



Spring Quarter Newsletter 2011

Greetings:

Let me begin the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District Spring Quarter 2011 Newsletter by introducing myself. My name is Dr. Bob Newsum and I am currently serving the district as your part-time Superintendent. I retired from full-time school administration as Superintendent for the Chariton Community School District in June 2007. Prior to my service in Chariton, I was Superintendent in Rockford, Iowa, for three years, and an Indianola Middle School Principal for twelve years. My wife, Linda, and I live in Chariton, where she is the high school alternative education program teacher. Since beginning work on November 1, 2010, I have enjoyed meeting many students, parents, and community members and would offer an invitation to you to stop in or call me at my office telephone number (641-764-2466) or cell telephone (641-203-8893) to introduce yourself and share your ideas for ways we can improve our service to your children.

The district provides a monthly electronic newsletter and you can read that if you go to the district web site, located at www.mstm.us. We do know that many of our district patrons do not have access to the monthly newsletter for a variety of reasons, including lack of access to a computer or internet access; lack of technology knowledge; unfamiliarity with the district web site; or being new to the district. One of the long-term goals that your Martensdale St. Marys Community School District Board of Education has set is to 'Celebrate and Promote the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District'. In the recent past, monthly newsletters were printed and mailed, but last spring the school board voted to stop mailing monthly newsletters as a cost-savings measure. At the regular April 2011 board of education meeting, the board voted to reinstitute the practice of mailing a printed copy of a district newsletter on a quarterly basis, beginning this spring. In addition to the regular monthly electronic newsletter, you can expect to receive a quarterly newsletter to be delivered to your home during late July/early August. This quarterly newsletter would include important information about student registration for 2011-2012. The fall quarterly newsletter would arrive in late October/early November and the winter quarterly newsletter would be mailed to you in late February/early March.

Each quarterly newsletter will include summaries of articles contained in the previous three electronic newsletters, as well as features specific to the printed newsletter that is mailed. We do not plan to use color print, there will be very limited pictures and graphics included, and we plan to limit

the number of pages to seven per quarterly newsletter. In instances where additional information, pictures, and graphics are available, we will include the appropriate web address and monthly newsletter reference in the article.

If you have ideas, suggestions, concerns, or questions, please call Bob Newsum, Superintendent, at my office (641-764-2466) or on my cell phone (641-203-8893); send me an email at bob_newsum@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us or stop in for a visit. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

ONE-TO-ONE COMPUTERS

Exactly what is one-to-one computing? Simply put, the trendy term means "anytime, anyplace technology for every student." In the past, a high school history teacher, for example, might have had students conduct a semester-long research project. To help with their research, the teacher would schedule time in a computer lab, rotate groups of students on a few classroom computers, or simply expect students to use a home or library computer. However, such irregular use of technology did not prove helpful for building students' technology skills or for successfully integrating technology into the classroom.

Students in one-to-one computing situations, on the other hand, have constant and immediate technological access to the world. Their teachers can address teachable moments immediately, break down classroom walls, and engage students in real world learning. Students can take the technology with them throughout the day, continuing their school work at home, on a riverbank, in a waiting room, even at the mall. One-to-one computing means that every student has regular, reliable access to technology: *Regular* means once a week or more (once a semester does not count); *reliable* means hardware, infrastructure (such as Internet access and bandwidth), and software that is in working order most of the time; *every* student means that each student has immediate individual access to technology. At Martensdale St. Marys regular means every day, reliable means wireless access throughout the building and every student means EVERY high school student. We are convinced that one-to-one computer access is the future of education!

We implemented a one-to-one computer program for all Martensdale St. Marys High School students for the 2010-2011 school year and believe it has provided tremendous benefits for our high school students. Providing one-to-one computers for our high school students sets us apart from neighboring school districts. If you want more information about this program, please contact Mr. Mike Crozier, High School principal, at mike_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us or give him a call at 641-764-2486.

