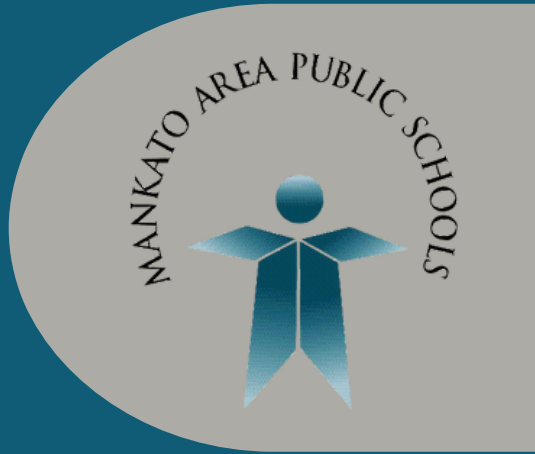


MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Paul Peterson, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

In several important areas, the schools within the Mankato school district have rebounded well from “the COVID years”. Teachers and students are back to regular teaching and learning, engaged in time-honored traditions like Homecoming, fine arts performances and family engagement nights. They are also establishing relationships that in many cases will last a lifetime. Data collected at all schools this fall indicate that student learning has accelerated and student behavior incidents requiring suspensions are down. School staff overwhelmingly report a positive and productive beginning to the year.

As we near the start of the next calendar year, there are three areas I will highlight in this column over the next several months: budget adjustments, referendum planning, and school reform. It will be a critical year for Mankato Area Public Schools, filled with both challenges and opportunities that will set a clear path for students, families and staff in the public school system.

A key driver of financial stability in Minnesota school districts is PreK-12 student enrollment. For Mankato, school enrollment has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. This has resulted in less state revenue, and for two of the last three years, resulted in multi-million dollar budget reductions. Fewer students mean fewer teachers and staff members providing support in critical areas such as student behavior, academic intervention and teacher support.

When declining enrollment is added to the state legislature’s inaction to fully fund public schools and address the ongoing special education cross-subsidy, school districts like ours once again face a fiscal challenge as we begin preparing for next school year.

In the coming weeks, the budget reduction process for 2023-2024 will be outlined, including how staff and community members can provide ideas and input. It won’t be easy, and the heartburn that the cuts will cause may lead us to consider local funding options (like referendums) to preserve core community expectations for our schools.

So while the challenge is steep, it isn’t insurmountable, especially as we implement an enrollment plan that will demonstrate our commitment to welcome students and families into our neighborhood elementary schools and comprehensive middle and high schools. In the end, the financial challenges we face will be little match for a school staff and community committed to working together equitably, with high expectations for all, and dedicated to reestablishing a shared community value of the benefit of public education.



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- ➡ Center for Learning
- ➡ Facilities Update
- ➡ Kiwanis Reading Oasis Program
- ➡ School Board Election Results
- ➡ Calendar Reminders
- ➡ Early Childhood Education
- ➡ Gifts and Grants July-October 2022



**Coffee
&
Conversations**

9:00 a.m.
Saturday, December
10th

Roosevelt Elementary Media Center
300 W. Sixth Street, Mankato
**Dates in 2023 TBD



www.maps@isd77.org

ADDRESS/POSTAGE HERE



CENTER FOR LEARNING

NEW SITE



Standards-based curriculum

- high quality Parent-Aware site with fully licensed teachers
- nursing and social worker staff on site
- low student to staff ratios
- social-emotional supports

Registration Opens
January 2023



Scan to
visit website

MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2023-24



Nature-based experiences

NEW for 23-24

- fee for service transportation
- child care services to wrap around the school day
- meals provided through child care

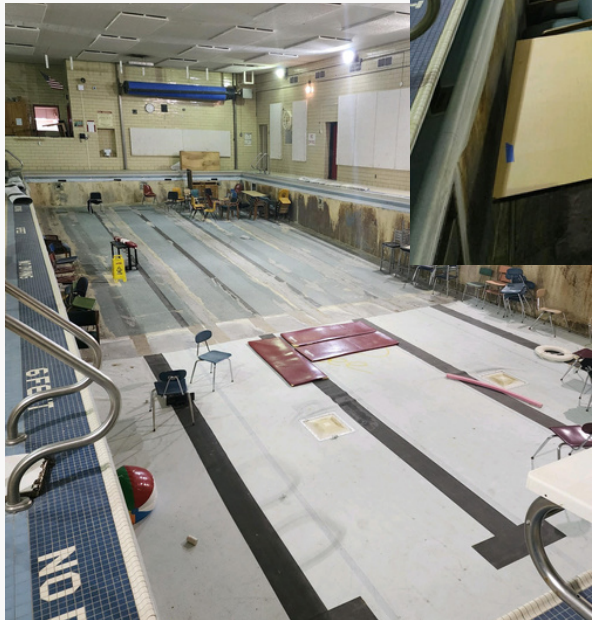
FACILITIES UPDATE - WEST HIGH SCHOOL POOL



Pool was renovated
in 1993



Pool was deemed unsafe
to use in 2019



The Mankato West High School pool originally opened in 1951 with three competitive lanes and a diving well. In 1993-1994, the pool was renovated to improve the depth, ventilation, pool deck and address structural deficiencies. Due to safety concerns, the diving well was eliminated. As a result, the pool was only used for swimming practice and physical education classes, and all Scarlet swim competitions were moved to MSU-Mankato.

