

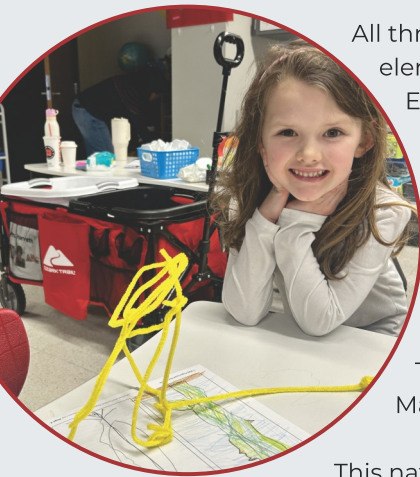


SUMMER 2026



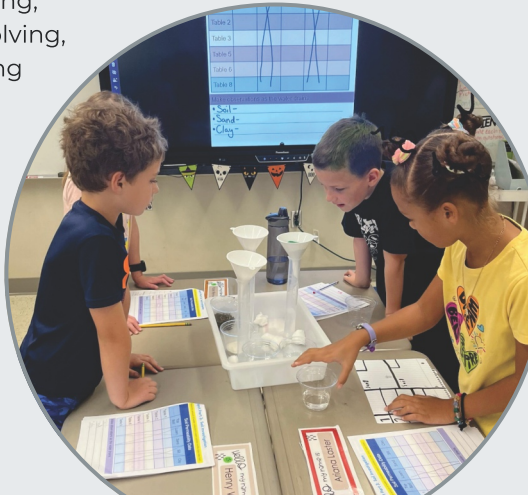
PLTW Honors

Innovation & Learning



All three School Town of Munster elementary schools—Eads Elementary, Elliott Elementary, and Frank H. Hammond Elementary—have been named **2025–26 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished Schools** for their commitment to hands-on, career-connected Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning.

This national recognition honors schools providing students with regular access to PLTW Launch, a project-based program that helps develop critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, and real-world learning experiences. The recognition reflects Munster's continued commitment to meaningful STEM learning and building student confidence and curiosity from an early age.



Dear Munster Residents,
I feel pretty lucky to count myself among you as a resident! It has been a true joy to put together this first edition of the Superintendent's Corner as I continue my transition into the School Town of Munster and the greater Munster community. Professionally, it has been an exciting opportunity to lead such a strong team and learn more about the tremendous partnerships we have with local businesses and higher education institutions throughout the area.

The level of support that exists within this community is truly remarkable. Between the Munster Education Foundation, the Booster Club, and our tremendous Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs), our schools benefit from an incredible network of people dedicated to supporting students and staff. If you are looking for a way to get involved, I encourage you to explore opportunities to volunteer, join, or donate. Links to these organizations can be found on our district website.

Not only did I bring my career to Munster, but I brought my family as well. Watching our family transition has been both a reminder of the resilience of children and a testament to this community's commitment to newcomers. Thank you to each of you for the kindness and support you have shown my family and me as we have made Munster our home.

As we move toward the close of the 2025–26 school year, there is much to look forward to. The STM is preparing to complete our new tennis courts and begin construction on the new multi-purpose building. Academically, we are preparing for the rollout of a new reading curriculum for the 2026–27 school year while continuing to strengthen instruction through our partnership with the Marzano Group. While we are proud of the success we see today, we remain committed to creating even greater opportunities for our students and community in the future.

I wish you and your family all the joy that summer brings.

GO MUSTANGS!

Dr. Hicks, Superintendent



A Commitment to Excellence:

Financial Update & Future Investments

In 2023, the School Town of Munster issued \$62.6 million in bond financing to support significant facility improvements across the district. These funds are being used to modernize learning environments, enhance student spaces, and invest in infrastructure that will benefit students for decades to come.



For a more complete view of the District's Budget Information, please visit:
www.munsterschools.gov/our-district/budget

designed to support high-quality teaching and learning. Our classrooms and learning spaces play a critical role in student success—providing the foundation for academic growth while allowing educators to deliver meaningful instruction that meets the diverse learning styles and needs of all students.

Why Bond Financing?

Bond financing allows school districts to complete major capital projects upfront while repaying the cost over time, similar to a home mortgage. By law, bond funds can only be used for **construction and capital improvements**, not operational expenses such as salaries, staffing, or student programming. The School Town of Munster remains committed to responsible financial stewardship while making strategic investments in our schools.



Tennis Facility

One of the most anticipated projects in Munster is the replacement and relocation of the district's aging tennis facilities. The new complex, located near the Munster Pool at Community Park, will feature 10 new courts and improved accessibility and safety for players and spectators.



Due to the limited number of courts at the previous facility, Munster High School was unable to host IHSA Sectional competition. The expanded complex will better support tournaments, student-athletes, and community use while creating a premier tennis destination in Munster.

Understanding Our Financial Strength

The School Town of Munster's Standard & Poor's (S&P) rating improved to AA- in 2024, up significantly from BB between 2015–2019. This reflects years of responsible budgeting, careful planning, and strong financial management.

An S&P rating serves as a “credit score” for the district, measuring financial health and the ability to repay debt used for projects, such as school improvements and technology upgrades. A higher rating allows the district to borrow at lower interest rates, helping save taxpayers money while continuing to invest in Munster schools.

