



May 1, 2011

Message from Dr. Bob Newsum  
Superintendent

Greetings:

The 2010-2011 school year has been a particularly successful one for Martensdale St. Marys students, staff, and the community in the classroom and on the fields, mats, and courts. Your elected board of education members have been significant contributors to these successes. Please join with communities throughout Iowa in honoring our elected school board members during Iowa School Board Recognition Week, May 8-13, 2011. This year's theme-"School Boards: Making a World of Difference"-recognizes that Iowa's volunteer school board members are providing leadership, through responsibilities ranging from strong financial stewardship to ensuring high quality curriculum, to make sure all students have a bright, vibrant future ahead of them.

Serving on the Martensdale St. Marys School Board of Education are:

Nicole Bunch - President  
Dave Shutt - Vice President  
Scott Anderson  
Wade Gibson  
Amy Harper

These ladies and gentlemen volunteer countless hours of unpaid time to provide the best possible education for our students and we want to recognize that in our communities. As your elected leaders, they represent you in their continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making for our public schools. Too often the efforts of school board members go unrecognized and unrewarded. So, this recognition week is an appropriate time to say **Thank You**. I, for one, am thankful for our Martensdale St. Marys School Board Members. They are all very knowledgeable, caring, and dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and to striving for what is best for all of our students.

**Role of School Board Members:**

**VISION:** The School Board engages the community in setting the course to guide local education, keeping student achievement as the primary focus.

**STRUCTURE:** The School Board employs a superintendent, adopts policies and plans, and ensures that human and financial resources are allocated to accomplish the vision.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** The School Board monitors student achievement, evaluates progress toward district goals, and reports progress to the community.

**ADVOCACY:** The School Board serves as the key advocate on behalf of students and public education and builds partnerships with others to support student learning.

**TIME DONATED TO PUBLIC EDUCATION:** Iowa School Board Members are volunteer elected officials who donate their time to school board service. Each week, Iowa School Board Members donate thousands of hours in service to Iowa students.

The first week of May is also Teacher Appreciation Week and is intended as a time to recognize the contributions that our educators make in the lives of our children. During the week of May 1-7, 2011, please take time to thank the teachers who work with your child, as well as all of the other support staff who play an important role in your child's educational experiences. We consider all employees of the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District, including teachers, secretaries, paraeducators, child care providers, custodians, food service workers, bus drivers, and administrators to be integral members of our district educational team and we will be honoring them on two occasions during the week of May 1-7. On Tuesday, May 3, we will be serving a breakfast to all district employees, beginning at 7:30 AM, and on Wednesday, May 4, we will be holding an 'ice cream social', beginning at 1:30 PM, to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week.

We are putting the finishing touches on a spring quarterly newsletter for all mailbox holders in Warren and Madison counties and expect to have it delivered to your address by the end of the first week in May. This printed newsletter will include calendars, summaries of articles included during the last three-month 'quarter' of the school year, celebrations of the accomplishments of our students and staff/coaches, and new articles related to important information about the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District. We do understand that timely information, including monthly newsletters, is regularly posted on the district web site. We also understand that a significant number of our district patrons either no longer have children in school or don't have access to the electronic web site. As home owners and property tax payers, you have a right to receive information about your school district and this quarterly newsletter is intended to help meet that need. Thanks for all you do to

support the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District.

Mr. Richard Bown has notified the district of his intention to retire as one of our regular bus route drivers at the end of the current school year. The district is accepting applications and sealed bids for the available regular bus route through 12:00 noon on Monday, May 23, 2011. The application and bid form for this regular bus route driver's position may be downloaded from the Martensdale St. Marys web site. If you are interested in being considered, a completed application and sealed bid should be delivered to Mrs. Jill Gavin, district business manager, by noon on May 23. Jill and I will open the sealed bids the afternoon of May 23 and invite selected applicants to interview for the bus driver's position later that week. We expect to make a recommendation to the board of education for the selected bus driver at the regular June board meeting.

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

I want to thank the student council members for their hard work on April 18<sup>th</sup> at our leadership retreat. We reviewed our policies and the students discussed issues regarding the policies and procedures in our student handbook. The students also had the opportunity to visit the Iowa Hall of Pride. I was very impressed with the input the students provided throughout the day. We have great students at Martensdale-St. Marys and they have great ideas and opinions that we will use in developing and revising student policies.

Our Track and Field season is off and running. We have had two track meets so far and the weather has not been cooperating very well. Our workers have stuck it out and we completed both of them. Thank you to all our volunteers that have been helping to run the meets. Thanks to Mr. Peterson for his organization of the meets. His leadership for our athletic program has been outstanding.

The end of the year is approaching fast. Semester tests for seniors will be on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, semester tests for all other students will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Graduation will be on May 22<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM.

**Children's Mental Health Awareness Week**  
**May 1-7, 2011**

"This Bill of Rights represents the standard of what families living with mental illnesses should expect from treatment," said AACAP's President, Robert Hendren, D.O. "Children do better when they receive consistent, tailored treatment. Few children receive any treatment and fewer still receive the sustained, quality care that they require."

