



MARTENSDALE- ST. MARYS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

September 1, 2013

From the Desk of Tom Wood,
Superintendent/Elementary Principal

Starting the Year

We are off to a wonderful start this school year. It is hard to tell who is more excited to be back, teachers or students! As always the teachers, associates, food service and maintenance department have made the transition back as smooth as possible. Hopefully you have noticed some small changes that we have implemented to improve the safety of our students. These changes have been communicated before, but I am including them here as well. All doors are now locked during the school day. If you need into the building, you will need to ring the doorbell at the superintendent's office door to be buzzed in. Another change has been our drop-off and dismissal procedures. All students dropped off between 8:00 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. have to be let off at the superintendent's door. No cars can be in the bus lane in front of the school at this time. After school, no cars can be in the bus lane to pick up students until the buses have pulled away. The nearest parking lot entrance, by the superintendent's office, will also be blocked at this time to load the small bus and van. So far these changes are working well for our students and drivers. With the fall activities starting up, I am asking for your help in making those activities be the best that they can. Please remind children attending events that the expectation is that they sit and watch the event. Our athletes and performers count on crowd support, and those younger children are no exception. Students should not bring balls of any kind into the events they are attending; they will be taken. Finally, MSTM regularly receives high marks for its sportsmanship. This includes players, coaches and fans. Please do your part to ensure that we continue to be seen as a community that values good sportsmanship.

We received some very good news from the Department of Education recently. According to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), schools have been put under pressure to meet increasingly harder achievement goals each year. Schools not meeting those goals are placed under a watch list, and if improvement is not made the next year they become a School In Need of Assistance (SINA). Districts can also fall under this punitive arrangement and become Districts In Need of Assistance (DINA). Last year we learned that we had fallen onto the watch list in several areas. Since the elementary receives Title I money this could lead to sanctions that would affect how we serve our students and the funding stream from

Title I. Fortunately, we were notified that we met our goals this year and would not advance to the SINA list. Furthermore, the Department of Education also informed us that there were calculation errors last year, and we NEVER WERE ACTUALLY ON THE WATCH LIST. In summary we are one of very few schools or districts that remain safe from the sanctions set out by NCLB!

We are proud of the achievement that our students demonstrate in and out of the classroom. This is a reflection of the values of our community, quality of our teachers and the work ethic of our students.

Thank you for your support of MSTM.

From the Desk of Josh Moser,
Secondary School Principal

"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."

-Robert Maynard Hutchins

The school year is officially under way, and I couldn't be more pleased with how we have started. As I walk through the halls in the morning, visit with students during lunch, and peek into classrooms throughout the day, I see and hear a lot of positive energy that typically comes with the first few weeks of school. Some teachers are experimenting with new technology and new approaches to teaching. Students are beginning new classes in classrooms, online, and at the new DMACC Southridge Academy in Des Moines. To add to this excitement we'll see football and volleyball begin their seasons this month, the marching band "fine-tune" for their performances, and soon drama students will audition and begin rehearsing for the fall play. These all contribute to the challenging, well-rounded learning experience we strive to achieve at MSTM.

As the year progresses and we begin to settle into a routine, it is important to remember the excitement the first few weeks of school held for us. We all like the start of a school year because it is a chance to begin again. Whether the previous year was great or not-so-great, these first few weeks of this school year should be seen as the time to create a mindset of improvement. It is a chance to accept the challenges brought to us with new eyes and embrace the possibilities they make for us. Strive to make the next day better than the last. Avoid holding a grudge and make an effort to have positive interactions with everyone, regardless of how they may have

treated you in the past. Doing so will make for a better school year for everyone.

I will be in classrooms as much as I can this year because I want to learn what makes our school what it is. We will be working together to find what we're doing well, what we can improve, and how best to make that happen. I am looking forward to what comes throughout this school year, and together we can capture the excitement of these first few days and hold it for the rest of the year.

