Menomonie Middle School Newsletter

January/February 2019 Newsletter

Mark your calendar

January 18: Term 2 Ends

January 21: No School!

January 22: Dental Clinic

January 23: Dental Clinic

January 28: 8th HS Mustang Preview Night for 8th graders

January 28: Band-A-Rama @ HS

February 5: Parent/Guardian Alliance Meeting

February 6: Spelling Bee

February 14: 6th Grade Music Trip

February 19: Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 21: Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 22: No School!

February 25: Orchestra 'Pop'

March 10: Daylight Savings time

March 15: 7th Grade Music Trip

March 19: Family Night

March 25-29: Spring Break! No School!

April 2: Parent/Guardian Alliance Meeting

April 6: 8th Grade Music Trip

April 19: No School!

April 22: No School!

May 27: No School!

June 6: Last day of school! (tentative)

Happy New Year from Principal Boettcher!

Partner with Us!

Together, we will find a solution for every learning need!

The new year can be a time of reflection as well as a time to look forward. If the first half of the school year did not go as well as planned there is plenty of time to make a positive change. Menomonie Middle School staff is here for all students. Our goal is to empower each student to reach their full potential. ***Sometimes students may need a little help this time of year. If this is true for you, please consider the following options:***

- **Contact your CARES teacher –** Our CARES program provides a teacher mentor for each student and parent/guardian. When tricky issues arise, communicating with your CARES teacher is usually the first step as we discover solutions.
- **Contact a teacher.** All teachers and staff members are ready, willing and able to help students and parents/guardians to explore ideas and solutions to support you. Many teachers offer academic support for students during lunch and/or after school.
- **Contact your guidance counselor.** Mrs. Horner or Mr. Mountin have potential solutions for every problem! Don't hesitate to consult with our counselors. Success with learning and achievement at school is an important part of our job here at MMS!
- **Contact your principals.** Meeting the needs of students and parents/guardians is extremely important to us. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to visit with one or both of us. You may visit in person or communicate by telephone or email.
- **Explore our MMS website and MMS Team pages.** Many teachers use Chromebook technology to provide helpful blogs, spaces, and educational links to help students and parents/guardians understand learning standards and assignments.
- **Review the weekly progress reports provided via email or have students show you on their chromebook.** Students are able to complete missing assignments during WIN each Wednesday.

- **Utilize *Family Access*.** *Skyward Family Access* is an online grading tool that enables students and parents/guardians to view grading practices per course. Typically, grades are recorded on a weekly basis. Viewing *Family Access* regularly avoids a grading surprise at report card time. Parents/guardians must acquire a password code to access this tool. Password codes can be acquired by calling the Technology Department at our district Administrative Center – 715-232–1642. If you do not have a computer, you may also use your smart phone or students Chromebook to access Family Access.
- **Get Involved -** Students who participate in extra-curricular activities often find a natural support group of friends and adults to support academic and emotional needs throughout the school year.

Attitude + Effort = Success
Bart Boettcher

MMS Newsletter is Green!

Our newsletter is posted on the Middle School website and you can receive it via email if you are signed up to receive daily announcements and your email is up to date in Family Access. We do keep a few paper copies in the front office and you may pick one up if you'd like.

chromebook Use and Care Tip

Students have done a great job using their Chromebooks. Many parents have reported that they put a time limit on use of the Chromebook at home. For example, at 9pm students must put their chromebook on the counter to charge for the night and leave it there until morning. This allows for a good night of sleep for the student and the Chromebook is fully charged and ready for school in the morning.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST

We are as committed as ever to the academic success of all of our students. The first and best tool that we can use to make sure all of our students are successful in school is to guarantee that each child begins the day with a healthy and nutritious breakfast – at home or at school.

We want to remind you that the School Breakfast Program is available **FREE** to all students in elementary and middle school. Breakfast is served starting at 7:15 am in the cafeteria each day. These supervised meals are nutritionally balanced, and vary daily.

