 6:30

\*Only for students who received a welcome packet in the mail



Eagle Lake 4:30 - 6:30



Franklin 4:30 - 6:30



Hoover 5:00 - 6:30



Kennedy 4:30 - 6:00



Monroe 4:30 - 6:00



Roosevelt 5:00 - 6:30

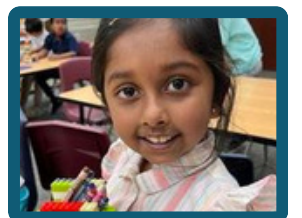


Rosa Parks 5:30 - 7:00



Washington 5:30 - 7:00

Come explore what your school has to offer!

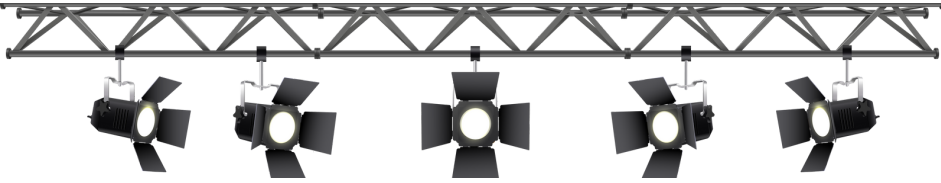


For questions on enrollment, call Central Registration at 507-387-2125





Each month, the MAPs School Board recognizes students and staff members for their outstanding leadership, achievements, determination, and academic resilience. The board is thrilled to continue providing this exceptional opportunity to highlight the efforts and successes of individuals and share them with the community.



Shannon Sinning, Liz Ratcliff, Kari Pratt, Aaron Hyer, Chris Carlson, Greg Hawkins, Jessica Buttell, Chris Kind, Erin Roberts, and Patrick Baker  
Not Pictured: John Probach, Nate Arndt, Sara Wallace, and Evan Ryan

## **November Staff Spotlight:**

DMMS Custodians and Engineer are an incredible team that keeps DMMS running smoothly. They take pride in keeping the building clean and safe, helping with lunch supervision, snow removal, and anything else asked of them with a smile. Thank you for your fantastic work!



Jason Grovom, Aljean, Chelsea Anderson-Ball

## **December Student Spotlight:**

Aljean, a Prairie Winds Middle School eighth grader, exemplifies everything about [#webelong](#) at Prairie Winds. Aljean is a model student in her classes, a member of the HOPE Squad, choir, a WEB leader, and on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. Her daily interactions with her friends and classmates is where her character truly shines. She is empathetic, caring, supportive, and has a heart as big as her smile!



Shannon Sinning, Kari Pratt, Kristi Schuck, Nancy Adams, Rachel Vlasak, Lori Allan, Danielle Phillips, Patrick Baker, Chris Kind, and Erin Roberts

## **December Staff Spotlight:**

This month's staff spotlight was on four incredible members of the Mankato East High School staff. These amazing individuals, part of our secretarial team, play a crucial role in shaping positive daily experiences for all at Mankato East. Let's celebrate their commitment to our [#MAPSready](#) community!



Shannon Sinning, Liz Ratcliff, Kari Pratt, Sherri Blasing, Kammron, Erin Roberts, Chris Kind, and Patrick Baker

## **January Student Spotlight:**

Kammron, a senior at West High School, was recognized for his unwavering dedication in fostering a positive and friendly atmosphere. His small, yet impactful gestures, foster a sense of community and exemplify the inclusivity and kindness West High School aims to instill in all their students. Thank you, Kamm!



Shannon Sinning, Liz Ratcliff, Kristi Schuck, Kari Pratt, Antoni (spouse), Erin Krueger, Michael (son), Ann Haggerty, Erin Roberts, and Chris Kind

## **January Staff Spotlight:**

Washington Elementary School educator Erin Krueger, goes above and beyond for her students, is a source of inspiration, and makes a lasting difference in the lives of her students. Erin's dedication is truly exceptional, and we are grateful to have her as a part of our [#MAPSready](#) community.



Shannon Sinning, Mandi Carleton, Jenny Reed, Kristi Schuck, Liz Ratcliff, Kari Pratt, Jody Rittmiller, Lucy and family, Patrick Baker, Erin Roberts, and Chris Kind

## **February Student Spotlight:**

Lucy, a fifth grader at Bridges Community School, has demonstrated what it means to be a leader and a dreamer. She has shown courage by participating in the spelling bee and exhibits cooperation by working with and including all students. She inspires all students to use the Bridges 3B's (Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible). Thank you, Lucy, for your positivity and helpfulness!



Shannon Sinning, Jason Grovom, Liz Ratcliff, Kristi Schuck, Kari Pratt, Nicole Helget, Erin Roberts, Patrick Baker, and Chris Kind

## **February Staff Spotlight:**

Ms. Helget is a passionate advocate for students and their experiences at Prairie Winds Middle School. She does not consider her classroom as the boundary for their learning, but instead pushes for them to be involved in community and career pathway experiences beyond the building doors. Thank you Ms. Helget!