



## Menahga Principal's Board Report

Lisa Parrish and Michelle Koch  
May, 2026

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### CELEBRATIONS:

April ended with a bang! We were able to take Mrs. Pietila's second grade class to Subway as a reward for being Triple Crown Winners. A "Triple Crown" winner is a class that has earned recognition in all three PBIS categories: the Golden Broom (maintaining a clean and organized classroom), the Golden Tray (demonstrating table cleanliness and appropriate manners), and the Golden Book (showing responsibility and respectful behavior in the library).

Our recent Triple Crown recipients exemplified these expectations during a special outing. Students walked to Subway, where they earned and enjoyed a complimentary lunch. Throughout the experience, they demonstrated outstanding respect and responsibility—using polite manners, maintaining a clean eating space for the next customers, and representing our school positively in the community. They concluded the trip by returning to school safely and appropriately.

This group's behavior reflects the strong character we strive to develop through our PBIS framework, and they should be commended for consistently meeting and exceeding expectations.



### Elementary Updates

As we move through the month of May, our elementary students and staff continue to enjoy many special activities and celebrations that make the end of the school year both meaningful and memorable. This time of year naturally brings a great deal of excitement and energy, and with changes in routines and increased stimulation, students can sometimes find it more challenging to maintain expected behaviors.

I would like to recognize and commend our elementary staff for the care and consistency they continue to provide during this busy season. While creating fun and engaging experiences for students, they have also remained committed to maintaining clear expectations, supportive routines, and positive learning environments. Their ongoing focus on building strong relationships and ensuring students feel safe, valued,

and cared for continues to be evident each day as we prepare students for a successful transition to the next grade level.

This month also provided an opportunity to celebrate Staff Appreciation Week and recognize the tremendous dedication of our employees across the district. Every day, our students are surrounded by caring adults who help create a welcoming and supportive environment from the moment they begin their day. Students may first be greeted by a friendly member of our transportation team as they board the bus, welcomed at the school doors by paraprofessionals, and met with smiles from our kitchen staff or office team before even reaching their classrooms. By the time students are greeted by their classroom teachers, many have already experienced several positive interactions to begin their day.

These daily moments may seem small, but they are an important part of the culture we strive to create at Menahga Public Schools. Our administrative team is deeply appreciative of the people who contribute each day to making our schools a positive, caring, and student-centered place to learn and grow.



*Megan Huus, Elementary Educator of Excellence and Katie Walsh, Elementary Pillar of Excellence*

### **Important Dates:**

- May 18 | Kindergarten Graduation (1:15 PM)
- May 19 | 6th Grade Field Trip to the Twin Cities
- May 19 | 1st Grade Field Trip to Itasca State Park
- May 21 | End of the Year Celebration
- May 22 | Last day of school, Early Release (12:30)

### **\*Thank You Mary Weaver!**

**Thank you, Mary, for all the work you do to make us look good! Whether it's on our screens with slides, in print with programs, or online through Facebook posts, your creativity and hard work help showcase all of the amazing things happening at our school. We truly appreciate the time, talent, and care you put into helping share our story with the world!**

### **High School Update:**

As we move through May, there is a lot of excitement around the high school with spring activities, end-of-year events, competitions, concerts, awards, graduation preparations, and everything else happening this time of year. It's a fun and busy season, but it can also be a challenging one as routines change and energy levels rise. Even with all the excitement, our staff continues to do a great job keeping expectations clear while also creating positive experiences and memories for students.

## **Menahga School Board Student Representative**

*Aliah Haataja is ready to go as soon as the board approves and gives the go-ahead.*

### **Testing Updates:**

*We appreciate the efforts of our staff and students as we finished the testing schedule while continuing to focus on strong instruction and learning in our classrooms. We have just a few make-up tests to get finished. Lisa and I want to give a big thank you to Andria Bristow and all her hard work with our testing.*

### **Looking Ahead!**

*We are wrapping up the registration process for our current 8th-11th grade students. We have teachers who have used student interest data and information gathered through SchooLinks to help shape course offerings and opportunities for the fall. Our goal is to continue building meaningful classes that align with student interests and our established pathways.*

