



February 1, 2012

From the Desk of Bob Newsum,
Superintendent

Greetings and Think Spring:

Looking back at 2011 and forward to 2012... your District Communications Advisory Committee (DCAC) has worked diligently this past year to identify ways we can promote the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District. Last January the committee started to meet and began defining the many forms and methods of communication that are either being used or could be used. Below is a recap of the areas the DCAC has been working on and continue to work on:

- **Media Kit/Welcome Packet**

To welcome new families into our community, a welcome packet and media kit is in the works. The packet is designed to be distributed to local businesses, real estate agents, and new families moving into our district introducing what our school district has to offer. The packet consists of a brochure promoting our district, along with a school calendar, activity schedules, clubs/ organizations, and much more.

- **Martensdale-St. Marys Website**

If you don't already visit www.mstm.us (the district website) on a regular basis, please check it out. You'll notice it received a face lift. As you drag your mouse over each link located to the left of the screen, additional information can be found. We're in the process of including a committee/organization link that will include the following committees: District Communications Advisory Committee (DCAC), Quality Support Committee (QSC), Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), Music Boosters, PTO, Athletic Boosters, and others. This link will serve as a location for each committee and organization to share and post meeting agendas, minutes, and other meeting material to keep you informed and let others know how they can volunteer their time or service; whether it's attending meetings, helping with a fund raiser, sporting event, or some other activity.

- **Communications Survey Questionnaire**

Last fall, you were asked to participate in a communications survey. Out of all the families with children in school, we had 60% participation, which is outstanding. Based on the geographic, age, and number of families with and without children in school, we feel the survey captured a mixed audience and are very pleased with the overall participation and outcome of the communications survey.

It appears the school district is doing a fine job communicating. The school website and newsletter are the best forms and methods of communication. We found community members completing the survey to be well-educated with 78% either having attended some college, having a college degree, or an advanced degree. In addition, we learned how several without children in school want to be kept informed and have an interest in volunteering. Many comments and suggestions were made that support and identify the importance and value of the DCAC. We appreciate and thank those of you who participated in the survey. A copy of the survey results can be found on the school website under the DCAC committee/organization link.

- **Open House**

We hope to invite local businesses, real estate agents, and new families to an open house where we can educate and share the many opportunities our school district offers.

- **Martensdale-St. Marys "Branding" Identity**

Just as Coca Cola and Nike have developed an identity, we too want to have an identity. We are working with the booster clubs, PTO, and coaching staff to develop a style guide to be posted on the website. The style guide will be a living document and will continue to be reviewed as needs change. It includes the following:

- MStM Logo
- Tagline/Slogan "Small Community ... HUGE Results"
- Colors/Images/Font

If you have any questions relating to this, please contact Craig Huegel, District Activities Director (641-764-2385) or Bob Newsum, Superintendent (641-764-2466).

- **Text Messages**

With nearly every family having mobile communications devices these days, we're looking at the possibility of sending instant messages via cell phones, iPhones, electronic tablets, etc. This form of communication will require feedback from those interested in text alerts. Please watch for more information to follow.

- **Signage**

The committee has discussed the following sign needs: replace current outdoor sign located next to the elementary gym, add an electronic sign, and/or a sign on Highway 92 to identify and promote the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District. As the committee continues to meet, further discussion and research will take place in regards to sign needs.

Based on this information, you have learned what progress the DCAC has made. We want to thank those of you who have contributed your feedback and time to serve on this committee. With your help and expertise, our small community will have much to be proud of and many things to look forward to as we continue to move on in 2012.

The DCAC will continue to meet quarterly, with sub-committees meeting, as needed. These meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to get involved. The date and times of each meeting are marked on the monthly calendar or can be found on the school website under the new committees/organization link.

The main purpose of the DCAC is to focus on communication areas to promote and make our school district and community “**Small Community ... HUGE Results**”. If you have a certain area you would like to help with, please contact Bob Newsum, Superintendent, at (Office 641-764-2466 or Cell 641-203-8893) or Amy Harper, Board Member, at 515-313-5850.