The Bill of Rights was created because of the inconsistency of accessible mental healthcare services throughout the country.

The Bill of Rights:

1. Treatment must be family- driven and child-focused. Families and youth, (when appropriate), must have a primary decision-making role in their treatment.
2. Children should receive care in home and community-based settings as close to home as possible.
3. Mental health services are an integral part of a child's overall healthcare. Insurance companies must not discriminate against children with mental illnesses by imposing financial burdens and barriers to treatment, such as differential deductibles, co-pays, annual or lifetime caps, or arbitrary limits on access to medically necessary inpatient and/or outpatient services.
4. Children should receive care from highly- qualified professionals who are acting in the best interest of the child and family, with appropriate informed consent.
5. Parents and children are entitled to as much information as possible about the risks and benefits of all treatment options, including anticipated outcomes.
6. Children receiving medications for mental disorders should be monitored appropriately to optimize the benefit and reduce any risks or potential side effects which may be associated with such treatments.
7. Children and their families should have access to a comprehensive continuum of care, based on their needs, including a full range of psychosocial, behavioral, pharmacological, and educational services, regardless of the cost.
8. Children should receive treatment within a coordinated system of care where all agencies (e.g., health, mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and schools, etc.) delivering services work together to support recovery and optimize treatment outcome.
9. Children and families are entitled to an increased investment in high-quality research on the origin, diagnosis, and treatment of childhood disorders.
10. Children and families need and deserve access to mental health

professionals with appropriate training and experience.

Primary care professionals providing mental health services must have access to consultation and referral resources from qualified mental health professionals.

**Please note: This Bill of Rights is not a legal document. A violation of these Rights does not necessarily indicate illegal activity.**

If you appreciate the knowledge you have acquired over the years thanks to your teachers, **Teacher Appreciation week** which lasts from the 2nd till the 6th of May 2011, is the week in which you can show your gratitude. Dedicated to the celebration of your favorite teachers.

Michael Crozier, Secondary Principal  
[mike\\_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:mike_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us)

**From the Desk of Mr. Peterson,  
Blue Devils Activities Director**

The track season is well under way. The high school girls' team has won three invitational meets this spring (Chariton, Clarke, Creston). Several performances of note include Katie Butcher running 12:19 in the 3000 and the 4X400 relay team of Morgan Halverson, Katie Schrodt, Laura Lacquement, and Meagan Streyffeler in a time of 4:19. Very impressive!

The high school boys' team won the Clarke Invitational this spring and are preparing for the district meet to be held at Martensdale on May 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00.

The junior track teams have been outstanding this spring. The girls' team has several performers who own state records and are looking to improve those marks. You should get out and watch them perform on May 5<sup>th</sup> at home starting at 4:00.

As promised in the last newsletter, a list of honors for our Class 1A State Championship Girls' Basketball Team:

**All-State Teams – Girls Basketball**

**Iowa Girls Coaches Association Academic All-State**  
Rachel Connor

**All Record Herald**

Mackenzie Morrison (Player of the Year),  
Sam Norris, Morgan Halverson  
Brittney Kubik, Meagan Streyffeler, Hailey Sweet

**Iowa Girls Coaches Association All-District 1A South 2010-11**

Sam Norris  
Mackenzie Morrison

**The Iowa Basketball Coaches Association All-Region**

Mackenzie Morrison  
Morgan Halverson  
Sam Norris

**2011 Class 1A All-Tournament Team**

Sam Norris  
Mackenzie Morrison (Captain)

**INA 2011 All-State Teams**

Sam Norris  
Mackenzie Morrison

**2011 IGCA All-State Teams**

Mackenzie Morrison  
Sam Norris

**The Des Moines Sunday Register's 1A All-State Team**

Mackenzie Morrison

**Iowa Sports Connection All-State Teams 1A**

Mackenzie Morrison  
Sam Norris

**Pride of Iowa All-Conference**

1<sup>st</sup> Team – **Morgan Halverson**  
1<sup>st</sup> Team- **Sam Norris**  
1<sup>st</sup> Team – **Mackenzie Morrison - Unanimous**

The Iowa Sports Connection – **Mackenzie Morrison**  
Class 1A First Team All State

**Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition Ceremony -  
Taylor Gavin**

On Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> in Hy-Vee Hall at the Iowa Events Center, **Taylor Gavin** will be recognized by Governor Terry Branstad for his academic achievements. It is estimated that over 2200 will attend this ceremony as the Governor pays tribute to 450 outstanding students from across the state of Iowa. Among the speakers on the 1<sup>st</sup> will be Molly Boyle, the 2011 Iowa Teacher of the Year from Waukee. The program begins at 1:00 p.m. and the cake and punch reception should be concluded by 3:30. **Congratulations to Taylor Gavin.**

Congratulations to the high school band and chorus students who represented MStM at the Iowa High School Music Association Solo/Ensemble Festival! Students who earned a 1 rating (superior) are: Michaela McIlravy-flute, Taylar Furness-vocal, Michaela McIlravy-vocal, Courtney Scovel-vocal, Brandon Robinson-vocal, Tayler Schad-vocal, KateLynn Miller and Abby Wetzler-flute duet, and Megan Ameigh and Courtney Scovel-vocal duet. Students who earned a 2 rating (excellent) are: Brittany Newman-vocal, Dallas Newman-vocal, Deana Smith-Gyles-vocal, Megan Ameigh-vocal, Kaitlyn Belieu-vocal, Thad Toole-vocal, Brittany Newman and Dallas Newman-vocal duet, Taylar Furness and Tayler Schad-vocal duet, and Dallas Newman-clarinet. Thank you to the many parents, families, and friends who traveled to Twin Cedars to help support these young musicians!

