



\*\*\*Due to the snow days last month the end of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester has been moved to Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Senior High semester test are scheduled for Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.\*\*\*

January 1, 2013

From the Desk of Bob Newsum,  
Superintendent

Happy New Year:

As we end 2012 and begin a New Year, it is traditional for all of us to make 'New Year's Resolutions'. That is the perfect time for you and your family members to celebrate the successes in the classroom and as a member of our school clubs, teams, and organizations, you experienced during the past year and reflect on those instances when things weren't as successful as you expected them to be. There is still time remaining in the first semester to complete those overdue assignments and projects and review for semester tests.

You and your family should be asking yourselves a few questions: "Am I pleased with where I am in life? If I continue to do in the next few years what I've been doing in the last few years, will I be pleased with who I am, where I am, and what I have?" If you answered "no" to some or all of those questions, relax. It's never too late to discover your purpose and get on track ... because you CAN change. The key to YOUR future is in YOUR hands.

## **BLUE DEVIL IMAGE CONTEST!**

Your district communications advisory committee has recently decided to address the lack of an acceptable image of the Blue Devil image to use to represent our school on clothing and apparel. The image we are currently using has generated mixed reactions, so we have decided to seek your help in creating a Blue Devil image that is completely new and different.

Here are the procedures the committee has decided to implement to select our next Blue Devil image:

1. Blue Devil image entries will be accepted until 4:00 PM, on Monday, January 14, 2013.
2. Submitted entries should be directed to Bob Newsum, Superintendent, in the district business

4. Entries should be submitted on sheets of white 8 1/2 "X 11" paper.
5. Entries may be hand-rendered or computer-generated.
6. Entries MUST be original, with no "borrowed" images from other institutions.
7. Please include your name, address, and telephone number with each submitted entry.
8. Prizes (yet to be determined) will be awarded to the first, second, and third place entries.  
If your Blue Devil image is selected, you will have the honor of seeing your Blue Devil image(s) used on future school-related clothing, uniforms, and apparel.

The district communications advisory committee will review all submitted entries at our next meeting and will select the top three to five entries, depending on number and quality of submitted Blue Devil image entries.

The top three to five entries will be displayed between January 14<sup>th</sup> and January 25<sup>th</sup>, the date for the home boys' and girls' varsity basketball games when elementary students are performing their 'cheer camp' routines and the high school dance team will perform. Those district patrons (adults and students) who attend that game will have the opportunity to cast their vote for the submitted Blue Devil image that they believe best represents our school.

Results of the community vote will be posted on the district web site and the winning Blue Devil image will be recommended to the school board for approval and inclusion in the district 'Style Guide'.

Please support your school and district and participate in this important contest!

If you are interested in helping us improve our efforts to communicate about the many excellent programs, experiences, and activities taking place in the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District, **please accept this message as an invitation to become a member of the 'District Communications Advisory Committee'**. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2013, beginning at 6:00 PM, in the school media center. Please join us! For more information, call Bob Newsum, Superintendent, at the superintendent's office (641-764-2466) or on his cell phone (641-203-8893).

*From the Desk of Tom Wood,  
Elementary Principal*

### **Effective and Appropriate Help With Homework**

Parenting requires many judgment calls, including numerous decisions related to schoolwork and school projects. Principals and teachers are always stressing how important it is for parents to be involved, but how much is too much? For a start, put yourself in these situations:

- Your child's big science project is due tomorrow, but her after-school schedule has been so busy lately that she hasn't had time to finish it herself. Not wanting her to get a bad grade, you end up doing most of the work with her so she can turn it in on time.
- Your son's math homework packet is a big part of his grade, but he's having trouble with a few of the concepts. Is it OK to help him with some of the answers?
- Your daughter must write a poem for a school competition, but the verses she's come up with so far seem pretty bad. After thinking about her theme, you suggest different rhyming phrases that sound better. When the awards are announced, your daughter comes home excited and says, "We won!"

We all want our children to do well in school. But, sometimes, we might want it too much and end up giving them too much assistance. The problem is, while their grades might look stellar, their self-esteem can suffer. Children are smarter than we sometimes give them credit for. They know when they've earned a grade—and when they haven't. Instead of helping them succeed, too much parental involvement can lead them to failure.

