

November 22, 2023

Dear Manson School District Community,

As we approach this season of reflection and gratitude, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering love and support our community consistently shows our school. The depth of your commitment to the well-being and success of our students is truly remarkable.

While I have only had the chance to be in Manson since July, it is heartening to witness the countless ways that our community rallies around our students. The volunteer efforts, whether in classrooms, school events, or extracurricular activities, showcase the dedication and passion that our community members bring to enriching the educational experience for every child. In a world where many communities see less involvement and schools see less support, Manson is the exception. It is a place where the sense of school pride is visible every day in ways big and small.

Equally inspiring is the robust support extended towards student athletics and activities. The cheering crowds, the tireless fundraising, the packed house at the music concert, and the genuine encouragement contribute immensely to the development not only of athletes but well-rounded individuals who understand the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. There was no moment I loved more from this fall than the community parade when the brand-new volleyball state championship trophy was presented to our community.

Your generosity in providing essential resources for our students underscores a commitment to ensuring that each child has the tools they need to thrive academically and personally. Whether it's through donations of supplies, time, or expertise, the community's collective effort is truly the backbone of our school's success.

I also want to acknowledge the incredible support our staff receives from the community. Your recognition of their hard work and dedication is evident. Our staff works so dang hard to meet the needs of every student, every minute, every day. Staff strive to grow professionally and to challenge our students to meet our school mission of 'Continuous Student Learning' and improve as well. Your belief in this amazing staff creates an environment where both students and staff can flourish.

Reflecting on our community's history, I recently learned about a time 30 years ago when Manson faced a significant financial crisis due to a failed school levy. In the face of adversity, our community united with unparalleled resilience. Through voluntary tax payments, coupon clipping, and resourcefulness, hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised, ensuring that our students continued to have access to a world of opportunities.

This historical example demonstrates the strength and character embedded in the fabric of Manson. It reinforces that when faced with challenges, our community not only survives but thrives, creating a legacy of support that echoes through the years.

As you may know, Manson is again facing budget challenges that will force our school community to come together to prioritize our students, support our staff, and find unique solutions to complex challenges. While the budget shortfall identified this fall at Manson School District will force us to change in some ways, our values will not change. We will continue to face these challenges with a firm focus on student needs and maintaining the special culture that makes Manson so special. We will come through these challenges a strong, resilient, focused community.

As we gather to give thanks this holiday season, I will celebrate the extraordinary spirit that defines Manson School District. The commitment to education, resilience in times of adversity, and boundless generosity truly make our community exceptional. Together, we can continue to pave the way for a brighter future for each child in Manson. I am so thankful to be a part of this work.

With sincere gratitude,

Tabatha Mires
Manson School District