



April 1, 2012

*From the Desk of Bob Newsum,
Superintendent*

Greetings:

As we continue to enjoy the early spring weather and the accompanying sense of renewal and rebirth associated with blossoming flowers and budding trees, take a moment and imagine a world without the arts – a world where color, form, and sound are defined solely by Mother Nature. It would be a place where music would echo only from the birds; where color would be limited by our vision; and where the written word would be unknown. Man would be just one more species inhabiting the earth.

The arts are factors that set this world apart. It is through the appreciation of and pursuit of the various forms of art that ideas are born, concepts receive recognition, and life takes on meaning and purpose. The wonder of including experiences in the arts in each student's education is the ability to teach your children about the uniqueness each of them possesses. Individuality is encouraged and your children learn that each of them has abilities, that while different from others, are no less important. The various forms of artistic expression allow students to use their creativity and imagination to create objects, environments, performances, and experiences for the enjoyment, pleasure, and education of others. Whether it's through the written and spoken word, two-dimensional and three-dimensional creation, song, dance choreography, instrumental music, or the creation of a new product, students use tools made possible through the study and appreciation of the arts.

In the words of John F. Kennedy, "If the arts are to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his/her vision wherever it takes him/her."

The 2011-2012 varsity girls' and boys' basketball seasons have now officially ended and it's time to recognize and congratulate student athletes for their accomplishments. Morgan Halverson, senior, and Meagan Streyffeler, senior, were named to the Pride of Iowa first team and Hailey Sweet, senior, was named to the second team. Girls named to the Pride of Iowa Academic All-Conference Team were Morgan Halverson, Meagan Streyffeler, Hailey Sweet, Megan Krumme, Sarah Noel, Vicki Kordick, Paiten Gavin, and Riley Dunn.

Zeb Noel, senior, and JD Nielsen, senior, were named to the Pride of Iowa first team. Boys named to the Pride of Iowa Academic All-Conference Team were Trent Verwers, junior, and Eddy Kraber, sophomore.

Wrestlers named to the Pride of Iowa Academic All-Conference Team were Troy Harding, junior, David Walker, senior, and Robert Walker, senior.

Earlier this year, Austin Streyffeler, junior, and Robert Walker, senior, were nominated as Fareway Food Stores student athletes of the week and both young men received more votes than the other two student athletes nominated those weeks. Congratulations, Austin and Robert!

At the end of the 2011 fall sports' season, Katie Schrodt, varsity cross-country runner who competes as a member of the Winterset High School Cross-Country Team, was named to the Raccoon River Conference Academic All-Conference Team. Congratulations Katie!

At a board of education budget and finance work session, held on February 28, 2012, your board members authorized a facilities construction project for the removal and replacement of the elementary gym roof this summer. The current elementary gym roof has been in place for more than twenty years and the new roof project will include insulation material to help improve our heating and air conditioning energy efficiency. At the same work session, your board members decided to **reduce** the property tax rate for the 2012-2013 school year from the current rate of \$18.73 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District to \$17.48 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Please consider this as an invitation to join the district communications advisory committee at our next communications committee meeting, scheduled for Monday, April 16, beginning at 6:00 PM, in the school media center. The committee has generated a prioritized list of strategies and methods for us to celebrate and promote the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District and we are currently working on plans-of-action to implement these improved communications strategies. We are currently collecting articles to include in the Spring Quarter district newsletter that will be printed and mailed to all district patrons who reside in Warren and Madison Counties. Look for this newsletter to be delivered to your home during the first week of June.

Wellmark Employees Donate Big Bucks



(Right to left: Teresa King, Veronica Knickerbocker, Lori Dooley)

Veronica Knickerbocker, Teresa King, and Lori Dooley have donated over \$15,000 to the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District through the Blues Care Giving Program. The district has been able to provide opportunities for our students that would not have been possible without their generous donations and hard work.

These donations have provided the Junior High students the opportunity to go on a ski trip to Boone and the 5th and 6th graders to go on a tubing trip to Des Moines. We have recently purchased four Smart Boards in the secondary building and eight iPads for the lower elementary teachers. Currently, I am pricing a projector for the gymnasium that will also be purchased from these donations. These purchases, because of the generosity of these three ladies, will enhance the learning opportunities for our students. On behalf of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community Schools and all of our students, I would like to thank Veronica, Teresa, Lori, and Wellmark for their participation in the Blues Care Giving Program.

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier, **Secondary Principal**

Welcome to spring time. I would like to congratulate Mr. Randy Olson, MStM band director, for his students' performance in the Pride of Iowa Honor Band. The following students participated: Cory Harding, Kelsey DePauw, Troy Harding, Courtney Scovel, Abby Wetzler, Michaela McIlravy, and Tayler Schad. Mr. Olson is doing an outstanding job with our band program and these students are proof of that.

I am very excited to announce that the Martensdale-St. Marys Schools will be bringing back the industrial arts program. Beginning next year, we will once again offer classes in woods, metals, welding, and other industrial technical areas. Our Career and Technical programs at Martensdale-St. Marys

are very strong. Bringing back the Industrial Tech program will offer more opportunities for our students to explore careers that they may be interested in pursuing in the future.

