

Friday night lights on the new turf field!



Above, the first game played on the new turf field was the Homecoming game against Canby held on Friday, Sept. 13. Photo by Izzy Wallace-Klein. Below, it's a beautiful sight watching the sun set over the football field. Photo by Frida Barrera.



Below, retired Superintendent Sherri Broderius came back to be part of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at half-time of the Sept. 20th football game. She played an integral part in getting the new turf football field and track for the Wolverines. Photo by Callie Jaenisch.

Support from the Wolverines community gathered at the new stadium to watch the Wolverines football team play their inaugural season on the new turf football field.

The first game was played on Friday, Sept. 13 against Canby for Homecoming. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Friday, Sept. 20. Those who played an integral part in getting the field built were present at halftime to cut the ribbon, including retired superintendent Sherri

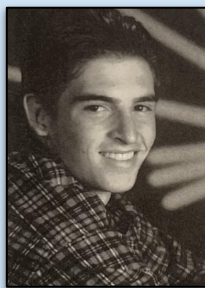
Broderius, Superintendent Josh Austad, MS/HS Principal Judd Wheatley, Custodian Noel Emkes, and school board members.

Football alumni were also invited out on the field for the ceremony.

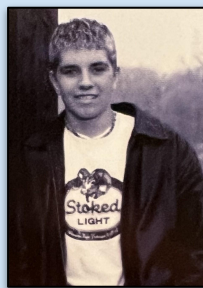
After the ribbon cutting, a special presentation of memorial scholarships was also presented honoring the memories of alumni football players we've lost too soon: Cory Ervin-class of 1995, Shawn Folkerts-class of 2004, and Derek DuHoux-Class of 2007.

Varsity Football Coach Cole Christopher said: "The inaugural season of our turf football field was everything we could have hoped for. There's a theory out there that turf fields are not safe. While that may be true for NFL players, I think it was a huge help for us. It drastically cut down on the number of meticulous injuries that we have had in the past. It was hugely beneficial for field conditions as well. Every day, no matter the weather, the field conditions were always the same. The support of alumni for the new field was awesome for us. We had former players travel from hours away to come check out the facility and to support our team. While the end result of the game wasn't what we were hoping for, the support from our community and alumni was something that our team was greatly thankful for."

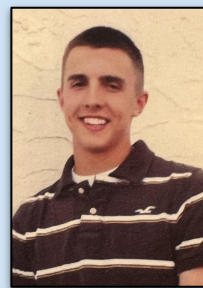
Football Memorial Recognition



Cory Ervin
Class of 1995



Shawn Folkerts
Class of 2004



Derek DuHoux
Class of 2007



MACCRAY Media is a high school elective class that gives students experience in print and digital media publishing. Students in the course use interpersonal communication skills to identify and report on news-making events to document a year in the history of MACCRAY. Throughout the year we produce a MACCRAY District newsletter called *The Claw*. This is the first first edition of the 2024-25 school year.

In order to produce the newsletter, students use professionalism and journalistic ethics to conduct interviews and report on their findings, and photograph events during and after the school day.

The class works as an editorial team to come up with content for the MACCRAY District newsletter. Daily and weekly assignments help to contribute to the newsletter. Every student in the course has contributed to this newsletter in some capacity.

It is our goal as an editorial team to bring the district coverage of the events and news that is important to you. We sincerely hope that you have enjoyed the first newsletter of the new school year.

We will continue to work on future issues throughout the year. It is important to us that we include district news, from preschool to senior high, administration, and school board news.

Since only seniors are in the class, our content tends to be heavy on the high school side; however, we don't want to forget about the important things happening in the elementary and middle school too! If you are ever doing anything exciting that you'd like to feature in the newsletter, please reach out. We'd love to help share your story!

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Ximena Vargas Garcia: What is your advice to the Senior Class of 2025?

Mr. Wheatley, MS/HS

Principal: My single best piece of advice would be to, when you figure out what you want to do in life, make sure that you're willing to give 100% to make it happen, and it's not like you need to make yourself give 100% because you'll know when you find the right thing that you want to pursue that you've made the right choice. Here's an example, when I decided to go back for my teaching license I was 25 years old and I worked in a factory for 5 years. I wasn't ready to dedicate myself to going back to college until after I spent those 5 years working in that factory because I knew that's not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. So knowing that, and having that experience I knew that when things were tough in college or if I was struggling to find a job that I had done everything that I needed to do up to that point or to make sure I could be as successful as possible. It's tough and you'll know whether you're 18 or 23 or 30.



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Izzy Wallace-Klein: What advice would you give to an Elementary student to have a successful year?

Mrs. Roskens, 2nd grade:

“Listen to directions, be responsible, a lot of times kids will say my mom threw that away. Well is your mom in school? Be responsible with that type of thing. I would say always try your best. Don't be afraid to ask for help. I remember when I was in school there were some teachers I didn't feel comfortable asking questions to and I don't want my students to feel like that. Don't be afraid to ask for help. I think sometimes when we get older we think asking for help means you're failing. Be a hard worker. Don't say I can't do it. Follow the rules. Be friendly and kind.”