Important Dates for September

- Sept. 3 9th/JV/V Volleyball @ Home v. Nodaway Valley 6:00 p.m.
- September 6 V Football @ Home v. Pleasantville 7:00 p.m.
- September 9 JV Football @ Home v. Saydel 6:00 p.m.
- September 9 Music Boosters Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- September 10 School Board Elections
- September 10 9th/JV/V Volleyball @ Home v. Pleasantville 6:00 p.m.
- September 11 1:00 Dismissal – Professional Development
- September 11 Athletic Boosters Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- September 12 JH Volleyball v. SEW 4:00 p.m.
- September 16 School Board Meeting 5:00 p.m.
- September 17 9th/JV/V Volleyball @ Home v. I-35 6:00 p.m.
- September 18 1:00 Dismissal – Professional Development
- September 19 JH Football @ Home v. Nodaway Valley 4:00 p.m.
- September 20 Pink-Out Night/V Football v. Madrid 6:00 p.m.
- September 24 JH Volleyball @ Home v. Van Meter 4:00 p.m.
- September 26 JH Football @ Home v. SEW 4:00 p.m.
- September 28 MSTM Volleyball Tournament @ Home 9:00 a.m.
- September 29 Golden Circle College Fair in DSM 12:30 p.m.
- September 30 JV Football @ Home v. Van Meter 6:00 p.m.



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

National ACT Testing Dates for 2013-2014

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Registration)
September 21, 2013	August 23, 2013	August 24 – Sept. 6, 2013
October 26, 2013	September 27, 2013	September 28 – Oct. 11, 2013
December 14, 2013	November 8, 2013	November 9 – 22, 2013
February 8, 2014	January 10, 2014	January 11–24, 2014
April 12, 2014	March 7, 2014	March 8 – 21, 2014
June 14, 2014	May 9, 2014	May 10 – 23, 2014

Scholarships

Scholarship information is available in the Counseling office for any senior interested in scholarship assistance for college. Talk to the guidance secretary, Kerry or the counselor for more information.

Senior Timeline

SEPTEMBER:

1. Register for fall ACT test, if you are planning to go to a four year university in the fall of 2014.
2. Make sure you meet the admissions requirements of the colleges that you are interested in. Change your schedule in the counseling office if you need to take extra courses.
3. Double check college admissions deadlines.
4. Start the process of getting recommendation letters from teachers and/or people who know you.
5. Search for scholarships online and review the scholarship notebook.
6. If planning on playing sports in college, be sure you register ASAP with the NCAA Clearinghouse at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

OCTOBER:

1. Make final decisions on possible colleges.
2. Complete college applications, paying close attention to early admission deadlines.
3. Request teacher and/or counselor recommendations if needed.
4. Request transcripts from the counseling office as needed.
5. Attend college sponsored campus visit programs.

6. Search for scholarships online and through the scholarship notebook.
6. Be aware of admissions deadlines, housing deadlines, scholarship deadlines, etc.
7. Take ACT or ACT tests. Make sure that the official scores are sent by the testing company to the colleges or universities that have made your final list of schools.
8. Register with the Selective Service if you are a male and 18 years old.

Junior Year Responsibilities

1. Attend College Planning Night...October 2nd @ 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center.
2. Take the PSAT/NMSQT on October 16th.
3. Register for spring SAT or ACT.
4. Take Advance Placement exams (if eligible) in May.
5. Review college options, requirements, and deadlines for admission, housing, financial aid, and scholarships to begin preparing to narrow college choices. Pay close attention to admission deadlines.
6. Visit college campuses of interest, if possible.
7. Register with NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan on being a college athlete for Division I or II schools. Registration can be completed online at www.naaclearinghouse.net.

From the Desk of Mr. Klemesrud, **Activities Director**

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the community. I have been in the education field for 14 years prior to accepting the position here at Martinsdale-St. Marys as 7-12 Activities Director and physical education teacher. All 14 years were with the RRM Community School District in Rockford, Iowa where I served as Athletic Director and 7-12 PE teacher. In addition, I have been a coach of various sports at all levels including 10 years as a Head Baseball Coach, 14 years as Head Golf Coach, and 2 years as Head Boys Basketball Coach.

My wife (Joni), two boys (Nolan and Drew) and I, have enjoyed getting to know everyone that we've met and look forward to meeting those that we haven't yet had the chance. Please feel free to introduce yourselves to us at events!