So what's a concerned parent to do? How much help is reasonable? What kinds of suggestions or assistance are acceptable? And what do you do if they don't understand their homework, even after asking you for guidance?

**Don't do it for them.** Rule No. 1 is an easy one to remember: Don't ever do your children's homework or school projects for them. The assignments were given to them for a reason—they need to learn the concepts, and they can't do that learning if you do their work.

**Guidance is great.** Help your children understand assignments by talking with them about the concepts. Let's say your child is having trouble with basic division. Dump out a stack of pennies or paper clips, count the total, and, together, divide them into groups of five, six, or seven. If your child has writer's block, instead of suggesting phrases to use, brainstorm together about ideas of things he or she could write about, and ask your child to list some of the things he or she could say. Help your children to learn how to think through the process.

**Be encouraging.** It can be frustrating to try to master new concepts and complete school projects. Give your children encouragement and understanding as they work things through.

**Expand their brains.** One great way parents can help their children with school projects is by asking them to go beyond their original ideas. If your son, for example, wants to do a shoebox diorama about dinosaurs, tell him that his original idea is good, but ask what other ways he could try. Don't give him ideas, but help him use his own creativity. Ask him to think out a number of different ways he could approach the assignment. Let him follow his own path, and both you and his teacher will probably be very pleased with the result. Not only that, the work will be his own.

Finally, know when to call for help. If your child is consistently having trouble with a specific concept, even after you've helped explain it to him or her, it's time to let the teacher know. Chances are yours isn't the only child in the class who's confused. In addition to learning the schoolwork, your child will gain some very important knowledge: that it's smart to ask for help when you don't understand something.

*From the Desk of Mike Crozier,  
Secondary School Principal*

The end of the first semester is here. With the snow days we will end our first semester on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Semester tests will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> (as long as there are no additional snow days). If your child meets the requirements for opting out of semester tests (9-12 students), remember to sign their permission slips to be gone during the testing times that they have qualified to opt out of. The semester test policy can be found in the student handbook that is posted on our website <http://mstm.us/>.

Community Coming Together:

Once again this year, the entire MSTM staff participated in our holiday fundraising project during the month of December. The staff was allowed to wear jeans every day for \$5.00 per week. Over the past four weeks we raised over \$1,280.00, which will be given to families in our community to help make their holiday season brighter. Congratulations to our staff for doing a good deed for our community. It is evident that you care about the needs of our community.

Coach Parrot coordinated a fundraiser for Cody Olson, who during the football season discovered he had cancer. This event raised over \$4,500.00 for the Olson family to help out with expenses. It was heartwarming to see the community step up and support the Olson family. I am so proud to be a part of this community. I also want to thank the Nodaway Valley Community members who supported this effort.

Major Brian Crozier Speaks to MSTM Students:

During the month of November, my younger brother, Major Brian Crozier of the United States Air Force, spoke to the

World Cultures class of MSTM. He is currently serving a deployment in Korea. He presented to the class why the United States was involved in Korea, and the history of why we continue to have a military presence there. He is an intelligence officer for the United States Air Force and a Graduate of the Air Force Academy. It was a very interesting and informative presentation. I impressed upon the class that he graduated from a small school in Iowa just like MSTM, and that they have the same opportunities if they set their minds to it.

**Helpful Hint:**

One factor that influences the success of a student is their attendance. Being late to school will significantly impact a student's learning. Please try to schedule appointments for after school, if possible. When a child is absent, they are responsible for the missed work. Parents can call the school to request work for their child if they know they will be out several days.

**From the Desk of Mr. Craig Huegel,**  
**Activities Director**

Happy Holidays to all members of our MSTM community! Basketball and wrestling are enjoying a well-deserved break before the grind begins in January into February. Please be sure to double check our website for game schedules, as they have and will continue to change with weather.

Our football, football cheer and volleyball teams were recognized by the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) for their academic achievement. The football and cheer teams received the Excellence in Academic Achievement award (team GPA of 3.0-3.24), while the volleyball team received a Distinguished in Academic Achievement award (team GPA of 3.61-4.00). Congratulations for your effort in both the classroom and in the sporting arena!

On Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a varsity girl/boy basketball game versus Nodaway Valley. We also hosted a fundraiser to support one of our student-athletes, Cody Olson. Cody is the son of Jeremy and Christy Olson. Cody was diagnosed with testicular cancer midway through the football season and has continued treatment during the winter. As a show of unity, we now have many bald scalps roaming the halls of MSTM after haircuts were given for a \$5 donation. During a pep assembly and the basketball games, a total of \$4,442 was raised in 5 hours to help the family with medical expenses. Pictures from the event are at the end of my article. Also, Channel 13 covered the event, and they have an article and video link at <http://whotv.com/2012/12/14/going-bald-community-rallies-to-help-sick-student/>

I have to thank Coach Brent Parrott for his work in organizing this event, Sarah Darby, Denise Verwers, Holly Morrow and Ashley Hraha for their expertise in hairstyling, and Cody Olson, for being a model of how to handle adversity. Great night to be a Blue Devil!!

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.nfhslearn.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**

1/7/2013	7p.m.	JH-HS Concert	MSTM HS Gym
1/18/2013		Elem. Sing at home BKB game	
1/31/2013		ICDA Honor Choir	Newton High School

**Track HELP!**

I know this is early, but track season will be here soon. Right now, we are hosting four 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 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ MSTM Girls Invitational, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ MSTM Junior High Track Meet, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4:15 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ MSTM JH Invitational, May 2<sup>nd</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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Twitter**

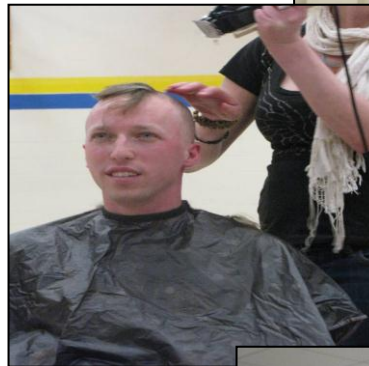
I will be tweeting live from home contests/events at MSTM\_BlueDevils. Of course, we want you at the game, but, this is a great way to stay informed if you cannot make it. Thanks, and let's support the Blue Devils!

With Blue Devil Pride,  
Craig Huegel, A.D.

**Pics**



**from Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**“Cuts for Cody”**  
**Fundraiser**



Attention All 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents

**NAEP 2013 PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION  
LETTER  
Grade 8 Mathematics and Reading  
January 3, 2013**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that Martensdale-St. Marys has been selected to represent schools across the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is the largest nationally representative assessment of students across the country, and it is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP, which has been conducted since 1969, is different from other assessments because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

In our school, the NAEP assessment will be given on January 30, 2013. Your child has been selected to take either a mathematics or reading assessment. In addition to answering questions in one of these subjects, students will be asked some questions about themselves and their educational experience.

It will take about 90 minutes for most students to participate in the assessment. The results are completely confidential (in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347), and the information provided will be used for statistical purposes only. Your child's grades will not be affected. Your child may be excused from participation for any reason, is not required to finish the assessment, and may skip any test question. While NAEP is voluntary, we depend on student participation to provide an accurate measure of student achievement that will inform improvements in education. Your child will represent many other students, so participation is very important. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by January 9, 2013.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP. We do, however, ask parents to encourage their children to do their best and get plenty of rest the night before the assessment.

If you would like additional information about NAEP or to view sample subject area and student questions, please visit <http://nationsreportcard.gov/parents.asp>. If you have questions, please contact me at (641) 764-2385 or via e-mail at [mike\\_crozier@mstm.us](mailto:mike_crozier@mstm.us)

We are excited that our school will be participating in NAEP, and pleased that your child has been selected. We know that Martensdale-St. Marys' students will help us show what our nation's students know and can do.

From the Desk of Mrs. Clark,  
Vocal Music

Happy New Year! Music is warming up at MSTM as high school musicians prepare for the Variety Show on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. Music Boosters will be serving a meal before the show, and more information will be coming at the beginning of next month.

Junior high singers are preparing solos and group songs for solo/ensemble festival later this spring.

Fifth and sixth grade students are getting ready to put on a show with their musical selections. There will be both singers and instrumentalists ready to entertain. The fifth grade class is learning music about America and the sixth grade is learning about Broadway. Put the concert on your calendar:  
5/6 grade concert - February 5<sup>th</sup>@7pm.

