



# Mustang Messenger

August 2023

Welcome from Deanna Wiatt, Superintendent

**How to Contact  
Melrose-Mindoro  
School District**

N181 ST RD 108

Melrose, WI 54642

608-488-2201

608-857-3410

FAX: 608-488-2805

**School Start/End Times**

8:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Dear Melrose-Mindoro Staff and Community,

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all of you as the newly appointed superintendent. It is with great enthusiasm and a strong sense of responsibility that I begin this journey, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the School District of Melrose-Mindoro.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for the warm reception and support I have received thus far. The dedication and commitment I have witnessed from our staff and community members have already shown me the incredible strength within our district.

"Welcome Back" will soon ring out across the counties as our students enter the buildings for their first day of school on August 23rd. What an exciting time for students reconnecting with both old and new classmates and for all the adults at home breathing a sigh of relief as the structured school year begins! We are thrilled to have our students back in the classrooms and ready to embark on another year of growth, learning, and exploration.

We need to extend a big thank you to all of our dedicated staff, who have been busy preparing for the arrival of our students. Our maintenance and custodial crews have been working all summer long cleaning, painting, and ensuring the inside and outside of our buildings are ready for the school year. Additionally, the bus drivers, nutritional service team, administrative assistants, technology team, teachers, and administrative team have been working behind the scenes to ensure we are set to go. Our staff's dedication to your children is the backbone of our district. Their expertise, creativity, and commitment to the success of our students set Melrose-Mindoro apart from others. Together, we will create a positive environment that inspires excellence and high achievement for all our students and prepare them with the skills necessary to navigate the ever-changing world ahead of them.

I recognize the invaluable role our families and community members play in the education of our students. Your partnership is essential, and I encourage you to actively engage with us, sharing your insights, ideas, and concerns. We must build a strong bridge between our school and communities so our students can thrive both inside and outside of the classroom.

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as your superintendent. Together we will continue the exciting journey to create an exceptional environment where every student thrives and achieves their full potential.

With warm regards and gratitude,

Deanna Wiatt  
Superintendent of Schools  
Melrose-Mindoro School District

**Online Registration:**

Registration for the 2023-24 school year is now available ONLINE! Please log into your [Campus Parent Portal](#) using our Melrose-Mindoro website at [www.mel-min.k12.wi.us](http://www.mel-min.k12.wi.us). Finding the Infinite Campus symbol link on the middle right hand side. Complete the registration by Tuesday August 15th. Please call Heather Stello (7-12th grade students) or Chelsea Parker (ECH-6th grade students) with any questions.

**Free /Reduced Lunch Applications**

Exciting news! ALL students will receive breakfast in the 23-24 school year at NO CHARGE. You will need to complete a free /reduced lunch application to determine eligibility for lunch. (See the FAQ guide located in this newsletter). An application packet has been sent to families with valid email addresses on file with the school. If you did not receive a packet, please call your child's school office to request a paper copy or print forms located on the school website.

## Student Accident Insurance Available At No Cost

The school district will now provide accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school. As a service to students and their families, our school is making available student accident insurance plan for your child at no cost to parents! *This does not cover or provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred while participating in interscholastic sports.*

To purchase additional coverage online, (with Visa or Mastercard) go to [www.1stAgency.com](http://www.1stAgency.com) and then follow directions at 'Find your School'. Any questions regarding insurance specifics can be answered by calling First Agency, Inc. at 800-243-6298.

## Sign up for rSchool for latest event Information



Set yourself up to receive automatic text and email notifications for schedule changes and reminders for those activities you want to track. Go to [www.mel-min.k12.wi.us](http://www.mel-min.k12.wi.us) and click 'Athletics and Activities' under the Quick Links. On the next page, below the calendar, you will have the option to get the mobile app and/or sign up

for alerts under 'Notify Me'. You can track specific activities and log back in anytime to modify your settings. Simple and FREE!

## Universal Free Breakfast for Students in 2023-2024

**What is Universal Free Breakfast?** Universal Free Breakfast means that students receive a FREE breakfast regardless of their payment status (free/reduced/full pay). Every breakfast is balanced with choices of whole-grain foods, protein, fruit, 100% fruit juice & milk.

**Who can participate in Universal Free Breakfast?** All KG-12th grade students in the Melrose-Mindoro School District can receive a free breakfast every day of the school year.

**What do I need to do so my child can participate in Universal Free Breakfast?** Nothing. There is no sign-up form required. Simply send your child to school, and he or she can receive a free breakfast.

**If my child participates in Universal Free Breakfast, does he or she automatically qualify for free or reduced-price lunch?** Not necessarily. A free or reduced-priced application still must be filled out to determine lunch payment status.

## Check District Website for Forms

Many of our forms can be found on our district website: [www.mel-min.k12.wi.us](http://www.mel-min.k12.wi.us) such as the 23-24 Supply Lists, lunch application (English & Spanish versions) and the school calendar. Please call the school to request a paper copy of any of these forms.