--Mrs. Clark and Mr. Olson

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

**Commonly Asked Questions**

Parents and students often ask some of the same questions which I am glad to answer. This article tries to address a lot of commonly asked questions in regard to college planning.

**1. When should my student take the ACT?**

There is no magic time to take the ACT. My usual response is to take the ACT during the junior year but it can be taken earlier. A good rule of thumb is to take the ACT when a student is enrolled in Algebra II. There is a lot of geometry and algebra on the ACT and sometimes it is helpful to take the ACT while enrolled in Algebra II. For sure, a student who is applying to a four year college/university should take the ACT at least during their junior year so they will have an ACT score to use to apply to four year colleges in the fall of their senior year.

**Should a student take the ACT more than once?**

ACT reports that 55% of students that take the ACT a second time raise their score. Realize that it obviously benefits ACT monetarily for students to take the test multiple times. But the 55% figure is a reasonable expectation. Students should do some type of preparation prior to taking the test. The most beneficial preparation is just doing practice tests.

**3. If a student takes the ACT a second time, does that hurt the students chance of admission to a college?**

No. Colleges will take the highest score.

**4. What is the score that a student should get on the ACT to be admitted?**

A 20 composite score is commonly seen as a major indicator of four year college success. It actually varies college to college. Some colleges have higher admission standards so the ACT score requirement will be higher. Other colleges may have lower admission standards. To be sure, check the college website and click on admissions for the freshman admission requirements. Or call the admissions office and speak to a college admissions representative.

**5. How Can I find more information about college and career choices for my son/daughter?**

The state of Iowa has provided an excellent resource for all schools called Choices Planner. It is a web based college and career information center that has a great deal of information about colleges and careers. The website is administrated through the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. Go to: [www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov](http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov) Click on "First Time User" to establish a new electronic portfolio or "Returning User" to check and add to your existing portfolio. Choices Planner has an interest inventory, a skills assessment, a values sorter, and many other

resources available to help students and parents in the career/college search process.

**SUMMER 2011 – What Juniors can do to Prepare for College Planning**

1. Attend Iowa Private College Week, August 1-5, 2011 (See article below)
2. Put together a portfolio of information to be ready to fill out college applications. Accumulate information in regards to activities, honors and awards, volunteer and community service accomplishments. This makes it easier to complete scholarship applications and college admission applications.
3. Volunteer in service opportunities and then list them on applications for scholarships.
4. Spend time surfing college web sites to learn about prospective colleges and narrow your list to 3-5 colleges.

**Class of 2012: Plan College Visits for Fall, 2011**

The fall is a busy time with start of school, fall athletics, fall music and speech activities. Now is a good time to begin to think about scheduling college visits to prospective colleges. It is best to go in the fall before snow blankets the campus. It is important for parents to arrange time off from work to go on the visit. Check college web sites or call college admission offices for individual and group visit days. The campus visit is the single most important factor in deciding which college to attend. Planning ahead and coordinating school and work schedules can be tricky, but looking ahead can give you a day that will work well for students and parents.

**Iowa Private College Week: August 1-5, 2011**

For five days, Iowa's private colleges and universities are inviting you and your parents **to explore campuses, visit with professors, meet coaches, hear what current students have to say, and learn about all academic and social opportunities.** Variety is the spice of life, so check out up to ten different colleges during the week, compare notes and decide which college fits you. Tours are schedules twice each day at each campus: 9:00am and 1:30pm **Iowa Private College Week 2011:** August 1-5. Go to [www.thinkindependently.com](http://www.thinkindependently.com) to register for this summer.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder,**  
**English Department**

Yearbooks must be ordered by May 20 through Mrs. Sowder, they are \$47.00 each. Make checks payable to Martensdale-St.Marys CSD.

Any yearbooks purchased after May 20, 2011 will go up to \$52.00 each, including those extra yearbooks that will be sold after fall delivery.

**From the Desk of Mr. Newbury**  
**HS PE and Health**

The year has gone so fast even with the long winter. The High School PE classes are finally getting outside after spending most of the year inside. The activities the students have been participating in are flag football, speedball, whiffleball, pickleball, and badminton. Every day the kids do a running activity and we lift weights. They have been working hard to get stronger and have been working on their cardio. The next big activity is the physical fitness testing, which they will do 5 tests. The tests include the shuttle run, sit and reach, pull-ups, sit ups, and the mile run. Usually most of the kids take these seriously and give 100% to reach their goal.