The Martensdale-St. Marys Community Schools, and most of the other high schools in Warren County, are partnering with Des Moines Area Community College to bring more career education opportunities to the students of Warren County. DMACC will be converting part of South Ridge Mall into a career academy that will be opening in the 2013-2014 school year. Our students will be able to take classes for high school and college credit at the academy. They will be offering programs such as Criminal Justice, Welding, Construction Trades, Auto Mechanics, Collision Repair, and Graphic Communication/Web Design, just to name a few. Students interested in these careers can take classes for college credit and get started in training for a career while still in high school.

The DMACC Academy will be a state-of-the-art center in which students can learn and be trained for a career. At the current time, they plan on investing 10 million dollars into this facility. This, and other plans for renovation by the mall developers, will totally change South Ridge Mall.

The spring is full of opportunities to help out at the school. We will be hosting seven track meets this spring. This is a huge undertaking that we will not be able to do without the help of the MStM community. If you are interested in helping out, please call or email Mr. Huegel.

Have a wonderful spring.

From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts, **Secondary Counselor**

Happy Spring to everyone! Here are a couple of things you should be aware of:

-Seniors: By now you should have submitted your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). If you haven't, complete it as soon as possible. You should also check with your college(s) to determine if there are other financial aid applications required. Many colleges have priority deadlines as to when the FAFSA should be submitted.

Juniors- Start talking to college reps. Sign-ups are in the guidance office. You can also start scheduling college visits to colleges you are interested in attending next year. Contact me for more information. Also, if you are planning on going to college next year AND have not taken the ACT's or COMPASS test, you might want to get that out of the way as soon as possible. The COMPASS test is an entrance assessment for two year schools. See Mr. Folkerts to schedule your exam.

The last ACT test date is June 9th. May 4th is the regular registration postmark deadline. The late registration deadline is extended to May 18st for this test. You can register online at www.actstudent.org or pick up a registration packet in the guidance office.

I will be working with all 6th -11th grade students on scheduling items this quarter. I hope to have everyone's schedule done and handed out to them by the last day of school.

Students can start registering for Fall DMACC classes starting April 26th for returning students and May 24th for new students. There is no guarantee that you can get into a certain class so the earlier you sign up the better you are. **IMPORTANT:** DMACC's policy states no students can sign-up for a college class after July 20th ...no exceptions! So if you want to take a DMACC class you need to register before the deadline. Please contact Mr. Folkerts if you have any questions.

Let's try to make the last quarter of the year our best and most enjoyable!!!

From the Desk of Mrs. Clark,
Vocal Music Department

These are the students who participated in the Iowa Choral Director's Association Honor Choir at Dallas Center-Grimes on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.



Music Dates for April

Monday, April 2:
5/6 grade ICDA Honor Choir at Norwalk-concert 7pm

Thursday, April 5:
Spring concert grades PK-K-1st concert 7pm

Saturday, April 14:
IHSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival @ MStM

Monday, April 30:
Spring concert JH & HS Band and Chorus 7pm

From the Desk of Mr. Olson,
Instrumental Music Department

Seven members of POI Honor Band

Monday, March 12, at Wayne Community School District.



Pictured from left to right are:

Abigail Wetzler, Michaela McIlravy, Courtney Scovel, Tayler Schad, Mr. Olson (Faculty Jazz Ensemble), Troy Harding, Cory Harding and Kelsey DePauw.

From the Desk of Mr. Goodale
Secondary Social Studies

Social Studies department is ecstatic that both Jr. Sr. High School classrooms now have Smart boards.

Seventh grade Social Studies classes concluded the initial development of physical geography and are now applying the information and skills acquired to the study of the nations of the world. We have applied the information and skills to the United States, Canada, and will be starting on Latin America.

Modern World Cultures class is studying Asia, getting ready to conclude the development of China and preparing for Japan and the Koreas. The class is continually infusing the events of the present and interrelating past and present.

American History has now concluded the Civil War and will be examining the Reconstruction era. One of the primary topics we will concentrate on is the development of Civil Rights and the continuing expansion of those rights today.

Contemporary Issues class has and will continue to discuss and follow the primary campaigns in the Republican Party. News items of interest are continually examined and student's opinions on the topics of the day are heard and developed orally.

Sociology class is presently studying the aging of America and various phases each individual passes through during their lifetime. Our future topics of study will be Social Deviance and Social Stratification.

From the Desk of Mr. Amfahr
Secondary Social Studies

United States History 8 – the students just completed a unit over the causes and the first half of the Civil War. After Spring Break we will move onto the last two years of the War and then progress to the Westward Movement of the late 1800’s. The new Smart board we received has been enjoyable to use. The 3rd block class created a review quiz and then we used it as a last minute review in both sections prior to the test.

World History 10 – We just completed our study of the Ancient Romans prior to break and now will begin looking into the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. We also just completed a trivia game on the Smart board that reviewed the major concepts and people we have studied throughout the year.

Government – The students just finished a unit about the Constitution and now will turn to the Office of the Presidency. After returning from Break we will start learning about how they can play a more active role in our democratic system.

Psychology – We have just finished our background study of the fundamentals of Psychology and the role of biology in our behavior. The students gained an understanding about the persistent question of nature vs. nurture in human behavior. We recently discussed the topic of the meaning of dreams and will now turn to using techniques to try and improve our memory and thinking processes.