Looking ahead, if you have one of our younger students in pre-school, kindergarten, or first grade, you will want to mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>@7pm, the date of their spring concert. It will be a very entertaining and fun program!

From the Desk of Mr. Olson,  
Instrumental Music

NHS News:

Congratulations to the National Honor Society for a successful holiday food drive!

The NHS, in conjunction with MSTM High School, collected nine hundred fifty-two pounds of food and supplies for the Iowa Food Bank.

The NHS students sponsored a contest that would include a free pizza party for the seminar that collected the most items (by weight) for the drive.

Mrs. Grafft's seminar won this event with a total of 120 pounds collected from their seminar. Thanks to all students, staff, and administration for your participation.

Band News:

The fifth and sixth grade vocal/instrumental concert will be Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. The band students will demonstrate many of the concepts they have been working on during the first semester provided in an array of repertoire. The students are looking forward to their first performance of the year. Please come and enjoy!



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

**FAFSA**

The FAFSA (Free Applications for Federal Student Aid ) can now be filled out! It is strongly recommended that you apply for financial aid, even if you don't think you will qualify for financial assistance this year or in years to come. If you are uncomfortable filling out the FAFSA forms, I highly encourage you to setup an appointment with the people at ICAN (Iowa College Access Network) also known as the College Planning Center. They are located across from Jordan Creek Mall in West Des Moines. They will fill out all forms for FREE...You just need to provide the information!

**ACT Testing**

There are three more ACT test dates scheduled for the remainder of this school year, February 9<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. ACT Registration packets and practice tests can be picked up in my office. You can also register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

**Scholarships**

Begin to research scholarships. Keep an ongoing file of scholarships and financial aid information (i.e., criteria, amounts, contact persons, and deadlines). Check out [www.collegeplanning.org](http://www.collegeplanning.org) for free scholarship searches. Don't forget to check out our web site for available scholarships. We keep a hard copy of all the scholarship on the web site in the guidance office. Stop by and look through the scholarship book to see if there is anything of interest to you.

**Did you know**

Students with a 3.75 GPA or higher can qualify for a full tuition scholarship at AIB College of Business. They offer both Applied Science Degrees (the typical 2 year degree) and Bachelor of Science Degrees (the typical 4 year degree).

**Iowa Assessments**

Iowa Assessments, the new name given to the ITBS/ITED tests, will be given the week of January 28<sup>th</sup> - February 1<sup>st</sup>. The tests won't look any different. Students will still need a No. 2 pencil to fill in the bubble. The content, though, has changed. The last time the program had a new version was the 2001-02 school year — a lag that is longer than normal, but made sense as the state was developing what is now the Iowa Core. One change is students will be able to obtain an indicator in the four areas ACT, the college testing group, has established for college benchmarks — English, reading, math and science — and know if they are on track for the ACT exam in high school.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Jayne Sherwood,**  
**Physical Education and Business Instructor**

My work place basics class is required to job shadow each semester. The experiences of the job shadow can help guide the students into jobs or careers they find enjoyable. For some students it gives them an idea to post high school education. Some of the placings were accounting, police officer, teachers, K-12, guidance counselor, broadcasting, photographer, photography, construction and truck driver. I was excited about some of their experiences. I appreciate the great response from parents with the placing of students in the career areas that are of interest to the students.

Other topics that are included in this semester were how to find a job, where to look for a job, how to write a resume, cover letter etc.

The school-to-work students are enjoying the flexibility to have a job and attend school at the same time. Our students are learning life experiences in the working world. We currently have eight students in this program, with the addition of possibly two more in the second semester. The reviews from employers are raving about how good our students are in the working world. Congratulations school-to-work students.

[jayne.sherwood@mstm.us](mailto:jayne.sherwood@mstm.us). I appreciate all the help from parents.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Alison Meier**  
**Family Consumer Science**

Greetings from the Family and Consumer Sciences department! As some of you may know we've experienced some changes this year with our facilities. The FCS room went through a remodel this summer and we've enjoyed using our new kitchens this semester. All of the cabinets were removed and replaced and the layout of the kitchen was modified to allow for more open, usable space. We've also added some stainless steel islands for the students to work around which has allowed for more participation from all group members while in the foods labs. I'm looking forward to using our three-compartment sink this spring as our Advanced Foods class begins hosting a meal once a month. Please watch for updates and information about our monthly meals. We would certainly welcome anyone interested in attending.