School Breakfast is an ideal solution on busy mornings when kids are running late or parents have early work schedules. Oftentimes, kids are not hungry when they first wake up but are ready to eat when school begins. Whatever the reason, if breakfast at home is not convenient, please take advantage of breakfast here at school. Studies have shown that children who eat a nutritious breakfast have better behavior, better attendance, and improved test scores.

Thank you for helping us to make sure that all of our students start the school day alert, well fed and ready to learn.

Michelle Kloser, Director of Nutrition Services
Bart Boettcher, Principal

Introducing New Staff Members…

Amanda Eastvold – Health Office Assistant

David Kile – Music Assistant

Maritza Pierson – ELL Paraeducator

Amanda Viana - Para educator

Student Fees

All student fees must be paid in full by the end of the school year. Statements will be emailed out or mailed if your email is not up to date. Please check your student's fee under fee management in Family Access. Fees not paid by the end of the school year will roll over to the next year. If you qualify for free/reduced meals some of your fees may be waived, but paperwork must be filled out. Only current year fees can be waived. Some fees do not apply to the waiver. Please contact Tina at tina_liestman@msd.k12.wi.us or call (715) 232-1673 ext. 30111 with questions.

MMS Parent/Guardian Alliance Group

The MMS Parent/Guardian Alliance is a group of parents/guardians and teachers who actively foster a spirit of cooperation and a sense of support, pride and enthusiasm for education. Nurturing a sense of community and engagement for families is our ambition. Current Goals Include:

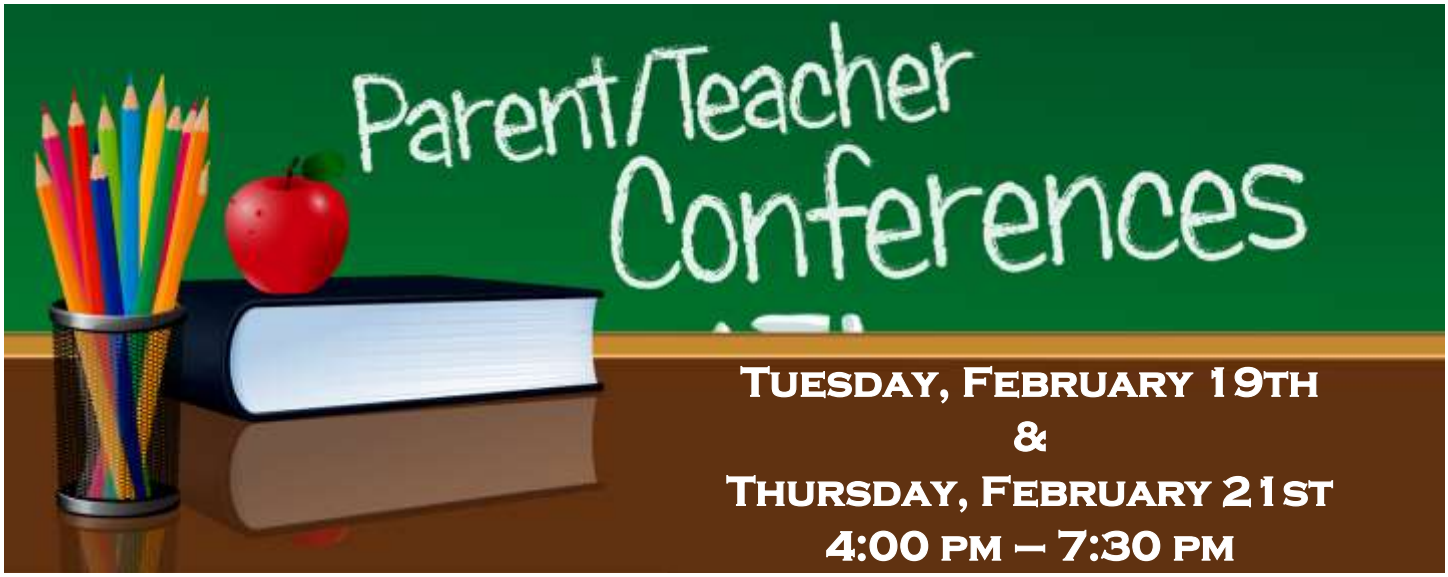
*Create opportunities to engage families with the middle level experience
*Provide academic and social support for our students and families
*Communicate, collaborate and connect
*Learn

