

# April Board Updates

## Hawks Nest: Kelly Snell

### Community Education Director - Kelly Snell

Summer planning is well underway with the offering brochure at the print shop. The hope is for registration to be open early in May for customers. Rec and Aquatics and Enrichment planning for summer looks to be engaging with many opportunities for both youth and adults. A new registration platform will begin to be utilized this brochure cycle. The new platform will also be utilized to manage our facility usage and rental calendar. With the new system, all requests will soon be made electronically. There will be more to come on this in the near future.

To support summer programming we are hiring youth ball coaches, WSI certified swim instructors and school age childcare workers.

Little and Junior Thunder Hawk Care staff recently received CPR and First Aid training after care hours to meet the licensing requirements of our facility. The training was open to the public as well, with 20+ people in attendance. We continue to have an opening in our infant room and are running on shortened hours and under capacity due to this staffing shortage. (7AM - 5 PM instead of 5:45 AM - 5:45 PM, 8 infants instead of 12 infants.)

Small World Preschool staff will be attending the MNAFEE conference this month for their annual professional development conference. Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for, and promoting, parent education, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), and early childhood programming within public schools in Minnesota.

Katy Smith will be at the Hawks Nest on Thursday, April 9 to observe our ECFEMulti-Age Magic class. Katy is a respected Minnesota-based licensed parent educator and the first early childhood educator to receive the Minnesota Teacher of the Year award in 2011. With more than 30 years of experience supporting families through ECFE in Winona, MN she is widely recognized for her work in child development, parent coaching, and her advocacy for play-based learning. Katy often reminds families that “when parents do well, children do well,” emphasizing the importance of strong family foundations through education. Katy is a rockstar in the early childhood world and it is truly an honor to have her visit our programs.

# MES: Heidi Sachariason

## MES FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### MES Hawk News

MES provides families with weekly newsletters. This is a strategy we use at the elementary level to keep families informed. Below are the newsletters we have had for families so far this year. Staff also receive a newsletter each week.

- [March 6th MES News for Families](#)
- [March 13th MES News for Families](#)
- [March 20th MES News for Families](#)
- [March 27th MES News for Families](#)
- [April 3rd MES News for Families](#)

## STUDENT ACHIEVMENT

### Universal Screener

MES uses universal screeners three times per year, in the fall, winter, and spring, to directly inform and influence classroom instruction. Students in grades K-2 are assessed using FastBridge, and students in grades 3-4 use the STAR assessment.

The benchmarking dates for the 2025-26 school year are:

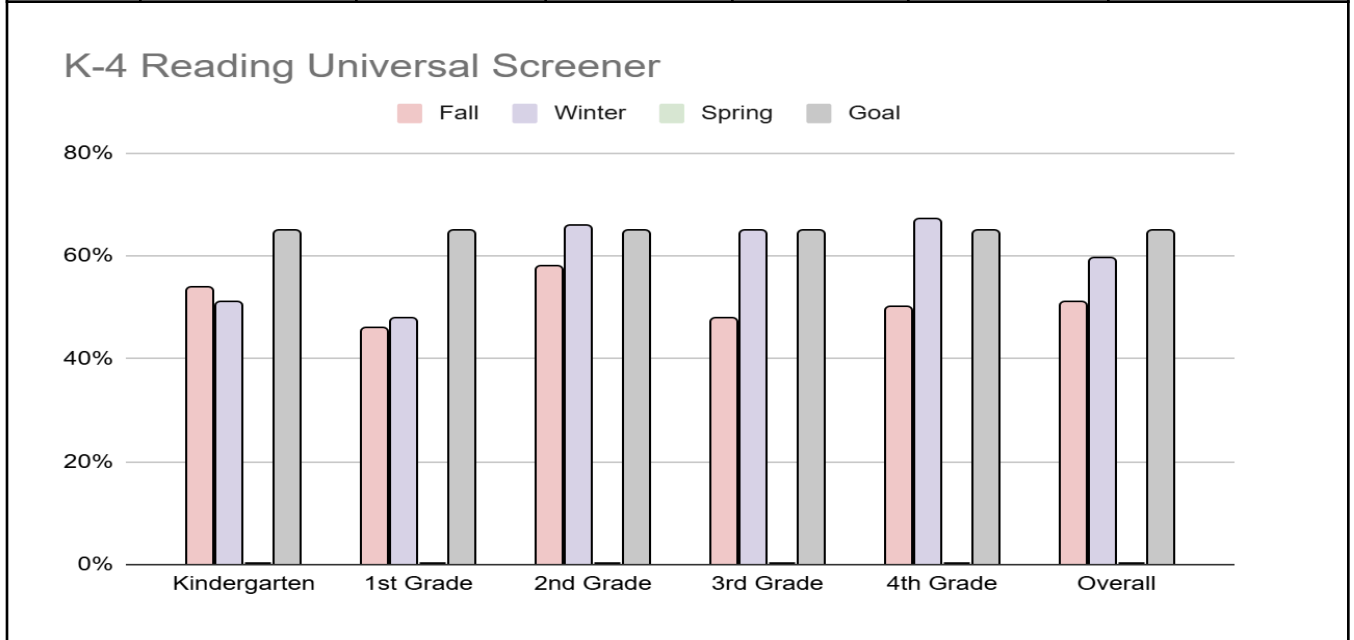
- **Fall:** September 22–September 25, 2025
- **Winter:** January 12–January 16
- **Spring:** May 4–May 8, 2026