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier,
Secondary Principal

The month of February brings the Iowa Assessments (formerly known as ITBS/ITEDs). We will be taking these tests beginning January 30th and finishing on February 4th. All 7th through 11th graders will participate in this test. We will be testing in the mornings on these days, so it is important that your child be present and on time on these days. These tests are important to our school district. It is one measure of our success, according to the state and federal governments. We have done several activities in our Advisor/Advisee program to help prepare our students. Listed below are some things that you can do to help your children do their best on the Iowa Assessments.

How to Prepare for Standardized Tests...

REST: Students should get a good night’s sleep before taking the test! Keep their routine. By getting “plenty of sleep” actually means maintaining normal bedtime hours rather than going to bed much earlier than usual.

EAT: A good breakfast in the morning that your student takes the test is important. Test-taking activities require a lot of energy. The intent is not to have a big breakfast if your student usually has a slice of toast and a glass of juice, but keeping a normal routine schedule is ideal.

Listen: Ask your student to listen carefully to the directions the teacher gives and to follow them exactly. If they do not understand what to do, they should ask to have the teacher repeat the directions or explain them again.

Dress: Have your child dress in layers—students do better on tests if they don’t have to think about how hot or cold they are.

Try: Do their best. They are not expected to know the answer to every question. Some of the questions may seem difficult, but they should keep trying and not give up. Don’t be too

anxious. Say, “This test is important. I know you will try hard and do your best.” Your confidence will be contagious.

Relax: Students who are calm and sure of themselves do better.

Test Day: Give these tips: Skip a question and move on if you don’t know the answer.

You can always come back to it later. Maybe you will be ready to answer that question then. Check your answers carefully. Make sure the number of your answer correspond to the numbers of the questions on the test.

Results from these tests will be made available sometime in the spring. If you have any questions regarding the test or test results, feel free to contact myself or Mr. Folkerts, the secondary counselor.

From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts,
Secondary Counselor

Counselors Corner

As a student, you hear a lot of advice about what it takes to be successful.

- Get involved in different activities.
- Plan for the future.
- Achieve high grades.
- Challenge yourself with harder classes.
- Be responsible.
- Study hard.
- Go out and have some fun.
- Earn some money.

So how do you manage those all at the same time? The key is balance. Think of ways to work some of these ideas in with others. For example:

- **To balance classes,** take some courses that you know you can get high grades in, a couple of harder classes that will challenge you, and one or two electives that let you explore new options each year.
- **To balance activities,** get involved in different organizations that let you have some fun and give you opportunities to be a leader and work as a team.
- **To balance the present with the future,** take a part-time job that helps you earn money for the future, shows that you're responsible and gives you experience you can use later.

Success in high school leads to success later in life, whether you choose to continue your education or pursue a career. Find the balance that works for you to start achieving success now.

Recommended Courses

Which is better: Taking a class you know you'll get a high grade in or choosing one that will challenge you but won't guarantee you an A? Good grades look great on a college or job application, but a 4.0 GPA isn't everything. Colleges look at the courses you take as well as the grades you earn. They prefer students who don't always go for the easy A. Besides, a different or more challenging course may change your outlook on life or help you determine what you want for your future.

Colleges also require that you take and pass certain classes in high school. How do you know which ones you should take? You'll need to take the classes your school requires for graduation, of course. For additional planning, consider these points:

If... Then...

You already know where you want to go or what you plan to do after high school

- Use the college or program's admissions requirements as a guideline.
- If you plan to go to Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa or the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Iowa, use the Iowa Board of Regents Admission Index ([RAI](http://www2.state.ia.us/regents/RAI/)) at the following web site: <http://www2.state.ia.us/regents/RAI/> as a guideline. This scoring system includes [SAT](#)[®] or [ACT](#)[®] scores, high school rank, GPA and number of high school courses completed in core subject areas.
- For electives, choose courses that reinforce your interests.
- Even if you change your mind, you'll have a good foundation.