Izzy: What would you say to the parents for them to have a successful year?

Mrs. Roskens: “Read to them. Take turns reading every night. Read. Communication with the teacher is so important. Being the parent, being apart of their child's education. Care how they do on a spelling test or a math test, caring about what they are learning. Ask them what they are learning about. Be curious.”



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ADVICE

This year's MACCRAY Media class decided to feature advice from people around the school they admire. Our staff asked for some advice and we are sharing it here with you. We plan to make this a featured column in each issue of *The Claw* this year.

Emily Owen-Dobmeier: What advice, if any, do you have for young students or elementary staff?

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Mrs. Condon,

Kindergarten: “My advice to students would be to always give it your best. We aren't always going to be the best at



everything, but we need to at least try our best. I think back to my high school career and sometimes regret giving up so quickly on things if I wasn't “the best” at them. This also goes hand in hand with having a good attitude. Life can get hard and we need to learn to keep persevering knowing that a bright side is near. Lastly, surround yourself with positive people! Keep your close knit group a positive one that will lift you up.

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Ava DeLong: What is some advice for underclassmen, and for next year seniors?

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Tobyn Dalle,
MACCRAY Senior:

My advice to underclassmen is if you could be one thing in this world, be kind. Another piece of advice I have for people is if you are the closest thing to a Bible someone reads, represent God well.



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MACCRAY welcomes new staff to start 2024-25

Mr. Bertram **Elementary Principal**

By Milla Osorio

Meet Mr. Todd Bertram. This year he has joined the elementary department at MACCRAY as the new Principal.

Mr. Bertram likes to constantly look for new challenges. He believes that being able to face many challenges and knowing how to overcome them is what has helped him grow from these experiences.

Mr. Bertram describes himself as someone with "a growth mindset looking for new challenges and being adaptable and able to learn and then grow from those experiences."

Mr. Bertam says that so far the community at MACCRAY has been very welcoming toward him. The staff here in MACCRAY Public Schools have also been very welcoming of our new elementary principal. "At the events like football games there have been a lot of parents that introduced themselves and you can really tell there is a strong sense of community," he said. "I met with Mr. Kent before he left, and I met staff throughout the summer. Mr. Wealthy, and Mr. Austad have all been extremely helpful, and supportive."



Mr. Bertram attended Herman Norcross Community High School in a small town. He then proceeded to attend college in Moorhead, MN at Concordia. He went back and got his master's degree from SMSU in Marshall, MN, and from there on he got his administrator license from Saint Mary's University.

Both of Mr. Bertram's parents were teachers, "that's probably what put me on this path," he said. His wife is also a teacher. They met at Concordia. They have three sons together, who have all finished college. The two oldest followed in their steps and both became teachers and the youngest went into business.

Mr. Bertram is excited to learn and grow from the new challenge as the Elementary Principal at MACCRAY.

Ms. Meyer **Elementary Music**

By Emily Owen-Dobmeier

Ms. Kayla Meyer is MACCRAY's new elementary music teacher. She will be teaching several classes for preschool through fifth-grade students.

Ms. Meyer is creative, kind, and strong. She shows these qualities in her classes by making music fun and performing for her students.

"I want to make music fun for everybody," Ms. Meyer said, "and giving them a lot of hands-on experiences with instruments so they also get the chance to fall in love with music as I have."

Ms. Meyer is enjoying her time at MACCRAY due to its welcoming community, staff, and students.

"So far I love it," she said, "and I think, this is by far, one of the most welcoming communities I've been into. All the staff and students have been very



friendly and more than welcome to show me everything around the school. So it's been amazing."

She attended Holdingford High School in Minnesota and is a graduate of Minnesota State Moorhead class of 2023. Her family consists of her parents, their dog, and her two sisters.

Ms. Meyer is MACCRAY Elementary's new music teacher. Ms. Kayla Meyer uses creativity and kindness to keep her students engaged in learning.

MACCRAY WOLVERINES

New ELEMENTARY Staff

Ms. Kienholz **Elementary Phy. Ed.**

By Mia Shubert

Ms. Kaitlynn Kienholz graduated from Willmar High School and then after she went to Ridgewater college in Willmar. After a 3-year break of working, she went back to school at St. Cloud State and got her degree in health and physical education, and this is her first year teaching.

"I think I want what's best for them and I am willing to help them out in any way that they need," Ms. Kienholz said about helping her students.

Ms. Kienholz is always trying to help out, and make her gym class fun for all of her students.

"I just want them to have fun in Phy Ed and I want



to help them in any way that I can to meet their needs," Kienholz says.

Ms. Kienholz has been enjoying all of the students and the staff at MACCRAY so far.

"I am not afraid to ask anyone anything. The staff is more than willing to help. It is just a very friendly environment," Kienholz said.