MARTENSDALE ST. MARYS
STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS FOR 2010-2011

Martensdale St. Marys Community School District students generally performed so well, this year, on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) that I thought it was worthy of special recognition. As a refresher for you, the United States Department of Education established a program known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) several years ago and required all public school districts throughout the United States to report student performance results in the general areas of reading comprehension, mathematics, and science. The NCLB program also established a minimum level of proficiency for each of the tested areas. Students in grades three through eight, like those in nearly all Iowa public school districts, complete the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and students in grades nine through eleven complete the Iowa Tests of Educational Development. In the charts that follow, the percentages reflect the portion of the students in each grade level who performed above the 40th percentile. In other words, they represent the portion of students in that grade who scored at a proficiency level aligned with NCLB standards.

For the 2010-2011 school year, for **reading comprehension** in grade three, 87% of our students; in grade four, 89% of our students; in grade five, 77% of our students; in grade six, 51% of our students; in grade seven, 86% of our students; in grade eight, 81% of our students; in grade nine, 85% of our students; in grade ten, 77% of our students; and in grade eleven, 82% of our students performed at the mandated proficiency level. Performance in **reading comprehension** was improved for students at all grade levels.

For the 2010-2011 school year, for **mathematics** in grade three, 94% of our students; in grade four, 84% of our students; in grade five, 82% of our students; in grade six, 65% of our students; in grade seven, 89% of our students; in grade eight, 84% of our students; in grade nine, 79% of our students; in grade ten, 89% of our students; and in grade eleven, 79% of our students performed at the mandated proficiency level. Performance in **mathematics** was improved for students at all grade levels, except grade eleven, where the rate of proficient performance slipped from 82.5% to 79%.

For the 2010-2011 school year, for **science** in grade three, 94% of our students; in grade four, 87% of our students; in grade five, 84% of our students; in grade six, 71% of our students; in grade seven, 97% of our students; in grade eight, 93% of our students; in grade nine, 79% of our students; in grade ten, 89% of our students; and in grade eleven, 86% of our students performed at the mandated proficiency level. Performance in **science** was improved for students at all grade levels, except grade ten, where the rate of proficiency slipped from 97% to 89%.

MARTENSDALE ST. MARYS
BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

In 2009 the Iowa Legislature changed the laws related to the election of district community members to serve on the boards of education for the 364 Iowa public school districts and setting the length of a term of service on the local board. The change in law stated that school board elections be held

on an every-other-year basis, during odd-numbered years (2011), and set the length of term of elected service for a four-year period. The Martensdale St. Marys Community School District is governed by a five-member board of directors and each of the directors is elected from a designated district. In September 2011, the terms of two of our directors, Mrs. Nicole Bunch, current board president, and Mr. Scott Anderson, will expire and they will be up for re-election. If you are interested in serving your community and district as an elected school board member and want to be considered a candidate, please contact Mrs. Jill Gavin, District Business Manager by telephone (641-764-2608), or by email at jill_gavin@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us to find out whether you live within the required district and receive the necessary nomination petition and board member candidate documents. These documents can also be found on the district web site www.mstm.us. The deadline for submitting the required petition and candidate documents is early August, 2011.

FENCING SECTIONS FOR SALE
VIA SEALED BID

Earlier this spring the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District replaced the outfield fences surrounding the baseball field, located in St. Marys. The fencing sections that were removed have been placed in storage and are available for purchase, **as is**. Because we had several inquiries expressing interest in some or all of the sections, we have decided to dispose of them by selling them via a process of sealed bids. There are approximately twenty-five (25) fence sections available that are four (4) feet by sixteen (16) feet in dimension, with a galvanized pipe frame and wire mesh. Approximately seventeen (17) sections that are six (6) feet by sixteen (16) feet in dimension, with a galvanized pipe frame and wire mesh, are also available for purchase. You may inspect the fencing sections by contacting Mr. Jim Lynch, District Buildings and Grounds Director, at 641-764-2466. If you are interested in submitting a bid or any or all of the fencing sections, you should submit your sealed bid to:

Mrs. Jill Gavin, Business Manager
Martensdale St. Marys Community School District
390 Burlington
Martensdale, Iowa 50160

Sealed bids will be accepted through Monday noon, May 23, 2011, and you should clearly state whether you are bidding on the 4' X 16' sections or the 6' X 16' sections, the number of sections you are interested in purchasing, and your bid **per section**. Jill and I will open the sealed bids received by May 23rd, in the afternoon, and notify the highest qualified bidder(s). It will be the responsibility of the winning bidder to make arrangements with Mr. Lynch to pick up the purchased fencing sections.

ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S SCHOLAR
REGONITION CEREMONY – TAYLOR GAVIN

On Sunday, May 1, in HyVee Hall at the Iowa Events Center, Taylor Gavin was recognized by Governor Terry Branstad for his academic achievements. It is estimated that over 2,200 attended this ceremony, as the Governor paid tribute to 450 outstanding students from across the state of Iowa. Congratulations to Taylor Gavin.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT MARTENSDALE-ST. MARYS?

While attending the Martensdale-St. Marys Schools, my children have excelled and grown to be wonderful academic learners, their confidence has grown through the many athletic and extra-circular activities and they have learned to become respectful and caring citizens within the community here at MStM. We talk frequently that this was one of the best decisions we made for our kids.

I have three children in elementary, junior high, and high school. Moving these kids from one of the largest school districts in the state to one of the smaller ones was a huge decision that weighed on my husband and me five years ago when our house was finished and we moved in.

Our oldest daughter was moving away from well-established friendships and the only school she had known. She was our biggest concern, as she has an IEP and was getting a lot of resources from the larger school district. But at the same time we were not seeing the progress from those resources and our daughter was starting to become labeled as a "special kid", because she was pulled out of class and away from her friends/peers, even though her only problem was that she was a slow reader and not a slow learner. We were beginning to think as she moved into the upper grades she may be lost in a sea of kids and wouldn't thrive. After five years at Martensdale-St. Marys, she is now an A/B student doing it on her own, with no extra help. Our daughter who was once extremely shy is now showing us her strength in athletics, and she has blossomed into a wonderful cheerleader and dancer who represents her school with pride. We would have never thought that we would see this in our daughter and this is a testament to what a small and close knit school can do for a child. Our daughter is now happy and thriving and we, as parents, couldn't be more pleased.

As for our other two children – we were concerned about what it would be like for our younger children to be in the same building and mix with older kids. After the first month at Martensdale-St. Marys our fears were put to rest. The older kids really reached out to the younger kids and help to include them in the MStM school community. The older kids mixed with our younger kids as reading buddies, helpers in the class room, and even just friends. Another benefit of all the kids being in one building was the sense of community – our younger kids were part of pep rallies, homecoming parades and spirit days, which really helped them to become Blue Devils with pride. Also by knowing the older kids they wanted to go to the activities and cheer for their older "friends". The older kids have also worked with the younger kids in camps and other activities and have not only become their friends, but good role models. This has really helped the transition from elementary to the upper grades be much less stressful, as they know what to expect in the upper grades before they even get there.

Testimonial from Mark, Lisa, Dani, Jenny, and Brooks Trom

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

One of the special features we intend to include in each quarterly district newsletter is to recognize an individual who has graduated from the Martensdale St. Marys Community

School District and has made a significant contribution to society, after graduation. If you know of someone who graduated from Martensdale St. Marys and has brought honor and pride to our district, community, and family through special achievement, invention, discovery, philanthropic activity, or in some other noteworthy manner, please call Bob Newsum, Superintendent, at the district office (641-764-2466), on his cell phone (641-203-8893), or via email bob_newsum@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us with your nomination. I will collect important biographical information for the person selected for the next quarter's Alumni Spotlight and include a recognition article in the next newsletter.

MARTENSDALE-ST. MARYS STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION FOR 2010-2011

This year has been exceptional for our student athletes and performers and coaches, with many successes on the fields, diamonds, courts, and mats, as well as in the music room! Listed below are students and coaches who received recognition at the conference and state levels.