Meetings will occur the first Tuesday every other month at 5:30. Email: MenomonieMSAlliance@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5th at 5:30 pm.

Lost and Found

If your child has misplaced something at the Middle School, there is a *Lost and Found* table in the hallway by the office. Please encourage your child to check this location to claim lost items. The PE Dept. has their own *Lost and Found* table in each of the locker rooms. We accumulate many, many items during the year.



Conference Procedure Changes

Conferences will be scheduled with your students CARES teacher. We will have scheduled conferences on the first ½ of every hour and then open times for all teachers the second ½ of every hour. Conferences are scheduled in 10 minute increments. Example: You are scheduled with your CARES teacher at 4:00pm. If you would like to visit with other teachers, you may stay and meet with any of those teachers between 4:30 and 5 pm. All of the open times are first come, first serve. If you are unable to meet with your CARES teacher during the assigned time, please let the teacher know so we can make adjustments as needed. We hope by adding the open conferencing times, parents will have an opportunity to meet with specific teachers of your choosing to discuss any issues.

Let the Transition to High School Begin!

Believe it or not we are getting ready to start registering 8th grade students for high school! There will be many parts to the transition to Menomonie High School. Here is a brief synopsis of the dates and times to make note of. We strive to make this a fun and exciting time for you and your student.

Starting the week of **January 21st**, students will get general registration information from high school counseling staff in their 8th grade pods. Take some time to read through the materials, begin picking out classes you are interested in taking, and start to think about a four-year plan.

On **Monday, January 28th**, from **5:30 to 7 PM**, the high school staff will hold MHS Mustang Preview Night. At 5:30, parents and students will be welcomed by middle and high school principals in the auditorium. After a brief overview of scheduling at the high school, parents and students will be released to the commons where they are encouraged to meet with teachers from each department and learn about what courses Menomonie High School has to offer.

Following curriculum MHS Mustang Preview Night, students will be given assistance to register for their classes online. On **Friday, February 1st and Monday, February 4th**, students will register online during their CARES class for their high school course selections. High school counselors will be on hand to answer any questions students might have regarding scheduling, and make sure each student registers for the necessary number of classes for 9th grade.

Students will be given a copy of their schedule during freshman orientation at Menomonie High School, held on **August 13th through August 15th**. At this time, parents and students will receive valuable information about their high school experience, get their school pictures taken, and have the ability to meet with counselors regarding their schedule. More information will follow in May regarding this event.

MATH HOMEWORK CLUB!

Mr. Flaten is available for math help after school Mondays - Thursdays from 3:00 to 3:25. Please bring homework or assignments you already have that you have questions about or just work on missing assignments if needed. No appointment necessary, just drop in. Please arrange your own ride and make sure you have transportation if needed.

Music Notes

Congratulations to all Band, Orchestra, and Choir students on wonderful December performances! These concerts are wonderful benchmarks to hear students' progress in their music classes.

In the space between Winter concerts and preparation for Spring performances, we make time for special events such as Solo & Ensemble and festivals, and focus on music fundamentals that make us better musicians.

The Menomonie High School Orchestra will be having a concert on February 11th at the high school auditorium at 7pm! Admission is free! Works include music from the Lion King, Ratatouille, Tchaikovsky's 5th symphony, and Giovanni Bottesini's Grand Duo Concertante for violin and double bass, featuring Professors Steve Bjella and David Story from UW-Stevens Point! Come out and support your Menomonie High School Orchestra!

