



MAHTOMEDI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent Update

May 11, 2026

Experience Excellence





Did you know that the Kindergarten field trip to Washington County Wildwood Library is part of a Mahtomedi tradition that has been happening for about 50 years?

[Click here to learn more about the visit](#)

Overview

- **Around the District**
- **Awards & Noteworthy News**
- **Upcoming Events**

Around the District

The Globe

The latest issue of the Globe Newsletter was recently mailed to all district residents, staff, and families. Watch your mailboxes for the latest issue.

Inside This Issue

- **Learning by Leading:** Read how Mahtomedi High School students in the Psychology Field Experience Course have the opportunity to gain real-world experience in child development and teaching.
- **Turning Vision into Learning:** Learn how Mahtomedi Public Schools is bringing the Portrait of a Graduate to Life, a key component of the District's Strategic Plan.



Around the District

Community Education News

The Mahtomedi Community Education registration system is changing names and has a new link: mahtomedi.arux.app.

This upgrade is designed to make registration, payment, and account management easier. Despite the new look, your account information, history, and log-in credentials will remain exactly the same.



Around the District

Movers & Shakers

Mahtomedi's Dessert & Dialogue event was featured in the White Bear Press in a Movers and Shakers Article on April 29.

The article featured themes from the conversation about AI Skills for Success. The event was a community engagement we held in April with 30 professionals whose AI use is integral to their work.

[Click here to read the article.](#)

Valuing community engagement for student success

At Mahtomedi Public Schools, we are proud of the strong academic foundation we provide and deeply grateful to be part of a community that invests in advancing exceptional, personalized student outcomes together.



Movers & Shakers
Barb Duffrin

This partnership is something we intentionally build. For several years, we have created opportunities to engage with our School Board through our Coffee & Conversations, invited the community to see our strategic plan in action through our Zephyr Learning Showcase, and held Dessert & Dialogue events focused on key district priorities. We highly value bringing expertise from beyond education to help us better understand what students will need after graduation.

At this month's Dessert & Dialogue, we engaged our community around Mahtomedi's Portrait of a Graduate, a key component of our strategic plan. The Portrait outlines the skills, competencies, and dispositions that all Mahtomedi students need to thrive in their future. It was developed through extensive community collabora-

tion, including students, educators, military representatives, business leaders and postsecondary partners.

Our Portrait includes six core components that describe what Mahtomedi graduates should know, demonstrate and embody: collaborator, communicator, ethical, global citizen, innovative thinker, and self-aware and self-directed. These competencies reflect community expectations and align with district instruction and learning experiences both in school and through community engagement.

Our Portrait is intentionally designed to be actionable by students, moving beyond high-level objectives. Each core area includes clear competencies and skills. Our vision is for students to interact with these components in meaningful ways so they can personalize how they understand and demonstrate them.

One Portrait component in this area is "Utilizes Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology responsibly while staying current on trends for success." We invited community professionals whose work involves AI to join the Dessert & Dialogue to help inform our thinking; more than 30 participated in the conversation.

Several themes stood out. First, many competencies embedded in our Portrait, such as integrity, innovative thinking and collabora-

tion, are distinct human skills that remain essential for success after graduation.

Second, students need background knowledge, context, and content to use AI effectively. This foundation allows them to use critical thinking skills to evaluate AI outputs, check for credibility and misinformation, and recognize the role of human judgment when using AI as a thought partner. For example, one participant noted that even when AI is used for coding, a professional still needs to understand the code to ensure it was built correctly when checking AI's work.

Third, students should develop the integrity and judgment to recognize when AI enhances and creates efficiencies in their work, rather than replacing their own thinking and voice. These skills are essential first steps in addressing the ethical use and the environmental impacts of AI.

The event reaffirmed the importance of valuing community engagement in preparing students for the future. We understand how students learn and how to create meaningful, personalized opportunities. Our community's expertise helps us identify the skills and competencies we aim for and reinforces our commitment to preparing students for future success.