Western Civilization – the students have just created a board game over the Age of Discovery and the Renaissance in small groups. We just began our study of wars throughout history. They will make comparisons between conflicts of different eras as well as learning about how technology has changed through the years. The focus of their studies will be directed at how the different wars have affected the average soldier and citizen that is often caught in the middle of a conflict.

From the Desk of Mr. Huegel,
Athletic Director / At-Risk

From the Desk of Mr. Craig Huegel, Activities Director

It is kind of hard to believe as I write this right before spring break, that we are touching 80 degrees. We have had great weather for the beginning of our spring seasons, and we hope for that to continue. Our winter teams received recognition from our conference as listed below. We had two first teamers for each basketball team, and several student-athletes receive all-academic honors.

Girls Basketball	Grade	Team	
Morgan Halverson	12	1 st	POI
Meagan Streyffeler	12	1 st	POI
Hailey Sweet	12	2 nd	POI

Academic All-Conference

Morgan Halverson
Meagan Streyffeler
Hailey Sweet
Megan Kumme
Sarah Noel
Vicki Kordick
Paiten Gavin
Riley Dunn.

Boys Basketball	Grade	Team	
Zeb Noel	12	1 st	POI
JD Nielsen	12	1 st	POI

Academic All-Conference

Trent Verwers
Eddy Kraber

Wrestling Academic All-Conference

Troy Harding
David Walker
Robert Walker

A major point of emphasis this year in athletics has been concussion recognition and treatment. It is important to know that concussions and any kind of head injury can happen at any time, and in any sport, not just football. If you suspect your son/daughter may have suffered a concussion, please inform your coach. We have an athletic trainer who can help us diagnose and treat these kinds of injuries. Also, below are some resources:

- http://www.iahsaa.org/Sports_Medicine_Wellness/Concussions/concussions.html
- <http://www.nfhlearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=15000>

Sportsmanship Reminders

1. Be Loud!
2. Be Positive!!
3. Cheer **for your team** only... (not at officials, opponents, etc.).

Upcoming Fine Arts Events...please note, our JH & HS concert in April has been combined on April 30.

Apr 2	5th/6th Honor Choir	Norwalk	TBA
Apr 5	PK - 1st grade Music Concert	HS Gym	7:00
Apr 14	HS Band & Choir Solo & Ensemble Festival(IHSMA)	Martensdale	TBA
Apr 28	JH Large Group Band Festival	Adventureland, Altoona	TBA
Apr 30	JH & HS Band & Choir Concert	HS Gym	7:00
May 4	HS Band & Chorus Large Group Festival(IHSMA)	TBA	TBA
May 18	4th Recorder/5th - 6th Band Concert	HS Gym	TBA

Track HELP!

This message is not so early anymore.

Track season is HERE!

Right now, we are hosting seven meets, including the conference meets for JH and HS, and a Class 1A district/regional track meet. MStM is known for running a quality, efficient track meet. That is because of you! If you are interested in helping, please contact me. Below are the meet dates and the help we need:

Timers: Time each race with a stop watch (watches are furnished). Each timer times one runner. 8 people needed.

Pickers: Each timer is assigned a picker whose job is to keep track of which runner was timed. 8 people needed.

Field Event Judges: Measure and record each throw or jump. Four people per event. (High jump, long jump, Discus, and Shot Putt) 16 people needed

Inspectors/Curve Judges: Check to see that runners do not violate lane or exchange zone regulations. 4 people needed

Concession Stand: We need volunteers for all home meets. Each of the above jobs as well as several not listed can use assistants and relief help. As you can see, many workers are required to put on a track meet. Please contact me if interested, phone (641-764-2385) or email at craig_huegel@mstm.us

I would like to volunteer to help with the track meets
Name: _____
Phone: _____
Address: _____

High School Meets I would like to help with:
_____ MStM Boys Invitational, April 19th, 5:00 pm
_____ POI Conference HS Meet, May 1, 4:00 pm
_____ MStM Girls Invitational, May 7th, 5:00 pm
_____ 1A District/Regional Meet, May 10th, 4:00 pm

Junior High Meets I would like to help with:
_____ MStM Junior High Track Meet, April 23rd, 4:00 pm
_____ POI Conference JH Meet, April 27th, 4:00 pm
_____ MStM JH Invitational, May 3rd, 4:15 p.m.

If you have a preference of jobs, please list them:
1st Choice: _____
2nd Choice: _____
3rd Choice: _____
Concession Stand: _____

With Blue Devil Pride,
Craig Huegel, A.D.
Twitter: @MSTM_BlueDevils

From the Desk of Post Prom Committee

Member of our Communities,

The Martensdale-St. Marys Post Prom Committee is preparing for their 19th annual "Post Prom Party" to be held April 28th, 2012. Please consider a monetary or merchandise donation to help the MStM students have a safe, fun, chaperoned, alcohol and drug free after prom.

Students and parents have been working hard raising funds through concession stands, fundraisers and pop can drives; however, we must rely on donations to support this event. Cash and/or merchandise donations that could be used as door prizes will be awarded at the end of the party so students will stay to participate in the entire event. Your donation is tax deductible. If you would like our tax I.D. number, please let us know.

