



# MARTENSDALE- ST. MARYS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

March 1, 2012

*From the Desk of Bob Newsum,  
Superintendent*

It is now officially time to Think Spring:

The 2011-2012 winter sports' season has now officially ended for our high school athletic teams and it's time to recognize student athletes and coaches for their accomplishments. Special recognition goes to head coach Brian Sweet, his assistant and volunteer coaches, and the Martensdale-St. Marys varsity wrestling team for finishing in first place at their sectional and district qualifying tournaments and qualifying for the Class 1A Iowa State Dual Wrestling Tournament for the first time in school history. Individual honors go to Coach Sweet, recognized as South Central Iowa Class 1A Coach of the Year, and Robert Walker as a candidate for Class 1A Mr. Wrestler. On the mat, special recognition goes to Robert Walker, who completed his senior year undefeated and won his third state championship; David Walker, who completed his senior year undefeated, set the new school record for consecutive wins by fall, with twenty-seven, and won his first state championship; to seniors Taylor Hagen and Kole Stapes, for their seventh place finishes; and to senior David DeLong, for qualifying to compete in the state tourney. Our varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams both completed the season with winning records and several players are expected to be named to the Pride of Iowa All-Conference teams. We will recognize all-conference selectees in the April newsletter.

As of the day my article for the March district newsletter was written, we have not missed any days of school due to inclement weather and only had to delay the start of the school day on two occasions. The last day of classes for seniors is Thursday, May 17, with graduation set for Sunday afternoon, May 20, beginning at 2:00 pm. The last day for all other students will be Thursday, May 24.

Spring parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, and Thursday, March 15, with no school on Friday, March 16, and Spring Break scheduled for Monday, March 19, through Friday, March 23. From an education standpoint, this is a critical time in the school year. The good news is that the 'winter doldrums' are nearly over and will be replaced by warmer temperatures and extended sunlight. The bad news is that the warmer weather and longer days signal the start of spring activities. At this time, it is easy for students to lose focus on what's important. **I would encourage you to take the time to attend parent-teacher**

**conferences.** There is still about one-third of the 2011-2012 school year remaining. At this point in their lives, school is your children's 'job' and it is important for them to put forth their best efforts in the classroom.

At the February 13 regular school board meeting, your board approved the school calendar for 2012-2013. You can find the 2012-2013 school calendar link on the Martensdale St. Marys district web site. Next year's school calendar includes registration dates on Wednesday, August 8, and Thursday, August 9; a school year start date for students on Wednesday, August 22; fall parent-teacher conferences on Monday, October 29, and Thursday, November 1; a twelve-day holiday vacation from December 24 through Wednesday, January 2, 2013; spring parent-teacher conferences during the week of March 11-15, with a full week of spring break beginning on March 18; graduation for seniors on Sunday, May 19; and the end of the school year for all other students on the Thursday before Memorial Day, May 23rd.

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

**Principal's Message**

What a great end to the month of February. We are very proud of our wrestling team, who sent 5 senior athletes on to the state tournament: David DeLong, Taylor Hagen, Kole Stapes, David Walker, and Robert Walker. They were the Champions in the team dual regional, which qualified them to wrestle in the state team dual meet, and district traditional champions. These young men have worked hard and are great representatives of our school. Congratulations to Coach Sweet, Coach Miller, Coach Vodraska, and Coach Lash for all of their hard work and dedication to these young men.

Congratulations to Robert and David Walker, state champions. Robert and David both finished the season undefeated. Taylor Hagen and Kole Stapes both finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place in their weight classes.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00 pm and March 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7:30 pm. We will use our traditional format for these conferences. No appointments are needed. Please take the time to visit all of your children's teachers.

Upcoming events:

- ✓ March 13<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00 pm
- ✓ March 15<sup>th</sup> – 2:15 Dismissal

- ✓ March 15<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:30 pm
- ✓ March 16<sup>th</sup> - No school – comp day
- ✓ March 19-23 – Spring Break – No School

Michael Crozier, Secondary Principal  
[mike\\_crozier@mstm.us](mailto:mike_crozier@mstm.us)

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

Greetings! I have just a bit of information I would like to relay to everyone. The final two ACT test dates are rapidly approaching...April 14<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup> are the last two times students can take the test during 2011/2012 school year. See Mr. Folkerts ASAP for more information.