Ms. Torres **Elementary Para**

By Ximena Vargas Garcia

Dania Torres is a paraprofessional who has worked at MACCRAY in the Special Education area for 3 years now. "I would say I have a very bubbly and serious side of me when I work with them. I'm very focused on what they need and what they are done with," she said.

Dania has had quite the experience here at MACCRAY. Each year she has a different experience because she is not always with the same students, but when she is, she has a better understanding of the students' needs and wants. Dania says, "I do enjoy working with them because I can see they want to learn, and being there with them is



like giving that extra push to learning."

"I have 3 siblings that all graduated from MACCRAY as well. I also have 2 dogs. I've lived here for 6 years now, and I am grateful to have my siblings and my parents in my life."

Mrs. Kienitz, Elementary Para

By Mia Shubert

Mrs. Jeanette Kienitz started this fall at MACCRAY working with the Title Program in the Elementary. She loves working with the Kindergarten through 4th grade students, which adds a new age group to work with onto her wide range of work experience.

Mrs. Kienitz graduated from Henning High School in 1983. She then attended the Alexandria

Technical College for Clerical, graduating in 1984, and then attended Ridgewater College for Cosmetology, graduating in 1986.

Before working at the school, Jeanette was a hairdresser for 28 years. She owned and operated her own business called The Short Cut Salon in Raymond. After that she worked for the USPS for 10 years as a Postmaster of five post offices.

Mrs. Kienitz has a husband who is a farmer, one son, Kier, twin daughters, Kendra and Karissa, and her youngest daughter, Ella. She also has three grandchildren so far.

Mrs. Kienitz has loved working with her students at MACCRAY.

"My goal is to make each student feel they can walk up to me at any time with any questions, knowing that I can be there for them!" Jeanette



said. She is happy to be working with these students and being able to put smiles on their faces.

"Knowing that I've made a connection with these students, seeing the smiles on their faces when I see how they progress, I know I made the right career choice," said Mrs. Kienitz.

Drew Dahlke, School Counselor

By Ava DeLong

Drew Dahlke is officially the new Elementary and Middle School Counselor, and Student Support for MACCRAY this year, though she is not a stranger to the district. Last year she held the position as an intern, and when the full-time position became available, she couldn't wait to apply.

"I really enjoyed the relationships I made with the students here so I wanted to continue those relationships. The staff was very welcoming and made it feel like home, so coming back just felt right," Drew said. "It's a very welcoming environment."

Drew is originally from Duluth, but she heard



about MACCRAY through family ties. Her dad and uncle graduated from MACCRAY, and her grandparents still live in the district. It made it easy for her to move to the area because her grandparents could help with daycare for Drew's daughter.

Drew earned her Bachelor's Degrees at University of Minnesota, Duluth for Education, Hispanic Studies, and Latin

American Studies. Then she earned her Master's Degree at the University of Wisconsin, Superior for School Counseling.

Drew was very excited to come to work a MACCRAY on her own. She was not nervous or anxious on her first-day because she already had her first day as an intern in the district last year. She was just excited to see her students and staff. When she had her internship last year she made good connections with her students, and that made her excited to come work at MACCRAY.

Drew really likes the school's climate because of how welcoming it is here at MACCRAY.

Raymond Zaragoza, Custodian

By Angel Mendoza

Raymond is a new custodian for the MACCRAY School District. He is dedicated to do his best when it comes to his job.

"Well first, it was really close to my house. I heard they needed people. I was in need. So, I mean, I cannot stay a day without working. Therefore, as soon as I got laid off from Mills, the same day I came to apply here. I was interested and I needed it. So I got hired the next day," Raymond said.

"I'm not a teacher, I'm a janitor. Teaching is really hard because you have to teach other people and it takes a really special person," he said.



MACCRAY Senior Class of 2025

The MACCRAY senior class of 2025 took their traditional senior black photo during Homecoming week.



Pat Lindeman, High School Special Education

By Nikki Haats

Mrs. Lindeman, a new addition to the Special Education Room, has so much to offer to her students. She is dedicated to her students as she thinks that teachers should build a relationship with their students.

"I'd describe myself as someone that is very dedicated to their instruction and their well being. I feel like the most important thing is to create a relationship with my students that will last a lifetime."

She completed her college education in Minnesota, obtained a bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University, worked as an elementary principal for 26 years, then transitioned to special education, discovering her passion and love for teaching in special education.

"Now I am in the twilight of my career, and I wouldn't have changed it for the world."

Mrs. Lindeman loves her job; in fact, she loves it so



much, she hates to have to leave at the end of the day.

"I have never experienced such a loving and positive atmosphere as MACCRAY has. It is truly a place that I hate to leave in the afternoon and love to come back to every morning. The students are exceptionally kind, and the staff is all in for students."

Mrs. Lindeman is a very caring person and she is very passionate about what she does. Mrs. Lindeman said, "I will leave you with this, Stop by and say hi to me, and tell me who you are because all kids count."