Softball Honors

All Pride of Iowa Conference

Morgan Halverson	Sam Norris
Hailey Sweet	Meagan Streyffeler
Brittany Kubik	Taylor Johnson
Sarah Bunch	

All Pride of Iowa Conference – Academic

Meagan Streyffeler	Hailey Sweet
Sam Norris	Andia Harper
Sarah Bunch	Alex VanHoose
Morgan Halverson	Brittney Kubik
Taylor Johnson	

Class 1A State All-Tournament Team

Hailey Sweet	Brittany Kubik
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IGCA All-State Team

Hailey Sweet	Brittany Kubik
Morgan Halverson	Sam Norris

Baseball Honors

All Pride of Iowa Conference

Ethan Westphal – First Team Pitcher
Jake Defenbaugh – First Team Infield
Dillon Coates – First Team Infield
Nick Ferin – First Team Catcher
Hayden VanHoose – First Team Outfield
David Walker – First Team Outfield
Zeb Noel – First Team Utility
Robert Walker – Second Team Utility
TJ Foster – Pitcher

All Pride of Iowa Conference – Academic

Ethan Westphal	David Walker
Hayden VanHoose	Robert Walker

INA All-State

Ethan Westphal – 1st team pitcher
Jake Defenbaugh – 2nd team utility
Dillon Coates – 2nd team infield

IHSBCA All-State

Ethan Westphal – Super Team
Jake Defenbaugh – 2nd team SS
Dillon Coates – 1st team 3rd base
Zeb Noel – 1st team utility

IHSBCA Senior All-Star Series

Jake Defenbaugh Hayden VanHoose
MVP of State Tourney – Ethan Westphal

Justin Dehmer –
Class 1A State Coach of the Year – 2010
Class 1A Southwest District Coach of the Year 2010

Coach Dehmer led the Blue Devils to a perfect 43-0 season in the summer of 2010. The Blue Devils became the first Class 1A team to have a perfect season since 1973.

Volleyball Honors

Pride of Iowa All-Conference

First Team – Mackenzie Morrison – Unanimous
First Team – Hailey Sweet
First Team – Riley Dunn
Second Team – PJ Estell
Second Team – Andria Harper

All-State

First Team – Mackenzie Morrison

Wrestling Honors

Pride of Iowa Conference Champions

Dylan Gibson – 103 Taylor Hagen – 119
David DeLong – 125 David Walker – 135
Robert Walker – 140

District Qualifiers

Dylan Gibson – 103 Taylor Hagen – 112
Kole Stapes – 119 David DeLong – 125
David Walker – 135 Robert Walker – 140
Brad Nauman – 160 Dillon Coates – 171

State Qualifiers

Dylan Gibson – 103 Taylor Hagen – 112
Kole Stapes – 119 David Walker – 135
Robert Walker – 140

Robert Walker – Class 1A 140 Pound State Champion

The Martensdale St. Marys Wrestling Team was a Class 1A District Wrestling Team Champion

The Martensdale St. Marys Wrestling Team was a Class 1A Regional Wrestling Team Duals Qualifier

Girls Basketball Honors

Pride of Iowa All-Conference

First Team – Morgan Halverson
First Team – Sam Norris
First Team – Mackenzie Morrison – Unanimous

All Record Herald

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

IGCA Basketball Academic All-State

Rachel Connor

IGCA All-District 1A South Region

Sam Norris
Mackenzie Morrison

The Iowa Basketball Coaches Association All-Region

Sam Norris
Mackenzie Morrison
Morgan Halverson

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

Sam Norris
Mackenzie Morrison

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

Mackenzie Morrison

Iowa Sports Connection All-State Teams 1A

Mackenzie Morrison
Sam Norris

The Iowa Sports Connection

Mackenzie Morrison Class 1A First Team All State

Tim Baker – Class 1A Coach of the Year - 2011
Class 1A Southwest Iowa Coach of the Year - 2011

Coach Baker led the Blue Devils to the Class 1A State Girls' Basketball Championship in his first year of coaching. His squad won the Pride of Iowa championship with an unbeaten record.

Boys Basketball Honors

Pride of Iowa All-Conference

First Team – Ethan Westphal
Second Team – Zeb Noel