In 2019, engineers were brought in to inspect the structural supports and walls of the pool. Leakage and chlorine exposure to the structure were ongoing, and the pool had deteriorated to the point where it was deemed unsafe to use. For more than three years now, there has not been a drop of water in the pool, meaning no physical education swimming units, and the Scarlet swimming programs have relocated to the East pool for practices and competitions.

Currently, the East swim facility is supporting four swimming teams, community education activities, swimming lessons, physical education classes and recreational community activities. For a school community our size, this is not sustainable as it has limited the availability to all groups.

A long-term solution for West attendance area swimmers is needed, and the School Board is committed to addressing the need in a future bond referendum. MAPS leaders are considering the timing of a referendum and continue to explore dates in 2023 for a possible community vote.

KIWANIS READING OASIS PROGRAM

The Mankato Kiwanis Club not only lights up Sibley Park each winter, they also light up students' imaginations and love of reading at Hoover Elementary. Through a long-standing partnership with the local club, Hoover students and Kiwanis members spend time in Hoover's Kiwanis Reading Oasis enjoying great books, mentorship, and laughter over lunch.


The mission of a Reading Oasis is to "provide a safe and nurturing area within the school where students and their families are welcome to come and read, explore and learn together." That mission is still forefront today. Not only do Kiwanis volunteers use the space to read with students, but the Oasis space is also active with many other Hoover volunteers.

Current Kiwanis member, Laura Stevens, who coordinates volunteers as well as volunteers herself shared, "Kiwanis is a group of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. We have been reading with children at Hoover on a weekly basis for over 7 years, and look forward to doing it for many more. Our members enjoy spending time with the young children, listening to them read or reading to them. The Mankato Kiwanis Club is proud to partner with Hoover Elementary on the Reading Oasis."

Easton Brand, 2nd Grade, Mrs. Hoehn's Classroom: "I got to read with a volunteer she was nice and it was a good book."

Hudson Marco, 5th Grade, Mrs. Edelstein's class: "I got to read with a volunteer, he helped me with words. He was nice and it was fun."

Alex Senske, 3rd Grade, Mrs. Sather/Ms. Lopez's Class: "The volunteer read a book to me about alligators and crocodiles, it was a good experience."



Volunteer, Laura Stevens and students Amelia Chapman and Aubrey Fenner

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

One new board member has been elected to join Mankato Area Public Schools Board of Education. The new member is Kari Pratt.

The outcome of the Nov. 8 election also resulted in the election of Board Members Patrick Baker and Shannon Sinning, both of whom were appointed to fill vacant spots earlier this year. Pratt, Baker and Sinning will serve four-year terms. Incumbent Kristi Schuck won the special election to fill the remainder of a two-year term.

The board members will be sworn in and will sign oaths of office on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Official results are pending the certification of the election, which will occur Thursday, November 17, 2022.

For complete election results and information, please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website. electionresults.sos.state.mn.us

MAPS IS HIRING!!

APPLY NOW!

*Special Education Paraeducator

*Health Assistants

*Various Other Positions



www.isd77.org

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Calendar Reminders

Dates to remember:

- December 14th - Early out
- December 23rd - January 2nd - No School K-12
- January 11th - Early out
- January 16th - No School K-12 in observance of MLK Day
- January 20th - End of 2nd Quarter
- January 23rd - No School K-12

Find Calendars Here!





GIFTS AND GRANTS JULY – OCTOBER 2022

November 2022

4.0 School Services Inc – \$3,600, Pre-K programs transportation
Andy Wendinger Memorial Car Show – \$1,000, high school auto program
Anonymous – \$1,000, Futures
Bank Vista – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Black Cat Investments LLC – \$150, high school boys hockey program
Blue Earth County Farm Bureau – \$600, Community Education Movies in the Park
Brown & Brown, Inc – \$2,000, districtwide Welcome Back event
Capstone Publishing – 25 books (\$259.75 value), Early Learning
Charities Aid Foundation America – \$100, elementary school
Choose Kindness Foundation – \$2,000, elementary school PBIS program
Community Charities of Minnesota – \$1,000, high school
Countryside Refrigeration & Heating LLC – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Crossview Church & My Place – Backpacks & Supplies (\$2,000 value), districtwide
Dale's Marine, LLC – \$200, high school girls hockey program
DWC Holdings, DBA The Goalie Club – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Eric Means Insurance Agency – \$100, high school girls hockey program
Frandsen Bank – school supplies (\$500 value), districtwide
Freyberg Management Company Inc – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Giddie Skin – \$100, high school girls hockey program
GMS Industrial Supplies – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Hoffner, Todd & Melodee – \$1,000, middle school mental health ambassador in memory of Mara Anne Hoffner
Holtmeier Construction Inc – \$500, high school Angie Peters Family Scholarship
JMMN Investments, LLC – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Ka-Sha – \$100, high school girls hockey program
Kato Family Chiropractic PA – \$200, high school girls hockey program