This year fall will be filled with opportunities to support our students. Football kicks off this weekend at SE Warren and volleyball plays Clarke on Saturday. The first Home Volleyball game will be Tuesday, September 3rd with Nodaway Valley. The first Home Football game will be September 6th with Pleasantville. Let's cheer them on!

As a reminder, schedules may be found on our school website by highlighting 'calendar' on the left side of the page and clicking on 'activity'. A great option to keep notified is to sign up for email notifications by clicking on the 'Notify me' button at the top of the activity calendar and following the on screen directions.

This will be an exciting year! Be a part of it! Go Blue Devils!



From the Desk of Mrs. Davidson, **JH/HS Visual Art Department**

ARTSONIA

Our school is a member of Artsonia.com (www.artsonia.com), the largest online student art museum. Artsonia showcases artwork from thousands of schools around the world. I posted over 7000 pieces of art since we started in 2009.

In the art room, your students will be creating some beautiful art work that we would like to showcase on Artsonia. This opportunity allows parents and out-of-town relatives to see the work that your student is creating. Artsonia only uses a child's first name to ensure privacy. The program also allows you or family members to purchase merchandise with your child's artwork on it. The proceeds from the program will benefit our art department.

We will continue to use the accounts that we set up previously for the website. I will be sending home permission slips to those students not already enrolled. Please contact me if you need an additional permission slip or if you have any changes in your information. A second parent email can be added to the account. Please contact me if you would like another email address added to your account. Please feel free to view Artsonia's website or contact me if you have any questions.

Art Supply Donations Needed

I am looking forward to another great year in the art room at MSTM. I want to thank everyone who has generously given supplies to the art room. We have put the items to good use.

If you have something that you would like to donate to the art room, please feel free to contact me at angela_davidson@mstm.us. The following is my list of things that I would like to collect for art projects this year. Many of the items would be your recycled items or things you have and do not need any longer.

Paper Towel Rolls

Brown Paper Grocery Sacks

Egg cartons

Glitter

Yarn

Calenders with nice photography of landscapes, animals, flowers, etc.

Any craft items such as beads, buttons, ribbon, etc.

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

YEARBOOK NEWS: The 2012-2013 yearbook will be delivered in about six weeks. There are only a few books available for purchase during delivery time (\$47), so reserve yours now. If you have any cash or check payments to finish, please drop that off to the high school office or send to the school in care of Amy Sowder as soon as possible.

The 2014 senior class should start thinking about senior photo sessions for the yearbook now. Plan early and reserve a date with your photographer, seniors. Senior photos will be due right after Winter Break. If you need a free senior photo session due to a financial situation, please contact Mrs. Sowder (amy_sowder@mstm.us) by the end of September to set up an appointment at no charge.



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

High School Chorus

Our fall concert is Thursday, October 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym. We are studying the many different styles of music, how music has questions and answers, and the ways to prepare vocal music for performance. Currently we are working on patriotic, modern pop, vintage rock, and Disney. Our next performance will be just a few days later at Norwalk.

Norwalk High School will be hosting a concert with Simon Estes this fall for all of the HS choirs in Warren County. Simon is raising money for malaria prevention in Africa. He has performed a concert in 35 of the 99 counties thus far. He prefers countywide efforts and his goal is to present a performance in all 99 counties. The date is Sunday, October 20th at 2:00 p.m. in the Norwalk auditorium. Ticket prices will be under \$20. The first half of the concert will be presented by Simon. The second half would involve each Warren County HS choir presenting 1-2 songs, with a mass choir singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (All-State version) with Simon.

Please mark this on your calendar!

We also have several students preparing to audition for the Iowa High School Music Association All-State Chorus.

Junior High Chorus

Students are singing and having fun in Junior High chorus this fall. We are beginning to learn an African song, a song with a traditional Jewish melody, and a song about dancing! The JH chorus will also perform at the October concert here at school on Thursday, October 17th.