Tyler Anderson, High School Special Education

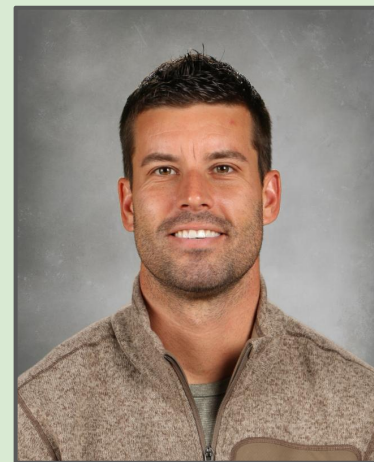
By Matthew Olvera

After a three-year break from teaching, Tyler Anderson was ready to come back home, as he would describe MACCRAY. Mr. Anderson is a new High School Special Education teacher, but he certainly isn't new to MACCRAY, as he spent 11 years teaching elementary phyed and coaching.

It's an adjustment to go from physical education to special education, but it's a challenge Mr. Anderson has taken on with open arms. He describes himself as a fair and reliable teacher.

"I think I am firm but fair. I'm willing to work as hard as you're willing to work. I really believe in being organized. I think being organized is a big key to success in life. I remember what it was like being in high school, so I can relate to the students in a way," Mr. Anderson said.

Mr. Anderson grew up on a farm in South Dakota, then went on to get an Associate's Degree from



Fergus Falls, a Bachelor's Degree from St. Cloud State University in K-12 Physical Education, and a license to teach Driver's Education. He now lives in Raymond with his wife, Dayna, and three children, Kalen, Teagen, and Lainey.

It doesn't matter if he is in a gymnasium or a classroom, Mr. Anderson is happy to be back at MACCRAY.

"I've made a lot of good friends from teaching and coaching, and I'm very thankful for our new building and our sports facilities. MACCRAY feels home to me. I wouldn't want to teach anywhere else."

Amy Schwab, Middle School Special Education

By Lillian Cloutier

Amy Schwab has worked for the MACCRAY District since 2021, but this year she has started in a new role as the Middle School Special Education Teacher. She specifically works with sixth graders.

Ms. Schwab is a fun teacher who also describes herself as spunky. She can have lots of fun in her classroom while still teaching the students what they need to learn.

"Well, usually I say that I can either be your best friend or your worst enemy, and you get to decide by the way you act in my classroom," Ms. Schwab said.

Ms. Schwab has an impressive education history. She even taught in Devils Lake, North Dakota at the School for the Deaf.

"I have currently a four-year degree in psychology and a two-year degree in sign language interpreting and am currently

60% done with my master's program for special education."

Ms. Schwab has a big family: two twin girls in 8th grade, an 8-year-old daughter in 3rd grade, a 4-year-old son in preschool, a dog, and her boyfriend.

Ms. Schwab really enjoys her new teaching position in the high school and loves the district.

"I absolutely love it. Everybody is super nice and I

would say everyone is super friendly and I get along with everybody."



Keegan Foy, High School Special Education

By Ethan Garcia

Mr. Keegan Foy is a new staff member to the special education department at MACCRAY. He enjoys assisting students and overcoming the challenges that come with teaching.

Mr. Foy is a very organized teacher who loves to get to know his students and incorporates topics into his teaching that are relatable to his students. He enjoys the atmosphere at MACCRAY and loves how tight-knit everyone seems to be and how involved everyone is in the community.



"It seems like everybody's really involved and willing to help and it kind of seems like a family," Mr. Foy remarks.

Mr. Foy originally

wanted to do social work for a career but eventually fell into the teaching role as he knew he always wanted to work with kids. He went to college at Bemidji State for elementary education, and he got his special education degree from SMSU. Mr. Foy now uses his education to provide assistance, care, and knowledge for our special education department.

"Every day makes me excited to come to work, I love being able to work with all different students," he says, "I like working with special education students and seeing the challenge

that comes with that each day."

In his leisure time, Mr. Foy enjoys hanging out with friends and watching movies along with connecting with new people. He likes new experiences especially when he gets to try on mascot costumes, something he has an interest in.

Mr. Foy is fond of all the new staff and students in addition to the warm and hospitable environment. He looks forward to teaching and growing with the students each day.

Michaela Mankenberg, High School Choir

By Stara Rokuro

Who will teach students how to sing? Mrs. Mankenberg is not new to MACCRAY, but she is new to the high school. She spent two years as the Elementary Music teacher, and this year she moved to the High School, where she teaches High School Choir.

"My experience so far has been really positive," Mrs. Mankenberg said about

her experience at MACCRAY. Mrs. Mankenberg graduated high school from Dassel Cokato. She went to college at Bemidji State University where she studied music and education for five years. At that time she was a program developer at the Boys and Girls Club with primarily tweens who struggled in school. She taught mental health and physical health.

"I would describe myself as someone who really cares deeply but has really high expectations. And the expectations aren't so far that they can't reach them but they're listed clearly, and as long as you follow expectations, we have fun."

Mrs. Mankenberg is married and just had her first anniversary. Late last year in May, she had a baby girl.



"I've never been at a school that has been so supportive, especially of their teachers and especially of the arts."