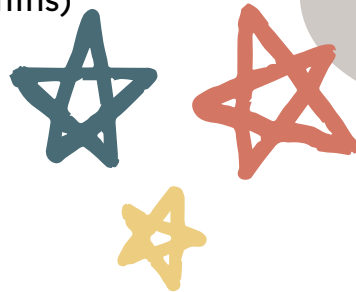
Kato Glass – \$100, high school girls hockey program
Kendall & Rod Meyer Fund – Mankato Area Foundation – \$10,000, high school planetarium telescope
L & N Andreas Foundation – \$10,000, high school program
Lake, Barbara – \$500, elementary school
Lawrence, Al & Becky – framed Amos Owen print (\$750 value), districtwide
Madison Lake Family Dental Care – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Mankato Cars & Credit – backpacks & school supplies (\$200 value), districtwide
Mankato Lions Club – \$200, high school VEX Robotics
Mayo Foundation for Medical Education & Research – \$5,000, districtwide ALPS sponsorship
McGowan Water Conditioning, Inc – \$500, Community Education movie event
Megard, Craig & Mary – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union – \$1,782.50, Nick Hoffman Scholarship
Minnstar Bank – \$200, high school girls hockey program
North Mankato American Legion Unit 518-Ladies Auxiliary – \$360, districtwide student support fund
North Mankato Library – School supplies (\$500 value), districtwide
Olson, Jeremy & Heather – adapted chair, ottoman & tray (\$3,200 value), special education
Page Jones Richard Family Fund – Mankato Area Foundation – \$10,000, high school planetarium telescope
Peters Lawn Service, Inc – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Pioneer Bank – backpacks & supplies (\$1,000 value), district
Power, Bronson & Amber – \$300, elementary school snack cart
Prairie Ecology Bus Center – \$14,400, elementary schools
Preiser, Maria-Luise – \$100, Nick Hoffman Scholarship
ProGrowth Bank – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Public Safety Community Outreach & Engagement – \$200, community education youth recreation equipment
Quality 1-Hr Foto – \$168.75, high school boys' lacrosse
\$350, high school drama club

Recharge America – \$5,000, high school VEX robotics
River Valley Running – shoes (\$2,000 value), district
Ross Thate Custom Welding – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Sack, Sherry – \$150, Nick Hoffman Scholarship
Scheels – \$200, high school girls hockey program; activewear (\$2,000 value), districtwide
Scholarship America – \$2,000, high school award
Schulz-Pope, Stacey – \$225, high school girls hockey program
Sevcik, Timothy & Chera – \$65, elementary school snack cart
Shelly One, LLC, DBA The Landing on Madison – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Shine-Way Janitorial Services, Inc – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Snell Motors – school supplies (\$500 value) districtwide
Store it – school supplies (\$500 value), districtwide
Stoufer's Auto Sales, Inc – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Sullivan, Margaret M. – \$100, Nick Hoffman Scholarship
Thielges, Kathy – \$100, middle school robotics program
Thin Film Technology Fund – Mankato Area Foundation – \$15,000, high school planetarium telescope
Thomas, Nancy & John – \$300, Nick Hoffman Scholarship
Tradehome Shoes – 50 pairs of shoes (\$2,500 value), elementary school
Unique Speciality & Classic Cars – \$200, high school girls hockey program
United Prairie Insurance Agency – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Universal Sounds Production, LLC – \$1,000, middle school science programs
US Bank N.A. – \$200, high school girls hockey program
Walmart – school supplies (\$3,700 value), districtwide
Wess, Gary & Mary Colleen – \$50, high school boys cross country program
Winkelman, Ashley & Larson, Caesar – \$5,000, high school wrestling
Wolff, Matthew E – \$2,000, high school Wolff Family Jumpstart Scholarship program
YMCA – School Supplies (\$500 value), districtwide
ZOETIS – \$180.40, Future Farmers of America

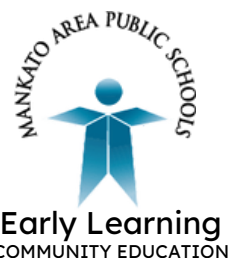
Early Childhood Family Education

PARENT-CHILD CLASSES BIRTH-5 YEARS OLD

- Great Start (0-9 months)
- Busy Bodies (10-18 months)
- Little Wigglers (13-24 months)
- Little Explorers (18-28 months)
- Shakers and Movers (18-33 months)
- Baby Sign
- Music, Movement, and Books
- 2-yr and 3-yr old classes
- Messy Art
- Family Nature class
- Books and Beyond
- STEM class
- Online parenting discussion group
- Parenting for Equity



Learning begins at Birth



ECFE works to strengthen families and encourages parents to provide the best possible environment for the healthy development of their children.



Early Learning Department
Family Learning Center
820 Hubbell Ave
Mankato, MN
507-625-4620
www.mankatoecfe.org