*Additionally, Hope and I are working closely on graduation planning. We are reviewing transcripts and student progress to ensure that all seniors remain on track to meet graduation requirements and are prepared for their next steps after high school. As of the completion of this report, we have all but one senior graduating.*

*Spring is an exciting and busy time, and we look forward to continuing this important work with our students and staff.*

### **Celebrating what Helps to Make Menahga Amazing:**

*I want to thank our high school staff for continuing to show up every day with patience, flexibility, and care for kids. Whether it's in the classroom, hallways, activities, the office, kitchen, transportation, or behind the scenes, there are so many people helping make Menahga a supportive and welcoming place for students. The positive interactions students have throughout the day truly matter, and they help create the kind of school culture we want our students to be part of.*

*Staff Appreciation Week was also a great reminder of how lucky we are to have such dedicated people working with our students each day. We appreciate everything our staff does to support students, build relationships, and make our school a place where kids feel cared for and connected.*

### **World Savvy Changemaker Hub with Sourcewell**

*On April 16th I was able to take four junior leaders, along with Mrs. Howard and Mr. Kjos, over to Sourcewell to work with the World Savvy Changemaker Hub. Kyah, Claire, Connor, and Matt along with student leaders from Sebeka, CLB, and CI came together to reflect on what's going well in our schools, what could be improved, and what an ideal school could look and feel like.*

I am so proud of Connor, Kyah, Matt, and Claire for representing Menahga with such thoughtfulness and honesty. Their conversations centered around powerful ideas like inclusion, diversity, kindness, and engagement, along with meaningful discussions about Career Pathways, involvement, and building strong systems to support both students and staff.

Even more exciting, they've already developed an Action Plan, and we're starting to put those ideas into motion today! What an incredible experience and a great example of student leadership making a difference.

Save the Date!  
 **Changemaker Hub**  
 In partnership with Sourcewell

**Changemaker Hubs: Elevating Student Voice.** Hubs are immersive, day-long experiences that bring students, educators, leaders, and community members together as equals. Students share their lived experiences and aspirations for education. Adults listen, reflect, and join in dialogue. The result is a shared vision for schools that are more relevant, inclusive, and connected to civic life.

Thursday,  
 April 16, 2026  
 9am - 2pm

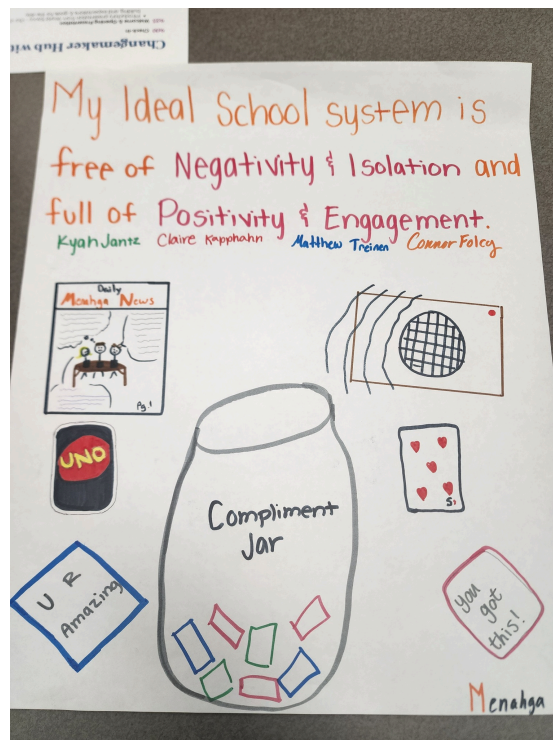
Sourcewell  
 202 12th St NE  
 Staples, MN 56479

