



Menomonie Middle School Newsletter

October/November 2021

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, Nov. 5: End of Term 1

Sun. Nov. 7: Daylight Savings Time Ends

Mon. Nov. 8: Beginning of Term 2

Tues. Nov. 9: Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7:30

Thurs. Nov. 11: Veteran's Day

Thurs. Nov. 18: Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7:30

Tues. Nov. 23: End of Term 2 – Encore

Wed. Nov. 24 – No School

Thurs. Nov. 25 – No School

Fri. Nov. 26 – No School

Mon. Nov. 29: Beginning of Term 3 – Encore

Fri. Dec. 10: Holiday Parade 4pm

Tues. Dec 14: Orchestra Concert 7pm

Thurs. Dec 16: Choir Concert: 7pm

Mon. Dec. 20 – Band Concert 7pm

Thurs. Dec 23 – Sun. Jan. 2 – No School

Mon. Jan. 3: School Resumes

Greetings from Principal Boettcher!

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year!

Attitude + Effort = Success.

The start of each new school year is exciting for students and staff. We have developed a slogan at Menomonie Middle School where “My attitude Means Success.” We believe that bringing a positive attitude and showing effort each day, will propel us towards success in everything we do.

Our MMS students have unlimited opportunities and education is the avenue to unlock those opportunities. The staff at MMS will work collaboratively to support all students on their path to achievement and success.

We have made some changes to our schedule this year that we feel will help our students achieve success. Each student starts their day by attending CARES. CARES stands for Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self Control. CARES is a special 19 minute period of time for students to start their day in a caring environment with a teacher mentor who provides a social/emotional, organizational and/or academic emphasis.

Each student will also have a WIN period in their schedule. Our WIN model is about finding the solution that is right for each individual student, by providing scheduled time for additional learning and support. Every day our students have a 30 minute block of WIN (What I Need) time. During WIN all students participate in enrichment opportunities or math/language arts intervention labs based on what each child needs. We look forward to supporting student learning through WIN this year!

Menomonie Middle School believes ALL students can learn and achieve grade-level expectations with the proper time and support.

Thank you for your support and understanding during another challenging year.

Bart Boettcher - Principal
Attitude + Effort = Success!

MMS Welcomes New Educators to Our Team!

Welcome – James Aerts, Band
Welcome – Kyle Arnsdorf, Custodian
Welcome – Jamie Beers, Para Professional
Welcome – Paul Bielmeier, Phy Ed
Welcome – Michaela Blomberg, Para Professional
Welcome – Pat Bundy, Business
Welcome – Alika Espe, Para Professional
Welcome – Ethan Goin, Custodian
Welcome – Adrianna Harrison, School Counselor (8th Grade)
Welcome – Jesseca Haselhuhn, SPED
Welcome – Carly Hustedt, Para Professional
Welcome – Kennedy Kerg, SPED



Welcome – Gail LaFontaine, Food Service
Welcome – Jacob Lemke, 7th Science
Welcome – Emily Minor, Math Intervention
Welcome – Jessika Muns, Para Professional
Welcome – Kim Navaro, Library Media Specialist
Welcome – Lucas Nolte, 6th Science
Welcome – Desley Sabby, Para Professional
Welcome – Rachel Scott, 8th Science
Welcome – Logan Seymour, 8th Social Studies
Welcome – Zachary Slowiak, 7th Social Studies
Welcome – Jordan Snidarich, Para Professional
Welcome – Robert Solie, Custodian
Welcome – Shayne Stark, Food Service

Doing What is Right Matters at MMS!

CORE VALUES 2021-2022

We the students at Menomonie Middle School, in order to provide a safe, equal, fair, respectful, and positive learning environment for all associated with this school, set forth the following school-wide Core Values:

RESPONSIBILITY

Be a good role model with your thoughts and actions: be on time, be prepared, be honest, and trustworthy.

RESPECT

Be caring, helpful, and supportive of yourself, everyone, and everything. Act with integrity.

ENTHUSIASM

Have a positive attitude about life and school. Do your best and have fun! This is your chance: make it count.