February 25th, come to the Middle School Commons to hear some fine orchestra pop music performed by ALL orchestras, district wide! A Bake Sale will take place during this time and all proceeds will go to benefit the middle and high school orchestras! Your contribution is highly appreciated! Come enjoy a night at the pops with your Menomonie School District Orchestras! 7pm, Menomonie Middle School Commons! Hope to see you there!

Do you enjoy working with robots? Do you enjoy coding? Do you enjoy working in a team? Are you looking to be in a spring activity? Are you looking for a club to join? If you answered YES to any of these questions, then Blugold Beginnings Robotics Club may be right for you! The Robotics Club is new to MMS, with this spring being just its second season. Participants get to build Lego robots, code their robots, and watch their robots come to life. The club will be 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm Monday through Thursday beginning on February 4th, 2019. If you're interested or have any questions, stop by Mrs. Brown's classroom or email mcdougpj@uwec.edu for an application. We're looking forward to another great season. Hope to see you there!

Christmas for Kids Fundraiser

The eighth grade student body at Menomonie Middle School conducted their annual Christmas for Kids Fundraiser the beginning of December. Students donated $1,009.00 and 27 blankets for the Dunn County United Way Christmas for Kids program.

Students celebrate with a raffle on December 21. Every dollar donated equals a chance to win. Students could donate more than $10 but allowed to enter the raffle ten times. An ornament with the student's name is put on the pod tree for every $5 donated. Business and community members donated different items and gifts cards for the raffle.

MATHCOUNTS®

The Menomonie Middle School hosted the first competition of the school year on Thursday, December 13th. It was a successful event with about 215 competitors from six different middle schools including, Rice Lake, Eau Claire NorthStar, Eau Claire Delong, Eau Claire South, and Wausau John Muir. Many MMS mathletes received awards for individual and team accomplishments.

MathCounts is a club that offers competition around fun and engaging math problems. It is open to all students grades 6-8. The season runs from November through March. They attend local competitions in Rice Lake and Eau Claire in January.

We would like to thank ConAgra Foods for their donation, which helped provide snacks for the students and coaches at our local competition! A special thanks to the volunteers that came to help score the tests. Thank you to the parents and the School District of the Menomonie Area for the support and encouragement!

Notes from the Health…

The Health Office is managed by Health Assistants and clerical staff. Our clerical staff is not medically trained beyond first aid. There is one school nurse for the entire school district. The Health Office is a space provided for sick or injured students. It is also where medications are safely stored and administered to Middle School students. The Health Office cannot accommodate several students who are ill or need to be picked up. Please provide the office with current work and cell phone numbers. Thank you for your assistance.

Seasonal illness is upon us. With cold weather everyone is staying inside, including the germs! Remember to:

- Wash your hands frequently
- Stay home if you have a fever or are vomiting/diarrhea until symptoms are resolved for 24 hours
- Eat nutrient dense foods and drink lots of water
- Continue to exercise! The CDC recommends 60 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous physical exercise daily for young adults.

We are also having an increasing number of students come to the health office for acetaminophen or ibuprofen. We do not have a stock medication of these, supply these from home. Students may keep these medications in our office as long as *a Non-prescription Medication Administration Form* is on file. These forms can be found in the health office. Please pick one up or we can send one home with your student.

BRIDGING Brighter Smiles

Bridging Brighter Smiles: School-Based Dental Program

The dental clinic is offering a yearlong program with multiple visits to provide dental care for all children PK-8th grade. Dental professionals staff the clinic providing oral health education, supplies and preventive treatment. If you completed an enrollment form, your child should have received services. Clinic staff will be returning to the Middle School for follow-up visits for students who are already signed up. Not sure if your child is enrolled, or due for care? Simply call Bridging Brighter Smiles at 262-896-9891 or email coordinator@bbsmiles.org. Please contact the school office at 715-232-1673 if you have questions regarding the dental clinic for your child. Paper enrollment forms are also available if you need these services.