Tracy Nelson, Agriculture

By Hudson Nord

Ms. Tracy Nelson joins the MACCRAY Ag team as a new is the new Ag teacher for MACCRAY High School. She went to the University of Minnesota, St. Paul and graduated from the College of Agriculture, Food,

and Environmental Resources. She then taught for 10 years at Kimball High School and seven years at Dassel-Cokato.

Ms. Nelson has enjoyed her time at MACCRAY so far.

"It's been really fun. I have found that the kids and the other staff members are really nice. The students

want to learn for the most part, but we do have some fun too. I think it's a very welcoming community," Ms. Nelson said.

Ms. Nelson grew up on a farm in northern Minnesota so her love for agriculture started at a young age. She brings that enthusiasm and experience to her classroom.



ChanaSue Mixon, High School Science

By Elizabeth Wallace-Klein

Mrs. ChanaSue Mixon is new to the MACCRAY district as of this year. She is teaching various science classes including Physical Science, Earth Science, and even Chemistry.

Mrs. Mixon is a very kind, sensible, and pensive person and works hard to incorporate this into her classroom.

"I like to come at the subject matter honestly, and with an open mind, and being able to question past knowledge, and also reflect on what's being presented currently."

Mrs. Mixon grew up in Oklahoma, attended school at Checotah High School and Oklahoma State University studying secondary education with an emphasis in Biology. Mrs. Mixon has lived in several states all across the United States.

"Most of my adult life has been up in Alaska. I've had 3 years teaching experience in rural Alaska. And then most recently I've worked as a paraprofessional. So, I worked 2 years as a para in



Alaska"

While Mrs. Mixon has lived in several places across the United States, she has nothing but nice things to say about MACCRAY.

"It's been good, it's a very nice school. I'm still trying to get used to the rhythm of daily life with a 4-day school week, and how best to approach that."

Mrs. Mixon moved with her 2 children, husband, and dog named Sky in order to be closer to family. She is excited to be teaching Science to our students, and we as the MACCRAY District are more than happy to have her here.

RJ Hogrefe, High School Social Studies

By Abel Mares - Ciriaco

MACCRAY introduces Mr. RJ Hogrefe as their new High School Social Studies teacher. Mr. Hogrefe is a relaxed but firm educator.

Mr. Hogrefe graduated from Benson High School. After High School, he served a four year term in

the Marine Corp. Mr. Hogrefe was known as a CBRN, which is someone who specialized in chemical weapons work and protecting others. He now has two labradors, Gunny and Arlo, who he trains for competitions.

Mr. Hogrefe is passionate about teaching

Lydia Brinkmann, MS & HS Spanish

By Isaiah Ruiz

In Ms. Brinkmann's Spanish classes, middle and high school students not only get to speak the language, they get a cultural lesson as well. Lydia Brinkmann, or more appropriately, "Profe" to her high schoolers, and "Maestra" to her seventh graders, joins MACCRAY's staff this year as the new Spanish teacher.

"I believe it is important to show the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken while teaching the Spanish language," Brinkmann said. "That's why a lot of my lessons have cultural holidays, famous people, places, events, and other aspects of culture. I also like to bring enjoyment to language learning through stories and songs."



Ms. Brinkmann attended the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and has also taken graduate courses at the University of North Dakota and Hamline University. She has two kids and two guinea pigs.

Mr. Brinkmann said, "I have very much enjoyed being at MACCRAY, as the staff and students are friendly and hardworking."



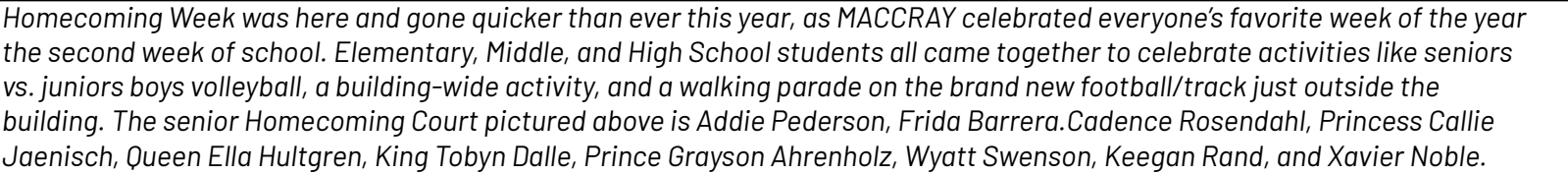
and history. He aims to help his students gain and understand the perspectives about historical events.

"I have always had a passion for history before I even joined the Marine Corp."

Mr. Hogrefe has had a positive experience with his students and staff members so far. He is excited to continue guiding his students through history.

"Very positive, I've enjoyed all the students, all the staff, a great group of kids is what I would describe it," said Mr. Hogrefe.

Mr. Hogrefe is an ex-marine who is passionate about history and teaching. He is excited to help his new students learn about history at MACCRAY.