Reminder... The experts encourage everyone to apply for financial aid even if you don't think you will qualify. They also encourage families to apply as early as possible! If you have any questions about this application, or for more information on eligibility requirements you can call 1-800-4FED-Aid, look on the Internet at [www.ed.gov/studentaid](http://www.ed.gov/studentaid) or contact Mr. Folkerts.

Additional new scholarships have been mailed to my office over the past few weeks. We post them on our web site AND put them in the scholarship book located in my office. Please encourage your son or daughter to review the web site frequently or stop by my office and check out those potential opportunities!

A quick reminder to all seniors, I will give out information regarding all **local scholarships** that only our students at MStM can win, the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>. All local scholarships are due in my office Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00...no exceptions!!

Here are a few more ideas all junior and seniors should be working on....

**March Senior Reminders 2012**

- If you have not yet submitted your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), you should complete it as soon as possible.
- Keep copies of your completed federal tax returns handy. Be prepared to mail them to your college(s) if requested to do so. Promptly respond to any document requests made by your college.
- Expect your Student Aid Reports (SAR) within 2 – 4 weeks from the time you filed your FAFSA.
- Make sure your first semester transcripts have been sent to the college(s) to which you have applied.

**Junior Reminders 2012**

- Try to take the ACT either in April or June
- Investigate careers. Link to information about various careers on the web site [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org). or [www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov](http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov)

- Make sure your senior year includes required credits to meet the college entrance requirements. Consider taking honors or college level classes while still in high school.
- Put together a resume listing of your activities, volunteer experiences, academic achievements and employment.

Have a great March!

**From the Desk of Mrs. Clark,**  
**Vocal Music Department**

On January 17 and 19, seven students represented MStM at Simpson College for Honor Band Week. Joshua Belieu (trombone), Gabe Haupts (Baritone horn), and Eric Estell (trumpet) were selected for the Junior High Honor Bands comprised of approximately 140 students and divided into two performance groups. Kaitlyn Belieu (trumpet), Michaela McIlravy (flute), Tayler Schad (alto saxophone), and Abby Wetzler (flute) were selected for the High School Wind Ensemble comprised of approximately 80 students.

During this event, students were given the opportunity to rehearse and perform with students selected statewide and to be mentored by guest conductors from around the country. They were encouraged to share this experience with fellow musicians at their school and implement new rehearsal concepts in their music room.

**Upcoming events:**

**Tuesday, March 6**, the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade choir students will be participating in the ICDA Honor Choir at Dallas Center-Grimes School District. A concert will follow that evening at 7pm at DC-G.

POI Honor Band is scheduled for **Monday, March 12**, at Wayne Community School District. Selected musicians for this group of 75 students include: Kelsey DePauw, Troy Harding, Cory Harding, Abby Wetzler, Courtney Scovel, Michaela McIlravy, and Tayler Schad. Students will rehearse in a large group setting during the day and perform their selections that evening at 7pm.

**Monday, April 2**, selected students from the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grades will be participating in the ICDA Honor Choir at Norwalk. An evening performance will commence at 7pm.

On **Saturday, April 14**, MStM Music Department will be hosting **IHSMA Solo/Ensemble contest for band and choir**. There will be approximately ten schools represented at this all day event. We are in need of volunteers for setup on **Friday, April 13**, and to help run the event that Saturday. Please contact Mr. Olson ([randy\\_olson@mstm.us](mailto:randy_olson@mstm.us)), Mrs. Clark ([susan\\_gabbertclark@mstm.us](mailto:susan_gabbertclark@mstm.us)), or Joan McIlravy to volunteer. You can also attend the next music booster meeting scheduled for March 6 at 6:30 pm. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The Junior High Band will participate in Large Group Festival at Adventureland on **Saturday, April 28**. More details will be

released at a later date in regards to arrival, performance, and return times.