Thank you to the building maintenance staff for all of their hard work this summer to prepare the room for students on the first day of school. I also want to thank those that have donated monetary gifts and supplies this year. This department functions on donations and so much of what we do would not be possible without community support. Thank you for supporting the program and the education of our students. FCS education benefits everyone and the students and I appreciate your support!

Alison Meier



From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder,  
Talented and Gifted/Yearbook

DHL Grafix  
Gib's A&W  
Reynold's Feed Service  
R&R Contracting  
Fareway Stores  
City State Bank  
Bussanmus Towing & Repair  
Walmart  
Blanchard Dentistry

**Parents of Seniors:**

The yearbook senior photos and baby photos are due Friday, January 4. Please e-mail them to Amy Sowder as a jpeg or send them to school with your child. Baby/childhood photos will be scanned and returned so please submit original photos with clarity. If you need an extension on the deadline, let Mrs. Sowder know at [amy\\_sowder@mstm.us](mailto:amy_sowder@mstm.us) ASAP.

From the Desk of Mrs. Franey and Mrs. Scrivner  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Second Graders Celebrate Polar Express Day!

In 2012 the tradition continues! On Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> the second grade classes were treated to a day revolving around the popular children's book The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg. Activities that the students shared include: wearing their pajamas to school, word games and puzzles, handmade ornaments, games, and enjoying treats and hot cocoa while watching "The Polar Express" movie. The students were able to practice their compare and contrast skills using both the book and the movie. A great time was had by all!

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on November 12, 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  
Mrs. Bunch called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.
- II. Consider district administrative configuration options  
Board President

Discussion was made regarding the Superintendent position for fiscal year 2014. Many scenarios were discussed.

- III. Consider costing data for options Supt. Newsum

The Board discussed where the district stands financially and reviewed 5-year projections of enrollment, allowable growth, fund balance, unspent budget authority, tax rates, and solvency ratios.

- IV. Consider procedures and timeline for hiring administrative personnel Supt. Newsum

The Board agreed to internally post the Superintendent/Elementary Principal position on November 13, 2012 for 2013-2014 school year, interview candidates on December 13, 2012, and officially approve the position in special session. The candidate will be mentored by Dr. Bob Newsum during the second semester of the 2012-2013 school year. The official contract would be approved for the 2013-2014 school year. The Board also agreed to pursue additional special education 1:1 associates and a level 3 Special Education/Reading teacher in January of 2013.

- V. Consider other staff and personnel issues Supt. Newsum

The Board discussed additional staff and personnel issues.

- VI. Consider reinstating high school golf program for Spring 2013 Supt. Newsum

The Board agreed to move forward to reinstate the golf program for the Spring of 2013. They requested the Athletic Director to get an idea of how many students would sign up,

- VII. Adjourn Board President

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

APPROVED

  
Board President

  
Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING,  
NOVEMBER 12, 2012**

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

Mrs. Bunch called the meeting to order at 6:00 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: 5 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood updated the Board about the pilot group that was created by Mrs. Noga to utilize the skills she learned at the Quality Learning conference this past summer. There are six students in the class. The pilot group is going really well and Mr. Wood is hearing from parents on when they are going to use the quality learning skills for the rest of the students. They will be pressing forward with the training to the other teachers. Mr. Wood discussed the changes in the first quarter with math grades and the new math program. He discussed the reasons why to remove the Honor Roll system from the Elementary.

Mr. Crozier announced the successful completion of the Fall Play on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The kids did a great job and it was well attended.

IV. Public Comments – none

V. Old Business

A. Reports Supt. Newsum

- 1) MStM Music Booster Minutes – October 8, 2012 minutes.
- 2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – October 1, 2012 minutes.
- 3) MStM PTO Minutes – October 9, 2012 minutes.

B. Presentations

1) Principal’s Report Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood announced that 95% of parents attended parent teacher conferences on October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Wood is hearing comments and frustrations about the Everyday Math program, which include; parents do not understand the problem solving methods to help their children and

this way of learning math is not the way the parents learned. In time, parents will see the benefits of the program. Additional training with staff will be done during professional development days. Mr. Wood will be scheduling a night for parents to go over the new math program. Mr. Wood presented the new revisions to the reports cards that are now aligned to Common Core requirements.