Pictured left, MACCRAY Juniors enjoyed creating Homecoming signs with Mrs. Rivera's Kindergarten class as a fun Homecoming event this year. Each elementary class was paired with an advisory class from the middle and high school. This has become a favorite activity for students building-wide.

Pictured right, members of the sophomore class display their MACCRAY Homecoming signs they created throughout the week and displayed in the walking parade around the new football field. The elementary school enjoyed watching the middle and high school students in the parade.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

YES! (youth eco solutions)**By Milla Osorio****Adviser: Mrs. Carmany**

Mrs. Carmany said, "The organization or the club that I get to advise is called YES! It stands for Youth Eco Solutions and our mission is to empower students to develop ecological solutions through hands on engaging projects, we want to encourage students to make a connection between the environment and with what they are able to do, what they are capable of doing even on a small scale, hoping that becomes an influence on them after graduations as they go on later in life, that they make eco conscious decisions and in their lifestyle choices.

How can students get involved?

"We have posted meeting information in our announcements. During my classes where I teach biology and anatomy, I always encourage students to check out YES! by coming to our meetings before school on Wednesdays, and I think a lot of it is the current members of YES! need to bring their friends, and every year that's one of the ways that we grow is that current members bring friends and we build our numbers that way," Mrs. Carmany said.

Knowledge Bowl**By Lillian Cloutier****Adviser: Seth Falk**

Falk said, "It's pretty much competitive trivia. The competitions are usually one written round and three oral rounds in which competitors have to buzz in and answer questions for points. Most competitions are on Saturdays in schools around the area."

How can students get involved?

"They can sign up through AD office like most sports/activities!!"

Math League**By Emily Owen-Dobmeier****Adviser: Mr. Bryce Olson**

Mr. Olson said, "Math League is a competition where students answer different sets of challenging math questions. There are 5 Math League Meets throughout the months of November - February. At each meet, there are three different rounds of competition that consist of five questions. Students have 15 minutes to answer the questions without the help of a calculator. After the three individual rounds there is a team round where six people work together to solve a set of 6 questions in 20 minutes."

How can students get involved?

Any student in grades 9-12 may join! If anyone is considering joining please talk to Mr. Olson.

Weightlifting club**By Matthew Olvera****Adviser: Mr. Christopher**

Mr. Christopher said, "Our Weights Club is something that I started when I got to MACCRAY in 2017. It's a place for kids to come and get better both physically and mentally, and for sports and for leisure."

How can students get involved?

Students are welcome to come at any time we are open, and those hours are posted weekly on our Instagram page.

Trap Shooting**By Hudson Nord****Adviser: Mark Miller**

It's fun for people who like to hunt so they can get better at it. They shoot clay pigeons in the spring.

How can students get involved?

They can sign up in the activities office.

FFA**By Ava DeLong****Advisers: Mr. Johnson, Ms. Hansen, and Ms. Nelson**

FFA focuses on equipping students with leadership skills and skills needed for careers in Agriculture. Many of these skills are also transferable to other careers outside of agriculture. The FFA Motto is Learning to Do; Doing to Learn; Earning to Live; Living to Serve. Our mission statement includes developing premier leadership skills, personal growth, and helping to achieve career success. This is accomplished through competitions, leadership training/camps, classroom teaching, supervised agricultural experiences, leadership opportunities, service opportunities, educational tours, and more.

How can students get involved?

Students can join FFA by talking with one of the Ag Teachers and choosing what activities they want to be involved in. This can be as little as focusing on one event or being involved in many different activities and leadership training opportunities. The more involved you become, the more you will get out of FFA. Many of the things you learn will be used throughout life and will help you to make a positive impact on your community.

FCA**By Isaiah Ruiz****Advisers: Todd Henker and Nate Bourne**

FCA meets at 7 a.m. every Friday morning. "We have a student-led Christian lesson and we have breakfast provided. We generally have between 20 and 30 kids show up. It is a great way to learn and share with other athletes who are Christians," Todd Henker said.

**Prom committee****By Stara Rokuro****Adviser: Ms. Goblish**

Prom Committee is a group of juniors that figure out everything that has to do with prom. They need to come up with a theme, and figure out the food and decorations. They have to come up with the decorations, create them, and then also put the decorations up. This is for the stage for Grand March and for the Willmar Conference Center where the dinner and dance is held.

How can students get involved?

Students can get involved with prom either at the beginning of the year by doing application to join the prom committee, and then also by helping out when we do concession stands to raise funds for prom, or even helping with decoration when it comes to prom in May.

MACCRAY**WOLVERINES**

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

High School Student Council By Nikki Haats

Adviser: Mrs. Donner

Student Council is an organization conducted by students while supervised by an advisor. Its purpose is to give students an opportunity to develop leadership by organizing and carrying out school activities and service projects. In addition to planning events that contribute to school spirit, the student council is the voice of the student body. It helps share student ideas, interests, and concerns with the school-wide community.

How can students get involved?