The Junior High/ High School spring band and choir concert will be Monday, **April 30, at 7pm (note date change)**. Please join us while the high school groups prepare for IHSMA Large Group festival on **Friday, May 4**, in Oskaloosa.

**Saturday, May 12**, will be solo/ensemble contest for the junior high choral and band students at MStM. Performances will be scheduled from 8-12 pm on that day.

**Recap of dates:**

- March 6** Music Booster meeting at 6:30 pm in music room
- March 6** ICDA Honor Choir @ DC-G for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade
- March 12** POI Honor Band
- April 6** ICDA 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir @ Norwalk
- April 14** IHSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest at MStM
- April 28** Adventureland Large Group Festival for Junior High Band
- April 30** Junior High/ High School spring Choir and Band Concert at 7pm
- May 4** IHSMA High School Choir and Band Large Group Festival @ Oskaloosa
- May 12** Junior High Choir and Band Solo/Ensemble Festival @ MStM
- May 20** Graduation @ 2 pm

**From the Desk of Mrs. Sherwood**  
**Physical Education**

The junior high students had the pleasure of going to Seven Oaks in Boone on February 10. It was the first time skiing for most. They all had a great time. We had a few falls off of the snow boards. It was a cold and windy day. Most of the students skied till it was time to go back to school.

On February 20, the sixth graders went to Sleepy Hollow for a tubing field trip. The students had a lot of fun. All students were well behaved. I want to thank the generous community donor. Without the funds the students could not have gone. It's a great time to show the students activities that can be done outside during the colder weather. They are thankful for the opportunity to go skiing and tubing.

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

Our winter seasons have ended well, and now the winter weather shows up! The school and community have a lot to be proud of! Our student-athletes performed well. The boys basketball team finished their season with a first-round win at home versus Iowa Christian Academy and a close loss at Pleasantville. They finished the season with a 13-10 record.

The girl's basketball team continued to improve as the season went on, and played their best basketball in the postseason. They advanced to the regional final, where they lost to a talented Bedford team. The team finishes with a 14-12 record, and bids farewell to a senior class that has had a lot of success.

Speaking of success, it is hard to keep track of all of the accomplishments of our wrestling team. Sectional and district champions, five state qualifiers, state dual team wrestling qualifiers (one of 8 qualifiers out of 116 1-A schools), two 7<sup>th</sup> place finishes (Taylor Hagen & Kole Stapes) and two state champions (David & Robert Walker)! As a team at the individual state tournament, MSTM finished 6<sup>th</sup>! Congratulations to coaches Brian Sweet, Mike Miller, Sean Lash, Tom Vodraska, and Trevor Gehringer for their efforts and to all of the athletes, cheerleaders, and parents involved, it was a blast to watch you compete!

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.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.**  
**Track HELP!**

Mar 3	JH Band Solo & Ensemble Festival(SCIBA)		
Mar 6	JH Honor Choir	Dallas Center-Grimes	TBA
Mar 31	JH Choir Solo & Ensemble Festival	TBA	TBA
Apr 2	5th/6th Honor Choir	Norwalk	TBA
Apr 5	PK - 1st grade Music Concert	HS Gym	7:00
Apr 14	HS Band 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

I know this is early, but track season will be here soon. 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](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ POI Conference HS Meet, May 1, 4:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ MStM Girls Invitational, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1A District/Regional Meet, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm

**Junior High Meets I would like to help with:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ MStM Junior High Track Meet, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ POI Conference JH Meet, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ MStM JH Invitational, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:15 p.m.

If you have a preference of jobs, please list them:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_
- Concession Stand: \_\_\_\_\_

With Blue Devil Pride,  
Craig Huegel, A.D.  
Twitter: @MSTM\_BlueDevils

**From the Desk of Mrs. Davidson**  
**Art Department**

Elementary Art Show

Preschool through 6th Grade Elementary students have been working on art work for our annual Elementary Art Show. This year the students are creating art based around the theme of Aesops Fables. Each grade level created artwork based on a different fable. The artwork will be on display in the commons during the evenings of Parent-Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, March 13 and Thursday, March 15. Come and see the wonderful art work.