The Health classes have been studying such things as alcohol abuse, stress, self esteem, fitness, and nutrition. The next thing we will do is every student will learn CPR and have a chance to become certified.

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

Elementary PE classes completed Jump for Heart and Hoops for Heart this year. Some students jumped in memory of and in honor of. I have listed them below. We raised just about \$800. The students look forward to this every year and do a good job of raising money for heart research. I appreciate those that donated money for this cause. Madeline Myer and Myranda Jackson received the most pledges from our students who brought in pledges.

These students jumped in honor of and in memory of the following relatives:

Garrison Haupts - Grandpa Halverson  
Jack & Hogan Franey – Great Grandpa Joe Van Quekelberghe  
Derek Kleve - Paul Kleve Grandfather  
Nicole and Andrew Shutt - Grandfather Phil Samuelson  
Madeline Myer - three Great-Grandfathers

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

May 2011 newsletter Band and Chorus and Elementary Music

Congratulations to the high school band and chorus students who represented MStM at the Iowa High School Music Association Solo/Ensemble Festival!

Students who earned a #1 rating (superior) are:  
Michaela McIlravy-flute, Taylar Furness-vocal, Michaela McIlravy-vocal, Courtney Scovel-vocal, Brandon Robinson-vocal, Tayler Schad-vocal, KateLynn Miller and Abby Wetzler-flute duet, and Megan Ameigh and Courtney Scovel-vocal duet. Students who earned a #2 rating (excellent) are: Brittany Newman-vocal, Dallas Newman-vocal, Deana Smith-Gyles -vocal, Megan Ameigh-vocal, Kaitlyn Belieu-vocal, Thad Toole-vocal, Brittany Newman and Dallas Newman-

vocal duet, Taylar Furness and Tayler Schad-vocal duet, and Dallas Newman-clarinet. Thank you to the many parents, families, and friends that traveled to Twin Cedars to help support these young musicians! Mrs. Clark and Mr. Olson

The Spring Concert for Junior High and High School chorus and band is Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm in the high school gym. Senior band and chorus members will be recognized at this event.

IHSMA Large Group is Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Earlham High School. The Treble clef chorus will perform first at 7:00, and the high school band performs at 9:05. Please come and support our musical MStM students!

Academic/Fine Arts Awards Ceremony is Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning with hors d'oeuvres and punch being served at 6:30, followed by the awards presentation at 7:00. There will also be music performed by students before the ceremony so come and enjoy an evening of accomplishments!

Fourth grade recorder students will perform on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, and also the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade bands at 2:00pm in the high school gym.

Music will also be a part of this year's graduation ceremony with music performed by the high school band and chorus. Graduation begins at 2:00, and high school students involved need to be at the school by 1:00pm for warm-ups.

Tuesday, May 24 at 2:00 will be the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Talent Show. Students will audition and perform a short piece. This is always a fun time so mark it on your calendar!

May 26 will be the first day of summer for some students, but the MStM Junior High and High School music students will be performing at Adventureland that day. The band, which will be a combined effort of junior high and high school groups, will perform at 11:00. The chorus, also junior high and high school combined will perform at 11:30.

**From the Desk of Mr. Wood,**  
**Elementary Principal**

**So Many Activities, Too Little Time**

It's good to keep children involved in different activities, but how do parents know how much is too much? Check out these tips on how to keep your children from being overscheduled—they might very well make your child's life, and yours, a lot less stressful.

**Follow their passions.**

The best activities for children give them the opportunity to learn more about something they love. To make sure they keep their passion, instead of surrendering to burnout, keep their involvement to just a day or two a week, unless they absolutely beg for more. Even then, check with them periodically to make sure they still are as eager to attend as they used to be. If not, scale back.

### **Get their input.**

Parents are so eager to provide opportunities for their children that they sometimes forget the fun of just being a child. Step back before you sign up for an activity and ask your child to tell you what three things he or she most likes to do after school or in the summer. Then choose activities that meet their interests while also providing stimulation.

### **Broaden their horizons.**

Although following your child's interests is important, it's also great to introduce your child to something totally new, whether it's a new sport, a musical instrument, or a group like Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. The secret to keeping enthusiasm high is to start slowly and gauge your child's interest before committing beyond the first few sessions.

### **Be supportive, not critical.**

No matter what your child is interested in, remember that your job as a parent is to be supportive. The point of activities is to expand your child's interests and abilities, not to make him or her a child prodigy or the next athletic superstar.

### **Schedule down time.**

Creativity can't happen if every minute of a child's time is scheduled. Children need time to ponder, explore, and play. Make sure that when the day's over and the homework's done, there's still time for your child to be a kid.

### **Play the field.**

When it comes to sports, specializing in one activity at such a young age is bad news. Not only do pediatricians discourage the kind of repetitive movements that come from concentrated work in one sport, but the kids who totally dedicate themselves to a single sport early often burn out later and regret not having learned several different sports early, so they have other options.

### **Mix it up.**

Although every family and child is different, child psychologists often suggest involving a child in no more than three activities at a time: one social activity, like Boys' Club or a church group; one physical activity, like gymnastics, swimming, or basketball; and one artistic activity, such as an art class or music lessons.