If you're not so sure of your plans after high school

- Talk to your counselor about your career interests and what classes may fit those interests. If you decide that you might want to go to college, ask your counselor about the recommended courses.
- Since every college's admission requirements differ, you can use the [RAI](#) as a guideline for required courses. You'll qualify for automatic admission to Iowa's three state universities and create a good foundation for admission to most four-year colleges in Iowa.
- Once you do choose a college or course of study, be sure you find out what the admissions requirements are and change your course plan as necessary.

Challenge Yourself

Besides giving you greater confidence and a better idea of what you might like to do in life, advanced courses have additional benefits:

- Honors or [Advanced Placement](#)[®] (AP) classes are usually given more weight in the college admissions process because they demonstrate your desire to learn.
- Some high school courses may allow you to earn college credits at the same time. Ask the counseling office about dual-enrollment classes that are available.
- 9th and 10th grade TAG students, juniors and seniors; you are eligible to start taking college classes through Post Secondary Enrollment Options Act (PSEO). PSEO encourages high school students to take advantage of this opportunity to enroll in college courses while still in high school. For further information contact the counseling department.

Expand Your Horizons

You'll have the chance to choose courses that aren't required, called electives, during high school. Choose classes that fit your interests and your goals for life after high school. These classes might help you discover your true calling or get some needed experience.

From the Desk of Mrs. Clark, Vocal Music Department

High school performers are in 'High Gear' getting ready for the Variety Show on Friday, February 24th! "He Said, She Said" is the theme for this year's fun event. Admission is \$5.00 for every one of all ages. Music Boosters will be serving snacks so save room for the treats. Instruments, singers, actors, they will have it all! Don't miss this!

Junior High chorus will also be participating in the Variety Show with their special serving of fun, "Stay Tuned!" You will enjoy hearing the sounds of TV shows from the past, as well as seeing some of your favorite characters!

Elementary Honor Choir has begun rehearsing for their concert on Monday, April 2nd at Norwalk. Singers from other elementary schools in the area will join in the fun of singing and meeting new friends! The concert that night is at 7:00pm, so if you can come, please join us!

Our younger students in grades PK, K, and 1st will be sharing songs about transportation on Thursday, April 5th, at 7:00pm. Coming up also in April is the Iowa High School Music Association Solo/Ensemble Festival. We are hosting this event at MStM this year and would enjoy having your help! Please volunteer to help in many of the tasks that are required. Contact the Music Boosters, Mr. Olson, or myself, Mrs. Clark. All of our contact information is on the MStM website.

From the Desk of Mrs. Sherwood
Physical Education

It's time to participate in Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart again. The entire elementary grades participate in



February. This is fundraiser for the American Heart Association. If you would like to contribute contact an elementary student or myself. Our goal is \$800. If you want to fund a student that jumps in honor of or remembrance of let me know and I will add it to the list of students that participate in honor of a loved one with

heart disease. Thank you for your support in this cause.

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

Winter has arrived, and our winter teams are in the final stretch of their seasons. Wrestling sectionals are on Feb. 4th at Corning, Class 1A girls basketball play starts on Feb. 9th, site TBA, and Class 1A boys basketball play starts on Feb. 13, site TBA. Please make plans to check the school website when locations are announced, and cheer on the Blue Devils!

We have had some accomplishments in the last month that should be recognized. Taylor Hagen earned his 100th career wrestling victory at our home meet on Jan. 19th. It was a great night...we ran 72 junior high matches before a varsity wrestling double dual. Big thanks to all who attended and helped with the meet, and the soup supper! Also, boys basketball player Zeb Noel scored his 1,000th career point in a victory over Corning on Jan. 20th. Congratulations Zeb!