SAFETY

Use common sense, self-control and appropriate behavior to keep our school free of harmful or damaging behaviors.

PRIDE

Believe in yourself. Never give up. Work together as a team toward success. Be your best.

EMPATHY

Be sensitive to other people's feelings. Put yourself in the position of others.

School Safety Protocol

The safety and security of our students is of the utmost importance. To that end, we continuously review our policies and practices to ensure that recent research and data support the policies we employ. The US Department of Education, International Association of Chiefs of Police, FEMA and the FBI all recommend having active plans that include decision making and options rather than school lockdowns, in the unlikely event of a school intruder. We have adopted ALICE, a nationally recognized program. ALICE is a proactive set of responses to an active school intruder event which empowers individuals to utilize human action. ALICE stands for:





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.

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!

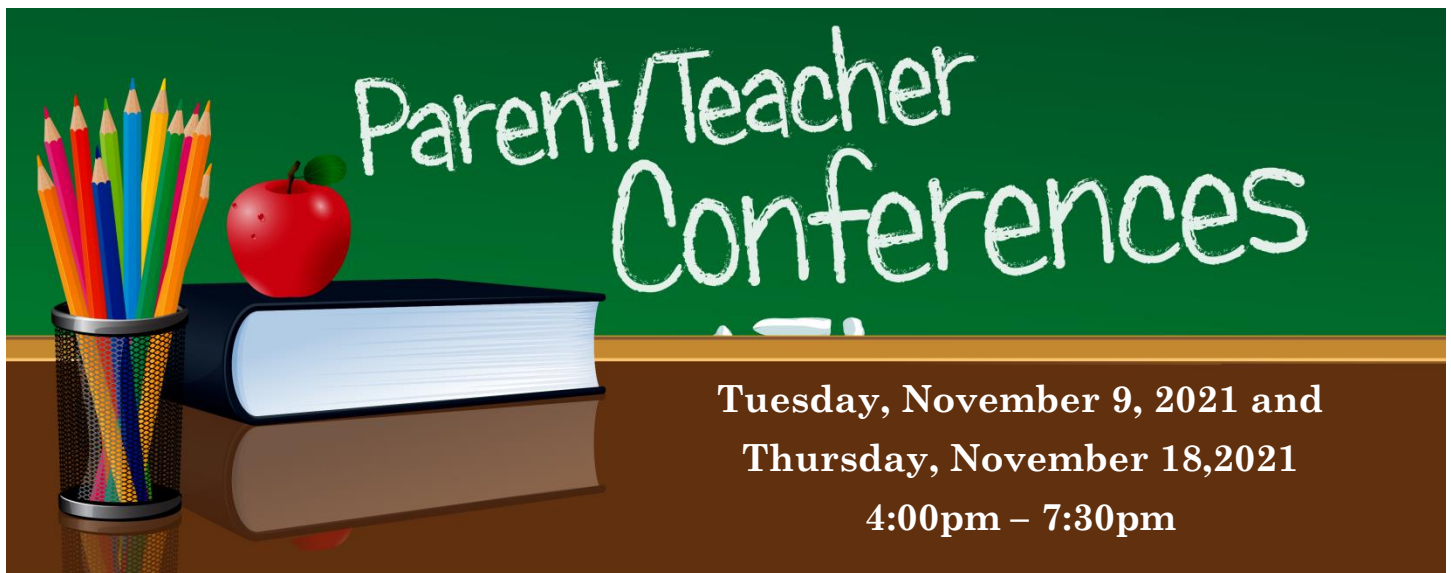


Student Chromebook Procedure

If your student is having issues with their chromebook, please follow these directions:

1. If a student has a chromebook issue, go to the library with your chromebook in the bag.
2. Library staff will check out a loaner chromebook to the student. **LOANERS NEED TO BE BACK AT THE END OF THE DAY, STUDENTS CAN NOT TAKE THEM HOME.**
3. Student will use the Student Tech Ticket link on the MS Portal to send their own tech ticket. **ALL GRADES HAVE BEEN SHOWN HOW TO DO THIS IN LANGUAGE ARTS.**
4. At the end of the day, the library staff will let Tech know that there are chromebooks that need to be picked up.
5. The student will be notified when the chromebook is back and ready to be picked up in the library.