### **Watch for these signs.**

The stress of trying to keep up with too many planned activities can take a physical toll on your child. If your child is leading a very busy life, watch for signs of stress, including stomachaches and headaches, difficulty paying attention, a drop-off in interest in activities he or she used to enjoy, and increased "clinginess" with a parent or other close adult (e.g., teacher, babysitter). If you notice any of these signs, chances are your child needs to cut back on activities and de-stress.

If you have to schedule something for your child, make it family time. Children need to have meals with their parents, hear bedtime stories, share chores, and play games. While you're scheduling all their other activities to help them learn

and grow, remember that what they most need to learn is that they are special and loved.

## **2011-2012 Preschool Parents Meeting**

Please come join us for the "2011-2012 Preschool Parents Meeting" on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm located in the high school media center.

We will start with a short informational meeting in the Media Center followed by the opportunity to visit the preschool classrooms and a chance to meet the preschool teachers.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. DePauw in the elementary office at 641-764-2621.

## **Kindergarten Roundup**

**Friday, May 6, 2011**

**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

There will be an informational meeting for the parents that will have a child entering kindergarten in the fall of 2011. The meeting will be at 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 28th in the High School Media Center. 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 6th 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.

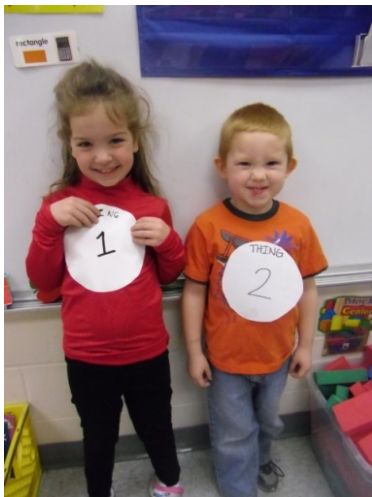
Please contact Brenda DePauw at 641-764-2621 in the elementary office if you know of a family that will have a child entering kindergarten next fall! It is important that we spread the word and reach out to any new families in the district so that everyone has the opportunity to take part in these two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

### **From the Desk of Ms. Burns & Ms. Dykstra** **Preschool News**

We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday in March by reading Dr. Seuss books and doing fun activities. We read books that helped us recognize lots of different rhyming words. The kids enjoyed making their own hats when we read *The Cat in the Hat*. We also tested the kids' balance with a whiteboard eraser relay race after reading the book. When we read *Green Eggs and Ham* we had the kids predict whether or not they thought they would like green eggs and ham. For snack one day, we all made green eggs and ham, and most of the kids really liked it! After we tried it, we went back and looked at our predictions to see if we were right or not.



In April we spent time learning about all things that happen during spring, caterpillars growing into butterflies, tadpoles growing into frogs, and plants and flowers growing. We learned that a butterfly lays eggs, a caterpillar is hatched, and the caterpillar grows into a chrysalis and then turns into a butterfly! Each student also got to plant their own seed to keep at school. We learned that a seed needs soil, water, and sun to grow. The kids are all anxiously waiting for their seed to grow a sprout! To help rap up our curriculum on spring and growing and changing, the kids are going to take a field trip to the Annett Nature Center at the very end of April. We will be exploring inside the Annett Nature Center, learning about Monarch Migration, and hiking to the pond to look for tadpoles and other forms of wildlife. The kids are all very excited; it should be a great time!



### **Martensdale-St. Marys** **Summer Childcare**

With the long winter we have had, it is exciting to be thinking about warm weather plans. It is time once again to sign up for summer daycare. Summer daycare will begin on Monday, May 30, 2011 and will end August 16, 2011 with our hours being 6:30 am to 5:30 pm.

We will provide your child with breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack along with arts and crafts, group games, computer time, reading and education time, and free time to play. We are planning lots of fun activities including field trips twice a week and swimming.

We are asking that parents interested in summer daycare contact the daycare @ 641-344-9889 or e-mail [sandi\\_christensen@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:sandi_christensen@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us) to register your child/children (new and current enrollees). We are asking that registration be completed by May 6, 2011.

## **Wanted: Bus Driver**

### **2011-2012 MStM Bus Route Available**

**Requirements: CDL License and Bus Owner**  
**Deadline for application is by noon,**  
**May 23, 2011.**

**The application is available on the webpage**  
**([www.mstm.us](http://www.mstm.us))**

**Contact: Supt. Bob Newsum, 641-764-2466**  
**Martensdale-St.Marys CSD / EOE Employer**



The MStM PTO would like to THANK the below people/companies for their donations and help with the PTO Scrapfest fundraiser. Thank you to all that participated.

Norwalk Nail Salon  
50211 Salon  
Norwalk Fareway  
Scotts Foods  
Sports Page  
Da-Vi Nails-Wal-Mart  
Applebee's WDM  
Fire Creek-WDM  
Fuddruckers-WDM  
PTO Member – Close to my Heart goodie bag  
PTO Member - Winter goodie bag  
Mary Kay – Lori Dooley  
Longaberger - Jo Wiegert  
That Scrappy Lady –Mimi Davis  
Maple Street Memories  
Silpada – Rena Webster  
Creative Memories – Amanda Marsh  
AJP Letter Photography - Amanda Pelzer  
Scentsy & Homemade Gourmet – Gerry Thomas  
Thirty-One Gifts - Samantha

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Thursday, March 10, 2011.

