



Message from Superintendent Peterson



Paul Peterson, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

As we move into April, I continue to be inspired by the outstanding work happening every day in Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS). This school year has been one of growth and achievement for our students, but they aren't doing it on their own. The dedication of the MAPS staff and the engagement of our families create a strong support system for student success!

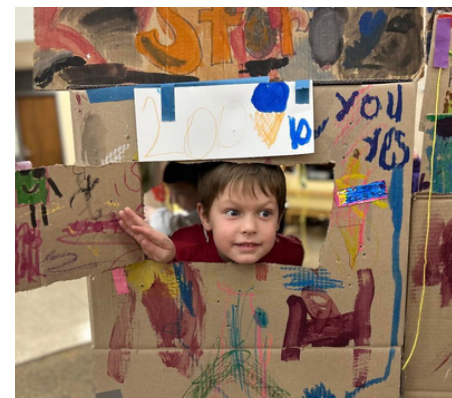
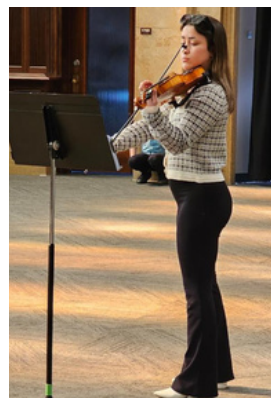
Our district's mission—Excellence, Equity, Empowerment. Every Student, Every Day—is much more than a motto; it is a guiding principle that I see in action across our schools. From innovative learning experiences to ever-expanding community partnerships, our students are thriving in environments that encourage curiosity, critical thinking and success.

Looking ahead, we are excited to begin the next phase of our bond construction projects, made possible by the support of our community in the November 2023 referendum. These projects represent a \$105 million investment in our schools—enhancing facilities for students, staff, and the broader community. The largest of these efforts, the West High School remodel, will break ground this spring, improving learning spaces for generations to come. We can't say it often enough:

We are deeply grateful to our community for recognizing the importance of modern, well-equipped schools.

In addition to strengthening our facilities, we are also advocating for strong public school funding at the state level. With this being a funding year at the Minnesota Legislature, we are actively working to ensure that our schools receive the resources needed to support student success. Public education is the foundation of a thriving community, and we are committed to making the case for the funding necessary to continue providing high-quality learning opportunities for all students.

As we continue forward together, I am proud of the progress we are making and optimistic about the future. Thank you for your ongoing support of Mankato Area Public Schools. Our students, staff, families, and community members make this district an incredible place to learn and grow.



ADDRESS/POSTAGE
HERE

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- April 9 - 2-Hour Early Out
- April 10 - Kindergarten Connection
- April 18 - No School - Good Friday
- May 14 - 2-Hour Early Out
- May 26 - No School - Memorial Day
- JUNE 5 - **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL/GRADUATION**

View all district calendars here:



isd77.org/calendar

THIS ISSUE

- 2025 Graduation
- Fore Educare Golf Event
- Construction Update
- Focus School Update
- Spring Activities
- Kindergarten Connection
- Enrollment
- Board Chair Message
- Legislative Activities
- New Achievement & Integration Plan

#MAPSready

2025 GRADUATION



5:00pm
Wednesday, June 4, 2025
Lincoln Community School Auditorium
110 Fulton Street, Mankato



5:30pm
Thursday, June 5, 2025
Mayo Health Systems Event Center
1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001



8:00pm
Thursday, June 5, 2025
Mayo Health Systems Event Center
1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001

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

FORE EDUCARE



Register Now!

Golf Tournament
Monday, June 23, 2025
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 & dinner/social)

Hole Sponsor:

\$250



Scan the QR code or go to:
<https://shorturl.at/3f3QX>
to register online!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Gymnasium