Secondary Art Show

Secondary art will be on display in the spring in conjunction with the High School Awards Night on a date that is to be determined.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Schad**  
**Speech Department**

Congratulations to Tayler Schad and Jacob Herrera. They recently participated in the Pride of Iowa Speech Contest in Bedford. They received II ratings in all of their entries. Tayler & Jake both performed in the improvisation category. Jake also did storytelling. Tayler did spontaneous speaking.



Also, they both participated in the District competition and both received II ratings. Again, great job to both Taylor and Jacob.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Condon**  
**Family Consumer Science Department**

It's that time again! The [SD Diner](#) will be taking reservations for the [March 14<sup>th</sup>](#) meal until Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. 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. The students had great success with the meal last month and hope you will join us! For reservations or questions, contact Ms. Condon at [alison\\_condon@mstm.us](mailto:alison_condon@mstm.us). We hope to see you there!

**From the Desk of Mr. Hatcher**  
**High School Special Ed Department**

Welcome To Spring!!! Spring is one of the busiest times for the Special Education Department at Martensdale-St. Marys. It is a time of year when many of the annual reviews and 3 year re-evaluations of the students receiving services are scheduled. Annual reviews and 3 year re-evaluations are federal and state dictated meetings, to determine if the services the student is receiving are appropriate and in the best interest of the student.

An annual review takes place yearly, on or about the date of the last annual review. This meeting is primarily a meeting between the student, parent, a general education teacher, and special education teacher. All anecdotal records are reviewed, goal work analyzed, and decisions made pertaining to this information. Small changes may be made to goal work, classroom accommodations, transitioning information, etc.

The 3 year re-evaluation will take place on or about the last re-evaluation date. This meeting is far more extensive and involves more individuals. Individuals include the student, parent, a general education teacher, principal, special education teacher, and one or more Area Education Association members. The 3 year re-evaluation looks intently at the placement of the student and if it is appropriate for that student. Level of services can often go up or down during this re-evaluation meeting.

It is important to understand that the student receiving services is the most important component of these meetings, and the decision making processes for the IEP. Students within the secondary levels have a very important voice in what types of services are benefiting or not benefiting them. Should anyone have any questions that arise from this very small sampling of Special Education Protocol, please do not hesitate to contact any special education teacher at Martensdale-St. Marys for further information.

**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 gingingery@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**

**Managing Your Child's Health Issues at School**

When your child has a health issue, it is absolutely essential that you and the school work together as a team. Here are some of the essentials you need to know to make that work on behalf of your child:

**Develop your own school management plan.**

Each medical issue carries with it its own set of "management" needs. For example, if your child has diabetes, you will need to outline your child's insulin schedule, eating plan, target range, and testing times, as well as how to recognize and treat blood sugar crises. The same type of detailed information—what personnel need to look for, what should be done, what follow-up is needed—should be completed for every health issue, from epilepsy to asthma.

**Know who to tell.**

Clearly, the school nurse and classroom teacher need to be aware of your child's specific medical needs. Depending on your child's condition, other staff, including cafeteria workers, coaches, and playground supervisors, may also need to be kept in the loop so they can properly respond to a situation or help prevent one from occurring.

**Keep up-to-date.**

Make sure that the medical information on file at your child's school is up-to-date. Ensure that all medical supplies needed are on-hand, both for routine monitoring (e.g., for diabetes) or emergency care (e.g., inhalers or Epi-pens). And work with the school nurse to make sure you are kept informed, well in advance, if any supplies need restocking.

### **Create a written plan.**

The same planning used for accommodating children with disabilities can be applied to children with medical issues. Work with the school to create a written plan, detailing the school's role in your child's care, noting any special accommodations the school may need to make. Get academic support: Make sure that teachers understand that your child may occasionally need to miss class because of his or her condition. Discuss how your child will make up for missed work.

### **How to deal with curious classmates.**

Children are curious about anything that's out of the ordinary—and, when your child has a health issue, it is very likely that classmates will sense it. Role-play with your child to help him or her anticipate the types of questions others might ask and how best to answer them.

### **It's not contagious.**

Once children know that your child didn't "catch" his or her condition, that it's under control, and that there's no way it can be passed on to other children, the topic usually loses its interest, allowing your child to blend back in with classmates.

