



# From the Desk of our Executive Director

**I'm sorry that I'm not on campus** for this last day before break - I'm currently in Augusta where our Board of Trustees are holding their 3rd quarter meeting. Some students will be leaving later today and many will enjoy an all-night LAN party before they head home tomorrow morning for a well-deserved break.

**We had a great start to the week** with Accepted Students Day - hosting 20 prospective students and their families to campus. Everything went very well, and we're excited to know that most of these students are planning to join us next year. Thanks to all of our admission ambassadors who did a great job introducing these future penguins and their families to the MSSM community. Student resident assistants were announced this week and students elected the initial group of senators to represent them next year. While we remain focused on completing this year and celebrating the Class of 2026 at graduation on May 30, it is also exciting to be looking forward to the 2026-27 academic year.

**Students received course descriptions for next year** - there's a link to those descriptions further down in this *Penguin Weekly*. Students met with advisors to hear what recommendations they had for next year so that they can begin thinking about what courses they would like to register for. That process will begin after break so that students have a chance to review their selections with you. We've made some changes to some of our traditional courses for next year - these changes are both a reflection of a need for the School to operate more efficiently and ensure that classes have appropriate enrollment and, more importantly, a thoughtful review of what skills will most benefit and what experiences will most engage our students. As many of our sister schools are already doing, this does entail moving away from externally derived curricular choices and focusing on allowing some academic freedom for our highly qualified faculty to design deep and challenging innovative learning experiences for our students.

We're continuing to **work on addressing absenteeism** which remains a challenge on campus. One area where families can help is ensuring that students remain on campus through their last commitments before break. We've seen an increase in the number of

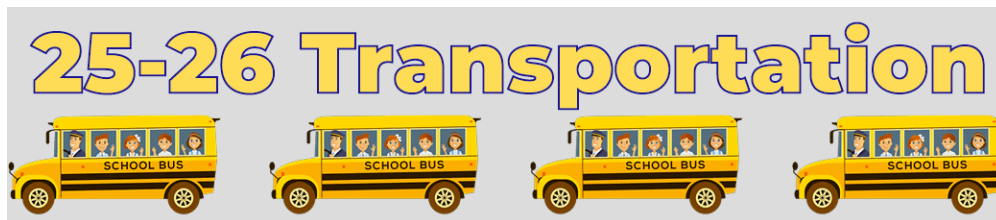
students leaving a day or two early or returning a day or two late from breaks. MSSM already has an accelerated schedule so that we can finish earlier and have a long winter holiday break. Each additional day that students extend vacations like this represents a significant loss of academic time and is disruptive to their own learning and to their classmates. When we return we'll go right through finals the last week of May - please expect that students will have finals through Thursday and know that teachers will not be able to offer changes in their scheduled final time for students to depart earlier.

**We were excited to receive some funding from LD2008!** Thank you to everyone who reached out to their legislators to encourage their support. While the final version removed any on-going funding for regular operations, we did receive some of the money included for dorm infrastructure projects. This won't change our operating budget for next year, but we've already begun working on plans for some dorm deferred maintenance projects this summer.

**From the entire MSSM Team** - we hope that you have a great break and enjoy some time with your students. We look forward to their return next week, refreshed and ready for the last stretch of the year through May!



The portal is open.



The April Break to/from schedule has been posted with the Transportation form. Links to each are on the [Parents Landing Page](#).



**For non-seniors** who are not involved with graduation on Saturday, you can move out after your last final exam. All students will have an exam on Thursday, May 28th.



**Placement recommendations** for English, Math, Science, and World Language classes will be sent to students by their advisor. Students need to meet with their advisors sometime between April 27 and May 8 to complete



Click the Pottery Studio header to see a YouTube Short about it.

# Testing 1,2,3...

## It's time for the spring DOE assessments!

On April 30th, all 10th-grade students will take the required NWEA assessments in mathematics and reading. The students are familiar with the process from their 100% participation in the Fall.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Ms. Jortberg at [jortberge@mssm.org](mailto:jortberge@mssm.org).



## Ice Cream Party

There was a long line down the hall from the conference room during lunch on Thursday when Mr. Kinney coordinated an ice cream party for all students and staff. There were several flavors and plenty of toppings. Everyone left with a full bowl and a big smile.



Each year, MSSM families celebrate **Teacher Appreciation Week** by showing the staff how much we value their commitment to our students. Teacher Appreciation Week this year is the first week in May, and we're looking forward to continuing this wonderful tradition! You'll be receiving an appeal from the Foundation to provide some financial support so that we can put together a great week of treats and activities for the MSSM staff - every gift goes back into supporting these and other staff appreciation efforts from the entire parent community.

**Please keep an eye out** for the appeal and consider supporting our staff appreciation efforts. If you would like to help on the ground make the week wonderful for the staff, or help think through ideas for what we can do for them, please reach out to Sue Nonken at [craziemoose@gmail.com](mailto:craziemoose@gmail.com).



**STUDENTS!** Have an idea for a project, experiment, expedition, program, or device, but need funding to make it happen? The Michael P. Fabio Exploration Fund is dedicated to supporting the pursuit of knowledge through hands-on learning, innovation, and exploratory experience.

**Previous grants include:**

- Equipment for home recording studio;
- Funding to build a 4-Bit Computer;
- Funding for a 3D printed drone;
- Materials to build an autonomous boat;
- Construction of an astrophotography mount.

**HOW TO APPLY!**

Applicants must submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to the MSSM Foundation via email at [foundation@mssm.org](mailto:foundation@mssm.org) no later than April 28 to be considered for the SPRING funding cycle. LOIs should provide a summary of the project, the applicant name(s), project costs/budget, and the timeline for completion. The LOI should also emphasize why the student(s) are curious or passionate about exploring their project.

In addition to the LOI, student applicants are invited to present a 10-15 minute presentation of their project to the committee at MSSM in May. This provides students the opportunity to explain in greater detail and demonstrate the need for funding.

**LETTERS OF INTEREST DUE:**

APRIL 28, 2026

**PRESENTATIONS:**

MAY 2026

For more information, contact Deb McGann at [Foundation@mssm.org](mailto:Foundation@mssm.org)

## MSSM News

Do you want a quick update on recent penguin events? For a detailed look at our latest accomplishments and recent events, we invite you to visit our recent posts section at [www.MSSM.org/news](http://www.MSSM.org/news). Stay informed about the incredible journey of our scholars and the vibrant life at MSSM.

# MSSM NEWS



## Important Contacts

Student Life Office - 207-325-3796  
Student Life Mobile - 207-498-9956  
Transportation Questions & Updates  
[Transportation@mssm.org](mailto:Transportation@mssm.org)

Admin on Duty - 207-540-6013

Student Life Email - [RI@mssm.org](mailto:RI@mssm.org)  
Parent Landing Page  
<https://www.mssm.org/parents>



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