WEST HIGH SCHOOL

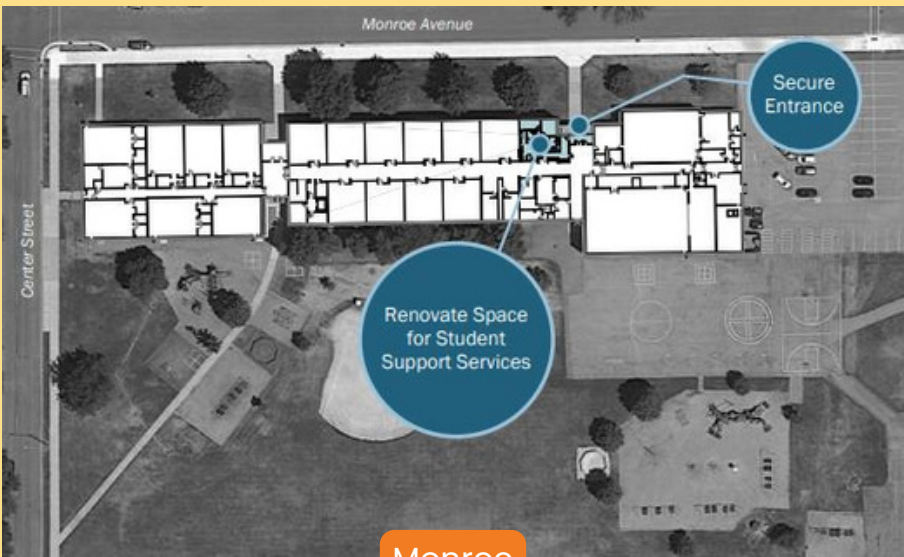


2nd Floor Learning Commons

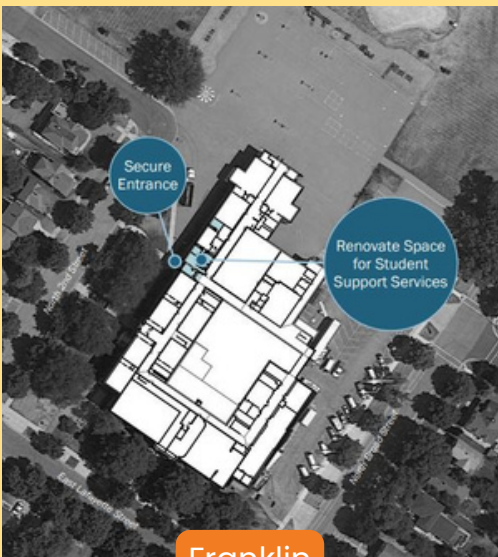
West High School will undergo the largest bond construction project, which includes relocating the school's main entrance from the second floor to the front of the building. The new three-story addition will feature a secure entrance and office complex on the first level, with classrooms and flexible learning areas on the second and third levels. A new three station gymnasium will be constructed on the west side of the building with new locker rooms, P.E. classroom and offices and a wrestling room. The current gym will be transformed into a music suite which will house band, choir, and orchestra along with a fitness center. Due to the loss of parking on the west side of the building and the increased square footage that is being added to the high school, the softball field will be transformed into additional parking for students, staff and visitors.



Jefferson



Monroe



Franklin

Franklin, Monroe, and Jefferson Elementary schools' bond construction projects will include secure entrances at the front of each building, enhancing safety for students and staff. As part of these updates, student services will be centralized in the front offices for improved accessibility and support.

Dakota Meadows is entering the final phase of its bond referendum projects, with the completion of the pool expected in late summer 2025. Construction of the tennis courts will begin in April 2025 and be completed by the fall of 2025. These courts will be available for school activities and open to the public when not reserved.

FOCUS SCHOOL UPDATE

On March 14th, MAPS educators engaged in Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) with expert faculty from Minnesota State University, Mankato’s College of Education. Rosa Parks (STEAM), Jefferson (Outdoor Learning), and Bridges (Global Studies) are exploring hands-on strategies designed to ignite student curiosity and boost engagement.

Bridges welcomed all families to the Bridges Showcase, where students' artistic abilities and learning were highlighted for both current and new families. New families received an exclusive look at the school and had an opportunity to ask questions during a building tour on Monday, March 10. It was an exciting chance to share what’s in store for next year at Bridges!

Jefferson welcomed new families during a building informational session and tour on Wednesday, March 12. It was great to share plans for next year. We are inviting all 2025–26 families to our We Are Jefferson Night on April 15th.