If you are able to help us, please make checks payable to MStM Post Prom and mail to:

MStM Community School
ATTN: Ginny Darr - Post Prom
390 Burlington St.
Martensdale, IA 50160

If you prefer, we will be happy to pick up your donation. Please call Ginny Darr at 515-707-9243 or at ginginery@aol.com.

We will be recognizing those businesses and community members who make contributions by listing the names as our valued sponsor in our district wide newsletter.

Hosting a post-prom party is an expensive event, but it is important to keep our children in a safe environment. We are working hard to raise funds and together we can make it happen.

On behalf of the Martensdale-St. Marys students, thank you for your help with this worthwhile event!

Sincerely,
MStM Post Prom Committee

From the Desk of Mr. Wood,
Elementary Principal

School Attendance

Students need to be in school every day to stay on track. Teachers' lesson plans are carefully constructed to introduce new concepts, reinforce them with learning activities, and then move on to new skills and ideas. When children aren't in school, they fall behind. And the more days they miss, the harder it is to catch up. That's where you come in.

Report In.

Schools are required to track attendance of every child in every classroom every day. It is essential that you always

contact the school if your child is going to be late for class, will need an early dismissal, or will be absent.

Get the Work.

When you know ahead of time your child will be missing class, give the teachers plenty of notice so they can provide your child with makeup work to do. Be sure that your child follows through—you'll need to be his or her "teacher" on those days, so be available to explain concepts or monitor the work. If your child is out unexpectedly, due to illness or other reasons, in addition to contacting the school attendance office, make arrangements with your child's teachers to pick up a packet of work/ readings from the school. If the absence will be lengthy (e.g., for surgery), alert the teachers as soon as you know and get updated assignments and work packets as the days go on.

Religious Absences.

It is inevitable that some families' important religious observances will fall on school days. Let your children's teachers know early in the year precisely which days your children will not be attending or will need to leave early.

How Sick Is Too Sick?

It's impossible to say categorically when a child should go to school or stay home. However, one typical guideline is that a child is usually fine to attend school if his or her fever is under 100° and there is no rash, "pink eye," nausea, or diarrhea. The decision to keep a child home from school is best made between you and your child's health care provider. If the doctor or nurse recommends that your child stay home, find out exactly how long and on what conditions he or she can return to class (e.g., after 24 hours of antibiotics).

Faking It?

If your child is complaining of a fever, but you're suspicious, make sure to stay in the room the entire time the child's temperature is being taken. A child complaining of nausea will probably be paler in color and slightly sweaty, and will usually need to vomit more than once. Send your child to school if you don't see a real symptom, knowing that the school nurse will contact you if things change. Also, be alert if your child seems to be "sick" on school days but always rebounds for the weekend.

Vacation Plans.

It's tempting to pull your kids from school for a family trip, but it's a bad idea. Why? First, it gives your children the impression that their schooling is not your top priority. And when they miss class work, even if you ask for make-up work to be sent home ahead of time, they can fall behind because they're missing many hours of instructional time each day. Instead of thinking of how you can miss the crowds by taking trips during the school year, think about what it could be costing your child in the long run.

Check Those Appointments.

Schedule your kids' doctor and dental appointments for after-school or weekend hours unless there's an emergency. Schedule your children's twice-yearly dental appointment during winter and summer breaks, and schedule school

physicals, immunizations, and other routine care for school holidays or summer break.

Finally, remember to show and tell your children that attendance is important—whether it's as a child in school or as an adult on the job. You'll be helping them succeed, both in school and in life.

From the Desk of Mrs. Pelzer, Fourth Grade

Dancing with the Kids

The 4th, 5th, and 6th graders go to experience a cultural dance. The 4th grade got to do an African welcome dance. They used scarves in their dance, while the 5th graders incorporated drum sticks, and the 6th wore bandannas during their performance. We had to dance in front of the whole elementary. This was an awesome experience.

By: Ashton Wilbur & Nick Murphy- 4P

4P just finished up their Scoopin' Times with a fun ice cream party. The 4th graders work very hard on their multiplication and division facts by taking several timed tests each week. We have several fun math games to help them prepare for these tests each week. They've done an awesome job this year remembering their facts!! Now we are on to long division!!

In our reading classes we are busy working on our reading strategies during our DAILY 5 rounds, whole class books, and also from our textbooks. We talk daily about what it takes to be a good reader, and how reading makes us smarter!

We are in the middle of researching facts on different types of animals in Science. The kids are able to pick their own animal, find research, and present it using a PowerPoint.

Social Studies finds us learning and studying the fourth region which is the Southwest. The Southwest has only 4 states, so the kids are pumped to only learn 4 locations and their spellings this time!

We will end our year by studying the West region, and then we finish with the big 50 states test! That's always a big accomplishment and they are very proud of what they learn by the end of fourth grade.

In May the 4th grade will be taking a fun field trip to Principle Park and Gray's Lake. It will be filled with lots of exercising, and watching our home team play some ball!

Thanks to all parents for coming to conferences in March. It's always important to have parent support. We thank all of you for helping your child have a successful year.