Elementary Music

The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students are already beginning to prepare music for their fall concert. This concert is Monday, November 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School gym. Students are learning songs about Character Counts! This is fun music with a positive message, so you don't want to miss this. Please put this on your calendar.

Elementary Music Dates 2013-2014

November 18th at 7 p.m. –grades 2, 3, and 4
January 24th, Time TBA- all elementary students are invited to sing the National Anthem at the BB game.
February 17th at 7 p.m. – grades 5 & 6, band and vocal concert
April 7th at 7 p.m. –grades PK, K, and 1st
May – Elementary Talent Show TBA



*From the Desk of Mr. Olson,
Band*

I am so excited to announce that beginning band for all interested fifth grade students will be starting on Monday, September 16th. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to explore their interest in music as well as enhance cognitive, social, disciplinary, and leadership skills. Please take some time to discuss this possibility with your child.

During the next two weeks, I will be meeting and working with your child to guide them in choosing an instrument that they will find exciting to play and practice. Students may choose to play an instrument from the following list:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- French horn
- Tuba
- Percussion (including mallets and snare drum)

Please have your child consider three different instrument options. I will discuss those options with your child when we meet at school to try the instruments. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. **If your child is considering percussion, I strongly recommend that the student has had two years of previous piano experience.**

On Thursday, September 12th, at 6:30 p.m., in the music room, parents and students are encouraged to attend beginning band registration night. This is a chance for me to meet you and talk about the goals and expectations of the band program. Students will also be signing up for their instrument choice. If you need to secure an instrument for your child, Rieman Music will be available that evening as well to discuss their rental plan and repair options of used instruments. **Students will need to purchase a beginning method book and portable music stand for practicing at home.** The books are approximately \$10 and the stands are \$20.

Small group lessons will be offered during the school day for beginning band members starting Monday, September 16th. Students will meet with me to develop the basic mechanical skills of each instrument and for group rehearsals.

*From the Desk of Ms. Brinkman,
Elementary Guidance Counselor*

Welcome back! I am very excited to start my second year here at MSTM! I hope everyone had a fun and safe summer. I am looking forward to meeting with your children this year. I plan to implement "Minute Meetings," twice throughout the school year. These meetings will give me the opportunity to check in with every student but won't take your children out of the classroom for long. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have. You can email me at Katie.brinkman@mstm.us or call me at 641-764-2621. Please don't hesitate to utilize my counseling services which include individual, small group, and classroom settings. I am ready and willing to help in any way that I can. I hope everyone is off to a great start this school year and that this year is full of pleasant experiences for all!



**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
July 2, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on July 2, 2013.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Wade Gibson, Amy Harper, and Dean Furness; together with Superintendent Tom Wood, Secondary Principal Mr. Moser, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Vice President, Dave Shutt

- I. Welcome Board President
Mrs. Bunch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
- II. Discuss Roles, Responsibilities, Goals and Expectations of Superintendent and Board
Superintendent Wood introduced Mr. Harry Heiligenthal, Director of Leadership Development of the Iowa Association of School Boards.
- III. Adjourn Board President

Mrs. Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 6:15 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
July 8, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on July 8, 2013.

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

Members Absent: Dean Furness

- I. Welcome Board President
Mrs. Bunch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests.
- II. Consent Items
 - A. Approval of Minutes – Board President
 - B. Approval of Agenda – Board President

- C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report – Board President
- D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports – Board President

Mr. Shutt motioned to approve the consent items, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood updated the Board that Mr. Crozier is now home and on the road to recovery after his heart attack on June 29th.

Mr. Moser commended the 16 students that are attending summer school classes. Half of these students have completed their necessary coursework. He announced Nicole Shutt as the Hy-Vee Horizon Athlete of the Week.

IV. Public Comments - None

V. Old Business

A. Presentations

1) Principal's Report Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood reviewed the minor changes to the Elementary Handbook and Elementary Faculty Handbook for the 2013-2014 school year. He updated the Board on changes to elementary classrooms and will give a tour at the next board meeting.