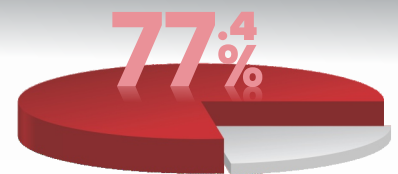
Improvements Already Underway

Approximately \$11 million of the 2023 bond proceeds were invested directly into classrooms and instructional spaces throughout the district. These upgrades include:

- Modernized and remodeled classrooms
- Enhanced science laboratories
- Complete renovation of the Performing Arts area at Munster HS
- Updated instructional and activity spaces across all schools

These projects are helping ensure that every student learns in a safe, functional, and engaging environment

Did you Know...



77.4% of the Referendum Fund Expenditures are allocated to Educational Staff Salaries & Benefits:

- **66 Teachers/Counselors**
- **51 Instructional Assistants**
- **10 Substitute Teachers**

* Data shown represents approximate referendum expenditure allocations as of May 2023, at the time the referendum was passed.

Multi-Purpose Building

The new multi-purpose building, made possible through the 2023 bond, will expand athletic, physical education, and extracurricular opportunities for Munster students. Designed to support year-round programming, the facility will help reduce scheduling limitations and provide dedicated indoor training space during winter months and inclement weather.

Planned features include a modern weight room, 50-yard indoor turf field, 3-lane indoor track, batting cages, locker rooms, flexible training areas, spectator areas, and dedicated space for activities such as marching band practices and other extracurricular programs. The project will also include a new Administration Center, allowing the district to address multiple facility needs through one coordinated and cost-effective effort.



To learn more about other capital improvements funded by the 2023 Bond Series, please visit:
www.munsterschools.gov/our-district/capital-improvement-projects

DISCOVER What Makes STM Special

The School Town of Munster is excited to launch the fourth year of the We Are Munster Community Ambassador Program, a unique opportunity for residents and district parents to get an inside look at what makes STM so special.

Through sessions led by district leaders, participants will learn about academics, finances, student services, operations, and safety while connecting with school leaders and experiencing the pride and community that define We Are Munster.

Apply Today



Residents within district boundaries are encouraged to apply by Friday, July 18. Learn more about the program at:
www.munsterschools.gov/our-district/ambassador-program



Celebrating Munster's National Merit Scholars

Munster High School is proud to celebrate six students who have been named National Merit Scholarship Finalists, placing them among the top 1% of high school students in the nation academically.

The National Merit Scholarship Program recognizes top-performing students based on their PSAT/NMSQT scores. More than 1.6 million students take the exam each year, with only about 15,000 advancing to finalist status nationwide.

Congratulations to the following Munster High School students:

- Ian Cabiness
- Jenna Krieg
- Anastazja Matyskiewicz
- Aniela Olczak
- Eva Pramuk
- Aditi Tumuluri

Earning National Merit Finalist status is an incredible accomplishment and demonstrates extraordinary dedication, academic excellence, and perseverance. Their achievement also highlights the strong support of Munster's teachers, families, and school community in helping students reach their full potential.

*We congratulate these students
on this outstanding recognition & look forward
to all they will accomplish in the future.*





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one Community one Purpose We Are Munster

"We Are Munster" is more than a slogan — it reflects the pride, connection, and support that define the School Town of Munster community. From dedicated staff and involved families to supportive community members and inspiring students, Munster is a place where people come together to support the success of every child.

The strength of our schools comes from the strength of our community, and together we continue to create opportunities, celebrate achievements, and build a place where students thrive. We Are Munster is not just something we say — it's who we are.

MHS Success BY THE NUMBERS

Class of 2025 **90%** earned dual credit
71% earned 15 dual credits+
\$2.7 million in savings to families
Graduation Rate: **98%**



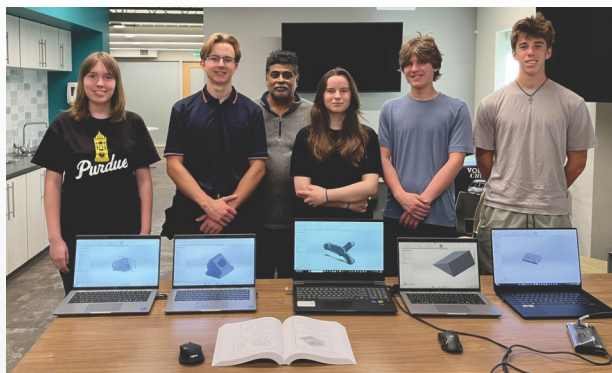
Plans after graduation:

87% 2 or 4 year college
5.6% Trade School
5.4% Employment
2% Military

Find us on social media and online at
www.munsterschools.gov

BUILDING Future-Ready Students

Beginning with the Class of 2029 - current freshman class - Indiana high school students will have the opportunity to earn Diploma Readiness Seals recognizing preparation in areas such as Enrollment, Employment, and Enlistment readiness.



Students pursuing the Employment Readiness Seal can gain valuable experience through internships and real-world learning opportunities.

The Munster High School Internship Program allows students to explore career pathways through meaningful workplace experiences guided by both a workplace mentor and school staff member. The program connects classroom learning to real-world applications while building partnerships with local businesses invested in supporting student success.

Businesses interested in mentoring and helping prepare the next generation of professionals are encouraged to partner with Munster High School.



Visit our website for more information,
www.munsterschools.gov/parent-resources/work-based-learning-internships