Our next clinic date is Tuesday, January 22nd.

No School

Spring Break

March 25-29

MMS Is Tree Nut / Peanut Allergy Aware

Severe allergies related to tree nuts and peanuts and other related food products are on the rise. To protect the health and safety of all students who experience this type of life-threatening allergic reaction to tree nuts, peanuts, and/or products containing trace elements of these nuts- **MMS is a tree nut / peanut free school zone**. Students and families are reminded to refrain from the consumption or use of nuts at MMS. Your awareness and cooperation could save a human life!

MMS IS A BULLY FREE SCHOOL ZONE

Principals, teachers, counselors, and other staff members at Menomonie Middle School are always willing to listen to and consider the ideas, concerns, and needs of our students and parents/guardians. Several options for communication exist:

- **Talk to an adult you trust face to face**
  Choose an adult staff member you trust and talk! We like talking with students and parents/guardians! If the adult you trust seems busy, ask to set up an appointment to share later.
- **Call an Adult You Trust**
  Using the telephone to communicate is perfectly OK!
- **Write to an Adult You Trust**
  If talking face to face or on the telephone is too hard, write a message to an adult you trust. Written messages can be delivered to an office or classroom. We will respond to you in a timely manner.
- **Use Our MMS Idea Box**
  Written messages can be dropped off in our Idea Boxes located in the middle school hallways. Paper forms are available next to each box.
- **Send an Email to an Adult You Trust**
  Sending an email to an adult you trust is a safe and easy way to share. We will respond in a timely manner.

All students should feel safe at school! No concern is too small! "Stand up" for yourself and "stand up" for your friends and peers. Together, we can eliminate bullying in our school!

Do You Have Questions About How to Use "Skyward Family Access"?

If you have questions about how to use our Skyward grading data base "Family Access", you are not alone. Parents/guardians often have questions or difficulty when navigating this site. Do not hesitate to contact our front office for guidance when this occurs. We are ready and willing to assist you. To login to Family Access, go to the Parents & Community tab, go to Parent Tools and a drop down menu will come up with Skyward Family Access on it. Click on this option to access Family Access.

Earn Money for Our School!

Shoparoo

Turn your shopping receipts into donations for our school. Just download the Shoparoo app and select the school you want to receive the donation. Just download the Shoparoo ap and start scanning your receipts.

Shop: Shop for any product, at any store

Snap: Take a picture of your receipts

Earn: Shoparoo donates to your school

Where does the donation money come from? Their founders are former teachers and retail executives who have found a novel way of matching schools' need for financial support with major consumer brands' need for market research. When you use the Shoparoo app to raise money for your school, your receipt data along with any answers you provide to optional surveys is made anonymous and summarized in market research reports that brands purchase. All research data remains anonymous, and this enables them to give money back to schools!

COLLECTION CORNER!

Thanks for your continued support collecting and bringing in BOXTOPS & MILKCAPS for our school!

The ***time*** and ***effort*** you give will help those in ***Job Skills class*** learn skills for the working world. Plus money for our school - it's a WIN WIN!

Go online to win Bonus Box Tops in one of the many sweepstakes they offer for our school! Boxtops are found on a lot of items in your refrigerator, freezer or pantry and much much more! **Cut them out & bring them in!!**

Kwik Trip MILK MOOLA caps and bag top labels can earn 5¢ for each one you bring in to our school. Please rinse the marked milk caps (leave labels on milk caps) &/or **cut out the whole 5¢ strip top bag label** and bring them in for our school!

The collection bin is located in the office.

Thanks for your support!

We're here to help you! Sometimes it can be confusing to know who to talk to. Here are a few of the main phone numbers and people to talk to.