## Bridging Brighter Smiles

Bridging Brighter Smiles is in our district and provides basic dental health for students. This program is open to all students in the district 4K-12th grade. Visits are held throughout the school year and services include oral screening, cleanings, fluoride varnish applications, dental sealants, dental health education and referral assistance.

To enroll your children, go to <https://enrollment.bbsmiles.org> to complete an enrollment form online! Bridging Brighter Smiles accepts Forward Health (BadgerCare). They do not bill or accept other private dental insurances. Questions? Call 262-896-9891 or visit them on the web at [www.bbsmiles.org](http://www.bbsmiles.org)



	Breakfast	Lunch
KG-6th Gr.	FREE	2.60
7-8th Gr.	FREE	2.80
9-12th Gr.	FREE	2.95
Adults	2.55	4.25
Milk (extra)	.35	.35

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Melrose-Mindoro School District offers healthy meals every school day. **There is no charge for breakfast this year for ALL students. Lunch costs \$2.60 for KG-6th Gr; \$2.80 for 7-8th Gr; \$2.95 for 9-12th Gr..** Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$.40** for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

### 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

All children in households receiving benefits from FoodShare, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or W-2 cash benefits are eligible for free meals, when listed on the application.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.

Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.

Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.

Children may qualify to receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2023-2024			
Household size	Yearly (\$)	Monthly (\$)	Weekly (\$)
1	26,973	2,248	519
2	36,482	3,041	702
3	45,991	3,833	885
4	55,500	4,625	1,068
5	65,009	5,418	1,251
6	74,518	6,210	1,434
7	84,027	7,003	1,616
8	93,536	7,795	1,799
Each additional person:	9,509	793	183

- 2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?** Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and have not been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Tammy Leis, 608-488-2201 ext 1127** or [leis.tammy@mel-min.k12.wi.us](mailto:leis.tammy@mel-min.k12.wi.us).
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Sarah McAdams, N181 State Highway 108, Melrose, WI 54642.**
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If your letter indicated you qualify for free meals, then no application is needed. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Sarah McAdams, N181 State Highway 108, Melrose, WI 54642, 608-488-2201 ext 1156; [mcadams@mel-min.k12.wi.us](mailto:mcadams@mel-min.k12.wi.us)** immediately. If your household was notified it qualified for reduced price meals, we encourage you to complete an application to potentially qualify for free meals based on household size and income.

5. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF MY CHILD ATTENDS A COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP) SCHOOL?** If your child attends a school that participates in CEP, receipt of free breakfast and lunch meals does not depend on returning this application. However, this information is necessary for other programs and may be used to determine if your household is eligible for additional benefits.
6. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **October 4, 2023**, or when a new eligibility is determined. You must submit a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not submit a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
7. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on income. Please submit an application.
8. **MY CHILD(REN) QUALIFIES FOR BADGERCARE PLUS OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILD GET FREE MEALS?** Children with BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, or subsidized insurance may be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on household income and household size. Please submit an application to determine if your household qualifies.
9. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
10. **IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed or experience a financial hardship may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
11. **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Sarah McAdams, N181 State Highway 108, Melrose, WI 54642, 608-488-2201 ext 1156; [mcadams@mel-min.k12.wi.us](mailto:mcadams@mel-min.k12.wi.us).**
12. **MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A US CITIZEN:?** Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
13. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
14. **WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?** Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
15. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Do not include any combat pay resulting from deployment as income.
16. **WHAT IF THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application.
17. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for FoodShare or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-362-3002.

If you have other questions or need help, call **608-488-2201 ext. 1156**.

**Sarah McAdams,**

**Food Service Director**

### ANNUAL NOTICE: HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as:

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- living in emergency or transitional shelters
- abandoned in hospitals
- living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above

If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children or youth who may qualify according to the above criteria, the Melrose-Mindoro School District provides the following assurances to parents and guardians of homeless children and youth and unaccompanied homeless youth:

- The child or youth shall be immediately enrolled and allowed to fully participate in school, even if unable to produce records normally required for enrollment (e.g., academic records, immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation) or has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
- Homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and have full and equal educational and related opportunities.
- Meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children including special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and access to student records.
- Immediate enrollment and transportation to the school of origin. "School of origin" means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool.
- Written explanation of any decisions related to school selection or enrollment made by the school, the local educational agency, or the State educational agency involved, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to appeal and receive prompt resolution of such decisions.

Please contact, Tammy Leis, Homeless Liaison for the Melrose-Mindoro School District, at (608) 488-2201 or [leis.tammy@mel-min.k12.wi.us](mailto:leis.tammy@mel-min.k12.wi.us) for additional information about the rights and services described above.



### **Congratulations to our Staff Members on their Retirement!**

Congratulations!! At the end of the 22-23 school year, we said goodbye to some of our Mustang family. All the best to Elementary PE teacher Sherry Scherr, High School Special Education teacher Brenda Chamberlain and High School Social Studies teacher Jeff Woodward. Missing from the picture was retiring Superintendent Jeff Arzt and paraprofessional Diane L. Olson. You will all be missed! Enjoy your retirement! This past January, we said goodbye to High School English teacher Ernie Brodsky.

Want to show your school spirit? Need a gift for your favorite Mustang? The Mustang Corral is the place to shop!