Rosa Parks had the opportunity to invite families to a STEAM night where we partnered with MSU-Mankato and students and families got to experience first hand some exciting and hands-on STEAM experiences. They also just had STEAM experiences for students through The Works Museum in Bloomington where students and teachers were able to complete hands-on activities that engage students in critical thinking and problem solving.



ehs.isd77.org/get-involved/athletics



SPRING ACTIVITIES

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



whs.isd77.org/get-involved/athletics

KINDERGARTEN CONNECTION

Thursday, April 10



Bridges..... 5:00 – 6:30



Eagle Lake..... 4:30 – 6:00



Franklin..... 4:30 – 6:30



Hoover..... 5:00 – 6:30



Jefferson..... 4:00 – 6:00



Kennedy..... 4:00 – 6:00



Monroe..... 4:30 – 6:00



Roosevelt..... 5:00 – 6:30



Rosa Parks..... 5:30 – 7:00



Washington..... 5:30 – 7:00



ENROLL NOW

1

Go to: www.isd77.org

2

Click ENROLL (top right on the main page)

3

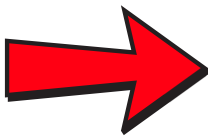
Select “Enroll in Kindergarten – Grade 12”

4

Click “Start New Registration” link to start the application process

5

Select 25–26 (Next Year) Registration
*Write down your registration #



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
- 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

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

FROM THE BOARD



Shannon Sinning
School Board Chair

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR SINNING

Spring is in the air and we are approaching the end of what has been a successful year of learning, opportunity and growth for our students. I want to thank each and every one of you for the important role you play in supporting our community’s most valuable asset, our kids.

As you can see in these pages, there are many great things happening across MAPS. This spring will kick off major improvements to Mankato West High School as well as construction of new secure entrances at Monroe, Jefferson and Franklin elementary schools. The Board continues its focus on improving student outcomes and belonging by passing a new Achievement & Integration plan. And our Board is advocating on key priorities for our schools at the Legislature.

As MAPS looks forward to the projects slated for the summer of 2026, it became clear that we would need additional time than what a typical summer allows to complete significant HVAC, fire suppression and other improvements at Eagle Lake, Hoover, Kennedy and Bridges elementary schools. In April, the Board will adopt a revision to the 2025-2026

calendar to start and end the school year earlier to accommodate these projects. We recognize that these changes will impact families in different ways and we want to express our gratitude to the community for their flexibility.

As always, please feel free to reach out to your School Board if we can ever be of service.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

School Board members recently traveled to St. Paul to participate in the Minnesota School Board Association’s Day at the Capitol, taking the opportunity to advocate on behalf of our schools and kids. The state of Minnesota, through our Legislature, makes up the largest source of funding and regulations for public education – making advocacy for our schools a key priority for board members. In recent years, the Legislature has made important strides to invest in education. At the same time, the Legislature has enacted new requirements for schools, many of which did not come with sufficient funding to cover the cost. Unlike cities and counties, school districts do not have the ability to raise property taxes to cover these unfunded costs. In meetings with our legislators from Greater Mankato, board members expressed significant concerns with these unfunded mandates and explained that, unless addressed, they will result in fewer staff and cuts to services, which only harm our students. The community’s help in reinforcing the message with our legislators that the Legislature should fund the requirements for schools they pass would be very helpful.



School Board members Chris Kind and Patrick Baker with Superintendent Paul Peterson on the way into the Capitol for a day of legislative meetings.



School Board members Erin Roberts and Liz Ratcliff connected with Representative Paul Torkelson and others at the Capitol.



School Board members Erin Roberts and Liz Ratcliff connected with Representative Luke Frederick.

SCHOOL BOARD PASSES NEW ACHIEVEMENT & INTEGRATION PLAN

A key area of focus for MAPS is to ensure that all students, regardless of background, have a school environment and access to academic services that enables them to achieve at high levels. One of the ways in which we do this is through a state-funded program called Achievement & Integration (A&I). At our March School Board meeting, the School Board unanimously adopted a new three-year A&I plan that focuses on reducing disparities in academic achievement amongst traditionally underserved students at MAPS, primarily low-income and students of color. The plan has four primary goals:

- 1. Increase the number of underserved students enrolling in preschool
- 2. Increase student achievement on the state reading exam
- 3. Identify additional MAPS students from all backgrounds that want to become teachers
- 4. Increase the number of underserved students participating in career pathway programs

Each goal has a number of specific strategies MAPS is using to achieve results as well as key progress measures that the Board monitors on an annual basis to ensure accountability to the plan’s goals. The A&I plan is a great example of how MAPS is meeting our mission of Excellence, Equity, and Empowerment. Every Student. Every Day.

The public can view MAPS A&I plan here: <https://www.isd77.org/experience/worlds-best-workforce>