Main School Number: (715) 232-1673

Attendance Secretary – Kelly Steinmeyer - ext. 30100

Student will not be at school

Student is leaving school early—appointment

Student has a planned absence—vacation

Have a question about your student's attendance.

Nurse's Office – Amanda Eastvold/Judy Olson —ext. 30103 Student is sick and would like to leave school Questions regarding medications and plans

Food Service – Kari Sisko - (715) 232-2794

Food Service is located at the High School

Questions about lunch accounts

Guidance Office - Jason Mountin - ext. 30108

Questions regarding students with last name beginning A-L.

Guidance Office - Nancy Horner - ext. 30112

Questions regarding students with last name beginning with M-Z.

Main Office - Tina Liestman—ext. 30111

Have a question about your student's fees—pe lock fee, athletic/club fees, etc. Waiver inquires can also be made.

Parent/Family Online Access

Online Family Access is available for all families in the district. To obtain a username and password, contact our district office at (715) 232-1642. Please, for security reasons, do NOT share your parent login with your child. Go to **www.sdmaonline.com** and click on the ***Family Access Login*** link on the left side. You can access your child's attendance, grades, fees and lunch balance.

Attendance Reminder

Good school attendance is one predicator of academic success. All Menomonie Middle School students are required to be in attendance from 7:43 am to 2:55 pm. Additionally, students are reminded that they have a maximum of 10 school days that can be missed during the school year for personal illness, religious services, and family activities. If a student needs to attend an appointment during school hours, a note from a parent/guardian or that business office needs to be turned into the Attendance Office the morning of your appointment so we can get your student a pass and that it does not count against those 10 days. **If your child is absent, please call the Attendance Office.**

Parents

Sign up to receive daily announcements, newsletters, and other important updates. The link is available on the middle school website.

Go to Parents & Community, then to Parent Tools. You will see a drop down menu listing Daily Announcements. Click on that link. This will take you to the Middle School Announcements page. On the right side is a Subscribe button. Click on that and follow the prompts.

Please remember to update your information, emergency contacts, and fill out permission forms on Skyward Family Access for your student(s). This is important for field trip permission, student and bus code of conduct, video/photographing permission, computer network agreement, health services standing orders, and more. You can also pay online fees for the middle school and sports fees.

Free and Reduced Lunch

Families who may be experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to apply for the free and reduced lunch program. Guidelines change and family circumstances change as well. Applications are available in the middle school office, as well as the district office. Many times, our families are struggling to make "ends meet" and if they are eligible for assistance, it could really help their family. In addition, students who meet free and reduced eligibility are often eligible for other programs. However, if an application is not submitted, they cannot receive that service. To learn more about eligibility criteria or receive an application, contact the Food Service Office at (715) 232-2794 ext. 42124.

Menomonie Middle School Family Night

Tuesday, March 19th - 5:00 - 7:30PM

FREE light dinner served with a Dairy Queen Dilly Bar between 5:00 and 6:30 PM in the cafeteria.

WHAT: Family Night MMS Department Rotations

Come meet MMS Teachers, explore the pods, play games and take home free items from each rotation!

WHERE: Meet in the Cafeteria for dinner at 5PM, and then explore the Pods, Gym, and LMC for the rotations.

A DJ will be playing for us from 5:00 - 7:15 PM.

WHEN: 5:30 PM Passport Rotations Begin

One FREE passport per 5th - 8th grade student: pick up at sign in. Passports used to enter the end of the evening prize drawing (held in the cafeteria at 7:15) for several awesome prizes. Need not be present to win.

WHO: Students in 5th grade through 8th grade and his or her Parents/Guardians & Family Members

I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...

I have a fever	I am vomiting	I have diarrhea	I have a rash	I have an eye infection	I have been injured or sick
Temperature of 100 or higher for a minimum 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Redness, itching, and/or crusty drainage from eye	Requiring a clinic, ER or hospital visit

I'M READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I'M...