*From the Desk of Mrs. Pribil,
Elementary Counselor*

Counselor's Corner



I can't believe it's already spring! We have been busy exploring careers in large group guidance. All students in grades preschool through sixth grade are considering what they would like to be when they grow up. 5th and 6th graders are taking interest quizzes to see which careers they would most compatible with.

Fairness is our next Character Counts pillar. Students in the lower grades will be discussing what it means to be fair through books, plays, and activities.

Our next Character Counts and Honor Roll assembly will be held on Friday, April 13 at 8:40 in the small gym. We will be awarding the fairest student from each classroom as well as recognizing those students who made the 3rd quarter honor roll.

Kindergarten Round-up

There will be an informational meeting for the parents that will have a child entering kindergarten in the fall of 2012. The meeting will be at 6:00 PM in the High School Media center on Thursday, April 26th 2012. We will be sending a packet out to the families who have contacted the office with their mailing information. The packet will include information about the meeting and our upcoming school year.

We will be holding a round-up day for the upcoming kindergarten students on Friday, May 4th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This will be a day filled with meeting new friends, exploring the kindergarten classrooms, and a chance for the kindergarten teachers and children to meet one another.

Please contact Brenda DePauw in the elementary office if you know of a family that will have a child entering kindergarten next fall! It is important that we spread the word and reach out to any new families in the district so that everyone has the opportunity to take part in these two dates! 641-764-2621

**“PLAY 2 LEARN”
3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL**

**Classes: Monday/Wednesday/Friday
8:30 – 11:30
Or Tuesday / Thursday
8:30 – 11:30**

**State registered, 15 years of Early Childhood
experience. Call Cheri Minella 515-250-5708**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on February 13, 2012.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President, Dave Shutt; Wade Gibson and Amy Harper; together with Superintendent Bob Newsum and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Dean Furness

- I. Welcome Board President
Bunch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests.
- II. Consent Items
 - A. Approval of Minutes Board President
 - B. Approval of Agenda Board President
 - C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report Board President
 - D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports Board President

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the consent items, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll Call: 4 eyes.

- III. Celebrations
Mr. Crozier announced to the Board that that the Varsity Wrestling Team was District Dual Champion, District Traditional Champion and State Qualifiers were: Taylor Hagen, Kole Stapes, David Walker, David DeLong and Robert Walker. Congratulations MStM Wrestlers!!

Mr. Crozier mentioned that this is a very busy week for wrestling and girls and boys basketball teams. Good Luck MStM!

Mr. Wood expressed huge gratitude to Lori Dooley. Lori is an employee with Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and she has been participating in Wellmark's Volunteer Program with schools. She has volunteered many hours at our school which has allowed her to donate two iPads for each Preschool through 2nd grade classroom. The teachers are very excited and appreciative of the iPads and took no time at all in using the iPads in their curriculum. Thanks again Lori!

- IV. Public Comments – None
- V. Old Business
 - A. Reports Supt. Newsum
 - 1) MStM Music Booster Minutes – January 10, 2012 minutes were provided.

2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – December 14, 2011 and January 11, 2012 minutes were provided.

3) MStM PTO Minutes – January 10 2012 minutes were provided.

B. Presentations

1) Superintendent's Report Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that there has been some duct work done in the high school gym to help prevent future cupping of the gym floor. The reason for the cupping is that the humidity beneath the floor board is higher than the humidity above the gym floor. A number of schools have been experiencing this same problem due to the very dry winter that we have been having. A blowing system has been installed under the bleachers to blow air under the floor to decrease the humidity. The cost for this is approximately \$2,000. Mr. Gibson asked about the paint wearing away on the floor. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Crozier are aware of this and will be working on this as well.

Mr. Newsum reminded the Board of our upcoming Budget and Finance Workshop on February 21, 2012. The Board agreed to move it to February 28, 2012 due to a conflict. The agenda for the meeting includes reviewing and approving the fiscal year 2011 audit, reviewing the facilities five-year plan, discussing the renewal of the VPPEL, fiscal year 2013 staffing, goal setting, and tax rates, and discussing and approving the refinancing of our bond debt service.

Mr. Newsum introduced Matt Gillaspie, Senior Vice President of Piper Jaffray & Co. to discuss our options of possibly refinancing our 2003 General Obligation Bond. Mr. Gillaspie provided three different options on how much we could save with refinancing now and what are options would be if we waited. The Board thanked Mr. Gillaspie and informed him that a decision will be made at our February 28, 2012 Budget and Finance Workshop.

2) Facilities Report Mr. Gibson

The Facilities Committee met last month to review the evaluation of the elementary gym roof and recommendations for replacement presented by Mr. Kevin Long, an architect with Shive-Hattery Architects. The

approximate cost for the removing the existing elementary gym roof and replacing it with TPO material is \$100,000. This amount is included in the district's five-year plan where the funding would be coming from the Capital Projects Fund. The project would increase our level of insulation in the roof, and will have the asbestos removed; which has been a concern of the District for many years.