Tuesday, November 9, 2021 and
Thursday, November 18, 2021
4:00pm – 7:30pm

Dental Clinic at school



Bridging Brighter Smiles, Inc. provides preventative dental care right at school! Services offered include, oral screenings, dental cleanings, sealants, fluoride varnish applications, and referral assistance. Visits are held throughout the school year. This program is open to all students in the district 4K through 12th grade.

To enroll your children, simply go to enrollment.bbsmiles.org to complete an enrollment form right online.

Questions? Call Bridging Brighter Smiles at (262) 896-9891, or visit them on the web at www.bbsmiles.org.

Yearbooks!



Yearbooks are on sale for \$19 until October 29th when the price increases to \$25. Get your yearbook today by ordering online through jostens.com/yearbook.

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.



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 – ext. 30103

Student is sick and would like to leave school.

Questions regarding medications and plans.

Food Service - Kari Sisko - (715) 232-2606 ext. 42124

Food Service is located at the High School

Questions about lunch accounts

Guidance Office/Dean of Students –

Jason Mountin - ext. 30110

Questions regarding students in 6th grade.

Guidance Office - Nancy Horner - ext. 30112

Questions regarding students in 7th grade.

Guidance Office – Adrianna Harrison - ext. 30108

Questions regarding students in 8th grade.

Main Office - Tina Potter - ext. 30111

Have a question about your student's fees—tech, print fee, athletic/club fees, etc.

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 3:05 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 Breakfast and Lunch

We proudly provide well-balanced, nutritious choices that contribute to lifelong eating habits.

Many of our menu options are made from scratch, incorporating local foods and food from our school gardens when possible. We feature fresh fruits and/or vegetables, included with every lunch at all grade levels.

Our menus are carefully planned, utilizing student preferences, to provide the calories and nutrients necessary for students to be successful during their school day.

For the 2021-22 school year, ALL students may receive breakfast and lunch free of charge.



While truancy issues affect a small percentage of our students, a larger group of students meet the definition of **chronically absent**. What is the difference people often ask? Truancy is defined by law as unexcused absences and indicates an intent on the part of the student and/or family to miss part or all of a school day. Chronic absenteeism is a term used to describe both excused and unexcused absences. This term more accurately describes the typical attendance issues found at the middle level. The cumulative effects of both excused and/or unexcused absences have a significant impact on a student's ability to learn.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as any student missing more than 18 days, or 10%, of a school year. At MMS, we don't wait until the student has missed 18 or more days before we begin to offer services. On a monthly basis, our attendance secretary will run a report of any student who has missed more than 10% of the days we have had school. This report allows us to progressively monitor absences throughout the year and identify any specific situations in need of intervention.

Middle school attendance in combination with a student's academic standing are the number one indicator of how a student will perform in high school. A recent study from the University of Chicago found students missing >10% in 8th grade will likely be off track in high school. Students missing >15% in 6th & 7th are at significant risk of failing when getting to high school, and missing >20% in 6th, 7th, & 8th almost guarantees a student will be off track to graduate at the end of the freshman year.

September is the perfect time to determine if your student's attendance is at risk of becoming chronically absent. A recent study from the Baltimore Education Research Consortium(2014) revealed these key findings:

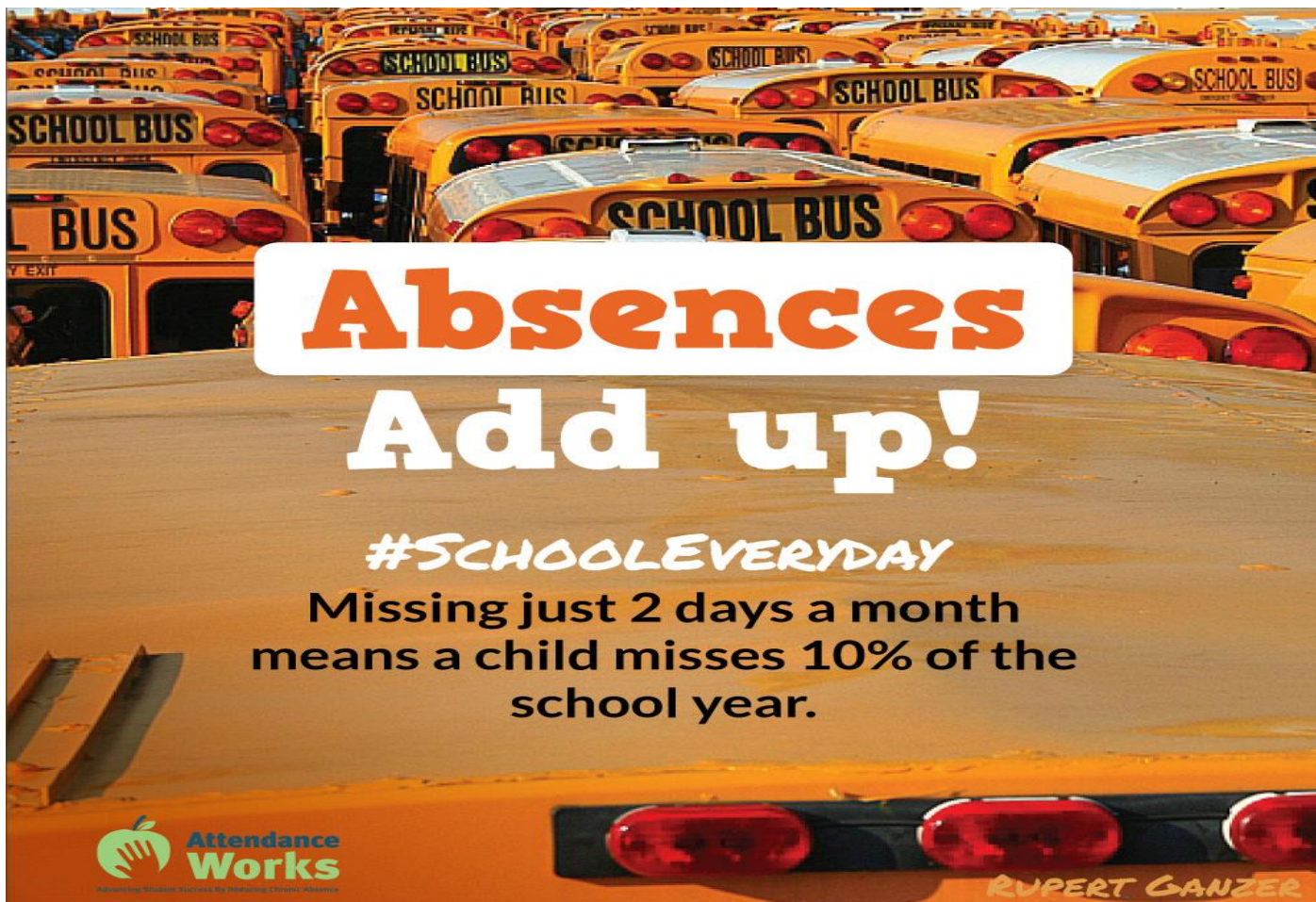
- Students missing <2 days in September continue to average fewer than 2 days absent each month the remainder of the year
- Students missing between 2-4 days in September will continue to miss between 2-3 days/month totaling over 25 days for the year
- Students missing >4 days in September will miss an average of 6-9 days/month totaling over 70 days for the year
- 13% of students missing <2 days in September go on to be chronically absent
- In contrast, 50% missing 2-4 days in September go on to be chronically absent
- 88% of students absent for more than 4 days in September go on to be chronically absent

As we move into October, use your child's September attendance to help determine their potential for becoming chronically absent this school year. All students are allowed by law 10 days of excused absences during the year. After 10 days, a doctor's note is required as documentation to excuse the absence. As a parent myself, I understand that illness and unexpected life events may keep your child from school at some point. However, we must avoid any unnecessary absences not knowing what the remainder of the year could bring. For example, if you already have 4 or more absences following the first month of school, you are on pace to miss 36 days, or 20%. Now you are looking at 8 more months of school with only 6 more absences before a doctor's note is required.