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.nfhslern.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

Jan 19	Simpson HS Honor Wind Ensemble(SCIBA)	Indianola	TBA
Feb 6	ICDA HS Honor Choir	TBA	TBA
Feb 24	Variety Show	TBA	TBA

Track HELP!

I know this is early, but track season will be here soon. Right now, we are hosting six meets, including both the JH and HS conference meets, with a possible 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 needed 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

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 Ms. Condon,
Family Consumer Science Department

The high school Advanced Foods class is running the restaurant again this semester! The [5D Diner](#) will be taking reservations for the [February 10th](#) meal until Wednesday, February 8th. Lunch will begin at 12:30 in the media center and will last approximately one hour. The cost for a meal is \$5 per person. If there is a snow day, the restaurant will be held on February 24th. For reservations or questions, contact Ms. Condon at alison_condon@mstm.us. We hope to see you there!

From the Desk of Mr. Wood,
Elementary Principal

Helping Children Cope with Tragedy

Young children shouldn't have to learn about tragic events, but they do. Some are exposed to disasters firsthand, as victims. Others discover the tragedies by watching the news or overhearing adults or other children discussing the events. It is a sad fact that all children need to know how to deal with tragic events—and their parents and caregivers need to know how to help them cope.

If Your Child Is the Victim of a Disaster:

Try to stay calm.

Children often react the way they see adults react. As difficult as it is, it is very important for you to remain calm and reassuring, and to let your children know that, no matter what, they will be taken care of.

Explain, but don't provide unnecessary details.

Clearly, children need to know the truth, but they don't need to hear about all of the consequences. Give them the facts that they need to know at that moment, but don't share with them your fears about the future.

Make time to talk to your children.

In disastrous situations, adults are often so preoccupied with the immediate needs that they forget their children are aware of what's happening. Make sure they know they can talk to you, and that you'll spend the time they need answering their questions and comforting them.

Get counseling.

It is important to help children cope with serious life-changing events. Talk with the school counselor about the situation, and then set up a time for your children to come in and "vent." Follow-up appointments with the counselor or other experts can help your children overcome their fears.

If Your Child Is Aware of a Tragic Event: Limit TV coverage.

Because children can be overwhelmed with the tragedy, limit their TV exposure of the event. Instead, check in periodically with the news, and focus on finding ways to distract your children with other activities.

Be extra comforting.

Even if they don't seem to be alarmed, children who are aware of disastrous events can absorb the trauma and be quietly disturbed. Make extra time for quiet activities with your children, such as reading or taking a walk; and give them plenty of hugs.

Watch for behavior changes.

Children often don't talk about being afraid, but their behavior can be a clue that they're scared. They might have a hard time sleeping or might wake up from a bad nightmare. Sometimes, they adopt behaviors, like thumb sucking, bedwetting, or baby talk. Others get irrationally angry or sad, and many withdraw and stop socializing. If you see any of these behaviors after a traumatic event, it means your child needs extra help and comfort.

Make sure they know that there are people in charge who are helping.

Children need to know that things will eventually be okay again and that there are adults in charge who are helping to make it right. Talk to your children about the people who are helping resolve the consequences of the disaster, and share your admiration with them about the great work these people are doing.

Do something for others.

One way to help children cope in the aftermath of a disaster is to find a way, through your community, to help those affected. Schools, churches, temples, synagogues, and organizations like the Red Cross are great places to go to find out how you and your children can help.

Elementary News
January 23, 2012

Important Dates:

January 23	7:00 PM 5/6 Concert
January 25	1:00 Dismissal

Update from PTO

We are having another box top contest until February 15. Please make sure to put only 10 box tops per sheet and mark the paper with your child's name so his/her class will get credit for it. Each sheet is worth \$1, so every little bit helps! The class that turns in the most box top sheets will get to have a pizza party. Last year, we raised almost \$1800 from box tops and that money was used to purchase document cameras for all the elementary classrooms! We are going to be deciding on our next project soon, so please save your box tops. Thank you for your continued support.