Mrs. Bunch voiced her concerns about the project including would there be a penalty if the project is not completed on time before school starts in the fall, will the costs increase if they find more problems with the asbestos, what is the occupancy limit for the school during the project. Mr. Long informed the Board that in the bid specs it states a \$1,000 per calendar day penalty if the project is not complete before school starts. Mr. Long's company did three core cuts and sent them to a lab to determine the type and how much asbestos is on the roof and the companies that bid for this project will know that up front. The administrators will move the daycare program to the east end of building for safety concerns. The deck that you see when you look up at the gym roof will not be removed. It is the asphalt and tar paper that will be removed from the roof. There will be a 20-year warranty on the new roof. The barrel look of the roof will stay the same. They will add new gutters and replace fascia boards that have started to rot. Weather permitting; this will be a 2-week project.

3) Communications Report Mrs. Harper

Mrs. Harper provided to the Board a summary of the 2011-2012 Communications Survey that was recently conducted. 185 surveys were received and completed. 60% of the 308 families with children in school participated in the survey. 16% of the 1,174 community box holders participated in the survey. The Communications Committee was very pleased with the results and looks forward to working with the administration in approving certain areas to improve communication with our district.

4) Technology Report Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood informed the Board that the laptops used by the teachers are now approaching four years old and are at the end of their lives. He provided three comparisons of laptops with Lenovo, HP

Pavilion and Dell. Mr. Wood would like to stay with the Lenovo brand which has the largest GB hard drive and processor. Currently, we have seven teachers using loaner laptops that were taken from the laptop cart in the secondary building. Ednet has the experience with the Lenovo brand. Mr. Wood requested approval to purchase 23 laptops now and the remaining laptops after July 1 for a total of 45 laptops. This expense will be funded from the Capital Projects fund. Mrs. Bunch asked if the district has tried Dell. She stated that Dell works faster with better performance, faster login, warehouse availability, and you can have more applications open at the same time. Mrs. Bunch would contact her technology team at her employer and get back to Mr. Wood. Mr. Newsom recommended that the Board could still approve the purchase of laptops and decide on the brand later.

5) Principal's Report Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood announced the students who demonstrated responsibility for Character Counts.

Preschool: Cale Morrow and Nathan Mundil
Kindergarten: Caelan Meyer and Eric Fuller
1st: Cayden Arpy and Logan Hanrahan
2nd: Jaclyn Kleve and Zarrick Mortale
3rd: Grace Dunahoo and Cael Cassady
4th: Cole Cassady and Elizabeth Devore
5th: Tori Reynolds and Darren Vogt
6th: Zach Bunch and Bailey Moore

Mr. Wood announced the 2nd Quarter Honor Roll:

4th Gold: Ethan Christensen, Dominick DiCesare, Grace Hart, Brynn Olson, and Madelyn Stott

4th Blue: Jensen Archibald, Jackson Bakerink, Cole Cassady, Elizabeth Devore, Morgan Dunn, Isaac Gavin, Jose Gonzalez, Waylon Herron, Alanna Kienne, Haley Meyer, Joseph Mundil, Nick Murphy, Tyler Noga, Jordan Peterson, Cameron Press, and Kyla Thorpe

5th Gold: Daytona Ameigh, Katelyn Amfahr, Tyler Davidson, Alexis Devore, Kailyn DiCesare, Jessica Doster, Jacob Dunn, Sophia Gibson, Vincent Girardi, Esa Johanson, Ben Lynch, Shelby McCasland, Victoria Reynolds, Hannah Sweet, Cody Thorpe, Josh Tibbits, Darren Vogt, Kailey Walker, Jena Wenck, and Shelby Wiegert

5th Blue: Wyatt Alexander, Ben Anctil, Angel Castro, Christian Husted, Alisha Kauten, Madelyn Miller, Emma Neiderheiser, Halle Slifka, Jacob Wenck, and Lucas Wilgenbusch

6th Gold: Andrew Andrasko, Gabriella Briney, Zach Bunch, Trevor Dooley, Sophia Dunahoo, Haley Hart, Brianna Hartman, Tim Hornback, Olivia Johnson, Bailey Moore, Kolby Phinney, Kylie Sherwood, Brinley White, and Jayme Wilson

6th Blue: Aaron Allsup, Chandler Craig, Jessica Defenbaugh, Nicholas Devore, Christopher Douglas, Kolton Fisk, Brady Gavin, Kay Greif, Garrison Haupts, Evan Karsjens, Makenna Milligan, Zoey Minor, Trey Newbury, Alayna Olson, Tylor Phinney, Caitlyn Pote, Kaitlin Schad, Logan Schumacher, Dillon Strange, Skylar Tew, and Keann Williamson

Mr. Wood introduced the Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Rana Webster and Mrs. Terah Henson. They presented to the Board how they have been utilizing the new document cameras and pens that the PTO purchased for their rooms this year. They showed the Board how they created games and how they shared them with other teachers to use. Mrs. Webster presented how she has been using her new iPad in the classroom. She has been able to download books for the students to read, download games that are used as learning tools for the students and they use the iPad during center time and reading time. They can even share books with other teachers that have an iPad in their classroom. They are very excited about the new educational tools that they now have in their classroom. The Board thanked Mrs. Webster and Mrs. Henson for their presentation.

6) Principal's Report Mr. Crozier

Mr. Crozier announced the many activities that have been taken place recently.