Students typically apply as 9th graders and continue to move up in leadership roles through senior year. We do have an opening for one sophomore and one junior class representative on the Student Council, and I would encourage you to contact me to apply if you are interested. Current Student Council members include President London Hoffer, VP Iris Donner, Media Abel-Ciriaco, Secretary Rorie Bristle, Treasurer Brooklyn Alle, Annabelle Lorenzen, Kennedy Shamla, Alivia Strommer, Gavin Gueningsman, and Isreal Gora.

Middle School Student Council: By Mia Shubert

Adviser: Mrs. Sunderland

The Middle Student Council helps decide and plan events and activities for students in grades 6-8. Some activities we plan are dances, holiday themed activities, and dress up days. We also try to give back to the community by helping with recycling and doing a food drive.

How can students get involved?

Students can get involved by applying each year.

Yearbook

By Angel Mendoza

Adviser: Mrs. Donner

Students in the yearbook class are responsible for finding content, covering events, taking pictures, editing photographs, and designing the Middle/High School MACCRAY Yearbook. Students create, promote, and sell the yearbook to our students. They will also be selling advertising space to local businesses to help keep our yearbooks affordable for our students.

How can students get involved?

Yearbook is a class that can be taken during your junior or senior year.

MACCRAY Media

By Angel Mendoza

Advisor: Mrs. Donner

MACCRAY Media gives students marketable experience in print and digital media publishing. Students use interpersonal communication skills to identify and report on news-making events to document a year in the history of the MACCRAY School District by publishing The Claw newsletter. Students conduct interviews of staff, administration, coaches, students, directors, and others to report on their findings for the newsletter. Students also photograph events during and after the school day including sports, concerts, plays, Homecoming Coronation, and anything else of interest to our readers. Students are excited to share their work with the district through the newsletter that is published throughout the school year.

How can students get involved?

MACCRAY Media is a class that can be taken during your junior or senior year.

Fall Musical

By Abel Mares

Adviser: Mrs. Streich

Mrs. Streich said, "In the drama department at our small rural school, the club is a vibrant space where students explore their creativity and build confidence through theater. Members have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of a production, whether it's acting on stage, designing sets, helping with costumes, managing lighting and sound, or working behind the scenes as part of the stage crew. The club fosters a sense of community and teamwork, allowing students to develop new skills, express themselves, and bring stories to life."

How can students get involved?

Mrs. Streich said, "Students can get involved by attending our regular club meetings or signing up for auditions when a new production is announced. We encourage everyone, regardless of experience level, to join—there's a place for everyone, whether they want to be in the spotlight or work behind the scenes. Additionally, we host workshops throughout the year to help students learn about different aspects of theater, such as improv, character development, and technical skills."

One-Act Play

By Abel Mares

Adviser: Jennifer Wassenaar and Crystal Donner

"I Co-direct the One-Act Play with Crystal Donner. Our team competes against other schools in our section, with a single-act play that has to be under 35 minutes," Wassenaar said.

How can students get involved?

If interested, talk to Mrs. Wassenaar. She said, "We always need people to be in front of the curtain, in the sound booth, lights, or help backstage."

Buddies

By Ximena Vargas Garcia

Advisers: Mrs. Macht, Mrs. Bristle, and Mrs. Plagge

The student support staff identify middle school students who would be considered at risk or maybe that just don't have a lot of positive connections with people here in the building and try to pair them up with an upperclassman, a 10th, 11th, or 12th grader to just create another positive connection for them here at school. Our goal with the Buddies program is to increase student connections which will then hopefully create an overall positive school culture for all students. It's a matter of pairing up a middle school student with an upperclassman and they get to hang out once a week and can build a relationship.

How can students get involved?

"That's a good question. So with Buddies it is not something that is open to everybody, so for the middle school students, students are selected based on their need as we see it. So not every middle school student is able to join and same with our mentors, our upperclassmen. We go through a class list of 10th, 11th, and 12th graders and try to pair up mentors based on maybe who would be a good fit for middle school students that we have. Unfortunately there isn't an option to sign up to be involved in it. It is something that you have to be asked, and the reason for that is because we work very hard to make sure that we're trying to pair up our middle school students we see that have a need for a buddy, with a buddy that would be a good fit for them," the Buddies advisors said.



NHS Induction

NHS members include front row Addie Pederson, Ella Hultgren, Callie Jaenisch, Tobyn Dalle, London Hoffer, Lexi Nurmi, Iris Donner, Maggie Jaenisch, Henley Johnson, and Emily Owen-Dobmeier. Back row, Sam Andol, Grayson Ahrenholz, Ryan Marcus, Jaden Dirksen, Elias Hultgren, Nora Hultgren, Brielle Janssen, Rachel Seehusen, Leah Hardebeck, Abigail Duis, and Chelsea Lopez. Not pictured: Adrienne Pankratz, Mikayla Wiler, and Ethan Garcia. The NHS induction ceremony of new members was held on November 11.