### **Turn to the experts.**

Virtually every childhood condition or disease has an excellent advocacy organization, such as the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation or Epilepsy Foundation, which offers educational materials targeted to school-age children. If you feel it would be helpful to provide classmates with additional information, contact the organization and request materials to share with the class.

### **Be available.**

Be sure that the school nurse and teacher have your cell phone, home phone, or other contact information available, as well as the numbers of others who are qualified to act on your behalf in the case of an emergency.

### **Don't panic.**

It can be difficult to know that your child is in school all day—away from you and others who may monitor his or her condition closely. Understand that many, many children are dealing with the same issues, and that learning to deal with their diseases independently (with the oversight of school nurses and others) is important to helping them grow up healthy and strong.

### **From the Desk of Mr. Spanhut & Mrs. Burns, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The fifth graders have been busy learning how to read for information. Their work connects to their unit on Weather in Science class. We have learned how to use our non-fiction reading skills to dig deeper for information. The students are using the computers to answer questions they develop as they read about a variety of storms.

Using their reading comprehension skills, the students take what they learn and develop written facts in their own words. It is also fun to read about activities related to their storm

research. These activities will help to enhance their reading, writing and thinking skills as they connect our experiences to the real world. We are also busy writing poetry and learning about personification. We recently read all about snakes. Students chose a writing activity to present to the class sharing what they learned. Some students chose telling fables about snakes, while others chose a math activity. They were astonished to see how reading is related to math and other academic areas. Students also enjoy using our classroom pets to assist us in our writing. The geckos, Albert and Thurman; the fish, Rory and Suki, and our hamster, Murphy love to assist the kids and are a big plus for everyone.

In Science the 5th grade just finished up their weather reports. They were in pairs and used PowerPoint and the computer labs to create weather broadcasts. The students used current weather data and information to create weather for an area of their choice. Students spent time researching climate, severe weather and seasons. Many of the students enjoy speaking in front of the class. During the unit we discussed how meteorologists use radar and math to predict what will happen next. They are not always right, but they do a pretty good job!

We also discussed the recent warm winter that we had been having and how the air flows have made our temperatures higher than usual. We also discussed how measurement helps us keep track of averages for more than 140 years now. We learned about the different types of air masses and the weather they typically have with them. We are now beginning to discuss outer space and what makes the days and years. This is a great group and we are looking forward to seeing what other things we can discover in 5th grade.

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

### **Counselor's Corner**



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser. It was so neat to see how excited students were to help out others in need. All together the elementary raised \$503.87 and all of the proceeds go to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This was a great service learning project to teach kids about caring for others.

In March we will be starting Career Awareness in large group guidance. Students will be discussing a variety of occupations and what things they are interested in doing in the future. It's never too early to start talking to your child about what things they enjoy doing and what they are good at.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## **MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING JANUARY 9, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on January 9, 2012.

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

Members Absent: Wade Gibson and Dean Furness

I. Welcome Board President  
Bunch called the meeting to order at 4:03 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

Mr. Shutt motioned to approve the consent items, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood updated the Board on the Staff's Holiday Fundraiser in the month of December. The staff raised over \$1000 which provided five \$100 gift cards to five elementary families and five \$100 gift cards to five secondary families. The district also experienced more families requesting to adopt a family for Christmas than ever before. We had four

individuals in our community adopt four families for Christmas this year. Thank you!!

Mr. Crozier also added that our students wanted to do more for others this Christmas, too. The secondary staff and students delivered a van full of donated items and food to the Youth Emergency Services. The elementary staff and students delivered a van full of donated items and food to Helping Hand. Way to go MStM!

Mr. Newsum introduced Bill Murphy. Bill has volunteered to help out the Furness family by putting together a video to submit to several home remodeling shows in hopes of helping out the Furness family remodel their house for when Dean Furness comes home. Bill has video clips from the Furness Fundraiser that was held in December and clips from the basketball game last week. The cheerleaders led the MStM Blue Devils through the school's song and a cheer of Go, Dean, Go. Bill asked the Board if he could interview them about how Dean has been involved in the community and his involvement on the school board.