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

Members Absent: Wade Gibson

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

Supt. Newsum reviewed the agenda items for the Monday, March 14, 2011 Board Meeting.

Harper moved to adjourn, seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 6:03 p.m.

APPROVED

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

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

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 14, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on March 14, 2011.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President, Dave Shutt; Scott Anderson, Wade Gibson, and Amy Harper; together with Mike Crozier, Tom Wood, Josh Moser, Superintendent Bob Newsum and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent:

- I. Welcome Board President  
Bunch called the meeting to order at 6:30 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

Harper requested minor changes to the February 14 minutes prior to meeting. Harper asked about the field trip expense and Gavin explained that the Big Yellow School Bus Grant covered the expense. Harper asked about the 2011 Class Fund balance and

Gavin explained that in March several deposits had been made and the balance was now \$431.81. Harper motioned to approve the consent items seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood handed to the Board results from the 2010-2011 Elementary ITBS scores for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>. Shutt questioned the 6<sup>th</sup> grade results. Bunch voiced her concern about their transition from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade and if we have what we need to meet their needs. Mr. Wood will be working with the special education teachers to help with the transition and there are associates who will follow some of these students to the next grade.

Mr. Crozier congratulated the wrestling team for their outstanding season and Robert Walker for being a 2-Time State Champion. He congratulated the Girls Basketball Team for being the 2011 State Champions. He recognized the Pep Band that played at the State Tournament and that they sounded great. Mr. Crozier announced the ITBS/ITED results came back very good. He announced the JH/HS Band and Chorus Pops Concert were held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a good turnout at the concert and the students did very well.

IV. Public Comments

Joan McIlravy – 2905 South Street Churchville, Norwalk, IA 50211 – Music program

Joan McIlravy attended the Board Meeting to support the music program. She is currently the President of the Music Boosters, has been involved with the Music Boosters for 12 years and is also an MStM Graduate. She presented to the Board petitions on behalf of the Music Boosters and the community. She commented on how the JH/HS Band and Chorus Pops Concert that was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> were really good and that the band was outstanding and the vocal did well. She commented that we now have a competent and ambitious band director but he is only half-time. She voiced her concerns about cutting the music program down to one teacher. Mr. Olson has taken a lot of time learning all the instruments. Now that Mrs. Clark is full time, the administration has reinstated the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band program. The lesson times Mr. Olson gives to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade band does not allow enough time for lessons for the HS band program. She commented on how students are not able to advance without lesson times, contests or small group ensembles. Mr. Olson would like to provide lessons for students in the summer with a minimum fee to continue motivating students. Mr. Olson does not have the time to teach about music. There are two phases that he would like to cover with the students; 1) notes and rhythm 2) musicianship. He would like to have more time preparing for a marching band and he has also been asked to write curriculum mapping for the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



Joan would like the Board to consider the band program as an investment and that we want a quality program everyone would be proud of. The Board Members thanked Joan for her presentation. Bunch stated that the District had to face some difficult choices last year and had to make some hard financial decisions. Bunch stated that as funding becomes available that we would like to maintain the program and honor it to the best of our abilities. The Board does recognize the impact Mr. Olson has made with the band program and thanked Joan for her voice and concerns. Bunch asked about the numbers in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band compared to prior years. It was stated that there is 22 students out of 50 in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band. Bunch stated that Mr. Olson has built that interest and is committed to motivating and growing that interest.

V. Old Business  
A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – Wade Gibson provided an update from the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Facilities Meeting. Items discussed were the maintenance contract, finding a new pickup for the maintenance crew, the progress on the road north of the school building, the fencing project at the baseball field, and the water flow in the boiler room. There is also flaking of the finish on the gym floor due to the water damage in the summer of 2010. It was stated that EMC will not cover the damage but we are in the process of getting additional quotes from other flooring companies and will go back to EMC again. Gibson voiced his concern on the doors by the girls' locker room. The doors were not installed correctly and could cause injury because of sharp edges. This is a project that needs to be taken care of soon. The Board requested an updated facilities list that included the gym floor repair.

2) Communications Report – Amy Harper provided an update from the Communications Advisory Committee Meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The committee represents teachers, students, parents and empty nesters. They will also consider asking Senior Citizens to attend the next meeting. They defined current methods of communications, prioritized the list, and they are now digging into the lists to determine what can be done to improve communications. Some of the items on the list included the district webpage, updated sign in front of the school, and sending out newsletters.

3) MStM Music Booster Minutes – Minutes were provided from the March 8, 2011

meeting. Harper asked for financials. It was stated that financials have not changed since the previous meeting.

4) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – Minutes were provided from the January 12, 2011 meeting. Harper asked if any of our groups requested to have concessions for the semi-pro football league. The administration will follow up with Mr. Peterson after break.