Our elementary-level goals align with our strategic plan targets:

- **Reading:** 65% of students in grades K-8 are targeted to be at or above grade level, based on the Spring FastBridge/STAR assessments, by June 2026.
- **Math:** 73% of students in grades K-8 are targeted to be at or above grade level, according to Spring FastBridge/STAR assessments, by June 2026.

Overall reading achievement for grades K-4 is currently on track to meet the 65% goal. Fall data indicated that 51% of students were reading at or above grade level, which increased to 60% following the winter assessment. We anticipate that 65% or more of our students will be reading at or above grade level by the final spring testing date.

| Reading FastBridge and STAR Assessment K-4 |              |         |         |         |         |         |
|--|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|  | Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Overall |
| Fall                                       | 54%          | 46%     | 58%     | 48%     | 50%     | 51%     |
| Winter                                     | 51%          | 48%     | 66%     | 65%     | 67%     | 60%     |
| Spring                                     |              |         |         |         |         |         |
| Goal                                       | 65%          | 65%     | 65%     | 65%     | 65%     | 65%     |

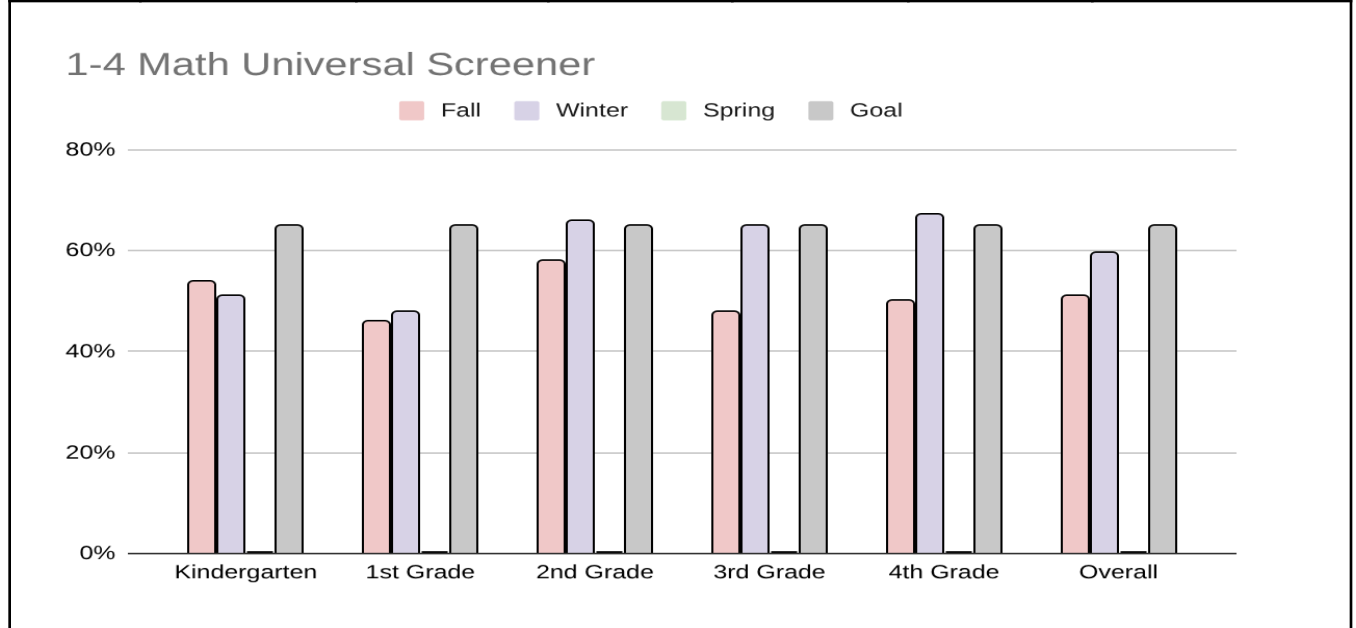


Montevideo Elementary School (MES) is making progress towards its math achievement goal of 73% of students in grades 1-4 achieving at or above grade level by the final spring assessment. Fall data showed 50% of students met this benchmark, which improved to 56% following the winter assessment. We still need to show 17% growth by spring which will be a stretch.

In terms of future planning, we must start the process of replacing our Tier I math curriculum. This is necessary because new state math standards are scheduled to be assessed beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

| Math FastBridge Assessment K-4 |              |         |         |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                | Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Overall |
| Fall                           |              | 36%     | 47%     | 49%     | 54%     | 50%     |

|        |  |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Winter |  | 47% | 49% | 61% | 57% | 56% |
| Spring |  |     |     |     |     |     |
| Goal   |  | 73% | 73% | 73% | 73% | 73% |



## MMS: Shawn Huntley

Insert Update Here

## MHS: Tanya Maethner

As we near the end of the 2025-26 school year, we are BUSY at the High School! We recently celebrated our National Honor Society Induction ceremony, an evening that showcased the heart of our school. Student inductees were honored for their excellence in scholarship, leadership, character, and service. In a meaningful tradition, senior NHS members took the opportunity to publicly honor teachers and coaches who have made a lasting impact on their lives. It was a powerful reminder of the mentorship happening daily in our halls.