IV. Public Comments – None

V. Old Business

A. Reports Supt. Newsum  
1) MStM Music Booster Minutes - 12/13/11 minutes  
2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – minutes were not provided  
3) MStM PTO Minutes – minutes were not provided

B. Presentations

1) Principal's Report Tom Wood

Mr. Wood explained to the Board about how the elementary staff has recently been using literacy interventions in the classrooms. Their top priority is to implement an intervention time every day for our students who are identified with math and reading needs. Their goals are to bring those students up to the level that they need to be at and to continue to find advanced techniques for those students who are already at the level they need to be. Mr. Wood introduced Mrs. Noga and Ms. DeWaard. They presented to the Board a new system that they created over the summer where they created six different categories that would assist students in all areas of math and reading. They put together packets that are available in one central location for all the elementary teachers to have access to. Their research also showed that other schools were very successful with this system when also

including volunteers from the community. They are testing the system right now with several volunteers and look forward to requesting more volunteers from the community to help. Mr. Wood extended an invitation to the Board to visit the elementary classrooms when they have time to see how this program is working. The Board thanked Mrs. Noga and Ms. DeWaard for their presentation.

2) Principal's Report Mike Crozier

Mr. Crozier discussed with the Board they he has been looking at other options for block scheduling. He provided several options and stated that Mr. Moser and he are just in the beginning stages of looking into this. He then discussed a study on grading procedures and standardized grading.

Mr. Crozier announced that we have a member of the community who has been volunteering her time here at the school and has been able to raise \$3500 with Blue Cross Blue Shield. They have agreed to use this money to purchase SMART boards for several of the secondary classrooms. He has requested proposals from teachers on how they would use the SMART boards in their classrooms.

Mr. Crozier provided the December Students of the Month.

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Matt Neiderheiser
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Josh Belieu
- 9<sup>th</sup> – JanLynn Croy
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Vicki Kordick
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Sarah Noel
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Michaela McIlravy

3) Curriculum Director's Report  
Josh Moser

Mr. Moser announced that at the professional development day on January 25<sup>th</sup> they will be doing training on technology integration. PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will be doing training with the new document cameras and pens and the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will be viewing demonstrations. They have also invited students to showcase some of their learning. The teachers will then collaborate and play around with the different types of technology.

Mr. Moser updated the Board on the elementary math adoption program. Several teachers went to visit Norwalk and

are in the process of setting up some more shadow days with Des Moines teachers in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Moser will talk more about what materials deem necessary, but is looking at \$6,000 per grade level for the math adoption program.

Mr. Moser informed the Board that the Iowa Assessments will be administered at the end of the month and at the beginning of next month.

4) Superintendent's Report

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that we recently received a donation of over 50 business chairs from a company in Des Moines that are only 3 years old. Chairs will be distributed to teachers and computer labs. Another load will be picked up later this week. The Board was very impressed with the quality of the chairs and was very thankful of the generous donation. Mr. Newsum will write a thank you letter to Kyla Lenz for thinking of the MStM District for her donation.

Mr. Newsum passed out a copy of the Needs Assessment Survey that was done over 10 years ago that would be valuable information to our present Facilities Committee.

Mr. Newsum passed out two versions of the 2012-2013 calendar. He will be meeting with the Calendar Committee soon and will bring back a recommendation to the Board in February.

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that the Winter Quarterly Newsletter was recently mailed out to patrons of our district. He will have another one sent out at the end of the school year.

Mr. Newsum invited one or more of the Board members to attend a meeting at Winterset regarding their Career Academy. The meeting is set for February 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Moser met with the Curriculum Committee on January 4<sup>th</sup>. They mostly talked about staffing and what programs they can bring back.

Mr. Newsum asked the Board if February 21<sup>st</sup> would work for our budget workshop with February 22<sup>nd</sup> as a backup date. This date would allow Mr. Newsum and Mrs. Gavin to attend their budget workshop and a



couple of finance classes to help prepare for the meeting. The Board agreed.