Fever free for **24 hours** without the use of fever reducing medication	Free from vomiting for at least **24 hours**	Free from diarrhea for at least **24 hours**	Free from rash or itching or fever. I have been seen by a Dr. if needed	Evaluated by my Dr. and have a note to return to school	Released by my medical provider to return to school & with a Dr. note about any restrictions

MHS Mustang Preview Night

A night to welcome incoming 9th graders and families.

January 28th, 2019 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

5:30-5:55 PM-	Auditorium	Welcome & Introduction to Menomonie HS.
5:55-7:00 PM-	Commons	Curriculum and Activities Fair

MHS Department Websites			
Agriscience	Activities/Athletics	Art	Business & Marketing
English/Language Arts	Family and Consumer Sciences	Math	Music
Physical Education & Health	School Counseling	Science	Social Studies
Technology & Engineering		World Language	

Visit us at http://mhs.sdmaonline.com/

Congratulations to our MMS students!

Thank you for all of your hard work!

FINAL - PUBLIC REPORT - FOR PUBLIC RELEASE November 13th, 2018

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Menomonie Middle
Menomonie Area | Public - All Students
School Report Card | 2017-18 | Summary

Overall Score

74.4

★★★★☆

Exceeds Expectations

Overall Accountability Ratings	Score
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100 ★★★★★
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9 ★★★★☆
Meets Expectations	63-72.9 ★★★☆☆
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9 ★★☆☆☆
Fails to Meet Expectations	0-52.9 ★☆☆☆☆

School Information

Grades	6-8
School Type	Middle School
Enrollment	749
Percent Open Enrollment	1.3%
Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.1%
Asian	8.0%
Black or African American	1.1%
Hispanic/Latino	2.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.5%
White	82.9%
Two or More Races	4.4%
Student Groups	
Students with Disabilities	13.8%
Economically Disadvantaged	35.1%
English Learners	4.3%

Priority Areas	School Score	Max Score	6-8 State	6-8 Max
Student Achievement	**64.6/100**		**61.7/100**	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	34.0/50		32.6/50	
Mathematics Achievement	30.6/50		29.1/50	
School Growth	**72.7/100**		**66.0/100**	
English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	35.9/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	36.8/50		33.0/50	
Closing Gaps	**73.4/100**		**69.8/100**	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	41.0/50		34.8/50	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	32.4/50		35.0/50	
Graduation Rate Gaps	NA/NA		NA/NA	
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	**86.7/100**		**85.5/100**	
Graduation Rate	NA/NA		NA/NA	
Attendance Rate	74.1/80		74.2/80	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	NA/NA		NA/NA	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	12.6/20		11.3/20	

Priority Area Weights	Percentage Weight
Student Achievement	24.9%
School Growth	25.1%
Closing Gaps	25.0%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	25.0%

Note: For details about how weights are determined, see weighting calculator: https://oea-dpi.shinyapps.io/overall_weighting_calculator/

Student Engagement Indicators	Total Deductions: 0
Absenteeism Rate (goal <13%)	Goal met: no deduction
Dropout Rate (goal <6%)	Goal met: no deduction

Test Participation Information

Includes Forward Exam (grades 3-8), ACT (grade 11), and Dynamic Learning Maps (grades 3-8 and 11)

Group	ELA 1-Year	ELA 3-Year	Math 1-Year	Math 3-Year
All-Students Rate	98.9%	99%	98.9%	99.1%
Lowest Subgroup Rate: SwD	98%	98.3%	98%	98.3%

^Note: Outlier score fluctuation is noted by ^ when any school or district report card has a 10-point or greater change (up or down) in its Overall Score. This amount of change in a single year is considered an outlier, and may or may not be reflective of actual school/district change in performance. Careful and cautious review of the report card and all supplemental pages is recommended. For assistance in better understanding this report card, contact the Office of Educational Accountability: reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction | dpi.wi.gov
Report cards for different types of schools or districts should not be directly compared.