Our staff utilized our April 2 Staff Development day to sharpen our instructional focus and streamline operations: Teachers worked on the prioritization of standards to ensure our curriculum remains rigorous and relevant and discerned Hawk Pride ratings to assess our students' behaviors in the areas of **Have Respect**, **Act Responsibly**, **Work Hard**, and **Keep Safe**. This will allow schedules for next year to be built with student needs in mind. Staff also practiced with the Go Guardian Hall Pass system, which is currently being piloted. Students and staff can

initiate student passes. We are able to see who has active passes at any given moment and can access reports that show patterns and preventable issues, such as students meeting up to waste time out of class. We also explored Gems in Google Gemini, learning how to leverage AI to efficiently build classroom slideshows and instructional materials. As the power of AI grows and changes the landscape of education, we need staff to be trained and ready to assist students in when AI should and should not be used for assignments.

The end of the year also means we are actively working to fill several positions for the 2026-27 year. Interviews have been conducted for the HS Library Media Assistant. At the time of this school board meeting, Band candidate interviews are currently in progress. We will interview for a Special Education position in the upcoming weeks. Finally, applications are open to the Junior Class to apply to be the Student Representative to the School Board. We aim to present the final candidate for Board approval at the May meeting.

Looking ahead, we will be hosting a guest speaker, Kyle Quilausing on April 16 for students from Montevideo and MACCRAY High Schools and the ALC at 9:30am in the MHS Gym. There will be a free community event in the MHS Gym at 6:30pm that evening. This is sponsored by Chippewa County Family Services and funded through an Opioid Settlement Grant awarded by the Community Response to Opioids Program (CROP) Taskforce.

On April 21, we are piloting a way to accommodate testing requirements, offer our students a way to learn about community service, and honor our seniors. With all of this in mind, we will monitor this structure to see if it is something that we will continue in the future. Each grade level will be expected to attend school that day. Seniors are planning Senior Sizzle, a day filled with both fun and the imparting of information regarding their final month of high school, the majority of the Juniors will take the ACT, Sophomores will take the Reading MCA, and our Freshmen will provide service to the community. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the supervision of our Freshmen as they scrape, clean, and paint local fire hydrants. Please let me know if you are available to join us for this service project!