Just a reminder that there are still cookbooks available to purchase at school; the cost is \$15.

Winter Weather

Please be aware of the changing weather, and help your child choose appropriate clothing each day before school. If your child is in need of any winter clothing, please let the office know, and we will be happy to help. On questionable weather days tune in to our local television stations or 1040 WHO on the radio for any cancellation or delay information.

Thank you for your continued support; you help make MSTM a great school.

From the Desk of Mrs. Pribil, Elementary Counselor

Counselor's Corner



We are in the middle of Iowa Assessments for students in grades 3-11. The elementary will be finishing up our testing the week of February 6th, and then the following week we'll have students make up any tests they may have missed.

During the week of February 20-24, the elementary student council will be hosting a coin drive called "Pennies for Patients." It is something that we have done in years past and all of the proceeds go to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. It is a very good service learning project for our students and it ties in with our current Character Counts pillar Caring.

Our next Character Counts assembly will be held on Friday, February 24 at 8:40 in the small gym. We will be awarding the most caring student from each classroom.

From the Desk of Mrs. Meier & Mrs. O'Mara 3rd Grade

In reading the stories have centered on various themes such as the current unit called "Determination". We have enjoyed leveled readers and a variety of genres in the first semester. You may have noticed that our spelling and language lessons are integrated with our stories and share a common thread. We also use the Daily 5 system to organize our reading block.

Multiplication has finally been introduced! Everyone is really excited and is learning facts for timed tests. Keep the enthusiasm going and practice flash cards nightly. Before multiplication we focused on telling time. Most of the students can tell time accurately to the minute. We will be having ITBS in February, so it would be helpful to review previous skills at home such as two and three digit addition and subtraction, telling time, and rounding.

In social studies we have been talking about early communities. Much of first semester was spent exploring Native American cultures. We are currently talking about early settlers in Jamestown.

In science we have been studying the sun, the planets and constellations. We were able to borrow the StarLab portable planetarium and have enjoyed stargazing in our own library!



Looking ahead, we have the Valentine parties coming up in February. Please have your child design a box for his/her valentines at home. We will send home a list of student names at the beginning of February.

From the Desk of Mrs. Devore & Mrs. Schad 1st Grade

In January, 1st graders took a field trip to ImaginOcean at the Des Moines Civic Center. This field trip was sponsored by MStM Music Boosters. The show was filled with dark lights and bright colors. The characters were ocean puppets that were looking for a treasure. In the end, the puppets learned that the best treasure was friends. Our first graders were chosen to stay after the show to meet the puppets and get photographed for promotional materials. They were all excited to ask the puppeteers questions and learned a lot.

Thanks to the Music Boosters, again, for providing this field trip.



**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Thursday, December 8, 2011.

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

Members Absent: Nicole Bunch, President and Dean Furness

The Vice President called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Newsum reviewed the agenda items for the December 12, 2011 Board Meeting.

Gibson moved to adjourn, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time: 5:15 p.m.

APPROVED



Board President



Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on December 12, 2011.

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.

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 consent items, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Crozier presented a list to the Board of Academic All-Conference, Football All-District Selections,

Academic All-District, All-Record Herald, and Football All-State for our fall sports. Congratulations to the dance team who performed at the State Dance Competition and received a #2 ranking. Congratulations to Emma Johanson and Elizabeth Gerdes for completing the national Novel Writing Month challenge by writing 50,000+ word novel in 30 days. That is quite an accomplishment.

Mr. Newsum announced to the Board that a portrait done by Katie Cook is now hanging in the high school gymnasium. Katie was one of four selected from within surrounding schools to promote the Des Moines Art Center. Her portrait can also be seen throughout the state.

IV. Public Comments

Beth Rucker: to discuss how the school administration has handled the senior class thus far.

Virginia Rucker: how the senior class has been handled so far.