Barb Duffrin is the superintendent of Mahtomedi Public Schools.



Awards & Noteworthy News



2026 Athena Award: Harlow Berger

Congratulations, Harlow Berger! Harlow's athletics includes Girls Soccer (Two state championship titles, First Team All State, All Conference, All American, Ms. Soccer finalist, Top 25 in the State-Number One Goalie in MN, and All Tournament in State Championship) Football kicker, and Shotput (Third Place in State).

The Athena Awards program honors outstanding female high school seniors for their achievements in Minnesota State High School League athletics. The award is based on excellence in individual sports or for participation and accomplishments in team sports.

Awards & Noteworthy News

Mahtomedi Student Artists Earn Awards at Vision and Verse

Congratulations to our Mahtomedi students who recently showcased their art and writing at the White Bear Center for the Arts Vision and Verse exhibition!

In addition to showcasing their pieces at the exhibition, Mahtomedi students took home several awards! The exhibition will be on display until May 15 in the Ford Family Gallery at the White Bear Center for the Arts.



Honorable Mention: Cullen Taylor (Class of 2026), Wacky Teapot

**Merit Award: Evan Marty (Class of 2026),
Memories Through the Mist**

**Merit Award: Eliah McCormick (Class of 2026),
Octopus Donut**

Merit Award: Cullen Taylor, Spout Pot



Awards & Noteworthy News

15 Mahtomedi Students Advance to State History Day Competition

Exhibits: **Paige Skadsberg** - The Greensboro Sit-in, **Ethan Nicholls** - THE CHEKA The Sword and Shield of the Revolution, **Audrey Dock** - Prohibition: The Rise of Organized Crime, **Ellory Francis** - Yi Sun-sin and the Imjin War, and **Mia Weinberger** - The Outsiders: The Legacy Of Literature Websites: **Madison Elsholtz** - The Hanging Chad Controversy, **Ian Russell** - The Invention of the Altair 8800 Changed the World, and **Indiana Weiss** - The Creation of the WNBA Documentary: **Sean Huizinga and Aiden Hackworthy** - NFL-AFL Merger, **Fiona Nicoli** - Patsy Takemoto Mink: The Fight for Title IX (also won the Topical Award – BIPOC Women in History), and **George DeBruin** - Dungeons & Dragons: Changing the Game Performance: **Keagan Graham** - The Humanization Of the AIDS Crisis (also won 5th place for individual performance) and **Alyssa Horning and Safiya Goodwin** - Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act (also won 5th place for group performance)



Awards & Noteworthy News

Director of Communications Recognized with School Social Media Award

This week, Mahtomedi Public Schools Director of Communications, Alice Seuffert received a national school social media award for Instagram, recognizing the district's high-quality storytelling, incorporation of student and staff voice, and short-form video use. This recognition reflects the power of meaningful storytelling, and Director Seuffert's exceptional work on behalf of Mahtomedi Public Schools.

Ms. Seuffert is seen here with her student communications interns who help highlight students, staff, programs and community.



Upcoming Events

May 15: PTO Spring Fling at Wildwood 5-8 pm

May 21: Future Educators Event 7:15 am MHS

May 21: [Vehicle Fair](#) at Wildwood 6-7:30 pm

Now-May 24: [Say, "Thanks a Latte" to Mahtomedi Public Schools Staff](#)

May 25: Memorial Day (No School)

May 27 & 28: Preschool Graduation

May 30: [Bike Rodeo \(preK-age 11\)](#) 9-11 am at DEC

June 3: Passages Graduation

June 4: Last day of school

June 5: Class of 2026 Graduation



During Teacher Appreciation Week, our middle school students found a meaningful way to say thank you. Students chose special notes and then delivered them to their teachers. [Click here to watch a behind-the-scenes video of them delivering the notes.](#)