**Learning Goals:**

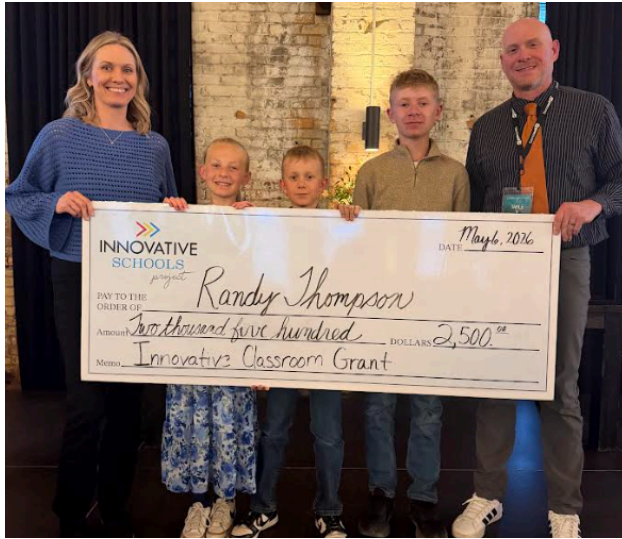
- Reflect on the current education system and lived experiences within it
- Engage in authentic, intergenerational dialogue
- Co-imagine the future of teaching and learning to bring actionable ideas back to schools and districts



We are not only preparing young people for the future -  
 we are preparing communities to thrive.



***Congratulations Randy Thompson! Innovative Schools Project Innovative Teacher of the Year and Menahga Educator of Excellence! And Congratulations Christina Albin, Menahga Schools Pillar of Excellence!***



Bethany Skaro, Aurora Erickson, Kaelyn Isaason, Helena Simonson,  
Collette Flam, Evalynn Peterson, Avery Laulainen, Lindsey Mayers,  
Kaylen Bettin, Taliea Honga, Gabriella Aisleben, Makenna Lake, Alan Skare


**REGIONAL YOUTH ART SHOW!**  
May 12-22, 2026, Reception, May 16, 2-4pm  
301 Court Avenue, Park Rapids, MN

Nemeth Art Center

***20 Menahga HS students' artworks are at the Nemeth Art Center in Park Rapids through May 22nd! The reception with awards will be Saturday, May 16th, 2-4pm. Come see the works in person Thursday-Saturday, 11am-4pm.***

**School Mapping Project:**

*I recently met with the Mapping representative from the CRG team and am working through the school mapping process as part of our continued focus on safety and emergency preparedness. The mapping work is intended to support future coordination between school leadership, law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel during emergency situations, including communication procedures, evacuation and reunification processes, command structures, and emergency response planning. A more formal walkthrough, tabletop discussion, and collaborative review will take place once the mapping process is complete, allowing us to identify areas for improvement and strengthen our existing safety procedures and response plans.*


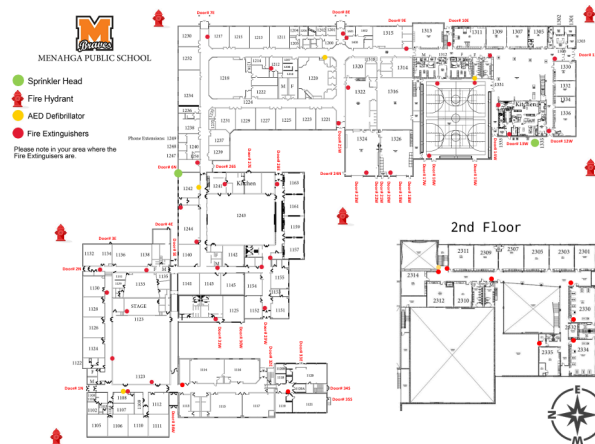


**CRITICAL RESPONSE GROUP**

# SCOPE OF WORK FRAMES

Our Scope of Work Frames represent the buildings and number of floors to be included on your Micro™ Map Products. Our Micro™ Maps are built for each floor of a structure. Micro™ CRGs combine a gridded overlay with Critical Incident Mapping Data such as high-resolution Imagery, floor plans, and building access points together into one map.

We ask you please review the frames below to ensure that all pertinent buildings you would like included are outlined with a red border. If changes are required, please let us know and our team will update the frames and the proposal accordingly.