Wrestling

1st place finish in Sectionals; advanced to the Regional Dual meet
Regional Dual Champions
Qualified for State Dual Meet on Wednesday February 15
Sectional Runner Up
Brad Nauman
David DeLong
Sectional Champs

Dylan Gibson
Taylor Hagen
Cole Stapes
David Walker
Robert Walker

Leadership Conference at Simpson

Eddie Kraber
Elizabeth Gerdes
Carli Kenyon
Cassidy Phillips
Katie Schrodt

**JH Ski Trip – donated by Teresa King,
Wellmark Volunteer Program**

Drake Honor Band

Emma Johanson
Kaitlyn Belieu
Abigail Wetzler

JH Honor Band at Simpson

Gabe Happts
Eric Estell
Joshua Belieu

Simpson Honor Wind Ensemble

Abigail Wetzler
Kaitlyn Belieu
Michaela McIlravy
Tayler Schad

ICDA Honor Choir

Variety Show

February 24th, 7:00 PM, Elementary Gym

January Students of the Month

7th Grade: Lauren Noga
8th Grade: Reid Frederiksen
9th Grade: Kyle Kisling
10th Grade: Jacob Herrera
11th Grade: Carli Kenyon
12th Grade: Josh Butcher

7) Curriculum Director's Report

Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser informed the Board that there will be a full day of professional development on February 15, 2012. The teachers will be working on measurable learning objectives and working on a curriculum audit that was conducted. John Villoti will also be presenting on poverty awareness. Mr. Moser gave an update on the Elementary Math adoption. Several of the elementary teachers have observed lower elementary grades at Norwalk and upper elementary grades at Crestview in Des Moines. The teachers are leaning towards

the Every Day Math program. Costs for this program would be approximately \$46,000. The teachers are working on narrowing down the components that they need so the cost could be reduced.

Mr. Moser will be attending an advisory committee in Johnston tomorrow. He has also created a student survey to get an insight in terms of course offerings, creating master schedules and will report on this at the March board meeting. He has also been discussing with the secondary classes the meaning of grades and put the board members through an exercise to determine what a grade really means and the value of competency based education.

VI. New Business

Receive Initial Negotiation Proposal from MStM Education Association Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Jodi Noga, Mr. Randy Folkerts, and Mr. Don Newbury; members of the MStM Education Association, presented to the Board their first proposal for the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Joe Franey was unable to attend. The total package increase equaled \$154,558. The total percentage of increase to salaries equaled 6.2%. Mrs. Noga commented on minor language changes to negotiate as well. Mrs. Noga commented that negotiations went really well last year and requested we resume the same practice this year. Mrs. Bunch would like to meet with Mr. Dave Shutt, Mr. Newsum and Mrs. Gavin prior to the first meeting to convey their direction with the Association. The Board thanked the association for attending.

2nd Reading Board Policy 401.12: District Land line and Cellular Telephone Usage Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the 2nd reading of board policy 401.12: District Landline and Cellular Telephone Usage, seconded by Mr. Dave Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Consider/Approve Revised Director District Boundaries Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that after the 2010 Census population was verified each school district with director districts had to review their boundaries to verify they had equal amount of voters in each district. The District received the proposed district boundaries and there would be no impact for any of our current board members. The boundaries were changed in District 2 and 3. Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the revised director district boundaries, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Consider/Approve Contract with DMACC for Career Academy
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum reviewed with the board what was discussed at the January board meeting regarding the contract with DMACC and what their concerns were. The concerns included having enough students enrolled at DMACC to fulfill the terms of the contract and having too many students driving back and forth. The Administration was asked to think about providing a waiver of liability for students who will be driving to DMACC and giving permission to have other students ride with them. The Administration was also asked to think about possibly shuttling students to and from DMACC. Mr. Newsum reminded that this contract would be in effect in the fall of 2013. Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the contract with DMACC for the Career Academy, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Approve Issuance of Bids for Elementary Roof Replacement
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the issuance of bids for the elementary roof replacement, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Consider/Approve Purchase of Teacher Laptops
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the purchase of 23 laptops now and purchase the remaining laptops after July 1, contingent on which brand, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Consider/Approve Calendar for 2012-2013
Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the 2012-2013 school calendar, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Approve Soccer Sharing Agreement with Indianola
Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the soccer sharing agreement with Indianola, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Approve Personnel Recommendation
Supt. Newsum

There were no personnel recommendations to discuss.

Approve Personnel Resignation
Supt. Newsum

There were no personnel recommendations to discuss.

Confirm – Next Meeting Dates
Supt. Newsum

3/07/12 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail
3/08/12 – 5:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting
3/12/12 – 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting
2/2/812 – Budget workshop – 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Mrs. Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 5:50 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special budget workshop session, pursuant to law, on February 28, 2012.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President, Dave Shutt; Wade Gibson, Amy Harper and Dean Furness; together with Superintendent Bob Newsum and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: None

I. Welcome Board President

Bunch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Public Comments – None

III. New Business

A. Discuss and Approve Fiscal Year 2011 Audit
Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Gavin reviewed the Fiscal Year 2011 Audit with the Board Members. General Fund revenues increased and expenses decreased in fiscal 2011. The general fund balance increased in fiscal 2011 along with the District's solvency ratio. She covered economic factors that are bearing on the District's future. She reviewed that balance sheet for the Hot Lunch Fund and the Daycare Fund. She ended with covering the schedule of findings from the auditors.