Robert Walker: how the senior class has been handled so far.

Robin Walker: senior class.

V. Old Business

- A. Reports Supt. Newsum
 - 1) MStM Music Booster Minutes – none
 - 2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes - minutes were provided for the November 19 meeting.
 - 3) MStM PTO Minutes - none

B. Presentations

- 1) Technology Report

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that the Technology Committee that included Mr. Furness, Mr. Newsum, Mr. Wood, Mr. Crozier and Mrs. Gavin met on December 1. The committee discussed that if the Board was going to make changes for FY13 that we need to start making decisions about where the funding will be coming from. Mr. Furness is trying to set up a time to meet with Mr. Wood to get an idea how our server is set up. Mr. Wood informed the Board that the teacher's laptops are getting to the end of their life and if possible, we need to start replacing a class with new laptops for next year if not sooner. Mr. Furness stressed that we need to get the teachers and students involved more before we throw more money into the 1:1 program. The committee is not at a position to

recommend purchasing new laptops at this time.

2) Principal's Report Tom Wood

Mr. Wood announced the Character Counts students who represented respect.

Preschool: Willow Howard
Maryann Hart
Kindergarten: Jake Short
Colton Miller
1st Grade: Dustin Ralls
Brice Jones
2nd Grade: Lane Wilgenbusch
Sil Burriola
3rd Grade: Jack Franey
Baize Gibson
4th Grade: Maddy Stott
Evan Ballard
5th Grade: Angel Castro
Jacob Dunn
6th Grade: Garrison Haults
Bri Hartman

Mr. Wood reviewed with the Board the fiscal year 2012 Preschool Data Report for MStM. He presented that MStM met each of the goals that the Department of Education requested. The data showed that students from 4th grade on up have benefited from the preschool program.

3) Principal's Report Mike Crozier

Mr. Crozier announced that the staff is participating in the Staff Holiday Fundraiser again this year. As of today they have raised \$485. Their goal is \$600. With the money they will purchase \$100 Wal-Mart gift cards and pass them out to families who are in need.

Mr. Crozier congratulated Emma Johanson and Elizabeth Gerdes for completing the national Novel Writing Month challenge by writing 50,000+ word novel in 30 days. That is quite an accomplishment.

Quite a few students attended the Leadership Academy on November 29.

The November Students of the Month were announced.

7th - Lauren Noga
8th - Kyla Morris
9th - Emma Johnason
10th - Eddy Kraber
11th - Bill Frondle
12th - Josh Butcher

4) Curriculum Director's Report
Josh Moser

Mr. Moser presented notes from his meeting of the Iowa Assessment Interpretation Workshop on November 29 that covered Iowa Assessments and measuring Iowa Core, growth, and tracking college readiness.

Mr. Moser presented notes from his meeting of the REL Conference on Competency Based Education on December 8 that referenced seat time requirements for students and competency-based education being integrated into federal policy. The conference was very informative and could help us predict that the competency based education will correlate with the 1:1 program.

Mr. Moser provided notes from his December 1 meeting with Oviatt Elementary math observations that included kindergarten and 1st grades classes.

5) Superintendent's Report
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that he was looking for a different template to use for our board goals. He contacted IASB and SAI but it still was not what he was looking for. He will be attending the Warren County Superintendent's meeting and he will be asking for their advice.

VI. New Business

A. Consider / Approve Student Personnel Request
for Student A Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum updated the Board on the situation with Student A. A high school student asked to address the board to appeal disciplinary action that was taken for an incident that occurred on October 4, 2011. It was reported by one of our staff members that Student A had in her possession an item intended for self-defense, but that could also be considered a dangerous weapon. Student A voluntarily surrendered the item and served one day of in-school suspension, as a consequence for bringing the item to school. Mr. Crozier contacted Mr. Matt Carver, attorney retained by the School Administrators of Iowa, to seek legal advice regarding this matter and preceded according to the advice he received. According to the approved Martensdale-St. Marys High School Handbook, any student who is suspended for any reason will be required to

take all semester tests during the semester when the suspension was assigned.