### Important Dates:

- May 13 | Scholarship Night (Commons) 7:00-8:30 PM
- May 18 | Awards Ceremonies 7-8 8:30 am, 9-12 9:30 am both in the High School Gym
- May 19 | Senior Class Trip
- May 20 | Music Performance (Band and Choir) Valley Fair
- May 22 | Last day of school, Early Release (12:35)
- May 22 | GRADUATION 7:00 pm. Administration and Board report to the Multi Purpose room at 6:30 pm

### Graduation!

Administration and Board report to the Multi Purpose room at 6:30 pm and join 69 Menahga High School Seniors to celebrate their incredible achievements. Katie and Jay...SIGN THE DIPLOMAS!

## Menahga Principal Goals for 2025-2026

### **Goal 1: Strengthen Literacy and Academic Achievement**

**Ensure all students achieve at high levels by implementing evidence-based reading instruction aligned with the Minnesota READ Act, closing racial and economic achievement gaps, and building staff capacity in differentiated instruction to support the diverse needs of learners.**

- Academic interventions currently happening in K-12
- Walk throughs happening in all classrooms
- Lisa Parrish and Andria Bristow are attending monthly Literacy Meetings at Sourcewell and communication updates to shape future planning for Menahga Public Schools
- Paraprofessional READ Act training completed
- Three hours of Bridges curriculum development time completed at all staff development days
- All probationary staff being completed
- All Tenured staff cycle 3 observations are completed
- High School READ Act Phase Two Training selected
- ADSIS year two grant work for interventionist positions in process
- ADSIS Grant documentation and end-of-year prep in process
- ADSIS Grant year 2 work in process
- Local Literacy Plan documentation being gathered
- MCA assessment completed
- Spring benchmark assessments completed

### **Goal 2: Expand Career Pathways and Authentic Learning Opportunities**

**Increase student engagement and readiness for college, career, and life by developing cross-curricular, career-connected learning experiences; expanding community and business partnerships; and providing authentic, hands-on opportunities such as senior capstone projects and internships.**

- The Committee met and planned accordingly for further advancement
- Expansion through “Career Play” in Kindergarten
- Expansion of 3rd Grade- Health and Human Services Focus
- Expansion of 4th Grade- Engineering, Arts and Trades Focus
- Expansion of 5th Grade- Business and Technology Focus
- Expansion of 6th Grade- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Focus
  - Sixth grade taking part in 2 separate Department of Natural Resources events
- 2025-2026 Career Pathways Committee Training completed with Sourcewell
- Career Fair held at MHS

### **Goal 3: Support the Whole Child and Invest in Staff Development**

**Provide comprehensive supports that meet the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students, while ensuring every student has a positive connection with a caring adult. Strengthen staff recruitment, professional development, and training—including emerging tools such as AI—to sustain a future-focused and supportive learning environment.**

- New staff taking part in Sourcewell’s New Teacher Academy, moved to MPS
- New staff taking part in Mentorship with Kerry White
- Paraprofessional READ ACT Training completed
- AI Training for PreK-12 certified staff in November, follow-up being pursued
- Capti Training for 4-12 staff completed
- Monitoring of ADSIS interventions in K-12
- ACT testing for grades 11 and 12 (Achieved 2026)
- Strategic Plan reflection meeting scheduled for developing next steps (May 27)
- Professional Development calendar for 26-27 in the works
- ADSIS Student, Family and Staff surveys being shared for feedback to continue growth and development of the program

## **Menahga School District Enrollment**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Sept.</b>	<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Dec.</b>	<b>Jan.</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>
PreK	41	41	39	39	38	38	37	38
K	85	85	84	84	82	81	81	81
1	62	61	60	61	61	62	62	62
2	73	73	73	72	72	75	74	74
3	74	73	73	74	73	73	73	72
4	82	81	81	80	80	80	80	80
5	67	65	65	66	66	66	66	66
6	76	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
7	77	75	74	73	78	73	72	72
8	80	79	79	80	84	74	74	74
9	76	76	75	75	74	73	73	74
10	93	92	92	92	90	89	88	89
11	70	65	65	64	63	61	61	62
12	73	72	72	73	73	73	72	72

Total	1029	1013	1007	1008	1009	993	988	991
OpenEd			131	129	129	153	152	150
Total			1138	1,137	1,138	1146	1,140	1,141

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lisa Parrish and Michelle Koch**