We recognize the impact that Covid-19 has had on students and their families. It reinforces the importance of being in school every day not knowing when you may have to miss an extended period of time due to illness or quarantine related to Covid-19. Even if you have to miss school, it is important you remain "present" in your learning by communicating with your teachers and staying engaged through online learning opportunities.

If there are issues surrounding your child's ability to attend school, please reach out to your child's teacher, counselor, or administration. When we are able to develop a strong partnership with the student and their family, we can make an immediate and positive impact upon their attendance.

Mark Anderson
Assistant Principal



Student Drop Off



We appreciate your assistance in keeping the traffic flowing during morning drop off. By driving as far forward in the drop off lane as possible and exiting the vehicle along the entire drop off zone, we are able to keep a better flow to the traffic. Recently, we were able to have “drop off” zones painted along with right/left turn lanes as you exit the middle school to turn on 21st Street. We hope this helps to limit the backlog of vehicles leaving the middle school.

Most importantly, please use caution when dropping off your children. Unfortunately, we have had a couple of close calls recently as people accelerate through the open lane. People are using the open lane as they have either already dropped the students off or they are attempting to get to the front of the drop off line. For the safety of our students and staff, we ask that students are dropped off in the right lane next to the sidewalk.

Recently, we have had an increased number of people choosing to drop off students in the staff parking lot. We do not encourage this practice as it results in students crossing through the traffic lanes. This has become even more dangerous as the people in the right lane have to look over their left shoulder anticipating traffic accelerating from behind. Their eyes should be focused ahead on the pedestrians crossing from the staff parking lot. This becomes even more dangerous as the mornings grow darker and roads turn snow covered and slippery. We also have more students being dropped off in the winter versus walking and riding bikes. Thankfully, the large majority of you exercise caution, patience, and proper protocol each day during drop off. We appreciate your cooperation.

Which schools and students are eligible for Title I?

Schools in which the percentage of low-income families (as measured by free-and-reduced lunch count) is at, or above, federal guidelines are eligible for Title I.

Children are considered for Title I participation regardless of their family's income.

Eligible schools are identified as either:

Targeted assistance schools
Students are selected by specific criteria to participate in Title I, or

School-wide projects

All students may participate in Title I services. Parents and educators decide how Title I will be used in a school-wide project.

Students enrolled in private schools who live in the attendance area of a Title I public school are eligible for Title I services.



Menomonie Area

2021-2022 Title I Program

School District of the Menomonie Area

District Title I Coordinator

Kristin Humphrey
Phone: (715) 665-2131, ext. 20112

Literacy Coach

Tera Ellison
Phone: (715) 232-1642, ext. 10126

Instructional Math Coach

Michelle Dupree
Phone: (715) 232-1642, ext. 10131

Intervention Specialist Contact Information

Downsville Elementary

Sara Holcomb
(715) 664-8546, ext. 80115

Knapp Elementary

Laura Weber
(715) 665-2131, ext. 20117

Oaklawn Elementary

Crystal Booth
(715) 232-3798, ext. 50156

River Heights Elementary

Jaclyn Arnold
(715) 232-3987, ext. 61133

Wakanda Elementary

Melinda Long
(715) 232-3898, ext. 70113

Menomonie Middle School

Amy Webb
(715) 232-1673, ext. 30621

St. Joseph's Elementary

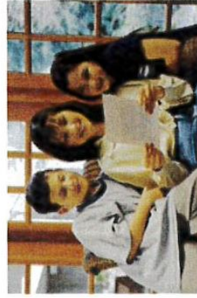
Crystal Booth
(715) 232-3798

St. Paul's Elementary

Crystal Booth
(715) 232-3798

School District of the Menomonie Area

Title I Coordinator
Kristin Humphrey
(715) 665-2131 ext. 20112



Partnerships for School Success

What is Title I?