Student A presented to the Board that according to Iowa Law that she did not bring a weapon to school but a safety device and she requested that the Board remove the suspension from her student record. The "safety mat" was never taken out of her purse and she never showed it to anyone while in school.

Student A stated different rates of crimes against women. She has felt more comfortable having the "safety mat" in her possession when walking to her car from work or leaving the library late at night. Student A stated that she is a good student, has good grades, and does not want this mark on her record for future references. Mr. Crozier did change her record to state malicious mischief instead of violation of a weapon. Mrs. Bunch stated that these devices are becoming more available and that girls carry them on their key chains. It was suggested that these devices be left in their vehicles. It was suggested to be more specific in the student handbook on the different types of devices. It was also stated that anything in the school could be turned into a weapon.

It was stated that these types of devices are used to deter not to cause bodily harm. Student A's concern was that this would affect her getting into law school and she has worked very hard to get good grades and stay out of trouble. Student A stated that she told the truth from the beginning and immediately turned over the device.

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve that the Administration reverse the suspension given to Student A, due to the fact that she did not use the device as a weapon and has the device for safety purposes, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Student A's parents wanted to note that this is not a reflection on Mr. Crozier and that Mr. Crozier was very supportive and that he did what he felt was right and what was stated in the handbook. The Board thanked Student A and her parents.

B. Closed Session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(a) Supt. Newsum

Discussion of confidential student record information and the recommended educational placement of a student.

A motion was made to go INTO CLOSED session pursuant to Iowa Code Section

21.5(1)(a) to discuss the confidential student record information and the recommended educational placement of a student by Dean Furness, seconded by Amy Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made to go INTO closed EXECUTIVE session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(a) to discuss the confidential student record information and the recommended educational placement of a student by Wade Gibson, seconded by Dave Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time 6:05

A motion was made to go OUT of closed EXECUTIVE session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(a) to discuss the confidential student record information and the recommended educational placement of a student by Wade Gibson, seconded by Dean Furness. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made to go OUT of CLOSED session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(a) to discuss the confidential student record information and the recommended educational placement of a student by Amy Harper, seconded by Wade Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 6:33 p.m.

C. Consider / Approve Student Educational Program for Student B

Supt. Newsum

Dave Shutt made the motion to follow the administration's recommendation to have Student B attend Woodward Day Program for the second semester of the 2011-2012 school year and to attend Martensdale St. Marys CSD in the Fall of 2012 pending the receipt of class records; and also approve the financial expense to transport Student B to and from Winterset for the second semester of 2011-2012, seconded by Amy Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

D. 1st Reading Board Policy 400 Series: Employees

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum reviewed 400 series – compared with what was in the original and with the IASB Primer.

E. 1st Reading Board Policy 210.2: Board Meetings

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum agreed in November to have December, January, and February board meetings to free board members up for activities. This would give a better

opportunity for Mr. Crozier and Mr. Wood to invite teachers and students to the meetings for presentations. It was requested by the board to remove the time from the policy since we post the meetings in the building and on the website.

F. Approve At Risk/ Modified Allowable Growth Application
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Shutt motioned to approve the 2012-2013 Budget Proposal and Modified Allowable Growth Application for Dropout Prevention for 2012-2013, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

G. Approve Personnel Recommendations
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the part-time custodian position for Larry Moore and the driver position to and from Winterset to Jeff Clark, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 5 ayes.

H. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates
Supt. Newsum

The Board scheduled a budget workshop for January 11 at 6:00 p.m.

1/04/12 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail
1/05/12 – 5:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting
1/09/12 – 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Mrs. Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 5 ayes.
Time: 7:10 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

**Martensdale-St. Marys
Community School District**

“Small Community..... HUGE Results”

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:*

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

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