Mr. Newsum recommended setting up a Facilities Committee meeting to start talking about information that Jim Lynch has received about replacing the elementary gym roof. Mrs. Bunch offered to fill in for Dean Furness if necessary.

Mr. Newsum informed the Board about the director district plan. The plan should be ready to review before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Newsum provided a copy of the letter sent by the St. Paul Lutheran Church requesting members to attend a meeting about the future of their church.

VI. New Business

A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Board Policy 400 Series: Employees  
Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper had recommendations to change some of the verbiage for Policy 401.12. The Administration will work on those changes and have them updated for the February board meeting. Mr. Shutt motioned to approve the 400 policy series with the exception of Policy 401.12, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes.

B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Board Policy 210.2: Board Meetings  
Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve Policy 210.2, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 3 ayes.

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

Mr. Newsum reviewed the DMACC Career Academy contract for Warren County schools that will be located at the Southridge Mall location. The vocation program will include at least five strands and will be available to junior and senior students. The location is scheduled to open in August 2013. The Board had a lengthy discussion about the contract and agreed that this would be a great opportunity for our students. The concerns included transportation, disciplinary issues, and how does this program fit into our current curriculum here. The Board requested more information from the Administration. Mrs. Harper motioned to table the approval of the DMACC Career Academy contract, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 3 ayes.

D. Approve Personnel Recommendation  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum recommended not continuing our relationship with Winterset and Interstate 35 to transport a special education student and a sophomore student to Woodward Granger. He recommended that we find our own driver and use our own school vehicle. He provided cost information on what we are currently spending on transporting two students and what it might cost if we found our own driver. Mr. Shutt motioned to approve hiring a driver to use a school vehicle to transport two students and an associate to Woodward Granger, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes.

E. Approve Personnel Resignation  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Shutt motioned to approve the resignation of David Danielson, part-time custodian, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes.

F. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates  
Supt. Newsum

2/08/12 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail  
2/09/12 – 5:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting  
2/13/12 – 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Shutt motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes.  
Time: 5:45 p.m.

APPROVED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 30, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session by conference call, pursuant to law, on January 30, 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

Bunch called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

II. Public Comments – None

III. New Business

A. Personnel Resignation Supt. Newsum  
Shutt motioned to approve the resignation letter for Terri Harding, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 3 ayes.

B. Investigation into Food Service Department  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum and Mrs. Gavin updated the Board about their investigation of student lunch account data entry irregularities. At this time, the decision has been made not to pursue the matter through legal proceedings.

Mrs. Amy Harper joined the conference call at 12:08 p.m.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Gibson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 12:30 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](mailto: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](mailto:karen_tomlinson@mstm.us)*

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

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

*"Small Community..... HUGE Results"*

### **2012 State Wrestling Team Duals:**

The MStM Wrestling team qualified for the State Dual Tournament at Wells Fargo when they clinched the dual against West Marshall in Truro on February 7th. On February 15th, our MStM wrestlers traveled to Wells Fargo for the first time in school history to compete in the State Dual Team Tournament. After an exciting day of wrestling, we brought home the 8th place Class 1A State trophy. We will now be in the record books as placing 8th in the State of Iowa in Class 1A out of 117 wrestling teams. Our wrestling team consisted of Corben Ameigh, Dylan Gibson, Tanner Foster, Taylor Hagen, Kole Stapes, David Walker, Alex Craig, David DeLong, Robert Walker, Troy Harding, Daultan Gibson, Brad Nauman, Jake Anctil, Dylan Cosner and Russell Lester.

### **2012 Individual State Wrestling Tournament:**

On February 16th, Taylor Hagen, Kole Stapes, David Walker, David DeLong and Robert Walker all traveled to Wells Fargo to compete in the IAHSAA Individual State Wrestling Tournament. Each wrestler came in strong with David DeLong coming up just short of placing, Taylor Hagen and Kole Stapes standing in the 7th place spot on the podium, David Walker was wrestling his way to the top of the championship and Robert Walker becoming a champion for the 3rd time in a row! All five seniors finished their wrestling careers at Martensdale St. Marys with their names on 'the wall' in the wrestling room marking them down in the MStM history books!

*Photo pages and above article submitted by Manda Gibson*