Hats, sweatshirts, T-shirts, bleacher seats, we've got you covered. This student run store led by Business teacher Allison Boudry is geared up for this Fall.

Students should listen to morning announcements for opening dates & times. The Mustang Corral will also be open to the public. Watch the district website or Facebook for more information.



### Merlose-Mindoro Transportation Policy 751

The District Administrator shall direct and manage the transportation services the District provides to public and private school students and coordinate such services among relevant parties in the interest of the students' safety and welfare. The District Administrator may delegate responsibility for the oversight of operational issues related to transportation services to another administrator or supervisory employee. The District Administrator shall also ensure that the District develops any administrative guidelines that may be necessary or advisable for the implementation of the School Board's transportation policies, and the District Administrator shall approve such guidelines and any revisions thereto.

On days school is held, the District will provide, or otherwise contract or arrange for the provision of, student transportation to and from public school in all situations where state or federal law establishes a District transportation obligation, including at least all of the following:

1. Students who reside in the District as measured by the usually-travelled route.
2. Students who live in areas of unusual hazard as defined and identified in the District's transportation plan or as otherwise identified pursuant to procedures found in state law.
3. Students with disabilities who have individualized education programs (IEPs) that require transportation as a necessary service, and where applicable law requires the District to provide the service.
4. Students with disabilities as required by an order of the state superintendent of public instruction.
5. Any student who is homeless or an unaccompanied youth, as defined under federal law, and who has a legal right to District-provided transportation.
6. If a student is living outside the District, but is enrolled in the District as a resident student because the student's parents or guardians have joint legal custody, the District will transport the student to and from an agreed-upon location within the District upon request from the student's parent or guardian.

The District will provide, or otherwise contract or arrange for the provision of, student transportation to and from school for residents of the District who attend private schools to the extent required by state law.

Aside from transportation to and from school, as described above, the District shall also:

1. Fulfill all other student transportation obligations identified under state or federal law, including, but not limited to, the obligation to provide transportation for certain at-risk students attending Coulee Region Alternative School leading to the student's high school graduation.
2. Provide student transportation services in other situations where permitted by state law and where such transportation has been appropriately authorized by (a) a Board policy; or (b) a motion or resolution of the Board or (c) the school district annual meeting, whichever may be applicable. To the extent permitted by law, the District may charge fees related to such additional transportation.

The District Administrator or his/her designee shall determine and schedule regular bus routes, taking into account factors such as the number and location of children, the safety of students, and the cost efficiency of the route. Changes to routes and schedules may be required from time-to-time during a school year, and the District Administrator or his/her designee will provide advance notification of such changes to affected families. In establishing routes and schedules, the District Administrator shall obtain Board approval if he/she determines that it may be necessary for any student to spend more than 90 minutes on the bus on the way to or from school, or to walk more than one half-mile from the student's residence to the regular bus stop for pick-up/drop-off.

#### Vehicle and Driver Requirements

The District Administrator and any other administrator or supervisor with responsibilities related to the oversight of student transportation services shall, upon recognition of any deficiency, recommend changes to District policies, procedures, guidelines, and contracts that will facilitate the ability of the District and any contracted service providers to maintain compliance with all vehicle, operator, insurance, and contract requirements established by state or federal law. The District shall not purchase, lease, rent, use, or contract for the use of a motor vehicle for student transportation, other than a properly marked and equipped school bus or authorized motor bus, if the motor vehicle is designed to transport 10 or more passengers in addition to the driver.

#### Student Conduct

To the fullest extent that state law considers a student who is utilizing the District's transportation services to be (1) at school; (2) under the supervision of a school authority; or (3) otherwise subject to the District's disciplinary jurisdiction or oversight or control, the student must abide by all applicable policies, procedures, rules, and directives that govern student conduct. Rules and directives may be established and enforced that are specific to the context of transportation and/or transportation-related safety. Students using transportation services are subject to appropriate discipline or other consequences or interventions related to their conduct, up to and including loss of transportation services and/or suspension or expulsion from school.

# Melrose-Mindoro School District Census Data Collection

(August 2023)

The Melrose-Mindoro School District is collecting census data for children 20 years of age (as of June 30 this year) and younger. Please complete this form **ONLY** if you have a new addition to the family, are new to the district, or your children do not attend Melrose-Mindoro Schools.

Will your children attend school in the Melrose-Mindoro School District? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If no, where will they attend school? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list children oldest to youngest (age 0-20 years old as of June 30 current year) residing in your home. Use legal names of children.

Child's First Name	Child's Last Name	Date of	Gender	Current

### Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

(List only those living in the household)

Father's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Others' (not already listed) Full Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address (street, city) \_\_\_\_\_

City, Village, or Township you live in \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form to:

Melrose-Mindoro School District, ATTN: Michelle Murray  
N181 ST RD 108, Melrose, WI 54642

Email to: [murraym@mel-min.k12.wi.us](mailto:murraym@mel-min.k12.wi.us) or FAX to 608-488-2805

Melrose-Mindoro School District  
N181 State Hwy 108  
Melrose, WI 54642

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