5) MStM PTO Minutes – Minutes were provided from the February 8, 2011 meeting.

B. Presentations

1) Principal's Report Tom Wood

Mr. Wood presented to the Board the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Honor Roll for 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He stated that we just had parent teacher conferences with a 98% attendance which has been typical for several years. He received many positive comments from parents and everything went well. He announced that Mrs. Pribil recently had a baby boy and Mrs. Kuhns is due to have her baby at the end of this week.

2) Principal's Report Mike Crozier

Mr. Crozier updated the Board on the 15 minute program. He is still looking for video production. He commented on how well the students did during the JH/HS Pops Concert. He reviewed with the Board the student 1:1 technology survey data. Mr. Crozier shared the results from the ITBS/ITED scores for math, reading and science. He stated that every class except for two tests increased their percentage from last year. Mr. Crozier announced the upcoming Spring Dance Show on April 1<sup>st</sup> and the February Students of the Month.

7 <sup>th</sup>	Madison Newbury
8 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Murphy
9 <sup>th</sup>	Vickie Kordick
10 <sup>th</sup>	Cassidy Phillips
11 <sup>th</sup>	Meagan Streyffeler
12 <sup>th</sup>	Brittney Kubik

3) Curriculum Director's Report  
Josh Moser

Mr. Moser recapped the events from the Professional Development Day on February 16<sup>th</sup>. He included the comments made by the teachers. They completed their study of *Whatever It Takes* and watched *Waiting for*

*Superman.* Mr. Moser and the staff will now be concentrating on the ITBS/ITED results and what changes they will need to make in their instruction. Mr. Moser attended the Curriculum Network Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> that covered Iowa Core updates, general information and breakout sessions about Iowa Core. Mr. Moser reviewed the new course proposal procedure for JH and HS. He will be conducting a student interest survey after break and looking at possible changes to secondary English/Language Arts and Science for the 2011-2012 school year. Preliminary meetings have been conducted and they are working to maximize current teaching staff, accommodate sustained literacy block in the elementary, review course offerings and discuss schedule structure. The Quest Mini Grant has been submitted.

4) Superintendent's Report

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that the next meeting to discuss the master schedule will include the Curriculum Committee of Nicole Bunch and Amy Harper. The Warren County Joint Boards Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. The District will be hosting this year's meeting and representatives from the Iowa Association of School Boards and Heartland Area Education Agency will be the featured presenters. He updated the Board on negotiations and stated that we have agreed to delay any counters related to money until the legislature sets the allowable growth for next year.

VI. New Business

A. Approve Personnel Recommendation

Supt. Newsum

Harper motioned to approve Sean Smith as Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach and Steve Westphal as Volunteer Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

B. Personnel Resignation

Supt. Newsum

Discussion was made by the Board on whether or not to fill Herm Lenze's position. The administration stated that they will juggle associates around to make it work for the rest of the school year. Gibson motioned to approve Herm Lenze's resignation as full time Para-educator, seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

C Receive Technology 5-Year Update

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Wood provided information on the District Technology Cycle from 2007-2012 and updated the information from what has been done in the past year. He stated that we currently have two wireless systems which are providing interference in the building and the teacher laptops will be four years old next year. Bunch asked what the District's plan is to get teachers to the same level as the students. The administration will have plans to get them to that point. The Board would like to create another subcommittee for technology.

D. Consider Career Academy Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that Amy Harper attended a meeting in Winterset in January and learned about the potential career academy educational opportunity for some of our senior high students. Information from the meeting was given to Mr. Folkerts and discussed the possibilities of any of our students to attend the academy. Due to conflicts with required single section courses, it is not possible to build a student schedule that would allow students to attend academy courses in Winterset at this time. However, the administration will be pursuing this option more this spring.

E Receive Quality Support Committee Update

Supt. Newsum

The Quality Support Committee met in November and reviewed goals. The Board along with Mr. Moser set April 28<sup>th</sup> for the next meeting to review APR goals and other items of discussion. The Board requested to be a part of putting the agenda together.

F. Approve Publication of Proposed 2010-2011 Budget Amendment Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approve the publication of the 2010-2011 Budget Amendment seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

G. Approve Budget Guarantee Resolution for 2011-2012 Supt. Newsum

Anderson motioned and Gibson seconded the *RESOLVED, that the board of Directors of the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District will levy property tax for fiscal year 2011-2012 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa.* Roll call: 5 ayes.

H. Approve Publication of Proposed 2011-2012  
Budget Supt. Newsum

Supt. Newsum and Gavin discussed and proposed to the Board possible scenarios regarding tax rates for FY12. The Board understands that not knowing what the legislature is going to decide on allowable growth makes this another difficult budget year. The Board is also faced with dealing with teacher negotiations and their proposed salary increases.