2) Principal’s Report Mr. Crozier

Mr. Crozier stated that the secondary staff does not see the attendance of parents for parent teacher conferences due to the fact that the parents have access to grades on a daily basis through JMC. Teachers are to contact parents when their child is not doing well. Four students attended the POI Leadership Conference on November 5, 2012 and were really excited about what they learned and are excited about implementing the ideas. Eight students attended the POI Academic Bowl on November 1, 2012. The team did not qualify for the final round but will have another chance in the spring. Mr. Crozier will have the Honor Roll on the website by the end of the week. He provided the listing of classes for the DMACC Career Academy. He presented the October Students of the Month.

- Zach Bunch – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Jake Bakerink – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Reid Frederikson – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Savanah Husted – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Laura Lacquement – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Cody Olson – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

3) Curriculum Director’s Report Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser informed the Board of offering continuing education to the para educators during professional developments days in December. The workshops would be voluntary. On the November 7<sup>th</sup> professional development day the PLC teams reviewed the past quarter by what went well and what they need to improve on. A small group of students have been invited to the next PD day on November 14<sup>th</sup>. They have been meeting during seminar times with Mr. Hatcher, who is a huge proponent of quality learning and has been helping to facilitate the student learning aspect. They will be covering all aspects of learning that include the process, strategies, environment and culture.



McGraw Hill representatives will be observing the elementary staff with the Everyday Math program. They will be getting feedback from the staff on what is going well and what additional help they may need. Another training opportunity will take place in January.

The Quality Support Meeting was held on November 5, 2012. The meeting was well publicized and we opened up the membership to new members but only three teachers, three administrators, three students and one parent attended the meeting. They did have a good round table discussion on bullying and harassment, grading and assessment and technology infusion. It was a good starting point for continued discussions.

Mr. Moser presented new templates for new applicants for the Human Resources project.

4) Superintendent's Report  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum invited the Board Members to attend the Warren County Board Meeting on November 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Norwalk. The focus of the meeting will be the new DMACC Career Academy.

Mr. Newsum reviewed with the Board the decision that was made last year about moving board meetings to 4:00 p.m. in December, January, February and March due to all the winter activities.

The Board discussed the use of the facilities and updating our facilities policy and rates.

## VI. New Business

A. Approve Certified Enrollment  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Furness motioned to approve the Certified Enrollment for the October 1, 2012 count date, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

B. Approve SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment and OE Out  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Shutt motioned to approve authorizing the request to the SBRC for the maximum on-time funding of modified allowable growth for increasing enrollment of \$7,201 and the request for maximum modified allowable growth for open enrolled out of \$69,419, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 5 ayes.

C. Approve IDATP Driver Enrollment  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Furness motioned to approve the Iowa Drug and Alcohol Testing Program for the 2013 participation, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

D. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of 800 Series – Building and Sites  
Supt. Newsum

E. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of 900 Series – School – District Community Relations  
Supt. Newsum

F. Approve Personnel Recommendations  
Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the personnel recommendations of RJ Hernandez and Dean Furness as volunteers for the girl's basketball program, Andrea Benson as wrestling cheer chaperon, Tiffany White as full time special education associate, and Lois Taber as part time preschool special education associate, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

G. Approve 28E Agreement for Central Campus  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Furness motioned to approve the 28E Agreement with the Des Moines Independent School District and their programming efforts at Central Campus, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

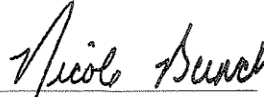
H. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates  
Supt. Newsum

12/5/12 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail  
12/6/12 – Agenda Meeting 5:30  
12/10/12 – 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting

## VII. Adjournment

Mrs. Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 7:21 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Nicole Bunch  
Board President

  
J. C. Gavin  
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 last day 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. DePauw  
Martensdale-St.Marys  
Elementary Office  
390 Burlington Ave.  
Martensdale, Iowa 50160  
or by email  
[brenda\\_depauw@mstm.us](mailto:brenda_depauw@mstm.us)*

*Office: 641-764-2470  
Fax: 641-764-2100*