Finally, I would like to invite Board members to join us for our milestone celebrations in May:

| <b>Event</b>              | <b>Date</b> | <b>Time</b> | <b>Location</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Scholarship Awards</b> | Wed, May 6  | 7:00 PM     | HS Gym          |
| <b>Baccalaureate</b>      | Wed, May 13 | 7:00 PM     | HS Gym          |

|                             |               |           |           |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Commencement</b>         | Fri, May 22   | 6:00 PM   | HS Gym    |
| <b>Final Day Activities</b> | Thurs, May 28 | Lunchtime | HS Campus |

## Activities: Micheal Trewick

**Hall of Fame:** We have put a nomination form on our athletic website and also have included a list of current Hall of Famers. We are hoping to have a good list of names to start our nomination process with by April 1st. Our committee then will start putting together a list of candidates that will be voted on for induction. The plan is to have a ceremony on Homecoming weekend 2026.

**Spring Musical:** Has started practices at the Hollywood heading toward their performances on 4/17 and 4/18.

**Knowledge Bowl:** One of our teams qualified for the State Knowledge competition next week at Cragun’s in Brainerd. Congrats to Shawn Acker and his team!

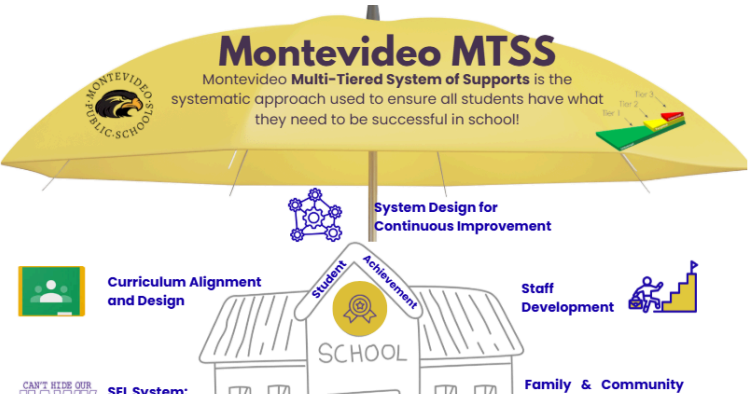
**Winter Sports:** All our winter activities have now wrapped up with several having very successful seasons. Boy’s Basketball went 26-3 losing in the sub-section Championship. Dance won the conference in both High Kick and Jazz. They also qualified for the state tournament in High Kick. Boys swim qualified several athletes and individuals for the state swim meet with the following results: Medley Relay finished 10th, 200 Free Relay finished 10th, Nolan Christopher: 200 Free 5th (All State Podium and School Record) 100 Free 13th, Hayden Blom: 50 Free 8th (All State Podium), Haaken Weckworth: Qualified in the 100 Fly. Thank you coaches and participants for all the hard work and time you put into Montevideo Activities.

**Spring Sports:** Tennis is the only Spring Sport to compete up until this point going 0-2 at the St Peter Triangular. Track has both a JV/C and Varsity home meets this coming week. Baseball and Softball have both had games postponed and hope to get on the field later this week. Hopefully the weather turns and we can get going with what looks to be an exciting spring.

## MTSS: Heidi Huseby

Dear School Board Members!

A couple updates for this month!



## **Curriculum Alignment and Design:**

### **Tier 1 Standard Alignment:**

We are on track! Montevideo Prek–12th grade Teachers finished up with the District's 25–26 professional goal earlier this month.

This is exciting, this sets the stage for next year's work to begin. Now that teachers have a horizontal agreement of curriculum, the next step will be for teachers to expand beyond their grade level and bridge gaps and strengthen Montevideo's Tier 1 Curriculum.



**SEL System:**

**HAWK Pride**

Last year, 2024–2025, each building updated our HAWK Pride Tier 1 expectations per learning level: Hawk's Nest, Montevideo Elementary, Montevideo Middle School, Montevideo High School. This year, teachers and students taught and referred to Hawk (**H**ave Respect, **A**ct Responsibly, **W**ork Hard, **K**eeP Safe) expectations regularly.

Tier 1: To implement a Tier 1 screener on behavior, teachers were able to rate students a HAWK Rubric, during the staff development day on April 2nd. This information will be used by building and grade level teams to put in behavior support for students.