2) Principal's Report Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser updated the Board on the Quality Support Committee meeting that was held June 25, 2013. He reviewed the Iowa Assessment Data, the District Legislative updates and the District's mission and belief statements. He stated that all vacant secondary teaching positions have been filled. The District still has open coaching positions to fill. Mr. Moser is excited to implement the new Chromebook pilot program with teachers and students in the fall.

3) Superintendent's Report Supt. Wood

Mr. Wood discussed the request from the music boosters to purchase new risers and acoustical shells. He discussed this with Mr. Lynch and he agreed that the risers are very old and getting more and more difficult each year to manipulate and move. Quotes have been requested. Mr. Wood gave an update on the Communication Advisory Committee meeting from June 25, 2013. Mrs. Harper gave an update on the mascot image.

Mr. Wood requested board members who were not going to run for another school board term to speak with members in their districts about serving on the board. The filing period is from July 8th to August 1st, 2013.

VI. New Business

A. Appoint Jill Gavin as Board Secretary/Business Manager Supt. Wood

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the appointment of Jill Gavin as Board Secretary and Business Manager for the 2013-2014 school year, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

B. Administer Oath of Office to Jill Gavin Supt. Wood

Mrs. Bunch administered the oath of office to Jill Gavin.

C. Designate Official Depositories and Signature of Checks Supt. Wood

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve City State Bank in Martensdale and Norwalk as our official depository for up to \$1,000,000 for the 2013-2014 school year and the signatures on checks of Mr. Wood and Mrs. Gavin on the Activity and Hot Lunch Funds, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

D. Discuss/Approve Transfer of LOSST Funds Supt. Wood

Mr. Shutt motioned to approve the transfer of LOSST funds monthly in accordance with the 2009 Revenue Bond issue, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

E. Discuss/Approve Resolution Authorizing Inter Funds Loans Supt. Wood

Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the resolution authorizing and directing the Board Treasurer and Chief Financial office to process inter fund loans between the General Fund, Activity Fund, Management Fund, PPEL fund, capital Projects Funds, Nutrition Fund, Trust Fund, and or Agency Fund not to exceed 35 days in duration, with all loans to bear interest at the rate established by Iowa Code section 74A.6(2) per annum, for the fiscal year July 1, 2013-

June 30, 2014, seconded by Mrs. Harper.
Roll call: 4 ayes.

- F. Approve Combined Earnings Report
Mr. Shutt motioned to approve the combined earnings report for the 2012-2013 school year, seconded by Mr. Gibson.
Roll call: 4 ayes.
- G. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations
Mr. Shutt motioned to approve Scott Bixby for the Junior High Special Education teacher, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.
- H. Approve 2013-2014 Elementary Handbooks
Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the 2013-2014 Elementary Handbooks, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.
- I. Discuss/Approve 2014 Legislative Action Priorities Supt. Wood
Mr. Gibson motioned to approve items 3, 7, 12, 13, 19 of the 2014 Legislative Action Priorities, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.
- J. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates Supt. Wood

08/07/13 – Agenda subcommittee
by e-mail
08/12/13 – 5:00 p.m. Board
Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Gibson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time 4:36 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
July 24, 2013

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session by conference call, pursuant to law, on Wednesday, July 24, 2013.

Members Present: Nicole Bunch, President, Dean Furness and Wade Gibson and, together with Superintendent/Elementary Principal Tom Wood and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

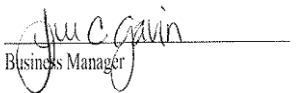
Members Absent: Dave Shutt, Vice President and Amy Harper

- I. Welcome – Board President
The President called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- II. Public Comments
No public comments.
- III. New Business
- A. Approve Open Enrollment Request Supt. Wood
Mr. Furness motioned to approve the open enrollment request with Waukee, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 3 ayes.
- B. Discuss/Approve Foreign Exchange Student Supt. Wood
Mr. Gibson motioned to approve accepting a foreign exchange student for the 2013-2014 school year, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 3 ayes.

Mr. Gibson moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 3 ayes.
Time: 3:08 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 Josh Moser, 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: josh_moser@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:

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Martensdale-St.Marys
Elementary Office
390 Burlington Ave.
Martensdale, Iowa 50160
or by email
brenda_depauw@mstm.us*

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