Gavin presented to the Board how the budget is driven by the allowable growth. Allowable growth is the annual dollar amount calculated by the Iowa Department of Management based on legislation and which is added to each school district's cost per pupil to provide additional funding to school districts. It is also based on student enrollment that is taken in October of the previous year. Our enrollment went down 12 students for the FY12 school year. Gavin discussed that our District will be on the budget guarantee again this year. The Budget Guarantee is for districts with declining enrollment and is the amount of spending authority added to a school district's budget to ensure the school district's authorized spending limit is no less than the prior year. It is funded by property tax. Key unknowns that the Board needs to be concerned with are allowable growth, enrollment trend, property valuations, other legislation, negotiations, revenue projections and other expenses.

Gavin provided information on what the current tax rate is for our district and what the surrounding school districts' tax rates are for FY11. Our district is still one of the lowest in Warren County at 18.73411. Gavin contacted the surrounding school districts and most of them responded back stating that they are keeping their tax rates the same for FY12. The Winterset District is proposing a \$0.75 decrease for FY12. Gavin provided a five-year projection for the MStM District and stated that we are in good shape right now but it is important to look ahead. She stated that we need to keep our expenses down or else raise property taxes. She pointed out our Unspent Balance is the amount of the total spending authority not expended during the fiscal year and includes previous year's accumulation of unexpended total spending authority. Gavin stressed that we need to have a healthy unspent balance. If a district has a negative unspent balance for two years in a row, the district may be shut down.

The intent of the Board is to keep the property tax the same for FY12. Due to the fact that we do not know what our allowable growth will be, it is advised by the Department of Management to publish at 0% allowable growth and publish the tax rate high. Hopefully, the legislature will make their decision by April 15<sup>th</sup> and then at that point we can decrease our cash reserve amounts to keep our property tax at the

same rate. Once a budget has been published, a district cannot increase the tax rate. They are only allowed to decrease the rate.

Gavin will submit the proposal to the Record Herald for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> publication. The Budget Hearing will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's office and April 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to certify our budget to the County Auditor and the Department of Management.

Anderson motioned to approve the publishing of the proposed budget with a tax levy of 19.22194 which includes a cash reserve levy of \$570,000 with the intent to decrease the tax rate when the legislature sets the allowable growth, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

I. Approve Resolution of Intent to Participate in  
Instructional Support Levy Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum recommended that the Board approve the Resolution of Intent to participate in the Instructional Support Levy program for a five-year period.

Director Wade Gibson, introduced and caused to be read the Resolution hereinafter set out and moved its adoption; seconded by Director Dave Shutt; after due consideration by the Board, the President put the question upon the adoption of said Resolution and, the results of the roll call vote were:

Aye Amy Harper, Scott Anderson, Dave Shutt,  
Wade Gibson, Nicole Bunch  
DIRECTORS

Nay \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTORS

Whereupon the President declared said Resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board deems it necessary and desirable to provide additional funding for the Martinsdale St. Marys Community School District; and

WHEREAS, in order to consider participating in an Instructional Support Program, the District must hold a public hearing on the question of participation, setting forth its proposal following publication of the notice of the time and place of such hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to set forth in a Resolution its proposal specifying the method and amount to be used to fund the Instructional Support Program, the purposes within the general fund for which the Instructional Support funds will be used,

and set a date of public hearing, and direct the Board Secretary to publish notice of the time and place of hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District, in the County of Warren, State of Iowa, as follows:

Section 1: That a public hearing on the question of the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District's participation in the Instructional Support Program is hereby set for March 14, 2011 at 6:30 o'clock p.m. in the Martensdale St. Marys Superintendent's Office and the Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized to give notice of the time and place of the public hearing by publishing said notice in the Indianola Record Herald, not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty (20) days before the date of the public hearing.

Section 2: At the public hearing the Board will announce the date, no longer than 30 days after the hearing, on which it will take action to adopt a resolution to participate in the Instructional Support Program. At the public hearing the following proposition, as may be modified as a result of discussion and input, shall be considered for inclusion in the resolution to participate in the program, to wit:

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District in the County of Warren, State of Iowa, does hereby resolve to participate in the Instructional Support Program for a period of five (5) years, to levy annually, as determined by the Board, an instructional support property tax upon the taxable property within the District, commencing with the levy of property taxes for collection in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and an instructional support income surtax imposed annually for each budget year, the percent of income surtax (not to exceed twenty percent (20%)), to be imposed upon the state individual income tax of each individual income taxpayer resident in the District on December 31, 2012, and each year thereafter.

The funds thus collected, when combined with Instructional Support State Aid shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the regular program district cost, including the budget adjustment pursuant to Iowa Code §257.14 for any budget year. Instructional Support Program funds may be used for any general fund purpose.

Section 3: That all resolutions or orders or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Passed and approved March 14, 2011.

J. Approve Notice of Public Hearing for Instructional Support Levy Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approve the Notice of Public Hearing for Instructional Support Levy, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

K. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates Supt. Newsum

04/06/11 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail  
04/06/11 – Warren County Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
04/07/11 – 5:00 p.m. Board Agenda Meeting  
04/11/11 – 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment  
Gibson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 8:12 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@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:mike.crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us)

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

*The newsletter is available for pickup in the Superintendent's office and the Jiffy station, which are located in Martensdale. Copies are also available at Kum & Go in Bevington. You may also view it on the <http://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@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:karen_tomlinson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us)

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