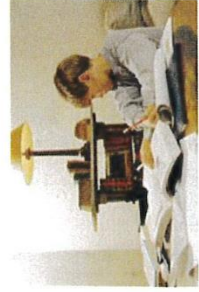
A major part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, (commonly called "No Child Left Behind"), Title I is the largest federally funded pre-college education program in the country. It provides funds to school districts in order to ensure that all children have a fair, significant and equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality education, and meet high academic achievement standards.

Title I is a Partnership

The Partnership Agreement, usually discussed and signed at fall conferences, is an agreement (compact) outlining the role of the family, the school, and the student in a learning partnership. This shared responsibility greatly increases the chance of student success.

Students are Involved

Students create academic and social goals with their teacher and parents/guardians. Other areas students commit to in their school year success include: participating in class learning, asking for help when needed, and following school expectations.



Parents Are Involved

Parents are their child's first and most important teachers. Children learn language by interacting with their parents. Parents influence their child's educational attitudes, work habits and interests.

In Title I, parents and teachers build a cooperative partnership with students. Parents help to plan and review their school and district Title I program.



Teachers are Involved

Teachers design programs that involve children in a rich variety of learning experiences. This flexible programming takes place within the regular classroom and/or in a Title I classroom, as a targeted supplemental pullout program. Title I funded Intervention Specialists provide instruction to reinforce and enhance core classroom learning.

Title I programs stress positive attitudes toward learning and achievement of high academic standards. Intervention Specialists also work with families to share strategies and techniques to help their children become more successful learners.



Title I Services

The school-wide Title I Project Schools - Downsville, Knapp, River Heights, Wakanda, and Menomonie Middle School - provide supplemental support on behalf of all students in their buildings. A variety of flexible and timely support systems are implemented as needs are identified.

The Targeted Assistance Schools - St. Joseph's and St. Paul's- provide targeted, very small group services to children identified as most in need of academic support in reading and/or math, within the grade levels identified as having the most needs during the Title I Targeted Needs Assessment process each spring.

*For more information, see www.ed.gov
(Type "Title I" into the site's search engine.)*



Kristin Humphrey, Title I Coordinator
Phone: (715) 665-2131 ext. 20112
Email: kristin_humphrey@msd.k12.wi.us



MMS LEADERSHIP WEEK

Food & Necessities Drive for Stepping Stones Food Kitchen

**Drop off your non-perishable donations in your
CARES classroom from 10/18-10/22.**

**Thank you for being outstanding community
leaders!**

**Frequently needed items: Toiletries, Diapers, Giftcards for
gas/restaurants, Canned Fruits/Vegetables, Baby food/formula,
Boxed Meals(mac & cheese, hamburger helper,etc.),
Oatmeal/Breakfast Cereals, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Canned Soups,
Pre-Packaged Snacks, Basic household cleaning supplies, & Socks**

MMS Athletics, Activities and Clubs

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
Athletics(Fee)									
<i>First quarter Sept. - Oct.</i>									
8th Football									
6th, 7th & 8th Cross Country									
7th & 8th Girls Volleyball									
6th, 7th & 8th Girls Tennis									
6th, 7th & 8th Boys Soccer									
<i>Second quarter Oct. - Dec.</i>									
6th, 7th & 8th Girls Swimming									
7th & 8th Boys Basketball									
<i>Third quarter Jan. - March</i>									
6th, 7th & 8th Boys Swimming									
7th & 8th Girls Basketball									
6th, 7th & 8th Wrestling									
<i>Fourth quarter April - May</i>									
6th, 7th & 8th Girls/Boys Track									
6th, 7th & 8th Boys Tennis									
6th, 7th & 8th Girls Soccer									
Activities (6th - 8th)									
Yearbook									
Student Council									
Math Counts (Fee)									
Science Olympiad(Fee)									
Forensics (Fee)									
School Play (Fee)									
FCCLA (Fee)									
Bel Canto (Girls Choir)(Fee)									
Clubs (6th - 8th)									
Multi-Cultural Club									
Jr. Honor Society(8th grade only)									
Art Club									
Writing Club									
Jazz Band									
Gaming Club									
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)									
Sexuality and Gender Alliance(SAGA)									
Kindness Ambassadors									
FFA									

*Listen to announcements throughout the year as we may have additions or changes.