National Honor Society (NHS)

By Ethan Garcia

Adviser: Ms. Lewandowski

The National Honor Society is a club that recognizes students for their outstanding achievements in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Current members participate in a variety of volunteer events. These include partnering with local, state, and national organizations as well as school-run programs. For example, we partner with the Red Cross for blood drives, MNDOT for Adopt-a-Highway, and the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf for food drives. Students also help organize and manage an annual 5K, where we raise money for charity. We are always looking for ways to support our school and community.

How can students get involved?

Unlike most clubs, NHS requires students to complete an application and an interview before a Faculty Council determines membership status. (Eligible students in 11th and 12th grade are invited to apply at the beginning of each school year.) In order to come to a consensus, the Faculty Council reviews applications, recommendation letters, and student essays. It is a lot to consider, but in particular, prospective members are expected to model good behavior both in and out of school. After making a decision and notifying successful applicants, new members are inducted during a ceremony held in November.

ADVICE

Abel Mares: "What would be the best way to build wealth as a high school student?"

Rhonda Pieper: "Start saving and investing NOW and have multiple savings accounts (one for emergencies, one for fun things, and one just for basic saving) and then start investing to let the compound interest grow your money for your future. It's never too early to start saving for your retirement!"

BPA (Business Professionals of America)

By Elizabeth Wallace-Klein

Adviser: Mrs. Pieper

The mission of Business Professionals of America is to develop and empower student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unmatched opportunities for learning, professional growth, and service. BPA contributes to the world-class workforce through the advancement of citizenship, academic, and technological skills. Today's Students, Tomorrow's business professionals. Students compete in two events, either two individual events or one team and one individual. There are multiple events in the following categories: Finance; Business Administration; Management Information Systems; Digital Communication and Design; Management, Marketing and Communications; and Health Administration. The Regional competition is at Marshall High School with eight other schools.

If students place at Regions, they will then compete at the State level in Minneapolis. They can then advance to Nationals which is Orlando Florida this (school) year.

How can students get involved?

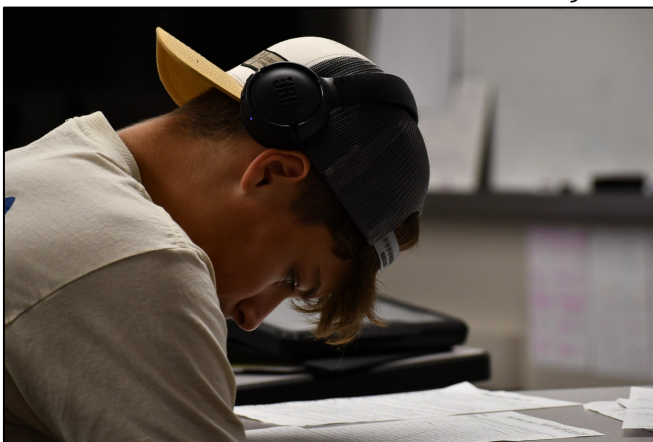
Mrs. Pieper said, "Students can get involved by stopping in to see me to grab a membership form. If students don't know what events to pick, I like to ask if they know their future plans, because maybe there is an event that could help prepare them for their future career. Another option is an event in a subject area that they took a class on and would understand most of the material in this event. Being involved in BPA is a good way to get involved and try something different. Some students had to step out of their comfort zone, but they enjoyed BPA and met some new friends from other schools. Participating in BPA will look great on college applications and scholarships. Being involved in extracurricular activities also looks great on resumes."

BACK TO SCHOOL

From sports, to Homecoming, to Clubs, and motivational speakers, we've had a lot of fun so far this school year, but that doesn't mean we haven't gotten down to business in our classes as well. The yearbook class has been busy documenting just how hard students have been working in class,



Senior Frida Barrera lifts during one of Mr. Christopher's classes. Photo by Nevaeh Berghorst.



Freshman Chevy Olson concentrates on his assignment. Photo by Julien Aviles.



Junior Lane Osterfeld works on a project in welding class. Photo by Julien Aviles.



Junior Natalia Morris concentrates on her art project. Photo by Regan Aker.



Seniors Shayla Grimsley and Regan Aker photograph the Homecoming football game for Yearbook class. Seniors Shayla Grimsley and Talen Niemeyer take pictures during the school day for Yearbook. Photo by Tristan Alle.



The studious senior London Hoffer takes advantage of a quiet, empty library to get some work done. Photo by Izzy Wallace-Klein.



Sophomores Kailani Hansen, Rorie Bristle, Ava Janssen, and Kylie Prekker take a break from painting in Ms. Goblish's art class. Photo Regan Aker.

Reggie Dabbs inspires MACCRAY students



Reggie Dabbs, motivational speaker and professional saxophone player, inspired MACCRAY 6-12th graders the morning of Thursday, Nov. 14 with personal testimonies and experiences from his life. He got students involved with clapping, singing, and laughing to his jokes. Dabbs also brought MACCRAY educators to the front of the auditorium and encouraged students to thank them for being a constant in their lives. Dabbs also was impressed with Gavin Gueningsman's skills on his scooter and called him out in the audience. Everyone, students and staff alike, seemed to enjoy the break from the classroom and the inspiring words from Dabbs.