B. Discuss Fiscal Year 2013 Tax Rates
Supt. Newsum

Dr. Newsum provided an overview with the Board on each of the District's different funds, revenues, expenditures, our current spending authority and financial health of the District. The Board reviewed our trends with the District's new money, unspent budget authority, open enrollment and certified enrollment. The Board reviewed our current property tax levies. Dr. Newsum informed the Board that our Warren and Madison County valuations increased by 8.17% which will affect our property tax rate for fiscal year 2013. Dr. Newsum reviewed the Aid & Levy workshop and informed the Board that there are only a few options for the District to change on the Aid & Levy to affect the property tax rate. The Board will need to consider increasing our Management Levy and refinancing the District's 2003 General Obligation Bond which will decrease the District's overall property tax levy by \$1.24.

C. Discuss Facilities Five-Year Long Range Plan
Supt. Newsum

The Board reviewed the Facilities Five-Year plan and requested that the current spreadsheet be revised to show where the money will be coming out of for each project and to project how much money is allowed to be spent each year.

D. Discuss Renewing Voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy
Supt. Newsum

Dr. Newsum informed the Board that our Voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy will be expiring at the end of fiscal year 2013. The District will need to set up a special election in September of 2012 to vote to keep the current rate of \$0.67. This will not increase property tax for our patrons it will only allow us to continue with levy.

E. Discuss Fiscal Year 2013 Staffing
Supt. Newsum

Dr. Newsum discussed staffing considerations for fiscal year 2013. Positions that were discussed included superintendent, industrial arts and instrumental music.

F. Discuss and Approve Early Retirement
Supt. Newsum

The Board reviewed the Early Retirement policy and agreed to not make any changes to the current policy.

G. Discuss and Approve Refinancing Bond Debt Service
Supt. Newsum

Dr. Furness motioned to approve the refinancing of the 2003 General Obligation Bond, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

IV. Adjournment
Mr. Gibson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

It is the policy of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator.

MStM's Equity Coordinator is Mike Crozier, secondary principal. His address is MStM Community School, 390 Burlington, Martensdale, Iowa 50160. His phone number is 641-764-2686 and his email address is: mike_crozier@mstm.us

The Martensdale-St. Marys District Newsletter is published by the end of the preceding month.

The newsletter is available for pickup in the Superintendent's office and the Jiffy station, both are located in Martensdale.

You may also view it on the <http://www.mstm.us> website. Questions or concerns may be addressed to:

**Mrs. Tomlinson
Martensdale-St. Marys
Superintendent's Office
390 Burlington
Martensdale, Iowa 50160
karen_tomlinson@mstm.us**

**Office: 641/764-2466
Fax: 641-764-2100**



PLANT SALE
BEVINGTON GARDEN
CLUB

MAY 12TH
TWO LOCATIONS

906 MAIN ST

NORWALK

AND

8551 Hwy 28

MARTENSDALE

8:30A.M. - 2:00P.M.

Please help us maintain
THE BEVINGTON PARK



Education through the years

Mrs. Devore's first grade class had a very special guest teacher on Friday, March 9, 2012.

Mrs. Mabel King, age 98, visited our classroom and helped with a reading lesson. (She is Mrs. Devore's great aunt). Andrew Dunahoo did an amazing job reading *Olivia* to the class and our guest, Mrs. King. We then held a discussion on the book.

Mrs. King had a teaching certificate from Simpson College and taught in Madison County between 1931 and 1943. Her classroom was a one room school house, with grades from primary to 8th grade. Many of her students graduated from Martensdale High School with a 12th grade diploma.



Mrs. Devore's students wanted to know many things about school days "way back when". They were surprised that the lessons were taught using a chalkboard and not a computer; the teacher was responsible for the heat in the winter and many times she had to carry the drinking water from her own home because there was not well at school. The children attended from 9am to 4pm. They started later in the morning so their chores at home were completed, giving them enough time to walk to school or come by a hitched team in the winter.

They learned that the most important subjects were reading, arithmetic and writing. These skills were very important because many of the children would go onto become farmers. This prompted a good discussion between Jack Connor, Johnnie Cassidy and Cole Keller about farming and raising livestock!

Recess was just as important to the kids as it is today! The children usually played baseball, with Mrs. King as their catcher!



Mrs. King retired with she was married and became a farmer with her husband. In 1968, they were asked by Professor William Murray, to help establish Living History Farms in Des Moines, Iowa. They actively remained farming and running the Grain Harvest Festival at Living History Farms until they retired in 2003.

Mrs. King commented that many things have changed in the schools, but the most important parts have not. Teachers still have one goal: to assist each child in reaching their potential and sharing their experiences. When the day was through, Jenny Wilson asked permission to give Mrs. King a hug and began a chain reaction of hugs and kisses from the children!

Mrs. King left our classroom with cards that were made from the kids, a wonderful smile and memories of these special children that will last her a lifetime!

(Photos and article submitted by Mrs. Devore, first grade teacher at Martensdale-St.Marys CSD)





Lions Club
Annual Easter Egg
Hunt



11:00 am at the Martensdale Park
on Saturday, April 7, 2012
Come Join The Fun!



April 27, 2012

Lions Club Soup Supper

**5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Lions
Hall**

All proceeds go towards